Advocacy
In the
Next Decade
Calendar of Events

For details on these and other events, please see the Alumni and News & Events sections on the Pacific McGeorge web site www.mcgeorge.edu or call 916.739.7141

September 28, 2005
U.S. Supreme Court Docket Preview
Pacific McGeorge

October 15, 2005
Retirement Celebration for Professor Claude Rohwer
With Justice Anthony M. Kennedy
Memorial Auditorium, Sacramento

October 19, 2005
Order of the Coif Lecture: Professor John Coffee
Pacific McGeorge

October 28, 2005
Center for Global Business and Development Conference
Judicial Influence on Economic Development
Pacific McGeorge

November 9
Distinguished Speakers Series: Professor Linda Carter
Pacific McGeorge

December 1, 2005
State Bar of California Swearing-In Ceremony
Pacific McGeorge

January 6 – 7, 2006
Advocacy, International Breakfasts
at Association of American Law Schools Convention
New Orleans

January 21, 2006
Alumni Association’s Southern California MCLE
The Queen Mary, Long Beach

January 28, 2006
Alumni Association’s Sacramento MCLE
Pacific McGeorge

February 24, 25, 2006
25th Annual International Law Symposium
Pacific McGeorge

March 10, 2006
McGeorge Law Review Symposium
Sacramento

March 17, 2006
Public Legal Services Society Auction
Pacific McGeorge

Front cover: Stephanie Rice 3D argues her case during the Appellate Advocacy Final Four competition last spring at Pacific McGeorge.
Recently I have been thinking a great deal about leadership—legal leadership. I have long considered law and leadership natural partners, but somehow it took the mother of a distinguished alumnus—Bill Knudson, ’71, to remind me of this essential linkage. When Betty Knudson expressed her desire to create a scholarship in Bill’s honor, I asked her what would best reflect his life. Her comments painted a powerful picture of a lawyer dedicated to “leadership through law”—the name we eventually chose for the scholarship in his memory.

Bill’s example and Betty’s generosity have started something important. When the time came to suggest the words for our NPR sponsorship, it seemed only natural to identify Pacific McGeorge as “from California’s capitol, educating leaders for a changing world.” I hope that you feel the same thrill of pride that I do when you hear those words.

In fact, after three years, this is exactly how I’ve come to understand Pacific McGeorge: offering each of us the opportunity to employ law and our training for the common good; to have a calling, not just a career, to make a difference—to be a leader in and through law.

Examples of this are everywhere. Earlier this year Professor John Cary Sims led us in creating a new Journal of National Security Law & Policy focusing on how our national commitment to civil liberties can manage the dual challenge of war and terrorism. Already this peer-reviewed journal has been widely praised for bold leadership—crossing political and doctrinal lines to encourage discussion among renowned legal scholars and professionals in the national security and civil liberties communities. This leadership theme continues with Professor Julie Davies’ work to create a “Lo Bono” consortium to provide reduced-fee legal service and our advocacy faculty’s work on a new Advocacy Ethics Competition.

And in August our faculty, led by Professor Frank Gevirtz, launched an initiative to improve legal education in a global world. Influential scholars from 32 law schools joined them in a workshop examining how transnational, international and comparative materials could be integrated into law school teaching. This “Globalizing the Law School Curriculum” workshop begins a national effort to strengthen students’ grasp of law in an increasingly international world. Comments of the attendees made clear how important a contribution the workshop can make to legal education.

We look forward to continuing this work.

Finally concern for future leadership is also why the law school joined the School of Law and Public Service at nearby Sac High in a partnership to support better preparation of inner city students. Now, two years later, 96% of those students have graduated and 88% will attend college—four at Pacific.

Such examples of our law school’s “leadership through law” provide a vision for the future of our profession. What a difference we can make together for our shared future. After all, every judge, most legislators and four of our past seven presidents are law school graduates. Imagine the impact if each of the nation’s law schools followed the Pacific McGeorge lead…

More locally right here on campus, I’m delighted to report that Pacific McGeorge leadership is in good shape. Despite a change in the critical position of Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, we can be sure that the momentum underway at the law school will continue in the years to come under our new leadership. After five years as Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and as Acting Dean, Professor John Sprankling has returned to the faculty and his first love—classroom teaching. His invaluable wisdom and leadership leave a lasting legacy for which we thank him as we welcome Professor Christine Manolakas, a faculty member since 1978, into his place. Associate Dean Manolakas will be assisted by Tim Naccarato, ’77, Director of Academic Support since 2002, in the new position of Assistant Dean for Academic Programs.

With an outstanding and diverse new class, a faculty showing remarkable leadership and a growing number of alums connecting with one another and the law school, Pacific McGeorge has never been stronger. Do keep us up to date on your own life and career, and as always, please let me know how we are doing—and how we can do even better.

With Warmest Regards,

Elizabeth Rindskopf Parker

Dean Elizabeth Rindskopf Parker
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Kathleen Cordova Lyon is one of the many recent graduates ready to blaze a new trail in the legal field... see story on page 22.
George Harris, who was recently named to head Pacific McGeorge’s nationally recognized trial and appellate advocacy programs, brings a diverse background to his new responsibilities. A Yale Law School graduate, he clerked for Chief Judge Frank M. Coffin, U.S. 1st Circuit Court of Appeals, before entering private practice. As a litigation partner with the San Francisco office of Morrison & Foerster, Professor Harris was second chair for the John Walker Lindh (the American Taliban) defense team and for the litigators defending the Oakland-Alameda County Coliseum against the Oakland Raiders’ civil suit. He served in the Office of Independent Counsel Lawrence Walsh during the Iran-Contra investigations. He also is a former tenured faculty member at the University of Utah College of Law.

Harris met with Pacific Law in early July, shortly before leaving for Cambodia, where he would train Cambodian lawyers and judges for a tribunal involving defendants charged with crimes during the Khmer Rouge era.
Q. What are some current trends influencing the practice of advocacy in American courtrooms?

A. I’d say there are three important trends in advocacy. The first is the increasing significance of alternative dispute resolution (ADR). There have been articles about “the death of trial,” which I think is overstated. But there is no question that ADR has become a much bigger part of advocacy. In most courts today, no case goes to trial unless it has gone through some kind of ADR process.

The second major trend is that there is a much bigger international component in litigation today. You have multinational corporations in litigation involving international operations, and disputes among those corporations often involve foreign court proceedings or international arbitration. You can have one case involving a number of different countries and different legal systems, combined with international arbitration.

The third big trend I’ve observed is the growing importance of technology, both generally and as a component of courtroom presentations. It’s almost the rule now that opening and closing arguments at trial are done with some kind of PowerPoint presentation. You see this even in arguments to a judge on major trial court motions.

Probably the most significant impact of technology, though, is what it means for the compilation of evidence. A trial lawyer now typically has a laptop with a database with all the documents and prior testimony in the case. While the witness is on the stand, someone can be searching the database for impeaching documents and prior deposition testimony. Then documents or a video clip of the testimony can be projected onto a big screen in the courtroom during the cross-examination of the witness.

Q. It sounds as if technology is changing the fundamentals of effective advocacy.

A. Oh no, that’s not true. The real basics of advocacy have not changed. The core skills, the most important skills that we teach, have not changed. With all the technology, the most important skills for students to gain are still the abilities to write and speak persuasively.

This means the ability to take a complex case and boil it down to essential themes and the most powerful facts in a way that can persuade a jury or judge. It’s one thing to do a PowerPoint slide. You still need a command of the basics—the ability to crystallize the facts of the case, to simplify a case down to what it’s about in real essential human terms. I think that is always going to be the core of advocacy training, no matter how sophisticated we get with technology.

Q. What about the economic aspects—has advocacy become more expensive?

A. In some ways it has, particularly for under-served populations. As a legal community, we are doing a totally inadequate job, not only for the poorest people, but also for middle class, average-income people who can also rarely afford legal services. The legal profession has not done a good job of providing legal services to those without means.

Cost is the other side of technology. Technology has provided powerful tools for advocacy presentations. What it has also done is multiply by many times the proliferation of written evidence, electronic and documentary evidence in the average case—particularly commercial disputes. This requires huge amounts of time and resources. In a lot of cases there is electronic discovery, and that becomes an important element of the case. It can be a nightmare, in terms of the volume and the expense of it all.

Q. Pacific McGeorge teaches trial and appellate advocacy. What’s the interaction between those two types of advocacy—do they draw on different skill sets?

A. The best lawyers at trial need to be very aware of appellate issues—those issues that need to be preserved so they can be raised on appeal. An appellate specialist will sometimes get involved at the post-trial motion level, but ideally will be included at an earlier point in the trial process.

I don’t know that I see this as a change in the relationship [between trial and appellate advocacy] particularly. In a certain number of cases, the function of appeal is minimized when parties take a case to private dispute resolution. You don’t have the precedent that is created in the way of a public opinion. That takes a certain class of cases out of the public system, and we lose the precedential benefit of the decision-making process in those cases. >
As far as different skills for trial and appellate advocacy, I see people who are more inclined to one or the other by their personal nature. There are also lawyers who can do both very well. The paramount skill of a trial lawyer—particularly the jury lawyer—is the ability to think on your feet. You have to be able to relate what may be a complicated case to a jury of laypersons so they will understand what it is really about in common-sense terms.

Thinking on your feet is important, too, on the appellate level. However, the primary job on the appellate level is the legal analysis and writing. Being able to write persuasive briefs is still the core appellate skill. Written advocacy is certainly important on the trial level, but on the appellate level it is absolutely crucial.

Of course there is some overlap. In both trial and appellate, you need the ability to take a case and crystallize a core theory and a theme that explains it in common sense and human terms. But there are important differences. Sometimes I’ve seen somebody who is a trial lawyer by trade, and they continue to represent the client on appeal. They take a jury argument to the court of appeal and they find they are not successful. Trial and appeal are two different kinds of arguments.

Q. From the perspective of a recent law school graduate, is it more difficult to get advocacy experience early in a career than it was, say, 20 years ago?

A. Yes, that’s true, especially in regard to commercial litigation and private practice. In the major business cases—for example, those involving valuable intellectual property and which have enormous financial consequences—it’s very difficult for young lawyers to get courtroom experience. Clients want seasoned attorneys even in the initial motion stages.

There are more opportunities for experience early in a career in criminal law. You can go to a prosecutor’s or public defender’s office and have your cases go to trial, be able to get into court and get very valuable experience that translates to civil as well as criminal cases.

Q. Closer to home, what are your plans regarding the Pacific McGeorge advocacy program?

A. The program here has a very good national reputation. The Trial Advocacy Program has been high profile, based on the performance of trial teams in competitions. It’s a much stronger program than you see at a lot of law schools.

But there is still a lot to do. I’d like to expand the program to include more on the appellate advocacy side and create more opportunities for students during their third years. There are a lot of opportunities to expand Appellate Ad in the third year, with moot court competitions. I’d like to see a third-year advanced appellate advocacy seminar led by a faculty member that would give students the foundation to compete even more successfully.

We currently have third-year students who are second-year workshop leaders in the Appellate Ad program. We could have these students be further involved in doing arguments and inter-school competitions at the same time that they are in the classroom, doing demonstrations for second-year students.

Another thing I’d like to see is that people would have some more options for how they would fulfill the advocacy concentration. We have plans to host a trial competition, and I’d like to see us host appellate moot court competitions as well. At some point, ideally, we would have new facilities to support all of our programs—trial, appellate advocacy and alternative dispute resolution.

Q. You also teach Professional Responsibility here at Pacific McGeorge. Any thoughts about integrating components of Professional Responsibility into the advocacy curriculum?

A. Yes, indeed. A great training area in advocacy would involve the topics of professional responsibility and ethics. We’re hoping to highlight more in the ethics area in a trial competition. The concept of lawyers as “officers of the court” is not a passé term. It has been given more relevance in the context of legal ethics. For example, conflict of interest is an important issue in professional responsibility.

Q. What about advocacy on an international basis?

A. Well, one of the big things here on campus is that we are very involved in development and training of lawyers from other parts of the world. We’ve been training Chilean lawyers for changes in the Chilean legal system, and there’s my involvement with the Documentation Center of Cambodia to help Cambodian lawyers prepare for their tribunal. I think the Advocacy Program can get involved a lot more. There’s increasing interaction between advocacy systems in different parts of the world.

Q. Any concluding thoughts, Professor Harris?

A. My feeling is that I am very fortunate to come into an advocacy program such as we have at Pacific McGeorge. I am standing on the shoulders of giants. This is an enormously strong program, but still not as well known as it should be. I’ll do the best I can to help take the program to the next level.
Pacific McGeorge has one of the strongest advocacy curriculum programs among American law schools. Since the law school’s formative years, its emphasis has always been a classroom of full student participation in written and oral advocacy.

Its Center for Legal Advocacy and Dispute Resolution was founded in 1973, with the opening of the “Courtroom of the Future,” the first experimental courtroom facility among American law schools. In recognition of pre-eminence in advocacy teaching, the American College of Trial Lawyers awarded Pacific McGeorge the first Gumpert Award for excellence in Teaching of Trial Advocacy in 1976. Since that time, the Center has remained in the forefront of advocacy training. In 2003, U.S. News & World Report ranked Pacific McGeorge 11th best in the nation in advocacy teaching and tied for first place among West Coast law schools.

The Center provides curriculum and programs in all aspects of advocacy and dispute resolution, including pre-trial preparation, trial skills, appellate advocacy, alternative dispute resolution, practice clinics and externships, judicial externships, legislative and administrative advocacy, technology in the courtroom and international advocacy. It offers an Advocacy Certificate Program, which provides students with a full complement of advocacy and dispute resolution training and recognition of their specialization in advocacy. By its emphasis on practical offerings (including clinical placements, externships and competition teams) as well as advanced courses in advocacy, the Certificate Program ensures that students have not only theoretical training but real world experience.

The Center also actively supports participation by students in inter-school trial advocacy, moot court and alternative dispute resolution competitions. Pacific McGeorge students regularly place among the top teams at regional and national competitions. Plans are underway for a National Ethics Mock Trial Competition, which will be jointly sponsored by the Center and the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California, beginning in Spring 2006.
By Professor Omar Dajani

Following the Middle East peace summit at Camp David in July 2000, an unflattering, and increasingly indelible, portrait of the Palestinian negotiator appeared in the international media. A chorus of public officials and political commentators resurrected the phrase coined by the late Israeli diplomat Abba Eban to describe the Palestinian approach to international diplomacy: “The Palestinians never miss an opportunity to miss an opportunity.” A full picture of the events at Camp David would emerge only later, with subsequent accounts pointing to other causes of the summit’s failure: the two sides had prepared insufficiently and were discussing some of the most contentious issues for the first time; the United States team was disorganized, rent by internal divisions, and inattentive to Palestinian interests and the concerns of the broader Arab and Islamic worlds; and the terms of Israel’s “generous offer” to the Palestinians were neither generous nor presented coherently as an offer.

The fact that the peace talks came close to yielding an agreement, but ultimately failed to, is both an indictment of the parties’ approaches to negotiations and an injunction to ensure that when they talk in the future they achieve better results. With that aim in mind, this chapter identifies and explains the salient patterns of Palestinian negotiating behavior during the peace talks, including how they assembled and prepared teams and the ways they tended to use law, language, pressure, public opinion and compromise in the talks. It then examines how Palestinian-Israeli negotiating dynamics contributed to the parties’ failure to conclude a peace deal.

I conclude that, although Palestinian negotiating behavior is neither singular in style nor the inevitable consequence of Palestinian history, the combined experiences of statelessness, dispossession, disenfranchisement, and exile, reinforced at each stage of Palestinian history, did present Palestinians with a double bind: they raised their expectations regarding the requirements for a just peace settlement and, at the same time, denied them the tools they needed to achieve them—above all, an institutionally coherent government with the authority to address its people’s needs and a secure national space within which to test (and temper) their political ideals. Tragically, Israeli negotiating behavior reinforced these patterns, rather than compensating for them, contributing to the misattribution of motives by both parties and deepening mutual distrust.
By Professor Thomas Main

The proliferation of ADR has transformed dispute resolution. As both a rival and a complement to formal adjudication, ADR presents an alternative forum for most disputes. ADR offers a system with procedural flexibility, a broad range of remedial options, and a focus on individualized justice. ADR performs convenient and useful works that cannot be done, or cannot easily be done, through formal adjudication. And in every case in which one of the various modes of ADR offers a process or reaches a result that differs materially from those of the formal courts, there is in fact a rival system. Thus contemporary civil justice is administered by dual systems, with formal adjudication, on one hand, and a constellation of ADR methods on the other.

The administration of justice through divided systems is a familiar model. For centuries the Anglo-American legal system administered justice through the systems of law and equity. The law courts ensured uniformity and predictability, while courts in equity tempered the law to the needs of the particular case. Although there was considerable tension between the two regimes, they were also symbiotic. Over time the law courts adopted many of the best practices of equity. Meanwhile, efforts to crystallize the jurisdiction of equity introduced complexity and procedural technicalities that imitated the common law. With each system looking increasingly like the other, law and equity were merged into a single system in a wave of reforms in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

The reincarnation of equity through ADR illustrates a pervasive dialectic between law and equity. Conflict between the goals of certainty and individual justice has created an ambivalent attitude in the law toward equity, to which the law is attracted by reason of the identification of equity with a general sense of justice, but which the law ultimately rejects because of the law’s concern for certainty. I argue that flexibility and discretion should prevail in ADR processes even when pragmatism may demand detail and complexity.

Contemporary efforts to standardize and restrict the processes of ADR recognize the right problem, but propose the wrong solution. The problem is the number and significance of cases that are resolved outside of formal adjudication. The solution is not reform of the (alternative) system that is drawing them in, but rather reform of the (formal) system that is driving them away.

Negotiate, explores the preconditions necessary to effective dispute resolution in the Middle East—where successful resolution is critical to the region and to the world. Professor Thomas Main’s article, “ADR: The New Equity,” which will appear in the University of Cincinnati Law Review later this year, discusses the transformation in dispute resolution due to the proliferation of ADR and its effect on the dialectic between law and equity. Here is a précis of each article.
Parole Program Wins Award in First Year  By Stephanie Flores

Pacific McGeorge’s new California Parole Advocacy Program was awarded a prestigious honor in just its first year of operation.

The California Public Defenders Association selected the Institute for Administrative Justice program for its Program of the Year Award. Associate Dean Glenn Fait, ’71, and program director Mary Swanson, ’94, accepted the award on April 29 at the state public defenders’ annual convention luncheon in San Francisco.

Pacific McGeorge operates the program under a two-year contract with the state that commenced in July 2004. IAJ opened 11 offices statewide, hired 12 staff attorneys and contracted with 270 others to provide all representation for parolees at parole revocation hearings.

The award, Dean Fait says, validates the program’s ability to meet requirements and fulfill commitments. The program’s network, rushed into place in order to meet the requirements of a federal court agreement that stemmed from a decade-long, class-action suit, created the largest private criminal defense law firm in the state, he added. More than 43,000 hearings were done in the first fiscal year as the program came up to speed. IAJ expects to do more than 80,000 hearings in the current fiscal year.

While one IAJ program was gathering speed, another long-running success story was winding down. For 15 years, Pacific McGeorge operated the Special Education Hearing Office for the state Department of Education. The law school’s multi-year contract with the state agency ran out in June 2005, and DOE decided to turn that duty over to the state Office of Administrative Hearings. IAJ has a six-month, multi-million dollar transitional contract in place as the state comes to grips with the size of the program that IAJ has operated so efficiently in the past.

“Our SEHO office was the single entity that the families of California’s 700,000 disabled public school children and the approximate 1,000 California school districts, including charter schools, turned to in time of dispute,” says Ed Villmoare, chief hearing officer.

“More than 60,000 parties have used our services since 1989. “Ninety-five percent of cases settled before hearing,” says Villmoare. “We issued approximately 1,300 decisions and many more critical pre-hearing rulings. On appeal, the Ninth Circuit affirmed 18 out of 20 decisions and the two pre-hearing orders brought before it. Of the 40 cases stopping at the federal district courts, 32 have been affirmed. The five petitions for certiorari to the Supreme Court were denied.”

In other Capital Center for Government Law and Policy news, the Center was awarded a one-year contract renewal to research and provide services to California Resources Agency’s Marine Life Protection Act task force. The $61,000 renewal allows Pacific McGeorge to continue its work on Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger’s MLPA Initiative to develop a master plan for the protection of marine life habitat.

The Education Pipeline Program looks to upstage last year’s success mentoring Sacramento High School students. The program is a three-fold effort to step up the university and law school’s commitments to education from pre-school to law school. The program involves the Pacific Partnership, a relationship between the university, law school and Sacramento High School; a series of national discussions on how law schools can form partnerships with local K-12 schools; and adding education law internships and curriculum to the law school. Last year, 30 law students committed to meet with high school students one day a week to discuss academic and personal goals. After 10 weeks of mentoring, 44 percent of the high school students raised grade point averages while maintaining or increasing academic workloads, according to a high school guidance counselor.

Students also will be working on a new version of the on-line California Initiative Review for the scheduled special election this November. The CIR offers an in-depth, non-partisan look at the issues on this year’s ballot. The final analysis will be published several weeks before the election. Find this and past years’ reviews at www.mcgeorge.edu/government_law_and_policy.
National Academy of Sciences Names McCaffrey

By Michael Curran

Professor Steve McCaffrey has been appointed to a committee of the Natural Research Council, National Academy of Sciences, on the Scientific Bases of Colorado River Basin Water Management. McCaffrey, who is counselor to the law school’s Institute for Sustainable Development, one of three components of the Pacific McGeorge Center for Global Business & Development, participated in the committee’s first meeting in July in Boulder, Colorado.

“Given the highly controversial nature of Colorado River water management, with Upper Basin and Lower Basin states competing with each other, as well as with Mexico and dozens of Indian tribes, the fact that the NRC is studying this question is already receiving considerable attention,” McCaffrey says. “The state of California, with vital interests in Colorado River water, is supporting the study and sent a staff member of the Department of Water Resources to address the committee.”

McCaffrey is the second member of the Pacific McGeorge faculty. Dean Elizabeth Rindskopf Parker serves on NAS Committee on a New Government-University Partnership for Science and Security.

McCaffrey’s continued involvement in major international water resources projects took him to Ramallah in early June for meetings with a minister and other officials in the Palestinian Authority, as well as other work on a number of issues, including the “Red-Dead Conduit,” Israel’s ongoing withdrawal from Gaza, and preparation for negotiations with Israel. McCaffrey had attended the final meeting of the Nile Basin Negotiation Committee a month earlier in Entebbe, Uganda.

In other Center for Global Business & Development news, Professor Frank Gevurtz led a workshop of prominent legal scholars at a conference on “Globalizing the Curriculum,” held in August in Squaw Valley, California. Results will be shared at the Association of American Law Schools Conference in January in New Orleans and a full report on the event will appear in the Spring 2006 issue of Pacific Law. Several Pacific McGeorge faculty members, including Professors Linda Carter, Thom Main and Gevurtz, already have contracts with major publishing houses to add international perspectives to standard law school texts.

