



USC LAW eNEWS
~an electronic newsletter for USC Law alumni and friends

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1} Follow Dean Rasmussen on Twitter

>> This summer, USC Law Dean Robert K. Rasmussen took to Twitter, where he shares his thoughts on the law school, legal matters and whatever else may be on his mind. The popular microblogging and social networking site, which boasts over 100 million registered users, allows you to hear directly from the dean as he goes about the business of running one of the nation's elite law schools. To follow Dean Rasmussen on Twitter, go to <http://twitter.com/USCLawDean>. Also, be sure to follow USC Law's official Twitter feed at <http://twitter.com/USCGouldLaw>.

2} Law Alumni Meet the Challenge

>> At law firms, companies and other organizations last spring, USC Law alumni rallied their Trojan colleagues to participate in the Law Firm Challenge by making gifts of any size to the law school. By June 30, when the annual competition ended, roughly 70 percent of alumni from 50 competing firms and other organizations had made a gift; 17 firms reached the overall goal of 100 percent alumni participation.

[Read more about Challenge results and participating firms.](#)

3} USC Law Seeks Alumni Mentors

>> USC Law's Career Services Office (CSO) is looking for volunteers for its Alumni Mentor Program for second- and third-year law students. In the tradition of the law school's annual 1L Mentor Lunch, this volunteer opportunity will allow 2Ls and 3Ls to develop meaningful mentor relationships with USC Law alumni working in a practice area and employer-setting in line with their career goals.

The Alumni Mentor Program is part of a larger student program the CSO is offering called the Intensive Career Management Program (ICMP). The ICMP provides students with the opportunity to work closely with a career counselor in the CSO in a more structured manner than the traditional career counseling model. The goal of the program is to motivate students to develop a more active job search strategy.

If you are interested in serving as an alumni mentor, please complete the online registration form at:

<https://mylaw.usc.edu/survey/takeSurvey.asp?surveyID=177>. **The deadline to register is Friday, Oct. 22, 2010.** Alumni will be notified in early November once they have been matched with a student.

If you have questions about the program, please call (213) 740-7397 or e-mail careers@law.usc.edu.

4} New Business, Entertainment Programs are Big Draw

>> Beginning this semester, students have the opportunity to add a little more business savvy to their legal repertoire. USC Law has formally launched its certificate programs in both business and entertainment law. While the two programs intend to educate students about the skills necessary for their prospective careers, each are individually tailored to create comprehensive awareness about specific industry practices.

Although only a few weeks old, the programs already have drawn a significant number of students: 44 J.D. and 41 LL.M. students have registered for the business law certificate program while 37 J.D. and 17 LL.M. students will pursue a certificate in entertainment law.

[Read more about the launch of the new programs.](#)

5} Class of 2013 Arrives on Campus

>> Gone are the dog days of summer – for USC Law’s Class of 2013, it’s time for school. An Aug. 17 convocation kicked off a busy week of orientation activities for USC Law’s latest class of J.D. students. At the ceremony, the Honorable Nora M. Manella ’75 administered the oath officially beginning the legal careers of the Class of 2013.

The 221-member class of 2013 represents the best and brightest from a record pool of 6,587 applicants. The median LSAT score of the incoming USC Law class (167) remained constant compared to last year, but the 25th and 75th percentile scores both increased this year, to 166 and 169, respectively. The average undergraduate GPA of this year’s class also rose, from 3.60 to 3.64.

[Learn more about the Class of 2013.](#)

6} G&IP Class Largest to Date

>> One of the hallmarks of a USC Law education is the incredible diversity of the student body. And for proof of that diversity, look no further than the school’s newest, and largest ever, class of international scholars, who have come to Los Angeles from 21 nations spanning four continents.

In 2010-11, 127 Master of Laws (LL.M.) students, along with four Master of Comparative Law (M.C.L.) students, two visiting VIP students, two exchange students from the University of Hong Kong and one exchange student from the London School of Economics will study at USC Law. Sixty-eight of the incoming LL.M. students got a head start on their USC Law experience by completing the school’s Summer Law & English (SLE) program.

