Financial Meltdown Rocks the World
Moving Forward, Together

This past year has challenged many of us, and while other institutions downsized efforts, alumni and friends like you helped guide Pacific McGeorge forward. That’s not to say that like you, we haven’t felt the weight of doing more with less. And, while alumni participation is still strong—and greatly valued—we understandably saw a nearly 4 percent decrease in annual support and need to do more to support long-term law school growth.

Especially in these uncertain times, the support of our Pacific McGeorge community boosts the confidence of our newest alumni who are anxious about their prospects. Through financial and grassroots efforts, together we’re doing all we can to support their success.

Beyond dollars and cents, there is great power in numbers, and we need you! If you haven’t made a gift this year, please find a way to give back either to the McGeorge Fund or through time spent helping students eager for your mentoring, career guidance and on-campus professional development.

In times of plenty and in want, the challenges are there, but the rewards are tremendous when you choose to give back. Please call or visit alumni.mcgeorge.edu/makeagift today!

Thank you!
Your Pacific McGeorge Friends

Message from The Dean

These days, traveling around the country to meet alumni, I am frequently asked: How is the law school doing in this difficult economy? My answer: The best of times—but in the worst of times. Let me explain.

In August, we welcomed another impressively credentialed entering class, more evidence of growing strength at Pacific McGeorge. This class is part of a strong trajectory of a rising tide of credentials, which we’ve enjoyed in the past decade, continuing this year in spite of a bleak economy and the larger classes admitted by other law schools to address their own budget shortfalls. Meanwhile, our 2008 class set its own record when almost half made the Dean’s List. At the same time, disqualification rates are also down, well under five percent—a far cry from years past, as our senior alumni can attest! Even so, our educational program remains among the most rigorous in the country. But most gratifying, students are choosing Pacific McGeorge because of what they see and hear (often from recent alumni) about the exceptional educational experience it offers. Comments from alumni and others about the quality of the young lawyers we produce further validate these views.

Here’s my explanation for all of this good news.

Our faculty has never been stronger in its teaching and scholarship. One visiting faculty member recently claimed that Pacific McGeorge is one of the few schools left that does prize both teaching and scholarship. He commented further that his class was the best entering group he’d taught in 40 years of academic life. The same assessment has come from area judges and lawyers who are exposed to our students in our expanding internship program.

And so, from multiple sources, we are learning that the Pacific McGeorge combination of superb teaching with a global focus and a commitment to student learning and professional development is a formula which is working—and one which makes us the special place I identified over eight years ago during my first interviews for the deanship.

Last year, we began a strategic planning process which will move us to the next level. In this effort we are rediscovering how powerful an educational model we offer — here, around the country and the world.

In all of this, I have concluded that there is a Pacific McGeorge renaissance underway — a return to our traditional strengths, but with a greater recognition of their importance in a challenging time.

Evidence of this renaissance is everywhere. Faculty members Mary-Beth Moylan and Stephanie Thompson have designed a new approach to legal writing, creating a two-year, comprehensive Global Lawyering Skills program. GLS is attracting attention among legal writing faculty nationally for its innovative approach to enhancing and deepening law students’ experience in research, writing, and oral advocacy.

The new program combines the former Legal Process class with the Appellate & International Advocacy course, adds more simulations and practical skills exercises, and will be taught by full-time faculty. And, consistent with the law school’s signature focus of globalizing legal education, GLS will infuse international content throughout its curriculum.

Additionally, our faculty of “master teachers” has been working with Dr. Jace Hargis, University of the Pacific’s Associate Provost for Faculty Development, to benchmark what they do so successfully against the emerging scholarship of “learning theory,” while also exploring new teaching techniques and introducing cutting-edge technology. As a result, Dr. Hargis has joined the chorus of those praising the Pacific McGeorge faculty. Perhaps the most exciting development is the faculty’s interest in producing scholarship about this “teaching revolution.”

Without doubt, California’s continued budgetary crisis creates an unhappy backdrop for all of this excitement. And the budget problems that California and the nation confront do create a challenge for legal education. Reports of job cancellations and other problems in the legal employment market worry us all. Still, there may yet be a brighter moment in these circumstances if the world of legal education began to assess quality based on the education that actually goes on in the classroom. Under such circumstances, the Pacific McGeorge renaissance would indeed enjoy remarkable recognition!

With warm regards,

Elizabeth Rindskopf Parker
Dean
PACIFIC LAW

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INSIDE BACK COVER
Calendar of Events
During the controversy over the bonuses paid to AIG executives, Pacific McGeorge Professor Marjorie Florestal seized upon the uproar as an important teaching moment. She obtained a copy of AIG’s employment contract, presented it to her Contracts class, and asked her students to determine if the company’s claims that it was legally bound to pay the bonuses were valid.

By Robert T. Wazeka

“The students showed conclusively,” Florestal says, “that there were exceptions written into the contract that would have enabled AIG to postpone or invalidate payment of the bonuses.”

Florestal wasn’t alone in bringing elements of the financial crisis into her classes:

• Professor Michael Malloy taught aspects of the crisis in his Banking Law course over the past two years. One of his former students, Daniel Boyle, ’09, published a paper on risky derivative securities in Transactions: The Tennessee Journal of Business Law this past spring.
• Professor Frank Gevurtz, the director of the law school’s Global Center for Business & Development, used the example of Citibank to unpack the concept of fiduciary responsibility; and, after one student found that his money market account had been frozen, Gevurtz guided students through the intricacies of relevant corporate security law.
• Professor Paul Paton, who teaches corporate governance and professional responsibility, is developing integrated materials that examine the financial crisis. “I want to force students,” he says, “to ask not just what the rules are, but why the rules are the way they are. Students need to prepare to advise clients—and themselves—to address the new realities, ethically.”

Besides examining the legal aspects of the financial crisis collaboratively with their students—the future attorneys, regulators, office holders, and corporate counsels—Pacific McGeorge professors are stepping outside the classroom to address crisis-related issues in their scholarship and in public forums.

On October 16–17 Pacific McGeorge will host a conference built around the theme of “Local to Global:”

Picking Up the Pieces
The U.S. Economy After the Financial Crisis

By John Blaustein
“What's taking place now is really a depression,” says Malloy, “not some out-sized recession. I agree with Judge Richard Posner, who wrote in A Failure of Capitalism that this is our second depression. There's a different sequencing and a more complex series of events involved, but what we're seeing is definitely a depression.”

Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act in 1999 was primarily responsible for causing the speculative lending and investment that nearly resulted in a financial Armageddon. Previously, the banks had operated under the Glass-Steagall Act, passed in the Depression year of 1933. Gramm-Leach-Bliley stripped away the provisions in Glass-Steagall that prevented banks from operating both commercial accounts and investment accounts. “The real problem,” says Malloy, “was the attitude taken by the regulatory supervisors after Gramm-Leach-Bliley was passed. They took it to mean that they should back off from any hard regulatory effort. This, in turn, led to more problems.”

The two agencies, according to Malloy, that caused the most problems were the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) and the Office of Thrift Supervision (OTS), both part of the Treasury Department. Also culpable of lax regulatory supervision, in his view, were the Federal Reserve, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and, to a lesser extent, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC).

Starting around 2002, the OCC and the OTS began trying to sweep away transactional rules at the state level under the “pre-emption doctrine,” which allows the federal government to pre-empt, or substitute, its own regulations in place of existing state regulations. “The result,” Malloy says, “was a system with no middle ground. The whole thing was a triumph of federal pre-emption.”

This regulatory pre-emption was accompanied by a shift in the federal courts, which had previously maintained a strict balance between federal pre-emption and states’ rights. When federal agencies asserted their authority to supervise all federal thrift agencies — something that most federal courts in the past had said constituted pre-emption — several states, notably California and Michigan, opposed it.

When the issue came before the Supreme Court in Watters v. Wachovia Bank (2007), the Court ruled in a 5-3 decision that a Wachovia branch bank in Michigan was not subject to certain state regulations. The Court later tipped back slightly in favor of the states in Cuomo v. Clearing House Association, L.L.C. (2009), ruling that states can investigate federally chartered banks when they perceive that criminal violations have occurred.

Malloy also assigns responsibility to rating agencies for their failure to monitor the now infamous collateralized debt obligations (CDOs), which are securities consisting of a collection of diverse fixed-income assets such as mortgages. These securities are then divided by the rating agencies into “tranches” based on their degree of risk.

“A scandal is slowly unfolding,” Malloy says. “The rating agencies were assigning ratings to tranches of funds without analyzing the data. The data was stored on readily available tapes, and if anyone had looked at the tapes to see what was happening, the crisis could have been reduced or avoided.”

Although some have charged that corporate boards failed to monitor the activities of banks and other corporations, allowing them to take unnecessary and unjustifiable risks, Gevurtz thinks this claim oversates the significance of boards. “The author of a landmark article that analyzes the nature and historical evolution of corporate boards, Gevurtz points out that every business crisis produces the same complaints about, ‘Where were the directors?’ Gevurtz says, however, that studies have shown that there is a negligible difference in corporate performance and results between companies with so-called ‘good boards’ and ‘bad boards.”

“The truth is,” he says, “that boards exist more for symbolism than to actually run or monitor a business.”

Another factor in the crisis, according to Paton, is the failure of self-regulation, or self-discipline. “Behind the housing crisis,” he says, “lies the expectation that ‘having more’ and ‘having it now’ are good for the public and personal rights. Treating your home like an ATM and borrowing equity in anticipation of ever-rising house values was, in hindsight, a recipe for disaster.

While we need to look at how the crisis unfolded and who was responsible, the examination should include a reassessment of the consumer culture that underpins the borrowing.”

One result of the crisis, Paton thinks, is an acceptance of the need for more government regulation. “TARP and the bailout of the auto companies are two significant examples of where government is rolling up its sleeves and engaging directly in forcing changes within companies to how business gets done. For free-enterprisers, this smacks of socialist intervention, but the public mood seems — for now — to have welcomed government involvement in this way.”

Malloy agrees that the public is ready to accept a larger government role, but says that this should be done with care. “There is a danger in simply trying to add more regulatory bodies such as the proposed Federal Consumer Protection Agency. This would leave us with yet another federal agency capable of pre-empting state authorites. There are ways of formulating a tough regulatory environment without seeking new legislation; much can be done at the micro level through the ordinary enforcement of commercial and credit laws.

What's most critical, Malloy thinks, is structural reform at the federal level, where five different agencies are now competing for supremacy. “There needs to be someone clearly in charge,” he says. The Obama administration has advocated a similar solution, assigning the Federal Reserve to be in charge. Others, such as FDIC Chairman Sheila Bair, support the present system. In recent testimony before Congress, Bair said, “In terms of checks and balances, it's also helpful to have multiple views being expressed and coming to a consensus.”

Laws have consequences, some of them unintended and some unintended. Regulations, like laws, have their own set of consequences, both anticipated and unanticipated. Their application and effectiveness depends upon the values, ideological predispositions and flexibilities of those enforcing them. But however many watchdogs are put in place, there will always be a need to watch over the watchdogs. In theory this could lead to an infinite regression — watchdogs watching the watchdogs watching the watchdogs who oversee the enforcement of laws and regulations.

Perhaps our best hope as a result of the financial crisis is that we not only end up with the right mixture of regulations and regulators, but that people keep paying attention — people such as the students in Floresta's class who saw for themselves what a contract says and what it doesn't say.
In good times, trade flourishes; in bad times, trade shrinks and protectionist sentiments creep out from under the woodwork. In good times, people travel and spend money, enriching the host countries; in bad times, people stay home.

The key factor in developing more creative, effective and long-term trade assistance programs, Florenceal believes, is “to train local personnel to ensure that projects become self-sustaining once the experts have left. But in achieving that goal, technical assistance projects must avoid further exacerbating the brain drain. These projects must find a way to increase the pool of qualified candidates.”

Florenceal is especially enthusiastic about an ongoing USAID-funded I-TRADE program in Haiti, in part for personal reasons—her father immigrated to the U.S. from that country to escape the Duvalier regime. The Haiti program addresses restrictive policies and other barriers in both the public and private sectors while providing long-term investment programs for workers.

