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Widener University School of Law Magazine

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On the Cover

Vice Dean J. Patrick Kelly with law students after climbing Hell's Gate Gorge in Hell's Gate National Park, Kenya



“While we have respect for the past, we live with an eye on our future, and we are committed to providing a 21st century legal education for our students.”

DEAR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS: I am grateful for the spring. After weeks of brutal winds, rains, cold, and snow, the weather is finally beginning to give us a break, and this new season is filled with the promise of sunshine and new life. It is a time of commencement and conclusion as we at Widener Law, like schools everywhere, are marching toward the end of the academic year. ■ In the last edition of the law magazine, and in the alumni board president’s letter, some of the law school milestones recognized in the 2009-2010 academic year have been mentioned, so I will not do that here. I will say that this year spent in commemorating the established successes and creating new traditions has been a fount of inspiration for me. In this issue, we continue to recognize a source of our strength, the early alumni, who took a risk, blazed a trail, and laid the foundation for what is now known as Widener Law. I am looking forward to celebrating with them this spring the 35th anniversary of the first graduating class. ■ While we have respect for the past, we live with an eye on our future, and we are committed to providing a 21st century legal education for our students. Our historic investment in our skills and clinical programs, along with our associations with inns of court, are illustrative of our commitment to prepare students for today’s legal profession. The emphasis we place on giving our students and others an opportunity to become more globally competent, a prerequisite for today’s holistic law school experience, is demonstrated in the article on the Kenyan summer program, one of five international programs begun in the 20th century. Our summer institutes are again revving up to host our students as well as those from other law schools shortly after graduation. My recent trip to China with our Health Law faculty has affirmed my belief that insularity is a recipe for becoming insignificant. (For more on the China experience, see my blog at <http://blogs.law.widener.edu/ammons/>.) ■ Finally, as I reflect on how good this past year has been at Widener Law, I must once again say thank you for all your support. ■

LINDA L. AMMONS, JD
ASSOCIATE PROVOST AND DEAN

A message from the alumni board president



“To all of our alumni,
I encourage you and
welcome you to reconnect
with our school.”

DEAR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS: The spring of 2010 is finally here, a year to celebrate so many milestones for all of us. First and foremost, the 35th Anniversary Gala will be held on April 17th at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts in Philadelphia. It will be a perfect opportunity for all of us to celebrate Widener Law’s amazing history. The event will be a very special reunion for our first graduating class, the Class of 1975, and will also honor all classes celebrating their five year anniversaries. This event will be an opportunity to salute our founding members and thank them for their contributions. In addition, we will be presenting our Alumni of the Year Awards. If you need additional information about this event, please feel free to contact the Alumni & Development Office at 302-477-2055 or visit our website, <http://law.widener.edu/Gateway/Alumni.aspx>. ■ There are many other significant accomplishments to celebrate this year as well. The Delaware Civil Law Clinic celebrates its 25th anniversary. The Health Law Institute and Environmental & Natural Resource Law Clinic are both not far behind at 20th year milestones, and this past fall we celebrated the 20th anniversary of the founding of our Harrisburg campus. Students, faculty, alumni, and guests came out for a beautiful dedication ceremony on Founders Day. There were many distinguished guests, including President James Harris and Harrisburg campus founding Dean Anthony Santoro. Warm wishes were also sent by Harrisburg founding President Robert Bruce, who unfortunately was unable to attend. ■ To all of our alumni, I encourage you and welcome you to reconnect with our school. Under the leadership of Dean Ammons and her staff, we have so much to offer. There are alumni events in many locations. In addition, volunteers are always needed to judge moot court competitions, or to make calls for the phonathon, to name just a few volunteer opportunities. To the graduating class of 2010, on behalf of the entire alumni body, we wish you our congratulations and success as you take this huge step forward. ■ With the 35th anniversary of our school before us, I thank those of you who have generously contributed to Widener Law year after year. For those of you who are recent graduates, or who have not contributed in the past, I ask that each of you begin by making a \$35 contribution to the school in honor of all of our special anniversaries. ■ I wish to thank the members of our Alumni Board for their dedication, commitment, and service. This year, we have established several new sub-committees, including the Community Service Committee, which will develop community service programs to give back to the community at large, and a Networking Committee to explore different options to enhance our networking capabilities. ■ I look forward to seeing you on April 17th at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts for a very special evening. ■

RENAE B. AXELROD '91
PRESIDENT, ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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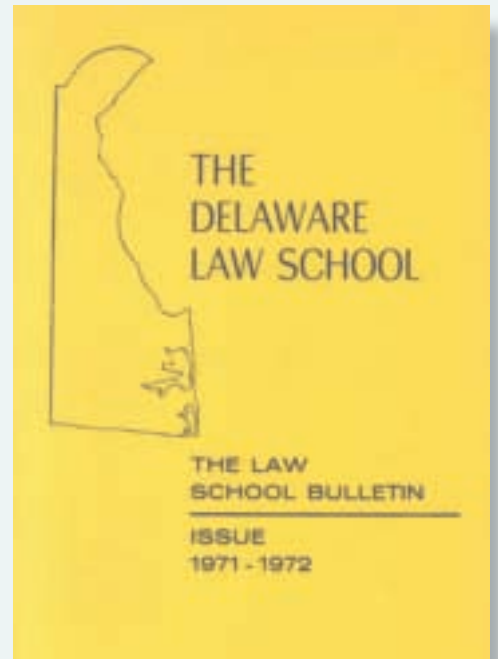
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Where it all began: the church that served as the law school's first permanent home, along with images from the era. Opposite page: Members of the class of 1975 standing in front of the church with Dean Linda Ammons in May 2007.



THE CLASS OF 1975: WIDENER LAW'S PIONEERS

In 1972, John Wetzel '75 had completed military service, followed by his general equivalency diploma and a bachelor's degree in political science. Looking to take the next step in this unconventional academic career, he applied to the Delaware Law School, the region's newest and at the time only unaccredited law school. Mr. Wetzel, now a partner with Swartz Campbell in West Chester, PA, and a law school overseer, remembers that when he visited the building where classes were to be held, "I knocked on the door, and Dean Avins answered. He pulled my application out of a shoe box and told me that I'd probably get in."

For classmate Steven Barsamian, now a Philadelphia immigration attorney and law school overseer, the first meeting with Dean Avins was similarly eye-opening. "After applying, I was invited to meet with Dean Avins and was accepted into the school," he recalls. "During the course of the interview, he discovered that I had a pick-up truck and experience working as a landscaper." Mr. Barsamian half-jokingly maintains that his pick-up truck played a role in his acceptance, and remembers using it frequently to move books for the law school. In addition to working alongside fellow class members in creating the library, he also became the school's unofficial, unpaid landscaper throughout his legal education.

Mr. Barsamian's experience was typical, and his services were certainly necessary. The law school's classes, initially held in a Y.W.C.A. building in downtown Wilmington, quickly moved to the newly purchased Peninsula United Methodist Church at 2001 N. Washington Street. Students contributed to the formation of the school in a very concrete sense. Many alumni recall building bookshelves, moving furniture, painting, cleaning, and above all acquiring, delivering, and shelving the books that were needed to create the functional law library required for ABA accreditation.

This year we mark a significant milestone: the 35th anniversary of Widener Law's first graduating class. On this auspicious occasion, we celebrate the pioneering spirit of the class of 1975, their accomplishments, and their service to the law school.



Widener University trustee and law school overseer Michael DeFino '75

“Widener graduates did well right from the beginning,” Mr. DeFino says. “It became obvious quickly that the graduates could get right in there and right away could get things done.”

The class of 1975 began their legal education at a law school without affiliation, books, or a building, and in so doing laid the foundation for today’s Widener University School of Law. Indeed their experience building an entirely new institution is emblematic of the law school’s innovative spirit. For all the differences in technology, faculty, and other resources, the approach to legal education that we employ today—immersive, practical, and outcomes-driven—is at its heart a continuation of that taken by the law school’s founders, and our students the rightful descendants of the law school’s earliest classes.

necessary for the law school to confer degrees. Moreover, he faced resistance from the American Bar Association, which would ultimately accredit the law school. Beyond these formidable entities, however, Dean Avins had another group to convince. He had to persuade students to stake their professional futures on this bold and risky endeavor and moreover that by the time they graduated, this new law school would be recognized, accredited, and worthy of their commitment. The members of the Class of 1975 collectively believed in this vision, took a leap of faith, and never looked back.

Today, Widener Law is proud to be known as an innovator in legal education. Since its founding, the faculty and administration have introduced programs and policies that were clearly ahead of the curve, from a focus on more practical and immersive learning to the active inclusion of legal technology in the classroom. Widener Law has always been willing to challenge and push past conventional wisdom of what legal education is, and instead look to what it should be.

The Delaware Law School was conceived at a time when the number of law school applicants was rising sharply, existing schools were already crowded, and there were not enough placements for good candidates. Without a law school in their state, Delawareans interested in becoming lawyers were at a disadvantage. Dean Avins established the Delaware Law School in March 1971, and set about populating it with students. By the fall, approximately 150 had enrolled.

No one embodied this impulse more completely than founding Dean Alfred Avins, a controversial figure who over the years has gained legendary status in the school’s collective memory. Described by alumni as eccentric and yet perhaps the most brilliant professor many of them ever had, Dean Avins created a new law school against odds that even from today’s perspective seem almost insurmountable. While not a native Delawarean, he came to believe that the First State could and should have a law school and set about convincing others. Doing so was not without its difficulties.

While different in background and experience, the students all shared the common belief that this pioneering endeavor of creating a new law school could succeed. Graduate Michael DeFino, whose extensive involvement with the law school has culminated in terms as a law school overseer and Widener University trustee, remembers that “we were a group of bright and dedicated individuals, and while we all had the same trepidations, the dean put us at ease and we all believed we could do this.” Under Dean Avins’ direction and with students boldly moving forward, the first classes started and the law school we know today began.

He faced reluctance among Delaware legislators, whose approbation was



Linda Hahs Flaharty with Francis G.X. Pileggi '86 (L), of Fox Rothschild and David C. Weiss '84 (R), Acting U.S. Attorney District of Delaware.

An amazing run: 35 years of service

On January 29, 2010, faculty, staff, students, alumni, and family gathered on the Delaware campus to pay tribute to Linda Hahs Flaharty, who retired after 35 years at the law school, most of them spent as Office Manager to the Delaware Journal of Corporate Law. Hired by Alfred Avins in 1975 to a position she intended to hold on a part-time, temporary basis, she was Widener Law’s longest serving employee and an invaluable asset to the DJCL, which she joined in 1978. Current and past journal editors spoke of her as the glue that held this publication—currently ranked 10th in the nation among specialty law journals—together. We wish Linda the very best in her retirement.



Left: Members of the class of 1975 (from left) Alan H. Polonsky, William M. Sloane, and Louis E. Slawe.

Right: Class members and law school overseers Steve Barsamian (at left) and John Wetzel (second from right) with Dean Linda Ammons and Stephen A. Boyce, current pastor of the church at 2001 N. Washington Street, the law school's first permanent home.

The members of that first class have throughout the years remained united by the experience, and have been some of Widener Law's most supportive, vocal, and recognizable alumni. Collectively, they have continually undertaken significant roles in the leadership and governance of the law school since their graduation. From the outset, their commitment to the fledgling institution was complete and, moreover, fueled by the grim prospects that failure held. At the time, there were no guarantees that the school would gain accreditation from the ABA or the authority from the state to grant them degrees. They had no guarantee that any state would allow them to sit for its bar examination. But their risk was rewarded, and if the alumni of the era are justly proud of their accomplishments, they are prouder still of what Widener Law has become since those first days.

The very nature of the fledgling school ensured that it was innovative educationally as well as institutionally. From the beginning, Widener Law offered a practical, real world legal education by necessity. Without an established academic faculty, Dean Avins drew on legal practitioners to teach, and they did so from a perspective borne of their extensive experience in the

bar, teaching the way the law actually worked and the ways they actually worked in the law. For the students, the difference was clear and valuable. As Mr. Barsamian recalls, "our faculty were either practicing or retired lawyers; the type of instruction we received was more practical than strictly academic, and it worked." This hands-on style of legal education was clearly ahead of its time, and the precursor to the immersive education that the Widener Law of today embraces by design.

For the graduates of the Class of 1975, this practical legal education, relatively unique at the time, proved invaluable when they entered the profession and sought to establish themselves. Widener graduates quickly developed a collective reputation as hardworking, valuable, and well-trained attorneys. "I thought that being from a new law school we wouldn't be very well received at first, but Widener graduates did very well right from the beginning," Mr. DeFino says. "It became obvious quickly that the graduates could get right in there and right away could get things done." The law school has guarded this legacy assiduously; it has come to be embodied by employment rates above the national average, strong bar pass rates, and success in major inter-school competitions.

From this foundation, the reputation of Widener Law alumni has only grown, and alumni from the early years are quick to point out the current standing of the school and achievements of the alumni who followed in their footsteps. "The school in the last thirty-five years has evolved into one that is now widely respected and admired," Mr. Barsamian says. Like many other graduates, he notes that a special connection exists not just among his classmates, but among all Widener Law alumni: "There remains to this day a camaraderie among Widener alumni that is unique among lawyers." Since its inception, the law school has cultivated a strong sense of community and commitment among its students, and that commitment remains just as notable among the students of today as it did in the inaugural class.

The members of the Class of 1975 remain closely connected as well as staunch supporters of the school they helped to found. As Mr. Wetzel recalls, the students shared at the time "a deep sense of gratitude that the school had been founded, and a burning desire to become a lawyer." Their collective accomplishments in their chosen profession, and continued support of Widener Law, remain testaments to these convictions 35 years later. ■

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ANNIVERSARY GALA CELEBRATION

ON SATURDAY, APRIL 17TH, WE WILL HOLD A 35TH ANNIVERSARY GALA CELEBRATION FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF THE LAW SCHOOL AT THE PENNSYLVANIA ACADEMY OF THE FINE ARTS IN PHILADELPHIA. PLEASE CALL 302.477.2172 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

THE WIDENER TRIAL ADMISSIONS PROGRAM: TAP STUDENTS MAKE GOOD

For George Bibikos '03 (Harrisburg), the law school's Trial Admissions Program (TAP) was the gateway to academic distinction in law school and early success in his career. He notes that the program offered him the chance "to take a bite out of standardized tests being a dominant factor in my evaluation, and instead let me show what I'm willing to do as a student to demonstrate how I will be as a lawyer." He attributes much of his success at Widener Law to the foundation he received in TAP, and he clearly has put it to good use.

Mr. Bibikos graduated *magna cum laude* in 2003, was the Editor-in-Chief of the *Widener Law Journal*, and received the law school's Outstanding Recent Alumni Award in 2007. After serving as a clerk to the Honorable Dan Pellegrini of the Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania, he joined K&L Gates LLP in Harrisburg, where he focuses on litigation and appeals in the oil and natural gas industry. He is justly proud of his experience in TAP. "If it weren't for the TAP program, I wouldn't have gotten a shot to demonstrate that the law was a good fit for me, and that I could be a good lawyer." Mr. Bibikos was grateful to learn of the program, excited to be offered the opportunity, and quickly impressed with the program itself: "My initial reaction after the first class was that it was a very intense, serious, and demanding program: 'wow, this is law school'." For Mr. Bibikos, TAP "opened my eyes to the reality that this is a difficult profession, but that if you put in the time and effort, and listen to the professors, you can succeed."

