Fall 1985

Alumni Forum, Fall 1985

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GGU Hosts Year-Long Conference on Courts

On September 6, former Watergate prosecutor Archibald Cox opened the first forum in a six-part, year-long series entitled *An American Tradition: Our Independent Courts*, co-sponsored by Golden Gate Law School, the San Francisco chapter of the ACLU, and the Bar Association of San Francisco. The forums, which are open to the public, will be held about every ten weeks from now until May in the Law School’s auditorium.

The series will focus on the independence of the judiciary, an issue of current interest due to the upcoming ballot confirmation of several state Supreme Court justices and will address such questions as: is the organized opposition to the justices part of a larger effort to politicize the judiciary? and is the independence of the judiciary coming under attack?

The purpose of the series, according to ACLU chapter president Chandler Visher, “is to provide, in an exciting way, a kind of civics course in the history and purpose of an independent judiciary.”

The first forum, entitled “Back to Fundamentals—Philosophy, Politics and a Little History, Too,” was designed to provide a broad view of the philosophical and political history of the tripartite system of government. Cox, who is now the Carl M. Loeb University Professor Emeritus at Harvard University, traced the history of the American tradition of judicial independence to the pre-Revolutionary colonial period, and discussed the many threats to such independence since then—beginning with the administration of Thomas Jefferson, which saw efforts to impeach Supreme Court members for “thwarting the will” of the electorate.

Commenting on judicial independence, he said that it obligates judges to decide “according to law...which implies a generality of principles binding the judges and applied consistently not only to all persons today, but yesterday and tomorrow... ‘The Court must preserve its legitimacy and the ideal of law by invoking a majestic sense of continuity, but it must also discover some composition with the dominant needs and aspirations of its times. The dilemma is insoluble; but by careful attention to the discipline of legal reasoning a great judge can minimize the danger of writing personal values or preferences into decisions while also demonstrating that the new law which the court must make from time to time is linked to an inherited tradition. In any event, the judge must learn to live within the horns of the dilemma. The judge who persistently confuses—not is charged with confusing, but actually and persistently confuses—law with his or her personal values...invites attacks upon judicial independence.”

Professor Cox did not refrain from bringing his history lesson into modern perspective. Regarding the upcoming Supreme Court ballot confirmations, he said he believes judicial independence is also threatened “if public figures or the media make issue out of particular judicial decisions or even the general course of decisions rendered by judges up for reelection.”

The next in the series is “Who’s Judging Whom—the Media, the People and the Judiciary,” a presentation by pollster Mervin Field on how local media have shaped the public debate over the issue of judicial independence. Mr. Field will also discuss public perception of the role of the judiciary. That forum is scheduled for Wednesday, December 4 at 7pm in the Law School Auditorium.

On Friday, February 14, at 7pm, former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark will lead a discussion entitled “Justice Under Stress: The National Perspective.” The series will conclude in the spring with a debate on the issue of judicial independence as it relates to the ballot confirmation.

Tickets for each forum run from $3 to $5 and are available at BASS outlets and at the door.
Important Torts Treatise Out

Quick: what are the recognized defenses in California to a complaint of interference with prospective economic advantage? What causes of action besides negligence may be applicable against physicians in a California personal injury case? What are the most recent State Supreme Court pronouncements on the right to privacy?

Answers to these and countless other tort questions used to entail hours of research for the California practitioner. A typical procedure might be to start with Prosser On Torts and then move on to a specific literature and case law search. But now the answers can be found in a single, reliable and authoritative source: California Torts, the six volume guide to civil tort law, co-edited by Golden Gate law professors Neil Levy and Michael Golden and renown torts lawyer Leonard Sacks. Published by Matthew Bender, the treatise is the first multi-volume torts treatise ever printed and includes contributions by other Golden Gate faculty as well as alumni.

"This is the most monumental work in the field of torts," explains Professor Golden, who currently teaches civil procedure and remedies and is procedure editor of the California Tort Reporter. "Nothing approaches it in size or significance. It covers every single case of potential significance to the California tort practitioner."

