



USC LAW eNEWS

~an electronic newsletter for USC Law alumni and friends

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1} USC Law Announces New Tax Program

>> USC Law is launching a new graduate Tax Law program for practicing attorneys and recent law graduates. The rigorous and highly selective LL.M. in Taxation provides an advanced study of tax laws. Upon completion of 24 units, students will receive a Master of Laws in Taxation degree. Students may begin applying for fall 2010 enrollment on a full-time or part-time basis in October 2009.

"We are very pleased to add this exciting new degree program to our

repertoire," said USC Law Dean Robert Rasmussen. "Through our program, students will gain a deep understanding of the policies that form the basis of tax laws. And in these tough economic times, lawyers will definitely benefit from specializing in this key area."

[Read more about the Tax Law program.](#)

2} New Website for USC Law

>> USC Law has launched its new website, which you can find at <http://mylaw2.usc.edu/>. The new site will remain a beta (test) site for a few weeks while the school works out any bugs. On October 1, the current site will be replaced permanently with the new site.

USC Law's web team has spent the past year designing a site that offers a fresh look and easier navigation. The comments received from focus groups helped to guide the basic principles of our new design: an emphasis on our students, faculty and alumni. The new site offers a more intuitive experience to help you quickly locate the information you need. More videos have been added so visitors may experience faculty lectures, hear from students and watch special events that take place at the law school throughout the academic year. When you visit the beta site, you will notice a "feedback" button on the far right side of the page. Your thoughts on the new site are welcomed!

3} New Class Arrives

>> The 2009 fall semester is officially underway for new and returning students of the USC Gould School of Law. Dean Robert K. Rasmussen, faculty and staff welcomed the J.D. Class of 2012 and LL.M./M.C.L. Class of 2010 during orientation festivities held the week of Aug. 17-21. The incoming class of 217 1Ls boasts a median LSAT score of 167 and undergraduate GPA of 3.6. Fifty-four percent of the class is female, up from 45 percent last year. Thirty-five percent are from out of state; 31 percent identify as an ethnic minority; and a quarter received their bachelor's degree three or more years ago.

Going to law school "is going to define who you are as a person going forward, for the rest of your life," Dean Rasmussen told the new students during a morning convocation Aug. 18. "Each of us who has gone through law school still strives every day to become a better lawyer."

[Read more about the new class.](#)

4} Elizabeth Garrett Appointed to FPPC

>>USC Law Prof. Elizabeth Garrett has been appointed to the State of California's Fair Political Practices Commission. Selected by Secretary of State Debra Bowen, Garrett will serve on the five-member commission until 2013.

"I wanted to appoint someone who reflects my values of transparency, integrity, independence, and pragmatism," said Bowen, the state's chief elections officer. "Beth has it all, bringing a breadth of experience that will help the FPPC keep pace with the ever-changing campaign and lobbying landscapes 35 years into the Political Reform Act."

Garrett is the Frances R. and John J. Duggan Professor of Law, Political Science and Public Policy at USC Law. She co-directs the USC-Caltech Center for the Study of Law and Politics (CSLP) and serves on the Board of Directors of the USC Initiative and Referendum Institute, which is affiliated with the CSLP.

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

5} Former Warner Bros. Exec to Run Entertainment Law Program

>> Long-time Warner Bros. Entertainment executive John Schulman has been recruited by USC Law to head its new Entertainment Law Program. Schulman, who retired from Warner Bros. last year after serving as executive vice president and general counsel for 25 years, joined the school on Aug. 1.

"I've always been interested in education and have lectured at USC, Southwestern, Berkeley and UCLA. This seemed like a great fit for me," said Schulman. As executive director, Schulman will launch the program in fall 2010 for J.D. students interested in specializing in entertainment law. Courses will include entertainment law, plus classes taken from the USC School of Cinematic Arts and the Marshall School of Business.

[Read more about Schulman and the Entertainment Law Program.](#)

6} USC Law Hosts CELS Conference

>> USC Law will host the fourth annual Conference on Empirical Legal Studies (CELS) on Friday, Nov. 20, and Saturday, Nov. 21. The conference will feature original empirical and experimental legal scholarship by experts from a diverse range of fields and is jointly organized by the CELS board and the USC Gould School of Law. CELS encourages and develops empirical and experimental scholarship on legal issues by providing scholars with an opportunity to present and discuss their work with an interdisciplinary group of people interested in the empirical study of law.

[Read more about the conference.](#)

7} Why Race Still Matters: An Op-Ed

>> Prof. Daria Roithmayr and Guy-Uriel Charles, a professor at Duke University Law School, recently placed an op-ed on race at CNN.com. [Read the op-ed.](#)

8} Prof. Gross Wins Three Book Awards

>> Prof. Ariela Gross has won three prestigious awards for her book *What Blood Won't Tell: A History of Race on Trial in America*, which chronicles racial identity trials in American courts. The awards include the 2009 Lillian Smith Book Award, the James Willard Hurst, Jr. Prize and the American Political Science Association's award for the best book on race, ethnicity and politics. *What Blood Won't Tell* (Harvard University Press, 2008) recounts stories of racial identity trials in American courts, from the early republic well into the 20th century. Racial identity trials - court cases that determined a person's "race" as well as their rights and privileges - help explain the history of race and racism in America, Gross said.

"We tend to believe race is a fact of nature, a property of blood, that we know it when we see it," said Gross. "But race is a powerful ideology that came into being and changed forms at particular historical moments as the product of social, economic and psychological conditions."

