2009 Summer Public Record

Loyola Law School - Los Angeles

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.lmu.edu/public_record

Repository Citation
https://digitalcommons.lmu.edu/public_record/9

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by the Law School Publications at Digital Commons @ Loyola Marymount University and Loyola Law School. It has been accepted for inclusion in Public Record by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons@Loyola Marymount University and Loyola Law School. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@lmu.edu.
If the Loyola Law School alumni were a blockbuster summer movie, their tag line might be, “All for one and one for all!”

That is to say, many, many dedicated alumni pitch in year after year, reaching out to current Loyola Law students. The alumni span the support base—to great success—in several school program endeavors, including: prepping the students for moot court competitions, mentoring by forging one-on-one personal relationships, coaching the trial advocacy teams, and most recently, guiding the students through the maze of the prized post-graduate judicial clerkships.

For as long as Loyola Law School has been around, its graduates have shared this common refrain: that they got a great education, that they loved the supportive and inspiring faculty, and that they have made great friends of their classmates. Loyola is miles apart from the other law schools where, the stories go, cutthroat competition during final exams results in pages torn from books and reference materials at the law library, and worse. Loyola’s alumni, in fact, would forever sing the praises of its “sense of community.” And it is to this place they fondly remember that they return, time and again.

Recent ‘06 graduates Kat Macfarlane and Joel Richlin flexed their alumni muscles by taking on a new level in just one year the judicial clerkship placement program on which Professor Laurie Levenson, advisor to the Post Graduate Judicial Clerkship Committee, has toiled for many years. A judicial clerkship is a must if one wishes to pursue an academic career, and it is also viewed as a great asset by law firms. Its supporters call it a veritable “gold star on the resume.” The three-year-old committee now boasts 24 alumni and four professors, and has tripled its clerkship placement numbers.

Macfarlane knew first-hand that her Loyola classmates were well-educated and competent, and that it was simply a matter of getting more Loyola graduates’ feet in the door. She correctly believed that a greater number of successful clerkships placements and, as a result, better and wider-spread reputation among the judicial community, would lead to even more clerkships for future Loyola graduates.

The clerkship committee guides the Loyola applicants on everything from writing a good resume and cover letter to courtroom etiquette, salaries, tips on individual judge’s personalities and styles. “We support the alumni basically forever!” said Loyola staff member Linda Wysocky. “We are better than 55 percent placement for our applicants, and that’s unheard of,” said Wysocky. The figure is considerably higher than other Southern California law schools, including those at University of California, Los Angeles, and University of Southern California, she said.

About 20 Loyola graduates are headed for the highly competitive clerkships this year, thanks to the committee. And the committee exerts its notable influence because alumni like Richlin and Macfarlane couldn’t say enough good things about their time at Loyola Law School.

“We feel indebted to the school,” said Richlin, who recalled supportive classmates and teachers. “I just happened to mention in passing to Professor Barbara Blanche that I was applying for a temporary clerkship, and she knew of this judge, so she was willing to go out of her way for me.” After that temporary stint ended, Richlin’s next clerkship came as a direct result of networking over lunches with his former classmates who were clerking at the same and nearby downtown court buildings.

Macfarlane, who completed her two-year clerkships with the District of Arizona and the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, now works as a third-year associate at Quinn Emanuel in downtown Los Angeles. The clerkship years counted toward associate years at law firms, and the experiences were “invaluable when you come out of law school,” she said. “You start to feel like a general practitioner because you’re exposed to every kind of case under the sun, from beginning to end, especially at the appellate level, where everything gets whittled down.”

Third-year student Courtney Voegele counts herself lucky to have gained an ally via Loyola’s alumni mentorship program. Shahram “Shawn” Haghighi ’00 already had under his belt the successful big-firm career she was aspiring to, and was willing to share his insights and experience. Haghighi, a former associate at Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher’s New York and Los Angeles offices, also gave valuable interview tips to Voegele, who, coincidentally, got her summer associate job at the firm’s Orange County office.

