plus:

More great news from DEAN FREDERIC WHITE … GGU’s Latest “SUPER LAWYERS” … 2006–07 HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

and MAJOR GIFTS from DEAN EMERITUS JUDY MCKELVEY and the late MARY E. LANIGAR (JD 54)
LAW REUNION

Celebrating the Classes of:

and our Golden Grads from the Classes of 1963 and Earlier

SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 2008

Law Reunion 2008 is your opportunity to reconnect with former classmates, faculty, staff, and friends from GGU, and we can hardly wait to see you! Visit the Law Reunion 2008 web page and register now. It’s sure to be a special occasion you’ll always remember.

Noon – 2 pm
*Golden Grads Luncheon (for Classes of 1963 and Earlier)

10 am – Noon, 2 – 4 pm
*Optional Campus Tours

6 – 7pm
*Cocktail Reception and Class Photos
Hosted by School of Law Dean Frederic White and GGU President Dan Angel

7 – 10 pm
*Private Dinner for Each Reunion Class

The Palace Hotel / Two New Montgomery Street / San Francisco

To register, volunteer, and help us locate our lost alumni:
www.ggu.edu/alumni/reunions
415-442-7812 / reunion@ggu.edu
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Here at GGU Law we have much to celebrate and look forward to in this New Year. We are preparing for Law Reunion 2008, which will take place at the historic Palace Hotel, just down the street from campus, on Saturday, April 5. We’ll be celebrating the classes of ’03, ’98, ’93, ’88, ’83, ’78, ’73, ’68 and—last but most definitely not least—our “Golden Grads” from the classes of 1963 and earlier. You should be receiving invitations for Law Reunion 2008 shortly and can receive more information about the program by seeing the inside front cover of this magazine and visiting our Law Reunion website at www.ggu.edu/alumni/reunions.

As I hope you have heard by now, the American Bar Association has taken GGU Law off probation! In December the ABA lifted our two-year probationary status after seeing the dramatic rise in first-time bar passage rates among our graduates.

Our GGU Law Bar Passage Plan, and the collective efforts of faculty, staff, and alumni, enabled us to better prepare our students for the notoriously difficult California bar exam, with the following results:

• Our first-time pass rate on the California bar exam doubled in just three years, to a 68.4% first-time pass rate on the July 2007 exam—our highest first-time pass rate in 10 years!
• Our first-time pass rate on the February 2007 California bar exam was 68.3%, exceeding the California ABA-accredited school rate by 7 percentage points!
• Our first-time pass rate on the July 2006 California bar exam was 59.2%, approximately 17 percentage points over the Law School’s July 2005 result.
• Finally, our first-time bar pass rate was over 90% for alumni taking July 2006, February 2007, or July 2007 bar examinations in 13 states other than California.

Naturally we are enthusiastic about our bar passage results, but we will not rest on our laurels and become complacent. We will build on our current success.

The future looks bright for our law school and alumni, including the many alumni, along with their friends and family, who attended our December 2007 Swearing-In Ceremony presided over by the Hon. Thelton Henderson, senior judge of the US District Court for the Northern District of California (shown below) and Hon. Keith D. Davis (JD 81), San Bernardino Superior Court (shown on the back cover of this magazine).

Our future looks bright in many other respects. As you’ll read in this magazine, we recently received two very generous gifts: one from Dean Emeritus Judy McKelvey, which will help us expand our Law Library; and another in the form of a bequest from the late Mary Lanigar (JD 54), which will support scholarships. We are grateful to both of these women for their pioneering roles in breaking “glass ceilings” in their respective fields and for their steadfast support of GGU.

Best Regards,

Dean Frederic White
DEBORAH MOSTAGHEL Joins GGU as Director of Legal Writing and Research

Deborah Mostaghel, formerly director of legal writing and research at the University of Toledo College of Law for 12 years and a former attorney in both the private and public sectors, joined the School of Law in July as associate professor and director of the Legal Writing and Research Program. She is a member of the Legal Writing Institute, Association of Legal Writing Directors, Utah and Ohio bars, Association of American Law Schools, and American Bar Association.

Mostaghel has published many articles on a range of subjects, from legal writing, to the economy, to terrorism. Her most recently published article is “Dubai Ports World under Exon-Florio: A Threat to National Security or a Tempest in a Seaport?” (70 Albany L. Rev. 583, 2007). She received her BA from the University of California, Berkeley; her MA from Shiraz University in Iran; and her JD from the University of Utah.

HINA SHAH Joins Women’s Employment Rights Clinic as Visiting Professor

Hina Shah has joined the GGU Women’s Employment Rights Clinic as a visiting professor and clinical staff attorney. She has over 10 years’ experience advocating on employment and labor issues affecting unionized and low-wage immigrant workers. Before joining GGU, she worked at the Asian Law Caucus, Inc., where she directed both the Labor/Employment Project and the Garment Advocacy and Reform Center. She also has served as president of the statewide policy advocacy organization Sweatshop Watch, Inc.

Shah has worked at several union-side labor firms in Oakland and was a staff attorney for two years at the US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. She is the author of Ethnic and Religious Discrimination, published by the American Bar Association, and multilingual educational materials for low-wage workers, including How Anna Won Her Wages: How to File Wage Claims and Know Your Workplace Rights. She was a reviewer and contributor to the 2001 publication Asian-American Women: Issues, Concerns, and Responsive Human and Civil Rights Advocacy. She has a BA in social work from the University of Texas at Austin and a JD from UC Hastings College of the Law.
Professor Helen Hartnell, as a member of the Local Organizing Committee for the July 2007 Berlin Joint Meeting of the US-based Law and Society Association and the Europe-based Research Committee on the Sociology of Law, was involved in planning the conference and in organizing and speaking on numerous panels. She organized and chaired a panel on “Socio-Legal Studies in Comparative Perspective,” helped organize and spoke on a panel on “Sociolegal Dimensions of Private International Law,” and chaired a third panel in the framework of a new International Research Collaboration Network on “Comparative Disputing Behavior.”

Professor Janice Kosel has been appointed co-chair of the UCC Committee of the Business Law Section of the State Bar of California. She co-taught a day-long seminar in October on secured transactions for State Bar members in Sacramento.

Visiting Assistant Professor Joseph Latit’s article “The Doctrine of Efficient Proximate Cause, the Katrina Disaster, Prosser’s Folly and the Third Restatement of Torts: The Way Ahead” has been accepted for publication in the Loyola Law Review (New Orleans) for the spring 2008 issue, which will be devoted to the effects of Hurricane Katrina in the Gulf Region.

Professor Myron Moskovitz’s book Winning an Appeal, Fourth Edition (LexisNexis, 2007) has been published. He organized more than a dozen Moot Courts for Practicing Lawyers at Golden Gate Law during the fall 2007 semester. Part of the School of Law’s Appellate Advocacy Institute, which Moskovitz founded and directs, the Moot Courts help attorneys prepare for arguing their cases in appellate court. Participating attorneys can receive MCLE credit for the program.

Associate Professor Chris Okeke has been appointed director of the SJD and LLM programs in International Legal Studies. Okeke is a widely published author and editor-in-chief of the Golden Gate University Annual Survey of International and Comparative Law. His article “The Scramble for Africa’s Oil and Mineral Resources,” has been accepted for publication in the ABA-sponsored journal The International Lawyer.


Professor Alan Ramo, director of the LLM in Environmental Law Program, has been appointed acting director of the JD in Environmental Law Program.

Professor Cliff Rechtschaffen is on leave from the School of Law to serve as special assistant to California Attorney General Edmund G. (“Jerry”) Brown Jr. on climate change issues. He has been widely quoted in the legal trade and mainstream media on issues relating to California climate change initiatives in such publications as the San Francisco Daily Journal. An interview with Rechtschaffen about his work with the attorney general can be read in GGU Environmental Law News, available as a PDF at GGU’s JD Environmental Law Program web page. In October he received the 2007 Public Service Award from the Princeton Club of Northern California at its annual dinner for his work with GGU’s Environmental Law and Justice Clinic. His latest book is Environmental Enforcement: Cases and Materials (Carolina Academic Press, 2007).

An article by Leslie Rose (JD 83, LLM 01) associate professor and director of the Advanced Legal Writing Program, has been published in the fall 2007 edition of the Legal Writing Institute bulletin The Second Draft. Her article is titled “E-Commenting: Pros and Cons.”

Marcy Seville, professor and director of the GGU Women’s Employment Rights Clinic, was profiled in the June 2007 edition of the California Labor & Employment Bulletin. The article notes her “passion for teaching students the everyday skills of legal practice, while helping them make a difference in the lives of San Francisco’s working poor” and her influence in the field of employment law as the clinic’s founder and director.


