

2002

Class Action, Spring 2002

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.law.ggu.edu/classaction>

Recommended Citation

"Class Action, Spring 2002" (2002). *Class Action*. Paper 2.
<http://digitalcommons.law.ggu.edu/classaction/2>

This Newsletter or Magazine is brought to you for free and open access by the Other Law School Publications at GGU Law Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Class Action by an authorized administrator of GGU Law Digital Commons. For more information, please contact jfischer@ggu.edu.

CLASSAction

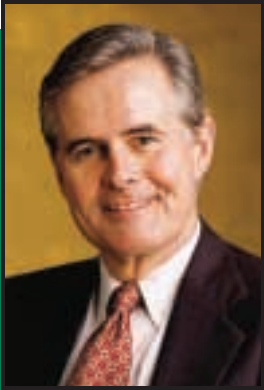
SPRING 2002



GGU WOMEN

You've Come a Long Way

GGU Women in Practice



This issue of *Class Action* spotlights the women of Golden Gate University School of Law—a topic we have a lot to boast about. Judy McKelvey, our dean from 1974 to 1981, was the second woman dean of an ABA-accredited law school and the second woman president of the San Francisco Bar Association. She often speaks of the revolution in the legal profession when large numbers of women first entered law schools back in the 1970s. Golden Gate was one of the first women-friendly law schools. Many who attended were second-career students raising, or having raised, families.

These women radically changed the face and atmosphere of the legal profession. All of the changes have been for the better. We look at our women graduates and see many judges, partners in significant law firms, small and solo practitioners, government lawyers, law professors, and corporate counsel. These women have been superb examples and mentors to our students over the years.

This issue features nine of these accomplished alumnae in specific areas of practice. We selected the graduates and the areas to highlight the diversity, depth, and breadth of our school's talent. We could not begin to cover all the areas in which our alumni excel, but this is a start. We include Simona Farrise (private practice), Ursula Germann (international), Christiana Khostovan (corporate), Hon. Cynthia Lee (judicial), Elia Ortiz (criminal defense), Susan Rutberg (education), Suzanne (Cohen) Wilson (criminal prosecution), Leslie Tick (government), and Olivia Wein (public interest).

I had the pleasure of writing the profile about Judge Cynthia Lee of the San Francisco Superior Court. The profile really wrote itself, although to truly do her justice, I would need to fill the entire issue with stories about her. Judge Lee is illustrative of the successes enjoyed by many of our alumnae.

We have a lot to be proud of in our female graduates, faculty, and students. This issue honors them, their work, and our commitment to continue their tradition of excellence. I hope you enjoy reading these short profiles and getting to know your fellow graduates as much as we enjoyed writing about them.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Peter G. Keane". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Dean Peter G. Keane

P.S. Exciting news! The Law School renovations are on schedule and should be completed this summer. Check our website this summer for the date of a special “ribbon-cutting” ceremony in September.

Also, applications to our J.D. program are up over 50 percent. This is a remarkable phenomenon, never before experienced in the Law School's history.

C O N T E N T S

S P R I N G 2 0 0 2

CLASSAction



FEATURE

- 2 You've Come a Long Way: GGU Women in Practice**
Profiles of nine accomplished female graduates
- 3 Susan Rutberg (75) by Professor Marci Seville**
- 4 Elia Ortiz (98) by Lorri Ungaretti**
- 5 Suzanne (Cohen) Wilson (97) by Lorri Ungaretti**
- 6 Hon. Cynthia Lee (74) by Dean Peter G. Keane**
- 7 Leslie Tick (83) by Cindy Ossias (83)**
- 18 Ursula Germann (LL.M. 97)**
- 19 Christiana Khostovan (97) by Vicki Trent (98)**
- 20 Olivia Wein (95) by Meg Giberson (96)**
- 21 Simona Farrise (93) by Lorri Ungaretti**



DEPARTMENTS

- 8 Class Notes**
What your fellow alumni are doing
- 10 Alumni Activities**
Reunions and alumni get-togethers
- 12 Golden Gate Briefs**
News and events at the Law School
- 14 IP Update**
Recent developments in the Intellectual Property Law Program
- 15 Faculty Notes**
Leslie Burton's experience teaching in Istanbul, plus recent faculty accomplishments and activities



Professor Goetzl in the 1970s



Class Action is a publication of Golden Gate University School of Law
536 Mission Street, San Francisco, CA 94105
©2002 Golden Gate University School of Law
Editorial and Production: Lorri Ungaretti
Design: John Massey
Photographs: Aaron Lauer, John Marriott, Lorri Ungaretti

You've Come a Long Way: GGU Women in Practice

Profiles of nine exceptional attorneys representing a cross section of legal specialties: corporate law, criminal defense, criminal prosecution, education, government, international, judiciary, private practice, and public interest.

Over the years, GGU School of Law has been gifted with women from all walks of life. Our stories have been as rich and varied as the grand, elaborate tapestries of Versailles. Some of us are recent immigrants to the United States. Some come from families that date back to the Mayflower. Some of us are the first in our family to attain a college and graduate education. Some have multiple advanced degrees. Some of us have raised ourselves out of poverty. Some have come from affluence. Though perhaps separated by our differences at birth, we are bound together by our common commitment to causes greater than ourselves.

Writers, poets, air traffic controllers, doctors, nurses, ministers, accountants, singers, politicians, insurance saleswomen, homemakers, entrepreneurs, and computer programmers have graced our halls as students and teachers. The wealth we possess because of their contributions to our lives and our learning is beyond measure.

In the following pages, you will get a glimpse of our collective greatness. You will be introduced to nine exceptional GGU law graduates. Each of these women has contributed enormously to her chosen area of law. I invite you to take a peek. Enter their worlds and be transformed by the telling of their unfolding stories.

Introduction by Lee A. Hopkins (Class of 2002), clergywoman, mediator, public speaker, writer, and member of the GGU Women's Law Association. Her classmates have selected her to be the J.D. class commencement speaker at the 2002 graduation exercises on May 18.



Susan Rutberg

(J . D . 1 9 7 5)

Professor Susan Rutberg (75) was one of a handful of accomplished women criminal defenders in the Bay Area during the mid-1970s and 1980s. She honed her skills at the Bayview Hunters Point Community Defender's Office and at the public defender offices in Alameda and San Francisco. Many of Susan's friends would say that her considerable skills before a jury stem from her ability to tell a great story—with style—and to convince her audience that virtually everything she says is true. One of the highlights of Susan's years as a trial attorney was the 1986 acquittal of San Francisco lawyer Stephen Bingham who had been accused of smuggling a gun to George Jackson, one of the famed "San Quentin Six."

Always a firm believer in the value of experiential learning, Susan moved to full-time teaching after 15 years as a trial lawyer. She came back to GGU in 1991 after heading up criminal law clinics at the University of San Francisco Law School, University of Santa Clara Law School, and CUNY (City University of New York Law School in Queens, New York).

GGU students have the opportunity to learn from Susan in simulation classes such as Trial Advocacy and Criminal Litigation, where they use hypothetical fact patterns to learn lawyering skills in a classroom setting. They can also work with her in the Criminal Litigation Clinic, getting practical experience through placements in local prosecutor and public defender offices.

“Susan is an extraordinary teacher and mentor because she is an exceptional attorney and a compassionate person. She combines wit, wisdom, charm, and consideration in the classroom to bring out the best in all of her students. She is more than an asset to GGU; she is a treasure.”

—Kris D. Ward (01)

GGU Judge Lee D. Baxter Fellow
in Litigation



Susan is an innovative teacher, and in recent years, she pioneered new ways to merge her goal of using clinical teaching to enhance students' skills while furthering social justice. In 1995, she initiated a collaborative project with the Volunteer Legal Services Program (VLSP) of the Bar Association of San Francisco (BASF). She transformed what had been a pure simulation class in interviewing, counseling, and negotiating into a "live-client" program at VLSP's Homeless Advocacy Project (HAP).

Now, students have the opportunity to learn-while-doing through direct assistance to homeless clients. Susan serves as the criminal law advisor to HAP, writes training materials, and provides annual training to both HAP staff and students. As a result of the GGU/HAP collaboration, the Bar Association recognized the student work with the 1996 BASF Award for Outstanding Law School in Public Service. The association also recognized Susan as one of BASF's outstanding volunteers in 2001.

