



News Highlights



Thank You, USC Gould Donors

The USC Gould School of Law is honored to acknowledge the contributions of alumni and friends in its annual donor report, which lists every contributor from July 1, 2011, to June 30, 2012. The generosity of the individuals and organizations appearing in the report has an impact on every facet of the USC Gould community. On behalf of our students, faculty and programs, thank you for your consistent and vital support!

[View the report.](#)



Law Firm Challenge Kicks Off in January

The USC Gould Law Firm Challenge is not only one of the law school's most powerful giving programs, it is also a fun competition that showcases our legendary Trojan Network and strengthens the ties between USC Gould and participating law firms. Winning firms and organizations enjoy special incentives. To participate, your firm must have just two or more USC Gould alumni employees. Make sure your group is represented!

[View a list of participating firms](#) and learn more about the Law Firm Challenge.

Calendar

**JANUARY 9:
LUNCHTIME SPEAKER
SERIES - WINNING
OVER JUDGES AND
JURIES: AN INSIDE
LOOK**

**JANUARY 16 & 17:
EXCLUSIVE JAMS CLE
EVENT - LOS ANGELES
COUNTY & ORANGE
COUNTY**

MORE EVENTS

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MYLAW PORTAL

Links

ALUMNI



Alumna Reflects on Career of a Lifetime

Aulana Peters '73 did not know it at the time, but her candidacy to serve on the Securities and Exchange Commission was initially discussed in a hot tub at the Bohemian Club in San Francisco.

"A Republican, the then Chairman of the SEC, found himself in a hot tub at the Bohemian Club with a Democrat and asked if he knew any good Democrats who could fill a position on the SEC. Eventually, the Democrat suggested my name and all of a sudden, I was on a short list of potential candidates," said Peters, with a laugh.

Peters was the featured guest at the recent Conversations with the Dean event hosted by USC Gould School of Law Dean Robert K. Rasmussen. [Read more about the event.](#)



Spirit of the Law

For Annette Wong '12, the Spirit of the Law speaker series has come full circle. After listening to a series of successful attorneys share their stories over the years, the former Spirit of the Law president and recent USC Gould School of Law graduate got her chance to stand behind the podium. Wong shared her experiences with current students in the latest installment of the lunchtime speaker series, which is sponsored by the USC Levan Institute for Humanities and Ethics and the USC Office of Religious Life.

[Read about Wong's talk.](#)



USC Law Magazine Mailed; Online Edition Goes Live in January

The Fall/Winter 2013 issue of *USC Law Magazine* is now available as a [page-flip pdf](#) online. If you have not received your copy in the mail, please send an e-mail to magazine@law.usc.edu or call 213.740.5563.

ALSO: this January, USC Gould will reveal the all-new online edition of *USC Law Magazine*. This web-only version will feature multimedia content such as videos and photo slideshows, as well as expanded stories, reader comments and other web-only content! More details coming your way soon...



USC VP on Real Estate Development Law

USC law students recently got a behind-the-scenes look at the intricacies and challenges involved in large-scale real estate development. Kristina Raspe, vice president of Real Estate Development and Asset Management at USC, joined students for a discussion about USC's current real estate expansion projects.

The event was hosted by the Real Estate Law

CAREER SERVICES

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Society, an organization that provides students with networking opportunities, professional development advice and exposure to leaders in the Los Angeles real estate market.

[Read what Raspe had to say about development at USC.](#)



Human Rights Clinic Expands Legal Docket

USC Gould's International Human Rights Clinic (IHRC) is adding a variety of domestic work to its legal docket, including representing human trafficking survivors, working with the U.S. Department of Justice and providing legal analysis for a U.S. Supreme Court case. It is also expanding its global reach through a new partnership with an international tribunal in The Hague.

[Read more about the clinic's new work.](#)



Judge Who Ruled on Prop. 8 Speaks

Over the course of his 21-year-career as a federal judge for the Northern District of California, the Honorable Vaughn R. Walker (Ret.) became associated with the notably complex cases over which he presided, including Apple Computer, Inc. v. Microsoft Corporation, antitrust litigation over Oracle's merger with PeopleSoft, and a lawsuit involving the NSA's terrorist surveillance program.

But the only case anyone wants him to talk about, said Judge Walker at the outset of remarks at Town & Gown last month, is Perry v. Schwarzenegger, the landmark suit arising from the passage of Proposition 8, which made same-sex marriages unlawful in the state of California.

[Read about Judge Walker's remarks, given at the annual Roth Lecture.](#)



Chance Encounters and Crossing Color Lines

1Ls, 2Ls, and 3Ls alike gathered for advice on how to rise through the ranks of government law. As a New Jersey native and the son of Haitian immigrants, André Birotte blazed a path to his position as U.S. Attorney for the Central District that was anything but conventional. He is the first African American U.S. Attorney in the Central District of California, and he was eager to share personal anecdotes and professional wisdom to help students become more competitive in the legal job market.

[Read about Birotte's talk.](#)



Alum, Students Talk Clerking

A recent panel discussion provided USC Gould School of Law students a primer on the fundamentals of clerking. Abraham Tabaie '08, an associate at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom who held two clerkships following graduation, joined two 3Ls in encouraging students to pursue clerkships.

