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## USC LAW eNEWS

~an electronic newsletter for USC Law alumni and friends

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### 1} Sold on Service – to the Highest Bidder

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>> The annual PILF Auction is the Public Interest Law Foundation's premiere event allowing the greater Los Angeles community to socialize at a fun gala event and contribute money to a great cause: advancing the educational interests of students while fostering an ethic of public service. This year's theme is "Gatsby Gives Back"; the event will be held at Union Station on Saturday, February 27 from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m.

[Read more about this year's PILF auction.](#)

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### 2} Advising the CEO

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>> California Pizza Kitchen co-CEO Larry Flax '67 and Chris O'Brien '91, CPK's general counsel, recently spoke to nearly 200 USC Law students, faculty, alumni and staff about the important role legal counsels play in business. The pair were the inaugural guests at USC Law's new lunchtime series, "CEOs and Their General Counsels," which offers insightful discussions with high-profile chief executive officers and their top legal advisors.

Hosted by Dean Robert K. Rasmussen, Flax and O'Brien spoke about their unique – and crucial – relationship. "Larry and I talk every day," said O'Brien. "Issues

come up and it's always something different. The job is all-consuming and very interesting."

[Read more about the conversation.](#)

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### **3} Experts Discuss Economy at USC Law**

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>> Some of the nation's leading economists, budget policy experts and tax authorities gathered at USC Law recently to assess the nation's looming fiscal crisis and look at the challenges facing the United States' economy in the next decade.

The Jan. 15 conference, hosted by USC-Caltech Center for the Study of Law and Politics (CSLP) and the Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center, brought together experts from a range of disciplines to evaluate the causes of the current crisis, the magnitude of the challenge facing the country in the next decade, and possible responses by the federal government and the states.

[Read more about the conference.](#)

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### **4} Variety is the Spice of His Life**

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>> USC Law students with a sense of adventure and love of travel may want to take a page out of Ari Nathan's book. About every three years, the 1985 USC Law graduate gets a new job in a new country. As a Foreign Service officer with the United States Department of State, Nathan has spent the past six years living in Mexico, Colombia and Iraq.

In the midst of his recent move from Iraq to Madrid, Nathan stopped by USC Law to speak to students about career possibilities as a Foreign Service officer.

[Read about Nathan's career in the Foreign Service.](#)

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### **5} Prop. 8 Trial Reenacted at USC Law**

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>> On Jan. 11, a highly anticipated federal trial on same-sex couples' marriage rights began in a San Francisco courtroom. Despite massive interest in the proceedings, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that video footage could not be broadcast on YouTube and at other state courthouses. Shocked by the decision, actor and filmmaker John Ireland decided to bring the trial to the public by reenacting each minute of arguments and witness testimony using professional actors and filmmakers. Shooting began in the Ackerman Courtroom at USC Law on Jan. 22 and lasted for the duration of the trial.

"We want to deliver an authentic message from the courts to anybody who will have it," says Ireland, who is co-producing the project with John Ainsworth. "Our goal is not to filter or editorialize; our goal is to provide transparency and access, which is the hallmark of our American justice system."

[Read more about the reenactment and link to the videos.](#)

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### **6} Dean Rasmussen Recognized at Counsel of the Year Awards**

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>> Dean Robert K. Rasmussen was recently honored by the Association of Media and Entertainment Counsel (AMEC) at the 5th Annual Counsel of the Year Awards in West Hollywood. Rasmussen was recognized in the public service category for launching USC

Law's innovative Entertainment Law Program, headed by John Schulman, a former Warner Bros. executive.

"I am deeply honored to be recognized by the AMEC," Rasmussen said. "We are excited about our new Entertainment Law program, and it's wonderful to be acknowledged for the hard work we've put into the program."

[Read more about the AMEC awards.](#)

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## **7} Law and Business Team Up**

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>> Two powerhouse USC schools have formed one strategic alliance. Although the buildings they study in are mere yards from one another, students at USC Law and the USC Marshall School of Business had not previously spent much time interacting, despite the growing intersection of legal and business issues in today's society.

But this year, students from both schools joined forces to create the Gould/Marshall Alliance, a club comprised of members from both schools that is geared toward enhancing interaction between the two student bodies.

[Learn more about the Gould/Marshall Alliance.](#)

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## **7} Upcoming events: MENTOR LUNCH, LAW FIRM RECEPTION, INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY INSTITUTE**

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### **FEBRUARY 25: MENTOR LUNCH**

USC Law invites alumni to welcome first-year and visiting students at this year's Mentor Lunch on Thursday, Feb. 25, from 11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. at USC's Town & Gown. This lunch is an enjoyable way to share your insights into the legal profession with our students.

To ensure that you are matched with a mentee, [please RSVP online by Feb. 8](#). If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Brooke Duebler in the Office of Development and Graduate Relations at 213.743.1710.

### **MARCH 2: SMALL & MID-SIZED LAW FIRM RECEPTION**

The USC Law Career Services Office cordially invites you to attend the Fifth Annual Small & Mid-sized Law Firm Reception, to be held from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the USC University Club. 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.

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 **Tuesday, Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup>** by completing the online registration form. If you have any questions, please contact the Career Services Office at 213.740.7397 or [careers@law.usc.edu](mailto:careers@law.usc.edu).

### **MARCH 23: INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY INSTITUTE**

USC Law Continuing Legal Education (CLE) hosts its annual Intellectual Property Institute at the Beverly Hills Hotel. The Institute has forged a reputation for gathering national speakers to analyze sophisticated topics and provide practical take-aways to attendees. Second Circuit Court of Appeals Judge Leval will open the 2010 Institute with a keynote presentation. Commissioner J. Thomas Rosch of the Federal Trade Commission will keynote the Institute's luncheon presentation, discussing potential antitrust liability for single firm behavior in the IP context. The afternoon will feature

three concurrent tracks of programming focused on copyright, patent and trademark issues. The day will end with a hosted networking reception. Get a sneak peek of the program, or [learn more and register](#).

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## **LINKS**

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>>myLAW: <http://mylaw2.usc.edu/login.cfm>  
>>ALUMNI WEB SITE: <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/>  
>>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](mailto:alumni@law.usc.edu). Requests must include your full name.  
>>SUGGESTIONS? E-mail your suggestions for future newsletters to [enews@law.usc.edu](mailto:enews@law.usc.edu).