

Spring 1993

Class Action, Spring 1993

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Class Action



DEAN'S MESSAGE

I am happy to present the second edition of Class Action, the Law School's annual alumni magazine.

This year we focus on some of the distinguished individuals who have been affiliated with the Law School. Included in this issue is a profile of Karen Kadushin, '77, newly-elected president of the Bar Association of San Francisco.

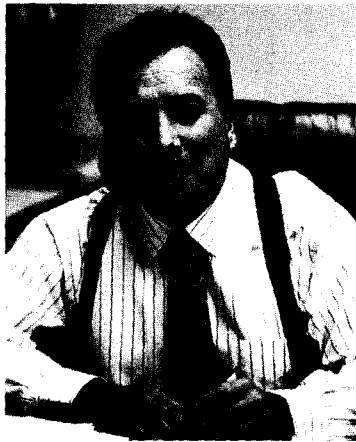
Professor David Oppenheimer has written an insightful piece on Justice Rose E. Bird, former Chief Justice of the California State Supreme Court, and a recent visiting professor at Golden Gate. Another of our visitors, Ralph Abascal, general counsel for California Rural Legal Assistance, is featured as well.

We also highlight our extensive international visitors program and discuss our newly-funded women's clinic, which will be established later this year.

I welcome your comments about this year's magazine and encourage suggestions for articles you would like to see in future issues of Class Action.



Anthony J. Pagano



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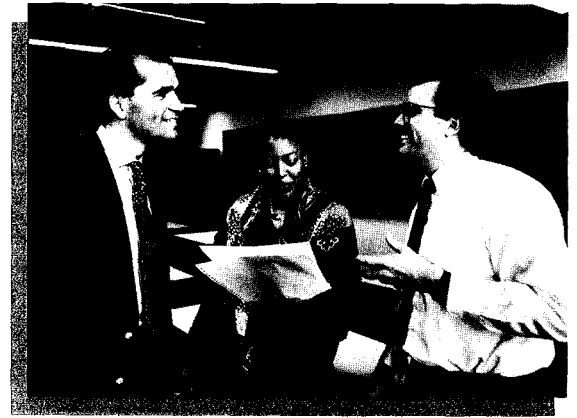
AN ATTORNEY FOR THE PEOPLE

A good role model is something most students hope to find during their law school training. Visiting Professor Ralph Abascal is an individual every law student could learn a few pointers from.

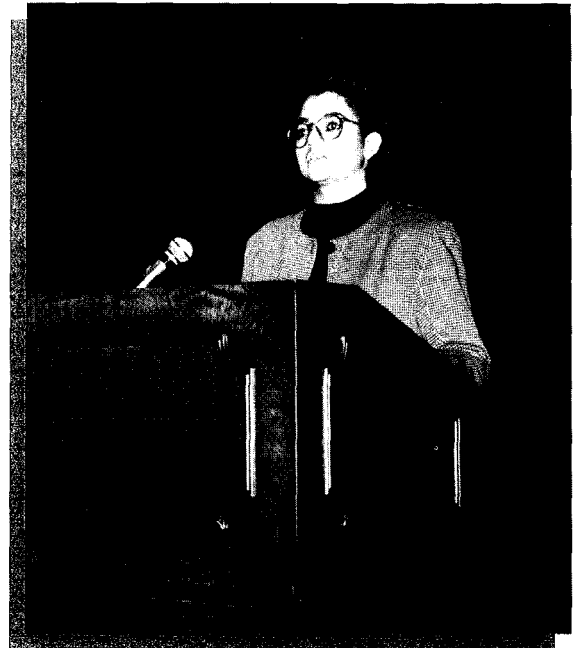
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A Competitive Edge

AN ADDED DIMENSION TO ADVOCACY TRAINING

"The experience is invaluable for later in the real world when you actually go out and start practicing law."

The average law school student spends 10-15 hours in class each week, studies 20-30 hours, and devotes another 10-15 hours to working at a part-time job. The schedule is grueling at best and leaves most people ready for a hefty dose of "R&R" when the work is all done.

But there are exceptions. Every year a handful of students dedicate their remaining free hours to preparing for one of the many student competitions in which the Law School participates. They pour their energies into writing briefs, practicing their delivery, and working with teammates to hone their advocacy skills in hopes of convincing a panel of judges they have mastered their subject well enough to command recognition.

Law School students can choose from any number of competitions in a given year. During past school years, teams from GGU have participated in the National Mock Trial



Competition, Association of Trial Lawyers of America Competition, and the American Bar Association's Criminal Justice Competition, for which the GGU team received the silver trophy in 1992. Other events include the Traynor Moot Court Competition, Frederick Douglas Moot Court Competition, and the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition, in which GGU achieved a second place finish in 1991.

Although to the outsider, participation in a student competition might appear to be somewhat masochistic given the added work it entails, those who are involved maintain a completely different perspective. Third-year student Eric Kaufman spent two consecutive years as a member of the GGU team for the Philip C. Jessup International Moot Court Competition. "It was probably the best experience I've had in law school," he says. "It stands out as the highpoint of my law school career."



THE GGU LAW SCHOOL TEAM CAPTURED THE SILVER TROPHY IN THE ABA CRIMINAL JUSTICE TRIAL COMPETITION IN MARCH OF 1992.

The Jessup competition is a contest in public international law. Participants are given a problem to solve with an international focus. They prepare a written memorial or brief and argue in front of a panel of judges intended to represent the International Court of Justice. "It's almost like arguing in front of the Supreme Court," because of the formality of the process, explains Eric.

Training for the competition is provided by Professors Sompong Sucharitkul, Larry Jones, and Joel Marsh, who work with students to help them prepare their briefs and develop their oral presentation skills.

"It's very intense," says Professor Jones. "We put in together as a team 7-1/2 hours minimum a week, starting in November until the competition in February. In addition, there's a lot of homework — reading, thinking, organizing, preparing. We also videotape their performances, and the students study them."