Professor Emeritus and former Associate Dean for International Affairs Claude Rohwer returned from a two-month trip to Viet Nam in mid-April. It was Rohwer’s seventh working mission there since 1996 when he agreed to help that country write new civil code and commercial law as a USAID consultant. “It’s been a long, tedious process,” Rohwer says. “But it’s gratifying to see the level of sophistication and knowledge on commercial matters among the Vietnamese, as compared to nine years ago.”

Professor Michael Malloy, the director of the Center for Global Business & Development, spoke on “Development Law and Policy and the New Ireland” on March 20 at the 26th Annual Conference of the Irish Association of Law Teachers in Letterkenny, County Dingle, Ireland. That country, for centuries a nation of emigrants, is in the midst of a startling economic boom that strains a primitive infrastructure.

The Institute for Development of Legal Infrastructure, a joint operation of the Global Center and the Capital Center for Government Law and Policy, will host a conference on October 28 at the law school. “Judicial Influences on Economic Development: Opportunities for Architecting Legal Infrastructures” will explore which legal systems provide the best environment for investment and business.

Pacific McGeorge’s 25th Annual International Law Symposium, tentatively scheduled for February 24, 25, 2006, will feature a forum and panel discussions on “The Key to Kyoto: The Story So Far.” Legal scholars, environmentalists and government officials will discuss the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its evolution since its 1992 adoption.

The Center for Global Business & Development

We Mean Global Business
Managing Partners Need Strong Business, People Skills

By Jonathan Kalstrom

From Sacramento to Las Vegas, from Los Angeles to Philadelphia, Pacific McGeorge alums are managing partners, often wearing many hats. They are the chosen ones, if you will, and chosen for good reason: they possess certain skills recognized by their colleagues to guide their firms to continued success.
In Las Vegas, for example, where the market for lawyers is strong and the competition among law firms for them is highly competitive, people skills can be quite valuable for a managing partner. “To manage a law firm, the biggest challenge for me is keeping all the partners and associates happy in an environment right now that is very competitive,” says John T. Steffen, ’91, who has been managing partner of his firm for six years.

“You have to offer more than just good pay, but create a great environment.”

That was probably why they thought that I would be the best one to handle it, because I enjoy the friendship part and the socializing part of being an attorney—and being in a firm where we can socialize together, too, both at work and away from work,” he says. As part of developing a great work environment, Hutchison & Steffen has instituted a free Friday firm luncheon. “And that builds friendship and camaraderie,” he says.

As the firm has grown from two lawyers in 1996 to today’s 22, Steffen’s managing partner duties have grown, too. “Initially, when we were small, most of my time was spent billing and doing legal work. As the firm has grown, less and less of my time is spent billing clients and supervising a caseload—and it’s been more towards taking the full management responsibility of running a business,” he says. The firm recently bought land in suburban Las Vegas and built a building, where it is housed on the top floor. It rents the bottom floor, so part of Steffen’s management responsibilities includes the building.

Only 13 years out of law school, Steffen still recalls his decision to come to Pacific McGeorge. “I was accepted at several more well-known law schools. I chose McGeorge because of its reputation and because my father [Thomas L. Steffen, former Chief Justice of the Nevada Supreme Court] strongly encouraged me to attend McGeorge.”

—John T. Steffen, ’91

John Steffen on the balcony of the new Hutchinson & Steffen building in suburban Las Vegas
David Winter at his desk in the offices of Moore, Winter, Skebba & McLennan

former Chief Justice of the Nevada Supreme Court] strongly encouraged me to attend McGeorge. I’ve never regretted that decision. The education I received at McGeorge prepared me well for the practice of law,” he says.

Being a managing partner often amounts to running a business. “The hardest part of being a managing partner is making the decision as to whether you want to be a businessman or a lawyer, or what combination of the two, because you have to be a businessman to a certain extent,” says David Winter, ’79, managing partner of Moore, Winter, Skebba & McLennan, a law firm in the Los Angeles suburb of Glendale. “The question is how big of an extent. In certain firms the managing partner is going to be 100 percent business. And in other firms it’s going to be some lesser extent, whatever that may be.”

Winter’s says his caseload is probably two-thirds of that of his other partners. “So in theory, a third of my work is management, two-thirds is not—that’s in theory,” he says. The time he spends managing depends on the types of activities, which changes from year to year, and varies from project to project. Duties also vary with the size of the firm, and how much can be delegated. “With our firm being relatively small, I am the primary gatekeeper,” he says. He also oversees all staff reviews and recruiting as well as tax returns and the budget.

“The primary component in how you get chosen to be a managing partner is that people trust your leadership,” Winter says. “They trust that you will look out for more than just your individual self and see the big picture. And that’s a major component of how successful you’ll be—because to be a successful managing partner, you’re going to have to guide things in a way that is beneficial for the group.”

When Jeffry Jones, ’79, became managing partner of the 100-attorney law firm McDonough Holland & Allen, a Sacramento-based firm with offices in Oakland and Yuba City, one of his chief tasks was to balance the business needs with the culture of the firm. After soliciting input from all the shareholders, the board of directors elected him managing partner (technically, “managing shareholder”) in April, 2004. Twenty-five years previously, when Jones joined the firm, it was “a classic lifestyle law firm,” maintaining a balance between an attorney’s personal and professional life. Due to law firm economics today, however, billable hours requirements have gone from 1,500 hours a year to 1,600 hours for partners and 1,750 hours for associates. That presents Jones with a major challenge.

Jones finds satisfaction in being able to make “a positive difference,” but he recognizes the responsibility this entails, because “you’re dealing with people’s lives and livelihood,” he explains. “It’s really coming to grips with the economic pressures that face the younger shareholders and associates and law students coming in. You try to move the firm forward from where we are—and hopefully we’re still a lifestyle law...
firm—while balancing everything in the context of the economics of law practice today.”

Why was he chosen? One reason has to be the hard work and long hours he puts in. Jones’ practice is in real estate, an area that’s been booming for the last seven or eight years. “To have credibility, the managing partner has to be a producer,” he says. Last year he billed 2,700 hours and put in about 750 hours as managing partner.

Another possible reason for being chosen: “I’ve had a pretty high degree of credibility among my partners when I express an opinion that the firm needs to do something or ought to do take a specific course of action.”

David Braverman, ’78, managing partner of Braverman Daniels Kaskey, Ltd., in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and Cherry Hill, New Jersey, sees his role as one of managing the business. In being called a “managing partner,” one tends to think about managing finances, billings, collections and things of that nature—which Braverman notes is certainly a major portion of the responsibilities. “But when you have a small firm as we do, it’s really managing the business, which includes the clients, the people, the business perspectives, the legal perspectives—because I manage not only the finances of the firm, but the allocation of the firm’s resources, the distribution of cases to our attorneys and things like that,” he says.

Braverman’s selection as managing partner was a natural. His own practice always focused on business and financial matters, he notes. “I also was in business prior to going to law school,” says Braverman, whose wife, Helen Braverman, ’79, and John Kaskey, ’81, are also partners in the firm. Practicing law and managing the practice are seamless for him. “Because we have a small firm, there is really no bright demarcation between the actual practice and the management of the practice,” he says. “They flow continuously and seamlessly, one into the other. Obviously, when I’m in court, and actively representing a client’s interest in litigation, I’m not managing the firm. But when I’m in the office, it’s a constant flow between practice and management.”

What does Braverman enjoy about being a managing partner? “Your access to information and knowledge should enable you, theoretically, to use that information and knowledge in an economic and effective way to better the practice—and that’s the challenge,” he says. “So the short answer would be the challenge. The longer answer would be having access to the information needed to improve the practice.”

Personality, business acumen, trust, credibility—the chosen ones have it.
In 1989, after spending most of her childhood in China, Eden Forsythe, moved to Moscow to start her junior high school. Five thousand miles away, in Washington D.C., Elizabeth Rindskopf was about to be appointed general counsel for the Central Intelligence Agency after serving almost six years as general counsel for the National Security Agency. At the same time, the Soviet Union had begun to collapse, bringing with it the end of the Cold War.

In 2002, thirteen years later, Forsythe enrolled as a first-year law student at the University of the Pacific McGeorge School of Law. A year later, Rindskopf—now Elizabeth Rindskopf Parker—became Dean of Pacific McGeorge. In the meantime, the focus of U.S. national security shifted away from the Cold
On June 1 of this year, Forsythe was hired as Pacific McGeorge’s staff director for national security law projects. “My office is the central depository for these projects,” she says. “So far the job is 50 percent policy research and 50 percent administration.”

For starters, Forsythe is coordinating two major new projects. One, the National Security Project, is funded by a $250,000 congressionally directed grant from the U.S. Department of Education. The second is the 1540 Project, named after United Nations Resolution 1540, which requires member nations to develop laws and regulations preventing weapons of mass destruction from reaching the hands of terrorists. This project is funded through a potentially renewable $250,000 grant from the MacArthur Foundation.

DePaul law professor Barry Kellman, one of the country’s top experts in the field, agrees: “McGeorge is at the hub of what’s going on in national security law, particularly regarding weapons of mass destruction. Lots of other law schools are focusing on terrorism, particularly those civil liberties and security issues arising out of the Patriot Act, but no one else is doing anything comparable on WMDs.”

Drawing on Dean Parker’s extensive contacts in the field, McGeorge has moved quickly. Back in March 2003, the school launched its national security law initiative by hosting a two-day workshop, funded by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, designed to create a model syllabus for teaching bioterrorism and public health law. More than 40 different law schools have already expressed interest in the syllabus.

“War to international terrorism. The nation began a wholesale restructuring of its national security laws and institutions that is still underway. “National security law is no longer an oxymoron,” Parker says.

Today Parker and Forsythe, ’04, are working hand-in-hand on an initiative in national security law that puts Pacific McGeorge at the forefront of academic programs and policies in this area.

“There’s no question that we’re at the head of law schools in terms of an organized commitment to national security law and to a program of research and education,” says Professor Clark Kelso, director of the Capital Center for Government Law and Policy.

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Parker says it’s likely that additional staff and resources will be needed for Forsythe’s office in the near future. She anticipates that most projects will be funded through outside sources, both private and nonprofit.

Dean Parker and Professor Kelso will jointly manage the National Security Project, a cross-disciplinary program bringing together practitioners, policy makers and researchers from government, industry and academia. Its kickoff event, modeled on the bioterrorism workshop, will be a two-day conference this fall hosted by McGeorge. Kelso says the project will develop “a clear set of deliverables” by the end of 2006 and most importantly, a comprehensive curriculum that addresses both theoretical and practical concerns.

The conference will feature five plenary sessions covering topics such as privacy and responses to global terrorism. Curriculum frameworks outlined at the plenary sessions will be critiqued and refined in a series of subsequent meetings. Pacific McGeorge will adopt the resulting syllabus as a model for its National Security Law course, which previously has been taught by Dean Parker, Professor John Cary Sims and Visiting Professor Richard Shiffrin. Following a wrap-up conference in 2006, the model curriculum will be published on the school’s Web site and disseminated to law schools and policy makers in the field.

A key participant in the project will be the California Office of Homeland Security, with which the Pacific McGeorge faculty has recently established close contacts, primarily on an informal basis. Parker was recently appointed to head the office’s advisory committee, which held its first meeting in June.

The goal of the 1540 Project is to create and sustain an advisory group—the Consortium on Law and Strategic Security—that will help the U.S. and other countries develop a legal framework for preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in accordance with U.N. Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004). Pacific McGeorge is partnering with the Monterey Institute of International Studies in managing the project on campus, but the larger overall 1540 effort is being run by Barry Kellman at DePaul, who is the recipient of a MacArthur grant. Kellman recently succeeded Dean Parker as chair of the ABA Standing Committee on Law and National Security.

Representatives of academic institutions, governments, international organizations and the U.N. attended a preliminary meeting in Geneva to discuss 1540 implementation, and a second meeting will be held in New York this fall. “Conferences are expensive,” Kellman says, “and how much progress we make depends on funding—funding underlies everything.” Politics so far aren’t a problem, Kellman says, pointing out that key terms in the U.N. resolution have yet to be defined in a meaningful and practicable way. “I’d love for there to be political disputes,” he says. “That would mean we’re getting somewhere. Right now it’s all about sharing of information—mom and apple pie stuff.”

Ideally, the project could result in things such as the development of model laws and regulations for preventing...
“Our domestic legal community—bench, bar and academia—and the legal system they interpret and protect have been poorly prepared for the perilous times in which we live. Within this community there has been only limited appreciation of the practical demands of national security, as well as a lack of understanding of the legal structures that histrionically have guided our nation’s security activities.”

—Elizabeth Rindskopf Parker in the Journal of National Security Policy & Law

the use and proliferation of WMDs, particularly biological agents. Nuclear and chemical weapons, Kellman says, already have highly developed international governing systems. More advanced countries could eventually assist developing countries in developing laws and regulations for WMDs in the same way they’ve done to help countries construct legal frameworks to qualify for membership in the World Trade Organization.

The most visible aspect of Pacific McGeorge’s national security law initiative is a new semiannual periodical titled the Journal of National Security Policy & Law, which is the only peer-reviewed journal of its kind in the country. Significantly, the journal will include contributions from both practitioners and academics from all sides of the political spectrum. Funded in part by the ABA Standing Committee on Law and National Security, the journal’s goal is to facilitate interaction among national security practitioners, lawyers and scholars. “Our domestic legal community—bench, bar and academia—and the legal system they interpret and protect,” writes Dean Parker in an introduction, “have been poorly prepared for the perilous times in which we live. Within this community there has been only limited appreciation of the practical demands of national security, as well as a lack of understanding of the legal structures that histrionically have guided our nation’s security activities.”

Professor John Cary Sims is one of the journal’s co-editors along with Professor Stephen Dycus of the Vermont Law School, and the first edition contains an article by Professor Leslie Gielow Jacobs. Sims, who will teach the National Security Law course this fall, says, “We have received a lot of praise, encouragement and support from the early readers. We are adding paid subscribers, both institutions and individuals, every day.”
Meanwhile, individual faculty members are increasingly integrating national security law and policy into their writing and research:

- Professors Linda Carter and Omar Dajani are investigating Rwanda’s “gacaca” (“judgment on the grass”), a community-based system of people’s courts which is currently trying tens of thousands of Rwandans accused of genocide. Their work in Africa this July will provide an example of indigenous legal response to the ultimate form of terrorism—genocide.
- Distinguished Professor and Scholar Michael P. Malloy, who is also Director of the Center for Global Business & Development, is studying the effects and effectiveness of anti-money laundering rules and international economic sanctions. Some of his results are being published in his...
Lawyers from Pacific McGeorge have become intimately acquainted with the practical as well as theoretical aspects of trying suspected terrorists. Their involvement in high-profile cases has heightened their sensitivity to real-world trade-offs between national security and individual civil liberties.

Wazhma Mojaddidi, ’02, is defending Lodi resident Hamid Hayat, who was arrested on two counts of lying to the federal government, allegedly eventually admitting that he was trained to kill Americans at a terrorist camp in Pakistan; and Johnny Griffin III, ’84, represents Umer Hayat, Hamad Hayat’s father, who also was charged with lying to the federal government.

“I learned more about national security law in six weeks handling this case,” says Griffin, “than I did over nine years as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of California. As a result of the Patriot Act, intelligence and law enforcement are now all one and the same. National security affects everything from family law to tax law. It should form a major portion of a law school education as well as the State Bar’s Mandatory Continuing Legal Education.”

“My experience has been frustrating,” says Mojaddidi, an Afghani-American whose husband is originally from Pakistan. “With every step I took in the case, I had to look and see what effect the Patriot Act might have on it.

“I didn't know whether my conversations with Johnny Griffin were protected or not; I didn't even know whether my conversations with my own client were protected. I took the safest route by assuming we were always being listened to.”

Mojaddidi, who was an assistant lecturer in the Pacific McGeorge Appellate Advocacy program last year, maintains that the law school should devote part of its constitutional law classes to address the Patriot Act’s effects on defendants’ rights.

Professor George Harris, who defended John Walker Lindh, the so-called “American Taliban,” while a partner in the San Francisco firm of Morrison & Forester, has a different take on the Patriot Act: “It’s a misconception to say that this law broke down the wall between intelligence gathering and criminal prosecution; there were always ways before to break through that supposed wall.” The biggest thing he learned from defending Lindh, Harris says, was “how to deal with the feeding frenzy in the media.” Harris’s experience with national security cases dates back to his role as associate counsel in Independent Counsel Lawrence Walsh’s prosecution of former Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger in the Iran-Contra affair. Pacific McGeorge is particularly well-suited to teach national security law, Harris believes, but that there’s no need to teach it in every class.

“All of these are ideas the faculty will need to consider,” says Dean Parker. “It’s clear we have a responsibility to educate our students in this area.”
Giving meaning to the law

After graduating in May, Anthony Williams faced a dilemma familiar to many law students: Should he become a public interest lawyer or use his new law degree in a more lucrative way?

Williams’ dilemma had some notable twists, however. The 37-year-old is the California State Bar’s director of governmental affairs, the bar’s chief lobbyist. Until last year, he worked as a top advisor to former state Senate President Pro Tem John Burton. Williams attended classes in the evening division at McGeorge while working for Burton and the bar.

With Williams as his point man, Burton, a powerful San Francisco Democrat, introduced some of the most important criminal-justice measures of recent years. They included controversial laws meant to free wrongfully convicted inmates through DNA testing and to help release battered women who killed their abusers.

Though not about to give up his day job just yet, Williams says he struggles with the question of whether to continue working solely in politics or to be a practicing attorney and handle cases under the laws he helped create. Both the battered women’s law and DNA measure lack attorneys to work the cases, he notes.

“How that I’ve worked to enact these laws, I’m interested in getting my hands dirty to work on individual cases,” says Williams. “It really does mean something to work on legislation, but the legislation only does so much. You get it enacted, and so what if there aren’t lawyers to handle the cases? What good does it do to have the legislation on the books?”

Williams is on the board of the Northern California Innocence Project, a program at the Santa Clara University School of Law that aims to free wrongfully convicted inmates. He also helps raise funds for the California Habeas Project, which aids battered women in prison.

In addition, Williams is working with the Bakersfield City School District to lower the high rates at which black male teens are suspended from school. Though misbehavior must be dealt with, suspensions merely give teens more time for gang activities, Williams argues.

Williams comes to these efforts knowing firsthand the effects of poverty. His family experienced hard times as he grew up in Bakersfield, and his younger brother was shot to death on a city street in a possible gang slaying, he says.

“The people I’d like to help are the people I grew up around,” Williams says. “I saw the devastation of drugs and alcohol and poverty. That’s what got my brother killed.”

Williams says that as a young teen he, too, was unfocused and getting into trouble. But a University of California, Davis, program for at-risk youth introduced him to higher education. It changed his life.

Wanting badly to attend college, he became a diligent student and rarely missed school, even though at times his family led an unstable existence. He recalls he and his mother moved six or seven times

Ready to tackle REAL-WORLD PROBLEMS

Five new graduates follow their hearts to pursue promising careers By Hudson Sangree; Photography Bill Mahon

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A political science class in college that examined the judicial process cemented her interest in studying law, she says. She earned her bachelor's degree in political science and communications from UC Davis in 2002.

Gavin says she chose to attend Pacific McGeorge because she wanted to stay in the Sacramento region, and because she liked the campus and the professors she met at a visiting day for prospective students. “The school offered an ideal package of a place to study and a place to live,” she says. Gavin hopes herself to teach law someday. “My passion has always been to teach,” she says. “I would like to be a law instructor, whether in law school or possibly at the undergraduate level. I may go back and get my LLM. But that’s looking down the road quite a ways.”

Driven to excel

Meghan Gavin is, by any measure, an exceptional student. In May she was named valedictorian of her graduating class at Pacific McGeorge. As an undergraduate, she earned election to the Phi Beta Kappa Society at the University of California, Davis, and she has won a host of other academic honors in college and law school.

In September, she’ll begin a prestigious federal clerkship with U.S. District Judge Garland Burrell, Jr., in Sacramento. She has a post-clerkship job lined up with Downey Brand, Sacramento’s largest law firm. All this, and she’s only 25 years old.

What’s the drive behind such youthful success? “It’s a lot of hard work but also having passion and enjoying what you’re doing,” says Gavin. “That’s what drives me to excel.”

Gavin, who grew up in Benicia, says she was always drawn to being a lawyer. “People who knew me since I was little thought I was headed in that direction,” she says.

A middle-school teacher would have Gavin and her classmates reenact scenes from books as a way to bring alive the novels they were reading. Some of those scenes took place in courtrooms. “I always volunteered to be an attorney because I enjoyed it so much,” Gavin recalls.

Success runs in her family

Kathleen Cordova Lyon’s father, Fred Cordova, attended West Point and built his own highly successful contracting firm. Her oldest sister, France Cordova, is an astrophysicist and former chief NASA scientist who now serves as the chancellor of the University of California, Riverside. Her mother, Joan Cordova, raised twelve children and still found time to start her own company.

So it comes as no surprise when Katy Cordova Lyon attributes her academic success to her family. “My parents valued education and never let us quit,” she says. >
Lyon, who graduated from Pacific McGeorge in December 2004, was the valedictorian of her Evening Division class. She passed the February bar and now works as an associate at Murphy Austin Adams Schoenfeld, a Sacramento-based firm that specializes in real estate, construction, health care and employment cases.

At Murphy Austin, Lyon is working in the construction and real estate practice areas, putting her contracting background to use. “Construction litigation uses a lot of technical knowledge, so I’m able to understand the technical aspects,” she says.

The 43-year-old mother of two lives in Granite Bay with her husband and young children.

Prior to going to law school, Lyon had already enjoyed a varied and successful academic and professional career. She earned her bachelor’s degree in engineering from California State University, Chico, in 1988 and a master’s degree in business administration from Santa Clara University in 1997.

She worked for a time as an electrical engineer in telecommunications design and as a businessperson doing international startups for an Internet service provider.

Lyon also worked at her family’s business, Carrara Marble Company of America, one of the nation’s top stonework companies. Lyon opened the company’s San Francisco office and oversaw the marble restoration of San Francisco City Hall and the federal building that houses the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in the wake of the Loma Prieta earthquake in 1989.

But she had always felt the law calling, and in 2001 she started law school at Pacific McGeorge.

“I always wanted to go to law school,” she says. “I loved the profession. It’s a constant learning and energy challenge.”

Ready for trial

Daniel Del Rio is ready to make his mark on the world as a trial lawyer. “I’m someone who likes to talk to people, who likes to engage,” he says. “The thought of sitting in rooms writing contracts is abhorrent to me.

“I want to be where the action is,” he says. “I like challenges. In the courtroom, someone is always trying to throw something at you that they think you can’t handle.”

A member of the class of May 2005, Del Rio excelled on both the law school’s mock-trial and moot-court teams.

