

2005

## Class Action, Spring/Summer 2005

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# CLASSAction

SPRING/SUMMER 2005



**Professor Bernie Segal  
Honored at Alumni  
Awards Luncheon**

Also in this issue: Bill Taggart, Father of the LLM Program in Tax



It is with great excitement that I write to you as the new alumni relations coordinator for Golden Gate University School of Law. In my new role, I seek to energize and strengthen the GGU law alumni community by throwing signature networking and social events and modernizing the ways we keep in touch.

Please allow me to introduce myself. I received my JD from the University of Connecticut School of Law, where I served as editor-in-chief of the *Connecticut Public Interest Law Journal*. I also graduated from Macalester College in St. Paul, MN, where I worked in the admissions office, served as president of the Multicultural Admissions Student Advisory Board, and was an alumni interviewer and event planner. Through my alma maters, I have built important personal and professional connections that have held steadfast. Many of these connections developed after graduation.

Since arriving at GGU, I have been extremely impressed by the collaborative and engaged culture on campus, a culture dedicated to high professionalism and responsible reform. I have likewise enjoyed meeting GGU alumni from a variety of backgrounds who are leaders in their communities and the profession, with practices ranging from corporate to environmental to domestic partnership law—and everything in between.

As a GGU graduate, you have much to be proud of. This edition of *Class Action* will highlight some of the reasons why. You will read about GGU's much-beloved Professor Bernie Segal, who was awarded the Distinguished Service Award for his 33-year commitment to the Law School. You will also read about Bill Taggart, who created and nurtured one of the nation's finest and most comprehensive LLM programs in taxation. Also, you will read about the highly successful scholarship reception, which connected donors—like yourselves—with worthy recipients whose lives were touched by your contributions.

I encourage you to call or email me to say “hi.” Let me know what I can do to serve you and to create an alumni community that reflects the grandness of your alma mater.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Andrew Kaufteil". The signature is stylized with a large, circular flourish at the end.

Andrew Kaufteil  
Law Alumni Relations Coordinator

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# CLASAction



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# 33 Years of Inspiring Law Students

*By Lorri Ungaretti*

**P**rofessor Bernard (Bernie) Segal is recognized as an effective, dedicated teacher by his colleagues and remembered fondly by hundreds of former students. On December 6, 2004, Bernie was one of several people honored at the Golden Gate University alumni awards luncheon at San Francisco's Palace Hotel.

Professor Bernie Segal joined the Law School faculty in 1972 and soon expanded 1 elective course to a litigation program with more than 35 courses. Bernie has made tremendous contributions to the Law School, including coaching students for mock trial competitions, starting a certificate of specialization program in litigation, and creating a classroom assignment based on a fairy tale.

A fairy tale? Several years ago, "Little Red Riding Hood" became part of Bernie's Mock Trial class. Students play roles in the trial of Leonard Woolf, a canine accused of murdering Ida J. Riding ("Grandma") and violating the Interspecies Dalliance Act in the woods with Rhoda ("Red") Riding Hood. Bernie uses the fairy tale to help students realize the importance of telling a story well in court.

In his classes, Bernie encourages, cajoles, critiques, and inspires future lawyers. He is known for videotaping students and describing their strengths and weaknesses in class—not to criticize, he insists, but to provide a constructive evaluative process. He is a great storyteller. Former students remember his lessons because, as Scott Goering (JD 02) explains, "For every point he makes, he can probably tell five or six stories to illustrate it."

Bernie Segal earned his BS in journalism and political science from Temple University in 1952. He later went to the University of Pennsylvania, where he earned an MA in government administration in 1954 and a JD in 1959. Right after law school he began practicing criminal defense and taught as an adjunct professor at the University of Pennsylvania. He

**“Bernie Segal will always be remembered for his devotion to his students—and their devotion to him.**

knew then that he loved teaching and showing people how to practice law.

Perhaps Bernie’s most significant case as a practicing lawyer was that of Dr. Jeffrey R. MacDonald, whose story was the subject of the book and television movie, *Fatal Vision*. Bernie has represented MacDonald continuously since 1970. “I’ve been trying to free him from these unjust accusations for almost 35 years,” Bernie says. “I’ve thought about trying to get the *Guinness Book of World Records* to list me as the most stubborn lawyer in a criminal case,” he adds with his characteristic grin. He was interviewed recently by CBS for an installment on MacDonald for the television show *48 Hours*.

In 1970, Bernie met Lani Bader, then dean of Golden Gate University School of Law. They talked about Bernie relocating to San Francisco

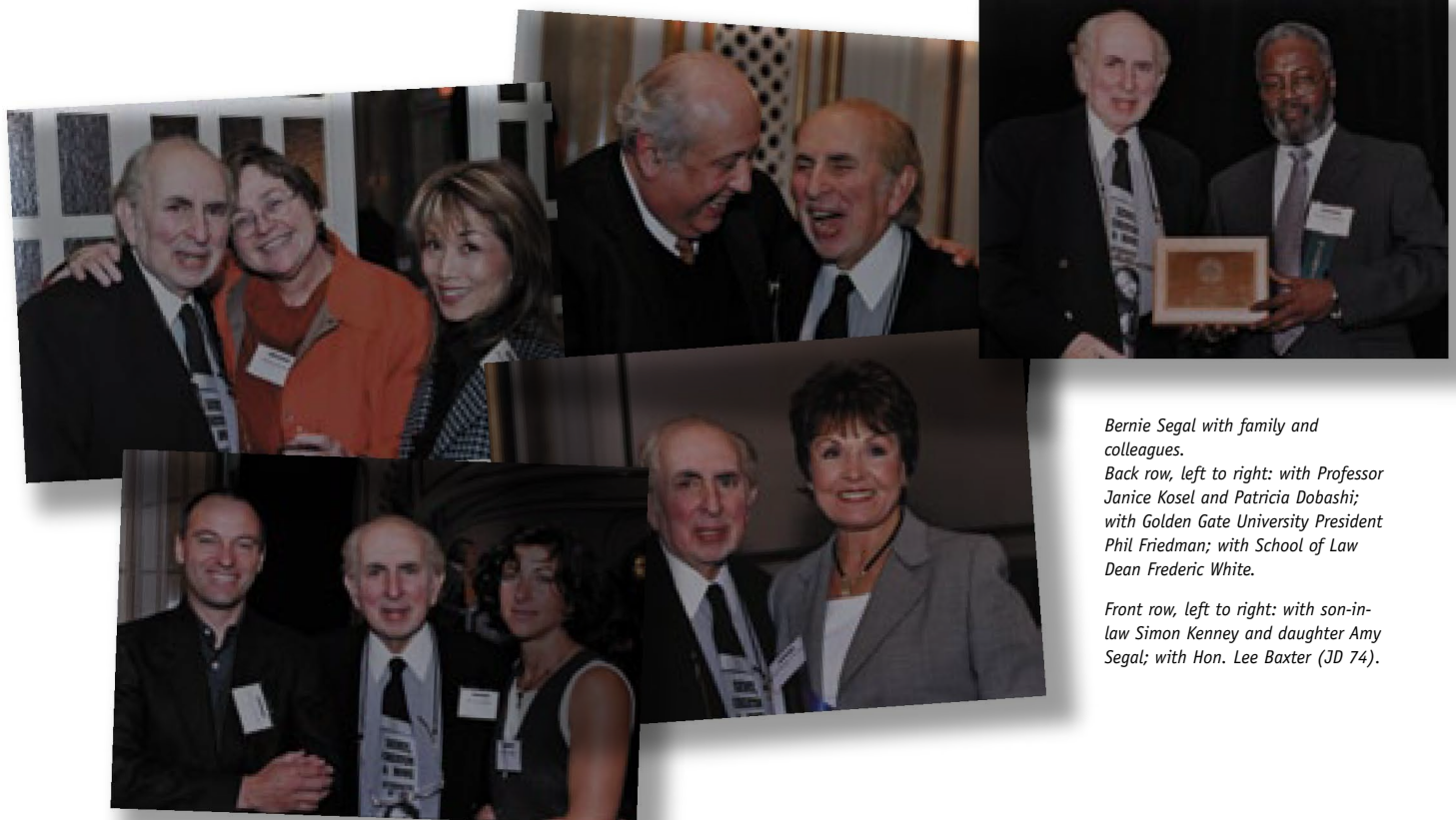


*“I’d like to thank the Academy . . .” Bernie said as he began his acceptance speech.*

and becoming a full-time professor, but Bernie was not sure he wanted to make such a major move. For the next year, Bernie continued to practice full time and teach as an adjunct. At the end of that year, Dean Bader offered Bernie the position at GGU, and he accepted. “I’ve never looked back, and I’ve never been sorry,” he says.

Bernie’s finest recommendations and compliments come from his students and colleagues. Craig Singer

**He thanked the full-time faculty for “bringing Golden Gate from the unknown to the well known in litigation.”**



*Bernie Segal with family and colleagues.*

*Back row, left to right: with Professor Janice Kosel and Patricia Dobashi; with Golden Gate University President Phil Friedman; with School of Law Dean Frederic White.*

*Front row, left to right: with son-in-law Simon Kenney and daughter Amy Segal; with Hon. Lee Baxter (JD 74).*



**In his classes, Bernie encourages, cajoles, critiques, and inspires future lawyers.**



*Bernie Segal in his early teaching days.*

**Former students remember his lessons. “For every point he makes, he can probably tell five or six different stories to illustrate it.”**

(JD 89), deputy district attorney in Fresno, says, “Bernie Segal is with me every day that I walk into the courtroom. When I see how lawyers handle themselves with clients, judges, and colleagues, I realize how, as an alum of Bernie’s program, I learned how to be a REAL lawyer.”

