

USFLAWYER

UNIVERSITY OF SAN FRANCISCO SCHOOL OF LAW • FALL 2017

READY SET

GO SOLO

USF LAW ALUMNI TAKE THE
ROAD TO INDEPENDENCE



INSIDE: Open Minds Open Doors | Her Dream Career Began with an LLM in Taxation

A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

If the USF School of Law stands for one thing, it stands for people. Our community lives out the Jesuit tradition of being “men and women for others” in many ways. This issue of *USF Lawyer* profiles a few of the many USF-trained lawyers who have veered away from Big Law and utilized their entrepreneurial skills to establish their own firms.

We have a great tradition of graduates going out on their own, with many becoming leaders of powerhouse firms that shape our communities and provide quality legal services to clients. Guido Saveri '50 heeded a call from Joseph Alioto, the antitrust attorney and future San Francisco mayor, to start what is now Saveri & Saveri. Today, joined by his son and daughter who are also USF alums, Guido's firm has played a major role in class actions and consumer protection for almost six decades. Newly minted USF lawyers are taking a similar path by participating in the Alameda County Bar Association's Bay Area Legal Incubator, a program we partner with to support and train new solo practitioners.

As the practice and profession of law changes, Stacy Miller Azcarate '96, a leading legal employment recruiter and our 2017 Alumna of the Year, guides attorneys through strategies to position themselves and rethink how to emphasize their training and suitability for hire. She sees how being an involved member of the USF alumni network enables you to reach out beyond traditional practice areas and keep up-to-date with legal practice changes.

Our job today is to train students to be ready to practice and adapt, not just when they start their careers but throughout the myriad changes they will make. Our entering Class of 2020 will be lawyers perhaps into the 2070s. Legal education is not simply the three or four years they spend in Kendrick Hall, but a lifelong journey. We are preparing today's students by strengthening our curriculum and ensuring that we understand the difference between teaching students

born and raised in the Internet Age and students of past eras. We are also expanding our post-JD program offerings. These include successful and growing tax LLM and master's programs (Cassandra Banks LLM '16, profiled in this issue, has taken that career path) and well-established LLM programs in International and Comparative Law and Intellectual Property and Technology Law, as well as a potential program in health law. Across all of our offerings, we are applying our traditional emphasis on academic rigor to today's challenges of preparing attorneys for the issues of tomorrow.

I invite you to learn more about our programs by contacting me at deantrasvina@usfca.edu and to support our efforts to train the next generation of USF lawyers and leaders.



John Trasviña
Dean



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UNIVERSITY OF SAN FRANCISCO SCHOOL OF LAW

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READY, SET, GO SOLO

USF Law alumni take the
road to independence

*Pictured here: Guido Saveri '50
opened Saveri & Saveri, Inc. in 1959*



OPEN MINDS OPEN DOORS

To thrive in today's legal industry,
embrace your options, advises
leading recruiter Stacy Miller
Azcarate '96



HER DREAM CAREER BEGAN WITH AN LLM IN TAXATION

Cassandra Banks LLM '16
launched her dream career
with a USF LLM in Taxation



CLOSING ARGUMENT

Edward J. Imwinkelried '69 says
it's time to rethink the rules of
evidence

ON THE COVER: Barbara Moser '90, co-founder of Kaye Moser Hierbaum Ford LLP

'BANKRUPTCY ROCK STAR' WINS NATIONAL AWARD



Shawn McNulty '17 received the American Bankruptcy Institute's 2017 Medal of Excellence, recognizing her performance in bankruptcy coursework and dedication to the specialty.

A Las Vegas native, McNulty was first interested in bankruptcy law after the 2008 housing crisis that hit her hometown hard. At USF, she found bankruptcy law classes fascinating and pursued a judicial externship with Judge Bruce Beesley at the U.S. Bankruptcy Court in the District of Nevada. Last summer, she worked at Weil, Gotshal & Manges, one of the preeminent bankruptcy law firms, where she has accepted an associate position for after graduation.

"Winning the ABI Medal of Excellence supports my dedication to civil law, including the intricacies of bankruptcy law," McNulty said. "Professor Bruce Price has served as a mentor to me throughout my time in law school, and I'm grateful for all of his support."

She was a research assistant for Price last year, co-authoring an article on the connection between fees advertised by attorneys for providing bankruptcy services and those actually charged. She was also a member of *USF Law Review* and tutored for the Law+Plus program.

"Shawn has shown herself to be a bankruptcy rock star," said Price. "This award is a signifier of her achievement as she launches her career. She will well represent USF as an alum, and I'm so excited to watch what comes next for her." ■

Honoring Public Interest Work, Supporting Students

The USF School of Law community gathered at Morgan Lewis in San Francisco Sept. 7 to honor alumni committed to public service and to raise money to support students working in unpaid summer positions with nonprofit organizations and government agencies.

The inaugural USF Public Interest Community Celebration featured an auction to support Public Interest Law Foundation (PILF) grants for USF students.

The evening also featured four awards for USF School of Law alumni committed to public service, including the Distinguished Public Service Award, awarded to Claire Solot '92. Solot is managing director of the Bigglesworth Family Foundation and co-founder of the Legal Services Funder Network, a group of funders who support civil legal service organizations as a strategy to help alleviate poverty.

"Claire Solot provides tremendous hope and strength to public interest organizations representing people and causes often shut out of the courtroom," Dean John Trasviña said.

In addition, Morgan Lewis received the Law Firm Public Service

Award; Paloma Wu '12, legal director for ACLU of Mississippi, received the Rising Star Public Service Award; and Open Door Legal (formerly Bayview/Hunters Point Community Legal) received the Nonprofit Public Service Award.

The event was supported by the newly formed USF Public Interest Law Foundation Advisory Board, made up of 14 alumni who counsel and advise students and support PILF fundraising efforts.

"Our advisory board consists of lawyers who are talented, committed, and successful in their own right, so it is exciting to work with them and reconnect them to our PILF students and mission," said Assistant Dean for Student Affairs Grace Hum, who spearheaded the creation of the board and the event.

Kimberly Irish '06, director of the Healthy Nonprofits Program at OneJustice, serves as chair of the PILF Advisory Board.

"My public interest career began with a grant from the Public Interest Law Foundation," Irish said. "I care deeply about supporting and mentoring folks who want to pursue public interest law." ■

Alumni Honored at Graduates Dinner

Nearly 300 USF School of Law alumni and graduating students gathered to celebrate the Class of 2017, faculty, and alumni during the Alumni Graduates Dinner on May 17 at the Four Seasons Hotel in San Francisco.

Stacy Miller Azcarate '96, founder and president of Miller, Sabino, and Lee Legal Placement Services, received the Alumna of the Year Award.

"Stacy is a shining example of the kind of skilled, ethical legal professionals with unwavering commitment to our mission and to our community that the School of Law

Lynn Duryee '79 received the John J. Meehan Alumni Fellow Award for her commitment to mentoring future USF lawyers. She served as a superior court judge in Marin County for more than 20 years, then as a neutral at JAMS, and about five years ago returned to USF to teach.

Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Professor Susan Freiwald said Duryee "has always gone above and beyond to teach, advise, and mentor our students. She has personally taken the time to provide individual feedback on a weekly basis to a class of more than 75 students. She really cares and it has not gone unnoticed."

For the fourth time since joining the USF faculty in 2009, students voted for Herbst Foundation Professor of Law Julie Nice to be honored with the John Adler Distinguished Professor Award. "You are the reason I love what I do," she told the Class of 2017. "My love of teaching depends entirely on you, so I share this award with you."

Several other awards were presented that evening, including the Hon. Ira A. Brown Jr. Distinguished Adjunct Professor Award to Thomas Klitgaard and the Student Bar Association Award to Margaret Mullane '17. The Andersen Tax Awards went to JD/MBA student Ian Fontana Brown '17 and LLM student Sharon Darel '17.

The USF School of Law graciously acknowledges event lead sponsor Miller, Sabino, and Lee Legal Placement Services, and event sponsors The Arns Firm, Hanson Bridgett, Murphy, Pearson, Bradley and Feeney, and the USF Women Lawyers Committee. ■

View photos from the event on Flickr at bit.ly/alumgrad2017



Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Susan Freiwald (right) presented the John J. Meehan Alumni Fellow Award to Lynn Duryee '79.

educates," said Chris Viadro '92, president of the USF Board of Governors, who presented the award to Azcarate.

She serves on the law school's Board of Counselors and the USF Women Lawyers Committee. She is president of the Lawyers' Club of San Francisco, and active in the Women's IP Lawyers Association, Association of Corporate Counsel, San Francisco Bar Association, and Queen's Bench.

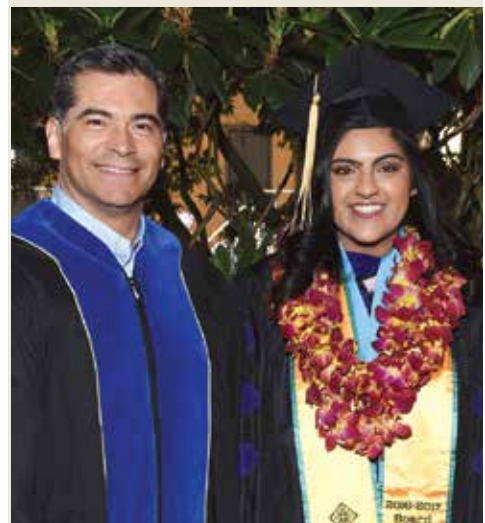
"To all the graduates, USF is an amazing community, and this is going to be your professional community for your career," said Azcarate. "They are going to be long careers with lots of turns and lots of success. I encourage you to stay connected to the law school because we're here to support you."

Commencement Wisdom: 'Get in the Way, Get in Trouble'

The Class of 2017 celebrated graduation in St. Ignatius Church May 20 surrounded by hundreds of family and friends. Xavier Becerra, California's attorney general, gave the commencement address, and Shelly Kaur Saini '17 was selected by her classmates to speak.

"If you really want to change the world," Becerra said, "then do what my friend, mentor, and one of our civil rights icons, Congressman John Lewis, said to me: 'Get in the way, get in trouble.' If you open doors, if you do more than just practice, if you remember where you came from, and if you're willing to get in the way, you're going to change the world."

135 students received JD degrees, alongside 11 JD/MBA, eight LLM in Taxation, nine LLM in International Transactions and Comparative Law, and nine LLM in Intellectual Property and Technology Law degree recipients, in addition to USF's first Master of Legal Studies in Taxation degree recipient. ■



Attorney General Xavier Becerra (left) and student speaker Shelly Kaur Saini '17.

NEW CURRICULUM BUILT FOR THE BAR EXAM

The USF School of Law is implementing significant changes to the JD curriculum to better prepare students to pass the bar examination and hit the ground running as lawyers.

Beginning this fall, students are benefiting from new courses and innovative teaching methods, including more units in topics tested on the bar exam and more opportunities to do writing assignments and receive detailed feedback.