He was planning to become a deputy district attorney, but the first offer to come through was from Dreyer, Babich, Buccola & Callaham, one of Northern California’s premier plaintiffs’ personal-injury firms and one that features many fellow alums. He jumped at the opportunity.

“They said they’d get me into trial as soon as they could,” says Del Rio.

The 26-year-old graduated near the top of his law school class in May. He’d come to the Day program here after graduating in 2002 from California State University, San Jose, with a bachelor’s degree in business administration.

For a time after college he worked for a medical management company. The CEO of the company, William Tobin, 77, encouraged Del Rio to apply to his legal alma mater.

During law school, Del Rio took part in the Judicial Internship Clinic. He spent most of his time helping Sacramento Superior Court Judge Loren McMaster with the law-and-motion calendar. He also did an externship with Justice George Nicholson of California’s 3rd District Court of Appeal in Sacramento.

Del Rio didn’t come from a family of lawyers. His father is a doctor and his mother is a nurse practitioner.

“I was kind of a traitor there,” says Del Rio with a laugh. “There was always concern, especially when I went into personal injury law. My parents wanted to know if I was going to be a medical malpractice lawyer. I had to tell them I wasn’t, or I wouldn’t have been invited to Thanksgiving.”
Patents are his passion

Nick Zovko studied engineering as an undergraduate, earning his bachelor’s degree from the University of Washington in 2001. Yet Zovko says he realized early on he didn’t want to be an engineer. Instead he decided to put his engineering skills to use as a lawyer.

“Engineering seemed a little too narrow for me,” says Zovko, age 26. “I liked the theory of it, but I knew it would get very specialized and narrow if I went to graduate school.”

Zovko’s father is a patent lawyer with a solo practice in Federal Way, Washington, a Seattle suburb. His older sister also went to law school at Boston University and works as an airline attorney in Miami.

This exposure to legal practice and an intellectual curiosity about law led Zovko to Pacific McGeorge, where he was one of a select group of Anthony M. Kennedy Fellows given full scholarships based on their academic achievements as undergraduates.

Now Zovko, a May 2005 graduate, is planning to put his training in both engineering and law to use as a new hire at Knobbe Martens Olson & Bear, one of the nation’s largest law firms specializing in intellectual property law. Headquartered in Orange County, the firm has 160 lawyers in offices throughout California. Zovko will be working from the firm’s Riverside office.

Professor Michael Vitello, for whom Zovko worked as a research assistant, introduced the law student to one of his former students, Michael Guiliana, ’97, who is now a partner at Knobbe Martens.

Zovko says he would like to focus on patent work, going to bat for inventors trying to obtain patent protection from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

During his second summer in law school, Zovko worked at Knobbe Martens and accompanied another of the firm’s partners—Michael Trenholm, ’92, to the government patent office in Washington, DC, to a hearing with patent examiners.

On that occasion, Trenholm and Zovko discussed 12 different patent applications for inventions ranging from semiconductor technology to a new kind of horse saddle that uses air pockets to make the horse more comfortable. The patent office had initially denied patent applications for all the inventions, but the lawyers are hoping to change things through an in-person hearing.

“You’re trying to get a patent, but they’re not giving you one,” Zovko says. “You talk about what the problem is and try to convince them to change their minds.”

Hudson Sangree is a freelance writer based in Davis and a graduate of the Northeastern University School of Law.
Three Lawyers Honored by Their Peers for Pro Bono Work

By Hudson Sangree

When Carl Poirot, ’84 took over the San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program in 1985, it was a struggling organization with only 100 volunteers. When Poirot retired in June, after nearly 20 years as executive director, the program had 3,500 volunteers and was regarded as one of the best pro bono projects in the nation.

Poirot says the key to his success was winning the support of the city’s law firms.

“I went around to all the private firms in town, and I asked them not only to participate but to establish pro bono policies and give associates credit for pro bono work,” he says. “I was astounded by the almost 100 percent reaction once the firms got behind their associates doing pro bono.”

Under Poirot’s leadership, the group has helped thousands of low-income San Diegans in civil cases. Many clients are victims of domestic violence, abused children, or infected with HIV. The program also aided victims of the 2003 San Diego wildfires, providing free legal assistance regardless of income.

Poirot has been repeatedly honored for his work. The San Diego County Bar Association named him Outstanding Attorney of the Year for 2005, after giving him a similar award in 1993. In August, the American Bar Association Section of Dispute Resolution handed Poirot its Lawyer as Problem Solver Award. And in September, California Supreme Court Chief Justice Ronald George will make him the 2005 recipient of the State Bar Loren Miller Award at the bar association’s annual meeting in San Diego.

Now age 66, Poirot said he decided to retire after successfully battling kidney cancer. Doctors removed one of his kidneys, apparently stopping the disease, but urged Poirot to take it easy. Poirot says he now plans to get involved in political campaigns, having refrained from political activity for the past two decades for the sake of his main cause, pro bono.

“Most of our board members are fairly conservative Republicans,” he says. “Pro bono is not a political ideology. It’s viewed as a professional responsibility and giving back to the community.”
A prime example is Sacramento attorney Jim Ward, ’85. Ward, 52, has spent his career in several firms defending insurance companies and government entities from lawsuits. But he says one of his proudest accomplishments was helping a family of Guatemalan refugees win asylum in the United States.

His client, Daniel Valenzuela, was a factory worker and labor leader in Guatemala who was persecuted by the government for his pro-union activities. At one point, Valenzuela’s son was kidnapped after school by military police. Valenzuela fled illegally to the U.S. and eventually brought his wife and children with him.

Ward spent a dozen years helping the Valenzuela family gain legal asylum and obtain work permits. Valenzuela and his wife Marina now own a home and a dry cleaning business in North Highlands.

“The day they got their green cards, I still have that message on my answering machine,” says Ward.

The Voluntary Legal Services Program of Northern California honored Ward in 2004 for the years he spent aiding the family. It was the second year in a row that a Pacific McGeorge alum walked off with that organization’s top pro bono honor. Ophelia “Fifi” Zeff, ’75, won the award in 2003.

“Pro bono work has never been encouraged at any firm I’ve been in,” Ward says. “In the insurance defense business, there’s a lot of pressure on you to keep up your billable hours, but I just wanted to give something back.

“I hope that if I ever had to flee my country and live in another country where I had to learn the language and exist, someone would help me,” he says.

At the other end of the lawyering spectrum is Jim Danaher, ’85, a Santa Cruz family lawyer who describes himself as a bit of an oddball, even in the progressive climate of Santa Cruz.

A strong proponent of alternative transportation, the 50-year-old Danaher rides a bike to work and drives a car powered by used french-fry oil. As the chairman of his local Sierra Club chapter, he led efforts to convert an old rail line to a bike trail. He also helped defeat a measure to increase sales taxes to widen Highway 1.

Danaher also believes in providing free legal services to those who can’t pay—something he says he does regularly in his solo practice.

For his alternative transportation efforts and his unpaid work as a family lawyer, the Santa Cruz County Bar Association gave Danaher its annual pro bono award last year.

“I joked if they gave a pro bono award based on the highest amount of uncollectible bills, I would win,” he says. “I guess this proves you should be careful what you ask for because sometimes the universe gives it to you.”
Entire segments of society can’t afford legal services. Many nonprofit or government-based agencies can’t compete with the wages corporate firms offer. Rising tuition and loan-repayment costs make working with a nonprofit or with low-income clients difficult for new graduates.

“We preach about serving the poor and serving public interest and, on the other hand, we’re involved in a system that precludes people being able to work in that capacity,” says Professor Larry Levine.

In response, students and faculty at the University of the Pacific McGeorge School of Law are building programs to meet these challenges. Through two grant programs, the school funds summer internships for students who wish to work within public interest law and offers a loan repayment assistance program for alumni dedicating to doing so.

Under the aegis of the student-run Public Legal Services Society and with some federal work-study funding, the summer internship program provides students an opportunity to work with agencies that often lack resources for legal services. “The internship allows students to practice law in a setting where what they do is so helpful,” says Professor Julie Davies.

This summer, 23 grants were awarded to students for 10 to 13 weeks, paying $10 to $12 an hour, with a maximum of 32 hours a week, according to Libby Jacobson, president of PLSS.

Students worked in a variety of offices, including Amnesty International, the Pacific Justice Institute, California Rural Legal Assistance, Sacramento County Child Advocates, the U.S. Department of Justice, the San Francisco Human Rights Commission, and others. “The neat thing about the grants is that you can work anywhere,” said Jacobson, herself a 2005 recipient. She spent her summer working with Sacramento County Child Advocates.

An annual auction, which raised $40,000 this year, provides the school’s portion of funds. But those proceeds also fund a second program that seeks to ease the loan burden of alumni who work with so-called “low-bono” agencies and clients. The program supports alumni with a portion of their loans, says Davies, as long as the work they are doing meets established criteria. Depending on the length of time they are in public interest practice, the loan may be forgiven. In 2005, six alums received annual awards of $2,333 each to assist...
with loan repayments, according to Cindy Bogue, director of financial aid. The LRAP program has awarded $118,000 since 1995, according to Bogue.

"[For] the graduating class of 2003, the average indebtedness was right around $84,000, for day and evening students," she said. "For the day students, it would probably be at least $100,000 to $150,000."

For some students, the combination of the two programs encourages them to focus on public interest law.

Audrey Whitehurst, '00, says she learned of the loan repayment assistance program while a student working in Community Legal Services. She also aided fund-raising efforts. "I knew the loan repayment system was available, so I took advantage of that," Whitehurst says. "I have a lot of loans!"

Based in Hawaii, Whitehurst spent three years working with the Domestic Violence Clearinghouse and now works with the state's Attorney General in the family law division.

Whitehurst reports she has received $12,000 over the last four years in loan repayment assistance. "This program enabled me to work with the population I want," she said.

"Despite the fact that there are so many attorneys, it's virtually impossible for low-income and middle-income people to have access to legal services," Davies said. "We have a whole group of attorneys catering to the wealthy portion of society."

Efforts to raise funds attempt to keep pace with tuition hikes and interest rates. Although the fund-raising auction hit a landmark $40,000, goals for next year are set even higher, according to Jacobson, with the proceeds earmarked 50-50 between the two programs. "We want to encourage students to do this kind of work," she says. "That's how these two programs converged."

Fundraiser chair Dawn Houston, '05, praised alums like Mike Belote, '87, who garnered donations from Aioli's restaurant and marketed the auction to businesses. These efforts helped boost the event to a higher level, making it less like a student party and more like a charitable event.

Reaching out to businesses needs to become a trend, says Davies. "We can't raise enough money from the auction alone. We need greater support in terms of donations and participation," she says. "Tuition has risen so dramatically. We need to be able to do more."

Public Interest Consortium Links Law School Grads

Building a network with other law schools is yet another way McGeorge School of Law supports its alumni.

A consortium linking six law schools in Northern California unites graduates committed to working in public interest law, offering them not only access to each others' alumni resources, but to each other. Called the Northern California Collaborative, it is part of a national nonprofit consortium launched through East Coast law schools in 1997.

"The main benefit is that this group of attorneys becomes a community. They can avail their grades of resources from other law schools," says Professor Julie Davies, McGeorge's liaison to the consortium. "For example, one alum needed a Chinese-speaking [expert] and someone who could speak about Chinese culture. The network can help with that."

Attorneys working in small or solo practices serving lower- and middle-income clients often don't have access to the same resources as big firms, such as in-house education classes, rates on legal software or malpractice insurance. "They don't have any marketing clout—there are no economies of scale," Davies says.

Presently, six law schools are members: Pacific McGeorge, Stanford, Santa Clara, University of San Francisco, Golden Gate and the University of California, Berkeley's Boalt Hall.

Anand Subramanian, consortium field director, says without support for attorneys working in public interest law, the consortium's social justice mission falters. "The idea is to make services available to all people," he says.

With more than 100 members nationally, the goal is to encourage law students to pursue this field and let them know these resources exist after graduation day. To be successful, Subramanian says, law schools have to become members. "At every law school there are always students who want to do public interest law, but don't see it as a viable option," Subramanian says. "The model is such that we want all attorneys doing this type of work in the consortium, regardless of where they went to law school."

For more information, see www.lawschoolconsortium.net.
October Gala to Honor Rohwer’s 44 Years

Pacific McGeorge will celebrate Professor Emeritus Claude Rohwer’s 44 years of service to the school on Saturday, October 15 with a gala event at Sacramento’s Memorial Auditorium. The evening’s festivities will feature an appearance by Supreme Court Justice Anthony M. Kennedy.

Rohwer officially retired from Pacific McGeorge earlier this year after teaching Contracts and other courses for 41 years, then serving as Associate Dean for International Affairs the past three years. As a commercial law attorney with Downey Brand Seymour & Rohwer, he taught part-time in the law school’s Evening program from 1961 to 1967. In the fall of 1967, he became one of the four original members of the full-time faculty when the law school opened its Day Division following merger with the University of the Pacific.

A highly regarded and much loved teacher, he counts thousands of alumni as friends and is a popular figure at Alumni Association gatherings throughout California and Nevada. Rohwer was named the University Professor of the Year in 1981.

School Jumps Into Magazine’s Top 100

Pacific McGeorge was named a Top 100 school in the U.S. News and World Report rankings that annually rate the country’s ABA-accredited law schools. The magazine’s April 11 edition placed Pacific McGeorge in a tie for the 90th position, a significant gain from prior years when the school was relegated to the third tier.

The magazine rankings are an annual source of alternating pride and irritation to American professional schools. Rankings are based upon a variety of objective factors including the GPA and LSAT scores of entering students, as well as subjective factors such as a “quality assessment” provided by secret balloting among selected lawyers, judges and law school faculty. Not surprisingly, reputation schools such as Yale, Harvard, Stanford, Columbia and NYU are always at the top of the listings.

“Our jump in the rankings helps recruiting efforts since every student who applies to law school, for better or worse, looks at the U.S. News rankings,” says Adam Barrett, Assistant Dean of Admissions.

Library Renovation Begins in Earnest

The first phase in what is expected to be a complete renovation and expansion of the Gordon D. Schaber Law Library was completed over the summer.

The two-floor stacks area of the library was completely gutted and remodeled. In addition to new furniture and shelving, the renovated area now includes a small classroom on the first floor and a reading room on the second floor.

The library’s net square footage will expand from 30,000 to approximately 44,000 square feet over the next few years.

Ruthe Ashley, ’88, Assistant Dean for Career and Professional Development, received the Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Award for Public Service in May at a State Capitol ceremony. Ashley was honored for being the first Filipina elected to the State Bar of California Board of Governors as well as past leadership roles in community organizations. Among the other honorees was actor Lou Diamond Phillips.
Knudson, Adams Awards Find Grateful Recipients

by Jan Ferris Heenan

Jamie Allen 2D, recipient of this year’s William R. Knudson Memorial Scholarship, says she’s delighted that tuition for her third and final year at Pacific McGeorge will be covered for her.

More than that, however, Allen says she is moved to honor the memory of the man for whom the scholarship fund was created: Bill Knudson, ’71, who died in an Alaska Airlines plane crash in January 2000.

Knudson was widely known in the Sacramento region for his giving heart and his commitment to causes such as AIDS and civil rights for gays and lesbians. In fact, the scholarship that bears his name was created by his own vast circle of friends and his mother, Betty Knudson of Sacramento, who donated the funds two years ago to make it a full-tuition award.

“It’s a wonderful legacy to leave. It’s quite an honor,” says Allen, who learned she won the scholarship in late July, just two days after becoming engaged. “It’s really about being involved in your community and helping people lead better lives. In law, that’s particularly applicable.”

Allen majored in international relations at California State University, Chico. She spent five years in commercial real estate before making the decision to go to law school. The first year was an academic challenge, she says. The second year, Allen made the Dean’s List.

Law school has posed a challenge financially for Allen, who is footing the bills herself. She is preparing for a career in general civil practice. And, she says, she is laboring in the memory not only of Knudson but of a close uncle who died in 2002. “I feel I have things to do for people who can’t do them anymore,” Allen says.

Betty Knudson is one of the panelists who interviews candidates each spring for the scholarship in her son’s honor. Bill was one of three children, and a wonderful scholar, she says, noting that his grandfather chaired the botany department at Cornell University.

“It’s very nice to meet these young people and hear their aspirations. Bill would be so pleased, I’m sure,” says Betty.

Like Allen, Pacific McGeorge students Nick Mahr 3e and Breann Handley 2D also are enjoying full-tuition scholarships this year. Both are recipients of multiple awards, including the James and Dorothy Adams Memorial Scholarship, named for Judge Jim Adams, a 25-year professor at Pacific McGeorge, and his wife, Dorothy, a 23-year member of the administrative staff.

The Adams Memorial Scholarship is open to students who are in their second year or higher at Pacific McGeorge and rank in the top 20 percent of their class.

Thanks to the awards, Mahr says he can pare the hours in his off-campus part-time job and focus, instead, on his classes and the law review. The first in his family to receive an undergraduate degree—from the University of California, Davis—Mahr aspires to go into international law.

“I eventually want to help people around the world have the same rights and freedoms [we do],” he says.

Handley, an English major at Chapman University in Orange, has wanted to become a lawyer since seventh grade. Through high school, she says, she took legal courses at the local community college, participated in mock trial competitions and worked for an attorney.

She carries a full load, both on-campus and off, working for the Law Review, “externing” for Justice Ronald Robie, ’67, at the Third District Appellate Court and working as a research assistant for Professor Brian Landsberg. Next spring, Handley will intern with the United States Attorney’s Office.

Handley calls the scholarships she has received “unbelievably helpful.” They will be beneficial in the long-term, as well, she says.

“The scholarships reduce my anxiety about [loan] repayment and allow me to consider fulfilling careers that might not pay as much as private practice.”
Dean Elizabeth Rindskopf Parker has named Professor Christine Manolakas as the new Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Tim Naccarato, ’77, as the Assistant Dean for Academic Programs.

“June 30th marked an important day for our law school. It marked the conclusion of a remarkable five year “run” by Professor John Sprankling, first as Associate Dean, then as Acting Dean and finally again as second-in-command,” Dean Parker says. “Probably more than anyone among us, I know what a remarkable impact on our school John’s dedication and service has had. Each of us, and particularly me, owes him many thanks for all that he has done to move Pacific McGeorge forward.

“As Professor Sprankling returns full-time to the faculty, my spirits have been buoyed, however, by the enthusiasm of Professor Manolakas who has energetically taken the helm. As you know, Christine has taught at Pacific McGeorge for close to 30 years and has demonstrated strong leadership in the expansion of our international programs.”

Dean Manolakas began her tenure at Pacific McGeorge in 1977 teaching tax law courses in both the J.D. and LL.M. programs. She has developed academic specialties and produced substantial scholarship in the areas of international tax law, the interpretation of tax treaties, and the comparison of the tax laws of the NAFTA countries. She has also published numerous articles examining the taxation of individuals and business entities, and community property law.

“These are exciting times at Pacific McGeorge,” says Dean Manolakas. “Perhaps more than any time in its history, the law school is taking a leadership role in areas of global business and development, government law and policy, advocacy and dispute resolution, and national security. Pacific McGeorge is now recognized worldwide.”

Prior to taking over as Assistant Dean for Academic Programs, Naccarato served as Director of Academic Support for three years. In that capacity, he managed the Skills Hour program for first-year students, and taught Principles of Agency. A retired Army JAG Corps colonel, Naccarato practiced as a civil litigator with two Sacramento law firms before joining the Pacific McGeorge faculty.

“We designed the new Assistant Dean’s position to manage the growing need for increasing student services, such as on-line registration,” explained Dean Parker. “Tim is eminently qualified to lead the school in delivering a variety of student-focused innovations.”

Five New Faces On Full-time Faculty

Trial Advocacy lecturer Cary Bricker and Visiting Associate Professor of Law Elizabeth Weeks heads a contingent of five new faculty members.

Bricker comes from Temple University Law School where she served as Associate Professor and Director of Trial Advocacy Programs. She will teach with Professors Jay Leach and Joe Taylor in Pacific McGeorge’s much-acclaimed Trial Ad
program. “Cary brings a wealth of experience as the director of Temple’s program—repeatedly ranked as the nation’s No. 1 Trial Ad program,” says Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Christine Manolakas.

Professor Weeks joins the faculty this fall as a visiting professor from the University of Kansas School of Law. She practiced health law with Vinson & Elkins LLP, in Houston, Texas, before entering legal education as a visiting professor at her legal alma mater, the University of Georgia School of Law, in 2003. Her legal research interests include health care financing and regulation, public health, and bioterrorism. She will teach Torts and Health Law.

Joe Dhillon is the new Director of Academic Support, replacing Tim Naccarato who stepped up the Assistant Dean. An Air Force Academy and Harvard Law School graduate with an LL.M. in Intellectual Property Law from the University of Houston, he is a former Air Force JAG officer. Dhillon will teach Principles of Agency in the spring.

Marty Opich, ’80, has accepted the position of Director of the Business and Community Development Clinic. The Sacramento attorney former Pacific McGeorge Alumni Association Board member replaces Robert Hunt, ’90, LL.M. ’91, who ran that successful clinic program for four years.

Veteran adjunct professor Steve Kaiser, ’82, will be co-teaching the second-year International Advocacy with Eric McElwain. A state Deputy Attorney General, Kaiser has taught International Organizations and International Arbitration in past years.

Dean Parker Moderates Key Ninth Circuit Panel
Dean Elizabeth Rindskopf Parker moderated a panel discussion on national security issues on July 20 in Spokane, Washington, at the Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference, a prestigious annual confab that brings together judges and lawyers who practice in the federal courts of the western United States.

The theme of the conference was “Perils and Possibilities: The Courts in an Uncertain World.” Dean Parker’s panel, which included a former deputy secretary of defense, an assistant general counsel at the CIA, and Pulitzer Prize-winning New York Times columnist Anthony Lewis, examined “The Future of National Security.”

In the audience were retiring Associate Justice of the Supreme Court Sandra Day O’Connor and two alumna who sit on the Ninth Circuit, Johnnie Rawlinson, ’79, and Connie Callahan, ’75. Judge Rawlinson took the stage the next day for a four-person informal conversation with Justice O’Connor, who regularly attends the conference as the designated U.S. Supreme Court justice for Ninth Circuit matters.

Dean Parker also was a member of the planning committee and spoke at a conference sponsored by the Los Angeles Terrorism Early Warning Group on June 1 in Los Angeles.

Professors Travel Abroad to Lecture
Professor John Sims, who lectured in a St. Petersburg, Russia program co-sponsored by Pacific McGeorge, was among several professors who taught abroad this summer.

Professors Fred Galves and Michael Malloy joined Associate Justice Anthony M. Kennedy at the annual Salzburg July program attended by more than 100 students, including 30 from six foreign countries.