At the alumni awards luncheon on December 6, 2004, Dean Frederic White introduced Bernie as the recipient of the Distinguished Service Award. Dean White told the story of a former student who once telephoned Bernie and said, “I was trying this case, and I could hear you yelling in my ear.” Bernie’s reaction? “I take it as a compliment that I’m a student’s Jiminy Crickett.” The dean ended his introduction with, “May Bernie stay our ‘Jiminy Crickett’ for many years to come.”

In his typical fashion, Bernie accepted the award with humor and humility. He started by holding up a plastic figure saying, “I want to thank the members of the academy. . . .” When the laughter subsided, he

said, “I’d like to thank Dean White for that lovely eulogy. I was getting a little uncomfortable. I began to look at members of the alumni committee moving toward me and thought, ‘Does she have a bouquet of lilies-of-the-valley in her hand? Is she going to point me to my casket?’ And then I realized that they were going to let me stay a little bit longer.”

Bernie went on to admit that this introduction was the second most interesting one he had ever received. “The most interesting introduction belongs to former Dean Tony Pagano,” said Bernie. “Tony was

about to introduce me after a Mock Trial victory. As dean, he was always worried that if he said too much about a faculty member, if he was a little too praiseworthy, the words might come back to haunt him in a salary negotiation. He began to say, ‘Well, I have here a plaque to give to Professor Segal.’ And then he stopped. He realized that he was getting awfully close to praise. He turned to me and said, ‘Segal, how long have you been doing this?’ I answered, ‘Twenty-five years.’ Then he said, ‘It’s about time you got it right!’”

Over the 33 years Bernie has worked with GGU students, the Law School has participated in 85 competitions. In 25 of them, GGU teams have won gold, silver, or bronze medals. At a recent National Mock Trial Competition in Sacramento, the GGU team made it to the final round and placed second in the regional tournament.

At the luncheon, Bernie credited other people with the success of GGU’s litigation program. He thanked the full-time faculty, specifically Professors Allan Brotsky and Susan Rutberg, for “bringing Golden Gate



*Bernie Segal in the 1970s with student James Molesky (JD 79).*



Above: In September 2001, as part of the celebration of the Law School's centennial, Bernie joined law students, law faculty, Hon. George Choppelas, and Noah Griffin in a fictitious mock trial of Caruso vs. City of San Francisco and General Frederick Funston. Bernie played the attorney for opera singer Enrico Caruso (portrayed by Griffin, seated), who was suing the city after the 1906 earthquake.

Generations of trial lawyers around the state—and probably around the country—remember Bernie whenever they stand up in court.



Left: Enacting a case based on "Little Red Riding Hood" is one assignment in Bernie's Mock Trial course.

from the unknown to the well known in litigation." He added, "We have a strong faculty, a great teaching faculty, a dedicated faculty. These people have made me want to stay at GGU over the past 33 years. It has meant a lot to see them, talk with them, share with them—just be in the same building with them. They've always been there, not just to talk but to give their strength and support."

Bernie also thanked adjunct faculty members who help prepare students for competition. "The only thing we can offer to adjuncts is that they will work Monday nights, Tuesday nights, Thursday nights, and all day Saturday, being with students," Bernie said. He extended special thanks to alumni Shahrar Milanfar (JD 98), Brian Soriano (JD 96), and Wendy Bemis (JD 01).

Bernie reserved special appreciation for Judge Lee Baxter (JD 74), "our alumna, our friend, our colleague, our member of the board of trustees," for establishing the Baxter Fellowship in Litigation, which is given each year to a graduating student who has a deep commitment to litigation.

"I'd like to say something that Otto Butz [former GGU president] would appreciate," Bernie added. "We do it on the cheap. Otto was always conscious of the budget. And we get more mileage out of our faculty than any other school in America. And we get it in part because of teaching assistants. Without our teaching assistants, we could never do all that we do."

However much Bernie admires his colleagues, his influence is strongest among the hundreds of budding lawyers whom he has taught and encouraged over the years. Susan Rutberg, one of Bernie's students in the 1970s and now a professor of law at GGU, says, "Bernie Segal will always be remembered for his devotion to his students—and their devotion to him. Generations of trial lawyers around the state—and probably around the country—remember Bernie whenever they stand up in court. They hope to come close to his silver-tongued presence." 📖

Lorri Ungaretti is the marketing and events director for Golden Gate University School of Law.

Color photos by Charlotte Fiorito.



Professor Segal has always met with students to make sure they understand the law. (Note the tie!)



# Bill Taggart

## The Father of the LLM Program in Taxation

by Lorri Ungaretti



**G**olden Gate University School of Law now offers five LLM (graduate law) programs. The first LLM the school offered was in taxation, a program developed and nurtured by William (Bill) Taggart in the 1970s.

Bill Taggart was a student at Hastings in the mid 1960s when he began his association with GGU. At that time, the university and law school were on Golden Gate Avenue, “right around the corner” from Hastings. In his final year at Hastings, Taggart took some GGU classes and taught as a substitute in others. He became friends with the two people most involved in the tax classes at GGU in the late 1960s: Robert DeBruyn (now deceased) and Bill Flora, both CPAs at Lybrand, Ross Bros. & Montgomery, one of the “Big Eight” accounting firms. DeBruyn’s goal was to create a graduate program in tax in the business school.

After getting his JD in 1967, Taggart went to New York University to earn an LLM in taxation in 1969.

Before leaving for New York in the fall of 1968, Bill made a commitment to Alan Zahn, dean of the Graduate School of Business, to return to GGU and help DeBruyn set up an MBA program devoted to taxation.

Taggart returned with his LLM in spring 1969. He was scheduled to teach a tax class in the fall under the supervision of DeBruyn. However, when DeBruyn relocated and became unavailable, Dean Zahn asked Taggart and John Cordell Williams, another tax instructor recruited by DeBruyn, if they could create an MBA program in taxation.

“John Williams was a dynamic accountant,” explains Taggart. “He was interested in building the

program, and he was enthusiastic about the administration and politics of higher education. We agreed that I would put together the curriculum for the program. John would be dean and director of the MBA tax program, and I would be the assistant dean."

Former Adjunct Professor Bill Flora remembers Taggart as a highly effective teacher. "I took two semesters of Corporate Tax from Bill Taggart in the early 1970s," recalls Flora. "His lecturing style was not emotive, but he is so logical and methodical in his approach that complicated stuff would become simple."

Flora also remembers how important it was for GGU to create a tax program. "There was 'no other act in town.' People had to go to NYU or Georgetown if they wanted advanced courses in tax."

Taggart says that the impetus for the MBA program in tax was the 1969 Tax Reform Act, the most extensive change in tax law in 15 years. For the first semester, GGU offered only two tax classes, but Taggart and Williams soon expanded the program by recruiting local tax lawyers and accountants to teach. Later, the MBA tax program expanded to Los Angeles, Seattle, and Sacramento; and the MBA program became the MS in taxation program, still a popular degree at Golden Gate University.

**Taggart says that the impetus for the MBA program in tax was the 1969 Tax Reform Act, the most extensive change in tax law in 15 years.**

## Creating GGU's First LLM Program

In 1976, Taggart became interested in creating an LLM program in tax for the School of Law. GGU became the first law school west of the Mississippi River to offer an LLM in tax, and it remains the only northern California law school to offer an LLM program in tax. In 1980, the LLM program received ABA acquiescence.

In its infancy, the LLM program faced several challenges. "It was hard to get students interested in pursuing an LLM," recalls Taggart. "We had to scramble in the early days." Practicing tax lawyers were not interested in earning an advanced degree. At the same time, the ABA was pressuring the Law School to hire more full-time professors. Adjuncts, who were practicing tax law full time, were (and still are) the core of the GGU program.

Joe Walsh was dean of the LLM program in tax from 1984 to the early 1990s. (He now teaches for the School of Taxation at GGU.) He sees Bill Taggart as the "Father of the LLM program," and says, "Bill gave it the strong academic foundation that it has to this day. Bill's original stroke of genius was to take the LLM model from NYU and adapt it to GGU's circumstances, in the form of an MS in taxation program. Then he adapted the MS tax program to create the LLM program. That's the reason for our success and why we still have academic excellence in the program."

At one point, Taggart suggested to university President Otto Butz that the LLM be converted into a tutorial program, operating on a supervised, self-study basis. The program never moved in this direction. Taggart also recalls that he suggested that the Law School broaden the graduate program and "give LLM degrees in a variety of subjects other than tax—securities

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law, labor law, international law." Taggart was ahead of his time; GGU now offers four additional LLM programs—environmental law, intellectual property law, international legal studies, and US Legal Studies.

Taggart ran the LLM program for six years. Its popularity increased as word of its quality spread. Taggart credits two women as critical to the success of both the MBA and LLM tax programs: Carol Landa, who was Williams's assistant in the MBA program, and Mary Selvy, a Law School graduate (JD 84) who helped with the LLM program. Bill retired from GGU in 1984 but continued to teach one or two tax classes a year until 1996.

In the 1990s, Professor Marci Kelly took over directing the LLM in tax program and expanded it to Los Angeles. (The L.A. program was discontinued a few years ago.) Kimberly Stanley, associate dean and director of the LLM in taxation program since 2003, says, "Bill has been a pillar in the Bay Area tax community for many years. His integrity and intellect are the basis for his reputation as one of the finest tax attorneys in the country. Bill has strong opinions and speaks passionately on behalf of those who often go unrepresented in our tax

*continued...*

system. He is a tireless volunteer in the profession, and shares his years of experience, expertise, and insights freely. We feel so honored to have Bill as the founder of the LLM program in tax that we have instituted an annual award in his name: The William E. Taggart, Jr., Award for Excellence in Teaching Taxation."

