

THE EXHIBIT

Golden Gate University School of Law's Litigation Center Newsletter

THE LITIGATION CENTER TAKES ON NEW CHALLENGES WITH INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS!

By Rachel R. Brockl, Director of the Litigation Center

The Litigation Center has once again prevailed in overcoming new educational hurdles and opened the door to a larger group of students to participate in our programming.

With a smaller incoming 1L class this fall, we allowed for all law school students to apply to the STEP Program of 2023 to ensure its survival.

The application pool for the next STEP class was plentiful. This will be the most dynamic class yet with the student body comprised of 2L JD Flex, 1L full-time, and 2L full-time students. For a peek into the diverse backgrounds of this group, we have an elementary school principal, several with paralegal backgrounds, a restaurant owner, Facebook Program Manager, private investigator, and more!

To accommodate this exceptional team, classes will be offered in a mix of in-person and online instruction, with a majority of classes taking place on the weekend. A special evidence review session will be offered in the summer to refresh upperclassmen and advance 1L knowledge on the pertinent Rules of

that apply for each Trial Evidence & Advocacy course that week.

This type of reformation has never been done before in the 10-year long history of STEP's existence and we are excited to have the chance to offer this program to so many students at all levels.

The week before Thanksgiving break, I had the honor of having lunch with Judge Lee Baxter, Dean Colin Crawford, and Graduate Baxter Fellow Christina Stout. Due to COVID, our annual lunch reunions were put on hold, but this visit was well worth the wait. Judge



Baxter was nothing short of impressive - classy, smart, and deeply interested in the success of our current Baxter Fellow, Christina, who recently passed the bar. We always enjoy seeing Judge Baxter and applaud her endless support of GGU and the Litigation Center.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Society of Litigators
Presents
**CROSS & CLOSE
COMPETITION**
January, 2023

The Litigation Center Presents
**The Role of Technology
in Jury Trials**
by Dustin Cameron
Spring Seminar Series
March, 2023

CAALS
CALIFORNIA ANIMAL LAW SYMPOSIUM
Hosted by GGU SALDF in
April, 2023

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ACTIVITIES CENTER

LITIGATION CENTER'S
ANNUAL
**HOLIDAY PARTY
IS A HIT!**
See pictures on page 16

**WINNERS OF GOLDEN
GRIFFIN:**
Esra Coskun-Crabtree
Gwendolyn West
See how they did it on page 10

Save the Date

FEBRUARY 3 - 5, 2023

Read more on page 3!

Volunteers are needed to help with the TYLA Mock Trial Competition taking place in February at GGU. We need trial attorneys and judges to evaluate and judge the competition, and we need student volunteers to act as bailiffs and timekeepers. Volunteers will be featured in our fall newsletter. Read more on page 3. Trials will run as follows:

Friday	9:00 am-12:00 pm & 2:00-5:00 pm
Saturday	9:00 am-12:00 pm & 2:00-5:00 pm
Sunday	9:00 am-12:00 pm

Those interested in volunteering should email the Baxter Fellow at baxterfellow@ggu.edu.

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BAXTER OFFICE UPDATES

UPDATES FROM THE DIRECTOR AND BAXTER FELLOW WITH A WARM WELCOME TO NEW PROFESSORS!



"This past semester was filled with new activities and new faces joining the Litigation Center - students, graduates, and professors. The Litigation Center is grateful to have so much continued support. Next semester is on track for similar new experiences and additions. We welcome our new professors, and we are prepared to tackle the TYLA competition this spring.



As several folks enter the Litigation Center community, it is bittersweet that we must say farewell to Clo, our 2020-2022 Baxter Fellow. Upon her arrival, Clo was ambitious and dedicated to Litigation Center

activities and doing everything she could to assist our students in becoming excellent advocates. Clo was well known for giving candid advice and executing killer cross examinations. We thank Clo for all of her hard work, and we wish her luck in the next phase of her journey!"

-Professor Brockl, Director of Litigation



"As the new Baxter Fellow, I had the opportunity to work with the National Trial Team Members and help them prep for their competitions this semester. I had such a fun time coaching the students and watching them grow as litigators.

The highlight of my semester was judging the Golden Griffin Challenge and watching the competitors showcase their litigation skills. I was amazed at how well everyone did. It has been such an honor to work alongside and learn from Professor Brockl. I am excited about the future of the Litigation Center, and I look forward to our upcoming TYLA competition that GGU is hosting in February!" *-Christina Stout, Baxter Fellow*

"I could not be more thrilled to welcome Christina Stout as our new graduate Baxter Fellow! Before joining our team as the Baxter, Christina excelled as a litigation student in mock trial, as a teaching assistant, and earning awards for her professionalism and leadership skills. I know the future of our litigation students is in good hands with Christina as their mentor and I can't wait to take on new challenges with her!"

-Professor Brockl, Director of Litigation



RESEARCH ASSISTANT REPORT

Khuong Do 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. Khuong has obtained information on how to draft a legislative bill and methods to garner political support. For next steps, Khuong is working on drafting proposed language and determining how to get it on the voting ballots next year. We look forward to seeing Khuong's finished product!



"Clothing for Closing"



Court Attire Giveback Program!

The Litigation Center is co-sponsoring a new 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.

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BAXTER OFFICE UPDATES

WELCOME, NEW PROFESSORS!