Professor Brian Landsberg, along with visiting professors Frank Wang and Laura Young, taught in the second annual China program at the Soochow University’s Kenneth Wang School of Law in Suzhou.
Professor Ruth Jones

Jones Makes Her Voice Heard in Many Ways

The Pacific McGeorge Profile

By Jan Ferris Heenan

Professor of Law
A.B., Smith College;
J.D., University of California,
Los Angeles

Courses Taught
Criminal Law; Criminal
Procedure; Gender and the Law;
Problems in Criminal Justice

Public Sector
District Attorney’s Office, New
York City; NOW Legal Defense
and Educational Fund; Fordham
University School of Law

Recent Scholarship
"Extrajudicial Resolution of
Sexual Abuse Cases: Can the
Church Be a Resource for
Survivors?" 38 Suffolk L. Rev.
351 (2005)

Recent Media Credits
Court TV; CBS News; People;
Reuters; Los Angeles Times
nder equality and criminal justice are central motivating issues in the career of Pacific McGeorge Professor Ruth Jones— as prosecutor, public service attorney, teacher, media commentator and published scholar.

A defining incident on the 5th Grade playground in her hometown of Queens, New York continues to resonate powerfully—decades later. At the time, the unwritten playground code called for girls to jump rope and boys to play a street game known as punch ball. When Jones asked whether she and her friends could play with the boys, the girls were turned away because of their gender.

Undeterred, Jones and her friends waited until recess. They rushed out of the public school as soon as the bell rang to secure the field for their own game of punch ball, only to be told unconvincingly by a school administrator that the play area in question had been deeded to the campus for boys’ use only.

“It was bald-faced lying … I knew it was unfair,” she recalls.

By the time Jones became a teenager, she knew she was headed for a career where she could help redress such inequalities. She served as president of the student government in high school and at Smith College, majoring in government and philosophy. She went on to law school at UCLA, attracted by its fine clinics.

Jones returned home and took a job as an assistant district attorney for New York County. Jones spent five years with the Manhattan office, prosecuting felony cases and specializing in the then-nascent legal field of domestic violence and sex abuse.

In 1990, Jones joined the NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund as a staff attorney. She worked to thwart Detroit officials in their attempt to set up single-sex public schools. She also worked with women’s health centers on patient-protection issues at a time of contentious anti-abortion protests near the clinic property.

“You decide either to work one case at a time or try a more systematic approach,” says Jones, explaining why she left the district attorney’s office for the national organization.

Jones oversaw an internship program at NOW, which ultimately whet her appetite for teaching. “I loved supervising their work, giving them feedback, thinking about the law in a broader context,” she explains.

Her first post was at Fordham Law School, where Jones, as an adjunct professor, helped establish the school’s domestic violence clinic. She came to Pacific McGeorge in 1996 and now teaches Criminal Law and several other courses.

Jones has learned much about teaching since coming to Pacific McGeorge. It is fundamental, she says, to understand the respective roles of teacher and student.

“If you observe a law class, it might seem that it’s about the teacher. Teachers are at the front of the room and doing most of the talking, but it’s really about the students. Inside and outside the classroom, it’s about helping them learn and gain the confidence to become successful professionals,” Jones explains. “The best part of teaching is watching students become more aware of their own understanding. A good experience is where students increase their belief in themselves.”

Jones relishes the time she spends on research. Among the topics she has recently explored are whether the Roman Catholic Church can play the dual role of supporting victims of child sexual abuse and, in her words, “going after priests,” and whether sexual abuse of female inmates should lead to single-sex staffing in the California prison system.

“I find it very intriguing because there is a tension between the sexual abuse of inmates and the employment rights of women [in the prison system],” Jones says. “That’s a consistent theme in my scholarship: Rights are often in conflict, and somehow the law must find a balance between one set of rights and another.”

Jones feels that one of the luxuries of being an academic is to be able to take positions that are not always the most popular. “At the time, you may be a voice in the wilderness,” she says. “But there will come a time when people will actually hear you.”

One of Jones’ priorities at Pacific McGeorge is to help her fellow faculty members make sure their own voices are heard. As the Faculty Development Committee chair, Jones organizes work-in-progress sessions and other activities to support faculty scholarship.

Jones’ voice is frequently heard in another, more visible milieu—the media. A former consultant for CBS and Court TV, she is called on by local and national media to weigh in on the legal issues du jour. She was often sought out for interviews during the Scott Peterson trial. Her legal commentary on the Michael Jackson trial ran in People magazine in February—the same day the Los Angeles Times quoted Jones on the Robert Blake case.

Jones takes her media work seriously, and sees it as an extension of teaching and scholarship. “You’re really educating reporters about fundamental concepts and, by extension, you’re educating society.”

This is the fourth in a series of Pacific Law articles on members of the Pacific McGeorge law faculty who pursue excellence inside and outside the classroom.
Dear Fellow Alum & Friend of Pacific McGeorge:

This is my last message as current president of the Pacific McGeorge Alumni Board of Directors. It has been such a pleasure and a privilege to serve and to participate in the resurgence of Pacific McGeorge. This year’s entering class is again a stellar one, and once more I ask myself, “I wonder if I could get in now? …” As an alum, it is wonderful to see the next generation show so much promise, and to know that their success adds value to our degree. Of course, the law school, under the spirited guidance of Dean Parker, is moving ahead and adding value on several fronts. The faculty just hosted a landmark event with top academics from law schools across the nation regarding how best to internationalize the legal curriculum. By all accounts, the event was a huge triumph and the faculty—from Pacific McGeorge and other top law schools around the nation—have suggested that the value of this event was so high that it must be reprised next year. Leadership such as this makes it no surprise that Pacific McGeorge is moving up in the national rankings.

Your alumni board of directors is also pushing ahead ambitiously. We recently concluded our annual retreat, and I am pleased to report that this strong, confident and positive group of alums is committed to representing your interests effectively, and to seeing our law school continue its impressive successes over the past few years. Connecting alumni with their fellow alums is an increasingly important priority—for networking, assisting young alums to find employment, helping students find meaningful internships, and for engaging alums with one another and connecting them with the energy and excitement now so evident at the law school. With that in mind, the alumni board is working on empowering current alumni chapters, and building new ones around the country. While we can’t be everywhere at once, we nonetheless are building better resources, access and opportunities for alums no matter where they find themselves.

With the intention of continuing to build meaningful programs for alumni, the board made two decisions to begin charging for things that were previously free for alumni: next year, MCLE events will have a $35 fee (still a huge bargain for 6 units—and the fee will be waived for Dean’s Council members), and membership in the Alumni Association will be $45/year. All funds over costs for the MCLE will go to the Alumni Endowed Scholarship, and the funds raised from Alumni Association membership will be invested entirely in Alumni programs.

As part of my ’presidential duties,’ I have attended several chapter events around the country, joining Dean Parker and others from the law school—and I have been so impressed by the positive energy from our alums, and particularly by their willingness to offer assistance to students and alums. So, if you are interested in getting reconnected with the law school and with your fellow alums, the opportunities are there for you. I hope you will take them, and hope you find that they benefit you as much as they have me and others.

The law school is again planning a fall gala, this year celebrating Professor Claude Rohwer’s 44-year career and influential role at the law school and in the careers of thousands of alums. Because last year’s event was such a stellar success, this year’s event has been moved from campus to the Memorial Auditorium. We’re still hoping to sell the place out—but we hope to avoid turning anyone away.

Let me conclude with my thanks to my fellow board members for their friendship and guidance, to Dean Parker and the law school’s faculty and staff for their support and encouragement, and to you and every alum and friend of Pacific McGeorge. We share a great law school and I’m proud to call myself an alumnus. As always, please feel free to contact me if you should any comments, concerns, or suggestions regarding our events or chapters at bputler@pacific.edu.

With warmest regards,

Brian Putler ’85
ALL IN!
Southern California Chapter Crowns Its First Poker King

by Michael Curran

The game of poker’s resurgent popularity received another boost when alumni gathered at the Southern California Alumni Chapter’s Inaugural Poker Championship on July 7 at The Bicycle Casino in Bell Gardens.

Twenty-nine alums paid $25 apiece for an entry fee for a poker championship that raised $725 for the Alumni Scholarship Fund and finished with every body asking, “When can do this again?” The evening’s fare, at $75 per person, included a full dinner in addition to the buy-in.


William Harn, ’93, and vice president of the Pacific McGeorge Alumni Board of Directors, arranged the event with a big assist from his wife, Joy Fernbach Harn, ’92, the vice president and general counsel of The Bicycle Casino which hosted the event.

“We’ll definitely make this an annual event,” says William Harn, a Southern California Edison senior attorney. “Interest in poker has really exploded with all kinds of TV coverage. Our alums really enjoyed themselves and it was nice to put all the money in the pot into our scholarship fund.”

In other alumni chapter news, the San Diego group held its second annual charity golf tournament to benefit the San Diego Volunteer Lawyers Association in July at Coronado Municipal Golf Course.

Please check the calendar on the front inside cover of the magazine for upcoming events.
Francis B. Dillon '50
Sole Practitioner. Admitted to practice before Supreme Court of U.S. on June 20, 2005—appearance before entire Court, en banc response motion of Dean Elizabeth Rindskopf Parker. (Sacramento, CA)

Joseph E. Burke '52
Died on June 26 at the age of 86. The longtime Sacramento attorney was a member of the McGeorge Alumni Board of Directors and practiced probate, real estate, bankruptcy, family and personal injury law for more than 50 years. (Sacramento, CA)

William L. Beeman, Sr. '53
Sole Practitioner, Beeman Law Office. He was honored for his 50 years of service in the legal arena by the Solano County Bar Association. He is a Vallejo personal injury attorney while his son, Paul Beeman, '73, is a Solano County Superior Court judge. (Vallejo, CA)

Charles R. Herman '58
Died on May 21 of a massive stroke at the age of 82 in Lincoln, Oregon. He practiced probate law for more than 35 years in Sacramento. (Lincoln, OR)

William K. Morgan '59
Died of liver cancer on July 1 at the age of 84 in Carmichael. A retired Sacramento County Superior Court judge, he was the first African-American attorney appointed to that court. The Honorable William K. Morgan Scholarship, which he founded with a gift of property to Pacific McGeorge in the 1970s, is named in his honor. (Carmichael, CA)

The Honorable Ronald B. Robie '67
Justice, Court of Appeal, California Court of Appeal Third Appellate District. I was elected to the Board of Directors of the National Center for State Courts on June 5. (Sacramento, CA)

Jo Anne M. Bernhard '69
Sole Practitioner- Attorney, Law Office of Jo Anne M. Bernhard, Sacramento, CA. Married 39 years, two children and four grandchildren. I’ve had my own law practice in here since 1970, specializing in real estate law, concentrating in the area of commercial property. Represents shopping center developers, owners, managers, and tenants. Serves on the Board and acts as legal counsel for California Business Properties Association Conference and continues to serve on its planning committee as well as the ICSC Law Committee and its Governmental Affairs subcommittee. Frequently files amicus curiae briefs with the California Supreme Court on behalf of CBPA and ICSC. During the last six years has served as a faculty member and speaker of the ICSC University of Shopping Centers-School of Shopping Center Law located at the University of Pennsylvania; has been appointed Associate Dean for the 2006 program. I’ve been a frequent lecturer to various real estate groups and have appeared on radio and TV shows throughout the country with regard to real estate-related issues. (Sacramento, CA)

The Honorable Thomas L. Hill
McDonough, Holland & Allen, APC. Busiest time ever with mediations & arbitrations. I passed the 1000 mark earlier this year. More and more McGeorge alums are appearing as litigators on my ADR calendar. (Yuba City, CA)

Christo D. Bardis
Partner, Reynen & Bardis Development. Bardis is involved in one of the biggest Sacramento land sales of modern times. He and his partner reportedly are selling half of their 50,000 California and Nevada lots to a subsidiary of Miami homebuilder Lennar Corp.

Harry W. Crowle
General Counsel, Brandenburger & Davis. (Sacramento, CA)

Raul A. Ramirez
Ramirez Arbitration & Mediation Services. Finally got a web site, ramsadr.com. Hope all is well. Look forward to a meaningful reunion. Anyone out there still full-time employed besides me? Drop me a line. Also is anyone doing mediation/arbitration? The best years are yet to come. Look forward to sharing stories with many of you... (Sacramento, CA)

Ronald S. Smith
Owner, Ronald S. Smith, A Law Corporation. I just moved back to Beverly Hills in the very same office I rented from 1983-2000. I even got my prime parking spot back. The only problem is that I can’t get the landlord to accept my “old rent.” (Beverly Hills, CA)

1971
Class Representative
Phil Hiroshima
1420 River Park Dr., 2nd Floor
Sacramento, CA 95815
916.395.2939 Home
916.923.2223 Business
PHiroshima@hrjl.com

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1970
Class Representative
The Honorable Raul A. Ramirez
3600 American River Drive
Suite 145
Sacramento, CA 95864
916.392.3874 Home
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Harry W. Crowle
General Counsel, Brandenburger & Davis. (Sacramento, CA)

Raul A. Ramirez
Ramirez Arbitration & Mediation Services. Finally got a web site, ramsadr.com. Hope all is well. Look forward to a meaningful reunion. Anyone out there still full-time employed besides me? Drop me a line. Also is anyone doing mediation/arbitration? The best years are yet to come. Look forward to sharing stories with many of you... (Sacramento, CA)

Ronald S. Smith
Owner, Ronald S. Smith, A Law Corporation. I just moved back to Beverly Hills in the very same office I rented from 1983-2000. I even got my prime parking spot back. The only problem is that I can’t get the landlord to accept my “old rent.” (Beverly Hills, CA)
In his courtroom thrillers, novelist William P. Wood, ’76, writes of fast-paced action, prosecutors facing longshot odds and nail-biting tension as the climax approaches.

So each day’s work must seem pretty familiar to Wood, who as of April is second in command in the California Secretary of State’s office—Undersecretary of State.

With newly appointed Secretary of State Bruce McPherson, Woods is overseeing a massive effort to certify and approve electronic voting machines in California counties, implement requirements of the federal Help America Vote Act before a looming January deadline, free up funds frozen by the federal government and—as if this weren’t enough to fill the work week—prepare for a special election in November.

When he was named to fill the vacancy left by Kevin Shelley—who resigned as Secretary of State amid media investigations into campaign contributions and use of HAVA funds—Secretary McPherson reached for an experienced hand as his undersecretary. Since 2003, Wood has served as the state’s acting Corporations Commissioner. Previously, he worked as chief legal counsel for Secretary of State Bill Jones.

“Bill Wood brings a keen mind, extensive knowledge of the agency’s duties, and an approachable style that will serve me and the employees of this office well as we move forward,” McPherson said.

Their mid-term arrivals—and the turmoil that marked much of Shelley’s last months in office—meant McPherson and Wood face a series of challenges, any one of which would make their office the busiest in state government.

“These are unique times in California,” Wood says. Our governor—because of the way he became governor, is historic. Similarly, the Secretary of State faces very unusual circumstances. He, too, was more or less dropped onto the deck of the ship.”

Immediately upon his appointment, McPherson “hit the ground running,” Wood says. “And so, the rest of us did too.”

All of this leaves less time for writing. Now the author of eight books, Wood spent 14 years at his craft full-time. Since returning to government work, the one-time deputy district attorney has continued to write. His latest novel, Pressure Point, was released in November, coinciding with the re-release of his first novel, Rampage, which was later made into a movie.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Class Representatives</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1973</td>
<td><strong>Rudy Nolen</strong>&lt;br&gt;2080 Rocky Springs Road&lt;br&gt;El Dorado Hills, CA 95762-9730&lt;br&gt;916.933.0843 Home&lt;br&gt;916.564-9990 Business</td>
<td>Retired. I've thrown caution to the wind and gone sailing. (Sacramento, CA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1974</td>
<td><strong>Rudy Nolen</strong></td>
<td>Replaces Judge James L. Roeder, who recently retired from the bench. (Auburn, CA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1973</td>
<td><strong>Stephen A. Sillman</strong>&lt;br&gt;Presiding Judge, Superior Court of Monterey County. Elected Presiding Judge of the Superior Court of Monterey County.</td>
<td>The Honorable Stephen A. Sillman&lt;br&gt;Presiding Judge, Superior Court of Monterey County. Elected Presiding Judge of the Superior Court of Monterey County. Judge here for 22 years. Daughter, Meredith Anne, graduated from law school in June 2005. (Salinas, CA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1975</td>
<td><strong>Ervin A. DeSmet, Jr.</strong>&lt;br&gt;4411 244th Street, SE&lt;br&gt;Woodinville, WA 98072&lt;br&gt;425.486.7618 Home&lt;br&gt;425.990.4510 Business</td>
<td>David C. Henderson announced that his current sixth term as the Yolo County District Attorney would be his last. He has been the county's chief prosecutor for more than 20 years. Deputy District Attorney Jeff Reisig, '96, will be among the candidates running to replace Henderson in the November 2006 election. (Woodland, CA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1976</td>
<td><strong>R. Steven Corbitt</strong>&lt;br&gt;130 Amber Valley Drive&lt;br&gt;Orinda, CA 94563&lt;br&gt;415.374.2101 Business</td>
<td>Still retired in beautiful Sonoma County. Activities continue to be tennis, gardening, travel, and being slave to a spoiled cat. Recently returned from a near month-long trip to Thailand and Burma. After 40 years I'm done with travel to the Third World. Six days of dysentery were enough this time. Makes studying for Real Property final seem like a breeze.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Centro, Blue Cue, Monkey Bar and Oven, Café Bernardo (with three tive chef Kurt Spataro. The food Restaurant Group, his partners Now operating as Paragary's goes back to 1969 in Sacramento. Randy Paragary's restaurant legacy Randy Paragary my husband of these many years! children (now all middle aged!) and some travel and always enjoying the system can provide. Still doing the collaborative process is new and exciting and growing all across the country. It is fun to be part of a new and far better way to deal with family issues than the court system can provide. Still doing the usual civic sorts of things, enjoying some travel and always enjoying the children (now all middle aged!) and my husband of these many years! (Sacramento, CA)

Randy Paragary
Randy Paragary’s restaurant legacy goes back to 1969 in Sacramento. Now operating as Paragary’s Restaurant Group, his partners include his wife Stacy and executive chef Kurt Spataro. The food empire includes Paragary’s Bar & Oven, Café Bernardo (with three locations), Esquire Grill, KBAR, Centro, Blue Cue, Monkey Bar and the new Spataro. (Sacramento, CA)

1977

Class Representatives
R. Marilyn Lee
2124 Bagley Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90034
310.836.9494 Home

Life is rainy and green in L.A. and I'm enjoying retirement. Had a mini-1977D Reunion at McGeorge's 80th Anniversary event in October 2004 with Sam Jackson, Bonnie McDonald, Dave Brown, Monica (Lickiss) Marlow, Tim Naccarato and others. My husband Harvey and I just returned from an amazing interfaith trip to Israel—15 each of Jews, Christians and Muslims from the Los Angeles and Orange County area. We all want the same things, including peace.

Gary F. Zilaff
601 University Avenue, Suite 255
Sacramento, CA 95825
916.920.5025 Business

Stephen F. Clayton
Senior Director Legal, Global Business Services, Sun Microsystems, Inc. I am responsible for all legal work on outsourcing and alternative sourcing projects for Sun worldwide. Very interesting work—a lot of detail on how much it costs to do many types of business and services in various parts of the U.S. and world. Sun now sells over 60% of its products outside the USA, but 70% of our employees and 99% of our ownership are in the USA. I have prepared hiring five lawyers in Bangalore to do overflow and be a link in a 24-hour a day legal team. My youngest daughter graduated high school and is taking a year off to travel and play music. She will enter University of the Pacific in Fall 2006, School of International Studies. Oh, also my band, The Two Time Blues Band, recorded a CD and is playing fairly regularly around the East bay. (Newark, CA)

Philip W. Kelli
Senior Vice President, Chief Operating Officer, California Baptist Foundation. Debbie and I celebrated our 30th Anniversary in June and our youngest daughter graduated from high school. All is well in Fresno. (Fresno, CA)

Timothy E. Naccarato
Assistant Dean for Academic Programs, Pacific McGeorge School of Law. Since 2002, I have had the pleasure of being the Director of Academic Support at Pacific McGeorge. On May 1, 2005, I was appointed to a new position of Assistant Dean for Academic Programs to assist the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. (Sacramento, CA)

John G. Neville
Attorney, Berg, Hill, Greenleaf & Ruscitti, LLP John & Marie Behnke recently came to Boulder for a wedding and we spent a night catching up and thrilling them to a performance of my softball team. John will bring his glove next time as he saw we could use some help. Joyce and I recently visited daughter Cindy (27) and her family in Woodacre, CA, and were enchanted again by our only granddaughter, Jadi, who is 16 months old. Daughter Jessie (30), born during McGeorge years, just graduated from U of Denver law school. It was fun to see a lot of old friends at the 25th reunion at Jack London Square a couple of years ago. Brian & Myra Gentner still look real young (at least Myra does); so do the Behnkes. Bob O’Hair recently won another case of beer from me on our lifetime Rose Bowl bet. (Boulder, CO)

Scott T. Steffen
Judge, Stanislaus County Superior Court. Steffen was named to a vacant judgeship on the Stanislaus County Superior Court by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. Steffen was the assistant general counsel for the Modesto Irrigation District for 18 years. (Modesto, CA)

1978

Class Representative
Thomas O. Freeburger
Office of the General Counsel
1121 L Street, Suite 300
Sacramento, CA 95814
916.739.8910 Home
916.323.3151 Business

John A. Abbott
Attorney, Mayall, Hurley, Knutsen, Smith & Green. Abbott won a defense verdict for San Joaquin Regional Transit District in a case where the bus company was found not liable to the family of an 87-year-old man who died about a month after being hit by one of its buses. (Stockton, CA)

David Allen
Owner, David Allen & Associates. (Sacramento, CA)

Robert W. Armstrong
Senior Partner, Demler, Armstrong & Rowland. Still in Long Beach. Keeping in touch with Kevin Curran (just retired from FBI), Rick Creatura (winning big verdicts in Washington), John Brydon (building a big litigation firm in San Francisco), David Danny (still working down the hall from me and making a fortune in real estate) and Diana Scott (voted among Top 50 Women Super Lawyers in Southern California). I'm trying to put together a collection of photos from our days at McGeorge. If anyone has old photos, would you send me copies at ARM@darlaw.com. I'll put them all together and send everyone a copy. (Long Beach, CA)

Bruce W. Busch
Keeping very busy gardening, visiting my sister in San Jose and grandson in Crowly, CA. At the latter, I was able to go fishing & skiing, Off to Alaska in September. For 10 days, I will fish for silver salmon. (Sequim, WA)

This year I'm serving on the California State University Chico Alumni Board as well as the CSUC Sigma Kappa Corporation Board. With three granddaughters (Kelly 12, George 4 and Laine 9 months) I have many delightful play days. (Sacramento, CA)

Jack H. Nissen
Nissen & Douglas. For wonderful handmade gifts of wood please visit my web sites: www.jacks-bowls.com and www.poker-chipracks.net. I am really enjoying this second career, but I am happy not to have forgotten a very important rule: Do not quit your day job. To be added in my informational and entertaining Bowl News email newsletter, write to me at PNTX-JACK@aol.com. (Gold River, CA)