“The faculty has recognized the urgency of the situation and are taking an ‘all-hands-on-deck’ approach to preparing students for the bar examination,” said Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Professor Susan Freiwald. “We are changing what and how we teach. Professors have developed and introduced brand new advanced courses designed to fill in any gaps and provide review of essential bar topics. Faculty are bringing the content of other courses in line with bar coverage and incorporating more bar practice problems into those courses. They are gaining new training in how to advise students on skills development, and all full-time faculty have committed to providing individualized feedback to students, particularly in first-year courses.”

Current first-year students enjoy the full benefit of the curriculum change, although continuing students are also required to fulfill some of the new course requirements.

“These changes are transforming legal education at USF,” Dean John Trasviña said. “From the first semester to the last, a USF legal

education will equip students with the knowledge and skills needed to launch a successful legal career from here.”

CURRICULAR CHANGES INCLUDE:

More courses in bar exam topics: The law school has added additional courses in subjects that are tested on the bar examination, including contracts, civil procedure, property, and torts. The school also increased the number of units students are required to take in courses covering subjects tested on the bar exam.

More courses in bar exam skills: The school has added a series of courses that teach students the skills they need to pass the three parts of the California bar exam: writing, multiple choice, and professional skills. One of these courses, Legal Drafting, is now required of all students. Other courses are being offered for credit for the first time, including a course on taking multiple choice questions.

More individualized feedback for students from faculty: The USF faculty is changing how it teaches, moving away from the traditional law school model of a single final exam accounting for 100 percent of a student's grade. In order to give students an opportunity during the semester to find out what they are doing well and what they need to work on, all full-time professors will now give midterms or other assignments and provide detailed feedback. ■

USF School of Law Launches Academic and Bar Exam Success Program

The USF School of Law has revamped its programming in the areas of academic support and bar exam preparation with an eye toward maximizing student success during law school and improving the rate at which graduates pass the bar examination.

The Academic and Bar Exam Success Program (ABES) replaces Law+Plus and Bar+Plus, which was directed by Assistant Professor Richard Sakai, who returned to the classroom this fall as an adjunct professor, and Rodney Fong, who accepted a new position with the State Bar of California.

Assistant Professor Christina Chong has been appointed interim director of ABES.

“With more than 10 years of teaching experience, much of it focusing on academic and bar success at USF, UC Irvine, and UC Berkeley, Professor Chong is well-equipped to take on this critical work,” Dean John Trasviña said.

Cometria Cooper '09, who previously served as a career counselor in the law school's Office of Career Planning, is assistant director. Two teaching fellow positions have also been created for the program.

ABES puts law school academics and bar preparation under one umbrella, which allows faculty to support students starting the first day of orientation until the day they sit for the

bar examination. ABES offers several workshops and classes that provide students with opportunities to complete practice exams, improve their self-assessment skills, and receive individualized feedback. The program also works closely with faculty to develop a curriculum that incorporates various learning theories and teaching techniques, such as learning styles and formative assessment, to maximize students' academic experience.

“As a community, we have truly bonded together to create a curriculum that will teach our students the skills necessary to succeed in law school, as a practicing attorney, and on the bar exam,” Chong said. ■

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Tag your posts to share your #USFLaw moments!



JUNE 2017

Assistant Professor Thomas Nazario gave one of the first TedX talks at University of San Francisco recently, about building a meaningful life. He says it's not necessarily about building your resume, but instead building your character and making the world better for having been here. Watch the video at bit.ly/nazario-tedx



AUGUST 2017

International Jurist gave #USFLaw an A+ for LLM students' law school experience for our outstanding clinics, staff, support, and more.



JULY 2017

Congratulations to Marie Ma '09 who received @sfbar's In-House Counsel Diversity Award! @mjmasf @Gap



JUNE 2017

Last night, our Keta Taylor Colby Death Penalty Project kicked off in New Orleans. Today, our students head out across the American South to work with capital defense attorneys in internships in New Orleans, Jackson, Little Rock, and Austin. Pictured here: Assistant Professor Amy Flynn with this year's KTC interns. Learn more about the program at bit.ly/usflaw-ktc



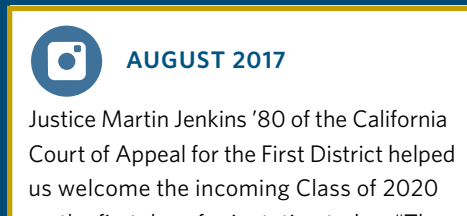
AUGUST 2017

He's been called a rock star by his peers for his groundbreaking work on the problem of false confessions in our criminal justice system. Learn more about Professor Richard Leo in this extended interview with *The Sun* magazine: bit.ly/thesun-leo-whole-truth



JULY 2017

Congrats to @binderlaw (Josh Binder '01), partner at @DavisShapiro, on making *Billboard's* 2017 list of Top Music Industry Lawyers.



AUGUST 2017

Justice Martin Jenkins '80 of the California Court of Appeal for the First District helped us welcome the incoming Class of 2020 on the first day of orientation today: "The admissions committee selected you because you manifest the characteristics of a USF law student and lawyer. What are they? Intelligence, character, and a worldview that appreciates the importance of diversity in our ever-evolving society."

#usflaw #1L #BacktoSchool #lawschool

USF STUDENTS MADE THE MOST OF SUMMER

Summer for USF School of Law students means immersing themselves in judges' chambers, corporate offices, courtrooms, public defender and prosecutor offices, and more. Whether they were based in San Francisco or Silicon Valley, or traveled across oceans, our students' summers were filled with hands-on experiences and new professional relationships.

USF's international externships helped some students develop an understanding of how to do business and pursue justice in today's global society. The Office of Career Planning supported students finding jobs around the country that build legal skills. Through the domestic externship program, students earned academic credit for fieldwork at government agencies, corporate legal departments, law firms, nonprofit organizations, and state and federal courts. And the Keta Taylor Colby Southern Internship Program sent law students to work with capital defense attorneys in the South.



"I have learned to read and think more critically, and to identify nuances. Going into law school, I knew I wanted to start my legal career with the type of legal training that only a Big Law firm could provide. Pillsbury has been very generous in providing opportunities and interactions with partners across practice areas and clients. The experience I have gained has not only confirmed my decision to go into Big Law, but it has given me a running start to excel in that environment."

Matthew Lewis '17

Summer Law Clerk, Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP, where he accepted a permanent position to begin after graduation
San Francisco, California

"I worked with European law firm P/R/K Partners, at its Prague location through the USF Summer Externship Program, and it was an unforgettable and really rewarding experience. The most interesting aspect of this program is how the firm supplied relevant research topics and work material to gauge my interest in a particular field. I learned a lot about international law, which contains aspects of business, tax, and even intellectual property law. This summer has really set me on the right path for the future."



Chekwume Ufoegbune '19
Summer Associate, P/R/K Partners
Prague, Czech Republic



"This experience will help me in my career as a future prosecutor. As a certified law clerk, I got my own cases, which means I got to conduct preliminary hearings, do my own jury trial, conduct direct examinations and cross examinations, and I appeared in court to argue motions and present opening statements and closing arguments during jury trials. I have also assisted police officers in a search warrant by searching through a home for evidence, and was able to visit San Quentin State Prison and speak with inmates."

Genevieve Galman '17

Certified Law Clerk, Contra Costa County District Attorney's Office
Martinez, California



"The mock jury trial was the most memorable moment of my IAP experience. It was riveting to be able to direct examine plaintiff-side witnesses, cross examine defendant-friendly witnesses, introduce and publish evidence to the court, and deliver opening statements and closing arguments to a jury of community members who would end up judging our final product and ultimately render a verdict. This experience will remain one of the hallmarks of my legal education."

Michael A. Llamas '19

Intensive Advocacy Program, USF School of Law
San Francisco, California

ONE TO WATCH: CYNTHIA SWAMINATHAN 3L

Cynthia Swaminathan first came to this country from Brazil seven years ago, taking a break from law school there to learn English. But after starting a family here, she earned an undergraduate degree from USF and continued with her legal education at USF School of Law. She won First Year Moot Court Best Oralist, was a research assistant for Professor Bill Ong Hing, and spent two years as a law clerk in the San Francisco District Attorney's Office, where she recently accepted a post-bar clerkship. This fall, she's representing USF at the National Criminal Trial Competition.

What most influenced your path to law school?

Passion led me to law. And love helped me to remain on this path. I was introduced to law in sixth grade. My history teacher asked us to read the Brazilian Constitution for a project. As I read the constitution and learned about rights, I found my passion. During that year, I carried the constitution in my backpack and would fiercely recite code sections when I thought a right was being violated. My school project ended up being a letter to the Brazilian president pointing out all the unconstitutional things he was doing.

How do you plan to use your law degree?

Growing up in Brazil, you learn very fast how to survive. I faced the reality of violence, corruption, and discrimination. But I have always found power in protecting people who needed someone to stand up for them. My goal for my law degree is to protect my community and pursue justice.

Which class has challenged you the most?

Constitutional law. Not because it was difficult, but because it made me think about the U.S. culture as a whole. I realized that I had a lot to learn and understand beyond the law itself.

What did you do with the San Francisco Police Commission while working as Professor Bill Ong Hing's research assistant?

It was an amazing opportunity to work for Professor Hing after he was appointed to the San Francisco Police Commission last year. I attended meetings with several commission members. I conducted multiple research assignments including the possibility of implementing tasers in the police department, and the standard of proof for police misconduct investigation.

What have been the highlights of your experiences at the San Francisco District Attorney's Office?

I've learned important legal tools like processing a large volume of information, writing motions, and preparing cases. I got courtroom exposure, saw the importance of team collaboration, and experienced the legal system as whole — from detention to arraignment to preliminary hearing to trial and sentencing. But most of all, I learned the impact of the prosecution's work on the victims, defendants, and the community. The program provided me with a solid foundation to become a successful and mindful assistant district attorney.

What advice would you give new law students?

Never ever forget what brought you to law school. Make your passion your steering wheel and let it guide you. The path to a law career is challenging but you will find tremendous rewards when you get there. And don't forget to eat. ■



PRESS CLIPPINGS

“Due process must be the core component of any campus adjudicatory system. Otherwise, on-campus sexual assault proceedings will continue to be rightly challenged as lacking in fairness and legitimacy.”

Associate Professor and Director of the Criminal and Juvenile Justice and Racial Justice Law Clinics **Lara Bazelon** in a *Washington Post* op ed about why colleges should change how they handle sexual assault cases.

“We’re looking at the smoke, the potential cover up. There’s still the fire. The fire is much bigger in terms of our overall system.”

Dean **John Trasviña** on ABC7 News analyzing former FBI Director James Comey’s testimony before the Senate Intelligence Committee.

“The courts have given [police lying to a suspect during an interrogation] their blessing year in and year out. In 99.9 percent of cases the police suffer no consequences for lying. Judges look the other way except in the most blatant violations.”

Professor **Richard Leo** in a profile on him in *The Sun* magazine.

“You are not in any way allowed to suggest that you are affiliated or controlled or in any way associated with that particular trademark.”

Professor **Robert Talbot** on NBC Bay Area in response to complaints by local restaurants saying DoorDash, a San Francisco startup, used their business names and logos without permission.