## Life During and After Golden Gate

"I've always had a tax practice," Taggart says. He was a partner in a San Francisco firm and then went out on his own in 1973. Bill still lectures occasionally for the Tax Section of the State Bar and for the ABA Tax Section.

At the present time, Taggart has two areas of particular interest: the tax issues resulting from California's Domestic Partners Registration Act and the issues involved in the recovery of litigation costs in tax cases.

## Home and Family

Bill Taggart has two daughters. One is a lawyer in Los Angeles; the other is an editor for *Sunset Magazine*. He has two grandchildren.

Taggart was married for 25 years and divorced in 1991. His life partner since 1994 is Karen Hawkins, a GGU alumna (JD 79; MBA 81). They live in the East Bay hills and recently made some California history. Taggart explains: "A little-known aspect of California's new domestic registration law allows heterosexual couples to register as domestic partners if one of them is 62." Taggart turned 62 on February 4. They registered shortly thereafter. He says, "In California, we'll be treated as related parties for tax purposes, but for federal tax purposes, we'll be treated as unrelated parties."

Bill is amazed at how many of the students from the early days have maintained a connection with him. "I have a number of students who are clients of mine who go back almost 35 years. I first met them when I was

We feel so honored to have Bill as the founder of the LLM program that we have instituted an annual award in his name.

teaching. Some are retired now but are still clients. I have represented a couple of my early students off and on for 35 years," he says.

Taggart should not be surprised by his connections with colleagues. "I'm a great fan of his," says former Dean Judy McKelvey. "He is very smart. He works like a dog, a real workaholic. He is also very creative, a very nice man, and an excellent lawyer. He has always had a wonderful reputation among people who have worked with him." 📖

## Former Dean Judy McKelvey Remembers the Genesis of the LLM Program in Tax

**In the mid-1970s, if practicing tax lawyers wanted more education, there was no local place to go. No law school west of the Mississippi had an LLM tax program. Many lawyers came to GGU to earn an MBA, even though the concentration was very different from a law school program.**

I didn't really know Bill Taggart when he worked in the MBA program, but I had heard of him. His name kept coming up at Board of Trustees meetings and elsewhere because he was so involved in the business school.

One day, Bill made an appointment to see me. He walked in and, without much chitchat, said, "Would you like to have an LLM in tax at the Law School?" I expressed interest and asked him to submit an

outline of what he had in mind. He opened his briefcase, took out some papers, and said, "I have the whole structure here, with units required and reading material for the classes." He said that he knew all the people in town who were tax attorneys, so there were our adjunct professors and possible students.

Within two to three months, we submitted a proposal to the ABA. The ABA people were interested but concerned that so many of the teachers would be adjuncts. Bill persuaded them that this program would not only work but also that it was essential to use practicing lawyers in the LLM program. "You can't teach people who are going to be practicing if you aren't practicing or never have," he told the ABA.

—Dean Emeritus Judy McKelvey



## In Memoriam

**Richard D. Harmon (JD 76)**  
**Mark L. Nissenbaum (JD 81)**  
**Anthony J. Sousa (JD 82)**

### 1960s

**Frederick W. Bradley (JD 66)** writes that he is "still practicing and trying cases at 72." He has a scholarship at GGU School of Law in his name, and he hopes to retire soon. Rick is the senior trial attorney at Bradley, Curley, Asiano, Barrabee & Crawford in Larkspur, CA. Email: fbradley@bcamlaw.com.

**James H. Anderson (JD 69)** has retired from his office as assistant district attorney in Oakland, California, after serving 34 years. Anderson and his wife Carole are active members at the Castlewood Country Club in Pleasanton.

### 1970s

**Conrad D. Breece (JD 72)** has joined as a partner with Carroll, Burdick & McDonough in San Francisco. Previously a partner with Jordan, Keeler & Seligman since 1976, Breece specializes in real estate law, office and retail leases, and real property acquisitions and sales.

**George Holland (JD 72)**, past president of the Charles Houston Bar Association, has been elected to serve as the president of the Oakland branch of the NAACP.

**Timothy A. Stewart (JD 73)** retired and moved to Honolulu, HI, in August 2004 after practicing law in Guam. Email: tas@netpci.com.

**Ane Harris (JD 74)** writes, "After working as an Alameda County public defender (5 years) and as an attorney editor of criminal law and evidence books and updates at CEB (20 years), I attended acupuncture school, then worked as an acupuncturist/herbalist for 6 years. I am now retired and a professional grandmother . . . Friends from law school, please contact me if coming to the NW corner of Oregon." Email: anneharriseseaside@msn.com.

**Douglas A. Barr (JD 75)** is retiring after 30 years of private legal practice in New Mexico and hopes to start a second career in California. Douglas has spent many years in real estate law, educating buyers and sellers on issues related to the sale of residential property. He would love to hear from you as he embarks on this new journey. Email: barrlaw@aol.com.

**Richard D. Harmon (JD 76)** was married to **Megan Tootell Harmon (JD 78)** for 24 years until Dick's death on February 6, 2001. They have three boys, Matt, 21; Will, 19; and Danny, 16. Megan writes, "Dick was a wonderful man, a great lawyer, and a good husband and friend. He was editor-in-chief of the *Law Review* and wrote many articles for the *Law Review* during his practice. During his career, three cases in which he was involved went to the United

States Supreme Court. All three were victories. "He was stricken with rheumatoid arthritis during the last ten years of his life, but he bravely continued to actively practice law and enjoy his family and friends. His sense of humor and integrity endured during all his years. He was just 52 when he died suddenly of a brain hemorrhage while on a business trip."

**Henry M. Domzalski (JD 77)** is a senior protection officer for the United Nations Refugee Agency and was reassigned this year to El Geneina in the Darfur Region of Sudan. He is looking forward to an interesting year. Email: ikslazmod@yahoo.com.

**Julie Simon (JD 78)** is the managing director for national energy policy and regulatory affairs for Constellation Energy based in Baltimore, Maryland. Visit [www.constellation.com](http://www.constellation.com).

**John J. Torell (JD 78)** has recently accepted a post as San Diego's auditor and comptroller. John's move comes amid an ongoing fraud investigation of San Diego's finances and an underfunded pension system by the Securities and Exchange Commission, the FBI, and the US Attorney's Office. He was selected from among 50 applicants in a nine-month-long national search. Besides having a law degree from Golden Gate, Torell is a certified public accountant, a certified public finance officer, and a certified internal auditor.

**Barbara S. Bryant (JD 80)** reached a career "peak," climbing 19,340 foot Mt. Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, Africa. Bryant is on sabbatical from dispute resolution to reflect, read, and write about mediation, conflict

resolution, and social change. Email: bsbryant@pacbell.net.

**Jonathan C. Bacon (JD 81)** has accepted a position at Archer Norris in Walnut Creek as counsel to its construction defect litigation team. Previously, he was a partner at Jackson & Wallace and the head of that firm's construction defect and toxic mold litigation group.

**Mark L. Nissenbaum (JD 81)** passed away at the age of 56 on January 24. He started at the San Francisco public defender's office as a paralegal and rose through the ranks to try an array of misdemeanors and felonies, including murders. After Nissenbaum left the public defender's office, he entered civil practice where he mixed plaintiff and insurance defense work, often focusing on asbestos. He worked at various San Francisco law firms before landing at Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith, where he was a partner. He is remembered by friends and colleagues for his devotion to his son, his love of poker, and his knack for softball. Mark is survived by his former wife, Susan Barnett, and their son, Daniel Nissenbaum.

**Mary P. Canning (JD 81, LLM 82)** contributed to an article circulated by Knight-Ridder on the technicalities of seeking tax breaks in light of the 2004 tax code changes.

**John L. Grandsaert (LLM 82)** was elevated by California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger to a judgeship in the San Mateo County Superior Court. Judge Grandsaert has served for the last 17 years as the deputy district attorney for San Mateo County,

(continued on page 13)

## Percy Green Talks at GGU

On November 11, 2004, the Law School hosted "Percy Green in Conversation with Brad Seligman." Green, a long-time civil rights activist was the object of retaliation by the McDonnell Douglas Corporation for civil disobedience. His action led to the most famous Title VII case of all time: *McDonnell Douglas Corp. v. Green*, 411 U.S. 792 (1973), one of the most cited in Supreme Court history. Green was interviewed by Brad Seligman (left), head of the nonprofit Impact Fund and lead counsel on *Dukes v. Wal-Mart Stores*, the largest discrimination class action case in American history.



## Innocent Project Update

In February, Professor Susan Rutberg and Supervising Attorney Janice Brickley won a petition for a finding of factual innocence for Peter Rose, a client of the Northern California Innocence Project at GGU. A few months earlier, San Joaquin Superior Court Judge Stephen Demetras ordered Rose freed from Mule Creek State Prison where he had served 10 years for a rape he did not commit. (See "Releasing the Innocent" in *ClassAction*, Fall/Winter 2004.) New DNA tests, resulting from the work of the Northern California Innocence Project at Golden Gate University, excluded Rose as the donor of semen found on the rape victim's clothing.