Professor and Dean Frederic White has been reappointed as a member of the Bar Admissions Committee of the American Bar Association for 2007–09. He also has been appointed to the Law School Council of the Committee of Bar Examiners of the State Bar of California for a three-year term and as chair of the Association of American Law Schools Section on Part-Time Division Programs for a one-year term. His book Ohio Landlord Tenant Law (Thomson, 2007–08) was recently published. His letter to the editor, titled “Public Interest Law for All,” appears in the October 19 edition of The Recorder.

Adjunct Professor Stephen L. Baker, a nationally known sports attorney, spoke at a September MCLE seminar titled “Entering the Field of Sports & Entertainment Law.” He is featured in the winter 2008 edition of San Francisco Attorney, the magazine of the Bar Association of San Francisco.

Clean Air Accountability Project. Before joining the law school in 2000, she was a trial attorney with the Environmental Enforcement Section of the US Department of Justice and a partner in the San Francisco law firm of Goodman Kang.

Professor Peter Keane was quoted in several New York Times articles this fall concerning the indictment of baseball legend Barry Bonds on perjury and obstruction of justice charges and possible strategies the prosecution might pursue in the anticipated trial. He also has been quoted on the subject in the Los Angeles Times and San Francisco Chronicle; Washington Post and Houston Chronicle; and International Herald Tribune, Globe and Mail, and Toronto Sun, and has discussed the topic on the airwaves for CNN, FOX, ABC, CBS, and NBC television.

Professor Chris Okeke has been appointed acting director of the JD in Environmental Law Program.
In late May, a contingent of senior Vietnamese judges, public prosecutors and officials with the national police visited the United States for two weeks in a special study tour program organized by the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) and the STAR Vietnam Program to learn about intellectual property rights enforcement best practices. The Vietnamese visitors met with numerous law enforcement officials and members of the judiciary, as well as intellectual property rights holders and legal groups, during their trip to the United States. Their trip included a visit to GGU School of Law, organized in part by Peter N. Fowler (JD 84), senior counsel in the USPTO. The GGU program included a legal roundtable on US criminal law issues led by Professor and Dean Emeritus Peter Keane, Professor Susan Rutberg, and Professor and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Robert Calhoun.

GGU at the State Bar Annual Meeting

GGU Law students, faculty, and alumni had a strong presence at the 2007 State Bar of California Annual Meeting. Two GGU law students were among the 28 from across California to receive a Foundation of the State Bar of California Law School Scholarship. These scholarships are given in recognition of academic achievement and demonstrated commitment to public service and may be used toward tuition and related education expenses. This year’s winners from GGU were third-year law students Anna Benvenue and Kira Murray, who each received $5,000 scholarships.

In photo at upper left are the 2007 Foundation of the State Bar Law Scholarship recipients Anna Benvenue and Kira Murray, second and third from left, with Foundation Board President Scott Wylie and Courtney Fitzgibbons, GGU Law Assistant Director for Employer Relations. At lower left and below are some of the GGU Law Alumni and Friends who attended the Law School’s Friday Night Alumni Reception at the State Bar.
Fall Speakers Include FEDERAL JUDGES and CALIFORNIA STATE BAR PRESIDENT

During fall 2007, the School of Law was visited by an array of distinguished guests who shared their expertise and experience with students, staff, faculty, and alumni. They included:

- Hon. Cruz Reynoso (Ret.), California Supreme Court
- Maya Harris, executive director, ACLU of Northern California
- Jeffrey Bleich, president, State Bar of California
- Michael Nava, California Supreme Court judicial staff attorney and keynote speaker for on-campus conference on diversity in the legal profession
- Martin J. Doris, barrister and University of Glasgow lecturer
- Hon. Harry A. Haines, US Tax Court
- Retired US Naval Reserve Commander Zoe Dunning
- Dozens of environmental law attorneys, agency officials, and activists for the 2007 Environmental Law Symposium.

GGU Student
MASAKO OISHI
Receives Takasugi Fellowship

Masako Esperanza Oishi, a third-year evening law student at GGU, has received the prestigious Robert M. Takasugi Public Interest Fellowship Award. The award, which she formally received at an awards ceremony in Los Angeles with many relatives (including her 96-year-old grandfather) cheering her on, supported her summer internship at the San Francisco Public Defender’s Office. Oishi was the Northern California recipient of the award, which is also given to one Southern California law student.

Oishi initially learned of the fellowship while attending the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association’s conference, where GGU law adjunct professor Victor Huang mentioned the fellowship. In addition to receiving the fellowship, Oishi enjoyed a private luncheon with the Hon. Robert M. Takasugi, senior judge, US District Court for the Central District of California. Oishi worked at Bay Area Legal Aid in a Civil Field Placement Clinic internship during her fall 2007 semester and will continue during the spring. “I’ve always known that I want to work with clients with low incomes and limited access to legal services,” Oishi says. “Everyone deserves competent legal representation.”


The Golden Gate University Environmental Law Journal (ELJ) has printed its first issue, titled “1982 Warren County Protests: Environmental Justice Twenty-Five Years Later.” The issue discusses the past, present, and future of environmental justice and refers to the 1982 protests against the siting of a disposal facility for toxic polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in Warren County, North Carolina—a largely low-income, African-American area. The protests are now recognized as a watershed event in the environmental justice movement and were the subject of the fall 2007 Environmental Law Symposium.

The ELJ will publish two editions each academic year: a winter Pacific Region Edition focused on topics pertaining to the Pacific Rim; and a summer edition on the subject of the annual fall symposium. The summer 2008 symposium edition will be titled “The West’s Aging Dams: Retain or Remove?” Consider the Environmental Law Journal for your submissions, and learn more about the journal at the GGU Law Library web page at www.ggu.edu/lawlibrary.
Student Spotlight: TANYA BROWN (JD 08), GGU Black Law Students Association President

The GGU Office of Law Student Services periodically publishes interviews about interesting students to introduce them to the rest of the GGU community. Below is a recent Student Spotlight on a full-time law student and mother of three.

GGU: Tell me something special or interesting about your background before you went to law school.

TANYA BROWN: “I worked in corporate sales before entering law school three years ago as an evening law student. At the time, I was six months pregnant; I’ve since had a second child.” (Tanya has three children, ages 2, 4, and 15.) “Raising young children while attending law school has been challenging, but it never forced me to miss a semester,” Tanya says. She wants GGU’s many students who serve as caregivers to know “it can be done!”

GGU: Tell me something special or interesting about your law school experience.

BROWN: “I have been very involved at GGU. I am a former co-president and treasurer of BLSA and am the current BLSA president. I am also an active member of Phi Delta Phi.”

GGU: What is your greatest source of motivation/support as you work towards your JD?

BROWN: “My kids are my greatest source of motivation. Professor Sylvester has been my ‘Rock of Gibraltar.’ Dean White has been incredibly supportive since my first day of law school. And my husband has been so supportive, pitching in with child-rearing and picking up the kids from school. [Tanya commutes to her Oakland job and GGU law classes from Antioch, a trip that can take up to 90 minutes each way.] When I was initiated into Phi Delta Phi, my husband attended the ceremony and was so excited for me.” Tanya says she and her husband benefited from attending the GGU law orientation panel for spouses, partners, and significant others. “Today, when my husband asks me, ‘Do you have to go to the library again?’ I answer, ‘Remember what they told you on that panel?’”

GGU: If not at GGU, where can we find you?

BROWN: “At Chuck E. Cheese’s with my kids!” Tanya is also likely to be found on her cell phone, checking in with her kids or catching up with her own mother—who will graduate (from a master’s nursing program) a week before Tanya; the family will host a party to celebrate the women’s respective accomplishments in May. Until then, when her mother calls to bemoan the stresses of graduate student life, says Tanya, “Welcome to my world!”

Alumni, Faculty, and Staff Featured In Winter 2007 San Francisco Attorney Magazine

Several members of the GGU Law community appear in the current edition of San Francisco Attorney magazine, the quarterly publication of the Bar Association of San Francisco.

Alumna Helen Santana (JD 91, MBA 05) was profiled in an article titled “Attorneys Working Toward the Tipping Point for Diversity.” Santana, who has been featured in previous issues of Golden Gate Lawyer, is manager of the Liberty Mutual San Francisco field office. She has served as a regional president for the Hispanic National Bar Association and has also been very engaged with La Raza Lawyers Association and other organizations working to increase diversity in the legal profession.

Rodney Fong, GGU assistant dean for bar exam services, was featured in another article in the magazine, “Diversity in Law Schools: A Roundtable on Admissions.” Fong served on a panel along with representatives from UC Berkeley Law School; UC Hastings College of the Law; University of San Francisco School of Law; and the Legal Education Opportunity Program.

Stephen Baker, founder of Baker Sports Management, who specializes in negotiating contracts for National Football League athletes and other major sports figures, is the subject of another article titled “Sports Law—Salary Caps and New Media Expand the Playing Field.” One of Baker’s former students, Ayanna Jenkins-Toney (JD 01), is also featured in the article.

