

WIDENER UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

A MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS • Volume 12 • Number 1 • Spring 2005



**Widener Community Eyes
Sentencing Changes**

THIS HAS BEEN A SPECIAL EXPERIENCE



As I complete my seventh and final year as dean of our two-campus School of Law, I want you to know that I have greatly appreciated the opportunity to serve this community. This has been a special experience for my wife, Caroline, and me for several reasons. First, the history of the school and its alumni make it special. As discussed in this issue of our magazine (page 7), this year marks the 30th anniversary of our first graduating class. The people in the first few classes took a chance on a new and unproven law school and set a tone for the future. Their confidence helped them succeed and set a pattern of success for future students—a pattern that was repeated in the subsequent opening of our Harrisburg Campus. Out of their brave start has arisen a law school that received almost 4,000 applications last year. Their efforts made possible the success of later graduates, who now run law

firms, corporations, and government agencies and serve in legislatures and on the bench. The fact that more than 90 alumni have been elevated to the judiciary speaks well of the trust society places in those educated at Widener.

Over the past seven years, we have improved our facilities, added classroom technology, enhanced our programs, and upgraded student services. What has made the biggest difference for the school, however, is the people who work here. I take pride in knowing that the highest priority of our faculty and staff is to provide service to students and the community and to contribute to the spread of knowledge. We have an outstanding faculty. They have become respected scholars, articulate voices for law reform, and leaders in service to the profession and the community. They are wonderful role models for the next generation of lawyers.

I am proud, too, of our students, who combine their education with service to both the school and the broader community. The leaders of our Student Bar Associations, our law journals, our moot court societies, and our trial advocacy societies set an example of service by spending countless hours training and helping other students in their organizations. Those enrolled in our clinics serve the indigent and the public interest in a variety of settings throughout the region. Our student organizations sponsor service projects that help elementary school students in low-income areas, assist victims of

domestic violence, help the disabled and elderly to vote, assist low-income people with tax returns, and serve the community in a host of other ways, including fundraisers for tsunami relief, breast cancer awareness, and other causes. Our new Public Interest Resource Center and Public Interest Initiative, profiled in this issue on page 12, have already attracted several additional students interested in volunteering their services to the community.

Our evening-division law students in Delaware and Harrisburg deserve special mention. They and their families make tremendous sacrifices to allow them to get the education they need to be part of our justice system and make a difference in our society.

Finally, I am grateful to all the alumni and other members of the bench and bar who contribute so much to our students. Your service as mentors, adjunct professors, overseers, guest speakers, moot court judges, and trial advocacy coaches and trainers is greatly appreciated. Your financial support plays a key role in helping the next generation of Widener graduates serve their communities. I hope that you, too, are proud to be affiliated with this institution and that you will continue to support it.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Douglas E. Ray". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Douglas E. Ray
Dean

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Contents

Volume 12, Number 1, Spring 2005



2 Widener Community Eyes Federal Sentencing Changes

7 Celebrating 30 Years of ABA Accreditation— Thanks to Dreamers, Doers, and Unsung Heroes

10 Honoring Dean Emeritus Arthur Weeks

11 Extracts

Harrisburg Students Help Craft Safety Net for Violence Victims; New Center Helps Students Offer Free Legal Assistance to the Poor; Legal Eagles Learn from Springsteen; First Raynes McCarty Lecture to Address Malpractice Reform; Judge Sleet Shares Photos, Thoughts of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.; Students Take Top Honors in National Moot Court Competition; Widener Hosts 17th Annual Ruby R. Vale Interschool Corporate Moot Court Competition; Floyd Abrams Speaks About Confidential News Sources; BLSA Members Attend Just The Beginning Foundation Conference Gala.

18 Faculty News

2005 H. Albert Young Lecture Spotlights a History of Race in Delaware; Russell Hakes Named Vice Dean; Assistant Dean of Career Development Takes Seat on National Board; Larry Hamermesh Named Ruby R. Vale Professor of Corporate and Business Law; Unveiling of *Wings of Justice*.

20 Faculty Publications 2004–2005

22 Judge Mirarchi—Retired from the Bench (but not from the Law)

23 In Memoriam: G. Fred DiBona Jr. '75

24 Alumni News

Philadelphia Reception at the Ritz-Carlton; Announcing the 2004 Alumni Award Recipients; Wherry Trial Advocate Program; Loan Repayment Assistance Program.

28 Class Notes

Widener Community Eyes Federal Sentencing Changes



By Mary Allen

When the U.S. Supreme Court issued its much-anticipated rulings early this year in *U.S. v. Booker* and *U.S. v. Fanfan*, the outcome grabbed national headlines and attention on both Widener law campuses. The 5–4 decision declared mandatory sentencing guidelines unconstitutional and handed discretion back to U.S. district court judges as they weigh sentencing decisions going forward.

“Now it’s a whole new world, although not a defined world,” said Professor Leonard N. Sosnov, who teaches criminal law, criminal procedure, and evidence on Widener’s Delaware Campus. Sosnov has twice briefed and argued cases in the U.S. Supreme Court. Like many others in the legal community with ties to Widener, Sosnov said the federal sentencing matter is still far from settled. For example, the court did



“Now it’s a whole new world, although not a defined world.”

Professor Leonard N. Sosnov

not make clear to what degree judges should consider the guidelines when making sentencing decisions, he said. That means it is open to debate whether judges should give the guidelines considerable weight and deviate from them only with good reason, or if they are just one factor judges should consider in fashioning a sentence. “The circuit courts are already divided,” Sosnov said.

Professor James W. Diehm has been discussing the decision with students in his Advanced Criminal Procedure class this semester on the Harrisburg Campus. “The government has lost a great deal of leverage through this,” said Diehm, who served four years as the presidentially appointed U.S. attorney for the District of the Virgin Islands, until 1987. “It’s a big deal on a lot of levels.”

The court’s ruling turned on the Sixth Amendment right to a jury trial and was an outgrowth of a June 2004 decision in *Blakely v. Washington*, in which the court ruled that any fact that could increase a defendant’s sentence had to be found by a jury or admitted by the defendant as part of a plea agreement. Until the January 12 decision in *Booker* and *Fanfan*, judges had spent two decades doling out



Professor James W. Diehm

“The government has lost a great deal of leverage through this.”

sentences using a complex process created by Congress for calculating an offender’s guideline range. The process took much into account: from an offender’s personal history to how much assistance the offender provided the government to the severity of the crime. Judges were often forced to increase the guideline ranges based on factors a jury had not decided, such as the amount of drugs involved in a criminal case.

Congress created the Sentencing Reform Act in 1984 and paved the way for a system that required judges to sentence almost exclusively within federal guideline ranges. The whole purpose, said Diehm, was to end widespread disparity between sentences. Before Congress enacted the guidelines, there were rumors of defendants and their attorneys “judge shopping” in hopes of finding a jurist with a light sentencing touch,

Diehm said. There were wildly different sentences for the same convictions. Some were so tough that they were thought to be draconian, said Diehm, who saw the situation from the front lines of his prosecution work. “There were a lot of crazy things going on,” he said.

While the introduction of mandatory guidelines was hoped to bring a more level playing field to sentencing, it created something of a power struggle between Congress and the judiciary. “I don’t think there’s any question federal judges have been critical of the guidelines for many, many years and are breathing a sigh of relief,” said Joseph T. Walsh, a retired Delaware Supreme Court justice who sits on the School of Law Board of Overseers. Walsh recently



Justice
Joseph T. Walsh

“I for one am strongly opposed to mandatory guidelines because they remove the basis for judicial discretion.”

organized a panel discussion on sentencing for the St. Thomas More Society and Delaware Bar Association’s annual Enhanced Ethics and Delaware Practice Seminar. Much of the talk was devoted to guidelines and mandatory minimum sentences, of which the latter remained unaffected by the Supreme Court ruling. “I for one am strongly opposed to mandatory guidelines because they remove the basis for judicial discretion,” Walsh said.

In the weeks following the federal decision, the Washington commission that oversees the guidelines tracked judges’ sentencing behavior and found that judges were using their new discretion only infrequently, according to the *Wall Street Journal*. Preliminary data published in the newspaper’s February 11 report showed that less than one in ten sentences reflected the new discretion.

“At the moment we’re in a period of uncertainty,” said H. Geoffrey Moulton Jr., an associate professor on Widener’s Delaware Campus who is on leave working as first assistant U.S. attorney in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. Moulton, who teaches criminal law and procedure, will return to the classroom at Widener in the fall. This is a topic he will definitely discuss with students, he said. For now, Moulton said his office

“The appellate system will have to deal with [sentencing disparity], if it occurs.”

Lee A. Solomon

is gathering information for the U.S. Department of Justice on how judges are applying *Booker* and *Fanfan*. “We’re gathering data and supplying it to Washington,” he said. So what are they seeing locally so far? “It’s too soon to tell,” Moulton said.

Federal prosecutors in southern New Jersey believe that vastly disparate sentences won’t start surfacing in the months after *Booker* and *Fanfan*, said Lee A. Solomon, deputy assistant U.S. attorney in that district. Solomon is a member of the School of Law Board of Overseers and works in Camden, New Jersey. “The system usually adjusts very well to policy changes,” Solomon said, adding he thinks that will happen here, too. There is a place for considering disparities in sentencing. Sentences are subject to reversal if appeals courts find them to be unreasonable. “The appellate system will have to deal with that, if it occurs,” Solomon said. Both Moulton and Solomon agreed that guidelines can be useful tools for judges.



“It’s much easier now for a defendant to end up with a much higher sentence.”

Professor Leonard N. Sosnov

Diehm and Walsh agreed the current situation affects prosecutors greatly and could decrease their leverage, particularly in plea bargaining. That is substantial for a system that resolved 96 percent of its cases by guilty or no-contest pleas in the 12-month period ending September 30, 2003, the most recent time frame for which statistics are available from the U.S. Administrative Office of the Courts.

Alumnus Christopher S. Koyste '92, a federal public defender in Delaware, said district court judges' new flexibility could affect not only the length of sentences, but also the type of sentences. The change will allow for more fair and individualized decisions, he said. “Halfway house placement, electronic monitoring, and drug treatment may play more pronounced roles in providing punishment and, at the same time, rehabilitation to federal offenders,” Koyste said. However, giving judges greater discretion does not necessarily mean they will veer toward downward trends. “It’s much easier now for a defendant to end up with a much higher sentence,” Sosnov said.

The Supreme Court decision doesn't affect sentencing in Pennsylvania and Delaware state courts. In Delaware, Walsh said, state sentencing guidelines are only advisory. In Pennsylvania,

judges have always been allowed to deviate from state guidelines with good reason—subject to a review for abuse of discretion, Sosnov said.

The matter appears far from finished. Walsh noted that the U.S. Supreme Court said in its decision that the court didn't think Congress intended for the guidelines to be mandatory and that if Congress did intend that, this needs to be said explicitly. "That sort of opens the door," Walsh said, adding that he suspects that the U.S. Department of Justice will try to get that type of legislation through Congress.

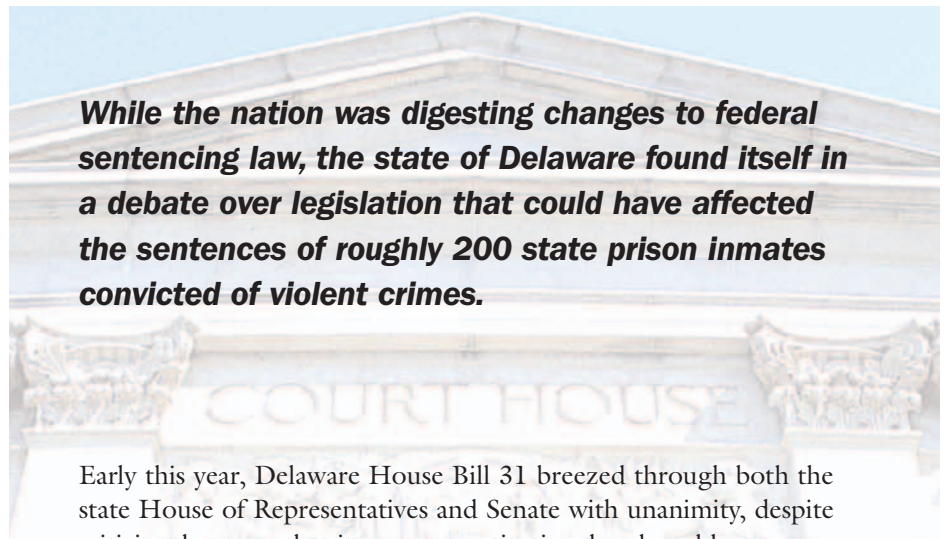


H. Geoffrey Moulton Jr.

"If judges continue to impose sentences within the guidelines, there will be less pressure on Congress to act."

