



USC LAW eNEWS

~an electronic newsletter for USC Law alumni and friends

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1} Law Firm Challenge is On!

>>The fun and friendly competition between USC Law alumni in firms, companies and organizations to reach 100 percent participation in the school's annual fund before June 19 has begun. The winners get acknowledged in USC Law publications, on the website and during On Campus Interviews. View the competition online or see a list of firms participating at <http://law.usc.edu/LFC>. Don't see your employer listed? Sign up by contacting Emily Page, Assistant Director of Development and Graduate Relations, at epage@law.usc.edu or (213) 743-1833.

2} Student Wins Freedom for Battered Woman

>> Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger did not reverse a parole board's recommendation last month to release a woman who spent 29 years in prison for sitting in a car while her husband robbed and killed a shop owner. The woman, Connie Keel of Santa Monica, Calif., was represented by USC Law student Adam Reich, as part of USC Law's Post-Conviction Justice Project clinical program. This is one of the few times Schwarzenegger has not blocked a prisoner's release on the Parole Board's first recommendation.

"This is the happiest day of my life," said Reich, a second-year law student. "I never thought that as a law student I could have such a profound impact on a person's life. This is why I went to law school."

Keel was released the morning of April 1.

[Read more about the effort to free Connie.](#)

[Listen to an interview with Connie and Adam.](#)

3} Professor Tapped for D.C. Post

>>USC Law professor Elizabeth Garrett, USC's vice president for academic planning and budget, has been asked to join the Obama administration in Washington, D.C. The White House announced on March 28 that Garrett, the Sydney M. Irmas Professor of Public Interest Law, Legal Ethics, Political Science, and Policy, Planning, and Development, is to be nominated as assistant secretary for tax policy at the U.S. Treasury Department.

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

4} Alumni Meet 1Ls at Mentor Lunch

>> First-year students and alumni united to make this year's Mentor Lunch the highest-attended ever. A total of 166 students and 174 alumni working in myriad disciplines came together in Town and Gown for the Feb. 26 event.

[Read more, and see photos of the event.](#)

5} Moot Court Declares Winner

>> Three federal appeals court judges declared Sara Menz '10 champion of the 2008-09 Hale Moot Court Honors Program following an hour-long final round of arguments before friends, family and the USC Law community March 6. Craig Rader '10 was runner-up; Jill Parker '10 and Benjamin Rubinfeld '10 were the other finalists. Forty 2Ls participated in the annual months-long competition, which kicks off at the start of each school year. Menz represented a fictional defendant charged in federal district court with organ trafficking. She argued that a federal agent violated her client's Sixth Amendment right to counsel by interrogating him without counsel, though he already had legal representation in a state case charging the same crime.

[Read more about the final leg of the Moot Court competition.](#)

6} PILF Auction Raises Money for Grants

>> A weekend getaway to Jamaica and box seats at a Lakers game with Dean Robert K. Rasmussen and Lakers General Counsel Jim Perzik '62 were two of the hot-ticket items at the 2009 PILF Silent & Live Auction Feb. 27. The event, celebrating PILF's "20 years of Promoting Social Justice," was held at USC Law and in Town & Gown, with proceeds benefiting the PILF Summer Grant Program. More than 350 students, alumni, faculty and friends attended the event, which included dinner and drinks.

Among the other items on the auction block were dinner and drinks on the Sunset Strip with West Hollywood Mayor and USC Law Prof. John Heilman; "Feasting and Feminism," a dinner with Prof. Susan Estrich, prepared by her nephew, master Chef Dorian; and "Oenophile's Delight," an evening of wine tasting with Prof. Rebecca Brown and Dean Rasmussen.

[Read more, and view photos of the auction.](#)

7} Legal Philosopher Presents Annual Distinguished Lecture

>> Leading legal philosopher Ronald Dworkin presented the Seventh Annual Law and Humanities Distinguished Lecture, titled "What Makes an

Interpretation True?" Dworkin--professor of philosophy and Frank Henry Sommer Professor of Law at New York University, as well as professor of jurisprudence at Oxford and fellow of University College--spoke to an audience of more than 150 gathered at Town and Gown Feb. 25.

"Interpretation seeks truth, and it wouldn't properly be interpretation if it didn't," Dworkin said. "And yet, we are most hesitant just to say flatly that one interpretation ... is right, and all the others are wrong. That sounds arrogant, and we seek sometimes ridiculous ways of avoiding it."

[Read more about Prof. Dworkin's lecture.](#)

8} Upcoming events: Alumni Bar Reviews & Receptions, BLSA Awards, Careers Panel

CHANGE OF DATE

APRIL 16: DOWNTOWN L.A. ALUMNI BAR REVIEW (formerly April 9)

Join alumni and friends who work downtown for drinks at Casa Cocina Y Cantina ([350 S. Grand Ave. on Bunker Hill](#)) from 5:00-8:00 p.m. Two-hour free parking is available in the California Plaza garage at 350 S. Olive St. (Garage entrance is on the west side of Olive St.) We will be welcoming the newest members of the alumni family--our graduating 3Ls! Come to mentor, network and have a good time. Questions? Contact Emily Page, Assistant Director of Development and Graduate Relations, at epage@law.usc.edu or (213) 743-1833. Also, please visit the event posting on Facebook by [clicking here](#) (log-in required) or searching for "USC Law: Alumni Happy Hour - Downtown Los Angeles." This event is coordinated by Development and Graduate Relations, the Young Alumni Committee and alumni volunteers Marc Bauer '07, Ofer Bleiweiss '06 and Maniya Gatmaitan '05.

