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School of Law

Centers & Programs

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Spring 2020

## **The Exhibit, the Litigation Center Newsletter - Spring 2020**

Golden Gate University School of Law

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# THE EXHIBIT

Golden Gate University School of Law's Litigation Center Newsletter

## A WORD FROM THE LITIGATION CENTER

By the Interim Director of Litigation, Rachel R. Brockl

### A MESSAGE TO THE STUDENTS

During the Coronavirus pandemic, the Litigation Center wants you to stay safe and feel supported. We understand that social distancing and sheltering in place are forcing students to change their normal routines and that can lead to stress, anxiety, anger, sadness, and more. You may be isolated, but you are not alone. Myself, Baxter Fellow Roxana Araujo, and the Litigation Center faculty are here to offer help and resources. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any of your needs.

While the pandemic presents unique challenges, the Center is committed to maintaining exceptional courses, events, and opportunities for our students. We appreciate all your hard work and involvement, especially in this trying time.

Sincerely,  
Rachel R. Brockl



### 1ST STEP MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

This summer, the Litigation Center launches the 1st STEP Mentorship Program for 1L students participating in the 2020 STEP program. The Center hopes this program will provide additional support for students undergoing intense programming and stress due to outside factors.

Are you interested in becoming a 1st STEP mentor? Email the [baxterfellow@ggu.edu](mailto:baxterfellow@ggu.edu) for more information.

### NEW FALL LITIGATION COURSES & PROFESSORS

- Professor Morehead pioneers a groundbreaking course on Handling Sexual Assault & Domestic Violence Cases, coming this Fall.
- Curtis Briggs joins the Center this Fall to teach Introduction to Expert Witnesses. See the feature on Professor Briggs in this newsletter.
- Professor Faussner joins the STEP team this summer to teach Motions and will return in the Fall to teach Introduction to Written Discovery.

Seats will be limited for these courses, so do not hesitate to register!

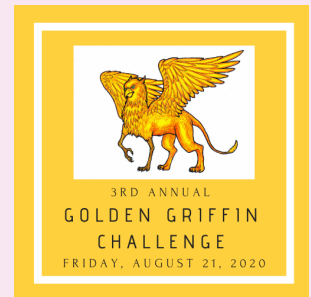
The Litigation Center is looking for volunteers for In Vino Veritas! Each year the competition requires at a minimum 25 judges, 100 attorney evaluators, 100 student witnesses, bailiffs, and timekeepers, the GGU National Trial Team, GGU Alum, and many staff members to guarantee its success.

If you are interested in volunteering please email [invino@ggu.edu](mailto:invino@ggu.edu). Thank you!

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## UPCOMING EVENTS



Golden Griffin - August 21



In Vino Veritas - October 22-25th



Online Interviews - April 14th

## CHANGES IN THE LITIGATION CENTER



### PROFESSOR BROCKL, INTERIM DIRECTOR OF THE LITIGATION CENTER

The Litigation Center welcomes Professor Brockl as she steps into her new role as the Interim Director of the Litigation Center. Professor Brockl has spent the past year at GGU as the Associate Director of the Litigation Center and a Professor teaching courses such as Advanced Trial Advocacy, Introduction to Litigation, and Effective Brief Writing & Motions Advocacy. After helping to run the 1st STEP Summer Program in 2019, Professor Brockl looks forward to leading the 2020 1st STEP class and initiating the 1st STEP Mentorship Program. Professor Brockl is prepared to keep the Litigation Center thriving and will continue to provide support to students in her new position.

### WELCOME PROFESSOR FAUSSNER

Erik Faussner graduated from the University of Arizona with a Bachelor of Science degree in Water, Environment and Society. Mr. Faussner earned his JD from Golden Gate University, School of Law in May of 2015, graduating Summa Cum Laude, with a specialization certificate in Litigation, and was awarded the student excellence award for his achievement in the Honors Lawyering Program.

While in law school, Mr. Faussner served as a judicial extern to the Honorable Judge Teri L. Jackson of the San Francisco Superior Court, an honors law extern at the Securities and Exchange Commission, and as a law clerk at the Jaffe Law Firm. Mr. Faussner also served as the Executive Online Editor for the GGU Law Review, hosted the California Water Law Symposium, and excelled as a competitor in mock trial.

Mr. Faussner is a bay area native who joined Hassard Bonnington LLP in 2019. Before joining Hassard Bonnington, Mr. Faussner was an associate with Bledsoe, Diestel, Treppa & Crane LLP, served as the Baxter Litigation Graduate Fellow at GGU Law, where he coached mock trial, assisted Litigation professors, and helped run a national mock trial competition.

This Spring, Professor Faussner taught Introduction to Litigation, a 1L elective course. This summer, Professor Faussner joins the Summer Trial Evidence and Advocacy Program (1st STEP) where he will teach the Effective Brief Writing & Motion Advocacy course. In the fall, Professor Faussner will be teaching Introduction to Written Discovery.



