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Alumni Forum, Summer 1985

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Chief Justice Rose Bird Speaks at Graduation

California Supreme Court Chief Justice Rose Bird gave the commencement address at the graduation of the Class of 1985 at the Masonic Auditorium on Saturday, May 25. Currently the focus of a campaign to unseat her, the Chief Justice offered the graduating class personal, not legal advice. Some excerpts:

“You will earn some money, perhaps a lot of money, for your services. You will work hard, perhaps very hard, in order to earn that money. You will learn a lot about a few areas of the law, and you will forget a lot about many others. You will be confronted with ethical problems throughout your legal career, and you will be expected to resolve them ethically. You will also be expected to handle a lot of stress with equanimity and poise and still maintain your relationships with family and friends in an open and caring manner. And you will be expected to pay your bar dues more or less on time.”

In her address, Chief Justice Bird stressed that professional satisfaction depends upon each new lawyer caring enough to perform his or her craft as well as possible.

“The law should be more than just a job; it should be your calling. People perform jobs to make money, but as a lawyer who cares for his or her craft, you must do more than that. You must make a difference. A calling, in the words of the authors of the book Habits of the Heart, ‘links a person to the larger community, a whole in which the calling of each is a contribution to the good of all.’

“The skill and care that you bring to those tasks can in turn enhance their worth and merit.

“If the law is to be more than just your job, you must also have some feeling for the larger task that you’re about, for the system of justice of which you are a part. That’s right a system of justice. That is what law is all about in the first place—justice and the creation and preservation of a just society.

“Lawyers weren’t invented to divine the meaning of conflicts between the regulations of the I.R.S. and the rulings of the tax courts. Lawyers may perform that task very well, but that’s not why they came into existence and that’s not why they are essential to the well-being of our society. It is because, at their best, lawyers are peacemakers, order keepers, problem solvers, tension diffusers, and liberty protectors.”

She cautioned against too much goal-oriented thinking which can
Alumni Gather for Class Reunions

Close to 50 alumni and their guests attended the May 18 reunions held for the Classes of 1960, 1965 and 1970. Larry Blunt and Fred Jones won honors for representing the earliest class, 1960. Martin Hochman (Class of 1970) won honors for traveling the farthest to attend, coming up for the weekend from San Diego. The Class of 1965 had the largest turnout with 13 class members, due to the organization and follow-up by class volunteers Barbara Goldeen, Dennis O’Brien and Norman Spellberg. The Alumni Office thanks these three alumni for their continuing support of the School of Law. Thank you as well to volunteers Lance Rideout (Class of 1960) and Jerome Lerch and Kathryn Ringgold (Class of 1970). We encourage all of you to attend your class reunion when the time comes.
Spotlight on Norman Spellberg

Norman Spellberg (Class of 1965) remembers how difficult it was to concentrate in his Evidence class. “It was the last year Golden Gate was located at the YMCA,” he recalls, “and they used to play basketball on the floor above my Evidence class.” But it would seem that this alumnus overcame such a handicap: early this year he was chosen to preside over the Contra Costa County Superior Court.

Spellberg was 40 years old when he received his JD from Golden Gate. Previously, with a degree from the University of Illinois, he worked as a research chemist for the Sherwin Williams Company and later became chief chemist and resin plant manager for Desoto Chemical. Spellberg holds several patents in chemistry and was the inventor of thermoplastic, which is used in making the heavy white stripes on roadways and crosswalks.

In 1960, Spellberg served on a civil trial jury and discovered law. He chose to attend Golden Gate because he had a family to raise and needed to go to night school so he could work full time. “Golden Gate appeared to be the best school around,” he says. He finished in four and a half years but managed to pass the bar before graduating. He recalls graduating on a Friday and being admitted to practice the next Monday.

Spellberg first joined the San Francisco firm of Hoppe, Mitchell, Murtha and Anderson and then, in 1967, opened his own practice in Pleasant Hill. Nine years later, Governor Jerry Brown appointed him to the Municipal Court of the Mount Diablo Judicial District. In 1980, the governor appointed him to the newly-created Department 14 bench of the Contra Costa County Superior Court.

As the presiding judge for 1985, Spellberg oversees the administration of a $3 million court operation that handles about 1,000 criminal and 20,000 civil cases a year. He also decides which judges will hear which cases.

