PREPARED TO PERSUADE
APPELLATE ADVOCACY AT GOLDEN GATE LAW

LLM TAX PROGRAM CELEBRATES 30 YEARS
PROFILE OF ALUMNA KAREN L. HAWKINS
NEW IP LAW CENTER
2007-08 HONOR ROLL OF DONORS
2008 SUPER LAWYERS

page 10
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 on Dec. 31, 2008.

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.
FEATURES

10 POWER OF PERSUASION
Golden Gate’s Appellate Advocacy Program provides a rigorous and practical approach to writing legal briefs and making oral arguments.

13 MOOT COURT FOR PRACTICING LAWYERS
Innovative program lets student watch as attorneys rehearse their oral arguments on campus before trying them on appeal.

19 GGU’S LATEST SUPER LAWYERS
The list of Golden Gate Law alumni in Northern California selected for the annual survey keeps growing.

20 LLM IN TAXATION PROGRAM CELEBRATES 30 YEARS
Over 120 alumni, faculty, students, and friends celebrate program’s rich history and growth and honor its founder.

DEPARTMENTS

3 Faculty News
6 Golden Gate Briefs
14 Honor Roll of Donors
22 Advancement News: The Centennial Campaign for GGU
Centennial Wall Profile: Karen L. Hawkins (JD 79, MBA-Taxation 81)
24 Alumni News
Profile of Mohamed Nasralla (JD 87, LLM 03)
Profile of Laurie Hanson (JD 84)
Class Notes
In Memoriam

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On the Cover: Outside the California State Office Building in San Francisco’s Civic Center are, from left: 2L Damien Jovel, Associate Professor and Director Leslie Rose (JD 83, LLM 01), Adjunct Professor Victor Morse, 3L Pamela Ataii, Adjunct Professor Kelly Cronin (JD 05), and Assistant Professor Thomas Schaaf. Photo by Perry Blecker Design

Golden Gate University is fully accredited by the American Bar Association, 321 N. Clark Street, Chicago, IL 60654, 1-800-285-2221, and is a member in good standing of the Association of American Law Schools.
Though I can’t take credit, I do take pride in the exciting developments occurring under my watch as acting dean of Golden Gate Law. On October 20, our renovated Law Library opened its doors on the main floor of the Law School, and I encourage you to stop by to see our attractive new reading room and reference area. You’ll be hearing about Law Library opening celebrations early in 2009, after our expansion and renovation project is officially completed.

Early next year we also will celebrate the successful completion of The Centennial Campaign for GGU, which exceeded its goal, dramatically helping us in our efforts to offer first-rate academic programs and resources for students and ensure a bright future for our institution. You will be receiving invitations for the official Centennial Campaign Completion Celebration scheduled for March 12, 2009, and I hope you will join us in celebrating the generosity of our alumni and friends who made this major achievement possible. If you would like to restrict your future gifts to be used specifically for the Law School, please be sure to note that preference when making your gift to GGU by mail or online.

Speaking of giving, I wish to extend a heartfelt thank-you to Karen L. Hawkins (JD 79, MBA 81), a member of our Law Dean’s Advisory Board, who recently made a generous cash gift to the University and for whom our Law Library’s tax collection will be named. Karen was present at the 30th Anniversary Celebration of our LLM in Taxation Program at the Campton Place Hotel on November 6 (see page 20) to celebrate the program’s growth and success and to honor her partner, Bill Taggart, the program’s founder. You can read more about Karen’s distinguished career as a tax attorney and her strong ties to GGU Law on page 22 of this issue.

Elsewhere in this magazine you will learn about our new Intellectual Property Law Center, two recent victories by our Environmental Law and Justice and Women’s Employment Rights clinics, our Appellate Advocacy and Moot Court programs, and the awarding of the 2008 Golden Gate University Distinguished Service Award to Law Library Assistant Director Mohamed Nasralla (below, left), who received both his JD and LLM from the Law School and who has had an impact on the lives and careers of so many of our alumni.

By the time you read this issue of the magazine, we will have a new US president-elect, and by the time you read the following issue, we will likely have identified a new Law School dean. These are exciting if uncertain, times. My sincere hope is that, whatever the coming months bring, you will thrive in your careers and make progress in pursuit of your dreams. I wish you all a happy and healthy holiday season.

Regards,

Acting Dean Alan Ramo

Join the Alumni Association Board of Directors
Consider joining the GGU Alumni Association Board of Directors! This volunteer board includes an accomplished group of alumni from our law school and other GGU schools, who meet quarterly to recommend priorities for the university’s alumni program and build upon our diverse and engaged community of legal and other professionals. For more information, contact JoAnn Lucero at alumni@ggu.edu.
DEBORAH BEHLES Receives Department of Justice John Marshall Award for Litigation Team Work

Deborah Behles, a visiting assistant professor in the School of Law and former trial attorney at the US Department of Justice, received the 2008 Justice Department’s prestigious John Marshall Award in Support of Litigation for her team work in a Justice Department Clean Air Act New Source Review case against the American Electric Power Company. Her team’s work resulted in a settlement with injunctive relief worth $4.6 billion and required pollution controls that will reduce air pollution by 813,000 tons annually. Behles was one of several attorneys to receive 2008 John Marshall Awards, named for the fourth chief justice of the United States Supreme Court, at a Justice Department Awards Ceremony in late October.

Behles was a trial attorney with the Justice Department’s Environmental Enforcement Section for nearly seven years before joining Golden Gate Law this fall to teach with the Environmental Law and Justice Clinic. She has extensive experience litigating and resolving complex environmental cases and has been widely recognized for her team work on several Justice Department cases against coal-fired power plants owned by American Electric and other power utility companies. Behles also received a Gold Medal from the US Environmental Protection Agency for the same litigation team work earlier this year.

MYRON MOSKOVITZ Receives “Spirit” Award From UC Continuing Education of the Bar

Professor Myron Moskovitz, a widely published author of major legal textbooks on landlord-tenant and appellate law, has received the 2008 “Spirit of CEB” Award from Continuing Education of the Bar (CEB), a statewide continuing legal education provider and publisher that is part of the University of California and co-sponsored by the State Bar of California. He was one of 12 prominent California practitioners to receive the awards, which were presented at a luncheon at the 81st Annual Meeting of the State Bar of California in Monterey. Moskovitz’s books from CEB include California Landlord-Tenant Practice and California Eviction Defense Manual.

“CEB’s outstanding service to the California legal community would not have been possible without the generosity of the many attorneys who have volunteered to speak and write for CEB over the years,” said Continuing Education of the Bar Director Pamela Jester (JD/MBA 78) in announcing the awards. “They make a significant contribution to the practice of law in California.”

Visiting Assistant Professor DEBORAH BEHLES has received the John Marshall Award from the US Department of Justice for her litigation team work on a major case against a coal-fired power plant (see above).

An article by Associate Professor MICHELE BENEDETTO, “The Key to Successful Independence: State-Funded Post-Secondary Educational Assistance for Former Foster Youth,” was published in the St. John’s Journal of Legal Commentary (23.2 St. John’s J. Legal Comment, 383, 2008). The article examines state-funded post-secondary educational and vocational training programs for youth after they emancipate from foster care and proposes state implementation of programs to provide grants and tuition waivers for these youth.

Associate Professor ERIC CHRISTIANSEN’s recent article on South Africa’s Social Rights Jurisprudence in the Loyola University Chicago International Law Review (Vol. 5, No. 29, 2008) has been republished online in Comparative & Non-US Constitutional Law (Vol. 3 No. 18, 07/17/2008). His essay “South Africa’s Use of Constitutional Rights Adjudication to Remedy Persistent Economic Inequality” will be published in the winter 2008 volume of the Valparaiso University Law Review. His article “Using Constitutional Adjudication to Remedy Socio-Economic Injustice: Comparative Lessons from South Africa,” has been accepted for publication in the winter 2008 UCLA Journal of International Law and Foreign Affairs. Christiansen has been invited to serve as a peer reviewer of preliminarily
accepted papers on social welfare rights and South African constitutional law for the *South African Journal of Human Rights*.

**RODNEY FONG**, assistant dean for bar exam services, was appointed by the Board of Governors as vice chair of the State Bar of California Council on Access and Fairness. At the State Bar of California’s 2008 Annual Meeting he spoke on two panels, “Status Report on Diversity in the Legal Profession,” for the Council on Access and Fairness; and “Bias, Diversity and Cultural Expectations in the Legal Profession,” for the Section on Alternative Dispute Resolution. In addition, he gave opening and closing presentations at the Law School Admissions Council 2008 Academic Assistance Training Workshop on “Bar Support Programs: Form, Content & Collaboration,” in September at Southwestern Law School.


Professor **MARC GREENBERG** presented his article “The Sly Rabbit and the Three C’s: Copyright, Calligraphy and China,” at the 6th Annual IP Works in Progress Colloquium at Tulane Law School and as a work in progress at the 8th Annual Intellectual Property Law Scholars Conference at Stanford Law School. This was his third time presenting at the prestigious, invitation-only conference. Greenberg and Associate Professor **William Gallagher** are co-directors of the Law School’s new Intellectual Property Law Center (see page 6).

