



USC LAW eNEWS

~an electronic newsletter for USC Law alumni and friends

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1} USC Named to Best Law Schools for Bar Exam Prep



>> The University of Southern California Gould School of Law is one of the best law schools in the country for bar exam preparation, a recent report says.

According to a statistical analysis conducted by the *National Jurist* magazine, USC Law is ranked No. 6 at helping its students pass the bar exam - including those with low LSAT scores. The study compared USC Law students' LSAT at the 25th percentile for 2010 and the ratio of grads who passed the bar exam to the state average for 2009 and 2010. (See the full top-50 list [here](#).)

[Read more about the National Jurist report.](#)

2} Mentor Lunch Packs Alumni In



>> Aaron Ginsburg '14 always wanted to be a lawyer. And he knows that he wants to practice civil litigation when he graduates. But when he arrived at the USC Gould School of Law last fall, he wasn't as sure about the route to his goal.

Thanks to some of the 175 alumni who participated in this year's Mentor Lunch, Ginsburg and some 150 other students now have a better idea of which courses to take over the next two years, what summer opportunities to pursue and even the type of day-to-day work ethic the profession calls for.

[Read more about the event.](#)

3} Moot Court: We Have a Winner



>> Fifteen minutes. For the four contenders in the final round of the USC Law Hale Moot Court Honors Program competition, the countless hours spent researching and writing their briefs, rehearsing their arguments and gutting their way through three rounds of competition came down to a final 15 minutes to make - or break - their case before a panel of three prominent appellate judges.

After an hour of often-intense back-and-forth between the students and judges, the panel retired to deliberate. When the judges reconvened, they told the students that they were so impressive, any one of them could have won on any given day - but on Friday, March 2, the winner was Megan Hopkins '13.

[Read more about the Hale Moot Court final round.](#)

4} Prof. Brown's Analysis Followed by 9th Circuit in Prop 8 Ruling



>> The U. S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals overturned California's ban on gay marriage (Proposition 8) Feb. 7 in [an opinion](#) that closely follows a line of analysis put forward by USC Law Professor Rebecca Brown in June 2010.

An [Issue Brief](#) written by Prof. Brown for the American Constitution Society identified a way the court could narrowly strike down Proposition 8 without reaching the broader question of whether the U.S. Constitution mandates states to permit marriage between people of the same sex.

[Read more about Prof. Brown's analysis.](#)

5} PILF Auction Tops 2011 Donations



>> USC Law students, faculty and alumni enjoyed a memorable night of casino games and silent and live auctions at the 2012 Public Interest Law Foundation's (PILF) Casino Royale auction. The 22nd annual event raised more than \$30,000 for summer grants for law students while entertaining

approximately 400 guests.

All proceeds from the event will fund summer grants allowing law students to work in a variety of public interest organizations this coming summer. Last year, PILF funded grants for 32 USC Law students, and with \$6,000 more in funds this year, PILF plans on funding even more grants.

[Read more about the event.](#)

6} Career/Work Balance Explored in Panel Discussion



>> The Women's Law Association hosted a panel of female lawyers at USC Law to give insight on how to balance having a successful career and a fulfilling personal life.

The "You Can Do It!" lunchtime panel was moderated by Amanda Walker '07, a senior associate in the Litigation/Controversy Department at Wilmer Hale. Walker opened the discussion by asking the panel, "How do you create a work/life balance?"

[Read about some of the answers.](#)

7} Post-Conviction Justice Project Celebrates 30 Years



>> The USC Law alumni attending the recent 30th anniversary of the Post-Conviction Justice Project hail from nearly every corner of the legal world - they are judges, public defenders, state and federal prosecutors, public interest lawyers and partners at law firms.

But, regardless of where they are today, many alumni said they are forever bound by their work and commitment to USC Law's PCJP, where they collectively represented more than 5,000 prisoners as law students.