And GGU alumni Heather Borlase (JD 01) and Alan Bayer (JD 01), a board member of the Bar Association’s Barristers Club, appear in a photograph with State Bar of California President Jeffrey Bleich taken at the Bar Association’s 2007 Annual Foundation Gala.
Michele Benedetto Instills in GGU Law Students The Principles That Have Guided Her Legal Practice

By Jill Goetz

“If there is one theme running through my career and my teaching, it is accountability,” says Golden Gate University School of Law Associate Professor Michele Benedetto.

“People who assume power in any form—whether they are the CEO of a corporation, a judge, or an administrator in a government agency—must be held accountable for their actions.”

Benedetto, who joined the GGU Law faculty in 2006, teaches Business Associations (formerly Corporations) and Professional Responsibility. Her students are steeped in legal theory and skills from someone who has practiced law in both the public and private sectors and has found innovative ways to use the law for change.

Benedetto’s passion for justice began early. While in college, she coordinated a program for homeless teenagers. After graduating cum laude from Santa Clara University with a bachelor’s degree in English, she moved to New York, where she worked as a legal advocate at the Urban Justice Center. In this role she supervised weekly legal clinics at soup kitchens and advocated for clients with welfare caseworkers and and landlords.

“Clients would come to me and say, ‘Someone just came and took away my kids!’” recalls Benedetto, “and I’d have to say, ‘I’m sorry, I wish I could do more for you, but I’m not a lawyer.’ That’s when I realized I needed to go to law school—so I could make more of a difference in people’s lives.”

Benedetto attended New York University School of Law, where she was a Root-Tilden-Kern Public Service Scholar (as was her then-classmate and now fellow GGU Law Associate Professor Eric Christiansen). While in law school, she held a series of internships in New York and San Francisco, working at NYU’s Juvenile Rights Clinic, the San Francisco Public Defender’s Office, the Executive Office for Immigration Review, and the Legal Aid Society–Employment Law Center in San Francisco. After law school she clerked for the Hon. Napoleon A. Jones Jr., US District Court, Southern District of California.

Throughout these diverse experiences, Benedetto observed the immense power of attorneys to use the law for positive change. But she also observed the potential for abuse of such power—particularly on the immigration bench, through partisanship and bias, and at government agencies, where lack of oversight and accountability often results in neglect of constituents’ needs.

Benedetto grew especially concerned about populations slipping through the cracks of state and federal agencies, such as foster care youth relying on the government for survival. These youth, Benedetto believes, have substantive due process rights under the US Constitution, not only to be adequately cared for while in foster care—but to be prepared for life after foster care.

(continued on page 10)
USING A FELLOWSHIP TO HELP EMANCIPATED FOSTER YOUTH

After completing her clerkship, Benedetto obtained a prestigious Equal Justice Works Fellowship. She used it to create the Youth Outreach Project of the Legal Aid Society of San Diego, a first-of-a-kind project serving young people transitioning from the foster care system. As the project’s founder and pro bono coordinator, she spent two years providing direct civil legal services to youth emancipating out of foster care in San Diego County. The project served more than 125 youth, most of whom had no other access to legal services.

“California’s foster youth face great challenges when they emancipate from the system,” Benedetto says. “Many lack access to a decent education. As teenagers, they often lack the basic life skills necessary to find housing and jobs. They are also highly vulnerable to identity theft, because so many entities have gained access to their Social Security numbers and other personal information. This population has been sorely neglected by our society, and many emancipated foster youth end up homeless or incarcerated.”

Through the Youth Outreach Project, Benedetto represented foster care and emancipated foster care youth in court on a variety of civil matters and advocated for policy changes at the state and local levels. One aspect of the work of which she is particularly proud is her success in rallying attorneys at a major corporate law firm to the cause.

Benedetto approached the managing partner of Morrison & Foerster’s San Diego office and requested to make a presentation to its attorneys about the Youth Outreach Project. As a result, more than a dozen Morrison & Foerster attorneys and paralegals joined her at biweekly outreach clinics at the YMCA and other drop-in centers for youth over a two-year period. The attorneys worked pro bono on behalf of recently emancipated foster care youth.

“Some of the youth had never met a lawyer outside of the foster care system, and some of the lawyers had never entered a drop-in shelter,” Benedetto notes. “It was a learning experience on all sides.”

Benedetto received positive media coverage for her work with the Youth Outreach Project, which has become a model for a similar program launched by the Children’s Aid Society of New York. During her Equal Justice Works Fellowship she published a law review article about the project, “An Ounce of Prevention: A Foster Youth’s Substantive Due Process Right to Proper Preparation for Emancipation” (9 UC Davis Journal of Juvenile Law & Policy 381, 2005), and taught a course on public interest law at Thomas Jefferson School of Law in which she linked legal theory to its practical impact on disadvantaged communities.

Benedetto has spoken nationally about the Youth Outreach Project and her work with foster youth and will give a presentation on the Constitutional rights of former foster youth at a conference in March at St. John’s University School of Law.

Upon completion of her fellowship, Benedetto joined Morrison & Foerster as an associate in its San Diego office. There, she experienced high-stakes practice in a large firm, developing legal strategies for litigation and labor and employment cases while continuing to operate outreach clinics for former foster youth. After almost two years with the firm, she decided she wanted to teach full-time and joined the faculty at Golden Gate Law.

In Business Associations, Benedetto teaches students the basic theories and principles behind the laws affecting the day-to-day function of businesses of all types. Law professors have had to alter business law course curricula in recent years to adapt to changes in the business world, she notes—particularly the emergence of new types of business entities such as Limited Liability Corporations (LLCs), first developed in the early 1990s and today the most common form of small business entity.
**TEACHING BEST PRACTICES BY DRAWING FROM HER OWN**

Benedetto spends the first three weeks of Business Associations on the basics of business law with an emphasis on agencies, partnerships, and LLCs—material important not only for students who pursue careers in the private sector, but those interested in public interest law as well, she says.

“Students who will go into private business practice need a firm grasp of issues affecting partnerships and LLCs,” Benedetto says. “But those who intend to pursue public interest law need to be equally versed on the different forms of business entities. For example, if you plan to sue a company on behalf of consumers or shareholders, you need to know the business structure and liabilities of that company.”

Benedetto has written a chapter on shareholder lawsuits against corporations for Golden Gate’s upcoming book honoring former California Supreme Court Justice Jesse Carter (GGU Class of 1913).

Benedetto says that one of the challenges—and rewards—of teaching Business Associations is the mix of knowledge among her students. “In the same classroom, I’m teaching a range of students,” she says. “Some have no knowledge of business at all, and some have MBAs.”

Whatever their level of knowledge and experience, Benedetto works hard to make her courses relevant for students. “Because I practiced before I taught, I can show students how to take legal theory and apply it to real life,” she says. She also brings in corporate experts to share their experiences with students. For example, in October she invited Kevin Connors, the CEO of Cutera, Inc., and Philip Oettinger, an attorney from Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, to discuss their experiences in taking the company public.

In Benedetto’s second course at GGU, Professional Responsibility, “we take a close look at the attorney’s responsibility to his or her client, the profession, and society,” Benedetto says. “We examine recent cases of wrongdoing by lawyers, such as the Enron scandal. We consider questions such as: How could [Enron founder] Kenneth Lay have been allowed to perpetrate such fraud? Where were the lawyers, and what were their ethical responsibilities?”

Benedetto screened the documentary *Enron: The Smartest Guys in the Room* for students in both her Professional Responsibility and Business Associations classes at GGU.

Benedetto devotes a portion of her Professional Responsibility course to the study of judicial ethics, a subject she explores in an article titled “Crisis on the Immigration Bench: An Ethical Perspective” to be published this spring in the *Brooklyn Law Review*. The article studies cases of demonstrated bias and incompetence by immigration judges, problems that are exacerbated by the difficult nature of immigration cases and lack of time and resources available to immigration judges, she writes. The article recommends several reforms, including more formalized ethics training for immigration judges, decreased workload, and an Ethics Review Board for immigration judges (who work in the executive branch) with authority to publicly censure immigration judges found to be biased or incompetent in adjudicating cases, similar to the disciplinary and public notice systems in place for California state judges.

“If immigration judges know they will be held publicly accountable for their decisions and actions on the bench, they may act more carefully,” Benedetto says.

This is an interesting time to be studying—and teaching—business law and legal ethics, Benedetto says. “The barrage of corporate scandals in recent years has inspired a new generation of law students eager to hold the most powerful individuals and business organizations accountable. My students are deeply interested in materials and case studies on corporate corruption and on how they, as future attorneys, might help restore confidence in our financial and other institutions.”

She adds, “Our students came to law school to make a difference, and I hope to demonstrate that they can have significant positive impacts in both the public and private sectors. Teaching students the principles of responsible business law and ethical practice has been deeply rewarding.”