Professor and Dean Emeritus **PETER KEANE** continues to be widely quoted in the news media on legal subjects. He appeared on KGO-TV on October 10 in a segment about California’s lax enforcement of a federal law requiring swimming pool drain covers and related issues of state vs. federal law, and was quoted in an October 10 New York Daily News article about the implications of former cyclist Tammy Thomas’ sentencing in a steroid abuse case for former San Francisco Giants player Barry Bonds. Keane’s essay “Everyone Deserves Defense,” about his decision to work as a public defender, aired on “This I Believe” on National Public Radio on October 20.

Visiting Assistant Professor **PAUL KIBEL**’s transcript of a panel discussion on water law, on which he served as a panelist, has been published in the *Santa Clara Journal of International Law*, 6 Santa Clara Intl. L.J. 43-50 (2008). His article “A Line Drawn in Water: Aquifers beneath the Mexico–United States Border” has been accepted for publication in the fall 2008 edition of *The University of Denver Water Law Review*. Another article, “CEQA Rules for Agency Actions Affecting Climate Change,” has been accepted for publication in the *California Environmental Law Reporter*. The article was co-authored by **Sara Pasquinelli** (JD 04), an associate with the Environmental Practice Group at Fitzgerald, Abbott & Beardsley LLP. Kibel’s “Forum” essay was published in the October 21 *Daily Journal*.

Professor **MYRON MOSKOVITZ**’s recent professional activities have included serving on a panel of the Contra Costa County Bar Association, Appellate & Litigation sections, on “Protecting the Appeal during Trial”; giving a talk on “Winning an Appeal” to the Santa Clara County Counsel’s Office; and leading MCLE programs on “Handling Civil Appeals & Writs in California State Courts” in Los Angeles and San Francisco for Continuing Education of the Bar (CEB). He delivered the James Otis Lecture at the University of Mississippi School of Law (right) on November 11 on the topic of “The Search Incident to Arrest Doctrine: What the Future Might Hold.” Moskovitz received the 2008 “Spirit of CEB” Award (see page 3).

Associate Professor **CHRIS OKEKE** presented a paper, “The New Scramble for Africa’s Oil, Gas and Other Mineral Resources: Blessing or Curse?” at an international conference with the theme “The Politics of Petroleum,” marking the 2nd Dr. Emmanuel Egbohag Lecture Series on Petroleum Economics, Policy and Strategy at the University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria.
Professor and Associate Dean DAVID OPPENHEIMER published an essay titled “Why France Needs To Collect Data on Racial Identity … in a French Way” in 31 Hastings Int’l & Comp. L. Rev. 735-751 (2008). He published a brief essay on severance agreements in US employment law in the September issue of Revue de Droit du Travail (Dalloz). He chaired two panel discussions at a conference of approximately 70 European law professors in Trier, Germany, on the topic of EU anti-discrimination law, and he gave a lecture at the American Center at Heidelberg titled “How US Affirmative Action Really Works.”

Professor CLIFF RECHTSCHAFFEN, currently on leave as a special assistant working on climate change for the California Attorney General’s Office, published an article in the Golden Gate University Environmental Law Journal, “Strategies for Implementing the Environmental Justice Vision,” which was based on a talk he gave at a University of Colorado Law School conference on “The Climate of Environmental Justice: Taking Stock.” He has been quoted extensively in the press, including in the October 2008 California Lawyer magazine, in an article about California Attorney General Brown, and in the August 29 Press-Enterprise, in an article about a conference in Riverside, Calif., on strategies to fight global warming at which he was a speaker.

Professor and Associate Dean RACHEL VAN CLEAVE has published an article, “Mapping Proportionality Review: Still a Road to Nowhere,” part of a Tulsa Law Review symposium, “Supreme Court Review.”

Adjunct Professor JEFFREY KARLIN, who teaches Mergers & Acquisitions and has handled many major merger cases, appeared on KGO-TV in early October in a segment on the attempt of Wells Fargo & Co. to purchase Wachovia Bank.

Adjunct Professor BARTON SELDEN spoke at a seminar titled “Going Global: Essential International Law for Business Transactions,” in November in San Francisco that was sponsored by the National Business Institute.

Faculty Cites

“We have an acknowledged crisis in the immigration courts.”
— Associate Professor Michele M. Benedetto, on the need for ethical reform on the immigration bench, 8/23, Los Angeles Times.

“We have a chance to build things right.”
— Professor Cliff Rechtschaffen in an article about a Riverside, Calif. conference on strategies for combating global warming, 8/29, Riverside Press-Enterprise.

“I teach my students to be proud to defend anyone, no matter what they may have done.”
— Professor and Dean Emeritus Peter Keane, 10/15 “This I Believe,” National Public Radio.

“The 1964 Civil Rights Act and Martin Luther King’s status as a national hero have been important steps forward on race, but the legacies of the past continue to affect American society.” — Visiting Assistant Professor Paul Kibel in a “Forum” essay on the role of race in the US presidential election, 10/20 Daily Journal.
School of Law Establishes Intellectual Property Law Center

By William Gallagher

In October, Intellectual Property Law Program Co-Directors and Professors Marc Greenberg and William Gallagher announced the establishment of the Golden Gate University School of Law Intellectual Property Law Center (IPLC). Led by faculty with extensive experience in IP law practice, and assisted by a distinguished Board of Advisors comprised of prominent attorneys from Bay Area IP firms, in-house counsel, federal judges, and lawyers at the US Patent and Trademark Office, the IPLC promises to be a premier and dynamic institution that will bring together students, faculty, practicing lawyers, judges, and nationally recognized visiting experts to explore developments in the fast-changing world of IP law and policy.

The IPLC will promote excellence in teaching and scholarship through a variety of academic and extracurricular programs. It will sponsor and develop various activities that will raise the profile of Golden Gate’s IP Law Program and its students in the local legal community—one of the most robust and sophisticated legal markets for IP law in the world. The IPLC will support such events as an annual Intellectual Property Law Conference for practitioners and academics to analyze and discuss recent developments in IP law; a Distinguished Intellectual Property Law Speaker Series, which will bring prominent practitioners, judges, and scholars from around the country to speak to Golden Gate Law students and the local practicing bar; periodic academic symposia on cutting-edge IP issues that will bring IP law scholars to campus; IP Practitioner Lectures, which will bring local IP attorneys to campus for informal noon-time discussions of developments in IP law and practice; an IP Mentorship Program, which will pair students interested in a career in IP law with practicing lawyers in the field; a sponsored IP section in the Law Library; and a Golden Gate Law Alumni/ae in IP Network/Listserv to keep JD and LLM graduates working in IP law apprised of IPLC events and opportunities. Watch for more news to come as we continue to develop this exciting center for excellence.

Associate Professor William Gallagher is co-director of the Intellectual Property Law Center at Golden Gate Law.

Law School Offers Accelerated JD/LLM in Tax Degree

Golden Gate Law students now have the opportunity to complete both their JD and LLM in Taxation Law degrees in an expedited joint program. JD students who complete 12 units of LLM Tax courses prior to graduation can transfer those units toward their LLM Tax degree. This allows students to take the 14 units needed to complete the LLM Tax degree in as little as one additional semester. The joint program allows students to graduate in May, take the July bar, and then finish their LLM Tax degree in the fall while waiting for their bar results. On passing the bar, Golden Gate Law grads hit the job market with two outstanding and highly marketable law degrees.
Employment Rights, Environmental Justice Clinics Help Improve Permitting and Hiring Practices

The School of Law’s Environmental Law and Justice Clinic (ELJC) and Women’s Employment Rights Clinic (WERC) have achieved important gains for their clients in recent months.

Rob Simpson, a resident of Hayward, California, had claimed that the Bay Area Air Quality Management District issued a Clean Air Act permit for a proposed 600-megawatt power plant in Hayward without the public’s involvement. Simpson appealed the permit to the Environmental Appeals Board of the US Environmental Protection Agency in January of this year without a lawyer’s assistance.

The Environmental Law and Justice Clinic assisted him in writing a key part of his brief responding to the air district’s request to summarily dismiss his petition. In July, the appeals board issued a 44-page opinion agreeing with Simpson, characterizing the district’s approach as “complacent” and requiring “scrupulous adherence” to the public notice requirement so that the public could meaningfully participate in the new permitting process.

“This decision is legally significant because it will change how air districts in California process power plant permits, requiring them to ensure that the public process complies with federal, not simply state, regulations,” says Associate Professor and ELJC Director Helen Kang.

For several years, the Women’s Employment Rights Clinic had been working to change the City College of San Francisco (CCSF) hiring practices for applicants with past drug convictions. Education Code §87405 prohibits community colleges from hiring applicants with drug convictions unless they meet certain exceptions, one of which is proof of rehabilitation for at least five years. The CCSF administration and Board of Trustees refused to consider rehabilitation, despite the Education Code mandate.

