

FLORIDA STATE LAW

Inside

One Week:
Two Wonderful
Appointments
Powell Retires
Alumni Recognitions



Federal District Court Judge Mary S. Scriven ('87)



Florida Supreme Court Justice Ricky Polston ('87)

A Year of Great Successes and Great Challenges



This year's greatest success has been in placing our 2008 graduates. Despite the down economy, 98% of the Class of 2008 was placed within nine months after graduation. We are thrilled and relieved.

Most of the credit for this wonderful accomplishment goes to the graduates themselves. Our students are poised, articulate, well-rounded and impressive. They also have the vision and drive to succeed. At our law school and nationally, approximately 75% of the jobs that law students obtain are realized by some means other than on-campus interviewing. More than ever, our students have to get on the road, network and generate opportunities for themselves.

A great deal of credit for our placement success also goes to our alumni. You have blazed the trail, brought job openings to our attention and helped our students to intern and to network. Please keep up the great work! Please keep our students in mind, even if it is only to consider the possibility of hosting an unpaid intern. This year's May graduates, and our rising 3Ls, face an extraordinarily difficult job market. This year's greatest challenge is to help them succeed. Please send your job openings or internship opportunities to Placement Director Elmer Ignacio, eignacio@law.fsu.edu, 850.644.7471, or directly to me, dweidner@law.fsu.edu, 850.644.3071.

Another success this year has been in our rankings in *U.S. News & World Report*. We rose three ranks overall, to 52, an all-time high for us. *U.S. News* ranked our Environmental Program 11th best in the nation, down one from last year but still excellent. This summer, we unveil an LL. M. program that we hope will further enhance the stature of our environmental program.

We have a history of extraordinary success on the bar exam. For four of the last seven administrations of the Florida Bar Examination, we were first among the state's 10 law schools. This February, however, we were a disappointing sixth place. It is small consolation that we edged out both Florida and Miami. It is a mystery why the three strongest student bodies in the state all performed in the bottom half of the pack. We are doing everything we can to assure that our new graduates will have the highest possible success rate.

Money is more of a challenge than it has ever been. As to state revenues, every state agency and university is dealing with significant budget cuts, and Florida State is no exception. We at the law school are being spared the full brunt of the cuts because we are getting the benefit of much of the tuition increases that will go into effect this fall. University President T.K. Wetherell and University Provost Larry Abele are both to be thanked for protecting us. With respect to private giving, major gift fund-raising has fallen through the floor. Fortunately, several donors have recently made new gifts to endowment that we hope will inspire others. We still boast an enviable alumni giving rate. However, this year's Annual Fund Drive is currently behind last year's both in terms of the percentage of alumni who have given to the law school and in terms of the total amount they have contributed.

Please help us do the best job possible for our present students and for those who enter this fall. We want to continue to deliver the best possible legal education. Virtually everything we do with our students depends on some level of private support. We need yours now. There are still several weeks to contribute to our Annual Fund. Please contribute now, if you have not done so already. We like to think that we have a clear track record: dollars contributed to Florida State Law will be very well spent.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Don Weidner'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Don Weidner

Dean and Alumni Centennial Professor

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DEAN AND ALUMNI CENTENNIAL PROFESSOR

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ONE WEEK: TWO WONDERFUL APPOINTMENTS

One week early last fall as Floridians were beginning to feel some respite from the summer heat, members of the Florida State Law Class of 1987 secured two of the top judicial positions in the Sunshine State. On September 26, the **Honorable Mary S. Scriven** was confirmed to the United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida. Six days later, on October 2, **Justice Ricky Polston** was appointed to the Florida Supreme Court.

In addition to graduating from Florida State Law in the same class, Scriven and Polston both were sitting judges when they were elevated to their current courts, both have a passion for teaching and both are busy parents. Additionally, both are trailblazers in terms of judicial positions held by Florida State Law alumni.

Historic Confirmation

By Christi N. Morgan

When the Honorable Mary S. Scriven was confirmed by the United States Senate in September 2008, she became only the third Florida State Law graduate to serve as a United States district judge and the first African-American and female alumnus to do so. In 1997, Scriven's initial appointment to serve as a United States magistrate judge also made her the first African-American woman to serve on the federal court in Florida. During her ground-breaking career, she has received multiple achievement awards and has been elected to serve in numerous leadership positions. But the accomplishment of which she is most proud is not professional in nature; it is, instead, being happily married for 20 years to her college sweetheart, Lansing C. "Lanse" Scriven, who also is a 1987 law school graduate.

The couple met as freshmen at Duke University living in dorm rooms across the hall from one another. "He was the first guy I saw on the college campus," recalled Scriven. Although the judge's

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In 1997, Scriven's initial appointment to serve as a United States magistrate judge also made her the first African-American woman to serve on the federal court in Florida.



The Honorable Mary S. Scriven ('87)

“Historic,” continued from page 3

father – a Baptist preacher – was not pleased when he saw that his daughter would share her dorm hall with men, he eventually relented and the couple became good friends before beginning to date a few years later. Almost three decades and four children later, Scriven feels blessed to return home to Tampa each day to Lanse. “At the end of the day, you come home and you want to be happy there.”

The high honors graduate spends her days away from home sitting on the bench in Orlando. After more than two decades practicing law and serving as a U.S. magistrate judge in Tampa, working in Orlando has been a transition for Scriven.

She has welcomed the opportunity to meet members of the Orange County Bar and to acclimate herself to the processes of her new courthouse. “It is refreshing to be in a place where you are meeting new people, learning their procedures and gaining the confidence of the lawyers who come before you,” Scriven said. And although she enjoys the challenge, the most daunting part of her new job involves sentencing – learning the technical aspects of sentencing felony defendants and “facing people at the lowest point in their lives.”

In addition to sentencing defendants, Scriven spends her days at the courthouse presiding over and preparing for civil and criminal cases. She begins each day with a plan, based on the priority of pending cases, but rarely do her days turn out how she envisioned them during her drive to work on the I-4 corridor. “There are no typical days,” said Scriven, who often is faced with unforeseen emergencies. “You can have an organized plan of action, but you have to be flexible.”

Flexibility is a trait Scriven also employs as a mother of four striving to fulfill coinciding home and work responsibilities. “I focus on work at work and home at home,” said Scriven. “And I focus on the things that are important, like helping with homework and going to the school plays.”

Three of the judge’s children – 18-year-old Jessica, 16-year-old Sarah and 10-year-old Charles – live in Tampa and son Tyler, 26, lives in New York with his wife. When they visited Washington, D.C., for their mother’s Senate confirmation hearing, the Scriven children listened to Florida Senators Mel Martinez (’73) and Bill Nelson speak about their mother on the Senate floor. They heard Martinez refer to Scriven as a “committed public servant” and praise her courtroom experience and evenhandedness.

Scriven’s youngest child also experienced something few 10-year-olds have experienced. “Charles got to ride in the private Senate tram car with Senator (Patrick) Leahy (D-Vt.) over to the Senate dining room,” recalled Scriven. Though her children are proud of her professional achievements, Scriven acknowledged they are “mostly concerned about me as a mom.” Support from her husband helps Scriven successfully juggle her family and work responsibilities.

Lanse, whose practice is focused on business and commer-

“She represents the very best qualities of the United States judicial system. She is wise, fair, hard-working, concerned and caring.”

cial litigation, said their juggling act involves being good role models for their kids. The characteristics that Lanse believes make his wife a good judge also make her an excellent role model. “I think she has a great heart for doing the right thing – finding fair and just results in every case,” said Lanse. “And she’s very diligent in how she manages her caseload. And I think she’s brilliant.”

While being a U.S. district judge is new, Scriven has been presiding over federal cases since she was first appointed a U.S. magistrate judge in 1997. Her entrée into the judiciary was a natural progression after a decade of practicing law at Carlton Fields, but she did not enter the legal profession intent on becoming a judge. Her interest in sitting on the bench was piqued when, as a law student, she visited the chambers of the Honorable Joseph W. Hatchett, of the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit. Even after she and Lanse talked with the judge about his work for half a day, she was fascinated but focused on becoming a good lawyer.

In 1996, during the final year of her successful career in private practice, Scriven fulfilled a childhood goal to teach when she joined the Stetson University College of Law faculty as an associate professor. Scriven’s parents had impressed upon her the importance of education, which translated into a

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Serving with Grace

By Christi N. Morgan

Justice Ricky Polston's ascension to the Florida Supreme Court began in Graceville, Florida – a small town with fewer than 2,500 residents. Growing up on the Alabama border as a farmer's son, the December 1986 Florida State Law graduate learned life lessons about the importance of hard work and self-discipline. He also benefited from having teachers who were neighbors and cared deeply about how their students performed. Polston credits his small town upbringing with making him well-rounded – not only were academics

important, but his high school career also involved activities such as band and football.

“As a young boy, my dad would bring my brother and I to football games at FSU, so I grew up watching FSU football in the fall,” said Polston. “That was one way that my dad was able to interest us into going to school. He impressed upon us from a very early age that our course would be that we would go to Chipola [Junior College] and then FSU.” After heading to

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Justice Ricky Polston ('87)

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Tallahassee, Polston graduated from Florida State University with an accounting degree in June 1977.

A month after graduation, Polston married his wife, Deborah. The Polstons, who met on a Valentine’s Day blind date, have been married for more than three decades and are the proud parents of 10 children – four biological daughters and six boys who are adopted siblings. Polston initially was surprised when his wife told him she wanted to adopt.

“I finally got it one day when she said, ‘What if somebody told you that you could not be an appellate judge?’ And I said, ‘I would be devastated.’ She said, ‘That is about to happen to me because our girls are older and they are going to be gone, and I love being a mom. So through no fault of my own, I’m about to be out of a job.’”

In 2003, the Polstons welcomed the first three of the six siblings – who currently range in age from two to 16 – into their home. As the boys joined the Polston household as foster children, the couple began the process to adopt them.

Almost two decades earlier, in 1984, Polston had returned to Florida State for his legal education. A member of The Florida Bar since he began practicing law, he also has been a Certified Public Accountant since his accounting career began in Tampa in the 1970s. While the legal and accounting professions may not seem similar to some, Polston believes his accounting background has been advantageous in his legal and judicial careers.

“It has benefited me through my years of being a lawyer, in my practice as a commercial litigator and in my administrative duties in helping run law firms,” said Polston. “As a judge, I’m able to look at certain types of cases with more insight than if I were not a CPA.”

Polston’s appointment to the Florida Supreme Court followed a 14-year commercial litigation career and nearly eight years as a First District Court of Appeal judge. While he always had his sights set on the Florida Supreme Court – achieving the goal was a longtime dream fulfilled – Pol-

ston’s legal career did not begin as planned. Because of his accounting background, Polston originally intended to do transactional work in Tampa. An opportunity to practice with exceptional attorneys, including Robert “Bob” Hinkle, who is now chief judge for the Northern District of Florida, kept him in Tallahassee as a litigator.

“I enjoyed the strategic part of litigation – how you organize and set up the case, along with arguing legal points,” Polston said. Even though he enjoyed practicing law, the shift to hear-

ing appellate cases in 2001 was a welcome change for Polston, who knew the First District Court of Appeal job would be good preparation for the state’s highest court. The most immediate difference was the absence of ringing telephones.

“When I first was appointed, Judge Browning, who had come in from practice told me, ‘when I first started and the phone didn’t

ring I thought I was going to starve because of the clients not calling, but just expect it and get used to it and it’s going to be okay,” said Polston, who is the second Florida State Law graduate to serve on the Florida Supreme Court. “It was for me a great transition. I enjoy being an appellate judge.

“I really enjoy that it’s intellectually challenging to hear arguments presented by great lawyers; to work through very difficult issues and to hopefully come to the best answer required by the law for that set of facts.”

Because the majority of the state’s constitutional law cases are appealed to the First District Court of Appeal, moving from that court to the Florida Supreme Court has not changed substantially the types of cases the Graceville native hears. His personal life has not changed much either. He still lives in the same home he and Deborah bought when they needed a bigger yard for their six boys, and he still teaches at his alma mater – although his walk to the law school is now a city block longer.

Polston has been fulfilling the role of teacher since his days as a law student, when he taught accounting classes at Florida

“I really enjoy that it’s intellectually challenging to hear arguments presented by great lawyers; to work through very difficult issues and to hopefully come to the best answer required by the law for that set of facts.”

State and Tallahassee Community College. When the “proud Seminole” became a judge, he joined the law school as an adjunct professor. He is currently teaching Florida Constitutional Law and has previously taught Alternative Dispute Resolution, Accounting for Lawyers and Insurance Law.

“I really enjoy teaching because students keep you engaged and it’s given me an opportunity to continue thinking on my feet and trying to use some of my lawyer skills,” said Polston. “Even though I’m not in the courtroom making arguments anymore, teaching requires some of those same skills.”

When Polston is not teaching or working at the courthouse, his time revolves around his children. Family outings to the Tallahassee Museum and to ball games regularly are on Polston’s agenda. He also serves as an elder at Christian Heritage Church.

No matter what he is doing in life, Polston has clear goals. During his January 27 investiture speech, Polston spelled out what people could expect from him as a justice. He spoke from the bench about the prophet Micah, who like Polston grew up in a small farming community and received a good education.

“So, what can you expect from me?” Polston asked the standing-room only audience. “My goals are clear and my course is set. I take on the sacred trust you have placed on me to do justice from this bench every day.”

“In his teachings, he tells us what God requires of us,” said Polston of Micah. “There are three things. One, to do justice; two, love kindness; and three, to walk humbly with your God.

“So, what can you expect from me?” Polston asked the standing-room only audience. “My goals are clear and my course is set. I take on the sacred trust you have placed on me to do justice from this bench every day. In my personal life I will strive to love kindness and to walk humbly with God. That is what you can expect from me.” ■

“Historic,” continued from page 4

passion for helping students understand the law. After her first semester, students in her Contracts course voted Scriven one of the most inspirational professors. “That was really humbling to me,” said Scriven, who believes teaching was the most rewarding job she has had.

“As a colleague and teacher, Judge Scriven was one of the best,” Stetson University Vice President and Dean Darby Dickerson wrote in a letter of support for Scriven’s nomination to serve on the United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida. “She represents the very best qualities of the United States judicial system. She is wise, fair, hard-working, concerned and caring.”

“I believe that service as a judge on the federal court is the highest level of service someone can provide on the judiciary,” said Scriven. “The job is dynamic, never boring and intellectually challenging. It is an honor.”

The historic nature of her appointment is something Scriven does not take lightly. “It is an honor and a challenge because people look to you as a role model, even when you are not trying to be one,” said the judge. “I stand as a beneficiary of the work of so many people. I am grateful to those people and do the best job I can to fulfill the responsibility of the office.”

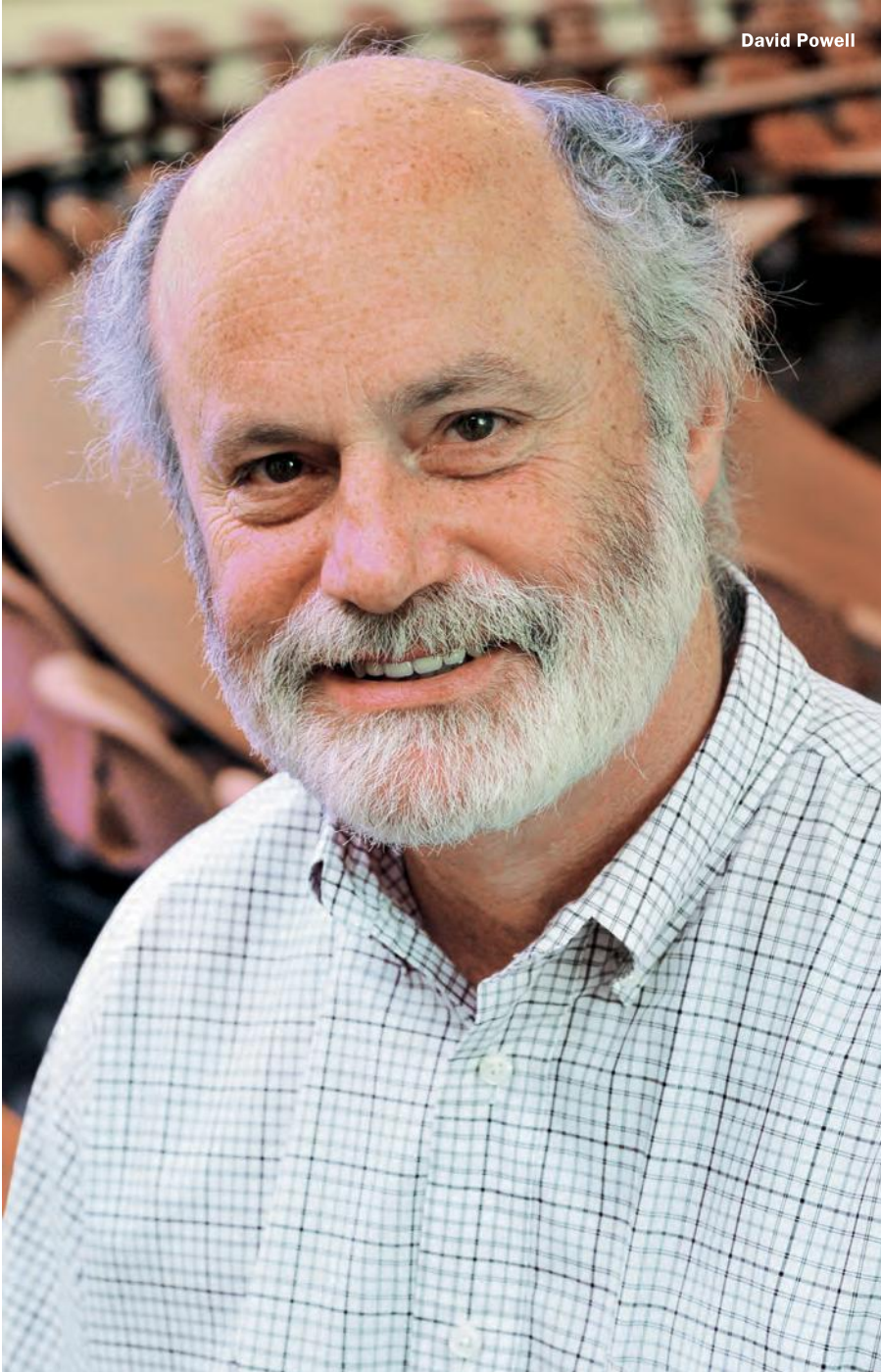
Staying active in professional and community organizations is another ball Scriven adds to her juggling act. “I usually choose to get involved in organizations that benefit the public and the Bar and improve the administration of justice,” said Scriven, whose involvement in the Spring of Tampa Bay, the only certified domestic violence shelter in the area, meets all three goals. In 2007, the organization recognized Scriven with its Outstanding Service award.

