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**USC LAW eNEWS**

~an electronic newsletter for USC Law alumni and friends

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**1} Remembering Albert Brecht**

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>> Albert Brecht, associate dean, chief information officer and John Stauffer Professor of Law at the University of Southern California Gould School of Law, passed away at his home in Los Angeles on March 26, 2012. He was 65.

A trailblazer in the field of law librarianship and the profession's advancement through technology, Brecht was appointed the director of USC's law library at the age of 28 in 1975. He was a pioneer in ushering in the use of information technology in the field and specialized in computerized legal research and the expanding role of law librarians in the scholarly pursuits of faculty.

[Read more about Albert Brecht.](#)

[Visit a memorial page.](#)

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## 2} Spring Awards Honor the Late Bill Rutter '55

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>> Students, staff, and faculty gathered in beautiful 75-degree weather outside of the USC Gould School of Law for the Annual Awards Ceremony to honor distinguished members of the USC Law community. Dean Robert K. Rasmussen presented the William A. Rutter Distinguished Teaching Award, but under different circumstances from those of past awards ceremonies.

William Rutter '55, who established the Rutter Award not only at USC Law but also at the law schools of UC Berkeley, UCLA and UC Davis, died on Feb. 2.

"It is the most prominent and most meaningful teaching award that exists in the country," Rasmussen said. "Bill Rutter has educated more law students and lawyers than anyone in his generation. He was the preeminent legal educator of his time."

[Read more, and view photos from the event.](#)

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## 3} Dean Inducted into the American College of Bankruptcy

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>> USC Law Dean Robert K. Rasmussen was inducted into the American College of Bankruptcy as a Fellow of the College in Washington, D.C., last month. The ceremony took place at the U.S. Supreme Court in the Great Hall, and it was presided over by Paul M. Singer, Chair of the College.

Rasmussen is one of 36 nominees from the U.S. and abroad inducted into the 23rd Class of College Fellows. All are being honored for their professional excellence and exceptional contributions to the fields of bankruptcy and insolvency.

[Read more about Dean Rasmussen's induction.](#)

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## 4} Los Angeles Mayor Speaks at USC Law

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>> Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa spoke recently to a packed audience at USC Law, sharing his perspective on how business, education, transportation and job growth will shape the future of the city.

"These issues will touch nearly every Angeleno - from college student to retired worker," said Villaraigosa, who is in his second term.

Invited by Dean Robert K. Rasmussen, Villaraigosa was the featured guest at the March 27 Conversations with the Dean event. The speaker series features high-profile business leaders, politicians and attorneys, including USC Law alumni.

[Read more about the Mayor's visit.](#)



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## 5} Discussing the Use of Mechanical Restraints

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>> USC Law recently hosted the symposium, "Putting Patients at the

Center of Restraints: A Discussion of the Legal and Ethical Implications of Mechanical Restraints in Psychiatric Care." Sponsored by the Southern California Review of Law and Social Justice (RLSJ) and the Saks Institute for Mental Health Law, Policy and Ethics, six speakers presented their research and thoughts on the use of mechanical restraints in psychiatric treatment facilities.

Professor Elyn Saks, the Orrin B. Evans Professor of Law, Psychology, and Psychiatry and the Behavioral Sciences, shared with audience members that she has a "purely personal interest in the issue." As an individual with schizophrenia, she has spent long periods of time being restrained and hopes to spare other patients from experiencing similar trauma.

"I've been mechanically restrained three or four times, for up to 20 hours," Saks said. "It was degrading, dehumanizing and very painful. I've had nightmares about it for years."

[Read more about the symposium.](#)

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## 6} Examining the Law and Marriage

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>> USC Law's Critical Legal Studies Association hosted a lecture by American University Washington College of Law Prof. Nancy D. Polikoff on her most recent publication, *Beyond (Straight and Gay) Marriage: Valuing All Families under the Law*.

Polikoff has written several articles pertaining to gay and lesbian families and was instrumental in developing legal theories in support of second-parent adoption and visitation rights for legally unrecognized parents. She spoke to an audience of students, staff and faculty about how her book criticizes both the conservative "marriage movement" and the gay rights "marriage equality movement" for leaving out various other types of family structures that would benefit from policy reform.

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

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## 7} Judging Clarence Thomas

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>> One of the tenets of academia is the encouragement and cultivation of a variety of ideas and opinions for open discussion and debate.

So imagine being shunned by academic institutions for writing a book on a figure unpopular with one political group, however large. Now imagine that some of these institutions are law schools and the figure in question is a United States Supreme Court Justice.