## AALS Reception

During the San Francisco meeting of the American Association of Law Schools (AALS) in January, Dean Frederic White hosted a reception for alumni on behalf of Golden Gate University School of Law. Photo 1: Associate Dean Markita Cooper (left) and Professor Marcie Seville, director of the Women's Employment Rights Clinic. Photo 2, left to right: Julie Soo (JD 96), Dean White, Lorraine Bader, and Professor Lani Bader. Photo 3: Joyce Saltalamachia (JD 76) (left) and Karen Hawkins (JD 79; MBA 81).

## Environmental Law Program Recognized

*US News and World Report* has once again ranked the GGU environmental law program in the top 20. In the new listings, the GGU program ranks 18th in the United States and third in California (tied with UCLA).

## 2005 PILF Auction

Thanks to dozens of volunteers led by co-chairs Erika Scott and Christina Caro, the Public Interest Law Foundation (PILF) raised more than \$26,000 at the annual auction on January 20. This is the highest amount ever raised by PILF, and this success will translate directly into more dollars available for grants to GGU law students in public interest internships in the coming months.

PILF extends its thanks to every volunteer, donor, bidder, reveler, and staff person who helped to make this year's auction a success. Thanks also to the co-auctioneers, Professor Peter Keane and alumnus Kevin Allen (JD 97).

As a GGU law graduate, you can contribute to the success of next year's auction by donating items, sending in cash donations, or attending the event. For information, contact GGU's public interest law adviser, Angela Dalfen, at [adalphen@ggu.edu](mailto:adalphen@ggu.edu) or 415-369-5391.





## National Mock Trial Competition

Two students from GGU recently advanced to the final round and placed second in the regional tournament at the National Mock Trial Competition in Sacramento. This competition is a rigorous event with four trials conducted in three days. After competitions between GGU and teams from

Willamette University, Lewis and Clark College, and University of California, Davis, the Golden Gate team of Dewitt Lacy (left) and Zack Tolson continued on to the semi-final round where they defeated a team from Hastings College of the Law. Opposing counsel in the final trial was a team from Lewis and Clark, and Golden Gate was defeated on a 2-1 split vote. Special thanks to Bernie Segal, director of the litigation program, and alumna and Adjunct Professor Susan Leff (JD 95) for their excellent coaching. Additional thanks to coach David Phillips and to alumni Vladie Viltman (JD 99), Shahrar Milanfar (JD 98), and Brad Fell (JD 00) for presiding over the team's practice trials; and to 2L Angela McClure for her role as team manager.

## Paris Reunion

On March 9, 2005, twenty GGU alumni met with Associate Dean David Oppenheimer, Professor Helen Hartnell, and Adjunct Professor Frank Romano (JD 87) for a reunion dinner in Paris. Associate Dean Oppenheimer and Professor Hartnell were in Paris to help plan GGU's summer program in comparative law, which will be offered this summer for the first time in cooperation with the University of Paris X (Nanterre), where Professor Romano serves on the faculty.



*Professor Helen Hartnell, Lesley Lawson, David Lawson (JD 72), and William Werle (BS 72).*



*Claudia Maria Vaccarone (MS 95), Maia Bensimon (LLM 03), Pauline Abadie (LLM 03), Associate Dean David Oppenheimer, Laetitia Ferreira (LLM 03), Celine Serpagli (LLM 03), and Hubert Boyer (BS 80).*

## Clinics Celebrate More Than 10 Years

In November 2004, the Women's Employment Rights Clinic and the Environmental Law & Justice Clinic held a reception to celebrate more than a decade of community service.



**Former and current students, clients, faculty, staff, and patrons celebrated the clinics.**



**As Dean White looks on (right), WERC director Marci Seville and ELJC director Alan Ramo read Certificates of Honor presented to the clinics by the City and County of San Francisco.**



**Professor Cliff Rechtschaffen with Joe Como (JD 99) and current law student Ida Martinac.**



## Law Day at GGU

On February 22, GGU and the Law School Admission Council hosted a Law Day for Bay Area students. Eleventh and twelfth graders from five high schools learned about criminal law, viewed a mock Contracts class, and met representatives from various GGU law student groups. Professor Cheryl Lee organized the event.



## Clinic News

### Women's Employment Rights Clinic (WERC)

In summer 2004, the Women's Employment Rights Clinic and private counsel Dickson & Ross filed suit in San Francisco Superior Court alleging that a local employer sexually harassed and retaliated against its employee, a Spanish-speaking single mother. In December 2004, the client reached a settlement in the case. The client later said in an interview, "I feel victorious. I always knew that I was a strong woman, but this experience confirmed it for me." She expressed appreciation to Hina Shah (the WERC lawyer), Jeff Ross (of Dickson & Ross), and the WERC students for their hard work and support.

WERC student Michael Giacinti recently obtained a reversal of the denial of Unemployment Insurance benefits to a monolingual Spanish-speaking worker. The employer claimed that the worker walked off the job after being given a new work schedule. WERC appealed the denial of benefits, arguing that the client had been sick and had told her supervisor that she would be out for a few days due to illness. The Court of Appeals found in favor of the client, enabling her to receive much-needed benefits while she looked for another job.

GGU Law alumnus William Audet (JD 84) and his firm Alexander, Hawes, & Audet have made a three-year grant of "cy pres" funds to WERC. "Cy pres" funds are unclaimed monies from class action settlements. Mr. Audet and the firm have pledged \$750,000 over a three-year period, to be shared equally by WERC, the East Bay Community Law Center at Boalt Hall School of Law, the Katharine & George Alexander Community Law Center at Santa Clara School of Law, and the Legal Aid Society-Employment Law Center. The Law School greatly appreciates the firm's support.

If you would like to contribute to Law School clinics, please contact Susan Neuwirth, director of development, at [sneuirth@ggu.edu](mailto:sneuirth@ggu.edu) or 415-442-7817.

### Environmental Law & Justice Clinic (ELJC)

#### GGU Students Testify at Federal Hearing

On February 8, Kerri Bandics (3L) and Roger Lin (2L) testified before a 18-member task force created by the US Environmental Protection Agency. Industry, government, and environmental representatives serve on the task force, which is charged with determining how a federal permitting program is working. Many of the task force members personally congratulated Roger and Kerri for their excellent testimony.

In a rare move, the US Environmental Protection Agency ordered the Bay Area Air Quality Management District to take a hard look at why two Bay Area oil refineries (Tesoro Refining in Martinez and Valero Refining in Benicia) have poor compliance records. EPA said that, for the refineries to continue, the Air District must order them to fix the problems or explain why fixes are not necessary. EPA's decision resulted from the ELJC's representation of Our Children's Earth, a national environmental group.

ELJC clinicians found that records dating back to 2002 showed that the Air District had issued more than 100 citations to the two refineries for violating clean air laws, but the Air District repeatedly stated that there were "no records of compliance problems" at the refineries. EPA noted the discrepancy in the Air District's record and its statements in ruling for ELJC's client. ELJC fellow Amy Cohen (JD 02), former ELJC Fellow Marcie Keever (JD 01), and former clinicians Robert Fletcher (3L) and Michael Patrick Williams (3L) pored over hundreds of records. Former clinicians who have since graduated have also worked on the case, including Lola Odunlami (LLM 04), Andrew Sung Choi (JD 02), and Noelle Ferdon (JD 03).



On Tuesday, March 29, the Law School sponsored a moot court in *Gilmore v. Ashcroft*, US Court of Appeals No. 04-15736. Professors Myron Moskowitz, Peter Keane, and Bob Calhoun served as judges. Golden Gate alumnus Jim Harrison (JD 97) argued for the appellant, and attorney Bill Simpich argued for the US government.

## Student Environmental Negotiations Competition

GGU law students Robert Fletcher and Philip Krayna won the Sixth Annual Environmental Negotiation Competition, held at GGU on April 1. To quote the final round judges, Robert and Philip are "truly gifted negotiators."

This year's competition had the most teams (26) from the most schools (18) ever, including Boalt, UCLA, Davis, Hastings, Pepperdine, and Loyola. The competition is sponsored by the Environmental Law Section of the California State Bar.

Special thanks to coach Kristin Henry, a GGU grad (JD 02) who works at the Sierra Club in San Francisco.



A traditional Thanksgiving dinner, sponsored by the LLM programs in US legal studies and international legal studies, was held on November 23, 2004. More than 75 LLM students attended the tenth annual lunch celebrating this American holiday. 📖

## ( class notes )

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focusing primarily on environmental, civil, and criminal law. Prior to that, he served as the deputy district attorney for Riverside for three years and as an associate for Hunt and Hunt law offices from 1977 to 1984.

### **Anthony J. Sousa (JD 82)**

died of an apparent heart attack in early January. Born in Hong Kong in 1950, he and his family immigrated to San Francisco in 1958. After graduating from Golden Gate, he worked briefly in San Francisco before spending the remainder of his legal career as a deputy district attorney with the Los Angeles County DA's Office. Sousa tried approximately 150 jury trials during his legal career. He will be remembered for his exuberance and generosity of spirit, his enthusiasm for Cal football, and his love of Ford Mustangs and Shelby Cobras.

### **Kathleen M. MacPherson**

**(JD 83)** completed 22 years of legal practice as an expert on extraditions. She remains an adviser to the Mexican Supreme Court.

### **Laurie A. Hanson (JD 84)**

has joined Long & Reher law firm, specializing in elder law. Hanson cofounded the Minnesota Kinship Caregivers Association for people raising children of kin and serves on the governing council of elder law of the Minnesota State Bar Association. Hanson has been recognized as a Super Lawyer by *Minnesota Law and Politics* for four consecutive years.