A spokesman for Pennsylvania Republican Senator Arlen Specter, the Senate Judiciary chairman, told the *Wall Street Journal* after the ruling that Specter would work with the Department of Justice and the U.S. Sentencing Commission to find a long-term remedy. "The ball now lies in Congress' court," Justice Stephen G. Breyer said, writing for the majority. "The national legislature is equipped to devise and install, long term, the sentencing system compatible with the Constitution that Congress judges best for the federal system of justice." Moulton took a wait-and-see view. "If judges continue to impose sentences within the guidelines, there will be less pressure on Congress to act," he said.

W



While the nation was digesting changes to federal sentencing law, the state of Delaware found itself in a debate over legislation that could have affected the sentences of roughly 200 state prison inmates convicted of violent crimes.

Early this year, Delaware House Bill 31 breezed through both the state House of Representatives and Senate with unanimity, despite criticism by some that it was unconstitutional and could expose Delaware to lawsuits from affected inmates. Sponsored by Clair Manor Republican Wayne A. Smith, the House majority leader, and Senator James T. Vaughn, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, the bill declared null and void a November Delaware Supreme Court decision. That ruling, in *Ward T. Evans v. State of Delaware*, required the state to release inmates who have fulfilled their life sentences under the standards that were in effect when their sentences were ordered. Before the Truth In Sentencing Act of 1989 took effect, the standard for a life sentence was 45 years. Officials said that could make some 200 inmates eligible for release. Delaware Governor Ruth Ann Minner signed the bill on February 1, but asked the state supreme court to review the legislation to ensure it was constitutional.

Stephen E. Henderson, an associate professor at the School of Law in Wilmington, said the bill would not pass constitutional muster, because, under the separation of powers, the legislature does not have the authority to declare a court decision null and void. "The legislature can't trump the court. The court can certainly decide it was mistaken," Henderson said.

Delaware Attorney General M. Jane Brady, a member of the School of Law Board of Overseers, said her office did not take a position on the bill. However, once the supreme court agreed to review the legislation, her deputies were assigned the task of defending the measure. The Office of the Attorney General has a constitutional obligation to defend the state's laws, she said, and it argued that the measure could and should legally stand.

While House Bill 31 was ultimately struck down by the court, which found that the legislation was unconstitutional because it violated separation of powers principles, the court also reversed itself and withdrew its previous ruling in *Evans*. The reversal of the ruling—which officials had said could have freed the most violent kinds of criminals, such as murderers, rapists, and kidnappers—brought relief to many in the community. For now, the inmates will remain incarcerated. W

Celebrating 30 Years of ABA Accreditation—Thanks to Dreamers, Doers, and Unsung Heroes

By Judith Van Dongen and David King



A spirited teacher, Dean Avins was perhaps most at home in the classroom.

Enjoying a first-rate facility and learning from a top-rated faculty, many of today's students at the School of Law are unaware of the humble beginnings and the unusual circumstances their predecessors encountered during the school's formative years. With the 30th anniversary of the first graduating class approaching, it is a fitting time to remember the many sacrifices made during the school's extraordinary beginning.

Widener University's School of Law would not exist today if it wasn't for Alfred Avins, an attorney and legal scholar who was considered by many to be a genius. With many notable accomplishments already to his credit, Avins dreamt of establishing an independent and conservative law school in Delaware, at the time a state without a law school. There was a widely held belief among his peers that the number of applicants from Delaware would be too small to support such a school. However, Avins persisted and used his own money to found the Delaware Law School in 1971. That fall, nearly 150 students began their four-year matriculation in the school's evening division, with classes being offered at the Wilmington YWCA. The next fall, the first full-time day students were admitted, and the school moved to new quarters in a former church. Avins simultaneously fulfilled the roles of dean, professor, and trustee.

As a start-up operation, the school was on an important mission to pursue provisional accreditation from the American Bar Association (ABA). Without this accreditation, the school's graduates would not be eligible to take the bar in most states, leaving them unable to practice law. Dean Avins realized the significance of the task at hand and was confident that it could be achieved before the first class graduated in 1975. From the beginning, he worked passionately to get the school up to the standards set by the ABA, which covered administrative policies, physical plant,

library collection and administration, degree requirements, financial stability, and a qualified student body. The student involvement in these efforts was extraordinary. After the school had purchased the Peninsula United Methodist Church to house its operations, students did whatever they could to advance the law school. They functioned, among others, as carpenters, electricians, and custodians. They were also instrumental in building the school's library. Early students tell stories of weekend road trips to pick up entire law libraries of closing firms—which Avins had successfully procured—and storing law books in their homes and garages.

Avins had been lauded for his qualities as a teacher and scholar, but it was time for new leadership to advance the school's next phase of development, particularly the accreditation process. Avins relinquished his position as dean, making room for Arthur Weeks. Weeks had a track record of success, having previously secured ABA accreditation for the Cumberland School of Law. Dean Weeks made immediate and substantive changes to the Delaware Law School. Among others, he made necessary improvements to the physical plant, hired a business manager, had the library put in order, and diversified administrative and teaching duties. He also added to the school's Board of Trustees two prominent members of the Delaware Bar, Thomas Lodge and Charles Maddock. Even with these important changes, Dean Weeks could not accomplish enough in time to meet the requirements of an already scheduled ABA inspection in January 1975.



Dean Weeks' pragmatism played a key role in the school obtaining ABA accreditation.

When Weeks, Lodge, and Maddock attended the ABA meeting in February 1975, they received news of a deferred decision by the ABA.

Given the ABA's concern for the school's financial status, Dean Weeks understood that the school would have to affiliate with an academic institution or secure additional funding sources.

Various schools were considered as candidates for affiliation, including Widener College and the University of Delaware. Weeks told the students that he “would not gamble with their futures” and that he “preferred a certainty to an uncertainty in order to save the first class.” When it became clear that the University of Delaware could not deliver its decision within the necessary time frame, Weeks approached the law school's Board of Trustees and gained authorization to merge with Widener College, which was under the leadership of President Clarence Moll.

It was this proposed affiliation with Widener College that persuaded the ABA Council to recommend provisional accreditation for the law school following another inspection in May 1975. Graduation was



Professing their continued support, students showed up en masse to hear Weeks announce news of a deferred decision by the ABA.



Dean Weeks welcomed President Moll to the Delaware Law School in May 1975.

postponed pending the final approval of the ABA House of Delegates in August, so that the students would graduate from an accredited school. With final approval in hand, Delaware Law School was acquired via merger by Widener College, and on August 24, 1975, 267 ecstatic graduates received their diplomas from the ABA-accredited Delaware Law School of Widener College. **W**



With provisional approval by the ABA a fact, sheer joy prevailed at the graduation of the inaugural class of 1975.

FROM DREAM TO ACCREDITED INSTITUTION— A CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

- March 1971 Alfred Avins establishes the Delaware Law School.
- October 1971 Classes start at the YWCA in Wilmington.
- June 1972 The Peninsula United Methodist Church is purchased to house the school's operations. Classes commence in the new quarters in September.
- January 1974 First ABA inspection visit.
- August 1974 Second ABA inspection visit.
- September 1974 Arthur Weeks is appointed dean.
- January 1975 Third ABA inspection visit.
- February 1975 Accreditation decision is deferred. The school's Board of Overseers appoints a committee to investigate affiliation with another institution.
- April 1975 Widener College offers to affiliate with Delaware Law School.
- May 1975 The law school and Widener enter into an immediate agreement to affiliate. This takes place just before the fourth ABA inspection visit. Graduation of the first class, set for June, is postponed pending the outcome of this attempt.
- July 1975 The ABA Council on Accreditation votes to recommend provisional accreditation to the full House of Delegates, who are meeting in August.
- August 1975 On August 12, the ABA House of Delegates votes to grant provisional accreditation. Delaware Law School is acquired via merger by Widener College. On August 24, the first class of 267 graduate with a diploma from an accredited law school.
- January 1978 On the earliest possible date, the ABA grants full accreditation to the Delaware Law School of Widener College.

HONORING DEAN EMERITUS ARTHUR WEEKS

*By David King,
Archivist/Reference Librarian*

Dean Emeritus Arthur A. Weeks was honored with an exhibit mounted in the Legal Information Center in December. The display, in celebration of Weeks' 90th birthday, recognized the critical role he played as the school's second dean.

After the founder of the Delaware Law School, Alfred Avins, was unsuccessful in his quest to obtain the critically important ABA accreditation, he contacted Arthur Weeks. Weeks had previously secured ABA accreditation for Samford University's Cumberland School of Law, located in Birmingham, Alabama. At Avins' invitation, Arthur and Carol Weeks came to Wilmington in September 1974. Encouraged by the students to take on the task of getting the law school accredited, Weeks accepted the offer of deanship, and the couple immediately relocated to Delaware.

Dean Weeks made considerable improvements in his first few months, but he did not have enough time to satisfy all the requirements for the third ABA inspection visit in January 1975. Weeks learned that the ABA's main concern was for the school's financial stability, which could be solved through affiliation with another academic institution. Before the fourth inspection in May, Weeks had gained authorization from the law school's Board of Trustees to merge with Widener College, one of several candidates considered. This prompted the ABA Council on Accreditation to recommend provisional accreditation, a motion that was given final approval by the ABA House of Delegates in



August 1975. Within a few weeks, the Delaware Law School merged with Widener College and graduated its first class.

Shortly thereafter, Widener acquired Brandywine Junior College, and plans were announced to relocate the law school to Brandywine's suburban campus. Dean Weeks oversaw the design and construction of an addition to the junior college's library facility to house the law school. Spring classes began in the new facilities in January 1978, just as the ABA granted full accreditation to the school at the earliest possible date. In July 1979, Widener College attained university status in both Delaware and Pennsylvania.

Weeks stepped aside as dean in 1980 to resume teaching. A new dean was appointed, but his tenure was short, and Weeks was asked to assume the responsibilities of interim dean while a search for a new dean was being conducted. In 1983, Anthony J. Santoro became the school's fourth

dean, and Weeks was named dean emeritus, retiring to his native town of Birmingham.

It was my privilege last November to interview Weeks and videotape two hours of conversation and reminiscences for the law school's archives. I traveled to Hoover, on the south side of Birmingham, where I was a guest in Arthur and Carol Weeks' comfortable home. Upon my arrival, Weeks graciously toured me through the house, where I immediately recognized the "Shower Curtain" portrait—so named by the students—of Dean Weeks hanging in one of the rooms. I had known of this painting by Diane Keller only as the stuff of legend. The painting had been removed by students as a prank some time after it had been presented to Dean Weeks by the first graduating class. When it was returned, Weeks reported that students commented, "The good news is that it's back; the bad news is that it's intact." I liked the portrait and its history and asked if we could use it as a backdrop for the interview. During the taping Weeks offered to donate the painting to the school, to which I quickly agreed. The painting is again back and intact, and shares space with the later Weeks portrait by Edward Lis.

Today Weeks' life centers on caring for his wife and their home. The couple maintains positive attitudes and shares a keen interest in world events and politics. They are quietly and devoutly religious. Arthur and Carol Weeks both remember their tenure in Wilmington with a sense of satisfaction of a job well done and with great affection for the school and the state. **W**

Harrisburg Students Help Craft Safety Net for Violence Victims



Governor Rendell (seated, at center) signed the new act into law during a December 14, 2004, ceremony, which was attended by state officials, delegates from the Pennsylvania Coalition against Domestic Violence (including Judith Yupcavage, standing, third from right), Associate Professor John Capowski (standing, fifth from right), and School of Law graduates Maggie Finkelstein '00 and Jennifer Wentzel '00 (standing, far right and second from right, respectively).

Victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking crimes will benefit from new Pennsylvania legislation that is the result of 10 years of diligent work by Widener law students. Taking effect May 29, the Domestic and Sexual Violence Victim Address Confidentiality Act will allow violence victims to use a legal substitute address—provided by the Pennsylvania Office of the Victim Advocate—on important records like driver’s licenses, vehicle registrations, school records, library cards, and utility bills. The purpose of the act is to prevent assailants from using public records to locate their victims.