"The training for it was excellent," comments Eric. When the team first started practicing, he says, they were nervous, afraid of questions that might be asked of them. By the time they reached the actual competition, they felt ready for anything.

"After that training, I felt I could handle any situation that came up. We learned more international law than the judges actually knew themselves. It instilled a confidence that will help in the long run."

It was an interest in developing this confidence that inspired second-year student Lori Kinchen to become a contender in the Frederick Douglas Moot Court Competition, sponsored by the Black Law Students Association (BLSA).

"I felt it would be very good experience for me," she explains. "As you go through law school, every once in a while it's nice to put yourself in a real-life situation."

Lori paired with third-year student Simona Hunt-Morgan to participate in the regional segment of the competition, held in Oakland in February. The two were given a two-part problem for which they had to prepare a brief, most of which they did over their Christmas vacation. During the actual competition, they



LORI KINCHEN REHEARSES FOR THE FREDERICK DOUGLAS MOOT COURT COMPETITION.

were required to argue their cases twice — on-brief against one panel of judges, and off-brief against another.

Lori and Simona were coached by Professors Joan Howarth and Markita Cooper, who listened to their presentations and gave them pointers on their delivery. "We videotaped each of our sessions so we had something to look at at home and review," says Lori. "They helped us to be more aware of postures and mannerisms."

Working with Simona provided a lesson in teamwork, she adds. "You really had to get into the team spirit of the whole thing." While this was Lori's first time participating in the competition, it was the second year for Simona. "She knew the ropes. It helped me to get to the place I needed to be. We were very well matched as a team, and I was pleased with how we did."

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"As you go through law school, every once in a while it's nice to put yourself in a real-life situation."



PHOTO BY JENNIFER SAUER

JUSTINE JUSON ARGUES HER CASE BEFORE JUSTICE ROSE BIRD AND ASSOCIATE JUSTICE JAMES PERLEY.

When Lori and Simona got to the actual competition, they did very well. After winning the preliminary round, they advanced to the semi-finals, where they finished in third place. In addition, as a team, they received the Patricia Roberts Harris Award for Best Respondent's Brief and the Derrick Bell, Jr. Award for Best Overall Brief.


Students interested in participating in competitions can get a head start through a recently implemented Law School program that provides a solid foundation for competitive training. Led by Professor Barbara Anscher, the Appellate Advocacy program is a required course for second-year students that combines appellate brief writing with oral advocacy. The course culminates with a series of competitive rounds in which students argue their briefs against each other.

Once the competition is narrowed to the final round, the two finalists argue in front of a panel of actual judges. This year the panel included former California Supreme Court Justice Rose

Bird, Associate Justice James Perley, and Timothy A. Reardon of the California Court of Appeals. As a second-year student, Lori participated in the Appellate Advocacy program and says, "I used that as a warm-up for the Douglas competition."

But whether students learn the art of advocacy from their Appellate Advocacy course or from participation in student competitions, most who go through the experience of competing will agree that it provides an added dimension to their law school training.

"The experience is invaluable for later in the real world when you actually go out and start practicing law," says Lori.

"It's a lot of work, but it's well worth it," adds Eric. "It's practical. You're always going to have to argue in front of a judge. It's a real confidence builder, and you really learn skills you can bring to the law profession." 

Justice Rose Bird Visits Golden Gate

By David Oppenheimer

When students in last semester's Advanced Constitutional Law Seminar convened as the United States Supreme Court to decide a case from the Court's 1992-93 docket, their professor had no problem directing the Court's conference. She'd done so hundreds of times for the California Supreme Court. The course was taught by this year's Distinguished Judicial Visitor, former Chief Justice Rose Elizabeth Bird.

Although it may be hard to describe Justice Bird's presence at Golden Gate as the pinnacle of her career, it is certainly a logical way station, or even a return to her starting place; she began her legal teaching career over twenty years ago.

Bird is best known, of course, for her ten years as Chief Justice of California. Appointed by Governor Edmund G. [Jerry] Brown in 1977, she served for almost ten often stormy years and stood twice for confirmation. She was confirmed in 1978 but rejected by the voters in 1986. She left office in early 1987.

Those with long memories may recall that Bird was first appointed by Governor Brown as Agriculture and Services Secretary, where she served from 1975 through 1977.

Bird was the first woman to serve in the California cabinet, as well as the first to serve on the California Supreme Court. Her best known accomplishment as Agriculture and Services Secretary was her drafting and successfully ushering through the Legislature California's Agricultural Labor Relations Act (ALRA).

A few with particularly long memories may recall her meteoric rise in the Santa Clara Public Defender's Office, where she began as a deputy in 1966 and rose to Senior Trial Deputy and Chief of the Appellate Division before leaving in 1974.

But Bird has deep roots in legal education. As an adjunct professor at Stanford in the early 1970s, she and Professor Anthony Amsterdam




PHOTO BY JENNIFER SAUER

founded the Stanford criminal law clinic. One of her first published articles was concerned with two areas of great interest to her: legal ethics and legal education. (The article, "The Clinical Defense Seminar: A Methodology for Teaching Legal Process and Professional Responsibility," appeared in 1974 in the *Santa Clara Lawyer*.)

Stanford graduate Stephanie Wildman, now a law professor at the University of San Francisco, was one of Bird's first students in the Stanford criminal law clinic. She recalls Bird's

teaching as "absolutely breathtaking — she was mesmerizing!" In the courtroom, Wildman relates, "Bird was a brilliant cross-examiner. She was incredibly well prepared, absolutely principled, and always highlighting ethical issues, putting them into the forefront."

Bird's students at Golden Gate report that her teaching skills have not diminished with time. Third year student (and *Law Review* Ninth Circuit Editor) Rod Fliegel commented, "Part of what I liked about her class was that her knowledge was encyclopedic; every case we discussed, she knew all the history. It was astounding. Her insights into history and politics made me understand constitutional law differently." But, he continued, "what I liked most was that she really tried to instill in us as future lawyers a sense of responsibility — that we could make a difference in our society." He concluded, "The seminar was the most engaging challenge I had in law school."

