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Golden Gate Law News Tips

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Golden Gate Law Students Help New Orleans Residents With Legal Problems Following Hurricane Katrina

In March six Golden Gate University School of Law traveled to New Orleans, with funding from the School of Law, to help local residents with legal issues. The students resided at the Common Ground Collective Headquarters in the city's Upper Ninth Ward and were among several hundred college students, including some law students (most from the San Francisco Bay Area), who came to help out at Common Ground over spring break. "I spent most of the week at Common Ground's community, media and legal center," says third-year law student Christopher Swanson, "where one room was converted into a legal resource center, including two attorneys volunteering full-time. "Though the size of the legal center was small, the legal issues they were working on were huge in significance. One issue of great importance was the fact that the city was planning to demolish 2,500 houses based on arbitrary assessments of their habitability. I drafted a memo laying out procedural due process and 'takings' clause arguments that may be used in defense of these homeowners." **Contact Christopher Swanson at 650-740-5576 or swanyboy@msn.com.**

Law School Faculty and Staff Work to Increase Student Diversity

Several members of the School of Law faculty and staff are engaged in local, statewide, and national efforts to increase diversity in law schools and the legal profession. Assistant Dean for Law Career Services Susanne Aronowitz has been appointed to the planning committee for the Second Annual National Association for Law Placement Diversity Summit, which will take place in Chicago in March 2007. Assistant Director for Employer Relations Courtney Fitzgibbons is chair of the Bay Area Legal Recruitment Association's Diversity Committee. Assistant Dean for Bar Exam Services Rodney Fong serves on the California State Bar and American Bar Association Diversity Pipeline committees, and he and Dean Frederic White will speak at the State Bar of California's Diversity Conference in June 2006 in San Jose on "Creating a Critical Mass in Law Schools." Associate Dean Sue Schechter serves on the Bar Association of San Francisco's Diversity Task Force. Professor and Associate Dean for Faculty Development David Oppenheimer serves on the Board of Directors of the Bay Area Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights. The School of Law also has been hosting campus events directed toward increasing diversity in legal education, which included a recent Law School Admissions Council Minority Outreach program that brought Bay Area high school students to campus for a presentation and tour. **Contact Susanne Aronowitz at 415-442-6627 or saronowitz@ggu.edu.**

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Moot Court Helps Practicing Lawyers Prepare Their Oral Arguments

The School of Law and its Appellate Advocacy Institute is hosting a series of Moot Courts for Practicing Lawyers to help attorneys argue their cases in appellate court. Established by Professor Myron Moskowitz, director of the institute, the program serves the legal profession and the judiciary—along with GGU students, who have the rare opportunity to observe real lawyers arguing real cases right on campus. Participating attorneys can receive one hour of MCLE credit for participating in the program. At the end of the argument, the “judges” give them feedback and suggestions that can increase their chance of success in their real argument. Participating attorneys have argued for appellants ranging from the San Francisco Firefighters Local 798 to an inmate on death row. “To my knowledge, there is nothing like this program in the country,” Moskowitz says. Contact Myron Moskowitz at 415-442-6646 or mmoskovitz@ggu.edu.

Hitachi Data Systems President and CEO To Deliver Law School Commencement Address

Dave Roberson, President and Chief Executive Officer of Hitachi Data Systems and a 1978 graduate of the Golden Gate University School of Law, will deliver the School of Law’s Commencement Address on May 12, 2006. The Golden Gate University School of Law Commencement will take place from 2 to 4 pm at the Nob Hill Masonic Center in San Francisco. In addition to delivering the Commencement address, Roberson will receive the Judith G. McKelvey Award for Outstanding Achievement by an Alumnus at Commencement. Contact Jill Goetz at 415-442-6636 or jgoetz@ggu.edu.

Environmental Law Program Makes National Top 20 List

Golden Gate University School of Law’s Environmental Law Program is ranked one of the top 20 such programs in the 2007 Edition of *US News and World Report’s* “America’s Best Graduate Schools.” The Environmental Law Program, which features innovative classes and the highly regarded on-campus Environmental Law & Justice Clinic, has made the “America’s Best Graduate Schools” top 20 list for the past five years. It was ranked third among environmental law programs in California. Contact Professor Cliff Rechtschaffen at 415-442-6674 or crechtschaffen@ggu.edu.

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