APRIL 22: IMPORTANT ISSUES IN PURCHASING AND RESOLVING DISTRESSED REAL ESTATE DEBT (MCLE)

Join fellow members of the USC commercial real estate community and learn about some of the potential pitfalls and other important issues to consider in underwriting, acquiring, working out and liquidating distressed real estate debt in today's market. Presented by Danny Guggenheim '04, Doug Lahammer and David Packer of Pircher, Nichols & Meeks in Room 101 of the law school from 6:30-8:00 p.m. For more information or to register, e-mail Emily Page (epage@law.usc.edu), Assistant Director of Development and Graduate Relations, **by April 15.**

APRIL 22: JOB SEARCHING IN A TOUGH ECONOMY

USC Law's Career Services Office hosts a panel of industry experts who have in-depth knowledge of the current state of the local market, as well as attorneys who successfully managed their careers through difficult times and/or challenging transitions. The event will be held from 12:30 to 1:10 p.m. in Room 3 of the law school. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to careers@law.usc.edu.

APRIL 23: BLSA AWARDS DINNER

The Black Law Students Association hosts its annual awards dinner from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in USC's Davidson Conference Center. For more information or to RSVP, e-mail events@law.usc.edu.

APRIL 30: SANTA BARBARA REGIONAL RECEPTION

Join Dean Rasmussen for a reception for Santa Barbara-area alumni. The event will be held from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Doubletree Resort [[633 East Cabrillo Boulevard Santa Barbara, CA 93103](#)]. Complimentary valet parking will be provided. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP to rsvpevents@law.usc.edu.

MAY 7: ALUMNI HAPPY HOUR - ORANGE COUNTY

Join fellow USC Law graduates for happy hour at M.E.S.A. Restaurant [[2937 Bristol St, Costa Mesa, CA 92626](#)]. Happy hour specials are available until 7:00 p.m., so be sure to come early! All USC Law alumni are welcome. This event is coordinated by Development and Graduate Relations, the Young Alumni Committee and alumni leaders: Jennifer Lopez '01, Travis Biffar '01, Johnny Nguyen '02, Roxana Chamouille '02, Norma Garcia Guillén '02, Genoveva Talbott '02, Thomas Manakides '03, Laura Noroski '03, Shadie Berenji '04, Mark Kachner '04, Joe Tadros '05, Brian Bauer '05, Mani Dabiri '05, Carlos Dominguez '05, Damian Moos '05, Aron Rofer '05, Jonathan Bachand '06, Sean Kundu '07 and Jean Kim '99. Appetizers will be provided by Development and Graduate Relations. Questions? Contact Emily Page at epage@law.usc.edu or (213) 743-1833.

MAY 21: ALUMNI HAPPY HOUR - SAN DIEGO

Get together with graduates in San Diego for cocktails and great conversation at [Bentley's Steak & Chop House](#) [162 South Rancho Santa Fe Rd. Suite C-10 Encinitas, CA 92024 | (760) 632-9333] from 6:30-9:00 p.m. All USC Law alumni are welcome. This event is coordinated by Development and Graduate Relations, the Young Alumni Committee and alumni volunteers: Sabina Clorfeine '97, Sandra McDonough '97, Kara Oien '03, Pablo Palomino '02, Rory Wicks '78 and Brian Nese '04. Questions? Contact Emily Page at epage@law.usc.edu or (213) 743-1833.

MAY 28: ALUMNI HAPPY HOUR - BAY AREA

Mix and mingle with local alumni at Blue Chalk [630 Ramona St, Palo Alto,

CA 94301; (650) 326-1020; <http://www.bluechalk.com> from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. All USC Law alumni are invited. This event is coordinated by Development and Graduate Relations, the Young Alumni Committee and alumni volunteers: Yem Mai '07, Rosi Yoo '06, Lindsay Goines '05, Jarrod Huffman '05, Anna Chu '05 and Candice Lee '05. Questions? Contact Emily Page at epage@law.usc.edu or (213) 743-1833.

JUNE 12: GOLDEN YEARS REUNION

The Golden Years Reunion is held for graduating classes prior to 1959. It will be held in USC's Crocker Plaza beginning at 11:30 a.m. [Please visit the Golden Years Luncheon home page to register for this event.](#) You may also contact Development and Graduate Relations at (213) 743-1710 or at alumni@law.usc.edu

{SAVE THE DATE}

JUNE 13: USC LAW REUNION

This summer's reunion brings together the classes of 1959, 1964, 1969, 1974, 1979, 1984, 1989, 1994, 1999, 2004. Festivities take place on campus at 6:00 p.m. The event will begin with an all-class reception, followed by individual class dinners. [Please visit the USC Law Reunion home page to register for this event.](#) You may also contact Development and Graduate Relations at (213) 743-1710 or at alumni@law.usc.edu.

LINKS

- >>myLAW: <http://mylaw.usc.edu>
- >>ALUMNI WEB SITE: <http://law.usc.edu/alumni/>
- >>GIVE BACK TO USC LAW: <http://law.usc.edu/alumni/giving.cfm>
- >>CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION: <http://law.usc.edu/academics/cle.cfm>
- >>ALUMNI CAREER SERVICES:
<http://law.usc.edu/alumni/network/careers.cfm>
- >>MORE NEWS AND EVENTS: <http://law.usc.edu/news/index.cfm>
- >>SUGGESTIONS? E-mail your suggestions for future newsletters to enews@law.usc.edu.

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