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International Legal Scholar Joins Law Faculty (Sompong Sucharitkul)

Alumni Forum Editor,
Golden Gate University School of Law

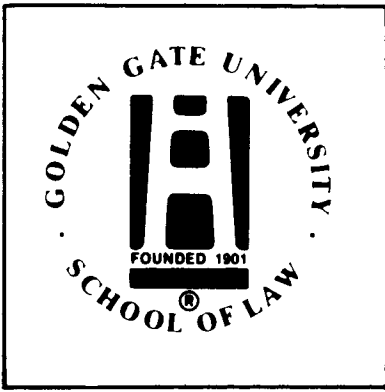
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Alumni FORUM

International Legal Scholar Joins Law Faculty

Sompong Sucharitkul, Thai diplomat, legal scholar and a participant in many world-wide conferences and commissions on international legal matters, has joined the faculty as Distinguished Visiting Professor of International Law. Dean Anthony J. Pagano termed Sucharitkul "clearly one of the most outstanding faculty we have ever had here at the Law School." Sucharitkul will initially serve on the faculty for two years, from August 1990 until July 1992. In addition to offering courses in international law and international trade law, he is charged with developing a comprehensive curriculum in international law for Golden Gate. He will also explore the potential for international programs such as foreign externships, summer school abroad, and an international exchange of scholars, to bring Pacific Rim and European legal scholars and professors to Golden Gate for a period in residence.

Professor Sucharitkul's academic credentials are most impressive. He holds a B.A. (Honours), M.A. and Doctor of Philosophy from Oxford University, England; a Docteur en Droit from the University of Paris, France; an LL.M. from Harvard; and a Diploma from the Hague Academy of International Law. In October 1990 he was awarded the degrees of Bachelor of Civil Law and Doctor of Civil Law from Oxford University. Sucharitkul comes to Golden Gate from the University of Leiden, The Netherlands, where he held the Clever-



Professor Sompong Sucharitkul (Thailand) (center) at a reception following his delivery of the Cleveringa Inaugural Lecture, University of Leiden, The Netherlands, where he held the Cleveringa Endowed Chair during the 1989-90 academic year. With him (l-r) are: Mrs. Thaithow Sucharitkul; Jose Maria Ruda (Argentina), President, International Court of Justice, The Hague; Jens Evensen (Norway) and Zengyu Ni (China), members of the International Court of Justice.

vinga Endowed Chair during the 1989-90 academic year. Professor Cleveringa, as Dean of the Leiden Faculty of Law, resisted Nazi oppression during World War II, refusing to dismiss a Jewish member of the faculty. "For an Asian to aspire for such recognition," Professor Sucharitkul stated in his Cleveringa Inaugural Lecture in November 1989, "is to dream an impossible dream."

An active practitioner of international law and diplomacy, Sucharitkul has represented his native Thailand as ambassador to Holland, Belgium and

Luxembourg (1970-1973); Japan (1973-1977); France and Portugal (1977-1978); and Italy, Greece and Israel (1980-1985). He has represented Thailand to the European Economic Community and UNESCO, frequently represented Thailand in the U.N. General Assembly for nearly three decades, and chaired the Thai delegation to the Third U.N. Conference on the Law of the Sea.

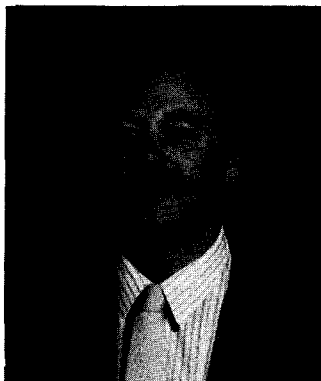
He brings a broad academic background to Golden Gate, having held positions on the faculties of Chulalongkorn and Thammasart Universities in

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Forum Editor Bids Readers Farewell

After editing the *Alumni Forum* for the past five years, Alumni Director Gary Wishniewsky is moving on to other assignments for the University. He has been named Director of Southeast Asian Programs, and will divide his time between San Francisco and the Pacific Rim, developing academic programs in Malaysia, Indonesia, Hong Kong and Thailand, and administering the University's Executive MBA Program in Singapore.

