



## USC LAW Alumni eNEWS

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~an electronic newsletter for USC Law alumni and friends  
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### 1} Prof. Roithmayr Named to Pfleger Chair

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>> USC Law Prof. Daria Roithmayr was recently named the holder of the George T. and Harriet E. Pfleger Chair in Law. Professor Roithmayr is a critical race theorist who has devoted her legal scholarship to examining the intersections of race, justice and society. Roithmayr, who joined the USC Law faculty in 2006, was honored at a Nov. 16 ceremony before friends, family and colleagues. Charles Whitebread, who died in 2008, formerly held the Pfleger Chair.

[Learn more about Prof. Roithmayr.](#)

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### 2} Judge William Fletcher Delivers 2010 Roth Lecture

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>> In contemporary judicial and political debate, few issues elicit such impassioned deliberations as capital punishment - the topic featured in the latest installment of the Justice Lester W. Roth Lecture series.

In his Nov. 9 lecture - "The Death Penalty: Where Are We Now?" - the Honorable William A. Fletcher outlined the complex history of capital punishment for an audience of students, faculty and members of the USC Law community.

[Read about Judge Fletcher's Roth Lecture.](#)

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### 3} Rights for Robots?

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>> Would robots or aliens ever deserve rights? What qualities would they have to exhibit? Would it be a matter of their being similar to humans, or a matter of their being able to claim their rights?

A panel of USC faculty entertained these and other questions at a coffeehouse conversation on Nov. 17 sponsored by USC's Levan Institute for Humanities and Ethics. The panel comprised USC Law Prof. Michael H. Shapiro, an expert in bioethics and constitutional law, and professors from the USC Viterbi School of Engineering and the USC College of Letters, Arts and Sciences.

[Read about -- or watch -- the discussion.](#)

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### 4} When Baseball and Arbitration Meet

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>> On Nov. 11, a rapt audience of students observed San Diego Padres General Counsel Jeremy Horowitz '02 and Dennis Gilbert, special assistant to the Chicago White Sox Chairman Jerry Reinsdorf, conduct a mock salary arbitration hearing.

Using the facts from the 2006 arbitration between the Padres and former Major League Baseball player Todd Walker, Horowitz argued on behalf of the team, claiming that Walker's proposed salary of \$2.75 million was appropriate and even generous when compared to his perceived market value as judged against comparable players. Conversely, Gilbert claimed the team's offer was not befitting of Walker, who asked for \$3.95 million.

[Read more about the mock arbitration and "mid-point theory."](#)

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#### 5} Is Big Brother Watching You?

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>> The Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) of the 1970s was intended to deter the widespread abuse of warrantless wiretapping. Should the Executive Branch desire to conduct such activity, FISA allowed them to petition a "secret court" and be granted a secret warrant.

"But after 9/11, this wasn't good enough for the Bush administration," said Lisa Jaskol, one of a team of attorneys that challenged the federal government's right to secretly expand their warrantless wiretapping activities - and won. Jaskol, a law school guest of the American Constitution Society of Law and Policy, described the nearly five years of legal work involved in the case to USC Law students.

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

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#### 6} Mental Health Experts Speak at Saks Institute Symposium

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>> Three nationally respected authorities on mental illness - hailing from academia, advocacy and the legal arena - spoke at the inaugural symposium of USC Law's Saks Institute for Mental Health Law, Policy, and Ethics. The Nov. 11 event, "Ethics, Mental Illness, and Mechanical Restraints," drew an audience of more than 130 lawyers, psychiatrists, and academics from around the country as well as USC students

and faculty.

Organized by USC Law Prof. Elyn Saks, recipient of a 2009 MacArthur Foundation "genius grant" and founder of the Saks Institute, the symposium gave an overview and history of mental health issues as well as a look at the legal and ethical issues surrounding mechanical restraints used in mental hospitals.

