Winter 1990

Alumni Forum, Winter 1990

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My wife and I were vacationing with our youngest daughter on the south coast of Crete when news of the October 17th earthquake reached us. Our major intellectual endeavor had been poring over English language newspapers to keep abreast of how the A’s and Giants were doing in the World Series. When the hotel desk clerk, observing that we were from California, told us there had been an earthquake and that a bridge spanning a major bay had collapsed, we were stunned. After some telephone calls to home and to school, we decided to return immediately. It took us over two days to get back to the City, flying from Iraklion to Athens and then through Frankfurt, New York and Los Angeles to SFO, arriving at 2 am on Sunday. Calls to Deans Elaine Anderson and Marc Steckgold put my mind at ease, for I learned that they had already dealt with immediate problems caused by the quake.

Luckily, no one at the University was seriously injured. But second year student Bruce Stephen, a New Yorker who has only resided in the Bay Area for a year, had a very close call. Bruce was driving from Oakland to class when the quake hit. He survived uninjured when a portion of the Bay Bridge prevented his car from plunging into San Francisco Bay. He gained instant recognition when his gray Honda was one of the two cars pictured on the cover of Newsweek magazine.

Although the front half of the older building which houses our administrative offices was hit hard, we were fortunate in that none of our classrooms sustained any damage. We were therefore able to resume classes the Monday after the quake. Because almost all the shelving on the lower level of the law library was bent and had to be replaced, part of the library had to be closed. As a result we had to postpone some of the first year Writing & Research class and move it to the second semester. First year students, who often feel under a great deal of pressure, responded magnanimously. We were all gratified by the positive and cooperative response of almost all of our students on their return to class. The Student Bar Association immediately established a fund to help those students who had suffered property losses.

As a result of the quake we have all experienced disruptions. All the Law School administrative offices have had to be relocated. The admissions office is now operating out of the faculty library. If you need to use the services of our placement office or need to contact the registrar, they are now located in the conference room of the law library. I have just completed my second move since the quake and am temporarily encamped in a faculty office. The structural engineers, who inspected our premises almost immediately after the quake, at first believed only modest repairs would be necessary and that we would be back to normal by now. However, the damage to the older part of our structure was greater than originally thought. The engineers have just submitted a report calling for $2.6 million in repairs and seismic improvements. It now looks like it might take another year before we are completely back to normal.

Despite the severe dislocations resulting from the October 17th earthquake, morale at the Law School remains high and a sense of real possibility permeates. In the fall we enrolled one of our largest and best qualified entering classes ever. Our mid year admission program continues to attract a small but excellent group of students who want to start law school in January. While applications
LAW SCHOOL CONTINUED

to law schools have been leveling off
nationally, applications to Golden Gate
have increased dramatically over the
past two years. Last year they were up
by 25% and this year they are running
40% above last year's figures. Women
continue to comprise close to half of
our student body and this past fall we
enrolled the largest number of minori-
ty students ever.

Not only do our students continue to
come from diverse backgrounds, but
their varied career interests in real
estate, public interest, family law and
taxation mirror the career paths of
many of our graduates. The number of
students interested in litigation remains
high. Our mock trial team, under Pro-
fessor Segal's able tutelage, placed
second among all California schools in
the National Mock Trial Competition.
Students have also formed active envi-
rmental law and international law
organizations.

We are also gratified by our improved
performance on the California bar.
Though too many lawyers judge a school
simply by its bar pass rate, it was nice to
see our graduates doing significantly
better than in the past. The pass rate for
our graduates taking the California bar
for the first time in Spring and Fall of
1989 was 70%, exceeding the rate
achieved at USF, McGeorge, and Santa
Clara.

Faculty scholarship is also flourish-
ing, with Professors Bernhardt, Cohen,
Flores, and Moskovitz all writing books
within the past few months. Professor J.
Lani Bader was recently recognized by
the American Arbitration Association
for his fine work in writing and produc-
ing educational training videos for
commercial arbitrators.

