

# WIDENER UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

A MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS • Volume 11 • Number 2 • Fall 2004



**Answering the Call:  
Widener Alumni  
in Public Service**

**Honor Roll 2003-2004**

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# MAKING A DIFFERENCE



As our alumni demonstrate every day with their leadership roles in law practice, the judiciary, government service, business, law enforcement, education, the military, charitable organizations and elected office, a law degree opens the door to many career opportunities. In this issue of our magazine, we focus on a few of our many graduates who have chosen to devote their lives to national, state, and local public service. The Widener graduates profiled protect our society at all levels and include the chief counsel of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency, a deputy U.S. attorney, a member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, an assistant New York attorney general, a deputy district attorney in Philadelphia, and military officers with recent or current service

in Iraq and South Korea. All present heroic and inspiring examples to our students and demonstrate the contributions a good lawyer can make to ensuring a better and safer world.

This issue also features stories on two faculty members, Professors Moulton and Dernbach, who are on public service leave from the School of Law. They are making significant contributions to society and their experiences will enrich their classroom teaching and their scholarship for years to come. We look forward to their return.

The service at all levels of government featured in this issue represents just part of the definition of service in the public interest we share with our students. Our students are active in serving the poor and protecting the environment through our clinical programs and our student organizations engage in many community service activities. This coming year, we will launch a Public Service Initiative on both campuses. Through this program, we will develop ways to recognize students who devote time to service, appoint a public interest programs director on each campus to create opportunities for more students to become involved, and raise funds for summer public service positions. We want our students to understand that helping the less fortunate is a privilege, an opportunity, and a necessity if we are to leave a better world for our

children. The alumni featured in this issue and the thousands of other alumni who perform public service, whether governmental, nonprofit or volunteer, provide wonderful role models for our future.

We celebrated our unique two-campus identity at our May 2004 graduation ceremonies with the help of graduation speakers Governor Ruth Ann Minner of Delaware and Governor Ed Rendell of Pennsylvania. Their remarks, which are summarized in this issue, were inspiring and their presence demonstrated how important our law school has become to the states they represent.

Finally, we celebrate, in our Honor Roll of Giving and Honor Roll of Service, the contributions of a group of people who truly make a difference to our School and to our students. To our donors and volunteers, a heartfelt "Thank you." Your financial donations and your contributions of time and talent open the doors of opportunity to our students, enhance their education and enrich their lives.

A handwritten signature in red ink that reads "Douglas E. Ray".

Douglas E. Ray  
Dean

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**Executive Editor**  
Lou Anne Bulik  
Director of University Relations

**Editor/Writer**  
Carrie Fite

**Contributing Writers**  
Mary Berger, Eugene Grimm,  
Mary Marzolla, Nathaniel Nichols

**Photography**  
Greg Benson, Mary Berger,  
Ted Kostans, Carrie Fite, John Rudy

**Design**  
Dominic J. Gazzara

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Joseph Whitehead '88 with some of the 32 other  
Widener alumni in the Philadelphia DA's office.  
Photo by Ted Kostans

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# Answering the Call:

## Widener Alumni Find Their Niche in Public Service

By Carrie L. Fite

*There is no greater calling than to serve your fellow men. There is no greater contribution than to help the weak. There is no greater satisfaction than to have done it well.*

Walter Reuther (1907-1970)  
Labor Leader and Social Activist

Joseph Whitehead Jr. grew up with the idea that serving the public good is a noble endeavor.

“There are several reasons why I entered public service, but it was mainly because of the guidance our parents provided as they raised us. My dad was in the military for 30 years and he always told us to direct our energies and focus our talents outside of ourselves,” says Whitehead, a 1988 graduate of the School of Law.

Whitehead decided that he could best fulfill his father’s instructions by becoming a lawyer. Today he is a deputy district attorney in Philadelphia, leading the unit that prosecutes narcotics cases. His work, however, goes far beyond the courtroom to include building bridges with community groups, business and school leaders, and others in an ongoing effort to address the city’s drug problem from every angle.

### Fighting the Drug Trade

“Approximately 80 percent of crime is drug-related,” says Whitehead, “so this is an opportunity to make a meaningful impact on the quality of life in the city. That has a lot of psychic value.”

Among other duties, Whitehead’s office coordinates the resources necessary to shut down drug houses through efforts such as public nuisance task forces. “We offer a more permanent resolution to the problem by keeping out drug activity, rather than just reacting to it.” But make no mistake, says Whitehead, other units within his division seek severe penalties for those in the drug trade.

**“This is an opportunity to make a meaningful impact on the quality of life in the city.”**

In early May, for example, Whitehead’s unit arrested several members of a suspected drug ring during a predawn raid. “We seized lots of narcotics, weapons, and cash. The evidence led us up the chain of distribution and had an immediate impact on the supply and cost of marijuana,” says Whitehead.

He says the weapons seized during the raid highlight the real cost of drug activity in neighborhoods. “Narcotic organizations don’t go to the police for their disputes. They tend to resolve them with firearms instead and sometimes innocent

people get in the way,” Whitehead says. “It’s such a problem that we’re working on laws that recognize that narcotics and firearms go together and devastate neighborhoods.” Such measures include state laws banning the possession of firearms on the city’s streets and imposing harsher penalties on those who use firearms while committing felonies, including drug offenses.

While Whitehead tackles the drug problem from the local level, 1979 graduate Cynthia Rhoades Ryan approaches it from the national and international level. As chief counsel of the U.S. Drug Enforcement



Cynthia Ryan

Administration (DEA), she manages all of the legal issues confronting the agency, both nationally and internationally, and represents the agency in its dealings with the Department of Justice, the U.S. Congress, and a variety of federal, state, and local agencies.



Ryan joined the DEA in 1988, after serving as a deputy attorney general in Delaware, as staff counsel on the U.S. Senate Permanent Subcommittee of Investigations, and as a trial attorney in the U.S. Department of Justice, where she prosecuted obscenity cases. At the DEA, Ryan quickly became an expert in the intricacies of sharing domestic and foreign intelligence between agencies. As the first chief of the DEA's International Law Section, Ryan represented the agency in all stages of *U.S. v. Noriega*, which charged former Panamanian dictator Manuel Noriega with a variety of offenses related to drug trafficking.

"I reviewed the DEA's existing investigation before the Panama invasion because once he was brought back, the clock [on the statute of limitations] started to tick," says Ryan. The job of trying Noriega was made even more difficult by a lack of training in legal issues among the members of the armed forces. "When the Army went in, they took 23,000 troops to get him, but they weren't trained in chain of custody issues. If we had known about the invasion further ahead of time, we could have trained some of them," says Ryan.

As the agency sifted through the mountain of evidence recovered in Panama, Ryan says, she served as the "wall" for classified information. She made sure that discovery information was produced, as required by law, but monitored, to avoid compromising the DEA's investigations, sources, and methods. The agency installed a secure fax in her office and Ryan says she spent many a night waiting for the transcripts to come through so that she could properly secure them before going home.

"We still have an entire safe full of information," says Ryan, "but in the



Lee A. Solomon

end, the prosecution didn't use much of what the Army had gotten after all."

### Furthering Justice

Unlike Whitehead and Ryan, Lee A. Solomon didn't enter the legal profession with the intent to pursue a career in public service. When Solomon graduated from the School of Law in 1978, his goal was to become a trial lawyer. "I tried to look at where I fit in best, and that was doing trial work with a small litigation firm. I never pictured myself working full time in public service," says Solomon.

He had become politically involved during law school, but didn't go beyond serving as a party committeeman until he was elected to several

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**"As prosecutors,  
you're the one group  
in the justice system  
whose obligation  
is to do the right thing."**

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local offices in the mid-1980s. Solomon says the part-time, unpaid positions fit well with a small, private practice, but a stint as chairman of the public safety committee changed his focus.

"I got involved with the public safety community, which is how I found my niche," says Solomon. "They are a special breed in terms of commitment. They go out there every day knowing there is a risk and they live every day knowing there is something more important than themselves."

Solomon was hooked on public service, going on to serve in the New Jersey General Assembly, then as Camden County prosecutor before being sworn in as a deputy U.S. attorney in June 2002. He says the biggest difference between working in private practice and working as a prosecutor is the nature of his obligation to the justice system.

"In private practice, you may have to do something because of your obligation to your client, but it just doesn't sit right," says Solomon. "As prosecutors, you're the one group in the justice system whose obligation is to do the right thing. Sometimes, justice requires not prosecuting or maybe taking a plea."

Solomon frequently feels the heat when his office loses a case, but maintains, "every time a jury delivers a verdict, the system works." Solomon won't go to trial unless he thinks he has a good case, but says he still holds tremendous respect for the defense bar. "I believe in what they do. The system would be tyranny without them."

Assistant New York Attorney General Damian S. Jackson agrees that defense attorneys serve a vital role in the justice system, but says he enjoys being a prosecutor because he can do more to move a case along. "I can take a more holistic approach and be more proactive as a prosecutor by reviewing the case and trying to find alternatives," says the 1996 graduate. "As a defense



Damian S. Jackson

attorney, there isn't as much control of your cases. You have to wait for the prosecutor to make their move first."

Jackson prosecuted felony drug cases for the offices of the Bronx County district attorney before joining the U.S. attorney's office in the Virgin Islands. As a special assistant U.S. attorney, he prosecuted violations of federal narcotics law stemming from investigations by the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Task Force. The task force was successful and so was Jackson, winning convictions in eight of his 10 federal felony jury trials as well as in four territorial homicide jury trials.

"It was a very specialized unit that only handled drug cases, but after 9/11, a lot of our resources were realigned," Jackson says. Without the resources to investigate cases in as much depth, he decided to return to New York.

Jackson's prosecutions of white-collar crime and insurance fraud may lack the cachet of bringing down drug lords, but they help to keep money in the pocketbooks of average people by keeping insurance premiums more affordable. In less than two years,

Jackson secured two favorable felony jury trial verdicts and 25 felony guilty pleas; recovered hundreds of thousands of dollars in payments to fraudulent medical providers, medical clinics, and repair shops; closed two fraudulent medical facilities and seized the assets of a fraudulent repair shop; and obtained over \$100,000 in fines from defendants.

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**"I can take a more holistic approach and be more proactive as a prosecutor by reviewing the case and trying to find alternatives."**

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Jackson is also prosecuting a case, announced this past April, in which 12 people are indicted on charges related to the operation of two separate auto insurance fraud rings in Brooklyn and Queens. The case is especially notable because two New York City correction officers are among those charged with staging phony car accidents.

## An 'Unsung Hero'

Jackson's community service goes far beyond the courtroom, however. As an assistant district attorney in Brooklyn, he was part of a group that founded "Hoop Brothers," a program that combines basketball and mentoring for youth considered at-risk because of their home situations. "Most of them don't have fathers," Jackson explains. "This is a chance for them to get what they don't have at home—a male role model."

The program, offered through the Children's Aid Society, matches young men, aged 15-17, with college-educated, employed men for one-on-one discussion of issues such as character and career development. The weekly, three-hour meetings also include discussion groups and basketball games.

When Jackson moved to the Virgin Islands, he took the idea with him and started a Hoop Brothers program for young men there. The program so impressed the Virgin Islands' congressional representative that he nominated it for a U.S. Congress Unsung Hero Award in 2002, which it won.