Jonathan Baum

Jonathan Baum is a partner in the San Francisco office of Steptoe & Johnson. He is a member of the firm’s Investigations & White Collar Group, where his practice focuses on representing individuals and companies in high-profile trade secret, economic espionage, bribery and fraud cases in federal and state courts across the country. Jonathan also serves on the Northern District of California’s CJA Panel, representing indigent defendants in federal criminal matters. Prior to joining Steptoe, Jonathan practiced at the boutique criminal defense firms Clarence Dyer & Cohen LLP in San Francisco and Nolan Barton & Olmos LLP in Palo Alto. Jonathan joins the Litigation Center to co-teach the White Collar Crime elective this spring with Ross Weingarten.



Jordan Dickson

Jordan Dickson joined the Litigation Center as a mock trial coach this fall, co-coaching the CACJ team. Jordan graduated from Georgetown University Law Center, where he was the Director of Trial Advocacy, a student attorney for the Georgetown Juvenile Justice Clinic, and an editor on the Georgetown Law Journal. After graduation, Jordan coached Georgetown Law’s mock trial team for 3.5 years before moving to San Francisco. Jordan works for the U.S. Department of Justice as a trial attorney in its Public Integrity Section, Criminal Division. In this role, Jordan prosecutes politicians and government officials across the country for federal public corruption crimes. Jordan will return again this spring to coach a mock trial team.



Rebecca Brackman

Rebecca Brackman is a Resource Attorney with the Contra Costa Public Defender’s Office. In this position, Rebecca has mastered when an expert is needed in a criminal case, how to research them, where to find them, and how to prepare for qualifying, voir dire, and examinations. She presented a seminar series event for our STEP students on expert witnesses this past summer and, after overwhelmingly positive feedback, she will return this spring to teach Introduction to Expert Witnesses.



Ross Weingarten

Ross Weingarten is an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Northern District of California, prosecuting criminal cases. He works in the Corporate Fraud Section, investigating and prosecuting white collar crimes, such as money laundering, bank fraud, conspiracy, and more. Many investigations involve cutting-edge technology like cryptocurrency and AI. He also serves as the Grand Jury & Narcotics Coordinator, working with federal, state, and local law enforcement to coordinate narcotics prosecution policies. Ross will co-teach the White Collar Crime elective this spring with Jonathan Baum.



GGU HOSTS TYLA

February 3-5, 2023

For years GGU has been attending the Texas Young Lawyers Association (TYLA) National Mock Trial Competition as competitors. Each year, the regional law school hosts rotate. GGU has been nominated to host the 2023 TYLA competition and we are busily preparing for the event. We have 20 law school teams registered to compete from across the country and now we need your help!

We need over 150 attorneys and judges to evaluate these trials, which typically take 3 hours from the start to the completion of feedback at the end. Can you help out?



Volunteers needed!

Contact
BaxterFellow@ggu.edu
to sign up!

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2022 - 2023

GGU NATIONAL TRIAL TEAM

Fall 2022 Competitions

2nd Place!



Thomas Langtry
Best Advocate
Award

Stetson Competition:

Danniela Nieto, Thomas Langtry,
Dave Bertini & Amelia Zurbriggen

Coaches: Butch Ford &
Christina Stout

Dave and Gwen having fun as witnesses:
a doctor and a 76-year-old woman.



3rd Place!



SFTLA Competition:

Ashley Faulkner, Christina Robinson,
Dave Bertini, Gwendolyn West

Coach: Dustin Cameron & Warrington Parker



CACI Competition:

Jonathan Ibarra Paz, Monique Ramirez,
Gregory Rousso, Dillon Fitzmorris

Coaches: Ashley Lotti & Jordan Dickson

Spring 2023 Competitions

Texas Young Lawyers Association: February 3 - 5, 2023 (San Francisco)

The Texas Young Lawyers Association hosts a National Mock Trial Competition every Spring. Over 150 law schools across the country compete for a chance to win this highly prestigious mock trial competition. If successful in the regional competition, teams will move on and compete in the national competition.

National Ethics Trial Competition: March 24 - 26, 2023 (Sacramento)

The Ethics competition promotes ethical and civility awareness through the mock trial competition format. It features both an ethical component in the issues to be tried and scoring based on the participants' observation of ethical and civility principles.

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SOCIETY OF LITIGATORS A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENTS



The GGU Society of Litigators (SoL) kicked off the 2022-23 academic year with an action-packed fall semester. Led by Co-Presidents Claudia Wu and Gwendolyn West, and Vice President David Lima, SoL was supported by a dedicated new Board of Directors composed of both seasoned and aspiring student litigators. All semester, SoL hosted bi-weekly workshops teaching litigation skills to 1Ls and other interested students. In addition to the skills workshops and its first general meeting, SoL also celebrated the end of midterms by hosting a successful happy hour where 1Ls met & mingled with the SoL Board, SoL members, and a few GGU

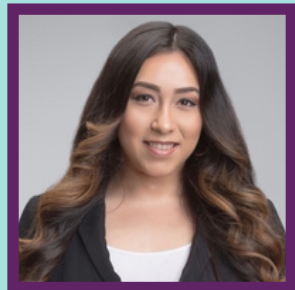


faculty members. However, the best is yet to come as SoL's flagship event—an annual intramural mock trial competition known as Cross and Close—will occur in January! Also on SoL's calendar are various educational and networking events geared towards connecting graduating and other motivated students with local litigation professionals. Throughout this academic year, GGU's Society of Litigators will continue to craft programming by and for law students, operating on a belief that more exposure to litigation and high-quality litigation education will pave pathways to success in the courtroom for graduates of GGU Law.