### THE LITIGATION CENTER WEBSITE HAS A NEW LOOK. MAKE SURE TO CHECK IT OUT!

The Litigation Center website has undergone major renovation, courtesy of Professor Brockl, to allow for easier navigation, quality student resources such as internship and post-bar opportunities, and updated events and competitions. Stay updated by visiting the site below!

<http://www.ggulitigation.com>

## SOCIETY OF LITIGATORS CROSS & CLOSE 2020

On January 17, 2020, the Society of Litigators hosted the annual Bernie L. Segal Cross & Close Competition for first-year law students. Two-person teams were tasked with conducting a cross-examination of an eye-witness and a closing argument in an effort to defend the fictional GGU student Christopher Bullock against a battery charge. The teams used their advocacy skills and quick wit to sort through the provided evidence to present their strongest case. While hard work and dedication was noticeable in all the teams, a huge congratulations goes to the following teams and individuals:



**1st Place - Amye Osakue and Kourtney Speer**

**1st Place - Amye Osakue and Kourtney Speer**

**2nd Place - Nathan Nelson and Matthew Peluso**

**Best Cross (Final Round) - Amye Osakue**

**Best Close (Final Round) - Vidhi Bhatia**

**Best Cross (Preliminaries) - Kourtney Speer**

**Best Close (Preliminaries) - Mahtab Hajibabaei**

**Professionalism - Danielle Edinboro**

**Best Teamwork - Xavier Torres de Janon and Jose Padron Lemus**

**Best Theme - Xavier Torres de Janon and Jose Padron Lemus**



**2nd Place - Nathan Nelson and Matthew Peluso**

Through their dedication, Society of Litigators has been able to support and spread the word about various events by The Litigation Center, lunchtime litigation lectures, and Cross & Close. We want to thank our five 1L reps for all of their hard work this year: **Xavier Torres de Janon, Christopher Wong, Mahtab Hajibabaei, Yzabel Tinga, and Danielle Edinboro.**

-Christina Evangelista, Society of Litigators President

## A NOTE FROM THE BAXTER OFFICE

### APPLY TO BE A BAXTER FELLOW TODAY!

The Judge Lee Baxter Fellowship in Litigation is an opportunity for a law graduate to work with the GGU Litigation Center and litigation professors, as well as guide students by teaching litigation skills and working with the National Trial Team. The Baxter Fellowship trains graduates who aspire to expand their practical litigation skills by working with GGU students. Come and help GGU students build the basic trial skills needed to become great trial attorneys in the legal community!

The Baxter Fellowship includes: working with the National Trial Team, hosting lunchtime lectures to teach basic skills, teaching trial and evidence skills during the 1st STEP Summer Litigation Program, organizing the *In Vino Veritas* mock trial competition, and so much more!

The Litigation Center is now accepting applications for the 2020/2021 school year. Applicants must be a recent GGU law graduate with demonstrated academic success and a proven commitment to the Litigation Center. The new Baxter Fellow could begin as early as May 11, 2020.

Email [baxterfellow@ggu.edu](mailto:baxterfellow@ggu.edu) for an application  
or go to [ggulitigation.com](http://ggulitigation.com).

### Thank You Naila!

The Litigation Center sends a heartfelt thank you to 2020 Baxter Fellow Naila Khan for her time working in the Baxter Office. During the Spring semester, Naila helped mentor litigation students and assisted the National Trial Team. Thank you and good luck on all your future endeavors Naila!



The Honorable Lee D. Baxter

### How to Apply for the BAXTER FELLOWSHIP

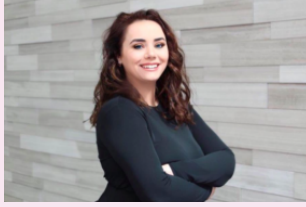
- (1) Download application from the Litigation Center Website
- (2) Fill out the application, include your resume, personal statement, and references
- (3) Submit to [baxterfellow@ggu.edu](mailto:baxterfellow@ggu.edu) and [rbrockl@ggu.edu](mailto:rbrockl@ggu.edu) by **April 15, 2020.**



# GGU NATIONAL MOCK TRIAL TEAM

## 2019/2020 MOCK TRIAL CO-CHAIRS

### CLODAGH MAUCLINE



Clodagh Mauchline was the first person in her family to receive a college degree, and to go on to law school. She began her litigation journey in GGU's 1st STEP Summer Trial and Evidence Program in 2018.

