3-1-2001

2001 Spring Public Record

Loyola Law School - Los Angeles

Repository Citation
http://digitalcommons.lmu.edu/public_record/21
Christine D. Spagnoli '86 To Receive Loyola's "Trial Lawyer of the Year" Award

Christine D. Spagnoli '86 will be presented with Loyola Law School's 2001 "Trial Lawyer of the Year" award at its annual on-campus Scott Moot Court Finals/Trial Lawyer of the Year Dinner on Wednesday, April 18. Spagnoli, a partner with Greene, Brollett, Taylor, Wheeler and Panish of Santa Monica, practices in the areas of product liability, professional liability, insurance bad faith, wrongful death, automobile, civil rights and other consumer and tort actions. She joined the firm 14 years ago as a law clerk while attending law school. Upon graduating from Loyola cum laude, she became an attorney with the firm in 1986, and a partner in 1998. The firm specializes in civil consumer, business and traumatic personal injury trials, including product liability, professional liability, insurance bad faith, wrongful death, automobile, civil right and other consumer and tort actions.

According to the Los Angeles Daily Journal, "Spagnoli has worked on some compelling personal injury and product liability cases and has garnered lucrative settlements and jury verdicts for clients, including last year's multibillion-dollar verdict against General Motors for a family critically burned in a read-end collision." In 1999 Spagnoli was honored as a nominee for the 1999 Trial Lawyer of the Year by Consumer Attorneys of Los Angeles and by the Trial Lawyers for Public Justice.

Prior to law school, Spagnoli served as an intern in Washington, D.C. for Indiana Congressman Floyd Fithian, and then as a district field representative for California Assemblyman Mike Roos (Silver Lake-Echo Park region). During law school, Spagnoli served as editor of the Loyola of Los Angeles Law Review and authored the published Law Review note: "Medical Malpractice and Contingency Fee Controls: Is the Prescription Curing the Crisis or Killing the Patient" (1986). Alumna Rita "Sunny" Miller '79, formerly a civil defense attorney with Munger Tolles & Olson, and now a Los Angeles Superior Court judge, has opposed Spagnoli in court, and is quoted by the LA Daily Journal as saying, "She's very tough, very good on her feet, very effective, formidable."

Past recipients of Loyola's Trial Lawyer of the Year are: 2000 - Craig J. deRecat '82, 1999 - Roman M. Silberfeld '74; 1998 - Nancy Sher Cohen '78; and 1997 - Larry R. Feldman '69. PR

- Alumni Dinner
- Direct Examination (Alumni News)
HELP Loyola Law School HELP our community

A gift of $10 or $20 or more would be very meaningful in support of Loyola Law School public interest programs and community education and pro bono support programs. If you have not made a gift to Loyola Law School this year, please consider a gift of support to aid these programs.

I wish to support Loyola Law School's:

☐ Public Interest Law Foundation (PILF) Encouraging students to consider public interest law careers.

☐ Center for Conflict Resolution This program helps train community organizations and individuals in conflict resolution techniques.

☐ Cancer Legal Resource Center Legal information support for the cancer community.

☐ Pro Bono Student Program Encouraging students to give back to the community through pro bono participation in many community organizations.

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Thank you for your support
Max Goodman '48 received an honorary doctor of law degree from Southwestern University School of Law last spring at its 85th commencement exercises. Goodman has been a member of the law school's faculty since 1966; he teaches courses in community property and family law. Prior to teaching, Goodman maintained a family law practice as a partner of 27 years at Goodman & Hirschberg. In 1993, Goodman participated in the first World Conference on Family Law and Children's Rights, held in Australia.

Peter A. Saporito '67, staff attorney for Coltrons, legal division, Los Angeles, from 1970-84 and 1999-present, was profiled in the 6/9/00 issue of the LA Daily Journal. Saporito has also worked for Getty Oil (managing international sales), Santa Fe Southern Pacific Railroad (in-house counsel), TIG Insurance, and several Southern California firms including Korn & Wooley.