[Read more about the event.](#)

8} LL.M. Student Fights for Client



>> In April 2008, attorney Yuriria Marván Santín LL.M. '12 was living in her native Mexico City when the Department of Foreign Affairs of the State of Mexico called. They needed her to assist a Mexican national who had been sentenced by a court in Austin, Tex., to 99 years in prison. The national, Rosa Estela Olera Jiménez, had been convicted of first-degree murder in the death of a 21-month-old boy for whom she had been a nanny. Marván was asked to review the case to see if there were any legal avenues toward helping Jiménez. As the former coordinator of the Mexican Capital Legal Assistance Program within the Foreign Ministry's Protection Department, Marván had deep experience assisting Mexican nationals facing criminal charges in the U.S.

[Read more about Marván and her work.](#)

9} Affordable Care Act: A Libertarian Take



>> Robert A. Levy, Ph.D., chairman of the Cato Institute, a libertarian think-tank based in Washington, D.C., addressed students at a lecture sponsored by the USC Federalist Society regarding the constitutionality of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, or as its detractors have called it, "Obamacare". Levy's primary concern with the act is the mandate that requires U.S. residents to buy a prescribed health insurance policy or pay a penalty.

[Read about Levy's talk.](#)

10} Students Get a Taste of Fashion Law



>> Staci Riordan, chair of the Fox Rothschild Fashion Law Practice Group, gave a presentation to USC Law students about intellectual property issues and how they affect the fashion industry.

Riordan focused her presentation on the high-profile trademark infringement case between designers Christian Louboutin and Yves Saint Laurent. Although Louboutin obtained a U.S. Patent and Trademark for its signature red soles in 2008, U.S. District Judge Victor Marrero refused a request to stop the sale of all Yves Saint Laurent shoes with similar red soles.

[Read more about Riordan's presentation.](#)

11} More Guns, Less Crime



>> John Lott, researcher, political commentator and author of his thrice-edited book, *More Guns Less Crime*, spoke to law students recently at a talk sponsored by the USC Law Federalist society. Lott's lecture centered on the idea that the right to carry a firearm isn't merely a fundamental American right, but a surefire way to reduce murder rates and crime across the country.

[Read about Lott's talk.](#)

12} *Call for Nominations-Rutter Teaching Award*

>> Alumni are encouraged to submit nominations for the William A. Rutter '55 Distinguished Teaching Award. A giant in the legal profession whose California Practice Guides remain the best publications of their kind, and the founder of the BAR/BRI Bar Review, the late William Rutter established the award in 2006 to honor classroom teaching and to recognize the additional time and effort great law teachers put into preparation and classroom performance.

The Rutter Award recipient will receive \$50,000, payable over five years. All full-time tenured, tenure-track or clinical faculty are eligible. Previous winners include Scott H.

Bice, Tom Griffith, Ron Garet, Christopher Stone, and the late Charlie Whitebread. The recipient of the award is announced at the law school's Annual Awards event, this year held on April 4.

Download a nomination form [here](#). Please send your nominations to Debra L. Barnett, Assistant Director of Student Affairs, at dbarnett@law.usc.edu by **COB Friday, March 9**.

13} Upcoming events: Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, Alumni Receptions

MARCH 8: REAL ESTATE LAW AND BUSINESS FORUM

For the past nine years, the USC Law Real Estate Law and Business Forum has been the most highly attended law and business conference in the area. At this can't-miss conference you will receive information from dozens of nationally known business and legal leaders to help you counsel your clients through the maze of the current and future real estate markets and the opportunities they present. The Forum features a full day of learning and networking, including a keynote luncheon address, networking refreshment breaks, and a hosted evening reception. CE units are available for lawyers, accountants, and real estate professionals. Review the [complete programming guide](#) to the 2012 Forum.

MARCH 15: INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY INSTITUTE

The Intellectual Property Institute has forged a reputation for gathering national speakers to analyze sophisticated topics and provide practical takeaways to attendees. Focusing on copyright, patent and trademark law, the Institute features morning plenary sessions, a luncheon keynote address, afternoon tracked breakout sessions, and five networking opportunities, including a hosted cocktail reception at the end of the day. Review the [complete programming guide](#).