Helen S. Stockdale
Attorney Mediator and collaborative practice, Law Office of Helen S. Stockdale. I am thoroughly enjoying limiting my practice to mediation and collaborative divorce. The collaborative process is new and interesting and growing all across the country. It is fun to be part of a new and far better way to deal with family issues than the court system can provide. Still doing the usual civic sorts of things, enjoying some travel and always enjoying the children (now all middle aged!) and my husband of these many years! (Sacramento, CA)

Gary F. Zilaff
601 University Avenue, Suite 255
Sacramento, CA 95825
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Stephen F. Clayton
Senior Director Legal, Global Business Services, Sun Microsystems, Inc. I am responsible for all legal work on outsourcing and alternative sourcing projects for Sun worldwide. Very interesting work—a lot of detail on how much it costs to do many types of business and services in various parts of the U.S. and world. Sun now sells over 60% of its products outside the USA, but 70% of our employees and 99% of our ownership are in the USA. I have prepared hiring five lawyers in Bangalore to do overflow and be a link in a 24-hour a day legal team. My youngest daughter graduated high school and is taking a year off to travel and play music. She will enter University of the Pacific in Fall 2006, School of International Studies. Oh, also my band, The Two Time Blues Band, recorded a CD and is playing fairly regularly around the East bay. (Newark, CA)
Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. The story mentions Zaremberg’s military experience, his move to California to go to McGeorge and quotes a classmate of his, lobbyist Maureen Higgins. (Sacramento, CA)

Robert H. Zimmerman
Zimmerman won significant back-to-back defense verdicts. He successfully defended Harrah’s Casino in an eight-day trial in Santa Clara Superior Court in a premises liability negligent security case brought by a motorcycle club member who was shot in the 2002 biker brawl in Laughlin, Nevada. Zimmerman also came out on top in a Sutter Superior Court four-day trial in a medical malpractice negligent treatment case. Zimmerman is a partner in the Sacramento law firm of Schueying, Zimmerman, Scully & Doyle, one of northern California’s leading defense firms. (Sacramento, CA)

to cut back my hours to 40/week so I can manage the household now that my wife is working 50+ hours/week. I get the kids off to school, handle their dinners, monitor the homework and coordinate their day to day activities. I started originated residential mortgage loans for purchases and refinances (principal residences and investment properties) 3/1/04. The flexible hours allow me to be there for the family, and the new career is very rewarding. I’m still an active member of the State Bar just in case. (Fair Oaks, CA)

Paul L. Grimm
General Counsel and Vice President of Real Estate, The Sleep Train, Inc. I closed my law practice in May after 25 years and joined a client of 19 years, The Sleep Train, Inc., as General Counsel and Vice President of Real Estate. It feels a little weird, but was a great opportunity. My oldest son, Todd, is graduating from UCLA with a degree in Aerospace Engineering and my youngest son, Colin, is starting at UCSD in Bioengineering, premed. My second marriage of six years, is near perfect and life at this moment is very good. I knock on wood at every opportunity. (Citrus Heights, CA)

Paul S. Hokokian
Attorney, Fresno County Child Support Services. Serving my second term on the State Bar Board of Governors. I will become vice-president in October 2005. I will be eligible to run for president in June 2006. Currently, Lt. Col. in Air National Guard. Completed Air War College. I am now eligible to be promoted to Colonel. Margaret continues to advance at CalTrans. She is now an Associate Transportation Planner. Alexander is now 10; Gameboy, Playstation, soccer and basketball are his favorite activities. (Fresno, CA)

Francis J. McGuire
McGuire, a Yolo County assistant district attorney, died on June 26 at the age of 50 in a scuba diving accident off Monterey. He headed the county’s child abduction unit and was frequently consulted by attorneys around the country for his legal expertise in that area. (Sacramento, CA)

Larry R. Nelson
Managing Partner, Nelson & Griffin. The first of four children is off to college this year. My son will be attending Emerson College in Boston. Two girls and another boy right behind him. In December ’04 I was inducted into ABOTA (American Board of Trial Advocates). Still love to travel—this September I’m off to Australia for the fifth year in a row to see their football playoffs. With my 60th birthday on the horizon, I’m planning to celebrate it at Oktoberfest. Let me know what you think of our website, at www.nelsongriffin.com. (Los Angeles, CA)

Allan J. Owen
Partner, Timmons, Owen & Owen. Continue to practice personal injury law, although I now specialize in golf (posted 180 rounds last year). We have two new girls at the Sacramento based Owen-Whitney Cathouse (5-week-old kittens) and our Kona branch is going strong. I have been included in San Francisco Magazine’s listing of Northern California Super Lawyers for the past two years. Biggest accomplishment—surviving a Poor Red’s reunion with Gary Gale, Cris Holbrook, John Walovich and Jay Broderick.

Stuart Somach
Somach represented Westlands Water District, which joined with the federal government in opposing a multimillion dollar lawsuit from dissident farmers unhappy with their reduced share of irrigation water. In a unanimous ruling, the Supreme Court agreed with him and said that sovereign immunity rights protect the U.S. from such suits. (Sacramento, CA)

C.M. Starr II
Deputy District Attorney, Kern County District Attorney. I have just finished my third year of work
since I lost my sight. My office provides me with a sighted assistant and I recently completed my 16th jury trial as a blind prosecutor. Our oldest son, Walker, graduated from Simpson University this spring. We are proud, anxious and excited because he has made the waiting list for admission to McGeorge. Second son, Cecil, will be a junior at U.C. Santa Cruz next fall. Youngest son, Hunter, will be a sophomore at Simpson University. Baby girl, Reyna, will be a senior in high school. (Bakersfield, CA)

James P. Willett
District Attorney, San Joaquin District Attorney's Office. Willett was named District Attorney of San Joaquin County by that county's board of supervisors. He's been the second-in-command for 10 years and ran the office in recent months after the previous DA stepped down because of health problems. (Stockton, CA)

The Honorable Daniel Wong
Assistant Solicitor General, State of Nevada. Wong has been promoted from Assistant Solicitor General to Chief Solicitor General for the State of Nevada. The Reno resident is a former Reno Justice Court justice of the peace and former state deputy attorney general. (Reno, NV)

In June, Sacramento attorney Joseph George, ’85, and his legal team secured a $35 million settlement in a 33-plaintiff clergy sexual abuse suit against the Catholic Diocese of Sacramento.

The agreement averted what would have likely been a painful and embarrassing trial for both sides. Still, resolution of the case after three laborious years of back-and-forth was cause for a sobering and subdued celebration.

“(My clients) have taken the shame and the sexual abuse off their backs, put it on the church and the molesters,” says George. “Now they need to reclaim their lives. That’s to be much trickier. The money can’t restore the childhood, the faith, the damaged self-esteem.”

Over the years, George has specialized in sexual abuse and other types of mental health malpractice, helped in no small part by his dual training in psychology. He had taken on single individual cases of abuse in the past, but too often bumped up against the statute of limitations. That all changed in 2002 when the California Legislature voted to temporarily lift the statute of limitations on civil sex-abuse claims.

The lawyer who spearheaded that law, Larry Drivon of Stockton, worked with George on the Sacramento diocesan suits, along with Jeffrey Anderson of St. Paul, Minnesota, a national specialist in such cases. George’s own son, Joseph George Jr., ’98, rounded out the team. His work was particularly important following the critical injuries his father sustained in a May 2004 cycling accident. George Sr. cracked his skull in several places, and was sidelined for several months of recovery.

“He’s had very rigorous training, so he’s incredibly detailed ... That really helped shape him for this work,” George said of his son who, among other legal experience, worked for the Redwood City firm led by well-known PI attorney Joseph W. Carcione Jr.

“I made a plea for help here. He agreed. A month later, I had the crack. It was a good thing he was here,” he added.

The same day the Sacramento settlement was announced, George Sr. reached a $7.3 million settlement with the Santa Rosa Diocese for eight plaintiffs. He is also representing several clients suing the Stockton Diocese.
Donald C. Cady
Public Utilities Attorney, California Public Utilities Commission.
Continuing efforts towards making the commission’s business, transac-
tional and contracting efforts legally and administratively top-notch.
Enhancing conflicts-of-interest due diligence efforts. Personal—
Adrienne (my daughter) and I visit-
ed Oxford, Cambridge and Bath,
England in May. She returned home
on July 7, the day of the bombing.
We were a bit nervous until she came out of the gate at SFO. She
just finished her Junior year in
York—one to go (at UC San Diego)!
(San Francisco, CA)

Vincent A. Consul
Partner: Dickerson, Consul & Packer, Chtd. I was sworn in as President of
the State Bar of Nevada at our Annual Convention on June 25,
2005. The term is for one year,
through June 2006. I hope to visit
McGeorge during my presidency. I
also hope that the Dean can make
an appearance in Nevada during my
term as president. (Las Vegas, NV)

The Honorable
Larry D. Gaddis
Judge, Superior Court of Placer
County. Seventeen years plus as a
judge here in beautiful Placer
County. I’m working with our new
Christian university (W.J.U.) on
their new public policy curriculum.
My wife is also on staff there. The
three children continue to
advance and amaze. Golf and
kayaking have replaced softball
and basketball. Here’s hoping all of
our McGeorge family shall live long
and prosper. (Auburn, CA)

The Honorable
Faith Geoghegan
Retired Sacramento Superior Court
Judge. Retirement is wonderful,
but we wonder how we had time
to work! Each year we spend four
months in Palm Desert, and the
rest of the year in Carmichael, with
travel to Massachusetts to visit
grandchildren, and to other desti-
nations. I hope to see many
classmates at the reunion!
(Carmichael, CA)

Diana D. Halpenny
Associate Superintendent, Human
Resources/ Legal Services, San
Juan Unified School District. I’ve
just finished my 18th year in the
legal office of the San Juan Unified
School District. As a temporary
budget reduction, I am now also	head of the Human Resources
Department as well as the Legal
Office, but expect to return to my
old General Counsel job in a few
months. Other than that, life is the
same, no changes to report.
(Carmichael, CA)

Gary Hoffman
President, Hoffman Technologies, Inc. (Roseville, CA)

The Honorable
Wendell A. Hollis
Immigration Judge, Department of
Justice, Phoenix, Arizona. I was
appointed an Immigration Judge in
2003. I spent two years in beauti-
ful San Francisco learning my
chops. This January I was trans-
ferred back to Phoenix where my
wife (Pat-BID) and daughters kept
the home fires burning.
(Phoenix, AZ)

Mark K. Johnson
In 2003 I was appointed by the
Governor to a six-year term on the
Regulatory Commission of Alaska,
the state’s public utility commis-
sion. (Anchorage, AK)

Sharon McDonald
a family law attorney who special-
ized in child protection, died of
heart disease on July 24 at the age
of 62 at her Reno home. (Reno)

Claudia M. Morehead
Senior Counsel, Fulbright &
Jaworski LLP in Los Angeles. My
husband, Larry, and I live in
Newport Beach with our three little
ones- Alex (3), May (1), and Mariel
(1). I commute into Los Angeles
days a week and have con-
tinued my insurance regulatory
practice on the west coast. In
June, I had dinner with the new
Dean—what a delight she is!
Hello to all. (Los Angeles, CA)

Craig A. Paul
Partner, Law Offices of Frieze &
Paul. I have as one of my assis-
tants in our practice my wife of 30
years, 2 daughters of 21 & 19
years of age. Oldest was married
last year. Youngest has set her
sights on someone. I continue to
experience an exciting & challeng-
ing practice. (Elk Grove, CA)

Paul K. Richardson
Deputy District Attorney, Yolo
County District Attorney’s Office. I
continue to enjoy criminal jury tri-
als as a prosecutor in Yolo County.
I work with a talented and commit-
ted group of colleagues who share
my belief that doing the work of a
Deputy District Attorney is one of
the best and most honorable jobs
in all of government. To my class-
mates, I hope you are well and
finding fulfillment in your profes-
sional and personal lives.
(Woodland, CA)

Virginia Rockwood
District Court Commissioner,
Spokane County District Court.
Preside over “Mental Health Court”
in Spokane. Attended Conference
in Los Angeles on June 04 with
daughter, Gayle Greaney, and son,
Andrew Rockwood. Gayle is plan-
ing to travel to London for a visit
this fall, she works at Eastern State
Hospital. Andrew will enter high
school, Shaun has two sons.
My husband Ron and I spend time at
Deer Lake, WA. (Spokane, WA)

R. Craig Settemire
County Counsel, Lassen County.
Appointed Lassen County Counsel
July 1, 2005. (Susanville,
California)

Glen C. Shea
Attorney, Law Offices of Glen C.
Shea. (Roseville, CA)

The Honorable
Peter Siguenza, Jr.
Of counsel, Law Offices of Civile &
Tang. Joleen, beloved spouse of 33
years died three years ago. I retired
from the Supreme Court of Guam
as Chief Justice shortly thereafter.
Now my focus is on complex civil
litigation and arbitration. More
often than not, I am scuba diving
(are you for scuba? from “Along
Came Polly”). Am part of the team
of tek/rec divers that researched
and located a WWII Japanese Zero
in deep waters off the coast of
Guam. Photos at Micronesian
Divers Association webpage. Have
to learn to quit saying overruled
after judge decides on opposing
counsel’s objections. Still playing
a little guitar. Only nine inches long.
Closing with Dylan, twenty years of
schooling and they put you on the
day shift (Hagatna, GU)

Neil S. Tardiff
Attorney, Smith & Tardiff. Teresa and
I are enjoying life on the Central
Coast. (San Luis Obispo, CA)

David R. Williams
David R. Williams Professional
Corp. 2 Children: Spencer, 4 and
Charlotte, 8 months. Wife: Caroline
B. Williams. (Incline Village, NV)
Noel Waters
Waters, the District Attorney of Carson City, is the senior district attorney in length of service in Nevada. (Carson City, NV)

The Honorable Sharon J. Waters
Judge Waters is serving as the first female presiding judge of the Riverside County Superior Court (Riversides, CA)

Sandra S. Wetzler
Partner, Musick, Peeler & Garrett, LLP. (Costa Mesa, CA)

1982
Class Representative Debra Steel Sturmer
1475 Monterey Boulevard
San Francisco, CA 94127
415.887.3660 Business

Ralph S. Blascovich
Deputy General Counsel, E*Trade Financial Corporation. (Rancho Cordova, CA)

Carleton R. Cramer
Chairman, Department of Transnational Studies, Asia Pacific Center for Security Studies. In Spring and Summer 2005 I served on a SECDEF directed investigation into interrogation procedures and policies. Led a team into Afghanistan. In Fall 2004, I completed my command tour as the Navy's senior prosecutor in the Pacific AOR. In Winter 2004, I deployed to Iraq to train Iraqi investigators and lawyers. Currently, I serve as the Chair, Transnational Studies Department, APCSS located in Honolulu, Hawaii. (Honolulu, HI)

Guy J. Gattuso, Jr.
Partner, Gattuso and Kummer. Celebrated (Ok—well someone mentioned it) 10th year in existence since leaving Borton, Petrin & Connor. Wow, time sure flies when you're having...something. (Bakersfield, CA)

Robert A. Kronick
Kronick Moskovitz Tidemann & Girard. I have just embarked on a new legal endeavor—assisting the City of Bakersfield as a Special Prosecutor prosecuting quality of life crimes. I heard that Paul Ready, aka The Legend, has scored yet another coup in the bean and flax market by distributing same to cattle and goat ranchers to feed and pocketing the proceeds from the sale of methane. Dave Zeligs once again chimes in with his oh so creative ads in the Long Beach South Side Blade with a winking brown eye tipping the scales of justice ever so lightly. It's always gratifying to find that my old (literally) law school buddies are doing so well. (Bakersfield, CA)

Michael P. McCloskey
Partner, Foley & Laroren, LLP. My oldest son, Michael, just graduated from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo and now works at Bechtel-Dickinson Labs in La Jolla. Second son, Jason, has one more year at USC to graduate with Biomedical Engineering Degree. Daughter Meghan just completed her freshman year in high school and is 14 going on 25. Wife Diane is a solo practitioner in family law and estate planning. Van Tengberg and I joined the firm about the same time a couple of years ago. While he is a self-proclaimed Dirt Guy developing real estate and golf courses, I continue to do the impossible for the ungrateful by keeping the securities litigation wolf away from the door. (San Diego, CA)

Mariel E. Dennis
Chief, Small Business & DVBE Services Branch, Calif. Dept. of General Services. Work has been a challenge this year so I've tried to balance it with service in non-profit groups locally and having some improvements done on the house in Hollywood Park. This Labor Day, my husband Ian and I will celebrate our second anniversary (if the home improvements don't drive us nuts). This year we've kept traveling local but next year hope to visit Ian's family in the UK.

Del L. Hardy
Senior Attorney, Hardy Law Group. Now have five attorneys working for Hardy Law Group, in Reno. Also associated with an asbestos firm in California. Attended Trial Lawyers College last summer and was invited back for the graduate studies this summer. Life is good.

Keith A. Hoyt
Senior Vice President, U.S. Bank. U.S. Bank has named Hoyt as western regional sales manager and senior vice president for its Denver-based SBA operations. (Denver, CO)

Lynn H. Park
Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, Department of Prosecuting Attorney. Lots of changes! Last fall, my husband, 11 year old twin daughters, and I moved into a house in Aiea, and we are now enjoying our new neighborhood. Also, after six interesting years of self-employment and autonomy, I have returned to the Honolulu Prosecutors. It is nice to be back working with some friendly and familiar folks; and, like riding bicycle, I'm getting back into the routine of screening criminal cases and conferring with investigators. (Honolulu, HI)

Serge Tomassian
Managing Partner, Throckmorton, Beckston & Tomassian. Busy handling several of the recent Cardslide cases here in SoCal. Busy with family, daughter Paris is 7 and son Blaise is 2. (Irvine, CA)

Ernest L. Weiss
Senior Associate, Klinedinst PC. Weiss has joined Klinedinst PC as a senior associate in the firm's Orange County office. The former Forge & Robinson principal has significant experience both inside and outside the courtroom, having conducted a total of 16 jury trials to verdict throughout Southern and Northern California. (Santa Ana, CA)

1983
Class Representative Paula G. Tripp
444 South Flower Street, 31st Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90017-3320
562.988.1210 Home
213.236-1646 Business
pgt@amclaw.com

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acts is not a factual precondition to
Furthermore, the Court held that
of Appeal implied in its ruling.
prior acts do not have to be prior
sion, the Court clarified that in the
conclusion. As to the Trax
Bar & Grill, the Court held that the
bar had a special relationship-
based duty to respond to the
unfolding events at the bar on the
night of Delgado’s assault by tak-
ing reasonable, relatively simple
and minimally burdensome steps
in order to address the imminent
danger that was perceived by the
bar’s bouncer prior to the assault.
Finally, the Supreme Court criti-
cized the language in Mata v. Mata
(2003) 105 Cal.App.4th 1121,
which arose out of a shooting at a
bar and was also handled by my
office. In Mata, the Court of
Appeal stated that Ann M is inap-
propriate as to the proprietor’s liability
because the proprietor employed a
security guard and that guard was
on duty when the criminal assault
and murder occurred. Therefore,
the duty to protect had already
been assumed and the issue of
foreseeability becomes irrelevant.
In rejecting the broad language of
Mata, the Court stated that con-
trary to the suggestion that the
issue of foreseeability becomes
irrelevant whenever a proprietor
has employed a security guard and
foreseeability in question remains relevant
to the existence and scope of a
proponent’s duty under the special
relationship doctrine.
(Petaluma, CA)

Melissa A. Devore-
McElheney

Supervising Assistant Public
Defender, Sacramento County
Public Defender’s Office. I am one of
the two supervisors in the
Felony Trial Unit so I have the best
of all worlds. I get to try cases,
train new lawyers, and keep up the
good fight against law enforce-
ment, prosecutors and the bench.
Tom and I are still in the same
place—Malcolm is in junior high
and Elizabeth is in 5th grade. We
will be traveling to Europe and
Israel with several friends and their
families at the end of the year. I
can’t believe we graduated 20
years ago. (Sacramento, CA)

Alison Profeta Fong

I am currently a stay-at-home mom
to daughter, Madison, and son,
Ethan. My husband, Randy is a
graduate of the University of the
Pacific’s Dugoni School of
Dentistry. (Tustin, CA)

Pamela Giarrizzo

Giarrizzo was appointed Chief
Counsel of the Secretary of State’s
office by Secretary Bruce
McPherson. She has been an attor-
ney with that office since 1993,
serving in the Elections and
Business Programs Division.
Previously, she worked in the
Legislature for 13 years.
(Sacramento, CA)

Thomas R. Parker

Deputy County Counsel, County
Counsel’s Office- Sacramento
County. I moved to the Sacramento
County Counsel’s Office in January
of 2005 after 13+ years with El
Dorado County. My main focus is
property tax and financial adminis-
tration now. (Sacramento, CA)

Jean Rumiano

Self-Employed Attorney, Law Office
of Jean Rumiano, Willows, CA. I’ve
been practicing law in Willows for
the past 20 years! Anybody look-
ing for work in a small town? My
practice keeps me so busy, I have
room for another attorney. Built my
own office 10 years ago—nicest
office in town. My best to every-
one! (Willows, CA)

1985

Class Representative
Cheryl L. Van Steenwyk
3361 Cortese Drive
Rossmoor, CA 90720
310.788.4470 Business

Frank J. Christy

Proprieter, Law Offices of Frank J.
Christy, Jr. On June 30, 2005, the
California Supreme Court handed
down its opinion in Delgado v. Trax
Bar & Grill, No.: Sl17287. I was
the lead counsel for the
plaintiff/appellant. Factually, appel-
ant Michael Delgado sued defend-
ant/respondent Trax Bar & Grill in
Turlock after he was attacked by a
small group of men in the bar’s parking
lot in November 1998. The testi-
mony at trial indicated that
Delgado and his assailant had
been glaring at each other in the
bar before a guard asked Delgado
and his wife to leave the bar. The
guard allegedly had been warned
that a fight was brewing. But
according to testimony did not
accompany the couple outside nor
do anything to dissuade the attack-
ers. As a result of the attack,
Delgado sustained a fractured
ankle and that there are circum-
cumstances which may give rise to lia-
Bitterly, the Court held that the
bar did not owe a duty to
Delgado because there had not
been any prior similar acts in the
bar before a guard asked Delgado
on duty when the criminal assault
on duty when the criminal assault
and murder occurred. Therefore,
the duty to protect had already
been assumed and the issue of
foreseeability in question remains relevant
to the existence and scope of a
proponent’s duty under the special
relationship doctrine.
(Petaluma, CA)

Melissa A. Devore-
McElheney

Supervising Assistant Public
Defender, Sacramento County
Public Defender’s Office. I am one of
the two supervisors in the
Felony Trial Unit so I have the best
of all worlds. I get to try cases,
train new lawyers, and keep up the
good fight against law enforce-
ment, prosecutors and the bench.
Tom and I are still in the same
place—Malcolm is in junior high
and Elizabeth is in 5th grade. We
will be traveling to Europe and
Israel with several friends and their
families at the end of the year. I
can’t believe we graduated 20
years ago. (Sacramento, CA)

Alison Profeta Fong

I am currently a stay-at-home mom
to daughter, Madison, and son,
Ethan. My husband, Randy is a
graduate of the University of the
Pacific’s Dugoni School of
Dentistry. (Tustin, CA)

Pamela Giarrizzo

Giarrizzo was appointed Chief
Counsel of the Secretary of State’s
office by Secretary Bruce
McPherson. She has been an attor-
ney with that office since 1993,
serving in the Elections and
Business Programs Division.
Previously, she worked in the
Legislature for 13 years.
(Sacramento, CA)

Thomas R. Parker

Deputy County Counsel, County
Counsel’s Office- Sacramento
County. I moved to the Sacramento
County Counsel’s Office in January
of 2005 after 13+ years with El
Dorado County. My main focus is
property tax and financial adminis-
tration now. (Sacramento, CA)

Jean Rumiano

Self-Employed Attorney, Law Office
of Jean Rumiano, Willows, CA. I’ve
been practicing law in Willows for
the past 20 years! Anybody look-
ing for work in a small town? My
practice keeps me so busy, I have
room for another attorney. Built my
own office 10 years ago—nicest
office in town. My best to every-
one! (Willows, CA)

1986

Class Representative
Andrea C. Nelson
anelson@sunvalleyonline.com

Apparently they’re doing Class
Notes twice a year now. Sigh. I’m
not sure even I can gossip that
much. Well, I’ll give it a try, but if I
miss an issue or two don’t worry.
Sometimes McGeorge runs out of
time, and the notes don’t get sent
to me. Last time I missed an issue,
you guys started calling in to see if
I was dead. No, but if you count
my age in dog years…

I got a couple of nice emails after
the last publication. Andy Wolf
wrote, ”Our son Brent, age four +
3 months, has now completed his
third full year on skis and is now
ripping carved turns down interme-
diate slopes and venturing off
groomed runs into the not-too-deep
powder. He howls, “Powwwwwwwww!!!” as he skis
through the un-groomed snow, and
he reaches his hand down to cup a
handful of snow to eat while he
skis… This past year, we moved
from a hillside lake view setting on
a year-round brook in Incline
Village to a flat, kid-friendly neigh-
borhood in the same town.
Although we loved our old neigh-
borhood, our flat street and yard
offers much more play area for
the little guy. Professionally, our
firm remains very busy handling
real estate, business, contracts
and construction law. Over the years,
my own practice has evolved from
a purely litigation based practice
into a mix of litigation and transac-
tions. We are fortunate to have a
strong and diverse client base in
our small but upscale town.
The rest of the firm’s business is prima-
arily transactional with lots of busi-
ness entity work.” Andy also wrote
that he keeps in touch with Robert
Miller, who is a vigorous world
traveler with legal business across
the entire planet, and that Reid
Kingsbury is still doing well in
Lincoln, CA.