Since returning to New York, Jackson has continued his involvement with the community. He is currently a member of the board of directors of Neighbors Helping Neighbors (NHN), a Brooklyn organization that helps low- and moderate-income people to realize their dreams of home ownership. NHN teaches them how to save for a home, secure their interests in homes they already own, or find the funds to improve their homes. As gentrification spreads to areas throughout the city, Jackson says, the people least able to move are often forced to do so. "All across the city, home values have been rising



Peter J. Daley II

astronomically,” Jackson says. “People can’t afford to buy the homes they’ve lived in their whole lives.”

The organization also assists owners of small businesses to further stabilize the community by encouraging people to work, shop, and live in the neighborhood. By promoting a positive image of the neighborhood, such measures help to deter crime and delinquency, he says.

### **An Honorable Profession**

Peter J. Daley II served the public for years, including 10 years in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, before graduating from the Harrisburg Campus in 1993. Daley’s career of service began at age 22, when he was elected mayor of California, Pa., and became one of the youngest mayors in the country. Daley served two terms in that office before winning election to the House in 1983.

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**“Public service is a very honorable profession because you can help people to change their lives for the better.”**

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Daley served in the state House for several years before joining a group of other legislators, led by Representative Mark Cohen, in support of a resolution to found a law school in Harrisburg. The resolution passed and Widener took up the challenge. When the Harrisburg Campus opened in 1989, both Daley and Cohen signed up for the first evening classes. They graduated together in 1993.

Daley says his legal training helps him represent his constituents more effectively. “I have two Master’s degrees, but law school gave me a different perspective in how laws are applied and interpreted. It absolutely helps in making laws.”

Daley says, “I always had a burning desire to be in public office. Public service is a very honorable profession because you can help people to change their lives for the better.”

### **Following the Path**

Successfully pursuing a public service career requires the same sort of preparation as any other legal job. Solomon, the deputy U.S. attorney, advises law students and lawyers interested in public service to first figure out what type of law they want to practice. “Familiarize yourself with the offices where you want to work. Check their Web sites for information. Then get some experience, whether a clerkship or an internship,” he says. “You have to show your stuff to get a foot in the door.”

DEA Chief Counsel Ryan agrees. “Number one, you have to go someplace where you like the mission. I have four retired Army colonels in my office and they love working here because they love the mission,” she says.

“I was never interested in money,” says Ryan. “At the end of the day, I wanted to feel I had done something.” She advocates government

support, such as loan forgiveness programs, for lawyers who want to enter public service but find themselves under a mountain of debt.

The rewards of public service in terms of experience and personal satisfaction far outweigh the negatives, Ryan says, especially for young lawyers who want to gain experience quickly. “If you’re interested in litigation, it’s the best way to get into litigation fast. I see fifth-year associates at law firms who’ve done nothing but mark documents with ‘stickies,’ but fifth-year attorneys here are taking depositions and handling cases.”

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**“I was never interested in money,” says Ryan. “At the end of the day, I wanted to feel I had done something.”**

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Some alumni make a point of returning to Widener. Whitehead, the deputy district attorney in Philadelphia, visits the Delaware campus on a regular basis to speak to students and professors and to recruit lawyers who want to fulfill their own goals of doing the right thing. As a result, over 30 Widener graduates currently serve in the Philadelphia DA’s office.

Whitehead credits DA Lynne Abraham for the presence of so many Widener alumni on her staff. “Without her desire to get the best trial lawyers she can possibly get, there wouldn’t be so many Widener graduates here,” he says.

“Government legal practice is an area where you can move along according to your merits, rather than a corporate strategy,” Whitehead emphasizes. “Very seldom does the ideal match the reality, but it does in this office.” **W**



# GAINING PERSPECTIVE

## A Legal Professor and Professional

During the summer of 2001, Professor H. Geoffrey Moulton received a phone call from his friend Patrick Meehan, who had just been nominated to serve as U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. Meehan wanted Moulton to serve as second in command of the Philadelphia office, which would make him responsible for the day-to-day supervision of 131 lawyers.

“I had a somewhat mixed reaction to the offer,” Moulton says. “I love teaching, but the call to public service is a pretty powerful one and it was an opportunity, both personally and professionally, that I couldn’t pass up.”

### Serving Justice

Moulton is no stranger to public service. After law school at Columbia University, he served as a law clerk in the Second Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals 1984-85, followed by a 1985-86 stint in the U.S. Supreme Court as a clerk to then-Associate Justice William H. Rehnquist. He has also worked in the Criminal Division of the U.S. Department of Justice and was an assistant U.S. attorney in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania during the late 1980s.

Moulton’s highest profile post, however, came in 1993, when he served as project director for the U.S. Treasury Department’s Waco Administrative Review. That project examined the department’s role in the standoff and fire at the Branch Davidian compound in Waco, Texas, that resulted in the deaths of David Koresh and many of his followers.

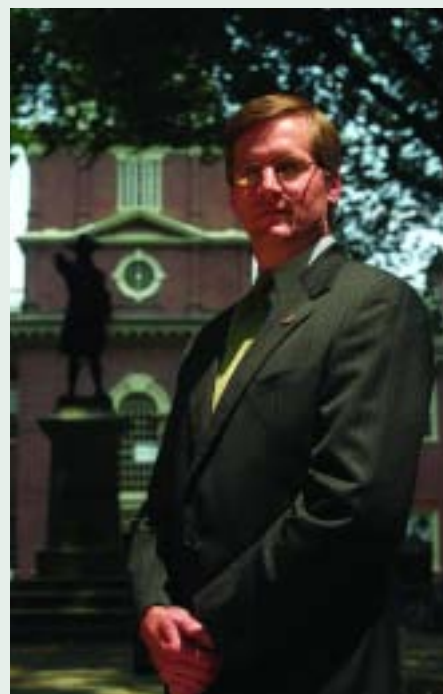
“The legal profession offers an opportunity to make a real difference in other people’s lives and I think you can do that as a teacher or as a public servant. There is nothing more satisfying for a lawyer than helping his or her community and serving in the public sector is a direct way to do it. Whether you’re dealing with gun violence or political corruption, you’re making a difference,” says Moulton.

### From Professor to Prosecutor

Moulton says that his experience as a law professor has proven invaluable during his service in the U.S. Attorney’s office. A professor must look at legal issues impartially, rather than as an advocate for one side or the other, he says. That can be a difficult skill for young lawyers to learn while working as prosecutor or defense attorneys, he says, because it’s easy to get locked into a narrow mindset and only look for things that reinforce their position on a particular case.

“That broad-based perspective is really valuable for someone working in a prosecutor’s office,” Moulton says. “It helps me be a better advocate because I’ve looked at problems from all sides and can anticipate the opposition’s arguments.”

Professors must also pursue legal scholarship, which means Moulton has studied and written about many of the issues he deals with every day in the U.S. Attorney’s office. “You really need to learn a subject in order to teach it, so when cases involving criminal law, constitutional issues or white collar crime come up, I feel that I’m well prepared to handle them,” he says.



Professor Moulton

### Back to the Classroom

Moulton says his work in the U.S. Attorney’s office will also benefit future Widener students because he expects to return to the classroom with renewed enthusiasm. “I have a better perspective of the law as a living subject,” Moulton says, “and that is of great benefit to me as both a teacher and a scholar.”

The in-depth experience Moulton has gained will also help his students to better understand the subjects discussed in class. He says simply being able to use examples of real cases in which he has been involved will allow for better discussions of the issues. “Students like real world stories, so having them helps students to enjoy class and relate to the material.”

Moulton isn’t sure when he will return to the faculty, but appreciates the support he has received from the entire Widener community. Moulton particularly thanks Dean Ray and President Harris for holding a spot open on the faculty while he pursues public service that will ultimately benefit the law school as well. **W**

# IN HARM'S WAY

## Widener Alumni Serve in the Military Justice System



Captain Patrick Murphy '99 (right) with Major Paul J. Perrone Jr. '93 above the Coalition Provisional Authority headquarters in Baghdad, a former presidential palace. The bust in the background is of Saddam Hussein.

A number of Widener University School of Law alumni have served in the Judge Advocate General's Corps through the years, working in all branches of the military justice system. They have filled assignments in both foreign and domestic settings, and their positions have encompassed every legal specialty, from family law to criminal law, as well as areas specific to the military. The current concern over terrorism and heightened tension throughout the world has made their service more important and more appreciated than ever.

JAG Corps members posted to the most troubled areas of the globe are frequently honored for performing vital services under difficult, and often dangerous, circumstances. They, on the other hand, prefer to emphasize that bringing a sense of justice and order to people in countries such as Bosnia-Herzegovina, Korea, Afghanistan, or Iraq has reinforced their respect for and dedication to the ideals laid out in the U.S. Constitution.

### Captain Patrick J. Murphy '99

In the five years since his graduation from the Harrisburg Campus, Philadelphia native Patrick Murphy accumulated more legal experience than most lawyers in practice twice that long. His list of assignments includes the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, where he served as a legal assistance attorney, then as chief of the Claims Division in the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate. He simultaneously served as a special assistant to the U.S. Attorney's Office in West Point, N.Y., handling incidents that occurred on federal lands in the region.

From 2001 to 2003, Murphy served as the youngest professor at the academy, teaching constitutional and military law. His legal column, "Murphy's Law," written for *Pointer View*, West Point's bi-weekly newspaper, earned him the Keith L. Ware Award as the best contributing writer for U.S. Army newspapers.

"That's the great thing about the military," says Murphy. "I had the opportunity to teach theoretical constitutional law at West Point—the very foundations of what our country stands for."

Murphy's enthusiasm and profound respect for the law earned him increasingly complex assignments. In 2002, he was deployed to Tuzla, Bosnia-Herzegovina, where he served as command judge advocate for Task Force Eagle. In that post, Murphy advised the command and staff of Stabilization Force 11, handling a broad spectrum of issues in criminal, administrative, and international law. In addition, he supervised the provision of legal services to both civilian and military personnel.

Murphy was then assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division as a Regimental Judge Advocate and in late June 2003 headed to Baghdad to serve in Operation Iraqi Freedom. "I had much more responsibility in Iraq than I did in Bosnia," Murphy recalls. "In Iraq, I was responsible for two courthouses and four police stations, serving the 1.5 million people in the Al Rashid sector of Baghdad." He also served as the attorney for the 3,500 elite paratroopers of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team.

Murphy described his work in an August 2003 e-mail to the Harrisburg Civil Law Clinic: "We are really making a difference here in Baghdad. These people haven't had a sense of justice in such a long time. We're rebuilding schools and parks, and I am working with the Baghdad judiciary on rebuilding their court system, appointing judges, and paying money to Iraqis when coalition forces are



negligent. For those of us who joined the legal profession to make a difference, this sure is the place.”

He prosecuted three high-profile cases in the Central Criminal Court of Iraq (CCCI), including the very first case that court heard. The CCCI was formed by the Coalition Provisional Authority to serve as a model of fairness and to try cases of national importance, including those related to terrorism, organized crime, governmental corruption, and acts intended to destabilize democratic institutions or processes. “It’s somewhat like the U.S. Supreme Court,” says Murphy. “It is an appellate as well as a trial court with national jurisdiction.”

Some of Murphy’s cases exposed him to dangers his stateside counterparts can only imagine, particularly one case involving an Imam, or Muslim religious leader. “We had to deal with a 1,000-person protest when we arrested him,” says Murphy.

