

# class action



Class Action compiles personal and professional news about USD School of Law alumni from independent update submissions and international media resources. Tell us what's new with you. Submit your news online at [law.sandiego.edu/keepintouch](http://law.sandiego.edu/keepintouch), or email your update and photo (jpg or tif format, 300dpi) to [lawpub@sandiego.edu](mailto:lawpub@sandiego.edu).

'66

Fulwider Patton partner **Vern Schooley** received the Distinguished Service Medal from the Linn Inn Alliance of the American Inns of Court. Schooley focuses on intellectual property law.

'68

**Michael Thorsnes** was designated one of the Top 100 lawyers of Irish-American descent in the country by *The Irish Voice* newspaper and *Irish America* magazine in 2010. He was also awarded the Irish-American Bar Association of New York's Wild Goose Award, given for "talent, creativity and uniqueness" outside the practice of law.

'70

**Matthew Paul Fischer Jr.**, of Mesa, Ariz., has been included in the *Strathmore's Who's Who Worldwide Edition* for his outstanding contributions and achievements in the field of law. Currently, he is president of the law firm of M. Paul Fischer PC.

'75

Former Iowa Supreme Court Justice **Michael J. Streit** has joined the law firm of Ahlers & Cooney PC as of counsel in its litigation, dispute resolution and investigations practice area.

'78

California Governor Jerry Brown has announced the

appointment of **Frederick Schenk**—a partner with the law offices of Casey Gerry, Schenk, Francavilla, Blatt and Penfield—as a member of the Board of Directors, 22nd District Agricultural Association (San Diego County Fair Board), which runs the San Diego County Fair and oversees all operations at the state-owned fairgrounds in Del Mar. Members of the volunteer nine-member board are appointed by the sitting governor to four-year terms.

'82

**Ed McPherson** is a partner at McPherson Rane LLP, an entertainment litigation firm in Los Angeles. He was recently awarded an AV-Preeminent rating



# Coast Guardian

➤ **GALE FILTER: WATER WARRIOR**  
**Gale Filter**, '89, a former environmental prosecutor, has been appointed executive director for San Diego Coastkeeper, the region's largest professional organization working on inland and coastal water issues. San Diego Coastkeeper works to protect the region's inland and coastal waters for the communities and wildlife that depend on them by blending education, community empowerment and advocacy.

Previously, Filter worked as deputy executive director for consumer, environmental and legal services at the California District Attorneys Association, and also as deputy director of enforcement and emergency response for the California Environmental Protection Agency's Department of Toxic Substances Control. A lifelong environmentalist, Filter started his official environmental work in California in 1991 as a prosecutor in the Imperial County district attorney's office. Filter's work mainly focused on environmental crimes.

As executive director for Coastkeeper, Filter aims to increase community involvement and focus on identifying water problems. In September, he was immersed in the 1.9 million gallon sewage spill in Los Peñasquitos, which saw the Coastkeeper monitoring and organizing volunteers to provide data to the public.

Filter's main goal is a difficult one—to focus on protecting and restoring San Diego's waters through community action and enforcement. Yet, when asked what he enjoys most about his job, the answer is simple, "Protecting the environment."

by Martindale-Hubbell and has been recognized as a Southern California Super Lawyer by *Los Angeles* magazine every year since 2006. After building a home in Manhattan Beach, Calif., for the last few years, he and his family moved into it in February.

## '84

Brookfield Homes San Diego President **Steve Doyle** was honored as a Distinguished Alumni at a luncheon on November 4. The award is presented to law school alumni who have distinguished themselves in the legal field or other chosen profession at an exemplary level, and who embody the high ethical standards and commitment

to community service that USD School of Law seeks to instill in its graduates.

## '87

Denver Mayor Michael Hanacock named Greenberg Traurig lawyer **Doug Friednash** as city attorney.

## '88

Partner **Roger Haerr** was named practice leader of Luce Forward, San Diego's real estate and environmental litigation group.

**Catherine A. Richardson** has joined the San Diego office of Klinedinst, a business litigation firm with four offices throughout California.

# Glass Act



## GLASS OFFERS SWIFT JUSTICE

The Honorable Jackie Glass, '84, the Clark County (Nev.) District Court judge who sentenced O.J. Simpson to prison, took over for Nancy Grace on the syndicated television show *Swift Justice* in September. The Emmy-nominated courtroom program, now in its second season, features engaging litigants, cases, experts, videos and more.

Previously, Glass presided over specialty courts such as drug court, felony DUI court and mental health court. In 2008, she sentenced Simpson to nine to 33 years in prison for kidnapping and armed robbery. Glass called Simpson, who played a role in an armed confrontation with sports memorabilia dealers, both “arrogant” and “ignorant.”