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

A WORD FROM OUR NATIONAL TRIAL TEAM CAPTAIN



"It's been such a great experience serving as the National Trial Team captain! I loved getting to know my teammates and loved watching them in action. Although I served as an extra resource and support for my team as the captain, I learned so much from my team as well. They are all very talented and are amazing advocates! Being a captain for the trial team was a great leadership experience and I enjoyed every minute of it!" - *Monique Ramirez (3L)*





**A podcast for the
law school
trial advocacy
community.**



www.unscripteddirect.com

Check out the Unscripted Direct podcast, hosted by Spencer Pahlke (Berkeley Law) & Justin Bernstein (UCLA). Each week, they interview Trial Advocacy Program Directors from across the nation regarding mock trial competitions. Many of the episodes contain hidden gems of information about these competitions, as well as tips and tricks about trial advocacy. Our very own Director of Litigation, Rachel Brockl, is featured in Episode 12! Anyone who wants to gain a competitive edge in the world of mock trial competitions or strengthen their trial advocacy knowledge should tune in.

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FALL SEMINAR SERIES



"How to Support & Work with Transgender & Gender Diverse People in the Legal Community" featuring Shane Zaldivar and Pau Crego

The Litigation Center welcomed Shane Zaldivar and Pau Crego from the Office of Transgender Initiatives on Tuesday, September 27, 2022. This was the Litigation Center's first in person event since the pandemic and we were all excited to have Shane and Pau joining us while we all snacked on Ike's sandwiches! Shane and Pau discussed the different ways young lawyers can professionally inquire about a person's name/pronoun and how to react if a misgendering occurs. Participants were given the opportunity to practice different scenarios when representing clients in this specific community to ensure that they could professionally respond to sensitive situations in and out of the courtroom. Lastly, Shane and Pau discussed antiquated language that society uses day-to-day that highlights masculinity and how we can work to communicate in a way that is respectful to all.



"Watch Out For The Other Bar!" featuring Gregory Bentley & Curtis Briggs



On Thursday, October 20, 2022, the Litigation Center welcomed GGU Law graduates Gregory Bentley and Curtis Briggs who told their personal stories about untreated substance abuse and their road to recovery. Mr. Bentley shared how his struggles with stress as an attorney and substance abuse led to disbarment and how he was able to build himself back up in the legal world. Mr. Briggs talked about his personal experience with rehab and the importance of taking care of your mental health. Both speakers discussed how to create a work/life balance without always turning to alcohol and drugs, and provided several healthy alternatives. They shared information about "The Other Bar" and how law students, lawyers, judges and those working in the legal field can seek free confidential peer support when suffering from alcohol, substance abuse, or mental health stress.



Raffle Winners!

The Litigation Center sponsors raffles at seminar series event where attendees have the opportunity to win prizes. Here are this semester's winners!

GGU Tumbler
Danniela Nieto Jazmine Daniels

GGU USB Drive
Amelia Zurbriggen Brandon Turner

GGU Logo Beanie
Michael Foley

GGU Logo Portfolio
Alejandro Bottenberg

How to Find Information About the Litigation Center

Visit www.ggulitigation.com to find activities, events, competitions, the STEP/GGC applications, Litigation Specialization Certificate and requirements, In Vino Veritas updates, newsletters, and more! Visit the Baxter Fellow YouTube channel to watch recordings of past seminars. Subscribe and click the notification bell to receive alerts when new videos are posted.

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STUDENT RECAP ON THE EVENT "HOW TO SUPPORT TRANSGENDER & GENDER DIVERSE PEOPLE IN THE LEGAL COMMUNITY"



“Ladies and gentlemen of the jury” is a ubiquitous phrase heard in film, television, and real-life trials. But what if I told you it is now obsolete?

The Litigation Center's Transgender and Gender Diversity Training, hosted by Shane Zaldivar and Pau Crego of the San Francisco Office of Transgender Initiatives, was nothing short of enlightening. Personally, I had never realized the profound impact the use and misuse of a person’s pronouns could have. Whether addressing a friend, client, or even the jury, their pronouns matter. To begin, the hosts shared powerful anecdotes of the challenges that they

faced in being accepted for their gender, even by their own families. When addressed with incorrect pronouns, a transgender or gender fluid person immediately feels alienated. Mistakes happen, but repeated disregard of a person's pronouns can result in long-lasting, harmful impacts. During the seminar, three lessons stood out about gender inclusivity – lessons that all lawyers should know. First, when accepting new clients, it is important to ascertain their correct pronouns right away. Any intake form should include a “pronouns” section – likewise, it is perfectly acceptable to ask the question “what are your pronouns?” when meeting a new client or business acquaintance for the first time. Notably, however, one should never use the term “preferred pronouns” – every individual has specific, non-optional pronouns, and these are the only ones you should use when addressing them.

