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Congressman Phil Burton
Student - Statesman - Friend

by Nancy Conway

Phil Burton, best described as a civil libertarian, a humanist, an environmentalist, a friend of labor, a liberal and a dove, died suddenly April 10, 1983 at the age of 56. A 19-year veteran of Congress, he is remembered by friend and foe alike as a consummate politician with an abrasive personality and a heart of gold. A 1952 Golden Gate graduate, Congressman Burton was probably the Law School’s most prominent graduate. A typical Golden Gater, he put himself through law school nights while working days.

One of the most productive national legislators of his generation, Burton lent his political power to such successful California endeavors as the establishment of a Redwoods National Recreation Area, significant expansion of Pt. Reyes National Seashore, protection of Big Sur, wilderness protection for the Farallon Islands and designation of the American River as a wild and scenic river. In San Francisco, he was responsible for the establishment of Fort Point as a National Historic Site and for preservation of the Old San Francisco Mint as a historic building. He also authored legislation protecting Lake Tahoe from further deterioration caused by shoreline development, as well as the legislation which established the Channel Islands National Park and the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. Burton sponsored the California Wilderness bill which protects more wilderness acreage, 3.5 million acres, than in any state in the continental U.S.

On a national level, as Chair of the subcommittee on National Parks in the 95th and 96th Congresses, he set an unprecedented record for establishing the protecting parks, wilderness areas, trails and wild and scenic rivers, including the Omnibus Parks Act of 1978, which tripled the size of the National Trails system, doubled the size of the Scenic and Wild Rivers system and more than doubled the Wilderness acreage in the National Park system. He was also a key figure in passage of the Alaska Lands bill which protects more wilderness acreage, 3.5 million acres, than in any state in the continental U.S.

Well remembered not only by naturalists but also by labor, he was responsible for creating the black lung compensation program for miners, extending minimum wage coverage to 6.5 million previously uncovered workers (including farm-workers, service employees (such as hospital, restaurant and laundry workers) and Federal blue collar workers not under civil service protection); increasing the minimum wage from $2.30 to $3.55 per hour and making strikers eligible for Food Stamps.

A champion of the poor, Burton also authored the Supplemental Security Income Act (SSI), a nationally guaranteed income maintenance program, which provides assistance to four million aged, blind and disabled persons.

Within the House, Burton was the driving force behind reforms which made Congress a more democratic and responsive institution, including reform of the House seniority system, which ultimately may have hampered his own ambitions to become House Majority Leader. The reform in the selection of Democratic chairpersons provided for selection by secret ballot. Although he was the party favorite in 1976, Burton lost the House Majority Leadership by one vote in a secret ballot.

An opponent to the Vietnam War from the outset, Burton, as a freshman in Congress, was on its furthest left wing. Nonetheless, he engineered the success of a tremendous amount of his own legislation. Observers credit this to his skill as a vote counter, his ability to build unlikely alliances and his mastery of legislative detail.

Sala and Phillip Burton

Burton’s political ideals and ambitions were formed early on; raised during the Depression, Phillip, the eldest of the three sons born to Dr. Thomas P. and Mildred Sala Burton, grew up listening to Franklin Delano Roosevelt’s speeches on the radio. Dr. Burton had a deep concern for social justice which he transmitted to his sons and was an ardent supporter of the Roosevelt New Deal, Progressive Interior Secretary Harold Ickes and Justice William O. Douglas were also admired by the senior Burton.

Phillip was not the only political activist to emerge from this household of Democrats. His youngest brother, John, served a term as Congressman from California and his brother, Robert, holds elected office on the Community College Board and sits by appointment on the Workers Compensation Board.

Sala Burton, the Congressman’s widow, describes her husband as an activist from his early days, involved in school politics in high school and college. Sala says she met her husband at a Young Democratic Club Convention after he graduated from law school. Burton participated in the Young Democrats during and after law
Phil Burton (Continued from Page 1)

school. He was a leading force in turning San Francisco’s political climate around from the conservative Democratic enclave it was until the mid-1950’s to the City’s present reputation for left-wing and even radical politics. Previously San Francisco had been dominated by a municipal political organization much like Chicago’s notorious Daley Machine. Burton did not accomplish this feat alone, but the coalition he put together weakened the old establishment and gave liberals, labor unions and minorities a greater voice in City politics.