Sam Taylor wrote me to compare
Barbara Christiansen, ’87, left a successful career in the Sacramento office of Littler Mendelson six years ago to become a full-time mediator. The years since have been professionally gratifying, the employment law specialist says.

“Mediation is a passion with me because it’s what you can accomplish in one day,” says Christiansen, whose Granite Bay-based company is called Employment Dispute Resolution Services.

Effecting change has been a priority for the Sacramento native since graduating from the University of California, Santa Barbara, in the 1960s. Christiansen worked as a social worker, then as a public school teacher in South Central and East Los Angeles for several years.

The Watergate hearings whetted her appetite for the law, she says. She returned to Sacramento in 1984 to attend Pacific McGeorge. While in law school, Christiansen worked for the California Manufacturers Association, where she developed an interest in employment law.

Christiansen's approach to law has been shaped in large part by a piece of advice from one of Littler Mendelson's top litigators. "He told us that among the first words out of a defense attorney's mouth is, 'Can we get to an early resolution of this case?' she explains. Those words became her opener, as well. "I wound up settling cases, or won them on summary judgment," she says. "I came to understand, from an experiential standpoint, that that is the best of all possible outcomes."

Christiansen got her first taste of mediation at a Pacific McGeorge conference in the late 1990s. A subsequent 25-hour workshop put on by the Sacramento County Fair Housing Commission further whetted her appetite. "[The workshop trainer] came up to me and said, 'You have to do this. You are a natural,'" Christiansen recalls. "That's when I realized this is what my whole life [experience] had been about."

Christiansen has mediated a host of cases and handled all sorts of issues, from discrimination and sexual harassment to job termination. "It's not about the size of the settlement. It's the process that has occurred during the day that has facilitated [the opposing parties'] ability to move through that emotional experience, to go to a place of analysis and a place of relative closure and to see a future," Christiansen explains. "To me, that's huge."
lattes and watching former Olympiads practice for the Sun Valley Ice shows. Later! Andrea

Mark S. Borrell
Commissioner, Ventura County Superior Court. Borrell was selected by the judges of the Ventura County Superior Court to be a new commissioner. He has been serving as a judge pro tem since 1999 and as an arbitrator since 1995. He will leave Benton, Orr, Duvall & Buckingham, where he is a partner, in May 2005 to join the bench. (Ventura, CA)

Michael D. Coughlan
Superior Court Judge, Superior Court of San Joaquin County. Coughlan was appointed to the San Joaquin County Superior Court by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. The double alumnus (Stockton and Sacramento) spent eight years as an attorney for California State Automobile Association and has been in private practice in Stockton since 2001 as a personal injury and insurance defender. (Stockton, CA)

David Doyle
Doyle Law Firm. Time really passes quickly. Oldest child is now in college. The practice of law is still a grind, but it sure beats digging a ditch. (Dallas, OR)

Robert F. Enzenberger
Law Offices of Robert F. Enzenberger. Practice gradually shifting from litigation to mediation. Recently completed course in mediation strategies at the Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution-Pepperdine University School of Law. (Reno, NV)

Tamara C. Falor
Humboldt County Counsel, County of Humboldt. I wanted to take the time to encourage those of you who love animals to get involved in animal rescue. It can be as simple as donating food to your local shelter or letting your favorite breed rescue know when you are traveling so you can give a furry hitchhiker a ride to take him or her one step closer to their forever home.

Pamela J. Griffin
Senior Counsel, First Data Corporation. Don’t give up on the class, Andrea. We like getting the news; we’re just too lazy to contribute. I’m just out here on the Great Plains, trying to figure out how to retire and still afford my travel habits. Weeding my garden and greasing the wheels of capitalism and consumer exploitation. Still waiting for my invitation to Chuck Custer’s Y2K New Year’s party, which was supposed to be in Candlestick Park. Where’s Kerotkin, Molgaard, Cederborg and my buddy Neil Thomas? Get off your butts and write, you yuppie slugs. Never mind I never sent you Christmas cards. I see the former Cathy Pinella (now McClure) now and then; I hear news of Dan Barnett and his awards and enviable lifestyle, from time to time; Mike Huss is right here in town, married to my good friend Peg. That exhausts my supply of news—to continue now, I would just have to start lying. (Omaha, NE)

Wendy S. Jaffe
Writer, self-employed. Has it really been 19 years since we did the cap and gown thing? I have spent the last year interviewing family law attorneys in connection with a book I am writing called The Divorce Lawyers Guide to Staying Married. The book should be in stores (and on Amazon!) before the close of 2005. I’ve kept in touch with Tamara Mosbarger, Rich Kobber, and Steve Kurtz. Is anyone putting together a 20 year reunion? My best to all—Wendy. (Bell Canyon, CA)

The Honorable
Michael A. Savage
Superior Court Judge, Sacramento County Superior Court. Savage has been appointed the Sacramento County Superior Court by Governor Schwarzenegger. Savage has served as a Sacramento deputy district attorney since his graduation from law school, heading the felony trial team for several years. (Sacramento, CA)

The Honorable
Bernard J. Schwartz
Riverside Superior Court Judge, Superior Court of Riverside County. Just coming up on my second year on the bench. Handling criminal trials exclusively, everything from DUIs to homicides. My second wife, Cathy and I will celebrate our third year of marriage in August. (Riverside, CA)

Suzanne L. Small
Tax Counsel IV, California Franchise Tax Board. Still attempting to protect the public fisc here at Franchise Tax. Life is great. Happily married with 3 girls. In touch with classmates, Bart Melhop, Karen Ponton, Tom & Deb Cregger. Just back from North Carolina but did not bump into Sam Taylor. (Rancho Cordova, CA)

Samuel B. Taylor
Owner, The Law Offices of Samuel B. Taylor. Life is busy chasing around our little girls. Andrea: it was great to catch up with you—I hope our girls get to meet someday at the ice rink. Wouldn’t that be a hoot?! Our little stage actress is in her first off-Broadway this summer, and we can’t wait to see it. Karen Ponton: thanks for staying in contact. We enjoy it every time you send something. Brian and Julie Stanfield, Keep those pictures coming, and your address too (our mail keeps getting returned!). Dan Sullivan: where are you and what are you up to? Would love to chat with you sometime. To those I haven’t mentioned, we’d love to hear from you too! (Durham, NC)

1987

Class Representative
Megan Halvonik
1635 Vallarta Circle
Sacramento, CA 95834
916.927.1914 Business

Hagop T. Bedoyan
Partner, Casawell, Bell & Hillison, LLP. The 1 year old daughter I carried up to the stage at Arco Arena to receive my J.D. in 1987 just completed her first year of college at U.C. San Diego. I continue to enjoy life in the bankruptcy world and actually had a chance to exchange emails with Sharon Dutton, ’87. Now if Janet Robinson & Kathryn Tobias would drop me a line, I would really be happy. (Fresno, CA)
Barbara L. Berkowitz  
It's been a busy summer so far. I am general counsel for Tommy Lee so I have been going to several Motley Crue concerts. He also has another album and TV show coming out so lots of contract negotiations. My other celebrities are also quite busy so too much work and not enough play. Had dinner with Chet Olsen, '87E, last week. His new house is great! (Beverly Hills, CA)

Patricia E. Curtin  
Attorney, Morgan Miller Blair. Curtin has joined the Walnut Creek firm Morgan Miller Blair where she will advise clients in land-use entitlement. She leaves Reed Smith, the successor to Crosby Heafey Roach & May. (Walnut Creek, CA)

Robert A. Cutbirth  
Of Counsel, Ellis & West, LLP. Cutbirth has joined Tucker Ellis & West LLP as of counsel in the Trial Department its San Francisco office. A former partner with Sedgwick, Detert, Moran & Arnold, his practice focuses on analyzing insurance coverage issues arising under directors and officers, professional liability, employment practice and business property policies. (San Francisco, CA)

Dorothy B. Klishevich  
Retired November 2004 thanks to Civil Service. Life is good. (Sacramento, CA)

Janet L. Williams  
San Joaquin County District Attorney's Office - Deputy District Attorney's Office. I'm still loving my job at the DA's office where I'm currently assigned to the felony jury trial team. My oldest daughter Kim, will be starting high school next year after receiving the President's award for academic excellence. We spent much of last year traveling with our daughter's all-star cheer squad. Their team was featured on ESPN. Lindsey, our youngest, will be in 6th grade next year. Both girls play on the tennis team and keep Craig and me extremely busy. (Stockton, CA)

1988  
Class Representative  
Lisa A. Specchio  
514A Hill Drive  
Glendale, CA 91206  
818.247.4010 Home  
213.244.9640 Business  
Jean Laurie Ainsworth  
Staff Counsel III, California State Department of Social Services. Husband Dennis Corelis, Daughters Ariel and Rachael. Family enjoys camping, hiking, travel. (Sacramento, CA)

Antonio C. Amador  
U.S. Marshal, Eastern District of California. Amador, the U.S. marshal for the Eastern District of California since 2002, has applied to succeed the current director of the U.S. Marshals Service, who is resigning at the end of this month. Amador, a former L.A. police officer, attended law school while he was serving as deputy director of the state Employment Development Department. (Sacramento, CA)

Ruthe C. Ashley  
Elected to the State Bar Board of Governors for a three-year term. Represent 10 counties. (Sacramento, CA)

The Honorable  
Kenneth W. Puckett  
Commissioner, San Joaquin Superior Court. Puckett was appointed as a San Joaquin County Superior Court commissioner. He has been a deputy district attorney in the county since 1989, most recently supervising the juvenile and family crimes divisions. (Tracy, CA)

Michael E. Vergara  

1989  
Class Representatives  
William W. Palmer  
1241 Carter Road  
Sacramento, CA 95864  
916.972.7757 Home  
Billie B. Line, Jr.  
7103 Criner Road SE  
Huntsville, AL 35802  
256.881.0342 Home  
256.489.3476 Business  
Christopher Connell  
Died suddenly at the age of 41. He was a senior litigation attorney at the San Jose firm of Bustamante, O'Hara and Gagliao. (San Jose, CA)

Denise L. Dirks  
Owner/ Sole Proprietor as Attorney Law Offices of Denise L. Dirks located at 3300 Douglas Blvd., Ste. 190, Roseville, CA, 95661. (Roseville, CA)

Todd F. Haines  
Owner, Law Office of Todd F. Haines, Aquora Hills, CA. Practice going great. Re-elected to third term as councilman in Oak Park (Ventura, CA). Still married—three great kids—Kelsey (1), Chad (8), and Trent (6). Sad to hear of the passing of Chris Connell, he was a great guy. (Agoura Hills, CA)

The Honorable  
Barbara A. Kronlund  
Superior Court Judge, San Joaquin Superior Court. Kronlund was appointed to the San Joaquin County Superior Court by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. She had served as a commissioner of the court for 10 years. (French Camp, CA)

Andrew J. McCluskey  
Policy Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus Office of Policy. New baby girl, Annika Kate born August 24, 2004. Please e-mail me to renew friendship. (Sacramento, CA)

Gregory J. Rolen  
General Counsel, Mount Diablo Unified School District. Rolen has become the first on-site general counsel for the Mount Diablo Unified School District in the Bay area. Rolen, a former partner at Miller Brown & Dannis, has worked as outside counsel for the district for six years and won two big cases. His move is seen as a sign of things to come in education law as legal expenses increase for districts and they try to save money. (Concord, CA)

Cynthia L. White  
Attorney, owner of Law Offices of Cynthia L. White. I finally get to stop paying rent! I purchased a commercial building, remodeled and finally moved in at the end of April 2005. Now I have another mortgage—ha! (Rosamond, CA)

1990  
Class Representative  
Derek R. Longstaff  
50 California Street, Suite 1500  
San Francisco, CA 94111  
415.439.5391 Business  
Gerry J. Agerbek  
Staff Counsel - Dept. of Motor Vehicles. We have been playing a lot of golf and recently joined the DOJ Golf Club. Tournament play is a new and interesting challenge. Work is interesting and I enjoy being involved with consumer protection issues. I have been working on a lot of fake advertising cases which is quite prevalent within the auto industry. (Vallejo, CA)

John R. Brownlee  
Supervising District Attorney, Kern County District Attorney's Office. Met Bob Javan, Ron Lillard and Greg Tenorio for a weekend get-together this past summer in Las Vegas. All are well. Lillard and I are still D.A., Tenorio works for the State of California as a conservation lawyer, and Javan is the hot-shot private practice guy. Proud to say that 15 years after graduation the four of us stay in regular contact and annually get together. Hello to all from Bakersfield. (Bakersfield, CA)
Brian R. Clark
Goodman Brown & Premsrirut. After five sons, we are finally getting a daughter. (Las Vegas, NV)

James F. Lewis
Loan Officer & Legal Counsel, Titanium Mortgage Corporation. My wife, Nancy, is a Realtor with RE/MAX in our home town of Ripon. I joined Titanium Mortgage Corporation as a loan officer and in-house counsel in 2004. Our daughter, Madison, is 12 and our son, Nicholas, is 10. (Modesto, CA)

Casey W. Norris
Managing Shareholder, Haworth, Bradshaw, Stallknecht, & Barber, Sacramento. All is well. Still employed; still married; still struggling at golf. I'm now fully entrenched into middle age as I coached T-ball this year. My kids are 7 & 5. So far, I've been able to avoid camping, scouts, etc. Hope all is well with my fellow 90-Es. Please drop me an email if you have the time. Hopefully, by this time next year I'll be in the midst of a mid-life crisis and driving a cool car. Bye. (Sacramento, CA)

Kraft as the organizer!! (Sacramento, CA)

Cynthia A. Baldwin-Thanos
Co-Director, Greek Archdiocese of Buenos Aires & South America. As of May 11, 2005 I will be serving the Greek Archdiocese of Buenos Aires & South America as Co-Director of their Social Action, Missions and Philanthropy Department, located at the Archdiocesan Offices in Buenos Aires, Argentina. I plan to be there at least 18 months doing social services coordination, document review and planning and grants administration. (Buenos Aires, Argentina.)

Richard J. Burton
Owner, Law Office of Richard J. Burton. I have been in private practice since 1992. Main focus is employment law and PI. After 12 years in old Sacramento, I relocated my office to Old Roseville. I wish everyone well. (Roseville, CA)

Keri L. Bush
Partner, Lewish, Bishoibis, Bisgaard, & Smith. I've been lucky enough to travel to Puerto Rico & Scotland and so forth as part of my DRI Board member duties. Additionally, I've found my name in several articles, articles, and columns including the National Law Journal, the Chicago Tribune & others reflecting a white paper I helped author entitled “A Career in the Courtroom” — Task force on female litigators. If interested, please contact me at www.dri.org. I'd love to hear your comments & how your workplaces strive to keep quality female litigators. (Costa Mesa, CA)

Todd Green
Green has joined the new construction litigation and insurance defense practice at Seiler Epstein Ziegler & Applegate. Formerly with Severson & Werson, he has more than 12 years' insurance defense experience. (San Francisco, CA)

W. Stuart Home
Partner, Jacobsen & McElroy. Home is serving as president of the Sacramento County Bar Association this year. He is a part-time at Jacobsen & McElroy whose specializations include construction defect litigation. (Sacramento, CA)

Madlyne MacDonald
died on July 25 at the age of 65 in Sacramento due to complications from a brain tumor. A former president of the League of Women Voters of Sacramento, she did pro bono work for the elderly.

Kevin S. McMurray
Assistant General Counsel, USANA Health Sciences, Inc. (Salt Lake City, UT)

Herbert J. Santos, Jr.
Attorney, The Law Firm of Herb Santos, Jr. Joey starts high school. Wow you guys are old. Just finished filming a segment of “Breaking Vegas” on the History Channel. I played Daryl P. The practice of law continues to keep my interest. I am finishing my first year on the Board of Governors of the Nevada Trial Lawyer Association and I was appointed as the Nevada Chair of the ATLA Republican Trial Lawyer Caucus. Please look us up if you are in Reno. (Reno, NV)

Stanley O. Van Vleck
Partner, Stern, Van Vleck & Ruehman. Van Vleck, a former partner with the Sacramento lobby law firm of Kahn, Soares & Conway, has broken off to form his own firm, Stern, Van Vleck & Ruehman. (Sacramento, CA)

Ross Johnson's office. (Sacramento, CA)

Teresa A. Bush
Professor of Political Science, American River College. (Sacramento, CA)

Kent C. Cobb
Vice President of Development and Legal Counsel, Alzheimer's Association, Oklahoma & Arkansas Chapter. Last August, I married the love of my life, my beautiful wife, Lesley. I hope to have my first book published within a year. Life is great! (Tulsa, OK)

Shelley B. Fessinger
Attorney, Peterson & Bradford. I have been busy raising our three daughters, Katelyn (9 1/2), Alyson (8) and Lindsay (6 1/2) for the last nine years, but returned to work on a part-time basis last September, 2004. I work primarily from home so I can continue to run them all over town for soccer, dance and track (a full-time job in and of itself)! We are relocating to the La Costa area of Carlsbad this summer. Bob's firm just opened an office in La Jolla and we couldn't resist!! Hope everyone is doing well!! (Burbank, CA)

Alison Ann Foster
Executive Director - Family Connections Christian Adoptions. (Modesto, CA)

Gina L. Genova Hons
Sole Proprietor, Law Offices of Gina L. Genova. My husband Greg & I are expecting the birth of our second child on November 1st of this year. We have a 2-year old daughter. I still have my practice in Santa Barbara and teach legal & business writing for UCSB's writing program. If anyone is out this way, give me a ring! (Santa Barbara, CA)

Joseph Kaneda
Partner, Feinberg, Grant, Mayfield, Kaneda & Litt, LLP Still holding steady at two girls—Janelle, age 8 and Justice, age 5—and one wife. Practicing throughout California and Nevada, and recently opened up an Arizona office. (Newport Beach, CA)
Kristine E. Kwong
Partner, Hinshaw & Culbertson, LLP. Kwong has joined the Los Angeles office of national law firm Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP as a partner. She represents both private and public sector employers in federal and state courts throughout California in counseling and litigation. An experienced labor and employment attorney, she previously was as a principal at Liebert, Cassidy & Frierson. (Los Angeles, CA)

Christopher M. Micheli
Partner, California Strategies, LLC. I merged my lobbying firm with California Strategies. We provide government relations and strategic consulting services to private and public sector clients. My partners include two former state legislators and former senior government officials. (Sacramento, CA)

Elaine A. Musser
Attorney at Law, Law Office of Elaine Roberts Musser. Commissioner, Yolo County Commission on Aging & Adult Services; Chairman, Triad Task Forces for Yolo County (addressing senior issues, particularly elder abuse); Commissioner, Davis Senior Citizens Commission; Volunteer Attorney, Senior Legal Hotline, Sacramento, CA. (Davis, CA)

Angel R. Stewart
Special Education Teacher, Springstown Middle School. I had my first child, a boy, on April 25, 2005. I named him Phillip Scott Stewart after his grandpa. He is the joy of my life. What a thrill! (Vallejo, CA)

Thomas J. Tarkoff
Of Counsel, Carroll, Burdick & McDonough. Tarkoff was named of counsel in the Walnut Creek office of Carroll, Burdick & McDonough, a mid-sized litigation and business law firm. Previously, he was a name partner with Guichard, Tarkoff & Portello, A.P.C., where he represented clients in real estate, construction, healthcare and government. (Walnut Creek, CA)

California’s constitutional protection against cruel or unusual punishment has a new set of teeth—provided through the work of a Pacific McGeorge graduate with help from two of his former professors.

The sentence came despite general agreement that Carmony had not intended to evade registration; he had not moved in the few weeks since registering, and his parole agent knew exactly where to find him. “If anything could be considered cruel or unusual punishment, this was it,” Haltom says.

In March, the 3rd District Court of Appeal agreed. In the majority opinion, the judges wrote the 25-year sentence had been imposed for an “entirely passive, harmless and technical violation of the registration law.” Further, the court held, the sentence “shocked the conscience of the court” and “constitutes cruel and unusual punishment under both the state and federal constitution.”