In 1995, Associate Professor John J. Capowski approached the Harrisburg-based Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence looking for an organization his students could work with to craft innovative new policies and statutory initiatives. The Domestic

and Sexual Violence Victim Address Confidentiality Act was one of the resulting projects. When work on the bill first began in Pennsylvania, only Washington State had similar legislation. Today, about half of all states have this kind of statute, according to Judith K. Yupcavage, the coalition’s public policy and information manager. “Victims do have to flee. They do have to relocate. They need the protections this program can afford,” she said.

Under Capowski’s guidance, Widener students researched and drafted the latest legislation, and as the years passed new groups of students stuck with the measure to see it through negotiations and revisions. On December 14, 2004, Governor Edward G. Rendell finally signed the act into law during a ceremonial event in the governor’s reception room at the Capitol. Capowski attended the bill signing with former students

Jennifer A. Wentzel and Maggie M. Finkelstein, both members of the class of 2000.

The Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence has been grateful for the years of commitment Widener demonstrated to help victim advocate groups get the bill through the legislature. “They hung in there. John would come to hearings and testify, and his students came too,” Yupcavage said. Capowski, too, views the cooperative effort as a success story for all parties involved. “It’s been great for my students and me not only to have been involved in making law in Pennsylvania, but also to have helped the victims of domestic violence. The work we’ve done with the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence truly has been gratifying.” **W**

New Center Helps Students Offer Free Legal Assistance to the Poor



From left to right: keynote speaker Louis J. Freeh, PIRC director Professor Arlene Rivera Finkelstein, Dean Douglas Ray

On February 16, the School of Law officially launched the Public Interest Resource Center (PIRC), a center dedicated to the promotion of public interest work to Widener law students. The Honorable Louis J. Freeh, vice chairman and general counsel for MBNA America and a member of the school's Board of Overseers and adjunct faculty, delivered the keynote address at the opening celebration.

Located on the Delaware Campus and directed by Professor Arlene Rivera Finkelstein, PIRC aims to form alliances with public service agencies to place student volunteers in positions where they can use their legal knowledge to serve the poor. Opportunities are already under way for students to work with a variety of organizations: At Delaware's Self-Help Center, they will assist people who cannot afford attorneys with family law and bankruptcy issues; they will provide information and advocacy for victims of domestic violence at the

Domestic Abuse Project in Delaware County, Pennsylvania; and at the Defender Association of Philadelphia, they will help research and write death-penalty appeals.

In addition, PIRC is developing its first in-house program thanks to a \$50,000 donation from MBNA America. The program will bring financial literacy education to low-income people and school children. Finkelstein said the center will begin this effort with programs at the Latin American Community Center in Wilmington and plans to branch out to venues in Chester, Pennsylvania. PIRC is also grateful for a \$10,000 gift from DuPont, which will pay for two \$5,000 summer stipends for a pair of law students to work in public interest jobs.

Law students who serve the community through PIRC will receive neither pay nor credit for their work. However, the work they do will benefit them in

other ways, Finkelstein said. It will provide them with valuable legal experience, make them more attractive to future employers, and hopefully bolster a spirit of public service in those who choose private-sector careers. "It's all about the intangible rewards," she said. School of Law dean Douglas Ray agreed, stating: "We think that students who experience the satisfaction of using their skills to serve the less fortunate while in law school will be likely to uphold the bar's tradition of pro bono service to the poor throughout their careers."

On March 3, the Harrisburg Campus launched a program known as the Public Interest Initiative. Like PIRC, it will pair students with community programs that can benefit from their assistance. The effort is led by dean of students Elizabeth G. Simcox and director of career development Karen Durkin.

Mark Silliker, an attorney in Dauphin County who is well known for his dedication to pro bono work, spoke at a kickoff celebration for the initiative. He said that members of the bar look forward to working with the school to make the initiative a success. "We're very grateful," Silliker said. "The contributions are noticed by all." **W**

Legal Eagles Learn from Springsteen



Bruce Springsteen as a lawyer? That's what his mother hoped he would be. Instead, he grew up to be one of America's favorite sons, a musician whose lyrics tell personal coming-of-age stories and have become anthems of patriotism. Springsteen has said he figured out who he was while making the album *Darkness on the Edge of Town*. He reflected 10 years ago in his greatest hits album jacket that, "I saw friends and family struggling to lead decent, productive lives and I felt an everyday kind of heroism in this. Still do."

Lawyers work to do right by these common heroes, using words as their weapons. Looking to Springsteen as a catalyst for discussing legal work and how it impacts people's lives, more than 100 students, scholars, alumni, attorneys, and judges gathered on February 24 at Widener's Harrisburg Campus for a day-long event, "The Lawyer as Poet Advocate: Bruce Springsteen and the American Lawyer." Springsteen sings about hope—and hopelessness. For Professor Randy Lee, who organized the Continuing Legal Education (CLE) event, it was a perfect fit. "Lawyers are in the business of providing hope. That's what we sell," he said.

Those who came looking for inspiration could find it in talks led by an impressive roster of speakers that included Pennsylvania Attorney General Tom Corbett, Professor Robert Coles of Harvard University, Professor Abbe Smith of Georgetown University Law Center, Judge John M. Facciola of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, and Justice J. Michael Eakin of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. "Springsteen has never been a fake," Professor Ken Gormley of Duquesne University told the crowd during his "The Lawyer as Artist" talk. "He has never picked up a pen and written catchy jingles somebody will sing in the shower."

The event attracted much attention. People traveled to Harrisburg from as far as Colorado and Minnesota to attend. It was also a popular draw for Pennsylvanians. Lee said it marked the first time any American law school attempted such a program. The Friends of the Bruce Springsteen Special Collection—an all-volunteer organization that serves as administrator and caretaker of the collection in cooperation with Asbury Park, New Jersey, Public Library staff—has said it intends to add papers generated from the event to its collection.

The Springsteen symposium is a good example of the innovative approach Professor Lee and the Harrisburg Campus have taken to providing CLE courses with a twist that adds to audience appeal. Others have taken notice. In April, the Pennsylvania Bar Institute held CLE seminars on Springsteen and the American lawyer in Pittsburgh and Philadelphia. In addition, Pennsylvania State University and Monmouth University are jointly sponsoring a Bruce Springsteen conference this fall. **W**

First Raynes McCarty Lecture to Address Malpractice Reform

Malpractice reform is the focus of the School of Law's inaugural Raynes McCarty Distinguished Health Law Lecture on Monday, October 17, 2005. The lecture will be delivered by Columbia University School of Law Professor William Sage. Sage will speak at two separate locations on October 17: the Philadelphia Union League, where the talk will be aimed at Philadelphia lawyers and judges, and at the Ruby R. Vale Moot Courtroom on the Delaware Campus, for the Delaware law community and Widener law students.

An expert on health law and malpractice reform, Sage earned an AB degree from Harvard University and his MD and JD from Stanford University. He recently co-edited *Uncertain Times: Kenneth Arrow and the Changing Economics of Health Care* (Duke University Press) and has published several articles in law journals, including the *Duke Law Journal*, the *Columbia Law Review*, and *Law and Contemporary Problems*.

The Raynes McCarty Distinguished Health Law Lecture is named after a firm of trial appellate lawyers based in Philadelphia and New Jersey. The Raynes McCarty law firm has represented clients in both national and international cases, including the drowning death of national news anchor Jessica Savitch and John du Pont's murder of Olympic wrestler Dave Schultz. The firm—and 16 of its individual lawyers—have received the *Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory's* highest possible rating in both legal ability and ethics, earning them a place in the Bar Register of Preeminent Law Firms. **W**

Judge Sleet Shares Photos, Thoughts of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



Accompanied by his father, young Gregory Sleet meets Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who is en route to Oslo to receive the Nobel Peace Prize.

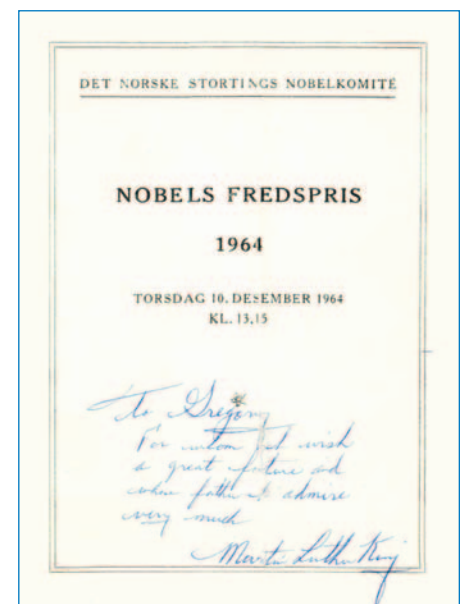
Famous faces like civil rights leader the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., activist Rosa Parks, entertainers Bill Cosby and Dizzy Gillespie, and athlete Jackie Robinson graced the big screen in the Ruby R. Vale Moot Courtroom in Wilmington early this semester. Judge Gregory M. Sleet shared the photos and his recollections of King in remarks to the School of Law on January 20. The event marked the school's celebration of Dr. King's birthday, which was observed with a federal holiday three days earlier.

Sleet, 53, the first African-American judge appointed to the U.S. District Court bench in Delaware and a member of the School of Law Board of Overseers, is the eldest son of the late Juanita Harris Sleet and the late Moneta Sleet Jr., a Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer who chronicled

the country's unrest at the height of the civil rights movement. Moneta Sleet Jr. accompanied King to Oslo, Norway, in 1964 where he photographed the civil rights leader as he accepted the Nobel Peace Prize. He also won the prestigious award for his famous photograph of Coretta Scott King and daughter Bernice at King's April 1968 funeral. At the time, he was a staff photographer for *Ebony* magazine and was the only black photographer allowed into the church for King's funeral service.

Judge Sleet spoke to a filled Vale courtroom at lunchtime and showed slides of his father's work while offering personal thoughts and recollections. In conjunction with the event, he also loaned the school a collection of family photographs, which were displayed in the Legal Information Center.

Introducing the program, School of Law dean Douglas Ray said, "I think the legacy of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. reminds us that passion, courage, and faith in God are important to our justice system and to improving our world." Widener law professor Robert J. Lipkin, who chairs the school's Diversity and Affirmative Action Committee, which organized the event, said he hoped the speech helped students grasp the deep meaning King gave to the lives of a generation of Americans. Although King was assassinated before many of them were born, Lipkin said the committee wanted students to benefit from the vivid recollections of people—like Sleet—who lived during his time and witnessed King's legacy.



On the program of the Nobel Prize ceremony, King wrote a personal note to Gregory Sleet, which reads, "To Gregory, for whom I wish a great future and whose father I admire very much."

W

Students Take Top Honors in National Moot Court Competition



From left to right: John E. Travers, Lisa M. Klein, Christopher J. Cabott, and Associate Professor Stephen Henderson.

A three-person Moot Court Honor Society team from the Delaware Campus took top honors on February 4 at the Tulane Mardi Gras Invitational National Sports Law Competition held in New Orleans. Coached by Associate Professor Stephen Henderson, the team included students Christopher J. Cabott, Lisa M. Klein, and John E. Travers. Cabott, who serves as the school's Student Bar Association president, also won the competition's best oral advocate award.

The competition centered on a hypothetical question involving golfer Tiger Woods. It turned on a debate between the First Amendment and right of protected political speech versus a celebrity's right to decide when his or her name or image can be used for endorsements.

Travers led the team in preparation of its competition brief. Cabott and

Klein argued the case, with Travers on hand to collaborate. They argued six total rounds to win the competition, which attracted students from 32 law schools. The group bested the team from Georgetown University Law Center in the round of 16, beat Wake Forest University School of Law in the quarter finals, and topped Villanova University School of Law in the semifinals. They prevailed over Brooklyn Law School in the finals, held in the En Banc Courtroom of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit in New Orleans. The team was awarded a trophy for its efforts, and Cabott was presented a plaque for the best oral advocate award.

Said Dean Douglas Ray, "We're very proud of our team. They are representative of the kind of talented students we have at our law school." Henderson said the team demonstrated great enthusiasm and good will and

earned the admiration of other law students at the competition, which was sponsored by Tulane University Law School. "They not only represented Widener as an institution of top-notch quality, but also one of top-notch character, which is even more important in my book."

Cabott and Travers graduated this May. Cabott is interested in practicing entertainment, intellectual property, and sports law, and has accepted an associate position with the Philadelphia-based law office of Lloyd Z. Remick, Esq./Zane Management Inc. Travers is undecided on what type of law he will pursue, although he is interested in criminal law and taxation. Slated to graduate in December, Klein is planning to pursue a career in civil litigation.