At its meeting in late September 2008, the CCSF Board of Trustees unanimously adopted a resolution changing its hiring practices to comply with the Education Code—the direct results of the clinic’s advocacy. The board’s new policy establishes that job applicants with past drug-related criminal convictions will be given full consideration in the hiring process if they prove that they have been rehabilitated for at least five years. The change in policy represents a marked shift from CCSF’s past practice of rejecting all applicants with drug convictions. At the public meeting, board members recognized and thanked the clinic and Golden Gate University for its contribution on this issue.

The issue came to WERC’s attention when Bill Buehlman—a former CCSF job applicant and star graduate of the CCSF’s own Drug and Alcohol Certificate Program—asked for the clinic’s help. CCSF refused to consider his application because he had past drug convictions, despite overwhelming evidence of rehabilitation. Clinic students and staff, including former graduate fellow Nira Geevargis and former WERC students Margarita Calpotura, Paul Hogarth, Emily Hobbins, and Kara Farina, participated in presentations to the CCSF Board of Trustees, presentations to the chancellor, legal research, and drafting of proposed policy revisions.

“Our work with CCSF is an example of how the clinic trains students to use their legal skills to achieve change through methods other than litigation,” says Professor and WERC Director Marci Seville. She adds, “City College serves the very communities in which people often face tremendous challenges and need second chances. The board’s decision that CCSF will now consider rehabilitation is an important step in opening up employment opportunities for people who have turned their lives around.”

Working with the clinic on the case were the ACLU of Northern California and All of Us or None, an advocacy group for the formerly incarcerated that is affiliated with Legal Services for Prisoners with Children.

Fall 2008 WERC students have represented low-wage workers in a wide range of employment disputes. The student clinicians include, front row, from left, Yvonne Li, Un Kei Wu; back row, Givelle Lamano, Andrea Cianfrani, Mark Dean, Brooke Miller.
Students Receive 2008 Scholarships from California Bar Foundation

Three students received scholarships from the State Bar of California Foundation in 2008. Seth Lichenstein-Hill (JD 09) received a Public Interest Scholarship; Angel Rodriguez (JD 11) received a Diversity Scholarship; and Alexis Moore (JD 11) received a Judicial Intern Opportunity Program Supplemental Stipend Award.

Lichenstein-Hill, a graduate of the University of Washington, has worked as a legal advocate at the Homeless Action Center, helping homeless and low-income people with severe mental and physical disabilities in the Bay Area, and as a research assistant at the Environmental Defense Fund. He is a chair of Golden Gate’s Public Interest Law Foundation.

“It certainly was an honor to be nominated by GGU for the scholarship in the first place,” says Lichenstein-Hill, “and I am deeply moved by the State Bar’s generosity. This award is not necessarily a testament to my accomplishments or ambitions, but more to the great public interest work done by the students and faculty at GGU School of Law.”

Rodriguez was selected as the Morrison & Foerster Foundation Scholar under the Diversity Scholarship, a new award established by the California Bar Foundation for incoming law students.

“I am grateful for the opportunity presented to me by the Diversity Scholarship,” Rodriguez says. “The impact of this scholarship is more than financial; it motivates me to work hard and appreciate, one more time, the unique opportunities that America has offered me since Day One.”

LAW SCHOOL HOSTS ALUMNI RECEPTION AT STATE BAR

Alumni and friends who gathered at the Law School’s alumni reception at the 2008 State Bar meeting in Monterey in September included, clockwise from left: Tracey Thompson Driver (JD 07) and Dije Ndreu (JD 07); Mark Taxy (JD 90); and, seated, 3L Seth Lichenstein-Hill, recipient of the California Bar Foundation Public Interest Scholarship; Angel Rodriguez, Morrison & Foerster Foundation Scholar and Diversity Scholarship recipient; and Erik J. Olson, Morrison & Foerster Foundation.

▲ Emily Klein (JD 10) received her certificate as a new member of the Law School’s Jesse Carter Society from Professor and Associate Dean Rachel Van Cleave at an annual luncheon honoring members of the Society, which recognizes academic achievement.

▲ Attendees at the Environmental Law Section Conference at Yosemite in October included, from left, Alexandra Leumer (JD 09); Caroline Koch (JD 09); Jenny Maier (JD 07); Seth Lichenstein-Hill (JD 09); Holly Bressett (JD 07); Visiting Professor Paul Kibel, Environmental Law Program co-director; and Graduate Fellow Ashling McAnaney (JD 08).
International Legal Studies Offers New Joint LLM/Masters in Law in San Francisco and Paris

Golden Gate University School of Law and our French partner, the University of Paris X (Nanterre), have commenced a new experiment in inter-continental collaborative learning, the San Francisco/Paris LLM/Masters in Law Dual-Degree Program.

The program will admit up to 20 US graduate law students and up to 20 French graduate law students to study international and comparative law together, focusing on comparative European/American law. The students will spend the fall semester at GGU and the spring semester at the University of Paris, earning a US Masters in Law (LLM) from GGU and a French Masters in Law (Masters 1) from the University of Paris.

The heart of the program will be a year-long course in comparative legal problem-solving. Teams of US and French students will examine case studies of legal problems where the French/EU and US systems take different approaches. Problems will include contract reformation, tort damages, constitutional review of legislation, regulation of hate speech, and same-sex marriage.

Associate Professor Chris Okeke, director of the LLM and SJD International Legal Studies Programs and director of the Sompong Sucharitkul Center for Advanced International Legal Studies, worked with Associate Deans Jon Sylvester (Graduate Legal Studies), Rachel Van Cleave (JD Program), and David Oppenheimer (Faculty Development) to design the curriculum.

“This is a unique opportunity for us to expand our International Legal Studies program through our partnership with the University of Paris,” says Professor Okeke, “and we are all looking forward to the arrival of this first cohort of students.”

Professor Oppenheimer, who also directs the GGU summer program at the University of Paris, will teach the US portion of the comparative legal problem-solving course for the LLM/Masters in Law program.

Public Interest, Externship Programs Ranked Among Best

In its November edition, National Jurist magazine ranks Golden Gate’s Public Interest Law Program as No. 39 of the top 60 such programs in the nation based on student involvement, graduates’ job success, and financial assistance, ahead of Santa Clara University, University of the Pacific-McGeorge, and University of San Francisco law schools.

GGU also appears in a list of law schools with 35% or more of eligible students enrolled in externships. In his analysis of data in the 2009 Official Guide to ABA-Approved Law Schools, Brigham Young University Law Professor Jim Backman reported that 57% of Golden Gate Law students participate in externship programs. GGU ranked higher than Pepperdine University, Santa Clara, McGeorge, and Thomas Jefferson, and was one of only 45 ABA-accredited law schools to make the list, which Backman updated from an earlier article he published in the Clinical Law Review.

JD Class of 2007 Alumni Embark On Array of Legal Careers

GGU has proven to be an excellent launching pad for graduates seeking careers in virtually every employment setting. Within nine months of graduation, 92% of Golden Gate Law’s JD program graduates from the class of 2007 reported that they were working or pursuing an advanced law degree. Only 12 members of the class of 250 graduates reported that they were not yet employed.

Members of the class of 2007 reported that they successfully sought positions in both the private sector (71.4%) and public sector (28.6%). The majority of graduates who entered the private sector entered law firm practice (43.7%). While a number of our graduates accepted positions at some of the nation’s largest and most prominent law firms, the majority began their careers at smaller firms.

Golden Gate Law graduates were also attracted to the business sector, with over a quarter of the class of 2007 joining business and industry.

Many students brought a passion for public service with them when they enrolled at Golden Gate and, upon graduation, these alumni from the class of 2007 secured positions in the public sector. Almost 13% were hired into government positions at the federal, state, and local levels. An additional 8% of our graduates joined non-profit public interest organizations. The remaining 9% found positions as judicial law clerks or in academia.

While many graduates chose opportunities in California, members of the JD class of 2007 also found jobs in Arizona; Colorado; Connecticut; Florida; Georgia; Hawaii; New York; South Carolina; Texas; Washington, DC; Washington state; and Wisconsin.

A few employers who hired class of 2007 JD graduates include:

- Bullivant Houser Bailey
- DLA Piper US LLP
- Hanson Bridgett
- Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP
- Littler Mendelson
- San Bernardino Public Defender
- Sierra Club
- Squire, Sanders & Dempsey LLP
- US Department of Justice
- US District Court

Golden Gate Law alumni are among the most enthusiastic and supportive employers of fellow alumni. If you are an employer seeking new attorneys with outstanding practical skills training, contact Golden Gate Law Career Services at 415-442-6625 or lawcareer@ggu.edu.
For many years, the model of legal education was to teach the law in law school and let lawyers learn lawyering on the job. In the past decade, however, the need for practical skills training in law school is receiving greater emphasis in the legal education community. Golden Gate Law’s approach to teaching students the skills of appellate advocacy—writing persuasive legal briefs and presenting effective oral arguments—is a prime example of how the Law School is, indeed, training students to “think like practitioners.”