Giving Back Makes a Difference

By Diana McCulloch
Direct Examination was appointed to the Nevada Gaming and appointed vice president and general counsel, of ChinaTel Group College of Trial Lawyers. held in May at the Westin Mission Hills Resort. was recognized as one of the 2009 Scripps LLP and co-chairs its new technology law group in the firm's chair for 2009-10 of the Los Angeles County Economic Development attorney, Carmen Trutanich. Carter was a partner with Musick, Peeler John Hanna chaired the Community College League of the California has traveled to more than 40 countries and lived in Africa and Asia. He has 25 years of international disaster experience, overseeing deputy assistant administrator of USAID for Humanitarian Assistance. He was deputy director of the government’s response to the Darfur crisis, the Asian Tsunami, the Pakistan earthquake and countless other natural and man-made disasters. Gotthelf has traveled the world as a keynote speaker, television and print media commentator and at West last November for Forbes magazine was also one of those identified as a future leader in the world’s business community. 

Greg Gottlieb is the director of the USAID Mission in Windhoek, Namibia. He is a member of the Senior Executive Service of the federal government and is a member of the Western Council of Environmental lawyers, and he continues to practice tax law and estate planning—with an emphasis on high net worth clients—part of the firm’s litigation department as of counsel. Regenstreif & Taylor, joining the white collar criminal and business litigation department as of counsel. John Horn of the Arbitration Foundation of Southern California, who currently chairs the board’s budget and grand reunion committees.

1994 Juliet (Fsher) Grossman started Thankful Simple, a business specializing in litigation, personalized thank you notes for brides, expectant parents, graduates, and bar and bat mitzvahs. Bradie Mortensen is the newly appointed general counsel of the California Department of Managed Health Care, where he advises on legal general defense and insurance and, in particular, activities among divisions and acts as liaison to the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency. Craig S. Pederson was elected to partner at Bratsk LIP in Sherman Daily, where he focuses on family law. He is a member of Loyola Law School’s Alumni Association Board and currently chairs the board’s budget and grand reunion committees.

1995 Brian A. Arnold is now a partner with Thomas, Whitelaw & Tyl in Irvine, practicing real estate property litigation. Andrew B. Holmes moved to Linder Grode Stein Yankelevitz & Taylor in Los Angeles to handle commercial/premises liability and commercial contract negotiation.

Christopher Wright joined Linder Grode Stein Yankelevitz & Taylor in Los Angeles as an associate his firm were profiled in the May issue of California Lawyer article. In addition to playing timpani for the Los Angeles Philharmonic, recently was elected to the City Council of Palos Verdes Estates; he previously chaired the city’s planning commission. Hon. Alice Dale was pro- moted to Yuba County counsel. She

IN MEMORIAM  It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of a former beloved Loyola Law professor. Kathleen W. Tate, who served as professor of law at Loyola Law School from 1983 to 2001, was born in Fort Wayne, IN. She was a Yale administrator in New York and Illinois, and a social worker in Kansas City, before attending Arizona State University—where she earned a Juris doctor with high distinction and was the first woman to be elected as an assistant U.S. attorney. Professor Tate joined Loyola as an associate professor of law in 1983, later becoming full professor in 1989 teaching corporations, securities regulation, and ethics, counseling and negotiation. Prior to joining the Loyola faculty, she held positions at the International Business and Economics in Beijing, China, where she taught American Company Law. Professor Tate served on numerous committees at Loyola Law School. She was held in high regard by students, staff and colleagues. Professor Tate enjoyed camping, crafts and Western American history. She is survived by her husband of 42 years, Jay. The Law School regretfully announces the passing of the following alum of the top 42 years, Jay.


drug.
**Giving Back Makes a Difference**

(Continued from Cover)

Haghighi was not directly involved with getting Voegle her summer job, but having already made the career trajectory, he was able to guide her law school career from the beginning. He first met Voegle when she signed up for the program in her first year.

Voegle said, “He talked about how important grades were, kind of helped me plan out a study schedule for finals. He calmed my nerves… He really helped, he made a difference.”

For Haghighi, returning to Loyola began simply when he responded to the alumni newsletter, which said the school was looking to add to its Alumni Board of Governors. Since joining up, mentoring the students was a natural and easy step.

He shared that oft-repeated refrain among Loyola graduates: “I got a good legal education that got me good jobs and got me started in my career,” said Haghighi, vice president at Oaktree Capital Management, L.P. in Los Angeles. “I had a good experience at Loyola. I made a lot of friends, enjoyed the faculty, so I stayed in involved.”

In his mentor role, Haghighi sees himself as an additional resource to the students. He says their discussions address a variety of career questions: Should they go into private practice, public interest organizations, pursue the city attorney’s office, or “law firm A” or “law firm B?”