While competing on the National Trial Team, Clodagh interned at the San Francisco Public Defender's Office, GGU's Pro Bono Tax Clinic, and the Bar Association of San Francisco. She competed at the MLK Civil Rights Trial Competition, the Capitol City Challenge in Washington D.C., the California Attorneys for Criminal Justice Competition, and the Texas Young Lawyers Association Competition. Clodagh's work at the San Francisco Public Defender's Office gave her opportunities to apply and strengthen her advocacy skills by working alongside experienced defense attorneys to represent clients facing felony charges. Clodagh's ultimate goal is to work as a defense attorney and to fiercely advocate for every client. She loves everything about trying cases in the courtroom and is dedicated to fine tuning her advocacy skills as she continues to practice. Clodagh is the current treasurer of the Society of Litigators Law Student Association, and an active participant in GGU's Litigation Center.

### JESSICA JUAREZ



Jessica Juarez is the first in her family to go to law school. Jessica fell in love with the art of litigation after participating in GGU's 1st STEP Summer Trial and Evidence Program in 2018. While competing on the National Trial Team, Jessica interned at

the San Francisco Public Defender's Office, the Contra Costa District Attorney's Office, and the Bar Association of San Francisco. She competed at the MLK Civil Rights Trial Competition and the Texas Young Lawyers Association Competition. Competing in mock trial brought Jessica long-lasting friendships and she enjoys the adrenaline from competing. Jessica's goals are to continue to strengthen her practical trial skills while maintaining a strong teamwork ethic. The Litigation Center has been a huge support in Jessica's goals to become a litigator by providing trainings, workshops, and panels focused on trial advocacy. Jessica is a proud single parent of her supportive daughter Evelyn, who attends all of her mock trial practices. Jessica hopes to impress upon Evelyn her integrity, hard work, and love for litigation. Jessica is the current Co-Chair of La Raza Law Students Association, and an active participant in GGU's Litigation Center. Due to her tireless efforts, Jessica received the National Trial Team Excellence Award in 2019.



**Team TYLA:** Jessica Juarez (3L), Lauren Hauck (3L), Clodagh Mauchline (3L), Samantha Gatten (3L), Adam Rivera (3L), Daniella Crisanti (2L), Keenan Webb (2L)  
Coaches: Keydon Levy, Alyssa Fielding, Roxana Araujo



**Team CAPITOL CITY CHALLENGE:** Ciara Munoz (2L), Taylor Massie (2L), Olivia Wheat (2L), Katelyn Bourdo (2L), Taylor Kennedy (2L)  
Coaches: Christine De Leo and Erik Knuppel



**Team CHICAGO:** William Lippincott (3L), Sheyla Jarquin (2L), Michael Sly (2L), Jennifer Gonzalez (2L) (not pictured)  
Coaches: Butch Ford and John Ullom

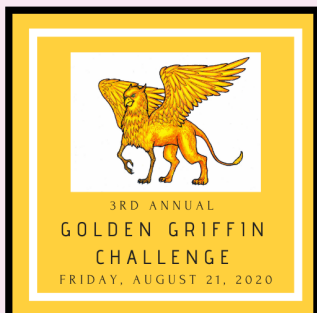


**Team ETHICS:** Silvia Chairez-Perez (2L), Charles Shumake (2L), Eric Vandergriff (2L), Dana Oviedo (2L)  
Coaches: Melissa Demetral and VJ Labat

**The Litigation Center would like to extend a special message of appreciation to both 'Team Chicago' and 'Team Ethics,' who unfortunately did not have the opportunity to compete due to the Coronavirus Pandemic. We recognize all your hard work!**

## Golden Griffin Challenge 2020

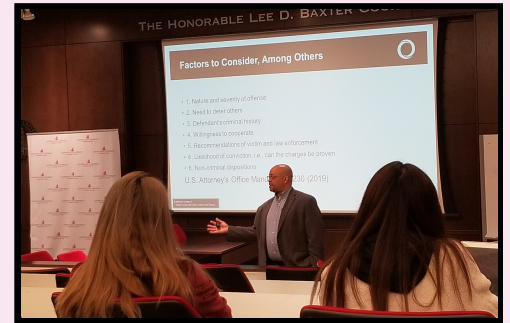
Are you interested in trying out for the GGU National Trial Team? The 3rd annual GOLDEN GRIFFIN CHALLENGE will take place on **August 21st, 2020**. The challenge is an intra-school competition as well as try-outs for the National Trial Team for the 2020-2021 season! Teams of two argue a cross examination and a closing argument from a fact pattern that is available August 1, 2020. A \$500 award is split between the winners. Ask how you can sign up!



# SPRING SEMINAR SERIES

## Ethical Prosecutions - January 2020

All attorneys, regardless of the field they are in, must always maintain their integrity and abide by their ethical duties. Warrington S. Parker, a Partner at Orick took the time to discuss ethical prosecutions with our students discussing topics like the lawyer's duties of disclosure and candor to each other and the court; plea bargains; settlement agreements; conflicts of interest; and communications with witnesses and the defendant.



Warrington S. Parker discusses a prosecutor's ethical duties.



Philip Neiman, Travis Thompson, and Hannah Stitt discuss banking barriers.