Graduates of the 1970s

John F. Loggins '70 celebrates his 20th year as managing partner of Loggins and Reigan in Long Beach, where the firm continues to represent accident victim's claims. Loggins also has been appointed Los Angeles County commissioner of civil marriages, a capacity in which he performs 10 to 15 weddings weekly. Loggins also writes a weekly article for New Music Weekly's (recording industry magazine) "The Gavel" column.

Michael C. Denison '74 has started a new law firm, along with fellow alumnus Charles G. Smith '84, named Towle, Denison, Smith & Tovrea, LLP. Gary M. Paul '74, a partner at Paul & Jantonis, was profiled in the 7/7/00 issue of the LA Daily Journal. Paul has tried more than 100 civil jury trials and obtained more than 10 verdicts in excess of $1 million. Paul co-wrote the California Tort Practice Guide, published in 1995.

Jim Bendt '75 is the author of a new book, Democracy's Big Day: The Inauguration of our President, now available from book retailers. Bendt has been an attorney with the Los Angeles County Public Defender's Office since 1978.

A Note From Professor Stan Goldman and Alumnus Shelly Jay Shafron '75

A member of our class is battling cancer. You can help.

Over the last five years, our classmate Jacqueline Tip (Yagawa) '75 has been unable to practice law due to a variety of health problems. A year ago, Jackie was diagnosed with stage four lung cancer. She underwent chemotherapy and radiation, and seemed to be making a miraculous recovery. This past December, unfortunately, an examination of Jackie indicated a rapidly growing tumor in the front part of her brain, as well as seedling tumors. She's being treated with radiation at UC Irvine Hospital, with some positive results. She needs assistance at home, however, which she cannot afford. Jackie's friends are soliciting donations from all those to whom the fates have been kinder and who can be motivated to help. Any donation, large or small, will be greatly appreciated.

Checks should be made payable to the Jacqueline Yagawa Health Fund and forwarded to Shelly Jay Shafron, at Shafron, Altshuld & Kammer, LLP, 16255 Ventura Blvd., Encino, CA 91436.

Thank you for your generosity.

Alan B. Robbin '79, formerly general counsel to Sierra West Bank, has become its executive director and general counsel of The Nevada Commission on Judicial Discipline, in Carson City.

Graduates of the 1980s

Harriet Beck '80 has been named senior vice president, legal and business affairs of Odyssey Network (television). Beck has been consulting for Odyssey since its preliminary planning stages in 1998. She developed its legal and business affairs operation and has headed it since its inception. Beck has worked with a range of television entities including Fox Children's Network, Hearst Entertainment and Genesis Entertainment. Michael Gurinittel '80 is the author of a regularly published column in the Los Angeles Asian Journal on immigration issues of importance to the general public.

Cathryn DeYoung '81 mayor of Laguna Niguel as of December 5, 2000, has been working with a youth task force to evaluate youth programs -- and present before the City Council its recommendations for improvement. DeYoung has worked for the D.A.'s Office in prosecuting juveniles.

Mark Gerages '82 has written a lead article in Verdict magazine's, January 2001 issue entitled, "The Grand Inquisition."

Charles G. Smith '84 has started a new law firm, along with fellow alum Michael C. Denison '74, named Towle, Denison, Smith & Tovrea, LLP. Kurt Weissmuller '84, an associate and partner with Westen, Benshoof, Roachfuze & MacCurth, Los Angeles, was profiled in the 6/30/00 issue of the LA Daily Journal. One year out of law school, Weissmuller joined the U.S. Department of Justice, where he concentrated on environmental law and became a leading expert in federal and state regulations including the California Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act.

Mitchell A. Jackman '87 opened his own practice in April 2000 in Santa Cruz. He previously worked for the law firm of Atchison, Barcione & Condalti in Santa Cruz for almost 11 years and before that worked in the tax division of the accounting firm Arthur Andersen & Co. in Los Angeles.

Sherri Geyer '88 has joined the 250-attorney Crosby, Heafey, Roach & May's branch in Century City. Geyer practices in both the firm's business solutions and real estate groups, where her transactional practice will focus on financing, real estate workouts, mergers and acquisitions, and leasing matters. Dennis Kess '88, partner at Manning & Mandler, Koss, Elrod, Ramirez, was profiled in the LA Daily Journal (6/12/00). In 1999, Kess received the "Attorney of the Year" award from the National Association of Special Investigation Units. He lectures extensively on insurance fraud, and serves as an arbitrator and as a private judge. Ralph J. Ortolano, Jr. '88 was this past summer promoted to Commander, United States Naval Reserve, and in 1999 received his ChiefMate (Unlimited) license in the U.S. Merchant Marine.

