



USC LAW eNEWS

~an electronic newsletter for USC Law alumni and friends

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1} Debating the Bailout

>> Bankruptcy experts USC Law Dean Robert K. Rasmussen and Stanford Law School Professor G. Marcus Cole debated the value of the federal bailout of banks during a talk sponsored by the USC Law Federalist Society. The Feb. 17 event, titled "The Great Bailout: Banking or Just Bankrupt?" also was funded with a grant from the John Templeton Foundation.

Cole called the bailout a mistake, and he took issue with not only the bailout itself, but also the greater "bailout reflex," as he termed it. Dean Rasmussen agreed with Cole, to a point. He said although bankruptcy has worked well in the past - in the steel and airline industries, for example - it's better applied to manufacturers and not to banks.

[Read more about the bailout debate.](#)

2} Panel Discusses Dearth of Black NCAA Football Coaches

>> Although the world of sports has come a long way with regard to racially equality, it still has a long way to go. Consider: although 56 percent of the NCAA's Division I football players are black, there are only four black coaches at the 120 member universities.

For its inaugural event, and in recognition of Black History Month, the USC Sports Law Society organized an all-star panel of Trojan athletic department officials Feb. 19 to tackle this issue and to tell students about their careers, including: Ken Norton, Jr., a three-time Super Bowl champion and assistant head coach for defense and linebackers at USC; Dr. Brandon L. Martin, senior associate athletic director and a former USC basketball player; and Jane Teixeira, director of compliance at USC, formerly a student athlete eligibility official at the NCAA and a softball player at the University of Texas.

[Read about the panel discussion.](#)

3} Students Campaign to Free Inmate

>> Adam Reich is only a second-year law student, but he is quickly learning what it means to be a practicing attorney. As part of USC Law's Post-Conviction Justice Project, the 25-year-old New York native is representing Connie Keel, a woman serving almost 30 years in prison for sitting in a car while her husband robbed and killed a shop owner.

Reich clearly understands the stakes involved - Keel's fate rests in his arguments and actions. In October, he successfully convinced the California Board of Parole that Keel is not a threat to society and should be released from prison. Keel has been before the parole board six times and served 29 years in the California Institution for Women.

Keel's fate is now in the hands of Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, who received the parole board's recommendation at the end of Feb. The governor has 30 days to decide whether to uphold or deny her release from prison.

Reich is one of 20 students in USC Law's Post-Conviction Justice Project who, under the direction of Professors Michael Brennan and Heidi Rummel, represent women convicted of first- and second-degree murder at parole hearings and in the state courts. Many of the women have been battered and abused.

[Read more about students' work on the Connie Keel case.](#)

4} USC Law Grad Builds Pizza Empire

>> It doesn't get much more synonymous than "California pizza" and "[California Pizza Kitchen](#)." When USC Law graduate Larry Flax '67 and his law partner decided 25 years ago to open a restaurant and leave the courtroom behind, they dreamed of making an indelible mark on the restaurant world. Today, with 250 restaurants in 17 countries and \$500 million in revenue each year, CPK is a resounding success.

"We loved the restaurant business and we saw the way to make money was that you really have to develop a niche," Flax said during a Feb. 10 "Conversation with the Dean," hosted by Dean Rasmussen.

[Read about Dean Rasmussen's conversation with Larry Flax.](#)

5} Law Firm Challenge '09: Countdown to Kick-off

>> Do alumni in your firm or company support USC Law? Indulge in some friendly competition and rally support for USC Law by joining the Law Firm Challenge, a contest in which alumni in different firms, companies or organizations vie to reach 100 percent participation in the USC Law Annual Fund. The winners get acknowledged in USC Law publications, online and during On Campus Interviews. Your collective participation makes a big difference in the school's overall level of support and shows the student, alumni and legal communities that your firm holds USC Law in high regard. Don't know if you're signed up? Take a look at the list of 69 firms and companies already enrolled by visiting: <http://law.usc.edu/LFC>. If you don't see your company listed, e-mail Emily Page, assistant director of development and graduate relations, at epage@law.usc.edu and SIGN UP TODAY!

6} Alumni Support Up in a Down Year

>> Despite the challenging economic climate, this year USC Law alumni are expressing their confidence in USC Law in record numbers. The number of alumni who have made gifts to the law school is up more than 30 percent from what it was at this time last year. And the participation rate - the percentage of alumni who give - also continues to rise. However, the economic crisis is leaving no institution untouched; to continue offering the highest quality education, awarding scholarships and providing support to student groups and others, USC Law will continue reaching out to alumni and friends. You can support the program or project of your choice including scholarships, PILF, student organizations and more. [USC Law is grateful for your support!](#)

7} Upcoming events: Judges & Lawyers Night, Alumni/Admit Receptions, Career Panels

MARCH 18: YOUNG ALUMNI COMMITTEE CONFERENCE CALL

The Young Alumni Committee, whose members provide leadership for the law school's expanding Young Alumni Association, will host a conference call from 12:00 to 1:30 p.m. to plan events and discuss association business - your business! To join the committee and participate in the call, e-mail Emily Page, assistant director of development and graduate relations, at epage@law.usc.edu.

