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Spring 2021

The Exhibit, The Litigation Center Newsletter - Spring 2021

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 Director of the Litigation Center, Rachel R. Brockl

Our team in the Litigation Center is excited to share another seasonal newsletter with you and your colleagues. We cannot believe it is already April!

As we begin to move closer to some sense of normalcy in the coming months, it is important to reflect on how difficult this past year has been for many of our students, staff, faculty, friends, and family. The bravery and strength that I know some of you have had to muster up in order to push through classes is profound. We want to remind you that the Center has an open door policy - if you need support, we are there for you.

Over the past semester, the Litigation Center has been able to maintain a sense of community, even in this remote learning environment. This includes Seminar Series panels on hot topics,

such as making an accurate record in a virtual world, overcoming imposter syndrome, and a 'Ghost Gun' regulation discussion led by an NBC Bay Area News Senior Investigative Reporter. The Center also offered event-related raffle prizes at each event to provide attendees the ability to connect on a deeper level. Our goal to find ways that reaches students and staff in meaningful and educational ways will continue on.

Our mock trial teams were robust and fiercely competitive this semester. Student attorneys went up against strong opposition and dealt with unique fact patterns and judges, but they also learned a lot and practiced honing their trial advocacy skills.

It is with hope that I look forward to what the rest of this year has in store for the Litigation Center and I wish everyone good luck on their final exams!

1ST STEP MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

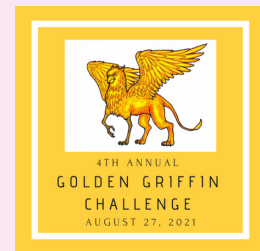
The Litigation Center created this program in order to provide mentorship and build long-lasting support systems for students undergoing intense programming and stress due to outside factors. To read more about this innovative program, see page 2.

Are you interested in becoming a 1st STEP mentor? Applications due April 23rd by 12 PM to baxterfellow@ggu.edu.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Baxter Office Updates	Pg. 2
Society of Litigators	Pg. 3
National Trial Team	Pg. 4
Moot Court Team	Pg. 5
Seminar Series Overview	Pg. 6
Students Recap Seminar Series	Pg. 7
Student Recaps Cont'd.	Pg. 8
Student Recaps Cont'd.	Pg. 9
Internship Highlights	Pg. 10
1st STEP Program	Pg. 11
Fall 2021 Courses	Pg. 12
Corner of Gratitude	Pg. 13

UPCOMING EVENTS



Golden Griffin - August 27



*Awards Banquet - April 23 @ 4 PM
Join us to celebrate & win raffle prizes.*

To RSVP contact the Baxter Fellow!



Save the Date

OCTOBER 22-24, 2021

Volunteers are needed to help with our 10th Annual In Vino Veritas Mock Trial Competition. We need trial attorneys and judges to judge and evaluate our competition, and we need student volunteers to act as bailiffs and timekeepers.

Friday, October 22nd
Saturday, October 23rd
Sunday, October 24th

Those interested in volunteering should email the Baxter Fellow at baxterfellow@ggu.edu

1ST STEP MENTORSHIP PROGRAM



The Litigation Center is proud to offer the 1st STEP Mentorship Program, which is focused on providing summer STEP students with additional support while undergoing intense programming. Mentors are comprised of STEP graduates and GGU alumni who can relate to the challenges experienced in law school. Mentors commit to their mentees for 8 weeks during the summer and are celebrated at the 1st STEP Reception at the completion of the Program.

Becoming a mentor is an honorable way to give back to GGU, gain valuable experience, and is an appealing addition to your resume. Email baxterfellow@ggu.edu by 12:00 p.m. on April 23rd to apply!

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!

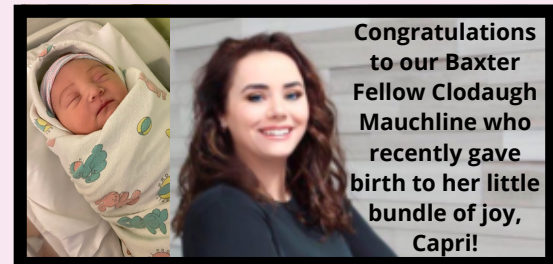
The Baxter Fellowship includes: working with the National Trial Team, hosting lunchtime lectures to teach basic skills, teaching trial and evidence skills during the 1st STEP Program, organizing the *In Vino Veritas* mock trial competition, and so much more!

The Litigation Center is now accepting applications for the 2021/2022 school year. Applicants must be a recent GGU law graduate with demonstrated academic success and a proven commitment to the Litigation Center.