Henderson is an associate professor on Widener's Delaware Campus, where he teaches classes in cybercrime, criminal law, and criminal procedure. He has a law degree from the Yale Law School and is a member of the State Bar of Texas. **W**

Widener Hosts 17th Annual Ruby R. Vale Interschool Corporate Moot Court Competition



From left to right: The final round bench, consisting of Professor Jill E. Fisch, Justice Henry duPont Ridgely, Justice Joseph T. Walsh, Justice Jack B. Jacobs, and Vice Chancellor John W. Noble; and competition winners Erika Beecham, Eric Selden, and Justin Jory.

The much-anticipated 17th annual Ruby R. Vale Interschool Corporate Moot Court Competition began Thursday, March 17, with 30 teams representing 24 law schools. It ended three days later with the team from Brigham Young University's J. Reuben Clark Law School standing in the winner's circle.

The corporate competition introduces participants to the cutting edge of corporate law. As Delaware's only law school, Widener is in a unique position to draw on the resources and experience of the distinguished Delaware corporate legal community. The competition is hosted by the Widener University School of Law's Moot Court Honor Society under the direction of Lindsey Schreckengost, competition chairperson, and Professor

Paul Regan, competition problem author. Professor Lawrence A. Hamermesh is the competition advisor.

An integral part of the competition is the Distinguished Scholar Lecture, which was given this year by Professor Jill E. Fisch of Fordham University School of Law.

The final round of competition was held Sunday, March 20, in the Ruby R. Vale Moot Courtroom. The final round bench included Fisch, Delaware Supreme Court justices Jack B. Jacobs and Henry duPont Ridgely, Delaware Court of Chancery vice chancellor John W. Noble, and retired Delaware Supreme Court justice Joseph T. Walsh. [W](#)

Floyd Abrams Speaks about Confidential News Sources



Floyd Abrams, one of the nation's preeminent media lawyers, spoke to the law school community on October 22 about the importance of legal protection for confidential news sources. Abrams is representing two reporters—Judith Miller of the *New York Times* and Matthew Cooper of *Time Magazine*—who have been held in contempt for refusing to reveal their sources to a grand jury investigating the disclosure of a CIA agent's identity. The agent's identity was disclosed to syndicated columnist Robert Novak and other journalists shortly after the agent's husband published a *New York Times*

op-ed article critical of the Bush Administration's Iraq policy. In his column, Novak said that "two senior administration officials" had leaked the agent's identity, which is potentially a federal crime.

During his address in the Ruby R. Vale Moot Courtroom, Abrams argued that the First Amendment or federal common law should shield his clients from having to reveal their sources. He stressed that public access to information will be jeopardized if journalists cannot assure sources that their identities will be protected.

Abrams has represented the media in many landmark First Amendment cases. He was co-counsel to the *New York Times* in the Pentagon Papers case and helped CNN secure the right

to broadcast the United States Senate's deliberations over President Clinton's impeachment.

Following Abrams' presentation, the School of Law hosted a First Amendment Forum with a panel of experts on the media and media law. The panel included Widener professors Alan Garfield and Robert Lipkin, as well as University of Delaware professor Ralph Begleiter. Also on the panel were *WDEL's* Rick Jensen and *WILM's* Allan Loudell, and Drewry Nash Fennell, the executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Delaware. The program was co-sponsored by the Widener University School of Law, the Greater Wilmington Radio Association, and the Delaware Humanities Forum. **W**

BLSA Members Attend Just the Beginning Foundation Conference Gala



Students from the School of Law's Black Law Students Association (BLSA) attended the Just the Beginning Foundation's Sixth Biennial Conference Gala in Philadelphia in October 2004. Established in 1992, the Just the Beginning Foundation documents and celebrates the accomplishments, struggles, and history of African Americans in the federal judiciary. The gala was also attended by Charles J. Ogletree, the Harvard Law School Jesse Climenko Professor of Law and vice dean for clinical programs. Pictured here, from left to right, are first-year law student Nickola Stewart, Charles Ogletree, first-year law student Patricia Winston, and second-year law student Brenda Gibbs, BLSA president for 2004–2005.

2005 H. Albert Young Lecture Spotlights a History of Race in Delaware



Professor Robert L. Hayman Jr. said his two years studying Delaware civil rights revealed a history of incredible struggle. “Engaging that history has been both heartbreaking and exhilarating; we’ve overcome much of our past, but there was—and still is—so much to overcome,” Hayman said. “Our national experience with race is pretty shameful and so, too, is our experience in Delaware; Delaware’s history, in fact, may be especially shameful.”

Hayman, who teaches on the Delaware Campus and writes in the areas of constitutional law, civil rights, equal protection law, and jurisprudence, was the H. Albert Young Fellow from 2003 to 2005.

He addressed the law school community on April 11 in the Ruby R. Vale Moot Courtroom, basing his remarks on a chapter in a book he is cowriting with University of Delaware professor Leland Ware. The book commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Supreme Court’s decision in *Brown v. Board of Education*. One chapter, written by Hayman, examines the history of race in Delaware in general terms from 1639 to 1950. “The chapter stops at the point Delaware begins desegregating its schools,” Hayman said, explaining the book will include everything from the first Europeans and Africans in Delaware to the slow process of dismantling Jim Crow laws in the 20th century.

The H. Albert Young Fellowship in Constitutional Law was endowed in 1998 by the Young Foundation of Wilmington, Delaware, in honor of the late H. Albert Young, a highly respected attorney and former Delaware attorney general. The fellowship enables a Widener University School of Law professor to conduct and publish research in the area of Delaware or U.S. constitutional law.

Hayman said a fellowship stipend enabled him to devote the summer of 2004 to research and writing, instead of his normal teaching. Through the fellowship, he was able to begin work on the *Brown* text and complete the course book, *Sports and Equality*. That book, co-authored with Professor Michael Cozzillio of the Harrisburg campus, was just published by the Carolina Academic Press. Another highlight was the daylong Louis L. Redding Symposium on *Brown* at the University of Delaware in April 2004. Hayman was a panel moderator and walked away from the experience with the basis for the book he and Ware are writing. “I am very grateful to the Young family and to the Young Foundation and have been honored to hold the fellowship the past two years. The fellowship enabled me to pursue a real labor of love,” he said.



Hayman’s fellowship successor, Professor Alan E. Garfield, was named following the April 11 lecture. Garfield will spend the fellowship studying in the First Amendment areas of either freedom of speech or freedom of religion. **W**

Russell Hakes Named Vice Dean



Widener University School of Law has named Professor Russell A. Hakes vice dean for the Delaware Campus effective January 1, 2004. He succeeds Professor Michael J. Goldberg, who served as vice dean for the last four and a half years and has returned to full-time teaching.

Said Hakes, “I am honored to have the opportunity to serve a dedicated faculty and staff in our mission to provide a strong and effective legal education to our students. I am particularly excited about the privilege I will have to work with our alumni and the larger community in pursuing common goals to improve our legal education.”

Hakes has taught commercial law and property courses during 16 years with the school. He previously worked as partner and head of the real estate practice group in the Los Angeles firm of Adams, Duque, and Hazeltine. He is active in the commercial law section of the Delaware State Bar Association and the Section of Business Law of the American Bar Association. Hakes has authored numerous law review articles and a book, *The ABCs of the UCC—Article 9: Secured Transactions*, published by the ABA.

Hakes earned his bachelor of science degree at Brigham Young University in Utah and has a master’s degree from Yale University in Connecticut. He earned his law degree at Brigham Young University, J. Reuben Clark Law School. **W**

Assistant Dean of Career Development Takes Seat on National Board



LeaNora Ruffin, assistant dean of career development on the Delaware Campus, has been named to the board of directors of the National Association of Law Placement (NALP).

“I’m just really looking forward to making an impact and being useful to an organization that has given me a lot over the years,” Ruffin said. She will attend quarterly board meetings for the professional development organization, which she described as something of a watchdog for fairness-in-hiring practices. NALP coordinates hiring practices for law schools and law firms across the country.

School of Law dean Douglas Ray said Ruffin will have the opportunity to influence law placement practices nationwide through her new position. “This selection is a tribute to her expertise and her prior service to the national law placement community. I expect that her service will bring credit to the school and to the university,” he said.

Ruffin holds undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Pennsylvania. After graduating, she served as a judicial clerk for the Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia before going on to practice product liability and medical malpractice law in Philadelphia. Ruffin joined the School of Law’s Career Development Office as a senior counselor in August 1998 and became the assistant dean in April 2000. [W](#)

Larry Hamermesh Named Ruby R. Vale Professor of Corporate and Business Law



In a ceremony attended by Andrew McCullough, president of the Ruby R. Vale Foundation and great-grandson of Ruby Vale, Lawrence A. Hamermesh was installed as the

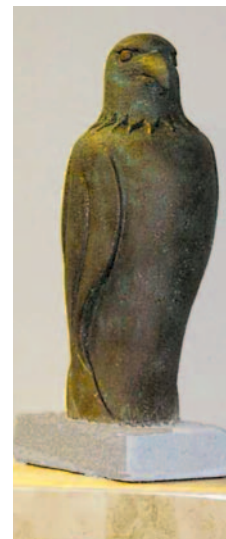
School of Law’s first Ruby R. Vale Professor of Corporate and Business Law on March 21. Following the ceremony, Professor Hamermesh delivered his keynote address titled “Ruby R. Vale and a Definition of Legal Scholarship” in the Ruby R. Vale Moot Courtroom on the Delaware Campus.

Born in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, in 1874, Ruby Ross Vale grew up to be a prolific legal scholar and writer. He published his first work, *Elementary Principles of Pennsylvania Law*, in 1901, but is perhaps best remembered for his multivolume work titled *Vale’s Pennsylvania Digest*, which for many years was the authoritative source of Pennsylvania law. In 1941, Vale published *Some Legal Foundations of Society*, which he considered his master work.

In the years following Vale’s death in 1961, the Ruby R. Vale Foundation was created. This foundation has supported programs and capital projects at the Widener University School of Law since the early 1980s and is one of the school’s largest benefactors. In addition to endowing the Ruby R. Vale Professorship in Corporate and Business Law, the Ruby R. Vale Foundation has generously provided funds to establish the school’s Ruby R. Vale Distinguished Scholar Program, Ruby R. Vale Moot Courtroom, and Ruby R. Vale Interschool Corporate Moot Court Competition. [W](#)

Unveiling of Wings of Justice

On November 14, the Special Collections Room of the Legal Information Center was the site for the unveiling of *Wings of Justice*, a sculpture by Delaware artist Ellen Scarpitti celebrating the life of her friend, Jacqueline R. Paul. Paul, who passed away in 2002, was a librarian and the head of cataloging at the School of Law from its earliest years until her retirement in 1996.



More than 50 guests watched the unveiling of the 23-inch-high statue of an eagle sculpted from aerated concrete and covered with a soft bronze patina. Standing tall and proud on its strong foundation, with its head cocked at an inquisitive angle, it is meant to represent Paul’s spirit—her

solid grounding, her commitment to spiritual growth, her inner reflection, and the curiosity that epitomized her.

A memorial to friendship, the statue was donated to the Legal Information Center by “Jacqui’s girls,” a committee made up of friends of Paul’s that includes the artist. Eileen Cooper, director of the Legal Information Center, called it “truly touching that they selected this location,” because “Jacqui was so much a part of the fabric of the library, of the law school.” [W](#)

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Judge Mirarchi—Retired from the Bench (but not from the Law)

By Judith Van Dongen

Last December, at the respectable age of 80, long-time Board of Overseers member and former adjunct faculty member Judge Charles P. Mirarchi Jr. stepped down from the bench.

Unwilling to give up the law completely, Mirarchi now handles mediation cases, an enterprise he plans to continue as long as he can.

Mirarchi was only about six years old when he made up his mind to become a lawyer. His father's extraordinary journey to lawyerhood was likely a source of inspiration. Having emigrated from Italy as a boy, Charles P. Mirarchi Sr. spent his teenage years shining shoes during the day and getting homeschooled by his younger sister at night. With little formal education, he eventually got himself into law school, working as a barber by day and going to class at night. He passed the bar in his third year and started practicing law. (Remarkably, he was able to practice for close to 70 years without ever completing his legal education.)