He also adjudicated 1,380 claims filed by Iraqi citizens under the Foreign Claims Act, providing \$158,535 in compensation for property damage caused by coalition troops, and successfully prosecuted 18 courts-martial. Such measures go a long way in improving the relationship between local citizens and coalition forces. “We take it for granted that no one is above the law in this country,” says Murphy. “Through those courts-martial, we were able to show that to the Iraqi people.”

The U.S. Army awarded Murphy the Bronze Star for his service in Iraq. Army regulations state that the Bronze Star may be awarded to “any person who, while serving in any

capacity in or with the Army of the United States ... distinguished himself or herself by heroic or meritorious achievement or service ... in connection with military operations against an armed enemy....”

After returning to the United States, Murphy continued to serve with the 82nd Airborne at Fort Bragg, N.C. While on leave this past spring, he visited Widener’s main campus in Chester, Pa., and spoke to the ROTC Pioneer Battalion about his experiences since joining the ROTC 10 years ago as an undergraduate at Kings College in Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

Although Murphy says it is “90 percent likely” that he’ll leave the Army when his tour of duty is up this fall, he wouldn’t trade the experience. “It has really, truly, been unmatched in the spectrum of what areas of law I’ve been able to cover.”

### **Captain Hana Rollins '03 and Captain Jeremy Steward '03**



Husband and wife Hana Rollins and Jeremy Steward graduated from the Harrisburg Campus in May 2003 and immediately entered the JAG Corps.

They are currently assigned to Camp Casey, home of the Second Infantry Division (2ID), in South Korea.

“We are here for one year because it’s like a deployed environment,” Rollins says. “Then we will be reassigned.”

The couple requested the assignment to the still-volatile area because Rollins was born and raised in Korea. “My father served 30 years in the Army, first as an enlisted man, then continued as an officer. He retired as a full colonel,” Rollins says. “He was so proud to serve his country. I guess I kind of talked my husband into it as well. It’s good to serve our country, especially while we are still young. We joined to do something for others, to serve others, and the experience is rewarding.”

Steward serves as a trial defense attorney, handling courts-martial and cases involving sexual assault, drugs, check fraud, and housing allowance fraud, among others. Rollins handles military and civilian administrative appeals, wills, divorces, and other areas of family law. “With so many soldiers from 2ID going to Iraq, it’s been very busy,” she says.

“You get more experience in one year of being an attorney in the Army, especially in Korea, than others get in five to 10 years, especially Jeremy, who gets more in-court time than any other attorney,” Rollins says. “For example, he was in court the first Saturday (yes, all day on a Saturday) after we got to 2ID.”

Rollins and Steward say they love their jobs, even though it can be very tough physically because of the intense military training. “That’s truly the tough part, especially for me,”

*Continued on page 11.*

# LEAVING THE NEST

## Forays Into Public Service Enhance Teaching and Scholarship

In late May, Harrisburg Professor John Dernbach watched a group of ornithologists band four peregrine falcon hatchlings on the wide ledge outside his office windows. No, the suburban Harrisburg campus hadn't suddenly added an aviary. Dernbach's office is in the Rachel Carson Office Building in downtown Harrisburg, where he heads the Office of Policy at the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

Dernbach, who is on a two-year leave of absence to direct the office, says the opportunity to observe the falcons up close is one of his favorite aspects of the job. "It's not a bad place to be, if you're a falcon," Dernbach says. "There's no competition, such as owls, and the eating is good."



The falcons nest on the 15th floor ledge every spring and are known around the world through their Web camera and Web page, which includes a variety of materials for classroom use. The fact that they make their home on the Rachel Carson Office Building is fitting. Carson, a Pennsylvania native, wrote *Silent Spring*, which spelled out the dangers to wildlife posed by chemicals such as DDT. Without her scholarship and writing, many birds, including the peregrine falcon and the bald eagle, would be on the endangered species list or extinct.

### Practicing What He Preaches

Dernbach previously worked for the DEP in the 1980s and early 1990s, when he served as assistant counsel (1981-87), special assistant (1987-92), and director of the Advanced Science and Research Team (1992-93). Dernbach decided to return because he felt he could make a difference under the new DEP administration.

"The new secretary, Kathleen McGinty, is committed to sustainable development, which I've been writing about since I started working at Widener," Dernbach says. "Also, I know the agency and had success there before, so I felt there was a reasonable likelihood of succeeding at this job and contributing something substantial in an area I care about."

As director of the Policy Office, Dernbach develops program and policy initiatives and coordinates the development of all DEP regulations, from planning to review and eventual



Professor Dernbach

adoption. He also directs the development of strategic plans for the department, including the identification of key policy issues, and conducts special studies on a broad range of issues.

Dernbach encourages faculty members who want to go out into the "real world" for a while to consider government positions after assessing their own interests and how those interests can serve the public. "You need to figure out what you care about, what you're good at, and what's available," Dernbach says.

### Give and Take

Dernbach says his twin callings as governmental lawyer and law professor complement each other. He feels that the combination of practical experience and in-depth academic study make him more effective in both venues.

"My writing and research as a law professor has really prepared me for this position. I now have a much broader perspective than when I left the agency the first time," Dernbach says. "Also, I'm a much better public speaker, or so I'm told."

Dernbach's position at DEP frequently involves educating people, both



## IN HARM'S WAY *Continued from page 9.*

inside and outside of government, about environmental problems and the available solutions to those problems. Dernbach finds the ability to approach that aspect of his job from the standpoint of a teacher invaluable. Teaching a law school class is quite different from making a presentation to a legislative committee, he says, but the thought process in deciding how to present the material in a coherent, understandable fashion is the same.

Conversely, Dernbach carries lessons from his experience at DEP back into the classroom. Getting away from the proverbial "ivory tower" of academia has given him a better perspective of what is going on in the outside world, Dernbach says, and he is gathering writing ideas to pursue on his return to full-time teaching. Professors frequently get locked into a narrow area of study, he says, but working in a government agency has forced him to look at issues in a broader context, which he hopes will be reflected in his future scholarship and writing.

Dernbach has also developed a much greater appreciation of adjuncts. While he serves the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania during the day, Dernbach continues to teach at the Harrisburg campus in the evenings. Balancing family and work obligations with class preparation and teaching is incredibly difficult, he says, so adjuncts who teach for years must be truly committed to their students and the law school.

"I've also learned a lot about how things do or don't work in practical contexts," Dernbach says. "Many things are easier to say than to do, but if you do it right, you can accomplish things that have lasting value." **W**



Captain Murphy (front left), with his legal team from the 82nd Airborne Division, prepares to lead a convoy to the courthouse and a nearby orphanage, where the sunglasses and other items were to be distributed to the children.

says Rollins. "We get up before sunrise each day, do physical training, then go shower and head to work." The training doesn't end there, however.

"Camp Casey involves more military training than many other posts back at home or even overseas. It's a 'Warrior Division' and training is key here," Rollins says. "About once a month, there is an 'alert' at around 3 a.m. We have no idea when it'll happen, but when it does, we have to put on all of our war gear and march to our designated areas, in preparation for war. Also, even as JAG attorneys, we do a six-mile road march with all of our gear four times a year."

Even during their off hours, Rollins and Steward must adhere to strict military regulations. "We have many restrictions here, including what we may or may not wear on our own time," Rollins says. "We must always have a buddy to leave post and we must have our dog tags on at all times."

After they complete their year in Korea, Rollins and Steward expect to be reassigned to a much less intense environment. "We are thinking of the D.C. area, if we decide to get out in three years. If we decide to stay in, maybe Europe," says Rollins. "I'm not too picky, after being here. I'm sure it'll only get better...or can it?" **W**

### Loren D. Prescott, Jr. Named Harrisburg Campus Vice Dean




Professor Loren D. Prescott, Jr. has been named vice dean of the Harrisburg Campus, effective July 1, 2004. He previously served as dean of students from 1992 to 1994 and as vice dean from 1996 to 2001.

In accepting the position, Prescott said, "I am privileged to have this opportunity to serve Widener University School of Law as the vice dean of its Harrisburg Campus. I look forward to working with faculty, staff, students and members of the Central Pennsylvania community as we continue to pursue our mission by providing the very best legal education to those preparing to enter the legal profession."

Prescott succeeds Vice Dean and Professor Robert C. Power, who served as vice dean for the past three years. Power, a noted scholar and teacher in the fields of constitutional law, administrative law, and criminal procedure, has returned to full-time teaching.


Prescott is a graduate of Willamette University School of Law. Following four years of private practice, he earned an LL.M. in Taxation from the University of Florida College of Law. He is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Public Administration at Penn State Harrisburg.

Prescott joined the faculty of Widener University School of Law in 1990. He teaches courses in federal income taxation, business taxation, charitable organizations and business organizations, and writes in the area of charitable and tax-exempt organizations. 

### Professor Hamermesh Honored for Professionalism

The Delaware State Bar Association honored Professor Lawrence Hamermesh as the 2004 recipient of the Chief Justice Daniel L. Herrmann Professional Conduct Award during the June 2, 2004, Delaware Bench and Bar Conference. The award recognized Hamermesh for his service to the bar and the community.

The award criteria state that it is presented annually to "a member of the Delaware Bar who, over the course of time, has demonstrated those qualities of courtesy and civility, which, together with high ability and distinguished service, exemplifies the Delaware lawyer."

Hamermesh has been a member of the Corporation Law Council of the Corporation Law Section of the Delaware State Bar Association since 1995 and currently serves as chair. Since 2001, he has also been a member of the Corporate Laws Committee of the American Bar Association (ABA) Business Law Section, which supervises the drafting and revision of the Model Business Corporation Act, and in 2002, was appointed as the reporter for the ABA Task Force on Corporate Responsibility. Hamermesh actively participates in a number of professional and civic organizations, including the American Civil Liberties Union Delaware (president 1996-2003; currently a board member) and Delaware Volunteer Legal Services, Inc. (treasurer and director 1992-2000). 

### Faculty Promotions Announced

Three associate professors, two in Delaware and one in Harrisburg, have been promoted to the rank of full professor. The promotions of Lawrence Hamermesh, James May, and Juliet Moringiello were effective July 1, 2004.



Professor Hamermesh received a B.A. from Haverford College in 1973 and a J.D. from Yale Law School in 1976, and serves as

Director of the Widener Institute of Delaware Corporate Law. He worked as an associate and later a partner at Morris, Nichols, Arsht & Tunnell in Wilmington, Del., from 1976 to 1994, when he joined the faculty at Widener. He teaches and writes in the areas of corporate finance, mergers and acquisitions, securities regulation, business organizations, corporate takeovers, and equity/equitable remedies. Hamermesh was elected a member of the American Law Institute in 1999 and is chairman of the Corporation Law Council of the Corporation Law Section of the Delaware State Bar Association, which is responsible for the annual review and modernization of the Delaware General Corporation Law. In 2001, Hamermesh was elected to the Corporate Laws Committee of the American Bar Association (ABA) Business Law Section, which supervises the drafting and revision of the Model Business Corporation Act, and in 2002, he was appointed as the reporter for the ABA Task Force on Corporate Responsibility.