Email baxterfellow@ggu.edu for an application
or go to ggulitigation.com.

Welcome Alexis!

The Litigation Center is grateful to welcome Alexis Pettis as a 2021 Baxter Fellow. Alexis is a recent alum of Golden Gate University with extensive litigation experience. During her time at GGU, Alexis held clerkships in both personal injury and employment litigation, worked as an intern at the SFDA's office, and earned her Litigation Specialization Certificate.



Congratulations to our Baxter Fellow Clodaugh Mauchline who recently gave birth to her little bundle of joy, Capri!



The Honorable Lee D. Baxter

How to Apply for the BAXTER FELLOWSHIP

- (1) Download application from the Litigation Center TWEN
- (2) Fill out the application, including your resume, personal statement, and references
- (3) Submit to baxterfellow@ggu.edu and rbrockl@ggu.edu by

April 23, 2021.

SOCIETY OF LITIGATORS
CROSS & CLOSE 2021

The Bernie Segal 1L Cross and Close Competition is held every year in January at the beginning of the Spring Semester. During the Fall semester, members of the Society of Litigators attend our Lunchtime Litigation Series every Wednesday to learn the skills they need to bring to the competition, such as: how to conduct an effective cross examination, refreshing or impeaching a witness, and strategies to deliver a closing argument that the jury won't soon forget. All participants in Cross and Close are 1L members of the Society of Litigators who may be vying for admission into the Summer Trial and Evidence Program (STEP), trying out for Mock Trial their 2L fall, or just passionate about litigation and looking for an opportunity to test their skills in the courtroom.

The Cross and Close fact pattern is released on a Sunday night. In five short days, by Friday, each team must be prepared to deliver both a cross examination and a closing argument to win their case in 15 minutes total. A coin flip at the beginning of the first round will determine what team member is performing which task for the first trial (who crosses first, who closes first), so both teammates must be prepared to play either role. The competition has historically been as small as 10 teams and as large as 20 teams of two. Only four teams move on to the second and final round, where the teammates will switch roles and have one last chance to cross, close, and out-score the other teams in 15 minutes. The Final Four round is open to the public, so classmates, professors, friends, and family are welcome to come see their loved one take on the competition.

This year, Society of Litigators was lucky to have three guest judges for the final round: Christine DeLeo, a National Mock Trial Team coach and Deputy District Attorney at the Solano County District Attorney's Office; Erik Faussner, a professor of the Introduction to Litigation Pre-STEP course and civil litigation attorney; and Jennifer Redding, a professor for the Introduction to Criminal Litigation Course and Santa Clara County Assistant Public Defender. Because of COVID-19, we were not able to hold the awards ceremony and reception as usual. We are looking forward to next year where, hopefully, we will be able to gather once again with students, competitors, professors, judges and members of the Society of Litigators board for an after-competition awards ceremony with refreshments and appetizers.

The Society of Litigators would like to thank everyone who made this competition possible -- especially our competitors. We know that it is difficult to stay engaged and take on extra work at this unprecedented time, and we very much appreciate your enthusiasm, participation, and courage in trying something that none of you had ever tried before. We are excited to have you in the Society of Litigators and look forward to seeing so much new talent on our mock trial teams.

- Olivia Wheat, Society of Litigators President



POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY IN THE COURTROOM

Co-sponsored by the Litigation Center

The Police Accountability panel was an informative discussion regarding controversial topics including police testimony in the courtroom, police credibility on the witness stand, redistribution of police resources, the effects of the doctrine of qualified immunity on police officials, and the relationships between the police and different socioeconomic communities. Each of the panelists had extensive courtroom knowledge and spoke about their own experiences questioning police officials during trial. The panelists explained that sometimes police testimony can make or break their case. They went on further to discuss the credibility of police officers who take the witness stand, and when to impeach the officers or make their testimony look unreliable. Next, during the topic of "defund the police," the panelists shared their ideas of how police funds should be redistributed. One panelist suggested using some of the resources for educational and rehabilitative health services. Although the panelists all agreed that there was still much to be done, they were all hopeful for the future because of the social changes causing legislature to look at police accountability. Overall, it was a very interesting discussion! -Vidhi Bhatia (2L)



1st Place - Nick Kimura & Piper Wheeler



2nd Place - Christina Robinson & Ryan Greene

- 1st Place: Nick Kimura & Piper Wheeler
2nd Place: Christina Robinson & Ryan Greene
Best Cross (Final Round): Piper Wheeler
Best Close (Final Round): Christina Robinson
Best Cross (Preliminaries): Piper Wheeler
Best Close (Preliminaries): Christina Robinson
Best Teamwork: Gwendolyn West & Jacob Slobodien

GGU NATIONAL MOCK TRIAL TEAM 2021 MOCK TRIAL CO-CHAIRS

KEENAN WEBB

Thank you to our returning captain, Keenan Webb, for his continued support and dedication to the Litigation Center during law school. We wish you luck on your next chapter! See page 14 to read more about Keenan's journey as a litigation student.