Mirarchi Jr. earned his bachelor of science degree from Temple University in 1944, and then continued his studies at the evening division of Temple's School of Law. After graduating with a JD in 1948, he founded a general practice law firm with his father that grew into a four-partner firm—Mirarchi, DeFino, and Coppolino. He left the firm in 1971 when he was elected judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia, where he would spend the first 23 years of his 33-year career as a judge. During this time, he presided over both criminal trials—including a five-year stint in the Homicide Section—and complex civil




litigation. Mirarchi also served in various administrative capacities, including secretary of the Board of Judges, administrative judge of the Trial Division of the Court of Common Pleas, and president of the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges. In 1994, at the age of 70, he was forced to retire as a commissioned judge under the constitution.

Fortunately, at the invitation of the court, he was able to stay on. Six months later he was assigned to the Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania as a senior judge, in which capacity he served for almost 10 years, until December 31, 2004. Mirarchi has been a member of both the Philadelphia and Pennsylvania Bar Associations for more than 50 years.

Mirarchi's talent and dedication have not been confined to the courtroom. Over the years, he has taken up leadership roles in a variety of civic, religious, and educational organizations. He served—and in some cases continues to serve—on numerous boards and committees, and he was active in the Boy Scouts of America for more than 20 years as the organizer of Pack, Troop, and Post 579. He was involved

with the Widener University School of Law—then Delaware Law School—from the beginning. Initially, he was a member of a family committee that was working toward the school's accreditation, and finally he served as an adjunct faculty member (from 1975 to 1999) and a member of the Board of Overseers (from 1981 to present).

In celebration of his many achievements, both professionally and personally, Mirarchi has received numerous awards and honors. Widener presented him with an honorary Alumni Achievement Award in 1979 and the Adjunct Faculty Distinguished Service Award in 2002. Also in 2002, Mirarchi received the Cesare Beccaria Award, given to him for his extraordinary contribution to scholarship and understanding in the area of criminal justice. In addition, he considers it a special honor to have been invited, in 1973, to join the Knights of Malta, a pontifical knighthood with a long and respected history in charitable work.

Mirarchi's enthusiasm about the law must have been contagious. Two more generations of Mirarchis have chosen to attend law school, all of them as evening students: Mirarchi's son, who is a lawyer, graduated from Widener in 1976; his nephew is a Widener law graduate; and his granddaughter is currently in her first year at Widener's School of Law. In addition, both Anthony J. DeFino and Matthew F. Coppolino, who were partners in his firm, followed him to the bench, and Mirarchi estimates that at least 50 of his former Widener students are now judges. The fact that so many of those whose lives he touched have followed in his footsteps may just be the greatest honor of all. 

In Memoriam: G. Fred DiBona Jr. '75 1951–2005

By *Mary Allen*

The law school lost one of its inaugural class graduates and a substantial benefactor early this year when cancer claimed the life of G. Fred DiBona Jr. DiBona, 53, died on January 11 at his home in Villanova, Pennsylvania.

“Fred was a wonderful role model for our students in every regard,” Dean Douglas Ray said. “His devotion to his family, public service, and community leadership made him one of a kind.”

Others who knew him said DiBona was the type of person who treated everyone the same—from the clerks who fielded calls at Independence Blue Cross, where he worked as president and chief executive officer, to the company’s general counsel. DiBona’s funeral Mass at the Basilica Cathedral of SS. Peter and Paul in Philadelphia was attended by a standing-room-only crowd that included Pennsylvania Governor Edward G. Rendell and his wife, Third Circuit Court of Appeals Judge Marjorie O. Rendell, Dean Ray, U.S. Senator Rick Santorum, and numerous other civic and corporate leaders.

“You can’t find a better success story than Freddy DiBona,” said classmate Michael DeFino ’75, a past chair of the School of Law Board of Overseers who currently sits on Widener University’s Board of Trustees. “He is someone we can all be proud of.” DiBona knew as a student that there

were big expectations of him, and he had big shoes to fill, DeFino said. His late father, G. Fred DiBona Sr., was a popular Common Pleas Court judge in Philadelphia County. DiBona’s route to the top did not involve a black robe. His career included posts as president of the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce, chairman of the Philadelphia Port Corporation, and chairman of the Philadelphia Zoning Board of Adjustment.

“When he went into a room you could see he claimed respect,” said John Wetzel ’75. Wetzel and about seven other law school friends joined DiBona at Independence Blue Cross for lunch three weeks before DiBona died. They feasted on favorite foods, sipped wine, and talked about law school for hours. “He was still cracking jokes,” Wetzel said. “He wouldn’t give up. His sense of humor was still there.”

Classmate and lifelong friend Daniel A. Rendine ’75 organized the lunch. He and DiBona grew up in South Philadelphia four blocks from each other, commuted to law school together, and graduated together. DiBona grew to move in impressive circles, he said, but he was just a regular guy. “He never lost the perspective of who he was and where he came from,” Rendine said.



DiBona had a philanthropic spirit, too. A substantial gift from DiBona and his wife, Sylvia, made possible the Judge G. Fred DiBona Student Lounge—named for his late father—on the School of Law’s Delaware Campus. DiBona’s father actively helped the school earn its American Bar Association accreditation in 1975. Gratitude for that—and for the son’s financial support of the school—has been reflected annually in the Judge G. Fred DiBona Moot Court Competition hosted on the Delaware Campus during the fall semester. The competition will mark its 25th year this coming fall.

DiBona served on the School of Law Board of Overseers from 1980 to 1986. He was named *Alumnus of the Year* in 1985.

Despite the rigors of his cancer treatments, DiBona reported to his office nearly every day to direct the company’s affairs. According to a company statement that announced his death, the employees at Independence Blue Cross found his determination to live an “incredible source of inspiration.” **W**

Widener University School of Law Alumni Association Executive Council

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Catherine N. Harrington '88

W. Bruce Hemphill '84

Michael J. Heron '03

Damian S. Jackson '96

Cecilia M. McCormick '91

David C. McFadden '96

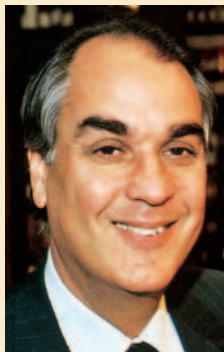
Honorable Paul P. Panepinto '76

Jonathan E. Peri '00

George T. Ragsdale III '92

Larry S. Raiken '75

Bernard M. Weinberg '94



Dear Alumni and Friends:

This spring our law school has reached a major milestone—the graduation of its 30th class. Since its founding, the school has grown at an incredible pace to an institution with two beautiful campuses and an entering class that is selected from more than 4,000 applicants. We should pause to reflect on our history, examine the present, and look to our future.

The determination and persistence of our founder, Alfred Avins, is the source of our success today.

Without his creativity and the hard work of those who followed, there would be no Widener University School of Law. A campaign is under way to name the Special Collections Room of the Legal Information Center in his honor. In addition to a bust of Dean Avins and a plaque, funds from the Avins Campaign will be used to create a scholarship in his name and to preserve the paper library and acquire new collections. To date, the campaign has received contributions totaling \$151,000 toward our goal of \$250,000. All alumni are urged to participate in this tribute to our founder, to whom we owe our degrees and careers. If you have already given, please consider increasing your gift and pledge over a three-year period. Please also encourage fellow alumni to participate if they have not already done so or are unaware of our campaign.

Dean Douglas Ray has decided to step down and return to teaching. Dean Ray took over at an especially challenging time in our history and successfully returned the school to its upward path of success. He has tirelessly represented us at every opportunity and has become an expert at the Wilmington-to-Harrisburg commute. We thank Dean Ray for seven years of leadership and vision, which have guided us to new levels of respect and recognition.

Held at the Ritz-Carlton on March 23 and attended by more than 330, the Philadelphia Reception was a huge success. Judges and elected officials from Pennsylvania and New Jersey were extremely supportive, and everyone had a great time. Receptions were also held in southern New Jersey, New York City, northern New Jersey, and Harrisburg. Please support these gatherings and reunite with fellow alumni. If you would like to help plan a reception, please contact the Office of Development at 302-477-2172.

The future of our school is very bright and promising. There is an active and ongoing campaign to promote scholarship and educational achievement to raise our profile among leaders nationally. In addition, a determined effort is being made to raise admissions standards and increase the bar pass rate. Everyone—including students, alumni, faculty, administrators, overseers, and trustees—is closely involved in advancing our school and our university.

Keep up the great work and stay connected with your law school. Graduation is only the first step to becoming a lawyer. Continue your involvement in one of the many areas that will benefit from your skills and presence. The school depends on you!

Sincerely,

Steven Barsamian

Philadelphia Reception at the Ritz-Carlton—March 23, 2005



From left to right: James Metka '80, District Attorney Lynne Abraham, Joseph Metka, and Scott DiClaudio '89.



Alumni Association director Bernard Weinberg '94 was joined by first-year student Lisa Kaplan and her grandfather, School of Law overseer Judge Charles P. Mirarchi Jr.



Jon Fox '75 and Bob Fulton '82.



Kendall Halpern '02 spoke with Judge Matthew D. Carratiello.



Meg Harrington and Gabrielle DeSorte, both 1993 graduates.



From left to right: Assistant District Attorney Theresa Brunson, Judge Joel S. Johnson '92, Joe Maressa Jr. '92, and Judge Calvin L. Scott '88.



A group of graduates from the inaugural class of 1975 (left to right): Joe O'Neill, A.J. Sciolla, William Shindell, and Mike Mulvey.

Announcing the 2004 Alumni Award Recipients



Back row, from left to right: School of Law dean Douglas Ray, Alumni Association president Stephen Barsamian, Commander Robert Taishoff, Professor Gedid, John Brady, Widener University president James T. Harris III. Front row, from left to right: Mark Cohen, Christopher Fromm, Tania Culley, Alexis Barbieri, Robert DeLong, and Professor Culhane. Not pictured is Professor Hayman.

On December 6, the School of Law announced the recipients of its 2004 Alumni Awards. Given annually to recognize outstanding leadership, service, and achievement, these awards have honored the school's distinguished alumni and professors since 1976. Law school dean Douglas Ray said, "The alumnae, alumni, and faculty honored this year serve their communities, their states, and their nation. We are proud to be represented by them."

Presented to an alumnus or alumna who—through service to his or her community or profession or through other accomplishments—has brought honor, recognition, and distinction to the School of Law, the Outstanding Alumnus of the Year Award went to John F. Brady '91. Brady currently

serves as Majority Caucus House attorney for the Delaware State House of Representatives, where he is responsible for drafting legislation on public safety, correction, judicial, and transportation issues. He also holds elected office as recorder of deeds for Sussex County, Delaware. In addition, he maintains a solo practice in Georgetown, Delaware.

Outstanding Service Awards were presented to Alexis Barbieri '82 and Pennsylvania Representative Mark B. Cohen '93, both of Philadelphia. The service awards are granted for outstanding alumni service to the law school as a whole, to a particular concentration within the school, or to the legal profession. Barbieri is executive deputy attorney general and director of the Public Protection Division in

the Office of the Attorney General for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Cohen serves as a Democratic representative for Philadelphia County and has been a member of the House since 1974.

Recognizing work by recent graduates who show energy and dedication as community leaders or provide invaluable service to the School of Law, Outstanding Recent Alumni Awards were presented to Robert R. DeLong Jr. '99 of Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, and Christopher R. Fromm '99 of Philadelphia. DeLong is an attorney in general practice with an emphasis on elder law, advance health care directives, wills, trusts, estate planning, and probate. He is also a former adjunct professor with Widener's Legal Education Institute. Fromm is

an attorney with the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office in the Special Narcotics Prosecution Unit.

The Liberty Awards for Outstanding Citizenship were given to Tania M. Culley '95 and Commander Robert P. Taishoff '89 of the U.S. Navy's Judge Advocate General Corps. The Liberty Award recognizes alumni who have demonstrated an extraordinary commitment through service and dedication to their community, state, or country. Culley, of Wilmington, Delaware, serves as a child advocate for the Office of the Child Advocate of the state of Delaware. Taishoff, of Annapolis, Maryland, serves the Navy as executive officer of Trial Service Office North East in Washington, DC, and is responsible for the provision of prosecution services in a 21-state region.

