



USC LAW eNEWS

~an electronic newsletter for USC Law alumni and friends

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1} Grads Pass Bar at Record Rate



>> This year, a record 91 percent of USC Law graduates passed the bar examination on their initial attempt, a higher rate than any other California law school. In December, with several hundred family members and friends looking on, 105 recent USC Law graduates were sworn in to the state and federal bars during the annual Bar Admissions ceremony.

[Read more about the event.](#)

2} Hero Grad Blends Law Practice, Enforcement



>> On the first night of the year, Los Angeles residents were on edge. For four straight nights, a serial arsonist had been on a rampage that had caused millions of dollars in property damage. Authorities were on edge,

too, and dozens of officers from multiple fire and law enforcement agencies were working around the clock to identify suspects and patrol the streets in the hope of keeping residents safe.

Among them was Shervin Lalezary '08, circling the busy but familiar blocks of West Hollywood. By day a real estate attorney with a solo transactional practice in Beverly Hills, Lalezary also serves as a volunteer reserve Los Angeles County Sheriff's deputy. About 3 a.m. on Jan. 2, one hour past what should have been the end of his 10-hour shift, he spotted a van matching the description of a suspect vehicle, driven by a man resembling a reported suspect.

A few minutes later, 24-year-old Harry Burkhart was in custody. He faces 100 counts related to 49 fires.

[Read more about Mr. Lalezary.](#)

3} Life During War Time/Peace Time



>> The USC Gould School of Law recently hosted a book launch symposium for Prof. Mary Dudziak, the Judge Edward J. and Ruey L. Guirado Professor of Law, History and Political Science.

Dudziak's newest published work, *War • Time: An Idea, Its History, Its Consequences*, addresses how wartime and peacetime have become relatively indistinguishable in modern America and how this impacts the legality of national security.

"We have to think about what we are as a nation and how we exist in the world," Dudziak said to a crowd of students, staff and faculty. "What we see today is a greater isolation of the American people from the costs of war. War is waged in a way that doesn't bother the American people."

[Learn more about the book and the symposium.](#)
[Watch a video of Prof. Dudziak talking about her work.](#)

4} The Deal as Dance



>> Although relatively few movie-goers will ever attend the Sundance Film Festival, even the most casual film fan understands that it plays a significant role in determining what movies will make it to the local Cineplex.

At a recent event sponsored by USC Law's Entertainment Law Society, four veterans of the Sundance Film Festival provided students with an anecdote-rich discussion illuminating why Sundance, out of dozens of important film festivals, is so influential - and how deals get closed in Park City, Utah, hotel rooms.

[Read about the panel.](#)

5} USC Law Grad Launches Effort to Help Low-Income Boys Read



>> James "Jimmy" Reese '46 is a busy man. On a recent day, he did some early stock market day trading, arbitrated a dog bite case at JAMS and set up meetings for a new education intervention program administered by USC.

At 92 years old, Reese doesn't plan to slow down any time soon. "You have two choices when you wake up in the morning: live life or stay in bed," he says with a chuckle. "I choose to stay busy and enjoy every day. You never know if it'll be your last."

Reese has been an active member of the California Bar for 66 years, opening his law practice after graduating from USC Law and later becoming the first African-American Los Angeles Superior Court commissioner. He also worked as an attorney for music legend Ray Charles in the 1950s and '60s.

[Learn more about Mr. Reese, and read stories about him in the press.](#)

6} LA Times Columnist Discusses Journey with the Soloist



>> When *Los Angeles Times* columnist Steve Lopez and musical virtuoso Nathaniel Ayers met seven years ago, Ayers was playing on a two-string violin under a Beethoven statue in Los Angeles' Pershing Square. Although Ayers was homeless, paranoid and suffering from schizophrenia, Lopez was drawn to him and wanted to know his story.

Over the next several years, Lopez wrote a series of columns about Ayers and his love of music - as well as how an unlikely friendship formed between the two men.

Lopez's journey with Ayers was the basis of his book, *The Soloist: A Lost Dream, an Unlikely Friendship and the Redemptive Power of Music*, and subsequent movie.