“Legal writing has gained much more attention in US law schools than when I was a law student,” says Associate Professor Leslie Rose (JD 83, LLM 01), director of Golden Gate University School of Law’s Advanced Legal Writing Program. “Today, employers want people who already have practical skills, particularly in writing, and can hit the ground running.”

Writing skills are especially critical in the appellate arena. All Golden Gate JD students are required to take the Appellate Advocacy course in their second year, following a rigorous first-year program in legal writing and research.

“App Ad” is taught in several sections of no more than 12 students each. Students write a 20-page appellate brief based on a short record, after submitting drafts of each section of the brief throughout the course. They use the extensive feedback (written and in individual conferences) they receive from faculty to produce a polished, professional-quality brief. In the latter part of the course, students learn about oral argument. Attorneys from the local community, including many alumni, volunteer to act as oral argument judges, providing practical advice to the students as they practice this important skill.

The top students in each section are invited to participate in Golden Gate’s internal moot court competition, which culminates in oral argument before three justices from the California Court of Appeal. Participating judges who have been especially generous in contributing their time include Justices Patricia Sepulveda, Timothy Reardon, Mark Simons, Sandra Margulies, and James Richman.

Associate Professor and Director
Leslie Rose (JD 83, LLM 01)
“I have judged the finals several times, with various other First District justices,” says Justice Sepulveda. “We are consistently impressed with the oral advocacy skills of the finalists. The performance of the finalists in oral argument is consistent in quality with that of many of the attorneys who appear in front of us at oral argument at the court, and, not infrequently, surpasses the performance of some attorneys! The teaching staff of the Appellate Advocacy Program does an excellent job at introducing the students to the art of brief writing and oral argument.”

To supplement the practical experience Golden Gate Law students receive in the internal competition, Professor Rose hopes that Golden Gate can increase its participation in external competitions, including the American Bar Association’s National Appellate Advocacy Competition.

LEARNING FROM LAWYERS

A major strength of the App Ad course is the professional experience of its full-time and adjunct faculty. Professor Rose and Assistant Professor Thomas Schaaf, who also teaches App Ad, both worked in the Office of the State Public Defender, where they prepared complex appeals in criminal cases and represented clients on Death Row. Current adjunct faculty include a deputy state attorney general and a former staff attorney with the California Supreme Court.

“Professors Rose and Schaaf have engineered a top-quality program,” says Adjunct Professor Cathren Koehlert. “They keep their fingers on the pulse of the legal writing world and make certain their adjuncts do the same.”

TRAINING PROFESSIONALS

Professionalism, another topic requiring more emphasis in legal education according to the Carnegie Foundation report, is a core component of Golden Gate Law’s App Ad course. From strict adherence to the detailed formatting requirements for legal briefs, to error-free writing with proper citations, to appropriate demeanor while making an oral argument, App Ad students are held to the highest standards of professionalism.

“Appellate cases are particularly good vehicles for teaching professionalism,” Schaaf says. “Our students learn that if there are errors in their brief, the court is likely to assume not only that the brief is sloppy—but that their argument is as well.” App Ad students are required to observe an argument at one of the three appeals courthouses in San Francisco and prepare a report. They may also have the chance to watch appellate attorneys rehearsing their own oral arguments on campus as part of Golden Gate’s Moot Court for Practicing Lawyers Program (see page 13).

Third-year student Pamela Ataii credits the App Ad course with bolstering her confidence—another critical ingredient in effective advocacy. “The semester after I took App Ad, I was a judicial law extern at the San Francisco Immigration Court, where I had to write decisions for multiple judges,” she says. “I was able to tackle a large file of facts, case law, and statutes and write 10-20-page, single-spaced decisions with

(continued on page 12)
confidence and ease. This would not have been possible without our highly qualified and devoted faculty, who spend many hours not only creating the program but also teaching the course. I received individualized time with my professor to hone my skills and fine-tune those that needed more work. I learned what my weaknesses were and overcame them through the course of the semester.”

Tracilyn Tasch, another 3L and the top appellee in the spring 2008 Appellate Advocacy Competition, credits App Ad for her success as a law clerk with Bay Area Legal Aid. “My experience in App Ad gave me the confidence to actually represent clients with Medical or In-Home Supplemental Services claims against the county,” she says. “I have appeared in front of administrative law judges multiple times and was successful in representing my clients.”

“The App Ad program really did prepare me for appellate practice,” says Golden Gate Law grad Kelly Cronin (JD 05), an appellate attorney representing indigent criminal defendants through the First District Appellate Project and California Appellate Project (Los Angeles) and an adjunct in the Law School. “For example, in the summer following my App Ad class, the two partners in the small family law practice where I was an intern were very busy on several cases and assigned to me the task of writing the respondent’s brief to an appeal of a restraining order. Flattered, but slightly panicked, I went back to my App Ad notes and book and referred to the brief I wrote for that class. Then, after researching the law on all of the points raised by the appellant, I employed the techniques I learned in App Ad to draft the response. Long story short, we prevailed on the issues. I really appreciated the degree to which Golden Gate’s Appellate Advocacy Program had provided me with practical training that I could apply in the real world.”

Aside from rigorous training in legal writing, oral argument, and professionalism, Golden Gate Law students gain something else through App Ad—strong material for their job portfolios and valuable networking opportunities and professional contacts. “Many of our students have used their briefs from the Appellate Advocacy course as writing samples in their successful job searches” says Rose. Adds Schaaf: “I’ve seen our students get informational interviews and summer jobs after judges had watched them deliver their oral arguments in our competition. I’ve seen many business cards get passed following oral arguments at Golden Gate.”

LEND YOUR SUPPORT!

Golden Gate Law invites attorneys and judges to participate in our Appellate Advocacy programs by:

• volunteering to judge student oral arguments (just a few hours needed): contact Leslie Rose, 415-442-6645, lrose@ggu.edu
• volunteering as a judge in our Moot Court for Practicing Lawyers Program (see p. 13): contact Myron Moskovitz, 510-384-0354, mmoskovitz@ggu.edu
• lending your financial support to help us renovate and name our Moot Court Room; fund and name our internal competition; and increase our participation in external competitions: contact Elizabeth Brady, 415-442-7813, ebrady@ggu.edu
Since the School of Law’s Appellate Advocacy Institute established its unique Moot Court for Practicing Lawyers Program in 2006, it has grown from 2 moot courts per semester to 12 and helped appellate attorneys win some historic victories. Directed by Professor Myron Moskovitz, the moots provide a venue for lawyers with criminal and civil appeals pending in California appellate courts to practice their oral arguments on campus before attorneys and professors from Golden Gate and other law schools. These “judges” give the attorneys important feedback on the merits of their argument and on the style of their presentation that can make a difference to their success in court.

“The appellate attorneys benefit from the moots in two major respects,” says Moskovitz, whose courses include Constitutional Law, Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure, and Civil Procedure and who is handling several appeals. “They can argue their case before a panel of judges and receive and respond to tough questioning. They also can view their arguments from the perspectives of a generalist like myself and those of two other attorneys with more expertise in the subject area.”

Cases heard in the moot courts have included death penalty appeals and cases involving search and seizure; defamation; landlord-tenant disputes; medical marijuana; unpaid farm workers’ wages; restraining orders; foster care; product liability; tobacco advertising; environmental protection and air quality; automobile insurance; and property taxes. Most are heard in the California Supreme Court, but arguments rehearsed at Golden Gate Law have also been heard in the California Court of Appeal, US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, and US Supreme Court.

Aside from providing a valuable service to appellate attorneys, many of them Golden Gate Law alumni, the moot courts give Golden Gate Law students the opportunity to watch attorneys practice their oral arguments on campus and to speak with them and the volunteer judges afterwards. While some other schools offer moot courts for appellant attorneys, Moskovitz says, Golden Gate Law is unique in making them open to students.

“I think the program is fantastic,” says second-year law student James Ford, who has attended several of the moot courts and is an aspiring prosecutor who has had internships at the California Office of the Attorney General and Marin County District Attorney’s Office. “I saw different styles and presentations from the various attorneys who came to GGU, and I always learned something—whether about an aspect of a certain area of the law, or appellate practice in general,” he says. “It also provides a definite opportunity for law students to network with the attorneys who come to argue and the attorneys who serve as judges.”

To date, the most widely publicized and well attended moot court was in February 2008, when San Francisco Deputy City Attorney Therese Stewart argued In re Marriages Cases, the landmark case defending the right to same-sex marriage that she proceeded to win in the California Supreme Court.

“The moot at GGU was extremely valuable,” Stewart says. “I remember in particular one question I did not expect and was unable to answer at the moot that significantly affected the oral argument. I didn’t wait to get the question at the real argument, but used the answer I later developed as part of my opening remarks. I can’t say enough about how terrific the experience was.”