“(I) is teaching Haitian workers,” Florenceal says, “to develop a competitive advantage in trade and not just a comparative advantage, such as in the clothing sector. Haiti used to have a strong presence in clothing, but now they want to phase it out.”

“We need to develop strong regional markets among developing countries,” says Schlemmer-Schulte. “In addition, we need to liberate both capital markets and workers in those countries. Unfortunately, the current crisis will only have the effect of slowing down our ability to reach these goals unless the framework of our global economy is changed, developing countries are treated as true partners, and smart capital markets regulation is introduced everywhere.”

“Where it Hurts the Most”

By Robert T. Wazeika

Developing Countries and the Financial Crisis

Where It Hurts the Most

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One question repeatedly asked about the financial crisis is, “Where were the lawyers?” Didn’t lawyers have an ethical, if not legal, obligation to persuade banks and investment firms not to take undue risks; to step in when mortgage lenders were about to make dangerously under-collateralized subprime mortgages; to advise against writing contracts about which the lawyers were intended to mislead borrowers; to advise against writing contracts about which the lawyers were about to make dangerously under-priced subprime mortgages; to advise against writing contracts about which the lawyers were step in when mortgage lenders were firms not to take undue risks; to advise against writing contracts about which the lawyers were an ethical, if not legal, obligation to persuade banks and investment firms not to take undue risks; to advise against writing contracts about which the lawyers were recently engaged in a study of 135 cases of SEC prosecutions of lawyers in the first five years after Enron. In a 2002 article titled “Lawyers, Ethics and Enron,” co-written with Stanford Professor Deborah Rhode, Paton wrote that the Enron scandal was “a missed opportunity to understand lawyers’ contributions to the Enron collapse and the structural incentives that affected their actions.” That scandal changed the ground rules for lawyers and the profession changed; the question is what actions government might take now in light of the current financial crisis.

As he will argue in an article for Fordham Law Review, Paton maintains that ethical approaches need to provide the foundation for changes law firms are actively considering, including forming alliances with accounting firms or floating Initial Public Offerings (IPOs). Both are already in place in England and Australia. If implemented here, they would fundamentally transform the business of law. The ABA announced in May 2009 that it is reconsidering multidisciplinary practices, a topic about which Paton has written extensively. All of these changes involve complex considerations, ethical and otherwise, that should, he says, be carefully examined in advance, especially under present circumstances.

Ethical Challenges for the Legal Profession

Where Were the Lawyers?

By Robert T. Wazeka

Professor Paton

Pacific McGeorge Associate Professor Paul Paton says that such questions raise serious issues, but that it will take years to determine exactly what happened. Meanwhile, Paton, director of the Ethics Across the Professions Initiative at Pacific McGeorge and an ethics specialist, is focusing on the near-term implications of the crisis for the legal profession.

Lawyers, he says, now face financial constraints they’ve never had to face before, with some firms shuttered and thousands of partners and associates laid off or terminated in early 2009. A key concern for Paton is how lawyers deal with client pressure to compromise on ethics. In addition, with Congress and the press demanding that lawyers protect the public interest while serving as loyal advocates for their clients, the profession faces the additional danger of seeing its ability to self-regulate weakened.

Paton notes that public pressure and scandal led to the effective end of self-regulation for lawyers in England in 2007 and in Australia shortly before that; the question is whether the financial crisis will lead to similar changes here.

Paton notes that lawyers have expressly been given a gatekeeping function by the American Bar Association. Rule 2.1 states that a lawyer “shall exercise independent professional judgment and render candid advice. In rendering advice, a lawyer may refer not only to law but to other considerations such as moral, economic, social and political factors, which may be relevant to the client’s situation.”

“The key here,” says Paton, “is that lawyers may render such advice, not that they must. And there’s often a temptation not to speak candidly lest they upset a client and lose their business.”

In cases where a client may be about to commit a crime or fraud that is "reasonably certain to result in substantial injury to the financial interests or property of another" (ABA Rule 1.6), a lawyer may intervene without violating the lawyer-client privilege, but again the rule doesn’t state that he or she must intervene.

In the aftermath of the Enron scandal, Congress gave the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) responsibility for regulating the conduct of lawyers “appearing or practicing” before the Commission. Strong objections to this were voiced by the ABA and the corporate bar. Section 307 of the Sarbanes-Oxley bill requires “an attorney to report evidence of a material violation of securities law or breach of fiduciary duty . . . to the chief legal counsel or the chief executive officer of the company.”

The impact of SEC actions has been significant. Paton is
Pacific McGeorge District Attorneys Dominate Northern California

Alumni Share Major Challenges of Rising Crime and Shrinking Budgets

By Michael Heenan

If you happen to run afoul of the law in Northern or Central California, there’s a pretty good chance your fate is going to rest in the hands of a fellow Pacific McGeorge alumnus. No fewer than nine counties in the northern half of the state have elected Pacific McGeorge graduates as their top prosecutor. The paths taken to the top jobs are as diverse as the men and women who hold them. Some were teachers, others journalists. Several spent time as public defenders before crossing the courtroom aisle and joining the prosecution. But for all their differences, the nine Pacific McGeorge-graduated district attorneys in California share common challenges and rewards. Counties once correctly labeled “small” or “rural” have seen decades of explosive growth in population and an accompanying growth in the frequency and severity of crime. Crimes once considered the exclusive province of big cities are increasingly part of life in places like Merced, Yolo and Calaveras counties. And shrinking state and county budgets mean the DAs are facing increased crime at the same time they grapple with decreased resources. 

Birgit Fladager, ’86
Stanislaus County

Michael Harper, ’93
Trinity County

Patrick McGrath, ’81
Yuba County

Larry Morse, ’87
Merced County

Michael Ramsey, ’77
Butte County

Jeff Reisig, ’96
Yolo County

Todd Riebe, ’90
Amador County

Jeffrey Tuttle, ’76
Calaveras County

James Willett, ’79
San Joaquin County
James P. Willett, ’79, says his San Joaquin County office is living with the same dynamic as his counterparts in other valley and northern counties. “The pressures that we’re having, in terms of some of these places that were formerly quiet communities, is real,” Willet says. “They are seeing an uptick in gang violence, the explosive housing growth and subsequent collapse. We have an awful lot in common.”

Yolo County District Attorney Jeff Reisig, ’96, agrees. “We’ve taken a 20 percent cut in staff. At the same time, our population in Yolo County has grown. We have broken out of the ‘rural’ designation and are now into the 200,000 population…. Narcotics and gangs have just been a growing problem. The gangs and drugs have pushed north, right up Interstate 5.”

Michael Ramsey, ’77, the dean of the law school’s DA alumni with more than 30 years as a prosecutor under his belt and 21 years as the top man in Butte County, also points to drugs, particularly methamphetamine. “Up here, we call the people who’ve succumbed to meth addiction ‘Buttants.’ But it’s not funny—it’s at the root of most of our crime and ruined thousands of lives.”

In Amador County, tourist destinations that on weekends quadruple the daytime population combine with a sprawling casino and a state prison, hold more than a little spice to the work week for the office of DA Todd Riebe, ’90. “All of these things have really blossomed in the past 10 years,” Riebe says. “As a result, we get a different category of crime that we hadn’t experienced before. That makes it more interesting than a steady diet of DUs.”

Increasing the district attorney holds a peculiar irony for attorneys who found fulfillment in trying cases in the courtroom. Once you’re the boss, the amount of time available for courtroom work shrinks overnight. Often, it disappears altogether.

“We’re a big enough county where I simply don’t have the time to try a case myself, although I miss the courtroom,” says Birgit Fladager, ’96, Stanislaus County district attorney. “I have great admiration for the DAs of smaller counties who not only try cases—but they have to—and also handle all the budget and personnel matters as well.”

Yuba County DA Patrick McGrath, ’91, also knows what it’s like to miss the courtroom. “The biggest drawback really has to do with the nuts and bolts of running a business…. You can be the greatest prosecutor in the entire world, but when you become the DA … budgeting, anything that involves personnel stuff, the day-to-day things that have to deal with money” fill the work day.

“It’s a reality that makes Yolo DA Reisig grateful for his background in managerial economics. “The focus since mid-2008, my primary focus, has been budget, finance and administration—which is not nearly as fun or rewarding as prosecuting the cases,” Reisig says.

And while struggling with budgets is a fixture of the job, the past year has made the bottom line the toughest case on the calendar in most county offices. “We’ve gone through, in my 30 years here, a number of economic bad times…. This is by far the worse I’ve ever seen,” says Willett. “We just had to lay off five young deputy DAs. That was very difficult for them to go.”

Larry D. Morse II, ’97, district attorney for Merced County, sees the budget cuts threatening the ability of district attorneys to fulfill their duties. “We’re constantly faced with the challenge of doing more with less…. We are constantly trying to balance our public safety responsibilities with a grim fiscal reality,” Morse says.

In Calaveras County, District Attorney Jeffrey Tuttle, ’76, is coming to grips with what could happen if he’s forced to make a second round of staff cuts in less than a year. “The loss of two attorneys and an investigator will make it much more difficult to do everything we do,” Tuttle says. “There will be more pressure on us to deal cases, or perhaps not as many misdemeanors will be filed.”

Despite the squeeze of budget cuts, the administrative work and the growing challenge, district attorneys are quick to talk about the unique rewards of their jobs. As top prosecutor in a smaller county, Tuttle has the interesting experience of prosecuting the same clients he once represented as a public defender. He’s also the go-to man when a community member wants to talk about the legal system and its deficiencies—a task Tuttle labels daunting. “In a larger community, I’m afraid the job would consist primarily of politics and I would not have the opportunities to discuss the system as honestly as I can in a small community…. With people in so many different walks of life,” he says.

Michael Harper, ’93, does it all in Trinity County, the state’s fifth smallest county in terms of population, burglary rate or living expenses. “I’m entrenched in budget hearings, just like everyone else in the bigger counties. I used to be a deputy DA in Placer and Sacramento counties, but my family and I have adjusted well to the country life up here.”

The diversity of experience waiting for a DA each Monday morning—in terms of the law, the people involved, the dynamics of a case—is a key part of the appeal to prosecutors like Fladager. “Every day is different, every case is different,” she says. “You never know what to expect. It’s what keeps all of us so intrigued with our jobs.”

McGrath, who in three days this summer fielded calls from three different district attorneys wanting to talk about budget scenarios, says the challenges are well worth the rewards. “When you’re a prosecutor, you’re exposed to the entire range of humanity,” McGrath says. “You see the full emotional scale, intellectual scale, good, evil—whatever exists on this planet, you will see.”

Willett, whose temporary stint at the San Joaquin County DA’s office turned permanent when he “realized being a deputy DA is kind of like playing cops and robbers with a legal pad,” had another epiphany about the job while still a “long-haired social liberal.” “I found that a good, ethical prosecutor can do more for justice than a defense lawyer…. You can prevent injustices from occurring.”

Pride in their alma mater is another common thread linking Pacific McGeorge district attorneys. Some point to the trial advocacy program as an experience that opened their eyes to courtroom law. Others credit the school’s broad cross-section of students and faculty as excellent preparation for a life in public law.

McGrath credits the challenge of working full-time during his summer and going up to 10 p.m. with giving him the capacity to handle whatever comes his way as a district attorney. “For most prosecutors, efficient time management is always an elusive goal. My McGeorge years gave me the confidence that I could handle everything that was on my plate.”

“I wanted to be a defense attorney, a Perry Mason, when I went to McGeorge,” recalls Ramsey. “The law school had an excellent internship program and I was shipped to the Butte County DA’s office, got to do four jury trials as a student my second summer there, and was hooked on the job.”

For Reisig’s part, memories of hard work and high standards mean that a resume with Pacific McGeorge on it carries some weight in his office. “I feel McGeorge prepared me for the battle in the trenches,” he says. “When I see (applicants) from McGeorge, I know they had to earn that degree. The legal training is rigorous.”

