

STANFORD CENTER ON THE LEGAL PROFESSION LAUNCHED

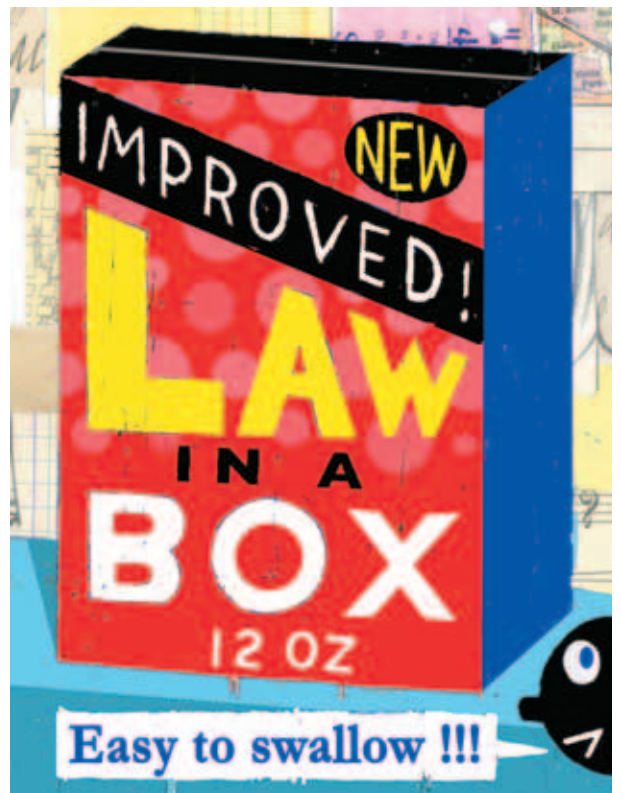
CAN ASSOCIATES WORKING AT LARGE FIRMS FIND A DECENT WORK/LIFE BALANCE? WHAT HAVE GLOBALIZATION AND MERGER-MANIA DONE TO THE TRADITIONAL LAW FIRM? How can the profession increase access to legal services? These are just a few of the questions that the new Stanford Center on the Legal Profession (CLP) will grapple with. Launched this September, the center will be led by Deborah L. Rhode, Ernest W. McFarland Professor of Law. CLP will support research, teaching, programs, and policy initiatives that address crucial issues facing the profession. • Rhode says one of CLP's focal points will be the lives of lawyers. Plans call for empirical research on legal workplaces. For example, one proposed project will study firms that have successful alternative workplace structures governing compensation and quality of life or different models of service such as Axiom, which has jettisoned partnerships, profit sharing, and billing requirements in exchange for giving attorneys choice about assignments in which they work from home or from client offices. • "Increasing competition in legal services has had enormous effects and it's not clear that the current business model is sustainable," says Rhode. "We're looking for ways to address the competitive obstacles to improving quality of life—an area that has received very little attention from academia."

Another CLP priority is leadership development, which has been largely absent from law schools, even though many JDs go on to fill leadership positions in firms, nonprofits, and the public sector. In addition to developing interdisciplinary courses with business schools, the center intends to create continuing education offerings to help legal leaders sharpen their managerial and business skills.

Improving bar regulatory structures is another big theme, as is access to justice. "The United States has the world's highest concentration of lawyers, but one of the least adequate systems of legal assistance," says Rhode. The center has received its first major grant from the Sokolove Charitable Fund to address this issue. Called the Roadmap to Justice Project, its goal is to bring together leaders in the field to develop a national agenda for expanding access to legal services for low- and middle-income individuals.

To achieve its goals, the center will draw on the expertise of several SLS faculty, including Norman W. Spaulding '97, Nelson Bowman Sweitzer and Marie B. Sweitzer Professor of Law and associate dean for curriculum, and Michele Landis Dauber, professor of law and Bernard D. Bergreen Faculty Scholar. Other potential collaborators include Stanford's Graduate School of Business, the Rock Center for Corporate Governance, the Levin Center for Public Service and Public Interest Law, and the Stanford Center on Ethics.

"Work/life integration and professional development are the two most common career issues raised by the students and alumni I counsel," says Susan C. Robinson, associate dean for career services. "If we can find ways to drive change in these areas, we can hopefully stem the tide of attorneys leaving the legal profession."



R I E E F

Fellow Honors

Two JSD students—one still at SLS, one recently graduated—have garnered attention for their scholarship.

