

Rizzo
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Courtesy of Pepperdine University

Former CIA General Counsel John Rizzo said in an appearance at Pepperdine University he is "comfortable ... to this day" with interrogation tactics such as waterboarding that occurred under his watch at the CIA.

ing the agency's controversial interrogation methods such as waterboarding.

Attendees also learned, to much surprise, that the U.S. Senate never requested an interview with senior ranking CIA officials or its leading attorney while the new methods were first being used.

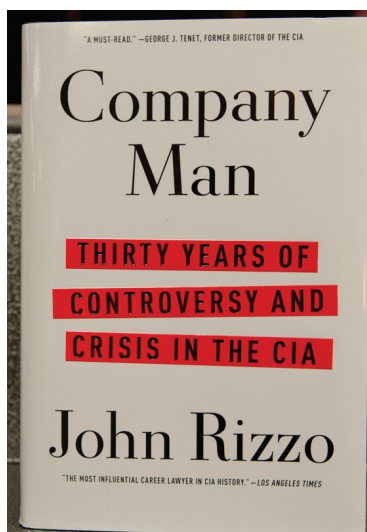
The all-day symposium tackled the separation-of-powers system in post-9/11 America, its history and its future in the context of national security. The Pepperdine Law Review hosted the event, which was attended by esteemed professors from law schools nationwide who participated on several panels.

During his luncheon keynote address and question-and-answer session, Rizzo addressed his role as legal counsel to CIA leadership and the need to outline to the Justice Department the exact nature of each "enhanced interrogation technique." Some critics consider some of the more graphic practices, like waterboarding, torture.

"I'm fairly sure what the first paragraph of my obituary will say," Rizzo told the audience, conceding that he believes waterboarding was not torture then and still is not today. He added that the CIA interrogation report should be declassified.

"I'm comfortable with it to this day," said Rizzo, who has a new book titled "Company Man: Thirty Years of Controversy and Crisis in the CIA."

Amid pressure to prevent future terrorist attacks, the CIA introduced new interrogation techniques shortly after 9/11 and after the first high-



level Al-Qaeda member, Abu Zabaydah, was captured.

According to Rizzo, new measures were needed to extract time-sensitive information other than through regular question-and-answer interrogation. Waterboarding, the act of holding down a prisoner and pouring water over a cloth covering their face, causes individuals to experience the sensation of drowning.

But many, including California Sen. Dianne Feinstein, have condemned the tactics overseen and defended by Rizzo. She believes such methods might have violated the Constitution.

The tactics are "a stain on our history that must never again be allowed to happen," Feinstein said earlier this month.

"This is not what Americans do," she said. President Obama banned waterboarding and other controversial techniques in 2009.

When asked if the same information could have been obtained from detainees through other physical and psychological

interrogation methods, Rizzo said, "Maybe, but how long would that have taken? You have to look at every given situation and what your conscience can bare. Can we do this legally that will protect the country and the American people?"

On the top of National Security Agency (NSA) leaks, Rizzo said he hesitates to go as far as calling Edward Snowden a whistleblower or a traitor, but that he will eventually come back to the U.S. to answer for himself.

"I think he's an inglorious young guy who took it upon himself to decide for himself and to use the benefit of his years of wisdom," Rizzo said. "I submit to you, it's not an appropriate legal role for anyone to undertake, to sit in a shack in Hawaii and decide to expose the NSA spies."

Shelby Doyle, editor for the Pepperdine Law Review, said she felt it was admirable of Rizzo to call for the release of the CIA interrogation report and more transparency in the agency. She was also shocked the Senate Intelligence Committee never requested an interview with Rizzo when the interrogations began.

"I want to be as careful as him in my decisions," she said about her hopes of practicing law.

Pepperdine Associate Law Professor Gregory McNeal said Rizzo's visit to Malibu showcased the school's intellectual prominence.

"The students ... learn that when you serve in the court you regularly face challenging legal and ethical questions," he said.

Planning Commission
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the second restaurant.

Calling the second floor of the center "a little bit of a dead zone," Schmitz said a restaurant "will breathe some life into it."

But while commissioners agreed a restaurant would be helpful to the applicant, several had strong misgivings about parking.

"I think it's a beautiful restaurant space," Planning Commission Chairman Mikke Pierson said. "I'm very concerned with the parking."

The shopping center has 116 parking spaces, 50 of which are tandem spaces utilized through a parking valet service. The valet service is currently operational only during peak parking times.

A parking study commissioned

by Schmitz & Associates on behalf of the applicant found that valet parking would yield 18 open parking spaces in the shopping center.

Commissioner John Mazza questioned the legitimacy of the study, stating that on a visit the previous morning he noticed fewer than 10 open parking spaces, which he said was confirmed by Pierson.

Mazza noted that at present, the center was filled to 84 percent of tenant capacity. He was skeptical about whether 18 spaces could reasonably accommodate staff and customers for a restaurant, and asked what would happen if other spaces in the center were filled later.

"I'm trying to get to the logic

of how you can look at a parking lot and say, there's 18 spaces there, and not factor in the fact that the building is full?" Mazza asked. "...[the parking projections] sounds like 10 pounds of potatoes in a five-pound sack."

Schmitz offered to continue the hearing until a later date, and come back with a more detailed traffic study to address the concerns raised by the commission.

Commissioner David Brotman said he hoped to see very specific parking management plans.

"Let's see it in use. Show us that you're keeping people off that shouldn't be there. Show us that you're not using spaces in the back for storage," he told Schmitz. "... Get the whole act together."

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