



USC LAW eNEWS

~an electronic newsletter for USC Law alumni and friends

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1} CourtCall Founder Shares Story

>>Mark Wapnick '72 believes that some of his best ideas have come out of frustrating situations. In 1995, the real estate and business attorney came up with the idea for CourtCall as he sat in traffic during a 40-mile trip back from court. His appearance had lasted fewer than five minutes, but his entire trip cost him several hours of driving time and hundreds of dollars for his client.

"I thought there had to be a better way," said Wapnick, who shared his story with the USC Law community during the March 2 installment of the "Conversations with the Dean" speaker series, hosted by Dean Robert K. Rasmussen. "I wondered why couldn't we have done this by telephone? It was only a two-minute appearance."

[Read more about Mark Wapnick's founding of CourtCall.](#)

2} Students, Attorneys Go "Street"

>>Two years ago, Ian Maher '11 was teaching biology at a high school in the USC neighborhood. Today, as president of Street Law, he visits high school classrooms with fellow law students to teach young people about the law--and soon he'll be joined by attorneys from Sheppard Mullin.

Street Law, the venerable youth-oriented law education program, has announced a partnership with Sheppard Mullin to create opportunities for attorney involvement in the USC community. Leading Sheppard Mullin's participation in USC's Street Law is associate Olivier Theard '01, a founding member of his firm's Diversity and Inclusion Attorney Network. The network aims to match attorneys with existing community and education programs in Los Angeles and in other cities where the firm has offices.

[Read about the new partnership.](#)

3} Students Head to Border to Provide Aid

>>At 1:30 on a chilly winter morning, 13 USC Law students stood on the United States-Mexico border with dozens of farm workers awaiting the arrival of transportation to the fields nearby. It was an atypical way to wrap up their winter break, but the students were there with purpose. They volunteered two days of their time to help California Rural Legal Assistance survey farm workers about their working conditions in the fields. For the third year in a row, the law school's [Legal Aid Alternative Breaks](#) (LAAB) group has teamed with CRLA to assist residents and workers in low-income rural communities. Joined by Acting Director of Public Services Malissa Barnwell-Scott, the students traveled to El Centro, where CRLA staff trained them in labor and employment law and taught them how to complete the comprehensive working-condition surveys.

[Learn more about the law student-CRLA project.](#)

4} Web Politics

>>A subcommittee of the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) - the state's independent watchdog of politics and campaigns - will meet at USC Law on March 24, 2010, to discuss the current trends of paid political activity on the Internet, email and social networking sites.

The subcommittee will address several questions, including whether new rules are needed to regulate paid political activity on the Internet, in email and on social networking sites. The panel will also look at who is behind electronic messages campaigning for and against candidates and ballot measures in California.

USC Law Professor and Commissioner Elizabeth Garrett is co-chairing the hearing with Commissioner Timothy Hodson of California State University, Sacramento.

[Read more about the event.](#)

5} 3Ls Make Pledge of Support

>>For students participating in the 3L Class Gift program, a pledge represents more than a commitment to support USC Law in the future: it is a vote of confidence in their own futures and the education they have

received. Through the end of April, 3L Class Gift leaders [Laura Riley '10](#), [Lauren Fendrick '10](#) and [Steffi Gascon '10](#) are asking their classmates to make a pledge to give back to the law school beginning a year after graduation.

[Read more about the 3L Class Gift program.](#)

6} Reflecting on the Supreme Court's Midterm

>>David Savage, the Los Angeles Times' Supreme Court reporter and one of the most respected legal journalists in Washington, D.C, spoke recently at USC Law about what lies ahead for the Court as it enters the second half of its term.

During his 24-year tenure covering the Supreme Court, Savage has written extensively about many of the most controversial issues facing the court this term, including abortion rights, prison sentencing, immigration, affirmative action in schools and campaign finance.

"The justices are very intelligent and thoughtful but they have totally different views on just about everything," Savage said. "They are clearly divided ideologically on the key issues."

[Read more about David Savage's talk.](#)

7} Next Stop: Tokyo

>>Most prospective students make a personal connection to the USC Gould School of Law before enrolling here. They stroll the tree-lined campus and engage with students, faculty and staff and decide that USC Law is the place for them. It's not so easy with students applying to the [Graduate and International Programs](#) (G&IP), including the Master of Law, Master of Comparative Law, visiting and exchange programs. Instead, the G&IP staff do their best to bring USC Law to them.

[Read about USC Law's recruitment efforts abroad.](#)

8} Parole Hearings Chief Speaks to Students

>>Martin Hoshino, executive officer of the Board of Parole Hearings, spoke to a small group of students and faculty Feb. 4. Hoshino, who was appointed by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger in January 2008, gave an overview of the correctional system and discussed the challenges facing the Board of Parole Hearings. He spoke to a group of mostly students who are enrolled in the USC Law Post-Conviction Justice Project.

The clinic, co-directed by Profs. Michael Brennan and Heidi Rummel, represents inmates at the California Institution for Women, located in Corona, Calif. Students enrolled in the year-long clinic represent clients in parole hearings and legal challenges to denials of parole in state and federal courts.

