

THE EXHIBIT

Golden Gate University School of Law's Litigation Center Newsletter



TYLA REGIONAL HOSTED BY GGU IS A SMASHING SUCCESS!

By the Director of the Litigation Center, Rachel R. Brockl

GGU was nominated to host this year's regional Texas Young Lawyers Association (TYLA) National Trial Competition (NTC), which drew 18 competing teams from law schools all over the western territory. This was a monumental event that took preparation starting in the summer of 2022 leading up to this past February. For some context, each mock trial team was made up of 2-3 students and all schools were required to bring a handful of witnesses. Coaches of the teams also attended the event as well as some observers. We recruited over 85 attorneys and judges from the community to evaluate these students and give feedback on their presentations.

It was quite the sight to see the typically relaxed hallways of GGU packed for three days in a row with the buzz of nervous competitors waiting to start their trials, the likes of which we hadn't seen since before the

COVID pandemic began in 2020. Each morning started off with a massive influx of folks to check-in, provide swag bags to, and get situated in their courtrooms. Snacks and drinks were set up on each floor for guests to peruse before getting settled. Once situated, witnesses and evaluators had to be confirmed and conflict checked before beginning the rounds.

In the end, we had two teams who moved on to Texas Nationals: UC College of the Law, San Francisco (formerly Hastings) and McGeorge. Yours truly sat as an evaluator in one of the final trials and the student advocates blew me away. Not only were these students polished and well-versed in their evidence rules, but they could weave a theme from opening through closing with so much passion. The event concluded with awards and handshakes all around. *(Continued on Page 4)*

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EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

"HOW TO EXECUTE A KILLER CROSS"

Presented by Ben B. Rubinowitz



**Tuesday
September 12
12:00 - 1:00 p.m.**

MOCK TRIAL INFO SESSION

Tuesday, April 18, 12-1pm, Zoom

Hear about the new application process to join the Trial Team!

1ST STEP MENTORSHIP PROGRAM



Applications due
April 25th by 12:00 p.m.

Email baxterfellow@ggu.edu

See page 3 for more information.

LITIGATION CENTER AWARDS CEREMONY

Join us to celebrate our graduates and those who have contributed this past year!



APRIL 21, 2023
5:00 - 6:00 P.M.
ROOM 3214 / ZOOM

BAXTER OFFICE UPDATES

DIRECTOR REFLECTION AND WELCOME OF STUDENT BAXTER FELLOW



"The biggest spotlight of this past semester was the success of the TYLA Regional Competition. The Litigation Center is lucky to have had the support of staff, faculty, students, alumni, and the local legal community to ensure

the event was perfectly executed. These types of high-quality events put GGU Law on the map for national recognition in the trial advocacy world. I could not be prouder of the teamwork that our law school put forward to carry out this grand achievement.

Another tremendous support to the Litigation Center this semester was the addition of a Student Baxter Fellow, 3L Christina Robinson. She jumped into the ring with no hesitation and took over new Baxter Fellow tasks with ease. Christina has been reliable, determined, and hard working. It is no wonder that she is one of the top students in her class.

While at GGU, she was awarded Best Cross Examination and Best Closing Argument in the 2021 Cross & Close Competition hosted by the Society of Litigators (SoL).



From there, she participated in the 2022 STEP Program as both an Evidence, and Trial Evidence & Advocacy Teaching Assistant. Christina has competed on the National Trial Team three times, where she helped her teammates reach the quarterfinals at the 2021

Stetson National Pretrial Competition, and to place 3rd Overall at the 2022 SFTLA Mock Trial Competition. She also jumped in to serve on a ghost team for our 2021 *In Vino Veritas* Competition. In her studies, Christina has been awarded four Witkin awards and eight CALI awards.

Additionally, Christina interns for Austin Law Group in San Francisco, is a Law Review Associate Editor, and is the President of the Business Law Association (BLA) where she successfully petitioned to absorb the Entertainment & Sports Law Student Organization into the BLA. When not working or schooling, Christina can be found watching movies, playing strategy and puzzle games, enjoying all things food and beverage, and playing with her weird little dog, Frankie S. Choodle. Thank you for all of your help this semester, Christina!"

-Professor Brockl, Director of Litigation



"We wish farewell to our short-term Baxter Fellow Christina Stout, who assisted the Litigation Center in the fall of 2022 and for the TYLA Regional Competition in February. Christina left her mark on the Litigation Center as a law student and we appreciate her time in the Baxter role. We wish her the best on the next steps in her legal career!"

-Professor Brockl, Director of Litigation

"Clothing for Closing"



Court Attire Giveback Program!

The Litigation Center is co-sponsoring a clothing donation program with Career Services that will provide **FREE** courtroom attire for current GGU law students! If you would like to be a recipient of a free courtroom outfit, or to donate formal wear, shoes, or ties in good condition for this program, please contact Career Services at lawcareer@ggu.edu for more information.

1ST STEP MENTORSHIP PROGRAM



The Litigation Center is proud to offer the 1st STEP Mentorship Program, which is focused on providing summer STEP students with additional support while undergoing intense programming. Mentors are comprised of STEP graduates and GGU alumni who can relate to the challenges experienced in law school. Mentors commit to their mentees for 8 weeks during the summer and are celebrated at the 1st STEP Reception at the completion of the Program.

Becoming a mentor is an honorable way to give back to GGU, gain valuable experience, and is an appealing addition to your resume.

Email baxterfellow@ggu.edu by 12:00 p.m. on April 25th to apply!

FROM THE BAXTER OFFICE: APPLY TO BE A BAXTER FELLOW TODAY!

The Judge Lee D. Baxter Fellowship in Litigation is an opportunity for a law graduate to work with the GGU Litigation Center and litigation professors, as well as guide students by teaching litigation skills and working with the National Trial Team. The Baxter Fellowship trains graduates who aspire to expand their practical litigation skills by working with GGU students. Come and help GGU students build the basic trial skills needed to become great trial attorneys in the legal community!