## Cryptocurrency, A Cannabis Banking Alternative - February 2020

The blooming cannabis industry faces the challenge of being turned away from banks. Due to state decriminalization and federal criminalization of cannabis, the cannabis industry has had to turn to cryptocurrency to properly operate as a business. Panelists Hannah Stitt, Travis Thompson, and Philip Neiman discussed how cryptocurrency technology is being deployed to overcome these challenges.

## The Link Between Animal Cruelty & Domestic Violence - February 2020

Legislative findings confirm that abuse of a companion animal is statistically linked to domestic violence against a partner, child, or elder and is a historical indicator for school mass shooters. Animal Legal Defense Fund Attorney Kathleen Wood and Marin Humane Society Captain Cindy Machado review the statistics and stress how important it is to not only educate the public, but those in the legal process.



Kathleen Wood discusses the relation between animal cruelty and domestic violence.

# UPCOMING EVENT



**GOLDEN GATE UNIVERSITY**  
SCHOOL OF LAW  
Litigation Center

## HOW TO NAIL YOUR NEXT ONLINE INTERVIEW



**Tuesday, April 14, 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.**  
**Zoom Link: <https://ggu.zoom.us/j/9452387520>**  
**Call In Number: 1-669-900-6833**  
**Meeting ID: 945 238 7520**



Rachel Brockl



Bob Pimm



Kristen Louis



Ricardo Rodriguez



Marie Bryant

In the current world of social distancing, contact with future employers has turned to no-contact interviews via tele-conferencing and live video. The Litigation Center and the Office of Career Services has teamed up to provide you with everything you need to know in order to impress your future employer during a non-traditional interview. Join us through Zoom to obtain tips and techniques from Interim Director of Litigation Rachel Brockl, Associate Dean Bob Pimm, Director of Public Sector & Government Advising Marie Bryant, Director of Private Sector Advising Kristen Louis, and Recruitment and Employer Relations Manager Ricardo Rodriguez.



# SEMINAR SERIES RECAP



## ETHICAL PROSECUTIONS

What does the phrase ethical prosecutions mean? What does it mean to have prosecutorial ethics? These are the questions that Warrington Parker addressed when he spoke to students at Golden Gate University School of Law on January 27, 2020. Mr. Parker spoke to a room full of law students, most of whom were aspiring District Attorneys or aspiring Criminal Defense Attorneys.

**By: Katelyn Bourdo**

It is important to distinguish ethical prosecutions from prosecutorial ethics. Ethical prosecutions follow in line with the rules the black letter law sets out for prosecutors. Prosecutorial ethics goes beyond that and evaluates whether the actions of a prosecutor are morally right or wrong, despite having followed all the rules. Although these are clear distinctions, there is also some crossover between the two. There are many governing principles that both ethical prosecutions and prosecutorial ethics apply to. It all begins with the obligation of a prosecutor. Mr. Parker started off his discussion by sharing this quote, A prosecutor “is the representative not of an ordinary party to a controversy, but of a sovereignty whose obligation to govern impartially is as compelling as its obligation to govern at all; and whose interest, therefore, in a criminal prosecution is not that it shall win a case, but that justice shall be done. \*\*\* He may prosecute with earnestness and vigor... But, while he may strike hard blows, he is not at liberty to strike foul ones.” *Berger v. United States*, 295 U.S. 78, 88 (1935) (emphasis added).

Due to the damaging effects that prosecutors’ actions can have, prosecutors have many rules that they must follow. This is where the ethical prosecutions apply. Charging a crime is one of the first steps. Before a prosecutor can charge a person with anything, they must have probable cause. The U.S. Attorney’s Office Manual lays out several factors for prosecutors to consider when deciding what to charge a defendant with: the nature and severity of the offense, the need to deter others, the defendant’s criminal history, the defendant’s willingness to cooperate, recommendations of the victim and of law enforcement, the likelihood of conviction, and non-criminal dispositions. When considering all of these factors, prosecutors have to think about the evidence that they have to support a conviction.

Prosecutors need sufficient evidence in order to prove to a jury beyond a reasonable doubt that the defendant is guilty, which is the highest burden that exists in our legal system. Prosecutorial ethics and morals apply alongside the U.S. Attorney’s Office Manual. The rules do not say that if a prosecutor has any doubt about whether the prosecutor will win, he/she should not take a case to trial. The case should not even go to trial if the prosecutor has any doubts in his/ her mind that the jury will find in favor for the state. The nature of trial is to have some uncertainty, but a prosecutor should never bring a case to trial if they do not honestly believe that they can prove every element beyond a reasonable doubt, even if the rules would permit them to take that case forward. When looking at prosecutorial ethics, it is important to recognize that prosecutors hold a lot of power in their hands and that there are prosecutors that do bad things, just as any other group of people who are in positions of power.