At Widener Law, we strive to offer admission to the best and most capable of our applicants. We recognize, however, that potential students are more than the sum of their test scores. While for many, academic measures are a clear and strong indicator of their ability to succeed in law school, other applicants may present a more complex picture. The Trial Admissions Program, or TAP, is designed specifically for these types of applicants, who may have discrepancies in their academic indicators or atypical academic backgrounds. TAP offers these applicants an opportunity to prove definitively their ability to succeed in law school. As Professor Greg Randall Lee states, the program "consistently shows that a grade point average or LSAT score is not an accurate measure of every student's potential."

Students who are identified in the application process as candidates for TAP are invited to attend the program during the following summer. By choosing to enroll in TAP, these applicants gain the opportunity not only to prove that they are right for the law school, but also to determine if law school is right for them. The program is designed, taught, and administered to mimic the law school experience. It is rigorous, intense, and demanding, and far more students fail to gain admission through the program than succeed. But for those students who are admitted, both they and Widener can be sure of one thing: they are ready.

For Mr. Bibikos, TAP "opened my eyes to the reality that this is a difficult profession, but that if you put in the time and effort, and listen to the professors, you can succeed."

Gabriela Arce De Smith '08 (Delaware), another successful Widener alumna who gained admission through TAP, says that "TAP gave me the opportunity to be doing what I am doing today." A native of Argentina, she graduated from California State University with an outstanding grade point average, but the lack of standardized testing in Argentinean education left her ill prepared for the LSAT. For Ms. Arce de Smith, the TAP program was "an excellent opportunity to show that I could be a lawyer."

Like Mr. Bibikos, Ms. Arce de Smith found that the program prepared her to do well. "TAP made me comfortable both substantively and with the school and the classroom before we started the first semester." The accuracy of the TAP program as an indicator of future success is clearly supported in Ms. Arce



Current students who were TAP participants with Professor J. Palmer Lockard II at the Harrisburg Relay for Life.

de Smith's case. She served as a research assistant specializing in administrative law, as a senior staff member of the *Delaware Journal of Corporate Law*, received the Widener University School of Law Dean's Award, and graduated second in her class. Upon graduating in 2008, Ms. Arce de Smith joined Stradley Ronon Stevens & Young, where she focuses her practice on general litigation.

Offered on both the Harrisburg and Delaware campuses, TAP includes coursework in both doctrinal subject matter and legal writing. From classroom instruction through legal writing assignments and examinations, Widener Law faculty teach their classes as they would a typical first year course. Anonymous grading assures objectivity, a vitally important aspect of a program where grade point average determines eligibility for law school enrollment. Indeed, for hopeful participants, it is a rapid fire, high stakes introduction to law school that either launches their legal education or precludes it entirely at Widener Law.

TAP faculty are uniformly enthusiastic about the program and its participants, citing their successes in law school and legal careers. They are also consistently emphatic that TAP only works, for both the school and the applicants, if it is as similar to law school as

possible. Professor Kathleen Turezyn has been involved in the program since the first year it was offered. She teaches torts in TAP, focusing on a discrete topic within a subject such as defamation, and "teaches and grades exactly as if it were a first year class." For Professor Mary Kate Kearney, the TAP program is an effective opportunity for both prospective students and Widener because it is close to the first year learning experience: "I approach these classes in the same way, using the Socratic method, the same kinds of materials, cases, and statutes, and requiring the students to apply facts to hypotheticals." As in the doctrinal courses, participants are presented with "a legal writing program in TAP that is a very compressed version of the first semester of the JD legal writing program," says Assistant Dean Edmund Luce, who teaches legal writing. "TAP is actually putting people into the law school environment and seeing how they do."

While class structure and course work are closely modeled on the first year experience, faculty members do find the program to be different for the participants in some respects. It is more intense and condensed than the first semester, with higher stakes. Professor Pamela Perry finds the participants as a group to be driven and able to sustain their level of commitment

throughout the program. “Where law school can be grueling, this program is very discrete, and the students keep their stamina and maintain their intensity through the whole program,” she says. The biggest difference between the program and the first semester of law school, according to Professor Lee, is one of “intensity in culture and dynamic.” “The TAP program is really a highly pressurized environment,” he says. “Students in it are committed to the idea that they want to be lawyers, and this is their chance. At the end of the class, they will either have seized that chance, or lost it. It results in a high daily sense of accountability and leaves them highly motivated.”

Ms. Schwab sums up the program well: “TAP shows Widener’s commitment to looking at students as individuals rather than just as scores. Widener Law is invested in the program, and it pays off.”

This motivation has translated into academic success in the longer run. According to Professor Luce, the faculty and administration have found that success in TAP is an excellent predictor of success throughout the participant’s legal education: “The program allows us to identify with much greater accuracy students who are very likely to succeed in law school than even those students who are admitted through regular criteria.” For the students who participated in TAP as applicants, the program ends up serving a dual purpose: it gets them into law school and prepares them for its challenges.

If TAP faculty are enthusiastic about the program, Widener alumni who participated in TAP are even more so. For these alumni, TAP was not only a chance to prove themselves, but also a stepping stone to success.

For alumna Susan Schwab ’92 (Harrisburg), TAP offered the chance to pursue a career in the law after achieving success in other professional endeavors. Like many TAP participants who seek to shift careers, Ms. Schwab saw TAP as an opportunity to prove that she could make the switch. After being admitted, she found that it prepared her for the demands of law school: “The program definitely helped me become acclimated to what law school involved, prepared me for reading and briefing cases, and for the rigors of the first year.”

Ms. Schwab sums up the program well: “TAP shows Widener’s commitment to looking at students as individuals rather than just as scores. Widener Law is invested in the program, and it pays off.” She is herself an exceptional example of the value that this program has added to the Widener Law community.



The valedictorian of her class in 1992, Ms. Schwab practiced in the private sector, becoming a partner at Rhoads & Sinon LLP, before embarking on a variety of Pennsylvania state administrative roles. Ms. Schwab has served as the Deputy Chief Counsel for the Department of the Auditor, Deputy Chief Counsel for the Department of the Treasury, and Deputy State Treasurer for Administration. She is currently the Deputy Chief Counsel for the Democratic Caucus of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.

Reflecting on the alumni who have come through TAP, Professor Kearney sees the benefits of the program evident in their achievements: “Widener is known for offering people who might not fit the traditional model the opportunity to become exceptional lawyers.” Alumni like Ms. Schwab, Ms. Arce de Smith, and Mr. Bibikos are examples of the tremendous success that these students have achieved, but are certainly not unique among former TAP participants. As Professor Kearney states, “If it weren’t for the Widener TAP program, these people wouldn’t be lawyers today.” Both the Widener community, and the legal community as a whole, would clearly be the poorer for it. ■

STUDENT SNAPSHOTS

If we were to create a composite of Widener Law students past and present, the image would be of dedicated, industrious, and determined individuals whose accomplishments as students foreshadow achievements as alumni. Yet, while their drive and talent unites them, their backgrounds, goals, and passions are unique to each of them, and the law school is richer for it. Here we offer just a few snapshots of exceptional individuals who continue to make the Widener Law community proud.

JORGE CONFORME **MIAMI, FLORIDA**

For Jorge Conforme, the path from Miami to the Harrisburg campus of Widener Law was a logical one. With a strong interest in government and administrative law, a degree in government from Georgetown University with a history minor and a certificate in Latin American studies, and prior experience working in government, Mr. Conforme knew what he was looking for in a law school. “The governmental setting in Harrisburg was one of the prominent reasons that I was interested in Widener, but the Law and Government Institute was what made it really stand out.”

After enrolling, Mr. Conforme was quickly impressed with Widener’s focus on a real-world curriculum: “Widener encourages us to learn to practice the law, and not just the scholarly aspects of the law.” He has clearly capitalized on this practical training. His team won last year’s Delaware-Harrisburg Moot Court Competition, and Mr. Conforme received the best oralist award. Also active in the Student Bar Association, he is serving on that organization’s Executive Board for the third year.

Mr. Conforme and his family were originally from Ecuador, and their experience led him to a course in immigration law, which has been one of his most influential classes at Widener. He is set to begin an internship with the



Top: Jorge Conforme with his moot court teammate Nicole M. Santo after winning last year’s Delaware-Harrisburg Moot Court Competition.

Bottom: Jana DiCosmo

Immigration Court of the Department of Justice in York County, Pennsylvania, and plans to pursue a career in immigration law after taking the Florida bar exam. He is confident that Widener’s “more pragmatic approach to legal education” has prepared him well for these goals.

JANA DICOSMO
PLEASANTVILLE, NEW JERSEY

Jana DiCosmo's undergraduate education at a small college, Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, helped her decide that she wanted to attend "a law school that was focused on students." After narrowing her choices, a visit to the Delaware campus highlighted Widener Law's student-centered environment and convinced her to enroll: "I saw stellar professors who still were accessible, amazing professors who want to help you do well, and students who work together."

Her legal writing courses have been the most important and enjoyable of her legal education. "Widener prepares you to write and speak as a lawyer, and that is key to succeeding," she says. "You need to learn to communicate to a judge or an opposing attorney and have the ability to explain the law accurately and concisely. At Widener, we have professors who help you go from really good to great."

Ms. DiCosmo is involved at Widener Law as a member of the Admissions Ambassadors, where she gives prospective students some of the same insights into the Widener community that convinced her to attend. Also active in the Justinian Society and the Christian Legal Society, she has developed a strong desire to work in public interest law. "Being a lawyer really is a very noble career. I'm looking forward to being able to be an advocate for those who need help, and the broad education at Widener prepares you for everything you could choose to do."

CHARLES GIBBS
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

A strong interest in public service brought Charles Gibbs to Widener Law. Having launched an impressive career in Philadelphia politics when he was still a teenager, and completed a Temple University degree in strategic and organizational communications, Mr. Gibbs was working full-time as a judicial aide for Municipal Court Judge Karen Y. Simmons when he began the Trial Admissions Program (TAP) at Widener. After successfully completing the rigorous program, Mr. Gibbs knew he had been well prepared for law school and began his legal education as an evening student while continuing to work as a judicial aide.

During his time at Widener, Mr. Gibbs has been most impressed with the collegial environment among the students



Lindsey Anderson

and the faculty. "Students are never concerned about being able to approach a professor, and the students are more than willing to be helpful to each other." He helps support this cooperative atmosphere, working to reconcile student and administration interests and concerns as a member of the Student Bar Association. He is also a member of the Moot Court Honor Society, which he feels has made him "a better writer, and more able to argue with the passion and zeal that Widener believes every lawyer should have."

Serving for two semesters in the Pennsylvania Civil Law Clinic has been the most inspiring and rewarding experience of his legal education. In this clinic, "I was able to take everything I learned in law school and bring it together to serve indigent clients," he recalls. "Being able to take what you have learned and have people rely on you is both humbling and encouraging to the point that it makes me want to work harder to learn even more." Through this clinic and his other Widener experiences, "my passion for public service has been deepened and solidified," he says. "I feel I will be able to become an excellent public servant because of my education at Widener Law."

LINDSEY ANDERSON
ATLANTIC CITY, NEW JERSEY

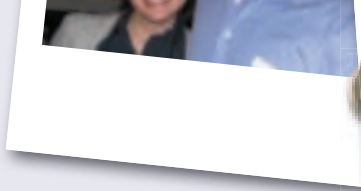
When Lindsey Anderson graduated from the University of Maryland with a degree in biological sciences, she knew she was interested in a career in health but had not narrowed her choice to a particular field. With family members who are lawyers, Ms. Anderson realized that "a law degree would

Through this clinic and his other Widener experiences, “my passion for public service has been deepened and solidified,” Mr. Gibbs says. “I feel I will be able to become an excellent public servant because of my education at Widener Law.”

open the door to a number of possibilities in the health fields.” She chose Widener Law because of the Health Law Program, and as a Widener student has found her health law courses to be the most rewarding. “I have had such great experiences in the health law program, and not just in the classroom,” she says. “The professors all actually care if their students learn and make sure you understand what they are teaching.” Ms. Anderson is fulfilling the program’s writing requirement by collaborating on a paper on the legality of end-of-life options with Professor Thaddeus Pope, and is assisting in planning a health law symposium to be held on campus in March.

Her summer legal experiences have also been significant. In addition to summer jobs working for a mid-size Delaware firm in personal injury and workers compensation and for South Jersey Legal Services in farm worker advocacy, Ms. Anderson also participated in the Intensive Trial Advocacy Program. This summer class was one of the most meaningful courses for Ms. Anderson, because “it featured experts who actually taught you how to act in the courtroom, and when we finished it we knew we had the practical skills to be advocates.”

An example of how well rounded Widener Law students can be, Ms. Anderson is also an exceptional baker who has developed a loyal following on campus and writes a popular baking blog (www.lawofcupcakes.blogspot.com). While she does dream of someday opening a bakery, Ms. Anderson plans on taking both the New Jersey and Delaware bar exams, and continuing to pursue both legal and baking careers.



Above left: Charles Gibbs (right) with Professor Nathaniel C. Nichols at the 2009 Barrister’s Association of Philadelphia’s Annual Awards and Scholarship Gala, where Mr. Gibbs was awarded a scholarship.

Above right: Peri Fluger

PERI FLUGER
SARANAC LAKE, NEW YORK

After attending the State University of New York at Plattsburg and graduating with a degree in criminal justice, Peri Fluger knew he wanted to attend law school. Mr. Fluger clearly recalls what made Widener Law appeal to him as a prospective student: “It was the faculty and student relationships, the faculty and student interaction. You could tell the faculty were always there for the students, always available, unlike at other schools that might leave everything up to the students alone.”

For Mr. Fluger, the legal writing classes at Widener have had the greatest impact. “The real life skills, drafting a contract, writing a memo, is really what being a lawyer comes down to—how well and effectively you write.” He is an associate staff member on the *Widener Law Journal* and a member of the Trial Advocacy Honor Society, activities that have helped him further develop critical legal skills. In addition, Mr. Fluger has found that Widener courses have helped prepare him for the profession beyond the strictly academic, with courses such as law office management, which addresses business and economic issues from a legal viewpoint.

A native of the rural Adirondack Mountains of New York State, Mr. Fluger appreciates the active legal community in Harrisburg, as well as the relatively mild climate. He has accepted a summer associate position with Rhoads & Sinon in Harrisburg, plans to take the Pennsylvania bar upon graduation, and hopes to practice in the Harrisburg area. ■



Crossing Boundaries: Widener Law's bold endeavor in Kenya yields decades of opportunity

For more than two decades Widener Law has sent students and faculty to Nairobi, Kenya to study with their counterparts at the University of Nairobi. It is the longest continuously-running American law school program in Africa and one of the first established there.

"Some students," says Vice Dean and Nairobi International Program Director J. Patrick Kelly, "were not prepared for travel in a developing nation." He is referring to a small minority of the American students who participated during the program's early years. "They weren't aware that life in other parts of the world—most of the world, really—is so different from life in the U.S."