MARCH 24: USC ALUMNI DAY OF SVCERVICE

USC is launching the inaugural USC Alumni Day of SVCervice on Saturday, March 24, in conjunction with the spring USC Friends and Neighbors Service Day. The USC Alumni Day of SVCervice is an opportunity for all alumni and friends to participate in local service volunteer projects organized by USC alumni clubs, university representatives and other affiliated groups worldwide. Please visit the Day of SVCervice [website](#) to check out the community service opportunities in your area.

MARCH & APRIL REGIONAL RECEPTIONS

USC Law alumni are invited to attend Alumni and Admitted Students Regional Receptions. The receptions are designed to give admitted students and their families living outside of Southern California the opportunity to learn more about the law school and its legendary Trojan Alumni Network. Through informal conversations with you and other members of the USC Law community, including Dean Robert K. Rasmussen and senior staff from admissions, career services and alumni relations, we can convey the Trojan network and our familial atmosphere to our admitted students. We look forward to re-connecting and introducing you to future USC Law alumni.

Regional receptions will be held in the following cities: Chicago, Ill. on March 6; Washington, D.C. on March 15; New York, N.Y. on March 21; Orlando, Fla. on March 22; Houston, Texas on March 26; Phoenix, Ariz. on April 3; and San Francisco, Calif. on April 5.

To RSVP, please visit http://weblaw.usc.edu/events/regional_alumni.cfm. For more information, call the Office of Admissions at 213.740.2523.

APRIL 10: SUPREME COURT JUSTICE ANTONIN SCALIA DELIVERS ROTH LECTURE

USC Law hosts United States Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, who will deliver the annual Roth Lecture at USC's Town & Gown at 4:00 p.m. A reception will follow. Seating is limited and available only to USC Law alumni, students, faculty and staff. RSVP required. For more information, please contact the Events Office at 213.740.3841 or events@law.usc.edu.

SAVE THE DATE: JUNE 8: USC LAW GOLDEN YEARS REUNION

The Golden Years Reunion luncheon brings together all classes that graduated prior to 1962. Festivities will take place on campus and will be held from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30p.m. at Crocker Plaza in front of the law school. **If you are interested in reaching out to classmates, please contact Pasha Hawthorne in Development and Graduate Relations at 213.743.1710 or reunion@law.usc.edu. [Learn more about Golden Years Reunion.](#)**

SAVE THE DATE: JUNE 9: USC LAW REUNION

This summer's reunion brings together the classes of 1962, 1967, 1972, 1977, 1982, 1987, 1992, 1997, 2002, 2007. Festivities will take place at the beautiful Fairmont Miramar Hotel in Santa Monica. [Learn more about Reunion 2012.](#)

Reunion Sponsorship Opportunities Available Until March 16, 2012

Reunion 2012 is USC Law's largest annual alumni event, with an expected attendance of 450 guests. This signature event brings together graduates from 10 different classes to reconnect with fellow alumni and raise scholarship funds. By participating as a Reunion Sponsor, your company will be featured in our commemorative reunion book and, in keeping with the level of sponsorship, acknowledged in a wide variety of reunion communications, such as web pages, alumni e-blasts and event signage. **For more information regarding sponsorship opportunities, please contact Pasha Hawthorne in Development and Graduate Relations at 213.743.1710 or reunion@law.usc.edu.**

LINKS

- >> [FACEBOOK](#)
- >> [TWITTER](#)
- >> [myLAW](#)
- >> [ALUMNI WEBSITE](#)
- >> [GIVE BACK TO USC LAW](#)
- >> [CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION](#)
- >> [ALUMNI CAREER SERVICES](#)
- >> [NEWSROOM](#)
- >> SUBSCRIBE TO eNEWS (OR UNSUBSCRIBE): To add, change or remove your e-mail address from the USC LAW eNEWS list, or for more information on the newsletter, e-mail alumni@law.usc.edu. Requests must include your full name.
- >> SUGGESTIONS? E-mail your suggestions for future newsletters to enews@law.usc.edu.