All of us at the Law School are grate-
ful for the continuing interest and fi-
nancial support demonstrated by many
of the alumni. Nevertheless, we still
have much to do. Scholarship assis-
tance is still woefully inadequate, faculty
and staff salaries are far below compar-
able California schools, and faculty
research badly in need of adequate
funding. But I am confident that with a
dedicated faculty, enthusiastic student
body, and an involved and supportive
alumni we can make strides in the 90's
to make Golden Gate a special law
school, while furthering our mission to
train ethical and effective legal practi-
tioners.

—Dean Anthony J. Pagano

Catherine Sherburne-Thompson: First Lady of Golden Gate

Catherine (Katie) Sherburne-Thompson (Class of '56), the first Golden Gate University graduate to teach at the School and the first woman faculty member, died of cancer on December 2, 1989. She is survived by her husband Robert Thompson ('65) and by their son Roland.

After serving as student body presi-
dent and graduating first in her class,
Catherine Sherburne joined the Golden
Gate law faculty in 1957. Former Dean
Paul Jordan who hired her described
Catherine as an "avid and well-prepared
student who I thought should be given a
chance to teach." She taught at Golden
Gate for the next 14 years, while at the
same time developing a successful law
practice in Oakland specializing in
estate planning and business law. Her
courses included Civil Procedure, Wills,
Equity, Community Property and Fam-
ily Law. She always regarded it as quite
an honor to be invited to join her
former professors as a colleague, but
because of the demands of her flour-
ishing practice she reluctantly relinquish-
ed her teaching duties in 1971. Accord-
ing to Professor Larry Jones, "Dean
John Gorflinkel thought the world of
her, probably because the students
thought she was a tough instructor."

Her husband Robert said Catherine
particularly enjoyed teaching students
in the night school since they were
highly motivated and hard working.
Some of her former students who went
on to distinguished careers include:
Leo Himmelsbach '59, district attorney
of Santa Clara County; Norman Spell-
berg '65, former presiding judge of the
Contra Costa County Superior Court;
Darrell Stevens '65, former member of
the State Bar Board of Governors and
now a municipal court judge in Chico;
and Richard Rosenberg '66, recently
appointed chairman and CEO of Bank-
America Corp. Catherine was particu-
larly gratified in her later years of teach-
ing to see many more women entering
the legal profession. She served as a role
model for many of these women.

During her 33 years in the legal
community, Catherine Sherburne-
Thompson also served on the Board of
Directors of the San Francisco Women's
City Club and as an officer of the
WANTED: Class Agents

Recently, the Law School's Devel-
opment Office hired Andrea Stein to supervise the Annual Fund giving campaign for 1990. She will be working to significantly increase both the number of donors and total dollars contributed. Our 1990 goals include $90,000 in alumni contributions and a 50% increase in the number of graduates contributing.

For the first time, we will be recruit-
ing Class Agents from each graduat-
ing class to help solicit gifts. Class
Agents will not have to invest a lot of
their time in this effort. We are
simply asking them to write one let-
ter annually to their classmates. Let-
ters will be reproduced and mailed
by the Law School Development
Office. We will also ask Class Agents
to identify top donor prospects in
their class and to make a few phone
calls. That's all.

We hope to incorporate Class
Agents as a regular part of our Annual
Fund. We know this approach will
both personalize the campaign and
emphasize the importance of alumni
support. If you are interested in
becoming a Class Agent for your
class, please contact Andrea Stein,
Annual Fund Coordinator, or Jack
Carter, Law Development Director,
at (415) 442-7000, extension 7554,
by April 15. We look forward to hear-
ing from you!
Spotlight on Duncan Barr

Duncan Barr, JD '70, is an extraordinary defense attorney who, to use a hackneyed phrase, "gets things done." At the beginning of one particularly tough, emotionally charged case involving the transfusion of AIDS-contaminated blood, the presiding judge told his staff that they were in for a treat because one of California's finest litigators, Duncan Barr, would try the case for the defendants.

After graduating from GGU, Duncan received a federal clerkship in the U.S. District Court. He clerked for the Honorable Judge Oliver Carter, chief judge, Northern District of California, from 1970 to 1971, and then joined the firm of O'Connor, Cohn & Dillon. After five years, Duncan became a name partner.