“I did not realize how many DAs are from McGeorge,” adds Harper. “That says a lot for the type of education and training McGeorge provides to have so many alums as the leaders of their offices.”

“My name is Jeff Reisig, district attorney for Yolo County. I’m going to tell you a true story about how I became a prosecutor. I was a law student at the University of California, Davis, and I was looking for a job after graduation. I applied for a position as a law clerk in the Yolo County District Attorney’s Office.

Imagine my surprise when I received a call from the office. They told me they had offered me the job! I was thrilled and accepted the position on the spot. I started as a law clerk and quickly moved up the ranks to become a senior deputy district attorney.

During my time at the office, I handled a wide range of cases, from white-collar crime to serious felonies. I was proud to be a part of the team that was making our community safer.

Eventually, I was promoted to become the acting district attorney. It was a challenging position, but I was up to the task. Under my leadership, we achieved significant results in the fight against crime.

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve Yolo County as district attorney. I am committed to justice and will continue to work hard to ensure our community remains safe and secure.”
Taking the Initiative
The ongoing battle over same-sex marriage wouldn’t be possible were it not for California initiative process, a system that some say has become onerous.

“California is virtually unique among American states in that we have such an open and easy process to amend the state Constitution — for better or for worse,” says Lawrence Levine, a Pacific McGeorge professor. “We’ve got much greater direct citizen participation in the development of our Constitution than most other states, so whenever there’s a controversial decision that has a social impact, you can imagine how it could lead to an effort to amend the Constitution.”

The proposition battle itself was groundbreaking. An estimated $80 million was spent fighting for and against the issue, making it one of the nation’s most expensive proposition fights. “Proposition 8 was the first time that the voters were actually undoing a court ruling that legalized gay marriage,” says Pugno. “It was the first time that you had a court that struck down the marriage laws and opened up licensing for same-sex couples, and then the voters were asked to reverse that.”

A Continuing Debate
There’s no question that Andy Pugno has played a significant role in Proposition 8’s success. Pugno began working for Knight in 1995, the year he began law school as an evening division student. “Later, when I had obtained my license to practice law, I was involved in a variety of cases defending the marriage laws against legal challenges,” he says.

Pugno credits McGeorge with teaching him how to think strategically about the law, which, he says, has allowed him to argue Proposition 8’s merits dispassionately. “I learned how to think as a lawyer, including evaluating issues from all perspectives in a dispassionate way, which improves one’s ability to be an advocate,” he says. “I trace a lot of my success to avoiding getting sucked into an emotional fight and sticking to the policy debate that’s really at stake.”

Both houses of the state Legislature and the state’s attorney general, Jerry Brown, have condemned Proposition 22, unconstitutional in 2004 and began issuing marriage licenses, which lead to a trilogy of cases on the same-sex marriage issue. “These cases brought a direct legal challenge to Proposition 22,” says Pugno, who by then had opened his own law practice and served as the chief attorney in defending Proposition 22, the successful 2000 voter initiative that defined marriage between a man and a woman.

“Proposition 22 said that even if another state changes the definition of marriage, we are going to keep it the same here in California,” says Pugno, attorney at law for the Law Offices of Andrew Pugno in Folsom.

In November 2008, Californians went to the polls and voted on one of the most contentious propositions in the state’s history. By a wide margin, voters passed Proposition 8, which addressed the legality of gay marriage by changing California’s state constitution to define marriage as a union between a man and a woman. Passage of the proposition eliminated same-sex couples’ right to legally marry.

San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom declared Proposition 8 unconstitutional in 2004 and began issuing marriage licenses, which led to a trilogy of cases on the same-sex marriage issue. “These cases brought a direct legal challenge to Proposition 22,” says Pugno, who by then had opened his own law practice and served as the chief attorney in defending Proposition 22, the successful 2000 voter initiative that defined marriage between a man and a woman.

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The legislative debate over same-sex marriage has raged since 1995, when Hawaii first tried to redefine marriage. Pugno, who was fresh out of law school and working for then-Assemblyman Pete Knight, took up the cause on Knight’s behalf of keeping the definition of marriage between a man and a woman with AB 1982. The unsuccessful bill prohibited California from recognizing gay marriage from other states.

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“I think in either 2010 or 2012, the voters of California will have the opportunity to vote on this initiative again,” says Levine. “And the battle will go on.”

Levine is concerned, not only about the constant ongoing fight, but the continuing costs, as well. “The Proposition 8 battle is estimated to have cost about $80 million in terms of the efforts on both sides, at a time when our state is virtually bankrupt,” he says. “Eighty million could have been spent on education or health care. Instead $80 million was spent on this bloodbath over whether or not to undo a decision of the state Supreme Court.”

And the legal fight is, indeed, continuing. Ted Olson and David Boies have filed suit in federal court challenging the proposition. This case, Pugno says, will open up a new volume in the debate. “This case has so much behind it, I think it’s on its way to the U.S. Supreme Court,” he says.

Despite all of this, Levine believes an initiative within the next few years will ultimately undo Proposition 8. “They’re going to lose eventually, so what have you accomplished?” he asks.

But Pugno disagrees, believing that the U.S. will follow Europeans, who protect traditional marriage, but recognize and provide rights and benefits to alternative relationships. In fact, he feels California has already started down this path.

“In California, the domestic partners law has been expanded to the point that same-sex couples can access nearly all the rights and benefits that married couples can access, which diminishes the strengths of the argument that there is a need for changing the definition of marriage to protect people’s legal status,” he says.

But Levine still believes that California’s initiative process will have the final say. “Conventional wisdom says that within five years these results will be undone through another initiative,” he says. “This isn’t the end; this is just the beginning of an emotionally exhausting and financially expensive process through initiative.”


Historical Underpinnings
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“Proposition 8 was the first time that the voters were actually undoing a court ruling that legalized gay marriage,” says Pugno. “It was the first time that you had a court that struck down the marriage laws and opened up licensing for same-sex couples, and then the voters were asked to reverse that.”

The proposition battle itself was groundbreaking. An estimated $80 million was spent fighting for and against the issue, making it one of the nation’s most expensive proposition fights. “Proposition 8 was the first time that the voters were actually undoing a court ruling that legalized gay marriage,” says Pugno. “It was the first time that you had a court that struck down the marriage laws and opened up licensing for same-sex couples, and then the voters were asked to reverse that.”

A Continuing Debate
There’s no question that Andy Pugno has played a significant role in Proposition 8’s success. Pugno began working for Knight in 1995, the year he began law school as an evening division student. “Later, when I had obtained my license to practice law, I was involved in a variety of cases defending the marriage laws against legal challenges,” he says.

Pugno credits McGeorge with teaching him how to think strategically about the law, which, he says, has allowed him to argue Proposition 8’s merits dispassionately. “I learned how to think as a lawyer, including evaluating issues from all perspectives in a dispassionate way, which improves one’s ability to be an advocate,” he says. “I trace a lot of my success to avoiding getting sucked into an emotional fight and sticking to the policy debate that’s really at stake.”

Both houses of the state Legislature and the state’s attorney general, Jerry Brown, have condemned Proposition 22, unconstitutional in 2004 and began issuing marriage licenses, which lead to a trilogy of cases on the same-sex marriage issue. “These cases brought a direct legal challenge to Proposition 22,” says Pugno, who by then had opened his own law practice and served as the chief attorney in defending Proposition 22, the successful 2000 voter initiative that defined marriage between a man and a woman.

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University of the Pacific President Pamela A. Eibeck pledged to launch a "listening campaign" during her first year on the job and, just months into it, is pleased with what she has heard so far.

"It has just been a marvelous experience getting to know Pacific well. It is really a great university with exceptional promise for the future," says Eibeck, who, on July 1, became the 24th president and the first woman to hold the job in the school’s 158-year history.

“We are a university that recognizes our reason for being: educating students and making a difference in the world around us."

Eibeck came from Texas Tech University, where she spent five years as dean of the Edward E. Whitacre Jr. College of Engineering, which boasts 4,400 students and some 156 faculty members. She replaced Donald V. DeRosa, who retired in June after 24 years as president of Pacific.

The Connecticut native is no newcomer to the Golden State. Eibeck arrived in California in the mid-1970s to attend Stanford University. She received her bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees in mechanical engineering at the Palo Alto campus. She spent the next decade at the University of California at Berkeley, where she became a tenured faculty member.

In 1995, Eibeck, an expert in heat transfer, became a professor and chair of mechanical engineering at Northern Arizona University, later serving as director of the honors program and then vice provost for undergraduate studies. She was named a Fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers in 2008.

Eibeck first toured Pacific’s Stockton campus a decade ago as part of an accreditation visit and, she says, was impressed with what she saw. She only learned about the job opening when her family was researching colleges for her youngest son. Though she hadn’t planned to seek out a college presidency at that point in her career, she says, she was struck by how Pacific matched her vision of the ideal campus — where the students are paramount, the programs are diverse and a strong sense of shared community prevails.

“There are a lot of small, personalized universities in the country, but very few that have a strong liberal arts core with a rich set of professional programs that go from law, dentistry, engineering . . . to music,” says Eibeck. “The richness of what choices the students have here is tremendous.”

Pacific’s new president has already spent time at Pacific McGeorge and says it has been “a real pleasure” getting to know the Sacramento campus. She plans at least two more trips to Sacramento this fall. Her husband, William D. Jeffery, is an attorney who specializes in natural resources law. He taught at Texas Tech and will be an adjunct faculty member at Pacific McGeorge.

Eibeck is low-key about her distinction as Pacific’s first female president, noting that one in four top college administrators in the U.S. are female these days. But she is taking her listening campaign seriously. She calls it her highest priority for the year. “As a president who is coming in from the outside, I have to truly understand the history, the strengths, the challenges and the people of the Pacific community and be able to articulate the hopes and dreams that people have for the university as we go forward,” she explains. “I don’t want to be sweeping in and declaring a charge and a path with Pacific without knowing it first.”

To Kick Off Legal Studies Center Project

Construction begins on the Pacific McGeorge’s new Legal Studies Center (LSC) this fall with a groundbreaking ceremony on September 18 featuring Justice Anthony M. Kennedy of the Supreme Court of the United States and other prominent alumni and friends. The $50 million project, a major renovation and expansion of the Gordon D. Schaber Law Library, is scheduled for completion in early 2011.

The metamorphosis from library to legal studies center began with a renovation of the two-story stacks area. The LSC project launch moved closer with a major overhaul that resulted in the renovation of the former well-baby clinic at the corner of Fifth Avenue and 35th.

The beautiful new Rotunda provides a quiet reading room for students and a gathering place for receptions and legal functions. As the historic birthplace of the law school, it will host activities surrounding Justice Kennedy’s fall visit.

The LSC’s creation is, by far, the most extensive and ambitious library project to date. It will change the face of a campus that has largely looked the same for more than a quarter century. A soaring, two-story atrium entrance will dominate the northeast corner of the quad, leading directly into the LSC foyer and service desk. A large circulation desk, open and closed reserve areas, student study rooms, library and staff offices, and second-floor faculty offices will be immediately accessible to visitors.

“It’s going to be the signature cornerstone of the campus,” says Charlene Mattison, ’06, assistant dean for Advancement. “I urge all alumni to get involved in this project. It is definitely going to be a place where any attorney would be proud to be recognized as a contributor.”

The Darling Foundation Grand Salon, named for the Hugh and Hazel Darling Foundation that made a $1.5 million gift to the LSC project, is just one of the new facilities that will emerge from the facelift. Other major gifts from The Fletcher Jones Foundation and the Arata Brothers Trust will be duly recognized.

“The past presidents of the Pacific McGeorge Alumni Association have pledged to raise $100,000 to name a space in honor of all the alumni volunteers and the organization,” Mattison says. “Another group of alums to step forward are the Nevada alumni. Pacific McGeorge played an important role in the growth of that state’s bar membership and those loyal alumni are very active in this project. They are banding together to raise money to name their own space — and to leave a lasting legacy at Pacific McGeorge.”