She notes another advantage of the moot court: “It caused me to begin preparing earlier than I otherwise would have, which turned out to be a very good thing, because the oral argument was set not long after I began preparing and was set on fairly short notice. Had it not been for the moot, I would have been scrambling to get ready instead of proceeding in an orderly, methodical way.” (Stewart has filed a petition for writ of mandate in the California Supreme Court challenging Proposition 8, the California ballot measure passed in early November revoking the right to same-sex marriage.)

Alumni and other attorneys interested in participating in the moot courts, either to practice their oral arguments or to volunteer as “judges,” should contact Myron Moskovitz at 510-384-0354 or mmoskovitz@ggu.edu. Judges can receive up to 1 MCLE credit and are taken to lunch after the moot court. Appellants must submit their briefs at least a month ahead of the moot court and should not wait to receive notice from the court.
SCHOOL OF LAW
HONOR ROLL OF DONORS
JULY 1, 2007 – JUNE 30, 2008

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. These members’ loyal commitment provides consistent support that enables the Law School to plan for the ongoing support of scholarships, clinical programs, and faculty development.

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The Millennium Society is the premier support group for 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 use at the dean’s discretion to a designated school. We are grateful to the members, whose unrestricted support for the Law School allowed us 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.

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While space restrictions allow us only to print cash gifts of $250 or more for donors by class year, the Law School is extremely grateful for the generosity extended by all of its alumni and friends. Every effort is made to ensure donor names and gifts are listed accurately. For questions or corrections regarding the Honor Roll of Donors or to make your gift for the FY 09 Honor Roll of Donors, please contact Lenore McDonald, director of annual giving, at 415-442-7829 or lmcdonald@ggu.edu. Visit www.ggu.edu/giving to make your secure gift online.
Nearly 100 Alumni Selected for Inclusion
In 2008 Northern California Super Lawyers

n its annual poll in regions throughout the United States, Law and Politics magazine invites attorneys to identify Super Lawyers® whom they have “personally observed in action” and consider outstanding in their fields. Below is the list of alumni selected in the Northern California region alone:

Jeff Appleman, JD 77
Jonathan Bacon, JD 81
John Barg, JD 74
Duncan Barr, JD 70
Paul Barulich, JD 84
Marte Bassi, JD 86
Ellen Bastier, JD 85
Angela Bean, JD 83
GGU Professor Roger Bernhardt
Jeremy D. Blank, JD 94
Thomas G. Borst, JD 88
Michael J. M. Brook, JD 88
John Camozzi, JD 85, MBA 90
Priscilla Camp, JD 77
Robert Cartwright Jr., JD 82
Lyle Cavin Jr., JD 69
Jeffrey Cereghino, JD 81
Susan S. Coats, JD 82
Judith Cohen, JD 79
Rebecca Conradi, JD 77, MBA 78
George Cotsirilos Jr., JD 78
Patrick Coughlin, JD 83
Cecily A. Dumas, JD 83
Steven Enochian, JD 74
Amy Eskin, JD 86
Simona Farrise, JD 93
David Fink, JD 87
Shane Ford, JD 94
Ronald D. Foreman, JD 74
John Frailing, JD 77
Tammy-Lyn Gallerani, JD 87
Sean Gleason, JD 80
Peter Goodman, JD 75
Barry Gorelick, JD 85
William Gwire, JD 74
Susan Handelman Majeski, JD 89
John Harding, JD 89
John Harrigan, JD 77
Peter Hart, JD 84
Karen L. Hawkins, JD 79, MBA 81
Terry Helbush, JD 76
Joan Herrington, JD 95
Derek Howard, JD 84
John Hyland, JD 95
Guy Jinkerson, BA 66, JD 69
Robert Kaplan, JD 77
Lawrence Kern, JD 69
Arlene Kostant, JD 77
Alan Lagod, JD 76
Esther Lemer, JD 80
Scott Lueders, JD 77
Michael Markowitz, JD 82
Richard Maxion, JD 79
William May, JD 79
Cynthia McGuinn, JD 81
Michael McKenna, JD 76
John Milgate, JD 78
Antoinette Mills, JD 82
Ann Moorman, JD 87
John Murray, JD 77
Thomas Norton, JD 86
Roy Otis, JD 80
Andrea Palash, JD 86
Virginia Palmer, JD 80
Lee Pearce, JD 75
Thomas Pegnimit, JD 78
Donald Person, JD 75
Pamela Pierson, JD 75
David Porter Jr., JD 92
Maria Pracher, JD 81
Eileen Previle, JD 76
Tanya Prioste, JD 94
Diana Richmond, JD 73
Kenneth Robinson, JD 72
Amy Rodeney, JD 80
Daniel Roemer, JD 93
Randy Scarlett, JD 85
Carl Schulz, JD 84
Richard Sherman, JD 74
Matthew Shier, JD 76
Jonathan H. Siegel, JD 77
Alan J. Silver, JD 77
Leslie Smith, JD 84
Gilbert E. Stein, JD 74
Lynne A. Stephenson, JD 80
Albert Stoll Jr., JD 92
Barbara Suskind, JD 82
William Thomas, JD 67
James Tiemstra, JD 80
Heidi Timken, JD 91
Marc Van Der Hout, JD 77
James Vandersloot, JD 79
Robert Waldsmith, JD 92
Dennis Ward, JD 77
Leonard Weiler, JD 76
Paige Wickland, JD 81
Andrew Wiegell, JD 77
Frank Yuen, JD 77, MBA 77, LLM 85
Barry Zimmerman, JD 86
On November 6, more than 120 Golden Gate Law alumni, faculty, and friends gathered at San Francisco’s Campton Place Hotel to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the LLM in Taxation Law Program. The first such program in the Western United States, the LLM Tax program is today a nationally recognized program providing cutting-edge graduate legal education in business taxation and estate planning, with over 110 students enrolled.

The celebration coincided with the annual meeting of the State Bar of California Section of Taxation at the Grand Hyatt across the street, and many Section of Taxation leaders stopped by to help commemorate the LLM program anniversary.
Following welcoming remarks from Golden Gate University President Dan Angel, Professor Kimberly Stanley, associate dean and director of the LLM in Taxation Program, and School of Law Acting Dean Alan Ramo, the Law School presented plaques in appreciation to the following individuals for their contributions to the Law School and the legal profession:

- Karen L. Hawkins (JD 79, MBA-Taxation 81), Taggart & Hawkins, and chair-elect of the American Bar Association Section of Taxation
- Kimberly Stanley, professor, associate dean, and director of the program
- William E. Taggart Jr., former associate dean and founder of the program
- Adjunct Professor Joseph Walsh, former dean of the program
- Adjunct Professor Hon. Marshall Whitley, Alameda Superior Court

Also recognized was former program director Professor Marci Kelly.

Taggart recalled the strong support of former deans Otto Butz and Judith McKelvey for the new LLM program, which he founded after helping establish the University’s MBA-Taxation Program. Hawkins recounted how McKelvey introduced her to Taggart because, as a former assistant dean at the University of California, Davis, Hawkins might be able to offer some tips to Taggart on establishing and administering the new program at Golden Gate. (For more about Hawkins, see page 22.) The two are now partners in Taggart & Hawkins PC as well as life partners.

Golden Gate is enormously proud of bringing together these two pioneering and visionary tax attorneys and of the distinguished history and dramatic growth of the School of Law’s LLM in Taxation Program.

For information about the LLM in Taxation Program and to register, contact Graduate Law Programs at 415-442-7234, gradlaw@ggu.edu, or go to www.ggu.edu/law. Applications are now being accepted for classes beginning in January.

Photos by Charlotte Fiorito
Having exceeded its goal for The Centennial Campaign for GGU and officially closing the extended campaign at the end of December 2008, Golden Gate University will celebrate the success of its first capital campaign in 30 years with the installation of The Centennial Wall. To be located in the lobby of the University’s main building, The Centennial Wall will feature the names of those who have contributed $100,000 or more to GGU.

Karen L. Hawkins (JD 79, MBA-Taxation 81) enrolled in Golden Gate University with no intention of pursuing a career in tax law. But it was here that the chair-elect of the American Bar Association Section of Taxation found her calling.

Hawkins is a principal in the Oakland, Calif.–based tax law firm of Taggart & Hawkins, PC, where she specializes in civil and criminal tax controversy cases, and is an adjunct professor in Golden Gate’s LLM in Taxation Program.

A PIONEERING GGU ALUMNA

Hawkins earned her bachelor’s degree in English from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and her master’s in education from the University of California, Davis. At Davis, she became assistant dean for student affairs, where she was a key implementer of Title IX, and created several first-of-a-kind residence hall programs on campus. Noting her leadership and natural advocacy abilities, colleagues suggested she consider law school. Hawkins enrolled in Golden Gate, which she found to be a welcoming place for women who had been out of college for several years.