MICHAEL SLY

Thank you to our spring captain, Michael Sly, for his hard work and constant involvement with the Litigation Center during his time as a student. Best wishes for the future! See page 14 to read more about Michael's journey as a litigation student.



SPRING 2021 TEAMS



Team TYLA: Keenan Webb (3L), Michael Sly (3L), Rebekah Didlake (2L)
Coaches: Butch Ford



Team TYLA: Dana Oviedo (3L), Fatima Khan (2L), Yzabel Tinga (2L)
Coaches: Keydon Levy



Team COSTELLO: Alison Chan (3L), Bethany Cahill (2L), Mengyu Yang (2L)
Coaches: Ashley Lotti & Clodagh Mauchline



Team ETHICS: Charles Shumake (3L), Christian Cardona (2L), Christopher Wong (2L), Amye Osakue (2L)
Coaches: Zach Porter & Roxana Araujo



Team CAPITOL CITY: Sadie Minjares Odom (2L), Kourtney Speer (2L), Mahtab Hajibabaei (2L), Jose Padron-Lemus (2L)
Coaches: Dustin Cameron & Melissa Demetral



Team AAJ: Victor Gonzalez (3L), Xavier Torres de Janon (2L), Elias Hernandez (2L), Vidhi Bhatia (2L)
Coaches: Jason Schmalz & Alyssa Fielding

Special Thanks

The Litigation Center would like to extend a special thank you to Silvia Chairez-Perez & Dana Oviedo. Both students were willing to step in on short notice to assist the National Trial Team when one of our student competitors had a family emergency. Thank you Silvia and Dana!

Golden Griffin Challenge 2021

Are you interested in trying out for the GGU National Trial Team? The 4th annual GOLDEN GRIFFIN CHALLENGE will take place on **August 27th, 2021**. The challenge is an intra-school competition as well as try-outs for the National Trial Team for the 2021-2022 season! Teams of two argue a cross examination and a closing argument from a fact pattern that is available one week prior. A \$500 award is split between the winners. Ask how you can sign up!



APPELLATE ADVOCACY AND MOOT COURT BOARD

GGU STUDENTS SHINE IN SPRING MOOT COURT COMPETITIONS!



On February 18, 2021, one of GGU's moot court teams competed in the San Francisco Regional Rounds of the ABA National Appellate Advocacy Competition, which is the largest moot court competition nationwide. The team was comprised of Celeste Magana (3L), Alexis Pickins (3L), Jessica Cook (4L) & Victor Gonzalez (3L).

"The team did an amazing job both attacking and defending the doctrine of qualified immunity. The team won the first round, came very close to winning the second round, and received very complementary feedback from the judges.

Their coach - Professor Gregg Zywicke - could not be more proud! Thanks also to bailiffs Alexis Noel, Spencer Scher, Vanessa Lee, and Thomas Langtry, who all stepped in at the last minute to help. Congratulations team on a job well done!" - **Professor Elizabeth Fishman**

On April 17, 2021, another team of students will compete at the Traynor California Appellate Advocacy Competition.

This team is comprised of Alexis Noel (3L), Courtney Grubb (3L) & Kourtney Knigge (3L).

Good luck Griffins!



"BY PARTICIPATING IN A MOOT COURT COMPETITION AT GGU, YOU WILL DEVELOP THE MOST IMPORTANT SKILLS THAT YOU NEED TO SUCCEED AS A LAWYER, NO MATTER WHAT KIND OF LAWYER YOU WANT TO BECOME."
- **ELIZABETH FISHMAN, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF LAW**

1L Litigation Center Spotlight

Gwendolyn West

The Litigation Center would like to extend a huge thank you to Gwendolyn who has volunteered and assisted the Litigation Center all semester long! Gwendolyn is a curious and passionate first-year law student who earned her Art History degree from UC Berkeley. After graduating, she worked to educate herself on public health and social justice issues, eventually finding a way to apply them at The Equitas Project, a small, national non-profit advocacy organization. At The Equitas Project, Gwendolyn worked to decriminalize mental illness and reform the criminal justice system. Gwendolyn's dream is to continue this work by becoming a reform-minded prosecutor, or eventually, a judge.



