



USC LAW eNEWS

~an electronic newsletter for USC Law alumni and friends

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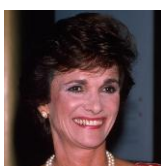
1} Justice Scalia Visits USC Law



>> United States Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia visited the USC Gould School of Law on April 10, talking to 1Ls about what makes America free and expounding his judicial philosophy at an afternoon lecture.

Read about [Justice Scalia's visit with the 1L class](#) and his [Roth Lecture on originalism and "the living Constitution."](#)

2} Kitty Dukakis Speaks at Saks Institute Symposium



>> Kitty Dukakis, the former first lady of Massachusetts, vividly recalls the first time she received electroshock therapy for her crippling depression and alcoholism. It was her 38th wedding anniversary, and she had little hope the treatment would help.

"On our drive home from the hospital, I turned to my husband, and suggested we go out to dinner," she recalled. "He was so surprised, I think he almost ran the car off the road. But the effect was immediate – I felt like a different person."

Dukakis shared her story at the recent two-day conference, "Psychotropic Medication and the Law," sponsored by the Saks Institute for Mental Health Law, Policy, and Ethics; the USC Gould School of Law; and the Burton Blatt Institute at Syracuse University.

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

3} Making a Hollywood Deal



>> It was the transaction that brought together Bella Swan and Katniss Everdeen, or at least the movie studios behind the iconic characters and hugely profitable film franchises.

The merger of Lions Gate Entertainment Corp., the studio behind "The Hunger Games," and Summit Entertainment, which brought audiences three "Twilight" films, was the subject of a recent panel discussion at USC Law. Three attorneys who played key roles in the merger and an expert in digital and new media transactions joined moderator Prof. Michael Chasalow to explore the \$412.5 million deal in depth and discuss factors that need to be considered in similar transactions.

[Read about their conversation.](#)

4} Alumnus Helps Welcome Class of 2015



>> Members of USC Law's Class of 2015 don't officially begin their three years of study until August, but 80 admitted students attended the annual USC Law Day to learn what life and school might be like here.

Showcasing one member of the legendary Trojan Network, Dean Robert K. Rasmussen introduced Tom Hansen '78, co-founder of Hansen Jacobsen Teller Hoberman Newman Warren Richman Rush & Kaller, which specializes in transactional entertainment law. Hansen, whose clients make up a veritable who's who in the television and film worlds, told the students it took him a few years after college to decide what he wanted to do for his career, but once he started law school he never looked back.

[Read about Hansen's talk to the admitted students.](#)

5} Women Earn a Place on the Team



>> Two women who have climbed the ranks in the business of sports visited USC Law to discuss how they marketed themselves to employers and ultimately broke into a male dominated industry.

Courage of conviction, perseverance and a strong background in sports led guest panelists Nona Lee, senior vice president and general counsel for the Arizona Diamondbacks, and Raquel Braun, associate director of the International

Sports and Emerging Networks Group at Fox Cable Networks, to differentiate themselves from the competition and land their dream jobs.

[Learn more about the careers of Lee and Braun.](#)

6} PILF Honors Alumni, Students



>> At USC Law's 2012 Pro Bono Awards Luncheon, students and alumni were honored for their commitment to public interest law. Among the honorees was Pamela Marx '78, the PILF Public Interest Attorney of the Year, recognized for her work at Mental Health Advocacy Services.

The Paul Davis Memorial Pro Bono Attorney of the Year award was given to Michael Turrill '96, for his continued dedication to public interest law while working in private practice at Arent Fox LLP.

[Read more about the honorees.](#)

7} Top Honors for Oralists



>> Representing USC Law, Amanda Murray '12 won best oralist and Michael Parente '12 won second-best oralist for the preliminary rounds of the John J. Gibbons Criminal Procedure Moot Court Competition, held last month at Seton Hall University School of Law. The competition featured 42 teams and more than 84 competitors from law schools across the country, arguing cases on appeal before a mock United States Supreme

Court.