Brian Kubatock '89 has been named partner in the firm of Quinnember & Bardanel, Century City.

Donate your old cell phone

Do you or a friend or relative have an old cell phone collecting dust in a closet or draw­er? Donate it to a worthy cause: the Loyola Law School branch of "Call to Protect."

The Call to Protect program is a nationwide effort to stop domestic violence by providing "at-risk" women with cell phones preprogrammed to "911" and domestic violence hotlines.

For more information, you may email law student Susan Gallarian at calltoprotect@yahoo.com. There are seven drop-off sites in Los Angeles, including the Security Entrance at Loyola Law School — just pull up and drop off your phone. It is that easy to help someone.

Graduates of the 1990s

Chris Nixon '90 has been promoted to vice president and co-general counsel of SunAmerica Inc. and of the SunAmerica Life Companies (insurance), where she will jointly oversee the corporation's legal and regulatory affairs, and continue to handle the company's variable annuity business, and product development and marketing. Nixon joined SunAmerica in 1993, and previously specialized in banking and finance law with the law firm of Stepleard, Mullin, Richter and Hampton.
Tammara Billik '92, a member of Kol Ami, this past year received a "Guardian of Justice" award from the West Hollywood's Reform Synagogue for outstanding community work. Billik is a casting director for film and television (credits include "Married... with Children" and "Ellen."), and is a board member of both the Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Center and the Human Rights Campaign.

Melody E. Williams-Dapp '91, a complex business litigator, has been promoted to partner by the Orange County firm of 590-attorney Pillsbury, Madison & Sutro.

Mary A. Burkin '92 has co-authored "Fat Feet," a romantic comedy set for world premiere on March 31 at the Courtyard Theater in Pasadena. Andrew J. Durkovic '92 has been elected to partner with the national, 590-attorney firm of Baker & Hostetler LLP. Durkovic concentrates his practice in general business and real estate litigation at the firm's Washington, D.C. office. Joe Escalante '92, according to the Los Angeles Times (12/21/2000), is embarking on a cinema career; his low budget film "This Don't Punk" will be released on video this year and marketed through the web site www.vandelds.com. Escalante is a founding member of the Orange County/Long Beach peak rock group the Vandals, and spent five years as a business affairs attorney for CBS and consultant for the UPN network.

Daniel D. Kopman '92 JD, CPA, is a partner in the law partnership of Abrams, Hawelecte, Hudson & Kopman, Pasadena. In his practice, Kopman emphasizes litigation of business, trust, real estate and professional liability matters, as well as taxation and estate planning.

Sonia J. Ransom '92, a land use attorney with the real estate law firm Allen, Matkins, Leck, Gamble & Mallory, LLP, has been named president of the Los Angeles chapter of Commercial Real Estate Women. At 210-attorney Allen Matkins, Ransom focuses on land use, administrative, municipal financing and redevelopment issues. Keith A. Schuler '92 has opened a new business called Waterside Mediation and Consulting (www.watersidemediationandconsulting.com). In addition, Schuler mediates for the court and has sat as Judge Pro Tem in Los Angeles, and has sat in a hearing for the presiding judge in Ventura County Superior Court—handling his mandatory settlement conferences. The Schuler, the greater Colusa-area newspaper, has featured Schuler on his efforts in helping Pepperdine Law School create (and being the prototype for) a degree combining an MBA and a Master's in Dispute Resolution.

Claudia Alvarez '94 took a seat on the Santa Ana City Council in December. She makes local history as the first Latina to serve on the governing body. She most recently worked in the Family Support Division of the district attorney's office. Mark Horoupian '94, a fourth-year associate with Sulmeyer, Kupetz, Beumann & Rothman, has been named to the board of directors for the St. Vincent Medical Center Foundation. A specialist in bankruptcy, bankruptcy litigation, commercial real estate and business litigation, Horoupian will help lead fundraising and public awareness efforts of the 380-bed hospital and its programs.