[Read more about Martin Hoshino's visit.](#)

9} Upcoming events: Alumni Mixers, Regional Receptions, IP Institute

MARCH 18: ALUMNI MIXER - SOUTH BAY

Enjoy the company of fellow USC Law alumni for a reception at Union Cattle in Hermosa Beach [1301 Manhattan Avenue 90254; (310) 798-8227] beginning at 6:00 p.m. Complimentary appetizers will be provided and drink specials will be available. Parking is available below the Union Cattle building as you turn onto Manhattan Ave. To RSVP or for more information, please contact Brooke Duebler, assistant director of Development & Graduate Relations, at alumni@law.usc.edu or 213.743.1833.

MARCH 22 & 24; APRIL 1: ADMITTED STUDENT REGIONAL RECEPTIONS

Please join us at a reception near you! We would love to connect our Trojan network with admitted students who are thinking about joining USC Law this fall. Once the admitted applicants receive their decisions from the Admissions Office, they want to connect with students, faculty and alumni. This is a great opportunity for you to talk with an admitted student about your experience at USC Law.

If you are interested in joining us, please RSVP to admissionsevent@law.usc.edu.

March 22-Boston, MA (Please RSVP by March 15, 2010)

John Hancock Financial Services

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

601 Congress Street Building

Boston, Massachusetts 02210

March 24-New York, NY (Please RSVP by March 15, 2010)

Morrison & Foerster

6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

1290 Avenue of the Americas

New York, NY 10104-0050

April 1, 2010-San Francisco, CA (Please RSVP by March 26, 2010)

Allen Matkins

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Three Embarcadero Center

12th Floor

San Francisco, CA 94111-4074

(Validated parking in the building)

MARCH 23: INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY INSTITUTE

USC Law Continuing Legal Education (CLE) hosts its annual Intellectual Property Institute at the Beverly Hills Hotel. The Institute has forged a reputation for gathering national speakers to analyze sophisticated topics and provide practical take-aways to attendees. Second Circuit Court of Appeals Judge Pierre N. Leval will open the 2010 Institute with a keynote presentation. Commissioner J. Thomas Rosch of the Federal Trade Commission will keynote the Institute's luncheon presentation, discussing potential antitrust liability for single firm behavior in the IP context. The afternoon will feature three concurrent tracks of programming focused on copyright, patent and trademark issues. The day will end with a hosted networking reception. [Get a sneak peek](#) of the program, or [learn more and register](#).

MARCH 25: MARCH MADNESS ALUMNI VIEWING PARTY - ORANGE COUNTY

Why not watch the second round of March Madness with fellow alumni? Join us at Corner Office in Costa

Mesa [580 Anton Boulevard, Costa Mesa, CA 92626 (714) 979-9922] beginning at 6:00 p.m. Complimentary appetizers will be provided and there are drink specials until 7:00 p.m. Free parking is available in the private parking lot. To RSVP or for more information, please contact Brooke Duebler, assistant director of Development & Graduate Relations, at alumni@law.usc.edu or 213.743.1833.

APRIL 9: USC APAA HONORS USC LAW GRADS

The USC Asian Pacific Alumni Association (APAA) will honor two USC Law alumni at its Scholarship and Awards Gala, to be held at Town & Gown beginning at 6:00 p.m. California Supreme Court Justice Joyce Kennard '74 will receive the Distinguished Alumni Award; attorney Christine C. Lee '79, an advocate for the Korean American community, will receive the Service Award. Net proceeds from the event will support the APAA scholarship endowment and alumni programs. Tickets are \$175 each (\$100 for alumni who graduated from USC within the last 10 years). For more information, contact Alex Chang at 213.740.6380.

APRIL 14: REAL ESTATE LAW AND BUSINESS FORUM

USC Law Continuing Legal Education (CLE) hosts its annual Real Estate Law and Business Forum at the Wilshire Grand Hotel in downtown Los Angeles. The popular conference will feature dozens of nationally regarded business and legal leaders who will provide information on opportunities in real estate markets. The Forum includes five networking events, including a hosted reception, and a takeaway volume of syllabus materials. Members of co-sponsoring associates are eligible for a special registration discount. CLE units are available for lawyers, accountants and real estate professionals. [Take a peek at the program](#), or [register online](#).

APRIL 22: ALUMNI MIXER - CULVER CITY

Join your fellow USC Law alumni for a mixer at Rush Street in Culver City [9546 Washington Blvd, Culver City, CA 90232] beginning at 6:00 p.m. Complimentary appetizers will be provided and drink specials will be available. Free parking is available in the structure across Culver Blvd. To RSVP or for more information, please contact Brooke Duebler, assistant director of Development & Graduate Relations, at alumni@law.usc.edu or 213.743.1833.

LINKS

>>myLAW: <http://mylaw2.usc.edu/login.cfm>

>>ALUMNI WEB SITE: <http://mylaw2.usc.edu/alumni/>

>>GIVE BACK TO USC LAW: <http://mylaw2.usc.edu/alumni/giving/>

>>CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION: <http://mylaw2.usc.edu/why/academics/cle/>

>>ALUMNI CAREER SERVICES: <http://lawweb.usc.edu/careers/aluminfo.cfm>

>>NEWSROOM: <http://mylaw2.usc.edu/news/>

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Requests must include your full name.

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