Professor of the Year Awards were presented to Professor John G. Culhane, Professor John L. Gedid, and Professor Robert L. Hayman Jr. Alumni nominate the educators and select the winners, who are honored for their significant contributions to the professional development of alumni. On the Widener faculty since 1987 and based on the school's Delaware Campus, Culhane teaches and writes in the area of torts, public health law, advanced torts, HIV/AIDS and the law, and family law. He also holds the title of lecturer at the Yale University School of Public Health, where he teaches health law. Gedid teaches administrative law, Pennsylvania administrative law, contracts, sales, conflicts, and state constitutional law on Widener's Harrisburg Campus. He also serves as the director of the school's Law and Government Institute and is a Pennsylvania commissioner to the National Conference of

Commissioners on Uniform State Laws, where he serves as reporter for the current project to revise the Model State Administrative Procedure Act. Hayman teaches on Widener's Delaware Campus and was the H. Albert Young Fellow in Constitutional Law for 2003 to 2005. He joined Widener in 1990 and teaches and writes in the areas of constitutional law, civil rights, equal protection law, and jurisprudence. **W**

Wherry Trial Advocate Program

Through course, faculty, and facility development, the School of Law's Trial Advocacy Institute has laid a solid foundation to produce well-trained, highly motivated trial advocates using an innovative curriculum, provide leading instruction in trial practice for practicing attorneys, and develop a regional—and ultimately a national—reputation as a premier skills center.

In furtherance of this vision, the School of Law plans to produce nationally recognized trial advocacy teams through the establishment of the Wherry Trial Advocate Program. A campaign led by E. John Wherry Jr., a former Widener law professor and law school benefactor, is currently under way to help the school become a nationally recognized center for the development of innovative trial advocacy training and research.

If you would like more information or wish to support this campaign, please contact E. John Wherry Jr. at jwherry@capecod.net or call Widener's Development Office at 302-477-2172. **W**

Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP)

Demonstrating its commitment to training students for service in the public interest, the School of Law offers a Loan Repayment Assistance Program that allows graduates to pursue public interest careers without the pressures of making loan payments.

To qualify, graduates must apply to the program within three years of graduation and must secure a position with a nonprofit organization that provides a legal service that benefits the community, underrepresented groups, or indigent persons. Preference will be given to graduates working in nongovernmental positions.

Upon acceptance into the program, grants are provided to cover monthly law school loan debt for up to 36 months for loans that were certified by the financial aid office of an ABA-accredited law school. Payment will be made in the form of reimbursement for the previous month's payment made by the student.

For more information about LRAP, call Widener's Financial Aid Office at 302-477-2272. **W**

CLASS NOTES



1975

John B. Dangler has recently been appointed judge for the Family Division of the New Jersey Superior Court in Morristown, New Jersey. Previously, he served as county prosecutor for Morris County, New Jersey.

James L. Fritz has been elected chairman of the tax section of the Pennsylvania Bar Association. Fritz will serve in this position until June 2006. He previously served as section vice chairman, secretary, and member of the section council. Fritz is chairman of the state and local tax group of McNees, Wallace & Nurick.

Ron Goldfaden tried and won a medical malpractice case in Paterson, New Jersey, in February 2005. The verdict was \$9.7 million in damages to cover past and future healthcare costs for a severely brain damaged toddler. The damage was ruled to be due to the negligence of the doctor and midwife who delivered him.

James J. Veneruso has been elected chairman of the board of Heartsong, Inc., which operates music and art therapy programs for children with disabilities at two New York schools. A member of Heartsong's board since its inception in 1992, Veneruso previously served as vice chairman and general counsel. Veneruso is a member of the law firm of Griffin, Coogan, Veneruso, PC, located in Bronxville, New York, and recently received Habitat for Humanity's American Dream Award for performing pro bono services.

1976

Thomas F. Liotti has been recommended for a federal judgeship in New York by the Confederation of Columbian Lawyer Associations. Liotti has a private practice in Garden City, New York.

Michael J. Saile joined his son, Michael L. Saile Jr. '02, to form the partnership Saile & Saile, LLP. Located in Langhorne, Pennsylvania, the new firm will focus on estate planning and administration, personal injury, real estate, business law, traffic violations, and criminal law in New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

1977



James F. Kilcur, a partner and vice chair of Saul Ewing's Labor, Employment, and Employee Benefits Practice Group, presented the new regulations of the Fair Labor Standards Act to the Eastern Human Resource

Council of the Pennsylvania Credit Union Association in July 2004. Kilcur concentrates his practice on representing companies in various aspects of labor and employment law. He is also the editor of the *Pennsylvania Employment Law Letter*, a statewide publication.

1978

John Andrade received the Delaware State Bar Association's Commitment Award for dedicating time and energy to the support and provision of pro bono legal services. He played a key role in the creation of Delaware Volunteer Legal Services (DVLS), for which he handled numerous pro bono cases and served on the Board of Directors. He also volunteers for the Office of the Child Advocate. Andrade, 53, is a director with Parkowski, Guerke & Swayze, PA, focusing his practice on product liability, environmental law, intellectual property, and civil litigation. He has also taught products liability as an adjunct faculty member of the Widener School of Law since 1983.

Bruce L. Hudson is president of the Board of Governors of the Delaware Trial Lawyers Association for the 2004-2005 membership year.

Honorable William J. Walls Jr. has been reappointed associate judge for the Kent County Family Court in Dover, Delaware.

Donald E. Walsh was appointed administrative law judge for the Colorado Division of Administrative Hearings in June 2004. He previously served as the legal advisor to the El Paso County, Colorado, Sheriff's Office for five years subsequent to his return from the U.S. Air Force.

1979

Karen L. Semmelman is a partner in the law firm of Hoffmeyer & Semmelman in York, Pennsylvania. She focuses her practice on family law, consisting of divorce, support, custody, and prenuptial agreements and is regularly invited to speak on these topics. She has recently lectured to the Bankruptcy Institute of the Pennsylvania Bar Association on family law and how it affects bankruptcy; to the York County Bar Association on "Representing the Divorcing Disabled Client"; and to the Pennsylvania Bar Institute on support changes in family law over the last year. Semmelman is a member of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers and serves on the Family Law Council of the Pennsylvania Bar Association.

1980

Eugene A. DiPrinzio has been elected to the American College of Real Estate Lawyers. DiPrinzio is a partner in the commercial real estate, banking, and land use section of Young Conaway Stargatt & Taylor, LLP, in Wilmington, Delaware.

Honorable Nan S. Famular has recently been confirmed as a judge in the Superior Court of New Jersey. She has been assigned to the Camden vicinage.

1981

Martin Manco has been named vice president of business development and manufacturing operations for PediaMed Pharmaceuticals. Previously, he served as chief financial officer and chief executive for a number of New Jersey-based enterprises, including Camden Laboratories, Celsis Inc., Integrated BioSolutions, and Ampcor Inc.

Honorable Michael K. Newell has been appointed associate judge for the New Castle County Family Court in New Castle County, Delaware. Previously, Newell was a partner with the Wilmington firm of Connolly Bove Lodge & Hutch.

Honorable Don Stein is serving as a New Jersey administrative law judge in Trenton, New Jersey.

1982



Kevin R. Brady has been selected as the 2004 recipient of the American Inns of Court's A. Sherman Christensen Award, which is presented to a member of an American Inn of Court who—at the local, state or national

level—has provided distinguished leadership to the Inns of Court movement. A trustee of the American Inns of Court Foundation, Brady chairs the state supreme court's Board of Bar Examiners and is a member of the electronic discovery committee of the U.S. District Court for the District of Delaware, as well as a member of the Court of Chancery's rules committee. Brady is with Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom, where he practices in complex mass torts and insurance litigation. He also handles corporate matters and serves as a mediator for the superior court.

Stephen J. Devine earned, in May 2004, an LLM in Trial Advocacy from Temple University's James E. Beasley School of Law. Selected for designation as an honors graduate, Devine also received awards for the best application of legal research in litigation, most allegorical jury addresses, and civility. In March 2004, Devine presented a lecture on "The Art of Thematic Cross Examination," derived from the National Institute for Trial Advocacy (NITA)'s *Rogers v. State* case, to the Montgomery American Inn of Court, where he is a barrister.

Mark V. Otto, a partner in Maressa, Goldstein, Patterson, Drinkwater, Oddo & Flynn, PC, in Malton and Berlin, New Jersey, is the new president of the Camden County, New Jersey, Bar Association. Otto was installed to the position on May 13.



Matthew C. Wilson was named a shareholder of the regional defense litigation firm Marshall, Dennehey, Warner, Coleman & Goggin. A member of the New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Philadelphia Bar

Associations, Wilson works in the Philadelphia office and concentrates his practice in medical malpractice defense.

1983

Gregory E. Martin of York, Pennsylvania, has been certified as a member of the Million Dollar Advocates Forum. Recognized as the most prestigious group of trial lawyers in the United States, the Million Dollar Advocates Forum limits membership to attorneys who have won million and multimillion dollar verdicts, awards, or settlements. Martin received a verdict of \$1.5 million in the case of *Barnhart v. Hake* in the York Court of Common Pleas in October 2003. Martin is a partner in the Law Offices of Dale E. Anstine, PC, in York, Pennsylvania, and specializes in personal injury and wrongful death law.

1984

Gerald Montella has been appointed solicitor of the borough zoning hearing board for Folcroft, Pennsylvania. Montella is currently employed by the Delaware County Office of the Court Administrator and is primarily responsible for the administration of the Criminal, Civil, Municipal, and Family Law Divisions of the Court of Common Pleas.

1985



Christopher J. Pippett has been elected to serve on the board of Habitat for Humanity of Chester County, Pennsylvania. Pippett is a partner in the Chesterbrook office of Saul Ewing, LLP, and concentrates

his practice in the areas of corporate, banking, and real estate law.

John E. Savoth was recently elected secretary of the Philadelphia Bar Association.

Brian E. Subers, a partner in the Montgomery County office of Fox Rothschild, has been appointed vice chairman of the firm's partnership advancement committee. Suber concentrates his practice on construction and education law.

1986

Richard A. DiLiberto Jr. of Young Conaway Stargatt & Taylor currently serves the Board of Governors of the Delaware Trial Lawyers Association as president-elect.

Constance J. Fontaine, an attorney and an associate professor at The American College, has been named to the Larry R. Pike Chair in Insurance and Investments. Fontaine has taught at the college for more than 17 years. Her responsibilities include the development of texts and courses in estate planning.

1987

Carol Dulin has been hired for a new position as county solicitor for New Castle County, Delaware. She previously served as counsel for the New Castle County Council.

1988



John H. Frymyer has been named vice president of administration and general counsel of Lobar, Inc., a family owned and operated construction services company. Previously, Frymyer was a partner in the Lancaster,

Pennsylvania, law office of Harmon & Davies. His practice concentrated on the areas of business law, construction law, and government contracting.

Marion Kallfelz Rechsteiner received a Pro Bono Award from the Pennsylvania Bar Association at its annual meeting. Rechsteiner belongs to the Chester County Bar Association and is an affiliate member of the Delaware Bar Association.

CLASS NOTES



Derek R. Layser was recently elected as a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA). Dedicated to the preservation of the constitutional right of a jury trial, ABOTA is a nationwide organization of trial lawyers representing both the plaintiff and the defense. Layser is a founding shareholder of Layser & Freiwald, PC, with offices in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Westmont, New Jersey. He has an active trial practice in complex personal injury and other civil trial matters.



Edward Seglias was named by *Law & Politics* as a “Pennsylvania Super Lawyer” for 2004 in the field of construction law, which was published in *Philadelphia Magazine*. He is a partner in the law

firm of Cohen, Seglias, Pallas, Greenhall, & Furman, PC, a construction, commercial, labor, and employment law firm headquartered in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

1990

Cedric Bullock, assistant U.S. attorney, led the government investigation in a whistle-blower suit that accused Collegeville-based Vortec Corporation of exploiting for financial gain a contract it had with the U.S. Department of Energy. The case was settled for \$4.5 million, which Bullock believes to be the largest settlement ever reached for the Department of Energy in this type of case.

Ellis B. Klein was named partner in the Bensalem, Pennsylvania, law firm of Young, Klein and Associates, where he specializes in criminal defense and bankruptcy. Ellis lives in Doylestown, Pennsylvania, with his wife, Linda, and daughters Marissa and Hannah.

Sharon Oras Morgan has joined the Wilmington, Delaware, office of Fox Rothschild as special counsel in the Litigation Department. Morgan practices in the areas of environmental and commercial litigation.

Michele R. Punturi, a shareholder with the regional defense firm of Marshall, Dennehey, Warner, Coleman & Goggin, was a speaker at the annual fall section meeting of the Pennsylvania Bar Association’s workers’ compensation law section.

Craig A. Styer has been elected partner in the firm Fox Rothschild. A member of the litigation department, Styer practices in general litigation with emphasis on commercial, employment, real estate, and insurance matters.

