



News Highlights



Students Win National Competition

National champions.

Four USC Gould students earned that title after a two-day competition that tested skills required for successful transactional law careers. The team of Jennifer Cohen '14, Nicole Creamer '13 and Dilveer Valhali '13 took top honors at the National Transactional LawMeet, a mock negotiation experience for students interested in pursuing a career in transactional law. Darren Guttentberg '13 couldn't travel with his teammates to Philadelphia for the final round but helped prep them for the intensive competition.

[Learn more about the students' winning performance.](#)



Epstein Awarded Guggenheim Fellowship

Lee Epstein, the USC Provost Professor of Law and Political Science and Rader Family Trustee Chair in Law, has been awarded a coveted fellowship by the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation. Recognized for "achievement and exceptional promise," Epstein is one of 175 scholars, artists and scientists honored with the mid-career Guggenheim Fellowship. Epstein won for her scholarship assessing diversity on the federal bench and the effect of gender, race and religion on judging.

[Read about Epstein's latest honor.](#)



Lyon Wins NSF Grant

Prof. Thomas Lyon, a nationally recognized law and psychology scholar, was recently awarded a grant from the National Science Foundation to study ways to improve child witness reports. Lyon is the co-principal investigator in the 18-month study, "The Use of Narrative Enhancement to Facilitate Children's Productivity in Eyewitness Testimony," which will identify how to obtain detailed information from child witnesses without asking leading questions.

The new study complements a separate series of studies that Lyon is overseeing that examines how non-disclosing maltreated children can be encouraged to reveal abuse.

Calendar

FEATURED EVENTS

**MAY 8: USC GOULD ALUMNI ASSOCIATION LUNCHEON
SPEAKER SERIES**

**JUNE 15: USC GOULD
REUNION**

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[Read more about Lyon's work.](#)



Trojan Network Shines at Mentor Lunch

It was another red-letter day for the Trojan network at the USC Gould 2013 Mentor Lunch, where about 160 first-year students were seated according to their area of professional interest with 176 alumni.

Dean Robert K. Rasmussen in his welcoming remarks noted the array of talent in attendance, and said that the consistently high rate of alumni participation represents "who we are as a community."

[Learn more about this year's Mentor Lunch.](#)



Women Making Partner: The Balancing Act

Partnership, parenthood, professionalism and personal choices: these were the topics discussed at the Women's Law Association's (WLA) panel on women partners in private practice. Although managing each of these areas can be a challenge, the three partners - two of whom are USC Gould alumnae - assured students that success as a partner comes from the ability to find the right balance.

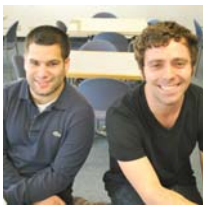
[Read about their advice to future lawyers.](#)



Latino Values, Outreach Celebrated

There was much to celebrate at last month's Judges and Lawyers Night, the annual event put on by USC Gould's Latino Law Students Association (LLSA). In addition to honoring two members of the greater Los Angeles legal community and having a keynote address by recently elected Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey '82, the students, faculty, alumni and guests toasted the revitalization of the LLSA.

[Read about the event and the revitalized LLSA.](#)



Alumni & Students Go Business Casual

The Trojan network was on display at the inaugural Transactional Law Alumni Dinner, held April 1 at USC's Town & Gown. Hosted by the USC Business Law Society (BLS), the networking event brought out more than 70 students eager to meet alumni representing 10 practice groups and more than 15 firms.

For Business Law Society co-founders Justin Goldberg '13 and Mikhail Brandon '13, who created the event, the idea was simple: sort tables by practice area, match attorneys with students interested in each area, and then let the conversation begin.

[Read more about the event.](#)



Cruz Reports on SCOTUS Same-Sex Marriage Hearings

In an era when almost any human occupation is deemed worthy of a reality show and you can view someone doing almost anything on YouTube, there is still only one way to watch proceedings at the United States Supreme Court: get in line early and nab one of the 400 seats available.

Prof. David Cruz was among the relative handful of spectators in late March when the U.S. Supreme Court heard arguments on same-sex marriage discrimination. On April 11, Cruz presented his observations and an analysis of the constitutional arguments at a lunchtime event at USC Gould hosted by OUTLaw.

[Learn Cruz's take on the hearings.](#)



Awards for Students, Faculty, Staff

Whether it was exemplary teaching, assisting fellow students, excellence in the classroom or just making someone's day a little brighter at USC Gould, the annual awards program held last month recognized the achievements of faculty, staff and graduating students.

[Read about the award winners.](#)



Sports Agent Leigh Steinberg Visits USC Gould

"My father had two values. One, treasure relationships, especially with your family; and two, try to make a meaningful difference in the world, especially for the ones who can't do it for themselves."

Sports agent Leigh Steinberg told USC Gould students he lives up to those values by helping athletes see beyond the prestige of being professional players to become professionals outside of sports. Life on the field is temporary, but Leigh said helping athletes cultivate their professional selves can help contribute to having a rewarding career.

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



Appetite for East Coast Success

If the stampede of USC Gould students cramming their way into Room 7 for an event on east coast job hunting was any indication, New York and Washington, D.C., had better look out for these aspiring attorneys. The students' hunger for a new environment and challenging career evidently was insatiable: the lunch tables were left barren and the students consumed all the advice they could from the four panelists from Cleary Gottlieb, a firm with 16 offices on four continents.

