

Fall 1992

Alumni Forum, Fall 1992

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ALUMNI Forum

Volume 18, No. 1

Golden Gate University • School of Law

Fall 1992

Speaker Series Inaugurated

United States Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals Judges Stephen Reinhardt and Alex Kozinski kicked off the Law School's Fall Speaker Series in October with a judicial debate called "The Agony and the Ecstasy." The series also included a lecture in November by two-time Pulitzer Prize winner Anthony Lewis, columnist and legal writer for the *New York Times*.

The speaker series is an annual event that brings well known individuals to campus to give free presentations to members of the GGU community.

In the opening event, the two judges from the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals debated judicial and political philosophy. Judge

Stephen Reinhardt, a liberal, and Judge Alex Kozinski, a conservative, discussed the make-up of the United States Supreme Court and speculated on how the outcome of

the November election might affect the future of the court.

In his November lecture, "Democracy and Free Speech," columnist Anthony Lewis discussed the significance of the freedom of speech component of the First Amendment and analyzed how this amendment has been treated throughout history. Lewis referred to some of the legal cases that have been used to test the amendment, including that of *New York Times vs. Sullivan* in 1964. Lewis' book, *Make No Law*, chronicles the events pertaining to this case. Following his lecture, Lewis signed copies of his book at the GGU bookstore.

A third lecture by former California State Supreme Court Justice Rose Bird had been planned as part of the lecture series but was rescheduled at a date to be announced. ■



Anthony Lewis signs copies of his books.



Judges Stephen Reinhardt and Alex Kozinski.

Podell Scholarship Established

The family of Natalie F. Podell has established a new Law School Scholarship in her memory. Natalie, who received her law degree in 1977 and served as a trustee of the University, passed away in October.

The Natalie F. Podell Law Scholarship will be awarded to women with financial need who are residents of the Bay Area and have shown evidence of a commitment to the local community. Preference will be given to those who are single mothers, married women with dependent children, and single women.

Two \$5,000 awards will be announced each spring. The scholarships will be distributed during the subsequent fall and spring semesters.

Natalie Podell served as counsel for the M.H. Podell Company, a construction company in Burlingame. She was president of the Michael H. and Natalie F. Podell Foundation and served on the boards of a number of Bay Area non-profit organizations. ■



Natalie Podell, '77

Students Make the Most of Tough Times

by Margaret Graham Tebo, reprinted from *Student Lawyer* magazine

The interview season is drawing to a close, and if statistics are any guide, only a fraction of this year's law students have lined up next summer's job.

Faced with the same situation last year, a group of students at the Law School decided to create their own jobs. Now, the Research Projects Clearinghouse provides practical legal experience for about 50 students. Projects have ranged from gathering background on expert witness requirements to researching laws in other states for small-town California firms.

"We just had a request about asbestos litigation from a Kansas City firm that had a case pending in California. We get a lot of requests from other states," said Michelle Schuster, a third-year student and one of the three Clearinghouse student directors.

One of the attributes that makes the Clearinghouse popular is the price: \$15 per hour for nonrush jobs, \$23 per hour for jobs needed in less than the usual 48-hour turnaround time. The student researcher receives \$10 per hour (\$15 on the rush jobs), each student director receives one dollar (\$2 rush) for their review and coordination efforts, one dollar goes to the Clearinghouse, and one dollar to the Student Bar Association (SBA).

Law firm clients are required to sign an engagement agreement that clearly states student researchers are not attorneys and are not practicing law, as per the ABA Rules of Professional Conduct, and that the final responsibility for the work product rests with the client, not the Clearinghouse, its directors, or the Law School.

Students registered with the Clearinghouse are independent contractors, but all work is reviewed by the three student directors before it is faxed to the

law firm client. Students must have achieved a B-minus or better in their legal research and writing course (although those with a B or better are given priority) or must be a member of the school's law review staff. Students must also be in at least their second year of law school.

Jobs are assigned on a rotating basis, but if a project requires a specialized skill, the most qualified will be assigned. Firms may also request a particular student.

"We get requests from small firms because we have better library facilities available."

-- Michelle Schuster

There are a number of benefits to student researchers: besides the chance to get to know lawyers and firms both locally and around the country, students gain valuable real-world research experience.

"An assignment even turned into a job for one of our researchers. A firm here was looking for someone who could do quality legal research and could also speak Mandarin Chinese, and he fit the bill," said Michelle.

Under the terms of the student contracts with the Westlaw and Lexis databases, those services may not be used for research unassociated with school work. Consequently, students use the manual research techniques unless the client provides a paid access code for the student to use on the particular project.