### **James P. Cunningham (JD**

**85)** has been appointed by Carroll, Burdick & McDonough as counselor in the San Francisco office and also serves an expert in

asbestos-related litigation for the Los Angeles office. Cunningham was previously a partner at Scadden Hamilton & Ryan and practiced with Low, Ball & Lynch.

### **Gregory E. Hodge (JD 85)**

was profiled in the *Oakland Post's* "Faces Around the Bay" column last November. The article traced Hodge's history in civil litigation up to his current involvement in public policy and membership on the Oakland School Board. The article closed by saying: "Watch out for Hodge. He's not just another Face Around the Bay; he's a strong contender for Oakland mayor in next year's election."

### **Bernadette M. St. John (JD**

**85)** has a new website for her firm, St. John and Associates, specializing in law library and knowledge management consulting. She invites you to visit the website at [www.st-johnandassociates.com](http://www.st-johnandassociates.com).

### **Hrair A. Balian (JD 86)**

joined the Geneva Centre for Security Policy in 2003 as a negotiator. Balian has also served as director of security policies and conflict resolution for several peace-keeping organizations in Europe, central Asia, the Caucasus, and the Balkans.

### **Amy Eskin (JD 86)**

was recently admitted to the American Board of Trial Advocates, a national, invitation-only association of accomplished trial lawyers who have demonstrated high personal character and proficiency as trial attorneys. Eskin is a partner at the law firm Hersh & Hersh in San Francisco.

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# LCSonline

A New Way to Post Your Firm's Openings—  
or to Find a New Position

This past spring, Michael Schinner (LLM Tax 94) decided to hire a law student to help with his busy practice. Schinner weighed his options: posting on Craigslist, paying to use a commercial job posting site, or putting an ad in the paper. He decided to go to Golden Gate first, aware of the quality students at his alma mater. He visited the new GGU website and went to the Law Career Services page, where he logged into LCSonline, the new online job posting program at Golden Gate. Schinner posted his position by filling out an online form. Within two minutes, the job was posted online to GGU alumni and instantly emailed to numerous candidates who had expressed interest in his sort of position. Within hours, he had several strong applications from GGU students.

In November 2004, Law Career Services launched LCSonline, a state-of-the-art career services software package that includes job listings, an events calendar, an employer database, and numerous other features. This means that employers can post a job, set up a resume collection, or set up on-campus interviews within a matter of minutes. This is particularly good news for employers working at smaller firms who do not have a recruitment staff.

Schinner says, "I am extremely pleased with the online Law Career Services system. The system has matched my firm with a number of a high-caliber associates and interns. Having this resource has been incredibly valuable to my firm."

Additionally, for alumni seeking new jobs, LCSonline offers access to online job listings and a job agent feature that will automatically email them when a job is posted with their given criteria. Alumni job seekers may also find the events calendar, which lists local Bay Area networking opportunities in addition to GGU on-campus seminars handy.

Alumni interested in posting a job for students or alumni, or in learning more about the new system, can contact Law Career Services at 415-442-6625 or by email at [lawcareer@ggu.edu](mailto:lawcareer@ggu.edu).

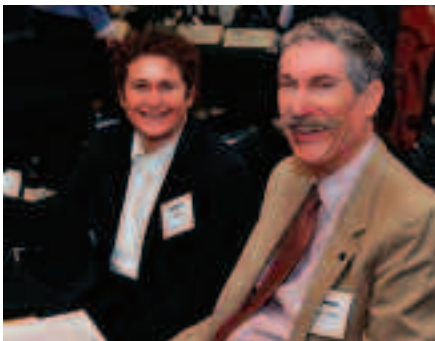
**To log on to LCSonline, go to  
[www.ggu.edu/law/career](http://www.ggu.edu/law/career)**

# Scholarship Donors Meet Scholarship Recipients

**O**n February 18, 2005, students, alumni donors, and friends of the Law School gathered to celebrate the 58 law students who received the Law School's 28 named scholarships. The scholarship benefactors were thanked for their generosity, and the students were recognized for their academic achievements. Scholarship supporters traveled from as far as Seattle and Palm Springs to celebrate GGU.

In addition, Dean Frederic White announced the establishment of the Roderick S. Polentz (JD 84) Memorial Endowed Law Scholarship, created by a gift from his parents and which will be awarded to a night student annually beginning next fall.

With law school tuition exceeding \$28,000 a year, the students are greatly appreciative of the financial assistance these scholarships provide. If you would like to make a gift to a Law School scholarship, please contact annual giving director Debra Holcomb at 415-442-7829 or dholcomb@ggu.edu.



Alumni Association president Vicki Trent (JD 97) and Noel Folsom (MPA 72), a member of the Alumni Association Scholarship Selection Committee.



J.R. Richards (Class of 06) thanks the donors who generously support the scholarships he received and addresses more than 200 guests.



Carletta Starks (Class of 05), GGU President Phil Friedman, Alonzo Gradford (Class of 05).

## A Student Says Thank You

Dear Scholarship Donor:

I would like to thank you for helping me to become the first law school graduate in my family and for supporting Golden Gate University's School of Law. I am honored to have my academic efforts recognized--especially since I know there are many deserving individuals at Golden Gate.

My educational journey was often plagued with economic burdens that prevented me from performing at my full potential. I have been blessed since coming to Golden Gate, between support from the university and its benefactors. Your generosity allows me to focus my time and energy on pursuing a legal education. I hope to someday be in a position to return the gifts that have been given to me while attending Golden Gate. Your scholarship will help to make that goal a reality; without individuals like you, I might not have had the opportunity to become a law school graduate.

Sincerely,  
Amanda Jarratt  
Class of 2005





The Judge Louis Garcia Endowed Law Scholarship is named in memory of the 1952 graduate who was the first Latino judge to serve in San Francisco. Standing: Associate Dean Sue Schechter, Lori Sandoval (Class of 07), Cezanne Garcia Grossman, Amy Zhu (Class of 06), Sandra Sepulveda (Class of 06). Seated: John Cacchioli (Class of 06), Fatima Ortiz (Class of 06), Gabriel Castillo (Class of 06).



Funded through gifts from faculty and alumni, the Environmental Law Endowed Scholarship provides assistance to an evening student with an outstanding record in environmental law. Robert Fletcher (Class of 05) with GGU President Phil Friedman.



Kathryn Ringgold (JD 70) attended law school at night after a long career as a medical technologist. Since selling her workers' compensation practice in 1996, she has give countless hours as a volunteer with VLSP. The majority of her workers' compensation clients were women and African Americans, and she endowed this scholarship to help women and African Americans students. Treeva Stewart (Class of 05) with Kathryn Ringgold. 📖

## School of Law Named or Endowed Scholarships

Alumni Association Endowed Scholarship

Judge Lee D. Baxter (JD 74) Trial Advocacy Fellowship

Leon A. & Esther F. Blum Foundation Scholarship

Anne Marie Bourgeois (JD 89) Memorial Endowed Law Scholarship

Frederick W. Bradley (JD 66) Endowed Law Scholarship

Phillip Burton (JD 53) Endowed Law Scholarship

Linda Caputo (JD 87) Endowed Law Scholarship

Martin Cohen (JD 99) Endowed Law Scholarship

Kevin J. Connell (JD 95) Memorial Law Scholarship

Lawrence A. Cowen (JD 25) Endowed Law Scholarship

Environmental Law Endowed Scholarship

Louis Garcia (JD 52) Endowed Law Scholarship

Helen & John Gorfinkel Endowed Law Scholarship

Richard W. Johnson (JD 65) Endowed Law Scholarship

Paul S. Jordan Endowed Law Scholarship

Law School Endowed Scholarship

Hugh G. Major (BA 81, JD 93, LLM 03) Endowed Women's Law Scholarship

Barbara M. Mathews (JD 83) Women's Law Scholarship

Masud Mehran (LLD 85) Endowed Law Fellowship

Tony Pagano Dean's Merit Scholarship

Roderick S. Polentz (JD 84) Memorial Endowed Law Scholarship

Joseph R. (JD 55) & June B. Rensch Endowed Law Scholarship

Diana Richmond (JD 73) Endowed Law Scholarship

Kathryn E. Ringgold (JD 70) Endowed Law Scholarship

Louie Sbarbaro Endowed Law Scholarship

Catherine Sherburne-Thompson (JD 56) Endowed Law Scholarship

James B. Smith Endowed Law Scholarship

Union Bank of California Scholarship

Zamperini-Burchell Endowed Law Scholarship

Joseph (JD 56) & Ruth Zukor Endowed Law Scholarship

## Presenters at the AALS Conference in January 2005 in San Francisco

Professor **Michele Anglade** is on the executive committee of the AALS Teaching Methods Section and participated in the section's presentation.

**Jody Lerner** is chair of the AALS Section on Pro Bono and Public Service Opportunities Project. On January 6, the section sponsored a service project in San Francisco with the St. Anthony's Foundation Social Justice and Education Program.

Associate Dean **Sue Schechter** set up and moderated the program on bar admissions for the AALS Student Services Section.

Dean **Frederic White** spoke at the program on bar admissions and also presented on distance education for the section on Part-Time Division Programs.



### M. Michele Anglade

Michele Anglade, director of the Law School's academic support program, has been appointed to a tenure-track position.



### Susanne Aronowitz

On January 10, Associate Dean Susanne Aronowitz moderated a panel called "A Conversation with Law Students: The Faces Behind the Statistics" at NALP's End of Season Series in San Francisco. On March 16, she spoke about resume, interview, and presentation strategies at "Bridging the Gap Between Law School and Law Practice," sponsored by the Barristers Club of San Francisco.



