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Golden Gate University School of Law

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NEWS FROM GOLDEN GATE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

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Media Contact Only:

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Outspoken Judge Stephen Reinhardt Featured at Law School Commencement

SAN FRANCISCO — Judge Stephen Reinhardt of the U.S. Court of Appeals in Los Angeles, who last week criticized the U.S. Supreme Court for its handling of the Robert Alton Harris appeals for stays of execution, will deliver the main address at the Golden Gate University School of Law Commencement on May 16. The ceremony is slated to begin at 10 a.m. at Masonic Auditorium, 1111 California St. It is free and open to the public.

Reinhardt, who was appointed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit by then-President Jimmy Carter, is a self-described "war horse of the left." At the Yale Law School commencement, held shortly after Harris's execution, Reinhardt told graduates of his alma mater that he believes the U.S. Supreme Court was wrong when the justices ordered lower courts to grant no further stays in the case. Such public criticism of the Supreme Court by a federal judge is rare. Reinhardt also told the Yale audience he believes Harris's constitutional rights were denied by the Supreme Court which, he said, demonstrated more interest in legal procedures than a man's life. The outspoken judge has previously questioned what he calls the "majoritarian" attitude of the Supreme Court which, he says, protects mainly those sectors of society that are already powerful.

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Before being appointed to the federal appellate court in 1980, Reinhardt specialized in labor law and was a partner in the firm of Fogel, Julber, Reinhardt, Rothschild & Feldman. He also was president of the Los Angeles Police Commission. Before serving on the Police Commission, he was president of the Los Angeles Recreation and Parks Commission, and a member of the Los Angeles Coliseum Commission. He also was secretary of the 1984 Los Angeles Olympic Organizing Committee from 1978 to 1984. He currently is a member of the Board of Directors of the Los Angeles Amateur Athletic Foundation, which administers the surplus from the 1984 Olympics.

A graduate of Pomona College and the Yale Law School, he is a member of the Order of the Coif. He is a veteran of the U.S. Air Force.

Awards Presented

Several graduating students will be recognized for their academic achievements and leadership. The Rose Elizabeth Bird Award for Professionalism and Integrity is going to Nancy L. Roeser, who also won the Public Interest Law Award for Outstanding Achievement. The Paul Jordan Achievement Award recipient is Jennifer Martin. Other award recipients are Caroline T. Lubbe, Bankruptcy Law; Ghada N. Saliba, Constitutional Law; Sherrie Callis, Corporate and Commercial Law; Charlotte Robertson, Environmental Law; Linda A. Sullivan, Family Law; Michael J. LeVangie, Grotius Award for Academic Excellence in International Law; Paul C. Ohliger, Health Care Law; Dale E. Lawrence, Immigration Law; Jamie P. Roberson, Labor and Employment Law; Margaret J. Gilleran, Lawyering Skills Award for Outstanding Achievement; Gregory J. Oliver, Taxation Law; Kouros Behzadi, Real Estate Law; Heidi Anne Timken, International Academy of Trial Lawyers Outstanding Student in the Field of Litigation; Gerald L. Robertson, Civil Litigation Award for Outstand-

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ing Achievement; and Robert J. Waldsmith, Criminal Litigation Award for Outstanding Achievement.

Michael Zamperini, assistant professor and director of writing and research, will receive the John A. Gorfinkel Outstanding Instructor Award. Zamerini joined the full-time law faculty in 1989. A practicing attorney since 1973, he was most recently associated with the firm of Barry and Tong, where he was responsible for case management for commercial and construction litigation.

Golden Gate University School of Law was founded in 1901 and is one of the oldest law schools in Northern California. The school is accredited by the American Bar Association. Golden Gate University, headquartered in downtown San Francisco, is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.