“I think the executive order’s efforts to push the agency to revise and rescind the Clean Power Plan likely won’t have a dramatic effect on the use of coal because market forces were already bringing it down.”

Professor **Alice Kaswan** on KCSB FM discussing President Trump’s executive order that reverses the environmental initiatives former President Obama mandated under the Clean Power Plan.

“I’ve always thought that statutory grounds was stronger from the plaintiff’s’ perspective ... (that) Trump’s going beyond the statute by saying everyone from those countries presents a danger. He doesn’t have a factual basis for that conclusion.”

Professor **Bill Ong Hing** in the *San Francisco Chronicle* after the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit denied President Trump’s second travel ban in June.

Alumni Honor the 'Yoda' of the Academic Support Program

Carol Wilson, who inspires generations of law students, inspires a new crowdfunded scholarship drive

More than 150 alumni and friends of the School of Law's Academic Support Program (ASP) came together April 29 to celebrate the program's longtime director, Assistant Professor Carol Wilson, and to playfully "roast" her.

The event, which also served as an ASP homecoming, was part of a fundraising drive that has brought in more than \$45,000 toward creating an endowed scholarship for ASP students. Leading up to the event, fundraising was primarily accomplished through crowdfunding, a first for the law school. ASP alumni leaders reached out to fellow alumni via Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, emails, and other non-traditional fundraising methods.

The effort paid off, with ASP alumni giving at unprecedented rates. Many were first-time donors to the School of Law, inspired by the chance to support ASP and Wilson. Even current ASP students donated. The majority of donations ranged from \$50 to \$1,000.

"Carol has guided 27 generations of ASP students, including me, into the practice of law through her own blood, sweat, and tears," said On Lu '05, partner at Nixon Peabody who worked with the school's Office of Development and Alumni Relations on the event. "I spoke with nearly 100 ASP alumni throughout the planning of #RoastCarol. Everyone was unanimous in wanting to recognize Carol, thank her, and celebrate all she has done for us, and the legal community."

Lu proposed the idea of an ASP fundraiser both as a way to raise money for the program and to honor Wilson for the impact she's had on generations of ASP students. Wilson was instrumental to Lu's success, he said, providing both academic and personal assistance. "You



Professor and Academic Support Program Co-Director Carol Wilson

can't not give back," Lu said, "when so much is given to you."

Law school faculty and staff, including Wilson herself, also contributed to the scholarship fund, said Michelle Sklar, assistant dean for development and alumni relations. "We are very close to our \$60,000 initial goal (in honor of Carol's 60th birthday) and we are hoping to reach that goal by calendar year end so we can be eligible for a \$50,000 match from one of our alumni," Sklar said.

Unique among law schools, ASP is a highly successful program that supports incoming students who can benefit from additional academic guidance. ASP students typically come from very diverse backgrounds and may be the first in their family to have graduated from college and to be attending law school.

At the roast, 15 ASP alumni shared comments

about Wilson. Among them was Derik Hilliard '13, an associate at Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP. In his remarks, Hilliard called Wilson the "Yoda of ASP" — wise, genuine, and patient in training the "Jedi of ASP" to bring balance to the legal universe.

"Carol Wilson is wise and one of the most generous people I have ever met," Hilliard said later. "Her wisdom has helped hundreds of law students from nontraditional backgrounds reach their potential to become legal advocates. Carol inspires people to do good work, not just become lawyers. I truly appreciate her guidance in navigating some of the difficult times in law school and know that I, like many of my ASP family, would not be where we are without her support."

For Wilson, the roast was "a tremendously moving experience." She described it as a living panoramic of ASP's history, and a reminder of how lucky she is to work with outstanding students who have gone on to do great work in the world.

"The success of the fundraising efforts that were part of this event reflects the strength of the ASP community and the tremendous impact the program has made on so many for so many years," Wilson said. "It has been my honor to take what the original creators of ASP did and run with it. ASP has empowered hundreds of students from underrepresented groups to become not only lawyers in every conceivable type of practice, but also law professors and judges. The practice of law, especially in California, has received a direct material benefit from the existence of ASP because it has increased the presence of diverse attorneys." ■

Support the ASP Endowed Scholarship

A gift to the USF School of Law's Academic Support Program Endowed Scholarship helps passionate students become the jurists, advocates, and leaders of tomorrow. Most ASP students do not have family members who can help them finance their legal education. Scholarship resources for ASP students are limited — you can help change that.

Make a gift today: usfca.edu/law/alumni/roastcarol



READY
SET

GO
GO





USF Law Alumni Take the Road to Independence

By Monica Villavicencio

These are stories of risk and reward, stories of forgoing a steady paycheck for the dream of establishing your own legacy and being your own boss, of saying yes to what excites you and no to what doesn't.


They are also stories of what happens when you train your eye on opportunity and work harder and smarter than you knew you could, when you make the choice to go solo.

Many USF alumni have taken that leap.

They've started their own practices and built them with that rare mix of good lawyering and entrepreneurial grit. They've partnered with classmates and created jobs for their fellow alumni, because, as John Hendricks '04 (left) of Hendricks Law, P.C. says, "When you're in the trenches, it's important to like the people you work with."

They are thriving in the niches they've carved for themselves — from antitrust litigation, criminal defense, and employment law to the nexus of estate planning and family law — and are laying the groundwork for overseas offices.

Here are six of their stories.



“It was scary. It was unknown, but it was a challenge I was ready for.”

John Hendricks '04

VISUALIZING SUCCESS

John Hendricks '04

John Hendricks '04 is 6'7", which means that people are always asking him whether he plays basketball, which he doesn't.

But when it comes to shaping his legal career, he does think like a basketball player, one standing in front of the hoop, about to take a shot.

“Visualize yourself making the basket,” he says. “The same holds true for anything else. I wanted to start my own firm, so I visualized my name on the door — literally.”

Hendricks held that image in his mind when, in 2009, the global economic downturn hit law firms. He'd been a litigator representing Fortune 500 companies and their management. He was laid off on a Friday, and the following Monday, he went to San Francisco City Hall and filed a business registration.

Hendricks Law, P.C. was born. His dining room table served as his office.

“It was scary. It was unknown, but it was a challenge I was ready for,” he says.

As a young attorney, Hendricks had cultivated a strong network of contacts — from USF professors and alumni to former colleagues. Hendricks also served on the board of the Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom, the nation's oldest LGBT lawyers association, and was active in a number of other professional organizations including the American Bar Association, the American

Inns of Court, and the Bar Association of San Francisco.

Through his contacts and their referrals, Hendricks secured a steady stream of work. Within two years, he had moved out of his dining room and into his current office in San Francisco's Financial District. He also hired fellow USF alumni Elaine Leeming '99 and Matthew Miller '05.

Hendricks' practice focuses on business, real estate, and employment law. His firm handles litigation and transactional matters for traditional and high-tech industries, and Hendricks, who happily balances the twin roles of lawyer and entrepreneur, is always seeking out the next big opportunity.

Right now, he's excited about one in particular: an opportunity to provide legal services to California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC)-regulated utilities. The CPUC is expanding its Supplier Diversity Program, an initiative designed to increase diversity among utility contractors, to include LGBT-owned businesses. Through the program, CPUC-regulated utility such as PG&E, Comcast, and Cox Cable will be required to spend a certain amount of their contracting budgets on LGBT-certified businesses.

Hendricks Law is one of five certified LGBT Business Enterprise law firms in the state and the only one that routinely handles business matters, the precise area of need for utility companies.

“We are extremely well-positioned to help utility companies in the state,” says Hendricks, who's partnered with California-based

international law firm Sedgwick to pursue the opportunity. “We’re being creative in how we pitch it to these companies. This is my big, big push this year.”

Another passion of Hendricks’ is working with clients who are based overseas. Hendricks received a certificate in international law from USF and enjoys cases with international clients who have legal needs in California. To expand his practice in this area, Hendricks took the exams to be licensed in England. He’s now a member of the Law Society of England and Wales and is listed on their Roll of Solicitors.

Once again Hendricks is visualizing himself making that basket. This time the basket is an office in London.

TIME-TESTED AND THRIVING

Guido Saveri ’50

Guido Saveri ’50 does not speak of his decision in 1959 to open his own firm in lofty, high-minded language.

“If he had a baseball team, I’d have become a baseball player. If he had a football team, I’d have become a football player,” says Saveri. “He brought me antitrust cases, so that’s what I did.”

The ‘he’ Saveri is referring to is the late Joseph Alioto, a well-

known antitrust litigator who’d risen to prominence representing movie producers Samuel Goldwyn, Walt Disney, and Walter Wanger and who would go on to become the 36th mayor of San Francisco.

Saveri and Alioto were friends and collaborators. In the late ‘50s, Alioto made Saveri an offer: leave your firm and come work with me.

At the time, Saveri was a thriving young associate at Pillsbury, Madison & Sutro, a powerhouse firm in the city, and was doing well for himself. What Alioto was offering wasn’t a full-time job with benefits. He was offering Saveri some work; Saveri would need to create the job himself.

Saveri knew it was a risk — leaving a steady paycheck at what he calls “the top firm west of Chicago” — but he had faith in Alioto and himself, and an eye for opportunity. In 1959, he and his brother Rick, also a lawyer, opened their own firm, Saveri & Saveri, Inc. It wasn’t a calling so much as a conscious choice to explore where opportunity, risk, and hard work might lead. Alioto immediately hired them to work on some antitrust cases.

Today Saveri & Saveri is a nationally recognized firm specializing in complex, multidistrict, and class action litigation, headquartered in a beautiful, brick building in San Francisco’s



**“We stay with USF
because they’re
good lawyers.”**

“I really wanted to **be my own boss**, to take the cases I wanted to take, **to work the way I wanted to work.**”



Barbara Moser '90

Jackson Square. That the firm is approaching its 60th birthday is testament to the link between risk and reward.

The list of cases Saveri has worked is seemingly endless, but ask for the highlights and he'll happily cite a few. Among them is one in which Saveri was the sole attorney for a class of 9,000 health and welfare trust funds in an antitrust suit against drug companies manufacturing the antibiotic tetracycline. The case went to trial before two juries, the first time that had ever been done.

In another, Saveri represented miners in a price-fixing case against the companies that purchased vanadium, a metal used to strengthen steel. The case, *Nisley v. Union Carbide and Carbon Corp.*, is often referred to as a model for the trial of class actions.

Saveri still goes into the office most days, but at 92, he's stepping back a little. He wants to keep the firm he's built in the family, both his own and the USF family. His son Rick '94 and his daughter Lisa '83 are partners, and the firm has hired many other alumni over the years.

“We try to hire mostly USF graduates,” he says. “We stay with USF because they're good lawyers.”

IN SEARCH OF FLEXIBILITY

Barbara Moser '90

When Barbara Moser '90 started her practice, she had five years at a big firm under her belt and two children under age 2. It was both the best and worst time to go solo.

At the time, Moser was an associate in the tax department at Brobeck Phleger and Harrison, where she specialized in family law, estate planning, and probate. Her clients were high-net worth individuals; their cases were complex and her schedule demanding.

“I was practicing law at the highest level. Everything had to be perfect,” says Moser. “I really liked that challenge.”