Spellberg says he already misses hearing trials, but his administrative role will last only one year, after which he will return to his usual judicial functions. He lives in Lafayette, CA with his wife, Marjorie.

Alumni Placement Services

Golden Gate law alumni may now take advantage of all services offered by the University Career Planning and Placement Center. For those seeking alternatives to practice the center, located in room 301, has numerous business and government job listings. This service is available free for the first year after graduation and then for a modest $30 annual fee.

Alumni are invited to attend any of the Career Planning Center’s Group Services Programs, which include intensive workshops on job search strategies and skills labs in interviewing, salary negotiation, networking, etc. These are offered as day and evening sessions designed to “provide structure, strategy and support for addressing issues and tasks of the total career development process.”

Also available are videotaped interviewing skills sessions. These are in heavy demand, so law grads must sign up one day in advance.

For flyers describing the offered programs and for reservations for any of these services, go to Room 301 or call (415) 442-7239.

The Law Placement Office, located in room 205, continues to be available for alumni at no cost. Job listing binders are updated daily, and are available on weekdays, usually until 6:45pm (call ahead to confirm late hours), and from 5pm Friday through the weekend in the reserve room of the law library. The number of legal jobs listed with Golden Gate has more than doubled in the past year; over 1,000 attorney and law clerk jobs were posted between 7/1/84, and 3/31/85.

Law Placement Director Jane Thomson is available, by appointment, for individual consultation with law graduates seeking new employment. She can be reached at (415) 442-7237.

GGU Receives Bequest

Golden Gate University Law School has received a $750,000 bequest from Lawrence A. Cowen (Class of 1925), a San Rafael attorney who died on November 25, 1984, at the age of 87. After a brief career in professional baseball, a stint in the U.S. Air Corps, and several years as a bookkeeper, Cowen was admitted to GGU Law School despite his lack of a college degree. He graduated in 1925 at the top of his class and went on to establish a successful civil and criminal practice in Marin County.

Cowen, a long-time supporter of GGU, left the majority of his estate to the Law School. The money resulting from the sale of Cowen’s property, expected to be about $750,000, will be invested and the interest used to award Law School scholarships.

In other fundraising notes, Development Director Jack Carter has announced that the Phil Burton Scholarship Fund now stands at over $61,000. This sum has been donated by nearly 240 contributors, and is the single largest endowment ever raised by the School. Anyone wishing to remember Phil Burton, the late San Francisco congressman and alumnus of the Law School, may send a contribution to: Phil Burton Fund, Golden Gate Law School Development Office, 536 Mission Street, San Francisco, CA 94105.
It has been a relatively quiet year, yet major events affecting the Law School have occurred. In this brief note I am writing to inform you of them.

In early April we were visited and inspected for purposes of reaccreditation by four representatives of the American Bar Association and the Association of American Law Schools. These visits are conducted every seven years, and they are obviously of critical importance. We spent months in preparation, primarily in compiling answers to a voluminous questionnaire and in drafting a self-study statement which described the goals, strengths, weaknesses and forward direction of the School. This process, tedious though it often was, required introspection and reexamination of our core values, and in this sense it was a valuable experience.

Indeed, a major component of the visit, in addition to a determination of our compliance with accreditation standards, involved the opportunity to interact with legal educators from other institutions and to obtain their reactions and advice. They were extraordinarily perceptive. A report will be sent to us soon and will thereafter be placed before the formal reaccrediting boards of both associations. From comments that were made at the time of the visit, however, the team members appeared to be impressed by the quality of the faculty, the excellence of the library and its staff, the loyalty and dedication of students and alumni, the support offered by the Board of Trustees and Visiting Committee, and the efficiency of the administrative staff. Of course, deficiencies were also noted, e.g., the problems associated with declining enrollment, the lack of an alumni director, the inadequacy of the second floor classroom, and the lack of integration of the LL.M. Program in Taxation with the rest of the Law School. Of most of these we were aware. It was good to hear praise and also good to receive constructive advice about previously identified problems.