Next, it is our duty as advocates to correct those who misgender our clients, including in court. “Your honor, my client, Julie, uses she/her pronouns” is a typical example when a judge wrongly assumes your client’s gender. Alternatively, your opening statement could preemptively include the phrase, “members of the jury, this is my client, Julie, and she uses the pronouns she/her.” Finally, it is vital to use language that is more inclusive. We are all used to phrases like “hey guys,” “businessman,” “waitress,” and addressing a crowd with “ladies and gentlemen.” Consider starting a toast instead with, “esteemed and honored guests” – it sounds classier, too. - **Gregory Rousso, 3L**



On September 27th, Shane Zaldivar (she/her) and Pau Crego (he/him) gave an educational presentation on how to work with transgender and gender diverse individuals in the legal community. Both speakers work at the Office of Transgender Initiatives where their mission statement is to “advance initiatives, policies and programs that support thriving transgender, non-binary, and gender nonconforming communities in ... San Francisco.”



Shane and Pau demonstrated how to respectfully ask clients for their gender pronouns. They suggested that the simplest way is to offer your own name and pronouns in order to make your client more comfortable to offer their own.

One of the main things that I learned was how to handle mistakes in misgendering an individual. The speakers stressed the importance of handling this situation in a way that is validating and respectful. The best way to handle mistakes is to quickly respond and correct the error, then be mindful to always use that person's true pronouns going forward. Having these tools makes me feel better equipped to treat others with kindness and respect.

Shane and Pau encouraged the active participation of the audience. They welcomed all questions, and they emphasized their gratitude for the audience’s willingness to learn, which made the experience all the more fulfilling to participate in.

Overall, I am so thankful for the opportunity to become more educated on this important topic. There are always more ways to grow and become a more well-rounded person, not only for yourself, but also for the comfort and safety of those around you. Thank you, Shane and Pau, for being such gracious and knowledgeable advocates! - **Amelia Zurbriggen, 2L**

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STUDENT RECAP ON THE EVENT "WATCH OUT FOR THE OTHER BAR!"

“Work as hard on yourself outside the courtroom as in the courtroom, because an attorney is more than the headlines of their big cases.” - Curtis Briggs. Curtis Briggs and Gregory Bentley have supported GGU Law students through the Litigation Center on multiple occasions, and they were back at GGU to share more than courtroom skills. They talked about what no one taught them in law school: the importance of practicing self-care to be at one’s best for themselves, their loved ones, and their clients.



Curtis Briggs and Gregory Bentley told GGU attendees that addiction and mental health struggles are common in the legal profession, that no one should feel alone in their fight, and that seeking help is better than sometimes irreversible consequences. Curtis Briggs warned the audience that trying to ignore problems and attempting to put them behind does not work. This really resonated with me on aspects of law student life: the constant reach for coffee day and night, skipping workouts to stare at a blank Word document for several hours while eating everything within reach. Recognizing addictive behavior in oneself early is important because training to be a lawyer is also the time to “grow mechanisms to deal with lowest of the lows,” in Curtis Briggs’s experience.

Gregory Bentley revealed another fact to future bar-takers: busy life and bar acceptance do not recover an unhealthy life. Problems do not go away with a state bar license. On the contrary, building a sustainable law practice that balances mental health is essential to dealing with vicarious trauma: in practice, people will call the attorney because they are in a crisis. Being surrounded by that chaos, the attorney needs to take the time to process the attorney’s own feelings.

Curtis Briggs and Gregory Bentley also shared their tips to deal with the stress and anxiety: talk to your peers, reach out to other legal professionals, set boundaries. Try to have separate work and personal phones because your life is more than work. Take an hour every day to be present: meditate, do breath work, exercise. Join The Other Bar, a confidential recovery network for lawyers, judges, and law students. The Other Bar is starting a weekly lunchtime Zoom meeting for law students on November 15, 2022. Whether you need support for drinking, drug use, or other addictive behaviors, or want to get familiarized with available resources before the need arises, Gregory Bentley encouraged the audience to attend a meeting. - *Esra Coskun-Crabtree, 3L*



The Litigation Center’s “The Other Bar” event provided an insightful look into how the life of an attorney can lead many to substance abuse. Curtis Briggs, a criminal defense attorney, took us through his own life experiences with substance abuse. He discussed the highs of winning cases and the lows that come with losing, and seeing his clients go to jail. After a traumatic experience, he turned to drugs. It was then that he began to feel his life disintegrate. Drugs only led him to make bad choices, but after getting a second chance, he decided to go to law school. He was eventually sworn in, in the same room he was convicted in! Once becoming a practicing attorney, he thought that as long as he worked hard and helped people, that he was solid. But, as his footprint in the field grew, he didn’t realize the toll that it was taking on him. He looked to drugs to help him keep up with the workload. He went to rehab, which helped him get his life back on track, set boundaries, and learn the importance of balancing his emotional and mental state. Through this life experience, he learned to put himself first and the importance of putting in as much work outside the courtroom as in.

Gregory Bentley presented his story on his struggle with substance abuse that led to his disbarment and a road to recovery. Early on in his career, he was working on high profile serious cases. With this fast success, he began to resort to drugs to help cope with the stressfulness of managing a fast-paced law practice. He expressed that he did not have time to process the burden he was carrying from clients because he was constantly busy. He remembers thinking that he needed to be completely available for clients and not having any boundaries. He worked nonstop until his unhealthy habits brought him into a courtroom, handcuffed, disbarred, and strung out. He was sentenced to two years in prison and became homeless. He went to rehab and was able to build himself back up. Through his treatment, he realized that the only way he could survive his disease was to change fundamental things in his life. Today, he continues to work successfully in the legal world despite his disbarment.