In the fall of 2001, Susan began the GGU Innocence Project in partnership with the Northern California Innocence Project based at Santa Clara University Law School. In this program, Susan supervises students who investigate claims of wrongful conviction for California prisoners. GGU is now part of the National Innocence Network, a highly respected program responsible for more than 100 exonerations of wrongfully convicted inmates around the country.

During the spring 2002 semester, Professor Rutberg has been in the Czech Republic as a Fulbright Scholar. She is teaching two courses, Criminal Law and Trial Advocacy, at Charles University in Prague.

—Professor Marci Seville

Professor Marci Seville joined the Golden Gate University School of Law faculty in 1993, the same year that she founded the Women's Employment Rights Clinic.

Elia Ortiz

(J . D . 1 9 9 8)

Elia Ortiz (98) has traveled far from her roots to her current job in the Napa County public defender's office. Her parents and two brothers were born in Nicaragua and came to the United States before Elia was born. She was the first (and so far the only) person in her family to go to college, much less to law school. Elia credits her background, and especially her mother's influence, for her success. "I was raised pretty much by a single mom who instilled certain values in me that have helped me to be a better human being," she says.



Elia remembers two law professors who influenced her at Golden Gate: Bob Calhoun and Susan Rutberg. "I had Criminal Law with Professor Calhoun," she says. "He was a wonderful professor and really turned me on to that area of the law." She adds, "I remember wanting to be like Susan Rutberg. She taught me both the practical side of the law and the personality that comes with being a public defender."

Elia defines that personality not as something that one learns on the job, but as something that "defines you as an individual." She believes that most public defenders have working-class, struggling backgrounds. "Early on, you're an individual," she explains. "You're concerned about surviving and holding on to your values—plus being able to identify with others."

Elia got her start as a public defender while in law school. She completed a yearlong internship at the Marin County Public Defender's Office and another internship in Sonoma County. She was always impressed by the people she worked with because "there wasn't a lot of ego. For the most part, the

people went out of their way to teach me, to answer my questions."

After law school, Elia worked for a year in Riverside County, California, followed by six-months in Solano County, before starting work as a deputy public defender in Napa County in October 2001.

"I did my first trial in Riverside County and had a wonderful supervisor, Charles Butler. He was professional and supportive. After my opening argument in my first trial,

he said, 'You know, you're going to be one hell of an attorney.' He compared me to one of the top female attorneys in Riverside. Charles had been doing murder cases a long time, and he believed in my abilities. Many women starting out don't get that encouragement. It's one of the experiences I take from Riverside."

When asked why she is a public defender, Elia explains, "I have to protect those who are facing charges, because there are certain constitutional rights that we have in this country. The fourth amendment is there for a reason. Many constitutional rights are violated by officers. It's one thing to investigate a case and do a thorough job. But the minute that you start allowing people's freedoms to be abridged, there's no stopping it."

"In every case, the client has a right to an attorney," she adds. "My obligation is to do the best for my client. It's not about me; it's about my client."

However, there are ways that she identifies with her clients. "I'm a little amazed that I am where I am," says Elia. "A lot of my clients have my background. When I look at them, I think, 'That could have been me.' I chose a different path for myself, and I was lucky that I had that choice."

—Lorri Ungaretti

"I have to protect those who are facing charges, because there are certain constitutional rights that we have in this county. The fourth amendment is there for a reason."

Lorri Ungaretti is the director of marketing at Golden Gate University School of Law.

Suzanne (Cohen) Wilson

(J . D . 1 9 9 7)

“**M**y mother always said that I should go to law school because I liked to argue,” says Suzanne (Cohen) Wilson (97). However, she ignored her mother’s advice and went to work at Aetna insurance company after earning an undergraduate degree in international economics. Bored with her job after a few years, she applied to law school and started at GGU as a night student when she was 27. She was still working full-time at Aetna.

Suzanne’s goal from the beginning was to be a prosecutor. “I wanted to give back to the community,” she explains. “I always wanted to fight for the underdog.”

The GGU mock trial team gave her the background and experience she needed. When Professor Bernie Segal announced, “No night student has ever finished the mock trial program,” Suzanne took on the challenge. She became one of the first part-time students to earn a litigation certificate with honors.

While in law school, Suzanne was a part-time intern in the San Francisco County District Attorney’s Office. When she graduated, she worked part-time at the Marin County DA’s office and at Aetna. But she knew that if she didn’t leave those positions, she would never practice law.

She applied to almost every California District Attorney’s Office. Riverside County hired her to work in Blythe, an hour-and-a-half drive east of Palm Springs. “It was a small office, and I learned a lot because I had to do everything,” Suzanne recalls. After one year, the deputy district attorney in charge left, and Suzanne was promoted to the position. She was awarded Misdemeanor Prosecutor of the Year in 1998.



Suzanne Wilson, with her husband Neil in Pt. Reyes, California.

Suzanne knew no one in Blythe, so she looked up Neil Wilson, a colleague with whom she had worked over the phone in the past. “You are my social life,” she told him. He invited her to visit him in Scottsdale, Arizona. She laughs, recalling that when she visited that desert oasis, they went to an ice hockey game. Four months later, they were engaged to be married and have been married since April 1999.

In December 1999, Suzanne moved to Scottsdale to be with her husband and to become a deputy county attorney for Maricopa County, Arizona. She started prosecuting general felony crimes, and after one year, moved to prosecuting family violence and sex crimes. Although she still handles some child abuse cases, she now she focuses almost exclusively on sex crimes.

Suzanne is proud that she was recently invited to train to become faculty at the National Advocacy Center in South Carolina. In 2002, the American Prosecutors Research Institute (APRI) invited her to attend “Train the Trainers,” where she will learn how to train others. “Great people are involved in this program,” she says. “When I work on a child abuse trial, I have an amazing network of experts to draw on. I can just email people and get help.”

Defendants she has prosecuted include a man who molested his granddaughter, a rapist who broke into a neighbor’s house with a “rape kit” he created based on what he had seen on TV, and several shaken-baby cases. She sat second-chair on a first-degree murder trial where the defense argued that the victim had asked to be shot in the head.

But Suzanne’s main focus is protecting children. “People who hurt children are monsters,” says Suzanne. “If I can stop them, I will.”

—Lorri Ungaretti

“I wanted to give back to the community. I always wanted to fight for the underdog.”

Lorri Ungaretti is the director of marketing at Golden Gate University School of Law.

Cynthia M. Lee

(J . D . 1 9 7 4)

San Francisco Superior Court Judge Cynthia Lee (74) has come a long way from her roots in a working-class family in New York's Chinatown. But she has not forgotten those years and the circumstances that strengthened her along the way. Her father clerked in a hardware store in Manhattan while holding two other jobs. Cynthia's first contact with court came when her mother, a clerk who eventually became the chief clerk at the Federal Southern District of New York, took her to work. "My main memory is how we had to be so quiet. Everything was quiet and very solemn," she recalls.

New York's Chinatown was a safe, caring place for kids growing up in the 1950s. "Everyone knew everyone else," she says. "The school was a block away. The park we skated in was across the street." High school, on Manhattan's West Side, was a short ride on the bus or subway. Her ninth-grade journalism teacher was an early inspiration. "It was like being exposed to a bright light," Cynthia remembers. That teacher's facility with words and the use of language opened wide Cynthia's intellect and continues to guide her today.

Mount Holyoke College took her far from lower Manhattan. History was her love, and she touched upon the justice system early with a paper on Sacco and Vanzetti, who were tried and executed in the 1920s—more for being Italians and anarchists than for the bank robbery with which they were charged. Cynthia agrees with the historical judgment shown by the facts: Vanzetti was innocent, Sacco probably guilty, and due process and the right to a fair trial took a drubbing in both their situations.

“Cynthia remained in the DA’s Office for 20 years, during which she developed a reputation as one of the most skilled, ethical, and professional advocates in the city.”



Cynthia took a break after college and worked at Harvard for a year. Then she moved to San Francisco and began law studies at GGU. The summer clinic at the end of her first year convinced Cynthia that she was on the right path. She loved working on cases, serving clients, and getting to the heart of legal problems. She fondly remembers her study group with Lee Baxter (74) and Ruth Astle (74), both of whom also went on to become judges.

After graduation, Cynthia hung out her shingle in an office at The Cannery with several fellow GGU graduates. "It was the quintessential 1970s San Francisco experience," she says. "The clients did come, to my surprise, and the beautiful Aquatic Park was just outside my door." She did well in private practice, but her desire for more trial experience led her to the San Francisco District Attorney's Office, where she planned to stay just two years.