"He has given me far more than I can ever give him," Lopez said recently at the USC Gould School of Law's second annual Saks Institute for Mental Health Law, Policy, and Ethics Distinguished Speaker event.

[Read more about the event.](#)

7} Wielding Law in the Real World



>> Like many law students, Cristyn Chadwick '11 came to USC Law with the conviction that a legal education would enable her to advocate for clients and tackle real-world problems. And like many law students, Chadwick spent the better part of two years reading cases and studying all facets of the law - Evidence, Contracts, Torts, you name it. But as valuable as even the most practical of her classes were, they remained arm's-length from the experience of actually practicing law.

So as a 2L, she signed up for Prof. Clare Pastore's Access to Justice Practicum.

"I think when you're taking classes, it's easy to get lost in the academia of it all," Chadwick says. "You're so homed in on what the law is, in the objective sense. In the

practicum, you need to get the law right, but the focus is on the client and presenting as strong a case as you can."

[Read more about students' work in the Access to Justice Practicum.](#)

8} USC Law Students Work with Nationwide Group of Filmmakers



>> A team of USC Law students from the USC Intellectual Property and Technology Law Clinic recently filed comments in the United States Copyright Office that would allow filmmakers to legally copy and use material on DVDs, Blu-ray discs, online media and other digital sources.

A similar exemption to the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA) was approved by the Copyright Office more than a year ago. Before the July 2010 decision, the Digital Millennium Copyright Act of 1998 made it a crime to break the digital locks on DVDs and other online media, which ultimately prevented filmmakers from making fair use of the material. The filing seeks to renew the exemption for DVDs, and argues that in today's digital ecosystem, filmmakers need to access Blu-Ray and streaming media as well.

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

9} LL.M. Students Visit With Employers in NYC

>> Over 300 interviewers representing 138 law firms, corporations and governmental agencies interviewed 726 students (including 11 USC Law LL.M. students) at the 26th annual International Student Interview Program (ISIP), a consortium interview program for foreign-trained LL.M. students held in January. Rosana Padilla-Martinez, Associate Director of USC Law's Graduate & International Programs Office, represented USC Law at the event.

[Learn more about USC Law's LL.M. program.](#)

10} Alumni Volunteers Sought to Speak with Prospective Students

>> Thank you to all alumni who have volunteered to chat by phone with prospective students!

If you would like to help the law school enroll its top-tier applicants, USC Law's Office of Admissions seeks more alumni volunteers to take a few calls from some of the law school's most promising prospective students. You can help show these applicants that the Trojan network is for real and have a hand in building the best incoming class yet!

If you are interested in participating, please call Dean of Admissions Chloe Reid at 213.740.2523 or e-mail at creid@law.usc.edu by Feb. 15.

11} Call for Nominations-PILF Public Interest/Pro Bono Awards

>> On April 11, the USC Public Interest Law Foundation will host a Pro Bono Luncheon to honor PILF-grant recipients and recognize attorneys who are doing outstanding public interest work in their communities. Specifically, PILF will be recognizing the 2012 PILF Public Interest Attorney of the Year and the Paul Davis Memorial Pro Bono Attorney of the Year. To identify attorneys who are truly making a difference by doing public interest legal work, PILF seeks the help of USC Law alumni. If you are interested in submitting nominations for these two awards, please e-mail uscplf.luncheon@gmail.com.

12} Upcoming events: Civil Liberties Lecture, Law Firm Reception

FEBRUARY 22: THE ALLEN NEIMAN AND ALAN SIEROTY LECTURE IN CIVIL LIBERTIES FEATURING GEOFFREY STONE

USC Law hosts the inaugural Allen Neiman and Alan Sieroty Lecture in Civil Liberties, to be held at 4:00 p.m. in Room 7 of the law school. A reception will follow at 5:00 p.m.

"The Framers' Constitution: Toward a Principled Approach to Constitutional Interpretation" will be delivered by Geoffrey R. Stone, a professor at the University of Chicago Law School and one of the nation's leading constitutional law scholars. Stone served as dean of the University of Chicago Law School from 1987 to 1993, and provost of the University of Chicago from 1993 to 2002. His most recent books are *Speaking Out! Reflections on Law, Liberty and Justice* (2010), *Top Secret: When Our Government Keeps Us in the Dark* (2007) and *War and Liberty: An American Dilemma* (2007).