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

8} Professor Publishes Study on Supreme Court Tax Abuse Cases



>> After reviewing nearly 1,000 tax cases decided by the U.S. Supreme Court since 1909, USC Law Prof. Nancy Staudt and NYU Law Prof. Joshua Blank have developed a model to predict the chances that the government will win corporate tax abuse cases appearing before the Court.

"[Corporate Shams](#)," published in the Dec. 2012 New York University Law Review, is the first major empirical study that looks at how the U.S. Supreme Court decides cases involving allegations of corporate tax abuse.

The study could assist corporations, the government and even private practitioners in how best to design transactions, litigate cases and strategize when appearing before the Court, said Staudt.

[Read more about the study.](#)

9} Medical Marijuana in California



>>Two attorneys involved in California's medical marijuana legal conflicts visited USC Law recently to discuss state and federal policy contradictions in California. USC Law's Government Law Organization and the American Civil Liberties Union sponsored the event.

The topic of discussion was the highly publicized case of Charlie Lynch, who owned and managed a medical marijuana dispensary in Morro Bay, Calif. Despite following all steps to legally open and run his business, Lynch was sentenced by the Drug Enforcement Administration to one year and one day in federal prison on federal drug trafficking charges in 2007.

[Read about the panelists' discussion of Lynch's case.](#)

10} Upcoming events: ALUMNI LUNCH, REUNION

MAY 25: USC LAW ALUMNI LUNCH & MCLE EVENT

In this age of instant information via smartphones, juries may be introducing evidence without knowledge or guidance from the court and counsel, connecting with the litigants or researching the attorneys' personal lives. On this topic, USC Law hosts an alumni lunch and MCLE event, "Juries & Cyberspace," at McCormick & Schmick's in Beverly Hills from noon to 1:30 p.m. In her one-hour presentation, the Hon. Jacqueline Connor (Ret.) provides tips on how to avoid having your case damaged by jurors' inappropriate access to information online.

The USC Gould School of Law, a State Bar of California-approved MCLE provider, certifies this activity qualifies for Minimum Continuing Legal Education credit in the amount of one hour. [Register for the event.](#)

JUNE 2 & 3: USC ALUMNI FAMILY PICNICS

USC Law alumni and their families are invited to a picnic on June 2nd at [Virginia Park](#) in Santa Monica or June 3rd at [Bill Barber Community Park](#) in Irvine. Both picnics are from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Alumni can mingle while kids are entertained with face painting, snacks and an opportunity to make their own stuffed animal friends (\$13 cost). For more information, please call Development and Graduate Relations at (213) 743-1710. Please RSVP to alumni@law.usc.edu.

JUNE 8: USC LAW GOLDEN YEARS REUNION

The Golden Years Reunion luncheon brings together all classes that graduated prior to 1962. Festivities will take place on campus and will be held from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30p.m. at Crocker Plaza in front of the law school. **If you are interested in reaching out to classmates, please contact Lorri Grubaugh, Director of Annual Giving, at (213) 743-1713 or reunion@law.usc.edu. [Learn more about Golden Years Reunion.](#)**

JUNE 9: USC LAW REUNION

This summer's reunion brings together the classes of 1962, 1967, 1972, 1977, 1982, 1987, 1992, 1997, 2002, 2007. Festivities will take place at the beautiful Fairmont Miramar Hotel in Santa Monica. [Learn more about Reunion 2012.](#)

SAVE THE DATE

OCTOBER 4: SUPREME COURT PREVIEW

USC Law will present the fifth annual "U.S. Supreme Court: A Preview," featuring distinguished panelists Paul Clement, former U.S. Solicitor General and partner, Bancroft

PLLC; Walter Dellinger, former acting U.S. Solicitor General and chairman, O'Melveny & Myers; and Rebecca Brown, USC Newton Professor of Constitutional Law. The panelists will discuss and debate the upcoming U.S. Supreme Court Term.

The USC Gould School of Law, a State Bar of California-approved MCLE provider, certifies this activity qualifies for Minimum Continuing Legal Education credit in the amount of two hours. For more information, e-mail Gilien Silsby at gsilsby@law.usc.edu or call (213) 740-9690.

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