Cynthia remained in the DA's Office for 20 years, during which she developed a reputation as one of the most skilled, ethical, and professional advocates in the city. She worked her way up from family support and juvenile cases to misdemeanors, preliminary hearings, felonies, and complex litigation. She headed the office's narcotics, preliminary hearing, and rebooking divisions, as well as domestic violence units. In 1998, she was appointed judge.

Today, her main observations about law and lawyering are succinct and clear: "You are only as good as you are prepared," and, "Most of it boils down to ethics."

As for where she is now, Cynthia declares, "I love my job. I get to do great things every day."

It's clear from her dedication and incisiveness that she will continue to do so.

—Peter G. Keane

Peter G. Keane is the dean of Golden Gate University School of Law.

Leslie Tick

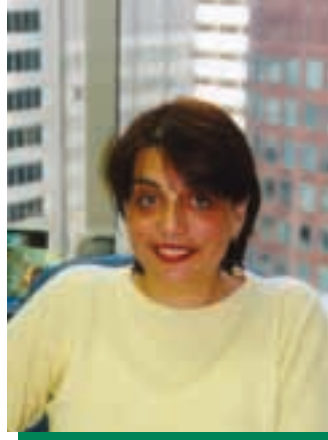
(J . D . 1 9 8 3)

Leslie Tick (83) is a very busy woman. First, there's the family: husband Jim Fisher (82) and two children, Sasha and Avery. Then there's the full-time job, senior staff counsel at the California Department of Insurance, eight hours a day of which would be plenty in itself. But on top of that, business trips around the world take Leslie away from home for at least a week several times a year.

For four years now, Leslie has served as counsel for the Department of Insurance's (DOI) Holocaust Insurance Project. She joined the DOI in January 1994. Previously, she was in private practice, then worked as a hearing officer at the San Francisco Rent Board and as an administrative law judge with the California Department of Social Services.

Initially, the DOI job was standard staff attorney fare: working files, litigating, acting as in-house counsel. Then Leslie took on the additional title of "public advisor," acting as liaison to outside parties intervening in prior-approval cases. In 1998, she was asked to assist the commissioner with Holocaust insurance matters. "I was attracted to the work as soon as I heard about it," Leslie says. "It's not often one gets to help Holocaust survivors, especially as a government lawyer."

In the decades before World War II, many European Jews purchased insurance policies on their property, their lives, and the lives of their loved ones. Then the property was confiscated, the lives, snuffed out. Instead of paying benefits, the European insurers invested the victims' premiums, some even purchasing American insurance companies.



In 1998, DOI led the charge to force the European companies to find policyholders and pay their claims. Leslie has been at the forefront of that effort, attending ICHEIC (International Commission for Holocaust Era Insurance Claims) meetings as the insurance commissioner's sole representative. She advises him on issues arising at the meetings and acts as the administration's point-person on Holocaust matters.

Leslie finds the work immensely satisfying. "The survivors are so appreciative of what I do, and my work has the potential for helping many people," she says. Leslie has been involved in high-level negotiations, which give her insight into just how complicated international issues can get. "This is a political and moral 'hot potato,'" she says. "No one wants to hurt Holocaust survivors, but the insurance companies don't want to pay out money. In addition, there are rivalries among the various countries and states."

Leslie says there are usually no more than 3 women in a room of 80 or more men, and that she's a "pain in the neck" because she speaks up and tries to move things along. "The European men are slow, polite," she observes, "while I'm speedy, even for an American. I get so impatient. The survivors are getting older while the work goes very slowly."

She's gratified to see California's continued leadership—not just in Holocaust matters, but also on other insurance issues. For example, the department has been examining race-based premiums, slavery-era insurance, and redlining—all of which interest Leslie. She envisions the establishment of a separate DOI bureau to deal with "underdog" matters such as these. And she plans to be part of it, of course.

—Cindy Ossias (83)

“It's not often one gets to help Holocaust survivors, especially as a government lawyer. . . . The survivors are so appreciative of what I do, and my work has the potential for helping many people.”

Cindy Ossias (83) has been an attorney in the State of California Department of Insurance legal division for the past 12 years. In 2000, she was named the Golden Gate University Alumna of the Year.

IN MEMORIAM

**Constance Posner (75),
December 12, 2001.**

**Warren T. Isaacs (49),
January 30, 2002.**

1960s

Frederick (Rick) W. Bradley's (66) firm, Bradley, Curley, Asiano & McCarthy, moved to Marin County after 30 years in San Francisco. The firm specializes in defense of professional liability, construction, and product cases.

James Anderson (69), Alameda County assistant district attorney, was featured in the *San Francisco Daily Journal* for his achievements in sentencing capital cases.

1970s

Ronald A. Goularte (70), a law instructor at De Anza College, recently earned a certificate in mediation from the University of California.

Alan Austin (74) retired from Littler, Mendelson, Fastiff & Tishy in Los Angeles and moved to Australia to live the farm life he has always wanted. G'Day mate!

**Send Us Your
Class Note!**

By email:

kbrannelly@ggu.edu

By fax or mail:

See the form on page 17.

Howard Donaldson (74) was selected to serve as the staff judge advocate for United States Special Operations Command in November 2001, after serving as the staff judge advocate for Air Force Special Operations Command for more than three years. In his new capacity, he serves as general counsel to the command, as well as principal legal advisor to the commander-in-chief of this unique joint command which, among many other missions, is deeply involved in the global war on terrorism.

Linda M. Betzer (75), assistant U.S. attorney, is an adjunct professor of law at Case Western Reserve Law School in Cleveland, Ohio, teaching trial advocacy. In 2000, she was sent to Bucharest, Romania, by the Office of Professional Development and Training of the Department of Justice. She taught investigative techniques and prosecutorial methods to Romanian and Moldovan prosecutors and police officers. In October 2000, at a ceremony in Washington, D.C., Attorney General Janet Reno presented Linda with a Director's Award for Superior Performance as an assistant U.S. attorney.

Susan Rutberg (75) spent the spring semester 2002 in the Czech Republic teaching law classes. (See her profile on page 3.)



Arthur Coleman (56) was given the Community Service Award at GGU's centennial festivities last October for his exemplary leadership and outstanding service contribution to the local community. He has both J.D. and M.D. degrees. Dr. Coleman has been involved in the Civil Rights movement.

Joel M. Blackman (76) tells us that exactly 20 years after graduating from law school, he and his wife had a daughter. He has been working for the San Francisco Public Administrator/Public Guardian and specializes in conservatorships.

Susan K. Pintar (77) recently opened an office in Beverly Hills, 90210. She specializes in general civil litigation, real estate, and decedents' estates.

Marc Van der Hout (77) was profiled in the Small Firms section of *California Law Business* on February 11, 2002. The article described how one can do good and still do well. Marc's firm, Van Der Hout and Brigagliano, specializes in immigration, employment,

deportation, and asylum cases, specialties that were brought into sharp focus after September 11. As busy as the firm is, Marc claims he is making time for other priorities, "I'm older and wiser now. I now realize you've got to have a balanced life."

Shelley A. Gordon (79) continues her work as a mediator and arbitrator, along with private law practice. Her oldest son just started college. She says she remembers the Law School days, and Friday afternoon beer and hot dogs at the Wagon Wheel.

Eric Jacobs (79) has been named partner at Townsend and Townsend and Crew. Eric is a member of the litigation group.

Roberta G. Willenkin (79) has moved with her husband Bob to a new home in sunny Connecticut where they enjoy their children and grandchildren who live nearby.

1980s

Gail Dekreon (81) ran for superior court judge in San Francisco in March and is now facing a run-off election in November. A mini-reunion for the class of 1981 was held at her victory party. Gail ran against fellow GGU family member Nancy Davis, an adjunct professor at GGU.

Class Notes

continued from page 8

Sandra J. Bushmaker (82) served on the Sausalito City Council 1998–2002, and was the mayor from 1999 to 2000. She is a practicing family law attorney.

Peter Fowler (84) has been asked by James E. Rogan, the under secretary of commerce for IP and director of the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office, to continue to serve as chief of staff at the USPTO, a position he has held since May 1998.

Matthew P. Guasco (84) has become of counsel to the law firm of Norman, Dowler, Sawyer, Israel, Walker & Barton, LLP, in Ventura, California. Since spring 2000, Matthew has been an adjunct professor at Pepperdine University School of Law, Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution, where he teaches negotiation and mediation.