Mr. Briggs and Mr. Bentley found The Other Bar as a resource in navigating the crazy world of lawyering. The Other Bar is an organization for lawyers, judges, and law students, that meet with the intention to learn healthy ways to balance work and personal life. The Other Bar is not only for substance abuse, but also for behaviors of those who may suffer from anxiety or depression.

It was a privilege to hear Mr. Briggs and Mr. Bentley’s stories as they explained such real and honest experiences from their own lives. Their vulnerability and willingness to open up was a reminder that the field we are entering will have highs and lows, but that in order to advocate for our clients, we need to take care of ourselves first. - *Belen C. Hernandez, 2L*

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PROFESSORS IN ACTION

Professor Louie Castoria has been named one of the "2022 Top 100 Lawyers in California" by the Daily Journal, California's legal-industry newspaper.



The *Daily Journal's* annually updated list, "Top 100 Lawyers in California," recognizes lawyers in the Golden State performing cutting-edge legal work. *Daily Journal* editors reviewed hundreds of submissions to produce the 2022 "Top 100 Lawyers" list.

Professor Castoria is a partner at Kaufman Dolowich & Voluck (KDV), LLP, a national firm, where he has co-chaired two practice groups and founded the Appellate Team. He is co-chair of KDV's firmwide Professional Liability Defense Federation. Professor Castoria is an Adjunct Professor at Golden Gate University, teaching Civil

Procedure - Pretrial, and Overcoming Civil Litigation Obstacles. He is a graduate of Berkeley Law and the University of San Francisco, where he was Valedictorian.

Professor Castoria represents and defends financial and professional services clients including accountants, lawyers, insurance brokers, real estate agents and brokers, and businesses covered under professional liability policies in California and in matters under the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA). Additionally, his practice covers securities and class action defense litigation, including for products to online businesses. Professor Castoria also represents insurance companies for coverage, monitoring, regulatory and litigating counsel, performs claims audits, and writes insurance policies.

Throughout his 40-year career, Professor Castoria has represented clients in appeals and petitions throughout California in federal and state courts, all six of California's appellate courts and all four federal judicial districts, as well as the California and United States Supreme Courts. He assists other lawyers in developing appellate strategies, and in conducting trials to better withstand appeals.

Professor Castoria has enjoyed an eventful career. He has been a frequent presenter at continuing education events for decades. He serves as a Hearing Officer under contract with the City and County of San Francisco, and recently began an independent mediation practice. In 2018, he founded a nonprofit corporation, the Coastal Literary Arts Movement, to promote literary appreciation and bilingual journalism in coastal communities.

One of the biggest victories of Professor Castoria's career came on July 1, 2021, when he won his first U.S. Supreme Court case following a tremendous legal battle that spanned over a decade. Very few cases reach the U.S. Supreme Court - only 64 were decided during the 2021 term. The decision that was made in the 64th decided case - *Thomas More Law Center v. Bonta* - was a big win for Professor Castoria and, more importantly, a bigger win vindicating First Amendment rights. Through this experience, Professor Castoria gained the unique experience of seeing a case all the way through to the Supreme Court, navigating each level, from the initial filing to the ultimate win.

In his spare time, Professor Castoria writes a weekly humor column for the Half Moon Bay Review. He has done this for the past 25 years. He uses humor and innovative presentation methods to make learning more enjoyable.



The Exhibit

GOLDEN GRIFFIN CHALLENGE



Esra Coskun-Crabtree & Gwendolyn West

The annual Golden Griffin Challenge took place on Friday, August 26th, 2022. The Golden Griffin Challenge is an intra-school, truncated mock trial competition featuring student advocate teams of two conducting a cross examination and presenting a closing argument. The competition also doubles as tryouts for GGU's National Trial Team.

Esra Coskun-Crabtree and Gwendolyn West, both graduates of the Summer Trial & Evidence Program (STEP), dominated the competition. They used the skills they learned during their time in STEP to prevail over their competitors and took home a \$500 prize!

This year's fact pattern was a civil case. Each team of two in the Golden Griffin Challenge had the ability to choose whether they wanted to represent the prosecution/plaintiff or the defense. Esra and Gwendolyn represented the plaintiff, Jean Rankin, in her wrongful death lawsuit against an insurance company who she claimed drove her husband to suicide through intentional infliction of emotional distress after their failure to pay out on the Rankin's insurance policy.



1st & 2nd Place Winners

Dillon Fitzmorris and Ashley Faulkner, the second-place winners, represented the defense, who held the position that they were not responsible for the death of Mr. Rankin.



Gregory Rousso

Students who participate in the Golden Griffin Challenge also have the opportunity to win an individual award. The award for best cross-examination went to **Gregory Rousso**. The carefully crafted questions and precise delivery of his examination impressed the scoring judges. Best closing argument went to **Ashley Faulkner**, who delivered the defense closing argument with confidence and poise during the preliminary round. The award for Best Overall Advocate went to **Gwendolyn West**, who consistently earned high scores and demonstrated top-notch advocacy skills throughout both rounds of the competition.

The Litigation Center is proud to announce that through this year's Golden Griffin Challenge, the Center was able to hand-select three incredibly strong competition teams who are now diligently preparing to showcase their advocacy skills at both local and national competitions.