SPRING SEMINAR SERIES

Court Reporter Tips Every Lawyer Needs to Make the Best Record - January 2021

The Litigation Center welcomed Court Reporter Trainer Ana Fatima Costa and her court reporting colleagues to explain what it takes to be a court reporter and how attorneys can make a clear record so court reporters can capture it and produce a verbatim transcript. Student volunteers helped with a demonstration that showed how court reporters can capture spoken word and translate in real time from shorthand to English.



Overcoming Imposter Syndrome - February 2021

The Litigation Center welcomed a group of seasoned panelists to discuss imposter syndrome and to walk attendees through the steps of navigating self-doubt. Hector Corea discussed minority guilt and its crossover with imposter syndrome, Natassia Kwan discussed her experience with imposter syndrome and methods she uses to address it, and Dr. Diana Uchiyama provided a clinical approach with resources for attendees.

Legal Ramifications of "Ghost Guns" How Home-Made Weapons Impact Law Enforcement & Litigation - March 2021

A distinguished panel of professionals, led by local NBC investigative reporter, Stephen Stock, gathered to discuss all aspects of the "ghost gun" crisis. Panelists shared in-depth insights into navigating legislative restrictions, investigating shootings, enforcing regulations, and preparing for cutting edge legal issues.



GABRIEL FERNANDEZ SCHOLARSHIP



In February 2021, in collaboration with a generous donor, Professor Brockl assisted in creating the Gabriel Fernandez Scholarship. The memory of Gabriel will live on with this scholarship, which will be granted to a GGU law student who has done outstanding work in prosecuting child/domestic abuse cases, helped to prevent child/domestic abuse, or has assisted victims of child/domestic abuse. Contact the Baxter Fellow for application materials and to receive the deadline to apply.

SEMINAR SERIES RAFFLE WINNERS

- Michelle Garcilazo:** 2021 calendar planner
- Jennifer Gale:** private coaching session with Ana Fatima Costa
- Mike Hamilton:** private coaching session with Professor Harriet Scott
- Tiyauna Leslie:** Gratitude journal - 6-minute mindfulness diary
- Ashley Llamas:** donation to/sweatshirt from Youth Alive! to prevent violence in communities
- Kaitlyn Guadagno:** copy of *Own Your Greatness - Overcoming Imposter Syndrome, Beat Self-Doubt & Succeed in Life* by Dr. Lisa Orbe-Austin



Recordings of all spring seminar series panels can be found on the Baxter Fellow YouTube Channel. Subscribe to stay informed of ongoing events.

COURT REPORTER TIPS EVERY LAWYER NEEDS TO MAKE THE BEST RECORD



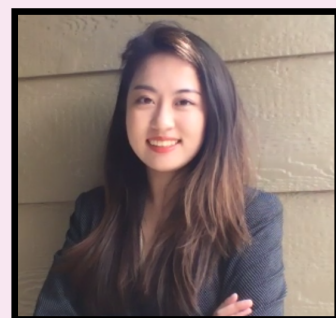
"Counsel, I'm going to need you to S-L-O-W down. Bring it down just a notch." The court reporter admonished the attorney for speaking too fast. It's easy to forget that the court reporter is transcribing every word that is said in the courtroom. This presents a challenge for individuals who have a tendency to speak fast, myself included. I sometimes have to remind myself to speak slowly and enunciate every word while speaking on the record, but it's also easy to forget to keep myself in check.

On January 27, 2021, the Golden Gate University School of Law Litigation Center hosted a panel of court reporters. The reporters shared their experiences and offered insightful tips for practicing attorneys and for those who work under the supervision of licensed attorneys. I must admit that the panel shed light on the role of court reporters, which is often overlooked or underestimated. As a student, my only interactions with a court reporter occurred because I had to request certified transcripts of body camera footage from officers on the scene for a case that I had been working on. Generally, the District Attorney's Office will turn over any and all body camera footage from the officers on the scene. However, if the attorney plans to use any of the video footage during trial, a certified transcript of the video clip must be made available. Certified transcripts can be completed by an official court reporter. During the panel, I learned that the court reporters are required to have a valid license. The license protects the evidence of the case, the clients, and the law firm. If the court reporter does not hold a valid license, there is a risk that the sworn testimony may not be admissible. Not having a valid license is a serious issue because it may also impact a case if and when it goes to the appellate court.

