

A professional portrait of Professor Fred Galves, a man with dark hair, smiling, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and patterned tie. He is standing with his arms crossed.

Professor Fred Galves

Staying Ahead of the Legal Technology Learning Curve

THE PACIFIC McGEORGE PROFILE

By Jonathan Kalstrom

Professor of Law

B.A., Colorado College
J.D., Harvard University

Courses Taught

Civil Procedure, Computer-Assisted Litigation,
Street Law International, Evidence

Private Sector

Associate, Holland & Hart, Denver, Colorado

Visiting Professor

University of California, Davis, School of Law;
Fordham University School of Law;
University of Denver College of Law;
Southwestern University School of Law

Recent Scholarship

*"Objection! Irrelevant and Unrealistic:
It's Time for Evidence Exams to Evolve,"*
50 St. Louis U. L.J. 1223 (2006)

*"The Admissibility of 3-D Computer
Animations under the Federal Rules of
Evidence and the California Evidence Code,"*
Sw. U. L. Rev. (forthcoming, 2007)

Web site

www.fredgalves.com

Professor Fred Galves is an innovator. Consider that he started using technology in teaching more than 10 years ago—and has lectured and written for many years about its use in the practice of law. His articles have been cited by state supreme courts and in evidence casebooks. And Galves wrote the first law review article with an accompanying CD-ROM with full-animation video footnotes, titled appropriately: “Where the Not So Wild Things Are: Computers in the Courtroom, the Federal Rules of Evidence, and the Need for Institutional Reform and More Judicial Acceptance,” 13 Harv. J.L. & Tech. 161 (2000).

Now Professor Galves is at the forefront of innovation again: He is teaching a “street law” class, but with a novel twist that follows Pacific McGeorge’s own initiative to globalize its curriculum: the class is called Street Law International.

Street law is an established course at many U.S. law schools in which law students first learn about substantive legal areas and then deepen that understanding by teaching those areas to non-lawyers, usually high school students. But Galves’ law students in the course not only teach traditional areas of U.S. law, but are charged with the responsibility of integrating international law topics.

“For instance, in addition to constitutional rights, we consider international human rights,” Galves explains. “In criminal law, they address international extradition law.” The law students also teach such legal subjects as civil rights law, torts, contracts and the international counterparts in each area. It is the first year Street Law International has been offered, and it is the first time any American law professor has taken this approach with a street law program. Galves’ students carry out their teaching responsibility at Sacramento High School, now a charter school that has been part of a neighborhood revitalization project by former NBA star Kevin Johnson, who grew up in Sacramento’s Oak Park.

The course ties into the law school’s prominent role in the nationwide Pipeline Initiative, a program that inspires minority urban youth to consider the legal profession. “This grows out of a concern that fewer minority college students are applying to law school,” he explains.

Through repeated preparation, study, actual teaching and handling the high school students’ questions, the law students increase their knowledge of the law and lawyering skills, strengthen their analytical abilities, and serve as mentors and role models. Galves is impressed with the law students’ teaching skills and abilities to present legally complex information

in an interesting and understandable way, and notes that they are highly accomplished and talented future lawyers.

The high school students benefit as well. They have mentors to help them develop good study habits and analytical skills. “The expectations are high, so the [high school] students learn how to pay careful attention to making and supporting their arguments,” Galves says. “They learn substantive law, they learn the importance of the rule of law, and they learn how to use the law.”

Galves and his wife are strong supporters of public education. Christine Galves, ’97, has served as director of the Office of the Education Master Plan, and in the education office of former Governor Gray Davis. Professor Galves is clearly passionate about the subject.



Professor Fred Galves in class

“I have a very similar background to many of the Sac High students and can relate to their challenges,” he says. If it wasn’t for Galves’ high school coaches encouraging him to play college football and run track in college, he wouldn’t have even thought about attending college. Galves has established a scholarship fund at his undergraduate alma mater, Colorado College, in the name of one of those coaches.

Galves, who received his J.D. from Harvard University, first served as a judicial law clerk for a year for U.S. District Judge John L. Kane, then practiced law as a litigation associate at Holland & Hart in Denver, Colorado, before joining Pacific McGeorge in 1993. He also taught Principles of Economics at Harvard and Political Science at Colorado College before becoming a law professor.

Galves is highly sought as a visiting professor by other law schools to teach several courses, including Computer-Assisted Litigation. He has taught and lectured in Europe and South America and will teach in China this summer with other Pacific McGeorge professors in a special USAID-funded advocacy program designed for Chinese law professors. And Galves is involved in teaching another new course at Pacific McGeorge with Professor Cary Bricker that takes an integrated approach between evidence and trial advocacy. “That way, law students can practice applying evidentiary concepts in the trial advocacy portion of the course,” he says. On the horizon, he is under contract to write a book on the use of electronic discovery and computer technology in the courtroom. It’s all part of Galves’ innovative spirit and energy.

This is the seventh in a series of Pacific Law articles on members of the Pacific McGeorge faculty who pursue excellence inside and outside the classroom.