GOLDEN GATE UNIVERSITY
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Beat the Clock MCLE Event 2017

Presenter Biographies

Leslie Burton, Associate Professor of Law and Director of LLM US Legal Studies, Golden Gate University School of Law

Leslie Burton has 25 years of experience in instructing, coaching, critiquing, and editing legal writing. Before co-directing the Legal Writing program at GGU, she served as Law Clerk to the Chief Justice of the US Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District, wrote appellate briefs for the Sacramento County District Attorney, and practiced bankruptcy litigation. She has experience in all areas of legal writing.

Richard Carlton (GGU '81), Adjunct Professor, Golden Gate University School of Business

Until recently, Richard Carlton was the Director of the Lawyer Assistance Program of the State Bar of California. He is a consultant to the US Courts for the Ninth Circuit, the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges, and to the Idaho Judicial Branch on matters of judicial stress and wellness.

Mr. Carlton regularly delivers continuing legal education presentations to local bar associations, specialty bars, State Bar sections, and law firms throughout California on addressing substance abuse and managing stress. His articles have appeared in Judicature, The Judges Journal of the ABA, California Bar Journal, and other legal publications. He has been addressing mental health and disability concerns in the legal profession for nearly thirty years. Richard holds a Masters Degree in Public Health from UC Berkeley, where his studies focused on treatment interventions and behavioral science research.

Cynthia Chandler, Adjunct Professor of Law, Golden Gate University School of Law

Cynthia Chandler is the Co-Founder and Executive Director of Justice Now, a human rights organization working with women in prison and local communities to build a safe, compassionate world without prisons. Cynthia speaks and publishes regularly on prison industrial complex abolition, racial justice, and women's health. In 2010, Cynthia was awarded a Gevelber Distinguished Lectureship on Public Interest Law from Northeastern University School of Law. She received a JD from Harvard University School of Law

and an MPhil in Criminology from the University of Cambridge. Cynthia has worked on issues of women's heath, racial justice, and abolition for over 20 years. Before co-founding Justice Now, Cynthia founded and directed Women's Positive Legal Action Network--the first organization in the US advocating on behalf of HIV+ people in women's prisons. Cynthia has helped launch numerous social justice organizations, including Critical Resistance; TGI Justice Project; and the Eviction Defense Center. In recognition of her support of the leadership of people in prison toward social change, Cynthia was selected as an original recipient of the Ford Foundation Leadership for a Changing World Award. In 2005, she was selected by the Women's Health Activist Network as a Top 30 Activist for Women's Health. Cynthia helped create the practice of compassionate release for people dying in prison through sponsorship of model decarceration legislation, for which she was designated the 1997 Attorney to Whom California Can Be Most Grateful by California Law Business. She remains one of the only lawyers practicing in this area.

Carolyn M. Lee (GGU JD '06, LLM '08), Adjunct Professor of Law, Golden Gate University School of Law; Associate, Abkin Law LLP

Carolyn Lee is an attorney practicing with Abkin Law, LLP, which specializes in civil and criminal tax controversy matters. Ms. Lee was awarded a JD and LLM Tax with honors from Golden Gate University School of Law. Ms. Lee is an adjunct professor with the GGU School of Law LLM Tax program, teaching Professional Responsibility for Tax Practitioners.

Kathleen Morris, Associate Professor of Law, Golden Gate University School of Law

Kathleen Morris is an Associate Professor of Law at Golden Gate University School of Law, where she teaches Constitutional Law, Property, Professional Responsibility, and a local government seminar. Her publications include *Uncooperative Localism* (article in progress, forthcoming 2017); "Cities Seeking Justice: Local Government Litigation in the Public Interest," in HOW CITIES WILL SAVE THE WORLD (ed. R. Brescia, J. Marshall, Ashgate 2016); *Expanding Local Enforcement Of State And Federal Consumer Protection Laws*, 40 FORDHAM URBAN L.J. 1903 (2013); *The Case for Local Constitutional Enforcement*, 47 HARV. C.R.-C.L. L. Rev. 1 (2012); and *San Francisco and the Rising Culture of Engagement in Local Public Law Offices*, in WHY THE LOCAL MATTERS: FEDERALISM, LOCALISM, AND PUBLIC INTEREST ADVOCACY (Yale & Columbia 2010). Prior to joining the Golden Gate faculty, Professor Morris was a deputy city attorney for the City and County of San Francisco, where she co-founded and led the Affirmative Litigation Task Force, a team charged with developing a public interest litigation docket for the city. As a practitioner, Professor Morris handled more than 100

cases, including the state constitutional challenge to California's marriage laws. Professor Morris has been a visiting Lecturer at Yale Law School, a Lecturer at U.C. Berkeley Law School, and a Visiting Assistant Professor at Rutgers-Camden Law School. She has a law degree from the University of California, Berkeley; a Masters in Politics from the University of Edinburgh, Scotland; a BA from California State University, Northridge; and served as a law clerk to Chief Judge Sidney R. Thomas, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

Spojmie Nasiri (GGU JD '03), Principal Attorney, Law Office of Spojmie Nasiri

Spojmie Nasiri received her Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from the University of California, Davis, and her JD from Golden Gate University School of Law. She is a member of the California Bar and admitted to practice before the California Supreme Court and the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California.

She currently practices immigration law exclusively with emphasis on family-based immigration, citizenship and deportation defense. She is an active member of the American Immigration Lawyer's Association. She was selected by the National Advocates Top 100 Lawyers for 2015, American Society of Legal Advocates Top 40 Lawyers under 40 in 2015 and also Rising Star by Super Lawyers for 2015. Mrs. Nasiri currently serves as president of the Eastern Alameda County Bar Association and Council on American Relations (CAIR) for the San Francisco Bay Area Chapter, the largest civil rights organization representing Muslim Americans in the United States.