William J. Peters '94, a named partner with Show Pittman's technology group, will head up the Los Angeles office of the international firm. Show Pittman's Los Angeles lawyers handle technology transactions in industries including banking, retailing, insurance, manufacturing and aerospace. Greg Towsend '94 was recently promoted to assistant trial attorney, Office of the Prosecutor, for the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, based in Arusha, Tanzania. He has been assigned to a team prosecuting six defendants joined in one case and all charged with genocide.

Stephen Baker '95 has been made general counsel and a member of Cal-Globel Venture Partners, LLC, a venture capital firm with projects in California, Florida, Illinois, Mexico, Argentina, Brazil, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. Thomas R. Rouse '95 has been promoted to Divisional President Counsel at QUALCOMM Incorporated.

R.J. Comer '96 has become an associate with the business law firm Allen Matkins Leck, Gamble & Mallory LLP. Comer's practice covers land use transactions (such as for film and television production facilities) and litigation, administrative law, municipal advocacy and water and appeals. Comer serves as an adjunct trainer at the Caro Southern California Leadership Center and as a registered lobbyist for the City of Los Angeles. He is also a member of the editorial board for Los Angeles Lawyer magazine.

Olegario (Ollie) D. Cantos V'77 received the "Access Award" in October from the Los Angeles County Commission on Disabilities in recognition of his work as a staff attorney at the Western Law Center for Disability Rights. Stacey Lipton '97 has joined the national law firm of Arent & Hadden LLP as an associate in the Woodland Hills office. The firm has more than 450 attorneys in 22 practice groups covering all substantive areas of litigation and business law. Claudia Gooding '97, a general business litigation associate with Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy, Los Angeles, was profiled in the 9/80 issue of the Los Angeles Daily Journal. A former Olympic trials (1988) swimming competitor, Gooding's clients include Los Angeles casino owners and venture capitalists. Andrew B. Goodman '97, formerly of Wilner, Klein & Siegel, has joined Cushman Realty Corporation, where he assists in the negotiation and review of lease documents for such properties as Citicorp Plaza, Ernst and Young Plaza and The California Bank and Trust Building.

Alma P. Levy '98 has joined the San Diego office of Brabec, Pfleuger & Harrison LLP as an associate. Levy served as an extern for the Honorable Terry J. Hatter in the Central District of California and worked as an engineer at the Aerospace Corporation prior to attending Loyola Law School. Toral Patel '98 has been appointed to the position of deputy public defender I with the Law Office of the Los Angeles County Public Defender. Perrin B. Reid '98 has been named Gettysburg College's first director of employment equity and diversity. Before coming to Gettysburg, Reid served as an adjunct instructor in the Department of English at Mount Saint Mary College in New York City, and as an administrator at TransAfrica Forum. In addition, Reid has worked as a law clerk for several organizations and as a consultant for the Center for Conflict Resolution here at Loyola Law School.

Josh Gross '99 continues to serve as publisher and CEO of the Beverly Hills Weekly, which recently received a national award for its coverage of Los Angeles County. He invites alumni to visit the paper's site online at (http://www.bhweekly.com).

Marta Higuera '99 has become an associate with Towle, Denison, Smith & Tovar, LLP.

JUDICIAL REVIEW

Hon. Kenneth Lee Cotriner '69 of the Los Angeles Superior Court received a commendation from the County Board of Supervisors during the past year for "leadership and most significant contributions for the benefit of the citizens of Los Angeles County." Cotriner was a keynote speaker at the "National Workshop on Information Management and Information Sharing" in Montreal (sponsored by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics and the Solicitor General of Canada); lectured at the "National Center for State Courts' National Court Technology Conference" in Los Angeles; and presented "Improved Criminal Justice Information Sharing" at the "Annual Conference on Criminal Justice Research and Evaluation" in Washington, D.C. (sponsored by the U.S. Department of Justice.)

Hon. Teri L. Cody '85 has been appointed by Gov. Gray Davis to the Ventura Superior Court. She leaves the Los Angeles Law School and has practiced mostly of litigation on behalf of water and irrigation districts and other public agencies.