If the transition from attending a metropolitan law school in the eastern U.S. to studying in a developing nation half way around the world came as a shock to some students, it was by design. "The experience changed their lives," he continues. "Their lives and careers are enriched by understanding how many in the world live." He notes that students today differ from their counterparts of 20 years ago in some respects; their exposure to the world at large comes earlier, particularly through technology, which allows them to see and read about nearly any destination in great detail prior to moving an inch in its direction. As a result, Nairobi program cohorts have in recent years become more self-

selecting. "We attract, in general, three or four types of students for the program," he says. They include committed environmentalists, particularly those

challenges its students to immerse themselves deeply in their studies and then travel several hours over dirt roads to remote locations in order to spend

"They weren't aware that life in other parts of the world—most of the world, really—is so different from life in the U.S."

interested in international environmental law or ecosystems like those found in the national parks, African-American students who want to experience their cultural roots and connect with the African people, those with an adventurous spirit who want to see the world and test their limits through a range of extracurricular activities like independent excursions into the bush, and for that matter any combination of these traits. "Most of the students," says Vice Dean Kelly, "share a real spirit of adventure and interestingly the majority have been women."

An adventurous spirit is a tremendous asset. It is the rare law program that

time among lions, cheetahs, and rhinos. And it is the rare host country that offers so wrenching a combination of cultural richness, international sophistication, natural beauty, and internal strife. Such are the paradoxes of Kenya.

Despite, or perhaps enabled by, the country's complexity, the program has been an unmitigated success, attracting law students from both Widener campuses and other law schools around the country. The law school's relationship with the University of Nairobi has been long and fruitful, enduring despite the political upheavals and internal warfare that have plagued Kenya for decades.



“This experience changed their (students’) lives... Their lives and careers are enriched by understanding how many in the world live.”

The two institutions’ ongoing cooperation in spite of these difficulties is the result of a drive to continue offering American law students the opportunity to experience so unique a place and enhance their skills and prospects in ways that few of their peers can approach, much less match.

For Vice Dean Kelly, it is a deeply personal mission. He notes, “I wanted to start such a program so others could have the benefit of what I experienced when I was in law school. I joined the Harvard Africa Volunteer Project and taught at the University of Nairobi’s Faculty of Law the year it was founded. I fell in love with Kenya, made many friends, and have been returning ever since.” But he credits former dean Anthony J. Santoro with founding Widener’s program. In 1985, Santoro approached Kelly. “I had recently married my lovely wife Victoria, and I was planning a honeymoon in Kenya,” he says. Dean Santoro asked him to “stop by and talk to the dean of the Faculty of Law at Nairobi University about starting a summer program” while there. He did, and from that initial

conversation grew plans for Widener’s first international summer program, which launched in 1988 with an initial cohort of 17 students. Kelly says “those in the first group were in many ways exceptional for their spirit of adventure and desire to get to know Kenyans. Several of them returned years later to show loved ones the beauty of Kenya and the hospitality of its people.” It was a modest start that included coursework taught by American and Kenyan instructors and “a few safaris we put together,” but a great success, exposing students to areas of the law and the world that were truly new to them.

Early success notwithstanding, the program has evolved over the years to provide more structure and a detailed manual to help students prepare. Now the program includes a weekend orientation trip to Lake Naivasha in the Great Rift Valley, planned safaris to Samburu and Maasai Mara National Parks, and a trip to Diana Beach on the Indian Ocean coast near Mombasa. The safaris that initially served as an interesting sidebar to substantive work in the law have increasingly become



married to the program's coursework, which in 2009 included International Environmental Law and Trade, Comparative Constitutional Law, and Comparative Family Law. Not surprisingly, much of the program's travel enhances the environmental law component of the program by introducing students to Kenya's majestic natural resources, their management, and the delicate balance between their maintenance and economic development.

The country is home to extraordinary national parks teeming with wildlife, beautiful beaches on the Indian Ocean, and spectacular mountain ranges. During the orientation weekend, students travel to the Crescent Island Game Sanctuary, where *Out of Africa* was filmed, and walk among the animals. Stocked with a range of native species absent their natural predators, the island is a fascinating and eminently approachable microcosm of the country's vastly diverse and irreplaceable fauna. They experience many of the same wildlife in a dramatically less protected setting when they go on safari in Kenya's national reserves. These experiences are accompanied by talks by

officials from Kenya's Wildlife Service and other agencies and organizations charged with protecting the country's resources. In her blog detailing her experience in 2009, student Jennifer Bailey (who contributed many of this feature's photographs) describes an oral argument assigned to her class: "the topic dealt with one country imposing an import ban on wood of another country because the wood was being harvested from an area where endangered animals were living," a subject in keeping with Kenya's own efforts to balance domestic and international concerns.

In recent years, Nairobi has increasingly become a major center for international institutions, with the world headquarters of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Center for Human Settlements (Habitat) located in the United Nations Complex on the outskirts of the city. Nairobi is also the regional headquarters for the World Bank, the U.N. Development Programme, and many international nongovernmental organizations including the World Wildlife Fund and Oxfam.

On their trip to Maasai Mara, students observe wildlife and meet with the Samburu people. Dean Linda Ammons, pictured with their guide in the image second from left, joined the group on this trip.



Nairobi, East Africa's most populous city, is home to the University of Nairobi's School of Law and a broad array of international organizations and institutions.



For Vice Dean Kelly, it is a deeply personal mission. He notes, "I wanted to start such a program so others could have the benefit of what I experienced when I was in law school that changed my life."

Access to these organizations and their officials helps students gain a global perspective on the law. International Environmental Law and Trade, taught jointly by Patrick Kelly and Dr. Iwona Rummel-Bulska, former Chief of the Environmental Law Unit at UNEP, enabled students to glimpse the inner-workings of UNEP. "She had direct experience brokering recent protocols," says Jennifer Bailey. "She was physically in the room when they were debated. She took us to the UNEP offices and showed us how the process worked between diplomats."

One of the most important aspects of the program is the opportunity to experience other cultures and begin to see the world through the eyes of others. Institute members are taught by Kenyan professors and share the classroom and travel experiences with about 10 of their Kenyan counterparts at the UON law school. In her blog Jennifer Bailey writes, "The classes were an equal mix of American and Kenyan students which made for a very diverse and interesting experience... I found the topic of presidential immunity the most interesting, as Kenyan students view

the American Presidency differently than we do." She notes that Kenyan and American students held several barbecues at the Bid Apartments, where the Americans lived during the program, exchanging food and ideas. On the other end of the spectrum, visits to the country's desert north include an introduction to and interaction with the native Samburu people whose traditional lifestyle lends a view to Kenya's pre-colonial history.

Students in the program comment frequently about the challenges of balancing ambitious coursework with spending significant time immersing themselves in Kenya's landscapes, cultures, and institutions. But rarely do they complain. The point, after all, is to stretch their capabilities, to adapt to extraordinary circumstances, and to take advantage of unparalleled opportunities to meld legal theory, human interaction, and physical experience. It is the quintessential higher learning experience, undertaken in the cradle of humanity. "It's one of those experiences you'll never forget," says Jennifer Bailey, "If I had to do law school over, I'd do the four-year plan and go to Kenya again." ■



Richard K. Herrmann is a Visiting Professor at Widener Law, and a Partner at Morris James LLP, where he handles many forms of complex litigation, including intellectual property, commercial, and technology. He may be reached via email at rherrmann@morrisjames.com.

Four Things Not To Do With Legal Technology

By Richard K. Herrmann

To some extent we have all embraced technology into at least part of our practice. When used properly, efficiencies can be enjoyed. But these benefits are of little value if the technology is misused. Of course, mistakes happen. It is up to us to minimize our errors and limit them to harmless ones. The following are four common problems. Think of this as a self test. If you do not engage in any of these practices, congratulate yourself – you are among the select few.

1. DO NOT EMAIL THE WRONG PERSON.

It is common to begin typing the recipient of the email in the “To” field and be presented with choices of recipients. Unfortunately, often the wrong name is selected. It is not uncommon to find people with identical names in an attorney’s contact list, and one of them will have nothing to do with the email at all. It is also not difficult to inadvertently select “Reply All” when the response is intended for only one person. It is important to take the time to proofread not only the contents of your email but to whom you are sending it. While this problem of inadvertently sending emails to the wrong person is easy from the desktop, it is particularly rampant from a Blackberry. We tend to be multi-tasking when using our handheld devices and are less likely to review before pushing the “Send” button. The result is the same—wrong recipient. Take the time to review your work before you send the email.

2. DO NOT LEAVE A SUBSTANTIVE VOICE MAIL MESSAGE

Voice mail has become as integrated into the practice of law as email. While the efficiencies of voice mail cannot be disputed, a potential problem arises when a substantive message is left. The recipient has a recorded copy of the message, but, unlike email, the caller has nothing to document what message was left. This puts the lawyer at a complete disadvantage. Unified Messaging, which results in an email being created with a voice file attachment of the message, exacerbates

this disadvantage. The file can be saved in the recipient’s client file or forwarded to others, and the caller who left the message is the only one with no copy.

3. DO NOT USE YOUR CELL PHONE TO DISCUSS CLIENT MATTERS IN PUBLIC AREAS

This may seem obvious, but unfortunately it seems not a trip can be made by train without overhearing someone (obviously a lawyer) talking about something involving a sensitive matter. There is just something about cell phone use which requires us to raise our voices when talking, and everyone in the immediate vicinity can hear sensitive client information if we discuss it. It was not too long ago a passenger (obviously an executive) interrupted a caller two rows behind her and said “I sure hope you aren’t one of our company’s lawyers, because I would have you fired.”

4. DO NOT LEAVE CLIENT MESSAGES IN YOUR INBOX OR SENT FOLDER

Within the last five years, the use of email to communicate with counsel and clients and to forward documents has increased dramatically. With the advent of electronic filing, most of our litigation files are electronic. One of the adverse consequences is ineffective file management within many law firms. In short, where is the file? Part of it appears in the law firm’s document management system; and part of it appears in the email system. If the matter involves a team of lawyers, chances are good each member of the team is sending and receiving email and retrieving electronically filed pleadings. It is important for there to be one entire file. Create a system for file management and enforce it. It is no longer practical for lawyers in a firm to maintain individual approaches to creative file management.

In whatever states we are licensed, the Rules of Professional Responsibility require us to represent our clients competently and to maintain our clients’ confidences. This requires the proper use of technology.

CLINIC INNOVATIONS AND INNS OF COURT

Widener Law students benefit from new clinic opportunities, as well as the Richard K. Herrmann Technology Inn of Court, the first and only of its kind in the nation, and the James S. Bowman Inn of Court, one of the nation's only two administrative and government inns.

[When Widener Law undertook the ambitious redesign](#) and consolidation of its Delaware Campus *pro bono* clinic facilities in 2008, plans for the new public service wing—funded in part by the Longwood Foundation—revolved around its proposed centerpiece: a state-of-the-art moot courtroom. According to Professor Nick Nichols, director of the law school's five Delaware-based clinical programs, a dedicated moot courtroom offers the clinics several advantages. "First," he says, "its convenience is its ease of use. Now that [the moot courtroom] is in the clinic wing, clinical faculty get first preference. The latest technology is also very helpful. Letting students have real time video discussion brings a great synergy to learning and to the overall clinical experience for our students."

The moot courtroom's first year of operation has borne this out. It provides a realistic setting for the mock hearings that prepare clinic students for criminal and civil court, and its technology meets or exceeds that of today's courtrooms. It has also opened the door to new ways of teaching and learning: inter-campus classes allow faculty to bridge the nearly 100-mile gap between the Delaware and Harrisburg clinics and provide their respective students broader perspective than has been possible in the past.

In a larger sense, the clinic moot courtroom is the embodiment of the innovative spirit that has driven the law school's programming since its founding. By blending theory, experiential learning, technical proficiency, and a strong bent for service, it is the newest of many tools that have enabled us to grow a range of programming in this tradition.

As noted elsewhere in this issue, the law school's founding itself was an unusual and innovative undertaking. In a state that had no law school of its own, the law school's founders established one that would produce lawyers whose understanding



of legal theory would be accompanied by a firm grounding in real-life applications. The process was repeated nearly two decades later, when the law school expanded to Harrisburg at the behest of Pennsylvania legislators, who saw the need for a law school at the capital to produce lawyers equipped for the challenges of government law. The maturation of both campuses was accompanied by the ongoing establishment of programs employing novel ways to educate students using immersive and, in many cases, service-oriented methods. These programs presaged—by decades—recent calls by the American Bar Association and other organizations for more professional preparation and public service training among law students. The process continues today, both within and outside the law school.

Even in an environment as quickly evolving as today's legal world, it is difficult to imagine a development with greater impact on the profession than electronic discovery. Visiting Professor Richard Herrmann, a Morris James partner, co-chairs the United States District Court's Technology Committee, is a member of the District Court's Advisory Committee, and served as a member of the District Court's Ad Hoc Committee responsible for drafting the Court's Electronic Discovery Default Standard. He willingly shares his considerable expertise, teaching e-discovery at Widener Law and the National Judicial College. Mr. Herrmann is also the director of the Widener Law Corporate Counsel Technology Institute (CCTI), a component of the Taishoff Advocacy, Technology, and Public Service Institute. CCTI provides coursework for

students focused on how technology is used in legal applications and how it impacts the profession. It also provides educational and consulting services to faculty and corporate counsel.

"This is very important to the law school and our regional legal community," says Dean Linda Ammons. "The Corporate Counsel Technology Institute provides training on the most current issues of technology, particularly how it operates in the practice of law and the ethical and professional issues that accompany it." It also features guest speakers in the area of jury psychology, trial graphics and animation, courtroom technology, and computer forensics to supplement the experience of the professors (please see www.cctiinstitute.com for upcoming CCTI events).

Given CCTI's success in educating Widener Law students and local attorneys—"The e-discovery class is always full," says Mr. Herrmann, "We have waiting lists each time."—it came as no surprise that members of the regional legal community wished to expand upon it. In spring 2009 Kevin Brady '82, chair of Connolly Bove's Business Law Group in Wilmington, proposed a new inn of court that would combine the inns' traditional focus on mentoring, practical skill, ethics, and professionalism with a concentration on technology and the law. In discussions with Delaware Supreme Court Justices Randy Holland and Henry du Pont Ridgely, now a trustee and chair of the inn, respectively, Mr. Herrmann's name rose to the top of the list of essential personnel. Ultimately, the founders did more than involve Mr. Herrmann; they named their new organization in his honor.



Governor Jack Markell, Professor Dana Harrington Conner, Lt. Governor Matt Denn, Dean Linda Ammons, Widener Provost Jo Allen, Supreme Court Justice Randy J. Holland, and Clinical Programs Director Nathaniel Nichols cut the ribbon at the dedication of the public service wing on the Delaware campus.