Outstanding aptly describes Scriven in all areas of her life. Personally, that includes her cooking talents, which Lanse especially appreciates. Professionally, Scriven’s record of excellence is an indication that she will be described as outstanding on the bench for many years to come. And her passion for the law doesn’t end when she leaves the courthouse.

“I’m a law junky,” said Scriven. “I read it in my fiction. I watch ‘Law & Order.’ I love the law.” ■

Magic in the Classroom

By Christi N. Morgan



David Powell

He has been a student favorite at Florida State Law for more than three decades. Extensive knowledge of his areas of expertise and his ability to communicate effectively likely have been key factors in his success. Although Professor David Powell does not know definitively why he has been so well received, his numerous teaching awards are an indication that he is a gifted educator.

“I do think that I’m prepared every day, that I’m interested in the subjects I teach and there is some aspect of pacing and delivery that makes for interesting classes,” said Powell.

Powell’s son Martin, a 2009 graduate, attributes his father’s teaching success to being a good communicator. “He knows when to be funny and when to be serious,” said Martin. “He’s very in control of how he communicates with people and is able to get his perspective across easily.”

When Powell retired from the full-time faculty in May, Florida State Law lost more than an excellent communicator.

“He has really been the key man on wills, trusts, estates, gifts and so forth,” said Emeritus Professor Chuck Ehrhardt, who chaired the hiring committee that brought Powell to the law school. “Other people have taught in the area, but nobody has taught as many students for as long. I think his excellence as a teacher in those areas is what we’ll miss the most. And we’ll miss his friendly personality.”

“Magic,” continued from page 8

During his 35-plus years at the law school, Powell taught thousands of students such classes as Gratuitous Transfers, Estate and Gift Tax and Property. He enjoyed imparting wisdom about estate planning and related areas because of their tax orientation and the human dynamics involved.

“Over the long run, Gratuitous Transfers has been my favorite course,” said Powell. “The factual patterns that you deal with are interesting ones and students like it because, for the most part, there are answers. And it can be taught on a lot of different levels, so you can take a different approach each semester.”

Since his days as a law student, Powell knew he would forgo the courtroom for the classroom. After experiencing academic success and having excellent professors at the University of Texas School of Law, teaching was a natural career path for Powell. Before he entered academia, Powell also earned an LL.M. in Taxation from the New York University School of Law.

When Powell was searching for his first teaching position, a former law professor from the University of Texas suggested Florida State Law as a good place to start his career. Powell liked the idea of living in the Sunshine State. He arrived on campus in 1973 as a bachelor who was about the same age as his students. Because Florida State Law was so young, the new professor sensed that he was helping build the law school. “It was really exciting,” said Powell. At the time, his career plans did not include staying at Florida State until retirement. “In my mind, I don’t think I was making any lifetime commitments,”

said Powell.

But after meeting his wife of 28 years, Anne, on a blind date, Powell put down roots in Tallahassee. The city was an ideal location to raise his two step-children and Martin, who entered the world a few years later. Powell is very proud of the accomplishments of his “three great kids.” Sarah MacMillan is a local veterinarian, Hugh MacMillan teaches math at Clemson University and Martin plans to be a litigator.

Life After Retirement

Although he has retired, Powell does not intend to stop teaching. He enjoys it too much.

“I’ve always said, ‘Gosh, I would hate to have to work for a living,’” Powell said with a hearty laugh. “I enjoy coming in every day and every class is different. The personalities of students are different and it’s just a really fun thing to do. You can spend time researching and thinking about things that you never can do if you are billing hours. That is a wonderful advantage.”

After taking some time off to relax, Powell will spend the spring 2010 semester at Stetson University College of Law. He also plans to continue teaching bar review courses and to possibly teach part-time at Florida State. Although his life will change, it might not be as drastic a change as experienced by others who retire.

“We’re going to travel a little bit and I’m going to teach and continue lecturing and do some research,” said Powell. “I’m probably going to pretty much do the same thing that I have been doing; it’s just that the teaching component will be a little bit smaller.”

Spending less time in the classroom will provide Powell with more time to perfect his woodworking skills. It was inevitable Powell would begin the hobby after he and his wife purchased an older home. When they decided the home needed book shelves, Powell decided he could build them. As he gradually learned more about the craft, Powell’s projects became more complex. He recently built a wooden chandelier for his home.

Powell anticipates that his consulting work with Holland & Knight and his participation in Florida Bar activities also will continue after he removes the final box of his belongings from his law school office. He has been assisting the Bar since President Emeritus and Professor Sandy D’Alemberte recommended him to conduct a certification review program 24 years ago. Because his certification course was so successful, the Bar has since asked him to serve as a scrivener for law reform committees.

Perhaps in retirement Powell also will find time to reacquaint himself with a hobby he began when he was young – perfecting and performing magic tricks.

“For many years, I studied magic with a famous magician in New York,” said Powell about the hobby he would like to rekindle. “In the ‘80s, I used to do a magic show for my classes every year, but I’ve just gotten away from it.”

Powell may have stopped performing magic tricks in class many years ago, but the classrooms at Florida State Law lost a little more magic when Powell departed this spring. ■

Artful Representation

By Christi N. Morgan



Sandra Brown ('94)

Born in England to Jamaican parents, entertainment lawyer Sandra Brown ('94) grew up in Canada and moved to the United States when she was a teenager. With such an international background, it is not surprising that the youngest of five siblings appreciates the part of her job that requires her to travel to exciting locales.

Although she has been invited to join clients in destinations as far away as Africa, Brown spends the majority of her days working from her office overlooking Atlanta's Centennial Olympic Park. Because Brown represents entertainers and entertainment companies on both United States coasts and since artists do not always work when the sun is shining, she also spends many nights in her downtown office.

Throughout her career she has had the pleasure of working for award-winning record producers and artists such as Jermaine Dupri and Lil' Kim, respectively. Brown's current clients have produced or written for major recording artists, including Daughtry, Mariah Carey, Gwen Stefani and Michael Jackson. She also has represented non-artists like motivational speaker Les Brown and former professional basketball players Shandon Anderson and Tyrone Hill. Currently, Brown's highest-profile client is producer, artist and writer Akon, a four-time Grammy nominee.

"I love sharing in a client's success. When a client is nominated for an award or when a client has a song that is at the top of the billboard charts, that is fun. I feel like my contribution to their business —

“Artful,” continued from page 10

the behind-the-scenes work — was in some way important to their success.”

Having A-list clients has earned Brown stage-level tickets to some of the most popular concerts and invitations to recording sessions. As a National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences member, she attends the Grammy Awards every year. But, representing artists is not always glamorous.

“People think I’m hanging out in the studios or jet-setting with my clients. It certainly can be a combination of both,” she said, “but, for me, it’s primarily all working on the business affairs of my clients.”

Unlike other attorneys who practice entertainment law, Brown did not long to be a performer.

“I was never an aspiring artist,” said Brown. “I never wanted to be on stage. I love and I am most comfortable when all day, I am at my desk. People are surprised to hear that because they usually think that someone who gets into this business is doing it because of a secret desire to become an entertainer, but I am doing exactly what I set out to do.”

Brown cannot recall ever wanting to be anything other than an attorney. But during her first semester at Florida State Law, she realized she “hated everything about law school.” Advice from the law school placement office helped Brown decide to stay in Tallahassee and finish her legal education.

“For the entire first semester I had these thoughts that I should drop out, but I didn’t know what I would do because I didn’t have a plan B,” said Brown, who has a bachelor’s degree in legal studies from Nova Southeastern University. “The placement director told

me, ‘Find an area of law that you think you would like and then focus on that.’ I didn’t know what that was, but I went home for Christmas break and was driving in my car, singing along with the radio and had the idea that entertainers need lawyers. I came back to law school

“At some point, I want to slow down and to give back. I’ll have some wonderful stories that I’ll be able to share with young people who are just starting their lives and careers.”

with the determination that I was going to be an entertainment lawyer.”

Tenacious by nature, Brown began researching entertainment firms and formulating a plan to practice in Georgia’s capital city. During law school and after graduation, she contacted Atlanta-based record companies and entertainment law firms. It was only a matter of time before Brown convinced a boutique firm to hire her as a legal assistant/law clerk while she studied for the Bar examination. “Shortly after they hired me as a legal assistant, I convinced them to change my title to law clerk,” said Brown.

Brown’s journey to opening her own firm in July 2007 also includes five years working for So So Def Recordings, Inc., the record label owned by producer Jermaine Dupri, and four years practicing at Greenberg Traurig. She also spent two years growing her client base at a small firm before opening The Law Offices of Sandra L. Brown, P.C.

With more than a decade of experience, Brown has achieved a level of success that commands the attention of aspiring entertainment lawyers.

She relishes the opportunity to share knowledge she has collected since her days as a law student trying to break into the entertainment law field, when Brown says information about the practice area was not readily available. In recent years, Brown has spoken at Clark

Atlanta University, Emory University Law School, Florida A&M University, Florida State Law and Georgia State University.

Brown enjoys interacting with students so much that she hopes to make teaching her full-time career when she is no longer practicing law. “It’s so much fun when you are talking to students,” said Brown. “It is a slower pace than the practice of law and that is what I would call retirement. At some point, I want to slow down and to give back. I’ll have some wonderful stories that I’ll be able to share with young people who are just starting their lives and careers.”

When Brown steps into a classroom, she strives to convey a message that her mother stressed by always supporting and encouraging her endeavors. “You really can do whatever it is that you want to do,” Brown tells students. “There are sacrifices that you make along the way, but you should probably pursue that rather than living your whole life wondering what would have happened. Just go for it and you’ll never have any regrets.” ■

Corporate Closer

Guanming Fang Bridges East and West

By Christi N. Morgan



Guanming Fang is a highly-regarded corporate transactional attorney, with significant experience negotiating U.S.-China cross-border deals, at one of the Southeast's largest and most technologically advanced business law firms. With such an established practice, people might be surprised to learn that Fang ('98) began her legal career as a document clerk at a Tallahassee law firm.

Fang moved from China to Florida's capital city in 1989, where her husband, Jian Ni, was pursuing a master's degree at Florida State. Transitioning to a new country was culturally and psychologically difficult for Fang. Although she possessed an undergraduate degree in English literature and three years of international journalism experience in her native country, she did not look for a journalism job in the United States.

"I didn't think I could become a journalist because the culture was new; everything was new and it didn't sound like a good idea to be a journalist in this brand new country," said Fang, who is fluent in Chinese Mandarin and Cantonese.

She instead landed the document clerk position and worked her way up to legal secretary. As she learned about the United States' legal system, Fang became more interested in law and even enrolled in classes to become a paralegal before deciding to go to law school in 1995.

"Very fortunately for me, a lot of

“Corporate,” continued from page 12

people that I was working for at the time encouraged me to go to law school,” the magna cum laude graduate said. “They were inspirations for me because they loved what they did.”

Although Fang has developed an expertise in international transactions involving China and Chinese companies, she stressed that she is first and foremost a corporate attorney. Fang spent her first several years of practice at Arnall Golden Gregory LLP’s Atlanta office learning the fundamentals of transactional work. It was not until three or four years after becoming an attorney that Fang decided she would develop a U.S.-China practice to differentiate herself from Atlanta’s other corporate attorneys.

“I started to get active in the community, pay attention to what was going on in the media and tried to learn as much about Chinese laws as possible, which were developing,” said Fang, who joined Womble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice in 2006. She is a member of the Corporate and Securities practice group and leads the firm’s China Initiative. Her practice has always focused on corporate mergers and acquisitions and private equity financing.

“I enjoy doing deals,” said Fang. “I love putting all the pieces together. Entrepreneurs and business people don’t necessarily know how to legally protect themselves in a business transaction. They don’t necessarily know how to maximize their benefits in a transaction or minimize their exposure. I love working with them to find the best way to structure the deal and also to work with the other side to come to a mutually acceptable transaction.”

Fang also enjoys the fact that when she closes deals, her clients and the opposing parties are usually pleased with the outcome.

“When you successfully close a transaction, everybody is happy,” said Fang. “It is really a win-win situation and I love having that kind of experience. You help your client implement their dream and carry out what they want to do and help them do it the right way.”

The mother of two sons also appreciates the autonomy and flexibility that her job affords. Her oldest son, Oliver, was 10 months old when she started law school and her youngest son, Preston, was born shortly after she began practicing law, so parenting and lawyering have always been concurrent responsibilities for Fang.

“Flexibility is the key and also having a spouse who looks at parenting as a true partnership,” she said. “For me, having a clear understanding of your priorities is very important as well. It is very critical that you keep a clear mind as to how much time you want to give to your work and what are the important things that you must do for your family and yourself.” In her time away from the office, Fang goes camping, hiking and biking in Atlanta with her “very outdoor family.”

“And professionally, Atlanta is a very vibrant city; it is a very dynamic city,” said Fang. “There are a lot of opportunities for young professionals.”

To educate potential Chinese investors about everything Atlanta has to offer, Fang cofounded the Georgia China Alliance in 2004. The non-profit organization promotes business exchanges between China and Georgia

and educates people about doing business in China. “It’s a way to give back to society and it was something I felt like I was uniquely qualified to do,” said Fang. “At the time, there wasn’t any organization that focused on promoting Georgia-China business transactions, so we saw a void.”

Being involved in the organization is just one way Fang stays connected to her birth county. Although she sometimes travels to China for business, not all of Fang’s travels to her homeland are business related. When Fang and her husband learned that the 2008 Olympic Games would be in Beijing, China, they knew they would take their sons there.

“It was great,” said Fang, who attended swimming, tennis, women’s basketball and cycling events at the Games. “It was a great time for our children to be there to experience the pride and the excitement for being Chinese.”

Fang hopes to journey back to China and elsewhere in the future.

“I would like to retire early so I can enjoy life or things that require a big chunk of time to do – traveling for example,” said Fang. “I’d love to travel the world when I still can and meet all sorts of people.”

Until then, Fang plans to utilize her zeal for transactional work to become the “go-to person” for Chinese companies with deals in the United States and American companies who want to conduct business in China. ■

Volunteering Leads to White House Opportunity

By Sally Bowman

Rising third-year Florida State Law student Chris Tanner's resume reads almost like fiction. What may seem like random strokes of good fortune for the Tampa native have led to life-changing possibilities.

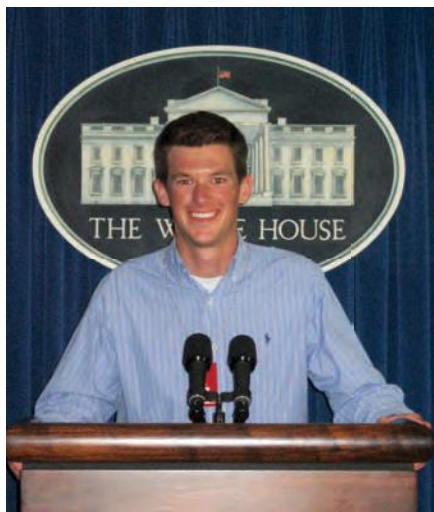
Shortly before graduating from Florida State University with a bachelor's degree in biology, Tanner was called home to Tampa when his father suffered a debilitating stroke. Tanner had already taken the MCAT and was preparing for medical school; he was going to follow in his maternal grandfather's footsteps. The detour — during which time Tanner worked at the family paint store, attended postgraduate science classes at the University of South Florida and worked at a local hospital — was life-altering.

"The tragedy of my dad's stroke also brought many blessings to our family," the 29-year-old explained. Moving home to work in the fourth-generation family business, which opened in 1933, gave him the impetus to re-evaluate his goals. Unsure of his direction after deciding the medical field was not a good fit, Tanner was considering his options when in stepped opportunity.