To the delight of students and faculty alike, Dean Pagano has recently announced that Justice Bird has accepted an offer to return next year for another semester's visit. She will again be teaching Constitutional law. 

David Oppenheimer is an Associate Professor of Law at Golden Gate and a former law clerk to Justice Bird.

"Bird was the first woman to serve in the California cabinet, as well as the first to serve on the California Supreme Court."

WHERE LEARNING NEVER STOPS

ALUMNI IN EDUCATION

■ Joyce Saltalamachia, '76, probably thought she wouldn't have much use for her degree in library science once she finished law school. But her job as director of the law library at New York Law School blends both of her credentials into a single career.

■ It was a television interview that inspired Bette Ruellan, '74, to shift her focus from law to classical languages. Now she spends her days at the University of San Francisco, teaching students to unravel the mysteries of Latin and Greek.

■ Variety is the theme of Steve Goldblatt's, '77, life. His job as professor and consultant at the University of Washington ensures that every day will be a little different from the one before.

All of these alums are devoting their time to careers in education. Each has carved a niche in a particular field that combines educational training with personal interest.



JOYCE SALTALAMACHIA

"The job I have gives me a lot of flexibility. I teach my classes, but I also have the time to do outside activities."

When Joyce Saltalamachia entered law school in the early '70s, she assumed she would have no further use for her master's in library science from University of California, Berkeley. But old habits die hard, and after working evenings and summers part-time in the law library, Joyce realized she could combine the two degrees into a new profession.

When she graduated in 1976, Joyce landed a job as the reference librarian in GGU's law library, where she worked until 1982. A native Californian, she'd spent her whole life on the West coast and realized that "after all those years of being in California, I wanted a big change."

She got one. In 1982 Joyce joined the faculty of New York Law School as director of the law library and as an instructor for the school. In her position, she is responsible for supervising library personnel, developing the collection, and assisting faculty with scholarly research.

"I like being able to plan for the future," she says, "predicting the information needs of the legal profession five, ten years down the road and

planning to meet those needs."

In addition, Joyce teaches courses in legal methods and advanced legal research and is active in a number of legal education groups. She sits on the board of governors of the Society of American Law Teachers and participates in site evaluations for the American Bar Association.

"I've got my finger in a lot of different pies. The job I have gives me a lot of flexibility. I teach my classes, but I also have the time to do outside activities.

"As a teacher, I work with lots of different law students," she continues. One of the most rewarding aspects of this, she notes, "is seeing them when they come in and watching their development throughout law school."

Even from New York, Joyce's job enables her to keep in touch with friends and colleagues from GGU. "In legal education, you travel around, you go to meetings, you see people very frequently. I've kept in close contact with GGU — sometimes it seems like I never left." She has also kept in touch with many of the students

who were at the Law School while she worked in the library. "When anyone comes to New York, they always give me a call," she remarks.

On the whole, says Joyce, working as a law librarian and instructor can be extremely rewarding. "It's a good profession. It enables you to work in education, plus have contact with the legal profession so that you don't feel you're out of it entirely. It combines the best of all possible worlds."

BETTE RUELLAN

Bette Ruellan peers intently at her computer monitor as rows of Latin nouns and verbs flash across the screen. She furrows her brow, clicks on the mouse, and VOILA!

"Isn't that wonderful? I got the answer right — after all these years," she laughs.

These days, computerized Latin games are all the rage with Bette, who uses them as an instructional tool for her students. For the last two years, Bette has taught Latin and Greek in the Classics Department at the University of San Francisco (USF), a long way from her post-law school days in the courtroom.

It wasn't always this way. When Bette graduated from GGU in 1974, she planned to practice law along with her peers. But soon after opening her own civil practice, she found herself less than content.

"The law is truly a demanding mistress, and I didn't love it. At first I thought, 'if I just give it a little more time.'" But even the passage of time did not assuage Bette's nagging feeling that she was really meant to be doing something else.

Then in 1987, Bette's mother died, leaving her and her two sisters some money. "One of them bought a new house, one of them bought a Winnebago, and I went back to school," she says.

Bette's decision was inspired by a television interview conducted by Bill Moyers with classicist Joseph Campbell, who coined the phrase, "follow your bliss." At the encouragement of a former undergraduate professor from USF, Bette took Campbell's advice and entered the M.A. program in classics at San Francisco State University. Two years ago she completed her coursework, and having recently finished her thesis will receive her degree with honors in May.

When an opening became available in the Classics Department at USF, Bette jumped at the chance to put her knowledge into practice. She

currently teaches three courses a semester, including ecclesiastical Latin, classical Latin, and Greek.

"I've never been happier," she exclaims. "I really love talking to the students, seeing their growth. I'm teaching people how to be full human beings and helping them through an intense period in their lives. I feel like I can do some good in someone's life and really make a difference for someone."

Bette's classes are generally small — fewer than a dozen students — and she enjoys the challenge of working closely with students to help them master the complexities of the language.

"Latin and Greek are perceived in the world as tough subjects. If you can help a student to crack it, you're doing a tremendous job helping his or her confidence. It's really satisfying to be able to do it."

Bette encourages individuals thinking of a transition from law to "follow their hearts, not their minds. That's what really keeps us young, that's what really keeps us alive. There are so many ways to be dead in this world, but there's only one way to be alive, and that's to be doing what you're meant to do. If you're doing the right thing, you're just going to feel differently about everything in your life — that I'm sure of. That really is what following your bliss is about."

Next year Bette hopes to enter a Ph.D. program and continue following her own bliss. "If all goes well, in about three or four years, you can call me 'Doctor, Doctor,'" she laughs.