Professor May received a B.S.M.E. from the University of Kansas in 1985, a J.D. from the University of Kansas School of Law in 1989, and an LL.M. in Environmental Law from Pace University School of Law in 1991. He is the immediate past director of Widener's Environmental and Natural Resources Law Clinic and also serves as an adjunct professor of Widener's graduate engineering program. May worked as an environmental attorney with the Overland Park, Kans., firm of Black & Veatch from 1989 to 1990 and was an environmental fellow at the Pace Center for Environmental Legal Studies during 1990-91. Professor May joined the law school faculty at Widener in 1991 and has taught in the Graduate Engineering Program since 1992. He teaches and writes in the areas of environmental law, environmental law for engineers, natural resources law and international environmental law.



Professor Moringiello earned her B.S.F.S. from Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in 1984 and her J.D. from Fordham University School of Law in 1987. She joined Emmet, Marvin & Martin in New York, N.Y., where she specialized in real estate and asset-based financing. From 1991 to 1993, she was a graduate fellow in legal education at Temple University School of Law, receiving her LL.M. in 1993. She joined the Widener faculty in 1993 and teaches courses in bankruptcy, secured transactions, payment systems, the law of electronic commerce, sales, business organizations, and real estate transactions. She has

also taught international business transactions in Widener's International Law Institutes. Moringiello was recently appointed to the American Bar Association (ABA) Standing Committee on Publishing Oversight and, in the ABA Business Law Section, serves on the Section Council and as co-chair of the Electronic Commerce Subcommittee of the Cyberspace Law Committee. She is also chair-elect of the Association of American Law Schools Section on Commercial and Related Consumer Law. Moringiello was elected to the American Law Institute in May 2003. **W**

## Professor McDermott Retires

### Honored for Service to the Public and the Law

*By Professor Nathaniel Nichols*



After more than 14 years teaching at the School of Law, Professor Christine McDermott has retired to North Carolina. Perhaps retiring is not the right term because McDermott has no plans to stop her public service efforts professionally or personally.

One of the first women admitted to the Delaware bar, McDermott had a distinguished career as a prosecutor in the Delaware Attorney General's office and taught at the University of Delaware prior to joining the law school faculty. She served as the managing attorney for Delaware Volunteer Legal Services, Inc. (DVLS), the pro bono arm of the Delaware Bar and, for a number of years, performed the dual role of DVLS managing attorney and super-

vising attorney for the Delaware Civil Clinic. Her clinic students filled an essential need for representation of victims of domestic violence in the Family Court of Delaware.

When not teaching or practicing law, Professor McDermott was an outstanding member of her church choir and a frequent soloist. Her reputation as a fine soprano meant that she was asked to sing the national anthem for several graduations at the law school, including this year's ceremony. McDermott was also known for her spirit of altruism; she regularly volunteered to feed the homeless at a feeding center in downtown Wilmington and even persuaded her faculty colleagues, staff members, and students to participate in this endeavor.

However, Professor McDermott will perhaps be most missed by her law colleagues because of her fun-loving spirit and joie de vivre. Because of this spirit, McDermott agreed to let faculty members, attorneys, and alumni give her a farewell roast, with proceeds going to the DVLS program. Interspersed between the peals of laughter, McDermott received praise for her fierce independence and willingness to speak her mind. Her credo has long been "make the comfortable uncomfortable" and if this meant ruffling feathers, so be it.

"I'll really miss the regular verbal sparring (and the warmth it disguises)," said Professor Francis Catania, "so the roast was a great opportunity to have the last zing. (Christine zings almost as well as she sings.) Last June I heard Christine sing at the Clifford Brown Jazz Festival and when I checked my program for the name of a song that Christine had sung with particular gusto, the title just seemed to fit: 'Ain't But The One.'" **W**

# Two Governors, Two States:

The governors of Delaware and Pennsylvania urged the 374 members of the Class of 2004 to undertake careers of service during commencement ceremonies the weekend of May 15 and 16. On Saturday, May 15, 282 students received their degrees during the 30th annual Delaware Campus commencement, held on the central lawn. The following morning, the School of Law awarded diplomas to 92 students during the 13th Harrisburg Campus commencement ceremony at the Forum Amphitheatre in the Pennsylvania Capitol Complex.

Delaware Governor Ruth Ann Minner served as keynote speaker for the sweltering Saturday afternoon commencement exercises in Wilmington. Minner received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree in recognition of her lifetime of hard work and determina-

tion to persevere in the face of adversity and her election as Delaware's first woman governor.

In her remarks, Minner noted that the historic *Brown v. Board of Education* decision, handed down 50 years ago, included two cases from Delaware. In both of those cases, the plaintiffs had won their cases in the Delaware Supreme Court, prompting the state to file appeals with the U.S. Supreme Court.

"That's a mixed commentary on our state," said Minner. "We were no different from other states, but Delaware had people of courage who stood up and, yes, those people were lawyers."

She expressed particular appreciation for Judge Collins J. Seitz, who enforced the ruling in Delaware. "He knew retribution could come from a

fist, from a gun, or from a bomb, but he chose to fight.... I choose to look at you now and say, Could you have done that? Could you have stood as tall?"

It is not enough to simply practice law, Minner continued. Instead, she urged the graduates to "practice with compassion, with tolerance, with a passion, with patience, and even with love."

Pennsylvania Governor Ed Rendell addressed the Harrisburg Campus graduates during the 11 a.m. Sunday morning ceremony at the Forum. Rendell, who had received an honorary law degree from Widener University in 2000, was presented with an engraved crystal bowl in recognition of the energy and concern for his fellow citizens that made him a legend in both Philadelphia and national politics.



Governor Minner



Cheng Q. Song



Matthew Carucci





# Commencement 2004

Rendell reminded the graduates that the oft-quoted line from Shakespeare, "Let's kill all the lawyers" is taken out of context. Those who read the entire passage discover that the protagonists in the play wanted to kill the lawyers so that anarchy could prevail. Without lawyers, Rendell said, justice is often denied to those who need it most.

As an example, he told the story of a case he undertook for the Philadelphia Bar Association program A Lawyer for Each Child, which provides free legal representation for children, while serving as mayor. His efforts in the case obtained social security benefits for a nine-year-old girl who had previously been turned down because her illness didn't fit standard criteria.

"Heather's life was incredibly changed," said Rendell. "I believe in

the power of lawyers to be change agents. You can use this opportunity to prove that the common interpretation of Shakespeare is dead wrong."

The Delaware Campus honored Regular Division student Matthew M. Carucci and Extended Division student Cheng Q. Song as valedictorians. In Harrisburg, Amy L. Groff earned valedictorian honors.

Carucci served as law clerk to Chief Justice E. Norman Veasey of the Delaware Supreme Court as a Wolcott Fellow this past academic year. In his remarks, Carucci emphasized integrity and professional pride. "Our very best should be our only objective every day of our careers," he said. Song, a polymer scientist who already held a doctorate and was a professor in his native China, spoke

enthusiastically about his decision to pursue a law degree. "It was just a natural extension of my curiosity as a scientist and an engineer," he said.

Groff noted that the 9/11 attacks took place during her first semester of law school and that her class has watched the law change as a result. She commended the class for overcoming a variety of obstacles, including long commutes, the loss of loved ones, and the stress of having a spouse in combat. Groff has since joined the Harrisburg office of Kirkpatrick & Lockhart.

Professor Alan Garfield in Delaware and Professor Loren D. Prescott, Jr. in Harrisburg received the Outstanding Faculty Award for their respective campuses. **W**



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# COMMENCEMENT AWARDS



## DELAWARE CAMPUS

***The Honorable Helen S. Balick Award***  
Mark W. Eckard

***Howard M. Berg Award***  
Natasha Gonzalez

***William J. Conner Memorial Award for  
Administrative Law***  
Joshua Kutinsky

***The Honorable Joseph W. deFuria Commencement Award***  
Melissa Bearoff

***Judge J. Cullen Ganey Criminal Procedure Award***  
W. Joshua Buchanan

***Graham Foundation Award*** D. Scott Perrine

***Reed Hamilton Memorial Award*** Bernard Kwitowski

***Zelda K. Herrmann Memorial Cup Award*** Jody J. Huber

***International Academy of Trial Lawyers  
Student Advocacy Award*** Stephanie Derr

***Lindsay Law Library Award***  
Shaunna Wollpert and Kimberly Longo

***Most Promising Civil Litigator Award*** David Lewis

***Outstanding Student Service Awards***  
Melissa Bearoff, Michael A. Burns, Christopher Iacono,  
Daniel Munce, Joseph Nastasi, D. Scott Perrine,  
and Frank Shoemaker

***Philadelphia Trial Lawyers Association James J. Manderino Award  
for Trial Advocacy*** Frank Shoemaker

***Alexander V. Sarcione, Jr. Memorial Award*** Erin J. Krebs

***The Jerry Shields Environmental Award*** Lori Hood

***Wapner, Newman Wigrizzer & Brecher Award*** Jody J. Huber

***Dean Arthur A. Weeks Outstanding Service Award***  
Michael A. Burns

***E. John Wherry, Jr. Award*** Stephanie Derr

***William J. and Ella C. Wolf Award*** Michael Rankin

***Phi Kappa Phi*** Jody J. Huber and Joshua Kutinsky

***President's Award*** Christie Giusti

***Dean's Award*** Matthew Carucci



## HARRISBURG CAMPUS

***American Academy  
of Matrimonial  
Lawyers Award***  
Crystal L. Myers

***American Bankruptcy Institute Medal of Excellence***  
Joseph L. Hoynoski III

***James S. Bowman American Inns of Court Award***  
Magdalene C. Zeppos

***E. John Wherry, Jr. Award*** Frank E. Kostik, Jr.

***International Academy of Trial Lawyers Award***  
Jennifer L. McCambridge

***Legal Research and Writing Award*** Amy L. Groff

***Most Promising Civil Litigator Award*** Joshua Derek Feldman

***Outstanding Clinical Advocacy Award*** Debra Ann Ferguson

***Moot Court Honor Society Outstanding  
Executive Board Member*** Joshua Thomas Crain

***Trial Advocacy Honor Society Outstanding  
Executive Board Member*** Frank E. Kostik, Jr.

***Widener Law Journal Award for Distinguished Legal Scholarship***  
Amy L. Groff

***Dean Anthony J. Santoro Outstanding Service Award***  
Joshua Derek Feldman

***Widener University School of Law Outstanding Service Awards***  
Dena N. Barnes, Joseph L. Hoynoski III, Joshua T. Crain,  
Heather Marie James, Antoinette T. Flora, Cristopher R. Jancula,  
Brian P. Garman, Michele C. O'Dowd, Angela Kay Hood, and  
Erica Leigh Strishock

***Distinguished Service Award*** Marianne Rachel Tyrrell

***John A. Fillion Memorial Award*** Joel D. Peppetti

***Phi Kappa Phi*** Amy L. Groff, Michele O'Dowd

***Valedictorian Award*** Amy L. Groff

***President's Award*** Michele A. Roda

***Dean's Award*** Amy L. Groff



## Widener Law Journal Symposium Focuses on Climate Change



Widener Vice President for Operations James A. Rollins receives a citation from State Representative Greg S. Vitali (center) honoring the university's use of geothermal exchange technology. Looking on were Kathleen McGinty, secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, Professor John Dernbach, and Professor David Hodas.

The United States ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in 1992, which commits the United States and other parties to monitor greenhouse gas emissions. However, because of economic concerns, the U.S. has refused to ratify the Kyoto Protocol to this convention, which would have required the reduction of emissions by specified amounts below 1990 levels by 2012.