[Read more about the discussion.](#)



A Trojan for Life

The Half Century Trojans recently inducted Sorrell Trope '49, along with four other alumni, into the USC Alumni Association's Hall of Fame.

"I love this university - it is everything I am. It is me," Trope said at the luncheon. "Without the university, I wouldn't be where I am today... I have continued to be here at USC ever since I took my last class in law school."

[Read more about Trope's remarks.](#)



Women on the Bench

It is not entirely coincidence that the three judges who spoke recently to USC Gould students followed similar career paths to the bench. Each of the judges - California Court of Appeals Justice Nora Manella '75, San Diego Superior Court Judge Joan Weber and Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Valerie Salkin '92 - clerked or externed with a judge, practiced law with a firm or worked in politics, and was a criminal prosecutor prior to donning the robe.

And each of those professional experiences helped them build the skills needed to be effective judges, they said.

[Read more about the judges' discussion.](#)

Calendar

DECEMBER 6: GLENFIDDICH SCOTCH TASTING

USC Gould alumni, faculty and staff are invited to a *free* Glenfiddich Scotch tasting. Following a cocktail networking reception, guests can enjoy a tasting of the brand's 12-, 18- and 21-year Scotch. Although online registration is now closed, there are a few spaces left. Please contact Pasha Hawthorne in Development and Graduate Relations at phawthorne@law.usc.edu or 213.821.3571 to register for this event.

JANUARY 9: LUNCHTIME SPEAKER SERIES - WINNING OVER JUDGES AND JURIES: AN INSIDE LOOK

The Honorable Jim Gray '71 (Ret.), the Honorable Vijay Gandhi '97 and a few other distinguished judges give an inside look at how to win over judges and juries. This event will take place at McCormick & Schmick's, 206 N. Rodeo Drive, Beverly Hills, CA 90210 from 12:00 - 1:30 p.m. The cost to attend is \$25 per person. Online registration and

additional information for this event will be available next week. If you would like to pre-register, please contact Pasha Hawthorne in Development and Graduate Relations at 213.821.3571 or phawthorne@law.usc.edu.

JANUARY 16 & 17: EXCLUSIVE JAMS CLE EVENT - LOS ANGELES COUNTY & ORANGE COUNTY

JAMS will be offering two half-day CLE events *free* to the USC Gould community. The first event will take place on Jan. 16, 2012, at the JAMS Office in Los Angeles, located at 707 Wilshire Blvd., 46th Floor, Los Angeles, CA. This event will offer 4 hours of CLE credit (2 hours Ethics, 1 hour Elimination of Bias, and 1 hour Substance Abuse).

The second event will be on Jan. 17, 2012, at the JAMS office in Orange, 500 N. State College Blvd., 14th Floor, Orange, CA 92868. This event will offer 3 hours of CLE credit (1 hour Ethics, 1 hour Elimination of Bias, and 1 hour Substance Abuse).

Both events will start at 7:30 a.m. with continental breakfast. The presentations will begin at 8:00 a.m. To register for one of these events, please contact Pasha Hawthorne at 213.821.3571 or phawthorne@law.usc.edu. Please indicate your name, class year and which event you would like to attend. **Space is limited to 50 people per location.**

JANUARY 25: USC PUBLIC INTEREST LAW FOUNDATION AUCTION

The 23rd annual PILF auction will take place from 7 p.m. - 10 p.m. at the Elevate Lounge, 811 Wilshire Boulevard, 21st Floor. All auction proceeds support summer grants for students working for public interest organizations. For more information, please contact pilf.auction.usc@gmail.com or visit <http://pilf.usc.edu/>. Watch a video about the PILF auction, and support PILF online.

JANUARY 28-30: TAX INSTITUTE

Over 50 speakers and 500 of your professional peers will converge at the Westin Bonaventure in downtown L.A. to address cutting-edge tax issues affecting corporations, privately held companies, partnerships and real estate, individuals, tax ethics, enforcement and compliance, and estate planning. This three-day institute features popular morning updates on current developments, afternoon breakout sessions, intimate evening workshops and two networking receptions. CE units for lawyers, accountants and financial planners, and legal specialization credit in Taxation Law and Estate Planning, Trust and Probate Law, are available. [Preview the Tax Institute's program.](#)

SAVE THE DATE: MARCH 28: SIEROTY LECTURE FEATURING ALBIE SACHS

The USC Gould School of Law is proud to welcome legendary human rights activist Albert Louis Sachs, who will deliver the second annual Allen Neiman and Alan Sieroty Lecture in Civil Liberties. Born in South Africa to Jewish Lithuanian parents, Sachs used his law degree to defend clients against apartheid and other repressive state measures. Subject to solitary confinement and even an assassination attempt by the South African government, Sachs eventually returned to his country, where then-President Nelson Mandela appointed him to the newly created Constitutional Court. More information to follow.

SAVE THE DATE: JUNE 15: USC GOULD REUNION

Next summer's reunion brings together the classes of 1963, 1968, 1973, 1978, 1983, 1988, 1993, 1998, 2003, 2008. The event will take

place at JW Marriot at LA Live and begins with individual class receptions followed by an all-class reunion dinner. If you are interested in joining your class reunion committee, please contact Rakib Haque at 213.821.3569 or reunion@law.usc.edu.

Questions?

Send an e-mail to: enews@law.usc.edu