“I am really grateful to Loyola and this mentor program,” said Charlotte Pashley ’99. “When I started law school, unlike many students, I actually didn’t know any lawyers at all, so it was really great to have Kat to help me understand what I was in for, and also prepare for my future above and beyond getting good grades. She was there for me every step of the way.”

That would be Kat Macfarlane, who is pulling double-alumna duty in mentorship and clerkship programs. “I truly believe my job offer was a direct result of Kat’s help. I seriously can’t thank her enough for everything she has done,” said Pashley, who will start with McGuire Woods in Century City. Pashley credits Macfarlane for excellent advice on interviewing, resume and cover letter, business etiquette, and nurturing professional relationships. “She is smart, to the point, and truly an awesome woman.”

Loyola Law School has had a long tradition of producing great trial lawyers, counting several high-profile attorneys among its alumni ranks.

Kristin Walker ’99, a confident litigator herself, is working hard to make sure the tradition continues. She began coaching Loyola’s Byrne Trial Advocacy Teams the year after she graduated. There was just one team when she started, but now there are two—a direct result of Walker’s assistance to Professor Susan Poehls ’89, the team advisor who wanted to see the program expanded.

“It’s a very good program,” said Walker, who is with the Orange County office of Severson & Werson. “I appreciate what the school and Susan’s program did for me, and the only way to bolster the school’s reputation is to keep the program strong.”

Professor Poehls, in her 20th year as head coach of the Byrne Trial Advocacy teams, has guided the teams to 17 regional championships, including one this year, and two national championships.

This sort of training becomes even more specialized for the Hispanic La Raza Moot Court. Carlos Cruz ’96, believes that Latino students, in particular, need additional support because the odds are great that they would be first-generation law school students.

Cruz was the first lawyer in his family, and his focus since graduation has been immigration law, serving some 2,000 clients.

Loyola asked Cruz to return and coach the La Raza Moot Court team, and get it in shape for the upcoming national competition. Professor Christopher May, who was one of Cruz’s professors, came out of retirement to serve as an advisor for the team. The team met twice a week, up to four hours at a time for an entire semester, mastering their art.

Their hard work and dedication paid off. Loyola’s team placed second of 31 teams at the Hispanic National Bar Association/Hispanic National Bar Foundation National Moot Court Competition. And one Loyola team member, Diana Rivero ’10, was one of four awarded “Best Oral Advocate.” The competition was held at Florida International University in Miami.

Cruz is proud of his team’s achievement. “It is incredible to take a team without any experience … and develop them into a strong set of advocates,” Cruz said. “It’s going to give them the confidence they need to practice law with passion, diligence and heart!”

Loyola Law School continues to be proud and grateful for its supportive and loyal alumni who take pride in giving back and making a difference at their alma mater.

**Make a Difference - Get Involved.**

Visit alumni.lls.edu to learn more about volunteering or becoming a mentor.
Justice and fairness are not only taught, but evidently practiced in the classroom. When the controversial death penalty is debated in Kennedy’s class, Tracy said, even if 75 percent of the students share a liberal viewpoint, the professor would step up and present the opposing side. “You can’t have a one-sided debate,” Tracy said. “I really admire their ability to not let their personal views dictate how they teach.”

William Coskran ’59 experienced Loyola to its fullest, first as a student then as a professor. (Noting that he had taught at Loyola for nearly 40 years, Coskran cracked wise: “My God, am I that old?”) The Loyola years have been productive for Coskran, who has been teaching commercial and residential leasing, as well as other issues in the real-property field.

“The most important thing I found as a student and as a teacher is the practical use of theory,” he said. “Something that I felt as a student and carried all the way through private practice—and as a teacher—is a deep respect for the difficult job that lawyers have.”

There is clear evidence of a concerted effort by the Loyola faculty to bring about the results their students so publicly praise.

Though in his 28th year of teaching, Ides is still as fresh as a newcomer. He was spending the beginning of his summer vacation preparing for the fall curriculum. “I love teaching,” he said. “I can’t believe I get paid to do this. And it is nice to be recognized by the students.”

Professor Therese Maynard calls herself “a true believer” of Loyola Law School. Once a practitioner of securities litigation, she now teaches securities law.

“There is clear evidence of a concerted effort by the Loyola faculty to bring about the results their students so publicly praise.”