The Baxter Fellowship includes working with the National Trial Team, teaching trial and evidence skills during the 1st STEP Program, organizing the *In Vino Veritas* mock trial competition, and so much more!

The Litigation Center is now accepting applications for the 2023/2024 school year. Students planning to graduate in May or recent GGU law graduates with demonstrated academic success and a proven commitment to the Litigation Center may apply.

Email baxterfellow@ggu.edu for an application
or go to ggulitigation.com.



The Honorable Judge Lee D. Baxter

How to Apply for the BAXTER FELLOWSHIP

- (1) Download the application from the Litigation Center TWEN.
- (2) Fill out the application, including your resume, personal statement, and references.
- (3) Submit to Professor Brockl by email at rbrockl@ggu.edu by **April 25th, 2023.**

TYLA REGION 14 FINALISTS



UC College of the Law,
San Francisco
(formerly UC Hastings)



Chitra Kulkarni
Andrew MacDonald



University of the Pacific
McGeorge School of Law



Marc Marsenovic
Abby Williams

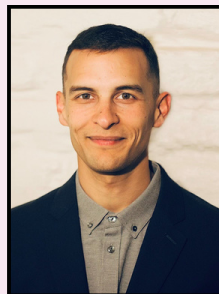
AWARD RECIPIENTS



Best Closing Argument
Maddie Driscoll
UC Berkeley



Best Overall Advocate
Chitra Kulkarni
UC Law SF



Best Overall Advocate
Jamshed Jehangir
University of New Mexico

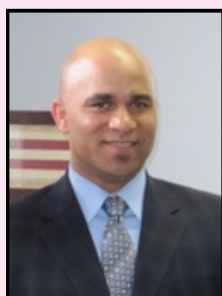


Best Opening Statement
Gregory Rousso
Golden Gate University

MCLE PRESENTERS



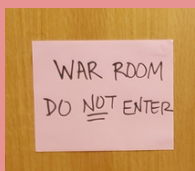
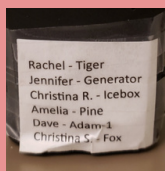
"Maintaining Mental Health
in the Legal Community"
by Ryan Griffith
Bay Area Receivership Group



"Deselecting Jurors: How to
Balance Ethics with Strategy"
by Butch Ford
Alameda County District Attorney



Most Professional Team
Otmar Alvarado, Nora Magana, Neri Lozano
Golden Gate University



TYLA Staff Team (featured right):
Dave Bertini, *Chief Student Liaison*
Amelia Zurbriggen, *Student Director*
Rachel Brockl, *Director*
Christina Stout, *Graduate Assistant*
Christina Robinson, *Student Director*

THANK YOU TO OUR TYLA EVALUATORS!

Adam Brausa	Anna Benvenue	Frank Sommers	Nathan Putney
Alyssa Fielding	Aseil Mohmoud	Gregg Zywicke	Rachel Brockl
Ashley Lotti	Berlinie St-Fort	Maxwell Louie	Rachel VanCleave
Curtis Briggs	Bernie Kempen	Hampton Jackson	Rebecca Brackman
Dan Devoy	Bradley Fell	Jeannine Sano	Robert Faussner
Dustin Cameron	Brian Ford	Jennifer Elowsky	Roger Levy
Erik Faussner	Byron Toma	Jeremy Blank	Sean McHenry
Jennifer Redding	Catherine Souders-Mahanpour	John Haramalis	Seana Azad
Jordan Dickson	Cecile Vue	John Picone	Shahrad Milanfar
Laura Udall	Claire Pratt	John Scott	Solomon Pantuch
Melinda Haag	Colin Crawford	Josh Cohen	Spencer Young
Nathan Shaffer	Dana Oviedo	Julie Batz	Stephanie Andersen
Nicholas Baran	Daniel Klausner	Linda Coco	Tim Stearns
Paula Vielman-Reeves	Darya Landa	Mark Shepherd	Tom Schaaf
Patrick McPhilamy, III	Dustin Helmer	Mark Wilson	Tyler Smith
Richard Schoenberger	Elif Sonmez-Kirsch	Matthew Renetzky	Valerie Stewart
Shawn Estrada	Liz Fishman	Matthew Peng	Vance Chang
Adam Abel	Ezekiel Bottorff	Meghan Strong	Wesley Cheung
Alson Kemp	Miranda Kane	Michael Freedman	Bill Keane
Ankush Agarwal	Michael Belter	Monica Mueller	<i>Final Trial Judges</i>
Judge Brendan Conroy	Judge Maria Evangelista	Judge Patrick Thompson	Judge Dorothy Proudfoot
Judge Robert Yeargin	Judge Lewis Davis	Comm. Bentrish Satarzadeh	Judge Andrew Steckler

Meet the Final Trial Judges



The **Honorable Judge Dorothy Chou Proudfoot** has been a judge for Mock and Moot Court competitions for 14 years. She has a diverse work history, having started as a civil litigator then becoming a Deputy District Attorney in Marin County for 16 years, plus one year as a federal prosecutor. She currently presides as an Administrative Law Judge at the San Francisco Rent Board where she has sat since 2018. Judge Proudfoot has held many leadership roles on various committees, such as the Earl Warren American Inn of Court, Administrative Law Judges Committee of the California Asian Pacific American Judges Association, Queen's Bench Bar Association, LGBTQ Committees of the National Association of Women Judges, just to name a few. In 2017, she was elected the first Asian-American President of the Marin County Bar Association.