BETTE RUELLAN

*"I'm teaching people
how to be full
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Steve Goldblatt is not an easy man to pin down. He's constantly on the move, testifying in Olympia, Washington, meeting with architects, poking around in the library, or teaching one of his three classes at the University of Washington (UW).

For the last eleven years, Steve, '77, has been an associate professor at the College of Architecture and Urban Planning at the University of Washington in Seattle, and, until 1991, he served as department chair. In addition, he works half-time as a mediator and consultant to the UW's attorney general's division of the facility management office.

Steve's career actually began before he entered law school at GGU in the early '70s. A graduate of University of California, Berkeley, Steve worked as a contracts engineer for Pacific Gas and Electric in San Francisco, a position he maintained while attending GGU four nights a week for four years.

Even from the beginning Steve wasn't convinced he wanted to forsake engineering for law. "My interest was always to combine the two," he explains. "I didn't go there with the idea that I would necessarily even practice. I was already employed and off on a career. It fit with my interests, and I thought it could get me to somewhere I would like to be — and it turned out it did."

Upon graduation, Steve worked for several small firms as a construction consultant and legal counsel. After a few years he tired of the routine of billable hours and decided to try his hand at a new career — university teaching.

In 1980 he took a job as assistant professor in the Department of Building Construction and Contracting at Purdue University in Indiana and "got my feet under me and learned that I could motivate students." Then in 1982, he was offered the department chair position at the University of Washington in Seattle.

As an instructor, Steve teaches evening classes in design and construction law, labor law and policy, and construction accounting. "Since I went to school at Golden Gate at night, I'm used to three-hour blocks. I only teach at night for three hours at a whack, even though it's mostly a day program," he chuckles. "I'm back doing what I sat through for all those years at Golden Gate."

His work as a consultant keeps him busy doing mediation, drafting contracts, working with the state legislature, and "anything and




STEVE GOLDBLATT

everything to do with the budget. I've recently degenerated into wearing a pager so people can find me. I'm in the office a little, but I'm out and about a lot."

One of the aspects Steve enjoys about combining teaching with consulting is that in his travels, "I start to see my students in professional positions out there performing. I rather like that, especially if they remember what they've learned."

Steve believes a background in law can be extremely beneficial to anyone interested in pursuing a teaching career. "The law degree is a credential, it's a ticket to other things. I work with an extraordinary number of people on staff who have been trained as lawyers. It makes all the difference to have really skilled people in these kinds of positions."

This is a good time to be contemplating a teaching career, Steve observes, as many individuals hired to teach at universities in the '60s are starting to retire in the '90s.

"There's a lot going on at universities. There's a certain mobility, so that once you get in the system, the country seems like a much smaller place. There's something uplifting about being on a college campus. Our product is education and the transmission of knowledge. The underlying enterprise is very appealing. It's a good calling." 

*"There's something
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Legal Assistance for Women

SPECIAL GRANT FUNDING EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS CLINIC

Clinical training has always been an integral part of education at Golden Gate University School of Law. This year the Law School will expand its clinical offerings with the establishment of a Legal Assistance Clinic for Women, made possible by a grant from a charitable foundation that wishes to remain anonymous. The granting organization has awarded GGU a total of \$346,770 to establish and maintain a women's clinic for a three-year period.

Professors Susan Rutberg and Susan Kupfer wrote the grant proposal that outlines the plan for what the clinic will be. The two professors surveyed twenty-nine legal services programs and community advocacy groups in the Bay Area to determine which types of legal services are already provided for women and which are needed. After extensive research, the two determined that the Law School could best serve the public by establishing an employment rights clinic for low-income women under the age of 30 who are entering the job market.

At present, says Professor Rutberg, two organizations, Employment Law Center (ELC) and Equal Rights Advocates (ERA), provide some legal services to this population on employment-related issues. However, she says, "Every week they turn away dozens of women who are seeking representation for individual cases because those organizations focus primarily on impact litigation cases." As a result, she adds, both of these organizations will be good referral sources for Golden Gate's clinic.

The first step in the establishment of the clinic will be to hire a director who will supervise 6-8 Law School students each semester. Eventually, the Law School hopes to hire a second faculty supervisor and expand the clinical opportunities to about 16 students per semester. The Law School has applied for federal funding to supplement the initial grant money and help make this possible.


For their work in the clinic, students will receive 6-12 units per semester. Two of these units will result from attending a weekly seminar;

the remainder will come from working directly with clients. Each student will be expected to work 16-40 hours a week at the clinic and to handle 5-6 cases. Consequently, the clinic could serve as many as 40-50 clients each semester. A mix of caseloads will provide students with experience in many different facets of employment-related legal issues.

"The clinic will be a place where our students can learn real lawyering skills in a practical way and be guided by the expertise of a supervising attorney," explains Professor Rutberg.

In addition, the clinic seminar will enable Law School faculty to participate in the clinical program. Professors Maria Ontiveros, Markita Cooper, and David Oppenheimer specialize in the areas of employment law and employment discrimination, while Professors Joan Howarth and Susan Kupfer are skilled in the legal issues related to women. The combined expertise of these individuals, and the varied experiences of other faculty members, will provide a well-rounded perspective for the education of students in the program.

The development of a Legal Assistance Clinic for Women is in keeping with the Law School's tradition of educating students through hands-on, on-the-job training. Currently, the school offers clinical placement programs in the areas of criminal law, environmental law, disability rights, family law, labor law, real estate law, and public interest law, among others. All of these are designed to integrate the legal theory taught in Law School classes with the practical application of the law as it applies to day-to-day legal matters.

"Working in a live-client clinic is a great learning experience," says Professor Rutberg, who has spent many years teaching students in clinical programs. "We will teach people how to interview and counsel and draft motions and negotiate all in a way that's in the client's best interest. That's something you can't learn any other way." 

"The clinic will be a place where our students can learn real lawyering skills in a practical way and be guided by the expertise of a supervising attorney."