Recordings of Litigation Center seminar series events and mock trial activities can be found on the Baxter Fellow YouTube channel. Subscribe to stay informed of ongoing events and competitions.

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STUDENT FEATURE

DAVID BERTINI



Dave Bertini is a 34-year law enforcement veteran, ultimately reaching the position of Chief of Police of the Menlo Park Police Department prior to his retirement. He began his career in law enforcement with the Pacifica Police Department where he rose to the rank of Captain in 2008. In 2011, he took a position as Commander for the Menlo Park Police Department, before being appointed as the Chief of Police in 2018.

Dave has been an educator for over 25 years as an Adjunct Professor at the College of San Mateo and a certified police academy instructor. Dave is a graduate of the College of San Mateo and holds a bachelor's degree in Business Management from Saint Mary's College. Dave is a Police Officer Standard and Training (POST) certified instructor and is a graduate of the California POST Master Instructor Development Program, a one year intensive program designed to create a cadre of highly trained law enforcement instructors throughout the state. Dave is also a graduate of the POST Command College program and the Senior Management in Policing Program. He also holds a master's degree in Military History from Norwich University.

After retiring in July of 2020, Dave took a year off to study for the LSAT and applied to GGU School of Law. He was accepted at GGU and began in August of 2021. Dave, who has always had a passion for law and the courtroom, applied for the Summer Trial & Evidence Program (STEP) and was accepted. He took Introduction to Litigation and received the CALI award for his performance and later for his work in the STEP program, which he completed in August of 2022. While taking these courses, Dave exhibited ambition, determination, & quick wit.



Following Dave's completion of STEP and placing at the top of the class for Trial Evidence & Advocacy, he was hand-selected to take a spot on GGU's National Trial Team. Based on Dave's outstanding advocacy skills, he was asked by the Litigation Center Team to compete at not just one, but two competitions during the Fall 2022 semester. The month of October was extremely busy for Dave. He began the month traveling to Florida to compete at the National Pretrial Competition hosted by Stetson University College of Law, where he assisted the team in taking second place.

While in Florida, Dave dabbled in a bit of karaoke, including singing songs like *Piano Man*. Dave ended the month competing locally at UC Hastings for the San Francisco Trial Lawyers Association Competition - also known as the Battle of the Bay where the team took home third place. The Litigation Center is proud to have Dave represent GGU as he is an exemplary litigation student.

Dave is currently in an externship with the San Mateo County District Attorney's Office, handling preliminary hearings and motion to suppress hearings as a Certified Law Clerk. Once he graduates in 2024, he intends to stay either in the realm of criminal law or defense of police officers. Dave's passion for law comes from 25 years of teaching it and 34 years of enforcing it. Dave decided to start a second career defending police officers based on the societal issues swirling the country at the time he retired. His focus is to give back to the amazing profession of law enforcement that he left.

INTERNSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

Since August of 2021, I have been a Certified Law Clerk with the Sonoma County District Attorney’s Office. As a clerk, I draft various legal documents, conduct research, present oral arguments during the Law and Motion calendar and the Sonoma County Superior Court’s Appellate Division, assist with subpoenas and discovery, conduct evidentiary hearings; the list goes on. As of May 2022, I was promoted to Senior Law Clerk. This new role has added on a few more responsibilities, such as training new interns, editing their legal documents, and appearing on felony matters in court. I appear in court multiple times per week, and I have been trusted to handle various cases. I am currently preparing for a resentencing hearing under Penal Code section 1172.6, where I will essentially be putting on a mini murder trial. I truly would not be where I am without the amazing resources that the Litigation Center and STEP have offered me. Since a young age, I always knew that I wanted to be a litigator. Coming to GGU, I knew right away that I wanted to be in the STEP Program. It was, hands down, the best decision I have made. STEP gave me all the tools I needed to grow as a litigator and turn my dream into a reality. I left the Program knowing how to put on a trial from start to finish. The first time I held an evidentiary hearing, I was able to move documents and body camera footage into evidence with ease. I would not have felt confident in court if it were not for STEP and the Litigation Center, and I honestly believe that I would not be where I am in my job without those experiences. I truly cannot put into words how grateful I am. I am confident, ready, and excited for whatever comes my way!



- *Ashley Llamas, (3L)*



To say that my litigation training has been invaluable to my internship work would be a gross understatement. I work in a firm that takes on quite a few civil litigation matters, but so few civil cases ever see the inside of a courtroom. To that point, although I have absolutely no in-court litigation experience, my litigation training has nonetheless made my pre-litigation work far more effective than it would be without it.

For instance, I often write demand letters and responses to demand letters, and this is where litigation training has been the most useful. Thanks to my training, I understand how the trial process works, and I am able to visualize how each side of the dispute at issue would build their respective cases. I am able to see what each side’s strengths and weaknesses are, and I can better determine how to position and strategically frame the letters I write in a persuasive way—highlighting the strengths of the firm’s client's case, while using the other side’s weaknesses as leverage—to motivate pre-litigation settlements. In the past few months alone, at least two of the letters I have written have generated favorable settlements for the firm’s clients. - *Christina Robinson (3L)*



This semester, I am a Judicial Extern for the San Francisco Judge’s Department in the Criminal Division. I have the privilege of working under Stella Lee and Robert Lopez, Staff Attorneys for the Hall of Justice. In my position, my responsibilities include, but are not limited to, writing 995 memorandums, researching legal issues for judges, and sitting in on court proceedings. My supervisors have taken me under their wing and are providing me with all the writing skills and research mentoring to become a great attorney. I am truly grateful for this opportunity because it allows me to examine criminal matters objectively. In doing so, I can then catch any weaknesses presented in the arguments made before the court. I intend to take everything I learn and apply it to my career as I pursue a position as a Public Defender. I want my clients to know that the person who is advocating for them is capable of producing legal documentation that is not flawed.