The American Society of International Law awarded Benedetta Faedi, JSM '07, JSD '11, with a 2008 Helton Fellowship, which provides recipients grants to pursue research on international law and human rights issues. Faedi is using the grant to investigate why some Haitian victims of sexual abuse become active in armed groups, and to develop strategies for improving women's participation in conflict resolution. In addition to being tapped for the Helton Fellowship, Faedi was named a 2008–2009 graduate dissertation fellow of the Michelle R. Clayman Institute for Gender Research at Stanford.

Manuel A. Gómez, JSM '02, JSD '07, won the Law and Society Association's 2008 Dissertation Prize—the first time a Stanford student has won the honor since it was created in 1999. Gómez's dissertation, "All in the Family: The Influence of Social Networks on Dispute Processing," presents empirical research on how social connections shape the way in which conflict is processed in the Venezuelan business sector.

National War Powers Commission Releases Findings

STANFORD LAW SCHOOL served as a partner institution to the bipartisan National War Powers Commission, whose study of the respective war powers of the president and Congress was released in early July. The commission was co-chaired by former Secretaries of State Warren Christopher '49 and James A. Baker III.



JAMES A. BAKER III AND
WARREN CHRISTOPHER '49

In its report, the commission recommended that Congress repeal the War Powers Resolution of 1973 and substitute a new statute—the War Powers Consultation Act of 2009—that would provide for more meaningful interchange between the president and Congress on matters of war. Among the features of the proposed legislation is a provision that the president must consult with Congress before ordering a "significant armed conflict" expected to last longer than one week.

"We have tried to be as specific as possible in this report and in this legislation," says Christopher. "We have defined the kinds of armed conflict that would be covered by the statute and have laid out a clear course of action for both the president and Congress that is practical, constructive, and deliberative."

As a partner institution SLS provided scholarly expertise, conducted research, and hosted a commission meeting in January 2008. A PDF version of the report is available at www.law.stanford.edu/news.

TWO SLS STUDENTS WIN INTERDISCIPLINARY FELLOWSHIPS

Tamar Kricheli-Katz, JSM '05, JSD '12 (PhD '12), and Binyamin Blum, JSM '06, JSD '11 (MA '11), are young scholars with much in common: Both hail from Israel, where they attended the law school at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem and clerked for the Supreme Court of Israel. And now, each has been awarded one of Stanford's new Interdisciplinary Graduate Fellowships, a top honor the university gives to doctoral students immersed in interdisciplinary research. • Pursuing doctoral degrees in law and sociology at Stanford, Kricheli-Katz studies organizational practices, especially those associated with changing legal regimes. One of her papers examined the concept of "organizational fields."

"The question she pursued is one many have speculated about but have never answered empirically until now," says Michele Landis Dauber, professor of law and Bernard D. Bergreen Faculty Scholar and a professor (by courtesy) in the Department of Sociology. "This is a significant contribution for any scholar, but a truly impressive one for such a young student."

Blum, who received his JSM from Stanford Law in 2006 as part of the Stanford Program in International Legal Studies, is researching the transplantation of English common law into the Middle East following World War I, specifically criminal procedure and rules of evidence, to suit local circumstances in Palestine and Iraq.

"Binyamin's research is at the cutting edge of work in the fields of law and history and addresses an issue of crucial social importance: the problem of legal transplantation and its unintended consequences," says Amalia D. Kessler (MA '96, PhD '01), professor of law and Helen L. Crocker Faculty Scholar and professor (by courtesy) of history, who serves as Blum's advisor.

To read more about how SLS is cultivating interdisciplinary scholarship, see "Preparing the Next Generation of Legal Scholars" on page 14.

SLS Adopts New Grading System

THIS FALL THE CLASSES OF 2010 AND 2011 WILL BE THE FIRST TO USE THE LAW SCHOOL'S NEW GRADING SYSTEM, which eliminates the complex numerical scheme in favor of a system of honors, pass, restricted credit, and no credit (H/P/R/F). Approved by a faculty vote this past May, the shift aims to motivate students to choose classes regardless of the grading reputation of the professor and to encourage faculty to experiment more with the kinds of assignments they require.

"Our grading system was unnecessarily complicated, plus there was a sense that it created a degree and kind of grade pressure that was unwarranted and unhelpful," says Larry Kramer, Richard E. Lang Professor of Law and Dean, who notes the change comes after a year of faculty, student, and alumni study and debate around the issue.