Unlike other successful Golden Gate graduates, Duncan was not an academically exceptional student. As a matter of fact, he takes great pride in pointing out that fact, declaring, "I owe it all to Tony Pagano because I lobbied to get a 'D' in income tax." And yet, Duncan is a brilliant attorney with a vision and non-stop drive.

When Duncan joined O'Connor, the firm specialized in personal injury cases. However, Duncan saw a new market in medical malpractice cases and insurance defense. In the mid-seventies, he courted Cutter Laboratories which has since become one of O'Connor's main clients. Cutter Labs had been sued by users of artificial heart valves alleging they were defective. Duncan successfully defended Cutter Labs in those cases.

In 1980, litigation took a new direction for Duncan Barr and catapulted him to the national limelight. AIDS was found to be infecting people who received tainted blood through transfusions. Duncan was asked by a medical insurance carrier to represent their blood bank clients in these cases. In most of these cases, the issue centered on whether the blood bank was negligent in not screening for AIDS prior to distributing its blood. Also, at approximately the same time, Duncan's client, Cutter Labs, was being sued by hemophiliacs who used Cutter's blood-clotting products.

Litigation is difficult enough without being encumbered with emotionally-charged issues. In AIDS litigation, either the plaintiff is dying of AIDS or the plaintiff's family is suing in a wrongful death action. Duncan Barr remembers trying to bring the issues to the jury and focus on the basics. He always notes in his closing remarks that he recognizes the emotional impact of the adult, or in some cases, the child, infected with AIDS. However, he segregates the emotional issues from the factual issues which the jury is called upon to decide.

AIDS litigation cases have encompassed over twenty states. Duncan has personally tried cases in recent years in over fifteen states with local counsel. He notes that he has been fortunate because his "clients are willing to take the risk of a jury trial." So far, Duncan's track record is exceptional: as of the printing of this article, he has lost only one AIDS case.

In addition to being a member of the California Bar, Duncan is also admitted to practice in New York. He relishes telling the story of how it happened. Duncan had a case that was consolidated before Judge Weinstein (of the Weinstein On Evidence fame). It was made clear to Duncan that he must join the illustrious Empire State Bar if he wanted to continue with the case, and others that were coming up in New York. "The prospect of taking another bar exam was as daunting to me as crossing the Atlantic in the hold of a slave ship," Duncan noted. Therefore, utilizing his trademark ingenuity, Duncan petitioned the N.Y. courts to be a member of that state's Bar and was summarily admitted. Duncan wryly notes that as far as he knows, only he and former President Richard Nixon have been admitted through this process.

Duncan Barr is an attorney who genuinely loves his work: "Part of the fun in being a defense lawyer is having a say in righting a wrong." He is not a man who minces words and admits that he "tends to speak [his] mind." He notes that his open style is not conducive in a corporate setting. "The worst thing a company can do is to say 'no comment' on a hot issue. I never believed that was the reasonable thing to do. The minute somebody starts hurling mud at me, I feel it is necessary to respond."

Duncan's firm is peppered with Golden Gate graduates. In fact, this writer spent her last year in law school clerking for Duncan. He is a fair yet extremely demanding attorney.

One of Duncan's many stories about Golden Gate is that he tried a case before a certain judge. His opponent was a former GGU classmate who represented the plaintiff. As the trial wore on, it became obvious that the attorney did not have a mastery of evidentiary procedure. Duncan kept objecting and the trial judge assisted the opposing attorney with procedure and evidence. Finally, Duncan couldn't stand it anymore and asked to approach the bench. There, the judge made it clear that although he knew Duncan's opponent's weaknesses, he would not allow an imbalance to be created during the trial. He told Duncan that he should "keep in mind, what we are trying to do is justice." Duncan has never forgotten this admonition and continues to fight for what he sees as justice for his clients.

—Tatiana Roodkowsky, JD, Dec. '89

C. Sherburne-Thompson, Continued

Queen's Bench. From 1978 to 1986 she taught Wills and Trusts at JFK Law School in Walnut Creek. In 1987 she was honored by being presented the Judith McKelvey Alumna of the Year Award at the Law School's graduation ceremonies.