I thought it was really interesting that Certified Shorthand Reporters are heavily regulated by associations similar to the ones that regulate lawyers in each state. I was surprised because court reporters, like attorneys, can lose their license if they are found to be in violation of a regulation or requirement. In fact, court reporters are also considered officers of the court. Therefore, it makes sense why we hold court reporters to a high standard (very much like we do with attorneys). While there are public policy reasons for regulating court reporters, I believe that something similar should be done for other groups of professionals that are not as heavily regulated. - **Victor Gonzalez (3L)**



Court transcripts play an important role in a lawyer's preparation of their cases. The question becomes: What can lawyers do to assist court reporters to produce a perfect court transcript for their future cases? The GGU Litigation Center invited a panel of experienced court reporters to share their tips to help attorneys and certified law students make the best record.



I learned that lawyers should always provide their court reporters with the complaint and case-specific name/words in advance. This can help to minimize interruptions during real-time transcription because the court reporter will already be equipped with this information.

Sometimes, when lawyers read out portions of a document in court, they can read it at a lightning speed, which is difficult for court reporters to keep up with. It is always good practice to slow down and to speak clearly for everyone in the courtroom to understand - this is especially important for court reporters!

Lawyers should also remind their witnesses to give a clear response such as "yes," instead of "hmm." If the lawyer is using a demonstrative, it is also important to describe with words which part of the demonstrative that they are referring to, such as "top left of the exhibit", instead of only saying "here."

With the new reality of zoom trial proceedings, the court reporters also gave suggestions that lawyers can use to make the process run more smoothly. Lawyers should identify themselves and whom they represent upon entering the room and before the procedure starts. Lastly, it is important that attorneys and their clients remain muted when not speaking to minimize background noises, so the court reporter can concentrate on what is being said and record it accurately. - **Mengyu Yang (2L)**

OVERCOMING IMPOSTER SYNDROME



The Imposter Syndrome panel was honestly one of my favorite law school events this year! I have attended many presentations on this subject before, but the panelists that the Litigation Center invited - Hector Corea, Natassia Kwan, Dr. Diana Ushiyama - all presented unique perspectives that made the entire event engaging and interactive.

Beyond defining Imposter Syndrome and suggesting ways to overcome it, Natassia Kwan helped us identify how Imposter Syndrome could become a cycle. I always thought that Imposter Syndrome came and went unpredictably, but after listening to Ms. Kwan's presentation, I have become better equipped to stop the cycle and minimize the feeling of imposter syndrome in myself.

Hector Corea also introduced an idea that really resonated with me: Minority Guilt. Entering law school, I found that it was overwhelming to juggle both my studies and my responsibility to my family. Mr. Corea's presentation showed me, and the other students who attended, that we were not alone in our struggles. This event really broadened the topic of Imposter Syndrome, and highlighted other equally difficult issues that many law students struggle with. This presentation was refreshing, informative, and helpful. - *Yzabel Tinga (2L)*



On February 3, 2021, Dr. Diana Uchiyama, Natassia Kwan, and Hector Corea spoke to the student body about impostor syndrome. Throughout their talks, the unifying theme was of solidarity. It can be difficult, even impossible, to mount sufficient strength to overcome what your own mind can muster against itself. Accepting and giving support to others is essential to surmounting that individual limitation.



Dr. Uchiyama identified three primary categories of factors that contribute to impostor syndrome. First, individual factors relate to the internal struggles unique to each individual based on identity and background. Next, life-situation factors relate to external pressures, such as family, finances, and concerns about the future. Finally, organizational factors relate to the pressures particular to the legal profession, such as hours, the often-incongruous nature of client expectations, and a skewed definition of success. Dr. Uchiyama's emphasis, however, was on solidarity.

At the time of this presentation, Natassia Kwan was the only non-white female attorney working in her office, so she spoke to her experience with impostor syndrome and the unique challenges of minority groups in the legal profession. She emphasized the need for consciousness of the role that gender, race, and other traits play in drawing arbitrary lines being between people, heightening the sense of alienation on which impostor syndrome thrives. To counter this, it is essential to actively recognize and embrace diversity. As Dr. Uchiyama emphasized accepting help, Ms. Kwan emphasized the importance of giving help, with that duty falling doubly on those whom have gone before and are better placed to bring others behind them.

Where Dr. Uchiyama and Ms. Kwan emphasized the need for accepting and giving help, Mr. Hector Corea discussed the importance of maintaining your own sense of self. He spoke of championing your own goals and setting them realistically. Impostor syndrome resists these efforts most strongly, but only because feeling comfortable in pushing and advocating on behalf of yourself and what you hope to achieve is utterly inimical to its existence. In maintaining that foundation of self-worth, bolstered by help accepted from others and the confidence to give help where it is needed, impostor syndrome simply cannot stand.