Please RSVP to <http://law.usc.edu/events/neimansierotylecture>.

FEBRUARY 27: MIDTERM REFLECTIONS: U.S. SUPREME COURT TERM

USC Law hosts *New York Times* reporter and Yale Law senior research scholar Linda Greenhouse for a discussion of highlights from the current U.S. Supreme Court term. She will also discuss her experience covering the Court for the *New York Times*. USC Law professors Lee Epstein and Rebecca Brown will serve as moderators.

The event will be held from 12:30 p.m. - 1:15 p.m. in Room 3 of the law school. For more information and to RSVP, please contact the USC Law Events Office at 213.740.3841 or events@law.usc.edu.

MARCH 6: 7TH ANNUAL SMALL & MID-SIZED LAW FIRM RECEPTION

The USC Gould School of Law Career Services Office cordially invites you to attend our 7th Annual Small & Mid-sized Law Firm Reception. This annual event brings together attorneys practicing at small and mid-sized law firms in the greater Los Angeles area and current USC law students interested in learning more about practicing law at small to mid-sized law firms. The event is held from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. at the University Club on the USC Campus.

Light hors d'oeuvres will be served and a host bar of beer and wine will be provided. Complimentary parking will also be provided. **Please RSVP by Feb. 28** by [completing the online registration form](#). Please contact the Career Services Office at 213.740.7397 or careers@law.usc.edu if you have any questions.

MARCH 8: REAL ESTATE LAW AND BUSINESS FORUM

For the past nine years, the USC Law Real Estate Law and Business Forum has been the most highly attended law and business conference in the area. At this can't-miss conference you will receive information from dozens of nationally-known business and legal leaders to help you counsel your clients through the maze of the current and future real estate markets and the opportunities they present. The Forum features a full day of

learning and networking, including a keynote luncheon address, networking refreshment breaks, and a hosted evening reception. CE units are available for lawyers, accountants, and real estate professionals. Review the [complete programming guide](#) to the 2012 Forum.

MARCH 15: INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY INSTITUTE

The Intellectual Property Institute has forged a reputation for gathering national speakers to analyze sophisticated topics and provide practical takeaways to attendees. Focusing on copyright, patent and trademark law, the Institute features morning plenary sessions, a luncheon keynote address, afternoon tracked breakout sessions, and five networking opportunities, including a hosted cocktail reception at the end of the day. Review the [complete programming guide](#).

SAVE THE DATE: MARCH & APRIL REGIONAL RECEPTIONS

Throughout March and April, USC Law will host receptions for alumni and admitted students at cities across the country. E-mail invitations are forthcoming, so if you live or work in one of the following cities, please save the date! If you have questions, please contact admissions@law.usc.edu.

March 6 - Chicago, IL • Barack Ferrazzano
March 15 - Washington, D.C. • Alliance Bernstein
March 21 - New York City • The CORE Club
March 22 - Orlando, FL • TBA
March 26 - Houston, TX • TBA
April 3 - Phoenix, AZ • Steptoe & Johnson LLP
April 5 - San Francisco, CA • Allen Matkins

SAVE THE DATE: 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 Pasha Hawthorne in Development and Graduate Relations at 213.743.1710 or reunion@law.usc.edu.**

[Learn more about Golden Years Reunion.](#)

SAVE THE DATE: 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.](#)

Reunion Sponsorship Opportunities Available Until March 16, 2012

Reunion 2012 is USC Law's largest annual alumni event, with an expected attendance of 450 guests. This signature event brings together graduates from 10 different classes to reconnect with fellow alumni and raise scholarship funds. By participating as a Reunion Sponsor, your company will be featured in our commemorative reunion book and, in keeping with the level of sponsorship, acknowledged in a wide variety of reunion communications, such as web pages, alumni e-blasts and event signage. **For more information regarding sponsorship opportunities, please contact Pasha Hawthorne in Development and Graduate Relations at 213.743.1710 or reunion@law.usc.edu.**

LINKS

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>> [GIVE BACK TO USC LAW](#)

>> [CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION](#)

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>> 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.