

SCU alumnus serves Poles commercial law American-style

When Eoy S. Gordet '82 felt a need to do some public service work, he didn't go the usual route of accepting a pro bono case. Instead, he left his job as an intellectual property lawyer and accepted a seven-month position as a commercial law liaison in Krakow, Poland, with the American Bar Association's Central and Eastern European Law Initiative (CEELI). He returned to San Francisco in September.

Gordet's main mission was to "bring the American legal perspective to the table so they [the Poles] could see it and taste it," he says. "Polish lawyers could take what is useful to them in terms of doing business with American companies. We were trying not to be imperialistic." Poland, he says, has its own legal tradition, much of it based on principles of Austrian and German jurisprudence.

Gordet came across an announcement for CEELI's program in the American Bar Association's patent, trademark, and copyright newsletter. CEELI's mission is to assist with the legal reform in the revolutionized economic systems of the former communist bloc countries.

Gordet accepted an offer to start a commercial law center in Krakow because one of the institutional partners was an intellectual property law institute affiliated with Krakow's prestigious Jagiellonian University. Plus, he decided to take a chance on Poland because he is good in languages. He speaks Spanish, French, and German, and has studied Russian. His background in Russian helped in tackling Polish.

"I made a lot of progress in Polish," he says, "but I can't really converse." The language and culture difficulties, as well as an unusually long and harsh winter (he arrived in February), made the transition rough.

"A main frustration was the language," he says. "It sometimes made day-to-day living difficult. There would be notices in the lobby that I could barely read that said water in my building was going to be shut off for repairs on a certain morning, things like that. By the time I left, I finally had the ability to phone for a taxi."

At the commercial law center, a Polish law school graduate worked with Gordet, making it easier for him to do his job, which was essentially responding to the needs of local government officials and members of the local bar. He found himself welcomed to the intellectual property law institute by former colleagues who had studied with him at the Max Planck Institute for Patent, Copyright and Competition Law in Munich, Germany, 10 years earlier. The co-directors are the leading authorities on computer law in Poland, Gordet says. U.S. and European governments are putting pressure on the Polish government to stop the piracy of software and video and audio tapes.

"Patent, trademark, and copyright law transcends boundaries," Gordet says.

Gordet led seminars on trademark law. He and Polish attorneys organized a daylong



Roy S. Gordet '82 says intellectual property law transcends borders.

seminar on legal issues involving advertising. He also helped coordinate a two-week seminar in Krakow for 45 Eastern European law professors. Four American lawyers taught the Eastern Europeans American real property law and joint ventures. They introduced them to the American approach to legal education.

Gordet also attended a copyright conference in Vienna and a CEELI liaison's conference in Vilnius, Lithuania, where he had a chance to get to know U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, who is on CEELI's board of directors.

But perhaps one of the most exciting projects Gordet took on was working on consumer protection and truth-in-advertising

issues. Gordet was attempting to develop international contacts for the Polish Consumer Federation, and hopes to continue working with consumer and advertising issues.

"I was involved with issues I thought particularly exciting," Gordet says. "That was the best part of the whole experience."

"It's exciting to be involved in another culture — to be there from the inside. I met many interesting people from a variety of countries."

The CEELI resource center in Krakow is off and running, and Gordet's replacement arrived in September, he says. "It was a major disruption in my life, but I think it was worth it." ■

Law school's recession fighter: pro bono alumni

**By Ken Donney
Director, Law Career Services**

We at Law Career Services are immensely grateful to the alumni who donated their valuable time, skills, and energy to our mock interview program last September.

Special thanks to the 10 alumni who volunteered huge blocks of time on Sept. 22 and 23 to put 54 students through the paces in preparation for our successful on-campus interview program. They are Judy Alexander, Lynne Bentley, Vanessa Zecher Cain, Tim Casey, James Chadwick, Ed Davis, Fred Gonzalez, Virginia Turner Hess, Rodney Moore, and Joseph Olsen.

Feedback from the on-campus employers and interviewers was overwhelmingly positive. "The students were exceptionally well-prepared, and I'm going to have several call backs," one interviewer said. Said another, "Last year I wanted to call back only three students, but this year I'm calling back 12."

Other employers said the Santa Clara students compared favorably to students they had interviewed at Stanford and UCLA. And, most importantly, the call backs are resulting in job offers!

Needless to say, other factors contributed to the great showing, such as our excellent faculty and supportive administration. Nevertheless, our tightly knit alumni and their pro bono Santa Clara bond make all the difference.

Next stop is our Law Career Day on Feb. 5. Again, thank you alums, particularly those who have agreed to serve as panelists. They are Judy Alexander, Tim Casey, Coeta Chambers, Terry Conner, Patrick Dunkley, Fred Gonzalez, Virginia Turner Hess, Nels Nelsen, Phil Pennypacker, Rolanda Pierredixon, Karen Russell, Tim Schmal, and Jesus Valencia.

Thanks to the alumni and those of you attending the lunch, Law Career Day promises to be a dynamite success. ■