Through the Richard K. Herrmann Technology Inn of Court the law school's students have gained an opportunity to participate in a truly unique organization. Mr. Herrmann notes, "This is the first e-discovery inn of court in the U.S.—or probably the world." First convened in September 2009, it provides students invaluable opportunities to work closely with judges and practicing attorneys of every level while addressing the intricacies of technology and the law. In seven annual sessions, participants weigh the practical and ethical implications of technology through consideration and discussion of current issues and a fact pattern, which threads the sessions together. Mr. Herrmann is optimistic about the future. "My hope is that next year, a student who would participate would get a credit for doing so," he says in emphasizing its importance. "It would improve the number participating."

Working closely with practicing attorneys and judges has of course benefited law students for centuries, particularly in Great Britain, where inns of court are a central method of mentoring and training young lawyers. Why it has reemerged in the U.S. only recently—the American inns of court traces its roots to discussions of the Anglo-American exchange of lawyers and judges in the 1970s—is another issue for another article. However, what is clear is that this model correlates nicely with Widener Law's history of providing hands-on experience to its students prior to graduation.

In Harrisburg, our students have taken advantage of an opportunity similar to that which is available to Delaware students by participating in the James S. Bowman Inn of Court. Like the Herrmann Inn of Court, the Bowman Inn of Court aims to promote among its members legal excellence, civility, professionalism, and ethical behavior. Moreover, it, like the Herrmann Inn, focuses its efforts in an area that is central to the law school's programming: administrative and government law.

It is one of only two inns of court in the United States with this focus. Professor John Gedid, director of the Law and Government Institute, and a master of the Bowman Inn, notes, "We encourage participation strongly. I consider it to be something that is complementary to our law and government program. Because the Bowman chapter is a government law chapter, it really runs parallel to what we do. We have common objectives." Moreover, he says, the inn furnishes outstanding training to students who participate. Each year, he nominates a cadre of students to participate in the inn's activities, which occur once a month for the entire membership, with intervening gatherings for mentoring, where older members meet, socialize with, and informally advise younger ones. To complete the inn's requirements for practical learning, pupilage groups meet as needed to prepare CLE presentations on topics under discussion. Professor Gedid notes that the old dictum, "if you want to learn something, teach it," is at the heart of this practice. But, he says, the interaction between students, young lawyers, and their senior counterparts is essential to making this work: "It's very interesting and one of the things that I've found to be a great example of professionalism in the inn. It purposely mixes the social and professional and has successfully maintained the professionalism side."

Dean Ammons seconds the importance of the inns to our students' education and professional development. "They are very important," she notes, "because they provide opportunities for students to be shoulder to shoulder with top legal professionals in these areas. There is no substitute for this exposure and the mentorship it provides tomorrow's leaders in the law."

The Bowman Inn complements not just the Law and Government Institute, but a broad array of Harrisburg Campus programming. In the fall of 2009, the law school added to these programs by establishing the PA Public Utilities Commission in Pro Se Representation Program. Operating

under the auspices of the Pennsylvania Civil Law Clinic, students in the program provide low-income consumers assistance in navigating the formal complaint process before the PUC. At its start, 23 Widener Law students prepared for the program, taking part in a day-long training session as well as mock hearings. For them, the program presented an opportunity not only to gain boots-on-the-ground experience representing clients before a state commission, but also to assist their fellow citizens.

“Often complaints before the PUC deal with complex legal issues, but for the consumers these are emotional issues,” said Commission Chairman James H. Cawley. “Filing a PUC complaint can be an intimidating process for consumers who find themselves facing off against utility company attorneys. This program is a way for all consumers to have the opportunity for legal representation during the complaint process.”

Professor Palmer Lockard says, “Working with the PUC provides us an opportunity to expand our students’ knowledge of this important area of law.” John Gedid adds, “It teaches the students professional skills while performing an important public service.”

The Public Utilities program is not the only new program in Harrisburg to offer this opportunity. The introduction of a Trial Advocacy Certificate Program will enable students interested in careers as trial lawyers to undergo intensive training in pursuit of that goal. Associate Dean Robert Power notes that “The most important thing—its signature—is that it requires actual skills training in terms of conducting a trial, preparing litigation and briefs. It has a strong experiential

Clockwise from right: From left, Professor John F. Nivala, Director of the Taishoff Advocacy, Technology and Public Service Institute, Visiting Professor Richard K. Herrmann, for whom the Richard K. Herrmann Technology Inn of Court is named, and Professor Thomas J. Reed, the first Taishoff Professor of Law for the Taishoff Advocacy, Technology, and Public Service Institute.

Governor Jack Markell speaks at the dedication of the public service wing.

Students Nick Jajko (left) and Keith Salador at the reception following the dedication of the new public service wing.

component.” He continues, “John Gedid, Palmer Lockard, and I thought it was something we should draw on because a large percentage of our students go into trial work, and we have a large number of offerings in this area already. It augments ITAP [Intensive Trial Advocacy Program], which can be used as a component of the certificate program.”

The programs outlined in this article follow a distinct pattern: identify a need—curricular, professional, societal, or otherwise—and develop a program tailored specifically to answer it, providing hands-on instruction and mentoring to the students that participate. It’s an approach that has resulted in our alumni body’s reputation for practice-ready skills upon graduation and, particularly among recent graduates, outsized employment rates, which have exceeded the national average for several years.

It is also an approach that entails a number of important corollaries, particularly a willingness to incorporate recent and emerging technologies aggressively into law school programming. Future issues of the law magazine will address this subject in greater detail.

The law school is seeking a naming sponsor for the clinic moot courtroom. If you would like this important facility to bear your name or that of your family, friend, firm, or company, please contact Deborah McCreery at 302.477.2172 or dmmccreery@widener.edu for more information. ■





Dean Arthur A. Weeks (1914-2009)

On August 22, 2009, Arthur A. Weeks, second Dean of Widener University School of Law, passed away in his native Alabama at the age of 94.

His accomplishments were many. Following graduation from Howard College (now Samford University), he earned his law degree at University of Alabama Law School and his LLM at Duke University Law School. During World War II he served in the United States Army, rising to the rank of Captain of Infantry and, after the war, Chief Legal Officer of the Bremen Enclave in Germany. His demonstrated leadership there would presage more of the same upon his return to the U.S., where he devoted himself to the law and legal education. As Dean of Cumberland Law School, he responded to the institution's loss of affiliation by orchestrating its move from Lebanon, Tennessee to Birmingham, Alabama, where it affiliated with Samford University and gained ABA accreditation under the new arrangement. It was this remarkable achievement that brought him to the Delaware Law School, and it was his ability to replicate it that assured the law school's future.

In 1974, that future required clearing two very high hurdles—ABA accreditation and empowerment by the State of Delaware to grant law degrees—in a short period of time. Absent these two seals of approval, the more than 600 students admitted to the law school since 1971 would not receive degrees, nor would they be allowed to sit for the bar exam.

Recruited for his demonstrated administrative and leadership capacity, Arthur Weeks oversaw the completion of a

politically and logistically complex process that within a year led to affiliation with Widener College, the State of Delaware's approval to grant law degrees, and provisional accreditation from the ABA. His success enabled the law school to graduate its first class in 1975.

Dean Weeks's subsequent tenure was no less eventful. He administered the merger with Brandywine College, the Law School's move to its current Delaware campus, and a range of financial, capital, and personnel improvements that led, ultimately, to full ABA accreditation at the earliest possible date. For his remarkable service, the law school awarded him an honorary Doctorate of Laws.

In celebrating Arthur Weeks's ninetieth birthday, Widener Law School Reference Librarian and Archivist David King noted that Dean Weeks saw himself as an able administrator continuing the work of a visionary founder: "Dean Weeks's chosen depiction of himself is that of a hardworking man from the coal mining 'Magic City' of Birmingham, a man who performed the gritty work needed to make the dream of a law school in Delaware a reality."

At Widener Law we celebrate Arthur Weeks's life and mourn his passing.

Dean Arthur Weeks's family requests that memorial gifts be made to Widener University School of Law, the Arthur A. Weeks Scholarship in Law, Cumberland School of Law at Samford University, or to the charity of your choice.



Robert J. Lipkin (1943-2010)

Robert “Bobby” J. Lipkin, Distinguished Professor of Constitutional Law, passed away on February 18th.

Professor Lipkin was an exceptional individual, a good friend, and a respected professor. He received a PhD in philosophy from Princeton University, and his JD from the University of California Los Angeles School of Law. He joined the faculty of the Delaware Law School in 1985 immediately following his clerkship with the Honorable Gilbert S. Merritt, United States Court of Appeals, 6th Circuit, and taught Constitutional Law and Jurisprudence. From July 1999 to June 2001, Professor Lipkin served as the first H. Albert Young Fellow in Constitutional Law at Widener University School of Law, which was endowed by the Young Foundation of Wilmington, Delaware, to honor the memory of the late H. Albert Young, a highly respected lawyer and former Delaware attorney general known for his unwavering dedication to upholding justice. In 2005, Professor Lipkin was awarded one of the Law School’s first faculty awards for distinguished scholarship. He had served as a consultant for the American Civil Liberties Foundation and for Planned Parenthood of Lincoln, Nebraska, and was a member of the American Philosophical Association, the American Political Science Association, and the Society for Political and Legal Philosophy. Professor Lipkin was also the Editor-in-Chief of the web blog Essentially Contested America and a contributor to *Ratio Juris*. His passing is a great loss, and he is missed by all of us privileged to have known and worked with him.



Lena Mooney (1951-2010)

Long-time Widener Law employee Lena Mooney passed away on February 11th.

Ms. Mooney came to the Law School as a faculty secretary in 1990, was promoted to secretary to the Dean of Students in 1993, and remained in that office until 1999 when she became the secretary to the *Widener Law Symposium Journal*. She is remembered for her wonderfully wicked sense of humor and will be missed by her friends and colleagues.

We also mourn the passing of former Widener Law Professor E. John Wherry Jr., whose death occurred just as this magazine went to print. Please see <http://law.widener.edu> for more information. His family requests that donations in his memory be made to Widener University School of Law for The E. John Wherry Jr. Trial Advocacy Endowment Fund.

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JOHN G. CULHANE



TONYA M. EVANS



LAWRENCE A. HAMERMESH



LOUISE LARK HILL



WESLEY A. OLIVER



STARLA J. WILLIAMS

LINDA L. AMMONS was selected by Delaware Governor Jack Markell to lead an independent review of the State of Delaware's policies and procedures relating to sexual assault cases. She will present her findings in a final report to the governor and the legislature. Dean Ammons was also named by *Delaware Today* to its "14 People of Influence" who are shaping policy in the state.

D. BENJAMIN BARROS presented a paper titled "Negative Causation and Mechanisms," at the Mechanisms and Causality in the Sciences Conference held at the University of Kent in Canterbury, England, and presented at the Regulatory Takings conference at Vermont Law School. He was appointed to the AALS Committee on Sections and Annual Meeting.

FRANCIS J. CANTANIA, JR. was selected as one of 12 participants in the Experiential Renaissance Roundtable at the University of Minnesota, which will address experiential education policy.

JOHN J. CAPOWSKI presented at the second International Conference on Evidence Law and Forensic Science in Beijing, China, which focused on the development and trial implementation of China's first evidence code.

JOHN G. CULHANE presented on civil unions at a Boston University conference addressing legal issues surrounding sexual orientation, and "The Law, Decision-Making, and Same-Sex Couples," at an AALS session sponsored by the Family Law Section. Professor Culhane also spoke at a conference on domestic violence sponsored by a number of public advocacy groups, and represented Widener Law and Widener's Medical-Legal Partnership with Crozer-Chester Hospital at the Delaware Valley Grantmakers conference.

ERIN DALY recently joined the Board of Common Cause, Delaware. She was interviewed on WDEL about the upcoming Supreme Court case of *Christian Legal Society v. Martinez*, concerning the rights of a student group to discriminate. Professor Daly is the 2010 chair-elect of the AALS Section on International Human Rights.

THE DELAWARE CAMPUS LEGAL METHODS FACULTY hosted the Delaware Valley Legal Writing Consortium's

fall meeting. Approximately 40 legal writing professors from regional schools attended the meeting. Meeting planners included **IVA JOHNSON FERRELL, SYDNEY HOWE-BARKSDALE, ALISON DONAHUE KEHNER, SUSAN A. KING, MARY ELLEN MAATMAN, MARY ANN ROBINSON,** and **JEAN K. SBARGE. MARYANN BROWN, ALICE EAKIN, JENNIFER M. LEAR,** and **STARLA J. WILLIAMS** presented.

JOHN C. DERNBACH delivered presentations at the Seventh Colloquium of the International Union for Conservation of Nature Academy of Environmental Law in Wuhan, China, and spoke at the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Research Conference. He presented the closing keynote address at the Eleventh Annual Northeast Florida Environmental Summit, and spoke at the Conference Board webinar, "U.S. Climate Change Strategies Without a Clear Legislative Signal."

JULES EPSTEIN'S article "Tri-State Vagaries: The Varying Responses Of Delaware, New Jersey And Pennsylvania To The Phenomenon Of Mistaken Identifications" was recently cited by the Utah Supreme Court in *Utah v. Deon Lomax Clopten*, 2009 UT 84; (December 18, 2009) at fn. 14. He has been invited to address a National Institute of Justice sponsored conference for those involved in criminal defense of indigents, and is also part of the coordinating committee for a National Innocence Network training on forensics issues.

TONYA M. EVANS presented at the "Property Works in Progress" Conference in Boulder, Colorado, and also presented literary law workshops at Infinity Publishing's Annual Writer's Conference and at the National Black Writers Conference. She taught entertainment law for a Pennsylvania Bar Institute course, and hip hop and intellectual property law at the Lutie Lytle Scholarly Works Conference. She remains a contributor to the HipHopLaw.com blog on intellectual property issues and maintains her own intellectual property law blog at iprof.blogspot.com.

JILL E. FAMILY served as moderator on the panel, "Should There Be an Article I Immigration Court?," at the ABA's Administrative Law Section Annual Meeting, and presented "A Broader View

of Immigration Adjudication” at the AALS Annual Meeting, as part of an immigration law session. She was recently named to the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania Immigration Resource Center.

JOHN L. GEDID participated in a panel discussion at Dickinson College entitled “The Third Branch Meets the Fourth Estate,” which was carried by PCN and C-Span, and participated in a PCN “In Session” roundtable program on judicial selection in Pennsylvania. He also participated in drafting the Revised Model State Administrative Procedure Act at the Uniform Law Commission meeting held in Chicago, and was appointed by the Pennsylvania Bar Association to the Constitutional Study Commission.

MICHAEL J. GOLDBERG’S union democracy case, *Knight v. International Longshoremen’s Ass’n*, went to trial for a second time in federal court, three years after the case’s remand following Professor Goldberg’s victory in the Third Circuit. A final decision is expected in the spring.

LAWRENCE A. HAMERMESH will be on leave of absence through June 30, 2011 to serve as attorney fellow with the Office of Chief Counsel of the Division of Corporation Finance at the Securities and Exchange Commission in Washington, D.C. In this position, he is expected to provide counsel on issues confronting the SEC in its rulemaking and other activities that touch on matters of state, corporate, and business law.

LOUISE LARK HILL presented a program on attorney client privilege at the Delaware Justice of the Peace Court Judicial Education Seminar, and conducted a live national teleconference and webcast for the Institute for Paralegal Education and for West Legal Education on the “Protection of Client Confidences and Attorney Client Privilege.” She was elected to the Executive Committee of the AALS Section on Professional Responsibility.