It was 2004 and Tanner's sister, who is a rising senior at Florida State, was on her high school volleyball team. Tanner and a teammate's father struck up a conversation at a game one day. The father was volunteering for the Bush-Cheney campaign, and with less than a month remaining before the November election, Tanner decided to get involved. It

was an unusual decision since his family was not politically active. In fact, his parents were registered Democrats.

Several months after Bush was re-elected, Tanner received a phone call from the person in charge of the campaign office in which he had volunteered. The man was working in the White House Office of Political Affairs



Chris Tanner ('10)

and needed an intern. Although Tanner was not a student, he qualified because he had been accepted to Florida State Law for the upcoming fall semester.

"It just so happened that I volunteered at the right office," Tanner said. "How many campaign offices were there in south Tampa alone? Plus, very few people who work for the campaign get jobs in the White House. I was fortunate to have been in the right place at the right time."

The unpaid summer internship was an amazing opportunity for Tanner.

There are 100 White House interns chosen each semester, and thousands of legislative interns serving on Capitol Hill. "There is not another place in the country where you can find so many interesting, educated young people engaged in government," he said.

During the internship, Tanner attended weekly meetings with outstanding speakers and worked long, pressure-filled hours. He also established lasting relationships with a variety of students and government employees from across the country.

"Washington, I considered a temporary situation; Tampa and Florida will always be home," he emphasized. "I had extra appreciation for the experience because I recognized what an unusual opportunity it was. It did not feel like something I deserved."

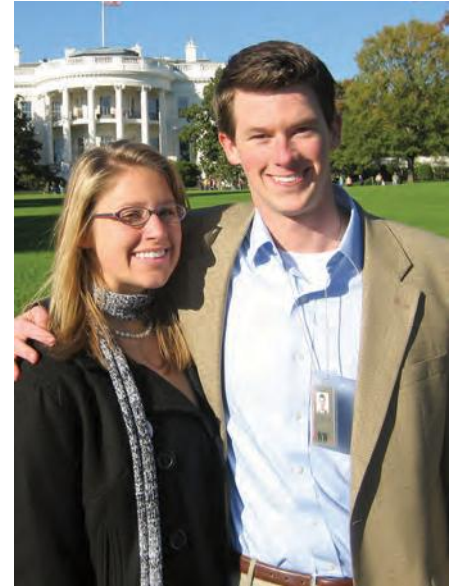
Near the end of his internship, Tanner attended a barbecue where several White House staffers were present. When asked about his future plans, he told them he was starting law school at Florida State in August. Two days later, he was asked to interview for a full-time position as the assistant to the director of the Office of the Public Liaison. When Tanner was offered the position, he deferred entrance to law school.

Within months, Tanner was promoted to a position working directly for Deputy Chief of Staff and Senior Advisor to the President Karl Rove. One of the highlights of Tanner's Washington experience was moving into an office in the West Wing. Most executive offices

“Volunteering,” continued from page 14



Tanner stands in front of a fighter plane on the USS Eisenhower. As a White House staffer, he spent a night aboard the aircraft carrier.



Tanner and sister Jourdan pose in front of the White House.

are located in the Eisenhower Executive Office Building or further away from 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. As an assistant to Rove, Tanner sat steps away from the Oval Office and the Roosevelt Room. President Bush made regular trips through Tanner's office, pausing at a candy jar on an officemate's desk.

Tanner equates the experience of working full-time in the White House to drinking water from a fire hose: It comes at you full-force and non-stop.

“The hours are long and the pressure is incredible,” Tanner said. “The job demands your best effort and dedication to working as a team member with the many sharp and talented people in the White House. Everyone believed in public service and worked to give 110 percent.”

Tanner left the White House in July 2007, after reapplying to Florida State Law.

“Washington was a life changing experience,” Tanner said. “Good fortune led me and I never took for granted the

opportunity to witness history, such as the swearing-in of Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice Samuel Alito in the East Room. I can see how a Mr. Smith could go to Washington, work hard and succeed.”

Tanner took a break from law school in January to return to D.C. for a farewell dinner for former staffers. In addition to Rove and many of the talented people Tanner worked with, former President George W. Bush and First Lady Laura Bush were in attendance.

“I have great respect for the president,” Tanner said. “Did all staffers agree with all decisions? No, but that was not our role. I believe that people were doing what they thought was best for the situation and our country.”

Tanner has continued to embrace possibility at Florida State Law. In addition to serving on the executive board of the Student Bar Association, he has clerked at the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation, and was one of 10 legislative interns for

the Florida House of Representatives in 2008-2009.

“Law school has made me a sharper, more competent person,” Tanner said. “It really does teach you how to think critically and process information — skills that can be applied to any occupation.”

That is a good thing, because Tanner does not have a long-term professional goal. “Too much tunnel vision can make one miss opportunities; you have to be ready to jump right on them. You never know what is around the corner.” ■

Falascchetti Takes Circuitous Route to Legal Education

By Sally Bowman



Although Associate Professor of Law and Economics Dino Falascchetti has worked in academia for nine years, his first position at a law school came when he joined the faculty at Florida State Law in 2007.

After earning a bachelor's degree from Indiana University and managing audit engagements and corporate finance at Whitman Corporation, a Fortune 100 conglomerate, Falascchetti enrolled in the University of Chicago's M.B.A. program for economics and finance.

"My goal was to be an M.B.A./J.D. guy," Falascchetti said. Coming from the "not-so-wealthy" suburbs of south Chicago, his corporate finance career at

Whitman was a means to pay the bills until he could pursue those goals.

While earning his M.B.A., Falascchetti's intellectual curiosity quickly led to a decision to pursue a Ph.D.

"You could literally feel the electricity in the air," he said of his experience at the University of Chicago. "The rigor of the seminars — their intellectual quality — was phenomenal. It's fascinating because I wound up doing exactly what I originally wanted to do but took a very different route. If you think about how I got here, it's not the surest way — but it has been exciting."

Falascchetti, who earned his Ph.D. in economics from Washington University in St. Louis, continued: "I tend

to think of law as part of a complex system — laws are political outcomes that affect economic performance. I find it hard to think about one of these topics without thinking about its influence on the others." Falascchetti's scholarship aims to improve understanding of this interaction, with the ultimate goal of strengthening the ability of lawyers to create value in policy, litigation and business settings.

Falascchetti says that while many aspects of his career have been fascinating, one highlight is the excitement of his law students when they begin to understand the application of economics in law and where law fits into economics and politics.

“Falaschetti,” continued from page 16

He asks students why attorneys are paid the sums they are paid. Falaschetti believes it is not just because they “look at bright lines and statutes” or can divide the pie into its monetary pieces. He believes it is because fundamentally sound lawyers can increase the size of the pie in a manner that cannot be easily replicated by the legalzoom.com’s of the world. “Point to a wealthy country without lawyers or a poor country with lawyers — you can’t do it,” he said. “There’s not just a correlation between law and wealth — there is causation.”

In addition to teaching, Falaschetti has served in a variety of advisory positions and is an active public speaker. Since serving the White House as a senior economist for the Council of Economic Advisors in 2005-06, demands for Falaschetti at speaking engagements have increased. Topics Falaschetti became versed in at the White House include counterterrorism, avian bird flu, post-Katrina Gulf Coast reconstruction and risky mortgages. Interest in Falaschetti’s presentations has increased even more in the current negative economic climate.

“The foundational elements of economics never change. That’s the point of my [recent] talks with the Florida House of Representatives and the Florida Senate,” he said. What does change, he points out, is “the political climate in which decisions are made — getting this climate right is the key for both short- and long-run performance, and lawyers can play a productive role here.”

Having also held academic positions at the University of Tennessee, Montana State and the University of

California at Berkeley, and repeatedly serving as a fellow of the Stanford University Hoover Institution, Falaschetti finds Florida State Law a good fit.

“It is exciting to be part of a group that is as ambitious as the one here,” he said. “We have a plan and the drive to achieve it.”

Falaschetti said the law school

Since serving the White House as a senior economist for the Council of Economic Advisors in 2005-06, demands for Falaschetti at speaking engagements have increased.

supports a social scientific approach to the study of law and that Dean Don Weidner is enthusiastic about the school’s approach, giving professors the resources and backing to try new things. Falaschetti said those are the reasons a professor gets into academia.

One groundbreaking effort by the law school is the class Falaschetti taught this spring with Fred Karlinsky (’92), whose Fort Lauderdale firm has become a world leader in insurance law and regulation. Together, the duo brought top industry professionals to Tallahassee for their Insurance Law: A Law & Economics Perspective course. Guests included Florida Insurance Commissioner Kevin McCarty; Dr. Jack Nicholson, chief operating officer of the Florida Hurricane Catastrophe Fund; leaders from the state House

and Senate; and insurance company presidents.

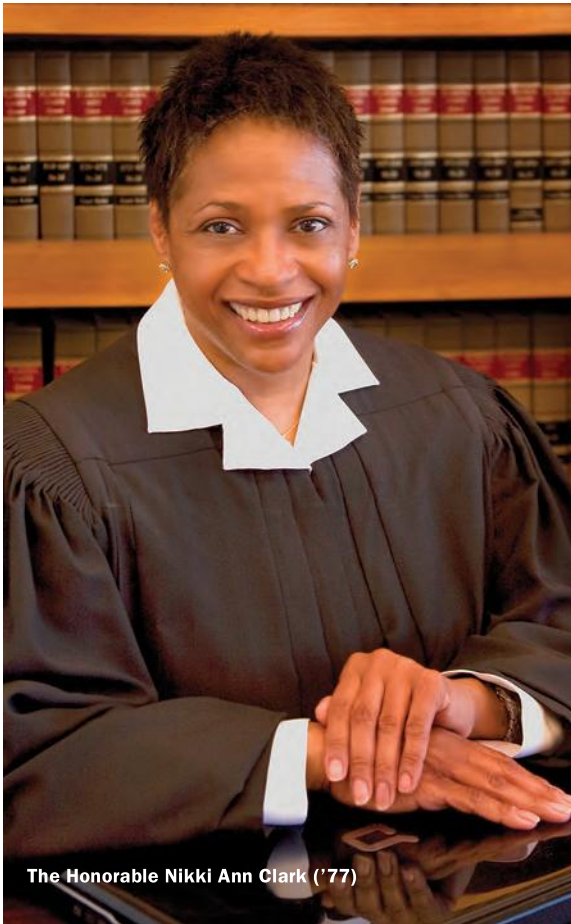
Falaschetti also coordinates Capital Campus Florida, a joint effort with the Mercatus Center at George Mason University. The collaboration brings research innovations to policymakers and lawyers in the state of Florida and nationally. It led to a joint presentation for regional attorneys and regulators at Florida State Law this spring by Falaschetti and George Mason Senior Research Fellow Houman B. Shadab.

With such a full plate of scholastic activities, Falaschetti does not have much time for extracurricular activities.

“I like wine and food,” Falaschetti said about his interests. “With a name like Dino Falaschetti, you can’t not like wine and food.” According to Falaschetti, his wife, Suzanne, who telecommutes to Hartford, Connecticut, for her job with a health insurance company, has become the better cook during the course of their 15 years of marriage.

Falaschetti bicycled competitively as an undergraduate and has recently taken up the sport again. This time, he is not competing. Instead, it provides relaxation and time for quiet reflection, which Falaschetti definitely needs to persevere through all the academic endeavors he juggles. ■

Judge Clark Appointed to Dream Job



The Honorable Nikki Ann Clark ('77)

From her chambers at the First District Court of Appeal, the Honorable Nikki Ann Clark has arguably one of the best views of her alma mater in Tallahassee. Every morning since Clark joined the court in January, the first thing she sees when she enters her office is the Florida State Law Rotunda and green.

“It is significant to me that my office overlooks the law school,” said Clark. “It’s a daily reminder of what an important part that institution has played in my life for the last 35 years.”

Over the course of more than three

decades, Clark has worked at Legal Services of North Florida, served as an assistant attorney general and worked for former Governor Lawton Chiles, who appointed her to the bench in 1993.

Although she was a judge on the Second Judicial Circuit Court for 15 years, Clark’s learning curve as an appellate judge has been steep.

“It has been an incredible learning experience – learning not just the law but learning the ways of the court,” the 1977 law graduate said. “Learning the in-house protocols, a new computer system, the system of assignment of cases – it has all been brand

new, but it’s been an absolutely incredible experience.”

The Detroit, Michigan, native credits “extraordinary colleagues” with her comfortable transition and ability to “hit the ground running.” Clark began her new job on a Thursday and was presiding over her first oral argument the following Tuesday.

“All the judges have welcomed me so warmly and so openly and have been so ready to show me the ropes,” she said. “They are intelligent, hard working and some have delightful senses of humor.”

Clark also must work hard to meet

the demands of her new job. Her typical day includes a five o’clock awakening, early-morning trip to the gym, drafting multiple opinions, reviewing new files and researching.

“I have, what’s quite frankly, a dream job,” Clark said. “My job is to read and write and think and analyze. I have time to really consider the various issues – to deliberate over them and to give the kind of consideration that will allow me to make rulings that impact not just the litigants before me but also litigants across the state.”

Clark also teaches at Florida State Law, which she has done each spring semester for 11 years.

“I love it. Even in my busiest of times I look forward to teaching the Trial Practice course. It is such a thrill to watch students develop confidence through that course,” said Clark, whose favorite law student – daughter Kianna Ferguson – graduated from the University of Colorado Law School in May. Clark also teaches at judicial colleges and has even taught judges in African nations about election dispute litigation.

While Clark is still a relatively new appellate judge, she hopes to one day set the bar. “Right now my only aspiration is to become among the best District Court of Appeal judges,” said Clark. “That alone will keep me very, very busy – we’ve got some really good appellate judges in the state.”

Bobby Ray Battles ALS

By all accounts, Robert A. “Bobby” Ray has lived life to the fullest. He has played collegiate football at Columbia University, worked on Wall Street, traveled the world, built a thriving real estate practice from the ground up and cultivated robust relationships with fam-



Bobby Ray ('97) and wife Claudia visited China's Great Wall in 2008.

ily and friends. As those who know him well might have expected, when Ray was diagnosed with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), also known as Lou Gehrig's disease, in March of 2007, he did not let that dampen his enthusiasm for making the most of each day.

Instead, the 1997 Florida State Law graduate continued operating the Tampa real estate law firm he opened in 2003 and married his long-time girlfriend, Claudia, several months after his diagnosis.

“Technically, I could have gone on disability immediately,” said Ray, “but we held out hope, and we still do, that I am going to get better.”

After researching available treatment options, Ray traveled to China in July 2008 for stem cell treatment. Although the results were not what Ray and his wife were hoping for, he remains positive about the trip.

“It was cool to be in China right before the Olympics,” Ray said. “[The Great Wall] was probably the most amazing thing I've seen in person, considering the history and the way that it was built and the lives that were lost; it was an awesome thing to see in

“My example is proof that you never know what life is going to bring you,” said Ray. “That being said, you need to live your life every day and focus on the things that are important. Number one is family and friends and nothing else is even a close second.”

person – which if not for ALS, I may have never seen.”

Because of ALS, Ray also has discovered that “the only things that matter are the relationships with your family and other people.” He hopes others can learn from his diagnosis.

“My example is proof that you never know what life is going to bring you,” said Ray. “That being said, you need to live your life every day and focus on the things that are important. Number one is family and friends and nothing else is even a close second.”

Even though the effects of ALS

forced him to close his law office in December, Ray continues working at a full-service real estate, title and settlement company he opened in January.

“That is very lucky for me because if I practiced family law or criminal law, I would not have that flexibility,” Ray said. His health prevents him from being at the office every day, but opening Closing Counsel, LLC allows him to work from home most of the week. With assistance from Claudia and an office manager, Ray is able to provide clients basically the same services he offered at his law firm.

Because he has accomplished so much and formed such meaningful relation-

ships, Ray is without regret. However, he still possesses a fighting spirit.

“All in all, I'm a very fortunate guy,” said Ray. “I lived 41 years of my life with health and family and friends and freedom and opportunity and accomplishment. I want to live for another 50 years, but if I don't, I know I have many people that love and care about me.”

For more information about ALS and Ray's progress, visit www.balsfund.org.

Rolando Establishes Endowment



Peggy Rolando ('78)

Margaret A. “Peggy” Rolando ('78) has pledged an additional \$72,500 to a fund she previously created at the law school. The additional gift brings the total amount of the fund to \$100,000 and establishes the Peggy Rolando Endowment for Excellence. The gift to endowment is eligible for a 50 percent

match from the state of Florida, creating a total endowment of \$150,000.

The income generated by the endowment will be used to meet a variety of law school needs. Presently, funds will be used primarily for scholarships to attract students with outstanding academic credentials to Florida State

Law.

Rolando has been a partner since 1984 with the law firm of Shutts & Bowen, LLP in Miami. She practices in the areas of real estate, construction and community associations. She also is a member of the law school’s Board of Visitors.

Pledge Creates Mike and Peggy Coleman Moot Court Endowment

J. Michael “Mike” Coleman ('86) has pledged \$25,000 to establish the Mike and Peggy Coleman Moot Court Endowment. The endowment will benefit the law school Moot Court Team. When Coleman was a student at Florida State Law, he was a member of the Moot Court Team.

He now is a partner in the firm of Coleman, Hazzard & Taylor, P.A. in Naples. His practice areas include civil, commercial, construction litigation and probate litigation.

Kellogg Increases Gift



Larry Kellogg ('81)
speaks to students at
Florida State Law.