Robert Kelleher (84) is now director of the accreditation services for the California Alliance of Child and Family Services. California Alliance is an advocacy group and industry spokesperson for group homes, foster family agencies, and non-public schools.

Craig A. Kroner (85) is proving that you can make it as a sole practitioner. The Law Office of Craig A. Kroner recently secured a jury verdict of over \$560,000 and an arbitration award of \$10,000,000. He is currently litigating two child brain-damage cases.

Bryan Sean McKown (87) has formed a new litigation firm. He is a named partner in Bolfanso & Mckown, LLP.

Hon. Laurel S. (Lindenbaum) Brady (88), a superior court judge in Contra Costa County, married Larry Brady in May 2001.

Richard Corriea (88) is attending Golden Gate University again in pursuit of an EMBA degree.

Cheryl Frank (88) has been appointed a commissioner for the San Francisco Superior Court. She handles all emergency orders.

1990s

Bruce Stephan (91), Joan Stephan (91), and Reg Bedell (91) are “making a go of it” in New York’s North County. Three alums in such a small town is practically an invasion!

Michael L. Sokolik (92) practices personal injury and traffic law. He has had his own practice for the past three years, after becoming a partner in a

CONGRATULATIONS!

The following GGU law graduates were among those who received an Outstanding Volunteer in Public Service Award for 2001 by the Bar Association of San Francisco:

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Kathryn Ringgold (70) | Janis Eggleston (90) |
| Tony Rothschild (70) | Edward Taylor (93) |
| Robert Kane (73) | Dolores Chong (94) |
| Susan Rutberg (75) | Junji Suzuki (96) |
| Thellen Levy (79) | Jessica Chylik (98) |
| Neal Konami (83) | Claire Williams (99) |

firm in which he had worked for five years. Michael and his wife Lisa had their first child in October 2001. Michael would like to hear from fellow Law School classmates. His email is m/s-law@msn.com. Warning: baby pictures will be attached.

Cynthia Cox (93) joined Gordon & Rees as an associate in San Francisco to form an insolvency and creditor’s rights group.

A.T. Kippes (93) was interviewed for the article, “Mentor Program Guides Young Members,” for *Trial Magazine* (November 2001). A.T. shared secrets on networking and getting employment through the “hidden” job market.

Michael Schinner (LL.M. 93) has been certified as a specialist in taxation by the State Bar of California Board of Legal Specialization. Schinner is the founder of The Schinner Law Group and is an adjunct professor of law at GGU.

Robyn Sofnas Zieper (93) left Amerignest Mortgage Co. after seven years to join Park Place Capital Corporation as corporate counsel. Park Place Capital is a new company specializing in real estate finance and is located in Irvine, California. Robyn lives in Newport Beach with her husband and two-year-old son.

Carrie Ann Colton (96) recently married Stephen J. Kavanagh.

Ali Pasha Hamidi (96) has joined Squires, Sanders & Dempsey as an associate in labor and employment.

Jeffrey White (96) is currently practicing environmental law at the Law Offices of Masry & Vititoe in Westlake Village, California. (Masry & Vititoe is the law firm featured in the film *Erin Brockovich*.) On a personal note, Jeffrey married Meghan McArthur this past year.

(continued on page 17)

A MESSAGE FROM KEVIN ALLEN (97)

Six months ago, I addressed you as the chair of the Law School Committee of the University Alumni Association. I was recently elevated to president of the board for the entire University Alumni Association, a promotion that has proven to be extremely exciting—and challenging. For the Law School, it means that there is now another law graduate who serves on the University board of trustees. Having law alumni present ensures that the unique needs of the Law School will always be considered along with the needs of the University. It also helps to maintain the strong tie between the Law School and the University.

My decision to be on the University Alumni Association board was strongly influenced by my desire to see the School of Law continue to flourish. That is why it pleases me to know that the new chair of the Law Committee is Karalyn Buchner.

Karalyn is a Bay Area native. She earned a B.S. in journalism from the University of Colorado at Boulder in

1992, then worked for a few years in the financial industry before attending Golden Gate University School of Law. While at GGU, she was an associate editor for Law Review and was part of a three-person team that represented GGU at the Pace University Environmental Law Moot Court Competition. Karalyn was a Public Interest Law Scholar and earned a certificate with distinction in environmental law when she graduated in 1998. She is the sole staff attorney for the As You Sow Foundation, a small environmental non-profit organization.

I first met Karalyn early in 2001. She attends all Law Committee meetings, asking pertinent questions and providing valuable input. She has assisted at numerous Law School functions and was voted onto the University board of directors in October 2001. Karalyn has been, and will continue to be, a valuable asset to the Law School. I encourage you to seek her out, share your ideas about the school with her, and possibly join her on the Law Committee.

“BEAT THE CLOCK” MCLE PROGRAMS

Look for them next year

This past January, the Law School’s Alumni Relations Office hosted three evenings of alumni MCLE programs. This “Beat the Clock” program was timed to allow grads to complete their required coursework prior to the year-end deadline. Particularly helpful was the inclusion of three required courses: Prevention of Substance Abuse, Elimination of Bias in the Legal Profession, and Legal Ethics.

As a fitting preview of our new LL.M. in Intellectual Property Program, Professor Marc Greenberg gave an overview of copyright law. Try doing that in one hour! For Elimination of Bias in the Legal Profession, we tapped our own Elizabeth Cohee (99).

We also offered an MCLE program in the South Bay, along with an alumni reception graciously hosted by alumni board member Mark Figueiredo (95) at his firm, Hopkins & Carley. We were joined by Dean Peter Keane, who gave an update on recent Law School events and offerings, and by former Dean Lani Bader.

Host an event in your area

We’d be happy to plan events in regional areas that have concentrations of GGU grads. If you are interested in hosting a reception or MCLE program, let us know by calling Law Alumni Relations Director Kevi Brannelly at (415) 442-6602 or sending an email to kbrannelly@ggu.edu.

It’s Here!

CHECK OUT THE NEW ONLINE ALUMNI DIRECTORY

Find a lost classmate, locate a referral for that pesky tax problem in Texas, identify GGU grads with your specialty in your city, or hold a networking event! The options are limitless. Oh yes, one other thing: You can now update your own information online. It’s easy!

Instructions for logging into GGU’s new Online Alumni Directory

1. You need the 7-digit number that appears above your name on the mailing area of this magazine. Once you have this number, you may begin the registration process.
2. Go to the University website (not the Law School website) at www.ggu.edu. Click on “Alumni Services” and then select “Online Alumni Directory.” Select “Click here to register now” and register as an alumni member. After you complete this step, you may go in to check your own record or play with the search features.

3. If you have any difficulty registering or navigating, please contact Loal Isaacs in the University Alumni Office for assistance. He can be reached at lisaacs@ggu.edu.

While on the University website, be sure to go to the Law School page and check out our News and Events section for listings of lectures, MCLE programs, and other interesting events on campus.

GREAT COMPANY, GOOD FOOD, AND A PRESIDING JUDGE

What more could you want?

On a cold, blustery Sunday in November

2001, two generations of GGU Law School grads met up at the beautiful City Club, here in San Francisco, to bask in their achievements in front of friends, family, and faculty members. One group, the December 2001 graduates, was there to close the book on its law school days.

As with most law school graduations, the event was as much a celebration of succeeding in law school as an acknowledgment of all those in the audience who nurtured, supported, and patiently watched their loved ones go through three or four of the most difficult, but rewarding, years of their lives. The class speaker, Shawn Tillis, recounted how much law school and his new GGU surrogate family have meant to him. There weren't many dry eyes in the house as he left the podium.

The second group was our very happy July bar passers who joined us to be sworn into the California bar by Judge Carol Yaggy (79) and to the Federal bar by GGU Adjunct Professor, Magistrate Judge Maria Elena-James. This is always a festive event. We were proud of our graduates and happy to offer a more intimate setting for the ceremony instead of the mass swearing-in ceremony offered by the state. GGU is one of the few law schools to offer such a ceremony. Plans are underway for the fall ceremony. Come join us! Check out our website at www.ggu.edu/law in October for time and location.



Hon. Carol Yaggy (79)



Dean Peter Keane



Midyear grads (left to right): Shawn Tillis, Kelly Partin, and Shannon Taitano.



Bar passers: Nick Levenits (left) and Joseph Chianese.



OUT OF THE LOOP?

Missed these events? Didn't hear about a stimulating lecture last month? Be sure we have your correct address and email, so we can keep you informed of upcoming events and opportunities here on campus and around the country. Stay in touch!