Even under normal circumstances, impostor syndrome is a law student's constant companion. In our minds, we form an image of our ideal selves and, thereafter, strive to match ourselves to it. Impostor syndrome is the feeling that we have fallen short of that ideal and it takes constant effort to reassure ourselves that this is not so. Even under ideal circumstances, that effort is taxing. Working from home, which should be a place of refuge and strength, should ease that effort. Yet, that has not been the case. It is easy to forget that that image relies as much on context as content. Home offers safety and comfort, but also dislocation from the setting where that image of a successful law student fits most naturally. Moreover, that dislocation separates us from our support, our peers, and our colleagues. Now, more than ever, it is essential to maintain those connections, to maintain the solidarity that can keep that ideal image clearest in our minds because, alone, we often see ourselves as we fear to be. However, through the eyes of others, we may see that we are closer to that ideal than we could ever realize on our own. - *Christopher Wong (2L)*

LEGAL RAMIFICATIONS OF "GHOST GUNS" HOW HOME-MADE WEAPONS IMPACT LAW ENFORCEMENT & LITIGATION



"The Ghost Guns panel was the first time I've had the opportunity to learn about ghost guns. While attending the panel, I learned that ghost guns are predominately made from kits purchased on the internet, and not 3D printers. While the 3D printing technology is quickly advancing, the guns created from 3D printers are not very functional. In contrast, the kits purchased on the internet allow a person to create a better functioning firearm simply by piecing together the different gun parts, and drilling a couple small holes in them. I was surprised to hear these homemade firearms can be put together in as little as 20 minutes. The Panelists explained that unlike regulated firearms, which are traceable due to their required serial numbers, the gun parts in the kits used to create ghost guns are not required to have a serial number. Since the gun parts in the kits are not serialized, these firearms are almost impossible to trace. Additionally, I found it discouraging to learn that the ATF, the Federal Agency that regulates firearms, has adopted an extremely technical interpretation of firearms, which leaves ghost guns unregulated. As a result, law enforcement agencies cannot track the ghost guns until after they've been fired. This is because the only way to track the gun is to match the bullet fired to the gun. However, not all law enforcement agencies track ghost guns nor is there a congruent tracking system amongst different law enforcement agencies. To help this issue, the panelists shared how a federal regulation is ideal in order to track ghost guns on a national registry like regular guns." - *Rebekah Didlake (2L)*



"As someone unfamiliar and mostly uninterested with guns, attending the Ghost Guns Panel hosted by GGU's Litigation Center was an eye-opening experience. My understanding of the gun debate was whether or not civilians could lawfully own homemade firearms; I wouldn't have guessed that guns were commonly being built in my neighborhood. As panelist and Chief of the Detective's Division at Los Angeles County Sheriff's Office put it, there's a "local person in your neighborhood who's making 'em." More surprisingly, there are incredible attorneys like Jon Lowy and Hannah Shearer arguing for the necessary legislation against such ghost guns. Despite the fact these guns are more expensive and faultier than lawful, authorized firearms, there is a large market for them that continues to grow. Chief Marks shockingly informed us that the homicide rate in Los Angeles County has increased by 130% this year and, while he cannot specifically point to ghost guns as the main cause of that, he agreed that a majority of the guns that are recovered from crimes have been homemade. How, then, could the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) still refuse to classify ghost guns as firearms under federal law? Mr. Lowy opined that the ATF has changed its standards to be "hyper-technical and less logical."

The panel came at, what felt like, the right moment to open my eyes to this issue. The panel took place the same day of a mass shooting in Orange, California. This awful tragedy took place just a few moments after the panel concluded and I couldn't help but begin to panic. It made me wonder, "could he have used a ghost gun?" This is a problem that we can no longer ignore. It is more important now than ever for ATF to take responsibility in their position on the ghost gun problem." - *Fatima Khan (2L)*

INTERNSHIP HIGHLIGHTS



This semester, I had the opportunity to intern at the Atashi Rang Ewing-Rice Law Firm, a local estate-planning firm. I was looking for experience in a field where I could help everyday people navigate the law, and this position fits that description perfectly. While the thought of making an estate plan might be a little grim for some, the thought of dealing with an estate in the absence of a plan is even worse. In this field, you get the satisfaction of knowing that you're helping to ease a future burden for your clients and their loved ones.

Due to the pandemic, my work has been focused on drafting documents remotely. Every client has different needs and wishes, so I am learning how to incorporate those into each individual estate plan. I draft revocable living trusts, end-of-life healthcare forms, and real estate transfer documents. I have also helped with distributing trust assets and probate estates. My supervising attorneys are great about providing constructive feedback and giving me every opportunity to advance my skills in this area. This has been a fantastic learning experience, and it has made me consider a career in estate planning. - **Michael Sly, 3L**



This semester, I have had the opportunity to intern full-time with Honorable Senior District Judge, Susan Y. Illston at the United States District Court in the Northern District of California in San Francisco. During my internship, I research and write memorandum on a variety of both civil and criminal cases. As a result, I am exposed to all different types of law. I work closely with the law clerks in chambers and receive extensive feedback on all my assignments, which has immensely improved my research and writing skills. Additionally, I am receiving insight to how the Court reaches their decisions, which has been a valuable experience.



