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## USC LAW eNEWS

~an electronic newsletter for USC Law alumni and friends

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### 1} Alumnus on the Fall of Don't Ask, Don't Tell

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>> More than 150 law students vied for seats at the lunchtime event "Conversations with the Dean," featuring Dan Woods '77, on Sept. 28. Woods was the lead attorney representing the Log Cabin Republicans in the successful federal court challenge to "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" (DADT). Dean Rasmussen, the event's host, spoke with Woods before turning to the students for questions. Woods, a partner at White & Case, LLP since 1996, shared insight about the landmark case with students.

[Learn more about Mr. Woods's role in the case.](#)

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## 2} Supreme Court Term Previewed

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>>Three of the nation's top constitutional law scholars - Michael McConnell and Jeffrey Fisher of Stanford Law School and Rebecca Brown of USC Law - offered insights on some of the most important cases before the U.S. Supreme Court at a recent 2011 preview event at USC.

The panelists discussed some the biggest cases on the Court's docket, including *Zivotofsky v. Clinton*, a separation of powers case; *United States v. Jones*, the Fourth Amendment GPS tracking case; and *Hosanna-Tabor Evangelical Lutheran Church and School v. EEOC*, the "ministerial exception" to the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) case.

The diverse group of experts spotlighted areas to follow as the Supreme Court Term begins on Oct. 3. USC Provost Elizabeth Garrett, a USC Law professor who clerked for Justice Thurgood Marshall, moderated the event. Sponsored by USC Law and the student chapters of the Federalist Society and American Constitution Society, "U.S. Supreme Court: A Preview," drew an audience of more than 250 USC Law alumni, law and undergraduate students, faculty, staff and local attorneys.

[Read more about the event.](#)

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## 3} Kleinbard Addresses U.S Senate Committee on Finance

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>>USC Law Professor Edward Kleinbard [provided testimony](#) before a subcommittee of the United States Senate Committee on Finance Sept. 13, outlining his proposals for tax reform.

Kleinbard joined other tax experts including Alan Greenspan, former chairman of the Federal Reserve. The topic of the hearing was "Examining Whether There is a Role for Tax Reform in Comprehensive Deficit Reduction and U.S. Fiscal Policy."

Kleinbard identified the two areas in which the United States spends more than any other developed economy in the world - healthcare and defense spending - before outlining how a sea change of each will provide long-term fiscal reform. Recognizing that our current policies govern our healthcare delivery institutions, Kleinbard cautioned, "change must follow a predictable path that starts in the near future, phases in slowly, and comes to rest with new institutions that will serve the needs of Americans for decades to come."

[Read more about Prof. Kleinbard's testimony.](#)

[Watch a video of the hearing](#) , or [read Kleinbard's full testimony.](#)

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## 4} USC Law Named Top 10 Best for Hispanics

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>> For the third straight year, USC Law has been named one of the Top Ten Best Law Schools for Hispanics. The rankings, compiled by Hispanic Business Media, appear in the Sept. 2011 issue of *Hispanic Business Magazine*.

[Read more about the rankings.](#)

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## 5} Music in the Cloud

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>> USC Law students recently received an inside look at cloud-based music programs, a new distribution model that may have a long-lasting impact on the recording industry.

The Intellectual Property and Technology Law Society hosted the lunchtime event "Music in the Cloud," featuring Scott Dinsdale, former executive vice president of digital operations and technology at Sony Music, and Ron Gertz, chairman and founder of Music Reports. The two discussed the impact Pandora, iCloud, Spotify, Grooveshark, and Amazon MP3 will have on the way companies distribute songs and collect royalties.

Gertz, an expert in copyright law and music licensing, has studied the intersection of law and Internet in the music industry for years. He noted that problems with royalty collection arise because there is a clash between simplistic technology and a complex music world.

