



## USC LAW eNEWS

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~an electronic newsletter for USC Law alumni & friends  
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### 1} Banner Year for Law Firm Challenge

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>>>This year's Law Firm Challenge, which ended in June, has set new records for the number of participants and amount of money raised for USC Law. Hundreds of alumni from around the world came together to show their support for their law school.

The Law Firm Challenge calls on firms, organizations or companies that have two or more USC Law alumni to join the annual competition; the goal of each group is to achieve 100 percent participation by securing contributions from all of their alumni. Winners of the program were

thanked in an ad placed in *The Daily Journal*, posted during the school's On Campus Interviews and listed online.

This year, a record-number 69 organizations participated in the Challenge, representing nearly 10 percent of the school's alumni. This outstanding participation contributed to a two percent increase in the participation rate, which is at 19 percent for 2008.

[Read more about this year's Challenge.](#) To learn how you and your organization can participate, contact Assistant Director of Development Emily Page at [epage@law.usc.edu](mailto:epage@law.usc.edu).

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## 2} Class of 2011 In Session

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>>USC Law welcomed its 109th class of students with a day-long orientation Aug. 22 introducing them to the USC campus, the law school community and their fellow classmates. The class is diverse and academically strong. Associate Dean of Admissions Chloe Reid noted that there were 27 applicants for each member of the class. Her office received 5,595 applications for the incoming class of 204 students.

"My job is to create a mosaic of a class – with lots of different shapes, hues and colors, sizes and intensity," said Reid. "And, each year, the final piece looks different."

[Read more about the Class of 2011.](#)

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## 3} Loan Help for Public Interest Grads

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>>Alumni and students have more reason to consider careers in public service or government, thanks to a revamping of the school's loan repayment assistance program (LRAP). The changes implemented this year make the program more generous and available to a larger number of graduates. The program now allows graduates with nonprofit and government jobs who earn more than \$55,000 to participate in the program, while those who earn less may keep more of their money.

"We have made several changes to increase the participation level because we want to encourage students to consider their options – all options, including the nonprofit and government sectors," says Mary Bingham, director of financial aid.

[Read more about the enhanced LRAP program.](#)

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#### 4} Students Free Life-Term Prisoner

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>>The Post-Conviction Justice Project at USC Law recently prevailed in a defining case for the California parole system for long-time client Sandra Davis-Lawrence. USC Law students argued – and the California Supreme Court agreed – that a life-term prisoner is entitled to be granted parole once the prisoner no longer poses a danger to the community. The court rejected the governor’s reversal of the parole commission’s grant of parole based solely on the circumstances of Sandra Davis-Lawrence’s 1971 commitment offense (first-degree murder), holding that the reversal violated her due process rights.

[Read more about the case.](#)

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#### 5} Legal Structure and Investigator Bias

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>>Last month, Professor Dan Simon presented research on investigator bias that may arise in an adversarial legal structure. Specifically, the research was designed to compare investigations conducted under the Anglo-American and Continental European legal systems. Under the U.S. system, police investigators are faced with the double role of finding the perpetrator, and then gathering evidence for his or her conviction. In contrast, under non-adversarial systems, police investigations are conducted by a magistrate and investigators from the judicial branch.

[Learn about Prof. Simon's research findings.](#)

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#### 6} Praises for Lord

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>>Chances are, she helped you out when you were in the USC Law Library. After 18 years spent serving the wide-ranging research needs of the school’s students and faculty, Senior Law Librarian Hazel Lord has turned in her book cart.

At a farewell party for Lord held in August, library staff recounted the librarian’s many accomplishments and legendary service ethic. More than 20,000 faculty requests for books and articles have been sent to Lord in her 18 years, and she and her department have managed the delivery of over 16,000 documents and about 12,000 inter-library loan requests.

“I oversee library statistics,” says Law Library Associate Director Leonette Williams. “These figures were counted and verified by me. They are not an exaggeration.”

[Read more about Hazel Lord's farewell.](#)

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## 7} Join the Young Alumni Committee

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>>Young alumni: do you want to stay informed, be connected and make a difference for your classmates and the entire USC Law community? Young Alumni Committee (YAC) Co-Chairs Nina Goldberg '05 and Chris Gordon '05, and all 50 members of the Young Alumni Committee, invite alumni from the past 10 graduating classes to join the 2008-2009 Young Alumni Committee. For more information about the YAC, upcoming activities or volunteer opportunities, please visit: <http://law.usc.edu/youngalumni/>

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## 8} USC Law Alumni on LinkedIn

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>>Now you can connect with other USC Law graduates via the official USC Law Alumni Group on the professional networking site LinkedIn. [Join the group!](#)

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## 9} Special USC Law Job Announcement

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>>USC Law seeks applicants to direct our Office of Public Service (OPS). The office was founded in 2006 to support service learning. Its ongoing mission is to encourage a service ethic among USC Law students and graduates with the aim that every law student participate in pro bono activities while in school and be inspired to continue public service after graduation. OPS is a dynamic and important part of the law school.

OPS accomplishes its mission through many programs: it oversees judicial, governmental and public-interest externships; offers workshops and other programming about community service and pro bono opportunities; supports student groups that conduct pro-bono legal clinics; and coordinates large volunteer projects, such as the Legal Aid Alternative Break trip each spring to the Gulf Coast.

Preferred qualifications for this position include: a J.D. degree; five or more years experience in public-interest practice; and knowledge of public-interest and pro bono organizations in Southern California. Title and salary will depend on qualifications. Starting date is January 1, 2009, or sooner.

To apply, send a letter by Oct. 26, 2008, describing relevant experience with a resume and the names of three references to Scott Altman, USC Law, 699 Exposition Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90089-0071.

Alumni may view the full job description on the school's Symplicity site at <http://law.usc.edu/career/graduates/listings.cfm>. The job number is 5869.

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## 10} Upcoming Events: Conversations with the Dean, Elyn Saks Book Talk

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### SEPTEMBER 23: CONVERSATIONS WITH THE DEAN: PAUL ORFALEA

USC Law Dean Robert K. Rasmussen hosts Paul Orfalea, founder of Kinko's, for the year's first installment of the popular "Conversations with the Dean" series. The event will be held in Room 7 of the law school from 12:30 to 1:15 pm.

Learn how Orfalea built Kinko's from a tiny operation in a converted hamburger stand into a corporate powerhouse with more than 1,700 branches and 23,000 co-workers worldwide. His rise through the business world was sparked by a belief in the power of entrepreneurship and a strong commitment to customer relationships and corporate responsibility.

Sandwiches and drinks available on a first-come, first-served basis. For more info. or parking, call (213) 740-3841 or e-mail [events@law.usc.edu](mailto:events@law.usc.edu).

### OCTOBER 10: ELYN SAKS BOOK TALK

USC Law Associate Dean and Professor Elyn Saks discusses her critically acclaimed book, "The Center Cannot Hold: My Journey Through Madness," from 1:00 pm – 1:45 pm at in Room 3 of the law school. The event is free.

### NOVEMBER 8: USC LAW ALUMNI TAILGATE PARTY

Celebrate the USC football season before the Cal game with USC Law students, faculty, staff and fellow alumni on the steps of USC Law. Festivities begin at 2:00 pm and include free food, beverages, music and a dunk tank hosted by the Young Alumni Committee! For more information and to RSVP visit: <http://law.usc.edu/tailgates>

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## LINKS

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>>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>

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