Each week, I attend criminal and civil hearings in our chambers, and have watched many talented attorneys. I can see how the litigation skills I am learning at GGU will be beneficial in my future internships and throughout my career. I enjoy this internship because I have the opportunity to work with incredibly talented people from all different types of legal backgrounds. I am grateful for this experience and the vital skills that I have gained, which will stay with me as I pursue my professional goals. - **Rebekah Didlake (2L)**



My passion in the law is in victim advocacy, in particular, supporting and giving a voice to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault within criminal law. After completing 1st STEP over the summer, I began working at the Family Violence Law Center (FVLC) in the fall. At this internship, I was given the opportunity to work directly with victims of domestic violence and sexual assault by listening to their testimonies to assist them in completing all necessary paperwork for restraining orders. Writing victims' declarations was a challenge because it forced me to write directly from the victim's perspective and not from a legal standpoint. This writing approach, coupled with spending hours talking to each of the victims, reinforced the importance of understanding the differing

impacts of violence. My experience with FVLC will have a lasting impact on me as I transition into criminal law.

I am currently interning at the District Attorney's Office in Contra Costa County and will remain with them throughout my 2L summer. I have been given the chance to respond to a variety of motions, but the few that have stood out to me have been on topics of domestic violence that involved felony stalking, burglary, criminal threats, mayhem and torture, and sexual assault.

I was recently given the opportunity to argue my first sexual assault motion. In preparing for that motion, my nerves began to get the best of me until I reviewed opposing counsel's arguments in response to my written motion. That is when I felt my nerves transition into advocacy and I was ready to argue the motion for the victim. Public speaking has always been a nerve-racking experience for me, but I have finally realized that if I can mentally direct these nerves into advocacy for the community and the victims that I am speaking for, then they will serve a much better purpose. My combined internship experiences have taught me a lot this year, and I am excited to continue to learn and broaden my understanding of the law and litigation process as a whole. - **Sydney Mastey (2L)**

SUMMER 2021

SUMMER TRIAL & EVIDENCE PROGRAM

1ST STEP



Class of 2020



Class of 2019



Class of 2018

IMMERSION WEEK (JUNE 7-11)

Professor Brockl

Professor Scott

Professor Morehead

Professor Mask

Professor Briggs

Judge Torpoco

(Including several civil and criminal attorneys from the community)



Director Brockl



Professor Briggs



Professor Mask



Judge Torpoco

Trial Evidence and Advocacy in the Courtroom

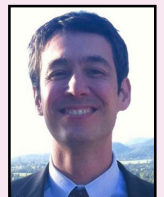
Students learn practical trial skills necessary to succeed in court, including conducting witness examinations, laying foundation for introducing documents and physical evidence, making and answering objections, and preparing opening statements and closing arguments. Additionally, students learn how arguments under the rules of evidence and evidentiary rulings play out in the courtroom. Students conduct two full trials over the course of the summer where they hone their advocacy skills and experience what it is like to be a trial attorney.

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.

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 and civil trials. This includes 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 actions. In this class, we will develop your presentation skills and give you strategies that will make you more confident and persuasive. You will deliver various styles of presentation, learn specific techniques to deliver presentations without rote memorization, and become an engaging storyteller. Come prepared to 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

SUMMER 2021 LITIGATION COURSES

Depositions

TUES 6:30-8:10pm
Professor Martiniak



Most civil lawsuits are won and lost in discovery. Develop a strong foundation for one of the most critical phases of civil pretrial discovery - the deposition. Learn techniques and strategies developed to maximize your time during a deposition and to get at the heart of the other side's case. This course will cover how to prepare for a deposition, effectively use documents during a deposition, deal with difficult counsel, and defend against a deposition.

This course is also scheduled to be offered in Spring 2022

Professional Presentation & Persuasion

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.

MON/THURS
4:30-6:10pm
Professor Scott



This course is also scheduled to be offered in Fall 2021

FALL 2021 LITIGATION COURSES

Overcoming Civil Litigation Obstacles

Using actual trial court case examples and milestone appellate decisions, students will apply creative strategies in role-playing exercises and written work assignments often assigned to associate attorneys: opinion letters, motions, reports to clients, and appellate briefs. Guest lecturers will provide diverse perspectives on how a recently-admitted lawyer can make a difference. Corequisite: Evidence.