The **Honorable Judge Andrew Steckler** is a California Superior Court Judge, sitting in Alameda County. He was appointed to the bench in 2015 by former Governor Jerry Brown. Judge Steckler received his B.A. from Williams College and went on to earn his J.D. from Harvard Law School. Judge Steckler began his legal career working as an associate with Heller Ehrman LLP. A year later, he joined the Alameda County Public Defender's Office. In 1998, he served as an associate at Morrison & Foerster LLP before returning to Alameda County to serve as an Assistant Public Defender once again, prior to his Superior Court appointment. Judge Steckler teaches courses at GGU Law, such as Evidence and Motions. In 2022, he was the recipient of the Litigation Center's "Most Dedicated to the Legal Advancement of Litigation Students" Award.

Special Thanks: Ryan Griffith for coaching a GGU TYLA Team, recruiting evaluators, making a donation to the competition, securing the cocktail party venue at Executive Order, and providing an MCLE presentation; Melinda Haag and Laura Udall from ACTL who helped recruit attorneys and flew out to judge; Butch Ford for coaching a GGU TYLA Team, playing a witness for final trials, and providing an MCLE presentation; students Piper Wheeler, Monique Ramirez, Gwen West, and Rachel Clift for playing witnesses for the competition; Jennifer Rupert for behind the scenes tasks like printing, breakfast/coffee orders, tech/room checks, check-in, and more; IT Services; Ben Mayr for ordering food for the MCLE luncheons and daily check-in; Danielle Joseph for assisting with printing; Jake, Dmitry, and Adrian who helped with room checks; Linda Coco for recruiting undergrad/MLS volunteers; to all of the full-time/part-time law, JD Flex, undergrad, and MLS students who participated as timekeepers, bailiffs, and witnesses; final round judges Dorothy Proudfoot and Andrew Steckler.

Extra Special Thanks: Christina Robinson for taking initiative on several tasks, including judge mailings, volunteer check-in, and the scoring program.

TYLA COMPETITION FEEDBACK

"Hearty congratulations to the Litigation Center, and to Professor Rachel Brockl and her team for doing such a wonderful job with the 2023 TYLA competition. It was GGU's pleasure to host this event. I myself participated as a judge and was impressed by the skill, preparation and professionalism of the competitors. The event seemed to go off without a hitch - I could not have been more impressed - or proud!" - **Dean Colin Crawford, GGU Law School**



"Rachel and the entire Golden Gate University Law School team did an extraordinary job creating, organizing, and executing the NTC Regionals. This was quite a feat – the law school hosted 50 law student competitors that made up 18 teams from 10 schools in California, Nevada, Arizona and New Mexico, as well as dozens of lawyers and judges who presided over 30 mock trials over the course of three days. The GGU Litigation Center team's hard work and attention to detail was evident once the competition began – the mock courtrooms were ready to go, room assignments had been made, members of the law school community were there to direct everyone to their places and take care of any issues, and all of it was done with great efficiency, professionalism, and care. The competitors were all well prepared and very impressive. The future looks bright with these new lawyers on the horizon. It was really impressive, and Rachel and the team were wonderful to work with."

- **Melinda Haag, Partner at Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP and ACTL Fellow & Laura Udall, Criminal Defense Attorney with Laura E. Udall PLLC and ACTL Fellow**

"Little else in law school has been as useful or challenging as TYLA. Preparing for the competition was an all consuming forecast of the drafting, theorizing, and conflict of personal and professional obligations that I imagine characterizes 'being in trial.' Litigating at the competition was some of the most fun I've had as a law student. TYLA was an incredible opportunity to put our theoretical legal education into practice. Above all I learned: take your time, embrace adaptation, be at home in the courtroom, and be yourself." - **UC Hastings Finalists Chitra Kulkarni & Andrew MacDonald**



"I appreciated Rachel's diligence as a host. She was so detail oriented and organized, and she raised really thoughtful questions. I am not surprised that their regional was a huge success." - **Justin Bernstein, UCLA School of Law Professor and Director of Trial Advocacy & National TYLA Tournament Scoring Program Coordinator**

"I had a great time being an evaluator for TYLA and was blown away by how talented the students were. The whole competition was so well-run, and the TYLA Team and student volunteers were so on top of everything, great at problem solving, and incredibly professional. Amazing job!" - **Professor Liz Fishman, GGU**

"Really enjoyed participating as an evaluator. The program was so well run and presented. Very impressive."

- **Michael Belter, Monterey County Public Defender**

"Congrats on such a great competition! I enjoyed evaluating and thought the trials went very smoothly."

- **Professor Jennifer Elowsky, GGU**

"Your hospitality was top shelf. Everyone involved in the competition from GGU was helpful and made us feel welcome." - **Coach Steve Scholl, University of New Mexico School of Law**



"NTC was both challenging and exhilarating all in one. This was my fourth time competing and my second time competing at NTC. What I love the most is building the skillset of working with the facts and evidence as we switch sides. Although I had competed before the nerves did not go away. You are up against some of the best advocates around and leave each round not knowing the outcome. Both of our teams were overjoyed to have made it to the finals and although it was bittersweet, we are all excited that McGeorge will be going to the national competition. NTC Regionals is one weekend I will forever cherish as a mock trial-er." - **McGeorge Finalist Abby Williams**

GGU NATIONAL MOCK TRIAL TEAM

Spring 2023 Teaching Assistants



The Litigation Center's work would not be possible without the dedication and help of our Teaching Assistants. Pictured left, **Edward Mora Ramos** served as the Mock Trial TA and worked with our competitors to hone their skills while supporting the center by playing a witness when needed and beyond. Pictured right, **Gregory Rousso** supported the Center with its events, competed in TYLA winning Best Opening Statement, and helped prepare the Estrella team by scrimmaging against them with Student Baxter Fellow Christina Robinson.



Spring 2023 Mock Trial Captain



Thank you to our spring team captain, **Dave Bertini**. Not only did Dave compete on our Estrella Team in Puerto Rico, but he also served as the Chief Liaison for TYLA and serves as a Teaching Assistant to Professor Brockl and Professor Briggs for the Spring 2023 Introduction to Litigation course. He will also be joining the STEP Program to offer his trial advocacy knowledge with aspiring student litigators this summer. Dave offers his lifetime of leadership experience as a retired police chief and an educator to the Litigation Center, making him a great mentor for our students and Mock Trial competitors.

