

FALL/WINTER 2006

Golden Gate

LAWYER

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FACULTY NEWS



Professor **ROGER BERNHARDT** published a brief article on foreclosure in *The Abstract*, the newsletter of the American College of Mortgage Attorneys.



Professor **LESLIE BURTON** participated in a conference at Kultur University in Istanbul, Turkey, in May and taught a weeklong seminar on American Legal Analysis to Turkish lawyers.



Professor **MORTON COHEN** received widespread media coverage (including a front-page feature in the *San Francisco Daily Journal* in August) for his successful efforts to close a notorious San Francisco County jail and see a new, more humane jail built next door. More recently, he participated in a panel presentation to a statewide meeting of lawyers sponsored by Protection & Advocacy, Inc, titled “Mental Health and Medical Issues in Prisons and Jails.”



HELEN CHANG, associate professor, spoke on the history and development of the International Criminal Court in a panel discussion of the ICC at the San Francisco Public Library in early November. The panel was sponsored by the Bay Area Alliance in Support of the International Criminal Court.



RODNEY FONG, assistant dean for bar exam services, spoke at a panel titled “Beyond the Classroom” as part of the Academic Assistance Workshop this summer at Capital University School of Law in Columbus, Ohio. Fong’s presentation specifically addressed the need to involve the entire law school community in bar-passage improvement regimes. His other professional activities have included moderating two panels at the State Bar of California’s spring summit in San Jose and speaking at meetings of the

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TWO NEW VISITING FACULTY JOIN GOLDEN GATE SCHOOL OF LAW



BRENT PLATER has joined the School of Law as a visiting assistant professor of law and staff attorney with the Environmental Law and Justice Clinic.

Plater’s résumé reflects his longstanding commitment to environmental protection and experience as a teacher and litigator. He has served as director of Bay Area programs for the Center for Biological Diversity and served as an environmental law fellow at Faegre & Benson, worked as a law clerk at the Environmental Law Foundation and as a conservation intern at the National Wildlife Federation, and

taught environmental law to undergraduates at Boston College and San Francisco State University. He serves on the Wildlife and Endangered Species Committee of the Sierra Club and was recently appointed by the Secretary of the Interior to the Golden Gate National Recreation Area’s Pet Management Rulemaking Committee. His speaking engagements this fall included a talk at San Francisco’s Commonwealth Club.

Plater received his bachelor’s degree in natural resources and environment from the University of Michigan School of Natural Resources and Environment; his law degree from the University of California, Berkeley (Boalt Hall); and his master’s in public administration from the Harvard University John F. Kennedy School of Government. At Golden Gate University Plater teaches the Environmental Law and Justice Seminar.

JOSEPH LAVITT has joined Golden Gate as a visiting assistant professor of law. He has extensive experience teaching and practicing in the areas of insurance law and torts. He is teaching these subjects at Golden Gate as well as Special Problems Courses in Contracts, Torts, Evidence, and Property.

Lavitt has served as lead counsel to major insurers in numerous high-profile cases in state and federal trial and appellate courts and has represented indigent defendants on appeal in the California Courts of Appeal and the California Supreme Court. He has made many public presentations on preventing housing discrimination and effective enforcement of antidiscrimination law, and he is a published authority on issues of co-insurer liability. He is a member of the State Bar of California Standing Committee on Group Insurance Programs and is a Master, American Inns of Court.

Lavitt received his bachelor’s degree from the University of Georgia, Athens (with high honors) and his JD from the University of California, Berkeley (Boalt Hall).