But a few months after returning from her second maternity leave, Moser had a realization. If she wanted to continue to do the two things she loved most — lawyering and being a mother to her two boys — she needed flexibility, the kind that she could never find at a big firm. To find it, she needed to start her own.

“I really wanted to be my own boss, to take the cases I wanted to take, to work the way I wanted to work,” Moser says. “That is a pure luxury in practicing law.”

She knew, however, that that luxury would be hard-won and would require her to think like an entrepreneur, something she says is not innate to most lawyers. But Moser had already proven adept at navigating professional pivots. She'd successfully transitioned from a career teaching deaf studies and sign language to one as an associate at one of San Francisco's largest law firms.

And so, in the spring of 1995, Moser took the leap. She and fellow Brobeck alumna Susan Kaye co-founded what is now Kaye Moser Hierbaum Ford LLP. They spent \$5,000 on two computers and an office space. It was, she says, at turns exhilarating and terrifying.

"On the one hand, I thought, 'Oh, we can do this,'" says Moser. "On the other hand, I was terrified. I didn't really know if it would work, if we would have any business. We thought we'd have to take out a line of credit to survive."

But that fear has proven unfounded many times over. Twenty-two years in, Moser's downtown San Francisco firm is thriving. They've carved out a niche for themselves as a crossover estate planning and family law firm — one of just a few in the state of California. They do everything from premarital agreements to divorces, estate planning, complex custody matters, and trust litigation. Their clients include professional football players, CEOs, tech company founders, physicians, lawyers, and authors.

"The minute we opened our doors, we had clients. We've never not been busy. It's incredible," says Moser, whose firm has been ranked among the top 100 women-owned businesses in the Bay Area by the *San Francisco Business Times*.

Starting her own firm did give Moser the flexibility she sought. She makes her own hours, and the work is rewarding. But, she adds, owning your own business can be all-encompassing and overwhelming.

"You have to know how to manage it," she says. "It's so important to have great people working with you."

To build her team, Moser has recruited heavily from USF's alumni network. Of the six attorneys at her firm, four are USF graduates, including Laura Cronin Ford '08, who recently made partner.

"USF's network, its connectedness, is, bar none, extraordinary," Moser says.

A SUCCESSFUL PARTNERSHIP

Britney Mark '14 and Pouya Nowzaree '14 LLM '15

Britney Mark '14 and Pouya Nowzaree '14 LLM '15 are the first to admit that, as business partners, they're better together than they could ever be alone.

And they should know — before they joined forces, they both went solo.

Mark and Nowzaree met in law school while participating in the Child Advocacy Law Clinic. After graduating, they stayed in touch but went their separate ways. Mark took what she learned in Adjunct Professor Mike London's class on running a firm and set up her own family law office in Southern California, and Nowzaree started a tax practice in the Bay Area.

Mark has always been drawn to social justice work, and when she opened her practice, among the areas of family law she focused on were child custody and domestic violence. She was quickly inundated with requests and overwhelmed with work.

Several hundred miles north, Nowzaree, a self-described "black-and-white numbers guy" who also holds an LLM in Taxation from USF, zeroed in on tax law.

"I got a couple of clients, but it didn't really pay the mortgage," says Nowzaree, who realized he needed to expand his focus. "When I advertised for family law, I got all these inquiries. In tax law you get one call for every ten you get in family law. So I thought, 'Okay, I'll go with it.'"

But in the family law arena, Nowzaree often felt in over his head. He'd call Mark, his friend and former law school classmate, to get advice on his cases. During their calls, it became clear that Nowzaree, too, had counsel for Mark, particularly when it came to business operations.

"One of the things that I took with me from USF is the connection we students have with each other and how we're willing to help each other out," says Nowzaree.

At first, partnering up was something they only joked about. After all, Mark's practice, entrenched in the Los Angeles area, was humming, and although Nowzaree was a Southern California native, he and his wife had just welcomed their first baby and refinanced their Bay Area home.

One day in the early spring of 2016, though, Mark called Nowzaree with a serious request: come down and help run this business. He decided to give partnership a test drive.

For about four months, Nowzaree flew back and forth between the Bay Area and Los Angeles, spending the week working with Mark and weekends with his family.

On July 1, 2016, Nowzaree, his wife, daughter, and two dogs made the move south.

Mark and Nowzaree, LLP celebrated its first birthday this past summer, and as a team, they've thrived.

"We realized how good of a complement we are," says Mark. "Pouya has a stronger business background, so partnering with him has been a breath of fresh air."

"If Brit and I went toe-to-toe in a family law environment, she would smoke me," Nowzaree says. "She's amazing."

They divide up the cases according to interest and expertise.

Nowzaree takes on cases with more of a financial bent. He recently helped a client secure higher child support payments after proving her former partner was lying about his income. Among Mark's recent successes is an emergency custody request for two girls who'd been exposed to sexual abuse in their home.

The firm has been so busy that earlier this year they hired Christine MacDonald '15 as an associate attorney. They've also had to turn clients away.

The next step for this USF dream team: opening a second office.



“We realized how good of a complement we are.”

Pouya Nowzaree '14 LLM '15 and Britney Mark '14

WHEN NO DOORS OPEN, MAKE YOUR OWN

John Hamasaki '08

Ask John Hamasaki '08 why he decided to go solo, and he'll say it's because no one was hiring. But the last five years of his career tell the story of what can only come when doors don't open and you're compelled to build your own.

Hamasaki came out of law school with a very clear vision for himself. He wanted to be a criminal defense attorney, and he wanted to work with people from all walks of life.

“It was important to me that I not just represent professionals, but also people who are working class or poor and wouldn't normally be able to pay for a lawyer,” he says.

The original plan was to be a public defender. As a student, he interned at the San Francisco Public Defender's Office, and after he graduated, he volunteered there while he searched for jobs.

The economy was sluggish and the opportunities few. Hamasaki began talking to other criminal defense attorneys with their own

practices, and it became clear to him that in order to realize his vision, he needed to hang his own shingle.

At the end of 2009, that's exactly what he did.

Hamasaki Law's first few years were lean, but early on he discovered the secret to being a successful entrepreneur: unlike in the Public Defender's Office, where lawyers were guaranteed a heavy load of cases, attorneys going solo needed to hustle.

“You have to be someone who's willing to work harder and smarter, take on challenging cases, and build up your reputation,” he says.

Hamasaki adds that networking has played a huge role in building his practice.

“I made a lot of really good relationships when I was at USF, with alumni and the broader legal community,” he says. “I don't think I would have gotten where I am without that support.”

As a young attorney, he represented one of the PayPal 14, a group of hacktivists who disrupted PayPal's service after the company froze the accounts of WikiLeaks, in a federal case that garnered national media attention.

"It was a crazy case at the time," Hamasaki says. "It was the first of what was called a 'digital sit-in.' Instead of sitting at a lunch counter to protest, it was sitting in front of PayPal, blocking access. It brought up new issues around computer hacking."

The felony charges against his client were ultimately dropped, and he ended up with a misdemeanor and no time in custody.

In another case that attracted media attention, Hamasaki defended a Richmond, California-based rapper charged with two counts of murder with gang enhancements. The prosecution used the rapper's music lyrics as evidence that he was a gang member and that his crimes were gang-related.

"To me it seemed unfair to target people based on their artistic expression, because they're talking about things that happen in their neighborhoods, about problems with crime and violence, because they're talking about it in their music, then they are somehow a part of it," he says.

In this case, too, charges were dropped.

Hamasaki has built a portfolio of cases that reflects his interests and passions, a luxury he would not have had anywhere else. Now that he balances a heavy workload, he's also hired Erica Roth '17 as a law clerk.

"You don't have an opportunity to get those kinds of cases, especially early on, unless you have the decision-making power," he says. "Working on my own allows me to do pro-bono work on matters I'm interested in, to choose how I use my time and resources. It's allowed me to become involved in some interesting, issue-oriented cases that have a broader impact beyond the case itself." ■

"You have to be someone who's willing to work harder and smarter."



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Minds



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·LAW FIRM·

legal rights & responsibilities

associate

corporate

·IN-HOUSE·



EXPERTISE

partner

team player

ANTI-TRUST contracts

·SPORTS·



·GOALS·

interests

opportunity

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INNOVATION

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RS

BUSINESS MODEL

TECH.

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lectual
property

PRIVACY



BANKING · \$

regulatory
compliance

GOVERNMENT.

policy-making

USF ALUMNA OF THE YEAR STACY MILLER AZCARATE '96 SAYS THAT TO THRIVE IN TODAY'S LEGAL INDUSTRY, EMBRACE YOUR OPTIONS

The transformation of the legal industry has been dramatic over the last decade. *USF Lawyer* sat down with one of Northern California's leading recruiters, Stacy Miller Azcarate '96, to talk about the state of the legal employment market, how it is evolving and innovating, and what all lawyers — from established attorneys to new grads — can do to evolve with it in order to continue to thrive.

Today's legal sector looks dramatically different than it did 10 to 20 years ago. What has changed?

Well, everything. I think that particular practice areas have changed, how people practice has changed, how we provide services to clients has changed. Our entire society has changed, so it would be somewhat odd if law and the practice of it had not changed. Now you have large tech companies that have 400-500 in-house lawyers that are basically mid-sized firms. Most lawyering was done in a law firm 10 to 20 years ago, and I now see that companies are hiring more and more lawyers to do work in-house.

It used to be you were a government lawyer, you were a firm lawyer, or you were an in-house lawyer, and there wasn't much crossover between the three, but now I see a lot of fluidity between the three. And also I think that practice areas have changed dramatically. Data security and privacy was a very small, very niche practice, but now in the last decade it has become at the forefront of legal departments. IP practice has started to transform into that, and you also see that with labor and employment practices.

How can lawyers embrace these market changes? What can they do whether they are at the beginning of their career or more established?

There's more opportunity out there with the expansion of the market. I think that law is one of the last professions where seniority and having a lot of experience is actually an asset. But, I'm seeing the inverse of that where younger lawyers may know

a lot about a certain technology, like video games, that are becoming huge industries and need legal services, and they need lawyers to understand them. So it becomes an opportunity for junior lawyers to teach senior lawyers, and it creates a dynamic where the clients are getting younger and younger. When tech companies are started by junior lawyers' peers, the first person who gets that call in the law firm to take the business may be an associate.

"OUR entire society HAS CHANGED, SO IT WOULD BE SOMEWHAT ODD IF law AND THE PRACTICE OF IT HAD NOT CHANGED."

In-house, sometimes what they really need is someone who can partner with their business units and understand the technology, and they're ramping up so quickly that they don't have the time to teach somebody. On the flip side of that, law is one of those professions where the more experience you have, the more effective you are going to be for your clients. The best thing for those new technology companies to do is partner with those more senior people and the junior people so that they can combine their talents.

Mid-career people should really look at expanding their practice areas. I've seen that many

people are retooling their practices in response to market influences. Staying abreast of what is coming next, and the trends that you are seeing with your clients — these may very well become the next hot practice areas. Always keep an open mind that something that may not have looked like an opportunity may very well will be. It could be the next big thing.