The idea for the Clearinghouse began to take shape in February, when Michelle heard about a similar project at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. Michelle and her two co-directors, Jeremy Blank and Drew Martin,

approached their SBA for startup funds. The SBA provided \$400 for supplies, and with a donated FAX machine and some stationery, the Clearinghouse was born.

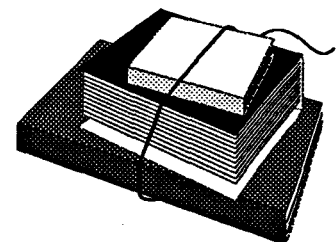
The Clearinghouse also sent letters to dozens of small California firms. "Many times we get requests from small firms because we have better library facilities available to us than they do. The out-of-state firms call for the same reason: we have books here that they need but don't have. It's a lot cheaper to call on us than pay for one of their attorneys to come to a major California city to use a law library," said Michelle.

"This has been amazingly successful and really worthwhile for us," she continued. "I definitely think schools across the country should consider something like this. It's really terrific experience." For more information about the Research Projects Clearinghouse, call 442-7000, ext. 7585. ■

Margaret Graham Tebo is a second year student at St. Louis University School of Law.

Library Card

Alumni are eligible to use the services of the GGU Law Library. A library card is available for a \$25.00 annual application fee. To obtain an application, call Donna Gallagher in the Development Office at (415) 442-7203.



Fall Semester Brings Alumni Events

Alumni had an opportunity to socialize and network with each other at three events during the course of the fall semester. The activities began on October 5 with a luncheon held in conjunction with the yearly meeting of the State Bar of California.



Judges Lee Baxter, '74, and Anne Bouliane, '80.

Since this year's meeting took place in San Francisco, the luncheon was held on campus at GGU, and approximately 30 graduates attended. Professor Lani Bader updated the group on the activities of the Law School. In

addition, those present were introduced to Dr. Thomas Stauffer, the new president of Golden Gate University. Dr. Stauffer assumed the position of president on July 1, 1992.

On October 14, the Law School sponsored a special Judges Night reception to honor Judges Lee Baxter, '74, and Anne Bouliane, '80. Both were appointed to the San Francisco Superior Court bench earlier this year, having formerly served as Municipal Court judges for the City. More than 80 people attended the reception at the Law School to meet the two judges.

The final event of the semester was the Annual Class Reunion. This year's get-together gathered members of the classes of 1952, 1957, 1962, 1967, 1972, 1977, 1982, and 1987. The reunion was held at the City Club of San Francisco, and more than 70 guests were present.



The S.F. City Club was the site of this year's Reunion.

Next year the Law School plans to sponsor an All-Class Reunion, which will offer all graduates a chance to reunite with their classmates. Specific details will be available later in the school year. Anyone with suggestions for this event can call the Alumni Office at 904-6835. ■



Alumni from eight different classes gathered for this year's Class Reunion.

Class Reunion

A special thank you to the following alumni who served on the 1992 Class Reunion Planning Committee:

Patricia A. Carson, '52

Meli H. Cook, '82

David A. Fink, '87

Mary Kay Kachikis, '87

Karen D. Kadushin, '77

Arlene Kostant, '77

Joanna Leighton, '87

Competition Tests Advocacy Skills

During the fall semester, Golden Gate University School of Law inaugurated its Appellate Advocacy Program.

Second-year students learned the art of appellate advocacy by writing a brief and arguing in competitive rounds.

Two finalists, Asha Khosla and Justine Juson, were

chosen to argue before former California Supreme Court Chief Justice Rose Bird, Associate Justice James Perley, and Timothy A. Reardon of the California Court of Appeals. Justice Bird is a visiting professor at the Law School this semester. The competition was held in the Moot Court Room at the Law School. Asha was awarded "best brief" by



Student Asha Khosla faces the panel of judges.

the judges, and Justine was named "best oralist." Other students participating in the semi-final rounds were: Julie

Aguilar, Hudson Bair, Karen Beecher, Asi Chitrarachis, Douglas Chapman, Joan Cox, Eric Ferrarro, Ara Gregorian, Ted Hand, Katherine Hansen, John

Hyland, Song Hill, Bridget Hopkins, Roxanne Kelsey, Cydney Kelly, Debbie Klis, Brendan Kunkle, and Yoo-Rah Lee.

Alumni are needed to act as judges in preliminary and semi-final rounds next semester.

Anyone who is interested can contact Professor Barbara Anscher at (415) 904-6881.