SPRING 2023 TEAMS



TYLA Team A: Thomas Langtry (2L), Esra Coskun-Crabtree (2L), Gregory Rousso (3L)
Coaches: Ryan Griffith & Christine De Leo



Gregory Rousso
Best Opening
Statement Award



Team ESTRELLA: Dillon Fitzmorris (2L), Danniela Nieto (2L), Amelia Zurbriggen (2L), Dave Bertini (2L)
Coach: Jordan Dickson



TYLA Team B: Otmar Alvarado (2L), Nora Magana (2L), Neri Lozano (2L)
Coach: Butch Ford



TYLA Team B
Most Professional
Team Award



Team ETHICS: Ashley Faulkner (2L), Ariana Canalez (2L), Nazaneen "Naz" Irvani (2L), Justin Reyes (3L)
Coaches: Ashley Lotti & Meghan Strong



Professor Brockl Interviewed on Latte with a Lawyer Podcast!

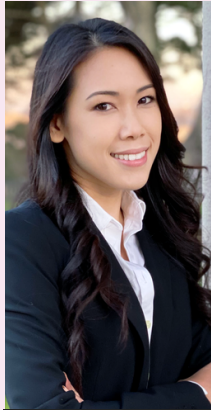
Professor Brockl was recently interviewed on the *Latte with a Lawyer* podcast. Take a few minutes to learn more about Professor Brockl's journey in law, a few of her GGU Law highlights, and her favorite beverage to kick off each day!

Latte with a Lawyer Podcast - Season 4, Episode 20: <http://ow.ly/IhTH50NAvnh>

SOCIETY OF LITIGATORS



Co-President
Gwendolyn West



Co-President
Claudia Wu



Vice President
David Lima

The GGU Society of Litigators (SoL) is led by GGU students to increase student access to training, leadership, and networking opportunities in litigation. SoL works closely with the Litigation Center to produce programming every year, and we are grateful for the Litigation Center’s strong support.

During the fall 2022 semester, SoL held bi-weekly skills workshops and a successful student happy hour. At each workshop, SoL board members and past STEP students taught courtroom skills to 1Ls and other interested students, including live demonstrations. SoL also hosted a student happy hour at GGU’s unofficial bar of choice: Louie’s, where students mingled with GGU faculty and the SoL Board.



Litigation Liasion
Esra Coskun-
Crabtree



Networking Director
Amelia Zurbriggen

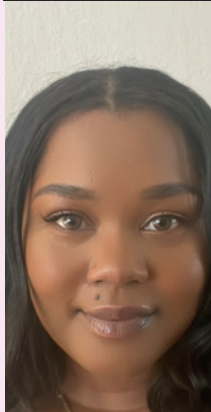


Communications
Director
Olivia Corwin

During the spring semester, SoL hosted a two-part “Careers in Litigation” panel series. Our Careers in Criminal Litigation panel discussion featured four experienced litigators in both criminal defense and prosecution. Our Careers in Civil Litigation panel featured three attorneys from practice areas including landlord-tenant, personal injury, and commercial litigation. The civil panel concluded with an on-campus mixer, where our esteemed panelists stuck around to socialize and answer questions, encouraging interested students to keep in touch.



Treasurer
Thomas Langtry



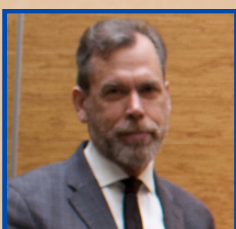
Secretary & 1L Rep
Jazmine Daniels



2L Rep
Ashley Faulkner

At a school known for its litigation programming, collaboration between the Litigation Center and the members of the Society of Litigators can benefit all students. As some members of the Board prepare to graduate, SoL encourages you and all other interested students to apply for a position on the SoL board and help carry forth our SORG’s important work. Check LSN for more information!

RESEARCH ASSISTANT REPORT



Thomas Langtry has assisted Professor Brockl and Professor Briggs this semester on researching a criminal law topic to connect victims and defendants prior to the sentencing phase. Tom has conducted additional research on Victim-Offender Mediation Programs, edited the proposed bill language, and contacted government representatives to garner support of the bill. For next steps, Tom is researching statistics on victim satisfaction/dissatisfaction with the current criminal justice system, financing options, and contacting local prosecutors to assess support of the program we are proposing. It has been a pleasure having Tom's detail-oriented work on this project!

APPELLATE ADVOCACY AND MOOT COURT BOARD CONGRATULATIONS TO GGU'S MOOT COURT TEAMS!

ABA NAAC Competition

Congratulations to Team 138 from GGU for their spirited competition in the ABA National Appellate Advocacy Competition earlier this month. Team members Kodie McGinley, Lizet Palomera Torres and David Lima, along with alternate Kelsey Iteriano, put forth a fine performance both attacking and defending a rogue professor's First Amendment right to protect his students against blind indoctrination from an unyielding community college. The competition got stronger with every round and, while the team did not take home any prize money, all of the competitors, along with Coach Zywicke and bailiff Lyndsey Glasgow, had a great time.



National Criminal Procedure Tournament

Congratulations to GGU law students Stephanie Cruz (4L) and Krista Matsumura (3L), who won the Best Brief for Respondent award at the National Criminal Procedure Tournament, hosted by the University of San Diego! Thirty-four teams from across the country participated, including many law schools with formidable moot court programs. All of your hard work paid off and your coach (Professor Fishman) is so proud of you!



Stephanie and Krista also did an excellent job at oral argument, earning many compliments from the judges about their thorough command of the caselaw and their "A range" performance.

"By Participating in a Moot Court Competition at GGU, you will develop the most important skills that you need to succeed as a lawyer, no matter what kind of lawyer you want to become."