## THE LINK BETWEEN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND ANIMAL CRUELTY

As part of its seminar series, the GGU Litigation Center hosted Kathleen Wood from the Animal Legal Defense Fund and Captain Cindy Machado from the Marin Human Society to discuss the link between animal cruelty and domestic violence. They both work on the front lines defending animals from the worst imaginable abuse.



**By: Michael Sly**

First, Kathleen Wood explained what the statistics show about the connection between violence against animals and violence against humans. According to one survey, 89% of women who had animals during an abusive relationship report that animals were threatened, harmed, or killed as part of the abuse. In fact, 50% of women in shelters report delaying their escape due to concerns about their pet. Animal abuse can also indicate future domestic abuse. Ms. Wood also explained that there is no real way to “profile” animal abusers. The statistics show a slight trend toward younger males, but the data generally reflects the country’s demographics.

The speakers also detailed the changing landscape of criminal law as it relates to animal cruelty. An increasing number of states are including animal cruelty in statutes. Not only with laws against animal cruelty, but also in the statutory definitions of domestic violence, stalking, and elder abuse. Many states now allow animals to be included in criminal protective orders. In some jurisdictions, adult and child protective service workers are permitted, or even required, to cross-report violence against animals.

Captain Machado ended the talk on a hopeful note. She explained that there is an increasing realization that animal cruelty interventions can save human lives. More and more shelters are adopting animal-friendly policies, making it easier for victims of domestic abuse to get the help they need. Law enforcement is beginning to receive more in-depth training about animal abuse and how it relates to interpersonal violence. That said, leadership matters. Change can only happen if people at the top levels are working toward that change. Fortunately, Captain Machado sees us heading in the right direction.

# SEMINAR SERIES RECAP CONT'D

## DISSOLVING CANNABIS BANKING BARRIERS WITH CRYPTOCURRENCY



By: *Breana McMahon*

I went into the Dissolving Cannabis Banking Barriers with Cryptocurrency Seminar unaware of the problems that the cannabis industry was facing in the world of banking and oblivious to what cryptocurrency was. At the panel event, I learned about how the cannabis industry is struggling to get support from banks, how cryptocurrency can be used to solve these banking challenges, and how the California legislature might hear a bill that can help.

The cannabis industry is one of the fastest growing markets in the United State. In 2019, the cannabis industry made around 10 billion dollars in retail sales and is expected to make 26 billion dollars in the next 10 years. With all the money being generated from the cannabis industry, owners of cannabis businesses need somewhere to safely keep this money, but banks are reluctant to help. Between one-third and two-thirds of all lawful cannabis businesses have been barred from receiving financial services from banks.

Operating a business exclusively on cash has many consequences for a company and its employees. For example, cannabis businesses are prevented from having access to digital banking accounts, receiving interest on their incomes, and having access to business loans. Employees are unable to receive direct deposits, check their federal withholdings, and run a higher risk of assaults, thefts, and robberies. Financial institutions who work with cannabis businesses would have to meet the regulations of a wide variety of laws and they would be required to file Suspicious Activity Reports (SARs) quite frequently. SARs are triggered whenever there is suspicious activity on an account, which include having cash transactions that exceed \$10,000. These reporting requirements make banks, who are acting as financial institutions, timid about accepting cannabis businesses as clients.

The cannabis industry has deployed a couple of tactics to get around the barriers they face in banking. One method, unfortunately, is lying to banks which raises criminal conduct. Another way cannabis businesses are getting around banking barriers is the use of cryptocurrency. Cryptocurrency is a digital asset designed to work as both a medium of exchange and a store of value that uses cryptography to secure transactions, control the creation of additional units, and verify the transfer of assets. The most well-known cryptocurrency is Bitcoin. Cryptocurrency is more ethical, but has its own issues. First, cryptocurrencies are not backed by the government. Second, people are hesitant to state that they use cryptocurrency to buy or sell marijuana on their tax returns.

An assembly bill has been introduced to the California legislature with the intent to help solve these problems. The proposed bill would allow California to tax cannabis industries through stablecoins, digital assets that are pegged to the American dollar, without fear of persecution. While the bill is still far away from being enacted into law, the bill shows that the government seeks to help the Cannabis industry. In the meantime, cannabis businesses are left in the dark about the proper way to handle to their money and are still facing resistance from banks.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Spring Seminar Series - "Ghost Guns" Panel**

**LEGAL RAMIFICATIONS OF "GHOST GUNS"**

Join the Litigation Center to learn how background checks, 3D Printing, and lack of serial number tracking impacts law enforcement and criminal litigation. Our distinguished panel of professionals, led by local NBC investigative reporter, Stephen Stock, will discuss all aspects of the "ghost gun" crisis. Panelists share in-depth insights into navigating legislative restrictions, investigating shootings, enforcing regulations, and preparing for cutting edge legal issues.