[Read more about the symposium.](#)

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#### **7} Prof. Rosenbluth Speaks at International Symposium**

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>> USC Law Prof. Jean Rosenbluth joined more than a dozen judges, prosecutors and defense attorneys from around the world to share insights on pretrial detention standards and pre-sentence investigation at an international symposium hosted by the Korean Ministry of Justice. Rosenbluth, director of USC Law's Legal Writing and Advocacy Program and a former Assistant U.S. Attorney, spoke to approximately 150 Korean prosecutors and law professors on pretrial detention standards in the United States. She was the only female presenter at the two-day conference in Seoul, Korea.

[Read more about Prof. Rosenbluth's presentation.](#)

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#### **8} CLE Event Focuses on Corporate Counsel**

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>> On Dec. 8, Los Angeles lawyers will gather at the annual Institute for Corporate Counsel, an event that focuses on the intersection of law, politics and business. The institute is a collaboration of the USC Gould School of Law and the Los Angeles County Bar Association Corporate Law Departments Section.

"The philosophy is to understand the evolving business environment in Los Angeles in which both in-house and outside counsel operate," said Mary Andruess, a '98 alumna on the organization's Board of Governors. "It's also to provide a venue for our panelists as well as participants to interact and provide insights into best practices and changes in law that impact business operations."

[Read more about the Institute.](#)

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**9} Upcoming events: PILF AUCTION, USC LAW CRUISE**

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**DECEMBER 8: INSTITUTE FOR CORPORATE COUNSEL**

The Institute for Corporate Counsel for more than three decades has been the premier Los Angeles conference at which corporate counsel professionals gather to compare notes, keep abreast of key legal developments and network with colleagues. Focusing on the intersection of law, business and politics, the Institute's sessions feature prominent speakers and timely panels. Featuring morning plenary sessions, keynote lunch speaker Austin Beutner (City of Los Angeles), tracked breakout sessions and several opportunities to interact with in house counselors, including a hosted cocktail reception, the annual Institute features a full day of learning and networking. CE units for lawyers and accountants are available. For a preview of the 2010 Institute program, [click here](#). For a copy of the complete programming brochure for the 2010 Institute, [click here](#). To access past syllabus materials, [click here](#).

**JANUARY 21: 21ST ANNUAL PILF AUCTION**

Join fellow alumni and current students for this year's PILF auction, to be held in the Grand Ballroom of USC's new Ronald Tutor Campus Center from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. The casino-themed event will feature games of black jack, roulette and craps followed by live and silent auctions benefitting PILF summer fellowship grants. Ticket price of \$40 includes open beer and wine bar, appetizers and gambling money. Buy tickets online at [uscphilf.org](http://uscphilf.org). If you have donations or questions, e-mail [pilf.auction.usc@gmail.com](mailto:pilf.auction.usc@gmail.com).

**JANUARY 24-26: TAX INSTITUTE**

The 2011 Tax Institute will be held at the Wilshire Grand Hotel in Los Angeles. More than 50 speakers and 500 of your professional peers converge to address cutting-edge tax issues affecting corporations, privately held companies, partnerships and real estate, individuals, tax ethics and compliance, and estate planning. This three-day institute features popular morning updates on current developments, afternoon breakouts sessions, 11 intimate evening workshops and two networking receptions. CE units for lawyers, accountants and financial planners, and legal specialization credit in Taxation Law and Estate Planning, Trust and Probate Law are available. [Click here](#) for a preview of the 2011 program. To view the 2011 Institute brochure, [click here](#).

**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 or to RSVP, contact the Events Office at 213.740.3841 or [events@law.usc.edu](mailto:events@law.usc.edu).

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

USC Law alumni are invited to cruise the Mediterranean Sea on the 2011 SeaDream Cruise - while building scholarship funds for outstanding law students. The exclusive charter of the 50-cabin SeaDream Yacht will tour the historically significant ports-of-call of Rome; Positano; Dubrovnik; Kotor and Athens. The cruise will journey from May 28 to June 4, 2011. For further information, please contact Richard Harvey, USC Law SeaDream Cruise, at 213.740.9193 or [rharvey@law.usc.edu](mailto:rharvey@law.usc.edu).

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