Under the leadership of her husband Robert Thompson, her family has established a scholarship in Catherine's name at the Law School. Funds will be used to assist fourth year part-time women students who have attended Golden Gate for all of their legal studies. Classmates and friends of Katie Sherburne and Bob Thompson who wish to contribute to this fund should contact Jack Carter, Law School Development Director, at (415) 442-7000, extension 7554. Checks may be sent directly to Jack Carter or to Dean Anthony J. Pagano c/o The Catherine Sherburne-Thompson Scholarship, School of Law, Golden Gate University, 536 Mission Street, San Francisco, CA 94105.
Members of the Classes of 1979 and 1984 turned out in strong numbers despite the transportation complications created by the Quake of '89. Held November 4th at Cafe Latte II located in Four Embarcadero Center in San Francisco's Financial District, the combined reunion of the two classes attracted close to 80 participants. Many of the alumni present seemed to like the extended four hour format, providing them with ample opportunity to eat, drink and reminisce with old friends.

Even though the Bay Bridge was out of commission and there was limited freeway access to downtown San Francisco, the lure of seeing old friends and classmates couldn't keep alumni away. The Class Reunion volunteers also did a magnificent job following up the invitation with telephone reminder calls to build attendance. Thanks to all of the alumni who assisted with production of the event!

Looking ahead, 1990 is the "year of the five's and the zero's" in alumni relations circles. This translates into reunions for the classes of 1960, 1965, 1970, 1975, 1980 and 1985. Members of these reunion classes will be notified by mail when their respective events enter the planning stages.

The Class of '84 volunteers worked hard to generate a strong turnout from their classmates. Pictured left to right are Laura Reed, Phyllis Cantor, Susan Shors and Susan Rabin. Two other classmates, Carol King and Bob Waggner, assisted with arrangements and recruitment of class members, but were unable to attend.

The Class of '79's Five Year Reunion was so much fun in 1984 that when asked to volunteer again for the Ten Year Reunion, Karen Hawkins (far left) and Jim Molesky (second from right) jumped at the chance. Their enthusiasm helped recruit additional volunteers from the class, including Jamie Elmer (second from left) and Janet Mangini (far right). Randy Brummitt also assisted, but missed the photo.
Turnout Despite Quake


Alumni NOTES

Class of 1987

In September Jean Vieth joined the legal division of the California Public Utilities Commission in San Francisco.

Class of 1986

Shari Cruhlac recently became a California State Bar certified specialist in immigration and naturalization law and has entered into solo practice at 235 Montgomery St., Suite 1126A, San Francisco 94104.

After 2 1/2 years as an honors attorney with the Indian Resources Section of the Justice Department in Washington, DC, Margaret B. Crow has joined Alexander & Kashmer in Berkeley. The firm specializes in federal Indian law.

In November, Allen Dempster opened a new office at 200 California St., 3rd Fl., San Francisco, 94111. He specializes in tax and estate planning.

Tax and computer law attorney James M. Coco has left private practice in San Jose to join the Palo Alto firm of Murray & Murray. A certified CPA, he is also active in the Santa Clara County Bar Association and currently chairs the group’s computer law section.

David A. Simpson has become an associate in the San Francisco firm of Dinkelspiel, Donovan & Reder. He specializes in public utilities and telecommunication matters.

Paul Marigonda and Peter Leeming (Class of 1984) found themselves on opposite sides of a controversial public issue in Santa Cruz. Peter was the court-appointed attorney for a homeless activist found guilty of serving soup without a permit at the Town Clock, while Paul was the assistant district attorney who tried the case.

Class of 1985

Patricia L. Johnson is now a research attorney with the Alameda County Superior Court.

Class of 1984

J. Virginia Stevens, who received her LL.M. Tax from GGU, has been elected secretary-treasurer of the Contra Costa County Bar Association tax section. She specializes in tax and real estate law with the Walnut Creek firm of Burnhill, Morehouse, Burford, Shofield & Schiller.

Joanna R. Reichel has recently become associated with the Los Angeles firm of Cotkin, Collins & Franscell. She is currently doing insurance coverage litigation and legal malpractice work.

Louis J. Ebin has joined the San Francisco office of Rosen, Wachtell & Gilbert. He will specialize in insolvency planning, bankruptcy, and creditors’ rights.