"Just a cursory glance at the *Forum's* stories over the last half decade," Wishniewsky stated, "provide an insight into how intrinsically intertwined the careers of our law alumni and faculty are with the world at large. Dick Rosenberg, '66, new CEO of BankAmerica; Marc Stickgold in China during the Tienanmen



Alumni Forum Editor, Gary Wishniewsky

massacre; Bob Oliver, '73, and Darrell Stevens, '65, elected to the State Bar Board of Governors; JoAnne Robbins, '78, appointed State Bar Court Hearing Judge; Susan Rutberg, '75, co-defense counsel in the Bingham acquittal —

these are just a small sample of the fantastic achievements of Golden Gate Law School alumni. And these are just the ones that come to our attention in the Alumni Office!"

Gary's greatest challenge, he found over the years as editor, was to conduct programs and special events as Alumni Director, photograph them for the Public Relations Department, and then translate the activities into articles as *Forum* editor. Nevertheless, he most enjoyed the personal contact with students and alumni during their interviews, at the Women's Association receptions, and especially at the Class Reunions which he inaugurated in 1983.

Dean Anthony J. Pagano will select a new editor commencing with the 1991 calendar year.

LEGAL SCHOLAR CONTINUED

Thailand; as a Fulbright Professor at the University of North Carolina; at the National University of Singapore; Notre Dame Law School; and Lewis & Clark Northwestern School of Law. When asked to compare the aptitudes and motivations of the various nationalities he has taught, Sucharitkul responded that students everywhere are basically the same. The professor "must discover the strengths and weaknesses of each student to bring out the best. There is no intrinsically bad or impossible student; everyone can learn given the right guidance and impetus." He also remarked that Golden Gate students, perhaps because on the average they are older, tend to be somewhat more mature.

Professor Sucharitkul speaks eloquently on the need for Americans to understand and learn about the Pacific Rim nations, particularly the "Little Tigers" of Singapore, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Korea and Thailand, as well as the ASEAN nations that trade collectively. "The world," he observes, "is dividing rapidly into different trading groups: North America, composed of the United States, Canada, and Mexico; 'Fortress Europe' within a highly protective EEC; Japan; the Soviet Union; the Little Tigers and ASEAN." Trade volume between the U.S. and the Pacific has "reached the point of no return," larger today

than trade volume between the U.S. and the Atlantic countries. "Continuing investment in Europe will pay off," he states, "but of other choices between Africa, Latin American and Eastern Europe, prospects are nowhere as great as in the Pacific Rim."

"California has the logistics," Sucharitkul argues, "and Golden Gate can play a focal, pivotal role in educating people to focus the investments that need to be made." Speaking more conceptually, Professor Sucharitkul observed that "We need to equip ourselves on this side [of the Pacific] to learn a lot more about the other side, to understand the Asian philosophy of conciliation rather than adversarial resolution of conflict, indeed the Asian philosophy of the avoidance of conflict altogether."

Indeed, conciliation and arbitration are fields of law and human relations Sucharitkul is extremely familiar with. He served ten years as a member of the International Law Commission, nine years as Special Rapporteur of the Commission, and sometimes as its First Vice-Chairman and Chairman of the Drafting Committee. He has been a member of the Permanent Court of Arbitration (Thai National Group), and is currently a member of the Commercial Arbitration Centre at Cairo, as well as a member of the Panels of Arbitrators and Conciliators of the Interna-

tional Centre for the Settlement of Investment Disputes, World Bank, Washington, D.C. He has published extensively in international law and world affairs, including eight United Nations reports for the International Law Commission in English, French and Thai.

When asked to consider his greatest contribution to the law from among his nearly four decades in the profession, he states proudly that it has to be his work on the progressive development of international law through his position as Special Rapporteur of the International Law Commission. In that role he has authored eight reports on the "Jurisdictional Immunities of States and Their Property" since 1979. So far in 1990 alone, he has published four articles on topics as diverse as the "Rebirth of Chinese Legal Scholarship," in the *Leiden Journal of International Law*; "Terrorism as an International Crime: Questions of Responsibility and Complicity," in the *Israel Yearbook on Human Rights*; "Thai Nationality in International Perspective," in *Nationality and International Law in Asian Perspective*; and an essay on "Boat People" for the *Annuaire Francais de Droit International*.

A scholar of world-wide repute, Golden Gate law students are fortunate to have the opportunity to meet and learn from Professor Sompong Sucharitkul.