One of those problems, as you know, is the continuing, nationwide decline in applications to law schools. So far this year our Admissions Office has received 13 percent fewer applications than it received last year. To maintain the quality of the student body, we are continuing to decrease enrollment, but we are also admitting some students with lower credentials than would have been acceptable in prior years. To compensate, and also to improve the bar passage rate, the faculty has instituted more rigorous academic standards. For example, grading curves were lowered last year. We have also instituted a mid-year admission program in which students will take Criminal Law, Constitutional Law, Professional Responsibility and Writing and Research in the spring semester. Interest in this option has so far exceeded our expectations, and, if it is successful, this program should blunt the enrollment decline in other divisions.

On balance I am pleased with the current status of the School. Students and faculty have been working hard. Scholarly productivity has increased.

We now have an excellent Placement Office which recorded 1,000 employment opportunities in the first nine months of this year. We are grateful to our alumni who have helped in getting this operation back on its feet by responding to surveys and providing job listings. The application decline is a major, continuing, worrisome problem, but there is a growing perception that this School is getting stronger and is "on the move." That perception is accurate.

—Dean John P. Wilson

Alumni NOTES

Class of 1985

Lori Suzuki (LL.M., '85) has recently joined the accounting firm of Hirose, Oto and Bailey in Oakland. Previously she was the executive director of Nihonmachi Legal Outreach, an organization which gives legal assistance to low and moderate income people in the Asian/Pacific community.

Reception for Top Golden Gate Students

On March 29, Law School Dean John P. Wilson hosted the first annual wine and cheese reception to honor the school's top students. The students invited to the reception distinguished themselves by making the Dean's List or serving as editors of the Law Review, or by taking part in various law school competitions or the Student Bar Association. These students are:

Dean's List
Celeste Bell
(also honored for Client Counseling Competition)
Susan Berman
(also honored for Client Counseling Competition)
Sally Gratz
Thomas Graudin
(also honored for Caveat)
Katherine E. Hardy
Susan Holland
Anthony Iatrala
Marlis McAllister
(also honored for National Moot Court Competition)
Bryan McKown
Allan Miles
David Simpson
Carolyn Tawasha
Catherine Ward
Michael Williams
Rebecca Young
(also honored as a Law Review Associate Editor)

Client Counseling Competition
Louise Ebeling
Virginia Greene
Barbara Monty
Luis Padilla, Jr.
Andrea Palash
(Will represent GGU in the ABA regional finals. Also honored as Vice President of SBA.)
Diane M. Ravnik
(also honored as a Law Review Associate Editor)

Law Review Associate Editors
Barry Gorelick
Marianne Kara
Patricia Turnage
Steve Rosenthal

National Mock Trial Competition
Karen G. Gruneisen
Timothy Rowley

National Student Trial Advocacy Competition
Tammy Manis
Paul M. Marigonda
William Panzer

SBA
Morgan Christen, President

Stonewall Law Caucus
Anne-Elynn Kolber
Lesbians in Law
Patricia Szumowski
Phi Alpha Delta
Delphine Szymbrowski
Class of 1984

Kevin Anderson and David King are now associates with Ericksen & Arbuthnot in Oakland, CA, while Edith Treviso has been hired by Ericksen & Arbuthnot's Fresno office.

Jose Marin is now a deputy district attorney in Contra Costa County.

Rose Mikovsky is clerking for a justice of the Nevada Supreme Court.

Steven Z. Feuer is an associate with the law office of Philip J. Devine in Oneonta, NY.

Ann Casper has just been hired by the Contra Costa Public Defender's Office.

Laurie Hedrich has been hired by Itel Corporation. She will specialize in tax law.

Susan Griffin is a deputy district attorney with the Contra Costa County District Attorney's Office.

Julie Houk has just opened a solo practice in Berkeley, CA, emphasizing civil rights litigation, mental health law, personal injury (plaintiff's) and criminal law.

Craig Bissell is now with Great Western Leasing in Reno, NV.

Peter Meshot is clerking for Justice Richard Sims of the Third District Court of Appeals in Sacramento, CA.

Herbert Fried is an associate with New & Kay.

Paula Jones is an associate in the employee benefits group at Pillsbury, Madison & Sutro.

Louis Esbin is a law clerk for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Oakland, CA.

Gale Farlow has become associated with Jacobs & Jacobs in San Leandro, CA.

Neal Konami is a tax consultant with Arthur Andersen, CPA's.

Louise Sabella is a staff attorney for the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Michele Lane is now house counsel for Distributed Technology in Pleasanton.