- Elizabeth Fishman,
Associate Professor of Law



Want to learn more?

Connect with us on
LinkedIn for the latest
updates on the Litigation
Center's activities &
events!



**Spotlight on STEP Success:
Edward Mora Ramos**

A Humble Hero Para Toda la Gente

By Christina Robinson, Student Baxter Fellow

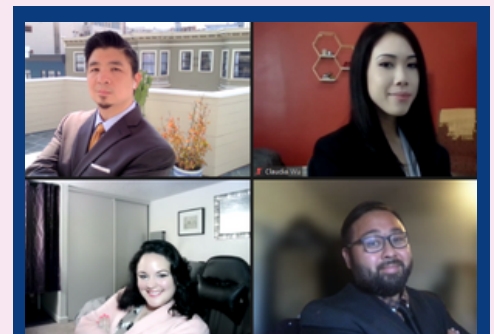


Even from a young age, Edward Mora Ramos felt drawn to public service. Edward spent his childhood in a neighborhood that was rife with gang activity where he saw firsthand the fear in the eyes of his neighbors who were so intimidated by the gangs, that they were too afraid to call the police or seek help from their local government. Inspired by his family and his favorite superheroes, Edward felt drawn to a calling to help communities like his by removing their obstacles to justice and increasing their access to the help and resources they need.

This call became even louder when Edward was fortunate enough to move out of that neighborhood in his late childhood, but he knew his neighbors remained. Unable to ignore this call, Edward made a plan to become an attorney, more specifically, he planned to become a prosecutor at a district attorney's office.

Following high school, Edward earned his bachelor's degree in political science from California State University, East Bay, but that was just a steppingstone that he needed to go to law school. Knowing he would need letters of recommendation, Edward looked for internships that may help him get his recommendation to law school. What was meant to be a three-month internship at the local Office of Congressman Eric Swalwell blossomed into a five-year position where Edward's hard work, bilingual language skills, and dedication to serving his community earned him the titles of Senior District Representative and Community Liaison. Edward spent his time in the Congressman's office doing just what he always dreamed of doing, removing the obstacles to justice his community faced. Edward worked hands-on with constituents to help resolve immigration disputes, organize community roundtable discussions, visit local schools for outreach and created educational programs to build lasting connections between the constituents and the Congressman's Office. Edward found this work rewarding and enjoyed being hands-on with his community, but nonetheless, he still heard a different calling, one that would mean he could go from improving his community one-constituent-at-a-time to helping all the people, all the time.

After five years, Edward was ready to get back on his path to his ultimate goal of graduating from law school and becoming a prosecutor. Although Edward was accepted to Golden Gate University School of Law, he still had one obstacle to overcome in order to be a prosecutor, he had to tackle his fear of public speaking. This is where the litigation center comes in. During his 1L year at GGU, Edward applied to the STEP Program, but due to a large applicant pool, found himself waitlisted. Remaining patient and hoping for the best, Edward was removed from the STEP waitlist and was invited to join the program right before Immersion Week began.



Edward, Quarterfinalist, Stetson 2021

Unbeknownst to Edward at the time, all his STEPMates had spent their spring semester in Intro to Litigation, where they had an opportunity to build a strong foundation for the skills they would hone over the summer, and he was fourteen weeks behind in the training process.

**Spotlight on STEP Success:
Edward Mora Ramos**

A Humble Hero Para Toda la Gente

By Christina Robinson, Student Baxter Fellow



Edward, AAJ Competitor, 2022

Not only was Edward scrambling to get up to speed during Immersion Week, but it was baptism by fire when it came to facing his fears of public speaking. There was no time to second-guess himself, he just had to get up every single day and speak in front of people and open himself up to the judgement and feedback of his professors. While others might have dropped out in a moment like this, Edward's dream of becoming a

prosecutor overpowered his fear of public speaking and, in true Edward fashion, he dug his heels in and worked harder, growing in his skills and confidence each day.

While this author had the privilege of witnessing Edward's growth through his hard work and passion, when asked, Edward attributes his growth to his STEPmates and "the high bar they set" for success. A humble hero, indeed.

By the end of STEP, Edward had grown to a place where he was hand-selected to join GGU's National Mock Trial Team, and with his help, support and collaboration, his team went to the quarterfinals of the Stetson National Pre-Trial Competition. Now armed with his newfound confidence in public speaking, and a strong foundation of trial advocacy skills, Edward was ready to move a step closer to his goal, which he accomplished by securing an internship with the Fresno County District Attorney's Office in the Felony DUI division. Edward has stayed on with the Fresno DA's Office throughout his final years of law school and has continued to hone his trial skills there, while also competing in Mock Trials for GGU.

Recently, the penultimate piece of his plan fell into place when Edward received a post-bar job offer from the Fresno DA's Office, which he has accepted. Today, even after hanging up his Mock Trial competitor gloves, Edward has remained a devoted friend of the Litigation Center by assisting with Litigation Center events and serving as a Mock Trial Teaching Assistant, passing on his knowledge and experience to the new competitors. Currently, Edward is finishing up his last few credits at GGU and preparing himself for the final piece of the plan, passing the bar. Additionally, Edward and his lovely fiancé, Angy, are planning their dream wedding and looking forward to starting their lives and their family together in Fresno.