Many other naming opportunities exist, from study rooms to stacks, desks and chairs. Please contact the Advancement Office at 916.739.7900 or visit mcgeorge.edu/kt14.xml.

“The Legal Studies Center project is exciting and ambitious,” says Matt Downs, the assistant dean for Library and Research Services. “The old library was really a series of small buildings tacked onto each other as Pacific McGeorge grew. This renovation will transform those footprints into one highly functional, modern facility with an excellent organization of our collection.”

One key factor being taken into account by everyone involved in the project is maintaining the current library’s ability to function for students, alumni and faculty while the LSC project is under way. The Library Information Commons (student computer work and research room) has been moved to the first-floor section of the Muddox Building with an entrance on 35th street. “We are doing everything we can to minimize disruption to the students,” Downs adds.
Garcia Uhrig Wins Sprankling Faculty Scholarship Award

Professor Emily Garcia Uhrig received the John F. Sprankling Faculty Scholarship Award on August 28, 2009, at the annual Pacific McGeorge Faculty Dinner in Sacramento.

The award, named after distinguished Professor and Scholar John Sprankling, who served as interim second-in-command serving one year as the interim academic affairs from 2000 to 2001, goes annually to the faculty member whose writing has made a significant contribution to legal scholarship. Garcia Uhrig, who is entering her fourth year as a member of the law school’s faculty, was recognized for her Hastings law school’s faculty, was recognized for her Hastings Law Review article, “A Constitutional Right to Counsel in Habeas Corpus.” The article argues in favor of its self-explanatory title when habeas is the vehicle by which an inmate raises new claims that affect procedural and substantive due process and equal protection doctrines.

Professor Thom Main received the University’s Podesta Award for Excellence in Student Life, Mentoring and Counseling. Main, one of the most popular members of the faculty, was recognized as an outstanding educator who has directly touched and enriched the lives of his students. It was the second year in a row that a member of the law school faculty was recognized with the Podesta Award. Associate Dean Julie Davies received it in 2008.

Professor Mary-Beth Moylan and Stephanie Thompson shared the Manolakas Extraordinary Contribution Award for their work on the new Global Lawyering Skills program (see page 23).

Davies Appointed Associate Dean

Dean Elizabeth Rindskopf Parker has named Professor Julie Davies as the new associate dean for academic affairs. Davies, a member of the Pacific McGeorge faculty since 1984, replaces Professor Emeritus Phil Wile, who retired after serving one year as the interim second-in-command of the law school. Professor Christine Manolakas was the associate dean from 2005 to 2008.

“We are lucky to have such a dedicated and respected faculty member shoulder the responsibility of the most important academic post at the law school,” says Parker. “Julie is energetic, knowledgeable and organized. I appreciate her stepping up to take on this responsibility because I know it takes it away from the classroom, which she loves.”

Davies has earned a solid reputation as a hard-working, accessible teacher while teaching first-year Torts almost every year of her quarter-century at the school. A member of the prestigious American Law Institute, she remains an active legal scholar with a long-time interest in tort reform issues, civil rights and comparative law.

In another key appointment at the law school, Dorothy Landsberg has agreed to serve as interim director of Community Legal Services, on a part-time basis, for the new academic year. The former senior partner at the Sacramento law firm of Kronick, Moskovitz, Tiedemann & Girard served as a consultant to the law school last spring, working on the improved integration among all the school’s clinical and podium offerings.

Bilingual Program Aids Latin America

Pacific McGeorge is reaching out internationally to address the growing legal needs of Latin American countries and the Latino community in the United States. This summer, the Global Center for Business & Development launched a bilingual academic program thought to be one of the first of its kind in the nation.

“Up to now, study-abroad programs offered by American law schools all too often teach, in English, courses that could just as well have been offered in the United States,” Professor Frank Gevurtz, center director, says. “This program is the future of international legal education in that it gives students the sort of bilingual, cross-cultural experience, with practice in issues of trade, immigration and the like, that will give the students, as future attorneys, an advantage in an era of increasing globalization.”

After an intensive crash course in Spanish that included a graded comparative law exam, four law students accompanied Professor Raquel Aldana to Guatemala where each served a 10-week legal internship with a Guatemalan NGO or state agency while attending an international human rights course at Rafael Landivar University.

Katie Oldham, ’11, Riley Cutler, ’10, Jonathan Edwards, ’10, and Anup Bharadwaj, ’11, participated in the inaugural program. In future years, Pacific McGeorge plans to expand the externship sites of the Inter-American Program to other Latin American countries.

Photography: Steve Yeater
Pipeline Initiative Wins Bar Award
The State Bar of California recently honored the Pacific McGeorge Education Pipeline Initiative (EPI), a four-year-old project serving 200 students in kindergarten through 12th grade in the Sacramento area.

Ricardo Bulgeron, LL.M. ’08, the EPI project director. Other key contributors to the program include education consultant Dr. Lynn Beck, dean and professor at the University of the Pacific’s Benerd School of Education, and curriculum consultant Beth Bulgeron, LL.M. ’08. The law school also supports a charter high school, Natoma Pacific Pathways Prep School, whose students interact daily with the pipeline program.

“Legal education is one of the least racially and ethnically diverse professions in the United States,” notes Dean Parker. “For decades, law schools have tried to diversify their student bodies by inviting minority high-school students to annual fairs or by teaching classes designed for them. But Pacific McGeorge is one of the first in the nation to offer a comprehensive, structured program to entice elementary-school students into law and prepare them for that journey.”

Main, McCaffrey Complete Casebook
Professors Thom Main and Steve McCaffrey were thrilled to complete a major project this spring when Oxford University Press published their new book, Transnational Litigation in Comparative Perspective - Theory and Application.

The 744-page hardback is touted as the only casebook that examines the subject’s principal issues in a comparative context. Each chapter focuses on a specific core problem that all legal systems must address. The first half of each chapter explores the legal theory involved in the issue, and the second half details the varying approaches different systems use to address the challenge in question.

Main is using the book this fall in his course, Transnational Litigation, which has a blend of LL.M. in Transnational Business Practice students and upper-division J.D. students.

New Global Lawyering Skills Program Promises Expanded Practice Preparation
By Michael Curran

Continuing its long-time emphasis on experiential learning, Pacific McGeorge has reconfigured and expanded its research, writing and advocacy courses into a two-year Global Lawyering Skills (GLS) program. The integrated program will provide in-depth training to students in core legal research, writing skills and oral advocacy skills, as well as introduce students to transnational litigation practice, transactional drafting and alternative dispute resolution techniques.

The law school has committed significant additional full-time faculty resources so that all Pacific McGeorge students will benefit from this integrated program,” says the director, Professor Mary-Beth Moylan.

“GLS will better prepare our students to practice law when they graduate and bolster our large field placement program, making our students even more effective in their internships.”

The new program replaces two previously required courses, first-year Legal Process and second-year Appellate & International Advocacy. In Global Lawyering Skills, students will have two years of required legal research and writing instruction, presented within a coordinated system of learning under an expanded full-time faculty.

The first year of the new course will focus on case analysis, objective legal writing, client-counseling skills, contract drafting, negotiation and mediation, and legal research in both national and international law. The second year segment stresses persuasive written and oral advocacy, including trial briefs and arguments, and appellate-level briefs and arguments. Students will also have an introduction to court-ordered mediation in the second-year class. The campus-wide Final Four moot court competition will remain as a GLS feature.

“The program will also serve as a hub from which our students can become involved in our Centers of Distinction and further their experiential learning in preparation for law practice,” says Professor Stephanie Thompson, the GLS assistant director.

The faculty lineup dedicated to the Global Lawyering Skills program is impressive. It includes Professors Hether Macfarlane, Gretchen Franz, Adrienne Bruness, ’96, Jenny Darlington-Person, ’01, and Ed Telfeyan, ’79, from the former Legal Process course, Athena Roussos from the former Appellate & International Advocacy course, and Professor Kathleen Friedrich, ’81, from the former Appellate & International Advocacy course.

They will be joined by new professors Jennifer Gibson and Jeff Proske, two veteran attorneys who bring years of law practice writing experience to the classroom. Gibson served as a law clerk to Judge R. Guy Cole of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit before starting her own practice in appellate law in Elk Grove. Proske practiced for 20 years in a legal career that included service as general counsel for a commercial real estate company and as corporate counsel for a Fortune 500 manufacturing company.

The new program promises to ensure quality instruction for all day and evening students. “One recurring complaint from employers is that basic writing skills are declining,” says Moylan. “Pacific McGeorge has always had a good writing program, but we can’t stand still. The success of our students in the job market depends on our ability to ensure they leave law school able to write clearly as well as think analytically.”

Main, McCaffrey Complete Casebook
Professors Steve McCaffrey and Thom Main with their new book
Previously, he served in the diplomatic corps, schools of diplomacy, and graduate schools and programs, including the Mediation — Skills in alternative dispute resolution program. Aldana will teach criminal law, launching a new Criminal Law Clinic last year to join the Pacific McGeorge faculty this fall. Aldana, a Harvard Law graduate, was a tenured law professor at UNLV’s William S. Boyd School of Law, before agreeing last year to join the Pacific McGeorge faculty this summer. A native of Latin America, she has built a strong reputation as a human rights attorney and legal scholar. She is the director of the law school’s new Inter-American summer program that was launched in May. This year Aldana will teach Criminal Procedure, Criminal Law and Immigration Law.

Colatrella is an expert in alternative dispute resolution. He is co-author of the inter-disciplinary text, Mediation — Skills & Techniques, which is widely used in law schools, graduate schools and schools of diplomacy. Previously, he served as director of Southern Methodist University’s Center for Dispute Resolution & Conflict Management in Dallas, Texas, and taught at SMU’s Dedman School of Law. He will teach Mediation and Negotiations and Settlement this year.

Landsberg Now ‘Old China Hand’

An ‘old China hand’ is a nostalgic term sometimes used to describe a foreigner who lives or spends a great deal of time in China. By any definition, Professor Brian Landsberg has earned that designation.

Since December 2006, Landsberg has made nine business trips to China as the leader of the law school’s Partnership in Experiential Education program, funded by the United States Agency for International Development. Those sojourns followed his two-year involvement in a startup summer law program at Suny-h university that has since been taken over by Cornell University.

“I have always been fascinated with Chinese culture and history,” says Landsberg, who first went to China as a tourist in 2000. “What’s been most pleasing about the USAID program is that the things we set out to do have come to pass. That’s been very rewarding.”

Most recently, Landsberg spoke at a mid-August conference of the Committee of Chinese Clinical Legal Educators in Harbin, China. It was his third trans-Pacific journey of the year and followed a July planning session in Qingdao, China, to plan fulfillment of an extension of Pacific McGeorge’s original $1.4 million USAID Rule of Law grant. Professors Jay Leach and Jarrod Wong, and Clemence Tuica, LLM, ’09, also participated, along with faculty from American University’s Washington College of Law and several Chinese law schools.

Landsberg is justly proud of his adaptation to Chinese language and culture. A casebook he edited, Representing Clients: Simulation Case Files for Legal Education, was translated and published by the Zhejiang Gongshang University Press this year. And he’s proud of his co-editor, Luo Wenyin, LLM, ’07, who was one of the first graduates of Pacific McGeorge’s masters of law program in the Teaching of Advocacy that was spawned by the USAID project. There is one drawback to this travel tale. “Those 15-hour plane rides from San Francisco to Shanghai and Beijing do nothing for my back,” says Landsberg.

McCaffrey Argues ICJ Water Dispute

Professor Steve McCaffrey, one of the world’s foremost authorities on water law, represented Nicaragua in its successful case before the International Court of Justice in The Hague, Netherlands. McCaffrey was part of a legal team that opposed Costa Rica’s claim to the San Juan River in a dispute over control of the river to Nicaragua, recognizing at the same time certain rights for Costa Rica. An I88 arbitral award later confirmed those rights. Nicaragua argues that it should regulate the navigation of Costa Rican tourist boats within the border waters.