I can say without a doubt that the 1st STEP Program and mock trial have been some of the best decisions I have made during my law school journey. Even today, when I sit in on hearings, I notice how some attorneys present themselves to the court and I think to myself how much they could have benefitted from the 1st STEP Program and mock trial. As challenging as the 1st STEP Program and mock trial were, the skills I acquired are invaluable and I know they will play a key role in my development as a trial attorney. So, keep an eye out for me because I am ready to make an impact! - *Jonathan Ibarra Paz (3L)*



INTERNSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

This semester I had the opportunity to work at the non-profit Dependency Legal Services (DLS). The DLS office I work at focuses on representing parents in dependency cases. My litigation training has allowed me to become a certified law student and go on the record advocating for clients in jurisdiction and disposition hearings. A dependency court can have as few as three lawyers at once advocating for separate clients and as many as six lawyers advocating for separate clients. With so many attorneys who are advocating for different people, the courtroom can get confusing and change at a moment's notice. Because of the Litigation Center, I felt confident when discussions went in a completely different direction than what I prepared for.



Currently, I am assisting the attorneys to communicate with clients at detention hearings. Detention hearings are where a judge decides whether a minor can go home right away and any other immediate steps in the process. When getting new clients, I read all detention reports in order to determine if there are conflicts restricting certain attorneys from representing them. I create and organize all client files and documents. I have gotten to witness multiple detentions, jurisdiction, and disposition hearings. I have also gotten to observe trials for contested cases and the removal of parental rights.

When I first started at DLS I was confused by things happening in court. However, the litigation training that I received allowed me to pick up dependency law quickly and to have a more active role at DLS. - **Rachel Clift (3L)**



Looking back on my summer spent participating in the Summer Trial and Evidence Program (STEP) provided by the GGU Litigation Center, I can proudly say that my experience has made me a more confident speaker and prepared me for my current internship at MG+M. This law firm is a national litigation powerhouse with deep expertise in a wide range of practice areas. The STEP Program prepared me as an intern for conversations with employers that I would have previously shirked from. Particularly, the motions class with Judge Steckler prepared me to confidently complete research assignments for my employer and to be able to speak to them in an effective and clear manner.

Additionally, through the litigation skills I learned at GGU, I am able to sit through depositions for the firm and attentively understand the process to effectively depose a deponent, as well as objections. As I learned how to properly make objections in STEP, it was so helpful to have that knowledge entering my internship because I understand how and when each objection should be made, which is an essential skill to becoming a litigator. - **Ashley Faulkner (2L)**



HOT! Off the Press!



Shawn Estrada is a member of Orrick's White Collar and Corporate Investigations team in the San Francisco office.

Shawn's practice focuses on representing foreign and domestic individuals and companies in many fields, such as anti-corruption compliance and government investigations.

Shawn has competed as a student in undergrad at Stanford and coached several mock trial teams at Georgetown University Law Center. Shawn will join the Litigation Center this spring to coach for mock trial.



Meghan Strong is a litigator in King & Spalding's Trial and Global Disputes practice group.

Meghan's practice focuses on complex commercial litigation and class actions in both federal and California state courts.

She graduated top 10% of her class in law school, was the Assistant Director of the Barristers' Council Trial Advocacy Division, and has coached mock trial at Georgetown University Law Center. Meghan will coach a mock trial team for the Litigation Center this spring.

SPRING 2023 LITIGATION COURSES**Introduction to Expert Witness (live)****MONDAY 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.**
Rebecca Brackman

The Expert Witness course introduces you to hiring, deposing, and obtaining trial testimony from an expert in a real case. During class, you will prepare your witness to give a deposition, practice voir dire, and prepare a cross examination for the opposing expert. This course counts toward completion of the Experiential Learning Requirement. Prerequisites: Evidence and Trial Advocacy.

Strategic Jury Persuasion (online)**TUESDAY 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.**
Jody Mask

Persuasive storytelling is key to becoming a winning trial lawyer. This advanced "how to" course is for students who want a deeper dive into the science and art of jury persuasion. Students will be introduced to the trial preparation techniques of some of the most successful trial lawyers in the country. Topics will include how to let your story argue for you, successful use of focus groups, combatting juror biases, proper framing, etc. Prerequisite: Trial Advocacy or STEP or permission of the professor.

Advance Communication for Attorneys (online)**TUESDAY 4:30 - 6:10 p.m.**
Harriet Schiffer Scott

Successful attorneys are skilled communicators inside and outside of the courtroom. This course will equip students with effective communication techniques to achieve desired results in real-life situations, such as speaking with partners or work staff, handling difficult work conversations, delivering presentations, client interactions, & more. Students will learn how to assess each scenario and be able to identify the best method to communicate their message with authenticity and confidence. Our focus will include vocal variation, purposeful movement, effective use of technology to enhance in-person and online presence, & other media.