*“ALWAYS keep an open mind THAT
SOMETHING THAT MAY NOT HAVE LOOKED LIKE
AN opportunity MAY VERY WELL
WILL BE. IT COULD BE THE NEXT BIG THING.”*

What kinds of transitions do you see partners making?

They are making all sorts of transitions. One is to in-house, which you didn't used to see, since you used to recruit associates for in-house positions. But now partners will leave their firm since partners don't stay at the same firm their entire careers. I'm also seeing more partners open their own smaller firms, realizing that their clients will follow them and that they can still practice for them on a smaller platform. I'm also seeing partners leave to do entirely different things, like running foundations or going into politics or government.

What makes a partner or any lawyer appealing to employers looking to hire in-house positions?

If someone is going in-house, and a partner especially, you want to see that they've practiced in the industry and that they're a known quantity. If they're going for a more senior role in-house, you want to see that they know how to manage people, a department, a team, their practice group, or even their law firm's office. You want to see if they have that inherent business sense, that they've been a team player and are collaborative. That they are able to work well with business units, to see flexibility — somebody who is able to adapt to change.

What would you say is the most important thing current law students should do to succeed in today's market?

Keep all your contacts. Your friends from college, your friends from growing up, your friends from high school — they may all turn into business contacts. And also your classmates in law school — keep in touch with all of them and stay really involved in that community. Especially if you stay in California, it's amazing how small the legal community truly is, and the business community. So, treat every single interaction you have, including with professors, as a potential

job opportunity. Another thing that I always tell people to do, and it's really hard, is write out your own business plan and your own goals. It will keep you focused, even if none of it happens. Life takes a lot of twists and turns, but lay out for yourself — where do I want to be in three years, five years, 10 years?

Would you say now is a good time to enter the legal profession?

I think it is always a great time to enter the legal profession. It's a really rewarding profession, and one where there are a variety of opportunities that aren't available in a lot of other professions. There are so many different paths to take with a law degree, and you have to remind yourself you're maybe not going to join the legal profession as a first-year associate in a firm and then make partner and stay there for your entire legal career. I think that does not happen as often anymore. But there are opportunities, especially here in the Bay Area. In sports, tech, banking, health care, consumer packaging, retail, there is so much innovation here. A law degree carries a lot of gravitas, and shows that you've been through three years of a very rigorous, very intense education — it's impressive and translates to a lot of things. The organization skills, the analytic skills, the critical thinking skills, the writing skills, they all translate into business really well. ■

**USF'S OFFICE OF CAREER PLANNING SUPPORTS
ALUMNI IN ALL STAGES OF THEIR CAREERS**

USF School of Law's Office of Career Planning staff regularly meets with alumni, no matter where they are in the long arc of their careers. Counselors discuss all aspects of job searching, from identifying opportunities and reviewing application materials to meeting attorneys, preparing for interviews, and negotiating salary. Appointments can be held in person, over the phone, or by video chat. Services include:

- Refreshing marketing materials, including resumes, cover letters, writing samples, and more
- Performing career and personal assessments to identify the environments where alumni will thrive
- Reviewing social media to support career advancement
- Networking and facilitating connections with other alumni, through direct introductions, events, and the USF LinkedIn law alumni group

Learn more at usfca.edu/law/career/alumni



**HER DREAM
CAREER
BEGAN
WITH AN
LLM IN
TAXATION**

By Samantha Bronson

"IT'S LIKE **THE SKIES** **OPENED UP** AND I REALIZED THIS IS WHAT I'M SUPPOSED TO DO. EVERYTHING JUST MADE SO MUCH SENSE TO ME."

— *Cassandra Banks LLM '16*

The moment Cassandra Banks LLM '16 took a tax law class, she knew she'd found her passion.

"It's like the skies opened up and I realized this is what I'm supposed to do. Everything just made so much sense to me," Banks said.

The problem? Banks was already in her third year of law school at McGeorge School of Law. She scrambled to take all the tax law classes she could and completed an externship with the Board of Equalization's Tax Appeals Assistance Program. It just wasn't enough — Banks couldn't break into tax law without specialized training in the field or connections with tax attorneys.

Enter USF School of Law's LLM in Taxation program. The 24-unit program, which can be completed in as little as a year, provided exactly what Banks needed to make the jump — practical training in the ins and outs of tax law, access to networking events with tax law professionals, and an internship with Andersen Tax. Even before she finished the LLM program, Banks was offered a full-time associate position with Andersen.

"Not only is the education top-notch, but everyone in the program cares about making sure students are on the career paths they want to be on," Banks said. "I loved that my employment aspirations were important to my professors, and I was impressed by how practical and immediately applicable the lessons were. It gave me the boost I needed, and my degree propelled me into my new career."

Banks wasn't always so sure about going back to school. After she couldn't get a job in tax law after law school, Banks decided to check out other areas of the law, doing contract work for a family law firm, an immigration law firm, and a legal aid clinic.

The work paid the bills, Banks said, but it wasn't anything she was passionate about. Tax law was always in the back of her mind, and Banks thought about ways she could get into related areas like estate planning and then work her way to tax law.

Getting an LLM in Taxation, she realized, could be a more direct route, so she started researching law schools that offer the degree. Time and again, USF came up as school she should seriously

consider. "I kept hearing about how good the program is, even from people not affiliated with the program at all," she said.

Still, Banks wondered, would it be worth her time and money?

She decided to find out, moving from Sacramento to the Bay Area and lining up contract law jobs in San Francisco while she took LLM classes in the evenings. She sums up the program succinctly: "It was so worth it. The program was even better than I ever imagined."

"Cassandra was an outstanding student and she really impressed me with how well

she would do the work and think through the materials with the kind of skills we're hoping to develop in students," said Daniel Lathrope, E.L. Wiegand Distinguished Professor in Tax and academic director of the program. "The program helped set her up for success so that she is able to excel in a tax law environment. There are people who come to the program with very little tax background and we're able to get them up to speed. And there are also people who come to the program with extensive experience in tax and they are able to further refine and hone their skills through the program. This is a program that can be adapted to each individual's background."

For Banks, learning the essentials of tax law was obviously a key component of her time at USF. Just as important, however, were the networking opportunities the School of Law provided — and the support in taking full advantage of those. Banks recalls feeling somewhat intimidated at the thought of attending a law school networking mixer with experienced tax attorneys and practitioners and how well the LLM staff calmed her down and encouraged her to mingle. She left with coffee dates and lunch meetings set up.

Banks received that same support when she applied for an internship with Andersen Tax. LLM staff made resume suggestions, reviewed interviewing strategies, and helped set up informational interviews with attorneys working in the field. "I had never been so prepared for an interview in my life," Banks said. "And this was for an internship."

The preparation paid off. During the last semester of the LLM program, Banks worked full-time as an intern in Andersen's San Francisco office.

Andersen Tax interns such as Banks work on real client work, said Lupe Dryburgh, senior manager for human resources and operations for Andersen's Northern California region. They are not doing busy work or administrative work; instead, they are vital members of a team consisting of associates,

senior associates, and managers. While not all interns are LLM students, the ones who are tend to be from USF, Dryburgh said.

Andersen first hired LLM students from USF as interns in January 2015. Of those six, five are still with the firm, Dryburgh said, and all were recently promoted to senior associates.

"What we find is that LLM students from USF have the technical knowledge, which is great, but they also bring with them the ability to focus and multi-task extremely well," Dryburgh said. "They tend to be strong communicators and are able to take ownership of a job to take it from start to finish. They tend to come with a well-rounded job profile."

For Banks, the internship led to her current position as an associate in Andersen's private client services group.

"You're expected to know your client right away, so you feel like you're helping right away. And you are helping right away — you're part of the team," Banks said.

That desire to help is what drives Banks as she looks ahead at her career. She hopes to eventually move up through the ranks

"THE TAX PLANNING IS FUN, IT'S LIKE A BIG PUZZLE THAT YOU PUT TOGETHER."

at Andersen and focus more on tax planning and looking at the overall big picture of clients' challenges.

"I like the flexibility in creating solutions," Banks said. "Not every tax product is great for every client but you get to talk with them and work with them and figure out what the issue is and possible solutions to it. The tax planning is fun, it's like a big puzzle that you put together and hopefully the results are something that gives clients savings or at least provides clarity. You feel like you're helping. That's what I really like about tax law."

Whatever the specific path of her career, Banks knows one thing is for certain: None of this would be possible without the LLM in Taxation. "This feels like I've gotten over a wall that I thought was insurmountable. Without a doubt, I would not have been able to get into the tax field without this degree." ■

Graduate Tax Program Launches Careers

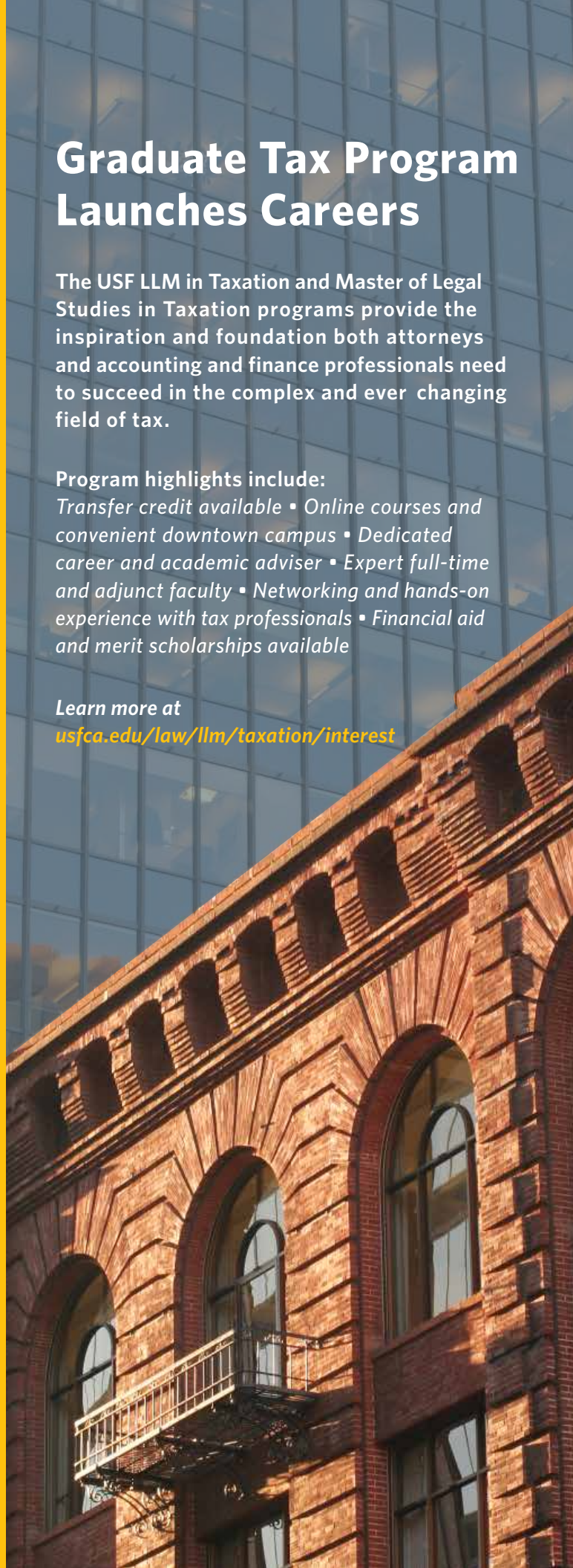
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PROFESSOR RHONDA MAGEE



Professor Rhonda V. Magee is an expert in teaching mindfulness-based stress reduction interventions for lawyers and law students and minimizing social-identity-based bias. She has been a Dean's Circle Scholar and served as co-director of USF's Center for Teaching Excellence and co-facilitator of the Ignatian Faculty Forum faculty development program.