A good way to do this is to read Law eNews. Every other month or so, you'll receive an email with upcoming events, lectures, programs, and campus updates. To sign up, call or send an email to:

Kevi Brannelly

Law Alumni Relations Director

kbrannelly@ggu.edu

(415) 442-6602

HIGH ANXIETY, HIGH PERFORMANCE

The Law Alumni Office was pleased to host a hospitality suite for our grads who sat for the February bar exam in Oakland. They were a relieved group, as it was the last day of the exam and, for at least 24 hours, they hadn't seen an unrecorded property deed twice mortgaged with an easement running through it.

We started with breakfast and provided a room for graduates to store their gear during the exam. We then had sodas and munchies throughout the day, creating an oasis of calm in the crazed environment. And don't tell anyone, but a few champagne corks were popped around 5:00 p.m. at the end of the odyssey.

The school would like to continue this tradition, though we may be limited by the facilities available at the testing site and/or the number of people sitting for the exam at any one location. So, if you plan to take an exam in the near future, be sure to check out the GGU website to see if we are coming to a town near you—or call us and tell us we should. 📖



Last October, two GGU students won the first San Francisco Trial Lawyers Association trial advocacy competition. Left to right: Bentrish Satarzadeh (class of 2002), SFTLA President Martin Blake, and Lizel Cerezo (class of 2002).

NEW MEMBERS OF UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT

Debra Holcomb (left) has returned to Golden Gate University as the director of annual giving. You may remember Debra from her previous tenure here as the Law School's first alumni relations director from 1997 to 2000. Outside the office, Debra stays busy as a founding member of the San Francisco Road Runners Club and by volunteering with a local Girl Scout troop.



Susan Neuwirth (right) has been named director of development for the School of Law focusing on major gifts. A five-year veteran of Golden Gate University, Susie was, most recently, the director of annual giving. Her prior fundraising experience includes ten years of development at the University of Southern California. In her "spare" time, she takes care of her three teenage sons and serves on the foundation board of Marin General Hospital.

WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS CLINIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Congratulations to the Women's Employment Rights Clinic (WERC), which is celebrating several recent case victories and fundraising efforts.

Case Victories

The clinic recently settled a case in which a woman was terminated during the time she was legally entitled to be on leave to care for her newborn baby. The settlement included a confidential monetary settlement, as well as changes in the employer's leave policies.

In December 2001, WERC settled a disability discrimination case brought on behalf of a Spanish-speaking woman who applied for work at a large California medical facility. She was asked pre-employment disability-related questions that violated the newly amended California Fair Employment and Housing Act provisions on disability discrimination. The settlement included changes in the employer's pre-employment inquiries to conform to state law.

Grants and Donations

Through these grants, donations, and attorneys fees, WERC has raised all the funds needed for a full year of the graduate law fellowship:

Witkin Trust Grant: In late 2001, WERC once again received a \$5,000 grant from the Bernard and Alba Witkin Charitable Trust. The Witkin Trust has been a regular supporter of WERC for many years. Thanks to Peter Keane for his work on getting this clinic grant for 2001.

Loveland Trust Grant: In late 2001, WERC received a \$7,000 grant from the Loveland Trust, a family trust administered by the San Francisco Foundation to support the graduate law fellowship.

Individual Year-End Donations: WERC received almost \$9,000 in response to its year-end fundraising appeal to friends, faculty, former clients, clinic alumni, and colleagues in the legal community. A special thanks to fellow faculty members and former clinic students who generously supported the clinic fellowship through these donations!

SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

- GGU student Monic Behnken was one of four Bay Area first-year law students to be given the first-ever **Farella Braun and Martel Diversity Scholarship** awards. Farella Braun and Martel, a San Francisco firm with 120 lawyers, established the \$10,000 scholarship in June 2001. The other three recipients were from Boalt Hall, Stanford Law School, and USF School of Law. The scholarship is based on academic performance, financial need, and professional and community involvement.
- Golden Gate University School of Law and the Bar Association of San Francisco are cosponsoring the **Advancement of Afghan Women Scholarship**, a full scholarship to study law at Golden Gate University beginning in fall 2002. The scholarship will be awarded to a woman who has suffered as a result of the repressive policies of the Afghan government. The scholarship is intended to serve as a model for other law schools and bar associations throughout the United States.

GGU INTERNS AT THE OAKLAND RAIDERS

If you are a football fan, you know that quarterback Rich Gannon has made a name for himself with the Oakland Raiders. What you may not know is that Golden Gate has also made a name for itself at the Raiders' headquarters in Alameda. For the past two years, several GGU law students have interned with Jeff Birren, general counsel for the Oakland Raiders and supervising attorney of the National Football League's (NFL) only legal internship program.

Every semester, about 15 students in the Civil Practice Clinic intern for a variety of legal employers in a broad spectrum of practice areas—from entertainment law to insurance defense to personal injury to estate planning. While every student gains invaluable practical experience, students who intern at the Oakland Raiders also get an inside look at the AFC West champions and the entire NFL.

Most of an intern's time is spent at the Raiders' headquarters, where the legal department works on a variety of issues including trademark infringement, compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, family and criminal law matters, and violations of the NFL's Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA). The CBA governs grievances between players and management, and those grievances are resolved by binding arbitration.

One of the interns' major projects has been the creation of the first annotated CBA. All NFL grievance decisions are sent to the Raiders' legal department where interns brief the decisions and incorporate them into the annotated CBA for easy reference as to how a particular article and section of the CBA has been construed in the past. While the decisions are not binding on future disputes, the annotated CBA is a useful tool to help the NFL Players Association and the NFL Management Council determine the relevant facts in a dispute and predict the potential outcome. Raiders General Counsel Jeff Birren calls the work the Raiders' interns have done on the annotated CBA the backbone of research for the NFL Management Council.

There is much more to the Raiders' internship experience. Students work on current grievances, sit in on depositions, attend grievance hearings, and write post-hearing briefs. At a home game during the football season, an intern may be at the coliseum performing a "game day" assignment such as taking pictures or collecting other forms of evidence.

GGU cannot guarantee that interns attend football games, but wherever students' interests lie, they will gain practical legal experience in the clinics and, if they are as lucky as the Raiders' interns, have a good time in the process.

If you have a potential clinic placement for a student, please contact Denise Glagau at (415) 442-6624 or dglagau@ggu.edu.

—Denise Glagau, GGU Clinical Legal Education Program

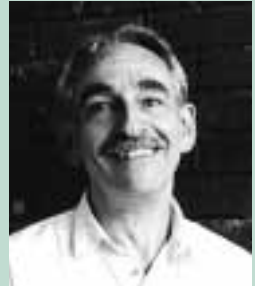


GGU student Shannon Wyman (class of 2002) and Raiders' intern (August 2000 to December 2001) poses with Oakland Raiders General Counsel Jeff Birren at the Raiders' Alameda headquarters.

PROFESSOR TOM GOETZL RETIRES

Professor

Thomas Goetzl began his association with GGU as a law student in 1966, as a member of the first full-time class. After



his first year, he transferred to Boalt Hall; he graduated with honors in 1969.

In the spring of 1972, Tom returned to GGU to teach Family Law part-time. Six weeks into that semester, he was asked to join the GGU faculty as a full-time professor and did so in the fall. He was initially assigned to teach Family Law and Trusts and Estates. Later, he regularly taught Real Property.

Over the years, Tom had contact with all the people who served as Law School deans over the past 55 years. Dean John Gorfinkel (dean, 1960–69) was his Civil Procedure teacher. As a young lawyer in 1971, Tom had the pleasure to meet and work with retired Dean Paul Jordan (dean, 1943–59) when he and Tom represented the seller and the buyer, respectively, of a jewelry store. In 1972, Tom was hired by Professor Lani Bader (dean, 1969–74) to teach at GGU and since that time served under all the subsequent Law School deans: Judy McKelvey, Neil Levy, Jack Wilson, Tony Pagano, and Peter Keane.

Tom says he carries with him many warm memories from the 6,000 or so students who took classes from him over the past 30 years.

Professor Thomas M. Goetzl will retire effective July 1, 2002.

(Golden Gate Briefs continues on next page.)

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW NEWS

In the recent *US News and World Report* ranking of law schools, Golden Gate is back in the top 20 in the area of Environmental Law.

