



## USC LAW Alumni eNEWS

\*\*\*\*\*

~an electronic newsletter for USC Law alumni and friends

\*\*\*\*\*

{February 11, 2011} {Vol. 8 No. 5}

### In this edition:

- [1} Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy Visits USC Law](#)
- [2} Defining Family Law - Harvard Law Prof. Delivers Distinguished Lecture](#)
- [3} Elizabeth Garrett Installed as USC Provost](#)
- [4} Interview Dos and Don'ts](#)
- [5} American Hiker Released from Iran Speaks at USC](#)
- [6} LL.M. Program Provides Window on U.S. Law](#)
- [7} Alumni Judges Admit Bar's Newest Members](#)
- [8} Upcoming events: Conversations with the Dean, Law Firm Reception](#)

---

### 1} Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy Visits USC Law

---



>> USC Law hosted Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy for a day-long visit Feb. 1. Justice Kennedy began the day [teaching a Constitutional Law class](#), where he regaled 1Ls with quips and anecdotes and shared his perspective on the Supreme Court. Later he [spoke with Dean Robert K. Rasmussen before an audience](#) comprising hundreds of students, faculty and staff. The night before, Justice Kennedy had indulged his passion for Shakespeare by [adjudicating "The Trial of Hamlet"](#) at USC's Bovard Auditorium.

---

## 2} Defining Family Law - Harvard Law Prof. Delivers Distinguished Lecture

---



>> The concept of family law has seen much debate in recent years as modern family forms change and challenge its legal definition. In the ninth annual Center for Law, History and Culture Distinguished Lecture, Janet Halley, Royall Professor of Law at Harvard Law School, guided her audience on a journey through the development of family law as it is known today and delved into its potential future. The Center celebrates its 10th anniversary this month.

In her lecture, titled "What is Family Law? Marriage and Contract in the Rise of Legal Science," Halley provided a complex background on the roots of the concept of family law, tying it with the modern issues of marriage contract. Through historical evidence, anecdotes and even genealogical studies, Halley showed that society's perception of the "traditional family," often thought to be threatened by new institutions such as homosexual partnerships, is actually an ever-changing institution itself.

[Read more about Prof. Halley's lecture.](#)

---

## 3} Elizabeth Garrett Installed as USC Provost

---



>> USC Law Prof. Elizabeth Garrett formally was installed as USC provost Jan. 11 at a Town & Gown ceremony attended by friends, family and colleagues.

As the second-ranking officer under the president and the chief academic officer of the university, Garrett oversees all USC's deans and vice provosts, as well as the CEO of the USC University Hospital and USC Norris Cancer Hospital. Also under her purview are the divisions of student affairs, libraries, research advancement, information technology services, student religious life, and admissions and planning.

In his remarks to the gathering, USC President C. L. Max Nikias noted that university history was being made. "For the first time in USC's 130-year history, by far the very best person that we could recruit is a woman," he said. "For the first time ever, we appoint a woman as our chief academic officer."

[Read more about the event.](#)

---

#### **4} Interview Dos and Don'ts**

---



>> A diverse panel of three USC Law alumni and a current student recently discussed what students need to know to impress potential employers. The four spoke to a full house in a Career Services Office workshop on interviewing skills.

Nicole Heeseman '98, supervising research attorney for the Los Angeles Superior Court, started off the panel by discussing what is important beyond the resume and the writing sample.

"It's like a dating game," said Heeseman, who stressed the importance of being suitable for a particular role.

[Read about the advice given by alumni.](#)

---

#### **5} American Hiker Released from Iran Speaks at USC**

---



>> Sarah Shourd, who was captured and imprisoned in Iran for 410 days while hiking in the Kurdistan region, recently spoke at USC about the quest to free fellow American hikers Shane Bauer and Josh Fattal.

Shourd joined her mother, Nora, and Josh's brother, Alex Fattal, at the Ray Stark Theatre for the premiere of "Free Shane and Josh: An Urgent Plea for Compassion," a 25-minute documentary on their imprisonment.

Sponsored by USC Law's International Human Rights Clinic, the USC School of Cinematic Arts and the Center on Public Diplomacy at the USC Annenberg School for Communication & Journalism, the film premiere and discussion were attended by more than 180 students, friends and members of the public.

[Read more about the event.](#)

---

#### **6} LL.M. Program Provides Window on U.S. Law**

---



>> Each year about 120 students from all over the world leave their home countries to study law at USC. Through the one-year LL.M. program, lawyers from other countries have a chance to better understand American law. For many, the advanced degree will give them a leg up in their home countries, where English language skills and knowledge of American law can be valued in the legal field. For those who hope to stay in the U.S., the fusion of their multilingual skills and knowledge of both American law and foreign law can make them a valuable asset for American firms.

[Read more about the LL.M. program.](#)

---

## 7} Alumni Judges Admit Bar's Newest Members

---



>> Months after crossing the stage at commencement to collect their diplomas and shift their mortarboard tassels, 97 recent USC Law graduates completed the final rite of passage to enter the profession of law at the Bar Admission Ceremony in Town and Gown on Dec. 3.