This is the quandary in which Scott Douglas Gerber has found himself over his entire academic career. "For good and bad, I'm forever linked with Clarence Thomas," Gerber told a classroom full of USC Law students recently.

[Learn more about Gerber's dilemma.](#)

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## 8} In-house Attorneys Offer Career Advice

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>> Law students eyeing a future in corporate counsel should consider working in a law firm first; learn all they can about the company's industry; and keep in mind that moving in-house does not always beget a better work-life balance.

Attorneys from AAA, eHarmony, Princess Cruises, Sempra Energy, ServiceMesh, Inc., the United States Postal Service, and Warner Bros. offered this and other advice to USC Law students during a March 8 Corporate Counsel Career Panel, sponsored by the Southern California Chapter of the Association of Corporate Counsel. The panel was moderated by Michael Chang, senior counsel for business and legal affairs at Warner Bros. Consumer Products Inc.

[Read more about the attorneys' career advice.](#)

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## 9} Exploring Tech IPOs

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>> When Facebook filed its paperwork for an initial public offering Feb. 1, the company provided some interesting facts - such as the number of active users and Mark Zuckerberg's salary - but other questions - including how many shares will be offered and at what price - remain unanswered.

How does a major technology company like Facebook first offer stock to the public, and what is a lawyer's role in the process?

Four attorneys who have taken part in some of the most notable technology IPOs to date addressed that question and more at the first event to be sponsored by the USC Business Law Society (BLS), "Tech IPOs, from Start to Finish."

[Read more about the event.](#)

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## 10} Warner Bros. Exec Talks TV Business

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>> Warner Bros. Television Group President Bruce Rosenblum spoke about his journey from law student to entertainment executive before an audience of USC Law students, faculty and staff at an event hosted by the Entertainment Law Society March 5.

After graduating from USC with a bachelor's in accounting and receiving his J.D. from UCLA Law School, Rosenblum started his career when, during law school, he accepted a job as a tour guide at Universal Studios.

"It was my first introduction to the entertainment business," Rosenblum said. "As a tour guide, I quickly recognized how much television impacts people."

[Read more about Rosenblum's career path.](#)

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## 11} Networking Group Launched for USC Entertainment Alumni

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>> The Trojan Entertainment Network (TEN) is a group for USC entertainment alumni from USC Law and the graduate programs at the USC Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism, USC Marshall School of Business and the USC School of Cinematic Arts.

TEN provides an L.A.-based forum for its members to meet and expand their networks online and in person through bi-monthly salons and other events. The group already has over 180 members. To learn more about the Trojan Entertainment Network, please visit <http://www.uscten.com>.

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## 12} Upcoming events: Alumni Mixer, OUTLaw Scholarship Kick-Off

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### APRIL 11: ALUMNI/3L MIXER IN DOWNTOWN L.A.

USC Law alumni are invited to the appropriately named "Mixing Room" located in the lobby of the [JW Marriott at L.A. Live](#) to meet fellow USC Law alumni and current 3L students. Please help provide a warm welcome to our soon-to-be alumni! The mixer will be held from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. with appetizers provided by the law school. Please RSVP to Rakib Haque, Assistant Director of Development, at [rhaque@law.usc.edu](mailto:rhaque@law.usc.edu) or (213)743-1833.

### APRIL 20: USC OUTLAW SCHOLARSHIP KICK-OFF EVENT

The entire USC Law community is invited to this special event at which the law school's LGBT student group launches a drive to raise scholarship funds for LGBT students and/or students working toward LGBT equality through the law. The "Launch Party," held at the [Radisson Midtown](#), will begin at 6:30 p.m. with a cocktail reception, followed by dinner and a short program.

Speaking at this year's event will be Dean Robert K. Rasmussen as well as Seth Levy '01, general counsel of the It Gets Better Project. Tickets are \$50 each, with sales going directly to the scholarship fund. Furthermore, all donations received at the event will be directed to the scholarship. For more information and to register for the event, please visit <http://law.usc.edu/outlaw/>.

General inquiries can be directed to [OUTLaw@lawmail.usc.edu](mailto:OUTLaw@lawmail.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](mailto: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.](#)

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## LINKS

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>> [FACEBOOK](#)  
>> [TWITTER](#)  
>> [myLAW](#)

>> [ALUMNI WEBSITE](#)  
>> [GIVE BACK TO USC LAW](#)  
>> [CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION](#)  
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