To explore ways in which state actions can address the issue, the *Widener Law Journal*, the Widener Law and Government Institute, and the Pennsylvania Consortium for Interdisciplinary Environmental Policy presented "Facing Climate Change: Tools and Opportunities for Pennsylvania," a symposium focusing on the risks to human health and the environment posed by climate change.

The symposium began on the evening of March 24, 2004, with the U.S. premiere of the IMAX film "The Straw that Breaks the Camel's Back?" at Harrisburg's Whitaker Center for Science and the Arts, sponsored by the Consortium. The presentation

featured remarks by Kees Groenewegen, who originally produced the film for a symposium held at The Hague in the Netherlands.

The symposium continued the next morning, March 25, at the Harrisburg Campus with the presentation of Pennsylvania Senate and House of Representatives citations honoring Widener University as the first private college in the state of Pennsylvania to adopt geoexchange technology. State Representative Greg S. Vitali, sponsor of the citation in that legislative body, presented both citations to Widener Vice President for Operations James A. Rollins. State Senator Dominic F. Pileggi, who represents the city of Chester, sponsored the Pennsylvania Senate citation.

Rollins said the geothermal system in the Leslie C. Quick Jr. Center increased the construction costs by \$100,000, but that investment will be recouped within three years of the building's September 2002 opening. He explained that the system uses the earth as a heat pump, reducing energy consumption by one-half to two-

thirds. Rollins said the same type of technology is being incorporated into the 51,000-square-foot Kirkbride Hall expansion project, with completion expected in December 2004.

Pennsylvania produces about one percent of the world's greenhouse gases, and speakers stressed that efforts at the state and local levels can ameliorate the potentially global consequences of these emissions. Speakers emphasized the opportunities posed by the current situation and offered a variety of strategies to encourage compliance with the spirit of the Kyoto Protocol.

In her keynote remarks, Kathleen McGinty, secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, said any discussion of the economic impact of "green" technology must look at the entire picture, including economic opportunities in the production of more efficient technology and cleaner forms of energy. She also cited a variety of financing tools promulgated by the Pennsylvania Energy Development Authority, which will make clean energy "a signature part of the economic revitalization strategy for Pennsylvania."

Michael Northrup, director of the Sustainable Development Grantmaking Program of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, emphasized that addressing climate change will not ruin the economy. Major reductions in greenhouse gases are possible through increased conservation and efficiency in the use of energy, which also saves money. "There hasn't been a company or local government that has made a serious attempt at reduction that hasn't found it to be profitable," he said. ■

## Environmental Law Clinic Celebrates 15 Years, 100,000 Hours of Service



Professor Kristl

The Environmental and Natural Resources Law Clinic celebrated 15 years and more than 100,000 hours of environmental advocacy and clinical legal education on Thursday, June 3, 2004, with a program and picnic on the lawn of the Delaware Campus. The event, which also introduced new Clinic Director Ken Kristl, featured remarks from individuals and representatives of organizations that the clinic has assisted.

“Through the Environmental Law Clinic, students gain valuable field experience while enhancing the quality of life in the communities that Widener serves,” said outgoing Clinic Director and Professor of Law Jim May. “We have brought landmark cases that will help clean up more than 6,500 polluted waterways and protect the Mid-Atlantic region’s threatened and endangered species from extinction.” May stepped down as director after 12 years of service to return to the classroom full time.

May’s replacement, Ken Kristl, previously worked as a partner, specializing in environmental law, at the firm of Winston & Strawn, LLP, in Chicago.



Professor May

Kristl graduated first in his law class at Chicago-Kent School of Law, where he was editor-in-chief of the law review. He graduated from the University of Notre Dame with high honors and was Phi Beta Kappa.

“Working with the Environmental Law Clinic is an exciting change after 18 years of corporate environmental litigation. Jim May and the rest of the staff have done a wonderful job with the clinic, and I am certain that it will continue to provide both a valuable learning experience for Widener students and a resource for environmental protection,” said Kristl.

“The clinic has a strong reputation for providing excellent service learning experiences that help the Widener communities,” said May. “The clinic has accomplished a great deal over the past 15 years, and I know that Ken is well equipped to carry on the clinic’s tradition for many years to come.” **W**

## Book Drive Benefits Communities

Public school children in Chester and Wilmington and a domestic violence shelter in Harrisburg benefited from the more than 1,800 new and gently used books collected during April in honor of National Library Week. The successful book drive was conducted by Widener’s Office for Community Engagement, Wolfgram Memorial Library on the main campus, and the Legal Information Centers on the Delaware and Harrisburg campuses.

The Delaware Legal Information Center collected 924 books from students, faculty, staff, law firms and law-related organizations, plus over \$100 for the purchase of additional books. The books were sent to Darley Road Elementary School (grades K-3) and Claymont Elementary School (grades 4-6) in the Brandywine School District.

In Harrisburg, the Legal Information Center collected 540 books for both adults and children, which were sent to the YWCA Domestic Violence Shelter in downtown Harrisburg.

The main campus collected more than 400 children’s book and \$175 in support of a Chester Upland School District program that challenged students to collectively read one million books by the end of the school year. **W**



## Symposium Considers 50 Years Since *Brown* Decision

In honor of the 50th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court ruling that mandated the integration of public schools, the School of Law joined with local legal, educational, historical and community organizations to sponsor “*Brown v. Board of Education: Celebrating the Past, Considering the Present, Contemplating the Future.*” The April 23 symposium at the University of Delaware in Newark examined the ruling, including the two Delaware cases that had been consolidated into the case known as *Brown*, and current concerns about segregation in public education.

The School of Law sponsored the keynote speech by civil rights lawyer

and Columbia University School of Law Professor Jack Greenberg.

Widener’s 2003-2005 H. Albert Young Fellow in Constitutional Law, Professor Robert Hayman, moderated an afternoon panel, “Black to the Future?,” which examined ways in which equal educational opportunity could be achieved. Hayman will present his fellowship project, focusing on civil rights in Delaware, including the state’s role in the 1954 *Brown* decision, during the spring semester in 2005.

The Young Fellowship, established in 1998 by the Young Foundation of Wilmington, Del., honors the memory of H. Albert Young, who served as Delaware attorney general at the time

of *Brown*. As attorney general, Young represented the state in the two Delaware cases, even though he had misgivings about the state’s position against desegregation of the public schools.

Delaware was the only state in which the plaintiffs had prevailed in their desegregation cases, so Delaware became the only state to appeal a desegregation ruling to the Supreme Court. Plaintiffs who had lost their state court cases had filed all of the other appeals that were consolidated into *Brown*. After the U.S. Supreme Court issued its landmark ruling, Young became the first state attorney general to actively enforce the decision. **W**

## Forensic Science and Professionalism Focus of Annual Wherry Lectures



Dr. Cyril H. Wecht



Lee A. Solomon

Forensic science and professionalism took center stage as Allegheny coroner Dr. Cyril H. Wecht and Deputy U. S. Attorney Lee A. Solomon presented the 2004 E. John Wherry Lectures in Trial Advocacy in mid-May. Wecht’s May 17 presentation in Harrisburg and Solomon’s May 20 appearance in Delaware were part of the School of Law’s Intensive Trial Advocacy Program. The lecture series is funded through a grant from retired trial attorney and Widener law professor E. John Wherry Jr.

Wecht, the second Wherry Lecturer for the Harrisburg campus, spoke on “Technological Advances in Forensic Science and Law.” Widely acknowledged as one of the nation’s leading forensic pathologists, Wecht said that DNA evidence has revolutionized the field of forensic science since it was first used in 1984 to detect the perpetrator of a crime. He noted that more than 150 people have been released from death row or life sentences because of DNA evidence.

“Many of those prosecutors were sure,” said Wecht. “Don’t become so imbued with the idea of putting someone in jail that you lose sight of what it’s all about.”

Solomon, a 1978 graduate of the School of Law, presented the fifth annual Wherry Lecture on the Delaware Campus, “Everything I Ever Wanted to Know About Trial

Advocacy I Learned from *Aladdin*.” Solomon explained that his title referred to a line from a scene in the Disney movie *Aladdin*, in which Aladdin prepared to meet Princess Jasmine. In the scene, the Genie turned himself into a bee and kept buzzing “Beeeee yourself” into Aladdin’s ear.

He admonished each student to look inside him or herself to discover the type of lawyer they want to be, personally and professionally. “Decide whether you can represent an interest that is correct legally, whether you agree or not on other levels,” said Solomon. “Decide the causes you intend to fight for.”

Solomon said he used to worry about his image in court, but not anymore. “I spent 20 years being a stuffed shirt. Don’t be like that. Be yourself and do what you need to do.” **W**

### Widener University School of Law Alumni Association Executive Council

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#### Dear Alumni and Friends:



Widener University School of Law celebrated our thirtieth commencement in May. As the new graduates prepare for their bar examinations and careers beyond, I realize it has been almost 30 years since our first class graduated from the Delaware Law School of Widener College. Now, over 10,000 graduates later, Widener University School of Law is a highly regarded law school, gaining greater respect and recognition as each class makes their mark on our profession. From our humble beginnings at the YWCA and church, to the excellent facilities now, our school continues to flourish in the national arena.

As we become more and more engrossed in our individual careers and lives, we must take the opportunity to step back and reflect on the growth, development, and evolution of our graduates and ourselves. Remember how you thought of your career when you were out of school for five years? Ten years? Twenty-five years? Depending on your graduation year, we have all been there. We have all had the opportunity to work in our own "field of dreams" due to the years we spent at Widener University School of Law and the diploma we received at graduation. Who knows where or what we would be doing now without our law degrees? It certainly would not have been as enjoyable, prestigious or rewarding as the careers we now have.

The administration of the university and the law school, the faculty, the staff, and the student body are responsible for the continuing improvement and evolution of the school. Equally important are you, the 10,000-plus ambassadors who have graduated since 1975. You are the voices who remind everyone that Widener University School of Law is a great law school and is one of the primary reasons for your success. Your attitude, professionalism, and success form a brightly-lit marquee that spells out Widener University School of Law! Whether you are a judge, elected official, corporate or house counsel, department head or sole practitioner, you represent what Widener hoped you would achieve after graduation. In your success, you have satisfied the University's vision of educating and forming a competent, well-prepared, successful attorney.

As our lives move forward at the ever-increasing blur we all recognize, we must look back at our educational experience and realize that, but for our law degree, we would never be where we are today. Many graduates participate in a multitude of ways to thank the school for what we have received. Whether by service to the school on the many boards and committees available to us, or by the simple mailing of a check to the Annual Fund or specific designation most important to us, we should all remember where and what we were on the day we were accepted to law school and how far we have come. Your continued involvement on any and every level is vital to the continued process and evolution of Widener University School of Law. Consider how you can best serve your school to show your recognition of what you have received. Remember how you felt the day you received your diploma, as the class of 2004 received theirs this year. Please get involved and stay involved.

Sincerely,



Steven P. Barsamian



# Philadelphia Reception at the Ritz-Carlton



Steve Labroli '92 with Law School Overseer Judge Charles P. Mirarchi Jr.



Judge Raymond Batten '79 (left) spoke with George Miller '81.



Arthur Novello '86 and Alumni Association Secretary Renae Axelrod '91.



Professor Barry Furrow with Assistant Dean Deborah McCreery and Overseer Alice Strine '92.



A group of 2002 graduates (left to right): Norman Millard, Brian Faulk, and Hercules Grigo.