Lawrence A. “Larry” Kellogg ('81) has increased his gift to the Kellogg Family Scholarship Endowment. The additional gift of \$50,000 brings his donation total to \$150,000, which is eligible for a 50 percent state match.

Kellogg’s gift, combined with the state match, results in a total endowment of \$225,000. The income generated by the endowment will provide scholarships for students who worked their way through their undergraduate program, are supporting children while attending law school, have excelled academically and have demonstrated financial need.

In addition to being the current chairman of the Florida State Law Board of Visitors, Kellogg is a partner in the firm of Tew Cardenas LLP in Miami. He practices in the areas of bankruptcy and receivership, business litigation, class action litigation, insurance, labor and employment, and professional malpractice.

Kellogg’s son Jason is a 2002 Florida State Law graduate who practices at Hogan & Hartson in Miami.

Settlement Leads to Supplemental Funding for Law School Chair

In 1999, then-Attorney General Bob Butterworth established the Richard W. Ervin Eminent Scholar Chair at Florida State Law. The purpose of the chair is to provide funding for the Florida Attorney General’s Office to retain a solicitor general of extraordinary qualifications. As part of the appointment to the chair, the solicitor general teaches at Florida State Law every year. Current Solicitor General Scott Makar taught Opinion Writing in the fall and Topics in Florida Constitutional Law in the spring. He will teach Amicus Briefs during the fall 2009 semester.

Florida Attorney General Bill McCollum recently announced, as part of a settlement agreement, Florida State Law will receive an additional \$275,000 for the Richard W. Ervin Eminent Scholar Chair.

Surviving and Thriving



Rochelle Birnbaum Chiocca ('00) and husband John participated in the 2008 Breast Cancer 3-Day in Atlanta.

She is a practicing attorney and a mother who volunteers as “room mom” at her children’s school. She also is a breast cancer survivor — at age 33. And, to others, Rochelle Birnbaum Chiocca ('00) is a hero.

Chiocca had a strong family history of breast cancer, so in 2007 she underwent genetic testing and discovered that she carried the BRCA1 mutation. The gene gave her an 82 percent chance of getting the deadly disease.

“My mother and grandmother were breast cancer survivors and I knew how devastating the disease could be,” she said. Always a fighter, Chiocca decided to undergo a prophylactic mastectomy to voluntarily remove her breast tissue in an effort to prevent breast cancer. She was 32 and had two children under the age of 3.

During Chiocca’s pre-operative MRI, doctors found a lump — which turned out to be a Stage 2 tumor. Ironically, by taking steps to avoid getting

breast cancer, she learned that she was too late; she already had it.

When she was diagnosed on November 17, 2007, Chiocca was still breastfeeding her daughter. She had gone to doctors’ appointments at appropriate times and had performed self-exams regularly. Even her oncologist, during a pre-

op exam a few weeks before her fateful MRI, did not find the tumor.

“It progressed very rapidly,” Chiocca explained. “If I hadn’t been proactive about having the preventative surgery, I wouldn’t be here now.”

Chiocca underwent cancer treatments which included a bilateral mastectomy, chemotherapy and radiation therapy. Throughout the difficult months of treatment, Chiocca continued to practice at least part-time at Chiocca & Chiocca, a West Palm Beach law firm focusing on insurance defense. She credits her husband and law partner, John, and technological advances with allowing her to practice from home.

To raise awareness that breast cancer does not discriminate based on age, as well as to commemorate her first year as a survivor, Chiocca and her husband participated in the Breast Cancer 3-Day benefitting Susan G. Komen for the Cure in Atlanta in October 2008. Event organizers honored Chiocca by inviting her to participate in the Opening Ceremony’s Survivors’ Circle. Although Chiocca was unable to finish the 60-mile

walk due to a recent surgery, it was a wonderful accomplishment so shortly after diagnosis and a meaningful way of marking the conclusion of her treatments and surgeries. She hopes her experience encourages others, regardless of age, to get routine check-ups, perform self-exams and report any concerns to their doctors.

Chiocca thinks of her life in two distinct phases, referring to life before cancer as “B.C.” At the couple’s vacation home in the aptly named town of Celebration, Chiocca celebrates her second chance. “I have a renewed appreciation and respect for life, and the many blessings in mine,” she said. “After all, how many people get to live twice?”

Sixteen months after her diagnosis, Chiocca goes to bed each night thankful for the day she has had. In addition to their two children, Camber, 4, and Mia, 2, the Chioccas spend a great deal of time with John’s older children, Julia, 9, and Anthony, 7.

Now back to practicing full-time, Chiocca never stopped being the primary caregiver to their children. “I wanted to continue to practice law and to give our children a normal life,” she said. “It was a point of pride for me that despite undergoing treatments for cancer, I still drove our kids to school, took them to play dates, and went grocery shopping. I didn’t want their childhood to be any different than it would have been if I had never received my diagnosis. If I don’t push myself to get out of bed every morning, then cancer wins. And cancer isn’t going to get one day on me.”

HOMECOMING 2008

Attended by hundreds of graduates, students and their guests, Florida State Law's Homecoming 2008 festivities were a big success.

Homecoming weekend events kicked off Friday, November 14 with a reception at the home of Fred ('70) and Lyn Baggett, sponsored by Greenberg Traurig. Approximately 215 Florida State Law alumni and friends gathered for the event. Saturday's "blackout" football game against Boston College was preceded by a tailgating party of about 300 on the law school green.

On Sunday, 125 students, alumni and friends gathered at the law school for a 5K walk/run to benefit Team Gey, which raises awareness and funds for ALS research. The event garnered \$4,000 for the ALS Therapy Development Institute and was attended by several members of Professor Steve Gey's family.

To view more photographs from the weekend of events, visit www.law.fsu.edu/alumni/photo_gallery_homecoming2008.html.



1 Students, alumni and friends participate in a 5K walk/run benefitting ALS research.

2 L-R: Ann Marie Karl ('83), Judge Sally Kest ('73) and Judge John Kest ('73)

3 Manuel Arisso ('04) with his family at the Friday night reception.

4 L-R: Fred Baggett ('70), Lance Block ('84) and Professor Paolo Annino ('83)

5 L-R: Retired Judge Emerson Thompson, Jr. ('73), Emerson Thompson, III, Debby Manuel and Jim Manuel, Jr. ('78)



ALUMNI NOTES

1969

JOHN W. FROST, II was featured in a (*Lakeland Ledger*) article about artwork in his office. The president of Frost Van den Boom & Smith, P.A. in Bartow began his collection of originals and signed pieces shortly after finishing law school.

DAVID FREDERICK KERN has retired from practice in Oldsmar, Florida.

1970

S. CURTIS KISER has joined Brewton Plante, P.A. in Tallahassee as a partner. His practice areas include administrative and environmental law, legislative and governmental affairs and insurance regulation.

MARSHA L. LYONS has become a member of the Bankruptcy Bar of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Florida. She is a partner at Lyons & Farrar, P.A.

1972

THE HONORABLE CHARLES A. FRANCIS has been re-elected as chief judge by his fellow judges in the Second Judicial Circuit of Florida. He also serves as vice chair of the Trial Court Budget Commission and is a member of the executive committee of the Florida Conference of Circuit Court Judges.



THE HONORABLE FRANK E. SHEFFIELD was elected as a circuit judge for the Second Judicial Circuit of Florida in November.

1973

WILLIAM W. CORRY has been joined by Cameron Kennedy ('05) in law practice. The new firm is Corry & Kennedy, P.A. and is located in Tallahassee.



SENATOR MEL R. MARTINEZ announced in December that he will not seek re-election in 2010. After spending one term in the United States Senate, Martinez plans to spend more time with his family.

MOLLY J. TASKER has been elected to the Melbourne City Council. She will represent District 5.



CHARLES L. WOODY has been named to the 2009 list of *The Best Lawyers in America* in the area of labor and employment law. He also was ranked in the 2009 edition of *Chambers USA*. He practices in the Charleston office of Spilman Thomas & Battle, PLLC.

1974

BRIAN S. DUFFY was recently recertified by The Florida Bar in civil trial law. The partner at McConnaughay, Duffy, Coonrod, Pope & Weaver, P.A., has been continuously certified since 1993.

THE HONORABLE RAUL C. PALOMINO, JR. presented a justice teaching training session in Tampa in March.

GEORGE E. TRAGOS has been selected for *The Best Lawyers in America*, 2009, in all criminal defense categories. He is board certified and serves on the Pinellas County Uniform Personnel Board.

1975

C. EVERETT BOYD, JR. has joined Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough at the firm's first Florida office in Tallahassee.

1976

DOMINIC M. CAPARELLO has been admitted into the Florida Civil-Circuit Mediators Society. He is the director of Messer, Caparello & Self, P.A.'s litigation section in Tallahassee.



LONNIE N. GROOT has joined the Lake Mary firm of Stenstrom, McIntosh, Colbert, Whigham & Partlow, P.A. His practice focuses on representation of local governments and land use and planning. He is board certified in city, county and local government law. Groot also has been reappointed to the board of directors of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Volusia and Flagler counties. He will serve a three-year term and volunteers as its legal counsel. Groot also served as judge for the 2009 "We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution" state finals competition, a project of The Florida Law Related Education Association, Inc. for The Florida Bar. He also has been appointed to the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council.

1977

MELISSA F. ALLAMAN has joined Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough at the firm's first Florida office in Tallahassee.



THE HONORABLE NIKKI ANN CLARK has been appointed to the First District Court of Appeal. She has been a judge for more than 15 years.



JOHN G. WOOD, JR. was elected to the Florida House of Representatives, District 65, representing northeast Polk County in November. He is a Republican from Winter Haven.

1978

KRISTINE E. "KRIS" KNAB was a finalist for the 2008 Women of Distinction awards gala. She is executive director of Legal Services of North Florida.

MAURY R. KOLCHAKIAN is chairman of the Florida State University Alumni Association. He is a Tallahassee lobbyist.

ANA E. TANGEL-RODRIGUEZ was named chairwoman of the board of trustees for Orlando's public broadcasting stations, WMFE, in December. She has served on the non-profit's board for seven years.

KAREN K. SPECIE has opened Specie Law Firm, L.L.C. She also is an adjunct professor at the University of Florida College of Law. She can be reached at P.O. Box 184, Earleton, Fla. 32631-0184, 352.468.3683 or Karen@specielaw.com.

1979



JAMES L. BACCHUS wrote an article in the *Wall Street Journal* contending that international trade should be a part of America's economic recovery plan. He also contributed an article "After the Bailout, Tariffs?" to *Forbes.com*. He is a shareholder of Greenberg Traurig, LLP, in Washington.



MIRANDA F. FITZGERALD, a partner at Drosdick, Doster, Kantor & Reed, P.A., was selected for the 2009 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America* in the areas of administrative law, environmental law, land use and zoning law and real estate law.

TERRY E. LEWIS, a shareholder at Lewis, Longman & Walker, P.A., in Tallahassee, was selected for the 2009 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*. He also participated in the Florida Chamber's 25th Annual Growth Management, Energy, Climate Change and Environmental Short Course in Daytona.

ANNE LONGMAN, a shareholder at Lewis, Longman & Walker, P.A., in Tallahassee, was selected for the 2009 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America* in the environmental law category.



THE HONORABLE ERROL H. POWELL has been inducted as a fellow by the National Conference of the Administrative Law Judiciary of the American Bar Association, Judicial Division.

EDWIN "ED" WALBORSKY has been named to the Florida State University Foundation Board of Trustees. He is a partner with Kinsey, Troxel, Johnson, Walborsky & Bradley, P.A. in Pensacola.

1980

PATRICIA J. BROWN is now a reference librarian and assistant professor at Barry University School of Law in Orlando. She can be reached at 6441 E. Colonial Dr., Orlando, Fla. 32807, 321.206.5725 or pbrown@mail.barry.edu.

Equels Recognized for Suit Against Bear Stearns and Florida Supreme Court Victory



Florida State Law graduate Thomas K. "Tom" Equels ('80) was recognized in December as one of South Florida's "Most Effective Lawyers" for 2008 by the *Daily Business Review*. Equels earned the recognition, which is based solely on client results, in two categories – complex/business litigation and appellate.

Equels was selected in the complex/business litigation category for securing a \$27.35 million settlement from Bear Stearns for National Heritage Life Insurance Company, which failed after investing in mortgage-backed securities recommended and selected by Bear Stearns. The settlement, which was reached after a trial that ended in a favorable verdict for the defunct insurance company, brings the total amount Equels has secured for his client to approximately \$250 million.

In the appellate category, Equels was recognized for helping obtain a Florida Supreme Court ruling that a state constitutional amendment approved in 2004 allows retroactive access to doctor peer-review files and other hospital records that were previously confidential.

Equels is president and managing director of the Equels Law Firm, which has offices in Miami, Orlando and Tallahassee.



JAMES F. HEEKIN, JR. has been selected for inclusion in the 2009 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America* in the area of health care law. He is a partner with the Orlando firm of Lowndes, Drosdick, Doster, Kantor & Reed, P.A.



MICHAEL D. HOOK was lead counsel in a case against Roche, pharmaceutical manufacturer of Accutane, in which three plaintiffs were awarded \$12.89 million jointly. The trial was held in New Jersey State Superior Court. Hook is a partner in Hook & Bolton, P.A. in Pensacola.

JAMES W. LINN, a shareholder at Lewis, Longman & Walker, P.A., in Tallahassee, was selected for the 2009 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America* in the labor and employment category. He also presented "Joining FRS and Other Strategies for Containing Pension Costs" at the Florida Public Employer Labor Relations Association annual meeting.

1981

STEPHEN F. BOLTON was a plaintiff's attorney in a case against Roche, pharmaceutical manufacturer of Accutane, in which three plaintiffs were awarded \$12.89 million jointly. The trial was held in New Jersey State Superior Court. Bolton is a partner in Hook & Bolton, P.A. in Pensacola.



THE HONORABLE CORY J. CIKLIN has been appointed by Governor Charlie Crist to the Fourth District Court of Appeal. He previously served on the county court for Palm Beach County for 14 years.

E. GARY EARLY has earned The Florida Bar's State/Federal Government & Administration Practice certification. He is an attorney at Messer, Caparello & Self, P.A.

MARIA MCANULTY was named chief of the trial bureau for the Harris County (Texas) District Attorney's Office. She will oversee 22 felony state district courts.

1982



WILLIAM A. BECKETT has been selected for the 2009 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America* in real estate law. He is a partner with the firm of Lowndes, Drosdick, Doster, Kantor & Reed, P.A.



STEVEN A. GELLER was the luncheon keynote speaker at the fourth annual Florida Gaming Summit at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Hollywood, Florida.

DR. STEPHEN R. MACNAMARA, associate professor of communications at Florida State University, is a regular contributor to *Sayfie Review*, an online political resource for Florida.

1983

THE HONORABLE CHARLOTTE W. ANDERSON has retired as a Thirteenth Judicial Circuit judge for Hillsborough County.

GEORGE CHESTER BEDELL, III opened his own firm, George Bedell, P.A., in Tampa. He can be reached at 2525 Park City Way, Tampa, Fla. 33609-2325, george@georgebedellpa.com or 813.875.6100.

THE HONORABLE MICHAEL JOHN PROVOST was appointed to a judgeship in the Twentieth Judicial Circuit for Collier County. He had been a prosecutor in Naples for 25 years.

1984

SCOTT L. BALLARD was re-elected to his second term as district attorney for the Griffin Judicial Circuit. The four-county area is comprised of Fayette, Spalding, Pike and Upson counties in Georgia.

SONYA K. DAWS has been recognized for providing pro bono assistance to Florida homeowners facing foreclosure. She has volunteered for Florida Attorneys Saving Homes (FLASH). She is an attorney at Messer, Caparello & Self, P.A. in Tallahassee.

R. STEVEN LEWIS, a shareholder at Lewis, Longman & Walker, P.A., in Tallahassee, was selected for the 2009 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America* in the environmental law category.



JOSHUA A. WHITMAN of the Jacksonville firm of Milton, Leach, Whitman, D'Andrea & Milton was named lawyer of the year by the Jacksonville Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA). He is the

immediate past president of the Florida Chapter of ABOTA and serves on the board of directors of the national organization. In February, he served on the faculty of the ABOTA National Leadership Conference in New Orleans. In April, he served as the program chair of the bi-annual ABOTA National Jury Summit in San Francisco.

1985

N. ADAM TEBRUGGE was honored for 23 years of service to the poor in Sarasota, Manatee and DeSoto counties by the Southwest Florida Coalition for Peace & Justice on World Day of Peace. Tebrugge practices at Tebrugge Legal Services in Sarasota.

SUSAN VOIGHT STUCKER received The Florida Bar Pro Bono Award for the Ninth Judicial Circuit. She is the director of Legal, Labor and Employment Law at HD Supply in Orlando.

1986

VIVIAN ARENAS-BATTLES, a shareholder at the Tampa firm of de la Parte & Gilbert, P.A., is certified by the Florida Supreme Court as a circuit court mediator for eminent domain and environmental law cases.

THE HONORABLE CYNTHIA L. COX was appointed to a special commission of fitness and character of the Florida Board of Bar Examiners. The commission will develop

recommendations as to the standards which should be applied in the evaluation of applicants for admission to The Florida Bar. Cox presides over felony, mental health and drug courts in the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit.