Professor Levy, who currently teaches torts and insurance law and is co-publisher of the Tort Reporter stresses that the treatise is "designed for attorneys who are solving clients' problems."

Other Golden Gate contributors to California Torts were: Professor Allan Brotsky, author of the chapter on discovery and Professor Les Minkus, writing on attorney-client relations. Alumni involved in the project were Will Glennon (Class of 1983), now in appellate practice, who wrote the chapter on privacy; Rita Howard (Class of 1973), who coordinated the project for Matthew Bender and Matthew Bender legal writers Judy Freeman Rood (Class of 1975) and Michael Fenger (Class of 1979).

California Torts includes detailed discussions on all possible theories of civil tort liability (except strict products liability), defenses to the liability actions covered, rules for measuring damages and the types of damages recoverable, procedural issues, and thorough case and statutory citations.

The first three volumes are now available. They cover general principles of liability, torts relating to real property, conveyances and carriers, and liability for professional services. The remaining three volumes will be available in December. For information on ordering the treatise, call Matthew Bender toll-free at 800-833-3630.

Alumnus Runs Court Computer

Patrick Fisher (Class of 1981) has been named the new computer systems manager for the Ninth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals. His first task will be to oversee the complete computerization of the Ninth Circuit's dockets.

During the summer between his second and third years at Golden Gate, Fisher was an intern in the court's executive office, where he developed an interest in court management. He worked as a deputy clerk of the court during his final school year and after passing the bar stayed at the Ninth Circuit as a case management supervisor.

He soon became interested in the court's computer automation program, and took courses in computer programming before being appointed to oversee the court's entire computer system in January.

The electronic docketing system, Fisher says, should be in full operation this fall, eliminating the need for typewriters, manual tickler files and misplaced docket sheets. In the short run, the system will help attorneys meet deadlines. The eventual goal is to allow an emergency motion filed anywhere in the circuit to be before a judge within minutes.
**Annual Fund-raising Efforts a Big Success**

As a result of a year-end Annual Fund mailing and phonathon to all alumni, more than $10,000 was received by the Law School. For the first time, giving categories were established for donors as follows: $500 or more, Chairman’s Club; $300 or more, President’s Club; $200 or more, Dean’s Club; $100 or more, Professor’s Club; $25 to $99, Lecturer’s Club.

Dean John P. Wilson emphasized that the Annual Fund is to play a more important role in Law School fund-raising in the future. One of the Dean’s highest priorities is to build stronger ties with the alumni. The Law School has joined with the University proper on a $12 million capital campaign and the participation of alumni is vital, not only for the funds themselves, but also as proof to outside funding sources, such as foundations and corporations, that the School’s own “family” is fully participating.

At the conclusion of each Annual Fund, the names of the Law School alumni donors will be published in the Alumni Forum.

**Bar Pass Rate is Up**

The results of the February, 1985, bar exam are in and Golden Gate Law School students showed a dramatic improvement in their pass rate. Over 49 percent of the school’s first time takers passed, which is an increase of nearly 12 percent over the previous exam. The rate is now within one percent of the pass rate for all first time takers from ABA schools in the state. The pass rate for repeat takers from Golden Gate was 34.1 percent, an improvement of several points over the prior exam.

The Law School’s overall pass rate was over 38 percent, up seven points from the last exam and five points higher than the overall pass rate for all first time takers from ABA schools in the state. The pass rate for repeat takers from Golden Gate was 34.1 percent, an improvement of several points over the prior exam.

**Spotlight on Judge Alfonzo Fernandez**

Alfonzo Fernandez (Class of 1975) was appointed earlier this year by Governor Deukmejian to the Municipal Court of the Santa Clara County Judicial District.

Fernandez received his BA in government and political science from the University of San Francisco, and immediately entered Golden Gate. “I wanted to be a lawyer since I’ve been in high school, and Golden Gate was a good school with a good reputation,” the new judge says. “But while in law school I never imagined I’d be a judge.”