For Haltom, there is significance in the court’s finding that both the state and federal constitutions were violated. “The court hammered home the point that California’s provision is broader than the U.S. provision,” he says. “That will help support some future claims.”

Haltom is quick to point out that credit for the victory is shared with Professor Michael Vitiello, who filed amicus briefs in both the appellate and supreme courts and who, with Professor Dave Miller, helped him prepare for an earlier phase with a moot-court run-through of oral arguments. “McGeorge instills in any law student a sense of discipline and hard work,” Haltom says, “and my professors there like Professor Vitiello were truly excellent.”
1993
Class Representative
Traci F. Lee
3331 Power Inn Road, Suite 350
Sacramento, CA 95826
916.419.3200 Home
916.875.4721 Business
Howard A. Dean
Senior Counsel, World Bank Legal Vice Presidency, (McLean, VA)
Daniel R. Gold
Partner, Tredway Lumsdaine & Doyle, LLP. I was certified as a family law specialist by the State Board of California Board of Legal Specialization, effective May 1, 2005. (Downey, CA)
Libby H. Hope
Senior Patent Attorney, Intel Corporation. We are now a family of four with the birth of our second son, Eric, on January 18, 2005. Eric joins his big brother Adam, who is now 4. We are still living in San Clemente, and there are no plans to move anytime soon. Job/career is great since I get to work from home, so no complaints there. But what a challenge being a working mom with two kids! (Irvine, CA)
Christopher D. Lonn
Attorney, Owens & Perkins, P.C. Hello one and all. I just wrapped up my year as President of the Scottsdale Bar Association—much work, but rewarding. I am a Judaye pro tempore for the Superior Court now and was also appointed to the Scottsdale Judicial Appointments Advisory Board. I am keeping very busy and have also found the love of my life and that is most wonderful. I hope all my classmates are well. Let’s do another reunion soon!! (Scottsdale, AZ)
Allen C. Ostergar
Founder, Ostergar Law Group, P.C. the Ostergar Law Group opened its doors in January 2005. We have two attorneys and two staff members. I wouldn’t have done it without Cathy. The kids are doing great. (Mission Viejo, CA)
Mark A. Paxson
General Counsel - Office of the State Treasurer. Paxson took over as General Counsel for the Office of the State Treasurer, State of California. He is a former staff attorney/hearing officer for the Institute for Administrative Justice. (Sacramento, CA)
Linda Q. Sanchez
As of July 11th, I will be the managing attorney for the Walk-in Wills office located in the Northeast Heights. In July, 2004, I reclaimed my family name of Quezada (through divorce). In my new position as managing attorney for Walk-in Wills, I am responsible for working with our clients in discussing their estate planning needs, and implementing their estate plans. Our office is a full-service office. We also handle taxation issues and probate cases. My oldest son, Ruben, and his wife, Michelle, were married two years ago and are now in their residency programs at USC and Kaiser Permanente in Southern California. My youngest son, Adrian, just graduated from high school and will attend the University of New Mexico this fall. (Albuquerque, NM)
1994
Class Representatives
Captain Laura H. Heller
315 Belmont Avenue East, Apt. 208
Seattle, WA 98102
206.817.2711 Home
Guy E. Ortolena
190 Deerfield Drive
Hamden, CT 06518
203.248.2008 Home
860.571.7130 Business
Fernando S. Acosta
Staff Attorney, California State Employee Association. Bob N. Varma, ’94D, and I are collaborating on a Bengali-Cebuano dictionary funded in part by the National Security Agency. (Los Angeles, CA)
James H. Cordes
I opened a Palm Springs branch to handle only employee-side wage and hour matters. www.wagesnow.com. (Santa Barbara, CA)
Darcy K. Houghton
The Law Office of Darcy K. Houghton, P.C. After five years of counsel at Harley-Davidson Financial Services managing its Carson City legal department, it became apparent that the Houghton family would either need to become mobile or I would need to find other employment. In looking at career options, I reflected on what I had learned over the years and began to survey the Northern Nevada legal community to determine if those skills could be marketed. I determined that a law firm that offered counsel in creditors’ rights (including bankruptcy), consumer finance, estate planning, and asset protection had an essentially untouched market in Carson City. With that, in April I joined the ranks of small law firms and hung my shingle in Carson City. My heart is split between trying to grow the firm and finding a more balanced lifestyle with more time for the family. Only time will tell. On a more personal note, Howard’s daughter Angela is back in Sacramento, and we now have two boys, Seth (5) and Zachary (3). The boys keep us very busy, but bring joy to our lives on a daily basis. With my career move it appears that we will be staying in Northern Nevada for the long haul, which is fine because we love our church, owning five acres, riding quads, hiking, camping, and skiing (which both boys can now do)! (Carson City, NV)
David A. Knoll
Owner, Law Offices of David Knoll. I’m happily still in Sacramento where my wife and I are expecting our first child baby Dave. We are rebuilding our house to accommodate him and it should be finished about two weeks before he is born.
I still teach scuba diving and was fortunate enough to go expedition scuba diving in Antarctica two Februarys ago. Some of the photos have been published in a scuba magazine. Look forward to hearing from all of you. (Sacramento, CA)
Mia P. Mosher
Mia Mosher, owner, Marsten & Mosher. Rich Mosher, ’95D, and I have two kids, Carter (5) and Meghan (2). Rich is general counsel at a public software company. Mia owns her own family law firm. We continue to travel and hang out with other McGeorge alums. (San Jose, CA)
Steven J. Oshins
Attorney, Law Offices of Oshins & Associates, LLC. Named in Best Lawyers in America; named one of Nevada’s Best Lawyers 2004-2005 in Nevada Woman magazine; wrote a bill that passed this legislative session changing Nevada’s rule against perpetuities to 365 years so that a 365-year dynasty trust could be created under Nevada law; can be contacted at soskins@oshins.com and www.oshins.com. (Las Vegas, NV)
Sheryle L. Sparks
Commissioner, San Joaquin County Superior Court. Sparks has been named a San Joaquin County Superior Court commissioner. A former private practitioner in Stockton and deputy county counsel since 2001, she will work at the court’s Tracy branch. (Tracy, CA)
Teresa A. Stanley
Owner, Law & Mediation Office of Teresa A. Stanley. Third term on Folsom-Cordova school board. Daughter, Meredith, is a USC grad & does accounts payable for an L.A. law firm. Son, Nick is an astro/physics major at BYU. Daughter, Kendra is a level 9 competitive gymnast. Daughter, Briana is entering 7th grade, and claims to have a life. (Folsom, CA)
Sonia E. Taggart  
Office of the Nevada Attorney General. Taking a sabbatical from the law to care for our children, Sophia (3) and Lukas (1). (Carson City, NV)

Stephen Z. Vegh  
Senior Attorney, Callahan & Blaine. (Santa Ana, CA)

Matthew A. Bisbee  
Partner, Ropers Majeski Kohn & Bentley. Matthew Bisbee, ’95, has made partner at the San Jose office of Ropers Majeski Kohn & Bentley. His litigation practice includes product liability, personal injury, employment, professional liability and government entity matters. (San Jose, CA)

Scott T. Blaising  
Principal in the Law Firm, Braun & Blaising, PC. in Sacramento. Blaising is a principal in the law firm, Braun & Blaising, PC., which specialized in electricity law for publicly owned utilities. Scott and his wife, Laurie, live in the Sheldon area with their five children, and are actively involved in their church, Immanuel Baptist Church of Sacramento. (Sacramento, CA)

Jennifer A. Cerri  
Assistant Public Defender, Public Defender’s Office - Sacramento County (Sacramento, CA)

Jennifer A. Haber  
Associate Attorney at Gray and Prouy. I just returned from a fabulous vacation in Western Europe. (Sacramento, CA)

Wendy L. Hillger  
Partner, Fotouhi, Epps, Hillger, Gilroy, LLP, Oakland, CA. I opened up my own law firm last year, along with Darren Epps (1994D) and two other partners. We have offices in California, Oregon and Nevada. Our practice is focused on litigation involving real property, construction and insurance coverage. I would like to be in touch with other alumni; my email is: whillger@fe-law.com, or www.fe-law.com. (Oakland, CA)

Spencer C. Skeen  
Partner, Schwartz, Semerdjian, Haile, Ballard & Cauley, LLP. I was elevated to partner in January 2005. My wife, Marnie Smith Skeen, ’96D, kids Jackson (4) and Audrey (2), and I enjoy life in sunny San Diego. We keep busy in our local McGeorge Alumni Chapter and are interested in updates on fellow alumni. (San Diego, CA)

Michael G. Taus  
Managing Director, Magnolia Ventures. 2005 is turning out to be an interesting year... Earlier this year, Rent.com was acquired by eBay (NASDAQ:EBAY). Rent.com was a company that I co-founded back in 1999 and served as the VP, Business Development and General Counsel until March of 2001. On a mostly unrelated topic, Dayna and I and our two girls, Lia and Jenna, are moving to Kailua, Hawaii. We’ve wanted to move for some time and decided to make the move now, while the girls were still young. Magnolia ventures (www.magnven.com) continues to grow. Currently, we have one profile company filing SEC documents to go public. And more importantly, there are a couple of interesting projects in development. Well wishes to the class of ’95...

Cindy Tuck  
Tuck was appointed chairwoman of the state Air Resources Board by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. She currently serves as general counsel for the California Council for Environmental and Economic Balance, a coalition representing businesses and industry. Her position requires Senate confirmation. (Sacramento, CA)

Robert B. Wareham  
Managing Director, Robert B. Wareham, Esq. P.C. Robert B. Wareham was named Best Attorney in the Colorado Community Newspaper’s annual Best of the Best 2005 reader poll. CCN publishes weekly newspapers in the communities of southern Arapahoe and Douglas Counties, Colorado. Wareham also became Chair of the Colorado Bar Association Solo and Small Firm Section for the 2005-2006 year. He also is the Technology Chair of the Arapahoe County Bar Association for the same period. (Lone Tree, CO)

1996  
Class Representatives  
Jane Greaves Sargent  
631 Massachusetts Avenue, NE  
Washington, DC 20002  
202.546.5709 Home  
202.393.6222 Business  
Theresa S. Dunham  
2218 Railway Circle  
Gold River, CA 95670  
916.631.3640 Home  
530.753.6400 Business  
Thomas J. Ault  
General Building Contractor, Ault’s Builders. (Napa, CA)

Adrienne Brungess  
Instructor, Pacific McGeorge. I will soon start my fourth year teaching at McGeorge. It’s great to work here. I’m teaching Legal Process and Community Property. I also supervise students at the CLS Clinic. I just celebrated my five-year anniversary. My daughter, Lilliyann, will be 2 in July. (Sacramento, CA)

Michelle B. Dykstra  
Litigation attorney, Robinson, DiLando & Liebhaber. Jebb and I are currently living in Santa Monica with our 2 daughters—Makenna & Lily. I am working a reduced hour full-time schedule and loving it. When we are not working, we can usually be found at the beach with the kids! (Los Angeles, CA)

Jenny M. Fjeld  
In House Counsel, Hackard Land Company. (Sacramento, CA)

Julie Ann Green  
Nation Wide Health Plans. Just gave birth to my second child, Jackson Sloat, born February 4, 2005. Currently married to Kevin Sloat, with our daughter Zoe Sloat, who is 2. (Sacramento, CA)

Vylma L. Ortiz  
Director, Disproportionate Minority Confinement Initiative, East Bay Community Foundation, and California Director, Criminal Justice Advocacy Project, YouthBuild USA. (Oakland, CA)

Robert L. Angres  
Law Offices of Robert L.S. Angres. On April 23, 2004, my wife, Michele, gave birth to our twins, Isabel and Garrett. Given that my in-laws live in Fresno and can assist us with child care and given that housing prices are a fraction of what they are in the Bay Area, we decided as a family to relocate to Fresno. Earlier this year we purchased a beautiful home in Clovis with a huge lot, and we are very pleased with our new neighborhood. Although I am doing some trial work, most of my time is spent doing criminal appeals. I am now on the panels for the Courts of Appeal in Los Angeles, San Francisco, San Jose, Fresno, and Sacramento. (Fresno, CA)

Angela M. Bader  
Partner, Laxalt & Nomura, LLP. In late May, my firm moved to our new 15,000 sq. ft. law office that we had designed and built over the last 2 years. We are hoping to host an open house in early October once all furnishings are in. My daughters Jordan and Keighley are 5 and almost 3 and Jordan will start Kindergarten this fall. My husband and I are still designing our future residence and hope to begin construction in late fall or early spring. (Reno, NV)

Vylma L. Ortiz  
Director, Disproportionate Minority Confinement Initiative, East Bay Community Foundation, and California Director, Criminal Justice Advocacy Project, YouthBuild USA. (Oakland, CA)
Jennifer L. Pruski
Associate, Trainor Robertson.
Pruski has joined the litigation department of Sacramento's Trainor Robertson as an associate. She previously practiced in environmental, product liability, unfair business practices and Proposition 65 matters at Hancock Rother & Bunshoft in San Francisco. (Sacramento, CA)

Peter C. Rock
Internal Revenue Service. Proud father of 2-year-old twins, Max and Alex. (San Francisco, CA)

Anne M. Rogaski
Partner, Townsend and Townsend and Crew, LLP. (Palo Alto, CA)

Francis S. Ryu
Attorney, Law Office of Francis S. Ryu. Recently nominated to become the President of the California Young Lawyers Association, State Bar of California. (Los Angeles, CA)

Paul B. Walsh
Partner, McNamara, Dodge, Ney, beatty, Slattery, Pfalzer, & Borges. (Walnut Creek, CA)

Vanessa W. Wbang
Associate Attorney, Carlton, Disante & Frendenberger, LLP. I am still living in Sacramento and practicing labor employment law. I am married and have a wonderful 1 1/2-year-old son. Looking forward to the 10-year reunion. Hope there is one! (Sacramento, CA)

1997

Class Representatives
Katherine J. Hart
701 University Avenue, No. 200
Sacramento, CA 95825
916.929.7000 Business

Molly J. Mrowka
1901 Harrison Street, 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94604
510.444.6800 Business

Kelly J. Brinkman
Attorney, Goold Patterson Ales & Day. (Las Vegas, NV)

Leslie S. Brown
Attorney, Quane Smith, LLP. I was married in Troncones, Mexico in January 2004 to my husband Mike Brown and on March 28, 2005, we welcomed our daughter Sienna Jade Brown into the world. I have recently returned to work at Quane Smith LLP and was recently appointed to the National Alumni Board for the University of Puget Sound. (Boise, Idaho)

Stephen M. Fishback
Partner, Keller & Fishback, LLP. In June 2005, Dan Keller , ’97D, and I took the entrepreneurial plunge and started our own law practice, Keller & Fishback, LLP. We are a civil litigation firm with offices in Los Angeles and New York specializing in toxic torts, pharmaceutical litigation, and product liability, among other general civil litigation matters. You can find us on the web at www.kffegal.com. We welcome and anticipate the referral of cases from our friends and fellow alumni and look forward to hearing from you! (Agoura Hills, CA)

Britt R. Imes
Deputy District Attorney IV, San Bernardino County District Attorney. Recently assigned to new Hardcore Gang Prosecution Unit in Victorville. Anxiously awaiting baby 2 & 3! Twins due late July. (Victorville, CA)

Carla R. Jones
Carla Jones, Senior Staff Attorney/Privacy Officer, Marshfield Clinic. I moved to Wisconsin to accept a corporate position with Marshfield Clinic, one of the largest health care clinics in US. My son just finished his first year of law school at DePaul in Chicago which has a specialization program in intellectual property/patent law! He hopes to do patent work upon graduation. (Marshfield, WI)

Jessica J. Katz
Civil Rights Attorney, U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights. (San Francisco, CA)

J. Hawkins Low
Low’s article has been published in the Jerry Spence Defense Attorneys Academy Newsletter. He has written an article about his handling in Kuwait of an officer court martial. Another alum, Thienvu Ho, said it was extremely well written. Low was also honored in 2004 by the Pacific McGeorge Trial Ad program for his devising the First Year Mock Trial Competition at the law school that is named in honor of the late Professor Ben Frantz and his wife. (Newport Beach, CA)

Deborah B. McKinley
President & CEO, American Justice Associates, Inc. Specializing in pre-trial diversion (alternative prosecution) for prosecutorial agencies. (Alpharetta, GA)

Peter Olson
died of a massive heart attack on May 27 at the age of 35 in San Francisco. He was general counsel for NuServe, an insurance industry risk management software firm. (San Francisco, CA)

Matthew J. Rexroad
Rexroad, the mayor of Woodland, announced that he will run for a seat on the Yolo County Board of Supervisors in June 2006 against a current supervisor. Rexroad was elected to the Woodland City Council in March 2002 and served as vice mayor until he took the mayor’s seat last year. He has also been a managing partner at Meridian Pacific, a political public affairs firm in Sacramento. (Woodland, CA)

Gary S. Winuk
Chief Deputy Director, CA State Office of Homeland Security. Winuk, was named chief deputy director for the State Office of Homeland Security by Governor Schwarzenegger. He had served a deputy director in that office for two years. (Sacramento, CA)

1998

Class Representatives
Kara L. La Bella-Parker
4521 South Land Park Drive
Sacramento, CA 95822
916.448.1654 Home
labellaparker@sbcglobal.net

Emily L. Randon
1700 49th Street
Sacramento, CA 95819
916.739-7105 Business

Stephen S. Allen
Associate Attorney, The Law Offices of Frank J. Ball. Stephen is married and has a 16-month old daughter. (Castle Rock, Co)

Kaye C. Bassett
Legislative Analyst, Governor’s Office of Planning and Research. In May 2005, I was appointed as a legislative analyst in Governor Schwarzenegger’s Office of Planning and Research. I review proposed laws and write recommendations for the Governor regarding whether he should sign or veto them. (Sacramento, CA)

Karl E. Breice
Pension Consultant, Primark Benefits. Our boys continue to thrive. Matthew begins 1st grade and David starts kindergarten in the fall (Tom is looking forward to that as the summer has been very busy with all the chauffeuring duties he has had). If you’re ever in the Bay Area, give us a call. (Burlingame, CA)

Kenneth H. Brendel
Associate Attorney, Mangum, Wall, Stoops & Warden, P.L.L.C. I’m staying busy with a full civil litigation docket. In March and April of this year, I had three jury trials in which I was able to secure complete defense verdicts for my clients. I have a few more trials set for the remainder of this year, so no signs of slowing! Sherri and the kids are doing well. Nicole (5) starts kindergarten in the fall and Peyton (2) is still going a thousand miles an hour! (Flagstaff, AZ)
Two computers for 10 attorneys, an M-16 on her person at all times and an air-conditioner so loud that U.S. Army Capt. Leah Pettitt, ’03, and her colleagues had to wear earplugs—or turn off the a/c and swelter in triple-digit Iraqi heat.

But Pettitt took it all in stride during the 10 months she spent in and around Baghdad with the 1st Cavalry Division. She served as both trial counsel and command judge advocate for the Engineer Brigade. She returned to Ft. Hood, Texas in March and is currently working as trial counsel with the Aviation Brigade.

Pettitt has prosecuted a host of crimes within her brigade, from larceny and sexual assault to drug possession, desertion and failure to obey orders.

“This really gives you a wonderful opportunity to experience many different aspects of the law,” says Pettitt, who was born and raised in Caruthers, some 25 miles south of Fresno.

When Pettitt started law school, she intended to become a (civilian) criminal prosecutor. That all changed after a chance encounter with a JAG recruiter at the Pacific McGeorge library, she says.

“Before long, I was in an interview and filling out an application for a summer internship,” Pettitt recalls. She landed the JAG post, and spent the summer at Ft. Shafter in Hawaii. With the physical demands, field exercises and range of legal issues, Pettitt says the Army was a perfect match.

While in Iraq, Pettitt was located near Baghdad International Airport. “As for safety concerns, we had a few close calls,” she says. Her camp was attacked at least weekly, which, she notes, was still less than at most other base camps in the area. One mortar round hit 30 feet from her office—just days after concrete barriers went up.

Pettitt went out on work-related missions every three weeks or so, either by ground or air. The former were fraught with risk of insurgent-planted “IEDs” (improvised explosive devices) along the route. The Blackhawk rides were “very cool,” Pettitt says, save for the time her helicopter was shot at and forced to make an emergency landing.

While in Iraq, Pettitt became involved with a group of Iraqi civilians working on human rights issues. She helped secure an American military grant to send 15 women and four men to Cairo for training. She carried the $83,000 in her own suitcase.

“It was a wonderful experience for me because the Iraqi’s were so very grateful for what the U.S. military had given to them,” Pettitt says.
1999

Class Representative
Kathryn M. Davis
950 Harrison Street, #113
San Francisco, CA 94107

Dora C. Corby
Associate. Reitberg, Smart, Donohue & NeJame PC. Still married to Adam Corby and enjoying life in New England. E-mail anytime at corbylaw@gmail.com. I now practice real estate law with some estate planning thrown in. (Ahh . . . life in a small town).

Jana Du Bois
Affiliate Services Counsel, Sutter Health. Immediate Past President, Sacramento County Bar Association, Health Law Section. (Sacramento, CA)

Wendy A. Gable
Account Executive, Swett & Crawford. Insurance work is more rewarding than I perceived it to be pre-law school. Scott and Nick are well. Nick will be a senior in high school and is sorting through the college offers. Best wishes to everyone. (El Dorado Hills, CA)

Egan J. Gost
Regional Director, Western U.S. Company: Salter Labs. (Arvin, CA)

Kurt R. Hiete
Partner, Musick, Peeler & Garrett, LLP. My wife and I were blessed with our baby boy, Bradley, in November '04. (Los Angeles, CA)

James E. Pugh
Attorney at Law, Nossaman, Guthner, Knox & Elliot, LLP. I have been frequenting Rio de Janeiro, Brazil for the past year and have fallen in love with a beautiful Brazilian girl named Carolina. She is a practicing attorney in Rio and will be moving to California to pursue her LLM in corporate law.