[Read more about Prof. Gross and the book awards.](#)

9} Upcoming events: Tailgate Party, Supreme Court Preview, Conversations with the Dean

SEPTEMBER 26: USC LAW ALUMNI TAILGATE PARTY

Celebrate the USC football season before the USC vs. Washington State game with USC Law alumni, students, faculty, staff and friends on the steps of USC Law. The price of the event is \$15 for alumni, \$15 for guests (11 years & older) and free for USC Law students and guests (10 years & younger). Admission includes food, two beer tickets, and unlimited non-alcoholic beverages! Tailgate begins three hours before kick-off. [Register, or get more information.](#)

OCTOBER 5: U.S. SUPREME COURT: A PREVIEW

USC Law hosts a panel that will look at the upcoming U.S. Supreme Court term. Moderated by Prof. Elizabeth Garrett, the panel will feature Prof. Rebecca Brown, Prof. Pamela Karlan of Stanford Law School, and Theodore B. Olson, former U.S. solicitor general. Attendees receive two free MCLE credits. Reception begins at 5:30 p.m. at the University Club on the USC campus; program begins at 6:30 p.m. For complimentary parking and to RSVP, call (213) 740-3841 or e-mail events@law.usc.edu.

OCTOBER 7: AN EVENING WITH USC PROVOST C.L. MAX NIKIAS

The USC Alumni Association invites USC Law alumni to an evening with Provost C.L. Max Nikias in Orange County on Wednesday, Oct. 7, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. The event will be held at the Island Hotel, 690 Newport Center Drive, Newport Beach, California 92660. [Register, or get more information on the event.](#)

OCTOBER 8: CONVERSATIONS WITH THE DEAN: RICHARD ROSENBLATT

Dean Robert K. Rasmussen chats with Richard Rosenblatt '94, the co-founder, chair and CEO of Demand Media. The event will be held at Town & Gown on the USC campus from 12:30 to 2:00 p.m. For more information, call (213) 740-3841 or e-mail events@law.usc.edu.

OCTOBER 13: ROTH LECTURE BY FORMER USC LAW DEAN, JUDGE DOROTHY NELSON

Judge Dorothy Nelson, former dean of USC Law, delivers the Justice Lester W. Roth Lecture at 4:00 p.m. at Town & Gown on the USC campus. The event marks the 40th anniversary of Judge Nelson's inauguration as dean. For more information or to RSVP, e-mail events@law.usc.edu.

OCTOBER 17: 2009 INSTITUTE ON ENTERTAINMENT LAW AND BUSINESS

Continuing Legal Education at USC Law, together with the Beverly Hills Bar Association, present a full day of speakers, panels and networking opportunities at the USC campus. Can't-miss speakers and topics include Bob Iger, President and CEO, The Walt Disney Company, in a fireside luncheon chat with Bruce Ramer; the heads of four major talent agencies, Jeffrey Berg, Jim Berkus, Ari Emanuel, and David O'Connor, with Karen Stuart; Irving Azoff, CEO of Ticketmaster Entertainment, Inc.; and more than 15 partners from the top entertainment law firms in the business and top in-house counsel. CLE and CPE credit offered, including legal ethics credit for lawyers. This year's theme - "Lemons to Lemonade: Squeezing the Upside in Troubled Economic Times" - will focus on how to create upside in a down market. [Learn more about the Institute on Entertainment Law and Business.](#)

OCTOBER 21: CEOS AND THEIR GENERAL COUNSEL BREAKFAST SERIES FEATURING LARRY FLAX

USC Law invites alumni to attend a new series featuring CEOs and their general counsel. The first event includes Larry Flax, founder and CEO of California Pizza Kitchen. The breakfast reception begins at 8:00 a.m. at Town & Gown on the USC campus; program begins at 8:30 a.m. For more information or to RSVP, please e-mail events@law.usc.edu.

OCTOBER 23: LIFE AFTER PRISON

Join USC students, parents and alumni for a special Trojan Parents Weekend event. "Life After Prison: How a Woman and USC Law Student Came Together" will feature Prof. Heidi Rummel, director of the Post-Conviction Justice Project, and Adam Reich '11 speaking with Connie Keel, the woman they helped free on parole after she had served 29 years in prison for sitting in a car while her abusive husband robbed and killed a shop owner. The event will be held from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. in Room 3 of USC Law.

{SAVE THE DATE}

NOVEMBER 20: 35TH ANNUAL TRUST AND ESTATE CONFERENCE

Continuing Legal Education at USC Law presents a day of speakers, presentations and networking opportunities at the Millennium Biltmore Hotel in downtown Los Angeles. [Learn more about the Trust and Estate Conference.](#)

{SAVE THE DATE}

NOVEMBER 30: BAR ADMISSION CEREMONY

The USC Law Bar Admission Ceremony for USC Law alumni will be held at Town & Gown from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

[LINKS](#)

- >>myLAW: <http://mylaw2.usc.edu/login.cfm>
- >>ALUMNI WEB SITE: <http://mylaw2.usc.edu/alumni/>
- >>GIVE BACK TO USC LAW: <http://mylaw2.usc.edu/alumni/giving/>
- >>CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION:
<http://mylaw2.usc.edu/why/academics/cle/>
- >>ALUMNI CAREER SERVICES:
<http://law.usc.edu/alumni/network/careers.cfm>
- >>NEWSROOM: <http://mylaw2.usc.edu/news/>
- >>SUBSCRIBE TO eNEWS (OR UNSUBSCRIBE): To add, change or remove your e-mail address from the USC LAW eNEWS list, or for more information on the newsletter, e-mail alumni@law.usc.edu. Requests must include your full name.
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