After graduation, Fernandez became a deputy district attorney for Santa Clara county, where he worked on a sexual assault team, handled a wide range of trial assignments, and supervised the criminal calendar of the Municipal Court in San Jose.

Fernandez took his place on the bench on February 15, and he says that he enjoys the position, although it is very different from practicing law. “Being objective and open minded is a lot harder than I expected, after being an advocate for so long.”

Fernandez is a member of the Santa Clara County Bar Association, the La Raza Lawyers, Santa Clara chapter, and the California District Attorneys Association. He lives in Campbell, CA.

**Chairman’s Club - $500**
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- Richard Groff ’66
- Mary E. Langer ’54
- Emmett A. Murphy ’48
- Arthur David Neehan ’41
- Diana E. Richmond ’73

**President’s Club - $300**
- Kenneth Drexler
- Joseph R. Renach ’55
- Lucas R. Robins ’77

**Dean’s Club - $200**
- Arthur D. Coleman, M.D., ’56
- William G. Lane ’68

**Professor’s Club - $100**
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- Randall K. Berning ’77
- Elise Ezzo Curoatto ’81
- Joseph B. Durr ’77
- Steven M. Goldblatt ’77
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- Steven A. Boyarkin ’81
- James S. Hurwitz ’68
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- Leonard M. Levy ’39
- J. Andrew McKenna ’77
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- Wiley Y. Thompson ’45

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- Hans J. Arlt ’68
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- Ron Bass ’69
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- Ronald E. Bird ’72
- Judith A. Boyajan ’79
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- George M. Braue ’76
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- Michael H. J. Curtis ’73
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- Barbara Golden ’65
- John W. Green ’77
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- Gene Hatfield ’66
- William C. Heath ’83
- Travis Highfield ’67
- Deborah H. Honig ’76
- Sara B. Howden ’82
- Michael D. Hoy ’81
- Robert R. Hren ’79
- James L. Hudgens ’80
- Ralph Leon Isaacs ’25
- Ellis B. Jacobs ’71
- David F. Johnston ’71
- Michael J. Haas ’74
- John W. Green ’74
- Richard F. Spaulding ’73
- Christopher A. Teras ’74
- Megan Tootell ’77
- Carol Boerner Wlts ’79
- Mary Louise Wheeler ’72
- Merrill E. Zimmermead ’77

**Other Donors**
- John Calabrace ’75
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Megan Tootell ’77
Carol Boerner Wlts ’79
Mary Louise Wheeler ’78
Merrill E. Zimmermead ’77

**Judge Alfonzo Fernandez**
1975 and 1980 Reunions

On June 8, 1985, the Classes of 1975 and 1980 celebrated their respective ten year and five year class reunions. Nearly 20 percent of the members of each class residing in the Bay Area participated, along with spouses, guests, and Law School faculty. On hand to welcome the returning alumni were Jack Wilson, Law School Dean; Jane Thomson, Law Placement Director; and Gary Wishniewsky, Director of Alumni Relations. Bobette Jones, JD '75, won honors for traveling the longest distance, coming down from Seattle for the event. Special thank yous are in order for the reunion volunteers who assisted the Alumni Office in following up with class members who missed the RSVP deadline. They are: 1975: Michael Blumenfeld, Ginny Irving, Donna Scott, 1980: Carolyn Ojeda, Lynn Rossman, Stephanie Rubinoff, Elliot Smith.

On Saturday, May 17, 1986, the Classes of '61, '66, and '71 will hold their 25, 20, and 15 year reunions at the University. Then on Saturday, May 31, 1986, the Class of 1976 will celebrate its ten year reunion, combining with the five year reunion celebration of the Class of 1981. The Alumni Office welcomes the participation of volunteers from the reunion classes; interested grads may contact Gary Wishniewsky, Alumni Director, (415) 442-7203. Reunion classes—save the date! Mark your calendars today!
Alumnae Loan Information

Golden Gate Law School is now accepting applications from women graduates for the Queen's Bench/Ann Glover Verney Memorial Loan Fund. The seed money for the fund was donated to Queen's Bench, the Bay Area association committed to the advancement of women in the law, by the late Ann Glover Verney, who was a charter member of Queen's Bench. Last winter, the association agreed to offer the revolving loan fund to alumnae of Golden Gate Law School, exclusively, to help them begin their own practices. (See Alumni Forum, Winter 1985.)