Nicaraguan authorities prohibited Costa Rican police from conducting patrols along the river in 1989. After fruitless negotiation, Costa Rica filed an application instituting ICJ proceedings against its neighbor. In July, the court unanimously reaffirmed Nicaragua’s exclusive sovereignty over the San Juan River as well as Nicaragua’s right to regulate Costa Rican commercial transport on the river. McCaffrey, the former International Law Commission chairman who drafted a major UN treaty on non-navigational uses of international watercourses, was retained by Nicaragua in 2005. He traveled to Managua to help prepare a counter-memorial and worked on the case for more than three years. McCaffrey has been involved in numerous international water projects. As a consultant to the Nile River Basin Cooperative Framework, he has worked with 10 African countries for nearly a decade to form an agreement on the usage of the world’s longest river. In 2007, he was awarded The White Dual Cross Order for his service to Slovakia in an ICJ dispute over Hungary with a Danube River dam project.

Kurt Cobain Case Confounds Students

Pacific McGeorge students in last spring’s Trial Advocacy class got a chance to try a fictional case based on the controversial 1994 suicide of rock star Kurt Cobain. Professor Joe Taylor, who has had nine of his case files published for law school usage by the National Institute for Trial Advocacy, created a wrongful death civil case using evidence gathered by a Los Angeles detective originally hired by Cobain’s widow, rocker Courtney Love.

The fictitious wrongful death suit (Gilbert v. O’Neil) pitted the daughter of a dead rock star against her mother in a fight for a $51 million estate. The case was tried 14 times in the law school’s courtroom, the final time with detective Tom Grant in the audience.

“It was really well-done,” says Grant. “I was so impressed, even though they did make my character out to be motivated by money because they wanted to balance the case since most of the evidence points to murder.”

Grant spoke at length about the real case after the final trial. He has waged a 15-year battle to have Seattle authorities, who declared Cobain’s death a suicide, change the death certificate to re-state the cause of death as undetermined. Grant points to inconsistencies in the alleged suicide note, attempted personal credit card usage after Cobain’s death, the level of heroin in his body, lack of fingerprints on the shotgun that killed the rocker, and Cobain’s plans to seek a divorce and retire—all as factors that call into question the quick decision by Seattle police to declare the death a suicide.

“It is an interesting case, no question,” said Taylor. “I got hooked on it and I know some of the original Court judges who heard our trials this spring found it very intriguing.”

Taylor plans to revise his case file based on feedback from this spring’s trials, reduce it from 160 pages down to 100, and submit it to NITA for publication.
Professor Rachael Salcido

Promoting Environmental Protection Through Legal Scholarship

THE PACIFIC MCGEORGE PROFILE

By Cynthia Kincaid

When associate law professor Rachael Salcido was growing up, her parents made sure she had great respect and a deep emotional connection to the natural world. They instilled the importance of preserving and protecting nature within their daughter by taking her to national parks and visiting the northern coastal waters of the Bay Area, where she grew up.

“My mother said I should consider being an environmental lawyer,” says Salcido. “It wasn’t that I went to law school with that in mind because I had several things that I was considering, but my mother was hopeful that I would look into it.”

After taking a few classes centered in environmental law, and garnering the support of mentors, Salcido oriented herself into a law career based on the protection and preservation of our most natural and threatened resources, particularly ocean and coastal waters. An area of particular focus for her has been the conversion of offshore oil rigs into artificial reefs. Her goal has always been the achievement of a win-win for these older decommissioned platforms.

“There are a lot of people on shore who can benefit from this, and these [platforms] operate as habitat, even when they are in production,” she says. But, she also believes that we have to be constantly asking if turning these rigs into artificial reefs is benefiting the habitat or taking away from something that might be better habitat.

In her work as both an environmental lawyer and environmental activist, Salcido frequently finds herself playing a role as natural resource referee. “There’s a lot of tension between what states may want for their offshore areas and what the federal government is willing to do to help with or thwart those objectives,” she says. “There will be more attention to this as we do more offshore exploring with aquaculture. A lot of developments are looking to go just beyond the three-mile mark to get into federal waters because they see the federal process as being friendlier to development, even when they are in production,” she says. But, she also believes that we have to be constantly asking if turning these rigs into artificial reefs is benefiting the habitat or taking away from something that might be better habitat.

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Before Salcido finished law school at UC Davis, she had aspirations to be a law professor. A professor and mentor at UC Davis told her to keep her eyes and ears open and stay abreast of her areas of interest. Another professor, who consulted for Pillsbury Winthrop, the San Francisco law firm where Salcido worked for three years, asked her to write a paper and speak on a panel geared toward continuing legal education.

“I presented this paper I just got the bug,” she says. “Law professors research an area of the law, help educate other people about changes in the law, and go to conferences. I was hooked. I also knew I wanted to help students.”

Since Salcido joined the faculty at Pacific McGeorge in 2003, her research has concentrated on ocean wave energy and technologies, and she is encouraged that offshore wave energy will be renewable, greener, and not contribute to global warming.

“Environmentalists are being cautious as to whether this is green technology, or if it’s just the oil industry getting their nose under the tent,” she says. She would like to see government play a more active role with academia in funding some of the basic research needed to help grow greener technologies, and do it in a way that the communities who are involved feel included.

Recently, Salcido presented on ocean wave technology at a conference in Portland, Oregon, where she emphasized ocean wave energy as a viable green and sustainable energy. She also discussed the future regulations that we might come to expect around this technology, as well as the direct and indirect environmental impacts.

“We are all optimistic, but there are still so many questions out there about how much capacity we can get from ocean waves,” she says. Salcido says she is pleased with the direction she sees the Obama administration taking toward the environment in supporting renewable and green technologies. “I think their biggest impact has been in showing an interest in moving climate change legislation and appointing people who have a track record of expertise on environmental and natural resource stewardship,” she says. “He just put together an ocean resources task for us, which will coordinate a lot of different agencies with their hands in the cookie jar. I think all these steps are in the right direction.”

Ultimately, Salcido would like to see a mindset change toward the environment, a realization that we are all in this together, and her goal is to translate that recognition to the students she teaches.

“I try to get my students to understand how dynamic this area of the law is,” she says. “Every lawyer is a lifelong student, and they can carry their skills forward and continue to teach themselves. It will keep them engaged with their clients and with a community of other lawyers, who are helping to build laws that work for us, the people, and for the environment.”

This is the twelfth in a series of Pacific Law articles on members of the Pacific McGeorge faculty who pursue excellence inside and outside the classroom.
Message from The Alumni Board President

Dear Fellow Alumni & Friends,

Recently a group of past Alumni Board presidents gathered for a welcome in the Rotunda, the newly renovated section of the Gordon D. Schaber Library that once served as the law school’s first classroom, and before that as a well-baby clinic. The space has been beautifully redone and now will serve as a flexible study space by day that can be converted at need for hosting receptions and other gatherings, as well. The Rotunda is just the most recent example of some of the many ways Pacific McGeorge is advancing as an institution, and more are on the horizon.

Pacific McGeorge’s reputation continues to grow beyond its regional reputation of a decade or more ago to a national and global one. There are many reasons for this, from its 11,000 alumni found in all 50 states and in 50 countries around the globe, to its championing of globalizing the legal curriculum by leading the 18-volume “Global Issues” book series from West Publishing, to its groundbreaking US-AID-funded Rule of Law efforts in China, which is influencing the development of future generations of Chinese lawyers. All of this bespeaks a thriving intellectual and professional community.

The campus is thriving, with attractive and functional facilities, including the new Rotunda. It was a pleasure to reconnect with several past presidents at the new room’s unveiling, and to see the pride they shared in their Pacific McGeorge. I challenged each of them to make a commitment, as virtually every member of the current Alumni Board of Directors has done, to the next and last phase of the Legal Studies Center renovation. Their response was as impressive as it was positive. With their investment and the leadership of the current board, I am confident the new Legal Studies Center will feature a signature room bearing the name of the Alumni Board.

Today’s Alumni Board is committed to the continued success of the law school and is particularly focused on reaching out to current students, to ensure that, as they move through their education and toward life as lawyers, we are there to guide, assist and open doors for them, as often was done for us. If you have the opportunity to assist a young alumnus, a student, or the law school, please do not hesitate to get in touch. I can be reached at jday@pacific.edu.

With best regards,

Jim Day ’73

Fall Busy Season for Alumni Chapters

The Pacific McGeorge Alumni Association has a full slate of campus and chapter events lined up this fall.

The organization sponsored its annual post-bar exam party for exam takers on July 30 in Sacramento, welcoming more than 30 recent graduates to a hosted reception at the Sheraton Grand.

In early August, the Washington, D.C. chapter held a farewell dinner for students who had served summer internships in the nation’s capital under the Robert T. Matsui Fellowship Program. The chapter also looks forward to hosting a swearing-in ceremony at the Supreme Court of the United States on Monday, November 16.

The new Young Alumni Chapter’s kick-off reception drew many new associates back to campus on August 6, and the Alumni Association’s Welcome Back Barbecue proved to be a cookout treat for students and alumni alike on August 20.

Dean Elizabeth Rindskopf Parker and Professor Jay Leach attended an alumni reception in early September in San Jose. The Northern Nevada chapter staged a get-together on September 3 in Reno at a Pacific Coast League baseball game between the Sacramento River Cats and the Reno Aces.

The annual on-campus reception for alumni-endowed scholarship recipients kicks off a busy schedule in October. Other events scheduled that month include receptions in Sacramento, San Francisco, Los Angeles and Orange County. In November, the new U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of California will host the Witkin Legal Institute’s annual Gordon D. Schaber Lecture. The Alumni Association will sponsor its inaugural Bay Area MCLE Program on Saturday, October 14 at the University of the Pacific’s Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry in San Francisco. The four-hour program will feature Professors John Sprankling, Larry Levine and Robert Hawley. For more information, call 916-799-7441.

The alumni association’s annual MCLE events are scheduled for Saturday, January 23, 2010 (The Grand, Long Beach) and Saturday, January 30, 2010 (Pacific McGeorge).
1937-1959
Paul A. Ross, ’37
Paul’s retired and enjoying his 97th year with family in the Northwest. Lynden, WA

1960s
Clarence Walden, ’65
Clarence is still a “traveling official” who has saturated over 2,500 marriages in 46 years. His first ceremony was officiated in the Woodward Justice Court on March 4, 1960. Woodland, CA
Richard L. Paquette, ’67
Richard has retired but still enjoys playing pro tennis settlment conferences, arbitrations and mediations to keep his hand in. (Sacramento)

1970
Class Representative A. Irving Scott, ’69
Peter H. Pickslay, ’69
fishing. (Lincoln, CA)
Paul has been retired since 1998. (Marinville, TO)

1971
Class Representative Philip Hiroshina
H. Vincent Jacobs
Vincent is a “fulltime” attorney in Beverly Hills, Jacobs, Roth & Lewis. He limits his practice to commercial and business law and practical and judicial advising, all in family law. Now he doesn’t have billing hourly fees, he is able to travel, enjoy his grandchildren and has a great life with his wife, Cecilia Delani, (Carmel, CA)

1972
Class Representative Gordon P. Adelman
Paul Gordon Adelman has retired and is a staying life with his children, grandchildren and his great grandchildren, who keeps him busy! He also visited Ed Boulevard’s birthday party. He was at his house, where they have two horses, two llamas, three dogs and two cats.