“If immigration judges **KNOW** they will be held publicly accountable for **THEIR DECISIONS AND ACTIONS** on the bench, they may act more carefully.”
In November the School of Law hosted a reception for alumni chosen as 2007 Northern California “Super Lawyers” in the annual poll conducted by *Law and Politics* magazine. Each year, throughout the United States, the magazine asks attorneys engaged in active practice to name colleagues they have “personally observed in action” and deem outstanding in their fields. The magazine polled more than 52,000 Northern California attorneys, who chose 94 GGU alumni as “Super Lawyers” in Northern California. The honorees represent a range of GGU classes, from 1966 to 1994, and GGU Law Professor Roger Bernhardt.

More than two dozen Northern California “Super Lawyers” (and one from Southern California) attended the reception, which included words from GGU President Dan Angel, School of Law Dean Frederic White, and Hon. Lee D. Baxter (JD 74 and a GGU trustee) and was followed by a group photo session.
GGU's 2007 “SuperLawyers” reception: Above, from left are Pamela Pierson (JD 75), Hon. Lee Baxter (JD 74), and Dick Sherman (JD 74); student Derek Myers and Robert Cartwright, Jr. (JD 82); Lisa Tarr (JD 94) and Shane Ford (JD 94); and students Vanessa Zinn and Lori Jo Withrow with Jeffrey Cereghino (JD 81); at right, Dick Sherman (JD 74) addresses the group; and Diana Richmond (JD 73) and Amy Eskin (JD 86) chat with Dean Frederic White.
SCHOOL OF LAW HONOR ROLL OF DONORS
JULY 1, 2006 – JUNE 30, 2007

More than 500 donors gave to the School of Law between July 1, 2006, and June 30, 2007, with an average gift of $1,511.35 for a total contribution of $752,206.54. This annual report of giving gratefully acknowledges the dedication and generosity of alumni, friends, faculty, students, staff, and organizations whose financial support has helped to preserve the best of GGU and create further opportunities for intellectual and professional growth in legal education.

CENTENNIAL SOCIETY
The Centennial Society recognizes individuals who gave in the past year and whose lifetime support of GGU exceeds $100,000. The generosity of Centennial Society members has positively impacted the lives of countless numbers of law students: past, present and those yet to come. Their loyal commitment provides consistent support that enables the law school to plan for the ongoing support of scholarships, clinical programs, and faculty development.

Anonymous
William M. Audet, 84
Lee D. (74) & John D. Baxter
Fredric A. Evenson, 98
Leo B. Helzel, 51
Mary E. Lanigar, 54
Allan H. Rappaport, 85
Kathryn E. Ringgold, 70
Richard M. (66, 88) &
Barbara Rosenberg
Phillips P. Yee, 07

MILLENNIUM SOCIETY
The Millennium Society is the premier support group of unrestricted funds for Golden Gate University. Established to commemorate the new millennium, Millennium Society members contributed a minimum of $2,000 to the university and/or for the use at the dean’s discretion to a designated school.

We are grateful to the members, whose unrestricted support for the Law School allowed Dean Frederic White to move quickly in meeting a variety of pressing needs, including awarding scholarships to outstanding students, recruiting exemplary professors and professional practitioners for our teaching faculty, and implementing the Bar Passage plan.

Kevin Allen, 97
Norman R. Ascherman, 68
Rosario C. Bacon Billingsley, 78
Lee D. (74) & John D. Baxter
Bradley C. Burningham, 03
Mark E. Burton, 95
Mary P. Canning, 81, 82
Cameron M. (90) &
Jeannot Carlson
Charles R. (78, 81) &
Rebecca L. Conradi (77)

From left, Courtney Fitzgibbons, assistant director for employer relations; Morris Hirsch, deputy general counsel of Union Bank of California, N.A.; GGU law student Jennifer Lam, the 2007 Union Bank Scholar; and John McGuckin, Union Bank’s executive vice president, general counsel, and secretary.

Patrick J. Coughlin (83) &
Randi Bandman
Tracey K. Edwards (81, 83) &
Morgan P. Hoff
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<th>JD Year</th>
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**New Alumni Services Coordinator at GGU**

Deanna Bruton has joined Golden Gate University as alumni services and law alumni relations coordinator. For assistance with alumni services and to volunteer with the School of Law, contact Deanna at alumni@ggu.edu or 415-442-7812.
The Legacies of MARY LANIGAR (JD 54)

Pioneering Businesswoman and Devoted Philanthropist Dies at 88 Leaves Major Bequest to GGU to Support Scholarships

By Jill Goetz

Mary E. Lanigar (JD 54), a member of Golden Gate University’s Centennial Society and a loyal and generous supporter of her alma mater since 1978, died on October 21, 2007 at the age of 88. She left a bequest of more than $2 million to the University for scholarship endowment, including law school scholarships, ensuring the success of The Centennial Campaign for GGU—and that of future generations of GGU Law students.

Mary Lanigar epitomized success, emerging from humble beginnings to become one of the first women to lead some of the nation’s largest financial, business, educational, and philanthropic institutions. Growing up on a farm in rural Lassen County in Northeastern California during the Depression, she earned scholarships that enabled her to attend Mills College and later Stanford University, where she majored in mathematics and graduated Phi Beta Kappa in 1938.

Lanigar was one of the first women certified public accountants in California. Following an accounting job with the Stanford Athletic Department, she moved to the highly respected San Francisco accounting firm of Lester Herrick & Herrick, where she worked full-time as a Certified Public Accountant while attending night law school at Golden Gate College, graduating in 1954 with an LLB and passing the California bar exam that same year.

Lanigar is widely believed to have been one of the first women partners at a “Big Eight” CPA firm when she became a partner at Arthur Young (which emerged from Lester Herrick & Herrick and later became Ernst & Young). She took early retirement from Ernst & Young in 1976 to hold a succession of leadership posts at other major corporations. Lanigar served as a director of Wells Fargo Company for two decades and also held directorships with TransAmerica Corp., Lucky Stores Inc., Pacific Lumber Co., Castle and Cooke, the Pacific Stock Exchange, and the Children’s Health Council. She was a trustee for Mills College, the Walter S. Johnson Foundation, and the Palo Alto Medical Foundation and served in advisory and other capacities for Stanford University. She lived for more than half a century in Palo Alto, California, before retiring to Santa Rosa, where she remained active on many fronts, including providing financial advice to her retirement community.

One of her former professors at Golden Gate believes Lanigar played a direct role in helping the Law School achieve accreditation from the American Bar Association. Varnum Paul, still actively practicing estate and probate law in San Francisco at the age of 99, was a reader for the State Bar of California before joining the faculty at Golden Gate, where he taught Torts and, later, Evidence courses for many years. He recalls that Lanigar was one of the specially selected students recruited to the Law School to help it in its efforts to achieve accreditation. (The Law School received ABA accreditation in 1956.)

“The Law School recruited a select group of top students, and Mary was one of them,” says Paul. “She was smart, a top-notch student and a leader in the class.”

Like many attorneys and business professionals interviewed for this article, Paul not only respected Lanigar’s expertise—he came to rely upon it. While with Lester Herrick & Herrick, Lanigar handled Paul’s accounts; years later, Paul asked her to represent the San Francisco Wax Museum, which he founded, and to handle many other financial matters for him.

Another colleague, Leo Helzel (JD 51), a retired entrepreneur, financier, and professor at the UC Berkeley Haas School of Business (where he founded the program in entrepreneurship), has this to say of his late friend and colleague: “I’ve known Mary since 1946, when she was with Lester Herrick. She was a marvelous human being with the ability to be calm under all circumstances. She had a way of inspiring a great deal of confidence in people, whether as an accountant, a tax advisor, a director, or as a member of a board. She would say whatever she had to say, after giving it a great deal of thought—very simply, very directly, and always with kindness. As a result, people liked her and had confidence in her.”

Jeff Howson (MBA 76) graduated from GGU’s School of Taxation and today represents high-net-worth venture capitalists from his firm of Howson & Simon LLP in Walnut Creek, California.
He first met Mary Lanigar while working for her in the tax department at Arthur Young.

“She was incredibly talented,” says Howson, who taught taxation at GGU in the early 1980s and is currently teaching trusts and estates in the School of Taxation. “When we started our firm in 1991, we were focusing on high-net-worth individuals, and the model for that kind of work was really Mary. Her focus had always been on the people who ran a company. She gave them tax advice, legal advice, and common-sense advice. She was a mentor to me early on [at Arthur Young], when I was really ‘wet behind the ears’ and didn’t know much about taxation. She also served as a mentor to me vicariously, when I started my firm, because of her concept of client strategy. She treated her clients as individuals rather than as representatives of large organizations, and she got to know them well. She was a very smart woman, both in her own affairs and those of others. She was a no-nonsense person, but very caring toward her clients. She liked to say, ‘It’s amazing how far you can get just by saying ‘please’ and ‘thank you.’”