Judge Leon Katz (retired) and Alumni Association Vice President Frank C. DePasquale, Jr. '86.



Eileen Grena '92, assistant director of the Legal Education Institute, welcomes Carl Holmes '03.

### Alumni and Friends Golf Outing Benefits Loan Repayment Assistance Program



First place finishers in the Alumni and Friends Golf Outing were (L to R): Michael Mulvey '75, Mike Chmielewski, Scott Haman, and Rich Budney '94.

The School of Law's annual Alumni and Friends Golf Outing drew 80 golfers to the DuPont Country Club's LPGA Championship Course April 26, 2004, despite the rainy, cold weather conditions. The winning foursomes were:

1st Place: Rich Budney '94, Michael Mulvey '75, Scott Haman, and Mike Chmielewski

2nd Place: Bill Reif, Vic Duva, Rich McEver, and Terry Spence


3rd Place: Mike DeFino '75, James Proud, Don Hayes, and Reese Crowe

4th Place: Ken Federman '93, Jon Madnick, Neil Kushner, and Robert Zibelman '92

The event raised \$7,000 for the School of Law's Loan Repayment Assistance Program, which provides grants to graduates who choose careers in public interest law. Widener thanks the following sponsors for

their support: AALNC, AFLAC, Animators at Law, Inc., ARAMARK, the Clayman Family Foundation, CT Corporation, Delaware Paralegal Association, Dilworth Paxton, LLP, John Brady, Esq., '91, Law Office of Michael DeFino '75, Maron & Marvel, P.A., Miller & Gallagher, Rothberg & Federman, Small's Printing, Special Counsel, Student Loan Express, and Williams & DeLong.

The School of Law thanks those golfers who participated and encourages all alumni golfers to consider joining us in 2005. Expect to receive an invitation by mail after the first of the year.

Plans are already under way for the 2005 Golf Outing and volunteers are needed to serve on the committee. To volunteer, please contact Nancy Ravert Ward in the Alumni Relations Office at 302-477-2191. 

### Justinian Society Unites Italian-Americans

#### *Group Promotes Awareness and Public Service*

The Widener Chapter of the Justinian Society held its annual alumni reception at the Barristers Club April 28, 2004. The society honored outgoing President Joseph P. Nastasi '04, who served in that post for the past two years, and presented him with a gift for his outstanding service and dedication.

The Justinian Society at Widener provides a social and professional outlet for law students interested in legal issues surrounding Italian-Americans and promotes increased awareness and a deeper understanding of their political, cultural, historical, and legal roles. "One of our main goals is to establish a networking exchange among alumni and our members," said current president Noelle L. Palazzo '05. "We encourage our alumni to become more involved in our society and extend an invitation to all of our events held throughout the year."

The Justinian Society is very active both on campus and in the community. This past year, the society volunteered and made arts and crafts at the DuPont Children's Hospital in Wilmington. The Justinians raised money for and participated in the Multiple Sclerosis Walk at Rockford Park in Wilmington in April 2004 and actively participated in Diversity Week on campus. The society also sponsored a visit to the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington, D.C.






Enjoying the Justinian Society alumni reception were (left to right) Joseph P. Nastasi '04, Hon. Matthew Carrafiello, Noelle L. Palazzo '05, Arthur S. Novello '86, and Frank C. DePasquale '86.

The Justinian Society takes its name from Justinian I, ruler the Byzantine Roman Empire from 518 to 565 A.D. In 528 A.D., Justinian assembled a commission to update and consolidate Roman law. The result was the first written legal code in world history, a series of books known as the Corpus Justinian. Justinian's successors followed the Corpus, which codified the ancient Roman system into 4,652 laws, until the collapse of the Roman Empire. The Corpus Justinian became a major factor in the formulation of modern legal thought after it was rediscovered in the 11th century.

The Justinian Society engages in activities that foster a spirit of good fellowship, maintain the honor and dignity of the legal profession, perform civic duties, administer justice, and promote the study of law. The Society also responds to unfavorable portrayals of the Italian-American legal community because of ethnicity.

For further information about the Widener Chapter of the Justinian Society, contact Noelle L. Palazzo at 215-480-0629 or via e-mail at [ellelynn38@hotmail.com](mailto:ellelynn38@hotmail.com). 



## The Career Development Office Offers the Following Services to Alumni:

- Free access to online job postings through eAttorney
- Individual career counseling
- Résumé critique and interview preparation, including mock videotaped interviewing
- Reciprocity with career development offices at other law schools around the country (excluding law schools in our area: Villanova, Rutgers-Camden, Penn, Temple, and Dickinson)
- Access to graduate newsletters from other law schools, containing job postings
- Access to our career library, including lawyer directories and regional legal trade magazines and newspapers

For information on any of these services, contact the **Career Development Office** at 302-477-2163 or 717-541-3958 or e-mail [career.development@law.widener.edu](mailto:career.development@law.widener.edu).

For the latest alumni news, visit our Web site at [www.law.widener.edu/alumni/](http://www.law.widener.edu/alumni/)

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# PROFESSOR DONALD E. PEASE, SR.

March 19, 1920 – March 15, 2004



*By Professor Eugene Grimm*

I knew Don Pease both as a fellow attorney with the DuPont Company and here at the Widener University School of Law as a fellow professor. Don's obituary lists many accomplishments. As he wished, Don will be remembered for his long service to Child, Inc., an agency that primarily serves abused and neglected children and battered spouses, and for his service to disabled attorneys through the lawyers assistance committee of the Delaware State Bar Association. In this short note, I intend to focus on Don as a member of the faculty here at Widener Law School.

First of all, Don loved to teach, especially courses in corporate law. He loved to talk about teaching and all of its aspects, and always worked to improve his presentation. Professor Pease always treated students with respect and was respected in return. Typically, Don assigned cases to students for recitation in advance, rather than calling on a student unexpectedly. In his words, "I seek discussion, not apologies."

Professor Pease, for years, was faculty advisor to the Delaware Journal of Corporate Law and, in my view, it is no coincidence that this journal is nationally ranked for excellence in its field. Professor Pease played his part in earning and maintaining this

ranking. Law faculty members and law practitioners who want to know what is going on in corporate law continue to turn to the Delaware Journal and, although they probably do not know it, are indebted, in part, to Don Pease for its excellence.

Second, Don Pease loved his students. This was shown in different ways that were not always obvious. For example, to graduate, each student must write a lengthy paper on a suitable topic under the supervision of a faculty adviser. Don always was willing to serve as faculty adviser to additional students and had a substantial list of available topics. This willingness to serve was no small matter. There are many students here at the law school, so it is often hard for a student, especially in the Evening Division, to "make a connection" with a faculty member that will yield not only a worthwhile paper, but also

a worthwhile learning experience. Don always rose to the occasion, even on short notice. He wanted students to succeed and was always willing to go the extra mile to help them do so.

Don's feelings for his students and his willingness to help them came as no surprise to anyone who knew him. I worked with Don at the DuPont Company for more than 20 years. He was an excellent attorney; comfortable in his own skin, and was interested in helping people succeed in accomplishing worth-

while tasks. Certainly, he was a mentor to me many times.

Finally, Don Pease loved the Widener University School of Law. So long as he was able, Professor Pease and Theresa, his wife, attended all, or almost all, law school functions and supported student functions. The last time I saw and talked to Don, he was in a local nursing home, a few weeks before his death. The conversation was not about Don and his infirmities. He wanted to talk about the law school, its current enrollment, prospects for the coming academic year, my classes, and the quality of the student body. Don Pease wanted each and every one of us—faculty members, students, and staff—to succeed and knew that we would continue to do so.

In sum, Don Pease was a good and gentle man (and a good golfer) and we all need more like him. **W**



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# IN MEMORIAM: THOMAS S. LODGE

*Former Overseer Helped the School of Law Attain Accreditation*

Thomas S. Lodge, Esq., a member of the Board of Trustees at Widener University and Board of Overseers of the School of Law, passed away on June 23, 2004 at his New Castle, Del., home. He was 86 years old.

Lodge was a retired partner of the Wilmington law firm Connelly, Bove, Lodge and Hutz, where he worked from 1954 to 1991. In 1953 Lodge was admitted to the Delaware Bar and served as law clerk to the United States District Court Judge Richard S. Rodney. From 1959 to 1961 he served as city solicitor for New Castle, Delaware.

An ardent supporter of the university, Lodge gave tremendous amounts of time, energy, and financial resources to the institution for 30 years. After earning both his bachelor's degree and law degree from the University of Virginia, Lodge became a member of the Widener University School of Law Board of Overseers in 1974 and a member of Widener's Board of Trustees in 1980.

Lodge was a driving force behind the School of Law's efforts to obtain American Bar Association accreditation. In July 1975, Lodge, along with Widener President Clarence Moll, Dean Arthur Weeks, and fellow board member Charles Maddock, appeared before the ABA Accreditation Committee in Chicago to plead the law



school's case, which he recalled for a 1987 history of the School of Law.

"On Saturday, Dr. Moll, Dean Weeks, and I went before the committee. There was a tremendous table. There must have been 40 or 50 people around it. I felt like I was walking into the lions' den." Lodge said Dr. Moll made the first presentation, concentrating on the financial aspects of the law school's recent affiliation with Widener College. "I think he made a tremendous impression on that council as to the sincerity of Widener," Lodge said. Dean Weeks followed, presenting information on the students, faculty, library facilities, and curriculum.

The committee's questions to Lodge focused on whether the state of Delaware could support a law school. "I also tried to present the human side," Lodge recalled. "I didn't appreciate the comments about 'little

Delaware' or about the students, but I kept up with the themes that the state could support a law school and that these weren't just statistics, but human beings who had worked very hard."

Upon returning home, Lodge learned that the committee had granted provisional accreditation. The ABA House of Delegates affirmed the committee's decision on August 12 and the School of Law held its first commencement later that month, awarding degrees to 182 graduates.

In addition to his affiliation with Widener University, Lodge held positions in a number of professional and philanthropic organizations. He was a member of the American Bar Association and the American Judicature Society; former chairman and former director of the Delaware Division of the American Cancer Society; director of the Sunday Breakfast Mission; former director of the Salesianum School; secretary of the Laffey-McHugh Foundation; and former chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Peninsula Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.

To those that knew him, Tom Lodge was a kind man and charming individual who was extremely devoted to his family. He is survived by his children Scott, David, Jean, Gail, and Martha. **W**

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# CLASS NOTES



1975



**G. Fred DiBona** has been elected to the board of directors of Crown Holdings, Inc. He is president and CEO of Independence Blue Cross and serves as chairman, president, and CEO of both Keystone Health Plan East and Amerihealth, Inc.

**James L. Fritz** has been elected chairman of the Pennsylvania Bar Association Tax Section. He is chairman of the state and local tax group at McNeese Wallace & Nurick in Harrisburg, Pa.

**David P. Kownacki** has been recognized by Trial Lawyers Care for his efforts on behalf of victims of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Kownacki and an associate at his law firm represented an injured claimant and the family of a deceased victim. The organization was formed to assist victims and their families with claims to the Federal Victims Compensation Fund.

1978

**Spiros E. Angelos** has been named Delaware County public defender. He worked as a trial attorney in the office for the past 25 years while maintaining a private law practice in Media.