### J. Lani Bader

Professor Lani Bader has been named president-elect of the College of Commercial Arbitrators, the premier national organization of commercial arbitrators and academics working in the field of arbitration, and he will be installed as president at the annual meeting

of the College in October 2005. In October 2004, Professor Bader was a panelist on "Arbitration: Tools and Techniques," held in Los Angeles and San Francisco and sponsored by the Rutter Group, a division of Thomson/West. Professor Bader co-authored the report, "Vacatur of Arbitration Awards: A Real-World Review of the Case Law," which he presented at the ABA's seventh annual conference on "The Golden State of ADR."



### Roger Bernhardt

Professor Roger Bernhardt was a featured speaker at "A Survey of 2004 Real Estate Cases and Legislation," a BASF CLE presentation at the Palace Hotel. He edits the CEB's *California Real Property Reporter*, and the November 2004 issue included five comments authored by Bernhardt describing new cases or developments. In addition, his article, "Taking Title to Servient Tenements," appeared in the February 2005 issue of the journal published by the American College of Real Estate Lawyers.



### Robert Calhoun

Professor Robert Calhoun gave a presentation at the First District Appellate Project Training Seminar on January 29. His talk was on "Confrontation Clause Analysis after Crawford v. Washington." About 150 criminal appellate attorneys attended.



### Mort P. Cohen

In December 2004, Professor Mort Cohen wrote a book review for the Aspen Publications edition of *An Introduction to American Civil Litigation* by Subrin and Woo. In November 2004 and January 2005, he delivered lectures and led discussion on the constitutional and

statutory rights of institutionalized mentally ill people about health and property decisional disabilities before the California Association of Mental Health Patients' Rights Advocates. He will deliver a similar lecture and discussion at a February meeting of the Northern California Patients' Rights Advocates Association. Professor Cohen worked with the Greenlining Institute, which produced a film in conjunction with the Judge Thelton Henderson Lifetime Achievement Award.



### Larry Jones

Professor Larry Jones attended the Institute for Law School Teaching at Villanova on March 11. He had several conversations with Professor Andrew McClurg, who fondly remembers many of our alumni when he taught Torts for several semesters as a visiting professor at GGU.



### Helen Kang

In October 2004, Professor Helen Kang organized the Environmental Justice in Permitting conference at the Law School, where community activists, government representatives, and academics came together to discuss improvements in permitting air pollution sources. Also in October, Professor Kang spoke on "Taking Environmental Justice from Rhetoric to Results" at the annual conference sponsored by the Environmental Law Section of the California State Bar at Yosemite. In November, she assisted in the planning of a successful celebration to mark more than a decade of community service and student training provided by the Environmental Law & Justice Clinic and its sister clinic, WERC. In January of this year, the clinic cosponsored a meeting of environmental law clinicians at GGU, which Professor Kang organized, along with Stanford Law School's Earthjustice Environmental Law Clinic. In February, she participated in a meeting of Bay Area environmental law teachers sponsored by USF Law School.

**Neil Levy**

Professor Neil Levy's poem, "Abraham," was published in the December 2004 issue of *Moment* magazine.

**Myron Moskowitz**

Professor Myron Moskowitz's article, "From Case Method to Problem Method: The Evolution of a Teacher," was published in the *St. Louis University Law Journal*. See 48 *St. Louis U. L. J.* 1205-1216 (2004).

**Doris Ng**

Professor Doris Ng published an article, "Garment Workers and Community Groups Sue Sweatshop Owners for Unpaid Wages, Penalties, and

Damages," in the December 2004 issue of *California Labor and Employment Review*. On March 5, she presented a workshop, "The Changing Landscape of Sexual Harassment in the Workplace," at the 2005 Women Seeing Beyond Today Conference, sponsored by Citibank and Cooley Godward, LLP.

**Christian N. Okeke**

Professor Christian Okeke has been elected to the board of directors of the International Institute of Space Law of the International Astronautical

Federation. He attended the conferences and business meetings of the American Society of Comparative Law at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor and the University of Washington in St. Louis. At the University of Wyoming School of Law's annual dinner, Professor Okeke delivered a keynote address, "The New Trends in the Law of Outer Space." He also delivered a keynote address, "Education: The World's Best Investment," at the Igwebiuke Investment Club of Southern California Symposium on Investment Strategies in the Millennium Years. Professor Okeke coached and led the School of Law Philip Jessup and Manfred Lachs Moot Court teams in the Public International Law and Law of Outer Space competitions held in Seattle and in Washington, DC.

**David Oppenheimer**

Late last year, David Oppenheimer was named Associate Dean for Faculty Development. In March, he attended a three-day confer-

ence at Paris X and the Sorbonne, on work and social movements in the United States, where he gave two presentations: "Affirmative Action in the US Workplace: How Does It Really Work?" and "Federalism Undressed: US and California Concurrent Jurisdiction Over Employment Discrimination Claims." The book, *Whitewashing Race: The Myth of a Color-Blind Society*, co-authored by Associate Dean Oppenheimer, received an honorable mention in the 2004 Myers Outstanding Book Awards, awarded by the Gustavus Myers Center for the Study of Bigotry and Human Rights at Simmons College in Boston. In February, the book was released in paperback by University of California Press.

**Alan Ramo**

On March 11, Professor Alan Ramo spoke on a panel regarding environmental justice and the law for the symposium "Transforming

Our Communities: An Inclusive Approach to Environmental Justice" at Boalt Hall School of Law. The Planning and Conservation League and California League of Conservation Voters has published a report titled *Everyday Heroes Protect the Air We Breathe, the Water We Drink, and the Natural Areas We Prize: Thirty-Five Years of the California Environmental Quality Act*; Professor Alan Ramo wrote the introduction to Chapter 15 on environmental justice.

**Clifford Rechtschaffen**

Professor Cliff Rechtschaffen was one of dozen "member scholars" with the Center for Progressive Regulation who collaborated to write the

book, *A New Progressive Agenda for Public Health and the Environment*, published recently by Carolina Academic Press. Also, Professor Rechtschaffen published "Promoting Pragmatic Risk Regulation: Is Enforcement Discretion the Answer?" in 52 *U. Kan. L. Rev.* (2004).

**Leslie Rose**

Leslie Rose has been appointed to the tenure-track position of Associate Professor and Director of Advanced Legal Writing

Programs.

**Susan Rutberg**

On Friday, January 28, Professor Susan Rutberg spoke on "Protecting the Innocent" at the annual Association of Alternative Newsweeklies conference in San Francisco.

**Sue Schechter**

Associate Dean Sue Schechter is on the executive committee for the AALS student services section for 2005-06. She was recently appointed to the Bar Association of San Francisco's Diversity Task Force.

**Sompong Sucharitkul**

Professor Sompong Sucharitkul attended the business meeting of the American Society of Comparative Law as an editor in October 2004.

He gave a progress report on the work of the Research and Services Committee, of which he is chair. Furthermore, the American Society of Comparative Law appointed Distinguished Professor Sompong Sucharitkul as rapporteur to submit the US National Report on topic III.D, The Liability of Registration Authorities/La Responsabilité des Sociétés de Classification in the field of Air and Maritime Law/Droit Aérien et Maritime, to be published in the supplement to the *American Journal of Comparative Law*. This will be Professor Sucharitkul's third such National Report; the first on Buddhist Law and Thai Law was published in 46 *Am. J. Comp. L. supp.* 1998, and the second on The Intertemporal Character of Int'l and Comparative Law Regarding the Rights of the Indigenous Populations of the World was published in 50 *Am. J. Comp. L. supp.* 2002.

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Professor Tom Goetzl writes, "My wife, Rainbow Koehl, gave birth to our son, Twain Wilder Goetzl, 7 lbs. 3 oz., at 8:55 am on December 21, 2004. His first name, which means 'two,' honors Mark Twain, and his middle name honors Rainbow's kin, Laura Ingalls and Thornton. (In his youth, Thornton lived for one year in Berkeley where he attended the same grammar school I later attended.)"



### Frederic White

On January 14, Dean Frederic White spoke for The Mediation Society at the World Trade Club. His topic was "Dr. King's Legacy and Its Relationship to Mediation." On February 28, he gave a speech at the Black History Month Celebration commemorating the 50th anniversary of the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision. The program, sponsored by the California Association of Black Lawyers, was held at the African American Museum and Library in Oakland. In April, Dean White received the Distinguished Black Faculty Award from Cleveland State University.

### Adjunct Professors

Adjunct Professor Paul Kibel recently became a father; Helen Stephens Kibel was born in San Francisco on February 25, 2005. Professor Kibel has also published two articles: "A Shallow Fix: The Uniform Environmental Covenants Act Leaves Hard Brownfield Questions Unanswered" in *The American Planning Association's Planning and Environmental Law Review* and "Creating Open Space: Two Cases of Conflicts Resolved" in *California Coast & Ocean*. 📖

## Loan Repayment Assistance Program: Making an Impact

Kristin Henry (JD 02) and Kristina Harrell (JD 03) both work for organizations that you've heard a lot about. Henry is the first-ever environmental law fellow at the Sierra Club, where she is involved in public health and environmental litigation. Harrell works as a staff attorney at California Rural Legal Assistance (CRLA) where she represents farm workers (for free) in cases dealing with problems related to pesticide exposure, housing conditions, occupational health and safety, and environmental contaminants. Each of these GGU alumnae earn less than \$40,000 a year, while making student loan payments of nearly \$500 a month.

