

A Rich Tradition of Purpose and Practice

1901 The YMCA establishes California's first evening law school, which will eventually become GGU Law.

1906 The great San Francisco earthquake and fire level the YMCA building. Undaunted, students continue their studies in tents.

1913 Justice Jesse Carter graduates, later joining the Board of Governors of the State Bar of California. He is appointed to the state Supreme Court in 1939.

1928 Margaret Lyons Steffan is one of the first two women to receive a law degree from the newly named Golden Gate College.

1956 The law school is the first exclusively part-time program in the west to receive provisional accreditation by the ABA.

1964 The full-time day program is instituted at the law school.

1973 GGU Law appoints the second woman in the U.S. to be named dean of an ABA-accredited law school.

1979 The addition of GGU Law's robust LLM in Taxation program coincides with the completion of the six-story university building on Mission Street.

1993 The Women's Employment Rights Clinic is established on campus, aiding domestic and immigrant workers facing unfair labor practices.

1994 The Environmental Law and Justice Clinic is inaugurated, improving the quality of life for underserved Bay Area communities.

1998 The Honors Lawyering Program breaks new ground in practical, client-focused training for law students.

2004 GGU Law appoints Frederic White, the first African American dean of an ABA-accredited law school in California.

2010 The Litigation Center and Intellectual Property Law Center are established, enhancing student expertise in courtroom advocacy and scholarship in IP law.

2011 Alumna Morgan Christen, former Alaska Supreme Court Justice, is appointed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in San Francisco.

2012 Rachel Van Cleave is appointed dean, a former Fulbright Scholar and expert on comparative criminal justice, she is the third woman to assume leadership of GGU Law.