ALICIA BROKARS KELLY chaired the AALS Section on Family and Juvenile Law, and moderated a session on “Money, Intimacy, Law and the Contours of Inequality,” at which **JOHN G. CULHANE** also presented.

GREG RANDALL LEE presented several ethics CLEs including “A Man for All Seasons and the Art of Discerning Integrity,”

“Who’s Afraid of William Shakespeare: Confronting Our Concepts of Justice and Mercy in *The Merchant of Venice*” and on *To Kill a Mockingbird*. He also presented “Growing up Lawyerly in *Harry Potter and To Kill a Mockingbird*,” was a presenter at the Pennsylvania Bar Institute (PBI) ethics program “Impeach Justice Douglas!” and offered “*Harry Potter and the Lawyer’s Curse*” as an ethics program for PBI. He completed his term as Newsletter Editor for the Professional Responsibility Section of the Association of American Law Schools.

JAMES R. MAY presented programs on “The Political Question Doctrine and Environmental and Natural Resources Claims” at the ABA SEER Quick Teleconference, on “Environmental Rights and Constitutional Reform in Delaware” at the Annual Environmental Law Summit, and on a Supreme Court update for the Academy of Lifelong Learning.

NICHOLAS A. MIRKAY coordinated the 42nd annual Delaware Tax Institute held at Widener Law. Approximately 100 attorneys, accountants, and financial services professionals attended the institute. Professor Mirkay is on sabbatical this semester.

JULIET M. MORINGIELLO is on leave this semester, serving as the Robert M. Zinman Resident Scholar at the American Bankruptcy Institute. She presented “What’s Software Got to Do with It?: A Critique of the ALI’s Principles of the Law of Software Contracts,” at a session of the Section of Commercial and Related Consumer Law at the AALS Conference.

WESLEY A. OLIVER was awarded his JSD by Yale Law School. His dissertation was titled “The Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Century Origins of Modern Criminal Procedure: A View from the New York Police Department.” He spoke on “Neglected History” at the Central States Law School Association Conference, and was also elected secretary of the organization.

ROBERT C. POWER appeared on WITF FM’s Smart Talk to discuss the Sotomayor nomination to the Supreme Court. He also spoke at “Wise Latina Day” on the Citizens United case, which tests the constitutionality of bans on corporate support of political candidates. He also lectured on “The Problem of Government and Religion” to a symposium sponsored by the Unitarian Church.

LEONARD N. SOSNOV testified before the Pennsylvania House Committee exploring legislative reforms for convicted innocent individuals on behalf of the Pennsylvania Innocence Project, and led a training session for volunteer attorneys on post-conviction motions practice. He also presented to the Academy of Lifelong Learning on “Terrorism and Supreme Court Post 9/11 Habeas Cases.” In addition, Professor Sosnov argued a sentencing issue case in the Pennsylvania Supreme Court on behalf of the Defender Association of Philadelphia. He was the principal writer of several briefs, including an amicus curiae brief on a constitutional search and seizure issue in a Pennsylvania Supreme Court case on behalf of the Pennsylvania ACLU, a brief in the Pennsylvania Supreme Court challenging the constitutionality of the Governor’s Moratorium on parole releases, and a brief in Commonwealth Court on behalf of an individual who was not released from prison until years after he was granted parole.

ANDREW L. STRAUSS debated Jeremy Rabkin of George Mason Law School on the topic “Should Citizens Be Democratically Represented in the 21st Century International System?” at this year’s International Law Association’s International Law Weekend, participated on a panel on the role of international environmental law in transnational governance, and gave a presentation entitled “Climate Change and International Trade in the Post Kyoto World.” Professor Strauss participated on a panel on the International Court of Justice at the Annual Meeting of the ABA, and presented “The International Court as an Activist Court.” He was named to be a member of the International Advisory Group of the London-based One World Trust, an independent international law think tank.

SERENA M. WILLIAMS spoke at the investiture ceremony for Edward Tarver, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Georgia in Atlanta.

STARLA J. WILLIAMS became a new member of the Pennsylvania Bar Association Minority Bar Committee, and co-chair of the Diversity Committee for the AALS Section on Legal Writing. Professor Williams hosted a session for that committee at the AALS Conference.



Mike Missanelli '86

Sports broadcasting and the law may appear to be such different professions that it is hard to envision many areas where the two disciplines overlap. For Widener Law alumnus Mike Missanelli, however, the fit between sports media and the legal profession is a natural one. As a successful sports media personality, Mr. Missanelli draws on his Widener legal education and has made a career of seamlessly blending the two disciplines.

After graduating from Penn State University with a degree in journalism, Mr. Missanelli began working for *The Philadelphia Inquirer* as a reporter, and continued in that role while attending Widener Law as an evening student. After completing law school in 1986, he was admitted to the Pennsylvania bar and simultaneously moved into the sports department at *The Inquirer*. He enjoyed sports reporting enough to decide to “put the law on hold for a year.” Twenty-four years later, he is one of the best-known sports media personalities in the Philadelphia region.

His successful media career has included fifteen years in newspaper reporting, twelve years as a radio talk show host on 610WIP, three years as the weeknight television sports anchor on Channel WB-17, and various other broadcasting roles. He is currently heard by Philadelphia sports fans as the host of “The Mike Missanelli Show” on 97.5 FM The

Fanatic/950 ESPN, the number-one rated sports talk show during the evening drive time slot. His recent book, *The Perfect Season*, chronicles Penn State’s last national football championship.

Mr. Missanelli maintains his standing as an active member of the Pennsylvania bar, and occasionally handles sports agency issues. Courses that left a lasting impression included “Libel Law, because I was working in newspapers, but also Contracts and Constitutional Law, because sports are such a business today.” He also continues his involvement in the law by teaching an undergraduate course on sports and entertainment law at St. Joseph’s University, teaching from a textbook that he wrote for the course.

“Law school really helped me in formulating arguments and discussing both sides of an issue,” he explains. Where other broadcasters may focus on one side of a story, he feels that his background as an attorney plays a significant role in his broadcasting style. “It helps me allow for more thought and delivering the other side of an argument,” he says, “which makes for a more interesting conversation and sports radio that is more compelling.”

Based on the ratings, his listeners certainly agree.



Mr. Kurlowicz is The Charles E. Drimal Professor of Estate Planning at The American College in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania. His responsibilities include courses in Estate Planning, Planning for Business Owners and Professionals, and Business Succession Planning. Mr. Kurlowicz also serves as an adjunct professor at Widener University and Philadelphia University, teaching in Master's of Taxation programs.

Beyond Donations—Planned Giving as Part of an Integrated Personal and Financial Plan

By Ted Kurlowicz '86

Charitable donations generally are straightforward and provide immediate benefit to the donor and the charity. The charity most often receives use of funds for current expenditures commensurate with its charitable purpose. The donor enjoys the opportunity to benefit a favored charity and economic benefits from the charitable deduction for income-tax reduction purposes. Outright donations and annual giving are critical to charities and will always be a necessity for the furtherance of its charitable purposes.

Planned Giving involves a different type of commitment since it includes the donor's charitable legacy in an integrated plan satisfying personal goals in the process of financial, retirement, and estate planning. My purpose here is to outline several techniques of planned giving and indicate how they might be advantageous in planning a donor's legacy. Some commonly used planned giving techniques are:

GIFT ANNUITIES. Property or cash is transferred to the charity in an exchange for the charity's promise to provide the donor with a fixed annual sum for life. The donor receives an immediate tax deduction for the calculated differential between the amount of cash or property transferred to the charity and the value of the life annuity. Some portion of each annuity payment will be taxable to the donor. This is useful for a donor who wants to make a substantial donation, but needs a stream of income payments for retirement purposes.

CHARITABLE REMAINDER TRUSTS. Property or cash is transferred to a trust created by the donor. The donor retains a life or term interest in the trust payments and the

donor's charity receives the remainder. This technique is useful for providing a current income tax deduction (without incurring immediate tax on the capital gain) while converting appreciated property into an income stream for retirement. The charity will receive a substantial donation when the trust terminates. The trust could also be funded by a bequest at death through the donor's will to provide an income stream to the donor's surviving spouse or other family members.

BEQUEST. The donor leaves cash or property to the charity through a provision in the donor's will, living trust, or by beneficiary designation from a financial account, such as an IRA. This provides a substantial legacy to the donor's charity without removing the enjoyment of the property from the donor during his or her lifetime. The donor's estate will receive a charitable deduction from federal estate or state inheritance taxes. This also provides the donor with complete flexibility to adjust the plan during his or her lifetime.

LIFE INSURANCE. The donor can provide the charity with some or all of the benefits from the donor's life insurance policy. This type of donation provides the donor with several choices. The donor could retain the flexibility to alter the plan by retaining ownership, but designating the charity as beneficiary. The donor could donate the policy to the charity by assigning the contract. The tax benefits to the donor vary by the amount of control the donor retains. This type of donation is family-friendly since the substantial legacy can be provided by annual premium payments and other policy funding options.

Events

Campus Events



5TH ANNUAL RAYNES MCCARTY DISTINGUISHED LECTURE

Princeton University Professor Paul Starr delivered the fifth annual Raynes McCarty Distinguished Lecture in Health Law at The Union League of Philadelphia in November. He gave an encore presentation of the lecture later that day in the Ruby R. Vale Moot Courtroom.

Starr holds the Stuart Chair in Communications and Public Affairs at Princeton's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs. His lecture, "Health Care Reform: The Long View," put the current political battle over healthcare reform into historical perspective and explored the future of the healthcare system.

From left, Widener University Trustee Dr. Cynthia Sarnoski; Princeton University Professor Paul Starr; Widener Law Dean Linda L. Ammons; Widener University Trustee Eugene D. McGurk Jr., who also chairs the law school Board of Overseers and is an attorney with Raynes McCarty; Maureen Skowronek and Widener Law Associate Professor and Dean of Students Susan L. Goldberg.



DELAWARE TAX INSTITUTE DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER

Chicago attorney Louis S. Harrison, known nationally for his lively and engaging talks, was the distinguished speaker at the Delaware Tax Institute program held in November in the Ruby R. Vale Moot Courtroom. Harrison dispensed an hour's worth of advice and tips on client billing designed to yield satisfied clients.



SECOND ANNUAL JURIST ACADEMY

The Delaware campus presented the second annual JURIST Academy over the summer. The immersion experience, which is designed to introduce minority undergraduate students to the idea of law school and a legal career, had 28 participants. Widener's Public Interest Resource Center, under the direction of Dr. Sydney Howe-Barksdale, coordinates the program.



PENNSYLVANIA SUPREME COURT JUSTICE THOMAS G. SAYLOR LECTURES AS JURIST IN RESIDENCE

Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice Thomas G. Saylor delivered his first lecture as jurist in residence in November. Saylor spoke to more than 200 people who filled the Harrisburg campus moot courtroom for the talk, "The Nature of Judging." He began by saying how much he enjoys his new relationship with the law school, and he commended the vision of Law Dean Linda L. Ammons and Professor John L. Gedid, director of the Law & Government Institute, for conceiving of the jurist-in-residence position "and for according me the honor of being its first occupant."

From left, Vice Dean Robyn L. Meadows, Justice Thomas G. Saylor, Dean Linda Ammons, and Professor John L. Gedid.



HARRISBURG CAMPUS HOSTS RELAY FOR LIFE

Students, faculty, staff, and friends raised more than \$13,000 over a 12-hour period in October when the Harrisburg campus hosted a Relay for Life event benefitting the American Cancer Society. Twelve teams walked in the school parking lot. The top fundraising team was the campus running club, which raised \$1,727. The top individual fundraiser was Jason McLaughlin with \$595. Student Dana Souter coordinated the relay.

THE 2009-2010 JOSIAH OLIVER WOLCOTT FELLOWS

Students (from left) Ryan C. Cicoski, William M. Alleman, Brett T. Norton, Suzanne O. Lufadeju, and Angela C. Whitesell were named as the Josiah Oliver Wolcott Fellows for the 2009-2010 academic year, the 21st year of the program. Wolcott Fellows serve as law clerks in the Delaware Supreme Court.



TAIWANESE DELEGATION VISITS WIDENER

A five-member Taiwanese delegation visited the Delaware campus on a trip organized through the state International Trade and Development Office. The judges, attorney, and translator came to learn more about the state's court system and legal education. They heard faculty presentations and toured the campus.

The group posed with faculty members, standing in back from left, Professors Erin Daly, Jean M. Eggen and Lawrence A. Hamermesh, and Associate Professor Edward K. Osei.

DEAN AND FACULTY VISIT CHINA

In December 2009 (from left) Professor Michele D. Forzley, Professor Thaddeus M. Pope, and Dean Linda Ammons participated in the International Health Law Conference in Chongqing, China. The conference was held at the Southwest University of Political Science and Law, with which Widener Law enjoys an active exchange program.

Campus Events



"WISE LATINA" DAY LUNCHEON

Nearly 200 people gathered in September on the Harrisburg campus to mark the debut of Justice Sonia Sotomayor on the U.S. Supreme Court. The "Wise Latina Day" lunch and learn event, coordinated by Harrisburg campus Dean of Students Keith Sealing, featured remarks from faculty members and alumna Sharon Lopez '93 (at left). Distinguished guests included Pennsylvania Secretary of the Commonwealth Pedro A. Cortés.



DELAWARE CAMPUS PUBLIC SERVICE WING DEDICATION

The Delaware campus unveiled its new public service wing with a ribbon cutting and open house in September that included Governor Jack Markell as the featured speaker. The 10,000 square-foot-space in the Main Law Building houses the five Delaware campus-based clinical programs, Widener's Public Interest Resource Center, the Legal Help Link call center, and the Delaware Volunteer Legal Services offices.

Lt. Governor Matt Denn speaks at the dedication of the new public service wing.



SENATOR KAUFMAN VISITS WIDENER

U.S. Senator Ted Kaufman, Democrat from Delaware, visited the Delaware campus in August, where he spoke to faculty and administrators at a luncheon that kicked off the faculty development series for the new academic year.



LOCAL LEADERS SERIES

The Delaware campus welcomed Teresa Mason, chief of staff to Delaware Attorney General Beau Biden, for an informal talk in the student lounge in September. Her visit was part of the Local Leaders speakers series, launched during the fall semester. Mason (center) is pictured with SBA Vice President for Academics and Community Service Brian Searls and SBA President Destiny Prater.



FRANCIS G. PILEGGI DISTINGUISHED LECTURE

Edward B. Rock, the Saul A. Fox Distinguished Professor of Business Law at the University of Pennsylvania Law School, delivered the 2009 annual Francis G. Pileggi Distinguished Lecture in Law in October in the du Barry Room of the Hotel du Pont in Wilmington. Professor Rock's lecture marked the 25th anniversary of the series and was entitled "When the Government is the Controlling Shareholder: Implications for Delaware."