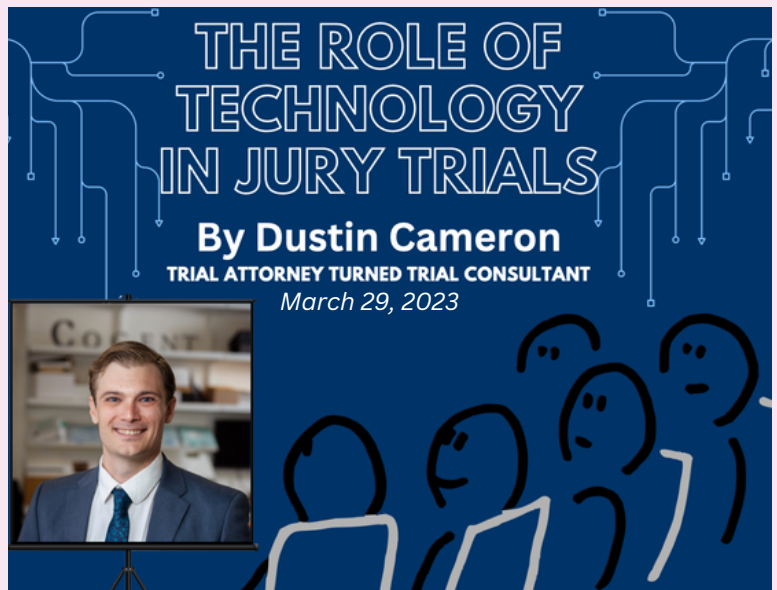
Now that he has all but fully realized his dream, this author asked Edward the only question left to ask, "What's next?" While he can't say for sure what the future holds, for now, Edward is just excited to start his life in Fresno with Angy, and knows that one way or another, he will always remain in public service, removing the obstacles to justice for his communities. The GGU Litigation Center is so proud of all of Edward's accomplishments, truly honored to have been a part of his journey, and will continue to watch his career growth with enthusiasm.

SPRING SEMINAR SERIES

"The Role of Technology in Jury Trials" By Dustin Cameron of Cogent Legal

Prior to joining the Cogent team, Dustin was a practicing litigator handling business disputes, product defect, and high value personal injury cases. Dustin tailored his career to trial work with an emphasis on case presentation and persuasion. Dustin now assists attorneys as a trial and jury consultant and is heavily involved with case strategy throughout each phase of litigation.

Since graduating from GGU Law, Dustin has remained involved in the Litigation Center, first as Baxter Fellow, and now as a Mock Trial Coach.



STUDENT RECAP ON THE EVENT



Dustin Cameron's presentation sliced through any shroud of doubt: Technology is necessary in today's courtrooms. Juries are expecting a show when they arrive in court. How can litigators bring them that show? It certainly should not be with an animated slide presentation that might get a passing grade in a high school history class. Yet, this is what we often see in our courtrooms.

Mr. Cameron described how his team at Cogent Legal helps litigators "speak" through technology, reaching the 65% of jurors who are visual learners. Through advanced graphics created with drone scanning, laser scanning, 3D modeling, diagrams, and animations, litigators provide audiences with something that helps them understand the content—it speaks their language. When describing a client's injuries, it is unrealistic to expect a jury comprised of medical professionals. Professionally created graphics can help the layperson in the jury understand exactly what an expert witness is describing. Bridging the gap between expert witnesses and jury members has always been a challenge, and the technology Mr. Cameron described does just that.

Cases suffer for poor technology. Anyone who has seen a jury trial would know immediately that Mr. Cameron's solutions are going to raise the bar in any courtroom. Like most of my generation, I prefer pen and paper, but what I prefer is not what will reach jurors in 2023—they are familiar with visual media. We must become proficient with technology to become proficient in litigation. Mr. Cameron made that abundantly clear.

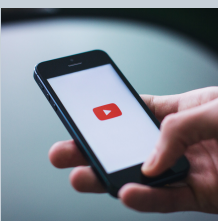
Even as law students, we know better than to attend court in blue jeans and a t-shirt. Why would we "dress" our case with slide presentations a teenager could create for their history assignment? We have the technology, and it is imperative that we put it to good use. - *Stephen Downs, 2L*

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SEMINAR SERIES RAFFLE WINNERS

Hannah Cooper, Stephen Downs, & Neri Lozano: GGU Official Lanyards

Thomas Langtry: GGU Beanie

Nazaneen Iravani: Professional Portfolio



Recordings of the spring seminar series panels can be found on the Baxter Fellow YouTube Channel. Subscribe to stay informed of ongoing events and competitions.



STUDENT RECAP ON THE EVENT

"THE ROLE OF TECHNOLOGY IN JURY TRIALS"



As an attorney in a jury trial, one of the primary goals is to present the case in a way that the jurors can easily understand. This can be a difficult task due to the various complex topics that may arise, ranging from medical injuries to case timelines. Technology is poised to fill this gap. There are three main forms of technology that can be particularly effective in jury trials: PowerPoints, digital re-creations, and animations. By using these various methods, technology can be a powerful tool for

emphasizing a particular point, illustrating a topic, and re-creating events or scenes. Utilizing technology to display information in these ways improves an attorney’s ability to convey a message to the jury. Also, technology can play a key role in providing the jury with an understanding of an event or injury that they might not have had without the re-creation.

Without technology, describing a medical injury would consist of reading a medical report, describing the injury to the jury, and showing photos of the injury, if any. Technology can further demonstrate complex topics such as a medical injury through a re-creation of how the accident may have occurred and can demonstrate the biomechanics of the injury. Now, with technology, the jury has a detailed picture and understanding of the injury. This can be relevant to the damage caused, but also to other legal questions such as causation. In this modern era, utilizing technology effectively is an impactful way to connect with the jury by maximizing the presentation of the facts and increasing the persuasive power of an attorney in a jury trial. - *Hannah Cooper, 2L*