Walter (Pete) H. Swayze, a partner in the Philadelphia office of Segal McCambridge Singer & Mahoney, spoke on the “Future of Clinical Research” at the BIO 2004 annual international convention in San Francisco. His practice involves products liability claims and litigation arising out of clinical trials of pharmaceuticals and medical devices.

1991

Thomas Anapol has become an equity partner in the firm of Anapol, Schwartz, Weiss, Cohan, Feldman & Smalley. He is based at the firm’s Center City Philadelphia office.

Melissa E. Black has joined the firm of Schell Mitchel & Cooley, LLP, in Weston, Florida. Her area of practice focuses on medical malpractice defense.



Joseph P. Corcoran III, a part-time attorney and primary parent to three children, was recently elected chairman of the Whitemarsh Township, Pennsylvania, Board of Supervisors. He has been instrumental

in helping the township manage growth and preserve open space. Corcoran provides counsel and information to municipalities and organizations, as well as individuals facing development issues in their communities.

David Gorenberg has joined the LandAmerica Exchange Company as its new vice president. Based in Philadelphia, the company handles like-kind real estate exchanges.

Paul V. Orecchia has closed his sole practice in Freehold and joined the Toms River, New Jersey, firm of Carlucci, Leone, Dimon, Doyle & Sacks, where he practices personal injury and commercial litigation.

Portia Policastro Cohen is practicing environmental protection law for the Environment Now Foundation in Santa Monica, California. Her practice focuses on energy sources, land use, air and water quality, and forestry.

Annemarie Schreiber joined Carlucci, Leone, Dimon, Doyle & Sacks in Toms River, New Jersey. She practices in the area of elder law issues, such as nursing home rights, elder abuse, Medicare and Medicaid matters, and estate planning.

Paula Silverstein Ilkhanoff and her husband, Bernard Ilkhanoff, have recently opened a second law office, in York, Pennsylvania. Their main office is in Shrewsbury, Pennsylvania, and has been open for five years. They have a general litigation practice and handle cases in south central Pennsylvania (specifically York County) and Baltimore, Maryland. Major practice areas are domestic, personal injury, criminal defense, and general civil litigation. They are the proud parents of four young children—Sydnie, Justin, Benjamin, and Sophia.

1992

Allen Baum has joined Hutchinson + Mason, PLLC, as a partner. Hutchinson + Mason provides strategic business and intellectual property-related legal counsel to leading technology companies throughout the Southeast.



Miriam Benton Barish has become a partner in the firm of Anapol, Schwartz, Weiss, Cohan, Feldman, and Smalley, PC. She concentrates her practice in products liability, toxic torts, motor vehicle matters, premises liability, and other personal injury matters.

Jeffrey L. Dashevsky was recently elected to the Board of Governors of the Philadelphia Bar Association.

Claire M. DeMatteis has become director of the Wilmington office of Stradely Ronon Stevens & Young, LLP. As part of the Government and Public Affairs Group, she will focus her practice on government affairs in Delaware and Washington, DC, specializing in legislative and regulatory lobbying.



Eileen A. Grena has been named assistant dean and director of the Legal Education Institute (LEI) at Widener University Law Center. Grena joined the Law Center in 1999 as an adjunct professor and became

LEI's assistant director in 2000. Her areas of expertise include legal and ethical dilemmas in health care administration and legal nurse consulting.



Daniel L. Grill, a partner in the Harrisburg-based law firm of Thomas, Thomas & Hafer, has been named one of *Central Pennsylvania Business Journal's* "40 under 40." This article focuses on individuals under the

age of 40 who have made significant impact in their communities, both professionally and civically.



Martin Finnegan was named a partner in the law firm Twomey, Latham, Shea & Kelley, LLP, located in Suffolk County, New York. Finnegan has a general practice on Long Island with an emphasis in the areas of

commercial litigation, real estate transactions, real estate litigation, and land use matters. He lives in Mattituck on the North Fork with his wife, Patty (Flaherty) Finnegan, and their three children, Owen, Liam, and Annie.

Joan T. Kluger of Schnader Harrison Segal & Lewis has been elected to the board of the Philadelphia Intellectual Property Law Association. She is a partner in the firm's intellectual property practice group and focuses her practice on domestic and international patent, trademark and copyright procurement, and intellectual property litigation and licensing.

Frank A. Mazzeo opened his own intellectual property law practice in Colmar, Pennsylvania. Mazzeo is a registered patent attorney who formerly practiced in Philadelphia.

James P. Paoli has been named a partner in the firm of Cooper Levenson. Paoli, who works out of the firm's Cherry Hill, New Jersey, office, concentrates his practice in general insurance defense.

A. Grant Phelan has been elected to the board of directors of Art-Reach, a non-profit organization that brings the arts to people with disabilities, the elderly, and the economically disadvantaged. Phelan is a partner in the litigation department at Klehr, Harrison, Harvey, Branzburg & Ellers.

Lisa C. Wood joined Morgan, Melhuish, Monaghan, Arvidson, Abrutyn, & Lisowski as a senior associate. She currently practices in New York and New Jersey state and federal courts and devotes a significant portion of her practice to lead paint litigation. Wood also counsels insurance carriers on coverage matters and effective resolution and settlement of underlying claims.

1993



Dawn L. Jennings has completed Temple University's Academy of Trial Advocacy, a rigorous course on trial techniques for experienced litigators with exceptional potential and skill. A senior associate in the commercial motor

vehicle section at Rawle & Henderson, Jennings focuses her practice on the defense of commercial motor vehicles and their insurers.

Douglas P. Lehman is one of the founders of Milestone Settlements, LLC, Lancaster County's first life-settlement company. Milestone Settlements handles the sale of a person's life insurance policy to an investor. A state-licensed company, Milestone Settlements is both a broker and a provider.

Kelly Lewis has resigned from the 189th District of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to become the president and CEO of the Technology Council of Pennsylvania. Lewis served the House for four years and was one of the General Assembly's strongest voices on technology issues.



Colonel Chuck Mitchell is serving as the inspector general of the Multi-National Force in Iraq. He is on the personal staff of General George Casey, who is the commanding general. Mitchell's major task is to inspect all 23

detention facilities in Iraq. His 12-month tour lasts until July 2005.

Richard H. Reed has been promoted to the position of vice president of corporate compliance with Catholic Health East. He previously served the company as associate counsel and chief privacy officer.

CLASS NOTES



Susan J. Scutti is currently working as a verification pharmacist for Cigna's mail-order pharmacy, Cigna Tel-Drug, which fills prescriptions for customers in all 50 states and the U.S. territories.

Robert Torres has been appointed deputy secretary for the Pennsylvania Department of Health's Office of Administration. Prior to his appointment, Torres served as director of provider information management for Highmark Blue Shield in Camp Hill, Pennsylvania.



William F. Waldron Jr. has been named a shareholder of the firm of Marshall, Dennehey, Warner, Coleman & Goggin. Waldron works in the firm's Roseland, New Jersey, office and concentrates his practice in professional

liability, construction, and architects and engineers defense. He is a member of the New Jersey and Pennsylvania Bar Associations.

1994

Lisa K. Cartwright has joined the Hogan Firm, Attorneys at Law, as an associate. The firm's areas of practice include real estate, civil litigation, personal injury, and small business representation.

Cynthia L. Collins has become associated with the firm of Richards, Layton & Finger, located in Wilmington, Delaware.

Michael F. Consedine recently received two honors. He was named one of *Central Pennsylvania Business Journal's* "40 under 40," as well as one of *Business Insurance's* "40 under 40."

Cindy Fillman has been appointed to head the newly created Consumer Liaison Office of the Pennsylvania Insurance Department. One of her first tasks is to create a consumer advisory group that can be used by individuals and advocate groups as a forum to voice concerns and offer suggestions about insurance issues.

Kelly D. Gelof of Tunnell & Raysor currently serves as treasurer of the Board of Governors of the Delaware Trial Lawyers Association.

Scott Grenoble and his wife, Robin Hensinger Grenoble '96, welcomed daughter Julia in February 2004. They have another daughter named Alexandra.

Theodore Kobus has been elected a shareholder in the firm of Marshall, Dennehey, Warner, Coleman & Goggin in Philadelphia. His practice focuses on litigation in the areas of architecture, engineers, and construction defects, as well as intellectual property. Kobus and his wife, Loren, have adopted a son, Ethan, who was born June 11, 2004.

Keith Mooney has joined the firm of Barley Snyder, LLC. He previously served as a solicitor for the city of Reading, Pennsylvania.

Gina Rubel presented "Hot and Potentially Lethal Topics in Law Firm Ethics" with William E. Hornsby Jr., staff counsel to the ABA



Commission on Responsibility in Client Development. The program took place at NorthStar's Conferences' Third Annual Law Firm Chief Marketing Officers' Forum: Reaching New Heights, held in

Washington, DC, in December 2004. Rubel owns and operates Furia Rubel Communications, an integrated strategic communications firm based out of Perkasio, Pennsylvania.

Christopher C. Whallon has joined Duffield Associates as an environmental project manager. Whallon has more than twenty years of experience in the environmental field, including environmental law, regulatory programs, hydrogeology, hazardous waste, and groundwater. He was previously employed as an environmental attorney.

Bernie Weinberg is an associate professor of law at Drexel University and a member of the Alumni Board of Directors at the Widener University School of Law. He is also an aspiring actor who was a featured extra in *The Sixth Sense* and *Kimberly*, both of which were shot in Philadelphia.

1995

David J. Bloom has joined the United States Trust Company of New York as a vice president and financial planner.

Tania M. Culley was named 2003 Outstanding Young Wilmingtonian by the Wilmington Jaycees (Junior Chamber of Commerce). Culley has served as executive director of the Office of the Child Advocate for the State of Delaware since February 2000. She started the office by herself, from finding and setting up office space to defining the role of the child advocate in Delaware. Her full-time staff now includes two deputy child advocates, two family crisis therapists, a program administrator, and an office manager.

Jean-Pierre Labroue has joined Rhodia ADS in France as senior vice president and general counsel. Rhodia is a global specialty chemicals company recognized for its strong technology positions in applications chemistry, specialty materials and services, and fine chemicals.

Gregory J. Palakow was named partner of Archer & Greiner, PC, in Flemington, New Jersey. Palakow is a member of the firm's litigation department and chairs the immigration department. He and his wife, Carroll Ann, welcomed their third child, Cecilia Marie, in October 2003.

Christian Petrucci has joined the Law Offices of John D. Pallante. Petrucci continues to focus his practice on the representation of injured workers in workers' compensation litigation. He was co-chair of the Philadelphia Bar Association's workers' compensation section for 2003.

Amy Lynn Spilka Solares now lives in Ontario, Canada, with her husband, William Solares. She welcomed a son, William, in July 2004, and also has a seven-year-old stepdaughter, Angelina.

Timothy Stafford was appointed as the borough administrator of Essex County, New Jersey, in January 2004. Previously, he served as director of labor relations for Essex County.

Yvonne Takvorian Saville of Weiss & Saville currently serves the Board of Governors of the Delaware Trial Lawyers Association as vice president.



Thomas C. Zipfel was named partner in the law firm of Cohen, Seglias, Pallas, Greenhall & Furman. In addition, he was chosen by the *Philadelphia Business Journal* as one of the recipients of the 15th Annual “40 Under

40” award, which recognizes the Philadelphia region’s most accomplished young professionals who are proven performers in both their industry and their community.

1996

M. Blake Cleary has been elected partner in the firm of Young Conaway Stargatt & Taylor, LLP, in Wilmington, Delaware. He focuses on bankruptcy restructurings, liquidations, and litigation matters.

Robin Hensinger Grenoble and her husband, Scott Grenoble ’94, welcomed daughter Julia in February 2004. They have another daughter named Alexandra.

Stephen J. Labroli recently published an article titled “On the Eve of the Sale Foreclosing on the Mortgage of a Serial Bankruptcy Filer” in the Winter 2005 edition of *The Philadelphia Lawyer*, a publication of the Philadelphia Bar Association Business Law Section. Labroli is an associate at Leonard, Tillery & Sciolla, LLP, concentrating his practice in the areas of business law and civil litigation, including commercial and bankruptcy litigation.



John T. McGrath Jr. was named shareholder of the regional defense litigation firm of Marshall, Dennehey, Warner, Coleman & Goggin. Working in the firm’s Scranton, Pennsylvania, office, he concentrates his practice in premises

liability, motor vehicle, and medical malpractice defense. He is a member of the Pennsylvania and Lackawanna County Bar Associations.