Most recently, she published in the *Florida State Bar Journal* and the *Georgetown Law Journal of Modern Critical Race Perspectives*, and she has written a series of articles for the *American Bar Association Journal*. In the past two years, she contributed chapters to two books, *Resources for Teaching Mindfulness: An International Handbook* (Springer International Publishing, 2016) and *Transforming Justice, Lawyers and the Practice of Law* (Carolina Academic Press, 2017).

What do you think are the core causes of implicit bias, explicit bias, and structural discrimination?

Explicit biases arise from cultural ideologies and practices with long and meaningful histories. They are deeply ingrained in our society, and most human beings carry them. Implicit biases arise from unconscious mental categories that result from our social interactions in particular places and times. When these categories encompass human beings, we associate whole groups and associated individuals with capabilities and values — a process called stereotyping. Though we may all do it, stereotyping can be lessened. And that's a good thing because biases lead to structural discrimination, and go against the principles of inclusivity and equity that we endorse today.

How can we better teach lawyers, and society at large, to reduce these biases and discrimination?

Since the early 20th century, research has shown that biases can be reduced with effective engagement with so-called “others.” Building on what is known as the “contact thesis,” social psychologists have learned a lot about how to bring people together in ways that increase understanding, while at the same time reduce prejudice and related social-engagement distress. Educating ourselves about what we can do to lessen the negative impact of bias and stereotyping is a critical first step. Taking measures to ensure meaningful degrees of integration and engaging interactions in our social spaces — communities, workplaces, and other institutions — are also essential. And leadership in these matters helps: Studies show that even if their bias is not expressed verbally, a leader’s bias impacts the degree of bias expressed by others in an institution, including society at large. Mindfulness and compassion practice are proving essential, as they increase the compassion for ourselves and so-called others, on which so much else depends.

There has been a rise in hate crimes in the past year. How are the courts responding?

I don’t think that courts have yet demonstrated new ways of addressing hate crimes. Because the law is part and parcel of our larger society, at this stage, we need to work within our communities to help counteract the ideologies and sub-cultural views that support and encourage hate and related violence. Courts and legislators must work with police and prosecutors to help not only raise awareness, but also to develop more effective, intercultural, and international responses to the bias and hate that has been rising not only domestically, but in Europe and elsewhere for years.

What inspires your work on mindfulness with law students and lawyers?

My own experience as a child growing up in the still-segregated South led me to working first to heal from discriminations I’d experienced, and to unlearn my own biases.

I hope that bringing research-grounded practices of mindfulness into the classroom helps our students practice compassion for themselves and others. But I also envision it assisting us all in examining injustice, and supporting anti-oppression work. My ultimate hope is that it increases our profession’s capacity to bring transformative justice to a world in great need. ■



Lara Bazelon to Lead USF’s Criminal and Racial Justice Law Clinics

Attorney, professor, and scholar Lara Bazelon joined USF School of Law as associate professor and director of the Criminal and Juvenile Justice Law Clinic and the Racial Justice Law Clinic in June.

A graduate of Columbia University and New York University School of Law, Bazelon was recently an adjunct professor at USF teaching legal writing before joining the faculty full time. Previously, she was a visiting clinical law professor at Loyola Law School, a position that included directing the school’s Project for the Innocent. She has also served as a clinical law fellow and a legal research and writing professor at UC Hastings. In addition, she was a deputy federal public defender in Los Angeles for eight years.

She writes extensively about the criminal justice system, both in law reviews and other scholarly journals as well as in media outlets including Slate, where she is a contributing writer.

“For more than 100 years, the USF School of Law has been a leader in advocating for the rights of those without power and access,” Bazelon said. “I am proud to become a part of this tradition by working together with USF law students, faculty, and the San Francisco Public Defender’s Office to confront and address the inequalities that pervade our criminal justice system, particularly when it comes to issues of race, class, and gender.”

Bazelon succeeds Sharon Meadows, the Philip and Muriel Barnett Professor of Trial Advocacy, who retired earlier this year.

“I am happy to welcome Lara to our community and have no doubt that she will build on the outstanding legacy of Professor Sam Meadows,” said Dean John Trasviña. “I look forward to Lara’s contributions to our shared mission to educate lawyers and leaders who will change the world from here.” ■

FACULTY SCHOLARSHIP



ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR LARA BAZELON wrote the chapter “Ethics in Criminal Advocacy” in *The State of Criminal Justice* published by the American Bar Association. She also authored “The Long Goodbye: After the Innocence Movement, Does the Attorney Client Relationship Ever End?” in the *Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology* and “The Landmark Sexual Assault Case You’ve Probably Never Heard Of” in *Politico*. She was a panelist on “When Forensic Science Goes Wrong — The Wrongfully Convicted” at the International Society for the Reform of Criminal Law 30th International Conference in San Francisco.



PROFESSOR CONNIE DE LA VEGA wrote “International Standards on Business and Human Rights: Is Drafting a New Treaty Worth It?,” published in the *University of San Francisco Law Review*. An additional part of the article appeared in the *Hastings International and Comparative Law Review*. She also wrote an amicus brief for the U.S. Supreme Court in *Joe Clarence Smith v. Charles L. Ryan and Ron Credio*, filed on behalf of Human Rights Advocates.



PROFESSOR REZA DIBADJ was quoted in the article “Blockchain: The Future of Health Data” on the Diagnostic Imaging blog.



PROFESSOR EMERITUS H. JAY FOLBERG accepted the American Bar Association’s Lawyer as Problem Solver Award, on behalf of the JAMS Foundation.



PROFESSOR DAVID FRANKLYN was quoted in the article “Keystone Strategy Supports Amazon in its Favorable Outcome of a \$1.5 Billion Tax Dispute,” published in *Financial Services Worldwide Monitor*.



PROFESSOR AND ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS SUSAN FREI WALD wrote the forthcoming article “At the Privacy Vanguard: California’s Electronic Communication Privacy Act (CalECPA),” in the *Berkeley Technology Law Journal*. She gave a presentation on that topic at the Cornell Law School Faculty Speaker Series. She also moderated a panel at the tenth annual Privacy Law Scholars Conference at UC Berkeley’s Center for Law and Technology.



PROFESSOR JACK GARVEY was invited by the Attorney General of Rio de Janeiro State to give the keynote address on arbitration with governmental parties at the International Conference of the Legal Studies Center in December in Brazil.



PROFESSOR AND ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR FACULTY SCHOLARSHIP TRISTIN GREEN wrote the forthcoming article “Social Closure Discrimination” in the *Berkeley Journal of Employment and Labor Law*. She co-organized the fourth annual

Workplace Law Scholars’ Writing Collaborative along with Professor Michelle Travis. She was a panelist on “Defining Discrimination: Examining Key Concepts Used to Demarcate Discrimination Under the Law and Exploring New Sociological Frameworks to Expand the Scope of Discrimination Law” at the Berkeley Journal of Employment and Labor Law 2017 Symposium. She was also a panelist at the International Meeting on Law Society, “Walls, Borders, and Bridges: Law and Society in an Inter-Connected World,” in Mexico City.



PROFESSOR BILL ONG HING presented at the Child Health and Immigration Conference held at Stanford University School of Medicine, and gave a presentation titled “Entering the Trump ICE Age” at the Texas A&M Law Review Symposium. He

also presented “Contextualizing the New Immigration Enforcement Regime” at the Brown University Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity Conference.



PROFESSOR PETER JAN HONIGSBERG presented “The Future of Guantanamo Under the Trump Administration” at Duke University. He also gave the presentation “Guantanamo and the Trump Administration” at the United Nations Human

Rights Council’s 34th Session in Geneva, Switzerland.



PROFESSOR TIM IGLESIAS was appointed editor-in-chief of the *ABA Journal of Affordable Housing and Community Development Law*. He was reappointed to the California Fair Employment and Housing Council. He has been partnering with

United Way of Greater Los Angeles to help developers site supportive housing developments funded by Los Angeles’ 10-year bond passed last year.



PROFESSOR ALICE KASWAN gave a presentation titled “Energy, Democracy, and Market Mechanisms” for the Pace-Maryland Environmental Law Colloquium. She served as a commentator for “Cinnamon Carlarne, The Promise and Perils

of Inclusivity: What the Paris Agreement Means for Equity and Effectiveness in the Climate Regime” at the Berkeley Environmental Law Colloquium. She was also featured in “SF’s green energy goal is a decade ahead of target” in the *San Francisco Chronicle*.



HAMILL FAMILY CHAIR PROFESSOR OF LAW AND SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY RICHARD A. LEO received the Academic Excellence Award from the International Investigative Interviewing Research Group in recognition of his outstanding

achievements in the area of ethical investigative interviewing. He also wrote the chapter “Police Interrogation and Suspect Confessions: Social Science, Law and Public Policy” in the forthcoming book *Academy for Justice: A Report on Scholarship and Criminal Justice Reform*. He co-authored the forthcoming book *The Innocence Revolution: A Popular History of the American Discovery of the Wrongfully Convicted*.



PROFESSOR RHONDA MAGEE presented “Keeping it Real, Lively, and Strong: Engaged Mindfulness Practices for Resilient Learning Communities” for the High Impact Change Series at the Teaching Effectiveness Center at the

University of Oregon. She also presented “Race, Mindfulness, and Justice: Addressing Bias through Awareness and Compassion Practices” at Duke University, and was the workshop leader for “Justice Begins with a Breath: Mindfulness and Compassion Practices for Social Justice Work” at Brown University.



PROFESSOR MAYA MANIAN presented “The Fetal Hosts: Ending Pregnant Women’s Autonomy in End-of-Life Care” at the Information Society Project at Yale Law School and the Family Law Scholars and Teachers Conference at Fordham

Law School. She presented “Reproductive Health Care in the Trump Era” at the CAPALF-NEPOC Conference at Brooklyn Law School, and “Side Effects of the Abortion Wars” at Stanford Law School’s Center for Law and the Biosciences and the SEALS Conference. She wrote the chapter “Teenage Pregnancy, Parenting, and Abortion: Legal Limits on Adolescents’ Reproductive Rights” in *Studies in Law, Politics and Society* (Emerald Publishing Limited).



SENIOR PROFESSOR J. THOMAS MCCARTHY was cited in the U.S. Supreme Court in *Matal v. Tam*. He also updated his books, *The Rights of Publicity and Privacy* (Thomson Reuters) and *McCarthy on Trademarks and Unfair Competition* (West/Clark Boardman

Callaghan). He was also the adviser to the reporters of the American Law Institute’s “Restatement of the Law, Unfair Competition” database update.