 <b>ALEX VILLANUEVA</b> Sheriff, Los Angeles County	 <b>STEPHEN STOCK</b> Investigative Reporter, NBC Bay Area News	 <b>HANNAH SHEARER</b> Litigation Director, Giffords Law Center
 <b>MICHAEL ZIEGLER</b> Public Safety Consultant	 <b>MELISSA DELVECCHIO</b> Division Counsel, Bureau of ATF	 <b>PATRICK GORMAN</b> Assistant Special Agent in Charge, Bureau of ATF (Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives)

**TBD**

RSVP: [baxterfellow@ggu.edu](mailto:baxterfellow@ggu.edu)

CO-SPONSOR: SOCIETY OF LITIGATORS

**2020 1ST STEP REUNION**

Join us at III Minna Gallery

**TBD**

An opportunity to welcome our newest STEP class and to reunite with your STEP class!



**Litigation Center Awards Banquet**



**TBD**

Would you like to present at GGU?  
Email [baxterfellow@ggu.edu](mailto:baxterfellow@ggu.edu)

Have a topic we should discuss?  
Email [baxterfellow@ggu.edu](mailto:baxterfellow@ggu.edu)



# SUMMER 2020

## SUMMER TRIAL & EVIDENCE PROGRAM 1ST STEP



Class of 2019



Class of 2018



Class of 2017

### IMMERSION WEEK (MAY 18-22)

*Professor Brockl*

*Professor Scott*

*Professor Faussner*

*Professor Vogelstein*

*Professor Morehead*

*Steven Whitworth*

*Karina Alvarez*

*Jody Mask*

#### Trial Advocacy and Evidence in the Courtroom



**Professor Vogelstein**



**Professor Brockl**



**Professor Whitworth**

Students learn practical trial skills necessary to succeed in court; including conducting witness examinations, laying foundation for and introducing documents and physical evidence, making and answering objections, and preparing opening statements and closing arguments. Additionally, students learn how arguments under the rules of evidence and evidentiary rulings play out in the courtroom.

#### Evidence

This course is a required bar course and includes a survey of the principles of law and rules governing the admissibility of proof at criminal or civil trials, including direct and cross-examination of witnesses, impeachment of credibility, expert testimony, hearsay, privileged communication, and documentary proof.



**Professor Morehead**

#### Professional Presentation & Persuasion

Whether in the courtroom, working with colleagues, or spending time with clients, as a lawyer you must be able to communicate and present your ideas in a compelling manner that moves others to action. Eliminate nervous tics and self-consciousness when speaking in public, learn to think on your feet, and capture the attention of all your listeners.



**Professor Scott**

#### Motions

A first impression of a lawyer is often based on the quality of his or her papers. That impression must be a good one. This course teaches students how to effectively draft motions and argue them in a real-world setting. Utilizing a variety of fact patterns, students will develop a portfolio of written work and will receive feedback aimed at building confidence in courtroom advocacy.

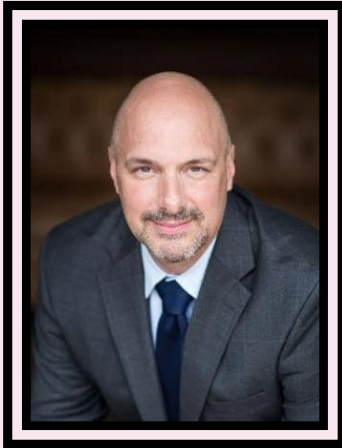


**Professor Faussner**

## NEW AND RETURNING IMMERSION WEEK PROFESSORS

### STEVEN WHITWORTH

#### *NEW PROFESSOR*

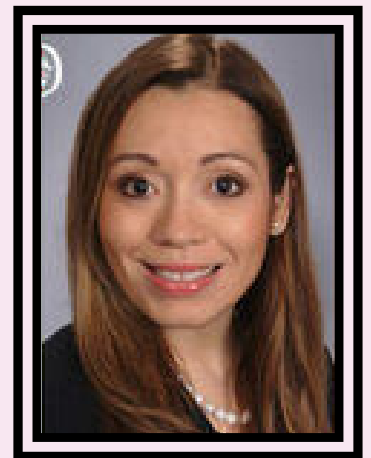


Steve Whitworth is an award-winning Sacramento Criminal Defense Attorney. Admitted to practice in California, Mr. Whitworth has taken more than 70 trials to jury verdict. He is also held in high esteem by his fellow professionals. A recipient of a perfect 10.0 “Superb” peer review rating through Avo, Mr. Whitworth was named to The National Trial Lawyers: Top 40 Under 40 for three years in a row, and he has also been listed in The National Trial Lawyers; Top 100. He is an active participant in a variety of legal organizations, including The State Bar of California, California Attorneys for Criminal Justice, the California DUI Lawyers Association, and the San Francisco and Alameda County Bar Associations. Mr. Whitworth joins STEP to instruct for Immersion Week and the Trial Evidence and Advocacy course.