In 1948 he started at G.G.U. Law School, then only a night program located in the old YMCA on Golden Gate Avenue. The sole survivor of Burton’s four-man study group, Vern Pynn, now retired from the City Attorney’s office in Richmond, says Burton was “an accessible kind of person, easy to get to know, a people person.”

Classmate Pynn recalled that “Phil was always very active and interested in people. He was active in politics and very liberal when we were in law school. I remember he used to go to meetings up the street from school with a political group—I think the Young Democrats.”

“Our political philosophies were diametrically opposed. He was very liberal and I was conservative. We had good discussions. Phil had strong convictions; I respected him. We were always friends. Phil and I respected each other’s opinions.”

Commenting on Phil Burton’s academic ability, Pynn said, “Phil had good recall; he was articulate in class and he was a very good student. He was really willing to help others out.”

Vern Pynn recalled that, ironically, “Casper Weinberger was our instructor in Pleading and Practice.”

While Pynn fell out of touch with Burton after law school, two other classmates, the late Judge Louis Garcia (’52) and John O’Connell (’53) became important political allies.

Phillip Burton was an exceptionally bright student according to his Constitutional Law Professor, John Gorfinke. Gorfinke, who now works for the State Bar, said that his former student “demonstrated a propensity, at that time, for a career in the political arena. He had a keen awareness of constitutional rights and liberties.”

Shortly after graduating from Golden Gate in 1956, Burton was elected to the State Assembly. He held that office for 7½ years prior to his election to what was to become a 19-year term of office in Congress.

At Golden Gate, Phillip Burton is gone but not forgotten. The Law School has dedicated the current issue of the Law Review to him. The greatest memorial the University can give is to graduate more young lawyers to follow in his footsteps, dedicating their lives to public service.

His widow Sala said of Phil Burton, “He always felt that the poor, the disabled, the children and the elderly needed an extra effort. The rich have lots of people who can lobby for them.” Sala Burton, his partner in politics and marriage, won the June special election for Phil Burton’s Congressional seat. She says she plans to carry on the Burton tradition.

Alumni To Gather At State Bar

Arrangements are in the final stages for the GGU Law Alumni Luncheon to be held at the California State Bar Convention in September. Law School Dean John P. Wilson and former Dean and President-elect of the San Francisco Bar Association, Judy McKelvey, will host. In a recent conversation with the Alumni Office, Dean Emeritus John A. Gorfinke also indicated that he expected to attend. The luncheon will be held Tuesday, September 13, from 12:00 - 1:30 PM, in the Hilton at the Park Hotel in Anaheim. California Law Alumni will receive notices by mail prior to the event.

Fighting City Hall on Parking Tickets

by Nancy Conway

Mark Twain said that two things are certain in life: death and taxes. However, if he were alive today and living in San Francisco, he would have to add parking tickets to his list.

PARC is an organization that might interest you, if you’re tired of parking tickets and live or drive in San Francisco. Organized about a year ago, PARC is an acronym for Parking Alternatives and Reform Coalition and alumnus Ben Fox (1980) is a spokesperson and legal adviser for the coalition. Fox says the organization’s main objective is to improve city parking and to obtain some relief from parking violations and citations. Its broader goal is to become a citizen activist group which influences city politics to make San Francisco a more liveable city.

A broad-based group of San Franciscans, PARC includes some merchants who think that small businesses are being choked off by the City’s refusal to do anything about parking.

A seemingly innocuous group, it has already weathered one battle with City Hall and emerged victorious. The City attempted to stop PARC from circulating initiative petitions at the U.N. Plaza during the Farmer’s Market which convenes there on Saturday and Sunday mornings.

The City claimed that the property, although City-owned, was leased on those mornings to a private organization which could therefore limit access. Fox was threatened with arrest by the City police if he ever returned to circulate petitions again.

On behalf of PARC, Fox went to Superior Court and obtained a temporary injunction. The City subsequently stipulated to an injunction prohibiting it from restraining free speech, right of assembly and right to petition government for redress of grievances.

“It is a public forum and the City can’t limit free speech there. If the City had been able to maintain their position that the public forum was transmuted by leasing the property to a private organization it would have set a very bad precedent,” commented Fox.

PARC is circulating a petition to place a ballot measure before the voters this November concerning the reallocation of parking ticket revenues. Those revenues amounted to approximately $32 million in 1981 and $26.28 million in 1982, according to Fox. Presently that money is added to the City’s general fund. The PARC initiative would provide that some of the funds generated can be earmarked for improving City parking conditions.