Dustin Cameron hooked us powerfully at the start of his presentation with security footage video of an accident where a person was crossing a street lawfully and was hit by a car. But this was not just a simple video of what happened. Because of graphics added to the video, along with the use of freeze frames and slow motion, the video became an even more powerful statement about what happened to the victim. Mr. Cameron stressed how important it is to use images and graphics to help jurors to understand arguments. He said that 90% of people absorb information best through visual media. Mr. Cameron offered advice on how to best use PowerPoint presentations to bolster legal arguments. However, he warned that PowerPoint presentations should not be used as a script, but as a tool for persuasion. Mr. Cameron’s presentation emphasized how advantageous it can be to have compelling visual information available for juries to help them gain a better understanding of the facts of a case. Because the presenter gets to shape what is shown and how it is shown, the media can bolster a lawyer’s arguments. To show details about the scene of an accident or crime, a drone can gather specific information about the scene, such as images that can then get layered with animation to depict what happened. The resulting video or images may not be allowed as evidence, but can usually be allowed for illustrative purposes during a trial. Thus, mastering the art of getting media into a trial is extremely valuable. - *Roland Finger, 2L*



1ST STEP 2023 SUMMER TRIAL & EVIDENCE PROGRAM



Class of 2020



Class of 2021



Class of 2022

IMMERSION WEEK (MAY 22-26)

Students are immersed in an intense week of trial advocacy training taught by seasoned practitioners. This first week introduces all key aspects of conducting a trial while students are guided through lectures, demonstrations, and skills workshops. At the end of the week, students conduct a full trial and are then provided with an individual assessment to work on for the remainder of the summer.

CORE STEP PROFESSORS



Director Brockl

Trial Evidence & Advocacy in the Courtroom

Students learn practical trial skills necessary to succeed in court, including conducting witness examinations, laying foundation for introducing documents and physical evidence, making and answering objections, and preparing opening statements and closing arguments. Additionally, students learn how arguments under the rules of evidence and evidentiary rulings play out in the courtroom. Students conduct two full trials over the course of the summer where they hone their advocacy skills and experience what it is like to be a trial attorney.



Professor Briggs



Professor Griffith

Motions

A first impression of a lawyer is often based on the quality of his or her papers. That impression must be a good one. This course teaches students how to effectively draft motions and argue them in a real-world setting. Utilizing a variety of fact patterns, students will develop a portfolio of written work and will receive feedback aimed at building confidence in courtroom advocacy.



Professor Vielman-Reeves

Evidence Lab

This Evidence lab is taught by a retired judge and is a companion course to Trial Evidence & Advocacy (TEA) in the STEP Program. It is meant to act as a refresher for students who have already completed Evidence and lay the foundation of the Rules of Evidence for students who have not yet completed Evidence. The topics discussed in the Evidence lab each week will prepare students for the rules and theories they need to apply in their trial skills course.



Judge Davis

Professional Presentation & Persuasion

This class supports the goals of the 1st STEP Program. It offers an experiential learning environment by helping students translate complicated details and legal jargon into compelling stories that juries will follow with ease. Students are given the skills required to become fully present in the courtroom, learn to think on their feet, and are taught how to engage with and speak naturally to their listeners. Students work towards eradicating nervous tics and self-conscious habits undermining their presentations.



Professor Scott

STUDENT RECAP OF THE EVENT

"THE JUDGE BREYER SENTENCING TALK"



On February 15, 2023, Golden Gate University, School of Law had the privilege of hosting Senior District Judge Charles R. Breyer of the United States District Court for the Northern District of California for a talk on sentencing guidelines. He spoke on the scope, difficulty and complexity of sentencing guidelines in the field of white-collar crime. Judge Breyer, a native of San Francisco, attended Lowell High School before earning his Bachelor of Arts from Harvard College and his Juris Doctor Degree from UC Berkeley. He was nominated to the federal bench in 1997 by President Bill Clinton and earned senior status in 2011. Judge Breyer also served as the Chair of the United States Sentencing Commission from 2018-2022. Judge Breyer is the younger brother of, now retired, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer.

Judge Breyer opened his discussion with a brief history of sentencing in the U.S. as we know it today. The United States Sentencing Commission is responsible for establishing U.S. Federal Sentencing Guidelines. These guidelines replaced the old indeterminate sentencing system, which allowed judges, on recommendations from the parole sentencing board, to impose sentences ranging from probation to prison time ranging from one to five years, five to ten years, or ten to life. The current sentencing guidelines used by federal judges for all crimes can be found in what is known as the Sentencing Table. The Sentencing Table has offense levels ranging from 1 to 43 points. The more points a convicted defendant gets, the more time the convicted could receive. In the field of white-collar crime, the number one thing that determines the offense level is the degree of harm committed. How much money was taken? Was someone's trust violated? Were there multiple defendants involved and, if so, who was just following orders?

Judge Breyer stressed the fact that the Sentencing Table comes across as straight forward, but the actual sentencing is difficult because many factors come into play and a person's liberty is at stake. Judge Breyer acknowledges that the system is not perfect, and that racial disparities exist in sentencing between white-collar defendants and other types of criminal defendants. One important take away is that the sentencing guidelines are not set in stone. Judge Breyer stated that people have the ability to petition their elected representatives to continue improving the sentencing guidelines both in the field of white-collar crime and criminal law. - *Neri Lozano, 2L*



The Honorable Charles R. Breyer joined Professors Ross Weingarten and Jonathan Baum at to discuss the Federal Sentencing Guidelines. These professors teach the White-Collar Crime elective course at GGU. Judge Breyer is currently the Commissioner of the U.S. Sentencing Commission, and offered his views on the effectiveness of the Federal Sentencing Guidelines. Judge Breyer began his discussion by defining the lifespan of a federal criminal trial. Typically, a criminal prosecution begins with a grand jury indictment and ends at sentencing. Many consider sentencing to be the most important component of a criminal prosecution. Although the judge ultimately determines the sentence, both the prosecution and the defense have a voice in what sentence is appropriate. Sentencing is often the most difficult aspect of criminal prosecution.



From Judge Breyer's perspective, there are no right answers, even if there may be some clearly wrong answers. Judges face the prospect of restricting someone's life and liberty. Judges must grapple with profoundly uncertain questions. What is just? What is the likelihood that the person being sentenced will commit another crime? Prior to the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, the federal courts used "indeterminate sentencing," which was abolished in 1984 and replaced it with the Federal Sentencing Guidelines.