“I’m one of those ‘older’ returning women who tried several successful careers before realizing law was my calling,” Hawkins says. “I never would have been able to go to law school if there hadn’t been a GGU in 1976. At that time, it was the only law school I know of that was nearly 50% women—and had a woman as dean.” (Then-Dean Judith McKelvey was the second woman in the country to become dean of an ABA-accredited law school.) “There are so many pioneering women to come out of GGU, and I am proud to be associated with the institution,” she says.

After receiving her JD, Hawkins joined Touche Ross & Co., then a “Big-8” CPA firm, and became the first woman lawyer in the firm’s San Francisco tax department. While working there she also obtained her MBA in Taxation from Golden Gate University. She went on to form her own practice before merging it with the law firm of William E. Taggart Jr., the founder of GGU’s LLM in Taxation Program, whom Hawkins had met at GGU. The pair has become life partners as well as professional partners.

A PRO BONO POWERHOUSE

One of Hawkins’ greatest legacies is in creating, in 1992, the nationally recognized Pro Se/Pro Bono Tax Court program in Northern California, which matches experienced tax litigators with pro se litigants (people who represent themselves). She continues to coordinate and volunteer with the program, in which volunteer attorneys assist clients to resolve cases without going to a trial; or, if unsuccessful, educate them on how to present their cases in court. “The program has received widespread national recognition, and I’m very proud of that,” Hawkins says.

Hawkins estimates she spends some 250 hours engaged in pro bono work each year representing taxpayers. In 2004 she received the National Pro Bono Award from the ABA Taxation Section for her...
commitment to ensuring equitable access to the judicial system for all taxpayers.

Hawkins’ pro bono work on federal legislation brought her national recognition as well. She played a key role in passage of a provision in the Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2006, which expanded the jurisdiction of the US Tax Court to cases involving joint tax return filers who have been abandoned by their spouses leaving unpaid tax liabilities. While volunteering for a Tax Court calendar in San Francisco, Hawkins offered assistance to Gwendolyn Ewing, whose new husband had failed to pay taxes owed on their jointly filed tax return. Hawkins argued successfully to the Tax Court that Ewing deserved equitable relief and that the Tax Court had jurisdiction to grant her that relief. But the case was reversed on the government’s appeal by the Ninth Circuit. Hawkins participated as an Amicus in an Eighth Circuit appeal by the Ninth Circuit. Hawkins felt these decisions were unjust and was able to communicate that to the staff of Sen. Dianne Feinstein. “This statute affects more people in lower income levels than it does rich people,” Hawkins says. “I had to convince Senator Feinstein’s staff that the statute was hurting the people least able to defend themselves.” With the assistance of Feinstein’s staff, a proposed change in the law to grant the Tax Court jurisdiction over equitable relief decisions was drafted and introduced as proposed legislation. The proposed amendment to the statute took just eight months to become law. Hawkins also worked with California State Sen. Jackie Speier to enact legislation that insures innocent spouse relief at the state level if the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has granted relief. (That law is scheduled to expire at the end of this year.)

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“Karen has been a leader in the tax bar nationally and in California for over two decades,” notes Professor Kim Stanley, associate dean and director of the School of Law’s LLM in Taxation Program. “Not only is she a fierce advocate for her clients, but her public service to taxpayers is legendary. She was the driving force behind the creation of the Pro Se/Pro Bono Tax Court program here in California, which has become a model for the Tax Court’s efforts to assist the under-privileged throughout the country. Karen’s own pro bono service to under-served taxpayers is remarkable and has led to important and landmark court rulings. She also serves tirelessly to clarify and educate the bar about the ethics of tax practice and has been a distinguished adjunct professor in the Tax LLM Program, teaching professional responsibility. Her dedication to community service through her profession is exemplary to all.”

GOLDEN GATE MEMORIES

When Hawkins began law school, she says, “I didn’t know a thing about tax law, but just decided to take the course because tax seemed to permeate everything, and I thought I should know something about it. My first tax class at Golden Gate was taught by Professor Allan Cadgene, and he was phenomenal. Allan was so creative and excited about the subject, and he really caught my imagination. I’ll never forget the class where Allan taught on a slightly raised platform. He would be putting his calculations on the blackboard and would get so enthused about the point he was making that he’d fling himself off the platform at least once during every class!”

Hawkins has remained a staunch supporter of her alma mater. “It is inconceivable to me not to give back to the institution that has played the largest role in who—and where—I am today,” she says.

She adds, “There is no question in my mind I would not be a lawyer, and certainly it would never have occurred to me to be a tax lawyer, if I had not had the opportunities and education I did at Golden Gate.”

“I’m one of those ‘older’ returning women who tried several successful careers before realizing LAW WAS MY CALLING. I never would have been able to go to law school if there hadn’t been a GGU in 1976.”
UNIVERSITY HONORS MOHAMED NASRALLA (JD 87, LLM 03) FOR HIS SERVICE TO LAW LIBRARY AND LEGIONS OF STUDENTS

By Jill Goetz

aw Library Assistant Director and Adjunct Professor Mohamed Nasralla (JD 87, LLM 03) has a deep and abiding affection for Golden Gate Law and the hundreds of alumni he has mentored over two decades, particularly in preparing for the bar exam and building their law practices. The feeling is mutual.

“I have been practicing immigration law since 1999,” says San Jose immigration lawyer Yvette Lee. “Mohamed has been mentoring me from the beginning of my practice, and I am sure it would not exist without his help and support. He and his family are among the most kind and wonderful people that I have ever known.”

“I started working with Mohamed after a classmate a year ahead of me gave me a tip,” says San Jose sole practitioner Perla Sanchez (JD 07). “With Mohamed’s help, I walked into the bar exam thinking there is nothing they can throw at me that will scare me! I was prepared; I had a plan of attack, and I owe much of that to Mohamed—who makes his students feel like they can achieve anything.”

“I get so many thank-you emails from our alumni during and after the bar exam,” Nasralla says. “It is gratifying to know they are prepared, planning, and understanding. I see him day in and day out, taking in countless students seeking his help for the bar exam, or for plain legal advice. He does GGU and its students a great service.”

An Immigrant Finds a Home at Golden Gate

Nasralla, whose grandfather emigrated from Lebanon to Sierra Leone, was born and raised in Sierra Leone. At 17 he came to the United States to attend California State University, Chico, where he obtained bachelor’s degrees in international relations and history with a minor in Middle Eastern studies. Because he was interested in immigration law, his pre-law advisor recommended Golden Gate, which then housed the Immigrant Legal Resource Center.

Nasralla worked at the center, where he helped in writing and editing asylum manuals for immigration attorneys and asylum and deportation briefs for clients the clinic represented before the Immigration Court and Board of Immigration Appeals. After graduating, he practiced immigration and civil litigation at a San Francisco law firm and today enjoys mentoring attorneys entering the field of immigration law.

“When I started practicing immigration law, it was comforting just knowing that there was another attorney I could consult with when I had immigration questions,” Nasralla says. “I want to make the same difference and help others so they can be successful in their legal careers. Many of our alums who go on to practice immigration law do so right out of law school and need all the help they can get to succeed. Mentoring for me is a rewarding experience, and I look at mentoring assistance as payback.” Beyond mentoring, Nasralla has helped Golden Gate Law alumni find jobs in immigration law, using his considerable contacts in the professional community. He furthered his own knowledge by obtaining an LLM in International Legal Studies from the Law School in 2003.

Spirit of the Law Library

Nasralla encourages alumni to take advantage of the Law Library and to see its newly opened reading room on the Law School’s main floor, part of the library’s major expansion project nearing completion.

“The Law Library provides two free years of library access to our alumni after graduation and a heavily discounted annual fee thereafter for one of the biggest law libraries in the Bay Area,” he says. “Alumni can get reference help and can check out circulating materials, including MCLE materials. Most of our librarians are attorneys who have specialized in different areas of the law. I invite our alumni to take advantage of our legal skills and the many services and resources we provide.”
ADVCATING FOR THE AGED AND DISABLED:
LAURIE HANSON (JD 84)

By Lenore McDonald

Laurie Hanson (JD 84) bellowed in disbelief when she heard GGU would be celebrating her 25th Law School Reunion on April 18, 2009—quickly adding that she never imagined she would become a lawyer, much less mark a 25-year legal career.

Today, Laurie is a shareholder in the highly regarded Minneapolis-based law firm of Long Reher Hanson, P.A. and has enjoyed a rewarding legal career advocating on behalf of elder clients, particularly those with special needs, and their families.

A Minneapolis native, Laurie earned her bachelor’s degree in economics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She later moved to Corvallis, Oregon, where as a receptionist in the Benton County District Attorney’s Office she saw criminal prosecutors in action and felt her potential as a lawyer begin to materialize. She started looking at law schools on the West Coast and chose Golden Gate, where she was editor-in-chief of the Women’s Law Forum and a member of Law Review.

Laurie was a Reginald Heber Smith Fellow for two years after law school, working with Ozark Legal Services in Fayetteville, Arkansas. She then started a private general practice in Arkansas specializing in health and family law and served as a guardian ad litem, discovering yet another way to represent the best interest of children and families dealing with child abuse or neglect.