Previously, all students received one of 21 numerical grades ranging from 2.1 to 4.3. Each grade had a letter equivalent ranging from A+ to F.

Many on the faculty found dividing, for example, 30 final exams into 20 different grades, too arbitrary. And the difference between exam courses, graded on the mandatory mean, and off-mean courses seemed to affect course selection in odd ways.

While some details of the transition to the new system have yet to be worked out—such as what to do about honors at graduation, including the Order of the Coif—here are the basics: This year's 2Ls, the incoming 1Ls, and all future classes will be graded under the new H/P/R/F regime. 3Ls will finish their Stanford careers on the traditional numeric system. To read more about the new grading system, see "From the Dean" on the inside front cover.

Stanford ACS Chapter Gains Momentum

THE STANFORD LAW CHAPTER OF THE American Constitution Society for Law and Policy (ACS) is in growth mode these days. Last year it hosted 27 events, won two awards, and its president, Andrew Blotky '09 (BA '02), was elected to the ACS national board of directors. With 200 members and counting, the Stanford Law chapter ranks among the largest and most active of ACS's over 160 student chapters.

Founded in 2001 in the wake of *Bush v. Gore*, the national ACS organization has emerged as a liberal answer to the Federalist Society for Law and Public Policy Studies, which, since its beginnings in 1982, has grown into a nationwide network for conservative lawyers and law students. Stanford Law students established a founding chapter of the Federalist Society in 1982.

Recently, Stanford Law's ACS members have focused many of their efforts on cultivating connections beyond the law school. Last fall they launched ACS Bay Area Networking & Development (BAND), which brings together law students and lawyers in small groups to discuss public policy and legal issues. Each "ACS family" has between eight and 14 members and meets four times per year.

"The goal is to connect ACS members in the Bay Area who wouldn't normally cross paths," says Blotky. "There isn't a set agenda other than working to build a stronger progressive community."

The BAND project was recognized with an award at the ACS National Convention in Washington, D.C., this June, which 15 SLS students attended. The SLS chapter also was singled out at the convention for its strong programming efforts, which have ranged from debates on the death penalty to visits from federal circuit judges.

Many of the group's events—including a talk with fired U.S. attorney John McKay—have provided fodder for its popular *Summary Judgments* podcast (<http://acslaw.stanford.edu/> podcast), which discusses policy issues relevant to the ACS community.



MEMBERS OF STANFORD LAW'S ACS CHAPTER

Law Library Hires International Specialist

Stanford Law School students studying international law will get some extra help from the library this year with the addition of a specialist librarian, Sergio Stone, who joined the library staff in fall 2008. The first-ever foreign, comparative, and international law (FCIL) librarian at the Robert Crown Law Library, Stone aims to help students test the waters of international legal studies without fearing complex foreign legal systems.

Stone, a native of Chile with a bachelor's degree from Carleton College, a library science degree from the University of Denver, and a law degree from New York University, says that his main goal is to "lower the barriers of entry for faculty and students to engage in FCIL research." He explains that this involves "disseminating information tailored to specific courses, locating opportunities to study or work overseas, creating strategic alliances with foreign law libraries, and building collections to meet the new curricular and clinical needs." These new collections include specialized online databases, such as China Law Express. Prior to joining Stanford, Stone served as an FCIL librarian at the University of Denver.

BECKER CO-FOUNDS \$4 MILLION FREEDOM PRIZE FOR REDUCING OIL FOOTPRINT

IN 2005, JOSH BECKER, JD/MBA '98, WAS VACATIONING IN ITALY WHEN HE RECEIVED A PHONE CALL FROM HIS FRIEND AND FELLOW ENTREPRENEUR JACK HIDARY. "He told me there was an energy bill in Congress and the time was right to do something," recalls Becker, co-founder and general partner of New Cycle Capital, a socially conscious venture fund. • Clean energy supporters had something in mind: a competition—funded by Congress—to reward groundbreaking efforts to reduce U.S. dependence on foreign oil. Called the Freedom Prize, the award would focus not on research and development but rather on existing technologies and strategies being used to promote energy independence. • "We wanted to make an immediate impact on the environment, and we knew from experience that prizes can be an effective tool for supporting public policy," says Becker, who with Hidary helped develop the X PRIZE competition to build an uber-efficient car that can exceed the equivalent of 100 miles per gallon.