The fund presently has $3,400 available, and no more than one or two loans will be awarded. The loans will be made in January, 1986, repayable in December, 1986, at 7 percent simple interest.

Women graduates of GGU Law School interested in receiving a loan should submit written applications explaining: 1) Where they are establishing their own practice; 2) The immediate financial implications and obligations being entered into in establishing the practice; 3) A general statement of their need for the loan fund; 4) The amount requested ($3,400 maximum); and, 5) An indication or documentation of how they will be able to repay the loan by December 31, 1986. Any other supporting documentation such as leases or equipment purchase agreements deemed appropriate by the applicant should also be submitted.

The application deadline is December 13, 1985. Applications will be reviewed by the associate dean of the Law School and representatives of Queen's Bench. All applicants will be notified by mail within 30 days of the deadline.

Applications and inquiries should be addressed to: Associate Dean, Golden Gate University School of Law, 536 Mission Street, San Francisco, CA 94105. Phone: (415) 442-7252.

The office has more than doubled in the same period of time.

The performance of Golden Gate graduates on the February, 1985, bar exam improved dramatically. While I still believe we can and must do better, 49.1 percent of the 55 graduates who took the test for the first time passed—an increase of 11.6 percent over the previous year. Golden Gate's performance placed it approximately in the middle of law schools in the state approved by the American Bar Association.

We had a successful reunion program again last spring for classes which had been out in five-year multiples from their date of graduation. Many alumni and their guests participated, and several members of the faculty were also present. It was not only good to see friends, it was also good to meet many new people who have had fascinating careers since graduation. I am continually impressed by the good cheer at these reunions—or perhaps I should say celebrations. More than anything else, they are good fun.

Thanks to a generous gift from a friend of the law library, two IBM AT personal computers have been purchased and installed in the staff area, and a Westlaw WALT terminal...
has been installed for student use. The IBM personal computers will be used to facilitate internal administrative functions of the library and to enhance reference services for students, faculty and other law library users.

In addition, the Law School has had a judge's bench and witness box constructed and installed in the Moot Court Room. The former is a generous gift from two alumni who were moot court partners, Norman Ascherman, Class of 1968, and Frederick Bradley, Class of 1966, and the latter is a gift from last year's graduating class. Within a few weeks the Law School will obtain counsel tables, a new lectern, and posts and rails to demarcate a jury area, all constructed in a style to match the bench and witness box. We are well on our way to having a handsome Moot Court Room which will greatly facilitate the work of our advocacy programs.

I also have discouraging news to report. This year, following the completion of our registration process, we enrolled approximately 600 students—a drop of slightly over 25 percent in three years. I estimate that the decline will probably continue at a much less precipitate rate until the School is two-thirds its former size.

There is no way to minimize the seriousness of this situation. The decline has forced us to institute severe cutbacks and has resulted in the termination of the employment of members of the faculty and administrative staff. However, if one should not minimize seriousness, one should not maximize it either. Despite the decline, the School has been operating in the black for the last three years, and I expect that it will continue to do so. Moreover, on the last date for which we have statistics, Golden Gate was almost exactly in the middle of all law schools approved by the American Bar Association in terms of enrollment. There is no question that the School can operate effectively at far less than its size a decade ago. Indeed, for students, a smaller school is a decided advantage, because it means smaller classes and better access to the library, the faculty, and administrative staff.

No one has yet stated with certainty why there has been a nationwide decline in applications to law schools, and no one will venture a prediction about the future. My own opinion, based upon the fact that the decrease was much less last year than the year before, is that we have come through the worst of it. My guess, and I admit it is a guess, is that the number of applications will stabilize and perhaps drift lower slowly over the next few years in response to the demographic decline in the age group which normally applies to law school. As Golden Gate's reputation improves through a better bar-pass rate and Placement Office, applicants will be attracted to the School in numbers to offset further declines. You can help, because the school will continue to need the financial support of its alumni and your involvement in placement activities and in recommending students for admission.