In 1989 Laurie returned to Minnesota, where she and her partner Kim Dayton today live in a duplex in South Minneapolis. Their two children attend college nearby, and her aging parents moved in with her last year—forming a truly intergenerational household.

A Minneapolis Elder Law Leader

Laurie has made her mark in the Minneapolis elder law community and well beyond. In September 2008 she received the Mary Alice Goodel Award from the Minnesota Elder Law Institute, and in 2003 she received the Dawn Carlson Family Advocate Award for her efforts in working with families with aging adults and in drafting Minnesota’s third-party custody statute.

Laurie has been named a Minnesota Super Lawyer by her peers for the past eight years and is the past chair of the Governing Council of the Elder Law Section of the Minnesota State Bar Association.

Reflecting on her practice, Laurie says, “I love the law—analyzing a problem, understanding the circumstances, and finding a solution for my clients. All of our families are in crisis in some way—Alzheimer’s, babies with disabilities, quadriplegia, families fighting over money or a trust. More and more people live in nontraditional families, where it can be particularly hard to navigate the system if money is involved. Late-stage marriages, in particular, pose complicated challenges. Some of my clients can no longer manage their finances, and I’ve seen professional fiduciaries or conservators take advantage of their clients.”

The biggest challenge she and her colleagues face, she says, is the lack of long-term care benefits. “Anything that will move us toward a more inclusive healthcare policy is critically important,” she says. “Most money is spent in long-term care. We need help providing money for custodial care and daily living assistance for the developmentally or physically disabled, including the elderly.”

Laurie is encouraged by the attention that some members of the legal community are beginning to pay to the needs of the aged and disabled. “For instance, the Governing Council of the Elder Law Section of the Minnesota Bar Association is becoming more active against financial abuse and other kinds of exploitation of vulnerable adults,” she says.

Laurie is excited about her Golden Gate Law Reunion on April 18 in San Francisco and has offered to help GGU reach out to former classmates, encouraging them to attend and make reunion gifts. She is looking forward to seeing former professors and Ann Casper (JD 84), a history teacher at Alameda (Calif.) High School—her best friend in law school with whom she studied for the bar all those years ago.

Lenore McDonald is director of annual giving at Golden Gate University.
For a list of alumni selected for inclusion in the 2008 Northern California Super Lawyers magazine, see page 19.

LAW REUNION April 18, 2009!

Richard Rosenberg (MBA 63, JD 66, LLB 88), former chair and CEO of Bank of America, is featured in the new book Profiles in Prominence about prominent Golden Gate alumni.

Roger E. Holl (JD 71) is the associate dean at Charter College in Anchorage, where he oversees general studies and teaches ethics and law related courses. He is the commissioner of the Alaska Public Offices Commission.

Conrad D. Breece (JD 72) participated in the 2008 Dean’s List Breakfast to honor outstanding students in the GGU School of Law.

Hon. Ruth Astle Samas (JD 74, SJD 88) has been selected as a Fulbright Specialists candidate.

Linda M. Betzer (JD 75) was appointed to the Ohio Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors as a representative of the public. She is a retired assistant US attorney.

Lee C. Pearce (JD 75) was profiled in the July 18 issue of The Recorder.

Sidney J. Hymes (JD 76, MBA 76) is a senior manager for the cultural district development on Saadiyat Island, Abu Dhabi in United Arab Emirates.

Timothy H. Smallslreed (JD 77, MBA 79) participated in the 2008 Dean’s List Breakfast to recognize outstanding students in the School of Law. He is an attorney at Fitzgerald, Abbott & Beardsley LLP in Oakland.

Robert C. Norton (JD 78) has returned to the Los Angeles-based firm of Rodi Pollock Petkter Christian & Pramov, where he became a principal in 1989 and left in 2003 to practice in another firm, to serve of counsel. He was chosen for selection in 2008 Southern California Super Lawyers.

Gary M. Reing (JD 78) was selected as chair of the Lawyers Assistance Program Committee for the New York City Bar Association, which assists attorneys and others with alcoholism, addiction, and mental health issues.

Karen L. Hawkins (JD 79, MBA 81), an attorney with Taggart & Hawkins PC, is profiled on page 22 of this issue. She is chair-elect of the ABA Section of Taxation.

Wendell “Dell” Hutchinson (JD 80, LLM 82) is a visiting assistant professor in Golden Gate University’s School of Taxation. He retired from PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP in 2007 as a tax partner and has served on the School of Taxation’s advisory board.

William West (JD 81), a retired contract negotiator for the Port of Oakland, was quoted in an article in the October 6 Recorder about the acquittal of former McAfee General Counsel Kent Roberts on mail fraud charges in a stock options backdating case on which West served as juror.

Cordia L. Farrell (JD 82) is the president for the Eartare Planning Council of San Bernardino (Calif.) County for 2008-09.

Patrick Coughlin (JD 83), chief trial counsel for Coughlin, Stoia, Redman and Robbins LLP, is featured in the new book Profiles in Prominence about prominent GGU alumni.

Matthew P. Guasco (JD 84) is of counsel to Arnold, Bleuel, LaRochelle, Matthews & Zirbel. He is president of the Ventura County (Calif.) Bar Association and an adjunct at Pepperdine University School of Law.

Ellen Bastier (JD 85), partner with Reed Smith, is quoted in the October 3 San Jose Mercury News in an article about the solar industry investment tax credit in the bailout bill.

David J. McMahon (JD 85) is managing partner of Barger and Wolen’s San Francisco office.

Caleb W. Sullivan (JD 85) is a senior attorney at Becker and Poliakoff in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

Marianne L. Barrett (JD 86), assistant district attorney in the San Francisco District Attorney’s Office, served on a “Careers in Criminal Law” panel at GGU in September.

Robert E. Henenlotter (JD 86) is the contract manager for Verizon Business in Ashburn, Va.

Mohamed Nasralla (JD 87, LLM 03) received the 2008 Golden Gate University Distinguished Service Award. He is profiled on page 22 of this magazine.

Cheryl Frank (JD 88) serves as a judicial officer and has just published a novel, The Dead Lawyer Conspiracy, under the pen name Jane T. Robe.

Thomas P. Keegan (JD 88) is president of Oplink Communications, Inc. in Fremont, Calif.

Suheel J. Totah (JD 88) is vice president of Thomas Enterprises Inc’s Sacramento office. Totah was selected by Sacramento magazine as one of the top 100 influential and powerful people in Sacramento.

Christina Cline (JD 93) is a managing director in the in-house practice group of the Palo Alto, Calif. office of Major, Lindsey and Africa LLC.

Bernadette S. Curry (MPA 93, JD 98) is county counsel for Solano County, Calif.

Simona A. Farrise (JD 93) and The Farrise Law Firm of Santa Barbara, San Francisco and Los Angeles obtained a verdict of $14,876,000 for a client dying of mesothelioma. Farrise was selected for inclusion in 2008 Northern California Super Lawyers magazine.

Andrew J. Junius (JD 93) received the 2008 Golden Gate University School of Law Volunteer of the Year Award in May. He participated in the fall 2008 Dean’s List Breakfast to recognize outstanding students in the School of Law.

Deborah Lewis (JD 93) is a deputy public defender for Marin County, Calif.

Eric K. Ferraro (JD 94) is a shareholder of the San Francisco office of Bullivant Houser Bailey PC. He is a founder of IRIS Distribution, an independent digital distributor.

Lyn Agre (JD 95), an attorney at Kasowitz Benson Torres & Friedman LLP, participated in a “Careers in Criminal Law” panel at GGU in September.

Karen Beyke (JD 96) is president of the Williamson County (Tenn.) Bar Association. She represents Tennessee in the International Municipal Lawyers Association and serves as news editor and board member of the Tennessee Municipal Attorneys Association.