Surrounded by a crowd of 200 of their family members, friends and former professors, the alumni, who passed the California Bar Examination in July, were sworn into the state and federal bars. Administering the oaths were two alumni judges: the Honorable Valerie F. Salkin '92, Los Angeles Superior Court Judge, and the Honorable Vijay C. Gandhi '97, United States District Court judge for the Central District of California.

[Read more about the event.](#)

---

## 8} Upcoming events: CONVERSATIONS WITH THE DEAN, LAW FIRM RECEPTION

---

### **FEBRUARY 16: CONVERSATIONS WITH THE DEAN: JOHN MOLINA**

Join Dean Robert K. Rasmussen for a conversation with John Molina '89, chief financial officer of Molina Healthcare, the largest Hispanic business in the country, according to Hispanic Business Magazine. Molina Healthcare has branched out from California and operates in 15 states, seeing more than four million Medicaid beneficiaries. Molina will discuss his family's business and the entrepreneurial spirit that drives it. He will also talk about how President Obama's health care plan will affect California and the nation. The event includes lunch and will be held beginning at 12:30 p.m. in USC Law Room 7. For more information contact the Law Events Office at 213.740.3841 or [events@law.usc.edu](mailto:events@law.usc.edu).

### **MARCH 1: SMALL & MID-SIZED LAW FIRM RECEPTION**

USC Law's Career Services Office hosts the 6th Annual USC Law Small & Mid-Sized Law Firm Reception at the USC University Club from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. 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 small to mid-sized law firms.

Light hors d'oeuvres will be served and a host bar of beer and wine will be provided. Complimentary parking will also be provided. **Please RSVP by Feb. 22** by [completing the online registration form](#).

Please contact the Career Services Office at 213.740.7397 or [careers@law.usc.edu](mailto:careers@law.usc.edu) if you have any questions.

### **MARCH 2: REAL ESTATE LAW AND BUSINESS FORUM**

For the past eight 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, five networking events, including a hosted reception, and a takeaway volume of syllabus materials.

Join nationally known speakers at the 2011 Forum, including: luncheon speaker Pat Haden, Austin Beutner, Ted Brandt, Sam Chandan, John Eber, Chip Fedalen, Jonathan Firestone, Jeff Friedman, Jeff Giller, Sally Gordon, Eric Hafter, Melinda Hall-Wood, Hasan Ikhrata, Larry Kosmont, Mark Landau, Art Leahy, Bill Lindsay, Michael LoGrande, Michael May, John Menne, Glenn Mueller, Randall Rothschild, Marshal Salant, Arturo Sneider, Glenn Sonnenberg and dozens of others. For a preview of the 2011 Forum programming, please [click here](#). To see the complete lineup of speakers and topics, [click here for a copy of the 2011 Forum Brochure](#).

### **MARCH 3: JUDGES & LAWYERS NIGHT**

The USC Latino Law Students Association invites alumni to attend the annual Judges & Lawyers Night, to be held in the USC Tutor Campus Center ballroom beginning at 7:00 p.m. The association will be honoring Israel Rodriguez of Pepperdine University's Office of Hispanic Affairs and the Honorable Teresa Sanchez Gordon of the Los Angeles Superior Court. The event will feature music, appetizers and a cash bar. Admission is \$25. **Please RSVP by Feb. 25** to 213.740.3841 or [events@law.usc.edu](mailto:events@law.usc.edu).

### **MARCH 22: INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY INSTITUTE**

The Intellectual Property Institute has forged a reputation for gathering national speakers to analyze sophisticated topics and provide practical take-aways to attendees. Focusing on copyright, patent and trademark law, the Institute features morning plenary sessions, a luncheon keynote, afternoon tracked breakout sessions, and five networking opportunities, including a hosted cocktail reception. For a preview of the 2011 Institute programming, please [click here](#). For a copy of the 2011 Institute brochure, [click here](#).

The Institute will be held at the Beverly Hills Hotel, and speakers will include David Kappos, Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property, and Victoria A. Espinel,

U.S. Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator.

### **MAY 28 - JUNE 4: USC LAW SEADREAM CRUISE**

USC Law alumni and friends are invited to cruise the Mediterranean Sea on the 2011 SeaDream Cruise while helping to expand scholarship funds for outstanding law students. The charter of the 50-cabin SeaDream Yacht will tour the picturesque and historically significant cities and ports of Rome, Positano, Dubrovnik, Kotor, Corfu and Athens. For more information, please contact Richard Harvey at 213.740.9193 or [rh Harvey@law.usc.edu](mailto:rh Harvey@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](mailto:alumni@law.usc.edu). Requests must include your full name.

>> SUGGESTIONS? E-mail your suggestions for future newsletters to [enews@law.usc.edu](mailto:enews@law.usc.edu).