A Colorful Career

KAREN KADUSHIN — SAN FRANCISCO BAR ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

It's been quite a year for Karen Kadushin. Last summer she published her first book, *California Practice Guide: Law Practice Management*. In December she was sworn in as president of the Bar Association of San Francisco, the third woman in the history of the organization to hold the post. And in May, she will be honored at the Law School's commencement ceremony as the recipient of the Judith G. McKelvey Award for Outstanding Achievement by an Alumna.



her parents called to tell her she'd been accepted at Golden Gate.

Although Karen and her husband were separated, since she had paid his way through medical school, when he heard about her acceptance to law school, he offered to reciprocate. "He paid all the tuition and books so that I could go to Golden Gate," she says. This enabled her to turn her full attention towards mastering her new-found profession.

During her second and third year at GGU, Karen worked as a law clerk and as

a teaching assistant in the school's Writing and Research program. She suggested some modifications to the program that led to its restructuring, and, as a result, when she graduated from law school in 1977, she was hired as the director of GGU's Writing and Research program.

In 1978, Karen launched her own practice and started teaching part-time at GGU as an instructor of community property and family law. "It really kept me up on the law," she notes. "By the end of the first semester, I was a family lawyer — it was not what I had intended to do!"

But intentions are not always what careers are made of. In the fall of 1978, Karen was hired by family lawyer and GGU graduate Diana Richmond, '73 (the 1985 recipient of the Judith G. McKelvey Award). A year later she became a partner. After two years of working with Diana, Karen left to open her own practice in family law. Soon after, she hired GGU grad Paula Fancher, '81, as an associate, and two years later hired another GGU grad, Paige Wickland, '81. Both were former students of Karen's. In 1989, the three of them set up a partnership, Kadushin, Fancher and Wickland, a family law practice based in San Francisco.

"We practice law consistent with the Golden Gate tradition that individuals are most

"We practice law consistent with the Golden Gate tradition that individuals are most important."

While on the surface this may look like a pretty impressive list of credentials for one person, for Karen, it is simply a small part of a rich and varied career that has spanned the worlds of theater, education, and law.

Karen's journey began in the arts. A graduate of the dance program at University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), she started her career as a stage manager and lighting designer for a dance company, and later as a performer at theaters in Los Angeles, Las Vegas, Lake Tahoe, and Reno.

Marriage to a medical student at University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) brought her to the Bay Area, where she took a job as a "jill-of-all-trades" for the Renaissance Pleasure Faire, a position that entailed hiring cashiers, paying bills, running the office, and serving as a liaison to the fourteen attorneys who worked for the organization. It was this aspect of her job that introduced Karen to the legal profession.

When Karen and her husband separated a few years later, she began thinking about a career change. Considering several options, among them medicine and architecture, Karen chose law. She applied to three law schools, headed off to Europe with friends, and was in Madrid when

important and that you can individualize the practice of law," she says. Karen is a certified specialist in family law, Paula does a good deal of probate work, and Paige specializes in appellate matters.

"It's a little bit diversified. Individual clients, big turnover, and a lot of personal attention. I think we do that very well because I think we pay attention to people."

Karen's involvement with outside professional activities began while she was working with Diana Richmond, who encouraged her to become involved with the Barristers Club. She did so, and eventually became president of the organization in 1982.

Her affiliation with the Bar Association of San Francisco (BASF) started about the same time. She served as a member of the board of directors, executive committee delegation, personnel and finance committee, and as chair of the continuing legal education committee, among others. Three years ago, she was asked to pursue the organizational track to the presidency.

"I've always been a person interested in the organization of things and the administration of things. It just seemed logical to me," Karen explains.

Although Karen says she doesn't have an agenda for her year at the reins of BASF, she does have several areas of interest she would like to see addressed during her tenure.

"As president, I have an interest in continuing the effort to open the profession to people of color and people who have been traditionally viewed as minorities — women, gay men and lesbians, and the disabled."

She also hopes to expand the organization's Volunteer Legal Services Program, which serves 28,000 clients through the efforts of approximately 3,000 volunteers. "That's about a third of our membership. I would like to increase it to about half of our membership."

Eventually, she would also like to see in place a cooperative program between BASF and GGU to enable Law School students to earn credit for working with the association.

"I've always been very proud to have come from Golden Gate because of the tradition of the

people who have led the school. I've always felt very connected to the school and to the administration," particularly, she says, to Judy McKelvey, whose name graces the award Karen will soon receive from the school and who was the second woman to serve as BASF president.

But while Karen's career has certainly had its share of high points and earned her praises and accolades along the way, what's made it all special for her is knowing that being a lawyer enables her to give something back. Karen has always been an active volunteer and has given her time to the community both as an educator for BASF-related programs and as a resource for organizations such as the AIDS Legal Referral Program.

*"Like anything,
volunteering
becomes a habit.
The earlier in
your career you
start doing it, the
easier it is to do."*



KAREN KADUSHIN, (CENTER) IS FLANKED BY MELISSA TOBEN, '82 (L) AND CAROL YAGGY, '79 (R).

"It gives me a sense of actually contributing in a way that can help people," she explains. "I know that I have connected with people; I know that I have brought enjoyment to people. Like anything, volunteering becomes a habit. The earlier in your career you start doing it, the easier it is to do. To be able to do something — I'm very grateful for that. That's special about being a lawyer."

They've Come a Long Way

When students come to the Law School to study international law, they receive more than just a textbook education from their courses. They have an opportunity to learn about the legal systems of other countries directly from individuals who teach and practice in universities and law firms around the world.

In the last few years, the number of international visitors to the Law School has increased dramatically. The roster of visitors has included international legal specialists who have been invited to GGU as part of short-term

special programs, as well as visiting professors who have come to teach in the international law program for entire semesters.