1980

**Eugene A. DiPrinzio**, a partner in the Wilmington, Del., firm of Young Conaway Stargatt & Taylor, has been elected to the American College of Real Estate Lawyers. He also serves as Delaware chairman of the American College of Mortgage Attorneys.

**Alan B. Levin** is the New Castle County Chamber of Commerce 2004 Entrepreneur of the Year. He is the president and chief executive officer of Happy Harry's, Inc.

**Marianne O. Mizel** has been elected to a second term in Ulster County, N.Y., Family Court.

1981



**Andrew E. DiPiero, Jr.** joined the Philadelphia, Pa., firm of Stampone, D'Angelo & Renzi, P.C. on June 1, 2004. The firm has since changed its name to Stampone D'Angelo Renzi DiPiero.

**Cary L. Flitter** served as a moderator and a co-presenter during a program on identity theft sponsored by the Pennsylvania Bar Institute.

**Jeffrey B. Fromm** is now of counsel [FFC1]with the Philadelphia, Pa., office of Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP. He practices intellectual property law, with an emphasis on computing and imaging technologies.

**M. Scott Gemberling** served as a featured speaker at the National Beverage Control Association's Annual Symposium on Alcohol Beverage Law, addressing the impact of dram shop laws, tort reform, and significant verdicts on the defense of liquor licensees in civil litigation. He is a shareholder in the firm of Marshall, Dennehey, Warner, Coleman & Goggin, based in the Philadelphia office.

1982

**Brett Kates** serves as director of Employee Retirement Income Security Act compliance for Crawford Advisors LLC in Sparks, Md.

**Michael J. Machen** has been appointed director of the Allegheny County, Pa., public defender's office.

1985



**Jamie W. Goncharoff**, a retired major in the U.S. Marine Corps, was the guest of honor for the West Grove, Pa., Memorial Day parade and celebration. His remarks paid tribute to the more than 1 million American service members who have died since 1775. He is president-elect of the Chester County, Pa., Bar Association and maintains a legal practice in West Chester, Pa.

1986



**Frank C. DePasquale, Jr.**, current vice president and past president of the law school's alumni association, served as a guest lecturer during the Lorman Education Services seminar "Understanding

Transportation and Logistics Law." He also presented "Unique Aspects of Trucking Accidents Cases" during the Dispute Resolution Institute Annual Personal Injury Potpourri in Philadelphia. He is an attorney with the Philadelphia firm of Raynes, McCarty, Binder, Ross & Mundy.

**Constance J. Fontaine** has been named the Larry R. Pike Chair in Insurance and Investments at The American College in Bryn Mawr, Pa. She has taught at the college for more than 17 years and is responsible for the development of texts and courses in estate planning.

1988

**Derek R. Layser** has been named a "2004 Pennsylvania Super Lawyer" for plaintiffs' personal injury and medical malpractice by the publishers of *Law & Politics* and *Philadelphia Magazine*. He is a founding shareholder of Layser & Freiwald, P.C., in Philadelphia, Pa., and Westmont, N.J., where he practices complex personal injury litigation.

**Edward Seglias** of the Philadelphia firm of Cohen Seglias Pallas Greenhall & Furman co-presented "The Steel Crisis: Where Are We And What Can We Do About It?" for the Delaware chapter of the Associated Builders and Contractors.

1989



**James F. Graham** presented "Social Services Liability" as part of a seminar for employees of Safeco. He is a shareholder and the managing attorney of the Cherry Hill, N.J., office of Marshall, Dennehey, Warner, Coleman & Goggin.

**Robert D. Marcinkowski** has moved to Florida to become an administrative law judge for the Social Security Administration.

**Anthony T. Verwey** has opened a law office in West Chester, Pa., specializing in attorney discipline, professional responsibility, and litigation. He worked for the past 10 years in the Office of Disciplinary Counsel.

**David R. Workman** has been elected a judge in Lancaster County, Pa. He previously practiced family law with the Lancaster firm of Blakinger, Byler & Thomas.

## 1990

**Lucille J. Karp** is of counsel to the firm of McElroy, Deutsch, Mulvaney & Carpenter LLP in Morristown, N.J., specializing in corporate law.



**Maureen Dunn McGlynn** has been promoted to partner in the business department of Mackenzie Hughes LLP in Syracuse, N.Y. She specializes in health care law and advises health care providers and organizations on a diverse array of legal issues.

**Joseph Steward** has been appointed to the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry's Industrial Board. He serves as chief of staff and general counsel to state Senator Mike Stack and is a managing partner with The Law Offices of Joseph Steward, P.C./Steward and McDermott, P.C.

## 1991

**Keith E. Donovan** has been elected a partner in the personal injury group in the Dover, Del., office of Morris, James, Hitchens & Williams LLP. He focuses on personal injury and insurance cases.

**Paula Silverstein** and her husband, Bernard Ilkhanoff, recently opened a second law office, in York, Pa., joining their office in Shrewsbury, Pa., to handle domestic, personal injury, criminal defense, and general civil litigation. They are also the proud parents of four young children.

## 1992

**Alfred J. Carlson** discussed the fundamentals of handling workers' compensation

cases as a featured speaker at the June 16, 2004, Pennsylvania Bar Institute seminar "Handling the Workers' Comp Case." He is a partner in the Philadelphia firm of Martin, Banks, Pond, Lehocky & Wilson, P.C.

**Paul DeGroot** has been selected to serve as an instructor at the National Advocacy Center in Columbia, S.C. He is an assistant prosecutor in Passaic County, N.J.



**Donald J. Detweiler** has been elected to partnership in the firm of Saul Ewing LLP. He practices bankruptcy and reorganization law in the firm's Wilmington, Del., office.

**Martin T. Durkin Jr.** has been elected a partner in the firm of Pietragallo, Bosick & Gordon, based in Pittsburgh, Pa.



**Paige Macdonald-Matthes** has been named one of "Pennsylvania's Best 50 Women in Business" by The Business Journals of Pennsylvania and the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development. She was selected for her

professional accomplishments, record of community service, and advocacy on behalf of women. She works in the litigation practice group of the Harrisburg, Pa., office of Saul Ewing LLP.

**Daniel Minnis** received the 2003 Tina Smith Award from the Montana Legal Services Association for "his diligent concern and deep commitment to MLSA's clients, exemplifying the highest standards and ideals of client service."

**A. Grant Phelan** has been named partner in the Philadelphia office of Klehr, Harrison, Harvey, Branzburg & Ellers LLP. He is a trial lawyer in the firm's litigation department.

**Haven N. Shoemaker, Jr.** has been elected mayor of Hampstead, Md., after serving six years on the town council. He is a sole practitioner in Hampstead, pursuing general practice.

## 1993

**Carl N. Kunz III** has been elected a partner in the litigation practice group at the Wilmington, Del., office of Morris, James, Hitchens & Williams LLP. He practices in the areas of bankruptcy and reorganization and commercial litigation.



**Frances R. Roggenbaum** has been elected to partnership in the firm of Saul Ewing LLP. She practices business law in the Harrisburg, Pa., office.

**Robert Torres** has been appointed a deputy secretary in the Pennsylvania Department of Health Office of Administration. He previously served as director of provider information management for Highmark Blue Shield in Camp Hill, Pa.

## 1994

**Kathy Banfield** has been sworn in as a veterans law judge for the Board of Veterans' Appeals. She previously served as a deputy assistant general counsel in the VA's Office of General Counsel.

**Michael F. Consedine** has been elected a partner in the law firm of Saul Ewing LLP. He practices business law in the firm's Harrisburg, Pa., office.



**Theodore J. Kobus III** spoke at the Lorman Education Services seminar "Construction Management/Design-Build in Pennsylvania," held in Lancaster, Pa. He also spoke at the National Business

Institute's Philadelphia seminar "Advanced Construction Law in Pennsylvania." He is a shareholder in the Philadelphia office of Marshall, Dennehey, Warner, Coleman & Goggin.

**William H. Lunger** has become a member in the Wilmington, Del., office of Prickett, Jones & Elliott, P.A.



# CLASS NOTES



**Robert Anthony Moskowitz** has opened an interior design store, Robert Anthony Interiors, on Philadelphia's Antique Row.



**Gina Rubel** presented "Setting Measurable Public Relations Objectives: How to Control Corporate Perception and Audience Reaction When Building Your Business" at the 2004 Early Stage East Education Conference

on Building a Great Business in Wilmington, Del. She is the president of Furia Rubel Communications in Perkasi, Pa.



**David J. Shannon** has been appointed recording secretary of the Pennsylvania Bar Association's (PBA) Intellectual Property Law Section. He spoke on trade secret law and was a member of an intellectual property law panel during the 2004

PBA annual meeting. His article "Streaming Video 'Trailers' on the Internet Violate Motion Picture Copyright" was published in the PBA's winter 2004 *Intellectual Property Law Newsletter* and "Defense Against the Inevitable Disclosure Doctrine" appeared in the March 4, 2004, edition of the *Legal Intelligence*. Shannon is a senior associate in the intellectual property and e-commerce group at Leonard, Tillery & Sciolla, LLP in Philadelphia.

**Kevin Shannon** has left the practice of law to serve as a full-time emergency services coordinator for the American Red Cross in Pleasantville, N.J.

## 1995

**Lani D'Agostino** has been promoted to counsel in the Short Hills, N.J., office of Budd Lerner, P.C. She specializes in complex commercial litigation, including contract disputes, business torts, and securities matters.

**Andrew J. Gibbs** has been elected to membership in the Cozen O'Connor law firm. He concentrates his practice in the

areas of toxic and mass tort litigation, pharmaceutical liability, commercial litigation, and general liability matters.

**Scott A. Holt** has been named a partner at Young Conaway Stargatt & Taylor in Wilmington, Del. He is a member of the firm's employment law section and serves as an editor of the firm's *Delaware Employment Law Letter*.

**Heather Jefferson** joined with two other lawyers to launch The Delaware Counsel Group, a Wilmington, Del., firm focusing on transactional work.



**Michael K. Willison** has been elected a shareholder of Dickie, McCamey & Chilcote. He practices in the Philadelphia office, concentrating on employment law, environmental litigation, product liability law, insurance coverage

and bad faith litigation, and general defense litigation.

**A. Judd Woytek** spoke at the National Business Institute seminar "Advanced Workers' Compensation in Pennsylvania," held in Allentown, Pa. He is a shareholder and member of the workers' compensation practice group in the Bethlehem, Pa., office of Marshall, Dennehey, Warner, Coleman & Goggin.

## 1996

**Lee M. Diamondstein** has been named account director of Animation Technologies' Philadelphia, Pa., office. He now oversees the Philadelphia, District of Columbia, and New York territories for the company, which creates visual aids for use during trials. He also served as a co-presenter for the Richard S. Rodney Inn of Court seminar "Use of Technology in the Courtroom" in Wilmington, Del.



**Pamela Miller McGrath** is an associate with the Bensalem, Pa., firm of Oxman, Goodstadt, Krevitz & Kuritz, practicing family law. She welcomed a daughter, Madigan, in August 2002.

## 1997

**Robert T. Lewis** presented an overview of workers' compensation issues during "Return-To-Work Issues and Beyond: Issues and Updates Under the New Jersey Workers' Compensation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act, the Family Medical Leave Act, and the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination[FFC3]," a seminar sponsored by Lorman Education Services in Cherry Hill, N.J. He is an attorney in the Mt. Laurel, N.J., office of Capehart Scatchard.