Trial Advocacy (live)**TUESDAY 5:30 - 8:10 p.m.**
Judge Andrew Steckler

This course is taught by a retired judge. Throughout the semester, students will learn the basic skills needed by every lawyer going to court: conducting a direct examination, introducing documents and physical evidence, cross examining witnesses, making and answering objections, and preparing opening statements and closing arguments. The final examination for this course is a full trial. Pre/co-requisite: Evidence.

Civil Litigation: Pre-Trial Practice (hybrid)**WEDNESDAY 3:00 - 4:40 p.m.**
Louie Castoria

Students handle every aspect of pretrial preparation of a civil lawsuit, proceeding from the initial client contact, through formulating client representational strategy, to developing a case theory. They draft all the case pleadings and motions challenging the sufficiency of the pleadings, ending the course with a pre-trial settlement conference.

Introduction to eDiscovery (online)**WEDNESDAY 4:20 - 6:20 p.m.**
Justin Myers

In this class, students explore the tools, common practices & laws that make eDiscovery unique. They will learn to manage the risks associated with identification, preservation, collection, review and production of electronically stored information (ESI). ESI comprises approximately 90%+ of documents produced in a litigation (e.g. emails, network databases, Word, Excel, social media and cellular data), and ESI significantly increases in volume and complexity with each passing year. Leave this course with an understanding of how to best serve your future clients while meeting your discovery obligations under Federal and California law.

SPRING 2023 LITIGATION COURSES

White Collar Crime in Practice (live)

WEDNESDAY
6:30 - 8:40 p.m.

Jonathan Baum



Ross Weingarten

This course will introduce you to white collar criminal law and practice, including fraud, money laundering, bribery, and related offenses. We will cover substantive white-collar criminal law and develop real-world lawyering skills through practice exercises. The course is co-taught by a practicing federal prosecutor and white collar criminal defense lawyer.

Professional Presentation & Persuasion (live)

THURSDAY 4:30 - 6:10 p.m.
Harriet Schiffer Scott



This class will develop your presentation skills and give you strategies that will make you more confident and persuasive. You will learn and deliver various styles of presentation, learn specific techniques to deliver presentations without rote memorization, and become an engaging storyteller. Come prepared to eliminate nervous tics and self-consciousness when speaking in public, learn to think on your feet, and capture the attention of all your listeners.

Trial Advocacy (live)

THURSDAY 3:00 - 5:40 p.m.
Judge Lewis Davis



This course is taught by a retired judge. Throughout the semester, students will learn the basic skills needed by every lawyer going to court: conducting a direct examination, introducing documents and physical evidence, cross examining witnesses, making and answering objections, and preparing opening statements and closing arguments. The final examination for this course is a full trial. Pre/co-requisite: Evidence.

Intro to Criminal Litigation (live)

THURSDAY 6:30 - 9:10 p.m.
Will Morehead & Jen Redding



Apply the skills learned in Trial Advocacy in the context of a criminal case. The class is divided into trial teams assigned to prosecution or defense. The class begins with the staging of a mock crime, it is reported, a suspect is arrested, charges are filed, and the prosecution commences. The class proceeds through major phases of a criminal trial, including discussion and exercises on preliminary hearings.

Mock Trial & Advanced Mock Trial Competition

TEAM PRACTICES

MON/THUR - 6:00-9:00 PM & SATURDAY - 9:00 AM-12:00 PM

INVITATION ONLY

Introduction to Litigation (alternate online/in-person)

This course will prepare 1st STEP students for their summer trial and evidence program by teaching them basic trial skills necessary to become successful litigators in the courtroom. The course will teach students an overview of litigation, including the differences between civil and criminal law. Students will participate in drafting and arguing a motion, will learn to prepare and be a good witness, and begin the process of reviewing a case file and putting together a trial. Students will end the course presenting jury addresses in a mock-trial setting. The course is designed to provide students with feedback and guidance to prepare them for the intensive summer litigation program. Open only to students accepted into 1st STEP.



Rachel Brockl



Curtis Briggs

SATURDAY
Afternoon

The Exhibit

Litigation Center's Holiday Party at the Cadillac Bar and Grill



We enjoyed quesadillas, nachos, panchos, empanadas, chicken wings, dips and chips, margaritas, and more!



Two bottles of wine were raffled off and won by Esra and Gwen!



Evan won the trivia game and a nice bottle of wine! Our two second place winners received festive prizes as well.

SPECIAL THANKS!



The Litigation Center would like to extend a special thank you to the following individuals for their hard work and help with The Litigation Center during the Fall 2022 Semester:

- **Dave Bertini** who competed in two mock trial competitions this semester.
- **Christina Robinson** for volunteering to participate in SFTLA.
- **Gwendolyn West** for volunteering to participate in SFTLA.
- **Jonathan Ibarra Paz** for volunteering to participate in CACJ.
- **Monique Ramirez** who helped with our STEP Informational Session and for excelling as the Captain of the National Mock Trial Team.
- **Butch Ford** for traveling with the Stetson Team to Florida.
- **Christine De Leo** for presiding as judge for Stetson mock trial scrimmage.
- **Tyler Smith** for presiding as judge for the Golden Griffin Competition.
- GGU's amazing 1Ls for reading guest speaker bios at our seminar series events: **Ariana Salcedo, Brandon Turner, and Jazmine Daniels.**