HERBST FOUNDATION PROFESSOR OF LAW JULIE A. NICE moderated the discussion “Filling the Gaps: Responding with Resilience to Federal Budget Cuts,” sponsored by Google and Bayview/Hunters Point Community Legal. She also gave a

presentation titled “Sex, Money, and Irrationality” at the UC Berkeley symposium Gender, Sexuality, and Kinship: Cultural Narratives of Intimacy and their Legal Discontents and at a University of Denver Sturm College of Law faculty workshop.



PROFESSOR MARIA ONTIVEROS wrote the article “H-1B Visas, Outsourcing and Body Shops: A Continuum of Exploitation for High Tech Workers” in the *Berkeley Journal of Employment and Labor Law*. She was also a panelist on “The Intersection of

Discrimination Law and Other Substantive Rights” at the Berkeley Journal of Employment and Labor Law 2017 Symposium.



PROFESSOR ROBERT TALBOT provided commentary on “Popular Startup Causing Rift Between Consumers and Restaurants” on NBC Bay Area News. Along with students in the Entrepreneurial Ventures Legal Services Project, he presented to

entrepreneurs at incubators around the Bay Area, including Centro Community Partners, Impact Hub, and We Work.



DEAN JOHN TRASVIÑA presented “The Status of Federal Immigration Policy” at the San Francisco Interfaith Breakfast and “Immigration Now: What You Need to Know, What You Need to Do” at Grace Cathedral in San Francisco. He provided commentary

during former FBI Director James Comey’s Senate hearing for KRON and KPIX television news shows, and legal analysis on the Supreme Court nomination process and immigration issues on KTVU and other media outlets.



PROFESSOR MICHELLE TRAVIS co-organized the fourth annual Workplace Law Scholars’ Writing Collaborative in Stinson, California, with Professor Tristin Green.

CLASS NOTES

'59 Donald Carano was honored by the University of Nevada, Reno during its commencement ceremonies. A Reno native, hotelier, restaurateur, and winery owner, Carano was a member of the McDonald Carano Wilson law firm.

'68 Michael Cooper was selected for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America 2018*. Cooper is a partner at Wendel Rosen Black & Dean LLP in Oakland.

'73 Florence C. Fee, executive director of the nonprofit advocacy organization No Health Without Mental Health, co-organized the HHS Federal Partners Integrated Care Meeting, "State of the Art: Research, Models, Promising Practices and Sustaining Integrated Care." Fee was also a speaker at the event.

'74 Richard C. Bennett, co-founder of Bennett Johnson, LLP, has joined The Expert Network after being chosen as a distinguished lawyer.

Hon. Maria Rivera has been reappointed by Gov. Jerry Brown to the California Commission on Access to Justice, where she has served since 2013.

'78 Hon. Heather Morse, Santa Cruz County Superior Court judge, announced her retirement from the bench effective November 2017. Judge Morse is distinguished as both the first woman judge and the longest-serving judge in Santa Cruz County history.

'80 Debra Summers received the Distinguished Alumni Award from West Texas A&M University at the

54th annual Phoenix Banquet. She is honored for her distinguished career in law, including becoming one of the first women partners at Wilson, Sonsini, Goodrich & Rosati, where she practiced real estate and environmental law.

Matthew Graham was selected for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America 2018*. Graham is a partner at Wendel Rosen Black & Dean LLP in Oakland.

'81 Frank Francis won first place at the Wild and Scenic Film Festival, exhibited his photography at the Nevada County Camera Club and the LeeAnn Brook Gallery, and showed his photos at the Viewpoint Gallery in Sacramento.

'83 Julie Kane, senior vice president and chief ethics and compliance officer at PG&E, was recognized by the *San Francisco Business Times* as one of the 2017 Most Influential Women in Bay Area Business.

'84 Matthew Beauchamp was appointed district attorney by the Colusa County Board of Supervisors.

John Creighton retired after serving as deputy district attorney for Alameda County for 33 years.

Alicia Donahue, partner and chair of the pharmaceutical and medical device litigation division at Shook, Hardy & Bacon LLP, was recognized by the *San Francisco Business Times* as one of the 2017 Most Influential Women in Bay Area Business.

Brian Purtill opened his own office, Law and Mediation Offices of Brian J. Purtill, in Santa Rosa.

'85 William Ellison Grayson was appointed by President Donald Trump to the Presidio Trust Board of Directors.

'86 Dominica Anderson, a partner at Duane Morris, moderated the panel "Understanding What Investors Say When You Leave the Room" at Women Founders and Funders conferences in the San Francisco Bay Area and New York.

Bette Epstein, mediator and discovery referee at ADR Services, Inc., was recognized by the *Daily Journal* as one of the 2017 Top Women Lawyers.

Kevin Lancaster, a senior litigator with the Veen Firm, received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the San Francisco Trial Lawyers Association.

Denise Trani-Morris has joined Jackson Lewis P.C. in its San Francisco office as a principal. She was most recently at Sedgwick LLP and has more than two decades of experience representing employers in all facets of workplace law matters, including preventive advice and counsel.

'87 Allen Garfinkle wrote the article "Five Facts I Did Not Know About the San Francisco Bar Pilots" in *gCaptain*. He is currently the executive director of the Board of Pilot Commissioners for the Bays of San Francisco, San Pablo, and Suisun.

Joe Garrett has been named deputy director of the National AIDS Memorial, located in San Francisco's Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

Colin Wong retired as chief administrative officer of the California State Bar Court.

'88 Stephanie Sheridan, managing partner at Sedgwick LLP, was recognized by the *San Francisco Business Times* as one of the 2017 Most Influential Women in Bay Area Business.

Michael Sweeney was named interim chief campus counsel at UC Davis, where he previously served as senior campus counsel.

Gonzalo (Sal) Torres retired as mayor of Daly City after 20 years of service to the city council.

'89 Thomas Burke contributed to the July 2017 update of *Internet Law and Practice* (Thomson West).

'90 Gini Graham Scott gave a talk hosted by Women of Influence's Academy, discussing the myths of publishing, writing a book to promote your business, ghostwriting, self-publishing, and marketing your book.

Barbara Moser announced that her firm's name is now Kaye Moser Hierbaum Ford LLP.

'91 Jean Afterman was profiled by ESPN for her work as the only female assistant general manager currently in major league baseball.

Patricia Prince was profiled by the *Daily Journal* for her work as a mediator. Her practice, Prince Mediation, is located in Mill Valley.

Ben Spater was selected for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America 2018* in the areas of employee benefits (ERISA) law and ERISA litigation. Spater is an attorney at Trucker Huss.

'92 **Gerard Hekker** left Sidley Austin to join Duane Morris' San Francisco office as a partner, where he will be based in Singapore. He is also now a director at the firm's Singapore joint venture Duane Morris & Selvam.

Paul Mohun was named partner at Reed Smith LLP in the firm's global real estate group in San Francisco. He was most recently associate general counsel for real estate at The Gap, Inc.

Craig Simmons joined Oakwood Worldwide as senior vice president and chief human resources officer. Simmons previously worked at American Apparel.

Anne-Marie Torrez, senior counsel at Chevron U.S.A. Inc., won the *Pittsburgh Business Times*' 2017 In-House Counsel Award for helping Chevron pioneer its practices of leasing wells and subcontracting for drilling operations in three states, as well as handling general employment law issues.

'93 **David Livingston** has been reappointed by Gov. Jerry Brown to the California Boating and Waterways Commission, where he has served since 2012.

'94 **Kimberly Guilfoyle** signed a new contract with Fox News, where she will remain a co-host of *The Five*.

'96 **Craig Peters**, trial team leader at The Veen Firm, was recognized by the *Daily Journal* as a 2017 Top Plaintiff Lawyer.

Deborah Rosenthal, shareholder at Simmons Hanly Conroy LLC, was recognized by the *Daily Journal* as one of the 2017 Top Women Lawyers.

'97 **David Lee** joined Nossaman LLP as a partner in its San Francisco office.



INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY, INTERNATIONAL SCALE

From America to Asia, On Lu '05 helps patents pay off

On Lu '05 is taking a novel approach to IP law by asking a seemingly non-legal question: How do we monetize intellectual property for clients?

"A lot of companies have focused on getting as many patents as possible, but ultimately, what do you do with those patents?" Lu says. "This approach attempts to answer the question of what to do with all these patents now that you have them. These are investments and if they're not going to generate revenue for the company, companies have to ask why they got them in the first place."

As a San Francisco-based IP attorney with Nixon Peabody, Lu is leading the way in this approach to intellectual property. Most of his work now focuses on helping clients convert their IP into profits, whether that's through cross-licensing agreements, using patents as insurance, or other methods.

About 80 percent of Lu's practice represents large Asian companies, including top-tier technology companies; the remaining 20 percent represents primarily startups. Four times a year, he spends a month visiting clients throughout Asia, from China to Taiwan to Japan to Korea. It's a perfect fit for Lu, who speaks five languages, including Mandarin and Cantonese, and who brings with him a decade of experience launching U.S. companies internationally before law school.

Lu grew up knowing he wanted to be a lawyer, but his path to law school wasn't direct. His mother raised

Lu and his sister as a single mother saddled with six figures of debt left by their father. She worked hard to put Lu through college and he knew that he would need to hold off on law school while he worked and helped support his mother and sister.

When he was ready for law school, Lu was drawn to USF largely because of its reputation for supporting students.

Despite having worked in the tech industry, he didn't consider IP law until he took an intellectual property class as a 3L. "The great thing about USF is that everyone is very encouraging and nobody is forcing you to make a decision about what area of the law to focus on," Lu says. "You have a chance to try things out. USF really gives you a broad spectrum education."

Lu credits USF's Academic Support Program with providing both academic and personal assistance, including when he came out as gay. He carries on that tradition of support, having just completed his second term as co-chair of BALIF, the oldest and largest LGBT bar association in the country. As co-chair, he spearheaded the organization's "It Gets Better" videos in response to the alarming rate of suicide among LGBT youth.

"I really had a strong sense of support from USF and that sense of giving back was definitely there," Lu says. "I feel like so many people invested in me that I wouldn't be doing justice if I didn't give back." ■

Steven Moawad has been named chief trial counsel for the State Bar of California.

'98 Todd Toral has joined Jenner & Block as a partner in the firm's Los Angeles office. Toral will be a member of the firm's complex commercial litigation practice.

'99 Guillermo A. Escobedo has returned as a principal to Jackson Lewis' San Diego office from Ogletree Deakins, where he was a shareholder.

Michael Norton was confirmed as police chief for Corte Madera, Larkspur, and San Anselmo by the Central Marin Police Council.

'00 P. Gregory Conlon was admitted to practice as an officer of the U.S. Supreme Court.

Benjamin Hanna was appointed to serve as chief deputy district attorney of Shasta County.

Britt Strottman was recognized by the *Daily Journal* as one of the 2017 Top Women Lawyers, and spoke on the topic of "Women in the Courtroom" at the *Daily Journal's* Women Leadership in Law conference in Los Angeles. She was also identified as one of the nation's top 50 energy and environmental trailblazers by the *National Law Journal*.