Fox and his organization have received a lot of media attention, including stories in the New York Times and Newsweek. Locally, they’ve been covered by most of the radio and TV and newspapers. Fox credits the media attention to the catchy, high-interest topic. “Everybody in the city who drives a car is interested in the parking problem.” Fox adds that parking tickets are a problem that hits the elderly, poor and unemployed hardest of all.

According to Fox, “The City has been acting like a bandit. They are trying to make up for monies lost as a result of Proposition 13. The City now has a budget surplus of $156 million dollars. If the City wants to raise monies, they ought to pass a tax.”

Fox explains that those on fixed incomes are really stuck when hit with parking fines which double if not paid within 60 days. He has received calls from people who, though they have only two or three tickets which have doubled, can’t afford to pay them off and face losing their cars.

Another citizen’s group recently obtained a temporary restraining order stopping the city from towing cars and selling them to defray outstanding fines without the owners’ consent.

A civil practitioner, Fox says that after graduating from law school he felt an obligation to society to do public interest work. In addition to his work for PARC, he contributes time to Native American issues.

(Continued on Back Page)
A controversy recently erupted in the University community when the manager of the GGU bookstore, finding that novels, women's rights literature and children's books were slow sellers, chose to replace them with a selection of largely trivial magazines, including Playboy, Penthouse and Playgirl. Protests by the law school Women's Association were summarily rebuffed and First Amendment principles were raised as an impenetrable shield to informed debate on the issue.

As former Chair of the ACLU of Northern California, I am not insensitive to the First Amendment issues at stake. True, the First Amendment applies by its terms only to governmental action, not to actions of private university officials and private protesters. On the other hand, neither the ACLU nor I am blind to the reality that under some circumstances, private action may produce the same constriction of the free marketplace of ideas that the First Amendment seeks to protect from government action. Yet since I believe that government has no place in media decisions, I therefore believe that it is all the more important for private individuals to make their views known to media purveyors. This is especially true for those speaking out on behalf of groups, like women, which have traditionally been the subject of pervasive discrimination in the society, and are afforded little or no voice in the decision-making process of media publishers or distributors.

As a woman in a reasonably responsible position in the law school of a private institution of higher learning, I was forced to determine whether, on balance, my free speech right to speak out on the propriety of the manager's action would serve diversity of speech better than my remaining silent. I decided that it would, in part because of the wholesale availability of such magazines at numerous outlets just a few feet from our door, in part because I felt my viewpoint clearly had not been considered by the manager in making his judgment calls, and in part because I felt that factors properly influencing the manager of a university bookstore differed enough from those of an ordinary commercial seller that his purported commercial rationale for the magazines was particularly inappropriate and worthy of comment.

It is obvious that the manager of a non-profit bookstore in a non-profit university must consider a variety of special factors in making decisions about what to sell: chiefly the scholarly and educational needs and goals of the students in the institution. It is for this reason that many of the nation's most prestigious universities decline to displace serious scholarly materials with a magazine rack. Once he made the decision to carry magazines, however, Golden Gate's manager clearly took into account what he thought to be prevailing community standards as to appropriate, tasteful magazine offerings. He declined to carry many magazines which would move well among neighborhood businessmen—his stated target group—including anti-semitic and racist magazines and, tellingly, Hustler. The thrust of my complaint is that the same considerations which spared us Hustler—presumably its bestial and degrading depiction of women—warrant rejection of Playboy in our university bookstore.

As a practical matter, I think the anger and ridicule with which the complaints of women against pornography are greeted may well stem from men's fear that most women perceive something terribly wrong about pornography's message, something which may call into question the attitudes toward women of men who read and appreciate Playboy, something radically at odds with the otherwise "liberated" and enlightened views a man may hold concerning the equality of men and women. As author Susan Brownmiller puts it:

"The feminist objection to pornography is based on our belief that pornography represents hatred of women, that pornography's intent is to humiliate, degrade and dehumanize the female body for the purpose of erotic stimulation and pleasure."