[Read more about the event.](#)

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## 6} Nazi Hunter Speaks at USC Law

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>> As director of Human Rights Enforcement Strategy and Policy in the Human Rights and Special Prosecutions Section of the U.S. Department of Justice, Eli Rosenbaum has dedicated his career to pursuing Nazi war criminals and other violators of human rights living and hiding in the United States. At a special appearance at USC Law, Rosenbaum shared stories of his investigations into some of the world's most notorious war criminals and genocidaires

[Read about Mr. Rosenbaum's talk.](#)

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## 7} High-Profile Attorney Urges Law Students to Pursue Passion



>> Attorney Thomas A. Mesereau Jr.'s refusal to narrowly define his career opportunities led him to his passion as a trial attorney and devotion to public interest law. USC's Public Interest Law Foundation (PILF) hosted Mesereau at a lunchtime presentation Sept. 26. Best known as Michael Jackson's defense attorney throughout the pop star's 2005 child molestation trial, Mesereau shared his personal career journey with students.

Mesereau admitted that there is a crisis of dissatisfaction in the legal profession. However, he believes lawyers need to take responsibility for their career fulfillment.

"Life is a process of change with unexpected bumps," he said. "There is no professional license that gives you more opportunities to change, reinvent yourselves, or switch gears than a law degree."

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

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## **8} Law Professor, Mental Health Patient and Advocate**

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>> Prof. Elyn Saks has battled both her own mental illness and the stigma that comes with it since she was eight years old. But she has a powerful weapon in her arsenal: the law.

Her career path is rooted in her personal experiences as a psychiatric patient subjected to the intimidating side of being treated for mental illness - in her case, schizophrenia - but who came to flourish, thanks to psychotherapy and proper medication.

"Once I stopped struggling against having an illness, it came to define me less," Saks said.

She discussed the relationship between her personal struggle and her professional interests during a Sept. 22 lunchtime event, "Spirit of the Law," a speaker series featuring legal professionals discussing how they find meaning, purpose and identity in the law; how they use their law degrees in creative and innovative ways; and how they connect the personal and the professional in their lives. The series is sponsored by the USC Dana and David Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences and the Office of Religious Life.

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

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## **9} Broad Support for Human Rights Clinic**

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>> More than a dozen USC Law alumni and friends have teamed up to support sending six International Human Rights Clinic students to work at tribunals in Tanzania, Phnom Penh and The Hague.

This past spring, these USC Law students took part in a unique partnership between an American law school and judges and legal staff hearing cases addressing human rights atrocities perpetrated in Rwanda in

the 1990s and Cambodia in the 1970s. While at USC Law, they provided remote assistance to the Tribunals to bring justice to those most responsible for genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes. More than \$35,000 has been donated to USC Law for the effort, which will fully fund the costs of the students' travel and expenses for continuing their work on site.

[Read more about support for the clinic.](#)

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## 10} USC Law Launches New Civil Liberties Lecture Series

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>>A new civil liberties issues lecture series that will bring some of the country's most respected scholars to USC Law has been endowed by Alan Sieroty '56, a former California state senator and assemblyman.

The Alan Sieroty and Allen Neiman Lecture in Civil Liberties, named in honor of Sieroty and his classmate, Allen Neiman '56, will bring an annual speaker to USC Law to address civil liberties issues.

"These men have devoted substantial portions of their careers to working on issues related to civil liberties," said Dean Robert K. Rasmussen. "We are honored to launch this incredible lecture series."

[Read more about the lecture series.](#)

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## 11} Prominent Researcher on Public Health & Law Joins USC

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>>Global health pioneer Sofia Gruskin, J.D., M.I.A., has joined the Keck School of Medicine of the University of Southern California with her appointment as professor of preventive medicine at the USC Institute for Global Health, and a joint appointment in the USC Gould School of Law.

Gruskin, a leading researcher on health and human rights, comes to USC from the Harvard School of Public Health. Gruskin's background includes 25 years of academic and policy research in public health, law and human rights. She will lead the Program on Global Health and Human Rights at the USC Institute for Global Health.