Class of 1983

Rita Anne Becker is the new president of the Marin County Women Lawyers' Association.

Daniel Linchey is now associated with Goldberg, Stinnett and MacDonald.

Linda J. Lezotte (L.L.M., '83) is senior associate with Bialsen, Bergen & Schwab in Palo Alto, CA with an emphasis in real estate, estate planning and business and tax matters.

Deborah Morgan is an employee specialist for Blue Cross of California.

Deirdre McHugh is associated with Cartwright, Sucherman, of San Francisco, CA.

Will Glennon has established his own civil litigation practice, specializing in tort appeals. He is also on retainer to the California Trial Lawyers' Association as its legal issues media representative.

Linda Z. Chester has joined Himmelheber & Allen in San Mateo. The firm specializes in the general practice of real estate, business and personal injury, criminal defense, probate, family law and bankruptcy.

Richard Stott has joined the firm of Disney, Huddleston, Nathans and Stott in general practice in Concord, CA.

Lois Lindstrom is now with Ericksen, Arbuthnot, McCarthy Kearney and Walsh in San Francisco.

Michele Modena-Kurpinsky is an associate in the labor group at Pillsbury, Madison & Sutro.

Harris Taback has become associated with the Law Offices of Stephen J. Heiser in San Francisco.

Kathleen Thompson is currently working in the I.N.S. Frankfurt, Germany office.

Jeffrey Drabin has opened his own practice in San Jose.

Leigh Duff is assistant counsel/assistant corporate secretary with the United Services Life Insurance in Washington, D.C.

Barbara Maw recently finished a clerkship with a Supreme Court justice in Utah. She is now an associate with Strong and Hanni in Salt Lake City, UT.

Sara MacDwyer is with Gladstein, Arons & Benjamin in San Francisco.

Kathy Pearson has a solo practice in workers' compensation and employment discrimination.

Andrew Blumen is with Combs & Associates in Las Vegas, NV.

Paul Handleman is completing an LL.M. at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C.

Brian Connors is an associate at Berger & Taggart in San Francisco.

Alison Erca is working for Carlos Bea Law Corporation in San Francisco.

Elliot Kessler is now a research attorney with the California Supreme Court's central staff.

Robert Lowney is working for Matthew Bender in San Francisco.

Victoria Park is working on an LL.M. in England.

David Nickerson is now with the Law Offices of Richard Mazer in San Francisco.

Samuel Ragent is a deputy public defender in San Joaquin County.

Deborah Randolph is now associated with Bernal Heights Law Office in San Francisco.

Jim Scherer has become associated with Bennett, Samuelson, Reynolds & Allard in San Francisco.

Class of 1982

Michael J. Markowitz, former deputy district attorney for Contra Costa County, has joined the firm of continued

ANNUAL MEETING
STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA
SAN DIEGO
September 27 - October 1, 1985
Watch your summer mail for news of the annual Law School alumni event held in conjunction with the State Bar Annual Meeting!!!
continued

Thiessen, Gagen & McCoy in Danville, CA. He will specialize in civil and criminal litigation.

Thomas Slocumb has begun his own practice in the Tribune Tower in Oakland where he specializes in immigration law.

Robert M. Fanucci has joined The Bank of New York as an assistant vice president in the Financial Counseling Service Department in Manhattan, NY. He also attends New York University Graduate Law School where he is working towards an LLM in tax law.

Cheryl Merrick was elected justice of the San Francisco Alumni Chapter of P.A.D. which includes CGU, USF and Hastings graduates.

Joely Lipsig is now senior writ clerk with the U.S. District Court in Sacramento, CA.

Barbara Evans was recently promoted. She is now corporate counsel with Glenborough Corporations.

Barbara Barrett announces the opening of her law offices at 850 Montgomery St., San Francisco. Her practice emphasizes real estate and personal injury litigation. She also handles family law and probate matters.

After an extended trip abroad, Regina Marchione has become associated with the law offices of Kathryn Ringgold. The San Francisco firm specializes in workers’ compensation.

Deborah Sandler has opened her own law office in Berkeley, CA.

Class of 1981

Margaret P. Baker has joined The Law Offices of Walter K. Lucas in Lucas Valley, CA. The firm specializes in civil, defense and trial practice.