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW & JUSTICE CLINIC RECEIVES NAPIL FELLOWSHIP

The Environmental Law and Justice Clinic (ELJC) is the proud recipient of a two-year fellowship from the National Association for Public Interest Law (NAPIL). The fellowship was made possible through a matching grant funded by the Law Office of Fredric Evenson (98), individual donations, and the Open Society Institute. Mr. Evenson is a former clinic student. This is the first time that NAPIL has awarded a fellowship to GGU.

The NAPIL Fellow at ELJC will work toward healthier air quality in an effort to protect San Francisco Bay Area communities from the harmful effects of air pollution. This fellowship is a two-year position that begins in September 2002.

In 2000, the ELJC started the Clean Air Accountability Project (CAAP) in response to the inadequate enforcement of federal and state clean air laws by the local and state air districts. The fellow will work with clinic attorneys and student clinicians to make local air districts accountable to the public as a national model. This includes working toward fulfilling state and federal clean air health standards in the San Francisco Bay Area and developing the expertise and infrastructure for continued public accountability at the local, state, and federal levels. The fellow will focus on local air-quality management and work with other public interest environmental organizations to create a model for clean-air accountability that can be transferred to local and national groups. 📖

IP UPDATE



The Intellectual Property Law Program continues to grow at a rapid pace. Recent key developments include:

1. LL.M Program Acquiescence and Launch. In late November 2001, the American Bar Association acquiesced to GGU's proposal to launch an LL.M. degree program in intellectual property law. The LL.M degree affords recent graduates, practitioners, and international students the opportunity to sharpen and deepen their IP knowledge. Graduates of the program will be well equipped to practice and find work in this highly competitive and fascinating area of the law. Students are required to complete 24 units (with up to 6 units available from prior classes) in from one to three years to earn the degree.

2. Summer Program in IP Law. For the first time in its history, GGU is offering four courses in IP law during our summer session. The courses are:

- Copyright Law
- Advanced Entertainment Law (Celebrity Rights and First Amendment Issues)
- Trademark Trial and Appeal Board Practice
- The Patent Application Process from Start to Finish

3. New Classes and a New Bulletin. New and popular old classes continue to be added to our IP curriculum. In addition to the new summer program classes, this fall we are offering the return of Art and the Law, with new Adjunct Professor Robyn Freedman; Sports Law, with Steven Baker; and a new course in Patent Litigation, co-taught by Adjunct Professors Robert Morrill and Justin Beck. Our IP Program now includes 23 courses, taught year-round.

Details on all of these courses, as well as an overview of the new LL.M. Program, are available in a new bulletin. For a free copy, contact me at mgreenberg@ggu.edu.

4. Second Annual Fall IP Conference. Our Second Annual Fall IP Conference is scheduled for all day Friday, November 1, 2002, in the newly renovated auditorium at the Law School. This year's topics include the Open Source movement in Software, Cybercrime, a Patent Law Update, and a program on Ethics for IP attorneys.

For details on all of these programs, go to the Law School website at www.ggu.edu/law and check the J.D. Programs, Graduate Programs, or News and Events pages; or contact me at mgreenberg@ggu.edu or at (415) 442-6611. 📖

—Professor Marc Greenberg
 Director of the GGU Intellectual Property Law Program

A SUMMER IN ISTANBUL

BY PROFESSOR LESLIE BURTON

Adventure beckoned last summer when I taught at GGU's overseas program in Istanbul, Turkey.

A sing-songy bellow jolted my husband Jeff and me awake at 4:45 a.m. Repeated five times each day, the call to prayer blared from the loudspeakers of a dozen minarets.

Below our balcony stretched the Bosphorus, the body of water that separates Asia from Europe. Istanbul is the only major city in the world on two continents.

This city of millions (anywhere between 13 million and 19 million, depending on whom I asked) vibrated with energy—and bargains. Carpet salesmen haunted the streets, eagerly offering refreshment to anyone willing to hear a sales pitch. Even when off-duty, the Turks radiated warmth, friendliness, and love of the United States. Once, a cabbie swiveled his body around to face the dean and me

blue, purple, turquoise, and green. Muslims outside the door, eager for us to appreciate their beautiful place of worship, helped my daughter Chelsea wrap a cloth around her bare legs before she entered.

At class time, I boarded a “dolmus,” a battered blue jitney, and rode up to the university. I taught in an enormous structure only a few hundred years old. The handsome building, a former hospital, dominated a hillside, across the street from the barracks where Florence Nightingale got her start tending the wounded during the Crimean War.

One of the attractions of Golden Gate's program is that locals are invited to attend courses along with the American students.

Seven Americans and 15 Turks enrolled in my United Nations Law class.

I was surprised that more than half of my Turkish students were women. Although all were Muslims, not one was veiled or even wearing a scarf. One young Turkish woman had dyed her hair a wild shade of pumpkin,

and another sported a collarbone tattoo.

The other local students dressed somewhat more conservatively, the men's hair medium length, both sexes in T-shirts or buttoned shirts with jeans or Dockers. These students were proof that Turkey prides itself on secularism.

Teaching was fun, but my most rewarding moments came from observing close friendships develop between Turkish and American law students. The students learned that the qualities they shared



outweighed any differences between them. I watched the group connect on many levels, in the classroom and out, as they organized outings, parties, boat trips, and an American-style Fourth of July party complete with sparklers. I returned full of optimism about the interconnections among the world's peoples.

Two months later, the planes hit the World Trade Center. Three of my Turkish students emailed me immediately, manifesting their anguish and sorrow for their American friends. Other Turks emailed their concerned inquiries and condolences. These heartfelt missives inoculated me against some Americans' expressions of anti-Muslim feelings. I felt that my Turkish friends and I were compatriots in our grief. Their sincere love for Americans was demonstrated again when Turkey joined with the United States in sending troops to Afghanistan.

What a shame that one of the side effects of the bombing will be that fewer people will be willing to travel overseas. Educational and cultural exchanges bring people from different nations closer and help them understand each other. Anyone who can participate in an overseas program should do so. And I highly recommend Turkey: a Muslim country that is pro-American, safe, and welcoming.

—Professor Leslie Burton



Professor Leslie Burton (seated) with her class in Istanbul.

in the back seat. “Oh, America! I love America! I love Americans!” he proclaimed, punctuating his remarks with expansive hand gestures. Other Turks frequently echoed his sentiments (as well as his driving habits).

My family and I visited the stunning Aya Sofia, 1,500 years old, originally the world's largest church, then a mosque, now a museum. The elaborate Blue Mosque was my favorite sight: its interior paved with intricately decorated tiles of



On February 28, San Francisco City Attorney Dennis Herrera appointed Professor **Michele Anglade** to the San Francisco Ethics

Commission. The Ethics Commission administers and enforces city laws governing campaign finance and open government.



Professor **Markita Cooper's** article, "Job Reference Immunity Statutes: Prevalent but Irrelevant," was published in Volume 11 of the *Cornell Journal of Law & Public Policy*, Fall 2001.

Adjunct Professor **Margaret Leahy** was given the Distinguished Service Award in recognition of her exemplary leadership and outstanding service to the GGU community as a faculty member.

Adjunct Professor **Peter Hanson** has been appointed legal adviser to Commissioner Geoffrey Brown of the California Public Utilities Commission. Hanson will be responsible for providing legal and policy advice on matters decided by the commission.



Professor **Helen Hartnell** spoke on "Globalization: The Multicultural Classroom" at the annual meeting workshop of the Association of American Law Schools in January. For the Annual Meeting of the American Society of International Law in March, she organized and chaired a panel of prominent scholars around the topic "Why (Not) Seek Uniform Solutions?"

The panel investigated contemporary debates about multilateral treaty negotiations pertaining to international business law and transnational litigation.



During Black History Month (February), Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Professor **David B.**

Oppenheimer gave presentations on "Dr. King's Legal Legacy" at GGU, UC Davis, and California State University, Chico. The lecture concerned the political activism that led to the passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, a topic about which Dean Oppenheimer has written extensively.



Professor **Cliff Rechtschaffen's** book, *Environmental Justice: Law, Policy & Regulation*, written with Eileen Gauna, was published by Carolina Academic Press in April. He organized the Third Annual State Bar Law Student Environmental Negotiations Competition held in San Francisco on March 15.



Professor **Susan Rutberg** spent the spring semester teaching at Charles University Law School in the Czech Republic on a Fulbright grant. On March 14, by request of students and faculty in the Common Law Society, she spoke on "In Defense of the Right to Trial by Jury." Her talk will be published in both English and Czech. In April, she spoke on the differences between the Czech and U.S. legal systems.