AFTERNOON
Professor Castoria



Introduction to Jury Selection

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.

EVENING
Professor Jakle



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

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.

EVENING
Professor Steckler



Trial Advocacy

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.

EVENING
Judge Torpoco



**Professor Scott's Professional Presentation & Persuasion course will be offered Fall 2021*

**Additional courses for Fall 2021 may be added prior to registration*

Corner of Gratitude

GGU Graduates Reflect on the Significance of the Litigation Center

"My participation in the Litigation Center at GGU had a tremendous impact on my law school career and it gave me the tools that I need for my future after law school. I first was introduced to the Litigation Center through the 1L Cross and Close Competition where my partner and I won first place and where I found my niche in law school in the Litigation Center. That summer, I participated in the 1st STEP program, where I was able to present two full trials, and countless examinations and jury addresses while receiving one on one constructive criticism from attorneys. I continued on to participate in the Golden Griffin Challenge, the National Mock Trial Team, and became a Teacher's Assistant for the next 1st STEP summer class. These experiences through the



Litigation Center allowed me to master the difficult skills needed as a litigator. I am extremely confident in my ability to present a real trial on behalf of a DA's office now, and to stand out among my peers in applying for District Attorney positions. The people in the Litigation Center, and the structure of the programs in the center, allow students to gain invaluable experience in a courtroom setting that will greatly improve their ability to succeed in any career in litigation after law school." - **Katelyn Bourdo**



"I chose to go to Law School at Golden Gate University because of the Litigation Center's summer program in litigation, also known as STEP, and I am glad I made the decision to come to San Francisco. Throughout my time at GGU, the Litigation Center has been a haven in the otherwise hectic life of a law student – far removed from the typical case readings and cold-calls into the world of hands-on, on-your-feet, in-a-suit application of the law through objections and motion arguing. I loved being able to get to work with the law and not just read it. I have made some of my best law school friends through the Litigation Center and many life-long connections. I believe that my time spent on the National Mock Trial Team has been some of the most productive time I have spent at law school, and I am grateful to have been able to represent GGU. I appreciate and thank all the professors, fellows, coaches, and guest speakers who have helped develop my courtroom skills and advanced my public speaking skills. Thank you GGU Litigation Center! Go Griffins! See you in court!" - **Dana Oviedo**

"The Litigation Center gives students the skills they need to actually be lawyers. Most of law school focuses on theory and rules, which is obviously important for passing the Bar Exam. But the Litigation Center focuses on what happens after that, when it comes time to practice. The best decision I made at GGU was embracing every opportunity that the Litigation Center offered. In my 1L fall, I had never stepped inside a courtroom. Everything I knew about trials came from what I saw on TV or movies. One year later, right after finishing 1st STEP, I was in real courtrooms arguing motions against seasoned attorneys. I've watched my classmates grow just the same, and it's all due to the dedicated staff at the Litigation Center. I met teachers, mentors, and coaches who are all invested in my success. If you want to kickstart your career and start practicing with confidence, then I recommend taking advantage of everything that the Litigation Center has to offer." - **Michael Sly**



"We stand on the shoulders of giants. The Litigation Center is truly one of GGU's greatest resources. When I started as a 1L, I had no idea what litigation meant. After discovering the GGU Litigation Center and 1st STEP, I realized that litigation was exactly what I wanted to do. From that moment onward I participated as much as I could. The students above me taught me skills that led to my participation in STEP and the Mock Trial Team. The professors and TAs taught me how to impeach a witness, not just procedurally, but what it actually means. I learned how to refresh recollection when your witness forgets something on the stand. I learned how to lay the foundation to enter an exhibit - along with the evidentiary basis for its admittance. I became proficient at objections and can explain why a statement is or isn't hearsay and if exceptions apply. I did all this not through a static reading of case law, but through rigorous drills and exercises that got me on my feet while speaking and thinking critically. I stand here in debt and in gratitude for the skills I have learned and the experiences I've had with those in and around the GGU Litigation Center. Last summer I was given the opportunity to organize, train, and host inter-office Mock Trial competitions between different Bay Area Public Defender's Offices. The skills I learned at the Litigation Center have already held me above and apart from my peers and have given me the confidence to enter the courtroom with my head held high. I only wish to use these skills to better defend the accused, and to teach other law students and lawyers seeking litigation skills. I wouldn't be here without the wealth of knowledge and skill that has grown with every graduating class. To all my professors, TAs, and peers, thank you." - **Keenan Webb**