Judges qualify for MCLE credit. ■

Judge Donates Funds for Lectureship

Judge Lee D. Baxter, '74, and her husband John have made a recent contribution of shares of stock to the Law School. The money received from the sale of the stock will be used to start an endowment that will fund the Lee D. Baxter Lectureship in Trial Advocacy.

Judge Baxter is currently a superior court judge for the City of San Francisco. She was honored as Alumna of the Year at the Law School's Annual Commencement Exercises in May of 1991. ■

Did You Know?...

- The Law School's Bar pass rate for the July 1992 Bar was 68.71 percent for first-time takers.
- Approximately 28% of the 1992-93 first year class represent minority groups. Women represent 50% of the class.
- Over \$1 million in scholarship money was awarded to students during the 1991-92 academic year. This is more than twice as much as two years ago. There are currently 16 different scholarships awarded by the Law School.
- Thirteen of the thirty full-time Law School faculty members are women, comprising 43% of the total full-time faculty.

Golden Gate University School of Law 1991-92 Annual Donor Report

Dear School of Law Graduate:

We are pleased to include in this issue the 1991-92 Annual Donor Report, which covers the period from July 1, 1991 to June 30, 1992. The following pages are devoted to listing the names of graduates and friends who supported the Law School during this time.

Many graduates gave for the first time last year, while others continued to renew their

support. We are particularly grateful to the individuals listed below who each contributed \$1,000 or more and are recognized as members of our President's Circle.

We hope you will support your Law School via a financial contribution this year. Special recognition is provided to all donors who join one of our club levels, which begin at \$100. ■

President's Circle

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J. Lani Bader
Phyllis Berenson '80
Roger Bernhardt
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Russell S. Estey '73	John F. MacGregor '64	

.....

Tower Society Members (\$100 - \$249)

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Margaret E. Kaplan '77	Michael R. Power '81	Harris Zimmerman '51

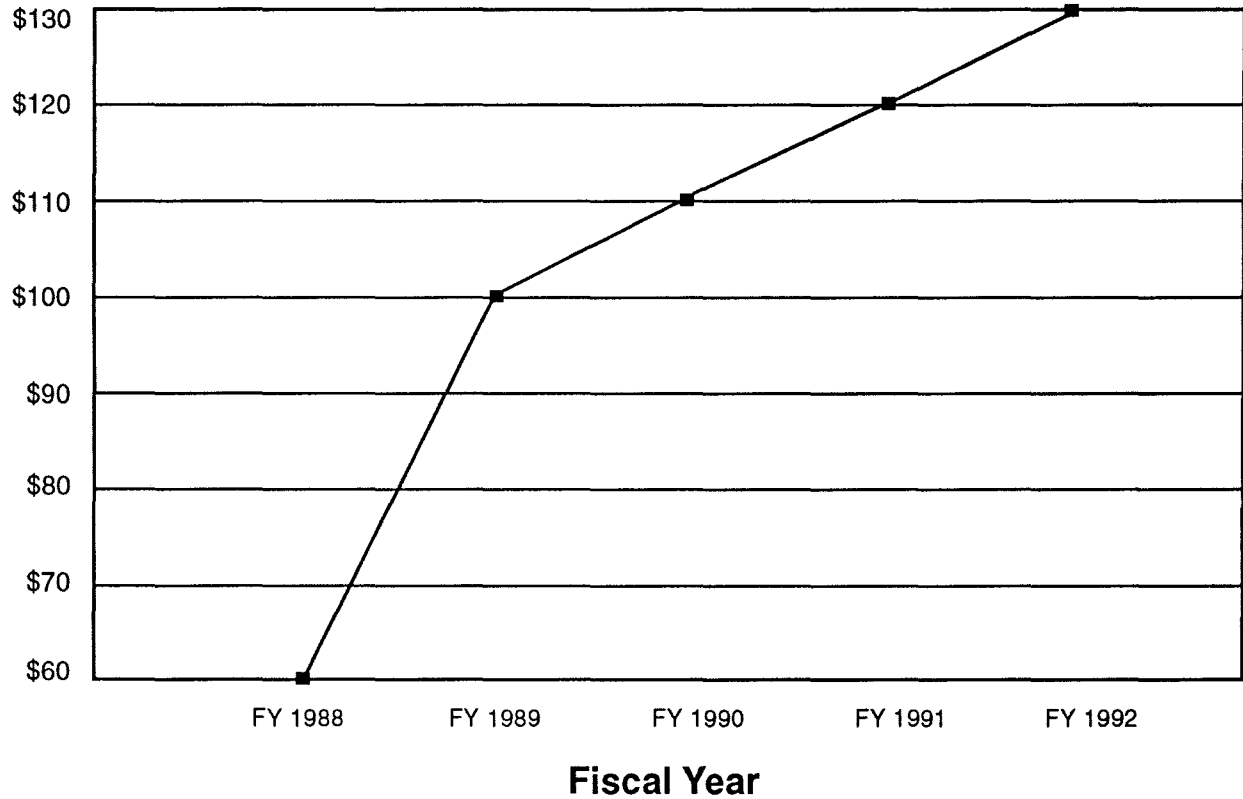
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Class Notes

