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Golden Gate University School of Law

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NEWS FROM GOLDEN GATE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

For Immediate Release

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U.S. District Court Judge to Speak at Law School Commencement

SAN FRANCISCO — U.S. District Court Judge Thelton E. Henderson will deliver the main address at the 89th annual commencement of the Golden Gate University School of Law. Approximately 100 students will receive J.D. or LL.M. in Taxation degrees in ceremonies scheduled to begin at 10 a.m. Saturday, May 26, at the Masonic Auditorium, 1111 California St.

Richard Rosenberg, the new chairman and CEO of Bank of America, will receive the 1990 Judith G. McKelvey Alumni Award. Rosenberg is a 1966 graduate of the Golden Gate University School of Law. He also earned an MBA from Golden Gate University in 1963. McKelvey, a professor in the law school, is a former dean.

Henderson was appointed U.S. District Court Judge for the Northern District of California in 1980. His noteworthy rulings have included: in 1982, overturning the murder convictions of Johnny Spain for the 1971 slayings of two San Quentin prison

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guards; in 1983 found that a San Francisco law firm failed in six instances to obey discovery orders in a statewide sex-discrimination class action; and in 1984, ruled that Betty Ann Buckmiller, former Army reservist, could not sue the government for damages after she was raped by two men on the Fort Ord Army base.

His legal career began in the civil rights movement. In 1962 Henderson, a young black attorney who had just graduated from Boalt Hall, joined the civil rights division of the U.S. Department of Justice. According to a *Los Angeles Daily Journal* profile, he worked for the department's civil rights division at a critical time in the government's effort to win legal equality for blacks in the South. During that period he worked on voting rights cases in Mississippi, Louisiana and Alabama until a chance encounter with the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Henderson had pulled into a motel parking lot in Selma, Ala., as the civil rights leader was preparing to leave. King's car had a bad tire, so Henderson lent King his own rented car. That incident caused Alabama Gov. George Wallace to charge that the federal government supported King. Henderson resigned and returned to California to practice law.

His commitment to civil rights continued in California, where he first practiced law in an Oakland firm and went on to serve as directing attorney for the East Bayshore Neighborhood Legal Center in Menlo Park, where he supervised the delivery of civil legal services to the community. He later was a consultant for the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, evaluating problems of minority communities in Northern California. He also worked with the Office of Economic Opportunity, the Council on Legal Education Opportunity, the Carnegie Corp. of New York, and the Ford Foundation's Office of Public Education.

As assistant dean of the Stanford Law School for nine years, he established and administered the minority admissions program, taught courses in juvenile law, trial advocacy and defense of the criminally insane, and assisted in developing the school's clinical program. After leaving Stanford in 1977, he joined Rosen and Remcho, a firm specializing in civil rights, civil liberties and constitutional law issues.

Henderson received his J.D. degree from the University of California Boalt Hall School of Law in 1962. He received a B.A., also from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1956. He served in the U.S. Army from 1956 to 1958.

He is a member of the National Bar Association and the Charles Houston Law Association.

The commencement ceremony is open to the public. For more information, phone the Golden Gate University School of Law, 415/442-7250.

Golden Gate University, which was founded in San Francisco in 1901, operates an ABA-accredited School of Law, one of the leading business schools in the West, a nationally recognized Graduate School of Public Administration, and the largest Graduate School of Taxation in the country. The university is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.