Sharon M. O'Donnell was named shareholder of the regional defense litigation firm of Marshall, Dennehey, Warner, Coleman & Goggin. Based out of the firm’s Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, office, O'Donnell concen-

trates her practice in personal injury, legal malpractice, and premises liability defense. She is a member of the American, Pennsylvania, and Dauphin County Bar Associations, as well as the Harrisburg Claims Association.

Barry J. Roy is a senior associate with Booker, Rabinowitz, Trenk, Lubetkin, Tully, DiPasquale & Webster, PC, located in West Orange, New Jersey. He practices bankruptcy law. He welcomed a son, Miles, in April 2004.

Melissa Schwartz was recently elected to the Board of Governors of the Philadelphia Bar Association.

Gregory W. Werkheiser has become a member of Morris, Nichols, Arshnt & Tunnell in Wilmington, Delaware.



Kacey C. Wiedt has been named a shareholder in the firm of Marshall, Dennehey, Warner, Coleman & Goggin. Wiedt works in the firm’s Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, office and is part of the Workers’ Compensation

Department. He is a member of the American, Pennsylvania, and Dauphin County Bar Associations; the Pennsylvania Claims Association; and the Central Capital Region Chamber of Commerce.

1997

Jason E. Fisher, an attorney with Lerch, Early & Brewer, was recently elected as a principal with the firm. Additionally, his work with the local chapter of the Community Associations Institute (CAI) earned him the honor of being named CAI’s 2004 Advocate of the Year.

Dr. Melissa S. Johnson has joined the Radnor, Pennsylvania, law firm of McCausland, Keen & Buckman, where she chairs the firm’s employment law practice. Johnson and her husband, Howard, live in Plymouth Meeting, Pennsylvania, with their children, Asher, Samara, and Alec.

Valerie A. Powers Smith married Dr. Mark J. Smith in Cape May, New Jersey, on April 23, 2004. In September 2004, she joined the law offices of Hinkle & Fingues, a disability law firm in New Jersey. Before joining Hinkle & Fingues, she had been with New Jersey Protection & Advocacy Inc. for six years.

Charles Reiling III has been named president and chief executive officer of INATrust, fsb, a federally chartered thrift institution specializing in trust and investment services. Based in Philadelphia, Reiling will oversee all aspects of INATrust’s operations, including business development, relationship management, and strategic growth. Most recently, Reiling was vice president of private client services for SunTrust Bank in Baltimore.

1998



Matthew F. Fox has been named a partner in the law offices of Rubin, Glickman, and Steinberg, based in Lansdale, Pennsylvania. A member of the firm since 1998, Matthew practices in the areas

of family law, workers’ compensation, and social security disability law. Fox spoke at the Montgomery County Women’s Center on divorce and separation in July 2004. In addition, he spoke to the Doylestown Multiple Sclerosis Support Group at Doylestown Hospital on social security disability benefits in November 2004.

Christine L. Sudlow now serves as the director of development and alumni relations for the Lubin School of Business at Pace University in New York City.

CLASS NOTES



1999

Michael D. Allen has become a director in the firm of Richards, Layton & Finger.

Ninette Byelich married Marc W. Jackson on October 30, 2004. She has temporarily left the practice of law to raise her son, Benjamin.

J. Paige Frampton has joined the firm of Martin, Banks, Pond, Lehocky & Wilson as an associate in their Philadelphia office. Frampton, who concentrates her practice on Title II Social Security matters, represents claimants at the administrative levels as well as in federal courts. Prior to joining the firm, Frampton worked for the Delaware Department of Justice as an assistant deputy attorney general. She has exclusively handled social security matters and disability cases for a national disability case management company since 2001.

Wendy J. Laws has been named trust counsel by PeoplesBank of York, Pennsylvania. Laws will provide legal counsel in the areas of estate planning, estate settlements, and trust administration.

Thomas A. Lynam III has joined Ginsburg & Associates as an associate. Practicing in the firm's Pennsylvania and New Jersey offices, he continues to concentrate and accept referrals in the area of plaintiff's personal injury, products liability, and professional negligence.

Jonathan Peri was recently selected to the Alumni Board of Directors at the Widener University School of Law. Peri has also been appointed to the Pennsylvania Academy of Sciences Advisory Council. He is an associate in the litigation department of Saul Ewing, LLP.

Patrick Vanderslice received the Delaware State Bar Association's Achievement Award for demonstrating an exemplary recent contribution to pro bono services. Vanderslice provides legal services to the needy through Delaware Volunteer Legal Services (DVLS), of which he recently became a board member. He also volunteers for the Office of the Child Advocate. He works for the law firm of Moore & Rutt, is a majority attorney for the Delaware House of Representatives, and serves as an adjunct professor at Delaware Technical & Community College in Georgetown, Delaware.

2000

Garvan F. McDaniel has joined the firm of Bifferato, Gentilotti & Biden, PA. He will practice in the areas of commercial litigation and commercial bankruptcy in the firm's Wilmington, Delaware, office.

Sean Quinlan ran for the office of state senator for Pennsylvania's 31st Senate District during the 2004 elections. Quinlan has his own practice in Camp Hill, focusing primarily on criminal defense and consumer bankruptcy. He also served for two years as an assistant district attorney with the York County District Attorney's Office, eventually rising to senior prosecutor in the Crimes Against Children Unit.

Patrick G. Rock has become associated with the Wilmington, Delaware, firm of Michael A. Pedicone, PA. Rock has been admitted to the Maine, Massachusetts, and Delaware Bars.

William J. Skyrn is associate general counsel for J.G. Wentworth, a finance company based in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania. Skyrn recently authored a bench book called *The Guide to the Transfer of Structured Settlement Annuities*, which explores recent legislation passed by 40 states governing the sale of structured settlement annuities.

Patrick W. Straub has left the practice of law to undergo FBI new agent training in Quantico, Virginia. He welcomed his first child, Tyler James, in June 2004.

Anthony J. Testa Jr. published "Escheat: Financial Statement Considerations" in the August 2004 edition of *The CPA Journal*. In addition, Testa was elected to serve on the board of directors of the Delaware Society of Certified Public Accountants (DSCPA) and as chairman of the DSCPA's Tax Committee. He was also elected to serve as secretary for the Section of Taxation for the Delaware Bar Association.

2001

Evangeline Eustace Austin has joined Elwyn in Wilmington, Delaware, as director of government relations. She will oversee legislative, development, and community initiatives for Elwyn, which develops programs for children and adults with disabilities and disadvantages.

Paul Carango has joined the firm of Piper Rudnick as an associate in the intellectual property practice group.

Noriss E. Cosgrove has joined the firm of Coach and Taylor, PA, as an associate in the firm's Wilmington, Delaware, office.

Joseph K. Koury has joined the firm of Bifferato, Gentilotti, & Biden, PA. He will practice in the areas of commercial litigation and commercial bankruptcy in the firm's Wilmington, Delaware, office.

James P. McAndrew Jr. has joined Lavin, O'Neil, Ricci, Cedrone & DiSipio as a new associate in the firm's Philadelphia office.

Joy Mulholland recently joined RatnerPresia as an associate.

Jennifer L. Nash has opened her own law practice in Exton, Pennsylvania.

Liza A. Stagliano has joined Lavin, Coleman, O'Neil, Ricci, Finarelli & Gray as a new associate in the firm's Philadelphia office.



Steven Stoehr married Tracy Cabbage '02 on September 10, 2004, in Old City Philadelphia. Steven is an associate attorney at Marks, O'Neil, O'Brien & Courtney in Philadelphia. The

Stoehrs met at Widener University in Professor Regan's Business Organizations class in September 2000.

Steven J. Weiler is an associate with the Delaware law firm of Ferry, Joseph & Pearce, PA. He practices in the areas of trusts, estates, and bankruptcy.

2002

Michael S. Ahearn joined Cooper Levenson in Atlantic City, New Jersey, as an associate in its Workers Compensation Department. Last with the law firm of D. William Subin in Northfield, New Jersey, Ahearn defends self-insureds and insurance companies.

Juanita Bynum Binder was recently named an at-large trustee member of the board of directors of the Lancaster County Library. Binder is an attorney in private practice.

Tracy Cubbage, an associate attorney at Delany & O'Brien in Philadelphia, married Steven Stoehr '01 on September 10, 2004. For details and a photo, see the listing for Steven in the Class of 2001 section.

James A. Keating has become associated with the firm of Anapol, Schwartz, Weiss, Cohan, Feldman and Smalley, PC.

Leda Pojman is currently working as a staff attorney for Wyoming Legal Services in Casper, Wyoming.

Kristen M. Rea married Eric D. Daniels on August 21, 2004, in Wilmington, Delaware.

Michael L. Saile Jr. joined his father, Michael J. Saile '76, to form the partnership Saile & Saile, LLP. Located in Langhorne, Pennsylvania, the new firm will focus on estate planning and administration, personal injury, real estate, business law, traffic violations, and criminal law in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Saile Jr. previously practiced as a trial attorney in southern New Jersey.

John D. Wallen has joined the law firm of Potter, Anderson & Corroon, LLP, in Wilmington, Delaware.

2003

William T. Meadows has joined Cooper Levenson as an associate in the firm's Atlantic City, New Jersey, office. He concentrates his practice in the defense of claims against insurance carriers, self-insured companies, and third-party administrators.

David C. Moran married Amy Milligan on June 19, 2004, at St. James Meeting House in Boardman, Ohio. They now live in South Pasadena, Florida.

Peggy M. Morcom has joined the law firm of Hoffmeyer & Semmelman, LLP, as an associate attorney. Her areas of concentration are family law, divorce, custody, support, adoption, and prenuptial agreements. She is also on the adjunct faculty of Wilson College in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, where she teaches civil litigation, legal counseling and interviewing, and tort law.

Sean Motoyoshi is a deputy attorney general in the Criminal Division of the Delaware Department of Justice in Sussex County, Delaware.



Pamela A. Pirone has just completed a clerkship with the Honorable Sebastian P. Lombardi, Superior Court of New Jersey, Essex County. She is currently with Newman, Fitch, Altheim, and Myers on Wall Street in New York City.

Russell Steinberg is working in the City of New York's Department of Buildings, Office of Investigations.

Rachel A. Wiest has become associated with the Lancaster, Pennsylvania, firm of Michael J. O'Connor and Associates. Wiest previously served as a legal intern for the Northumberland County Court of Common Pleas and more recently worked for Access Capital, Inc., in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Elizabeth J. Winslow joined the law firm of Potter, Anderson & Corroon, LLP, in Wilmington, Delaware.

2004

Deborah Buswell is a deputy attorney general in the Criminal Division of the Delaware Department of Justice in Kent County, Delaware.

Natasha Gonzalez has joined the firm of Schnader Harrison Segal & Lewis, LLP. She works in the Family Law Department in the firm's Philadelphia office.

Mary Thien Hoang is serving as a clerk for Judge Raymond Batten in Cape May County, New Jersey.

Rakesh H. Mehta has resigned from DuPont to pursue a career as a lawyer in Washington, DC. He now works for Morgan, Lewis & Bockius. His specialty is patent law and antitrust.

Mindi M. Moore has joined the law firm of Tunnell & Raysor in Georgetown, Delaware, and concentrates her practice on real estate law.

Joe Nastasi passed the Pennsylvania Bar examination and is now employed at the law offices of LaRosa & DeLuca, PC, in Havertown, Pennsylvania.

CLASS NOTES

IN MEMORIAM

R. Derek Barrow '82

died on August 25, 2004, at the age of 53.

Christopher C. Condon Jr. '75

of Vero Beach, FL.

Neville Stanley Fuleihan '89

passed away February 7, 2005, in Asheville, NC. He was 73 years old. He maintained a law practice in Rutherfordton, NC.

Neil L. Hirsh '75

of Carlisle, PA, died of cancer.

Ann O. King '81

of Oakton, VA, passed away December 10, 2004 at the age of 58.

Johnaaron Shannon '91

of Crofton, MD, passed away January 7, 2005, at the age of 43. Shannon was an attorney in private practice in Crofton.

James C. Wilkes Jr. '75

died on January 3, 2005.

Steven G. Wynkoop '00

died on October 25, 2004.

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.

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Your news or comments

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- Invitation to dean's Annual Donor Cocktail Reception at the School of Law
- All benefits below

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- All benefits below

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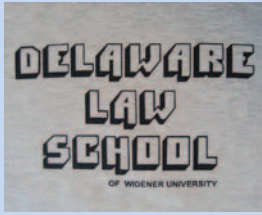


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