Class of 1991

Michael Banister was appointed Deputy Attorney General of the Criminal Division of the California Attorney General's Office.

Susan Magar is working on her LL.M. degree in Banking, Corporate, and Finance Law at Fordham Law School in New York.

Class of 1990

Vanessa M. Spear is an attorney for Caltrans Legal Department, specializing in civil litigation and personal injury defense.

Class of 1989

Kathleen Wyatt is a grant administrator for the Legal Foundation of Washington, the state's IOLTA program, which grants funds to legal services and *pro bono* programs for low-income individuals.

Class of 1988

Eric Hoffman was honored by the Volunteer Legal Services Program of the Bar Association of San Francisco. He is an associate at the immigration law firm of Jackson and Hertogs in San Francisco.

Maureen C. Mullane is an associate with Peery, Hiscock, Pierson & Ryder in Seattle, where her practice includes insurance defense, subrogation, and drafting coverage opinions, as well as commercial and civil litigation.

Class of 1987

Bryan Sean McKown is a litigation associate at Smith, Merrill & Peffer in San Ramon, where he specializes in insurance bad faith and coverage litigation.

Ann Moorman has established a partnership with graduate **Katherine Alfieri**, '91. Their firm focuses on state and federal criminal defense and asset forfeiture.

Class of 1985

Heather (Draughan) Green is an associate at Blaha & Hartford in Pleasanton, specializing in family law, estate planning, and personal injury work.

John Hannon and **Toni Lisoni** are in their sixth year of private practice as partners at their firm in Castro Valley, where their focus is on personal injury, civil cases, and wills and probates.

Class of 1984

Craig L. Bissell is managing partner at Organizational Development Group, a firm dedicated to human resource management, organizational development, and productivity management consulting.

Grant D. Green is patent counsel for Chiron Corporation in Emeryville.

Nora Privitera has opened her own law practice in San Francisco, practicing immigration and nationality law. She had her first published opinion in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals as co-counsel with James R. Mayock in *Castillo-Villagra v. INS*, 92 CDOS 6501, in July, while she was an associate with Crosland, Strand, Freeman & Mayock.

Joel G. Selik has opened an office in Solana Beach, practicing in the areas of personal injury, probate, and tax.

Class of 1983

Linda LeZotte is a member of the Democratic Central Committee for the 22nd Assembly District. She was appointed to the San Jose Planning Commission.

Shahrokh Mokhtarzadeh has started a private practice in West Los Angeles, representing small to medium businesses in business and real estate litigation.

Class of 1982

Sara Allman has opened a practice with **William Joost**, '74, Joost & Allman, based in San Francisco and specializing in civil litigation with an emphasis on insurance defense work.

Gail M. (Budin) Gordon is staff counsel with the California Department of Water Resources in Sacramento.

Tom Norton has formed a partnership with Robert C. Anderson, with emphasis on real estate, business, and probate law.

Peter Sproul has joined the firm of King, Shapiro, Mittelman & Buchman, where he works in the commercial litigation and transactions department.

Robert Sullivan, former solo practitioner, has joined the firm of Frankel & Goldware based in Danville.

Melissa Toben has been appointed Child Support Hearing Officer for the City of San Francisco.

Class of 1981

Kirk G. Mitchell served as Deputy Campaign Manager for Senator-elect Barbara Boxer.

Martha Simon has formed a partnership with Leslie Kane, Simon and Kane of San Francisco, with emphasis on bankruptcy law.

Michael H. Wells is practicing with Howser & Munsell, a general practice firm in Ashland, Oregon.

Class of 1980

Robert Lee Edwards has retired from his position as a detective with the Oakland Police Department and now resides in Incline Village, Nevada. He has joined the local Realty World office and will continue as an attorney mediator.

William W. Klein successfully argued a case before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in an opinion that has been certified for publication (*Price v. Seydel*).

Keith E. Langan was appointed assistant vice president and assistant general counsel of Fireman's Fund Insurance Company.