Leslie Ganz is now a title closer with Ticor Title Guarantee Company in Manhattan, NY.

Blake Gunderson has become associated with the law practice of John A. Barker in Madera, CA. Calling the Bay Area “clotted and overcrowded with lawyers,” Gunderson said he was looking for a place to grow: “Madera seems to fit the bill.” Previously he worked for a San Leandro civil law practice and clerked with the U.S. Attorney’s Office in San Francisco for a year.

Robert Nichols was recently elected vice-mayor of Albany, CA.

Theresa Cleary is now an associate with Management Analysis Center, a general management consulting firm in Cambridge, MA. She recently completed an MBA at Stanford Graduate School of Business.

Class of 1980

As of February 1985, John Douglas Moore and Daniel Parr Marshall, III, have relocated their offices to Pier 24, the Embarcadero, in San Francisco.

Bernard Galitz has opened a law office at 333 West Maude Ave., Sunnyvale, CA.

Diana Bateman Lacke is now an attorney with Crocker National Bank. She lives in Lafayette, CA.

Margaret O’Rourke was one of two attorneys practicing on the Mendocino coast spotlighted in the San Francisco County Recorder in January. Claiming that she became a lawyer so she would have a trade to get out of the city, O’Rourke is now the only woman in private practice on the coast. That “brings a lot of work. About three-quarters of my practice is family law for women.”

Ellen Shapiro has settled in the Bay Area after four years of public defender work in South Carolina.

Class of 1979

Gary Silver has opened a solo practice in Orinda, CA, and is now engaged in general practice law.

Barry P. Garrison has become an associate with Gendron & Gendron in Madera, CA.

As of March of this year, Walter E. Switzer is chief assistant city prosecutor for the city of Mesa, AZ.

Gary T. McDonald has recently been elected president and director of U.S. National Finance, a mortgage brokerage and banking organization headquartered in Castro Valley, CA. He is responsible for negotiating commercial real estate lending transactions for the company as well as business and real estate litigation.

Karen Hawkins is now a partner with Gary D. Berger and William E. Taggart at their San Francisco law firm.

Ruth Ratzlaff is now the chairperson of the Fresno County Bar Association’s Estate Planning, Tax and Probate section. She is also an attorney with Kings River Law Center in Reedley, CA.

Class of 1978

Don Lau is one of two Asian American veterans of the Vietnam War who have formed a group entitled Asian Pacific American Vietnam Veterans. The first goal of the APAVV is the construction of a memorial to Asian American Vietnam veterans.

Sandra L. Golvin and Joan Richardson have become members of the firm of Graham & James as of January of this year.

Class of 1977

JoAnne Robbins (Joey Logsden) is presently trial counsel with the State Bar of California in Los Angeles.

Randall Berning has recently published a book on the legal aspects of dentistry entitled the Personalized Guide to Legal Issues.

Karen Kadushin was chosen Volunteer of the Month for May by the Bar Association of San Francisco (BASF) for her pro bono work. She has often served as an expert at their Family Law and Legal Advice and Referral Clinics, is a past president of BASF’s Barristers Club and is presently a member of BASF’s Board of Directors as well as that of Legal Assistance to the Elderly. She also performed in “Briefs III,” the third annual musical comedy review for the benefit of Legal Assistance to the Elderly.

Class of 1974

Darryl C. Henning has become general counsel for Ross Financial Group, a business investments and management company in Mill Valley, CA.

Ruth Astle, the immediate past president of Queen’s Bench, has been named by San Francisco Mayor Dianne Feinstein to head the new Eviction Unit of the San Francisco Residential Rent Stabilization Board. Astle has worked with the board since 1980, first as a hearing officer and then as commissioner.

In Memorium

Walter Winter, (Class of 1957) died on April 14, 1985, at the age of 54. A well-known divorce lawyer, Winter handled over 3,000 divorces during his career in San Francisco, CA. He was the author of several books on divorce, including Divorce and You. An avid yachtsman, he founded an organization to take disabled children out sailing called SHYP—Sailing Helps Young People. He is survived by two children, David M. Winter and Wendy H. Winter, both of Tiburon, CA, and a brother, Rabbi Fritz Winter of Montevideo, Uruguay.
result in frustration and misconceptions.

