Sacramento, Calif., April 1, 2014 — Fall 2013 marked the beginning of University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law’s 90th academic year. The law school was chartered in November of 1924 as a night school in downtown Sacramento. Pacific McGeorge has grown into an internationally recognized leader in the field of legal education as it celebrates its 90-year anniversary.

During the summer of 1924, the three-year-old Sacramento Law School unexpectedly closed with no notice to students. Verne A. McGeorge “rescued” the Sacramento Law School students and offered law classes to them in his living room. McGeorge put a faculty back together by convincing Sacramento’s top attorneys and judges to teach and his wife, Annabelle, took over as secretary. In November of 1924, the law school was incorporated as Sacramento College of Law and the original board consisted of Judge Peter J. Shields, Judge John F. Pullen, Belle Cooledge, Vern A. McGeorge and Annabelle McGeorge. The first commencement in spring of 1925 marked the graduation of five new attorneys.

Today, more than 660 students are enrolled. At the 89th commencement on May 18, 2013, the law school awarded 319 Juris Doctorate degrees and 20 LL.M. degrees. The Pacific McGeorge faculty includes 48 full-time and 68 part-time professors who hold law degrees from schools such as Harvard, University of Chicago, Stanford, Columbia, University of Pennsylvania, Northwestern University, Pacific McGeorge, and Georgetown.

“Change and innovation have been the legacy of this great law school: beginning as an evening school to fill a need in Sacramento, developing into a full-time ABA-accredited law school, and then becoming part of the University of the Pacific,” said Dean Francis J. Mootz III. “For 90 years we have been committed to providing our students with an outstanding legal education that includes a strong experiential component.”

Pacific McGeorge serves the Sacramento legal community with its state-of-the-art Legal Studies Center, which opened in 2011 and houses the Gordon D. Schaber Law Library. The Pacific McGeorge Courtroom underwent renovations in 2013 to integrate state-of-the-art technology throughout. The Courtroom is used by the Pacific McGeorge National Ethics Trial Competition, attorneys and community groups contracting with Focused Decisions (focuseddecisions.com), and the award-winning Anthony M. Kennedy Inns of Court.

Supreme Court of the United States Associate Justice Anthony M. Kennedy taught Constitutional Law as a member of the Pacific McGeorge faculty from 1965 until his appointment to the Supreme Court.
Court by President Reagan in 1988. Justice Kennedy will celebrate his 25th year teaching at Pacific McGeorge in the school's Salzburg, Austria Summer Program on International Legal Studies during summer 2014.

Pacific McGeorge has over 13,000 alumni who work all over the world. The school has more than 260 alumni who have served or are serving as judges, justices, commissioners, referees and administrative law judges throughout the country. Two of the school's alumni are judges of the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, and two are state Supreme Court justices in Nebraska and Nevada.

The law school added a new graduate program in 2013, the Master of Science in Law, for students who want a quality, part-time legal education but do not require a J.D. degree for their career plans. Over the next two years the University of the Pacific plans to launch additional graduate programs on the Sacramento campus that will have deep synergies with the law school and will provide interdisciplinary education in law, business and policy.

President Pamela A. Eibeck said, “McGeorge is a Sacramento institution, having prepared generations of influential leaders. Since 1924, our law school has made its mark through excellent teaching, talented students, and game-changing legal scholarship. No doubt McGeorge will continue to influence California and legal education for the next 90 years and beyond.”

To find out more about Pacific McGeorge's 90 years of excellence, visit go.mcgeorge.edu/90.

About University of the Pacific
Established in 1851 as the first university in California, University of the Pacific prepares students for professional and personal success through rigorous academics, small classes, and a supportive and engaging culture. Widely recognized as one of the most beautiful private university campuses in the West, the Stockton campus offers more than 80 undergraduate majors in arts and sciences, music, business, education, engineering and computer science, and pharmacy and health sciences. The university's distinctive Northern California footprint also includes the acclaimed Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry in San Francisco and the McGeorge School of Law in Sacramento. For more information, visit www.pacific.edu.