## 1998

**Carey S. Allaband** joined the New York City office of Dechert LLP in April 2004. She practices in the areas of finance and real estate.

**John Flynn** has been appointed by President George W. Bush to serve as counselor to the secretary of the U.S. Department of Labor.

**Aaron Goldstein** has joined the Wilmington, Del., office of the U.S. Department of Justice. He is a deputy attorney general in the civil division.

**Brian G. McDonnell** has been named first assistant district attorney for Berks County, Pa. He will focus on major cases and complex investigations.

**Abby Wertzberger** married Scott Rigdon on December 14, 2002. She is a criminal defense attorney in Berks County, Pa., and is expecting their first child in October 2004.

## 1999



**Gary W. Alderson** served as a panelist for the seminar "Mental Stress Claims in Delaware," presented by Lorman Educational Services. He recently joined Marshall, Dennehey, Warner, Coleman & Goggin as an associate in the firm's

Wilmington, Del., office.

**Caitlin Aviss** serves as a deputy attorney general for the state of New Jersey, practicing Medicaid and health law.

**Audrey Bath** of Las Vegas, Nev., became a certified mediator in 2003 and opened Desert Mediation, which focuses on neighborhood issues, in 2004. She continues to serve as director of bar services for the State Bar of Nevada.



**James M. Caponi** served as a co-presenter for the Delaware Valley Insurance Trust's (DVIT) annual Tort Claims Act seminar. He also spoke on civil rights liability and liability under the Tort Claims Act during a seminar for code and zoning enforcement officials presented on behalf of the DVIT. Caponi is an associate in the Norristown, Pa., office of Marshall, Dennehey, Warner, Coleman & Goggin.

**Jill Spevack Di Sciullo** is an associate in the litigation practice group at Morris, James, Hitchens & Williams LLP in Wilmington, Del. She practices in the areas of education, employment, and family law.

**Tiffany Poole** is the recipient of the Delaware State Bar Association's 2003 Pro Bono Award for Achievement in recognition of her work for Delaware Volunteer Legal Services. She is an associate at Rahaim & Saints in Wilmington, Del., practicing domestic relations and bankruptcy law.



**Julie Sercus** has joined the firm of Rumberger, Kirk & Caldwell, P.A., as an associate in the Miami, Fla., office. She practices in the area of products liability defense litigation.

## 2000



**Megan L. Cinberg** served as a co-presenter at the annual Delaware Valley Insurance Trust (DVIT) Tort Claims Act seminar. She also served as a co-presenter on the topics of civil rights liability and liability under the Tort

Claims Act at a seminar for code and zoning enforcement officials, presented on behalf of DVIT. Cinberg is an associate in the Norristown, Pa., office of Marshall, Dennehey, Warner, Coleman & Goggin.



**Angela Y. DeMary** has joined the Mt. Laurel, N.J., office of Capehart Scatchard as an associate in the workers' compensation department. She concentrates on the defense of employers, self-insured companies, and insurance carriers.

**Joanne Springer** has joined the Miami office of Morgan Lewis as an associate in the labor and employment practice group.

**Patrick W. Straub** is an associate in the litigation practice group at the Wilmington, Del., office of Morris, James, Hitchens & Williams LLP. He focuses on corporate and commercial litigation.

**Christina Maycen Thompson** has joined the bankruptcy group at Connolly Bove Lodge & Hutz LLP in Wilmington, Del. She practices in the areas of creditors' rights and corporate reorganization.

**Brian N. Zulli** has been promoted to vice president of the legal division at Conestoga Title Insurance Company. Zulli, of Hershey, Pa., joined the company in October 2002 as underwriting counsel.

## 2001

**Patrick Callahan** works on interactive marketing services for Cohesive Strategies in Hockessin, Del.

**Emmanuel Caulk, Jr.**, is the new principal of Newark High School in Newark, Del. He previously served as principal of Eshelman Elementary School, near Lancaster, Pa.

**Mary Higgins** has joined the new Wilmington, Del., office of Philadelphia-based LundyLaw. She specializes in employment, age, and other types of discrimination litigation.

**Anthony Longo** is a deputy attorney general in the Wilmington, Del., office of the Department of Justice, assigned to the Civil Division, Family Services Group, Child Support Enforcement Unit.

**Megan Ryland Tanner** has been named a partner of Gerber, Ferry & Tanner Law Offices in Palmyra and Derry Township, Pa. She practices family, criminal, and animal law.

**Heather Tereshko** is an associate with Post & Schell, P.C., in Philadelphia, practicing in the firm's professional liability defense group.

## 2002

**Robert J. Foley Jr.** is an associate at The Foley Law Firm in Scranton, Pa., which his grandfather founded over 50 years ago. He practices workers' compensation and personal injury litigation. Foley lives in Scranton with his wife, Cara Mia, and their two sons.

**Perry de Marco, Jr.** has joined the law office of his father, Perry de Marco '75, in Philadelphia. They concentrate in the practice of personal injury law and criminal law.

**Marrita Murphy** is the author of H.R. 4732, the Federal Whistleblower Protection Act of 2004, recently introduced by Congressman Jim Gerlach (R-PA). The bill would amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income amounts received as damages and attorneys' fees and costs under federal whistleblower protection laws and to allow income averaging for amounts received as lost income. Murphy is a sole practitioner in Fort Worth, Texas, handling whistleblower cases. For more information, contact her at [Marrita111@aol.com](mailto:Marrita111@aol.com).

**Renee D. Veney** manages the newest office of Kimmel & Silverman in Wilmington, Del. The law firm's offices in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware, provide free legal help to consumers for automobile lemon law and breach of warranty claims.

# CLASS NOTES



## 2003

**Eric M. Anderson** is an associate with the Delaware firm of Prickett, Jones & Elliott.

**Kathleen Magee** is an assistant district attorney in Delaware County, Pa.

**A. Zachary Naylor** is an associate in the Wilmington, Del., office of Chimicles & Tikellis LLP.



**Denise D. Nordheimer** is a law clerk for the Honorable Richard S. Gebelein of the Delaware Superior Court.

## 2004

**Frank Shoemaker** received a 2004 James J. Manderino Award for Trial Advocacy during the annual meeting of the Philadelphia Trial Lawyers Association. The awards, named for the late speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, are presented annually to graduating law students who have shown outstanding achievement in trial advocacy.



Frank Shoemaker, center, accepted the award from Representative Kathy Manderino, left, and award committee chairman Frank C. DePasquale '86.

## IN MEMORIAM

**Annmarie Anderson** '00, age 31, of Wilmington, Del., on July 8, 2004. She was a law clerk for Saul Ewing, LLP, in Wilmington.

**Eric E. Busch** '91. He maintained a law practice in Philadelphia.

**Nicole Cullison** '03, of Philadelphia, Pa., on April 14, 2004, of cystic fibrosis. She worked as a law clerk for Karen Ulmer '95.

**Mark Danik** '02, age 59, of Old Bridge, N.J., on July 3, 2004, while diving off the coast of New Jersey.

**Denise K. Kontrack** '96, age 51, of Folcroft, Pa., on May 3, 2004. She was an associate with the Mager Law Firm in Philadelphia.

**James Logan III** '81, of Mount Holly, N.J. He practiced family law at Logan & Logan LLC in Mount Holly.

**Michael F. McHugh** '96, age 47, of Elkins Park, Pa., on February 28, 2004. He was a district justice in Cheltenham, Pa., and is survived by his wife and six children.

## Wanted: Class Notes

Class Notes invites alumni to write to the Development/Alumni Office with news of interest. If your name has not appeared recently in Class Notes, take a moment to share some news about yourself for an upcoming issue. If you wish, include a photograph with your information.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Class Year \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Indicate:  Home  Work

Your news or comments

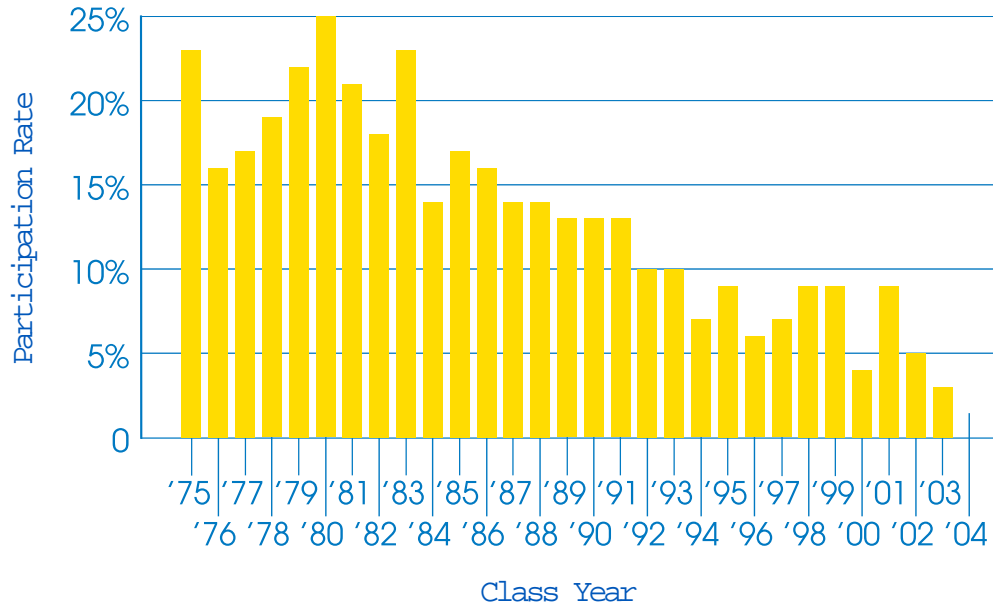
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Write to: Alumni Office  
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[www.law.widener.edu](http://www.law.widener.edu)



# Did you know?



- That last fiscal year only 13% of our alumni made a gift to Widener University School of Law? We call that “alumni participation,” and we lag behind other law schools in the region.
- That giving regularly each year is more important than how much you give?
- That corporate donors, foundations, prospective students, parents, faculty and media focus on the percentage of alumni who give annually as a reliable means of measuring Widener Law School’s credibility and well being?
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Over the next decade, we hope to increase our overall participation rate from 13% to 24%. The involvement of each Widener Law School alumni class is critical to the success of this campaign.

Please help us increase our alumni participation rate this year by sending your gift today. Your involvement is important. Thank you for your support.



# Calendar of Events

## October 2004

- 15** “Regulating for Patient Safety: The Law’s Response to Medical Errors”  
Widener Law Review Symposium,  
Wilmington Campus  
(7 credit CLE)
- 22** The First Amendment Forum Lecture, Ruby Vale Moot Courtroom, Wilmington Campus

## November 2004

- 13** Class of 1979 - 25<sup>th</sup> Class Reunion, Wilmington Campus
- 19** The 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Francis G. Pileggi Distinguished Lecture in Law Series, 8 a.m., Hotel duPont (1 credit CLE)

## December 2004

- 6** Alumni Award Reception, Ruby Vale Moot Courtroom, Wilmington Campus

## March 2005

- 24** Philadelphia Alumni Reception, Ritz-Carlton, Philadelphia

## May 2005

- 21** Commencement (Delaware)
- 22** Commencement (Harrisburg)
- 23** U.S. Supreme Court Bar Induction Ceremony, Washington, DC
- TBA** The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual E. John Wherry, Jr. Trial Advocacy Lecture Wilmington and Harrisburg Campuses



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