In many respects, Playboy's treatment of women is even more destructive than its "hardcore" counterparts. Thus, gratuitously thrust into its pretentiously ponderous articles and book reviews are cartoon caricatures of naked women; incongruously spread over its centerfolds are the ridiculously posed, impossibly proportioned naked bodies of women Ph.D.'s, CPA's, lawyers, and students painstakingly recruited from Harvard. The message is clear: "Don't worry, troubled reader. Sure, she may be smarter than you; she may have a fancier degree or be more accomplished than you; but, take off her clothes, and she's just like all the rest—a piece of ass."

As a woman professor in a law school which markets itself as alert and responsive to the needs and sensibilities of its almost 50% female student body, I must differ with the manager's implicit statement that this literature comports with the tastes and standards of our university community. The April Playboy's clearest message to our women is contained in a cartoon depicting a lawyer standing with his stark naked female client before the court. The lawyer is saying, "May it please the court." Surely our women students deserve better than this at their own university's bookstore.

Editor's Note: This Spring Professor Ramey debated a representative from the Playboy Corporation at a Law School forum on "Pornography and the First Amendment." Ramey, former chairperson of the Northern California ACLU, remains active in that organization and presently serves by appointment of the Mayor on the San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women.
Faculty Notes


Michael D. De Vito has been named a member of the Advisory Board for an Educational Television Project on Pornography. De Vito has also been elected to the Law School Admissions Council Board of Trustees, and has been named Chair of the Planning Committee of the 1984 AALS annual meeting. The meeting will convene in San Francisco in January of 1984.

Barbara Rhine has become a member of the Employment Subcommittee of the San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women. The panel will be concentrating on the status of women in San Francisco city employment.

Professor Rhine has been laboring herself, meanwhile, on a book review of “Plant Closings: Public or Private Choices?”. The piece is slated for publication in Industrial Relations Law Journal.

This spring, Rhine also spoke before a number of professional groups, including the California Judges Association, the Orange County Bar Association, the State Bar Real Property Law Section, the Southern California Association of Law Librarians, the Barristers Club of San Francisco, and the Sonoma County Real Property Lawyers.

Marc Stickgold coached the Law School’s Client Counseling team to success at the A.B.A.’s Western Regional competition at U.C.L.A.

Litigation Competition Notes

The team of Jonathan Chodos and Tom Manning scored some wins for GGU Law School in this year’s MOCK TRIAL COMPETITION. The pair of third-year students won the Western Regional level competition, and then went on to finish in the top ten of 24 teams competing in the National competition in March. Both Chodos and Manning also brought home the Louis F. Powell medallion, awarded them for their outstanding performance in the national contest, sponsored jointly by the A.B.A. and a number of other groups. GGU’s Mock Trial advisor and coach, Professor Bernard Segal, says this year represents the best achievement record yet for the Law School in competition, adding that Chodos and Manning were as good as the winners.

Meanwhile, a surplus of student litigation talent led to an expansion of the GGU litigation program this year. For the first time, GGU was represented at the American Trial Lawyers’ Association Mock Trial competition. Second-year students Matt Guasco, Michael Perry, and John Vaughn performed well at the regional level competition at Willamette Law School in Salem, Oregon.

GGU law students Leslie Smith and Michael Perry represented the Law School at this year’s A.B.A.-sponsored NATIONAL CLIENT COUNSELING COMPETITION in New Orleans. The two second-year students defeated 11 other law school teams from California and Hawaii to reach the finals, which took place in March.

At the California Young Lawyers Association-Roger Traynor MOOT COURT COMPETITION, GGU Law School students Donna Duer and Caroline Valentino received the award for the second best brief. There were 22 teams competing in all.

In the regional level of the A.B.A.’s NATIONAL APPELLATE ADVOCACY COMPETITION, Paul Barulich and Daniel Dell’Osso competed with 15 other teams and successfully reached the semi-finals, where they were defeated in an extremely close match.

(Many thanks to the generous alumni who contributed time and support to preparation for the competitions.)

GGU Family Ties

Call it commiseration — families sharing the law school experience. Esther Nicastro Capon, now just wrapping up her first year at GGU, says she is looking forward to having her daughter Val join her at the Law School next fall. And GGU grad William O’Malley, also District Attorney of Contra Costa County, says it’s exciting to “talk a little law” with daughter Nancy who graduates from the Law School this spring.

Capon says it is accidental that she and her daughter will be attending Golden Gate Law School at the same time. Capon’s background is in Speech and Language Therapy, including a Master’s degree in Deaf Education from Boston University. The mother of six says law school is something she has always wanted to do, and that when her oldest son was grown and left home, she finally had the opportunity. “I was looking for a challenge. I got challenge—PLUS.”