MARCH 24, 25, 26: ALUMNI/ADMIT RECEPTIONS

Please join Dean Rasmussen and USC Law in welcoming newly admitted students at our Alumni/Admit Receptions. If you are interested in attending any of the receptions, please RSVP to admissionsevent@law.usc.edu. Please include your full name; RSVPs are required for building access. If you have any questions regarding the reception, please feel free to call the USC Law Admissions Office at (213) 740-2523.

New York - March 24 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Natixis Bleichroeder
1345 Avenue of the Americas, 44th Floor
New York, NY 10105

Washington, D.C. - March 25 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Bernstein Global Wealth Management
800 Connecticut Avenue, NW Suite 1100
Washington, DC 20006

Chicago - March 26 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Baker and McKenzie
One Prudential Plaza
130 E. Randolph, Suite 3900
Chicago, IL 60601

MARCH 25: LA RAZA JUDGES & LAWYERS NIGHT

USC Law's La Raza hosts its annual awards and recognition event from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in Town & Gown on the USC campus. To attend this popular event, please RSVP to events@law.usc.edu.

MARCH 25: 2009 REAL ESTATE LAW AND BUSINESS FORUM

USC Law's Continuing Legal Education Program holds its annual forum on real estate law and business at the Millennium Biltmore Hotel in downtown Los Angeles. Network and learn about latest trends, best practices and new ideas from national experts and experienced business and legal professionals.

[Learn more, and register online.](#) You may also [view a brochure \(PDF\) about the forum.](#)

MARCH 26: ALTERNATIVE CAREER PANEL

Not sure what you can do with your law degree? Wondering about opportunities outside legal practice? Attend this panel hosted by USC Law's Career Services Office to learn about other exciting ways people are using their degrees! The event will be held from 12:30 to 1:10 p.m. in Room 3 of the law school. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to careers@law.usc.edu.

APRIL 9: DOWNTOWN L.A. ALUMNI BAR REVIEW

Join alumni and friends who work downtown for drinks at Casa Restaurant (350 S. Grand Ave. on Bunker Hill) beginning at 7:00 p.m. Two-hour free parking is available in the California Plaza garage at 350 S. Olive St. (garage entrance is on west side of Olive St). We will be welcoming the newest members of the alumni family - our graduating 3Ls! Come to mentor, network and have a good time. If you have questions, please e-mail Emily Page, assistant director of development and graduate relations, at epage@law.usc.edu.

APRIL 22: JOB SEARCHING IN A TOUGH ECONOMY

USC Law's Career Services Office hosts a panel of industry experts who have in-depth knowledge of the current state of the local market as well as attorneys who successfully managed their careers through difficult times and/or challenging transitions. The event will be held from 12:30 to 1:10 p.m. in Room 3 of the law school. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to careers@law.usc.edu.

APRIL 23: BLSA AWARDS DINNER

The Black Law Students Association hosts its annual awards dinner from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in USC's Davidson Conference Center. For more information or to RSVP, e-mail events@law.usc.edu.

APRIL 30: SANTA BARBARA REGIONAL RECEPTION

Join Dean Rasmussen for a reception for Santa Barbara-area alumni. The event will be held from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Doubletree Resort. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP to events@law.usc.edu.

{SAVE THE DATE}

JUNE 12: GOLDEN YEARS LUNCHEON

This reunion celebration is held for graduating classes prior to 1959. It will be held in USC's Crocker Plaza beginning at 11:30 a.m.

[Learn more about the Golden Years Luncheon.](#)

{SAVE THE DATE}

JUNE 13: USC LAW REUNION

This summer's reunion brings together the classes of 1959, 1964, 1969, 1974, 1979, 1984, 1989, 1994, 1999, 2004. Festivities take place on campus and begin with a reception followed by individual class dinners. Interested in joining your class reunion committee? Contact Development and Graduate Relations at alumni@law.usc or (213) 743-1710.

[Visit the USC Law Reunion home page.](#)

LINKS

>>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>

>>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. Requests must include your full name.

>>SUGGESTIONS? E-mail your suggestions for future newsletters to enews@law.usc.edu.

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