MARY ANN MORGAN-BURKE has been elected to the board of governors of The Florida Bar. She will represent the Ninth Judicial Circuit. She is managing partner of Billings, Morgan & Boatwright in

Winter Park, where she practices civil trial law.

STEPHAN ARTHUR PENDORF is an attorney at Patent Central LLC. He can be reached at 1401 Hollywood Blvd., Hollywood, Fla. 33020-5237, 954.922.7315 or pendorf@patentcentral.com.

MARK S. ROMAN has earned Florida Bar board certification in civil trial law. He can be reached at the Roman Law Group at 866.999.6754.

1987



DAVID M. CALDEVILLA had his artwork displayed in the Bank of America Plaza Building in downtown Tampa. The artwork was from his "Automotography" collection. Samples of his work can be found at

<http://automotography.imagekind.com>.

Caldevilla is a board certified appellate attorney and shareholder at the Tampa firm of de la Parte & Gilbert, P.A. who recently was reappointed to the Judicial Nominating Commission of the Florida Second District Court of Appeal. He is chairman of the commission.



THE HONORABLE RICKY L. POLSTON was appointed by Governor Charlie Crist to the Florida Supreme Court.



THOMAS M. RAMSBERGER has been certified by the Florida Supreme Court as a circuit civil mediator. He also is a founding member of the St. Petersburg Bar Foundation and serves as an adjunct professor at Stetson

SEND US YOUR NEWS

The most avidly read section of *Florida State Law* is "Class Action." The law school's more than 7,000 alumni want to know what their classmates have been doing — awards they have received, high-profile cases they have won, law firms or cities they have moved to, pro bono activities they have undertaken and more. Just as important: Did you get married? Have a baby? Write a novel? Run a marathon? Perform in a band?

If you have anything that you would like to include in Class Action, please send information to aluminfo@law.fsu.edu or mail this form to:

**The Florida State University College of Law,
Office of Development and Alumni Affairs,
Tallahassee, FL 32306-1601**

NAME: _____ CLASS YEAR: _____

HOME ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

HOME PHONE: _____ HOME FAX: _____

JOB TITLE: _____

TYPE OF BUSINESS: _____

EMPLOYER/FIRM: _____

PRACTICE AREA: _____

BUSINESS ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

BUSINESS PHONE: _____ BUSINESS FAX: _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

INFORMATION FOR CLASS ACTION: _____



LANSING C. "LANSE" SCRIVEN of Lansing C. Scriven, P.A. was elected to the board of governors of The Florida Bar. He is the first African-American attorney elected to the board from the

Thirteenth Judicial Circuit.

1988

ALEXANDER D. BARKER, a shareholder at Adams, Coogler, Watson, Merkel, Barry & Kellner, P.A. has received an AV-rating from Martindale-Hubbell. He restricts his practice to medical malpractice and professional licensure defense. He can be reached at P.O. Box 2069, West Palm Beach, Fla. 33402, 561.478.4500 or abarker@acwmlaw.com.

SUZANNE DOUB BRANTLEY retired after 20 years of representing Florida State Parks in the Department of Environmental Protection.

COMMISSIONER LISA POLAK EDGAR is serving her second term on the Florida Public Service Commission. She was originally appointed in January 2005; this term continues through January 1, 2013.

1989

JAMES J. DEAN has been admitted into the Florida Civil-Circuit Mediators Society. He is an attorney at Messer, Caparello & Self, P.A. in Tallahassee.



GLENDAL. THORNTON, Greater Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce chairwoman and partner at Foley & Lardner, LLP in Tallahassee, received the Girl Scout Woman of the Year Diamond Award from the Girl Scout

Council of the Apalachee Bend, Inc.

1990

JEAN M. FINKS of the Law Office of Jean M. Finks in Punta Gorda won The Florida Bar Pro Bono Award for the Twentieth Judicial Circuit.

ALBERT LEWIS KELLEY received The Florida Bar Pro Bono Award for the Sixteenth Judicial Circuit. He is owner of The Law Offices of Albert L. Kelley in Key West and Winter Park/Orlando.

ROBIN JOY SCHER has been appointed as a traffic infraction hearing officer in the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit, Palm Beach County. She is an attorney at The Law Firm of Charles D. Jamieson, P.A., in West Palm Beach, and can be reached at rjscher@cjamiesonlaw.com.



MICHAEL C. TYSON has been certified by the Supreme Court of Florida as a circuit mediator. In addition to being a shareholder of Zimmerman, Kiser & Sutcliffe, P.A. in Orlando, he donates

time and services to the Homeless Advocacy Project.

1991

THE HONORABLE MICHAEL F. ANDREWS of Florida's Sixth Judicial Circuit has received the 2008 Distinguished Judicial Service Award from the Florida Supreme Court. He also spoke at Florida State's spring 2009 graduation ceremony.

THE HONORABLE NINA N. ASHENAFI RICHARDSON was elected as a Leon County judge for the Second Judicial Circuit in November.



REPRESENTATIVE KATHERINE "KATHY" CASTOR won re-election to the United States House of Representatives in November. She carried each of the three counties in the 11th

District — Manatee, Hillsborough and Pinellas. She also was the featured speaker at Florida State Law's December graduation ceremony.

GORDON A. DIETERLE of McClosky, D'Anna & Dieterle, LLP has been certified by the Florida Supreme Court as a circuit court mediator and is now available to mediate complex commercial and business litigation cases on a statewide basis. He can be reached at 2300 Glades Rd., Ste. 400 East,

Boca Raton, Fla. 33431, 561.368.9200 or gad@mdd-law.com.

RAMON DE LA CABADA recently gave a lecture for a seminar presented by Export University. His lecture was "How to Protect Yourself in an Enforcement Proceeding."

JOSEPH D. "JOE" LANE was part of a litigation team chosen as finalists for the 2008 Trial Lawyers of the Year award presented by the Public Justice Foundation. He is a partner at Cochran, Cherry, Givens, Smith, Lane & Taylor, P.C. in Dothan, Alabama. The honor recognized his work on an environmental class action lawsuit, *Perrine v. E.I. DuPont*. Litigation lasted four years and ended after a six-week trial in which the jury awarded the largest verdict for individuals in 2007. The case is on appeal in the Supreme Court of West Virginia.

BARBARA ANNE PETERSEN, president of the Florida First Amendment Foundation and president of the board of directors for the National Freedom of Information Coalition, was appointed by Governor Charlie Crist to chair the Florida Commission on Open Government.

J. FARREST TAYLOR was part of a litigation team chosen as finalists for the 2008 Trial Lawyers of the Year award presented by the Public Justice Foundation. He is a partner at Cochran, Cherry, Givens, Smith, Lane & Taylor, P.C. in Dothan, Alabama. The honor recognized his work on an environmental class action lawsuit, *Perrine v. E.I. DuPont*. Litigation lasted four years and ended after a six-week trial in which the jury awarded the largest verdict for individuals in 2007. The case is on appeal in the Supreme Court of West Virginia.

1992

HORACE RANDALL BROADNAX is head basketball coach for Savannah State University. He took over the program in 2005 and is the only head coach in NCAA basketball with a juris doctor degree. He recently coached the Tigers to their first winning season, at 15-14, in more than 20 years.

THE HONORABLE DAWN CALOCHA-JOHNSON has been appointed a circuit judge for the Second Judicial Circuit. She was a magistrate and hearing officer for the Second Judicial Circuit from 1999-2008.

FRED E. KARLINSKY was named to the Republican Jewish Coalition's board of directors in March. He is a partner at Colodny, Fass, Talenfeld, Karlinsky & Abate, P.A., where he specializes in insurance law and governmental consulting.

CHARLES H. LEO was recently recertified in workers' compensation. Also named to the 2008 Super Lawyers list, he is the primary shareholder of the Law Offices of Charles H. Leo, P.A.

1993

LAVERNE LEWIS GASKINS, chief legal officer of Valdosta State University, was a delegate for President Barack Obama at the Democratic National Convention. She volunteered for the campaign as local counsel. She also was one of 10 honored by the State Bar of Georgia for volunteer work. She is active on the law school alumni board of directors, the board of governors of the State Bar, the American Bar Association Foundation, the Georgia Bar Foundation, the Valdosta Bar Association and the Valdosta Rotary. She also serves as the secretary of the Georgia Alliance of African American Attorneys.

JAMES W. HUMANN has formed Lucid Dreams3D, a 3D film production and technology company that focuses on music videos, on-location entertainment, cinema and marketing/advertising. The company is working with Ripley's Believe It or Not! to convert archival film footage to digital 3D.

1994

REBECCA L. BELLER received a 2008 Pro Bono Award from St. Johns County Legal Aid.



CHRISTINA DIAZ GONZALEZ is publishing her first novel, *The Red Umbrella*. Its publication is expected by spring of 2010 and it chronicles a young girl's move to the United States during Operation Pedro Pan.

JAMES W. GUSTAFSON, JR. has become a shareholder in the firm of Searcy Denney Scarola Barnhart & Shipley PA in Tallahassee.

RICHARD W. SMITH has been named to the executive committee of the Orlando office of Fisher, Rushmer, Werrenrath, Dickson, Talley & Dunlap.

1995



BENJAMIN L. CRUMP has been honored by having the Quincy office of Legal Services of North Florida named for his firm, Parks & Crump, LLP. He also led the 30th anniversary endowment campaign as the organization's board president.

LUIS ANTONIO "TONY" CABASSA recently moderated a diversity luncheon for the Hillsborough County Bar. He also recently opened a new firm, Wenzel Fenton Cabassa, P.A.

KRISTINA JONES FOSTER has opened The Foster Law Group, PA, and can be reached at 1015 N. Marion St., Tampa, Fla. 33602 or 813.571.5553.

ELIZABETH ASHLEY HARDEE is president-elect of the Brevard County Bar Association. She also recently gave birth to her first child, named Harrison Alexander Ragan Buck.

REPRESENTATIVE ADAM HASNER (R-Delray Beach) was re-elected to the Florida House of Representatives in November. He is serving his fourth term in the House and second consecutive term as Majority Leader.



WILHELMINA F. KIGHTLINGER, vice president and Florida commercial underwriting counsel for Stewart Title Guaranty Company, was named one of the Top Women in Florida Commercial Real Estate for 2008 by the *Florida Commercial Real Estate Journal*.

EDWARD M. "ED" KOCH has been appointed chair of the appellate practice group at White & Williams, LLP in Philadelphia.

JEANNE M. MILLER is general counsel for Florida Community College in Jacksonville.



DARYL D. PARKS has been honored by having the Quincy office of Legal Services of North Florida named for his firm, Parks & Crump, LLP.

MARLENE SALLO has joined the Children's Law Center at the University of South Carolina School of Law. She can be reached at 1600 Hampton St., Ste. 502, Columbia, S.C. 29208 or 803.777.1646.

SENATOR CHRISTOPHER L. SMITH was elected to the Florida Senate in November. He is a Democrat from Fort Lauderdale.

WENDY R. ST. CHARLES has joined the Vail, Colorado, office of Sherman & Howard, LLC. She specializes in real estate, business and corporate law. She can be reached at 100 S. Fritage Rd., Ste. 200, Vail, Colo. 81657 or 970.476.7646.

PHYLLIS R. WILLIAMS has announced plans to run for DeKalb County (Georgia) State Court Judge in 2010.

1996



TERRANCE L. ASHANTA-BARKER recently was accepted into the 2009 African-American Leadership Development Program. The year-long program is offered by The Urban League of Greater

Cincinnati. He is an associate in Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP's business and finance department.

RUSSEL M. LAZEGA published the 2008 edition of West's *Florida Motor Vehicle No-Fault Law (P.I.P.)* and co-authored West's *Florida Law and Practice*.

MICHAEL D. STARKS has joined Akerman Senterfitt as of counsel. He can be reached at 420 S. Orange Ave., Ste. 1200, Orlando, Fla. 32801-4904, 407.419.8567 or michael.starks@akerman.com.

1997

HOLLY A. DINCMAN recently became board certified by The Florida Bar in the area of labor and employment law. She is a shareholder of Coppins, Monroe, Adkins, Dincman & Spellman, P.A.



ROGER J. "R.J." HAUGHEY, II will become president of The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division in June.

1998

THE HONORABLE YVONNE R. COLODNY was elected as a circuit judge for the Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida in November.

THE HONORABLE MARJORIE RENEE HILL recently was appointed Judge of Compensation Claims. She previously served as the director of the First District Court of Appeal's Workers' Compensation Unit.

SCOTT B. SMITH opened the Law Office of Scott B. Smith, P.L. in Palm Beach Gardens where he will continue to represent victims of commercial motor vehicle and boating accidents. He also is board certified in civil trial law and recently was appointed chairman of the Palm Beach County Bar Association PI/Wrongful Death Committee and is a member of The Florida Bar Code & Rules of Evidence Committee.

JAMES P. WACZEWSKI recently joined the firm of Luks, Santaniello, Perez, Petrillo & Gold as an associate.

ETHAN A. WAY has opened a new firm, Hartman, Curtin and Way, P.A., with partners including Jeanne Curtin ('02). He can be reached by calling 850.386.4242.

1999

JOHN W. CHAPMAN is managing shareholder of the new firm of Chapman & Plymale Law, P.A. He can be reached at 100 SW Albany Ave., Ste. 110, Stuart, Fla. 34994, 772.283.2626 or jchapman@TreasureCoastLegal.com.

VICTOR F. SAYMO married Joanne Ringor on March 26, 2009, in Batac City, Ilocos Norte, Philippines.

SANDRA M. UPEGUI is assistant general counsel for the University of Miami. She can be reached at supegui@miami.edu.

2000



RICHARD L. BARRY joined the Orlando office of GrayRobinson, P.A. as senior associate. His practice focuses on health care and insurance litigation. He is active in the Health Law Section of The

Florida Bar, the Orange County Bar Association, the Defense Research Institute and the Florida Defense Lawyers Association.



ROCHELLE BIRNBAUM CHIOCCA practices in the area of insurance defense at ChioCCA & ChioCCA in West Palm Beach. She can be reached at 2001 Palm Beach Lakes Blvd., Ste. 400, West Palm Beach,

Fla. 33409-6516, 561.253.0230 or rochelle@chioccalaw.com.



MICHAEL R. D'ONOFRIO has joined Hahn Loeser & Parks LLP as a partner in its Naples office. His practice focuses on commercial litigation.

SEAN T. DESMOND has joined Dunlap & Shipman, P.A. The firm is located at 2065 Thomasville Rd., Ste. 102, Tallahassee, Fla. 32308-0733.

DAVID M. GAGNON has been elected shareholder with Taylor, Day, Currie, Boyd & Johnson. He and his wife, Kathryn, also had their first child, a boy named Jonathan David Gagnon, on January 23, 2009. He can be reached at 50 N. Laura St., Ste. 3500, Jacksonville, Fla. 32203 or dgagnon@tdclaw.com.

GREGORY A. JACKSON, JR. is senior associate at McIntosh, Sawran, Peltz & Cartaya, P.A. He can be reached at Southhall Center, 101 Southhall Ln., Ste. 190, Maitland, Fla. 32751, 407.875.0261 or gjackson@mspacesq.com.

M. CHRISTOPHER LYON gave a legislative update and forecast at the Marine Shoreline Development & Permitting Workshop

in Tampa, presented by Law Seminars International. Lyon is an attorney with Lewis, Longman & Walker, P.A.

JOHN J. KENDRON recently was awarded The Florida Bar President's Pro Bono Service Award for the Third Judicial Circuit. He is a partner at Robinson, Kennon & Kendron, P.A. in Lake City.

LEAH L. MARINO works in the Executive Office of the Governor. She can be reached at 400 S. Monroe St., Tallahassee, Fla. 32399-6536, 850.488.3494 or leah.marino@eog.myflorida.com.



AARON M. SCAVRON has joined Shutts & Bowen LLP as an associate in the firm's Fort Lauderdale office. He works in its governmental law practice. He also co-hosts a weekly political talk radio show on AM 850.

2001

DAVISSON F. DUNLAP, III is a partner at Dunlap & Shipman, P.A. The firm is located at 2065 Thomasville Rd., Ste. 102, Tallahassee, Fla. 32308-0733.

EILEEN D. FERNÁNDEZ is senior claims counsel/assistant vice president for Fidelity National Title Group, Inc. She can be reached at 601 Riverside Ave., Bldg. 5, Fourth Floor, Jacksonville, Fla. 32204, 904.854.5741 or Eileen.Fernandez@fnf.com.

LAWRENCE J. HODZ and Vivian Cortes Hodz ('02) welcomed their second child, Hannah Victoria Hodz, on January 22, 2009. She weighed 6.15 pounds and was 19 ¾ inches long. Lawrence is a shareholder at Maney & Gordon, P.A.

JEZABEL LLORENTE has been named a contract partner at Tew Cardenas LLP. She can be reached at 305.536.8217 or jl@tewlaw.com.

SCOTT R. MURPHY has been named partner in the Grand Rapids, Michigan, office of Barnes & Thornburg. He is a member of the litigation department and focuses on complex commercial disputes, construction litigation and insurance coverage disputes.

SHARON S. TRAXLER is assistant general counsel for the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Officer Discipline Section. She can be reached at 850.410.7684.