DUAL-CAMPUS ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CENTER LAUNCHED

The school of law unveiled its new, dual-campus Environmental Law Center with launch events in October on both campuses. The Harrisburg campus also used the event to announce its plans to open an Environmental Law Clinic there in January and introduced an environmental speaker series on the day of the launch, featuring Pennsylvania Secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection John Hanger at the inaugural luncheon talk.

Distinguished Professor John C. Dernbach of the Harrisburg campus, right, is the Center director. Professor James R. May of the Delaware campus is its associate director.



DEAN AMMONS HOSTS DEAN'S LEADERSHIP FORUM

Dean Linda L. Ammons hosted her Dean's Leadership Forum on the Delaware campus in September, featuring brothers (from left) Kevin C. Tierney '82, Brian P. Tierney '87 and Michael J. Tierney '93. The popular talk show style annual event features the dean interviewing successful alumni about leadership and success in law school and the professional world.

HARRISBURG CAMPUS FOUNDERS DAY

The Harrisburg campus welcomed about 300 people to the law school grounds on October 5th for a festive Founders Day event that celebrated its 20th anniversary with speeches, photos, music, and memories. Widener University President James T. Harris III spoke to the crowd, seated under a tent atop a hill adjacent to the law building.

Dean Linda Ammons with members of the class of 1992, the campus's first graduating class.



PROFESSIONALISM DAY TRADITION CONTINUES

The law school's tradition of holding Professionalism Day events on both campuses continued in September in Harrisburg and in October in Delaware. Classes were scheduled so students could attend presentations on topics like tips for success on the bar and the transition from student to professional.

"INNOCENCE AND FORENSICS" SYMPOSIUM

The Delaware campus and its Taishoff Advocacy, Technology and Public Service Institute presented "Innocence and Forensics" in September. The daylong symposium explored the strengths and weaknesses of forensic science.

At right, Widener Law Associate Professor Jules Epstein (foreground), who helped coordinate the symposium, introduces Professor Jay A. Siegel, director of the Forensic and Investigative Sciences Program at Indiana University Indianapolis.



Alumni Events

NEW LAWYERS JOIN THE PENNSYLVANIA BAR IN HARRISBURG

In November, a private induction ceremony and reception was held in Harrisburg for Widener Law alumni who recently passed the July 2009 Pennsylvania State Bar Exam. The Honorable Thomas G. Saylor, Justice of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, presided over the ceremony, inducting 25 Widener graduates.

Catherine Dotto '09 and parents pose for a photo with Dean Ammons after the Bar Passers Ceremony.



MINORITY ALUMNI AND STUDENT NETWORKING SOCIAL

Dean Linda Ammons hosted her annual Minority Student and Alumni Networking Social at her home in August. More than 80 students and alumni attended, including members of the judiciary. Five countries and 13 states were represented by those in attendance.

From left, Morgan Cephas, Mijrane Belizaire '08, and Judge Joel Johnson '91 at the Networking Social.

NEW LAWYERS JOIN THE PENNSYLVANIA BAR IN PHILADELPHIA

Thirty-seven Widener Law graduates were admitted to the practice of law in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in November at a ceremony that was held in Philadelphia City Hall, Courtroom 653. A reception that welcomed family and friends to celebrate with the graduates followed the ceremony. Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice Seamus P. McCaffery presided with Judge Joel S. Johnson '91 of the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas Family Division, Judge Margaret T. Murphy '77 of the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas Domestic Relations Division and Judge Pamela Pryor Dembe, President Judge of the Court of Common Pleas.



NEW LAWYERS JOIN THE DELAWARE BAR

Widener Law held a reception in November for those graduates who passed the July 2009 Delaware State Bar Exam. Dean Linda L. Ammons addressed the gathered alumni, commending their accomplishment and reminding them that they will always be part of the "Widener family." After the Dean's remarks, Delaware Supreme Court Justice and Widener Law Overseer and adjunct faculty member Randy J. Holland spoke, telling the group that they were joining a small and elite bar.

NETWORKING RECEPTION HELD IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

Widener Law alumni in Washington D.C. gathered at the Phoenix Park Hotel in September for an alumni networking reception. Attorneys practicing and residing in Virginia, Maryland, the District of Columbia, and even Pennsylvania, joined the Dean for this special event. National Advisory Council members in attendance included Michael Brown '91, Ken Lopez '95, and Cynthia Ryan '79.



NETWORKING RECEPTION HELD IN NEW YORK CITY

In September, a group of over 30 Widener Law alumni gathered to network and reconnect with fellow alumni in New York City. The crowd included graduates from both campuses, alumni from the first and most recent graduating classes, three alumni who serve as members of the New York judiciary, and two members of the National Advisory Council. This year's event was again graciously hosted by James Veneruso, Esq. '75, at the Columbus Citizens Foundation.



ALUMNI GATHER FOR HARRISBURG HAPPY HOUR

More than seventy alumni gathered for the fall Harrisburg Happy Hour at Scott's Grille. The networking function attracted alumni from the earliest graduating class through the most recent graduating class.

Above: Vice Dean Robyn Meadows (right) chats with '09 Class Agents Catherine Dotto and Amy Miller, as well as Rachelle Armbruster '09.

Top Right: Professor Juliet Moringiello with Andrew Enders '09 and Debra Essis Curcillo '87.

Right: Gail Souders '93 and Debra Essis Curcillo '87.



Alumni Events

WIDENER WOMEN'S NETWORK WELCOMES JUDGE MARGARET THERESA MURPHY '77

The Philadelphia Chapter of the Widener Women's Network welcomed Judge Margaret Theresa Murphy '77 as the guest speaker at their networking luncheon in November. Judge Murphy addressed the topic of "Judicial Insight and Guidance for Effective Advocacy." Forty-three alumnae attended the luncheon, which also provided an opportunity for networking. The event was sponsored by Miriam Benton Barish '92 of Anapol, Schwartz, Weiss, Cohan, Feldman & Smalley at the firm's Philadelphia office.

Top: Event sponsor Miriam Benton Barish '92 and speaker Judge Margaret Murphy '77



WIDENER LAW AT THE OPERA

In October, Widener Law alumni and their guests joined Dean Linda Ammons for a delicious brunch at XIX, followed by an afternoon at the opera to see Giacomo Puccini's *Madama Butterfly* at the Academy of Music in Philadelphia. Following the performance, the group was treated to a personal backstage tour and a peek at wardrobe, and also had the opportunity to meet cast member Roger Honeywell who played Pinkerton, and the conductor, Maestro Corrado Rovaris.



HARRISBURG DECEMBER GRADUATES RECEPTION

A reception was held in November for Widener Harrisburg campus December graduates and their guests. During her remarks, Dean Linda L. Ammons thanked the students for their time at Widener Law and shared encouraging words with the students preparing to take the February bar exam. Dean Ammons also presented George Roles with the American Bankruptcy Institute Medal of Excellence during the reception. This medal is awarded to a student who has achieved the highest grade in bankruptcy class or who has achieved other recognition in the bankruptcy area.

HARRISBURG MENTOR RECEPTION

The Alumni Mentoring program on the Harrisburg campus recently kicked off the 2009-2010 mentoring year with a reception hosted by the Career Development Office. Alumni volunteers advise students as they encounter the challenges of their first year. Students enjoyed getting to know their alumni mentors better that evening and were able to see first-hand what truly diverse paths Widener Law alumni take upon graduation.

DELAWARE COUNTY ALUMNI CHAPTER CLE LUNCHEON

The Delaware County Alumni Chapter, chaired by Jonathan Peri '99, hosted a CLE luncheon in November at D'Ignazio's Townhouse Restaurant in Media, PA. The CLE portion of the program, which 33 alumni attended, was presented by Professor Andrew J. Fichter and titled "Healthcare Reform: Are We There Yet?" Professor Fichter is Associate Professor of Law at Widener's Delaware campus and Executive Director, Institutes.

ALUMNI GATHER FOR PHILADELPHIA HAPPY HOUR

More than 70 alumni gathered at Chickie's and Pete's in South Philadelphia in November. The event was hosted by the Alumni Association Board of Directors and provided an opportunity for everyone to have fun, reconnect, and network. The highlights of the evening included a chance to win Widener Law apparel, door prizes, and a 50/50 drawing. The winners of the 50/50 drawing, Tom '82 and Carolyn '82 Uliase, donated their winnings to the law school. We thank them for their generosity.

Top: Pamela Lee '07, Kelly Albanese '07, and Perry DeMarco '75

Bottom: Stephen Negro '94 and Arthur Novello '86



DEAN AMMONS VISITS ALUMNI AT K&L GATES

In October, Dean Linda L. Ammons met with Widener Law alumni employed with K&L Gates LLP, as well as firm management and members of the Board of Overseers, at a luncheon at the firm's Harrisburg office, during which she shared campus news and achievements with the attendees.

Class Notes

1975

Susan C. Del Pesco received the First State Distinguished Service Award at the Delaware State Bar Association's Bench and Bar Conference. She recently retired from the Superior Court bench.

Michael B. Joseph, a partner in the Wilmington firm Ferry, Joseph & Pearce P.A., is president-elect of the National Association of Chapter 13 Trustees. Mr. Joseph has been the Chapter 13 bankruptcy trustee in Delaware since 1987.

Mark A. Longo is the recipient of the 2010 New York State Bar Association Attorney Professional Award.

David L. Woloshin has joined Astor Weiss Kaplan & Mandel as senior counsel and chairman of its litigation and personal injury department, joining the firm with more than 32 years' experience in personal injury.

1976

Charles F. Gallagher III, a Philadelphia prosecutor for more than 30 years, has joined the Lehigh County district attorney's office as a chief deputy district attorney. He will prosecute cases involving major crimes and assist other prosecutors in preparing cases for trial.

Thomas F. Liotti has founded the nation's first *pro bono publico* bar association in New York. The corporation's purpose is to provide free legal services to the poor and indigent and to promote and encourage members of the bar to provide *pro bono publico* legal services.

Alexander Murphy, Jr. was the moderator for Widener Law's Fourth Annual Sports & Entertainment Law CLE Symposium and was a speaker for the TV/Film panel of the Symposium. Mr. Murphy maintains offices in New York City and West Chester, PA, and has a reciprocal "Of Counsel" relationship with fellow entertainment attorney, Peter M. Thall, Esq.

Charles Proctor III has been awarded the designation of Certified Land Title Professional by the Pennsylvania Land Title Association, and was elected President of The National Association of Independent Land Title Agents. He is a Principal in the Law Offices of Proctor Lindsay & Dixon, LLC, and serves as an adjunct Professor in Widener Law's Legal Education Institute and as a Moot Court and Oral Argument Judge for the school.

1977



James F. Kilcur, a partner in Saul Ewing's labor, employment, and employee benefits practice group, was named one of the "Irish Legal 100" by *Irish America* magazine. The award honors 100 members of the legal profession in the United States of Irish-American descent.

Philip Maenza was appointed to the Morris County Superior Court bench by outgoing New Jersey Governor Jon Corzine.

1978

Edward J. DiDonato, partner at Fox Rothschild in Philadelphia, was elected Vice Chancellor of the Justinian Society and Foundation.

Ernest D. Palmarella, of Palmarella, Curry, & Kelly, P.C., was named one of the Top Lawyers of 2009 by *Main Line Today*. His practice, located in Wayne PA, focuses on tax law.

Lee A. Solomon was named by New Jersey Governor Chris Christie to serve as president of the Board of Public Utilities. A Superior Court judge in Camden County, he previously worked with Governor Christie as

a deputy U.S. attorney in Camden and Trenton.

1979

Raymond Batten New Jersey Superior Court Judge, was recently appointed General Equity Disqualification Judge for Vicinage 1. He will be handling all matters as to which the Presiding General Equity Judge has conflict and assuming responsibility for the General Equity cases in Cape May County.

Todd A. Hoover of Dauphin County was appointed to the Juvenile Court Procedural Rules Committee of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court.

Rory L. Rank received the Charles Driscoll Memorial Award by the New Mexico Criminal Defense Lawyers Association for his commitment to protection of constitutional rights.

1980

Alan B. Levin, Director of Economic Development for the State of Delaware, was named by *Delaware Today* to its "14 People of Influence" who are shaping policy in the state.

James M. Matour, a shareholder in the bankruptcy and business practices at Hanglely Aronchick Segal & Pudlin, was elected to the firm's board of directors.

John F. O'Brien was recently recognized as a star of ADR

Options, dealing in mediation, arbitration, and mock trials.

Harold W.T. Purnell II has joined New Jersey-based Archer & Greiner as a partner. Previously a solo practitioner, Mr. Purnell has worked for more than 25 years in trust, estate, and tax planning, and also handles elder, real estate, and business law.

Bernard Smalley was appointed to the Widener Law Board of Overseers in fall 2009, and was named in the 2009 edition of *Pennsylvania Super Lawyers*. Mr. Smalley is a shareholder of Anapol, Schwartz, Weiss, Cohan, Feldman, and Smalley, P.C. in Philadelphia.

Kate Vetrano, of Vetrano & Vetrano, was named one of the Top Lawyers of 2009 by *Main Line Today*. Her practice, located in King of Prussia, focuses on divorce law.

1981

Lee A. Schwartz of Spear Wilderman has been elected treasurer of the Nicholas Cipriani Family Law Inns of Court in Philadelphia.

1982



Robert T. Szostak has been elected as a Co-Chair

of the State Civil Litigation Section of the Philadelphia Bar Association, and was recently named a Pennsylvania Super Lawyer for the second consecutive year. He practices complex civil litigation with Rubin, Glickman, Steinberg and Gifford, P.C.

1983

Thomas J. Durling has joined Flaster/Greenberg as a shareholder in the Philadelphia office. Mr. Durling is a registered patent attorney and has more than two decades of experience in intellectual property law. Prior to joining Flaster/Greenberg, he was a partner at DLA Piper US LLP.



Keith H. Fleury was promoted to Principal at Gunnip & Company LLP. Mr. Fleury shares responsibility for the organization's strategic growth initiatives as well as leadership and mentoring for the firm's corporate services group.

Robert J. Krapf, a director with Richards, Layton & Finger, was elected to the council of the Real Property, Trust and Estate Law Section of the American Bar Association. Mr. Krapf focuses his practice on

transactional matters in the areas of real estate and land use law.

Richard H. Morton has been appointed to serve as chairman of the advisory board for the West Chester branch of the Salvation Army. Mr. Morton is of counsel to Montgomery McCracken Walker & Rhoads's business department. His practice concentrates in the areas of general business practice, wills and estates, and civil and commercial litigation.

Philip Rosenfeldt, Partner and Institutional Real Estate Practice Group Leader with Blank Rome LLP in Philadelphia, was recently recognized by Chambers USA as a leader in real estate law for "his impressive performance in a significant number of development matters." Mr. Rosenfeldt was also recognized as a Pennsylvania Super Lawyer for 2008 and 2009.

1984

Charlene D. Davis, a director with Bayard, PA in Wilmington and a member of its executive committee, has been elected chairwoman of the Bankruptcy Section of the Delaware State Bar Association. She focuses her practice on bankruptcy, creditors' rights, and commercial litigation.

Irene D. Hensinger was recently appointed principal

of Nouvel Catholic Central High School in Saginaw County, Michigan.