For new public interest attorneys in cities like San Francisco and Oakland, low salaries and high debt burdens can make goals like home ownership, travel, and even parenthood seem unattainable. A recent study published by Equal Justice Works stated that the combination of rising debt burdens and "relatively stagnant" starting public interest salaries is making it increasingly difficult to recruit and retain new attorneys dedicated to serving low-income clients. Moreover, the State Bar recently reported that 72% of low-income people in California do not have access to basic legal help to resolve problems related to housing, health care, and education.

Golden Gate University is working to remedy this crisis by making grant money available to graduates with significant loan debt who have taken public interest jobs. Our Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP) was started in 1990 and has since disbursed nearly \$200,000.

"The services that CRLA provides for the rural poor and farm workers in California are not offered anywhere else in the country," says Harrell, who received a \$4,000 grant last year through Golden Gate's LRAP. "Because of this award, I am better able to sustain my commitment to my clients."

Other recipients have included attorneys working on behalf of battered women, death row inmates, and victims of workplace harassment. Without LRAP, many new

attorneys working on behalf of needy communities would simply be unable to support themselves. And for legal services offices nationwide, law school LRAP awards can have a considerable impact on the number of attorneys they hire.

Nearly half of all ABA-accredited law schools have some type of LRAP program, though the level of funding varies widely. Some law schools guarantee full loan repayment to any graduate doing public interest work, while others, like Golden Gate, offer partial grants to offset loan payments and other living expenses. According to the National Association for Law Placement, new legal services attorneys make a median salary of \$34,000, while their counterparts at private law firms earn a median salary of \$95,000. It follows that as tuition costs rise and student debt becomes nearly impossible to avoid, only law schools that can help subsidize their graduates' loan payments will be able to attract public interest-minded applicants. Jody Lerner, administrative director of the Honors Lawyering Program, states, "Many of Golden Gate's top students choose this law school because of our commitment to public interest law. They have a long history of working on behalf of their communities and the public good. LRAP reflects our desire to see these students use their legal training to continue on this path."

Angela Dalfen, the Law School's public interest adviser, chairs the LRAP committee. The committee (made up of faculty, staff, current students, and alumni) meets throughout the spring to review applications for LRAP grants. A subcommittee has been formed to focus on fundraising and promoting the program. Says Dalfen, "By supporting this program, we not only provide assistance to graduates who are doing public interest work, we also help those clients who might otherwise have nowhere to turn."

GGU's LRAP is funded by student fees and alumni donations. To make a donation to the LRAP, contact Debra Holcomb at 415-442-7829 or [dholcomb@ggu.edu](mailto:dholcomb@ggu.edu).

For more information about LRAP, or to apply, please contact Angela Dalfen at [adalfen@ggu.edu](mailto:adalfen@ggu.edu). 📖

**Learn more about LRAP:  
visit [www.ggu.edu/law/publicinterest](http://www.ggu.edu/law/publicinterest)**

**J. Virginia Peiser (LLM 86)** (formerly Virginia Stevens), a sole practitioner in Walnut Creek, California, has recently received her certification as a specialist in estate planning, trust, and probate law by the State Bar of California Board of Legal Specialization. This adds to her certification as a specialist in taxation law received in 1987. Peiser is one of only five specialists certified in both areas of the Contra Costa County Bar Association.

**Kathleen A. Clark (JD 87)** writes, "I've been practicing in the area of civil litigation since 1988. I received an MA in organizational development/business management in 2000 from JFK University. In addition to practicing law, I am an MCLE provider in the State of California and do consulting and coaching, as well. I belong to the Association for Conflict Resolution and, as a member and delegate, recently traveled to South Africa to discuss truth and reconciliation and conflict resolution."

**Patricia B. Miles (JD 87)** was appointed to the Hercules Education Commission in 2004 and will serve through 2006.

**Richard R. Hobbs (JD 89)** was recently appointed the new director of Santa Clara County's Office of Human Relations. The office provides services for immigrant and youth programs to reduce hate crimes and violence. Hobbs is the former director of the county's citizenship and immigrant programs, where he was credited for developing a successful model government program for assisting low-income immigrants.

## 1990s

**Adam Abel (JD 90)** has been named a shareholder at Bradley, Curley, Asiano, Barrabee & Crawford in Larkspur.

**Mark S. Rentz (JD 92)** was appointed by Governor of California Arnold Schwarzenegger to serve as deputy director of external affairs for the Department of Pesticide Regulation to help monitor and regulate the use of pesticides throughout the state. Rentz is a certified forester with the Society of American Foresters and a member of the California State Bar. He resides in Sacramento.

**Robert J. Waldsmith (JD 92)** is a partner at Abramson Smith Waldsmith, LLP, in San Francisco. Waldsmith reports that he and his law partner, William B. Smith, received a jury verdict of \$27.75 million in a case involving a diver who sustained quadriplegia when he collided with a synchronized swimmer in a public pool. Waldsmith received a national award from *Law Technology News* for Most Innovative Use of Technology at Trial for the electronic presentation of more than 150 multimedia exhibits during trial. R.J. and his wife Annie have three sons: Jack (10), Nicolas (9), and Alex (6). Email: lawsmith@earthlink.net.

**Peter J. Johnson (JD 93)** and **Carin McCulley (JD 92)** (now Carin Johnson), have been married nearly nine years. Their third boy, Trey Pearse Johnson (10 lbs. 1 oz.), was born on July 12, 2004. His two older brothers, Roc and Casey, like having another brother to play with. Peter and Carin's partnership, Johnson & Johnson, Attorneys at Law, is located in Pittsburg, CA. The Johnsons have been practicing criminal law, juvenile law, and employment and labor law for 10 years. Email: jjlaw2@earthlink.net.

**Althea T. Kippes (JD 93)** reviewed the book *Introduction to Online Company Research* by Chris Dobson in the November 2004 issue of *Trial* magazine. Althea practices law in San Francisco and is an adjunct law professor at GGU.

**Mark H. O'Boyle (JD 93)** joined Moser, Patterson & Sheridan at its Palo Alto office as an associate. O'Boyle previously served as IP counsel for Flextronics International.

**Eric Gale (JD 94)** has been named a shareholder at Bradley, Curley, Asiano, Barrabee & Crawford in Larkspur.

**Deborah A. Klis (JD 94)** works for Deloitte & Touche and resides in Washington, DC, with her husband, Stu Melnick, and their son, Sammy.

**Mark L. Weaver (JD 94)** has joined the law office of Curtis & Arata in Modesto, CA. His areas of emphasis include civil litigation and business law.

**Mark E. Burton (JD 95)** has been promoted to partner at the San Francisco law firm of Hersh & Hersh. Burton joined Hersh in 1998 and has received recognition for his mass tort litigation work against pharmaceutical and medical device companies.

**Peter M. Corroon (JD 95)** was elected mayor of Salt Lake City in the November 2004 elections. Corroon's cousin is 2004 Democratic presidential candidate Howard Dean. Peter and his brother Chris, who is also his business partner, are their family's eleventh generation of twins.

**Sharon A. Anolik-Shakked (JD 96)**, chief privacy officer at Ask Jeeves, is a member of the Spoke Privacy Advisory Board, which provides external perspectives and guidance on privacy and security

issues in the field of enterprise relationship networking and relationship capital management.

**Robert Arnold (JD 96)** has been named as a partner at Horan, Lloyd, Karachale, Dyer, Schwartz, Law & Cook in Monterey, CA. He originally joined the firm as an associate in 1996. His practice focuses on business-related matters, including entity formation, financing, acquisitions, dispositions and other forms of equity investment, employment, and real estate transactions.

**Karen Beyke (JD 96)** served as assistant city attorney for the City of Franklin, TN, and represented other Tennessee cities, as well. In January, she was named editor of the newsletter of the Tennessee Municipal Attorneys Association. This year she also initiated Williamson County Bar Association's first law day celebration. Email: kbeyke@hubbardberry.com.

**Laurenz A. Meckmann (LLM 96)** recently became a partner with the law firm Waldeck Rechtsanwlte, Frankfurt, Germany. Email: laurenz.meckmann@waldeck-rechtsanwaelte.com.

**Julie D. Soo (JD 96)** secured an exclusive interview with NASA's Leroy Chiao, commander aboard the International Space Station, in advance of one with *CNN Headline News*. The interview was the climax of a year-long series of Asian Pacific American astronaut interviews by Soo, a longtime *AsianWeek* reporter. Soo sits on the GGU Alumni Association board of directors.

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## class notes

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**Joseph A. Meckes (JD 97)** has been elected partner at Squire, Sanders & Dempsey. He is experienced in international commercial dispute resolution, class action defense, and IP litigation

**David Metallides (JD 97)** and his wife Desi started their own business in August 2004. Agora Gourmet is a specialty foods store in Boston. The store was recently featured in the *Boston Globe* Food Section, as well as the Boston Phoenix magazine, *Stuff@Night*, as a "Hot Shop."

**Patrick J. Clifford (JD 98)** has taken a position with Archer Norris in Los Angeles on the firm's toxic tort and complex asbestos litigation team.

**Bryan A. Cox (JD 98, LLM 98)** and his wife, Monique, have four children: Colton, 7; Tomiko, 5; Daxton, 3; and new baby Maddox. Cox is a public defender in Clark County, Nevada.

**Gene F. Durand (JD 98)** was named executive director of the special counsel office in San Francisco for MPS Group Inc., which provides workforce solutions for the legal community. Durand is active with the California State Bar and the Golden Gate chapter of Association of Legal Administrators.

**Joyce Jordan (JD 98)** recently opened the Law Office of Joyce Jordan, specializing in landlord-tenant law, employment and housing discrimination, personal injury, and business litigation. Email: joycejordan@sbcglobal.net.