### KARINA ALVAREZ

#### *NEW PROFESSOR*

Karina Alvarez is a Golden Gate alum who brings approximately one decade of trial experience to share with students during STEP Immersion Week. Ms. Alvarez has conducted trials as a Deputy District Attorney in Sacramento County, as a civil litigator, and now as a Deputy Public Defender in Santa Clara County. Ms. Alvarez is enthusiastic to assist STEP students to learn strong advocacy skills and to provide assistance as they implement them in practice.



### JODY MASK

#### *RETURNING PROFESSOR*



Jody Mask is a trial attorney in Texas working for his own firm at Mask & Guerrero. He has secured over 71 million in jury verdicts for his clients in a 3 year period, including the number one motor vehicle verdict in Texas in 2012. A cum laude graduate of Texas A&M University, Order of Barristers from the University of Houston Law Center, and recipient of the Faculty Award from the Temple University Beasley School of Law LL.M. program in trial advocacy, Mr. Mask is a requested public speaker and community leader. We welcome him back to the STEP program and look forward to hearing about his latest trial endeavors!

# FALL 2020 LITIGATION COURSES

## Advanced Trial Advocacy

AFTERNOON  
Professor Brockl

This course is intended for students interested in pursuing careers in litigation and provides advanced practical techniques while promoting mastery in the courtroom. Utilizing case strategies, students will present simulated trials while effectually utilizing technology. Students will examine expert witnesses, learn witness control, and writing assignments will focus on advanced procedural and evidentiary issues. Prerequisite: Trial Advocacy or STEP or permission of the professor.



## Introduction to Expert Witnesses

EVENING  
Professor Briggs

The Expert Witness course introduces you to hiring, deposing, and obtaining trial testimony from an expert in a real case. During class, you will prepare your witness to give a deposition, practice voir dire, and prepare a cross examination for the opposing expert. This course counts toward completion of the Experiential Learning Requirement. Prerequisites: Evidence and Trial Advocacy.



## Evidence in the Courtroom

AFTERNOON  
Professor Vogelstein

A course designed to help you master the California rules of evidence. Practical work will propel victory at trial with both judge and jury. You will use the evidence code, brain cognition theory, hands-on practice, research, and experiential and spontaneous problem-solving skills during actual trial situations to ensure that your story prevails. This course counts toward completion of the Experiential Learning Requirement. Prerequisites: Evidence and Trial Advocacy.



## Trial Advocacy

TUES EVENING  
Judge Torpoco

Learn the basic skills needed by every lawyer going to court: conducting a direct examination, introducing documents and physical evidence, cross examining witnesses, making and answering objections, and preparing opening statements and closing arguments. The final examination for this course is a full trial.



## Mock Trial & Advanced Mock Trial - Competition

TEAM PRACTICES

MON/THUR - 6:00-9:00 PM & SATURDAY - 9:00 AM-12:00 PM

INVITATION ONLY

## Evidence

THURS EVENING  
Judge Steckler

This required bar course is a survey of the principles of law and rules governing the admissibility of proof at criminal or civil trials, including direct and cross-examination of witnesses, impeachment of credibility, expert testimony, hearsay, privileged communication, and documentary proof.



## Professional Presentation & Persuasion

THURS 4:30-6:10pm  
Professor Scott

Whether you are in the courtroom, or working with colleagues or clients, as a lawyer you must communicate and present your ideas in a compelling manner moving others to action. This class will prepare you to excel in the courtroom, eliminate nervous tics, and to think on your feet and capture the attention of all your listeners.



## Handling Sexual Assault & Domestic Violence Cases

Any successful prosecutor or defense attorney will need to know how to handle sensitive cases, including those involving sexual assault or domestic violence. This course provides context on how these cases develop and addresses the underlying complex social issues. Students will learn the process of investigation, how to navigate legal obstacles in the litigation process, and how to handle evidence in the courtroom.

**\*\*NEW COURSE OFFERING\*\***

AFTERNOON/EVENING  
Professor Morehead



## Introduction to Jury Selection

WEDS 6:30 - 9:10pm  
Professor Jakle

You've lived with the case for years, immersed in every little detail. But now it's time for trial: what will a jury think? This course will teach you how to think through your case like a juror and prepare it for a lay audience, how to write and conduct effective voir dire to identify (and strike) problematic or biased jurors, and how to strategically select the best jury you can.





# GET TO KNOW YOUR NEW PROFESSORS



## INTERVIEW WITH PROFESSOR FAUSSNER

### What was your experience like attending GGU?

I thoroughly enjoyed my experience at GGU. The professors were knowledgeable and approachable, the class programming was interesting, and the Litigation Center is world class. When I was a student, I took advantage of everything GGU had to offer: spending time working on scholarship with the GGU Law Review, learning practical skills through GGU's Litigation Center programming, and competing on the National Mock Trial Team.