1985

Scott E. Diamond has joined Clearfield Kofsky & Penneys. Mr. Diamond is certified by the NJ Supreme Court and the National Board of Trial Advocacy as a civil trial attorney. He will continue to handle personal injury claims.

1986

Glenn Blackwell was recently admitted to the Missouri Bar, and also maintains his standing as a member of the Pennsylvania Bar. He is Managing Attorney for Construction at Kansas City Power & Light Co.

Rick DiLiberto has been reappointed as chairman of the Delaware Commission on Italian Heritage and Culture by Governor Jack Markell. The commission was created by the General Assembly to develop cultural and economic ties between Delaware and Italy. Mr. DiLiberto is a partner with Young Conaway Stargatt & Taylor, LLP and practices plaintiffs' personal injury law.

David A. White of McCarter & English became an incoming member at large of the Delaware State Bar Association at the annual Bench and Bar Conference.

Class Notes

1987

Sharon Caffrey participated in a roundtable and panel discussion at the September 2009 Asbestos Litigation Conference. Ms. Caffrey, a partner at Duane Morris in Philadelphia, is co-head of the Products Liability and Toxic Torts division of the firm's Trial Practice Group, and was also recently named one of the "Irish Legal 100" in *Irish America* magazine.

Ann Duke has joined the Chester County firm of Gawthrop Greenwood, concentrating her practice in business law and estate planning. She also has been elected Chester County Treasurer. Previously, Ms. Duke served as managing partner of Duke and Duke, was a founding investor, Senior Vice President, and General Counsel of Stonebridge Bank, and served as an elected official in the Borough of West Chester.

Gary B. Eidelman was elected a Fellow of The College of Labor and Employment Lawyers. Mr. Eidelman is Vice Chair of the Business Department and Vice Office Managing Partner of Saul Ewing's Baltimore office, and was selected as one of Baltimore's 2009 Legal Elite by *Smart CEO* magazine.

Mark J. Gulasarian has joined Kenneth Schuster & Associates. He will concentrate his practice in workers' compensation law.

Brian Tierney served as a panelist for the Mid-Atlantic Venture Association's conference, "Capital Connection™ '09." Mr. Tierney is CEO of Philadelphia Media Holdings, LLC, the largest locally owned newspaper company in America.

1988

Angela Taylor was appointed to the Widener Law Alumni Association Board of Directors.

1989

Philip Trainer, Jr. was appointed to Widener Law's Board of Overseers.

1990

Gino Benedetti, a partner at Dilworth Paxson in Philadelphia, was elected Treasurer of the Justinian Society and Foundation.

Elizabeth D. Berenato recently received certification as a Certified Civil Trial Attorney from the Supreme Court of New Jersey. She practices with Smith Magram Berenato Michaud in Burlington, NJ.

Brett Datto recently joined Cipriani & Werner as a partner in their Philadelphia location.

Hugh A. Jones was sworn into office as the new magisterial district judge in Mount Carmel, PA.

He formerly served as the Northumberland County Solicitor.

David B. Kline presented at the Spanish American Civic Association, offering *pro bono* advice on a variety of topics, including landlord-tenant issues, criminal law, and custody matters. Mr. Kline is an equity partner at Villari, Brandes & Kline.

James J. Ruggiero, Jr. was named a Top Lawyer for Trusts & Estates by *Main Line Today*. He has also been appointed a member of the Board of Directors of the Planned Lifetime Assistance Network of Pennsylvania. Mr. Ruggiero's firm, Ruggiero Law Offices, LLC, is located in Paoli, PA.

Benjamin Strauss, of Pepper Hamilton, was appointed an *Ex Officio* member of the Widener Law Board of Overseers. In addition, he was elected president of the Delaware State Bar Association at the annual Bench and Bar Conference. Mr. Strauss concentrates his practice on counseling companies on business law matters.

Craig A. Styer, a partner at Fox Rothschild, was appointed to the board of directors of the Chester County Economic Development Council. Mr. Styer serves as administrative chairman of the firm's litigation department in the Exton office and is a member of the firm's partnership advancement committee.

1991

Thomas Anapol was named in the 2009 edition of *Pennsylvania Super Lawyers*. Mr. Anapol is a shareholder in the Philadelphia office of Anapol, Schwartz, Weiss, Cohan, Feldman & Smalley, P.C.

Renae B. Axelrod was elected president of the Widener University School of Law Alumni Association by the association's board of directors. Ms. Axelrod, a graduate of the Delaware campus, is the first woman elected to the position in the organization's history. As president, she will also sit on the law school's Board of Overseers. She has been employed for 15 years with Kogan Trichon & Wertheimer, where she handles various types of litigation with a focus on personal injury.

David G. Concannon spoke about "Risk Management Issues in the Digital Age" at the 2009 Wilderness Risk Management Conference. Mr. Concannon is the founder of the Law Offices of David G. Concannon, LLC in Wayne, PA, which handles general litigation and business matters.

John Pisa-Relli is Deputy General Counsel to Thales USA, Inc., part of The Thales Group, an \$18 billion multinational aerospace and defense company. He is the principal legal adviser to Thales affiliates worldwide on U.S. export controls and national security requirements.

Jeffrey A. Wothers, managing partner at Niles, Barton & Wilmer, LLP, was appointed to the Carroll Hospital Center Board of Directors. Mr. Wothers' practice focuses on insurance law and commercial litigation in the state and federal courts of Maryland, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Washington, D.C.

1992

Jeffrey Apell, a partner in the firm of Apell & Detrick, spoke at a free public seminar presented by the New Jersey State Bar Foundation on buying and selling a home.

Joseph McHale, a partner at Stradley Ronon Stevens & Young, served on the faculty for the 37th Annual International Association of Defense Counsel Trial Academy at Stanford Law School. As a partner in the litigation group and partner-in-charge of the Malvern, PA office, Mr. McHale's practice focuses on product liability and pharmaceutical law.

William N. Nettles has been nominated to the office of U.S. Attorney for the state of South Carolina by President Barack Obama. Mr. Nettles most recently worked as a criminal defense attorney at Sanders & Nettles LLC in Columbia, South Carolina.

Kevin R. Shannon, a partner in the litigation group of Potter Anderson & Corroon LLP in Wilmington, was named a fellow of the Litigation Counsel of America.

Mr. Shannon practices in the areas of corporate and commercial litigation.

Timothy J. Trott has been appointed to the faculty of Pennsylvania Institute of Technology, where he teaches courses in Business Law and Human Resources. He continues to maintain his office for the general practice of law in West Chester, PA.

1993

Lisa Barber has been promoted to Vice President & Associate General Counsel at Brandywine Realty Trust. She has been named a Pennsylvania Legal Rising Star for the last four years, was a recent recipient of the MS Young Leadership Award and was recognized as a woman of influence by the Real Estate Forum.

John Grimm is Assistant Professor of Moral Theology at Immaculate Conception Seminary College, Seton Hall University, South Orange, NJ.

Stephen D. Harper is now Counsel for RatnerPrestia in Valley Forge, PA, where he prepares and prosecutes patent applications related to chemical, pharmaceutical and materials technologies and provides guidance to clients regarding their intellectual property rights. Dr. Harper previously worked as a patent attorney for ARCO Chemical and the Henkel Corporation, where he was Chief Patent Counsel for six years.

ATTENTION, ALUMNI

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 (digital 300 dpi or hard copy).

Send your Class Note to:
Alumni Office
Widener University School of Law
P.O. Box 7474
Wilmington, DE 19803-0474

Or use our handy online form at
http://www.law.widener.edu/alumni/submit_class_notes.shtml

John E. Muir, a shareholder with Roland & Schlegel in Reading, PA, was elected chairman of the Western Berks Fire Department board of trustees. The department is composed of four legacy fire companies from four separate municipalities.

Janel Ostroski was nominated New Castle County Family Court commissioner by Delaware Governor Jack Markell. Ms. Ostroski has practiced law for 16 years, the majority of this time spent in the Family Court system. She has represented the Court Appointed Special Advocates program, indigent parents, and mentally ill patients, and also serves as a due process officer for the Department of Education in hearings relating to educational services for special needs students.

Frances R. Roggenbaum was recently named a shareholder of Cozen O'Connor, and is the Harrisburg office managing partner. A member of the business law department, Ms. Roggenbaum practices in the insurance, corporate and regulatory group.

1994

Keith O. Barrows has been named Interim Vice President for University Advancement and Interim Executive Director of the LHU Foundation at Lock Haven University. Mr. Barrows has been at Lock Haven University since 2005, and as Director of Development has been responsible for all aspects of the fundraising program.

Douglas Hurd was confirmed unanimously as a New Jersey Superior Court judge in the civil division of the Mercer County Superior Court. Prior to his confirmation, Mr. Hurd spent seven years as an administrative law judge in Trenton.

Benjamin Ledyard was recently appointed Director of the Wealth Strategies Team and Regional Director of the Wilmington Family Office of Silver Bridge, an independent wealth advisory boutique providing wealth management solutions.

Matthew E. McGuire, of Buckley Brion McGuire

Class Notes

Morris & Sommer, has been named to the 2009-10 board of directors of the West Chester Area YMCA.

Patrick Reeder has been appointed senior director of Government Relations at Allianz Life Insurance Company. Prior to joining Allianz, he served as corporate counsel and chief compliance officer at the BISYS Group and as the assistant vice president of claims at Reliance Insurance Company.



Gina Furia Rubel was elected to the Bucks County Women's Fund (BCWF) Board of Directors, and was reelected Chancellor of The Justinian Society. Ms. Rubel is the President and CEO of Furia Rubel Communications in Doylestown, PA.

1995

Jacalyn A. Aff, of the Court of Common Pleas, became an incoming member at large of the Delaware State Bar Association at the annual Bench and Bar Conference.

David R. Cherry, of Cherry, Fieger & Marciano, LLP, was named one of the Top Lawyers of 2009 by *Main Line Today*. His practice, located in Media, focuses on workers' compensation law.

Frank Emmerich has been named to Cabrini College's Board of Trustees. Mr. Emmerich is a member of the College's Institutional Advancement Committee and a shareholder with Conrad O'Brien in Philadelphia and member of the firm's Executive Leadership Committee. His practice focuses on cases involving catastrophic losses, engineering issues, class actions, unfair trade practices, intellectual property issues, and government investigations.

Thomas J. Kent, a partner in the Exton office of Fox Rothschild, spoke at the "Financing for Franchise Businesses" program hosted by the South Eastern Economic Development Co. of PA.

Catherine L. Kessmeier was recently selected Deputy Assistant General Counsel (Manpower & Reserve Affairs) for the Department of the Navy.

Gregory P. LaMonaca was named one of the Top Lawyers of 2009 by *Main Line Today*. His practice, located in Media, focuses on family law.

Cheryl Mullin, of Mullin Law, PC, was named a 2009 Best Lawyer in Dallas by *D Magazine*. Ms. Mullin won the award for leadership and client service in franchise law and development.

Robert E. O'Connor was named one of the Top Lawyers of 2009 by *Main Line Today*. His practice, located in Media, focuses on personal bankruptcy law.

Timothy F. Rayne, of MacElree Harvey, Ltd., was named one of the Top Lawyers of 2009 by *Main Line Today*. He practices in Kennett Square and focuses on personal injury litigation.

Thomas C. Regan was named one of the top 40 attorneys under 40 by the *New Jersey Law Journal*. He is currently a partner at LeClarRyan, based in Newark.

Yvonne T. Saville, of Weiss & Saville, became an incoming member at large of the Delaware State Bar Association at the annual Bench and Bar Conference.

Julie Swain, a partner in the Family Law Practice Group at Fox Rothschild LLP, was recently elected to the Editorial Board of the *Philadelphia Bar Reporter*. Ms. Swain is currently Treasurer of the Family Law Section of the Philadelphia Bar Association, a member of its Executive Committee, and is CLE Coordinator.

1996

Debra A. Aisenstein, vice president of client development of James DeCrescenzo Reporting LLC, Trial Technologies Inc., and Digital Reporting Service LLC, recently presented a CLE program for the Philadelphia Bar Association on "Litigating More Effectively Using Technology."

Charles B. Haws has become a partner in the firm of Barley Snyder. Haws joined the firm in 2006, and

concentrates his practice in environmental, real estate, and municipal law.

Stephen Klincewicz served as the senior editor for a new book, *Global Pharmacovigilance Law and Regulations: the Essential Reference*, published by the Food and Drug Law Institute. Mr. Klincewicz is currently a vice president with Johnson and Johnson Research and Development, LLC.

Darin McMullen has joined Offit Kurman's Philadelphia office. Mr. McMullen concentrates his practice in business litigation with an emphasis on labor and employment, commercial litigation, and insurance recovery.

Sean M. Reilly, president of Roscommon International, is pleased to announce that Roscommon International has been recognized as the 37th fastest growing privately held company in the Philadelphia region. The firm focuses on government relations, consulting, and federal marketing with offices in Bala Cynwyd, Harrisburg, and Washington, D.C..

Catherine M. Shiels was named one of the top 40 attorneys under 40 by the *New Jersey Law Journal*. She is currently a partner at Golden Rothschild Spagnola Lundell Levitt & Boylan.

Patrick J. Sweeney was named Vice President-East of the Pennsylvania Defense Institute.

To nominate a fellow graduate for a 2010 Widener Law Alumni Award, please visit <http://law.widener.edu/Gateway/Alumni/AlumniAwards.aspx>.



John B. Zonarich has been named by the *Central Penn Business Journal* as one of its "Forty under 40" award recipients of 2009. Mr. Zonarich handles personal injury litigation, civil litigation, commercial litigation, and employment law litigation in state and federal courts. He is a partner in the Harrisburg law firm of Skarlatos & Zonarich LLP.

1997

Scott E. Blissman was appointed to Widener Law's Board of Overseers.

Tanya Blissman was appointed to the Widener Law Alumni Association Board of Directors.

James E. Ellison was mentioned in the article "And to the Victor Goes the Toil" in the Harrisburg *Sunday Patriot News*. The article focused on Harrisburg mayor-elect Linda Thompson and referenced Ellison as her campaign manager.

Emily A. Farley of Community Legal Aid Society, Inc., was elected vice president, Kent County, of the Delaware State Bar Association at the annual Bench and Bar Conference.

Dominick T. Gattuso has been elected a partner in the

firm of Proctor Heyman LLP in Wilmington. Mr. Gattuso focuses on advising and representing Delaware corporations and other entities in business litigation in the Delaware Court of Chancery.

Scott R. Reidenbach has been appointed to the board of trustees of Rosemont College in Rosemont, PA. Mr. Reidenbach is the founder and principal of Reidenbach & Associates, a Main Line law firm that concentrates its practice in real estate, business, and civil litigation. He has been recognized as a Pennsylvania Super Lawyer "Rising Star" by *Law & Politics* magazine and as a Top Lawyer 2009 by *Main Line Today*.

Seth J. Reidenberg, formerly special counsel in Young Conaway's commercial litigation department, has joined The Chartwell Law Offices as a partner. Mr. Reidenberg will manage the Wilmington office.

Justin B. Wineburgh was recently appointed to the board of the Philadelphia Film Society. Mr. Wineburgh is a Cozen O'Connor member and heads the firm's entertainment and sports law practice. He was recently featured in *The Philadelphia Inquirer* in the article, "Cozen Lawyer Builds Entertainment Practice."