Marriage is on the horizon, and a balanced life blending legal practice and the best of Brazil and California is the vision. I recently resigned from my in-house position at an environmental consulting company and have accepted an offer to work at a large firm where I will continue to specialize in Land Use and Environmental Law. I still reside in Newport Beach and am enjoying the beach lifestyle despite the rigors of our profession. Whether it be on matters of business, or more preferably on matters of pleasure, do not hesitate to contact me...especially if you are in the Southern California area. (Irvine, CA)

Shalend S. Singh
Attorney, Kring & Chung, LLP. Singh has joined the Sacramento office of Kring and Chung LLP. A general litigator, he worked for Porter Scott Weiberg & Delehant for six years. He also was an unsuccessful candidate for Congress in the recent special election. (Sacramento, CA)

Elizabeth A. Steinhauser-Clark
Attorney, Bolan, Fransen & Russell, LLP. I have been practicing with Bolan, Fransen & Russell LLP in Fresno, CA since January of 2000. During law school I never imagined that I would come home and become an ag attorney, but that is what I have done. My practice emphasizes numerous aspects of agri-business including Bureaus of Reclamation and Farm Service Agency compliance, real property purchase and sales, taxation, and business planning. On the personal side of things, my husband and I will celebrate our 7th wedding anniversary this October. We recently moved out of town and on to a property with a couple of acres, so I spend my weekends mending fences and driving (or fixing!) my tractor. (Fresno, CA)

Gregory T. Tidwell
Claims Attorney, Progressive Insurance. We just had our second child, a girl name Bianca, who joins our son, Nick. The career is going great; I love my job and the possibilities with this company are virtually limitless. The house refurbishment is coming along slowly, though. Next time I’m going to do all that stuff before I move in! (Sacramento, CA)

Mindy A. Wolfe
Attorney - Bunyak Law Corporation, real estate and land use practice. Birth of daughter, Phoebe, September 25, 2005. (Santa Barbara, CA)

2000

Class Representative
James S. Overman
6080 Bryce Way
Rocklin, CA 95677
916.624.8311 Home

Jonelle C. Beck
Solo Practitioner, Law Office of Jonelle C. Beck. I am excited to share that I married Chad L. Leigh on May 19, 2005 in beautiful Negril, Jamaica. Chad & I have made our new home in Natomas. Working on the yard keeps us busy! I enjoy my estate planning practice and I am happy to report that in three short years it is thriving. I would love to hear from my classmates, please email me at attorneyjbeck@comcast.net. (Sacramento, CA)

Jared W. Bennett
Amazingly enough Heather still has not left me. I am currently working in a firm in the East Valley with Robert Hahn, ‘00D, bankrupting clients with a wide variety of life’s woes. Catscan and Msdeeanor are doing great. It is about time to revive the BBQ in the Hood tradition, so if you want to attend send me a email at jbbennett@ppl.davismsiles.com. (Mesa, AZ)

Joshua S. Brownstein
Partner, Brownstein & Thomas, LLP. Recently left Reed Smith to open own practice with two fellow McGeorge Alumni, M. Ryder

Thomas, ’00, and Mark C. Thomas, ’01. (San Francisco, CA)

Judith A. Carlson
Corporations Counsel, California State Department of Corporations, Enforcement Division. (Sacramento, CA)

Judith A. Cregan
Associate Attorney, Rothstein, Donatelli, Hughes, Dahlstrom, Schoenbarg & Bienvenu, LLC.

Clifton P. Davis
Founding Attorney, Kona Immigration. Opened a private immigration practice in Kailua-Kona on the Island of Hawaii. Teaches at the University of the Nations, a Christian-missions University in the Biblical studies department. Has led Bible teaching outreach teams to Nepal, India, Samoa, Fiji, and the throughout the Hawaiian Islands. (Kailua-Kona, HI)

Gregory T. Fayard
Associate, Hansen Culhane Kohls Jones & Sommer, LLP. After five years, I left the Department of Justice and correctional law for a great opportunity in private practice in Roseville. When I'm not working, my wife and I are raising our three children in Suburbia. (Roseville, CA)

Rex D. Frazier
Vice President & General Counsel, Personal Insurance Federation of California. Rex Frazier has joined the Sacramento-based Personal Insurance Federation of California as Vice President and General Counsel. The former California Deputy Insurance Commissioner for Policy and Research and Chief of the Legislative Bureau was an associate with Pillsbury Winthrop LLP in Los Angeles. (Sacramento, CA)

Craig T. Gottwals
General Counsel, Liberty Benefit Insurance Services. (Auburn, CA)

Brian K. Harris
Managing Partner, Harris Schwartz, LLP. Heather and I are doing well. Just adopted a new puppy. I start-
ed my own firm in January and have enjoyed overwhelming success. Heather left Snell & Wilmer and is now a Deputy City Attorney for North Las Vegas. Regards to all. (Las Vegas, NV)

**Michael R. Haven**
Attorney at Law, Shepard & Haven, LLP. My wife and I just welcomed our first child to the world on March 15, 2005. He is truly a blessing. Thank you to all for your continued support. (Las Vegas, NV)

**Daniel L. Hitzke**
Hitzke was named to the Million Dollar Advocates Forum, a trial lawyers' organization that is limited to attorneys who have won million and multi-million dollar verdicts, awards and settlements. Hitzke, who is a partner in the firm of Ainbinder & Hitzke, specializes in personal injury and workers' compensation. (Long Beach, CA)

**Katherine A. Hren**
Associate, Ballard, Rosenberg, Golper & Savitt, LLP. Hren won election to the 17-member board of the State Bar's California Young Lawyers Association. CYLA represents lawyers who have been in practice one to five years or who are age 36 or younger. She is an associate at the Universal City office of employment law specialist Ballard Rosenberg Golper & Savitt, LLP. (Universal City, CA)

**Sukhdeep Kaur**
Attorney at Law, Bradford & Barthel, LLP (Fresno, CA)

**Karen A. O'Neil**
Attorney, Twitchell and Rice, LLP I moved back to the Central Coast and am now working at Twitchell and Rice, LLP. I am a relatively new addition to an old law firm. The firm has been serving the Valley since 1886. This move has allowed me to participate more fully in community activities. I am the Vice President of Kiwanis, active member of the Elks, and on the Board of Directors for the

Central Coast Commission on the Area Agency on Aging. (Santa Maria, CA)

**George F. Salamy**
Attorney, McCurdy & Fuller. I recently started working a firm that has an appreciation for the balance between work, family and personal endeavors. Unlike some other firms, this firm understands the value of acting in good faith with its associates and does not base every decision on making the bottom dollar at all costs. (Daly City, CA)

**Maria L. Salazar Sperber**
Counsel, Senator Abel Maldonado. (Sacramento, CA)

**Erica L. Seeman**
Home. After moving from Monterey, CA to Newport, RI for 6 months, my husband, Al and I are finally settled in Chesapeake, VA. He is currently serving in the Middle East while I am home taking care of our incredible son, Tyler, who will be turning one on August 12th. A client from Monterey hired me to manage two charitable foundations, which I am able to perform from home. I have been blessed to have this wonderful opportunity. Hope you're all well! (Chesapeake, VA)

**Becky M. Smith**
Owner/Broker, Kern Property Development, Real Estate and Construction. After leaving the full-time practice of law in 2003, I have been active in the real estate industry and opened a brokerage this past year. I still maintain a legal practice in litigation and estate planning although most of my legal work is done on a pro bono basis. I am involved with the Bakersfield Breakfast Rotary Club, am the Corporate Secretary for Operation Interdependence, a nationwide civilian-military care package organization, and write start-up grants for local charities such as the St. Vincent de Paul Homeless Center. After three years of litigation training, I discovered that Henry & I could have a far more fulfilling lifestyle if I used my McGeorge legal training more creatively to branch out into real estate. I can still enjoy the practice of law to help people who would not otherwise be able to afford effective representation and to coach a local high school mock trial team. My thanks to McGeorge for hosting my high school team last year as they toured the campus, sat in on a Criminal Law class (and participated), watched one of the excellent trial seminars and met with admission and career advisors to find out how a law degree can help them reach their dreams. (Bakersfield, CA)

**Timothy J. Swickard**
Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has named Timothy Swickard as the director of the Toxic Substance Control unit of the California EPA. The confirmation of Swickard, current general counsel for Toxic Substance Control and a former Stoel Rives business defense litigator, is expected to be contested in the Democrat-controlled Legislature. (Sacramento, CA)

**Mark R. Vatone**
Patent Attorney, Schwegman Lundberg Woessner Kluth. (Gilroy, CA)

**Becky M. Smith**
Owner/Broker, Kern Property Development, Real Estate and Construction. After leaving the full-time practice of law in 2003, I have been active in the real estate industry and opened a brokerage this past year. I still maintain a legal practice in litigation and estate planning although most of my legal work is done on a pro bono basis. I am involved with the Bakersfield Breakfast Rotary Club, am the Corporate Secretary for Operation Interdependence, a nationwide civilian-military care package organization, and write start-up grants for local charities such as the St. Vincent de Paul Homeless Center. After three years of litigation training, I discovered that Henry & I could have a far more fulfilling lifestyle if I used my McGeorge legal training more creatively to branch out into real estate. I can still enjoy the practice of law to help people who would not otherwise be able to afford effective representation and to coach a local high school mock trial team. My thanks to McGeorge for hosting my high school team last year as they toured the campus, sat in on a Criminal Law class (and participated), watched one of the excellent trial seminars and met with admission and career advisors to find out how a law degree can help them reach their dreams. (Bakersfield, CA)

**Laura Giuliani**
Giuliani won a defense verdict for her client in a nine-day, wrongful-termination trial that ended April 21 in Alameda County Superior Court. A former Trial Advocacy competition team standout and current Pacific McGeorge team coach, she is an associate at Gordon & Rees. (San Francisco, CA)

**Jonathan B. Paul**
Attorney at Law, Law Offices of Moreno and Rivera LLP. Admitted to the Supreme Court of the United States of America on March 28, 2005. (Sacramento, CA)

**Frances An**
Sole Practitioner. I have practiced family law for two years. I hired an assistant in January 2005 to help with my growing practice. I also have one probate case. Law is very challenging but never boring. I take a few pro bono cases. Sometimes I just can't say no! (Sacramento, CA)

**Alon Darvish**
Attorney, Law Offices of Alon Darvish. Two years after graduation, I started my own law firm in Beverly Hills practicing Estate Planning, Business and Real Estate. July 1, 2005 will be my one year anniversary in the opening of my law firm. (Beverly Hills, CA)

**Kristine A. Fettig**
Associate - Sieving & Momjian, LLP. I recently changed firms. Now I work for Sieving & Momjian, LLP. (Sacramento, CA)

**2001**

**Class Representative**
**Lisa V. Ryan**
1647 Weinreich Court
Folsom, CA 95630-7314
916.442.3100 Business

**Molly F. Finnegan Pollock**
Associate, Swanson & Frank. James and I got married in June 2005. Thankfully Heather Galli was a bridesmaid to help keep everything organized! James and I had a wonderful honeymoon in Italy and even got to spend a day in Paris. (Sacramento, CA)

**Daniel A. Flores**
Associate - Hayes, Davis, Ellington, McClay & Scott, LLP. Title insurance, binding arbitration award—$280,500, represented plaintiffs. Case involved title company's failure to identify access easement. (Redwood Shores, CA)

**Sharon A. Garske**
Attorney, McNamara, Dodge, Ney, Beatty, Slattery, Pfizer & Borges, LLP. (Walnut Creek, CA)

**2002**

**Frances An**
Sole Practitioner. I have practiced family law for two years. I hired an assistant in January 2005 to help with my growing practice. I also have one probate case. Law is very challenging but never boring. I take a few pro bono cases. Sometimes I just can't say no! (Sacramento, CA)

**Alon Darvish**
Attorney, Law Offices of Alon Darvish. Two years after graduation, I started my own law firm in Beverly Hills practicing Estate Planning, Business and Real Estate. July 1, 2005 will be my one year anniversary in the opening of my law firm. (Beverly Hills, CA)

**Kristine A. Fettig**
Associate - Sieving & Momjian, LLP. I recently changed firms. Now I work for Sieving & Momjian, LLP. (Sacramento, CA)
Jeremy A. Fichman
Died of a stroke at age 30 in Las Vegas. He had recently joined the law firm of Hamrick & Evans as an associate. (Las Vegas, NV)

Matthew S. Gibson
Chief Executive Officer, Total Site Maintenance, Inc. Gibson has been appointed chief executive officer and general counsel for Total Site Maintenance Inc., a Sacramento erosion and soil control company. He previously was an associate at Brown, Hall, Shore & McKinley in Stockton. (Sacramento, CA)

Kevin G. Howard
Attorney, U.S. Small Business Administration Disaster Assistance Office. (Citrus Heights, CA)

Eric C. McCracken
Rice farmer, McCracken/ James Family Farms. 2004—Traveled to Hong Kong to adopt first child, Noah Kei-shing McCracken—6 years old. 2005—Traveled to Hong Kong to adopt second child—Chloe Hope Sze-Ching McCracken—14 months old. (Willows, CA)

Melissa A. Mikesell
Associate, Olson, Hagel & Fishburn, LLP. Mikesell is a new associate at Olson Hagel & Fishburn LLP, the Sacramento political law firm. The Order of the Coif grad most recently practiced with Kronick Moskovitz where she specialized in conflict of interest law for public agencies and private clients. (Sacramento, CA)

Roman M. Plach
Bridgehouse, Rückel & Bolthausen, LLC. (Atlanta, GA)

2003

Michael D. Allen
Assistant Attorney General, State of Wyoming. (Cheyenne, WY)

Julie A. Barga
Deputy County Counsel, Solano County Counsel's Office. Barga joined the staff of the Solano County Counsel's office. The new deputy county counsel, who received her bachelor's and mas-
ter's degrees in psychology from California State University, Chico, was employed as a social worker by Yolo County Child Protective Services, which sparked her interest in law school. (Fairfield, CA)

Patrick R. Bergin
Attorney/Lobbyist, Monteau & Peebles, LLP I recently accepted a position at Monteau & Peebles, LLP located in Washington, D.C. as an attorney/lobbyist. I recently was self-employed at Bergin Law Firm as the Managing Attorney. My wife Christianne and I moved to Washington, D.C. to further our careers. She is working as the weekend television news anchor for the ABC station in DC and I am working as an attorney/lobbyist for a firm specializing in Indian law. (Washington, DC)

Dennis Chin
Chin was a contestant on the Wheel of Fortune game show filmed in late April that aired on May 25 on national TV. He won cash and prizes totaling $11,950. Two days later, he received even better news when he was informed that he had passed the State Bar of California's February 2005 examination. (San Leandro, CA)

Bryan M. Folger
Associate, law firm of Minder & Muro.

Lindsay S. Harrington
Associate, Mason & Thomas. Mason & Thomas has updated their website. I invite you to check it out at www.masonthomas.com. (Sacramento, CA)

Serineh Karapetian
Associate Attorney, Mullen & Filippi. Serineh Karapetian, Associate Attorney Mullen and Filippi, LLP Sacramento, CA. I am pleased to announce my engagement to Tyler C. Roberts, ’03D. Tyler and I met in our second year Con Law class and have been inseparable ever since. To quote Mrs. Kelso, my husband is one of the best things I got out of McGeorge orientation 08/2000. (Sacramento, CA)

Lara R. Shapiro
Sole Proprietor, Shapiro Law Firm. (Sacramento, CA)

Kimberly A. Steffenson
Attorney, Rich, Fridge, Morris & Iverson, Inc. (Marysville, CA)

2004

Amanda N. Bailey
Associate, Ferns, Adams & Associates. On June 4, 2005, I married my boyfriend/fiance of seven years. We traveled around Italy for two weeks for our honeymoon. We have a chocolate lab named Bourbon who was 1 year old on June 22, 2005. We both have a house and work in the Bay Area. (Walnut Creek, CA)

Erinmauriah Conway
Conway has joined the Legacy Law Group in Sacramento where her practice will focus on assisting clients with estate planning, trust, probate, conservatorship administration, succession planning and special-needs trusts. (Elk Grove, CA)

Rebecca A. Dietzen
Associate with the firm of Kershaw, Cutter & Ratinoff, LLP in Sacramento, California. I won my first trial in June 2005 and will get married to Wesley Andrews in December 2005! (Sacramento, CA)

Joseph C. Edmondson
Owner, Law Office of J. Curtis Edmondson. Blessed with a baby daughter, Stella Marie Edmondson Tresvejo. (Pomona, CA)

Lara R. Shapiro
Sole Proprietor, Shapiro Law Firm. (Sacramento, CA)

Kimberly A. Steffenson
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Sonia R. Fernandes
Staff Attorney, Sacramento Child Advocates, Inc. (Sacramento, CA)

John R. Hewitt
California Farm Bureau Federation-Associate Counsel. (Sacramento, CA)

Amy R. Higuera
Associate Attorney, Remy Thomas Moore & Manely, LLP. (Sacramento, CA)

Patrick J. Keenan
Sole Practitioner, Law Office of Patrick J. Keenan (Rocklin, CA)

Ann K. Merrill
Legal Assistant, Barber Law Group.

Aaron S. Ralph
First Lieutenant, Army JAG Corps. Ralph received the overall highest class standing out of 91 law school graduates from around the country in the 166th JAG Basic Class in Charlottesville, Virginia. He was commissioned as a First Lieutenant in the Army JAG Corps.

Alaina M. Wichner
CPT JAG, Ft. Bliss, Texas. Was commissioned a First Lieutenant in the U.A. Army along with classmates Jessica Wise and Aaron Ralph earlier this year.

LL.M.
TRANSNATIONAL BUSINESS PRACTICE

Morad Eghbal ’91
Director of the LL.M. degree program in the Law of the United States - University of Baltimore, School of Law. Professor Eghbal is also a specialist in legal, ethical, and historical studies, as well international business and management. His expertise includes foreign entity rules, practices in context of domestic and international inter-firm agreements, supplier-chain issues, competitive and transfer pricing practices, vertical and horizontal integration, customs and tariffs and their impact on international and regional agreements, and foreign payment systems and U.S. federal policies and regulations affecting international technology initiatives and foreign development schemes. He is also a principal researcher at a non-profit organization in the area of natural resources and water resources development. (Baltimore, MD)
Kathleen (Field) Bardell '94
Attorney, Cozen O'Connor. Bardell, LL.M. has been named a member of Cozen O'Connor, one of the nation's largest law firms. She practices with the firm's Atlanta office in products liability and complex tort practice group, focusing on construction defect, mass tort, environmental and commercial litigation and insurance coverage matters. (Atlanta, GA)

Michelle A. Kaiser Bray '95
Bray, a partner with Sommer Barnard Attorneys, PC, has been elected to serve as Chair-elect for the Indianapolis Bar Associations' Intellectual Property Section. She was also the kick-off speaker at the International Trademark Association's Famous and Well-Known Marks Forum in Brussels, Belgium in September of 2004. Bray heads Sommer's Intellectual Property Practice Group and provides intellectual property counsel in a wide variety of matters relating to domestic and international business and e-commerce transactions and intellectual property litigation. (Indianapolis, IN)

Sadia Sultana '96
Lecturer, School of Business, North South University. Im still continuing my teaching career with NSU as a lecturer. For the last two years, I've been evaluated as one of the excellent faculties of the BBA program following which I was invited to share my teaching/presentation techniques with NSU students. Family wise, my second son, Naqibul Islam, was born on March 03, 2005. (Dhaka, Bangladesh)

Vladimir Sayenko '97
I was recognized as one of the top lawyers in Ukraine by the Ukrainian Law Firms Directory 2005, the leading ranking of law firms and lawyers in Ukraine. I was named #1 in antitrust and securities, and #4 in energy law. I am a partner at Sayenko Kharenko, a Ukrainian law firm that was created by a group of leading Ukrainian lawyers in October 2004 and immediately became an important player in international financing and capital markets. Other main practice areas of the firm include corporate law, mergers and acquisitions, and tax planning. The clients of the firm include ABN AMRO, CSFB, Deutsche Bank, Dresdner Kleinwort Wasserstein, ING Bank, Western Union, UBS and other major banks, financial institutions and corporations. Prior to joining Sayenko Kharenko, I was the leading Ukrainian lawyer in the Kyiv (Kiev) office of a UK law firm, where I advised multinationals and other international investors on corporate, project finance, competition and securities law since 1994. (Kiev, Ukraine)

Urs P. Gnos '00
Managing Associate, Walder, Wyss & Partners, Zurich, Switzerland. I recently spoke on the occasion of a seminar in Zurich, Switzerland on Crossborder M&A Transactions between Switzerland and Germany and had a presentation at the CILS annual meeting on Merger and Transfer of Assets and Liabilities Under the Swiss Merger Act. I also published an article on Recent Developments in Swiss Takeover Law. (Zurich, Switzerland)

Kurtiss A. Jacobs '02
Eskanos & Adler, P.C. Ryoko Nakamura and I were married on October 10, 2004. She is a Business Major at SFSU. I am an associate at Eskanos & Adler, enforcing creditors' rights. I have been published several times in state and county bar periodicals, including a full-page explanation of how best to solve our gerrymandering crisis. Hi again to my classmates from Salzburg! Concord, CA

Mingpei Wang '02
Foreign Legal Consultant – The Balanced Legal Group. I arrived in the states from Beijing in 2000 for LL.M. program study. I have gone through the most difficult time in the U.S.A. in the past four years. Lucky for me, I found a job in L.A. after the school. I hope I will make a great improvement in my career and find my life partner in America in the near future. I thank McGeorge School of Law which gave me good education. Actually, McGeorge is my hometown in this country. I love my school and my professors. (Los Angeles, CA)

Raphael Moore '04
We are pleased to announce the "re-joining" of Raphael Moore (JD 1993, LLM 1994) and Netania Moore (JD 2001) in the law partnership of Moore & Moore Attorneys at Law (formerly Law office of Raphael Moore). Our office remains in downtown Davis, and our work continues to center on general counsel services for business, along with a general practice. We also practice immigration law and continue to welcome referrals in that field. (Davis, CA)

On a separate front, we are pleased to also announce the birth of our second daughter, Mayah Irena Moore, in July 2005.

IN MEMORIAM
The University of the Pacific
McGeorge School of Law expresses sympathy to the families and friends of the following law school alumni:
Joseph E. Burke, '52
June 26, 2005
Charles Herman, '58
May 21, 2005
The Honorable William K. Morgan, '59
July 1, 2005
Ronald Bitzer, '72
July 25, 2005
Michael W. Robinson, '74
July 23, 2005
Frank J. McGuire, '79
June 26, 2005
Sharon McDonald, '80
July 24, 2005
Christopher Connell, '89
June 14, 2005
Madlyne MacDonald, '91
July 25, 2005
Peter Olson, '97
May 27, 2005
Jeremy A. Fichman, '02
June 1, 2005

LL.M. GOVERNMENT
Justin Mason '02
In the Fall 2004 Pacific Law magazine, Mason's title was incorrectly listed as Adjunct Professor. His actual appointment to the adjunct faculty at American University's Washington College of Law was as Professorial lecturer.

Van T. Vu '04
Attorney, Best, Best & Krieger. Vu has joined the education law practice group of the Sacramento office of Best Best & Krieger where her practice will focus on special education law. She spent the past seven years as a senior hearing officer at the Pacific McGeorge Institute for Administrative Justice. (Sacramento, CA)
The series of yearlong events celebrating Pacific McGeorge’s 80th Anniversary culminated with the law school’s annual commencement ceremonies at Memorial Auditorium. Judge Connie Callahan, ’75, (middle right) received the Pacific McGeorge Alumna of the Year Award and commencement speaker Constance Rice (top left), cousin of Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and a well-known Los Angeles community activist, offered career advice to the 300-plus graduates.