The State Bar of California Board of Legal Specialization has certified Adjunct Professor **Michael Schinner** (LL.M. 93) as a specialist in taxation.



Professor **Sompong Sucharitkul** was invited by the director general of UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and

Cultural Organization) to join an international expert meeting on the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage. The meeting took place March 20–22 at UNESCO headquarters in Paris. The aim of the meeting was to prepare a preliminary draft convention for the protection of intangible heritage.

Professor Sucharitkul recently published the following: "Mediation and Conciliation as Alternative Means of Settling International Disputes," *Thailand Journal of Arbitration* (2002); and "State Responsibility and International Liability: Recent Developments in the Practice of States and International Organizations," *Festschrift for Professor Gaetano Arangio-Ruiz* (Rome, 2002).

Sucharitkul has also accepted an invitation to serve on the Board of Advisors (chaired by Professor Ian Brownlie) for the Chinese Journal of International Law (in English). Professor Wang Tiewa (Peking University) and Professor Sienho Yee (Colorado) will be the co-editors-in-chief. The first issue (inaugural) will run Professor Sucharitkul's article on Thailand's experience with international law. This is in addition to Professor Sucharitkul's founding membership of, and his membership on the editorial board and editorial committee of, the *Asian Yearbook of International Law*. 

Professor Goetzl retires (See page 13.)

Class Notes

continued from page 9

Robert Davis (97) and **Laura Ziegler (97)**—A match made in heaven? In October 2001, Robert Davis and Laura Ziegler were married. The happy couple met in the GGU Law Library.

Aaron Darsky (98) recently became an associate at Schubert & Reed, LLP, representing shareholders in securities fraud class actions, derivative suits, antitrust, consumer protection, and other representative actions.

Jenna Hanan (98) is a research attorney for the Illinois Court of Appeals and plans to go to Peru using frequent flyer miles

this summer. In the last year, she has traveled to Norway, Sweden, and Germany.

Stuart West (98) joined Fliesler, Dubb, Meyer & Lovejoy as an associate in intellectual property, focusing on litigation.

Kirk R. Wilson (LL.M. 98) is now a partner in the law firm of Hatch & Parent. Mr. Wilson has been certified by the Board of Legal Specialization of the State Bar of California as a probate, estate planning, and trust law specialist since the inception of the certification program in 1991.

Daniel Bailey (99) has joined Kirkpatrick and Lockhart as an associate.

Stephen Backmann (99) joined 16-attorney Fliesler, Dubb, Meyer & Lovejoy's headquarters office in San Francisco as an associate.

Daniel Bailey (99) has joined Kirkpatrick & Lockhart in San Francisco as an associate.

Emile Davis (99) married J.D. colleague, Kristina Lyn Hillman (00) on September 15, 2001.


Peter Seperack (99) joined Townsend and Townsend and Crew in the firm's SF headquarters as an associate working in the chemical/biotech practice group.

Elizabeth Vanalek (99) joined Gordon & Rees as an associate.

2000s

Kristina Lyn Hillman (00) married former GGU classmate, Emile Davis (99), on September 15, 2001.

Heather E. Borlase (01) is pleased to announce that she has hung out her own shingle. The Borlase law offices are now open for business in San Francisco. Her motto is "Representing the Interests of Working Americans." Her website is www.borlaselaw.com.

Bill Boyce (01) received an Outstanding Volunteer in Public Service Award for 2001 by the Bar Association of San Francisco. 

CLASS Action

Class Notes Deadlines: March 15, September 15

Let Us Hear From You!

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

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

Name _____ Class Year _____

Email _____ Sign me up for the newsletter *Law eNews*

Home Address _____ New Address? yes no

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Date _____

Home Phone (____) _____ Business Phone (____) _____

Firm/Organization _____ Position _____

Business Address _____ New Address? yes no

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

News Item _____

Ursula Germann

(L L . M . 1 9 9 7)

In 1996, just after I passed my bar exam in Germany, I faced a difficult decision. I had just finished the two-year apprenticeship at law courts, law firms, and administrative agencies that is mandatory in Germany between the J.D. degree and the bar exam. Should I get an LL.M. degree or should I start to work? It was not an easy decision, but I decided to come to the United States to get an LL.M. degree in International Legal Studies at Golden Gate.

I am glad I decided to come to GGU, where I enjoyed the close interaction with my professors (much more than at European universities) and where I broadened my experience in international law, a subject I had specialized in during my studies in both Germany and the United Kingdom. Here, I met and studied with people from all over the world.

I enjoyed my life in California so much that after earning my LL.M., I decided to spend more time in San Francisco. I found a job as a law clerk in a small law firm, working mainly in the areas of family law, landlord-tenant law, personal injury law, and business transactions. I learned a lot about the job of an attorney in the United States and also about U.S. law, but I still felt most interested in international law. It was time for me to move on.

In 1998, I was offered the position of associate expert with the United Nations Centre for International Crime Prevention in Vienna, Austria, where I had already spent three months as an intern in 1995. From 1998 to 2001, I was with the U.N. in Vienna, where I increased my knowledge in the field of international crime prevention and criminal justice. In my first year, I assisted the director of the



Centre and came to understand the Centre's various activities. During my second year, I was assigned to the Operations Branch, supporting technical assistance projects in Africa and the Middle East in the areas of transnational organized crime, corruption, and trafficking in human beings. My third year in Vienna was the most challenging. Working in the Legal Branch of the Centre, I participated in the elaboration of a U.N. convention against transnational organized crime and in the preparations for the elaboration of a convention against corruption.

My work in Vienna was very exciting, and I found it difficult to leave, but in January 2002, I jumped at the opportunity to be near my husband, who was working in New York. I still work for the United Nations, now as the associate economic and social affairs officer in the Division for Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Support and Coordination, part of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

Working for the United Nations has provided me with great opportunities, and I work in a multicultural environment, where I meet very interesting people. However, it has also proven to be difficult to balance my professional work with my personal life, especially when I had to live apart from my husband. That kind of life demands from both partners a great deal of flexibility and tolerance, but I have found that it is well worth the effort.

—Ursula Germann (LL.M. 97)

“From 1998 to 2001, I was with the U.N. in Vienna, where I increased my knowledge in the field of international crime prevention and criminal justice.”

Christiana Khostovan

(J . D . 1 9 9 7)

At first glance, Christiana Khostovan (97) is a soft-spoken, elegantly dressed, and seemingly mild-mannered woman. However, this “chi-chi, frou-frou” (to use her words) appearance is somewhat misleading, as she has come to command respect in her position as assistant corporate counsel at Franklin Templeton, a role that demands that she keep her wits about her and put up with the sometimes-harsh language and manners of her opposing counsel. Her job for the last two years has been to cut deals in the IP/Technology/Corporate Legal Department, and it is evident that she has learned to “sling together a deal” with the best of them.

Chris told me that, at first, lawyers would ask her what law school she attended, an attempted one-upmanship that she found somewhat amusing. She says that she always felt confident because of her strong training in the fundamentals at GGU, and that she was always well prepared for her job. For example, she singles out her Contracts class with Larry Jones: “Those basic issues we covered in class come up all the time: Was there an offer, an acceptance? Was a contract really formed?”

“I was a technical writer for a tech company before law school and majored in English as an undergraduate. Careful reading and writing are critical in this transactional practice. Sometimes a deal will hinge on language that one side or the other will not agree to cut or change.”

When I asked her how she got her job, Chris replied that it was helpful that she sits on the GGU Alumni Board, on the Law School Committee. “I had a board meeting at my house two nights before my interview, and Dean Peter



Keane’s wife was working for my current boss at that time. Peter put in a good word for me, and Nancy Keane turned out to be one of the three attorneys who interviewed me for the job.” Nancy has continued to be a big help. Chris says, “She has been a wealth of support and knowledge for me and has been super-generous with her time and her experience. She has always been available to help me.”

On GGU: “Every day I see proof that what I learned in law school is absolutely marketable, the current state of the law. I know just as much as, and can go toe to toe with, any corporate lawyer out there in the marketplace. . . . I just completed a multimillion-dollar deal [where] I was the only attorney working on it, and a blue chip firm had made a mess of it before my boss gave it to me.”

The job has had its more difficult times. The World Trade Center was home to a large Franklin office, and Chris lost many friends with whom she had been in close contact in her work. Franklin lost 89 people, and she knew 10 of them. She recalls sadly that she is the only survivor in many chains of email from months gone by. Christiana helped in the lease of new office space for the New York branch after the attacks.