Sue Lunbeck is the Director of LEOP at Hastings College of the Law, having left her position as Associate Dean of Academic Affairs at New College of California School of Law.

School of Law

We Need Your Help!

Please let us know when you have moved so that we will have your current address.

If you have news for the **Alumni Forum**, we'd like to hear from you. Please clip and mail this form to:

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New Home Address? _____ Yes _____ No

New Business Address? _____ Yes _____ No

My preferred mailing address is: _____ Home _____ Business

NEWS FOR THE ALUMNI FORUM: _____

Shelley Hill Salzman has been chosen as the District 3 recipient of the 1992 President's *Pro Bono* Service Awards by the Board of Governors of the State Bar of California for her work with Battered Women's Alternatives Legal Advocacy Program.

Alexander G. van Broek has moved his main office to downtown Oakland, although he continues to maintain a San Francisco office. In September he was sworn in as a member of the Oakland Citizens Complaint Review Board for an eighteen month term.

George Yaron has been promoted to partner at Kenney Burd Knutson & Markowitz in San Francisco.

Class of 1979

Mary Anne Chahbazi marks her third year with Justice in Mental Health Organization (JIMHO), serving the last two years as President, Board of Directors, for Keystone, Inc. in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Ronald W. Holland is a partner and unit manager in the bankruptcy and probate unit at Jacoby & Meyers in Pleasant Hill.

Susan L. Jeffries has left Chevron, where she worked as a tax attorney for nearly 10 years. She is now a sole practitioner in Alameda, handling family law, business, tax planning, and sales and license tax matters.

Marcus Scriven was honored by the Volunteer Legal Services Program of the Bar Association of San Francisco. He is a sole practitioner in San Francisco.

Ellen M. Singer has been appointed of counsel to the Law Offices of Jeffrey H. Nurik in Fairfield and Benicia.

Class of 1978

Jennifer Loucks has been promoted to vice president of benefits at Fireman's Fund Insurance Company in Novato. She was formerly assistant vice president of benefits.

continued on next page



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Class Notes, continued

Class of 1977

Karen Kadushin has been elected president of the Bar Association of San Francisco, the third woman to hold this position in the history of the organization.

Timothy H. Smallsreed has joined Oakland-based Fitzgerald, Abbott & Beardsley as partner.

Class of 1976

John F. Kerbleski has merged with Henry Todd, forming Todd & Kerbleski, based in San Francisco.

Class of 1974

Robert R. Curtis has been elected to the board of Phoenix Network Inc. in San Francisco, where he also serves as CEO.

Bette J. Ruellan is in her second year of teaching at University of San Francisco in the department of modern and classical languages.

Guy E. Sandler is a chief deputy public defender in Solano County, emphasizing sex crimes and extreme violence.

Class of 1973

Kenn A. Bovetti specializes in criminal defense in Fresno and does volunteer work with American Indians.

Class of 1972

Ronald Bogard is working on a Masters in Public Health degree at Johns Hopkins University.

Transitions

Julise Johanson, '84, gave birth to a daughter, Emily Julise, on January 22, 1992.

Maureen C. Mullane, '88, gave birth to a daughter, McKayla Marie, on July 15, 1992.

In Memoriam

- Edmund Burke, '29
- Mark F. Corriea, '72
- Charles M. Day, '91
- Loren Hu, '78
- Robert K. McGuire, '74
- Natalie F. Podell, '77
- James L. Yassky, '77

Faculty Notes

Professor Bob Calhoun gave a speech at the 1992 Western Regional Judicial Conference.

Professor Myron Moskovitz advised the new republic of Kazakhstan on their criminal code. He also wrote a recently published supplement to Robinson, *Criminal Defenses*.

Professor Maria Ontiveros was appointed to the Board of Directors for the A.C.L.U. of Northern California. She has been selected to act as an arbitrator in the Homeless Shelter Arbitration Project. In March, she will take part in a panel at the Western Law Teachers of Color Conference.

Professor David Oppenheimer had an article on "Negligent Discrimination" published in the *Pennsylvania Law Review*.

He was re-elected to a second term on the Board of Directors of the A.C.L.U. of Northern California.

Associate Professor Susan Rutberg has been invited to serve as instructor at the Cardoro School of Law's Intensive Trial Advocacy Program in New York City in early January 1993. In August she was a member of the faculty at a Trial Skills Program for practitioners sponsored by the California Attorneys for Criminal Justice.

Professor Bernard L. Segal joined a panel of lawyers at the Florida State Public Defender Association's Winter Continuing Legal Education Programs.

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