[Read more about USC Law’s ninth LL.M. class and seventh M.C.L. class.](#)

7} New Dean of Students Appointed

>> Priya Sridharan has been appointed USC Law’s assistant dean and dean of students. Sridharan was formerly the director of the law school’s Office of Career Services and has been at the law school since 2005.

“USC Law is fortunate to already have Priya with us,” said Dean Robert K. Rasmussen. “With her considerable skills she has nurtured and counseled students as they entered the workforce as well as alumni who have sought her counsel. Now, she will help guide our students through the beginning of their legal careers.”

Sridharan has served as a legislative deputy to Los Angeles Councilman Eric Garcetti, deputy city attorney for the City of Los Angeles, staff attorney for the Asian Pacific American Legal Center and associate at Tuttle & Taylor. Sridharan earned her J.D. at the University of California, Berkeley.

[Read more about the new dean of students.](#)

8} USC Law Prof. Underwrites New Institute

>> \$500,000. No strings attached. What would you do with it?

For Elyn Saks, recipient of a 2009 MacArthur Foundation “genius grant,” the answer was simple. Of course, before arriving at that answer, Saks, like anyone in her position, had some fleeting thoughts about burning through the money herself.

“I could go to the French Riviera and live drinking wine and eating wonderful cheese for a few years,” she once thought to herself. “But I wanted to do something useful.”

So instead of indulging in summer soirées on the Mediterranean, Saks, the Orrin B. Evans Professor of Law, Psychology, and Psychiatry and the Behavioral Sciences, used some of the money to found a center on mental health policy that she hopes will become the best of its kind.

And so the Saks Institute for Mental Health Law, Policy, and Ethics was born. The Saks Institute will spotlight one important mental health issue per academic year. For 2010-11, it will focus its attention on the use of mechanical restraints in psychiatric hospitals.

[Read more about the Saks Institute.](#)

9} IP Clinic Helps Documentary Get Green Light

>> When Brian Gillogly set out to make his documentary, “Accidental Icon: The Real Gidget Story,” which screened on Aug. 14 at the Egyptian Theater in Hollywood, he thought his greatest challenge would be to convince Kathy Zuckerman – the real woman behind Gidget – to cooperate.

That was far from the case. Gillogly actually faced his highest hurdle over copyright issues for the “Gidget” television shows and movies. He couldn’t afford the licensing fees to use the footage, and believed his project was doomed.

That’s when Gillogly solicited advice from USC Law’s Intellectual Property and Technology Clinic and its director, USC Law Prof. Jack Lerner.

[Learn how Prof. Lerner and his students helped make "Accidental Icon" possible.](#)

10} Upcoming events: SUPREME COURT PREVIEW, ALUMNI TAILGATE, INSTITUTE ON ENTERTAINMENT LAW AND BUSINESS

SEPTEMBER 19: LOS ANGELES DODGERS VS. COLORADO ROCKIES ALUMNI EVENT

USC Law’s Young Alumni Committee hosts a day at the ball park! Join your fellow alumni at the All-You-Can-Eat Pavilion, which provides the ultimate value at Dodgers Stadium with unlimited Dodger Dogs, nachos, peanuts, popcorn and soft drinks. The cost is \$15 (usually \$25). Space is limited so [purchase your tickets today!](#)

SEPTEMBER 20: U.S. SUPREME COURT PREVIEW

USC Law is presenting the third annual “U.S. Supreme Court: A Preview,” featuring distinguished legal scholars Kathleen Sullivan of Stanford Law School, John Eastman of Chapman Law School and Rebecca Brown of USC Law. Two free MCLE credits will be offered.

The symposium, moderated by USC Law Prof. Elizabeth Garrett, will take place at USC's University Club on Monday, Sept. 20, at 5:30 p.m., with a reception beginning at 4:30 p.m. The panelists will discuss and debate the upcoming U.S. Supreme Court Term, which begins Oct. 4. They will look at the dynamics of the Court, the appointment of Justice Elena Kagan and the Court's future.

To RSVP, please email events@law.usc.edu or call 213.740.3841. [Click here to learn more about the event.](#)

SEPTEMBER 22: INTERNATIONAL FOOD FAIR

USC Law's Graduate & International Programs Class of 2011 hosts the annual International Food Fair from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in Crocker Plaza. Samplings of international cuisine will be provided. Mingle with J.D. and LL.M. students, as well as law school faculty and staff. For more information, please call 213.821.5916.