ALLISON E. TURNBULL has been elected to partnership in the national law firm of Baker & Hostetler LLP, in its Orlando office. She is a member of the business group and concentrates her

practice on land use and real estate development.

2002



JEANNE BISNETTE CURTIN has opened a new firm with partners including Ethan Way ('98). The firm is Hartman Curtin and Way, P.A. She also has joined the board of BoysTown. She can be reached by calling 850.386.4242.

JASON R. DOSS and his wife, Joy ('03), have opened The Doss Firm, LLC. He can be reached at P.O. Box 965669, Marietta, Ga. 30066, 770.578.1314 or jasondoss@dossfirm.com.

MONICA M. EVANS has been recognized for providing pro bono assistance to Florida homeowners facing foreclosure. She has volunteered for Florida Attorneys Saving Homes (FLASH). She is an attorney at Messer, Caparello & Self, P.A. in Tallahassee.

JULIE C. GRIFFITHS is a captain at the Naval Air Warfare Center Training Systems Division. She can be reached at Office of Counsel, Code 11.3, 12350 Research Parkway, Orlando, Fla. 32826, 407.380.4971 or Julie.Griffiths@navy.mil.

VIVIAN D. CORTES HODZ and Lawrence Hodz ('01) welcomed their second child, Hannah Victoria Hodz, on January 22, 2009. She weighed 6.15 pounds and was 19 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches long. Vivian practices family law at The Law Office of Vivian Cortes Hodz, P.A.

MATTHEW D. "MATT" SCHULTZ has been named a shareholder in the Pensacola firm of Levin, Papantonio, Thomas, Mitchell,

Echsner & Proctor, P.A. His practice includes complex individual and class actions on behalf of plaintiffs.

THOMAS R. SULLIVAN has been elevated to partner at Lowndes, Drosdick, Doster, Kantor & Reed, P.A. in Orlando.

MICHAEL L. WENGER is now corporate counsel with Siemens Corporation. He can be reached at 400 N. Alafaya Trail, MC Q2-480, Orlando, Fla. 32826, wenger.michael@siemens.com or 407.736.3426.

2003

JOHN THOMAS CARDILLO, JR. has been accepted into the fellowship program of the Real Property, Probate and Trust Law Section of The Florida Bar.

JOY L. DOSS and her husband, Jason ('02), have opened The Doss Firm, LLC. She can be reached at P.O. Box 965669, Marietta, Ga. 30066, 770.578.1314 or joydoss@dossfirm.com.

HEATHER M. LAMMERS has been named an associate at Saxon, Gilmore, Carraway, Gibbons, Lash & Wilcox, PA in Tampa. Her practice focuses on general civil litigation, appellate law, creditors' rights issues and state governmental issues.

NOELLE M. MELANSON is president of the Lee County Association for Women Lawyers. She is an associate at Phoenix Law Partners, PA in Fort Myers.

MATTHEW D. VINSON has been named partner at Beggs & Lane, LLP in Pensacola. He focuses his practice on real estate, banking and commercial law.



JOSHUA G. WHITE is counsel in the law department of Saudi Aramco, an oil company in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. He and wife Sarah Swindle White had their first baby September 16, 2008. Harper Kate White was born in West Palm Beach and weighed 6 pounds, 15.8 ounces and was 19 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches long. White can be reached at North

Administration Building, Room 3080-A, P.O. Box 5000, Dhahran 31311 Saudi Arabia.

2004

AARON C. BATES was instrumental in getting legislation passed that allows for personal care attendants for those with severe and chronic disabilities.



MARK L. BONFANTI is labor and employment counsel for C&S Wholesale Grocers, Inc. He can be reached at 10 Optical Ave., Keene, N.H. 03431 or 603.354.7342.

PAUL DARAGJATI serves as general counsel for the Fraternal Order of Police in Jacksonville. A former police officer, he defends police officers in labor employee defense, federal civil cases and police shootings.



JENNIFER R. DIXON has been named senior associate at Lowndes, Drosdick, Doster, Kantor & Reed, P.A. She serves on the boards of the Florida State Law Alumni Association, Girl Scouts of Citrus Council and Orlando Theatre Project and serves the Berklee Alumni Chapter, Orlando as co-coordinator.

DAVID A. KAPLAN practices at Stoneburner Berry Glocker & Purcell, P.A. He can be reached at 841 Prudential Dr., Ste. 1400, Jacksonville, Fla. 32207-8364, 904.348.6854 or dkaplan@jaxbusinesslaw.com.

WILLIAM KEITH KNIGHT recently joined AndersonGlenn, LLC. He can be reached at 814 A1A N., Ste. 200, Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla. 32082-8200, 904.273.4734 or knight@asglaw.com.

STEPHEN KIRK MCDANIEL has joined Blank & Meenan, P.A. in Tallahassee as an associate. His practice areas include commercial litigation and insurance.



TARA S. ROSENBLUM and her husband Brett have a daughter named Rachel who turned one on January 22, 2009. Tara is the managing attorney of Legal Services of North Florida, Inc.

JESSICA J. SAGE is now staff counsel for Americans United for Life in Washington, D.C.

2005



MICHAEL J. BONFANTI and **REBECCA BANDY BONFANTI** welcomed a son on January 11, 2009. Mason Bonfanti weighed 9 pounds, 13.5 ounces and was 21.7 inches long. Michael Bonfanti is an attorney with Conroy, Simberg, Ganon, Krevans, Abel, Lurvey, Morrow & Schefer, P.A. Rebecca Bonfanti is an attorney with Powell & Mack in Tallahassee.

JOANNA L.C. BONFANTI is program manager of compliance for C&S Wholesale Grocers. She can be reached at 7 Corporate Dr., Keene, N.H. 03431 or 603.354.4925.

AMANDA L. BROCK has been elected to the board of trustees for the Calusa Nature Center & Planetarium in Fort Myers. She practices in Henderson, Franklin, Starnes & Holt, P.A.'s land use and environmental law division, focusing on hazardous waste site remediation and environmental assessment and compliance.

JOSEPH R. COKER returned to Fisher, Rushmer, Werrenrath, Dickson, Talley & Dunlap in Orlando as an associate concentrating on commercial litigation.

COURTNEY Y. CONNELL has joined the Summit County (Utah) attorney's office as a juvenile court prosecutor.

DAVID H. ECHAVARRIA has joined Kahn & Associates, L.L.C. He can be reached at 305.409.4354 or dechavarria@kahnandassociates.com.

TODD D. ENGELHARDT is now an attorney with Sniffen Law Firm, P.A. He practices in the areas of labor and employment law, commercial litigation and commercial transactions, civil rights litigation, professional license defense and appellate practice. He also has experience in trademark and copyrights, probate and banking and finance issues. He can be reached at 211 E. Call St., Tallahassee, Fla. 32301, tengelhardt@sniffenlaw.com or 850.205.1996.

JESSICA E. FAIRWEATHER practices in labor and employment law at Kunkel Miller & Hament in Sarasota. She can be reached at 235 N. Orange Ave., Ste. 200, Sarasota, Fla. 34236, 941.365.6006 or jessica@knhlaborlaw.com.

JOHN B. FULLER, III has joined the firm of Van Scoyoc Associates, Inc. in Washington, D.C. He can be reached at 202.737.7380 or jfuller@vsadc.com.

CHRISTINE A. DEMAERE HOKE has joined the international firm of K&L Gates LLP. She is an associate in its Charlotte office.

CAMERON M. KENNEDY and William W. Corry ('73) have opened Corry & Kennedy, P.A. in Tallahassee.

IVETTE BÓSSOLO PEREZ has joined the firm of Longwell & Gentle, P.A. She can be reached at 189 S. Orange Ave., Ste. 900-S, Orlando, Fla. 32801, 407.426.5757 or ip@longwellgentle.com.

2006

KRISTIN A. GARDNER has joined Dunlap & Shipman, P.A. The firm is located at 2065 Thomasville Rd., Ste. 102, Tallahassee, Fla. 32308-0733.

KELLIE SYMONS HALL of ShuffieldLowman serves on the planning committee for the Professional Women's Exchange, a Central Florida Association for Women Lawyers-sponsored event.

MARY LINZEE VAN LEUVEN has joined the firm of Williams, Gautier, Gwynn, DeLoach & Sorenson, P.A., where she specializes in bankruptcy, creditor rights and litigation.

CHRISTINE N. SENNE is an associate practicing environmental law with Akerman Senterfitt. She can be reached at 106 E. College Ave., Fl. 12, Tallahassee, Fla. 32301-7748, 850.224.9634 or Christine.senne@akerman.com.

2007

JOE D. BRIGGS works for the National Football League Players Association in Financial Programs and Advisor Administration. He can be reached at 1324 Maryland Ave. NE, Washington, D.C. 20002-4402, 202.756.9138 or joe.briggs@nflplayers.com.

THOMAS M. HUTTON married Erica Toor at First Presbyterian Church in Panama City on February 21, 2009.

CONTI J. MOORE recently was honored by the Clark County (Nevada) Bar Association for outstanding service in the legal profession. In 2008, she donated more than 285 hours of pro bono legal services in the Las Vegas community. She also has served on a Nevada Women's Day of Service panel. She is a member of Phenomenal Women Las Vegas and the Las Vegas Chapter of the National Bar Association. She is an associate at Marquis & Aurbach practicing business and general civil litigation.



DAVID B. RAINES is a captain and infantry officer for the 81st BCT of the Washington National Guard. The unit's mission is to patrol a large village in northern Iraq just south of Mosul, and it does an equal share of combat operations and humanitarian efforts. He is on his fourth combat tour in 12 years of Army service.

REBEKAH A. SMITH has joined Dunlap & Shipman, P.A. The firm is located at 2065 Thomasville Rd., Ste. 102, Tallahassee, Fla. 32308-0733.

2008

JOSHUA AUBUCHON is a lobbyist for Pennington, Moore, Wilkinson, Bell and Dunbar P.A. in Tallahassee.

ELIZABETH PAGE BRADLEY is land initiative director for the Association County Commissioners of Georgia.

HUGO S. "BRAD" DEBEAUBIEN has been named an associate at Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick LLP in Tampa. He will practice in the areas of health care and labor and employment.

JENNIFER L. DONOHUE works in the office of the public defender for the Tenth Judicial Circuit. She can be reached at 255 N. Broadway, 3rd Floor, P.O. Box 9000-PD, Bartow, Fla. 33831-9000.

BENJAMIN J. "BEN" GIBSON is director of internal communications for Florida Representative Dean Cannon (R-Winter Park).

VIRGINIA L. GULDE has joined Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough in Tallahassee.

BRANDY E. HANCE is an attorney for the Foundation for Excellence in Education in Tallahassee.

Last Chance to Give to the Annual Fund

June 30 is the last day you can give to this year's Annual Fund. Please help us reach our goal of 28 percent alumni participation by sending a gift of any amount to: Florida State Law, Office of Development & Alumni Affairs, Tallahassee, Fla. 32306-1601. You can also give online at: http://www.law.fsu.edu/alumni/annual_fund.html.

If you have any questions about giving to this year's Annual Fund, contact Becky Shepherd at 850.644.0231 or rshepher@law.fsu.edu. Thank you for your support of the Annual Fund and Florida State Law!

ASHLEY A. LIGAS is a legislative assistant in the office of Florida Senator Dan Gelber (D-Miami).

WILLIAM R. "BUDDY" MUSGROVE has been admitted to the Georgia Bar. He is an attorney at Autry, Horton & Cole, LLP. He can be reached at musgrove@ahclaw.com.

MARK W. NONNI has joined Eubanks, Barrett, Fasig & Brooks in Tallahassee as an associate in the personal injury division.

SARAH REBECCA RISSMAN has joined the Lake County Attorney's Office. She can be reached at P.O. Box 7800, Tavares, Fla. 32778-7800, srissman@lakecountyfl.gov or 352.343.9787 ext. 9787.

KRISTA A. SIVICK has joined Baker & Hostetler, LLP as an associate in its Orlando office.

STEVEN P. "STEVE" SZYMANSKI ran the Tallahassee Ultramarathon (50 miles) in honor of Professor Steve Gey and to raise money for ALS research. He also attended an Army JAG Officer basic course at Fort Lee, Virginia.

2009

EVAN H. FREDERICK has joined the West Palm Beach firm of McCabe Rabin, P.A. as an associate. He graduated with a joint J.D./M.B.A. in December.

In Memoriam

DAVIS G. ANDERSON, JR., '73, died September 29, 2008. He practiced at the Florida Attorney General's Office and lived in Tampa.

DENNIS FARRINGTON, '76, of Niceville, died July 16, 2008. The Air Force captain had won a class action lawsuit against the state of Michigan on behalf of the Vietnam War veterans of Michigan.

JOSEPH T. JORDAN, '77, died December 22, 2008, in West Palm Beach.

WILLIAM SCOTT LINDSEY, '81, died January 20, 2009, in Tallahassee.

KEITH A. LOWENTHAL, '08, died April 21, 2009.

BARRY ZANE RHODES, '72, died October 29, 2008, of complications of cancer. The Quincy resident most recently worked for the Florida Department of Corrections.

JAMES L. SCAGGS, '75, of St. Augustine, died February 6, 2009. His career focused on public education.

DENNIS S. SILVER, '69, died February 15, 2009, of complications from cancer. He had practiced law in Sarasota for 34 years before retiring in 2004.

Faculty Members Serve as Visiting Professors at Nation's Top Schools

Several Florida State Law faculty members recently served for a semester or year at some of the nation's top law schools.

Assistant Professor **Brian Galle** spent the 2008-09 academic year teaching at Georgetown University Law Center — where he earned his LL.M. in 2006. He taught Tax I, Tax II, and a law and public finance seminar.

Harvard Law School was the temporary teaching home for two Florida State environmental law professors. Matthews & Hawkins Professor of Property **J.B. Ruhl** taught there during the spring of 2008. Environmental and land use law expert Ruhl taught a core Land Use course and a seminar. Harry M. Walborsky Professor and Associate Dean for Research **Jim Rossi** spent spring 2009 teaching at Harvard Law. He taught Administrative Law and Energy Law.

Professor **Dave Markell** returned to his alma mater, the University of Virginia School of Law, as a visiting professor this spring. The Steven M. Goldstein Professor taught Environmental Law and a seminar about NAFTA and the environment.

By serving as examples of the legal expertise that exists on the law school's faculty, visiting professors help improve Florida State Law's reputation at other institutions.



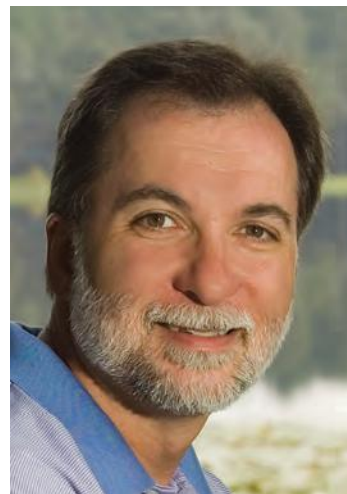
Brian Galle



Dave Markell



Jim Rossi



J.B. Ruhl

By serving as examples of the legal expertise that exists on the law school's faculty, visiting professors help improve Florida State Law's reputation at other institutions.

Faculty Media Hits

Fred Abbott was quoted in two *International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development* articles on January 28 and one on January 21.

Paolo Annino was quoted in March 1 and April 25 *St. Petersburg Times* articles about the Public Interest Law Center. He was also quoted in the April 15 *Florida Bar News* and an April 11 *Orlando Sentinel* commentary piece. In March, Annino was quoted in a German newsmagazine, *Focus*. On January 30, he appeared in the Public Broadcasting Service television show “Religion & Ethics Newsweekly.”

Rob Atkinson was quoted in a *Daily Business Review* article about inadvertent information leaks on October 1.

Beth Burch was quoted in an October 3 *Tallahassee Democrat* article about a \$1 million settlement.

Donna Christie was quoted in a March 24 *Tampa Tribune* article about public access to beaches.

Robin Craig was quoted in the April edition of *Inside Counsel* magazine in an article about the new White House’s environmental impact. On December 1, she also was quoted in *U.S. News & World Report* about President Obama’s likely water quality rules.

Sandy D’Alemberte was quoted in a March 30 *Fort Myers News-Press* article. He also was quoted in a *Palm Beach Post* article on December 24 and an *Ocala Star-Banner* article on December 4. All three articles were about judicial vacancies.

Joseph Dodge was quoted in a February 24 *Chicago Tribune* article about Rahm Emanuel’s Senate confirmation hearings.

Dino Falaschetti co-wrote an editorial column about political-risk insurance in the January 29 *Orlando Sentinel*.

Brian Galle was quoted about federal stimulus money in *The State* on March 27.

Steve Gey was featured in an April 12 *St. Petersburg Times* article.

Faye Jones was quoted in a September 27 *Seattle Tech Report* blog about printed books’ problems.

Larry Krieger was featured in a *National Jurist* article in February about law students and finding balance.

Wayne Logan was quoted in *The Rutland (Vermont) Herald* on April 19. He also made comments about sex-offender registry in an *Orlando Sentinel* article on March 28 and a stateline.org article on January 12.

Dan Markel was quoted in a January 26 *New York Times* editorial about shaming the greedy. He was also quoted in a January 22 *Times Higher Education* article about President Obama’s White House staff.

Dave Markell was featured in a January 30 *Virginia Law Weekly* article about returning to his alma mater as a visiting professor.