[Read more about Prof. Gruskin's joint appointment.](#)

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## 12} Libertarian Take on Gay Marriage

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>> Deroy Murdock, a nationally syndicated columnist, spoke at a recent lunchtime event hosted by USC Law's Federalist Society. His talk was entitled "Gay Marriage, Freedom of Association, and Freedom of Religion." Murdock shared his libertarian perspective on gay rights and freedom of association with students. He detailed examples of the issues that gay rights activists are facing today and explained how these issues relate to specific constitutional amendments.

[Read about Mr. Murdock's talk.](#)

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### **13} Upcoming events: INSTITUTE ON ENTERTAINMENT LAW, HONORING CA AFRICAN-AMERICAN JUSTICES**

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#### **OCTOBER 22: INSTITUTE ON ENTERTAINMENT LAW AND BUSINESS**

Hosted by USC Law and the Beverly Hills Bar Association, the Institute on Entertainment Law and Business has been a Los Angeles tradition for over 50 years. Join dozens of well-known speakers and over 500 of your professional peers to address the latest challenges facing the industry. The 2011 Institute will be held at the USC University Park campus. Download a [preview of its programming](#) or a [complete guide](#) to the 2011 Institute. Stacey Snider, co-chair and CEO of DreamWorks Studios, will participate in a luncheon conversation on the state of the industry with Institute chairman Bruce Ramer.

#### **OCTOBER 26: "...AND JUSTICE FOR ALL"**

Join USC Law, the USC Black Alumni Association, the California Association of Black Lawyers, and the California Supreme Court Historical Society in celebrating 50 years of service by California African-American Justices. The Honorable Edwin L. Jefferson '31, California's first African-American judge, will be honored. The event will begin at 3:00 p.m. with an educational program, "What's Race Got to Do With It?," for which MCLE credit is offered. Evening program and reception begin at 5:00 p.m. at USC Law. Please RSVP by Oct. 19 to the Events Office at 213.740.3841 or [events@law.usc.edu](mailto:events@law.usc.edu).

#### **OCTOBER 29: ALUMNI TAILGATE**

Come enjoy hamburgers and hotdogs with alumni, faculty, staff, students and friends as we celebrate the USC football season. The USC Law Alumni Tailgate kicks off at 2:00 p.m. (three hours before the USC vs. Stanford game) at the front steps of the law school. The tailgate is free to the USC Law community! [Click here to register](#) by Oct. 24. If you have any questions, please contact the Office of Development and Graduate Relations at [alumni@law.usc.edu](mailto:alumni@law.usc.edu) or 213.743.1710.

#### **NOVEMBER 18: TRUST AND ESTATE CONFERENCE**

For over 35 years, USC Law's estate planning conference has provided California practitioners with high-quality continuing education, customized for trust, estate and probate planning professionals. Formerly known as the Probate and Trust Conference, the conference has a proven track record of teaching practical and realistic solutions to typical problems professionals encounter in estate planning, trust administration, probate, trust and estate litigation, substantive law, client relationships and law practice economics. Speakers typically share "how to" techniques and forms used in their practices. Attendees

are provided with practical syllabus materials in both print and CD formats, including an annually-updated Trust and Estates Directory.

Harvey Levin of TMZ will give what is sure to be an interesting and informative luncheon address. Other speakers include Professor Jack Barcal (USC Leventhal School of Accounting), Jeffrey A. Dennis-Strathmeyer, David Lane, Chang Hoon Chae (Hoffman, Sabban & Watenmaker), Terrence Franklin (Sacks, Glazier, Franklin & Lodise), Paul Gordon Hoffman (Hoffman, Sabban & Watenmaker), Shirley Kovar (Henderson Caverly Pum Charney), Adam Streisand (Loeb & Loeb) and Marshall Zolla.

[View a complete programming guide.](#)

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## LINKS

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