Maria C. Ozorio (LLM 97) is the senior attorney and legal manager for AEI America do Sul Holding Ltda in Campinas São Paulo, Brazil.
Natascha Fraser (JD 98) is the realty specialist for National Park Service in Oakland.
Frances Heller (JD 98) is executive vice president of business development at Exelixis Inc.
Alexandre Marion (LLM 98) is a lawyer for CMS Bureau Francis Lefebvre in Cedex, France.
David Kwok W. Cheng (JD 99) participated in the 2008 Dean’s List Breakfast to recognize outstanding students in the School of Law.
Stella M. Edralin (JD 99) has a law practice in San Francisco specializing in estate planning for same-sex couples and employee benefits law.
Lara N. Gilman (LLM 00) was named chair of family wealth for Farella Braun + Martel LLP in San Francisco.
Lainie E. Cohen (JD 01) is the senior litigation associate at Lazare Potter Giacovas & Kranjac LLP in Manhattan, where she specializes in commercial, securities, and employment litigation.
James L. Heard (JD 01) is principal attorney for the Pinal County (Ariz.) Attorney’s Office.
Joseph R. Wheeler (JD 01) is a partner for Universal, Shannon & Wheeler in Roseville, Calif., specializing in the defense of automobile manufacturers.
Julia Adams (JD 02) see Rebecca Prozan (JD 03).
Melissa L. Exline (JD 02) joined Surratt Law Practice, PC in Reno, Nev. She and her husband have a child, James Thomas.
Kimberly M. Surratt (JD 02) is a principal with the Surratt Law Practice, PC in Reno, Nev.
Rebecca Prozan (JD 03) and Julia Adams (JD 02) were married on September 14, marking their third public commitment. Both had worked vigorously for the failure of Proposition 8 in California, and Prozan served as a California delegate for Barack Obama. She is an assistant DA for the City and County of San Francisco and is currently assigned to the preliminary hearings unit, where she prosecutes general felony and narcotics case. Adams is a civil litigation attorney at The Epstein Group in San Francisco, where she focuses on employment, landlord-tenant, and real estate law. The couple credit Golden Gate Law for teaching them the skills to be successful litigators and for bringing them together.
Sara Rief (JD 03), an attorney with the Law Offices of Stuart Hanlon, participated in a “Careers in Criminal Law” panel at GGU in September.
Linda Bjorke (JD 04) is the deputy city attorney in the Office of the City Attorney in San Jose.
Amir Atashi Rang (LLM 04), a principal of the Atashi Rang Law Firm in San Francisco, is profiled in the October 2008 National Jurist in an article about LLM programs.
Michael J. Robertson (JD 04) was the director of Congressional affairs for Sen. Barack Obama’s presidential campaign.
Luzius Schmid (LLM 04) is the financial lines of business director for Zurich Financial Services in New York City.
Chavangi Tom (LLM 04) is the executive director of Children Legal Action Network, which advocates for the rights of children in Kenya.
Bryan Doss (JD 05) and Emily Cole (JD 06) were married in November 2007. Bryan is an associate specializing in construction defect litigation at Chapman, Glucksman, and Dean in Los Angeles.
Marie-Lorraine Mallare (JD 05, LLM 07), an SJD student in the Law School, interviewed then-presidential candidate Barack Obama for an article that was published in Asian Week on October 30.
Corey Allen (JD 06), a deputy public defender in the Contra Costa (Calif.) County Public Defender’s Office, participated in a “Careers in Criminal Law” panel at GGU in September.
Elizabeth S. Baranda (JD 06) is an associate for Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP in San Francisco.
Emily Cole (JD 06) see Bryan Doss (JD 05).
George Derieg (JD 06), a Solano County (Calif.) deputy public defender who worked as a GGU student with Professor Susan Rutberg (JD 75) in helping overturn the wrongful conviction of Pete Rose, returned to campus in September to hear Rose speak to students in Rutberg’s Wrongful Convictions class. “We have had many GGU students and alumni working in the Solano County PD’s office,” he says.
Paul Hogarth (JD 06) participated in the 2008 Dean’s List Breakfast to recognize outstanding students in the School of Law.
Bryna Holland (JD 06), a former Baxter Fellow in the Law School who worked as an intern in the Marin County (Calif.) Public Defender’s Office through Golden Gate Law’s Criminal Litigation Clinic, has been hired by the office in a permanent position. She joins Golden Gate Law alumni Aicha Mievis (JD 04), also a former Baxter Fellow; and Sean Kensinger (JD 06), in the Marin PD’s office.
Cormac Kilgallen (JD 06) is featured in the spring 2008 issue of San Francisco Attorney magazine in an article about his work as an Equal Justice Works Americorps member.
Sandra M. Le (JD 06) gave birth to Wyatt Liem Spears on Jan 17 in Fairfax, Va.

Karin Bassa (JD 07) works in the Colorado State Public Defender’s Office in Denver.

David A. Bovino (JD 07) is the CEO of Challengebands.com, which produces wristbands for Democrats, Republicans, and Independents to promote their choices for US president. He passed the California and Colorado bar exams on his first try.

Clarissa H. Cannavino (JD 07) serves on the Fairfield County Bar Foundation Board of Directors.

Erin G. Frazor (JD 07) participated in the 2008 Dean’s List Breakfast to recognize outstanding students in the School of Law.

Asaka Makino (SJD 07) is with the UNU-Centre Environment and Sustainable Development Programme.

Timothy J. O’Connor (JD 07), an attorney with the Environmental Defense Fund, is the author of “California Must Change the Way Land Use and Transportation Decisions are Made to Reduce Greenhouse Gases that Cause Global Warming and Implement AB 32,” in the July 10 edition of California Progress Report.

Richard H. Sinkoff (JD 07) is director of environmental programs and planning for the Port of Oakland.

I-Hsien Chiu (SJD 08) is a professor at the Overseas Institute of Chinese Technology in Taiwan.

Norbert Ebisike (SJD 08) is the author of Offender Profiling in the Courtroom (Praeger Publishers, 2008), which includes an endorsement from GGU Law Professor and Dean Emeritus Peter Keane. Ebisike is also the author of “An Appraisal of Forensic Science Evidence in Criminal Proceedings” and several peer-reviewed journal articles.

Jessica L. Hannah (JD 08) is a law clerk for the chambers of Hon. John D. Love in Tyler, Texas.

Daniel C. Ng (LLM 08) took photos while visiting Beijing for the Olympics and submitted them to CNN.

Chi-Cheng Tai (JD 08) is with Haverstock & Owens LLP in Taiwan, where he focuses on patent prosecution.

Saqib Zuberi (LLM 08) is director of the Council on Islamic-American Relations in Canada.

NEW ALUMNI SERVICES MANAGER

JoAnn Lucero is the new alumni services manager in the Golden Gate University Office of Advancement, where she is responsible for all alumni relations activities and works closely with alumni and the University’s Alumni Association Board of Directors. Before joining Golden Gate, she was associate director of alumni relations at Southwestern University in Texas. She can be reached at 415-442-7824 or jlucero@ggu.edu.

IN MEMORIAM

Lim P. Le (JD 50)  Richard A. Chamberlin (JD 61)  William C. Edwards (JD 75)
Lester Spiegelman (JD 52)  Percy H. McNutt (JD 65)  L. M. Sheppard (JD 75)
Edward D. Vallerga (JD 52)  Darrell W. Stevens (JD 65)  Jonathan L. Steiner (JD 76)
Ralph S. Lee (JD 57)  Norman R. Ascherman (JD 68)  Alex A. Najjar (JD 77)
Bruce A. Fanshier (JD 59)  Daniel C. Bowen (JD 72)  Bruce Selikoff (JD 77)
Fred A. Jones (JD 60)  Glen C. Johnson (JD 73)  Margaret P. Szeit (JD 78)
Ramon D. Aseido (JD 61)  Leslie F. Chan (JD 75)  Michael J. Carey (JD 84)

Golden Gate LAWYER
Let Us Hear From You!
Class Notes Deadline for Spring/Summer: March 15, 2009

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: alumni@ggu.edu
Your alumni community is just a click away.

GGU AlumniConnect
www.ggu.edu/alumni

GGU AlumniConnect is your brand-new online alumni-community website. Find fellow alumni by class, school, profession and location; make gifts; RSVP for events; and stay up-to-date with your alma mater — all in one place designed specifically for you.

Please visit www.ggu.edu/alumni, and register. Make sure your contact information is current and correct, and start using the fully searchable alumni directory for personal and professional networking.

www.ggu.edu/alumni
UPCOMING EVENTS

JANUARY 24: “BEAT THE CLOCK”
Annual MCLE Event Seminar and Networking Lunch. GGU, 536 Mission Street, 2nd Floor, 8 am-5:10 pm. Up to 6 MCLE credits available, with special pricing for alumni. Contact Mateo Jenkins, 415-442-6541, mjenkins@ggu.edu.

MARCH 10
PUBLIC INTEREST LAW FOUNDATION AUCTION
This popular annual event raises funds for students working in public interest jobs. 111 Minna St., San Francisco, time TBA. Contact Angela Dalfen, 415-369-5391, adalfen@ggu.edu.

APRIL 18: LAW REUNION
Reception and Dinner, 6-9 pm, The Palace Hotel, 2 New Montgomery Street, San Francisco. Contact Alumni Services, 415-442-7824, alumni@ggu.edu.

MAY 15
SCHOOL OF LAW 2009 COMMENCEMENT
Louise M. Davies Symphony Hall, 201 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco, 1 pm. Contact Mateo Jenkins, 415-442-6541, mjenkins@ggu.edu.

SAVE THE DATE!
GGU LAW REUNION 2009
SATURDAY, APRIL 18
COCKTAIL RECEPTION: 6-7 pm, hosted by Acting Dean Alan Ramo and GGU President Dan Angel
DINNER: 7-9 pm
For more information, contact Alumni Services, 415-442-7824, alumni@ggu.edu, www.ggu.edu/alumni/reunions

At the 30th Anniversary Celebration of Golden Gate’s LLM Taxation Program are, from left, LLM Tax student Andrea Starrett, JP Harbour (LLM 03), and Larry Beck (JD 78, LLM 79).