



USC LAW eNEWS

~an electronic newsletter for USC Law alumni and friends

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1} Conversations with the Dean: CPK Founder Larry Flax '67

>> USC Law presents "From the Courtroom to the Kitchen: How Larry Flax '67 Launched CPK," the latest installment of the Conversations with the Dean speaker series, hosted by Dean Robert K. Rasmussen. The event will be held Tuesday, Feb. 10, from 12:20 to 1:10 p.m. in Room 7 of the law school. Lunch will be provided.

USC Law grad Larry Flax co-founded California Pizza Kitchen nearly 25 years ago with a simple idea: offer innovative pizzas at reasonable prices in a family-friendly environment. The concept took off and today the Los Angeles-based CPK boasts more than 250 restaurants with more than \$500 million in annual sales. Flax says that his USC Law degree was instrumental in launching a

successful business venture. For more information, e-mail events@law.usc.edu.

2} 3Ls Kick Off Class Gift Campaign

>> This year's 3L Class Gift campaign is underway and the Class of 2009 means business. For five years, graduating classes at USC Law have successfully topped their predecessors in class gift participation. The Class of 2009 has the tallest hurdle of them all: they will attempt to surpass last year's 93 percent participation rate. The main purpose of the class gift is to leave a legacy of supporting the things that mattered to the Class of 2009. 3Ls may designate exactly which programs or funds receive their donations. Another goal of the program is to increase the school's alumni participation rate, the number of alumni who make a gift to the school each year.

[Read more about this year's 3L Class Gift Campaign.](#)

3} Celebrating Lincoln

>> In honor of the 2009 bicentennial celebration of President Abraham Lincoln's birthday, the USC Law Library is highlighting its unique collection of Lincoln artifacts.

Housed in the Law Library's Lincoln Room, the collection features books dating back to the 1860s, including rare volumes, first editions, an engraving of the Lincoln family, and a micrograph of the Emancipation Proclamation. The replica Victorian fireplace and furniture duplicate the Lincoln family's living room in Springfield, Ill.

"We felt Lincoln's 200th birthday would be an appropriate time to highlight both the work of the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, established by the U.S. Congress, and the Law Library's Lincoln Room," said Law Library Associate Director Leonette M. Williams. "Our collection duplicates very little held elsewhere on campus."

[Read more about the school's Lincoln exhibit.](#)

4} Students Stand Up for Migrant Workers

>> Just a couple hours' drive from the USC Law campus, yet a world away, sits the Desert Mobile Home Park. Located in Coachella Valley, the development is rife with health and safety problems and has been cited for violations including open sewage and faulty wiring. The federal government is attempting to permanently close the park, forcing its residents to move out of the dilapidated trailers and unpaved streets.

Against this backdrop of despair, the park's residents recently found reason for hope when a group of USC Law students visited the park during the final weekend of their winter break. During

their visit, organized by the Legal Aid Alternative Breaks project (LAAB), 29 students worked with California Rural Legal Assistance (CRLA) to identify the effects closure of the park would likely have on the thousands who would be left homeless.

[Read more about LAAB's visit and CRLA's case.](#)

[Learn more about California Rural Legal Assistance.](#)

5} New Associate Dean of Development & Graduate Relations

>> USC Law recently welcomed Sam Martinuzzi as the school's new Associate Dean and Chief Development Officer. Martinuzzi previously served as the university's associate senior vice president for advancement. As the chief development officer, Martinuzzi will lead USC Law's Office of Development and Graduate Relations, which is responsible for the school's fund-raising and alumni relations activities.

"I am thrilled to be joining an outstanding team, under the leadership of a dean who has a remarkable vision for the school's future," Martinuzzi said.

[Read more about Sam Martinuzzi's appointment.](#)

6} Professor Publishes Book on Race

>> USC Law Professor Ariela J. Gross spent years unearthing the legal history of racial identity. In her new book, *What Blood Won't Tell: A History of Race on Trial in America* (Harvard University Press, 2008), Gross recounts stories of racial identity trials in American courts, from the early republic well into the 20th century. The racial identity trials - court cases that determined a person's "race" as well as their rights and privileges - help explain the history of race and racism in America.

[Read more about Prof. Gross's new book.](#)

7} William A. Rutter '55 Distinguished Teaching Award: Call for Nominations

>> Alumni are encouraged to submit nominations for the William A. Rutter '55 Distinguished Teaching Award. The award was established in 2006 by Rutter to honor classroom teaching, and the dedication that it reflects. Research, scholarly writing or other accomplishments are all rewarded in other ways. Teaching is not so widely rewarded. The purpose of this award is to recognize and honor the additional time and effort great law teachers put into preparation and classroom performance, and, because they inevitably attract larger classes, the additional time

such teachers spend in grading papers and interacting with law students.

The recipient shall receive \$50,000, payable over five years. All full-time tenured, tenure-track or clinical faculty are eligible. Previous winners were Prof. Scott Bice and Prof. Charles Whitebread. The recipient of the award is announced each year at the law school's Annual Awards event, held in April.

The nomination form is attached. Please send your nominations to Debra L. Barnett, Assistant Director of Student Affairs, at dbarnett@law.usc.edu by Monday, Feb. 9.