The growth of the international visitors program can be largely attributed to Distinguished Professor Sompong Sucharitkul, who joined the staff in 1990 and who himself has brought a wealth of experience in international legal matters to the Law School. When he arrived, says Professor Sucharitkul, "I was asked to cast an eye on possible candidates to

visit the Law School and give lectures on topical issues within the field of international legal studies."

One of the first programs he initiated was the annual Fulbright symposium, held each spring and covering current topics in international law. These have included European unification, problems affecting the Pacific Rim, regional integration and disintegration, and global and regional developments in international

environmental law. Participants have included speakers from Turkey, Poland, Japan, Hungary, the Netherlands, Yugoslavia, Malaysia, Korea, Finland, China, and Indonesia, as well as representatives from the United Nations. For the last two years the program has also served as the regional meeting of the American Society of International Law.

Other individuals have visited Golden Gate on a longer-term basis. Last spring, the Law School was selected to host Professor Alexander Martinenko, a visiting legal scholar from Kiev, Ukraine, who came to the school through the Soviet Lawyer Internship Program sponsored by the American Bar Association. Dividing his time between GGU and the law firm of Heller, Ehrman, White & McAuliffe, Professor Martinenko taught a seminar in current legal issues in the Soviet Union and gave a series of lectures on changes in the Ukraine, developments in the Ukrainian legislature, and other topics related to the political situation in the Ukraine.

During the fall '92 semester, the Law School hosted Professor Franco Ferrari, a visiting professor of Italian Private Law from Augsburg University in Germany, and an author of several publications on comparative law. He and Professor Sucharitkul co-taught a class in comparative legal systems. Between Professor Ferrari's background in European civil law and Professor Sucharitkul's expertise in Asian civil law and British and American common law, students in the class received quite an education.

"Together we covered a whole range of legal systems around the world," explains Professor Sucharitkul. "The experience has been very rewarding with the results that the students and also teachers have enriched their education."

Professor Ferrari also gleaned a great deal from the partnership. "It's the greatest teaching experience I've ever had," he says. "I've learned a lot from the students' questions and from the comments of Sompong."

Another visitor to the school last fall was Professor Peter Malanczuk, chair of the department of international relations and public international law at the University of

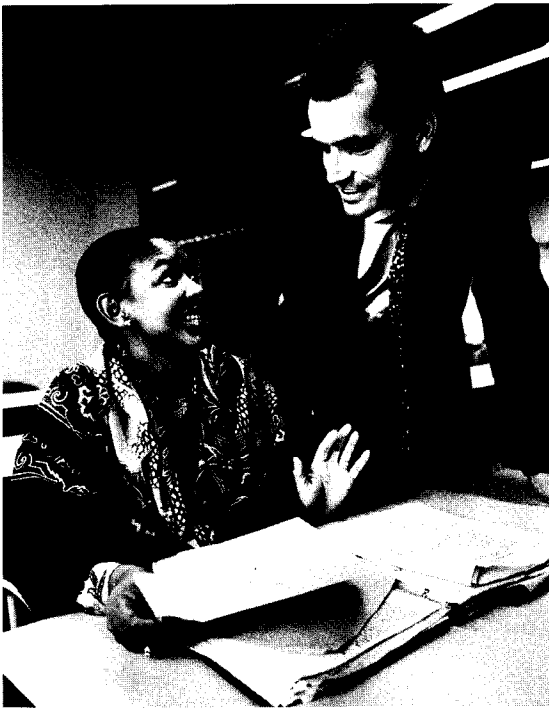


PHOTO BY JENNIFER SAUER

PROFESSOR FRANCO FERRARI OFFERED STUDENTS A NEW PERSPECTIVE ON COMPARATIVE LAW.



PROFESSOR SOMPONG SUCHARITKUL (L) COMPARES LEGAL THEORIES WITH PROFESSOR PETER MALANCZUK.

Amsterdam, the second largest international law department in Europe. Professor Malanczuk spent a week at the Law School as a guest speaker in Professor Sucharitkul's class. He also gave a public lecture on international environmental law. As a result, says Professor Sucharitkul, "We have concluded an exchange agreement by having him over for a short visit. We will reciprocate by having Professor Marc Stickgold visit the University of Amsterdam and other Benelux universities."

The addition of international visitors to the Law School provides students with a different perspective on the study of international law, says Professor Sucharitkul. "It widens the horizon of the Law School, of the law students, and of the faculty. It introduces new blood, new materials, new concepts, and a different approach to the teaching of international and comparative law and other legal subjects."

Adds Professor Ferrari, these days a school that does not host international visitors is behind the times because it provides a more limited scope of the law. "Nowadays what counts is being integrated," he says. "In a city like San Francisco, different cultures mean different laws. International visitors bring this to you in a different way because they bring in a different point of view of the same problems."

"The students are delighted," continues Professor Sucharitkul. "They enjoy the difference. They may not fully understand the implications, but eventually I think they have all learned to appreciate the difference and the variation in the notion of law. Most important, they learn that the regional notion is not necessarily the only notion."

INTERNATIONAL VISITORS TO THE LAW SCHOOL

AUSTRIA

Christoph Schreuer
Department of International
Law
University of Salzburg
Professor Karl Zemanek
Faculty of Law
University of Vienna

BULGARIA

Professor Boris Landjev
New Bulgarian University
Dr. Emilia Ianeva
Red Cross Expert for
Bulgaria/Humanitarian
Law

CHINA, PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF

An Chen, Dean
Xiamen University
Judge Lu Guoqiang
Shanghai High People's
Court
Wang Tieya
International Law Institute
Peking University

CHINA, REPUBLIC OF (TAIWAN)

Professor Chia-Jui Cheng
Soochow University
Tamkang University
Edith S. Coliver
Asia Foundation
Dr. Tzou Chong-Ko,
Director
Graduate Institute of
European Studies, Tamkang
University

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY

Peter Norbert Schweiger
Head of Press Office

FINLAND

Professor Peter Wetterstein
Fulbright Scholar
Professor of Civil Law
Abo Akademi University