Howson adds, “I think Mary Lanigar was and will be the best overall financial advisor I will ever know. She was truly outstanding.” When Lanigar asked Howson to be executor of her estate, he adds, “It was truly an honor to be asked.”

Throughout her impressive professional career, Mary Lanigar never wavered from her commitment to give back so that others, particularly those from humble beginnings, could also realize their aspirations. As a benefactor to GGU, she donated to a variety of funds, including funds directed specifically toward School of Law scholarships.

“Mary Lanigar was a pioneering and powerful figure in the Bay Area business community, who did her alma mater extremely proud,” says School of Law Dean Frederic White. “She also has been one of Golden Gate’s most loyal supporters. Her deep-rooted affiliations to many of the San Francisco Bay Area’s most influential business, educational, and charitable institutions included an ongoing commitment to GGU to help future generations of GGU law students reach the heights of success as she did. We are grateful to the late Mary Lanigar for all she has done for GGU and are deeply honored by this bequest.”

Jill Goetz is director of publications and media relations for the School of Law.

Dean Emeritus JUDY MCKELVEY
Commits $100,000 toward GGU Centennial Campaign
Gift Will Support Law Library Expansion
By Susan Neuwirth

Golden Gate University School of Law Dean Emeritus Judy McKelvey has pledged a capital gift of $100,000 to The Centennial Campaign for GGU. The gift will be used toward completion of the renovation of the University’s building at 40 Jessie Street, which will become GGU’s new Student Services Center, and will help the Law Library expand to the main level of 536 Mission Street.

In recognition of McKelvey’s gift, the new first-floor lobby of the Law Library will be named in her honor.

Judy began teaching at Golden Gate University School of Law in 1968 and became dean of the school in 1973. She was only the second woman in the United States to become dean of an ABA-accredited law school. When she stepped down as dean in 1981, she did not walk away from the Law School. She continued to serve on the faculty for several years and remained active as a volunteer and philanthropist, and she has made generous donations to the Law School every year since 1979.

As fellow Dean Emeritus Peter Keane wrote in an article about Judy a few years ago, the 536 Mission Street building as it stands today did not exist when Judy started teaching at Golden Gate; the Law School was housed in a smaller building just east of (and now connected to) today’s building. Not just the building, but the student body was considerably smaller then, too; the Law School graduating class of 1968 had fewer than 45 students.

Judy McKelvey has not just observed, but been a direct participant in the substantial progress—both structural and instructional—that the Law School has made since then. Her latest gift will help ensure the success of GGU’s first capital campaign in 30 years and continued opportunities for future generations of GGU Law School students.

“Judy McKelvey has been a key figure in the School of Law and its success for decades,” notes School of Law Dean Frederic White. “Through her generous commitment to The Centennial Campaign for GGU and our building renovations, she has built further upon that legacy, helping us to ensure that we meet the needs of future generations of law students with a larger and more fully serviceable law library. We are deeply grateful to Judy for all she has done for our students and our institution.”

Judy sums up her commitment to the Law School this way: “In 1968, I came to GGU to teach one class in the Law School. I stayed 25 years because the university is a remarkable institution. Golden Gate University’s programs are innovative and responsive to the needs of the law and business communities and prepare students for success. I give because GGU is an extraordinary asset to San Francisco, and I want it to thrive for years.”

Susan Neuwirth is director of development and major gifts at GGU.
Frederick W. ("Rick") Bradley (JD 66) has retired after working in the insurance industry and lives in Lincoln Hills, California.

Lawrence E. Kern (JD 69) is president of the University of San Francisco School of Law American Inn of Court for the 2007-08 term. Kern founded the law firm Kern, Noda, Devine and Segal in San Francisco.

Harry J. McCarthy (JD 69) was appointed to the King County (Wash.) Superior Court in 2002 by Gov. Gary Locke. McCarthy is assigned to the civil calendar following a three-year assignment in Juvenile Court. He is formerly an assistant US attorney in Seattle, where he served as chief of the Criminal Division. He received the Washington State Bar Association Professionalism Award in 2003.

David V. Ainsworth (JD 72) published The Chasm, an American globalization story, in December 2006. Ainsworth is a maritime lawyer and lives in St. Helena, Calif.

David W. Brennan (JD 73) is an associate professor of international and business law at Western State University’s College of Law in Fullerton, Calif. Brennan participated in the international conference on the laws of war in Den Haag marking the signing of The Hague Convention in 1907 in June. He directs WSU’s civil/judicial externship programs and coaches their Jessup Moot Court team.

Allan I. Shatkin (JD 73) retired after working 16 years as a coverage attorney at Mercury Insurance.

John F. Barg (JD 74) was quoted in the June 25 issue of The Recorder about the rising popularity of public sector and criminal justice internships. Rutberg is director of the Criminal Litigation Clinic at the School of Law. One of her recent Wrongful Convictions classes at GGU featured a visit by Don Horgan (in photo above), an appellate attorney working on a major case involving three Arkansas defendants that has been the subject of two documentary films.

David M. Vogelstein (JD 75) was profiled in the July 1 Marin Independent Journal in an article titled “Legal Warrior: Vogelstein Called Smart, Creative, and Caring” about his work as longtime criminal defense attorney in Marin County (Calif.).

Mark L. Webb (JD 75) started a website called yogalawyers.com which promotes health and serenity for professionals in the legal community.

Ira H. Barg (JD 76) was featured in the June 27 Recorder about switching from criminal defense to prosecutorial work. After working as a criminal defense attorney in solo practice for 30 years, he has joined the Sexual Assault Unit of the San Francisco District Attorney’s Office.

Roy J. Hubert (JD 76) spoke on “Environmental Enforcement 2007” at a Bar Association of San Francisco MCLE program in May.

Richard J. Idell (JD 76) is a principal and founding member of Idell & Seitel LLP, a boutique San Francisco firm engaged in a litigation and transactional civil law practice with emphasis on legal issues concerning the intersection of the entertainment and technology industries. He was quoted in the Feb. 27 Recorder concerning a case over domain name rights.

Robert B. Kaplan (JD 77) partner, Jeff er, Mangels, Butler & Marmaro, worked on an interesting case in which a $100 million loan was given to a Chapter 7 debtor.

Jessie H. Serna (JD 77) and Sylvia Perez (JD 95) are members of the Board of Trustees of the Santa Clara County Bar Association.

Michele K. Trausch (JD 77) was a speaker at an MCLE seminar titled ‘Audit Your Practice to Reduce Malpractice Risk’ on June 12.

Marc L. Van Der Hout (JD 77) of Van Der Hour, Brigagiano & Nightingale, LLP was named one of California’s Top 100 Lawyers as well as a Northern California “Super Lawyer” in 2007. He spoke at a Bar Association of San Francisco MCLE program in April titled “Filing Mandamus Actions and Petitions for Naturalization in Federal District Court.”

Pamela J. Jester (JD 78, MBA 78), director of Continuing Education of the Bar, is a 2007 Officer for the Alameda County Bar Association and a past president of the association.

Jan M. Lecklknker (JD 78) was quoted in the July 30 San Francisco Chronicle regarding lawyers and the practice of meditation. Lecklknker is a San Francisco public defender.

Gary M. Reing (JD 78) was named to the Select Committee on Lawyer Assistance Programs for the New York State Bar Association.

John F. Vogt (JD 78), a Superior Court judge in Fresno (Calif.) County, was featured in “Judicial Spotlight” in the March 23 San Francisco Daily Journal.

Barbara M. Beery (JD 79, LLM 85) is a partner at Tremain, Hoffman and Beery Trusts and Estates LLP in Oakland.

Stephen S. Siegel (JD 79) is Superior Court commissioner for Santa Cruz (Calif.) County.

Bill Svoboda (JD 79) has joined the San Francisco office of Deutsche Bank Alex Brown, the private clients services division of Deutsche Bank Securities Inc., where he serves as managing director and regional executive for private client services. He previously worked as a district manager at Morgan Stanley.

For the complete list of 94 GGU School of Law alumni selected as 2007 Northern California “Super Lawyers”, see page 13. Northern California “Super Lawyers” in blue.
Joan Blades (JD 80), cofounder and president of MomsRising, a political action group based on the Internet, was featured in the May 20 San Francisco Chronicle in an article titled “The Motherhood Movement: Can a group like MomsRising finally foment policy change in America by harnessing a citizen army of mothers?” Blades is also cofounder of MoveOn.org. She was one of 10 women honored by the San Francisco dance company Flyaway Productions in its 2007 “10 Women Campaign.”