Susan Rabin is associated with the Law Offices of Marc Greenberg which specialize in entertainment law, copy-right and general business counseling. Susan is currently team teaching entertainment law at GGU.

Richard Kestenbaum has joined the New York City law firm of Spector, Scher, Feldman, Karassik & Levy. He writes he is excited to be with this 15-person general practice firm and will specialize in corporate and real estate law.

Class of 1983

Cordia (C.L.) Farrell is now associated with the San Bernadino firm of Fullerton, Lemann & Schaefer and is practicing business law and intellectual property law.

Marie Pipitone and her husband, Daniel Vandivort, are happy to announce the birth of their son, Christopher. They have recently moved to London, where they plan to spend the next two to four years.

Class of 1982

Bonita Marmor has become a deputy public defender in Marin County after five years of private practice. “I kind of feel like I’m giving up a child,” she said in California Lawyer.

Joanne Hamilton continues to practice criminal defense in Chico. Married last year, she announces that she has won her last two jury trials.

Edward Daneri recently formed his own law firm specializing in immigration and international business transactions with Mexico. The firm is located

Introduction to Law School in Fourth Year

As a unique service to students and adults considering a career in the legal profession, Golden Gate University’s School of Law inaugurated its summer seminar, “Introduction to Law School,” in July 1987. The three week program, offered in both the day and the evening, is designed to expose participants to what lawyers do, how the American legal system works, and how law students study the law. Prospective students obtain exposure to the dynamics of legal education through participation in lectures, case analysis, skills training, and exam writing. The program is administered by Associate Dean Marc Steckgold and previous instructors have included Elaine Andersson, Mort Cohen, Sally Dickson, Myron Moskovitz, and Dean Anthony J. Pagano.

Participants also attend panel discussions on career options presented by law alumni and adjunct faculty. In 1989 topics ranged from Small Business, Corporate, Employment and Labor Law, to Family and Criminal Law. Alumni presenters included Peter Fowler, Elaine Lindenmayer, James Fisher, Leslie Smith and Matthew Guasco. Adjunct Professor William Wick discussed employment opportunities in public interest law.

The first seminar in 1987 attracted an enrollment of 30 and drew prospective law students from as far away as Massachusetts and Mississippi. The 1988 session enrolled 60 and last summer’s seminar attracted over 100 participants, demonstrating that such an introductory program truly fills a vital career exploration need. A number of those who took part in the three week session decided that a career in the law was for them, and enrolled at Golden Gate’s School of Law.

The fourth annual “Introduction to Law School” will be offered from July 9 to July 26, 1990. Topics on the agenda include: “An overview of the American Legal System,” “Criminal Law,” “Litigation Techniques,” “Individual Rights,” and “Developing Lawyering Skills.” Alumni are asked to refer interested friends and colleagues. A brochure detailing the complete curriculum may be obtained from Coordinator Robyn Gray, (415) 442-7250. The 1990 registration deadline is June 15 and the seminar cost is $400 per person.
Dorothy Dana has been named resident counsel and coordinator of legal affairs for the University of California’s Systemwide Benefits Program. Leanna Dawydiak is a police officer with the San Francisco Police Department.

Class of 1981
After seven and one half years with the firm of Stiller and Nervo, Judith A. Bloomberg has opened her own practice at 550 Kearny St., Suite 505, San Francisco, 94108. She continues to practice immigration and naturalization law.

Bernard Neil Dickinson, Jr. has gone into private practice in Redwood City. He emphasizes tax laws, wills, trusts, probate, and delayed tax deferred exchange of real property.

Mark Daniel Budak has recently been named senior associate with E&F Financial Services, Inc. in Burlingame, CA. Mark is responsible for overseeing mortgage banking and brokerage operations.

Class of 1980
Michael Pitts has joined the 10-lawyer firm of Anderlini, Guheen, Finkelstein & Emerick in San Mateo. He also has an LL.M. from GGU (Class of '82). He specializes in corporate and commercial law, tax planning and litigation, real estate transactions and estate planning.