[Read about the attorneys' advice for those seeking east-coast jobs.](#)



Alum Shares His Story with Admitted Students

The Class of 2016 doesn't officially begin law school until August, but prospective members met last week for a sneak peek at the courses, faculty and classmates who will shape their experiences should they decide to attend. The Honorable Jay Gandhi '97, a United States magistrate judge for the Central District of California, delivered the keynote address. Judge Gandhi is the second Indian-American federal judge in the U.S. and the first such judge in California.

[Read about Judge Gandhi's remarks at Law Day.](#)



Drawing the Drone Line

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) at USC Gould recently hosted a discussion on the United States' use of drone technology and its implications for civil liberties and personal privacy. The panel included law lecturer Seth Stoddard and several ACLU@USC members. They discussed Fourth Amendment issues, cases pertaining to government surveillance, and possible legal action when FAA regulations regarding drone use are revealed in 2015.

[Read more about the discussion.](#)

Degrees of Difference



Five LL.M. students - each a practicing attorney - discussed the legal systems in their countries of origin at a special J.D.-LL.M. Partnership event April 8. While there were similarities across countries, some of the differences, including a six-day bar exam required to practice law in Nigeria, drew astonished laughs from the J.D. and LL.M. students in attendance. The event was sponsored by the International Law & Relations Organization, a student group that encourages interaction between J.D. students and the 174 international students enrolled in the LL.M. for Foreign Lawyers program.

[Read more about the event.](#)

Calendar

MAY 8: USC GOULD ALUMNI ASSOCIATION LUNCHTIME SPEAKER SERIES - COMPLEX LITIGATION IN LOS ANGELES

Come enjoy lunch with alumni and friends, followed by a presentation on complex litigation in Los Angeles by the Honorable Wendell Mortimer Jr. '65. In this presentation, Judge Mortimer first describes what makes a case ripe for the complex courtroom, launches into how to help a judge understand your case and how to handle key issues and problems in complex cases. This event will take place at McCormick & Schmick's, 206 N. Rodeo Drive, Beverly Hills, Calif., from 12:00 - 1:30 p.m. The cost to attend is \$25 per person. USC Gould, a State bar of California-approved MCLE provider, certifies that this activity qualifies for a minimum continuing legal education credit in the amount of 1 hour. For more information or to register online, please [click here](#).

MAY 21: USC GOULD ALUMNI ASSOCIATION INAUGURAL BREAKFAST WITH FACULTY SERIES - THE FUTURE OF THE TAX CODE IN TIMES OF FISCAL PERIL

Join us for a networking breakfast with Prof. Edward McCaffery and fellow alumni as the future of the tax code is discussed. This breakfast will take place at Loeb & Loeb, 10100 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 2200, Los Angeles, Calif. 90067, from 8:00 - 9:30 a.m. Thanks to the sponsorship of Bernard Given '87, partner at Loeb & Loeb, this event is free of charge. For more information or to sign up, please [click here](#). You may also contact Pasha Hawthorne in Development and Graduate Relations at 213.821.3560 or alumni@law.usc.edu.

MAY 22-24: CONDUCTING EMPIRICAL LEGAL SCHOLARSHIP WORKSHOP

Presented by the USC Gould School of Law and Washington University School of Law, the 12th Annual Conducting Empirical Legal Scholarship Workshop is for law professors and other members of the legal community, social science faculty, and graduate students interested in learning about empirical research. Leading empirical scholars Lee Epstein of USC Gould and Andrew Martin of Washington University teach the workshop and provide the formal training necessary to design, conduct, and assess empirical studies and use statistical software (Stata) to analyze and manage data.

Participants need no background or knowledge of statistics to enroll in the workshop. Register at: <https://mylaw.usc.edu/empiricalWorkshop/registerOnline.cfm>

For more information, visit: <http://law.usc.edu/EmpiricalWorkshop>.

JUNE 1: USC GOULD ALUMNI DAY AT THE PARK

The USC Gould School of Law Alumni Association invites alumni, family and friends to join us for a fun-filled day at the park. This event will take place at Kenneth Hahn State Recreational Park, 4100 S. La Cienega Boulevard, Los Angeles, Calif. 90056, from 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. More details about this event will be available soon. If you would like more information, please contact Pasha Hawthorne in Development and Graduate Relations at 213.821.3560 or alumni@law.usc.edu.

JUNE 7: CRIMINAL LAW AT THE CROSSROADS

The American criminal justice system is currently in the throes of an important transition. USC Gould will host a one-day conference, "Criminal Law at the Crossroads," at which leading figures from the judiciary, legal practice and academia will share insights on how to best harness this momentum toward meaningful reform.

Conference topics include the role of accuracy in the criminal justice process and its

relationship to Due Process; the proper role of judicial gatekeeping; and assimilating empirical data into criminal justice policy. The Honorable Stuart Rabner, Chief Justice of the New Jersey Supreme Court, will give the keynote address. California Supreme Court Justice Goodwin Liu will deliver a lunch address.

The conference is open to invitees only.

JUNE 15: USC GOULD REUNION

Next summer's reunion brings together the classes of 1963, 1968, 1973, 1978, 1983, 1988, 1993, 1998, 2003, 2008. The event will take place at JW Marriot at LA Live and begins with individual class receptions followed by an all-class reunion dinner. If you are interested in joining your class reunion committee, please contact Rakib Haque at 213.821.3569 or reunion@law.usc.edu. For more information or to register for this event, visit law.usc.edu/reunion.

Questions?

Send an e-mail to: enews@law.usc.edu