—Dean John P. Wilson

**Alumni NOTES**

Class of 1985

Ronald U. Carter is now an associate with Barton, Petroni & Conron in Bakersfield.

Robert "Buzz" Hines is a law clerk to Judge Pence of the Federal District Court in Hawaii.

Abel Acosta has joined the office of the Legislative Analyst for California.

Ellen Bastier is beginning a term as law clerk to the Presiding Judge of the S.F. Superior Court.

Timothy Rowley joined the firm of New & Kay in S.F. as an associate in August.

In June, Marianne L. Barrett became assistant district attorney with the City & County of San Francisco.

Loretta Giorgi and Randy Riddle have joined the S.F. City Attorney's Office.

Rebecca Young is an entry level attorney with the firm of Jocelyne J. Kim Lew in Palo Alto, CA.

Arthur Schwartz has become an associate with Fisher & Hurst in San Francisco.

Jeffrey W. Hook is an associate with Toy, Coleman & Davies in Sacramento. The firm specializes in insurance defense.

Class of 1984

Jaya Salzman has recently become associated with the firm of Wotman and Hall in San Francisco.

Debra Lew has become an associate at Eskanos & Adler in Oakland.

Mitchell Posin and Jeff Schmidt joined the Forms/Supplement Department for the Lawyers Cooperative Publishing Co. Bancroft-Whitney Co. They are both associate editors.

Nora Privitera has been an attorney advisor/law clerk with the U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Administrative Courts, since May.

James L. Reynolds, who also received an LL.M. from GGU in 1985, is with the Irvine, CA, firm of Lazor, Greco & Coff, specialists in business and tax law matters.

Joel Lamp has joined the firm of O'Connor, Cohn, Dillon & Barr in San Francisco.

Daniel Dell Osso is now an associate with the Walkup firm in S.F.
Class of 1983

Terri Ann Kim has become associated with the law offices of Estelle Mannis.

Susan von Seeburg has become associated with the firm of Schachter, Kirstoff, Ross, Sprague and Curiale in S.F.

Leslie Rose is a graduate legal assistant for the Workers' Comp Appeals Board in San Francisco.

Alison Erca has become associated with Wilson, Elsner, Edelman & Dicker's S.F. office.

Michael C. Berch is a consultant at Lawrence Livermore Laboratory.

Nicholas S. Kikes has relocated to the Bay Area, and is now with the Law Offices of Alan Lee Zimmerman in Oakland.

James Hammond is an associate with Case, Ford, Blake & Burland in San Francisco.

Stan Naparst has been elected to the Board of Directors of the California Young Lawyers Association of the State Bar of California and was sworn in by Chief Justice Bird at the State Bar Convention in San Diego. A general sole practitioner, he will represent District 3—Alameda, Contra Costa and Santa Clara Counties. He can be reached at 901A Santa Fe Avenue, Albany 94706 and would greatly appreciate input from alumni on programs the State Bar should be implementing for young lawyers of all ages.

The firm of Cartwright, Sucherman & Slobodin, Inc. has relocated its office to 101 California Street and has taken on Deidre E. McHugh as an associate.

Class of 1982

Steven Howard Cohen has become an associate with Weingrad & Weingrad in NY, NY.

Jonathan M. Kaufman has been an associate for some time with his brother, Alan (Class of 1973) in offices in S.F.

Jane Blumberg is an associate with Ericksen, Arbuthnot in Oakland.

In April, Cynthia G. Starkey became an attorney with the Adult Independence Development Center in Santa Clara.

Cora J. Lancelle has relocated her law office to 42 North San Pedro Road, San Rafael, CA.

Tony Sousa joined the Los Angeles D.A.'s office in August.

Mary Pat Hough and Joseph A. Long are associated with the firm of Brooks & Hughes.

Jeanne Hough has opened an office in Oakland. Her practice emphasizes family law and small businesses.

Peter M. Sproul has become associated with the firm of Payne, Thompson and Walker in San Francisco.