Glass' experience as a journalist and her previous handling of high-profile cases, such as the Simpson one, made her an ideal replacement for Grace. Best known for her straightforward sentencing and strong personality in the courtroom, Glass shares Grace's “get-it-done” attitude.

Glass has been a district judge in Clark County for eight years. In addition to her judgeship, she helped create the Clark County Mental Health Court in 2003. In her last year on the bench, she oversaw Clark County district's drug and alcohol treatment courts.

*Swift Justice* airs on CBS weekly.

## '91

**Scott Sumner** received the 2010 Ian Herzog Appellate Lawyer of the Year Award. A partner at Hinton, Alfert, Sumner & Kaufmann in Walnut Creek, Calif., Sumner focuses on product liability and catastrophic personal injury.

Reed Smith LLP has named **Rhona Kisch**, formerly of Mintz, Levin, Cohen, Ferris, Globsky & Popeo, a new partner in its New York City Real Estate Practice Group.

Fagen Friedman & Fulfrost has added **Kathleen McKee** as a partner in the San Diego office. McKee is cochair of the business facilities and real estate practice group.

## '92

Seattle executive **Dyana Veigele**, Esq., general counsel and president of

Law Dawgs – Quid Pro Quo Global, has been named to the University of Washington's Certificate in Paralegal Studies Advisory Board.

## '94

San Diego-based trial litigation boutique Chapin Fitzgerald Sullivan LLP has named **Frank A. Bottini** as a partner. The firm is now called Chapin Fitzgerald Sullivan & Bottini LLP.

## '95

San Diego plaintiff lawyer **Blair Nicholas** was at the forefront of two major securities litigation successes in 2010, one of which involved backdating. The backdating case (In re Maxim Integrated Products Inc. Securities Litigation) earned the biggest payout ever for that kind of class action in the Ninth Circuit and was

the third largest payout ever in the United States, according to Nicholas, a partner at Bernstein Litowitz Berger & Grossmann.

### '97

Tax and patent attorney **Curt Harrington** was appointed to the California Board of Legal Specialization of the State Bar of California as an at-large member for a three-year term.

Howard & Howard Attorneys PLLC attorney **Wade B. Gochnour** has been named to Mountain States Super Lawyers 2011.

Partner **Amy Giannamore** is now the assistant practice leader of the real estate securities and finance group of Luce Forward in San Diego.

**Aaron C. Harp** was named city attorney for the city of Newport Beach, Calif.

### '98

Lewis and Roca is pleased to announce that **Don G. Martin** has joined the firm's Las Vegas office. Martin is a

partner in the firm's business section.

### '99

The Austin employment attorneys of Melton Kumler LLP announce that partner **John Melton** has been included on the 2011 list of Super Lawyers. This honor is given to attorneys that have been recognized by their peers as an outstanding lawyer in their field.

**Amanda F. Benedict** has joined the San Diego office of Klinedinst, a business litigation firm with four offices throughout California.

### '02

**Melanie Ronen** was named partner at Keesal, Young & Logan. Ronen, who is in the firm's Long Beach, Calif., office, focuses on securities and employment litigation.

Toyota Material Handling, U.S.A. Inc. (TMHU) has announced the appointment of **Kody Diaz** to national legal department manager and managing counsel, where he will oversee all

## In Memoriam

### '72

**James Edward Dremann** passed away on September 21, 2011. He had been an active member of the California State Bar since 1972, spent nearly five years as an assistant district attorney for the County of San Francisco, was an instructor at the San Francisco Police Academy, was appointed and served nearly five years as Sierra County district attorney, and spent nearly 30 years in private practice in Nevada County.

### '74

**Robert Batchelder's** family was by his side as he passed away on August 12, 2011, from complications of gastric cancer and after a 20-year battle with multiple sclerosis. A position with the U.S. Department of Transportation's Honors Attorney program brought Batchelder and his wife, Sai, to northern Virginia, which they called home for the past 23 years.

### '78

**Pamela Mary "Pam" Slick**, a native of Fort Wayne, Ind., died on June 21, 2011, in San Diego. She served as a lecturer, presenter, coplaner and moderator in multiple venues, including USD School of Law.

### FRIENDS OF USD SCHOOL OF LAW

**Charles Ray Waldie** passed away at home, July 28, 2011, after a battle against pulmonary fibrosis. He worked as director of budget and administration at USD School of Law.

## CLASS ACTION

legal activities on behalf of TMHU. Diaz formerly served on the company's legal counsel team.

'03

**Elizabeth "Betsy" Kinsley** was hired as the new chief of staff for the president's office at California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo, Calif.