GERMANY

Professor Franco Ferrari
Augsburg University Law
School
Munich University Law
School

HONG KONG

Anthony Francis
Attorney & Counselor at Law
Henry Hu Hung-Lick
Barrister at Law
Dr. K.H. Hwang
Barrister at Law
Larry L. K. Kwok
Holman, Fenwick &
Williams, Solicitors

ITALY

Malcolm Evans
Secretary-General,
UNIDROIT
Riccardo Monaco
President, UNIDROIT

JAPAN

William Currie, Dean
Faculty of Comparative
Culture
Sophia University
Shinya Murase, Dean
Center for International
Studies
Rikkyo University
Toshiji Nakajima
Justice of the Supreme Court
Hiofu Sasakura
Osaka City University

KOREA

Professor Doo Hwan Kim
Soongsil University
Soogeun Oh
Fulbright Scholar
Department of Law
Inha University

MALAYSIA

Dr. Szarina Abdullah
Senior Lecturer
Mara Institute of Technology
P.G. Lim, Director
Regional Centre for
Arbitration
Professor Murugesu
Pathmanathan
Faculty of Economics and
Administration
University of Malaysia
Justice Dato Mahadev
Shankar
Chamber of Judges, High
Court
Professor Khalid Yusoff
Dean, School of
Administration and Law
Mara Institute of Technology

NETHERLANDS

Peter Van Fenema
Secretary-General
International Institute of Air
and Space Law
Leiden University
Professor Peter Kooijmans
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Kingdom of the Netherlands
Department of International
Law
Leiden University
Pablo Mendes de Leon
Leiden University
Professor Peter Malanczuk
Department of International
Law and Relations
Amsterdam University

PHILIPPINES

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Dean, College of Law
University of the Philippines
Florentino P. Feliciano
Associate Justice of the
Supreme Court
Erik G. Jensen
Attorney

SWITZERLAND

Christian Jules Dominice
Professor of Law
Institut universitaire de
hautes etudes
internationales de Geneve
Professor Dietrich Schindler
University of Zurich

UKRAINE

Professor Alexander
Martinenko
Analytic Firm

UNITED NATIONS

A.O. Adede
Deputy Director for Research
and Studies
Larry D. Johnson
Principal Legal Officer

An Attorney for the People

Ralph Abascal was working in the Sacramento office of the California Rural Legal Assistance (CRLA) one day in the late '70s, when the phone rang. It was a young woman named Liz Sandoval who had just started as an attorney at the agency's Marysville office and was calling to introduce herself.

The two exchanged pleasantries for a few minutes and were just about to wrap up the conversation when the woman said to him, "I don't know if you remember, but we have met



before." She told Ralph that as a high school student, she had worked as a volunteer in the Marysville office while he was an attorney there. She explained that observing him and the type of work he did had inspired her to go to college, and eventually on to law school.

"I was struck," said Ralph. "That was the first sense I had that just doing this kind of work could be a model for a person and inspire her to do the same kind of work."

"Model" is an appropriate epithet for Ralph, whose varied and extensive experience as a legal advocate for the poor has led him to a visiting professorship at the Law School this semester, where he teaches a course on "Race, Poverty, and the Environment." As general counsel to CRLA

since 1975, and executive director of the CRLA Foundation's Center on Race, Poverty, and the Environment, Ralph incorporates much of his own personal and professional experience into his course.

"It's primarily a civil rights course and reflects the rapid growth locally and nationally of the disproportional change of environmental policy based upon racial characteristics or class. We're dealing with the nature of the problem, really grappling with legal theories to address the issues," he notes.

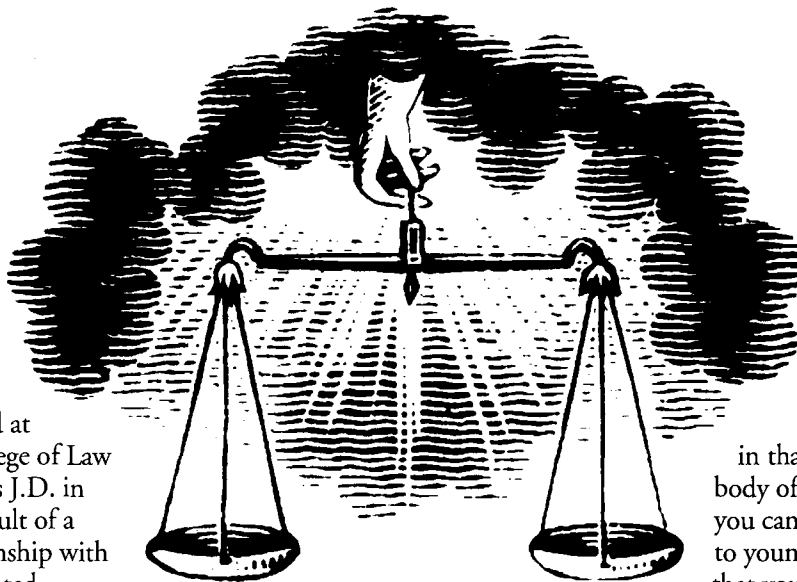
These issues are not unfamiliar to Ralph. In his 26 years in the legal profession, Ralph has been involved with more than 200 poverty law cases related to civil rights, labor rights, housing, healthcare, the environment, and immigration. He recently argued his first case before the United States Supreme Court, representing more than 400,000 illegal immigrants who were denied amnesty under the auspices of the Immigration Reform and Control Act, enacted in 1986. Ralph's own background as the son of immigrant parents gave him an added sense of responsibility towards the case.

Ralph's parents immigrated to the United States from Spain in the early part of the century, his mother by way of Gibraltar and his father by way of Cuba. Three of his brothers were part of Loyalist forces in the Spanish Civil War and eventually died in prison camps under Francisco Franco's regime.