Despite such painful memories, Chris glows when talking about her job. “I enjoy it. It’s tough, challenging. It’s an incredible experience with lots of growth potential, both personal and professional. I get to work on a lot of different kinds of deals.”

Christiana Khostovan seems to be in the perfect place for her: a rewarding, stimulating—if sometimes exhausting—position.

—Vicki Trent (98)

“Every day I see proof that what I learned in law school is absolutely marketable, the current state of the law. I know just as much as, and can go toe to toe with, any corporate lawyer out there in the marketplace.”

Vicki Trent (98) has been working in the telecommunications field in site acquisition consulting for the past year and a half, gaining experience in leasing, permitting, and negotiations for cellphone antenna sites.

Olivia Wein

(J . D . 1 9 9 5)

Olivia Wein (95) says she is grateful to be able to do the work she's doing, work that "allows me to advocate on behalf of low-income consumers." She credits her experience at GGU's Women's Employment Rights Clinic (WERC)—where she interviewed potential clients and even argued in front of a judge—with leading her to her current job as staff attorney at the National Consumer Law Center in Washington, D.C.



While a student at Golden Gate, Olivia worked as a law clerk at Lead Safe California, a job she landed with the help of WERC's director, Professor Marcie Seville. Lead contamination poses a major health problem in this country, affecting a disproportionate number of minority children in older, poor, urban communities. At Lead Safe, Olivia worked on legislation and helped build a consensus between private interests and policymakers to reduce the amount of lead in California communities. After graduation, she began working full-time at Lead Safe California.

Olivia then spent two years as an economic justice fellow at the Washington, D.C., office of Consumers Union. While there, she began working on the effects of telecommunications issues on low-income populations.

Building on that telecommunications experience, Olivia moved to her current job at the National Consumer Law Center (NCLC), a nationwide resource for advocates and agencies that represent low-income clients, and which also provides input to public policymakers. Olivia focuses on energy and utility issues that affect low-income consumers. Olivia appreciates the ways that the NCLC helps people understand their basic utility rights. "It feels good when you wake up in the morning and know you can fight the good fight. It's more than just making a living."

Olivia provides support and training materials for projects designed to help assure that basic utility needs are met. One such program is the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), a federally-funded program that helps low-income and elderly people meet their heating and cooling bills. Olivia has helped prepare testimony in ongoing LIHEAP appropriations battles.

Olivia also manages an Internet listserv that provides information about state and federal energy policy and issues relating to low-income consumers. Additionally, she investigates implementation of the Federal Universal Services Program, which supplements the cost of advanced telecommunications service to all consumers, especially those in low-income, rural, and isolated areas. "There is so much poverty," she says, grateful that she can "really make a difference by trying to improve people's service."

"Law provided a good background for working in the area of utilities monitoring," says Olivia. It's a controversial, demanding, and important field, as we all know. This area of law became an especially hot topic in California after deregulation and the energy crisis of 2001.

As when she was in law school, Olivia still worries a lot about everything. NCLC staff recently wanted to advise her not to worry so much, but they were afraid to tell her so, lest she worry about that, too! Fortunately, her two children, Caleb (almost one) and Emily (almost four), and husband Harrison, a science writer at the National Institutes of Health, provide a balance to her devotion to work.

When asked why she does public interest work, Olivia says, "It's about having a job you can believe in. The non-profit world is vibrant—full of dedicated, bright, creative people who don't give up. It's great to be able to go to work with people of whom you are in awe. I hope to be like them some day."

Olivia, you already are.

—Meg Giberson (96)

Meg Giberson (96) has worked full-time, pro bono, on a land-use case in Monterey County, California, for more than four years, where she has helped a community group oppose the potential expansion of a non-conforming-use airstrip located adjacent to an elementary school in the middle of a village. The county has recently begun a process that may end the airstrip's use.

Simona Farrise

(J . D . 1 9 9 3)

“People often think there is only one way to practice law,” says Simona Farrise (93). “But you have to figure out not what makes *everybody* a good lawyer, but what’s going to make *you* a good lawyer.”

Simona’s success as a lawyer clearly comes from figuring out how to practice law “her way.” She believes that her experiences at GGU, especially the support and encouragement of the female professors, helped her learn both how to practice law and how to build on her personal strengths.

“The model for practicing law is a male model, and it doesn’t work for women,” Simona explains. “My firm now has a lot of women, but that wasn’t true when I started. Are there real women’s issues in the law? The answer is yes. Is that a bad thing? No. It’s just a different thing. We need to acknowledge that and plug into those differences instead of trying to fit into another mold.”

Simona has also gained insight into another area of difference. “Some people are foolish enough to think, ‘Aha! She’s a woman and she’s a minority,’ and they think they have some advantage. What I have learned is that I actually start from a more powerful position, and I draw on that strength. The best thing anyone can ever do for you is to underestimate you.”

Simona was a legal secretary for seven years after earning her undergraduate degree. “I worked on big corporate cases,” she remembers. “I was doing half the legal work and getting no credit, so I decided to go to law school.”

“Are there real women’s issues in the law? The answer is yes. Is that a bad thing? No. It’s just a different thing. We need to acknowledge that and plug into those differences instead of trying to fit into another mold.”



After graduation from GGU, Simona went to work as a law clerk while waiting for bar results. “When it was time for me to leave that job, one of the partners offered me a permanent position,” she says. “I accepted, thinking I would work there for a year, learn from them, and then move on.” Instead, she has stayed with the firm. She admits, “I got hooked because these were some of the smartest and most caring lawyers I had ever come across.”

Simona’s cases involve toxic exposures and catastrophic injuries. Most of her clients are dying of cancer or have family members who have died due to toxic exposure. Working in this area of the law can be difficult. “Ultimately, what people need is a cure for cancer, and you just don’t have that,” Simona says. “You have to accept that while you can’t change the course, you can change the outcome of the story. I work to understand the problem, tell it to a jury, and then remove myself so that I’m not bottomed out every time someone dies. It’s not easy, but I’m drawn to this work, and I’m good at it. But I have to take care of myself as well. My family helps with that a great deal because they restore my sense of normalcy. You need that when you represent people who are moving closer to dying.”

On January 1, 2000, Simona became a partner at the firm now known as Kazan, McClain, Edises, Abrams, Fernandez, Lyons & Farrise. But with the satisfaction of being partner has come a new level of responsibility for the firm’s success. “Being the co-managing partner has the potential to drag me away from the law. It’s a struggle because I feel responsible to my partners and staff. We can’t take every case we’d like to; we have to make money. But at the same time, if I don’t live, touch, and breathe cases, I know that I will wilt. I’m constantly working to find that balance.”

—Lorri Ungaretti

Lorri Ungaretti is the director of marketing at Golden Gate University School of Law.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

UPCOMING RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY

The remodeling project of the Law School classrooms is on schedule, with new classrooms set to open by late August. In the fall, we will host a "ribbon-cutting ceremony" to celebrate the new classrooms. For more information, visit the "News & Events" page of our website—www.ggu.edu/law—in late summer.



In February, the Law School Dean's Advisory Board met to tour the site. Back row, left to right: Allan Rappaport (85), Professor and former Dean Lani Bader, Nancy Tully (92), GGU Advancement Vice President Elizabeth Brady, Associate Dean David Oppenheimer, and former Dean Judy McKelvey. Front row: Caroline Kristensen (86), Kathryn Ringgold (70), Kay Henden (75), and Dean Peter Keane.

SWEARING-IN CEREMONY & MIDYEAR GRADUATION NOVEMBER 2001



Swearing-in ceremony

Left to right: Adjunct Professor Magistrate Judge Maria Elena-James, bar-passer and Lee Baxter Fellow Kris Ward (01), and Hon. Carol Yaggy (79).



See page 11 for more about the swearing-in of our California bar passers.

GOING TO THE CALIFORNIA STATE BAR MEETING?

Please join Dean Peter Keane and other faculty and alumni members at this year's State Bar of California Annual Meeting, October 10–13 in Monterey. We have requested a breakfast time slot on **Friday, October 11** or **Saturday, October 12**. Look for us in the program, then join us for some catching up! For more information, contact Kevi Brannelly at (415) 442-6602 or kbrannelly@ggu.edu, or visit the "News & Events" page on our website at: www.ggu.edu/law.

CLASS ACTION

GOLDEN GATE UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF LAW
536 MISSION STREET
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94105-2698

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SAN FRANCISCO, CA
PERMIT NO. 8212