Daughter Valerie, meanwhile, is in Italy until school starts. Valerie graduates from San Francisco State University this summer, after spending her senior year on an educational program abroad. Her degree is in Political Science.

Capon plans to join her daughter in Italy for a part of the summer. She says she and Valerie have always enjoyed a good rapport, and Capon hopes law school will only enhance their understanding. She says she is excited about being able to share with Valerie things that mothers and daughters don’t usually get to share, as a result of the legal education.

William O’Malley graduated from GGU Law School in 1961. His daughter Nancy is one of seven O’Malley children, two of whom have taken the law school route.

The older O’Malley says he would like to see his daughter follow his lead, at least in the beginning, long enough to get some jury trial experience. William O’Malley became Contra Costa County D.A. in 1969. Prior to that, he was in private practice in the East Bay, and also worked for a time as Assistant Public Defender in Contra Costa County. O’Malley is a past president of the California District Attorneys’ Association, now active on the Association’s Board of Directors and its Legislative Committee. Of his daughter, the older O’Malley says, “She gets pretty aggressive with the old man sometimes . . . I think she’ll make a good lawyer.”

Nancy O’Malley has high praise, meanwhile, for her father’s legal wisdom and integrity. She says she has fond memories of spending weekend time with her father when he worked in the public defender’s office. “I’ve known since I was eleven years old that I wanted to be a lawyer.” Nancy O’Malley has been active in GGU’s criminal litigation programs and competitions, and she says she couldn’t agree more with her father’s emphasis on practical lawyering skills. Nancy is currently working for solo practitioner Linda De Bene in Danville. She is also Chair of the Law School Graduation Committee.
Immigration Clinic Awarded Rosenberg Grant

The Immigration Law Clinic of Golden Gate University School of Law has been awarded a grant from the Rosenberg Foundation to conduct a specialized research project on issues relating to Mexican immigration to the United States.

A major area of emphasis for the project will be the effects of the visa backlogs and lengthy waiting periods facing prospective immigrants from Mexico. There is general consensus among practitioners and the community that much of the undocumented migration from Mexico has resulted from the effects of these backlogs, which often result in the separation of families. One of the research project’s goals will be to provide data, information and policy analysis which would result in legislation expanding present immigration quotas imposed on Mexican nationals.

Another primary area of research to be addressed by the project concerns the effect of a statutory provision requiring a showing of “extreme hardship” before longtime alien residents of the United States will be permitted to remain. Many practitioners feel that the “suspension of deportation” provision is administered in a manner which places extra burdens on Mexican applicants. In that regard, the project’s aim will be to collect information which would support meaningful legislation in the area and to provide indexed research data on Mexico, for use by attorneys representing Mexicans with such claims.

The Immigration Law Clinic, established in the Fall of 1980, provides policy analysis in the immigration and refugee area, trains law students interested in the field, provides services to low income clients, and acts as a backup center for various community and voluntary agencies in the Bay Area. Clinic Director, Associate Professor Bill Ong Hing, formerly directed immigration services for San Francisco Neighborhood Legal Assistance Foundation, and has been involved in several significant immigration cases. He also served on the Staff Advisory Group of the Select Commission on Immigration and Refugee Policy, and is presently serving on the Immigration Advisory Group of the State Bar Board of Legal Specialization.

The Rosenberg Foundation funds will enable the Clinic to conduct its research on a statewide basis. In addition to legal analysis which will be conducted in large part by law students, funds have been provided for consultation with social scientists and community workers.

Reggies Awarded to May Grads

Three Golden Gate grads have been awarded Reginald Heber Smith Fellowships (also known as Reggies). Melanie Carver, Carlos Lopez and May Tong, all of the 1983 class, will be assigned to work in different Legal Services offices. Tong and Lopez will remain in California, while Carver will work in Texas.

The program is administered by Howard University and funded by the Legal Services Corporation. It operates on the premise that vigorous practice of the law plays an effective and substantial role in the alleviation of poverty. To that end, it seeks aggressive and sensitive lawyers with a high degree of competence and imagination.