Once back in the States, Becker traveled with Hidary to Washington, D.C., where Congress was debating the Energy Policy Act of 2005. They met with the staff of New Mexico Senator Jeff Bingaman '68, then the ranking Democrat on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee and one of the bill's top negotiators. And, a Stanford GSB connection netted them a sit-down with the staff of Texas Congressman Joe Barton, who chaired the House Energy and Commerce Committee. What happened next was straight out of "Lobbying 101."

"We'd show up at the joint committee hearing and buttonhole members during the break," explains Becker. "We created a whirlwind around the idea."

Their efforts paid off. The competition was written into the bill, and this June the Freedom Prize Foundation and the U.S. Department of Energy kicked off the program, which will award prizes ranging from \$500,000 to \$1 million in the coming year. (Applications are available this fall at www.freedomprize.org.)

Becker has a knack for applying entrepreneurial ideas to public policy issues. In 2005 he teamed up with Hidary to co-found SmartTransportation.org, which led to New York City's switch to hybrid taxis. (Today the city has more than 920 hybrid taxis; the entire fleet will be hybrid by 2012.) Becker is also the founder and chair of Full Circle Fund, an alliance of business leaders focused on tackling public problems through philanthropy and policy advocacy. As for the Freedom Prize, Becker is excited to see what innovations people come up with in the program's five categories: industry, schools, government, military, and community. "At the end of the day our goal is to get major institutions in society to decrease their oil use—and to improve the environment," he says.



SCLC Conference Confronts Biological Threats

ALTHOUGH THE BEST-LAID PLANS ARE LIKELY TO CHANGE if a pandemic or bioterrorism attack hits the United States, having no plans in place is a sure guarantee for disaster. That's what Department of Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff told attendees of the Germ Warfare, Contagious Disease and the Constitution symposium held in Washington, D.C., in April 2008. The event, hosted by the Stanford Constitutional Law Center (SCLC) and the Constitution Project, a nonprofit public policy organization, brought together policymakers and constitutional experts to discuss how state and federal officials might respond to epidemics while protecting individual rights. Stanley Morrison Professor of Law and former Dean Kathleen M. Sullivan, who directs SCLC, moderated an afternoon panel that included Pamela S. Karlan, Kenneth and Harle Montgomery Professor of Public Interest Law, and Robert Weisberg '79, Edwin E. Huddleson, Jr. Professor of Law.

Earlier in the day, about 60 legal scholars and public officials—including former Secretary of Defense William Perry (BS '49, MS '50) and former California Governor Gray Davis (BA '64)—participated in a closed-door roundtable discussion of a fictitious scenario that explored federal and state governments' possible responses to an unfolding deadly epidemic as it crossed state lines. Participants included officials from the Department of Justice, the Department of Homeland Security, the military, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and other agencies.

Watching the action was a group of third-year Stanford Law students who played a key role in preparing for the exercise. As part of a spring *Constitutional Law Workshop*, the students developed legal briefs written from the perspective of an individual, a state government, and the federal government. The briefs were provided to conference participants, who used them during the simulated exercise to inform discussions of how the scenario might play out in court in a real crisis. Most of the workshop's 12 students attended the conference thanks to Peter S. Bing (BA '55), who provided support for the initiative.

"Students had a wonderful opportunity to talk with policymakers and to see the interplay between legal advice and policy formation," says SCLC Fellow Laura K. Donohue '07, who initiated the event and is the author of a new book, *The Cost of Counterterrorism*. "More broadly, the conference stimulated a deeper discussion about how current laws should be changed to take account of emerging national security threats as well as constitutional concerns." —with reporting from Lisa Trei



PAMELA S. KARLAN, KATHLEEN M. SULLIVAN, ROBERT WEISBERG '79 AND FELLOW PANELISTS

BY THE NUMBERS: THE LEVIN CENTER'S YEAR IN REVIEW

The John and Terry Levin Center for Public Service and Public Interest Law oversees a broad range of initiatives designed to foster a culture of service at Stanford Law and in the broader legal profession by creating pro bono opportunities and encouraging all law students to contribute their time and skills. The following is a roundup of some of the center's many accomplishments in its first year:

- In 2008, Stanford provided \$585,500 to support 103 law students during their summer public interest internships with nonprofits and government agencies worldwide, an increase of almost 30 percent in funding.
- SLS alumni received a record number of public interest fellowships this year including three Skadden Fellowships, two Equal Justice Works Fellowships, five U.S. Department of Justice Honors Program positions, and five other postgraduate fellowships.
- 210 law students performed 4,008 hours of pro bono service, nearly doubling the hours reported during the prior academic year.
- The center's Social Security Disability Pro Bono Project represented 22 clients in social security disability matters and counseled another 15 homeless individuals at public benefits advice sessions.