"In our competitive society, our perception of success is often based more on an image created by others than on our own sense of well-being. In that context, we begin to measure our personal success by the failure of others and to resent the success of others because we are not they. You really can't control very much of what happens to you in your life. But what you can control is how you react to the things that do happen to you. And there, I believe, is the key to finding out about life."

The Chief Justice told the graduating law students that in their future lives as attorneys, it was important to maintain a human perspective. "The law is to be your profession, but it must not become your obsession. You were, after all, human beings before you came to law school. And, with any luck, you'll remain human beings after you receive your degree today. So let's keep it that way. But I'm not saying that will be easy.

"As new lawyers, you are going to be working hard. Whether you go into a large firm or hang out your shingle, a lot of people will be expecting a lot from you—partners, clients, judges, and so forth. As Elvis Costello once said, 'Welcome to the working week. I know it don't thrill you, I hope it won't kill you.' Fourteen-hour days, seven-day weeks, unrelenting deadlines, and incessant phone calls.

"The pressures are there, and they definitely have the potential to skew your perceptions of the world and distort your development as a human being. When others treat you as an object, there is a strong temptation to do unto them what they are doing unto you.

"The dangers of such a response are great. People are reduced to things which can be manipulated to reach a goal. But stripping people of their humanity, when carried to extremes, is the stuff that slavery and concentration camps are made of. And even in its mildest forms, it robs you of a measure of your own humanity and blinds you to the pain you may be causing others. The competitive aspects of our society only reinforce this tendency to view the practice of law as a form of combat in which feelings are banished from the war zone and only the heartless survive.

"To live fully and face life with dignity, we must have courage—courage to do what is right, even though it may be unpopular; courage to fight injustice, even though it may cost us dearly; courage to be ourselves, even though that may not be what someone else wants us to be. Perhaps Martin Luther King, Jr. said it best in one of the last speeches he was ever to give: 'It is not the quantity of one's life that is important; it is the quality of one's character.'"
Faculty NEWS

In April, Michael M. Golden was appointed to the State Bar Committee on Administration of Justice which reviews all prospective legislation concerning civil procedure and recommends to the Board of Governors whether to support or oppose such legislation. "I'm honored by the appointment. In my opinion, the work done by this committee is crucially important in arriving at a proper balance between efficiency and fairness in the rules under which civil litigation is conducted," he said.

Myron Moskovitz had an article in the May issue of California Lawyer on recent rent control cases. This summer he will serve on a series of CEB panels on landlord-tenant law and rent control law. He will speak on "Winning An Appeal" at CEB's Summer Lecture Series at UCLA and on how to write an appellate brief at three programs put on by the State Public Defender and the Hastings Advocacy Program.

Judy McKelvey is now serving on two committees—the Bar Association of San Francisco's Juvenile Justice Committee and the State Bar's Interim Consortium on Lawyer Competence.

Professor Michael Golden

Part-time faculty member Joan Blades has just had a book published by Prentice-Hall entitled Mediate Your Divorce. She taught mediation at GGU this past year.

Assistant Dean Vivian Walker was recently elected to the Board of Trustees of the Research Foundation of Community Associations Institute (CAI) and is serving as director of the Executive Committee of the Foundation in 1985. CAI is a nationwide nonprofit organization based in Washington, D.C., that assists in the development and management of homeowner, condominium and co-op associations, town house projects and planned unit developments. It provides research, education, consultation and a national forum of information exchange. Walker also co-authored a chapter in CAI's pamphlet, Resolving Association Disputes; her chapter was entitled "The Dynamics of Dispute Processing in Condominium Associations."

Nancy Carol Carter will now chair the newly-created advisory committee for the American Association of Law Libraries Publications Series. She co-edited a recently published seminar on micrographics in law libraries in Law Library Journal which also published an article entitled "Fee-Based Services in Academic Law Libraries," written with Scott B. Pagel, GGU's public service librarian. Additionally, Legal Reference Services Quarterly has accepted an article of Carter's entitled "American Indian Law: Research and Sources."

Bill Hing has accepted a multi-year commitment at Stanford Law School as a visiting professor. He will develop an immigration law program there beginning in the fall of 1985.

Professor Les Minkus was recently appointed chair of the Bar Association of San Francisco's Legal Ethics Committee.