Michele Neitz, Professor of Law, Golden Gate University School of Law

Michele Benedetto Neitz joined the Golden Gate University School of Law faculty in 2006. Prior to joining GGU, she worked as a law clerk in the Southern District of California and served as an Equal Justice Works Fellow at the Legal Aid Society of San Diego. She also worked an associate in the San Diego office of Morrison & Foerster, LLP, specializing in corporate labor and employment matters.

Professor Neitz researches, publishes and lectures in the areas of implicit bias and judicial ethics, professional responsibility, and corporate law. In 2013, she published the first article in legal academia focused on implicit socioeconomic bias on the part of judges. Her publications include law review articles in the *Georgetown Journal of Legal Ethics, The Southern Methodist University Law Review,* and the *Brooklyn Law Review,* as well as smaller articles in the San Francisco Business Times, San Francisco Attorney Magazine, and the online Legal Ethics Forum. She is a contributing author in the forthcoming ABA book entitled *Enhancing Justice by Reducing Bias.* Professor Neitz currently teaches Poverty Law, Business Associations, and Professional Responsibility.

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Mark Perlmutter, Wellness Resources, Golden Gate University and Attorney

As a former Texas Trial Lawyer, Mark Perlmutter, MA, JD now helps individuals and couples build extraordinary business and intimate relationships. He also does divorce and co-parenting counseling, mediates, and teaches at UC Hastings and the University of Texas School of Law.

Hina Shah, Associate Professor of Law and Director of Women's Employment Rights Clinic, Golden Gate University School of Law

Hina B. Shah is Associate Professor of Law and Director of the Women's Employment Rights Clinic (WERC) at Golden Gate University School of Law, addressing employment and labor issues faced by low wage and immigrant workers. WERC also serves as legal counsel to the California Domestic Workers Coalition, helping expand and protect overtime rights for domestic workers in California. Professor Shah has over twenty years of experience in employment litigation working for private union-side law firms and non-profits organizations and substantial appellate experience as a Staff Attorney at the Ninth Circuit and has written numerous amicus briefs on important legal issues affecting low-wage workers. Professor Shah has lectured and written on the plight of low-wage and immigrant workers, including *Broadening Low-Wage Workers' Access to Justice: Guaranteeing Unpaid Wage in Targeted Industries*, published in the Hofstra Labor & Employment Law Journal and *Notes from the Field: The Role of the Community Lawyer in Grassroots Advocacy*, published in the Clinical Law Review. She also speaks on issues of implicit bias in the legal profession.

Gail Shifman, Esq., Law Office of Gail Shifman

A tenacious litigator & strategic thinker with more than 50 criminal cases tried to verdict, Gail Shifman is nationally recognized for handling complex white collar investigations and cases including allegations of antitrust violations, insider trading, the Computer Fraud & Abuse Act (CFAA) and the Federal Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) as well as a wide variety of other criminal charges such as large-scale drug offenses, counterfeiting, child pornography, high-profile homicides, DUIs and beyond. Ms. Shifman's practice includes representation before the SEC, administrative agencies and the defense of qui tam suits. Recognized in Super Lawyers from 2009-2016 as a specialist in Criminal Defense-White Collar, she is also a favorite a presenter at Federal Bar Chapter and Bar Association of San Francisco (BASF) events.

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Valerie Stewart (GGU JD '79), Senior Counsel, Federal Bureau of Prisons, U.S. Department of Justice

Ms. Stewart (GGU JD ’79) is a career federal government attorney. She has been with the Federal Bureau of Prisons since 1991, handling litigation throughout the Ninth Circuit involving constitutional torts and correctional law, including sentencing issues. She served as an Assistant United States Attorney in the Northern District of California and District of Nevada in the Drug Task Force, where she handled major drug cases and as a Trial Attorney for the Department of Navy, General Counsel, where she handled complex civil litigation. She also worked as a Deputy District Attorney in Santa Clara County, CA and Clark County, NV. She is active with the Federal Bar Association organizing education events and as a liaison with the GGU Law Student FBA Section.

Rachel Van Cleave, Dean and Professor of Law, Golden Gate University School of Law

Rachel Van Cleave is Dean Golden Gate University School of Law. She began at GGU Law as a professor in 2004 and served as Associate Dean of Academic Affairs from 2008-2012.

Dean Van Cleave earned her BA at Stanford and JD at UC Hastings College of the Law. She clerked at Baker and McKenzie and served as a federal clerk for Fifth Circuit Judge Sam Johnson. In addition to early roles as a legal research and writing instructor at Santa Clara and a Teaching Fellow at Stanford Law School, where she also earned her JSM, Van Cleave was a Visiting Professor at the University of Richmond School of Law and UC Hastings. As a Fulbright Fellow, she conducted research at the Italian Constitutional Court on changes to the Italian criminal justice system, and later returned to Italy to research reforms in Italian rape law. She has published 15 law review articles and four book chapters.

A professor who has earned awards for her dedicated teaching, Dean Van Cleave designed and taught original seminars that integrate research and writing with addressing real-world problems—courses like her Katrina and Disaster Law Seminar. Dean Van Cleave is a dedicated veterans’ advocate, working with veterans’ advocacy groups as well as spearheading the Veterans Law Advocacy Center at GGU Law. In addition to her scholarship and teaching, she has published articles in leading legal publications exploring the ethics and future of legal education and the profession.