'01 Erika Pickles, employment law counsel for California Chamber of Commerce, co-presented a webinar in June on employment ordinances in California.

'02 Johnathan DeGooyer was named vice president, general counsel, and corporate secretary at Marin Software.

Michelle Seifert launched Rincon Search, a specialized recruiting company, which places all levels of legal professionals for contract and direct-hire positions.

'04 Nicholas Boos joined Maynard Cooper & Gale's insurance and financial services litigation practice group in San Francisco.

'05 Adam Sugarman has been named managing partner at Gordon & Rees' San Francisco and Oakland offices and has joined the firm's executive committee.

Roderick P. Vera LLM was named dean at the University of Caloocan City College of Law in the Philippines.

'07 James Ralph was selected vice chair of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District's Hearing Board.

Mythily Sivarajah joined JML Law as managing attorney of its San Francisco office.

'08 Laura Cronin Ford has been elevated to equity partner at newly named Kaye Moser Hierbaum Ford LLP, where she started as a student extern and joined the firm as an associate in 2008.

Madeleine E. Greene joined Morrison & Foerster's intellectual property litigation group in San Francisco.

'09 Anthony Carano has been named chief operating officer, executive vice president for Eldorado Resorts, Inc., where he previously served as executive vice president of operations.

Jeffrey Kaloustian was admitted to the Esteemed Lawyers of America. His firm, The Law Office of Jeffrey L. Kaloustian, is a criminal defense and personal injury firm based in Oakland.

Marie Ma, senior counsel and director of global equity administration at Gap, Inc., received an In-House Counsel Diversity Award from the San Francisco Bar Association.

Amol Mehra served as a panelist on "Business and Human Rights in the Age of Trump" during the Teaching Business and Human Rights Forum at Columbia University Law School.

Bambo Obaro was named one of the National Bar Association's "40 Under 40 Nation's Best Advocates."

Alberto Rosas, tax counsel III at the Franchise Tax Board, was selected to serve as legal adviser and Franchise Tax Board liaison to the board's chair, Hon. Diane L. Harkey.

'10 Cameron Hoyler joined PolarityTE, Inc. as general counsel and will serve on the company's in-house legal team. Before joining PolarityTE, Hoyler was an attorney at King & Spalding LLP.

'11 Hilary Amster served as a panelist on "The Impact of Conflict Mineral Laws on Global Business, Trade, and Human Rights," presented by the Women's Bar Association of the District of Columbia, The International Law Forum, and Amnesty International.

Peter Micek was a panelist on "Defending Free Speech in the Post Fact Era" during the EU4HumanRights debate at the European Union Delegation to the United Nations in New York.

Jophiel Philips was assigned by the U.S. Air Force to represent victims throughout the globe as a special victims counsel.

'12 Cherisse Cleofe was appointed to the State Bar of California's standard setting study panel.

'13 Jamal Anderson was selected as a 2017 New Leaders Council San Francisco Fellow and appointed to the State Bar of California's standard setting study panel.

Andrea Brizuela co-authored "Right of Publicity Year in Review 2016," presented at the 34th Annual LEI National Conference's Intellectual Property Law Program.

'14 Adar Halil was featured in the article "There's Jewish flavor in the ice cream and behind the counter" published by *The Jewish News of Northern California*. Halil opened his ice cream shop, San Francisco's Hometown Creamery, with his brother in 2015.

'15 Quentin Roberts joined Levi & Korsinsky, LLP in its new San Francisco office.

Jackie Sheely joined Silicon Legal Strategy as an associate in its San Francisco office.

Iris Kokish, in-house counsel for SAG-AFTRA in Los Angeles, traveled to Israel this summer to compete on the U.S. team in an international chess tournament.

'16 Shounak Dharap was featured in the article "Alums to grads: There's more than one path to success" in Palo Alto Online and was appointed to the State Bar of California's standard setting study panel.

In Memoriam

Gary Thomas '61, April 2017

Richard George Bennett '69, Jan. 2017

Gordon "Sam" Overton '75, June 2017

Dave Linn '81, March 2017

Carol Gee '87, Feb. 2017



SUPERIOR COURT ALUM WAS DESTINED TO SERVE

For Benjamin T. Reyes II '92, his recent appointment to the Superior Court in Contra Costa County is the next step in a legal career devoted to public service.

Prior to being appointed in May, Reyes spent most of his 24 years as an attorney representing local governments and other public agencies. Most recently he was a partner at Meyers Nave, chairing the firm's public contract practice group and serving as city attorney for the cities of Pinole and Union City.

"I really believe that public agencies need very competent attorneys to assist them," Reyes says. "It's not the most glamorous work to many people, but I found it very compelling to spend my time working in a manner that served the public and the community rather than just corporate interests. Working for public agencies is a tremendous opportunity to effect change."

The son of Filipino immigrants, Reyes grew up understanding the value of giving back to the country that had provided opportunities for his family. At USF School of Law, he found a challenging yet welcoming environment that supported his ambitions for serving the public.

"The school really promoted a culture that believed in training attorneys not just to be excellent attorneys but to become excellent citizens," Reyes says.

During his 15 years at Meyers Nave, Reyes tackled a number of issues, from ensuring public officials adhered to various rules to drafting text for revenue measures and ordinances. One in particular stands out to him as an example of the impact attorneys working with public agencies can have—he helped Union City craft a stringent tobacco ordinance focused on preventing tobacco sales to minors. The ordinance, Reyes says, ultimately became a model for similar ordinances in other Bay Area cities. "I found that to be a very compelling way to help protect the youth of our locality," he says.

Happy with his public agency practice, Reyes hadn't considered a judgeship until various attorneys, judges, and legislators told him he has the right temperament for such a position. They urged him to consider it, and last July, Reyes applied and formally began the lengthy interview and vetting process. Now that he's on the bench, Reyes says his primary focus is on learning the job and "being the best possible judge I can be." He's currently assigned to the criminal courts.

"What I did for public entities in a private law firm was community service, with the bonus that I got paid for work that I absolutely enjoyed," Reyes says. "The motivation to try something new and continue my service to the community on a full-time basis as a judge was very compelling to me. The call to service is pretty strong in my family." ■

UPCOMING EVENTS

Save the dates to join us at USF School of Law events. Get more information at usfca.edu/law/events or by emailing lawevents@usfca.edu

October 25

Reception with
Senator Bill Bradley
New York

November 1

Careers in Entertainment
Law Alumni Panel and
Reception
SAG-AFTRA, Los Angeles

December 12

Alumni Holiday Mixer
The City Club,
San Francisco

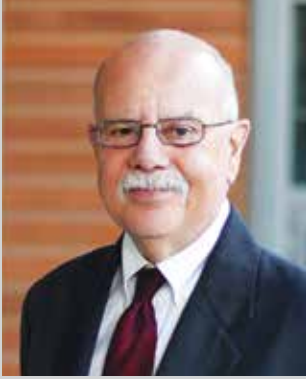
January 26

Law Review Symposium on
Data Privacy
University of San Francisco Campus
MCLE provided

February 23

McCarthy Institute Symposium
on Trademark Law
Google, Mountain View
MCLE provided

CLOSING ARGUMENT



LET'S RETHINK THE RULES OF EVIDENCE

Would You Trust Your Life to Bogus Expertise?

By Edward J. Imwinkelried '69

There is no doubt that an expert witness can make or break a case, but determining the admissibility of this often powerful testimony is difficult — and hotly contested in the courts today.

Frye v. United States held that a scientific theory or technique may serve as a basis for expert testimony only if it is “generally accepted” by others in the field. Empirical evidence is not required. California endorsed *Frye* in 1976 but limited its scope. Our courts exempted traditional techniques such as questioned document examination, soft science such as psychology, and non-scientific expertise.

Today most jurisdictions reject *Frye*, and the prior California approach has justifiably been criticized. *Frye* is a crude standard for assessing the validity of an expert theory or technique. If a scientist wants to show that a scientific theory is valid, she does not go to a scientific convention and ask for a show of hands. Instead, she marches into a laboratory, subjects the theory to a rigorous test, and critically evaluates the results. Moreover, the exemptions for traditional techniques, soft science, and non-scientific expertise often result in the admission of untested expert testimony. Case in point: In approximately two-thirds of DNA post-conviction exonerations, testimony about traditional forensic techniques contributed to the wrongful conviction.

California came into conflict with federal law when the U.S. Supreme Court in 1993 rejected *Frye* in *Daubert v. Merrell Dow Pharmaceuticals, Inc.* The court ruled that to qualify as admissible scientific knowledge, a technique or theory has to rest on adequate, methodologically sound empirical research and reasoning. Judges should consider such factors as whether the theory has been tested and whether there is an established error rate — and not rely on a virtual showing of hands. At the federal level, this rule now applies to all types of expertise, requiring trial judges to not accept an expert’s claims at face value.

Yet in California, the courts initially rejected *Daubert*, but the issue resurfaced in 2012 in *Sargon Enterprises, Inc. v. University of Southern California*, which involved speculative testimony about lost profits. The Court stated that *Frye* is still in effect, however, the Court did not stop there. In *Sargon*, the Court mandated a further inquiry, “whether...the studies and other information cited by the experts adequately support the conclusion that the expert’s general theory or technique is valid,” for all proffers of expert testimony, not just the types of expertise subject to *Frye*.

Sargon is a step in the right direction. To determine the validity of a scientific theory, the court ought to do more than “count noses.” Given the potential impact of expert testimony on countless cases, it is irresponsible to admit whole categories of expert testimony with little or no scrutiny.

It remains to be seen how far the California courts will go in applying *Sargon*. A controversy has already emerged in *Garrett v. Howmedica Osteonics Corp.* over whether *Sargon* applies to affidavits submitted by parties opposing summary judgment motions. However, the numbers tell the story of the importance of this issue: Expert testimony is offered in 86 percent of California trials.

When I was a student at Kendrick Hall, I learned the central lesson that precise, imaginative fact analysis is the key to excellent lawyering. That type of analysis is at the heart of evidence law — defeating character objections by developing novel non-character theories or surmounting hearsay objections by identifying creative non-hearsay theories. That central lesson shaped my career as an evidence teacher and scholar. ■

Edward J. Imwinkelried is Edward L. Barrett, Jr. Professor of Law Emeritus at the University of California, Davis School of Law. He is the author of multi-volume treatises on scientific evidence and uncharged crimes that have been cited by the United States Supreme Court.

Throw a stone. Make a **big** ripple.



If just 10 percent of our alumni bequest \$10,000 to the law school in their estate plans, that's \$10 million — enough to boost our endowment by nearly 25 percent.

Estate gifts help to support scholarships, bolster our academic programs, and benefit our Law Assembly fund, so please include USF School of Law in your estate plans. Remember, too, that you may also give while you live.

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Welcome Home: Helping law students secure housing in the city's tight rental market, USF School of Law opened a new residence hall in August with priority given to incoming, first year law students. St. Anne's Hall in San Francisco's Inner Sunset neighborhood is now home to 45 law students. The new residence hall serves a significant portion of the 1L class, which, at 143 students, is by design smaller and more selective than in previous years.