Hon. Victor Chavez '59, presiding judge of the Los Angeles Superior Court, served as the Federal District Court in Los Angeles City's inaugural fundraising dinner held this past October at the Oxford Palace Hotel in Los Angeles' mid-Wilshire section. During the evening, Dean David W. Burcham '84, on behalf of Loyola Law School, accepted an award for the School's commitment to community and support of the nonprofit organization. Alumna Carol Oh Basile '77, starting the Los Angeles Legal Aid Society in 1999 as a Loyola Law School post graduate fellowship recipient.

Hon. Kathryn Doi Todd '70 was appointed by Gov. Davis last summer to the Court of Appeal, Second Appellate District. One of the first Asian American women judges in the state, Doi Todd has been on the Superior Court for 20 years and is a former presiding judge of the Juvenile Court.

Commissioner Anthony Peters '88 of the Los Angeles Superior Court was profiled in the 8/31/00 issue of the LA Daily Journal. Peters presides over felony and misdemeanor arraignments, pretrial motions, probation violations and drug court.

Hon. Gary J. Ferrari '70 was profiled in the 9/28/00 issue of the LA Daily Journal. Supervising judge for the South District of the Los Angeles Superior Court, Ferrari also has served the Long Beach city prosecutor's office, its city attorney's office and its municipal court.

Hon. Manuel Ramirez '74, presiding judge over the Fourth District Court of Appeal, Division 2, was profiled in the 9/6/00 issue of the LA Daily Journal. Appointed by Gov. Deukmejian in 1990, Ramirez has served as a Orange County D.A., municipal court judge and superior court judge. Ramirez is among the 4th District judges who fought to obtain a new Court of Appeal Building, now located in downtown Riverside.
Hon. Rita J. Miller '79 was appointed by Gov. Gray Davis last summer to the Los Angeles Superior Court. Until recently, Miller was an assistant U.S. attorney and a civil litigator for 21 years with Munger, Tolles & Olson. As a partner with the firm, Miller handled complex legal malpractice and malicious prosecution cases. She has also served for a number of years as a civilian hearing officer for the Los Angeles Board of Police Commissioners.

Hon. Patrick Donahue '83. Formerly a U.S. Marine captain and more recently a senior deputy district attorney, Judge Donahue was sworn in office in August as judge of the Superior Court of California in Orange County. He was assigned to the North Justice Center in Fullerton, where he is to oversee an array of cases including arraignment hearing to murder cases.

Hon. Jane L. Johnson '80 was appointed last July by Gov. Gray Davis as a Los Angeles Superior Court Commissioner. She has served as chair of the executive committee of the county bar association's litigation section. A teacher before becoming an attorney, and then a civil litigation lawyer for 17 years, Johnson most recently served as a family law commissioner.

Hon. Richard Montes '67 was profiled in the 5/23/00 issue of the Los Angeles Times upon his retirement from family law judge for the Los Angeles County Superior Court. Montes was the supervising judge of family law from 1989-91, and presiding judge over juvenile court from 1995-97. Montes was appointed to the bench in 1976, serving first in the Alhambra Municipal Court. Earlier in his career Montes was a prosecutor and mayor of San Gabriel. Montes will continue to work -- in the field of alternative dispute resolution -- and continue to volunteer for Project Read; Montes spends a part of each week teaching incarcerated juveniles to read.

Hon. Frederick Mandabach '72 of the San Bernardino County Superior Court, West End courts, was one of three judges last spring to receive the "Kaufman/Campbell Award" by the San Bernardino County Bar Association for outstanding service as jurist. The award recognizes jurists who have served on the bench with distinction, making contributions to the community and the practice of law.

Mandabach was first appointed, as a municipal court judge, in 1983.

Commissioner Robert Nagby '83 is assigned (as of 1998) to the Riverside Superior Court's juvenile court, where he hears child dependency cases. Nagby was profiled in the 6/15/00 issue of the LA Daily Journal.

MARITAL AGREEMENTS


Alison M. Barbarash '96, an associate with Rutan & Tucker, LLP, is engaged to marry David Kadin. A September 2, 2001 wedding date is planned.