Hon. Anne E. Bouliane (JD 80, LLD 00) of the San Francisco Superior Court participated in a “View from the Bench” Roundtable Discussion in March at the Commonwealth Club of San Francisco that was moderated by GGU Professor Hon. Anne E. Bouliane (JD 80, LLD 00) and Dean Emeritus Peter Keane and recorded for The Recorder.

Nancy M. Lashnits (JD 81) has joined the Phoenix-based firm of Ballard Spahr Andrews & Ingersoll as a partner in the public finance department. She is a former attorney in the Office of Chief Counsel in the Internal Revenue Service.

Maria C. Pracher (JD 81) assisted her client Oakland Harbor Partners in gaining approval from the Oakland City Council for a 3,100-unit resident infill project. Oakland has not approved a housing development this large since WWII.

James B. Boyd (JD 82) is chief financial officer with Silicon Storage Technology, Inc. (SSTI).

Robert E. Cartwright Jr. (JD 82) received the Pursuit of Justice Award from the American Bar Association Tort Trial and Insurance Practice Section in August. Cartwright is a member of the San Francisco Trial Lawyers Association board of directors. He was named a 2007 Northern California “Super Lawyer.”

Charles K. Greenfield (JD 82) is executive director of the Legal Aid Society of Hawaii and was interviewed about Legal Aid for the Jan. 22 Honolulu Advertiser. He was formerly executive director of Legal Services of Northern Virginia and has also worked as managing attorney and director of litigation for the Micronesian Legal Services Corporation in Chuck, Kosrae and Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia; and as staff attorney and a paralegal for the Legal Aid Society of Santa Clara, Calif.

Christina L. Johnson (JD 82) has joined Gravett & Frater LLP of Napa, Calif., where she specializes in intellectual property infringement litigation. She volunteers with California Lawyers for the Arts, offering “copyright clinics” and lecturing on multimedia law and litigation.

Bradley L. Bostick (JD 83) is the author of “How to Win at Mediation the Bill Walsh Way” in the Sept. 2007 issue of Plaintiff magazine. Bostick has 23 years of civil litigation and trial experience and has mediated over 100 cases.

Patrick J. Coughlin (JD 83) was quoted in the August 1 Recorder regarding the shrinking market for class action suits.

Jerry R. Hauser (JD 83), a partner at Phillips, Greenberg & Hauser LLP, recently won a major estate settlement case for his client, a defendant Northern California “Super Lawyers” in blue accused of wrongdoing as executor of an estate worth approximately $8 million.

Nancy E. O’Malley (JD 83) was quoted in the Feb. 5 San Francisco Daily Journal concerning an alleged “glass ceiling” in the Alameda County district attorney’s office.

William M. Audet (JD 84) was quoted in a July 28 Washington Post article and July 30 article in The Recorder. Both articles discussed his plans to sue a Chinese pet food manufacturer. Audet runs the San Francisco operation center of Audet and Partners LLP.

Paul J. Barulich (JD 84) of Barulich Schoknecht Dugoni Law Group Inc. was the speaker at a Bar Association of San Francisco MCLE program in April titled “Traps, Gaps, and Cracks—Negotiating the Probate Code’s Trustee Notice and No Contest Provisions.”

Peter N. Fowler (JD 84), senior counsel in the Office of Enforcement at the US Patent and Trademark Office, accompanied a delegation of Vietnamese officials visiting campus to learn about the US legal justice and educational systems.

Gemmie Jones (JD 84) has been appointed to serve as chief executive officer for the Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center. She previously worked as a leadership coach and organizational development consultant and as an executive director for some of San Francisco’s premier nonprofits. She resides in San Francisco, where she is “passionate about building community, both personally and professionally.”

Robert F. Kelleher (JD 84) is director of quality and compliance at Stars Behavioral Health Group in Long Beach, Calif.

Susan Rabin (JD 84) of the entertainment law firm Sayegh & Pham PLC has been named a 2007 Southern California “Super Lawyer.” Rabin, who was also a SoCal “Super Lawyer” in 2006, negotiates film, television and music licensing and production agreements along with trademark enforcement, copyright matters and licensing of celebrity rights. She is also a professional touring musician with “Dan Hicks & The Hot Licks.”
Craig A. Kroner (JD 86) completed his 15th year in private sole practice in personal injury, with a main office in San Jose and satellite offices in San Francisco, Newark, San Bruno, Irvine and Los Angeles, Calif.

Paul M. Marigonda (JD 86) has been appointed judge to the Santa Cruz (Calif.) County Superior Court by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Hon. Diana B. Smith (JD 86), Contra Costa County (Calif.) Superior Court judge, was featured in "Judicial Spotlight" in the April 23 San Francisco Daily Journal, in an article titled "Positive Influence: Lawyers Praise the Judicial Talents of Diana Becton Smith and Value Her Perspective as Contra Costa County's Lone Black Jurist."

Richard B. Love (JD 88), associate general counsel of Tercia Inc., helped arrange a settlement to resolve a suit over the production of a growth drug amongst three biotech companies.

Anne M. Michaels (JD 88) is deputy district attorney for the Monterey County (Calif.) district attorney’s office.

William K. Peterson (JD 88) practice French and international law as partner in a French business and litigation firm. He is president of a French American Business Network, Mediterranean American Business Network, that works closely with the American Consulate and teach international business law at local business and law schools.

Kathleen M. Keeshen (JD 89) is chief counsel and deputy director for the Department of Public Health in California. She was previously chief deputy general counsel for the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

Susan D. Maez (JD 90) is senior associate and director at Schaefer, Thomas PC in Broomfield, Colo.

Paul C. White (JD 90) is general manager at M Vineyards at Montaluce. Having "traded one bar for another," he now devotes his full attention to learning about the California wine industry and managing vineyard projects.

Donna L. Stashyn (JD 91) has been appointed Solano County (Calif.) Superior Court judge by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger. She has served as a commissioner for the court since 2005 and previously was deputy district attorney for the Solano County district attorney’s office.

Heidi A. Timken (JD 91) wrote a feature for a supplement to the March 21 Recorder titled "Lights … Camera … Action! When Your Case Goes to Trial, It’s Not Only about the Evidence but How You Present It. Here’s How to Make Your ‘Production’ a Hit.”

Brian F. Bates (JD 92) has joined Neider & Boucher S.C. in Madison, Wis., where he focuses on business law, administrative law, employment law, and contract law.

Nathan H. Bernstein (JD 92) is an attorney at Moldo Davidson Fraioli Seror & Sestanovich LLP in Los Angeles.

James Treppa (JD 92) was recognized for his “legal excellence and leadership” in a notice published in the October 26 Recorder announcing that Treppa’s firm is now named Bledsoe, Cathcart, Dietel, Petersen & Treppa LLP.

Roger L. Wong (JD 92) is city manager of Greenfield, Calif.

Ann M. Blessing (JD 93) is an associate at Rogers Joseph O’Donnell in the Environmental Law Group.

Matthew Cooney (JD 93) of the California State Automobile Association is the Corporate Law Department Section chair for the Bar Association of San Francisco.

Erin Strauss (JD 93) married Lawrence Strauss at the Berkshire Botanical Garden in Stockbridge, Mass., in May. Erin is a senior compliance manager at the Bank of America in New York, where she is responsible for monitoring communication among investment bankers and research analysts.

Spencer S. Chen (JD 94) is chair of law department management for the San Francisco Bay Area Chapter of the Association of Corporate Counsel. He participated in a panel for new law students at GGU during fall orientation.

Dan W. Cooperider (JD 94, LLM 97) is of counsel in the estate planning practice for Berliner Cohen in San Jose.

Brooke Oliver (JD 94) was quoted in the July 12 San Francisco Daily Journal regarding her involvement in a trademark case.

Northern California “Super Lawyers” in blue
Sylvia Perez (JD 95) and Jessie H. Sema (JD 77) are members of the Board of Trustees of the Santa Clara County Bar Association.

Sharon A. Anolik-Shakked (JD 96) was featured in California Lawyer magazine’s Privacy Roundtable. She and her husband, Orr, had a second son.

Scott M. Bloom (JD 96) is special counsel to the San Francisco office of Sedgwick, Detert, Moran & Arnold LLP, where he works in the Professional Liability Practice Group. He handles complex coverage disputes and provides coverage advice to insurers of public and private corporations, insured professionals, and reinsurers, in matters involving errors and omissions insurance, directors & officers insurance, and general liability matters.

Julie Brush (JD 96), a legal recruiter based in Redwood Shores, Calif., was quoted in an article in the July 2007 ABA Journal titled “Who Needs Harvard?” about the recruitment of law graduates from lower-ranked law schools.

Scott L. Johnson (JD 96) is a partner with Mataisic Roth & Johnson LLP in San Francisco, where he represents individuals and corporate entities in a variety of high-risk litigation issues.

Nancy L. McCoy (JD 96) is a partner at Strazulo Fitzgerald LLP in San Francisco, where she specializes in employment law and litigation on behalf of employers. She was a keynote speaker for a Continuing Education of the Bar seminar in April titled “Employment Litigation Practice Issues: Advanced Course of Study.”