Class of 1981

Christine A. Ford has opened a law office in Tacoma, WA. She will continue a general practice with emphasis in real estate, banking collections, business & family law.

Kurt R. Oxley has accepted an appointment as assistant chief counsel with the House of Representatives Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries.

Susan A. Scherman has relocated her family law mediation and arbitration practice to the Merchants Exchange Building in San Francisco.

Class of 1980

Paula Leibovitz has become an associate with Nancy Dooley, another LL.M. (Tax) graduate, in Berkeley.

George D. Yaron is working for the office of Moss & Enochian, a Law Corporation in Redding, CA.

We Need Your Help!

Please let us know when you have moved so that we will have your current address.

Also, the Admissions Office asks you to provide names and addresses of qualified candidates for admission.

If you are willing to be a member of the alumni network and to talk with prospective students about law school, please indicate that on the form; you will be contacted by the Admissions Office.

Finally, if you have a note for the Alumni Notes, kindly let us know.

Please clip and mail this form to:
Jane Thomson
Law Placement Director
Room 203
Golden Gate University School of Law
536 Mission Street
San Francisco, CA 94105
Theda Braddock has become associated with the firm of Payne, Thompson and Walker in San Francisco.

Class of 1979

Wayne Marcus Scriven is a sole practitioner in Florence, SC. His practice emphasizes federal court practice regarding consumer and constitutional law issues. He is a member of the SC State Bar, the Virginia State Bar, and U.S. Supreme Court Bar.

Ruth I. Frishman is a local real estate attorney who has been appointed to serve on the Board of Directors of the Housing & Development Law Institute in Washington, D.C. She has also been elected as chairperson of the Housing Authority of Alameda County.

Terry A. Appling has joined the law firm of Barrett, Penney & Byrd. Her specialty is insurance defense and construction litigation.

Class of 1978

After four years as legal advisor with the Public Employment Relations Board, Martin Staubus is leaving to join the legal staff of the California Union of Safety Employees.

Class of 1977

Peter J. Smith has been elected the president of the Carson City Bar Association in Carson City, NV.

Lisa Macchia moved to southern California last November to become National Director of Provider Relations for Maxicare, a health maintenance organization.

Dale Affonso has been named a partner in the Oakland office of Peat Marwick. He is also a member of the California and American Institutes for Certified Public Accountants and writes a column on taxes in The Montclarion.

Class of 1976

Sara A. Simmons has become a partner in the firm of Fisher and Hurst in S.F. She specializes in aviation defense, equitable law and coverage litigation matters, principally for underwriters at Lloyd's of London.

Nancy L. Hancock has relocated from Amherst, MA, to Santa Barbara, CA.

Class of 1975

Damian Barry Smyth writes that he was recently "appointed to the President's Council of the Jesuit School of Theology in Berkeley. And I appeared in the cast of a recent production of Esperance—a baroque ballet originally composed for performance before Louis XIV in 1709. (There's more to life than law!)"

Class of 1974

Steven R. Enochian is a partner in the firm of Moss & Enochian, a law corporation in Redding, CA.

Ruth Astle is administrative law judge with the State of California Office of Administrative Hearings in San Francisco.

Class of 1973

Norman Stone has taken on two partners and changed the name of his firm to Stone, Prieston & Kram. The firm practices general civil advocacy and business law in Mill Valley, CA.

Alan M. Kaufman opened his own office in S.F. for the practice of immigration law. His brother Jonathan writes, "it has never been published in your newsletter and he is concerned fellow classmates may be worried about him. I would like to reassure these people he is doing well."

Class of 1971

Donald Umhofer is the presiding judge to the San Luis Obispo Municipal Court.

Class of 1943

Simeon S. Reibin is a member of the Sacramento Bar Association and California Trial Lawyers Association. He served as district coordinator for the San Francisco Coordinating Council for Youth Welfare prior to entering law practice.

In Memoriam

John P. Salyer (Class of 1950) died July 29, 1985. He was an attorney with the Veterans Administration for 37 years.