### What do you remember most about your experience in the litigation center?

If I were forced to choose, I think my mock trial team winning the SFTLA Mock Trial Competition in the Fall of my 3L year may have been one of my favorite memories. Winning isn't everything, but it's a pretty good feeling when you come out on top.

### For a student interested in litigation, what activities should they be involved in during law school?

Two things. First, make sure you go out for the National Mock Trial Team and compete as much as you can. The skills and experience you gain from competing will be invaluable as a practitioner. It will give you the confidence when you get your first case file as a real attorney that you have what it takes if the case goes to trial. Second, after your 1L year try to always have some sort of legal internship experience. Working at law firms or governmental agencies (depending on what you want to do) during law school is essential for you to build the skills and the network necessary to land a job when you graduate.

### Where have you been employed since graduating?

My first post-bar position was working as a Baxter Fellow in the Litigation Center. That was probably one of the most rewarding experiences I've had in my life. It's a lot of hard work (so thank your current Baxter for their hard work), but you get so much out of it too. Since my time as Baxter, I've worked at two law firms - Bledsoe, Diestel, Treppa & Crane, LLP where I specialized in construction, landlord tenant, employment and business litigation, and now at Hassard Bonnington LLP where I specialize in medical malpractice defense.

### What has been your favorite part about teaching so far?

My favorite part has been seeing students improve. There is something magical about seeing a student at the beginning of the semester struggle through and then gradually start to "get it" and execute their assignment or performance with great skill.

### What suggestions do you have for students trying to achieve work/life balance?

Tricky question. The best advice I can give is to make your personal life a priority and don't push your personal obligations out of the way for work. Being an attorney is a lot of work, and there is always something you can be doing to move your cases along. If you don't force yourself to make time for your friends, family, and yourself, you won't have anything but work.

**What words of advice would you like to impart onto students who want to get into litigation after they graduate?** Start your journey to a career in litigation now. Get your Litigation Certificate. Compete in mock trial. Work some litigation internships during law school. Socialize with litigators. Litigation is a difficult line of work, but it's exciting. So get after it!

## WELCOME PROFESSOR BRIGGS

Curtis Briggs is a trial attorney who has litigated some of the most significant cases in California history. In 2019, Mr. Briggs secured an acquittal for Max Harris in the notorious Ghost Ship Fire tragedy and successfully litigated *pro bono* on behalf of California's longest-serving death row inmate, Douglass Stankewitz. In 2014, Mr. Briggs was the lead attorney in *U.S. v. Chow* (aka Shrimp Boy), where he worked alongside the infamous J. Tony Serra.

Mr. Briggs received his JD from Golden Gate University, School of Law with an award for Academic Excellence in Criminal Law. Before becoming licensed to practice law, Mr. Briggs spent three years at the San Francisco Public Defenders Office as an intern and post-bar clerk. After becoming a licensed solo practitioner, Mr. Briggs quickly developed a reputation for aggressive public-interest litigation focusing primarily on criminal defense.

Mr. Briggs is currently the managing partner at Seville Briggs LLP in San Francisco.





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## CORNER OF GRATITUDE



### **THANK YOU PROFESSOR ROMEY!**

The Litigation Center would like to extend a huge thank you to Professor Romey for her time, effort, and continuous support of the Litigation Center. During her time with the Litigation Center, Professor Romey has personally seen to it that the National Trial Team has increased two-fold, gained the recognition in the Mock Trial world, and has introduced multiple new courses including Intro to Depos, Intro to Expert Witnesses and more. Thank you for everything Professor Romey, we strive to continue on the path you have forged!

### **THANK YOU DEAN NIEDWIECKI!**

The Litigation Center would like to wish a bittersweet farewell to Dean Niedwiecki who accepted the position as President and Dean of Mitchell Hamline School of Law in St. Paul, Minnesota starting mid-summer. The Center acknowledges the Dean's tireless efforts to increase student diversity, address educational improvements, and coordinate bar examination programming. While filling your shoes will be difficult, we are confident that you have positioned the incoming Dean to continue your legacy.

We appreciate your support of the Litigation Center and we wish you luck on your next chapter!



### **1L SPOTLIGHT: MAHTAB HAJIBABAEI**

The Litigation Center recognizes Mahtab as an outstanding 1L student who has shown dedication and enthusiasm for the Center and litigation activities this semester.

Ever since I was eight years old, I wished to go to law school and become a litigator. I chose law school because I wanted to learn how to fight for other people's rights and about the law that governs our everyday lives. Law school is a place where individuals cannot make arguments without evidence, and that is what I loved about it. Moreover, the reason why I chose litigation was that I wanted to learn how to fight for people's rights and give voice to the voiceless. I hope that the classes at GGU will continue to assist me to become an exceptional litigator by giving me the practical skills and knowledge that I need.