SEPTEMBER 23: WASHINGTON, D.C. ALUMNI RECEPTION

The USC Law Alumni Committee of Washington, D.C. hosts a cocktail reception at the W Hotel Roof Terrace (515 15th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20004) from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Complimentary hors d'oeuvres and signature beverage provided. Supplemental cash bar. Suggested attire: business casual.

RSVP by September 21 to alumni@law.usc.edu. For additional information, contact Brooke Duebler at 213.743.1833 or bduebler@law.usc.edu

OCTOBER 1: "FALLING FROM GREATNESS"

Former Homestore.com CFO Joe Shew, convicted of securities fraud and sentenced to six months in prison, shares how he went from high-flying executive to criminal defendant. Shew's attorney in the case, Bob Fairbank, a lecturer at USC Law, will lead the discussion.

This event will be held in Law Room 7 from 12:15 – 1:25 p.m. RSVP for this free Trojan Parents Weekend event to events@law.usc.edu.

OCTOBER 23: INSTITUTE ON ENTERTAINMENT LAW AND BUSINESS

Join over 30 speakers and 500 of your professional peers on the USC campus to address the latest challenges facing the industry. This Institute, hosted by USC Law and the Beverly Hills Bar Association, has been a Los Angeles tradition for over 50 years. Get the latest information on industry trends, real-world strategies for dealing with major challenges, and face-to-face interaction with entertainment players. With morning plenary sessions, four networking opportunities and afternoon breakouts that allow in-depth learning with industry leaders in an intimate setting, this is a can't-miss event for entertainment law and business leaders. CE units for lawyers and accountants are available. [Get a copy of the most recent Institute brochure.](#)

OCTOBER 30: ALUMNI HOMECOMING TAILGATE

Celebrate the USC football season before the USC vs. Oregon game with USC Law alumni, students, faculty, staff and friends in Crocker Plaza from 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. The tailgate is free for alumni and other members of the USC Law community. [Register, or learn more.](#)

NOVEMBER 9: ROTH LECTURE FEATURING HON. WILLIAM A. FLETCHER

The Hon. William A. Fletcher, who was appointed to the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in 1999, will present USC Law's 2010 Justice Lester W. Roth Lecture. "The Death Penalty: Where Are We Now?" will begin at 4:00 p.m. in Town and Gown on the USC campus, with a reception to follow.

Fletcher clerked for Justice William J. Brennan Jr. of the U.S. Supreme Court and Judge Stanley Weigel of the U.S. District Court in San Francisco. He joined the faculty at UC Berkeley Law School in 1977, where he continues to teach Federal Courts. A former Rhodes Scholar, Fletcher earned his undergraduate degrees from Harvard University and Oxford University. He received his law degree from Yale University Law School in 1975.

RSVP or learn more at events@law.usc.edu.

NOVEMBER 19: TRUST AND ESTATE CONFERENCE

For over 35 years, USC Law's estate planning conference has provided California practitioners with high-quality continuing education, customized for trust and estate and probate planning professionals. Formerly known as the Probate and Trust Conference, the Conference has a proven track record of teaching practical and realistic solutions to typical problems professionals encounter in estate planning, trust administration, probate, trust and estate litigation, substantive law, client relationships and law practice economics. Attendees are provided with practical syllabus materials in both print and CD formats, including an annually-updated Trust and Estates Directory. CE units for lawyers, accountants and financial planners, and legal specialization credits in Taxation Law and Estate Planning, Trust and Probate Law, are available. [Learn more.](#)

DECEMBER 3: BAR ADMISSION CEREMONY

In anticipation of the July California State Bar results, please save the date for the Bar Admission Ceremony for USC Law graduates, which will be held at 6:00 p.m. in Town and Gown. A celebratory reception will immediately follow. For more information, please contact Pasha Hawthorne in Development and Graduate Relations at 213.743.1725 or alumni@law.usc.edu.

LINKS

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

>>ALUMNI WEBSITE: <http://lawweb.usc.edu/alumni/>

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

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

>>ALUMNI CAREER SERVICES: <http://law.usc.edu/alumni/network/careers.cfm>

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

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enews@law.usc.edu.