'04

Snell & Wilmer associate **Jeff Singletary** has been

appointed to the board of directors for the Mariposa Women & Family Center in Orange, Calif. Singletary concentrates his practice on business litigation in state and federal courts.

Fagen Friedman & Fulfroost has added **Dean Adams** as a partner in the San Diego office. Adams is co-chair of the student practice group.

'05

**Drew Bordages** has joined Specific Media as its senior

vice president, general counsel. In his new capacity, Bordages is responsible for managing the company's global legal affairs and leads Specific Media's data protection and privacy efforts.

'06

**Ryan Stack** has left the Salt Lake City Prosecutor's Office for a position with the Summit County Attorney's Office.

'07

**Melodie Ann Whitson** and James Matthew McAlpin were married in 2010.

'08

Wilson Turner Kosmo, a San Diego-based litigation law firm, has hired **Marissa Lyftogt** as an employment law associate whose practice focuses on claims of discrimination and harassment, as well as wage and hour lawsuits.

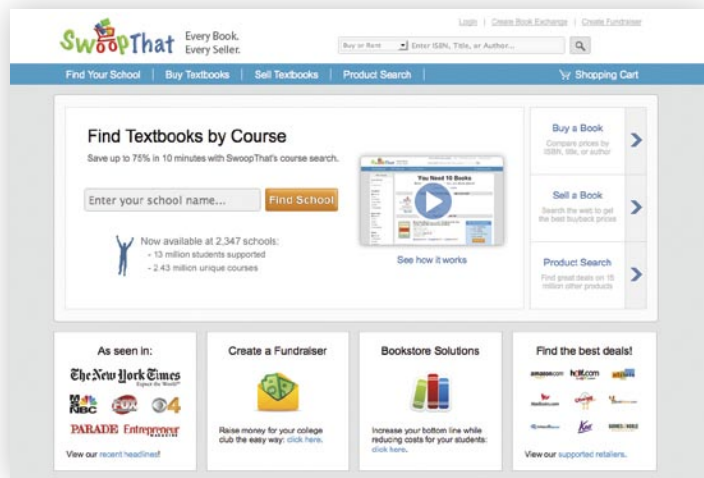
# USD School of Law Alumni Reunions

1972 1982 1987 1992 2002 2007 Saturday, October 6, 2012

Reunion news will be sent by email, so please update your contact information at [law.sandiego.edu/alumniupdate](http://law.sandiego.edu/alumniupdate).

To participate on your class reunion planning or gift committee, or for more information, contact the office of development and alumni relations at (619) 260-4692 or [lawalum@sandiego.edu](mailto:lawalum@sandiego.edu).

Updated reunion information is available online at [law.sandiego.edu/reunions](http://law.sandiego.edu/reunions).



# Swoop Savings

## ➤ BEN CARSON HELPS CREATE SITE TO SAVE STUDENTS MONEY

It wasn't too long ago that Ben Carson was a student himself, so he knows how expensive textbooks can be for students. Tired of over-paying, Carson co-founded SwoopThat.com, a website that helps students determine the best places to buy and sell their textbooks online. Carson, '10, started the company with SwoopThat CEO Jonathan Simkin during his last year of law school. He was looking for a way to combine his friend's business skills with his own recently acquired legal knowledge. The two first launched a price comparison search engine for textbooks as an afterthought to another project.

The search engine went viral. Carson and Simkin immediately realized the necessity of creating a site to help students save both money and time when buying their books.

Carson's law degree has certainly been useful. His role at the company is largely to front its broad-based legal work. He is the liaison between SwoopThat and its outside attorneys, preparing everything from LLC paperwork to independent contractor agreements and provisional patents. Long term, Carson aims to work with schools and bookstores to make college more affordable, and to create a free software suite for these bookstores.

"Working with SwoopThat has involved so many areas of the law that nearly all the courses I took in law school have been applicable in some form or another," says Carson. "USD really prepares its students well for thinking like a lawyer when doing basic practical tasks like writing up a contract or reviewing online terms of use."

'09

**Christopher Foerch** joined Studley's Manhattan office as an assistant director. Foerch will be responsible for market research and legal analysis, as well as transaction management for existing clients and client development.

**Joanna Fuller** has joined Fish & Richardson as an associate in the San Diego office as a member of the intellectual property litigation group.

**David Yaegashi** has joined Fish's IP litigation group in New York.

'11

San Luis Obispo-based Honest Label Foods, founded by **Taylor Ernst**, launched both iPhone and Android apps to help

consumers understand food labels.

### Correction

An item in the Class Action section of the Spring 2011 issue (26:2) should have read: The Honorable **Kenneth J. Medel**, '79, was appointed to a Superior Court Judgeship by then Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger in 2010.