Julie D. Soo (JD 96) is staff counsel for the Department of Insurance in California.

Noelle M. Aaron (JD 97) of Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman assisted Cisco Systems in acquiring WebEx.

Kevin Allen (JD 97) has a new law office in Redwood City, where he focuses on criminal defense work, particularly representing individuals cited, arrested and/or charged with alleged drunk driving, assault fighting, weapons or drug possession, domestic violence, and theft.

Laura Z. Davis (JD 97) opened her own law firm in Monterey, Calif., where she specializes in estate planning, probate and trust administration, business transactions and real estate matters, entity formations, and business succession planning.

Jeffrey J. Greene (JD 97) has been reassigned to DLA Piper’s Shanghai office in the corporate and securities law division. Greene is the co-managing editor of The Mergers and Acquisitions Handbook—A Practical Guide to Negotiated Transactions.

Evanthia Pappas (JD 97), Sonoma County (Calif.) deputy district attorney, was the focus of a Dec. 15 article in the San Francisco Chronicle about her efforts to obtain and pay for experimental treatment for an aggressive and rare form of breast cancer after being denied medical coverage. Pappas, a San Francisco County deputy DA before moving to the Sonoma County office, where she has helped survivors of domestic and sexual abuse in the Special Victims Unit, received the Criminal Litigation Award as a GGU student and later taught in the Law School as an adjunct. Law School faculty and staff have contributed funds to help Pappas defray the costs of her treatment. To make a donation, send a check to the Evanthia Pappas Transplant Fund (S-5 Account), San Francisco Police Credit Union, 2550 Irving St., San Francisco, CA 94122.

Kathleen J. Richards (JD 97) headed the Minor’s Counsel Task Force, which helped create the Minor’s Counsel in Family Law Court-Appointment Panel in San Francisco.

David V. Roth (JD 97) has started a practice, Mataisic Roth & Johnson LLP, in San Francisco representing individuals and corporate entities in a variety of high-risk litigation issues.

Jeffrey T. Antonchuk (JD 98) is an attorney at Dudnick, Detwiler, Rivin and Stikker LLP in San Francisco.

Kirsten E. Bubert (LLM 98) is an attorney at EDS Operations Services GmbH in Ruesselsheim, Germany.

Joanna Frazier (JD 98), a director of the Queen’s Bench Bar Association, was featured in an article, “Queen’s Bench Makes Itself Over,” in The Recorder.

Barbara A. Scott (JD 98) is an attorney for Selvin Wraith Halman LLP in Oakland.

Julia Vax (JD 98) was featured in the July 20 San Francisco Daily Journal. Vax is a general business, corporate and securities partner at Howard, Rice, Nemerovski, Canady, Falk and Rabkin in San Francisco.

Michelle M. Yoshida (JD 98) is an associate at Wright, Robinson, Ostheimer and Tatum in San Francisco, where she focuses on products liability, personal injury and medical malpractice.
Joshua T. Klipp (JD 99) was featured in an article titled “Hip-Hop’s New Man” in the June 17 San Francisco Chronicle about his unique role as the only known transgendered person to lead a hip-hop company.

Steven M. Rosenberg (JD 99) spoke on campus in April about judicial clerkship and public interest fellowship opportunities for GGU students.

Anthony Vecino (JD 99) is a partner at Cooblinetz, Patch, Duffy & Bass LLP effective January 1, 2008. He has been appointed as a member of the State Bar of California Taxation Section’s Executive Committee and as editor of the section’s quarterly publication California Tax Lawyer. In a note to Dean Frederic White, he writes, “Of course, none of this would have been possible without the excellent training I enjoyed at Golden Gate, and it shows what its students are capable of achieving. I am proud to be an alumn.”

Robin R. Wahl-Nesbitt (JD 99, MBA 00) is associate counsel for Janus Capital Group in Denver, Colo.

Jill M. Abrahamson (JD 00) is of counsel for the Local 1102 of the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union, part of the United Food and Commercial Workers in New York City. Abrahamson is involved with contract negotiations, health and pension benefits.

Juan C. Araneda (JD 00) is chair of the Labor and Employment Law Section of the Barrister’s Club of the Bar Association of San Francisco.

Diane Cragg (JD 00) is an associate at Wright, Robinson, Ostheimer and Tatum in San Francisco. Cragg specializes in civil litigation, personal injury and insurance defense.

Bradley D. Fell (JD 00) is an associate at Wright, Robinson, Ostheimer and Tatum in San Francisco. Fell focuses on products liability, personal injury and civil litigation.

Nicole E. Gage (JD 00) is an attorney for the San Francisco outpost of Thomas White & Tyler.

Jesshill Love III (JD 00) was made partner at Rogers, Majeski, Kohn & Bentley, where he practices general litigation with a focus on real estate. He works out of the Redwood City, Calif., office of RMKB and lives in Menlo Park with his wife and two children.

Jeffrey J. Anhalt (JD 01) wrote an article featured in the Bulletin, the Bar Association of San Francisco newsletter, titled “A Volunteer’s Perspective.”

Lisa M. Calero (JD 01) is a staff attorney at the US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Her son Jack was born in February.

Christopher A. D’Ovidio (JD 01) was named partner at the law firm Merolla & Accetturo in Warwick, R.I. He is an adjunct professor at Roger Williams University School of Law.

Lukas Gruendler (LLM 01) is research assistant and attorney at the Carl Sagan Center for the Study of Life in the Universe, SETI Institute in Mountain View, Calif.

Shannon L. Hardin (JD 01) is vice chair of the Estate Planning, Probate and Trust Section of the Barrister’s Club of the Bar Association of San Francisco.

Amara Harrell (JD 01) is an associate at Kronick Moskovitz Tiedemann & Girard in Sacramento, where she represents public and private clients in real estate transactions.

Chance Hawkins (JD 01) is deputy city attorney for Antioch, Calif.

Anne C. Arnold (JD 02) is an environmental land use attorney for Briscoe Ivester and Bazel in San Francisco. Arnold is running for City Council of San Mateo, Calif.

Robert Byrne (LLM 02), deputy attorney general in the National Resources Law Section at the California Department of Justice and a GGU Law adjunct professor, arranged an invitation, with the consul general of the Federal Republic of Germany, for students in his Energy and Environmental Law class to attend an August lecture in San Francisco on energy issues by German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier.

Asaka Makino (LLM 02) is working as an intern at the UN University Documentation Service in Tokyo.

Jared J. Babula (LML 03) is staff counsel for the California Energy Commission in Sacramento.

Tuju A. Catalano (JD 03) is an associate at Reuben & Janius LLP in San Francisco focusing on land use law. Catalano has served as a planning commissioner for the City of Clayton (Calif.), since July 2006. She and her husband Mark had a son, Eric Johannes, in November 2006.

Janeen A. Gibbs (JD 03) is senior tax auditor of the State of California Board of Equalization in Culver City, Calif.

Sara E. Kastner (JD 03) is an attorney with the Law Offices of Stuart Hanlon in San Francisco. She was granted a stay by the California Supreme Court on a petition she wrote relating to a denial of a change of venue on a provocative act murder case.

Juna Kim (JD 03) was elected to the board of directors of the California Young Lawyers Association. Kim is an associate at Van De Poel & Levy LLP.

Keith Koller (JD 03) has been working in Namibia on the Caprivi High Treason Trial, a major human rights trial for 119 defendants tortured into confessions following a regional uprising in 1999.

Svetlana Rishina (LML 03), an attorney with Carroll, Burdick & McDonough LLP, has for the second consecutive year received the Outstanding Volunteer Award from the Bar Association of San Francisco's Volunteer Legal Services Program.

Gregory Tanaka (JD 03) has begun working as deputy city attorney for the City of Daly City, Calif.
Christopher P. Dobbins (MS 04, JD 04) has been appointed to the Oakland Unified School District to the Joint Powers Agency Board of Directors of the Chabot Space & Science Center. He was a middle school teacher for seven years before being appointed to the Oakland school board in January. He is outreach coordinator at New Leaf Treatment Center in Lafayette, Calif.

Dominique Etchegoyen (JD 04) is a partner with a local land use consulting firm, Terra Firma Associates, LLC, that works for private landowners to provide strategic advice and to structure transactions for the sales of land and conservation easements to local, state, and federal entities.

Daniel L. Flamm (JD 04) has his own law practice in Walnut Creek, Calif.

Oliver Greenwood (JD 04) has become a partner with Robert S. Kosloff at the firm of Kosloff & Greenwood, A Professional Corporation.

Esther Hagege (LLM 04) is an associate at Kenyon & Kenyon LLP in New York.