For more information on the ongoing work of the John and Terry Levin Center for Public Service and Public Interest Law, please go to the website at www.law.stanford.edu/program/centers/pip.

The New Law School Building: Designed for Interdisciplinary Collaboration

The Stanford Law School community will be getting some much-needed space as plans for a new law school building move ahead. With a groundbreaking ceremony scheduled for spring 2009, the building could be ready for occupancy as early as December 2010. Completing Crown Quadrangle, the new structure will replace Kresge Auditorium—expanding the law school campus with approximately 63,000 square feet of offices, clinics, and seminar and meeting rooms.

“This new building, and the opportunity it affords us to promote our vision architecturally, will be the foundation upon which all else rests,” says Larry Kramer, Richard E. Lang Professor of Law and Dean. “A building that fosters interaction will go far to create a more engaged and engaging environment, all to the benefit of the teaching and scholarship that go on at the school.”

For more information about plans for the new building, please go to www.law.stanford.edu/school/offices/external_relations.

Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program Expanded

“AS EDUCATORS WE DREAM OF PREPARING ALL STUDENTS FOR CAREERS IN WHICH THEY FLOURISH AND CONTRIBUTE TO THE BETTERMENT OF THE WORLD,” says Lawrence C. Marshall, professor of law, associate dean for public interest and clinical education and the David and Stephanie Mills Director of Clinical Education. “Stanford’s LRAP program can make that dream a reality for our students who wish to pursue careers in public service.” • After pioneering loan forgiveness more than 20 years ago, Stanford Law School this year made several significant enhancements to the Miles and Nancy Rubin Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP). With the help of an anonymous \$2 million contribution and an additional \$1 million matching gift from Miles Rubin ’52 (BA ’50) and his wife Nancy, a career in public service is now more affordable than ever for Stanford Law alumni. • Stanford Law’s LRAP provides loan repayment assistance by lending participants funds each year so they can pay their often substantial educational debt while doing low-paying public service work. A portion of Stanford Law’s annual LRAP loan is then “forgiven.” The big changes to the program involve the salary level and timing for complete loan forgiveness. Previously, a percentage of the Stanford Law LRAP loan was forgiven only after three years of continuous public service work, with 100 percent forgiveness not possible until year five. With this latest enhancement to the program, 100 percent of Stanford Law’s annual LRAP loans are forgiven after each year of public service employment, starting the very first year. Additionally, program participants can earn more income without losing a portion of their loan forgiveness now that the cumulative yearly income at which full forgiveness may be achieved has been raised from \$45,000 to \$50,000. • “The average LRAP participant will likely see a 25 percent increase in his/her annual LRAP benefits,” says Susan Feathers, executive director of the John and Terry Levin Center for Public Service and Public Interest Law.

A look at the educational-debt-to-expected-salary equation highlights the challenge for alumni seeking a public service career. In the late 1980s tuition at Stanford Law was approximately \$12,000 per year and the average graduate left with approximately \$40,000 in educational debt, while the starting salary at a private firm was about \$60,000 and in the public sector between \$20,000 and \$35,000. Today, Stanford Law tuition is just over \$40,000 per year and graduates can expect to leave with an average of \$100,000 in educational debt. But starting salaries for associates at big law firms have more than kept pace with tuition inflation: Today graduates working at private firms in a major city can expect an associate’s salary of \$160,000 plus bonus. Yet public service salaries have limped along and are currently about \$40,000 to \$50,000, rising to \$55,700 for Justice Department entry level positions in the Washington, D.C. area.

Growth in the program is equally compelling. In 1987, there were four participants in Stanford Law’s LRAP. Today, the program provides benefits to about 100 alumni, with more added after each year’s graduation.

“I believe that loan forgiveness in these circumstances is a moral obligation for Stanford,” says Larry Kramer, Richard E. Lang Professor of Law and Dean. “The costs of legal education are such that the subsequent debt has made it impossible for some of our graduates to choose a career in one whole sector within the profession.”



A VIEW OF THE NEW LAW SCHOOL BUILDING FROM THE MUNGER GRADUATE RESIDENCES