The fellowships, awarded for one year and renewable for a second, are coveted by graduates with an interest in public interest law. They provide Fellows with an excellent opportunity for involvement in low-income communities. Smith Fellows have successfully employed the following legal methods in representing the poor:

1. Reform of administrative procedures that adversely affect the poor;
2. Advice and representation to organizations and individuals in poor communities;
3. Impact litigation; and
4. Assisting the economic and social development of poor communities.

Alumni Notes

Class of 1982

Tom Norton and Charma Pipersky (’81) were married in May. Both are practicing in the Bay Area.

Class of 1980

Michael C. Osborne is currently a deputy district attorney for El Dorado County in South Lake Tahoe. He was married in October, 1982, to Bernadette Morley of San Francisco.

Diane Whitney has opened a law office with two partners which handles all civil matters but specializes in Family Law and Immigration at 165 O'Farrell Street across from Macy's Union Square.

Class of 1979

Ruth I. Frishman was recently a speaker on Property Management at the National Multi-Housing World Annual Conference in Atlanta, Georgia in April. In addition, her article on ‘Public Relations for Housing Authority Commissioners' will be published in the Journal of Housing.

Class of 1978

Michael Friedman is the President of the Bay Area chapter of the National Lawyers Guild which has a local membership of over 1,000. Friedman is also a member of the Fruitvale Law Collective in Oakland, primarily a labor practice with special attention to Union democracy issues.

Julie Simon has formed a partnership for the general practice of law with three other attorneys at 4796 Business Park Blvd., Suite 4, in Anchorage, Alaska.

Class of 1974

Jean Wilcox has announced a full-time practice as a labor arbitrator. Formerly Senior West Coast Counsel for the Department of Navy's Civilian Personnel Law Division, Jean has done a considerable amount of lecturing and speaking on labor law and discrimination law. She is located in San Francisco, but works throughout California.

Class of 1972

Michael B. Jones recently moved his office from San Rafael to Redwood City, California, where he maintains a general practice with emphasis on personal injury and business litigation, dissolution of marriage and business formation.

Scott Wins $3 Million Civil Rights Suit

Alumnus John Scott (’76) made headlines recently for winning a $3 million dollar award in a civil rights suit against the Richmond Police Department. Scott's co-counsel was NAACP Regional Counsel Oliver Jones.

The suit was brought as a result of the police slayings of two black men, Johnny Roman, 25, in 1980 and Micheal Guillory, 21, in 1982. Both men were shot and killed in their bedrooms.

The four-month trial established a pattern and practice of racial discrimination and police brutality directed against Blacks. Black police officers and citizens testified about practices within the department.

The trial decided by a jury of six was held before Federal District Court Judge Robert Aguilar, who will determine in the weeks that follow what reforms the Richmond Police Department will have to institute.

For Jones and Scott, both in their early 30's, the victory is similar to a 1980-81 civil rights case involving the Richmond police department, which resulted in some reforms and a fee award of $700,000 for the pair.

Scott says he became involved with these civil rights suits as a result of representing some Richmond citizens who had been brutalized by police. Scott says he was "so morally outraged" that he began to represent people in criminal actions without cash retainers.

In coming months Scott and Jones will be pursuing civil rights actions against Richmond for another citizen death, and against the Los Angeles Police Department.
Golden Gate Grad Lands Honors Program with Justice Department

The United States Justice Department has selected Patrick Coughlin ('83) for its Honors Program. Coughlin is one of six selected nationally to work in the Department's Criminal Division in Washington, D.C. The selection process for the program is highly competitive. In San Francisco only fifteen of approximately six hundred applicants received interviews. The program hires law grads directly from school or after one-year post-graduate judicial clerkships.

During law school, Coughlin worked for the U.S. Attorney’s Office in San Francisco and tried ten petty offenses. He took Professor Bernie Segal’s Criminal Litigation class and, in his last semester, he clerked for District Court Judge Eugene F. Lynch. Coughlin and his wife Philomena are originally from Phoenix. Philomena works for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and will complete a B.S. in business at San Francisco State this Fall.

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"Too many lawyers lose sight of their ethical obligation to do pro-bono work," Fox says. He feels it is important for the profession that attorneys get involved with citizens on a human level, let people know that we are not all Watergate-types or Philadelphia lawyers. In doing that, you get to be the first lawyer some people will ever have access to."

The workload is manageable and Fox says the message he would like to reach other alums is that you can do it [pro-bono work] without burying yourself." Fox says he’s put in a couple of hundred hours in the last two to three months but is still able to maintain an income-generating practice.