1973
Class Representative Rudy Nolen
John A. DeRonde Jr.
John is enjoying semi retirement, “less work, shorter hours, but no work to pay for.” He has been suggested another reason at John Brittain’s house. Davis, CA

Jan Kahn
Jan was a co-counsel for the defendant, Pacific Gas & Electric Co., in a major Kings Superior wrongful termination case in which the defense prevailed on a summary judgment. The former president of the Kings County Bar Association, he is a bonding partner of Kahn Soares & Conway (Herford, CA)

Ray Newman
Newman was a $55,000 bench decision in Las Vegas Superior for a community college athletic director who sued the school president for defamation. He is a principal in the Law Offices of Ray Newman. Prescott, CA

Peter P. Vlautin III
Peter retired from the Sacramento County Public Defender’s Office on his 85th birthday in 2005. After a year of retirement, his wife decided it was time for him to go back to work. Peter has a solo practice in El Dorado Hills doing criminal defense and probate. He plays golf a couple of times a week and goes on vacation weekends to warm spots of the world (Thailand, Australia, New Zealand) and his wife and son celebrated their 40th anniversary in July. and have one granddaughter and one grandchild who live on the highway of life—not ready for the exit lane.” (El Dorado Hills, CA)

William M. Wunderlich
William and his wife, Linda, are a magistrate judge in Yosemite National Park. The father of two grandchildren, he has a long-time state appellate court justice before assuming his U.S. District Court, Eastern District of California, position five years ago. Roseville, CA

There aren’t many attorneys who made a bigger impact on the law before they went to law school after all, but Dennis Warren, ’73, still recalls his battle with national fame.

In the late 1960s, Dennis Warren was a political science student and a national debating champion at the University of the Pacific when he was invited to meet visiting Indian Senator Biichi Evans Bayh II. Within the week, Warren launched a national campaign to lower the voting age to 18 in all states — with Bayh’s blessing as chair of the Senate Subcommittee on Constitutional Amendments.

“Being a student of history, I thought that we would be the catalyst and that it would take years and years,” says Warren, a Sacramento health-care attorney and guiding instructor of Sacramento Insight Meditation. “Things started falling together in a way you could never imagine. It really was serendipity in many respects.”

Through Bayh’s connections, the late “Rat Pack” entertainer Joey Bishop rallied for a standardized voting age on his late-night talk show. Warren and his fellow volunteers crafted a public information campaign to stimulate grassroots efforts across the country.

The Pacific junior went on the road, testifying before state legislatures and speaking to various interest groups. With the Vietnam War in full swing, the climate was ripe for change.

“The argument, I’m not old enough to die for the country, but I’m not old enough to vote at all,” says Warren. “The interest groups with the Vietnam War in full swing, the climate was ripe for change.”

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Fall sports and classical music. Her sense of still enjoys political satire, spectator sports and classical music. Her sense of humor, in particular, is probably a good thing, as she is remolding her house.

(Redwood Valley, CA)

James has recently completed his 61st annual marathon, with 14 consecutive Boston marathons. (Sacramento, CA)

Stuart Martini
Martin has written another novel, Quantum of Lisa, which is available from HarperCollins Publishers. The bestselling Washington Post author appeared on CNN Glen Beck Show earlier in the same year. (Bellingham, WA)

Robert Laurie
Robert remains in his Placerville law practice. However, he now joins the faculty of Public Policy Department at San Francisco State University where he will also be teaching some courses. His daughter, Megan, is the McGeorge alumni coordinator, so please place us. (Oklahoma, CA)

James V. Mancuso
Mancuso remains retired for one whole day and then resumed work as a part-time senior judge for the Superior Court. He still has a 14- and 17-year-old at home, and one in college in Michigan. (Sacramento, CA)

Rayman R. Moyer
Rayman is a licensed architect for Kranick, Moskovitz, Teideman & Green, and is still serving as a partner to the firm. He has been with the firm for over 35 years. (Sacramento, CA)

Robert B. Adams
Robert and his wife are starting to talk about multiple long vacations. (Ithaca, NY)

David S. Richmond
David is busy trying to dispense justice in his office. He recently served on the board of district Court of Appeals. His 5 adult children scattered across the US and one in Kuwait with the Navy. His wife has eight grandchildren and another on the way. He is doing well and says “stop by some time.” (Sacramento, CA)

Michael P. Spillane
Michael is still enjoying the benefits of his degree from the University of California in Green River in Utah. (Washington, D.C.)

Ronald H. Halladay
Richardson is the founder of Richardson & Co., a full service CPA firm based in Reno. (Santa Clara, CA)

Laurence Digennaro
Digennaro received the State Bar of Nevada Board of Governors from Wason & Cooney. (Reno, NV)

Mark Adams
Dwight was the 100th major activity that Richardson raised in their business. He was surprised and delighted to receive an award from the American Bar Association at their annual meeting in Las Vegas. (Sacramento, CA)

Nicolas K. Lowe
Nicholas Lowe is an attorney with the California State Bar. He currently represents the students and faculty at The University of the Pacific School of Law and speaks at events across the country. (Sacramento, CA)

Robert A. Mowbray
Richard reports that classmate Dick Edwards is now working part-time as a Guardian of Lies. Martini has written another novel, Quantum of Lisa, which is available from HarperCollins Publishers. The bestselling Washington Post author appeared on CNN Glen Beck Show earlier in the same year. (Bellingham, WA)

Ervin A. DeSmet Jr.
Ervin was a “stringer” for the American Sports Board when it declared bankruptcy. He is the treasurer of the Dana Point Historical Conservancy in Laguna Beach. (Dana Point, CA)

Kenneth Meleyco
Meleyco won a $2.6 million San Joaquin County judgment against the city of Stockton, CA, in a sexual harassment case. He is a partner at McDuck — students younger than Perry Mason lounge where I had studied law. He is a Director of the Law Society of the Philippines. Richard is a district judge and is the sitting member for the bench. He is a member of the Nevada District Judges Association in May 2009. He will become the president of the organization in April 2010. (Reno, NV)

Patrick D. Leathers
Patrick is senior counsel with the Gualco Group's government relations and public affairs consulting team. He has been a legislative advocate in Sacramento for California Urban League and the California Education Association. He is an elementary school teacher. He has been a principal with Philip M. Anderson & Associates, San Francisco.

Kevin Meleyco
Meleyco was a $2.0 million San Joaquin County verdict for the family of a workman who was killed in a construction site accident. He handles many cases for the California Public Utilities Commission, as well as other agencies, in Sacramento, with 4 good friends. This has been an interesting year for him. (Sacramento, CA)

David J. Kristjanson
Following David’s retirement from practicing workers’ compensation law, he has undertaken the following activities: practicing workers’ compensation law, he successfully represented some of California’s largest employers in front of the Trial and appellate levels. (Sacramento, CA)

Samantha J. Lassick
Sam’s only major activity this year was being a mother to her kids. She is still enjoying solo practice, with a great panorama, who does all his work. His family is great and his youngest son just graduated from high school. He feels that the law is still challenging but wouldn’t want to do anything else. He sends best wishes to all. (Sacramento, CA)

Richard H. Cochran
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Jennifer C. Bond
Jennifer is an attorney with the California Public Utilities Commission, as well as other agencies, in Sacramento, with 4 good friends. This has been an interesting year for him. (Sacramento, CA)

J. Richard Creatura
After a 3 year break, Richard has been selected to serve as U.S. Magistrate Judge in his hometown of Reno. (Reno, NV)

Andrew J. Puccinelli
Andrew is a district judge and is the sitting member for the bench. He is a member of the Nevada District Judges Association in May 2009. He will become the president of the organization in April 2010. (Reno, NV)

Christian D. Anstey
Christian is a district judge and is the sitting member for the bench. He is a member of the Nevada District Judges Association in May 2009. He will become the president of the organization in April 2010. (Reno, NV)

Gail A. Culwell
Culwell was appointed to the Nevada County Superior Court in a case involving a fire and sprinkler damage in a dental office. He is a member of the Nevada County Law Association. (Highland, CA)

Laurel A. Gaiser
Laurel has been a partner in the firm of Dickinson & Brown, PC. (Bakersfield, CA)

Patrick D. Leathers
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Ramone Belgium
Ramone was appointed by the governor to the State Board of Education. She says that the 3/2 Senate confirmation is an interesting process. One of her daughters was named June, and her other daughter is attending McGee, Mount Rainer, CA.

Carl Calzone
Carl Calzone filed a spring at a Pacific McGee CDO program on "Launching Your Career in a Turbulent Economy." His cruise sister is at Porter Scott. (Sacramento)

William R. Fishman
William says that after 25 years, it is getting the hang of it. His practice is busy and he shares an office with an old friend from grade school, whom he used to bolt at breakfast every morning. His wife, Maggie, retired in December. His son Brian has just left his job as director of research, Combating Territorial Center at West Point. His son Scott graduated with a major in theater arts and is going to law school in the fall. (Pensacola, FL)

John Garcia
Garcia won a $52,125 bench decision in Placer Superior Court in a breach of contract, mechanic's lien case. He is in Placer Superior Court in a breach of contract, mechanic's lien case. He is in Placer Superior Court in a breach of contract, mechanic's lien case. He is in Placer Superior Court in a breach of contract, mechanic's lien case. He is

Janice J. Kellar
Janice is enjoying sitting as a pro tem judge in Northern Santa Barbara County. The log ride made the summit of Mt. Kilimanjaro Uhuru Peak. 19,340 feet with on February 13, 2009. McGee gratis go both far and high. (Irvine, CA)

Michael Bernstein
Bernstein has been appointed president of Medical Education Technologies, a Florida-based manufacturer of medical simulation products and educational software. He was previously president and chief executive officer of Innovative Health Strategies after his service as president of Cobb County Medical in Wisconsin. (Saratoga, FL)

Kevin Bebeau
Kevin runs a conflict resolution business. He also is a psychotherapist and is the director of the Elevated Psychoanalytic Institute of Seattle. His research includes ethics, phenomenology, philosophical counseling and parables of dispute resolution that are revolutionary. (Merrick Island, FL)

Sharon Brown
Brown announced that her public interest law firm, the Pacific Legal Foundation, has filed a federal lawsuit against Calhoun’s new program of seminars on road and Highway contracts that include federal funding, that contending the program violates state and federal constitutional law. (Sacramento)

Robert J. Busch
Jeff has written “How to Win Your California Divorce: How to Maximize Your Child Support and How to Make Money Smart!” He has five children, three of whom are in college, and the youngest entering first grade. Jeff has had a wicked fall. (Sacramento)

Robert L. De Leonidas
Robert is the contracts manager at Objective Systems Integrators, Inc. and specializes in customer relationship programs and software contract negotiations. He is married to Jodi and they have two children, Julian (12) and Olivia (9). (Sacramento)

David A. Elwell
David retired from active law practice in 1998. He reactivated his California bar license this year to help a former client. David retired from active law practice in 1998. He reactivated his California bar license this year to help a former client. David retired from active law practice in 1998. He reactivated his California bar license this year to help a former client. David retired from active law practice in 1998. He reactivated his California bar license this year to help a former client. David retired from active law practice in 1998. He reactivated his California bar license this year to help a former client.

Andrea N. Olson
Andrea has come advice. “Don’t have a baby the same way you retire.” After a few more time is now sucked up by non profit commitments, and shuttling daughter who is a professional gambler. She is a skier, to the kids, to people, to the ski life and to grandma’s. Andrea was hoping to be come writer close by now, but instead is rapidly becoming an expert on how to run a sailing competition. She hopes everyone is happy, healthy and loved. She and her family live in the back row at the Annual McGeorge Annual Convention. (Hills Estates, CA)

Heidi Firth
Hillis has been vice president of sales and marketing for Tahiti Nui International, a worldwide nautical supplement company based in Utah. Formerly president of Shaker Home, the company has several leadership positions with the Coventry Center Leadership, (Provo, UT)

1987

Class Representative
Megan Halvorsen
Frank A. Back
After 20 years in private practice, Frank has been enjoying the change of pace—his executive general counsel positions for the last few years. He was VP and GC for Pacific Lumber Co, took the enterprise through bankruptcy and now manages one of the successor entities, "Town of Nova Scotia Co. Frank lives on Humboldt Bay, and makes his living land use and environmental consulting business as Eskial, CA.