John P. Harbour (LLM 04) is an associate with the Atashi Rang Law Firm in San Francisco. Harbour is vice president of the GGU Alumni Association Board of Directors. He welcomed GGU law students graduating in December to the GGU Alumni Association at a reception in their honor.

Walter A. Haynes (JD 04) is an attorney at the Law Office of Albert G. Stoll Jr. in San Francisco.

Natalia N. Litchev (JD 04) is an attorney with Parr Law Group in San Jose.

Adria Price (LLM 04) is a member of the Executive Committee of the Bay Area Young Tax Lawyers and volunteers for the Pro Se/Pro Bono Tax Court program. She introduced US Tax Court Lawyers and volunteers for the Pro Se/Pro Bono in October.

Stephanie Profitt (JD 04, LLM 05) is the vice chair of the taxation section of the Barrister’s Club of the Bar Association of San Francisco.

Amir Atashi Rang (LLM 04) is the educational chair of the Young Tax Lawyers Committee, Taxation Section of the State Bar of California. He also serves on the Board of Directors of the Blind Babies Foundation.

Alma Soongi Beck (LLM 04) co-facilitated a daylong workshop as part of the Multicultural Diversity Project in July that addressed efforts to increase inclusiveness, competency, and understanding of cultural and racial differences.

Bruce C. Wong (LLM 04) is an immigration attorney in San Francisco.

Rachel Baer (JD 05) opened an immigration practice in Los Gatos, Calif. in August, specializing in family and estate planning law.

Jessica Barber (JD 05) participated in a panel of recent bar passers affiliated with the Latino/a Law Students Association at GGU this past spring.

Christine Crawford (JD 05) and Rebecca Collaco (JD 05) attended the GGU Alumni Reception at the State Bar in Anaheim in fall 2007.

Kelly Cronin (JD 05) is a criminal defense attorney in Alameda, Calif. She was on campus in November to sit in on Professor Susan Rutberg’s (JD 75) Wrongful Convictions class, which included a visit by noted appellate defense attorney Don Horgan.

Betty Lan (JD 05) is a real estate analyst in the mortgage banking section at Capmark Finance Inc. in San Francisco.

Lauren Powe (JD 05) is an associate at the Law Offices of Roy S. Gordet in San Francisco.

Gerald Prettyman (JD 05) is a patent attorney with Carr & Ferrell in Palo Alto, Calif. His article on the evolving patent law doctrines will appear in the inaugural volume of the Pepperdine University School of Law Journal of Business, Entrepreneurship & the Law. Another article he wrote on biomedical research ethics is scheduled to be published in The Virginia Journal of Social Policy & the Law.

Miguel Rivera (JD 05) participated in a panel of bar passers affiliated with the Latino/a Law Students Association at GGU this past spring.

Corey B. Allen (JD 06) is working as an associate attorney at Kazan, McClain, Abrams, Lyons & Greenwood. She participated in a panel for new students during GGU Law fall orientation.

Cynthia Brown (JD 06) has joined Hersh & Hersh as an attorney.

Cecily Clements (JD 06) spoke on campus in September at a panel on passing the bar.

Pouneh Ghaffarian (JD 06) has begun working for the California Public Utilities Commission in the advisory section assigned to the California Solar Initiative and Energy Efficiency Program. She visited campus this fall to share her professional experiences with GGU students.

Brian Hilliard (JD 06) is an employment law attorney with Liebert Cassidy Whitmore in the San Francisco office.

Kelly Cronin (JD 05) is a criminal defense attorney in Alameda, Calif. She was on campus in November to sit in on Professor Susan Rutberg’s (JD 75) Wrongful Convictions class, which included a visit by noted appellate defense attorney Don Horgan.

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Monica Jenkins (JD 06) participated in a panel of recent bar passers affiliated with the Latino/a Law Students Association at GGU this past spring.

Jasbir Khalsa (LLM 06) has been promoted to the legal department at Hitachi Data Systems, where she is legal counsel, working with general counsel to support all US sales, finance, and other departments. She also works on corporate ethics and compliance and other issues that require legal risk assessment.

Jennifer Lewis (JD 06) is a juvenile attorney with the Alcovy Circuit Public Defender’s Office in Covington, Ga.

Fatima M. Ortiz (JD 06) participated in a panel of recent bar passers affiliated with the Latino/a Law Students Association at GGU this past spring.

Paris Scott (JD 06), an attorney at Bullivant Houser Bailey in San Francisco, spoke on campus in September for a panel on passing the bar.

Justin Sterling (JD 06) is a deputy public defender with the Los Angeles Public Defender’s Office.

Elizabeth Zuber (JD 06) spoke on campus in September for a panel on passing the bar.

Kimberly I. Chew (JD 07) authored an article, “Tax Implications of the CSI: Go Solar This Year!” that was published in the summer 2007 issue of the State Bar of California Environmental Law Section newsletter Environmental Law News. She is a law clerk with Beyond Compliance, an environmental consulting firm in Oakland.

Jessi C. Huff (JD 07) is an associate with Lewis Brisbois Biggaard & Smith in San Francisco. She returned to the law school in November for a celebration honoring the members of the December 2007 graduating class.

William A. Robinson (JD 64)
Bill Robinson, a member of the Golden Gate University Bridge Society, died July 12 at the age of 70 in Pebble Beach, Calif. Following military service in the US Navy and a 30-year career with the US Naval Reserve (where his assignments took him to the Pentagon and NATO headquarters in Brussels), Robinson entered Stanford Law School. He later transferred to GGU so he could work and attend law school at night. He practiced in private firms until becoming in-house counsel for the California State Automobile Association in 1971, a position he held for 25 years.

Robinson was active in many legal and professional organizations in the San Francisco Bay Area, including the State Bar of California; the State Judicial Council; the American Arbitration Association; and the Bar Association of San Francisco (BASF), where he was chair of the Arbitration Committee (later the Alternative Dispute Resolution Section) for 17 years. He was an arbitrator, small claims judge, civil trial judge pro tem, and special master in the San Francisco, San Mateo, and Marin County courts, as well as US District Court. Beyond the legal arena, he was an avid sailor, commercial pilot, and world traveler with his wife, Karen Kadushin (JD 77), whom he met while attending a State Bar of California conference as a member of the BASF delegation to the State Bar Conference of Delegates. Robinson and Kadushin spoke at GGU’s 2006 Bridge Society Luncheon. Robinson left a generous bequest to the GGU School of Law.

Let Us Hear From You!
Class Notes Deadline for Spring/Summer: March 15, 2008

Have you made a career move, changed your address, added to your family, or received an award? Photos are welcomed and appreciated. Mail, fax or email your news to:

Law Alumni Relations
Golden Gate University School of Law
62 First Street, San Francisco, CA 94105
Fax: 415-882-1660 Email: lawalumni@ggu.edu
The Centennial Wall is a tribute to those who have had a significant financial impact on the university since its opening. It will feature the names of those who have given $100,000 or more to the university from 1901 through the end of The Centennial Campaign for GGU.

The Centennial Wall is a commemoration and an inspiration honoring those who have given in the past and inspiring those who will give in the future. It will have a prominent and permanent position in the lobby of the university’s main building at 536 Mission St.

The Centennial Wall is a one-time opportunity to be a part of this historic moment in the life of Golden Gate University.

For more information about The Centennial Wall, please contact Elizabeth Brady, vice president of university advancement, at 415-442-7813 or ebrady@ggu.edu.
JANUARY 26: “BEAT THE CLOCK”
Annual MCLE Event Seminar and Networking Lunch. 8:45 am to 5:45 pm, GGU, 536 Mission Street, 5th Floor. Up to 6 MCLE credits available with special pricing for GGU alumni. Contact 415-442-6541 or mjenkins@ggu.edu.

FEBRUARY 26: JESSE CARTER DISTINGUISHED LECTURE SERIES
Hon. William Fletcher, US District Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, speaking on dissent. Noon–1pm, GGU, 536 Mission Street, Room 2202. Contact David Oppenheimer, 415-442-6655, dbo@ggu.edu.

MARCH 11: PUBLIC INTEREST LAW FOUNDATION AUCTION
5-8 pm, 111 Minna St., San Francisco. Angela Dalfen, adalfen@ggu.edu, 415-442-5391.

APRIL 5: LAW REUNION
Includes luncheon for GGU Golden Grads (Classes of 1963 and earlier); optional tours; and dinner at The Palace Hotel, San Francisco. Details inside.

APRIL 18: FULBRIGHT SYMPOSIUM
18th Annual Fulbright Symposium on Current International Legal Problems, 9 am-5 pm, GGU, 536 Mission Street. Jonathan Chu, jchu@ggu.edu, 415-442-5387. MCLE available.

MAY 16: SCHOOL OF LAW 2008 COMMENCEMENT
Nob Hill Masonic Center, San Francisco, 2 pm. Contact Mateo Jenkins, mjenkins@ggu.edu, 415-442-6541.