Sole practitioner and former bar referee Elliot Roger Smith was nominated by the State Bar of California to be an acting judge of its new State Bar Court. Along with 15 others, he was chosen from more than 160 applicants.

Anne Bouliane has recently been appointed to the San Francisco Municipal Court bench. She had been a court commissioner since 1986.

Class of 1979
The Law Offices of Steven Adair MacDonald have moved to 870 Market St., Suite 975, San Francisco 94102.

Michael Rosas has been appointed an assistant attorney general for the State of New York and has been assigned as co-counsel in defending the state in a case involving a doctor who contracted AIDS in a city hospital.

Class of 1977
Salinas attorney J. Andrew McKenna has been elected treasurer of the California Applicants's Attorneys Association for 1989-90.

After 12 years in public accounting (he's also a CPA and CFP), Thomas V. Bret has joined the law firm of Knox, CONTINUED

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:

Gary Wishniewsky
Alumni Director
Golden Gate University School of Law
536 Mission Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

Alumni News and Change of Address

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New Home Address: ☐ Yes ☐ No New Business Address? ☐ Yes ☐ No

My preferred mailing address is: ☐ Home ☐ Business

ALUMNI NEWS

CANDIDATES FOR ADMISSION:

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☐ Yes, I would be willing to talk with candidates for admission.
ALUMNI NOTES CONTINUED
Snook, Anthony, Haper & Robbins in Oakland. He is head of the firm’s newly expanded tax department. The firm handles probate, estate and income tax, general business, litigation and civil matters.

Richard B. Nettler has been named a partner of Gordon, Feinblatt, Rothman, Hoffberger and Hollander. Richard practices in the firm’s Washington, DC office, concentrating in historical preservation law, litigation, and zoning and planning. He also holds seats on several committees of the DC Bar.

Class of 1976
Sandra Synder Bovetti was appointed by Gov. George Deukmejian to the Fresno County Municipal Court after eight years in personal injury insurance defense litigation.

For the past year Sue Schectman has been the president of the Bay Area City Attorneys Association. She is the city attorney of Pacifica.

Class of 1975
In January Ann Menasche was a featured speaker at California NOW’S Legislative reception.

Class of 1974
Ruth Astle received the Queen’s Bench merit award for 1989 and is currently teaching a class in administrative law at San Francisco State University.

Class of 1967
In January Gov. Deukmejian named Assistant Tulare County Public Defender Martin W. Staven to the newly created position of municipal court judge for the Tulare-Pixley Judicial District.

Class of 1966
In February Richard Rosenberg was named president of Bank of America, and will take over as chairman and CEO in May. He also holds an MBA from GGU (Class of ’63). He is credited with leading a revival in the bank’s consumer and residential lending.

Class of 1965
Chico Municipal Court Judge Darrell W. Stevens was featured recently in an article in the Chico News & Review. Local trial lawyers gave him high marks for fairness and dedication.

Class of 1960
Frederick Mandabach, who received a BA in Accounting from GGU, was recently appointed by Gov. George Deukmejian to the Municipal Court bench in San Bernadino County.

In Memorium
Thomas J. Keyes (Class of ’75) died November 30, 1989 in Bemidji, Minnesota, where he collapsed while jogging. A partner in Keyes & Faver, he previously served as county attorney for Beltrami County, MN. He was 39.

Faculty NEWS

In October Professor Thomas Goetzl was a featured speaker at the Third Annual Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts Conference, “Art/Law Agenda for the Nineties,” in San Francisco.

In January Professor Myron Moskovitz lectured for BAR-BRI in Sacramento on criminal law and criminal procedure to California Bar exam candidates.

Adjunct William Wick, who teaches environmental and public interest law at GGU, is currently the acting deputy regional counsel for the Environmental Protection Agency.

Assistant Dean Elaine Andersson was featured in an article in October in The Recorder where she decried the lack of law firm sponsored scholarships for minority students. “Law firms need to...finance minority students’ educations,” she said.

Wally Walker, GGU law registrar, is one of the ten contributors to The Law Registrar’s Handbook, published in December by the National Network of Law School Officers and the Texas Tech University Law School. Wally’s chapter, “Commencement or Graduation Audit,” encompasses all phases of clearing students for graduation.