Gregg Polsky wrote an editorial about performance-based compensation that was published in the December 7 issue of *Financial Week*.

Jim Rossi was quoted in *The New York Times* on March 26 in an article about President Obama’s new solicitor general.

J.B. Ruhl was quoted in the Bureau of National Affairs’ *Daily Environment Report* on April 13 in an article about the Clean Air Act.

Don Weidner was quoted in a January 19 *National Law Journal* article about law schools dealing with budget cuts. He also discussed alumnus Ricky Polston’s move to the Florida Supreme Court in an October 2 *Tampa Tribune* article.

FACULTY NOTES

Includes selected faculty publications, external presentations and recognitions since the last issue of *Florida State Law*.

Frederick M. Abbott

EDWARD BALL EMINENT SCHOLAR

Article: *Worst Fears Realised: The Dutch Confiscation of Medicines Bound from India to Brazil*, 13 BRIDGES (ICTSD) No. 1, February 2009. **Presentations:** *An International Legal Framework for Access to H5N1 Virus Samples and Globally Adequate Vaccine Supply: Basic Concepts* (Wasan Island, Canada, WHO Scientific Resource Group Meeting, September 2008); *Patent Landscaping in the Field of Medicines: Policy and Technical Options* (New York, UNDP-WHO-EPO Technical Consultation, Transparency in the Patent System: Meeting Patent Information Needs of Developing Countries, October 2008); *The Future of TRIPS Issues in the Doha Round* (Geneva, Switzerland, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development Roundtable Discussion, October 2008); *Assessing Claims of Common Law Rights in UDRP Cases* (Geneva, Switzerland, World Intellectual Property Organization Domain Name Panelists Meeting, October 2008); *Cross-Retaliation in TRIPS: Issues of Law and Practice* (Geneva, Switzerland, ICTSD Roundtable on Cross-Retaliation in TRIPS and GATS: Options for Developing Countries, October 2008); *Innovation and Technology Transfer to Address Climate Change: Lessons from Global Policy Development on Intellectual Property and*

Public Health (Poznań, Poland, Meeting on “A Post-2012 Technology and Finance Framework,” organized by ICTSD, ECN and the University of Sussex, in connection with the United Nations Climate Change Conference, December 2008); *Trade-Related Intellectual Property Rights* (University of Barcelona, Spain, Masters Program on International Economic Law & Policy, January 2009); *Trade-Related Intellectual Property Rights* (CARICOM Regional Project on Coordination of Intellectual Property and Medicines Procurement Systems, Meeting with Government Officials in the Dominican Republic and Bahamas, February 2009).

Kelli A. Alces

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

Article: *Strategic Governance*, 50 ARIZ. L. REV. 1053 (2008). **Presentation:** *Learning How to Replace Mandatory Fiduciary Duties by Looking at Unincorporated Firms* (American Association of Law Schools Annual Meeting, Agency, Partnership, LLCs & Unincorporated Associations Section Meeting, January 2009).

Tamara G. Blenkhorn

LEGAL WRITING PROFESSOR

Presentation: *Legal Research and Citation* (San Antonio, Texas, Association of Bankruptcy Judicial Assistants Seminar and Exam, September 2008).

Elizabeth Chamblee Burch

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

Articles: *Securities Class Actions as Pragmatic Ex Post Regulation*, 43 GA. L. REV. 63 (2008); *Procedural Justice in Nonclass Aggregation*, 44 WAKE FOREST L. REV. 1 (2009). **Presentations:** *Civil Justice in America* (Albany Law School, Commentator for Conference on Civil Justice, November 2008); *Mass Settlements via Contracts with Plaintiffs' Law Firms and Procedural Justice in Nonclass Aggregation* (as background material) (Vanderbilt University Law School Roundtable, January 2009).

Robin Kundis Craig

ATTORNEYS' TITLE INSURANCE FUND
PROFESSOR AND ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS

Chapter: *Oceans and Estuaries: The Ocean Commissions' Unfulfilled Vision*, in AGENDA FOR A SUSTAINABLE AMERICA (John C. Dernbach, ed.), at 221-37 (Environmental Law Institute January 2009). **Articles:** *Justice Kennedy and Ecosystem Services: A Functional Approach to Clean Water Act Jurisdiction After Rapanos*, 38 ENVIRONMENTAL LAW 635 (2008); *Supreme Court News*, ABA ADMINISTRATIVE & REGULATORY LAW NEWS (2008). **Presentations:** *A Public Health Approach to Sea Level Rise* (Chapel Hill, North Carolina, University of North Carolina School of Law & University of Houston Law Center, Workshop on Adapting Legal Regimes in the Face of Climate Change, October 2008); *The Navy's SONAR and Marine Mammals: Law and Policy* (Boston College School of Law, 15-Ton Canaries: the Great Whales of the North Atlantic, Natural

Indicators of Pressing Challenges to the Health of Global Oceans, Climate, Science, Law, Policy & Government, October 2008); *Public Health Valuation in Environmental Enforcement: The Basics* (Carbondale, Illinois, Southern Illinois University Law Journal Symposium: Contemporary Issues at the Intersection of Public Health and Environmental Law, February 2009); *Climate Change Comes to the Clean Water Act: Now What?* (Lexington, Virginia, Remote Participant in Washington & Lee School of Law Symposium: Climate Policy for the Obama Administration, February 2009); *Supreme Court Update* (Panelist, Keystone, Colorado, 38th Annual Conference on Environmental Law, American Bar Association Section on Environment, Energy, and Resources, March 2009).

Talbot "Sandy" D'Alemberte

PRESIDENT EMERITUS AND PROFESSOR

Presentations: *A Symposium Celebrating the 30th Anniversary of Cameras in the Courtroom* (St. Petersburg, Panel Presentation, First Amendment Foundation and The Poynter Institute, September 2008); *Keynote Speech* (Tampa, 2008 Statewide Meeting of Florida Legal Services, October 2008); *Creating a Global Rule of Law Culture* (Panel Presentation, Minnesota Journal of International Law's Fall 2008 Symposium, November 2008). **Recognition:** Received the Florida State Alumni Association's 2008 Bernard Sliger Award (November 2008).

Joseph Dodge

STEARNS WEAVER MILLER WEISSLER

ALHADEFF & SITTERSON PROFESSOR

Article: *Replace the Estate Tax with a Realization Accessions Tax*, 122 Tax Notes 1151 (March 2, 2009).

Charles W. Ehrhardt

EMERITUS PROFESSOR

Presentations: *Evidence, Civil Trial Lawyers Certification Review* (Tampa, Trial Lawyers Section of The Florida Bar, February 2009); *Recent Hearsay Developments, Advanced Evidence Seminar* (Tampa, The Florida Bar, March 2009).

Dino Falaschetti

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF LAW AND
ECONOMICS

Articles: *Rocking the Fed's Boat*, HOOVER DIGEST, 2008, no. 4 (with Michael Orlando), online at <http://www.hoover.org/publications/digest/30645154.html>; *Can Lobbying Prevent Anti-competitive Outcomes? Evidence on Consumer Monopsony in Telecommunications*, 4 J. COMPETITION L. & ECON. 1065 (2008); *Does a Hospital's Profit Status Affect its Operational Scope?* 33 REV. INDUSTRIAL ORG. 129-59 (2008) (with Marco Castañeda) (awarded *Best Paper by a Junior Author* by the Industrial Organization Society). **Presentations:** *Democratic Governance and Economic Performance: How Accountability Goes too far in Politics, Law, and Business* (Washington University in St. Louis, Center for New Institutional Social Science, September 2008); *Shareholder Democracy and Corporate Governance* (Cornell University, Department of Policy Analysis and Management, Oc-

tober 2008); *Auditor Independence and Earnings Quality: Evidence for Market Discipline vs. Sarbanes-Oxley Proscriptions* (Cornell University Law School, October 2008); *Auditor Independence and Earnings Quality: Evidence for Market Discipline vs. Sarbanes-Oxley Proscriptions* (University of Texas School of Law, November 2008); *The Politics of Inefficient Regulation, and What Insurers Can Do About It* (Orlando, State of the Florida Insurance Market Summit, January 2009); *Solvency* (Orlando, Florida Chamber Property Insurance Summit, February 2009); *Politics, Law, and Economic Performance: Implications for the Current Recession* (Tallahassee, University of Chicago Alumni Club, February 2009); *A Political Economy of Financial Services Regulation* (Tallahassee, Capital Campus Florida, Mercatus Center, February 2009); *Education, Finance, and the Political Economy of Productivity* (Tallahassee, Florida Senate, Select Committee on Florida's Economy, February 2009); *Politics, Law, and Economic Performance: Implications for the Current Recession* (Tallahassee, Florida House of Representatives, Office of the Speaker-Designate, March 2009). **Appointment:** Campbell National Fellow at the Hoover Institution, Stanford University, summer and fall of 2009.

Brian Galle

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

Articles: *Federal Grants, State Decisions*, 88 B.U. L. REV. 875 (2008); *Tax Fairness*, 65 WASHINGTON & LEE L. REV. 1323 (2008); *The LDS Church, Proposition Eight, and the Federal Law of Charities*, 103 Nw. U. L. REV. COLLOQUY 370 (2009). **Presentations:** *Do Hidden Taxes Increase Welfare?* (Georgetown University Law Center, October 2008); *Do Hidden Taxes Increase Welfare?* (National Tax Association Annual Conference, November 2008); *Fiscal Federalism and Preemption* (NYU Annual Survey of American Law 2009 Symposium, Tort Law in the Shadow of Preemption, February 2009); *Laboratories of Democracy? Policy Innovation in Decentralized Governments* (Vanderbilt Law School, February 2009).

Steven G. Gey

DAVID & DEBORAH FONVIELLE AND DONALD & JANET HINKLE PROFESSOR

Article: *The First Amendment and the Dissemination of Socially Worthless Untruths*, 36 FLA. ST. U. L. REV 1 (2008).

Adam J. Hirsch

WILLIAM & CATHERINE VANDERCREEK PROFESSOR

Articles: *Text and Time: A Theory of Testamentary Obsolescence*, 86 WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY LAW REVIEW 609 (2009); *Disclaimers and UDPLA's Unintended Consequences*, 36 ESTATE PLANNING 34 (April 2009). **Presentations:** *Text and Time: A Theory of Testamentary Obsolescence* (Fiduciary Law Institute, July 2008); *Text and Time: A Theory of Testamentary Obsolescence* (University of

San Diego School of Law Faculty Colloquium, November 2008); *Disclaimers and UDPLA's Unintended Consequences* (American College of Trust and Estate Counsel Fall Meeting, November 2008); *Delaware Unifies the Law of Charitable and Noncharitable Purpose Trusts* (American College of Trust and Estate Counsel Annual Meeting, March 2009).

Lawrence S. Krieger

CLINICAL PROFESSOR AND DIRECTOR OF CLINICAL EXTERNSHIP PROGRAMS

Presentations: *Is the Budget that Important to Your Career Satisfaction?* (Tallahassee, Government Lawyers Association, October 2008); *Optimal Courtroom Management: Factors Impacting Professionalism and Performance Among Lawyers and Judges* (Amelia Island, Florida Conference of County Court Judges, December 2008); *Do the Carnegie Report and Best Practices for Legal Education Mandate a "Humanized" Law School?* (San Diego, Annual Meeting of the Association of American Law Schools, January 2009).

Tahirih V. Lee

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

Presentations: *New Challenges for U.S.-China Trade* (Shanghai, China, Shanghai Institute of Foreign Trade, September 2008); *French Administration of Law in China, 1840 to 1930* (Shanghai, China, The 3rd World Forum on China Studies, organized by the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences and the Shanghai Municipal Information Office in cooperation with the State Council Information Office of the People's Republic of China, September

2008); *Imperialism and Customary Land Law in Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Century Shanghai* (Ottawa, Canada, Annual American Society for Legal History, November 2008); *Procedure as Strategy for Foreign Control Over Land in Extraterritorial Shanghai* (City University of Hong Kong, School of Law, December 2008).

Wayne A. Logan

GARY & SALLYN PAJIC PROFESSOR AND ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Article: *Criminal Justice Federalism and National Sex Offender Policy*, 6 OHIO STATE JOURNAL OF CRIMINAL LAW 51 (2008). **Presentations:** *Federalism Implications of Congressional Efforts to Nationalize Sex Offender Policy* (Atlanta, National Conference of State Legislatures Meeting, December 2008); *Great Fourth Amendment Dissents: Justice O'Connor's Dissent in Atwater v. City of Lago Vista* (Oxford, Mississippi, University of Mississippi Law School, National Center for Justice and the Rule of Law, February 2009).

Dan Markel

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

Articles: *Punishing Family Status*, 88 B.U. L. Rev. 1327 (2008) (with Jenifer M. Collins & Ethan J. Leib); *Voluntarism, Vulnerability and Criminal Law: A Response to Professors Hills and O'Hear*, 88 B.U. L. Rev. 1449 (2008) (with Ethan J. Leib & Jennifer M. Collins); *Retributive Damages: A Theory of Punitive Damages as Intermediate Sanction*, 94 CORNELL L. REV. 239 (2009). **Presentations:** *How Should Punitive Damages Work?* (Southeastern Association of Law Schools, August 2008);

How Should Punitive Damages Work? (Marquette Law School, September 2008); *How Should Punitive Damages Work?* (Canadian Law and Economics Association, September 2008); *Executing Retributivism* (Amherst College, October 2008); *How Should Punitive Damages Work?* (Brooklyn Law School, November 2008); *How Should Punitive Damages Work?* (Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law, December 2008); *How Should Punitive Damages Work?* (University of Houston Law Center, February 2009); *Can Punitive Damages Law Inform the Copyright Infringement Litigation?* (Interview with UCLA Law Professor Doug Lichtman in the IP Colloquium, online at <http://www.ipcolloquium.com/Programs/5.html>, February 2009).

David L. Markell

STEVEN M. GOLDSTEIN PROFESSOR

Article: *Using Empirical Research to Design Government Citizen Participation Processes: A Case Study of Citizens' Roles in Environmental Compliance and Enforcement*, 57 KANSAS L. REV. 1 (2008) (co-authored with Professor Tom Tyler). **Presentations:** *Greening the Economy Sustainably* (Washington and Lee Law School Symposium: Climate Policy Advice for the Obama Administration, February 2009); *Toxic Regulation: Goals and Strategies* (Washington University Journal of Law & Policy Symposium: New Directions in Environmental Law, March 2009).

Gregg D. Polsky

SHEILA M. MCDEVITT PROFESSOR

Articles: *The Problem with Performance-Based Compensation*, FINANCIAL WEEK

(December 8, 2008); *Private Equity Management Fee Conversions*, 122 TAX NOTES 743 (February 9, 2009). **Presentations:** *Recent Partnership Tax Developments* (San Francisco, Panel Presentation at the ABA Tax Section Fall Meeting, September 2008); *This Treas. Reg. is Wrong! Substantive and Procedural Challenges and Standards of Review for Attacking Department of Treasury Tax Regulations* (San Francisco, Panel Presentation at the ABA Tax Section Fall Meeting, September 2008); *Taxing Structured Settlements* (with Brant Hellwig) (Dallas, Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law's Tax Policy Colloquium, February 2009); *This Treas. Reg. is Wrong! Substantive and Procedural Challenges and Standards of Review for Attacking Department of Treasury Tax Regulations* (American Bar Association Tax Section Teleconference Panel, February 2009); *Mugel National Tax Moot Court Competition* (Buffalo, New York, Final Round Judge, February 2009).

Jim Rossi

HARRY M. WALBORSKY PROFESSOR AND ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR RESEARCH

Article: *Why the Filed Rate Doctrine Should Not Imply Blanket Judicial Deference to Regulatory Agencies*, ABA ADMINISTRATIVE & REGULATORY LAW NEWS (Fall 2008). **Presentations:** *Encouraging and Promoting Faculty Scholarship: Myths and Pitfalls* (Suffolk Law School Workshop, February 2009); *Beyond Symbolic Goals in Energy Legislation* (Harvard Environmental Law Review Lecture, February 2009); *Public Choice and Energy Law* (Vancouver, British Columbia, Society for

Environmental Law & Economics, March 2009).

J.B. Ruhl

MATTHEWS & HAWKINS PROFESSOR OF PROPERTY

Chapter: *Ecosystem Services: The Nature of Valuing Nature*, in CONSERVATION FOR A NEW GENERATION - REDEFINING NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (Rick Knight & Courtney White, eds.) (2008). **Articles:** *The Tragedy of Ecosystem Services*, 58 BIOSCIENCE 969 (2008) (with C. Lant and S. Kraft); *Law's Complexity – A Primer*, 24 GA. ST. U. L. REV. 885 (2008) (invited symposium); *Agriculture and Ecosystem Services – Strategies for State and Local Government*, 17 N.Y.U. ENVTL. L.J. 424 (2008) (invited symposium); *Making Nuisance Ecological*, 58 CASE W. RES. L. REV. 753 (2008) (invited symposium); *Adaptive Management for Natural Resources — Inevitable, Impossible, or Both?* 54 ROCKY MTN. MINERAL LAW INSTITUTE ANNUAL PROCEEDINGS 11-1 (2008); *Bank Failure*, THE ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM, Jan-Feb 2009, at 22. **Presentations:** *Whittling Away at Massive Problems* (Indiana University-Bloomington Law School, September 2008); *Whittling Away at Massive Problems* (University of Connecticut Law School, October 2008); *Climate Change and Endangered Species* (University of North Carolina Law School Climate Change Conference, October 2008); *Green Building and the Endangered Species Act* (Virginia Environmental Law Journal Annual Symposium, October 2008); *Keeping the Endangered Species Act Relevant* (Duke Environmental Law & Policy

Forum Annual Symposium, October 2008); *Ecosystem Services – A New Old Policy Comes of Age* (University of Connecticut Teale Distinguished Lecturer, October 2008); *Whittling Away at Massive Problems* (University of California, Irvine School of Law, November 2008); *Whittling Away at Massive Problems* (Wake Forest University School of Law, December 2008); *Climate Change and the Endangered Species Act* (National Conservation Training Center, January 2009); *Climbing Mount Mitigation Without a Map* (Washington & Lee Law School Climate Change Symposium Panel, February 2009).