1998

Tracy Finken published "High Court's Caperton Ruling: Opening a Pandora's

Box of Recusal Petitions?" in *The Legal Intelligencer*. Ms. Finken is a partner at Anapol Schwartz Weiss Cohan Feldman & Smalley, concentrating her practice on class actions, pharmaceutical liability, medical and other professional malpractice, products liability, and other complex civil litigation.

John J. Flynn III, was recently promoted to Executive Vice President and General Counsel of both Americans for Prosperity and AFP Foundation, national organizations committed to free market solutions to pressing policy issues.

Carey A. LeRoux was named managing director of business development at TitleVest. Ms. LeRoux will facilitate relationships with prospective clients and leverage her industry connections to help grow TitleVest's commercial client base.



Rory G. Ritrievi was recently named President and Chief Executive Officer of Mid Penn Bank in Millersburg, PA. He previously was Senior Executive Vice President and Chief Lending Officer for Commerce Bank/Harrisburg.

Michelle Trumpower is General Counsel of the Industrial Technologies Sector of Ingersoll-Rand

Company in Davidson, NC and is also Vice President, General Counsel, and Secretary of Ingersoll-Rand's subsidiary, Club Car, Inc.

Rachel A. Wingerter has been selected a Co-Chair of the Somerset County (NJ) Bar Association's 2009-2010 Mock Trial Committee. The Committee is responsible for the Somerset County Mock Trial Competition, an annual competition of high schools to represent the county in regional competitions. Ms. Wingerter is an Associate with Norris McLaughlin & Marcus, P.A. and focuses her practice on executive compensation, employee benefits, and corporate law.

1999

Alan G. Davis was nominated by Governor Jack Markell of Delaware for a second term as chief magistrate of the Justice of the Peace Court. During his first term, he focused on strengthening court security, improving service through technology and innovative projects, and streamlining court processes.

Randall G. Hurst was presented with the prestigious Walter A. Lyon Purity of Waters Award by the Pennsylvania Water Environment Association (PWEA). Mr. Hurst practices with Mette, Evans & Woodside in Harrisburg.

George Kostolampros has been promoted to partner

Class Notes

in the Washington office of Venable. He practices in the Securities and Exchange Commission and white-collar defense practice.

U.S. Rep. Patrick J. Murphy was presented the Fenn Award, one of two annual John F. Kennedy New Frontier Awards. Created by the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation and the Institute of Politics at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, the Fenn Award is presented annually to an elected official whose work demonstrates the impact of elective public service as a way to address public challenges.

Andrew Norfleet has been certified a member of The Million Dollar Advocates Forum, a group of attorneys who have won million and multi-million dollar verdicts, awards and settlements. Mr. Norfleet specializes in personal injury and defective products law.

Jonathan Peri, vice president and general counsel at Neumann University, has been named a top real estate lawyer by *Main Line Today* magazine. Mr. Peri has worked at Neumann since July 2006.

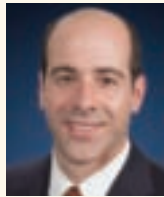
Scott T. Reese was appointed judge for Division I of the 32nd Judicial District, in Boyd County, Kentucky.

Amy M. Vanni has been elected one of 18 new partners at Reed Smith LLP. She is a litigator in the Life Sciences and Health

Industry group in the firm's Philadelphia office.

Andrea T. Whiting is working for the State Department and was sworn in as a Foreign Service Officer on July 23, 2009. She will move to Senegal in 2010 to serve as a Vice Consul at the United States Embassy in Dakar.

2000



Christopher Chiacchio has been awarded *SJ Magazine's* "Top Attorney" honor. Located in Southern New Jersey, The Law Offices of Christopher Chiacchio specialize in business law, real estate, and litigation.

Miranda D. Clifton, of the Law Offices of Cynthia G. Beam, was elected assistant secretary of the Delaware State Bar Association at the annual Bench and Bar Conference.

Clifford Hammond was mentioned in the August 17, 2009 edition of *Michigan Lawyers Weekly*, discussing his work in the labor law area of practice.

Theresa M. Zechman has been named a shareholder of Stevens & Lee. Ms. Zechman concentrates her practice in management-

side labor and employment law and litigation. Ms. Zechman is a past chair of the Lancaster County Bar Association's Labor and Employment Law Section and is a member of the Lancaster Bar Association's Diversity Committee. She is also a member of the Labor and Employment Sections of the Pennsylvania Bar Association and American Bar Association.

2001

Sharele Taylor Hatfield was recently recognized as one of *Johnstown Magazine's* "Most Beautiful People." Ms. Hatfield is an attorney advisor for the Social Security Administration.

Captain Daniel W. Scialpi completed a 14-month tour in Iraq. While deployed, he earned the Meritorious Service Medal Iraq Campaign Medal and Combat Action Badge.



Matthew R. Shindell recently joined Goldberg Segalla LLP as an associate. He concentrates his practice in the defense of medical malpractice claims and claims involving medical device and product liability.

2002



Richard Alloway II joined Elliott Greenleaf in the summer of 2009 and is of counsel to the firm, working in its central Pennsylvania office. Mr. Alloway's practice focuses in the firm's core practice areas of healthcare, banking, educational municipal law, real estate, and employment law. Mr. Alloway represents the 33rd District in the Senate of Pennsylvania.

Gail M. Conner, President of G&C Environmental Services, Inc., has published her first book, *Healing Parties*, as a result of a trip to Africa, where her daughter is a volunteer in Zambia with the human rights organization International Justice Mission.

Dawn M. Jones has joined Potter Anderson & Corroon LLP's Corporate Group. Ms. Jones concentrates on corporate counseling and corporate litigation. She was previously an associate at Young Conaway Stargatt & Taylor, LLP in Wilmington.

James H. McMackin III has been named chair of the Delaware State Bar Association's Labor & Employment Section. Mr. McMackin practices with Morris James LLP, where he counsels and represents

clients on matters involving enforcement of non-compete agreements. He also represents clients before the Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board, the State Board of Education and the Delaware Division of Industrial Affairs.

Scott W. Reid, of Cozen O'Connor's Philadelphia office, has been named a member of the firm. Mr. Reid practices in the general litigation department. He was also recently appointed to the Board of Overseers at Widener Law.

Margaret M. Simok has joined the law firm of Scaringi & Scaringi, P.C., Harrisburg, PA. Ms. Simok focuses her practice in the areas of family law, disability law, administrative law, and commercial and telecommunications law.

2003

Timothy P. Brennan was married to Patricia L. Tucker on May 5, 2007, and their son, Tucker Joseph Brennan, was born on November 15, 2008. Mr. Brennan lectured at the 1st Annual Equine Law Seminar and the 4th Annual Animal Law Seminar, Equine Law Primer, for the Pennsylvania Bar Institute. He has also lectured at the Dickinson School of Law and has been teaching Politics 100 as an Adjunct Professor at Northampton Community College. Recently, he partnered with Matthew T.

Croslis to start Croslis & Brennan, a firm handling workers compensation, commercial, tort, collections, property law, liquor law, equine law, and election law.

Heather Durkin-Thomas and her husband, Bryan, welcomed their first children, Abigail and Joseph Thomas, born on June 7, 2008.

Gregory S. Gerson was named to PA Super Lawyers Rising Stars in 2008. Mr. Gerson focuses in general litigation, schools and education, and construction litigation as a senior associate at DiOrio & Sereni, LLP in Media, PA.

2004

Kymerley L. Best was recently sworn in as the first woman to serve as a Northumberland County assistant solicitor.

Korab R. Sejdiu is currently serving as a legal advisor to the President of Kosova, where he has participated in the establishment of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Kosova and the appointment of the Constitutional Court judges, judiciary reform, membership in the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, various other administrative and legislative activities, and the legal battle for the legality of Kosova's declaration of independence. Mr. Sejdiu also recently

joined the law faculty at the University of Prishtina, and has taught at Imperial College London and the European Integration School in Kosovo.

2005

Joshua Berman recently successfully argued for the review of a client's petition for asylum in front of the US Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. Berman is employed by Blaine L. Gilbert & Associates, in Baltimore, MD. His areas of focus include immigration and naturalization, visas, deportation, removal, citizenship, and green cards.

Seth N. Boer recently joined the law firm of James B. Griffin, P.C. as an associate attorney.



Christopher J. Cabott has been appointed an adjunct instructor at Temple University and York College, where he teaches Sports Law and Entertainment Law at the undergraduate level. Mr. Cabott, a certified NFL player agent, has been a frequent guest recently on Comcast's "It's Your Call with Lynn Doyle" as a commentator on sports law issues.



Mark J. Hermanovich and his wife Lisa (Forino) Hermanovich, of Wynnewood, PA, welcomed their first child, Olivia Rose, on March 28, 2009. Mr. Hermanovich practices with Kilcoyne & Nesbitt, LLC in Plymouth Meeting, PA.

Emeka Igwe was appointed to the Widener Law Alumni Association Board of Directors.

James F. Logue, of the Benn Law Firm, York, PA, was recently appointed as a member of the York County Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council by the York County Board of Commissioners.

Sarah B. Silver has joined Langsam Stevens & Silver LLP as an associate. She concentrates her practice on environmental law. Prior to joining, Ms. Silver was in private practice representing clients in general and complex litigation matters in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Ms. Silver was honored as a "2008 Top Attorney" in *SJ Magazine*.

2006

Evan Y. Liu, of Feldman Shepherd Wohlgerlenter Tanner Weinstock & Dodig, has been appointed to the Pennsylvania Bar

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Association's Minority Bar Committee. In the summer of 2009 he discussed the practice of law with minority college students during the Widener Law JURIST Academy summer program. A former emergency physician, Liu concentrates his practice in medical malpractice and products liability.

Kathleen McNicholas was named one of the "Irish Legal 100" by *Irish America* magazine. The award honors 100 members of the legal profession in the United States of Irish-American descent.

Gus Pelagatti, Jr. has joined Weber Gallagher Simpson Stapleton Fires & Newby as an associate. He represents healthcare providers in the defense of professional liability claims.

Marie C. Plyter has joined Christie Pabarue Mortensen & Young's health and sciences defense group in the firm's Philadelphia office. She has experience in the defense of physicians, nurses, and hospitals.

Jennifer L. Story has joined Archer & Greiner as an associate in the litigation services department in the firm's Wilmington, DE and Haddonfield, NJ offices, where she concentrates on bankruptcy law and debtor and creditor rights. Prior to joining the firm, Ms. Story practiced professional liability and

insurance defense litigation in Delaware.

2007

Arnold Bituin was mentioned in the Dauphin County Bar Association newsletter regarding MidPenn Legal Services. Mr. Bituin provided *pro bono* services to a client, which helped the client to continue receiving unemployment compensation benefits.



Kathryn L. Fettrow has joined Nelson Levine de Luca & Horst (NLdH) as an associate in the firm's National Insurance Coverage Group. Ms. Fettrow concentrates her practice on the analysis of complex insurance coverage disputes and the investigation of fraudulent insurance claims.

Stephen Ries was appointed to the Widener Law Alumni Association Board of Directors.

2008

Clarissa L. Freeman was named a 2009-2010 ABA Young Lawyers Division Scholar. The Dauphin County Bar Association has also recognized her as a member of the Pro Bono

Honor Roll. Currently, she serves as Co-Chair of the Legislative Subcommittee of the Pennsylvania Bar Association's Minority Bar Committee. She is also the charter Vice-President of Administration for the Greater Harrisburg Interim Chapter of NBMBA. Ms. Freeman is Chief Counsel and Executive Director to Pennsylvania State Senator Shirley M. Kitchen.

Kevin E. Harchar has joined Weber Gallagher Simpson Stapleton Fires & Newby as an associate in the Scranton, PA office. Mr. Harchar defends employers in workers' compensation disputes.

2009



Michael Bileci has joined Capehart Scatchard's Workers' Compensation Department in its Mt. Laurel, NJ office, representing insurance carriers and employers in the defense of workers' compensation claims at all stages of litigation.

Joel D. Corriero has joined Stradley Ronon and will be based in the firm's Philadelphia office. Mr. Corriero joins the firm's nationally ranked investment management practice group, where he will assist

investment companies, investment advisers, and broker-dealers on regulatory and compliance issues.

Jonathan A. McDonald was honored by the Philadelphia Trial Lawyers Association for his outstanding trial advocacy skills.

Melissa M. Smith has joined Weber Gallagher Simpson Stapleton Fires & Newby as an associate in the Philadelphia office. Ms. Smith represents employers in workers' compensation matters.



A co-ed flag football team that included several members of the class of 2009—**Cory Winter, Anthony Hoover, Gregory A. Kogut Jr., and Brandon Pierce**—as well as a current Widener Law student, won the Harrisburg Young Professionals co-ed flag football championship. The league consisted of 21 teams made up of professionals throughout Central Pennsylvania.

Deceased

- 1978** Jeffrey S. Welch
- 1986** David R. Scerba
- 1992** Bradley L. Gibbs
- 1996** Elizabeth S. Gomez
- 2004** Georgianna L. Spayd

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For more information, contact Walter L. Derricotte, Assistant Director, Widener Law Fund, Phone 302-477-2754, Fax 302-477-2262, wlderricotte@widener.edu.

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Calendar

APRIL 2010

- 7 Delaware Supreme Court Oral Arguments (DE)
- 12 Overseers Meeting
Overseers/Student Reception (HBG)
- 13 Chicago Alumni Gathering
- 17 35th Anniversary Gala Celebration
- 19 Richard K. Herrmann Electronic Discovery Inn of Court meeting
and dinner
- 21 Student Awards Ceremony and Reception (DE)
- 22 Environmental Law Center Earth Day Speaker (DE)
Wilmington Alumni Chapter Happy Hour
- 23 Judges' Day (DE)
- 24 Central Pennsylvania Golf Outing
- 27 Widener Women's Network Luncheon (Delaware Chapter)

MAY 2010

- 11 Widener Women's Network Luncheon (New Jersey Chapter)
- 12 Pennsylvania Bar Association Alumni Reception
- 15 Delaware Campus Commencement
- 16 Harrisburg Campus Commencement
- 18 Alumni Association Board Meeting
- 20 New Jersey Bar Association Alumni Reception
- 21 ITAP Distinguished Lecture in Trial Advocacy and Professionalism (DE)
- ITAP Distinguished Lecture in Trial Advocacy and Professionalism (HBG)
- 24 The Intersection of Federal Bankruptcy and State Corporate Law (DE)

JUNE 2010

- 2 Widener Women's Networking Event (Philadelphia Chapter)
- 8 Legal Research CLE program

SEPTEMBER 2010

- 25 Class of 1990 Reunion Picnic

*For a complete and up-to-date calendar,
please see law.widener.edu/go/events.aspx*

**Widener University
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Celebrates 35 Years**

Saturday, April 17, 2010

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Please join us for a very special evening at the Widener University School of Law 35th Reunion Gala Celebration, as we honor our first class, celebrate milestones with all reunion classes, present alumni awards, and pay tribute to the law school's founders.

For more information, please call 302-477-2055.