**Jeffrey S. Mann (JD 98)** joined Morgan, Lewis & Bockius in New York in April 2004.

**Steven Weiss (JD 98)** has joined Bay Area Legal Aid in one of the organization's Bay Area offices.

**Wendy M. Gindick (JD 99)** writes in to say that she has taken a job as a staff attorney with The Legal Aid Society of New York, Criminal Defense Division. "I am also the chairwoman of a committee affiliated with the National Organization for Women, which helps women prisoners."

**Erik V. Heger (LLM 99)** started working for British Telecom in December 2004 as legal counsel. Heger and his wife, Ann-Kathrin, and their three-year-old daughter, Emma, live in Munich, Germany.

**Frederick W. Riesen (JD 99)** is a member of the Riesen Law Firm in Charleston, South Carolina. "Trip" practices plaintiff's personal injury and family law, workers' compensation, and business litigation.

**William Utnehrmer (JD 99)** is a real estate developer with W Development Partners, which has developed nearly one million square feet of retail, office, and residential properties and recently brokered a \$100 million acquisition of a regional shopping mall in Orange County, California. Email: utnehrmer@earthlink.net.

**2000s** **Benedicte Ghanassia (LLM 00)** passed the French bar exam and has been working for a year and a half now for a French pharmaceutical company as an in-house intellectual property counsel.

**Keith Lowrie (JD 00)** and wife Michelle had their first child, son Jacob Daniel, in March.

**Sally S. Markowitz (JD 00)** married Boris Schnaydman in New York City's Tavern on the Green on August 22, 2004. She is a member of both the California and the New York state bars, and is a solo practitioner in New York City with a focus on personal injury, estate planning, and family law. Email: ssmbklyn@aol.com.

**Jennifer A. Marone (JD 00)** joined Phillips, Erlewine & Given in July 2004, practicing commercial and civil litigation, including copyright and other entertainment-related litigation. Marone was married last September at the Palace of Fine Arts in San Francisco. Email: jam@phillaw.com.

**Brett A. Baer (JD 01)** is now self-employed and lives in San Francisco.

**Alan B. Bayer (JD 01)** and spouse **Heather E. Borlase (JD 01)** are pleased to announce the formation of Bayer & Borlase in San Francisco. Bayer practices personal injury, employment law, and contract litigation. Borlase specializes in plaintiff's employment law and election law.

**Catherine A. Cary (LLM 01)** is trademark/copyright attorney for Sutton Law Center in Reno, NV.

**Melina M. Fullbright (JD 01)** has just been appointed the executive director of San Francisco's Dolores Street Community Services, which provides neighborhood-based shelter, housing, advocacy, and support for working-poor men and formerly homeless people with AIDS.

**Leongah Groeneveld (JD 01)** (See Leongah W. Wheeler)

**Melissa J. Kanas (JD 01)** is now working as a Legal Aid lawyer in New York City. Professor Susan Rutberg recently saw Kanas working in court and noted "[Melissa] was on top of all her cases, appreciated by her clients and the court clerks, confident and persuasive even with a particularly obnoxious judge." Mel sends her regards to everyone.

**Anil Mehta (LLM 01)** was featured in *The Recorder* last summer in an article on discrimination against attorneys with physical challenges. Anil lost an arm in an industrial accident several years ago and subsequently went to law school. He now works as an attorney in Washington, DC, with the US Department of Transportation's Hazardous Materials Safety and Emergency Transportation Law Division.

**Kris D. Ward (JD 01)** joined Gushurst Family Law as counsel specializing in collaborative family law for the gay and lesbian community in the Denver Metro area. Email: krisward@peoplepc.com.

**Leongah W. Wheeler (JD 01)** (previously Leongah Groeneveld) is pleased to announce the opening of her new law practice in San Francisco, specializing in family law and immigration. She can be reached at 415-362-4343.

**Gretchen J. DuBeau (JD 02)** is the new staff attorney for the United States Public Interest Research Group in Washington, DC. Her responsibilities include global warming issues, with a special emphasis on fuel economy standards.

**Marnee W. Milner (JD 02)** completed her PhD and joined the Hersch Family Law Practice in San Francisco in November.

**Jeffrey Moffatt (LLM 02)** writes that he has been admitted into the US Military Court of Appeals. He has also been admitted into the US Court of Federal Claims, which, he writes, "is the best jurisdiction for tax litigation." Visit his new website at [www.taxauditorattorney.com](http://www.taxauditorattorney.com).



**David M. Serrano Sewell (JD 02)** was one of 10 new patient advocates who took a seat on the board directing California's high-profile venture in stem-cell research. He was appointed to a slot reserved for an advocate of people with multiple sclerosis or amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. Sewell is a deputy in the San Francisco City Attorney's Office, assigned to the Port of San Francisco. He was diagnosed with MS three years ago, during his last year at GGU. After the diagnosis, David took an active role in the Northern California chapter of the National MS Society.

**Patricia A. Siehl (JD 02)** completed an apprenticeship in children's law, focusing on juvenile dependency and delinquency. She currently accepts court-appointed cases in dependency through the San Francisco Superior Court, and also does private representation on matters related to child custody and divorce.

**Kimberly M. Surratt (JD 02)** joined Jenkins Law Office, PC in Reno, NV, practicing family law and complex corporate litigation. Email: kim@jenkinslawoffice.com.



**Sally Simone Markowitz (00)** married **Boris Schnaydman** in New York City at Tavern on the Green on August 22, 2004. A member of the New York and California state bars, she is a solo practitioner in New York City with a focus on personal injury, estate planning, and family law. Email: ssmbklyn@aol.com.

**Matthew A. Corsaut (JD 03)** has gone into solo practice as a real estate and estate planning attorney. In addition, he owns a real estate agency serving the greater Sacramento area. Email him at mcorsaut@ranchomurieta.org or visit his company's website at www.RMHomesForSale.com.

**Laetitia Ferreira (LLM 03)** passed the Paris bar in December 2004.

**Christine L. Hawkins (JD 03)** works as a litigation associate for Filice Brown Eassa & McLeod LLP in Oakland. She practices civil litigation, specifically products liability, toxic tort, asbestos, and premises liability. Email: chlhawkins2003@yahoo.com.

**Ewa Lockard (JD 03)** started her new job as a defender attorney at the public defender's office in Phoenix, AZ, in October 2004.

**Masahiro Oshima (LLM 03)** is doing post-graduate study at Cornell University. He and his wife, Kimiko, are the proud parents of a daughter, born February 9, 2004.

**Brian L. Shetler (LLM 03)** has been promoted from estate planning attorney to partner at Berliner Cohen in San Jose.

**Harjot K. Walia (JD 03)** was profiled by *The Recorder* for her young start on the legal TV commentator panels. She recalls she was at the Redwood City courthouse for a workers' compensation fraud case in August when a producer from Fox News Channel approached her. The chance meeting led the criminal defense lawyer to her first guest analyst appearance. She estimates she has made more than a dozen since, mostly on *Fox News Live*, but also on local news station KRON 4, as well as a local NBC affiliate, *The O'Reilly Factor*, and Court TV. Before she entered private practice, Ginny worked at the San Francisco public defender's office, first as an intern, then as a volunteer attorney. She is currently a partner at Partner, Puri & Walia.

**Jason Hasley (JD 04)** recently accepted a position with Paul, Hanley & Harley LLP in Berkeley. 📖

## CLASS Action

## Let Us Hear From You!

**Class Notes Deadlines: March 15, September 15**

We'd like to know if you have made a career move, changed your address, added to your family, or received an award.  
*Photos are welcomed and appreciated.*

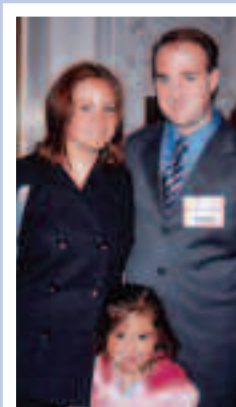
Mail, fax, or email to:  
**Andrew Kaufteil**  
Golden Gate University  
School of Law  
536 Mission Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
Fax: 415-442-6609  
Email: lawalumni@ggu.edu

Or submit your class note online at [www.ggu.edu/law](http://www.ggu.edu/law) (go to the Law Alumni page).

Name _____	Class Year _____
Email _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Sign me up for the newsletter <i>Law eNews</i>
Home Address _____	New Address? <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no
City _____ State _____ Zip _____	Date _____
Home Phone (____) _____	Business Phone (____) _____
Firm/Organization _____	Position _____
Business Address _____	New Address? <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no
City _____ State _____ Zip _____	
News Item _____	
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## Swearing-In Ceremony/Welcoming the Dean

On December 2, 2004, Golden Gate University School of Law hosted its semiannual Swearing-In Ceremony for recent bar passers. This year, the event was combined with a reception to welcome Dean Frederic White to the School of Law. More than 100 guests attended the Swearing-In and reception, which were held for the first time at the beautifully restored Court of Appeal building at 7th and Mission Streets in San Francisco.



### UPCOMING EVENTS

For more information,  
call (415) 442-6602 or  
visit [www.ggu.edu/law](http://www.ggu.edu/law)

**June (date tba)**  
Swearing-In Ceremony

**July 9**  
GGU Alumni Day at SBC  
Park

**October 19**  
Alumni Awards Luncheon

**October 21**  
Fifth Annual Conference on  
Recent Developments in  
Intellectual Property Law

**November 18**  
Environmental Law  
Symposium

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