The Federal Sentencing Guidelines table has two axes. The axis from top to bottom ranks the seriousness of offenses from the least serious at Level 1 to the most serious at Level 43. The other axis, from left to right, considers the past criminal history of the defendant. Translating the offenses to numerical codes, then locating the number where the two axes meet, provides judges with a sentencing recommendation based on historically established sentences for similar crimes. The Federal Sentencing Guidelines also take into consideration the likelihood of recidivism.

From a practical perspective of advocacy, the Federal Sentencing Guidelines give lawyers on both sides a more predictable model through which they can try to convince a judge to increase or decrease a defendant's sentence. At sentencing, attorneys for the prosecution and defense may offer evidence or arguments to change the judge's mind. In addition, where a cooperative defendant agrees to plead guilty, the judge may reduce the offense level of the crime.

Yet from Judge Breyer's perspective, a white-collar defendant should not get a lighter sentence simply because of the nature of the crime. Sometimes mitigating circumstances may reduce a sentence, such as when a defendant substantially assists the government to prosecute other defendants, or takes affirmative steps to rectify the damage they caused, such as making restitution. However, a judge must balance the relative weight of such actions against the possibility that white-collar criminal defendants may believe they can buy their way out of sentencing. Judge Breyer believes the Federal Sentencing Guidelines are a positive development because they provide all judges with an objective means of resolving some of the most difficult questions in all of law. - *Thomas Langtry, 3L*

Corner of Gratitude

GGU Graduates Reflect on the Significance of the Litigation Center

I am so grateful to have been a part of the Litigation Center throughout my time in law school. The amount of valuable experience I received provided me with the training and skills I will use for the rest of my legal career. But, more importantly, the experience came with a lot of great memories with my professors, classmates, and mock trial coaches. Beginning with the 1st STEP Program, I gained the skills I needed to set me up for my dream internships during law school. National Trial Team participation further sharpened my skills to then land my dream post-bar offer. I will forever be grateful and appreciative of all the guidance and experience the Litigation Center has provided me. The skills I learned will reach further than just on-the-record appearances in court. I am confident that the advocacy skills I have gained during these last three years will impact many lives of my future clients, mentees, and colleagues. For that, I am so grateful for the GGU Litigation Center! - **Monique Ramirez, 3L**



When I considered Golden Gate University Law School, I had litigation in mind. I aspired to become a judge, and on the way, a criminal litigator. Regardless, I knew courtroom litigation would be my path. The 1st STEP Program was what inspired me to apply. Once I started at GGU, I was delighted to find a plethora of resources for students interested in litigation, thanks in large part to the GGU Litigation Center. Although I was starting school in the depths of the pandemic, I hit the ground running to develop litigation skills as soon as I began law school. In the spring of 2020, I competed in the Society of Litigators' Cross and Close Competition, and subsequently tried to vindicate that loss with the following fall semester's Golden Griffin Challenge hosted by the Litigation Center. For those competitions, I relied on resources the Center had provided and the skills I gained from the STEP Program led by Litigation Center Director Rachel Brockl. Even when taking on the challenges and opportunities that the Litigation Center offered me felt like drinking out of a fire hose, I kept it up, and became a stronger litigator because of it. I have officially lined up a post-bar job in criminal litigation. While in law school, I conducted dozens of hearings and worked with real witnesses in real criminal cases. I could not have done that without the training I received, the supportive learning environment, the extracurricular events, and the added challenges I faced through mock trial. Now in my last semester, I am proud to have earned a litigation certification, survived the crucible that is the 1st STEP Program, competed in multiple mock trials, and have done my small part to support the work of the Litigation Center in supporting the next generation of GGU litigators. I recommend every student take advantage. I am so grateful for the Litigation Center's support; I would not be where I am today without it. - **Gwendolyn West, 3L**

I am grateful for the experiences, friends, and the skills I have gained during my time with the GGU Litigation Center. I began my journey during my 1L summer in the 1st STEP Program and found a wealth of resources and support from the Litigation Center. This support continued when I joined the Mock Trial Team with the professors and teaching assistants always making themselves available to help make sure I was at my best when representing GGU. I was grateful to be given the opportunity to give back by working with students as a Teaching Assistant. I was happy to play a support role by trying to give someone peace of mind as so many had for me—shout out also to my amazing coaches and teammates for being there for me as well! I know the foundation I gained from STEP and the continued support from the Litigation Center helped me thrive during my summer internship at the Fresno District Attorney's Office, which was instrumental in helping me to secure a post-bar position there. I'll always look back at my time with the Litigation Center proudly, and I thank all the people who worked in the background and made that possible. - **Edward Mora, 3L**



I did not come to law school with any desire to become a litigator. What I brought with me to law school, however, was a lifelong love of performance, public speaking, and presentation. I thought participating in the Litigation Center would be a fun way to flex my presentation muscles, but I had no idea that this decision would impact and benefit every aspect of my life moving forward. During STEP, I improved my presentation skills far beyond my expectations while developing new trial skills, learning evidence, and gaining an invaluable holistic understanding of the litigation process. Almost instantly, I became more confident and a better strategic thinker—all assets which transcend the courtroom and have benefitted me in endless ways. As STEP concluded, I assumed so would my time with the Litigation Center, but I was hand-selected for a spot on the Mock Trial Team, and the chance to take these skills to the competitive arena was simply irresistible. I was hooked, and became devoted to the Litigation Center as a Mock Trial Competitor, a Teaching Assistant, and now as the first student ever to take on the responsibilities of the post-grad Baxter Fellowship while still enrolled, allowing me to help coach and mentor students through their litigation training. Whether I find myself in a courtroom or a boardroom, I am prepared. I am eternally grateful to Professor Brockl, and everyone involved in the Litigation Center.

- **Christina Robinson, 3L**