CERTIFICATES OF BIRTH & ADOPTION

Deborah Mayberry Bieber '91 loves her current employment status; she is a stay-at-home mom to seven-year-old son Hank, and newborn triplets which arrived December 21, 2000. Her names are: Anna Louise ("Annie"), Holla Theresa and Nicolas James. Her husband (and classmate) Henry Bieber '91 is senior vice president for GMAC Commercial Mortgage in San Francisco.

Cheri L. Wood '95 and Thomas R. Roese '95 announce the birth of daughter Laura Marie Roese, born January 28, 2000, 9 lbs., 14.5 oz.; 20.5 inches.

Ralph J. Orlonano, Jr. '88 and his wife Edina Olga Cruz are the parents of Elisa Stahlman, born August 19, 1999.

Andy '86 and Suzanne '88 Hui announce the birth of daughter Malia Renee Hui, born on Thursday, February 8, 2001 -- 7 lbs., 13 oz., 21 inches.

IN MEMORIAM

Robert R. Nibley '42, a retired senior partner of Los Angeles' Hill Farrer & Burrill, passed away on December 16, 2000. A graduate of the evening division, Nibley joined the law firm in 1946 and specialized in eminent domain. Nibley played a large part in Los Angeles' growth through the purchases of private land for freeways and parks.

James D. Tante '48, former judge of the Los Angeles Superior and Municipal Courts and member of the California Adult Authority, passed away in Laguna Hills in September 2000. An Air Corps major during WWII, tante began his legal career with work in the motion picture industry. He also served on the State Board of Corrections.

Stephen R. Powers, Jr. '49 passed away on November 7, 2000. He was a graduate of Loyola High School, Loyola Marymount University and Loyola Law School. Powers served as an officer during WWII in the Pacific Theater. Following a long career as a trial attorney, Powers retired as assistant city attorney at the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power.

Robert Hughes Gilham '54 passed away on January 3, 2001. He was a retired workers' compensation judge in Santa Ana. Prior to his judicial service, Gilham was an attorney for the City Attorney's Office in Los Angeles Traffic Court, and then became a certified specialist in workers' compensation law with the Department of Water and Power.

Lawrence R. Horton '55 of Tarzana died October 5, 1999. According to his family, Horton was a "fine and honored attorney, loved and appreciated the support of legal information, and was proud of belonging to the legal fraternity."

Joseph McLaughlin '55, a beloved member of the Loyola Law School community, passed away on November 28, 2000. As a law student, McLaughlin participated in Scott Most Court competitions. During his legal career, McLaughlin served as professor of labor relations at Loyola Marymount University. In addition to his notable financial support of the School, McLaughlin served on the Alumni Association Board of Governors as a member and as President, and served on the Board of Visitors for a length of time. He was also known to attend numerous events such as the annual Law Day Red Mass, and received the School's "Distinguished Alumnus" award in 1994. Larry McLaughlin '78 said of his father, "He truly loved Loyola Law School -- his law school."

Hon. Robert H. Keefe '68 passed away in February 2000. He was in private practice for 10 years with Schlegel, Friedmann and Manke. From 1991-94, Keefe was an Orange County Superior Court commissioner, and was appointed a municipal court judge by then Governor Pete Wilson. He was elevated to the Santa Ana Superior Court in 1998.

Jacqueline D. Cooper '95 died February 15, 2000.
Spring 2001 Calendar of Events for Loyola Law School

Thursday, April 12
Class of 1994 Gathering
McCormick & Schmids
Beverly Hilton

Wednesday, April 18
Moot Court Finals
Trial Lawyer of the Year Dinner

Thursday, April 19
Class of 2001 Gathering

Thursday, April 26
Annual Alumni Dinner
Orange County Reception
(tentative)

Saturday, May 5
Santa Barbara Alumni Reception
Home of Hon. Tom Anderle ’64

Saturday, May 8
Class of 2000 Reception

Sunday, May 13
Commencement Ceremonies
Held on Westchester Campus

Tuesday, June 5
Swearing-In Ceremony for
New Attorneys
(tentative)

Saturday, June 30
Classes of 1966-1967 Reunion
Home of Patricia Phillips ’67

To Be Announced
The Gathering of Classes
Prior to 1965
Latino Scholarship Event
Loyola Small Practice Network Event