Ralph was raised in San Leandro and had not originally planned to become a lawyer. After earning a B.S. from San Jose State University in 1961 and an M.B.A. from University of California, Berkeley in 1962, he began the pursuit of a doctorate in economics from UC Berkeley, entertaining the possibility of a career in teaching upon receiving his degree.

A trip to the movies in 1964 turned his life upside down.

The film was *Inherit the Wind*, the story of the 1925 Scopes "Monkey Trial" involving the teaching of evolution in public schools. When Ralph left the theater, he realized that what he really wanted to be was Clarence Darrow — an attorney for the people.



He enrolled at Hastings College of Law and earned his J.D. in 1968. As a result of a summer internship with the newly-created

California Rural Legal Assistance, Ralph landed a job with the agency as a staff attorney in the Salinas office and later as directing attorney in the Marysville office. There he worked with GGU professor Myron Moskowitz.

In 1970, Ralph became director of litigation for San Francisco Neighborhood Legal Assistance Foundation, and five years later he was invited back to CRLA as general counsel in the agency's San Francisco office, his present position.

In addition, Ralph has published articles in the *Georgetown Law Journal*, *Hastings Law Journal*, and *Clearinghouse Review*, and was the 1983 recipient of the Loren Miller Legal Services Award from the State Bar of California "in recognition of outstanding legal services to the poor of California."

One of the most rewarding aspects of Ralph's career has come from being a part of the change in attitude toward the whole field of public interest law.


"When I started, poor people had not been part of the legal system. Virtually everyone was dealing in relatively new territory." His work and that of others like him has provided "legal services to poor people who had no access to the legal system but who are so dependent upon the system. There are a lot of people to represent the overdog, but few around to represent the underdog."

But while the fulfillment that comes from such an extensive background of practicing litigation is significant, Ralph has discovered through teaching at GGU that sharing his life experiences with students offers its own compensation.

"It's rewarding in that you have a body of knowledge that you can communicate to young minds and that you can influence

those minds," he explains. Teaching, he says, enables one to plant the seeds of ideas in the minds of students. When they graduate and go off into the world to practice for 35 or 40 years, they do so "with some of your own ideas directing them. One gets a great deal of personal satisfaction out of the fact that you can mold young lives."

The impact of this was driven home to him in a recent experience at Harvard Law School, where he was one of eight individuals selected as Morris Wasserstein Public Interest Fellows in February. The fellowship enabled him to spend several days at Harvard meeting with and acting as an advisor to a dozen law students. As an outcome of conversations with several of the students, Ralph arranged to have a few of them come to San Francisco to work with him this coming summer.

At this point in his career, Ralph is faced with a variety of options. He has applied for a federal judgeship with the United States District Court. He is awaiting the verdict on a job with the Department of Labor in the Clinton administration. And he is contemplating the possibility of turning his full attention to teaching and settling into a life of academia. But regardless of where his career path leads him, Ralph is certain to serve as an inspiration to those around him and continue to influence others to follow in his footsteps. 

*"There are a lot
of people to
represent the
overdog, but few
around to represent
the underdog."*

Up Close and Personal

by Susan Rutberg

The late Lenny Bruce once said that San Francisco's Hall of Justice was aptly named because the only justice was in the halls. Through Golden Gate's Criminal Law Clinic, students have an opportunity to determine the truth of this statement for themselves.

By working for the Public Defender or the District Attorney for ten to fifteen hours a week, clinic participants hear the stories of the men and women who pass through these halls as victims, witnesses, and defendants while simultaneously learning the language of the lawyers and judges who handle the cases. The clinic seminar provides a place for students to learn from each other's experiences, as well as that of their instructors. Students often find that after one semester in the clinic, their life experience or law school-inspired perspectives on justice have been radically altered.

Students in the Criminal Law Clinic currently work in public defender or prosecutor offices in San Francisco, Alameda, and Contra Costa Counties. Some students are placed in the juvenile division of one of these offices; placements are also available with the San Francisco Sheriff's Prisoner's Legal Services unit.

The State Bar provides that students can be certified to appear in court, and, with their supervising attorney present, may actually conduct hearings and offer arguments. So in addition to research and writing, students have the opportunity to argue motions, interview witnesses and help prepare them to testify, aid in jury selection, and actually conduct felony preliminary hearings and juvenile court trials.

Debbie Klis, a second-year student, works with Assistant District Attorney and Homicide Prosecutor Peter Cling. Cling has involved Klis in almost every aspect of a five-defendant murder trial he is currently prosecuting. As part of her work on the case, Klis researched areas of the law that the prosecution anticipated would be used by the defense, including the use of joint peremptory challenges



PHOTO BY BRUCE COOK

by multiple defendants, the permissible scope of cross-examination of defense psychiatrists, and the viability of some probable defenses.

For Klis, the experience has been transforming — principles of criminal law and procedure learned in class have become real. The work of applying the law to the facts of this case has imprinted those principles on a much deeper level. In addition, for Klis, who has always considered herself pro-prosecution, the experience of this trial has increased her understanding of what it means

to be accused of a crime and face spending many years in prison.

This semester, third-year student Susan Kalra assisted Deputy Public Defender Jeff Adachi in writing and arguing a motion to dismiss that made the front page of the *Daily Journal*. The case involved a mentally ill client who had been lost in the system for more than five months. The motion Kalra helped to prepare argued that the client had fallen into a hole in the system that the judge had the power to seal by dismissing the case on speedy trial grounds. Instead, according to Adachi, the judge stepped around the hole. Declining to grant the motion on the grounds urged by the defense, the judge ordered that the case be discharged, a maneuver that permitted the District Attorney's office to refile charges against the public defender client.

Kalra's work on this case and the ensuing publicity has helped to spotlight the troubling issue of the limitations of the criminal justice system in dealing with the mentally ill. For Kalra, the clinic experience has been the highlight of her law school career. Her supervising attorney gives her important work to do and listens to her ideas. After this experience, Kalra feels a lot closer to becoming a lawyer.



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