Mark B. Seidenfeld

PATRICIA A. DORE PROFESSOR OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

Presentation: *Who Decides Who Decides: The Institutional Competence of Courts and Agencies to Set Standards of Care* (New York University, Annual Survey of American Law Symposium: Tort Law in the Shadow of Agency Preemption, February 2009).

Nat S. Stern

JOHN W. & ASHLEY E. FROST PROFESSOR

Article: *The Certainty Principle as Justification for the Group Defamation Rule*, 41 ARIZ. ST. L.J. 951 (2008).

Donald J. Weidner

DEAN AND ALUMNI CENTENNIAL PROFESSOR

Presentations: *The Privatization of Public Law Schools* (Lakeland Bar Association, December 2008); *Several presentations at the Advanced Development for Deans Conference* (San Diego, Council for Advancement and Sup-

port of Education, January 2009); *New Scholar Workshop (Property Law)* (Palm Beach, Moderator, Southeastern Association of Law Schools Annual Conference, July 2008).

Lesley Wexler

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

Presentations: *Blood Diamonds* (University of Florida Faculty Workshop, September 2008); *Passive Discrimination* (Northwestern University Law School, Midwest Law and Economics Association, October 2008); *Getting off the Hedonic Treadmill: Applying Happiness Studies to Employment Law* (University of San Francisco, Third Annual Labor and Employment Colloquium, October 2008); *White Collar Arms Races: Revisiting the Work-Life Balance Debate* (Thomas Jefferson Law School, Colloquia in Current Scholarship in Labor and Employment Law, October 2008); *Resource Curses* (University of Miami School of Law, Prawfsfest, December 2008); *Regulating International Labor Through Trade Law* (Temple Law School, Commentator, Junior International Law Society Association Meeting, January 2009).

Florida State Law Offers LL.M. in Environmental Law and Policy



Robin Kundis Craig

Assuming that the university's Board of Trustees grants its approval in June, Florida State Law will offer an LL.M. in Environmental Law and Policy. The law school's newest degree offering builds on our highly-ranked program in environmental law. It gives J.D. holders who did not previously do so the opportunity to concentrate in environmental law.

Florida State Law's program is designed to provide LL.M. students with individualized, one-on-one attention. Incoming students are matched with program faculty members who will mentor them and help design a curriculum that will best suit their interests, educational background and professional needs. Students also will benefit from Florida State Law's location in Tallahassee, which provides unparalleled opportunities for exposure to and employment with state agencies and law firms concentrating on environmental law.

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The master's program takes advantage of the law school's nationally-recognized faculty members, who teach a broad curriculum in the fields of environmental law, natural resources law and land use law. Professor Robin Kundis Craig, who has been named Associate Dean for Environmental Programs, is responsible for coordinating the program.

For more information about the LL.M. in Environmental Law and Policy, visit http://www.law.fsu.edu/academic_programs/environmental/index.html.

Advocacy Teams Continue Tradition of Excellence



L-R: Florida State President T.K. Wetherell, Ramona Thomas and Robert Powell

Third-year students Ramona Thomas and Robert Powell led a year of excellent accomplishments for Florida State’s Moot Court and Mock Trial teams. The duo won the Craven National Constitutional Law Moot Court Competition in March. Thomas brought home best oralist honors from the nationwide competition at the University of North Carolina. Professor Nat Stern coached the team.

Other accomplishments for this year’s Moot Court Team include:

- Ashley Mayer and Trevor Thompson

Third-year students Ramona Thomas and Robert Powell led a year of excellent accomplishments for Florida State’s Moot Court and Mock Trial teams. The duo won the Craven National Constitutional Law Moot Court Competition in March.

were finalists in the George Washington Religious Freedom Competition in Washington, D.C., in February. Mayer received the best overall oral advocate award. The team was coached by Brian Sites ('07).

- Ana Barton and Steven Muscatello were quarterfinalists and best brief award winners in the John J. Gibbons Criminal Procedure Competition at Seton Hall University in March. Muscatello was a top four oralist. They were coached by Dan Stengle ('82).

- Will Hall, Nichole Milton and Brandon White brought home semifinalist and best brief runner-up awards in March from the Luke Charles Moore Invitational Civil Rights Competition at Howard University in Washington, D.C. They were coached by the Honorable Marguerite Davis ('71).
- Ryan Cooper, Andrew Greenlee and Preston McLane were semifinalists in the Pace Environmental Law Competition at Pace Law School in White Plains, New York, in February. McLane received two preliminary round best oralist awards and Cooper received one preliminary round best oralist award. The trio was coached by Tim Atkinson ('93), Tony Cleveland ('76), and Segundo Fernandez.

Mock Trial accomplishments for the academic year included:

- Joseph Percopo, Abby Robinson, Stephanie Sanon and Kerri-Ann Wilson were semifinalists in the ABA Southeast Regional Labor and Employment Law competition in Miami. They were coached by Tom Brooks ('75) and Gary Anton ('81).
- Jessica Goodwin, Trumon Phillips, Gennifer Powell and Raju Vyas received honorable mention recognition for finishing in the top eight in the California Association for Criminal Justice competition in Los Angeles. They were coached by Matt Foster ('94), Tor Jensen-Friedman ('05) and Eric Abrahamsen.

Former Supreme Court Justice Visits Florida State Law

The Mock Trial Team also coordinated the Texas Young Lawyers Southeast Regional Mock Trial Competition in Tallahassee at the Leon County Courthouse in February. Twenty-two teams from Florida, Alabama and Mississippi law schools participated. More than 140 lawyers sat as jurors or judges for the event.

“Hosting the Texas Young Lawyers Association Regional Competition was an enjoyable challenge on several levels. In addition to coordinating the actual competition rounds for 22 teams from all over the Southeast, we spent several months obtaining attorneys and judges from all over the state of Florida to act as jurors and presiding judges, as well as setting up the logistics such as the location of the competition and the reception,” Mock Trial President Jennifer Powell said. “The communication alone required to assemble all the people necessary to pull off the competition was daunting. But with the tireless efforts of the coordination committee, the competition went off without a hitch.”



L-R: Florida State Law Texas Young Lawyers Association Regional Competition team members Nicki Mohr, Sam Harden, Kerri-Ann Wilson, Kelly O'Donnell and Joseph Percopo



Retired Justice
Sandra Day O'Connor

The first female justice of the United States Supreme Court visited Florida State Law on Tuesday, April 7. Retired Justice Sandra Day O'Connor offered law and high school students present insight into her path to the high court and advice on bettering their own careers.

She was in Tallahassee to discuss a civics education program at the Florida Capitol. O'Connor led an effort to develop a Web

site, www.ourcourts.org, with interactive components to encourage middle school-aged children to learn about civics and government.

After discussing the need for civics education, O'Connor answered questions from the students and faculty gathered in the Florida State Law Rotunda.

She described having graduated from Stanford Law in 1952 and being unable to find a job, not because she was unqualified but because she was a woman. “My classmates were having big success at big firms,” she added.

O'Connor said she approached the San Mateo County (California) District Attorney because she heard he had once hired a woman. He explained that he did not have a salary or office space for her, but she promised to work for him for free until a position was available — which she did for three-and-a-half months.

“In today's world, some of you may have to be a little innovative to get jobs,” O'Connor said. She said she had to be innovative to find a position on more than one occasion.



O'Connor mingles with faculty members and students at the law school.

Environmental Law Students Earn National Recognition

Florida State Law's environmental law program is recognized as one of the nation's best, in part, because of the many accomplishments of faculty members. This year, students also earned some national recognition.

In addition to a Moot Court team placing at the Pace Environmental Law Competition, Florida State Law students **Jennifer Kilinski** and **DeWitt Revels**, coached by Visiting Professor Randy Abate, made it to the semifinals of the North American Atlantic Rounds of the International Environmental Moot Court Competition. Kilinski took home second best oralist honors and Revels was third best oralist.

Environmental law students established a tremendous track record on the publishing front during the academic year.

- Third-year student **Karlie Clemons** earned first place in the Hofstra Law School "Energy and the Environment" writing competition for her paper, *Potable, Fresh Water Versus Climate Preservation: Can Florida Justify an Increased Use of Desalination Given Florida's Vulnerability To Climate Change and Current (and Anticipated) Policies?*
- Second-year student **Jacob Cremer** had his article, *Tractors Competing with Bulldozers: Integrating Growth Management and Ecosystem Services to Conserve Agriculture*, published in the *Environmental Law Reporter*.
- Third-year student **Eric Neiberger** won second place in the University of Oklahoma College of Law 2009 Indian Law Writing Competition for his paper, *Seminole Success and Winters Rights: Twenty-One Years After the Seminole Water Rights Compact of 1987*.
- Second-year student **Katherine Weber** published her article, *Increasing Hope for Florida Keys Coral Reefs in the Face of Climate Change*, in the February 2009 issue of the ABA Section on Environment, Energy, and Resources' *Marine Resources Newsletter*.



Castor Speaks at December Graduation

United States Congresswoman Kathy Castor ('91) was the featured speaker at Florida State Law's final fall commencement ceremony on December 13, 2008. Castor, a Democratic representative from Tampa's 11th Congressional District, spoke to graduates and their families about the importance of the changing times in which they earned their juris doctorate degrees.

She acknowledged that the world in which these graduates worked to finish law school was completely different from that in which she graduated in 1991, adding that her class was on the cusp of the technological revolution.

"Computers were not staples in classrooms," she said. "Cell phones were few and far between. Technology was about to explode."

Castor told the 28 of 37 graduates present that in 18 to 20 years, they would be able to look back on this time as a significant period of history.

"You graduate at a time of dynamic change," she reiterated, pointing out the inauguration of the first African-American president in U.S. history, Barack Obama.

Future December graduates will have the opportunity to walk with the rest of their class during spring graduation festivities.

Ellis Among Speakers at International Criminal Tribunals Symposium



Mark Ellis ('84)

Florida State Law alumnus Mark Ellis ('84), executive director of the International Bar Association in London, was part of a Florida State University Center for the Advancement of Human Rights symposium in January.

The symposium, International Criminal Tribunals: Problems and Prospects, was on January 30-31.

Ellis presented "Strengthening the International Criminal Court through Domestic Prosecutions" to approximately 60 students, foreign dignitaries and alumni in attendance.

Ellis opened his remarks by stating that between 1945 and today, there had been 295 armed conflicts in which an estimated 80-90 million civilians had been killed.

"That number is so staggering," he said. "International law needs to become more domestic." The International Criminal Court's goal, he said, is to assist domestic jurisdictions in prosecuting domestic war crimes in court. Ellis' suggestions for doing this include: an international advisory group, capacity building and trial observers. All three are in use in some form in some parts of the world, he added.

President Emeritus and Professor Sandy D'Alemberte, who offered response and facilitated the discussion, called Ellis "far too modest" because "all three ideas are in place now," all at the initiation of Ellis.



David Akerson ('87)

Florida State Law alumnus David Akerson ('87) and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Professor Wayne Logan also participated in the event.

Akerson, who worked for a number of years in the Prosecutor's Office of the International Criminal Tribunal for Former Yugoslavia, spoke in the law school Rotunda on Thursday, January 29. His speech, "From FSU Law School to the International Criminal Tribunals," was a pre-symposium lecture attended primarily by law students.

Students Give at Unprecedented Rate

Surpassing giving records set in previous years, 71 percent of Florida State Law students made cash gifts to the law school during the 2009 Student Annual Fund Drive. This unprecedented rate of student giving was a community-wide effort. Members of the faculty and administration issued challenges to the student body and student leaders helped spread the word about the impact of giving.

First-year students gave at an impressive rate of 85 percent to earn the distinction of the class with the highest overall giving rate.

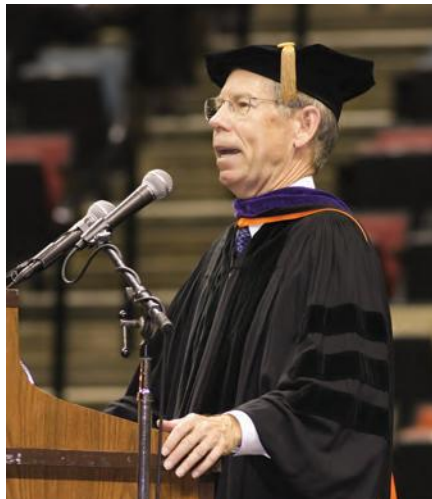
Spring 2009 Graduation



ABOVE
Spring 2009 graduates wait to be hooded.

RIGHT
Florida Attorney General Bill McCollum speaks at the spring 2009 commencement ceremony.

FAR RIGHT
Professor Nat Stern congratulates a graduate.





ABOVE
Maurice Davis is surrounded by friends and family after graduating from Florida State Law.

BELOW
Martin Powell (left) and Robert Powell prepare to enter the Tallahassee-Leon County Civic Center for the graduation ceremony.



Florida State Law Increases Internet Presence



Florida State Law has created several new ways to facilitate finding information on the Web about its people, events and programs.

On Facebook, the law school publishes event reminders, photographs and news about student and alumni achievements. You can become a Florida State Law page “fan” to receive updates. The law school research center also has a page to continuously update students about research workshops. Additionally, the law school has Facebook groups for the Placement Office, Environmental and Land Use Law program and a variety of alumni and student groups.

The Florida State Law LinkedIn group allows members to post job openings, opportunities to collaborate and news articles. Members of the network can communicate as a group or privately. Law school alumni may also use the network to connect to former classmates, coworkers and professors.

Florida State Law also has created a blog, found at <http://floridastatelaw.blogspot.com/>. It provides information about events that have recently happened on campus. Events catalogued include the Justice Sandra Day O’Connor visit, the Student Bar Association Legislative Preview and public interest law placement opportunities.

To engage online through Facebook, LinkedIn or the Florida State Law blog, visit www.law.fsu.edu/alumni/connect_online.html.

Cheeseman Featured at Conflict Resolution Day



Stephen C. Cheeseman ('69) speaks to students at Florida State Law.

Mediation attorney Stephen C. Cheeseman ('69) visited Florida State Law on Mediation Day, Thursday, October 16. He talked to law students about the lack of mediation programs in Southern law schools and encouraged them to “put time and effort into organizing a student organization committed to peer mediation.”

As peacemakers, Cheeseman explained, mediators need to learn conflict resolution, teach it and lead in its long-term development. The process, he said, should start in Leon County and become the model for the state and nation before taking it overseas.

As part of the campus-wide celebration of Mediation Day, undergraduate students involved in dispute resolution classes were encouraged to attend as well. The Florida State Student Mediation Club also coordinated interactive, cooperative games in honor of the day.

Cheeseman is a partner at Cheeseman & Phillips in Tampa, a member of the Florida State Law Board of Visitors and a frequent speaker on campus.

Alumnus Takes Helm of Placement Office



Elmer Ignacio ('01)

Elmer Ignacio ('01) returned to Florida State Law as director of the Placement Office in November. He is responsible for advising and counseling current students, recent graduates and alumni looking to make lateral moves in their careers. The law school alumnus coordinates a variety of on-campus and regional events, including networking noshes, seminars and Mach Speed Mock Interviews.

Ignacio began his legal career as assistant general counsel at the Florida Department of Health before joining the Tallahassee office of Quintairos, Prieto, Wood & Boyer, P.A. as an associate. Prior to joining the Florida State Law administration, Ignacio was an associate at the Tampa firm of Cole, Scott & Kissane, P.A.

Additionally, Ignacio has experience as a guardian ad litem and served as an advisor for a Philippine-based customs brokerage firm in Manila.

One of Ignacio's major goals is to implement a variety of networking opportunities for students and alumni in Miami, Atlanta and beyond. He hopes to help more graduates obtain jobs in big city markets through alumni associations.



Team Gey members celebrate after the 2009 Red Hills Triathlon in Tallahassee. This is the third year the team has participated in the event to raise awareness and funds for ALS research.

CLOSING NOTES...

U.S. News & World Report (2009) ranks our overall program 52nd and our environmental law program 11th in the nation (tied with Stanford and Tulane).

In February 2009, our Moot Court Team won 1st place in the Craven National Constitutional Law Competition held in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. This year's team also won four best oralist awards in national competitions.

Hispanic Business magazine (2008) ranks us the nation's 5th best law school for Hispanic students.

Ninety-eight percent of the graduating class of 2008 was placed within nine months of graduation.



FLORIDA STATE LAW

COLLEGE OF LAW
FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY
TALLAHASSEE, FL 32306-1601

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