Kevin T. Dunker
Dunker is a partner of the American Board of Trial Advocates, and is a premier speaker at the Society of Civil Law Associates 2009 Annual Convention. He still lives in beautiful Rolling Hills Estates, and is rapidly becoming an expert on how to run a skating competition. She hopes everyone is happy, healthy and loved. She and her family live in the back row at the Annual McGeorge Southern California MCLC bath. (Rolling Hills, CA)

Christopher R. Foley
After leaving the practice of law to pursue a corporate opportunity, Christopher is practicing again. He formed a new firm in East Bay, Elder Law Associates, focusing on elder law issues, as well as probate and estate planning. She has very happily divorced after 16 years of marriage, and has a daughter (12) and a son (12). She is living in (Ukiah, CA)

Timothy F. Freer
Freer was appointed in the Los Angeles Daily Journal as a judge of the Riverside County Superior Court, (Murfreesboro, TN)

Shane D. Kramer
The last of Shane’s children is going to Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, (San Luis Obispo, CA)

Margaret Masunaga
Masunaga was named deputy director of the Hawaii Council Department Planning. She most recently served as a Hawaii deputy attorney general in the Family Law Division and as a deputy corporation counsel for the big island county. (Hilo, HI)

David McHale
David has been appointed senior vice president and general counsel for The Doctors Company, the largest national insurer of physicians and surgical medical liability in the United States. He joins the company after serving as an independent and associated general counsel at Nationwide Insurance for over 12 years and with the Whittaker Insurance Company. (Cuyahoga, PA)

Robin Perkins
Perkins represents two defendants in a prisoner interests case in a U.S. District Court, Eastern District of California, in which the defendants are being represented after a stipulated judgment. She is a partner in the Sacramento firm of Palmer, Kajiansen, World & Perkins, LLP (Sacramento)

It is commonplace for attorneys to talk about taking a global view of legal matters. For Mona Halprin Ehrenreich, ‘88, however, having a global perspective is the reality of her day-to-day responsibilities.

Ehrenreich is senior vice president and general counsel of Princess Cruises, the company that operates 17 ships in 100 ports located on all seven continents. Princess employees include nationals who hail from some 60 countries, and its vacation cruises attract 1.2 million passengers annually from all over the world.

This “is an extremely complex business,” she says. “Princess is simultaneously operating a cruise ship, hotel, restaurant, hospital and travel agency, all on an international level.”

A native of Los Angeles, Ehrenreich graduated from UCLA with major in political science and business. Her interest in public policy attracted her to Pacific McGee, and its Sacramento location. She particularly enjoyed her classes in Constitutional Law, and recalls being inspired by Professor Lawrence Levins’s class on the First Amendment.

She cites Lewis Powell as her favorite Supreme Court justice, due to his pragmatic jurisprudence and consensus-building skills. She graduated as salutatorian of her class and was an associate editor of the Pacific Law Journal. While in law school she also met classmate and future husband, Robert M. Ehrenreich, who is now in private practice in Santa Monica.

After graduation, Mona Ehrenreich joined the LA office of Gibson Dunn & Crutcher, where she was a partner.

“The blend of legal and business savvy that her alma mater was looking for,” she says. “Princess and the Pacific Princess. Princess and the Pacific Princess.

“Admiralty contains a large body of law with arcane rules, and the landmark cases often go back one hundred years or more,” she says. As an advisor to senior management, she enjoys the blend of legal and business savvy that her role entails. “You have to be a businessperson at a company, not just a legal person,” she says. “My job is to try to find ways to say yes legitimately—and to say no when I have to.”

Ehrenreich loves her work, even though she must endure a fair number of Love Boat quips, and the blend of legal and business savvy that her role entails. “You have to be a businessperson at a company, not just a legal person,” she says. “My job is to try to find ways to say yes legitimately—and to say no when I have to.”

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Class Representatives
Lisa A. Specchio

Lisa is an attorney for the Dolan and Dolan firm in San Francisco, CA. She has dedicated her life to public service and is currently the chief counsel for the City of San Francisco. Lisa is also a member of the California Democratic Party and the California Public Defenders Association.

Class Representatives
Ralph W. Kimble

Ralph is a partner in the law firm of Kimble & Associates in Los Angeles, CA. He has dedicated his career to public service and is currently the chief counsel for the City of Los Angeles. Ralph is also a member of the California Democratic Party and the California Public Defenders Association.

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Mary L. Thompson

Mary is a consultant in the field of public policy and has dedicated her life to public service. She is currently the chief counsel for the City of Los Angeles. Mary is also a member of the California Democratic Party and the California Public Defenders Association.

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Robert A. Zeman

Robert is a partner in the law firm of Zeman & Associates in San Francisco, CA. He has dedicated his career to public service and is currently the chief counsel for the City of San Francisco. Robert is also a member of the California Democratic Party and the California Public Defenders Association.

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David L. Miller

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Michael T. Collins

Michael is a consultant in the field of public policy and has dedicated his life to public service. He is currently the chief counsel for the City of Los Angeles. Michael is also a member of the California Democratic Party and the California Public Defenders Association.

Class Representatives
Joseph R. DeStefano

Joseph is a partner in the law firm of DeStefano & Associates in San Francisco, CA. He has dedicated his career to public service and is currently the chief counsel for the City of San Francisco. Joseph is also a member of the California Democratic Party and the California Public Defenders Association.

Class Representatives
Arthur D. Miller

Arthur is a consultant in the field of public policy and has dedicated his life to public service. He is currently the chief counsel for the City of Los Angeles. Arthur is also a member of the California Democratic Party and the California Public Defenders Association.

Class Representatives
William L. Palmer

William is an attorney for the law firm of Palmer & Associates in San Francisco, CA. He has dedicated his career to public service and is currently the chief counsel for the City of San Francisco. William is also a member of the California Democratic Party and the California Public Defenders Association.

Class Representatives
Belle B. Line, Jr.

Belle is an attorney for the law firm of Line & Associates in San Francisco, CA. He has dedicated his career to public service and is currently the chief counsel for the City of San Francisco. Belle is also a member of the California Democratic Party and the California Public Defenders Association.

Class Representatives
Mary D. Aguirre

Mary is the supervising deputy attorney for San Jose City. In 2008 she was the California Nurses Association’s Executive Director of the Year, and in 2009, she entered the San Jose State University’s California American Hall of Fame. Mary is also a member of the California Democratic Party.

Class Representatives
Jim D. Briscoe

Jim is an attorney for the law firm of Briscoe & Associates in San Francisco, CA. He has dedicated his career to public service and is currently the chief counsel for the City of San Francisco. Jim is also a member of the California Democratic Party and the California Public Defenders Association.

Class Representatives
Robert A. Zeman

Robert is a partner in the law firm of Zeman & Associates in San Francisco, CA. He has dedicated his career to public service and is currently the chief counsel for the City of San Francisco. Robert is also a member of the California Democratic Party and the California Public Defenders Association.

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David is a consultant in the field of public policy and has dedicated his life to public service. He is currently the chief counsel for the City of Los Angeles. David is also a member of the California Democratic Party and the California Public Defenders Association.

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Michael T. Collins

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Joseph R. DeStefano

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Jeffrey P. Larson
Jeffrey is a mentor/supervising attorney for other pro bono attorneys, representing unemployed applicants, before asylum officers, immigrant courts and BA. He was honored with a 2009 Volunteer Award, for outstanding pro bono services to asylum seekers. (Milwaukee, WI)

Gregory W. McCracken
Gregory is grateful that his community association practice has resisted the effects of the economic downturn. Otherwise, life for Gregory goes on in typical fashion. (West Hartford, CT)

Tia Boatman Patterson
Tia is married with five wonderful children. In March 2009, she was appointed to serve as general counsel to Sacramento Housing & Redevelopment Agency, after serving as policy consultant to two speakers of the California State Assembly. (Sacramento)

Charles Briggs
Briggs won a prescriptive assignment for a homeowner in a Sacramento Superior Court case involving a dispute between neighbors. He is associate with the Law Offices of Charles H. Briggs B. Elk Grove, CA)

Carolyn Miller Cooper
In July 2008, Carolyn was appointed as executive director of the Louisville Metro Human Relations Commission. (Louisville, KY)

Suzanne Andrews
Suzanne is associate at Fishwick Law, based in Burbank, and later at the national firm of Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP, where she sought to grow an employment law practice. In 2009, Christovich began working at WCAG as an associate counsel. She was there during high-profile writers’ strikes in 2004 and 2007. The Legal Services Department kept track of strike activities. Overseeing strikes is only one part of the department’s role. Intellectual property is another. But arbitration proceedings overshadow all else. “Because we work to enforce agreements and those require arbitration, the lion’s share of what I do is arbitration,” she says. Christovich was born in Los Angeles. Her family moved to four states before she was five years of age. (Los Angeles, CA)

Katherine Shannon Christovich, ’95, didn’t quite follow the script in her law career. She went from not having worked in a law firm during her days at Pacific McGeorge to working at a national law firm to recently being promoted to director of legal services for the Writers Guild of America West in Los Angeles. Writers Guild of America West, established in the 1930s, is a labor union for TV, movie and new-media writers who meet the group’s point system for membership. WCAG enforces agreements between its members and producers.

“When I started out, I called other McGeorge alums to find out what working in a law firm was like,” she says. Although she had worked at Community Legal Services and clerked for the California Fair Employment and Housing Commission while a student at Pacific McGeorge, she wanted to get another angle. It worked. She got jobs over the years at Marvin Robinson Frederick and Foster, based in Burbank, and later at the national firm of Tressler, Sokmon, Maloney & Priess, where she sought to grow an employment law practice. In 2009, Christovich began working at WCAG as an associate counsel. She was there during high-profile writers’ strikes in 2004 and 2007. The Legal Services Department kept track of strike activities. Overseeing strikes is only one part of the department’s role. Intellectual property is another. But arbitration proceedings overshadow all else. “Because we work to enforce agreements and those require arbitration, the lion’s share of what I do is arbitration,” she says.

Christovich was born in Los Angeles. Her family moved to four states before she was five years of age. (Los Angeles, CA)
1998

Class Representative
Kara L. Balle-Parker
Emily L. Randon

Robby Adamson
Adamson has been named a partner at Duffield Adamson Helseth & Fitchett, P.C. He practices in the areas of estate planning, probate and trust administration, real estate, and guardianships. (Toncito, AZ)

Karl. E. Breitman
Karl is an ESOP compliance manager for Primmad Benefits for Primmad Benefits and is a member of the ASPPA’s Pension Trustee 500. Karl and Terri were married on August 7, 2008. Their boys, Matthew and David began 5th and 4th grades respectively and are home-schooling. (San Francisco, CA)

1999

Class Representative
Kathryn M. Davis

Jennifer S. Anderson
Jennifer is the national sales manager and assistant attorney general to the Rogue Nation, she says that she does the best job ever (more comical). (Lake Oswego, OR)

Denise Brown Antoon
Denise teaches criminalize online at her college. She is also working in private investigations doing undercover work. She has two sons—5, 2 and 6 months old. (Dulles, VA)

Gary Carroll
Carroll spoke at a Pacific McGeorge Career Development Office event on “Going Solo” in early April. She operates the Law Office of Gary Carroll. (Sacramento)

Robert Chaffant
Chaffant was cocounsel for the defending Sacramento County Jail and a group of officers who were charged with an excessive force civil rights violation. The plaintiff won a verdict, but the U.S. District Court vacated it due to $255. He is a partner in the firm of Bankerd, Cryer & Chaffant. (Sacramento)

Monica Mata
Mata was elected president of the South Asian Bar Association of Southern California. She is an associate with Wilton, Elser, Moskowitz, Edelman & Dicker LP, Los Angeles. (Sacramento)

Andrew Pugno
Pugno was the subject of a March 4 column in the Sacramento Bee. An estate planning attorney, he was general counsel to the Yes on Proposition 8 campaign and co-counsel in the oral arguments before the California Supreme Court on its constitutionality. (Folsom, CA)

Shane Singh
Singh appeared on KSTE 650 radio to discuss a wave of ADA lawsuits that hit small restaurants and retail outlets, gathering media attention. He is an attorney with the Sacramento law firm of Hing and Chung LLP who represents small businesses. (Sacramento)

Pamela A. Stone
Pamela has opened her own law firm, Law Office of Pamie Stone, Esq., which focuses on adoption law. Contact her online at www.pamieslaw.com. (West Sacramento, CA)

Erio E. Sultano-Pico
Erio opened his own practice in June 2008. He accepts family law cases, RFS tax dispute cases and bankruptcy Chapter 7 cases. In spite of the economy, his practice continues to grow. He expects to expand sometime this year. (Sacramento)

Homie Taghdiri
Homie and his wife are pleased to announce the birth of their first child, Ariana, born on June 17, 2009. (Los Angeles, CA)

Andrew Pugno
Andrew Pugno, nominated for appointment to the State Judicial Council, was one of only two out of about 120 who received a favorable recommendation from the Judicial Council’s Nomination Committee. That means that the Army is promoting him to a higher military grade. (Sacramento)

Johnston, ’84
Johnston, a High and Pacific McGeorge alum, says he has been promoted and was one of only two out of about 1200 officers who received a favorable recommendation from the Judicial Council’s Nomination Committee. That means that the Army is promoting him to a higher military grade. (Sacramento)

1999

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Kathryn M. Davis

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Brett D. Mulberg
Brett was one of the principal attorneys in a multi-million dollar class action lawsuit against the City of Stockton. Brett has represented clients in a variety of complex civil matters, including contract disputes, professional liability, intellectual property, and employment law. He has also represented clients in numerous matters involving the California Public Records Act, and has appeared before the California Supreme Court.