8} Upcoming events: Softball Tournament, PILF Auction, Alumni Reception, Reunion

FEBRUARY 22: SBA SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT

The Student Bar Association will be hosting its sixth annual softball tournament, which begins with a cook-out from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in USC's Associates Park, located behind the Bovard Administration Building. The games begin at 1:00 p.m. at Cromwell Field. All alumni are invited! To join an alumni team, please e-mail events@law.usc.edu.

FEBRUARY 26: MENTOR LUNCH

Join your fellow alumni and meet current students at this year's Mentor Lunch, held at USC's Town & Gown from 11:45 a.m. - 1:15 p.m. The lunch is an opportunity to speak about your work and to answer students' questions about the legal profession. You may RSVP online at <https://mylaw.usc.edu/survey/takeSurvey.asp?surveyID=48>. Please note that alumni responding after the previously publicized Jan. 30 deadline may not be matched with a student. If you have any questions, please contact Assistant Director of Development Pasha Hawthorne at (213) 743-1710 or phawthorne@law.usc.edu.

FEBRUARY 27: ANNUAL PILF AUCTION

Always among the year's most popular events for students and alumni, the PILF Silent and Live Auction will be held at USC's Town & Gown from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. Proceeds from the event benefit PILF's Summer Grant Program, which provides stipends of about \$5,000 to more than 20 first- and second-year law students engaged in public interest work. Auction tickets are available to USC Law alumni and friends of PILF for \$30. Alumni and friends of PILF working in the public interest sector may purchase tickets for \$20; students pay \$15.

Dinner will be served from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. and drinks will be served all night. Parking is available for \$8 in Parking Structure 2, located on the northeast corner of Figueroa Street and Exposition Boulevard. To purchase auction tickets or make a donation to PILF online, please visit <http://mylaw.usc.edu/portal/alumni/pilfauction.cfm>. Tickets may be purchased by check payable to USC Law; please write "PILF Auction" in the memo section. Mail checks to:

USC Gould School of Law

USC PILF Auction

699 Exposition Blvd., Room 6

Los Angeles, CA 90089-0071.

For more information or to inquire about making an item donation, please [e-mail the auction organizers](#).

MARCH 3: SMALL & MID-SIZED LAW FIRM RECEPTION

Join USC Law's Career Services Office for the Fourth Annual Small & Mid-sized Law Firm Reception, held from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at USC's University Club. This annual event brings together attorneys practicing at small and mid-sized law firms in the greater Los Angeles area and current USC law students interested in learning more about practicing law at such firms. Light hors d'oeuvres will be served and a host bar of beer and wine will be provided. [Please RSVP by Friday, Feb. 20](#), by completing the online registration form. If you have questions, please contact Career Services at (213) 740-7397 or careers@law.usc.edu.

MARCH 6: HALE MOOT COURT FINAL ROUND COMPETITION

The Moot Court Competition concludes at the Norris Cinema Theatre on the USC campus beginning at 2:30 p.m., with a reception immediately following. For more information or to RSVP, please e-mail events@law.usc.edu or call (213) 740-3841.

MARCH 11: SYMPOSIUM: DIVERSITY IN THE LEGAL PROFESSION

The *Southern California Review of Law and Social Justice* presents a symposium to provide perspectives on the state of diversity and ideas for advancing diversity in the legal profession. The event will be held from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at USC's Town & Gown; lunch will be served at 12:30 p.m. To RSVP, please e-mail events@law.usc.edu or call (213) 740-3841 and indicate any dietary restrictions. For more information, please email zev.shechtman.2009@lawmail.usc.edu or visit <http://law.usc.edu/students/orgs/rlsj/index.cfm>.

MARCH 12: SAN FRANCISCO ALUMNI/ADMIT RECEPTION

Please join Dean Rasmussen and USC Law in welcoming newly admitted students at our upcoming Alumni/Admit Reception in San Francisco. The event will be held from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Allen Matkins, Three Embarcadero Center, 12th Floor, San Francisco, 94111-4074. Please RSVP to admissionsevent@law.usc.edu; please include your full name. RSVPs are required for building access. If you have any questions regarding the reception, please feel free to call the USC Law Admissions Office at (213) 740-2523.

{SAVE THE DATE}

JUNE 12: GOLDEN YEARS LUNCHEON

This reunion celebration is held for graduating classes prior to 1959. It will be held in USC's Crocker Plaza beginning at 11:30 a.m.

{SAVE THE DATE}

JUNE 13: USC LAW REUNION

This summer's reunion brings together the classes of 1959, 1964, 1969, 1974, 1979, 1984, 1989, 1994, 1999, 2004. Festivities take place on campus and begin with a reception followed by individual class dinners. Interested in joining your class reunion committee? Contact Development and Graduate Relations at alumni@law.usc.edu or (213) 743-1710.

LINKS

>>myLAW: <http://mylaw.usc.edu>

>>ALUMNI WEB SITE: <http://law.usc.edu/alumni/>

>>GIVE BACK TO USC LAW: <http://law.usc.edu/alumni/giving.cfm>

>>CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION: <http://law.usc.edu/academics/cle.cfm>

>>ALUMNI CAREER SERVICES: <http://law.usc.edu/alumni/network/careers.cfm>

>>MORE NEWS AND EVENTS: <http://law.usc.edu/news/index.cfm>

>>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.

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