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## Golden Gate Law News Tips

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## Golden Gate Law News Tips

### Golden Gate University School of Law 2006 Commencement Ceremony May 12

*Alumnus Dave Roberson, President and CEO of Hitachi Data Systems, to Deliver Commencement Address*

On Friday, May 12, more than 300 students hailing from Redwood City to Russia will receive *Doctor of Jurisprudence* (JD) and *Master of Laws* (LLM) degrees at the Golden Gate University School of Law Commencement Ceremony from at the Nob Hill Masonic Center in San Francisco. The ceremony is scheduled for 2 to 4 pm. Tickets are required.

Dave Roberson, who received his JD from the School of Law in 1978 and is President and Chief Executive Office of Santa Clara-based Hitachi Data Systems, will deliver the Commencement Address and will receive the Judith G. McKelvey Award for Outstanding Achievement by an Alumnus.

Also being honored at Commencement 2006 are Professor Robert K. Calhoun, for Outstanding Professor; Professor Clifford Rechtschaffen, for Faculty Scholarship; graduate Tyler Cunningham, for Academic Excellence; graduate Cecily Erin Clements, for Professionalism and Integrity; and graduates Erika Jean Scott and Michael Wolchansky for Service and Contribution. **Contact Jill Goetz at 415-442-6636 or [jgoetz@ggu.edu](mailto:jgoetz@ggu.edu).**

### 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 courses 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](mailto:mmoskovitz@ggu.edu).**

### 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. For example, 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, occurring 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. Fong and Dean Frederic White

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will speak on "Creating a Critical Mass in Law School" at the State Bar of California's Diversity Conference in June 2006. And 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 hosts campus events directed toward increasing diversity in legal education. For example, it held 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.**

### **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.**

### **Labor Law Clinic Gives Low-Income Female Workers a Voice**

Since it was founded in 1993, the Women's Employment Rights Clinic at Golden Gate University School of Law has represented scores of low-income workers in employment disputes, involving unemployment insurance appeals, race and sex discrimination, sexual harassment, family and medical leave, and wage and hour claims. Many of these cases involve hot-button issues such as immigrants' rights, sexual harassment, and diversity in the workplace and have received considerable media coverage. In the May 11, 2006 *San Francisco Chronicle*, Clinic Director Professor Marci Seville is quoted in a front-page story about one of the clinic's clients, an undocumented immigrant worker fired after a successful minimum wage claim, and then reported to immigration authorities. **Contact Marci Seville at 415-442-6675 or mseville@ggu.edu.**

### **Environmental Law Program Receives Honors and Helps Clients in the Community**

The Environmental Law and Justice Clinic has received a CLEA Award for Excellence in a Public Interest Case or Project from the Clinical Legal Education Association. The clinic was honored for its Southeast San Francisco Energy Project, comprising several long-term efforts to reduce industrial pollution in San Francisco's minority communities of Bayview-Hunter's Point and Potrero that have recently made great strides.

Golden Gate's Environmental Law Program was also recently 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 program has made this Top 20 list for the past five years. It was ranked third among environmental law programs in California. **Contact Professor Alan Ramo at 415-442-6654 or aramo@ggu.edu.**

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