Julie M. Hilt
Julie and Jason welcomed their beautiful daughter, Parker, on March 17, 2009. (Sacramento)

Stephanie C. Lai
Stephanie is now an attorney at Momo & Associates, (Davis, CA)

Kimberly Lewellon
Kimberly is the incoming president of the Sacramento County Bar Association. She is a member of the Bar Association of San Francisco.

John Moffatt
John Moffatt is an assistant deputy attorney general at the Sacramento County Public Defender’s Office. He is a graduate of the University of California, Berkeley, School of Law, and received his law degree in 2007.

Sandra S. Ding
Sandra is a partner at the law firm O’Melveny & Myers, where she is a member of the firm’s litigation department. She is a graduate of the University of California, Berkeley, School of Law, and received her law degree in 2007.

Rebecca A. Dietzen
Rebecca has been at Murphy Austin for about 18 months and is currently focusing on business/commercial litigation. Her practice includes matters related to intellectual property, employment law, and contract disputes.

Julie E. Hitt
Julie and John welcomed their beautiful daughter, Parker, on March 17, 2009. (Sacramento)

Stephanie is now an attorney at Marron & Associates, (Davis, CA)

Kristin A. Odom
Kristin is an assistant to the Program Manager at the University of California, where she is a member of the firm’s intellectual property department. She is a graduate of the University of California, Berkeley, School of Law, and received her law degree in 2007.

For Laurel Edgeworth, ’08, the seed for a legal outsourcing business began germinating 18 months ago while she was still finishing her studies at Pacific McGeorge. And in March, she launched that business, Law Clerk Connection LLC, employing a freelancer model for legal work and technology that she believes may change the practice.

The business offers access to a nationwide online network of what she calls “law clerks,” who are either law students or lawyers, available to work on a contract basis. She believes her model for outsourcing is not only particularly beneficial during the current economic conditions, for both clerks and law firms, but also “will lead to a distinct shift in the way a lawyer practices law.”

The firms, for example, do not have to hire a full-time lawyer to do necessary work, or pay for the overhead. And at a time when lawyers are being laid off for monetary reasons, they have an option to work on a contract basis, she explains.

Under this model, each clerk posts an online public profile, which may contain such items as writing samples, transcripts, and a resume. The hiring firm can then either view public profiles of the clerks posted online, invite certain ones to bid on jobs, and hire the most qualified lowest bidder, or it can display a legal product, such as parameters for experience and education, and ask clerks registered with Edgeworth’s company to bid on it.

There is also a pro bono section on the website. First-year law students cannot bid on legal work, but they can get experience working for nonprofit organizations or lawyers doing pro bono work. “It’s just a way to help expand legal services to more members of our community and help the first-year law students get some experience at all,” she says.

And Edgeworth has a partner, her mother, who is a staffing industry background. “I started talking to her and she just kept coming up with these ideas, especially with marketing, advertising, and resources, and I was blown away actually,” Edgeworth says. As of June 2009, Law Clerk Connection has enlisted 100 members, 20 employers and 75 law clerks. Edgeworth is focused on getting the word out. She has written a white paper “just to show lawyers that, yes, this is something that is supported by the American Bar Association and the state bar associations,” she says. And her entrepreneurial effort has been featured in many legal publications.

By Jonathan Kastlou
2006

**Class Representatives**
Richard N. Azar
Chamone Marie Smith

Leah Daughette
Daughette spoke at the Pacific McGeorge Career Development Office event on “Going Solo” in early April. She recently joined the Law Office of Dashiell & Smith in Austin, Texas. She assists individuals with their employer-based compensation programs in the firm’s Global Services Group. Marta, an associate at Martens, is active in her local bar association and among other groups. Andries is working for the firm of Daley & Helf in San Diego and is currently training to help a client in the firm’s San Diego office.

Brent McDonald
Brent McDonald has joined the law firm of Snook, Jones & Reese in St. George, Utah. Previously, he was an associate with Patrice & Pierre & Bain in Salt Lake City. (St. George, UT)

Mikul Nyzkowicz
Nyzkowicz spent last spring at a Pacific McGeorge Career Development Program on “Launching Your Career in a Turbulent Economy.” She is an associate at the Gallo Firm in San Francisco.

Jeremy B. Price
Jeremy is an attorney at Hart & Johnston. (Roseville, CA)

Randee Sandlin
Sandlin worked as an associate for a plaintiff who reached a $3.5 million settlement in Sacramento Superior Court in a wrongful death traffic accident case. She is currently working as an associate for Dreyer, Brown, and McBride, a San Francisco law firm. (Menlo Park, CA)

David Graulich
Graulich serves as the vice president of the Sacramento Law Foundation, the charitable arm of the Sacramento Bar Association. (Sacramento, CA)

2007

**Class Representatives**
Amber Mahoney
Michelle Laidlaw

Ernest Y. Chen
Ernest accepted a position as senior counselor at the law offices of HMI, LCC, which has ten attorneys and 30 years combined legal experience. He is also a member of the law firm and legal internship program. (Sacramento, CA)

Lila Y. Al-Marhoun
After passing the California bar exam in February 2009, Lila was hired as an associate for the law firm of Bamberger & Dunn, an entertainment law firm that specializes in transactions involving motion picture studios, television production, and music. (Pasadena, CA)

Lauren Brown
Brown has been named an associate attorney at Donnell & Donnell. (Sacramento, CA)

David Grudich
Grudich serves as the vice president of the Sacramento Law Foundation, the charitable arm of the Sacramento Bar Association. (Sacramento, CA)

2008

**Class Representatives**
Kimberly L. Kakazu
John P. Oglesby

Lila Y. Al-Marhoun
Passed away on May 30, 2008, in Sacramento. Lila was a member of the law firm of Bamberger & Dunn, which specializes in entertainment law. She was active in the Sacramento local bar and was a member of the firm’s legal internship program.

Lauren Brown
Brown has been named an associate attorney at Donnell & Donnell. (Sacramento, CA)

Natalie Bustamante
Bustamante joined Kline, Doughlas, Goldfarb, Cooper, Rosenfeld and Kadel LLP as an associate attorney working in the firm’s employment and business litigation practice. (Sacramento, CA)

Anthony Picciano
Picciano died on March 20, 2009. (Las Vegas, NV)

Joseph A. McLaughlin
McLaughlin died on December 4, 2009, at the age of 67 in Sacramento. As a younger in private practice and an apartment of the Sacramento County Planning Commission.

Michael J. Smith
Smith died on October 29, 2008, at the age of 67 in Sacramento. He was a long-time bankruptcy and general civil litigation attorney on San Diego. (Sacramento, CA)

Cary Wiggs
Wiggs died on October 29, 2008, at the age of 57 in a car crash in Tehachapi and Mohave. He reigned in 1966 in the San Diego area and remained in good health until most of his life.

Donald J. Miller
Donald is in-house counsel for Conexi, Inc. (Sacramento, CA)

Pamela Perez
Perez is a partner at Consumers Attorneys of California as the firm’s associate general counsel. She previously worked as a judicial intern for the Department of Legal Services at the State of California. Marta, an associate at Martens, is active in her local bar association and among other groups. Andries is working for the firm of Daley & Helf in San Diego and is currently training to help a client in the firm’s San Diego office.

Philipp Alva, ’51
Alva died on October 11, 2005, at the age of 95 in Sacramento. He was a special administrative law judge for the Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board from 1949 to 1973 and was active in the American Red Cross. He served as executive director of the Olympic Ski Patrol in 1960 in Squaw Valley.

Allison R. Terry
Terry was appointed to serve as the 2009 District Representative for the California Women Lawyers Board of Governors. Terry is a law firm associate of Girard, Locklear, Cobbel, Dewitt & Gian, LLP. (Sacramento, CA)

Isauro Villarreal
Villarreal has joined Redinger, Michigan & Habib LLP as an associate. He represents employees in labor and employment-related matters at the firm.

Kimberly L. Kakazau
Kakazau is a partner at Donnell & Donnell. (Sacramento, CA)

John P. Oglesby
Oglesby is an attorney at Donnell & Donnell. (Sacramento, CA)

Randee Sandlin
Sandlin worked as an associate for a plaintiff who reached a $3.5 million settlement in Sacramento Superior Court in a wrongful death traffic accident case. She is currently working as an associate for Dreyer, Brown, and McBride, a San Francisco law firm. (San Francisco, CA)

Mark is a solo practitioner in downtown San Diego after taking the bar in 2006. (San Diego, CA)

Justin L. Leavitt
Leavitt is working for the Aloysus Institute in the Sacramento area, most recently as a principal of the law firm of Leavitt Institute. (San Francisco, CA)

Donald J. Miller
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Joshua D. Moore
Moore has joined the law firm of Wanland & Spalding. (Carmichael, CA)

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David Graulich
Graulich serves as the vice president of the Sacramento Law Foundation, the charitable arm of the Sacramento Bar Association. (Sacramento, CA)

2007

**Class Representative**
Magdalena Gad
I have passed the New York State Bar examination. I want to thank my family and friends for helping me to make this dream come true. If only my younger brother wants to follow my path, I will encourage him to apply to McGeorge. I look forward to seeing many friends at the international alumni reunion next year in Paris. (Warsaw, Poland)

**LL.M. TRANSMISSINAL BUSINESS PRACTICE**
Magdalena Gad
I have passed the New York State Bar examination. I want to thank my family and friends for helping me to make this dream come true. If only my younger brother wants to follow my path, I will encourage him to apply to McGeorge. I look forward to seeing many friends at the international alumni reunion next year in Paris. (Warsaw, Poland)

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John P. Oglesby
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2008

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**LL.M. TEACHING OF ADVOCACY**
Igor Sievov
I am working for the Institute for International Development in Washington, DC. I have been serving as an associate attorney and ajudicating for Ukrainian law students in three cities. (Kyiv, Ukraine)
For the sixth straight fall, Pacific McGeorge boasts an entering first-year Day Division class with a median LSAT of 158 (75th percentile). Thanks to Pacific McGeorge’s reputation for delivering a superior legal education and to the tireless efforts of Assistant Dean for Admissions Adam Barrett and his staff, the law school continues to attract the future leaders of the legal profession. Pacific McGeorge’s outreach efforts run the gamut from social media to cutting-edge publications. The latest tool, displayed on this page, in the law school’s challenge to reach top-notch undergraduates plays off a variety of humor and fact to tell the Pacific McGeorge story. If you would like to receive a copy of this new outreach publication, please contact Janine Lantz 916.739.7197 in the office of Strategic Marketing and Communications.

“I see you in a law school in a great capital city with fine restaurants, a beautiful, warm climate, and a state house filled with movie stars.”
Financial Meltdown Rocks the World