Donors Honored at Annual Scholarship Breakfast

George Mason Law hosted its annual appreciation breakfast for law school scholarship donors and their recipients on Wednesday, April 22, in the Moot Courtroom Atrium. Approximately 60 law students, law alumni, and friends of Mason Law attended the breakfast, which featured remarks from Dean Polsby.

Law scholarship winners had the opportunity to meet alumni and friends of Mason Law who helped make their scholarships possible, while alumni and friends had a chance to meet face-to-face with those helped by their generosity. Tecla Murphy, widow of the late Professor Richard Murphy, and her family attended the breakfast, where they met the recipients of the Richard S. Murphy Scholarship. “I was so pleased to meet the students receiving scholarships from the Richard Murphy Scholarship Fund. The breakfast was a great opportunity to get together

Supreme Access

The Criminal Law class visit with U.S. Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito marked the end of a year filled with access to the highest court in the land. In just a few months, Mason students had the opportunity for Q&As with not one, but three, Supreme Court justices—Associate Justices Alito and Clarence Thomas and Chief Justice John Roberts (left).

The school’s location and dynamic faculty make such access to the Court
Donors Honored at Annual Scholarship Breakfast
Continued from page 1

informally and hear about the students’ backgrounds, their classes and professors, and their future aspirations. It is very rewarding to make those personal connections.”

In recent years, Mason Law has awarded hundreds of thousands of dollars in scholarships to incoming and current law students. Mason Law alumni also have established endowed and annual scholarship funds like the Smolen Plevy Scholarship; the Curran and Whittington Scholarship in Trial Advocacy; the Philip H. Dorsey, II Scholarship for Law Student Library Workers; and more. Several law firms also have established scholarships, including Sterne, Kessler, Goldstein & Fox, P.L.L.C.; Oblon, Spivak, McClelland, Maier & Neustadt, P.C.; and Banner & Witcoff, Ltd., to name just a few. A list of scholarships alumni have helped fund is included at page 14.

“Mason’s evening law program had an immeasurable impact on my career and has created countless opportunities,” said David Jolly (’01), who, with his wife Carrie, founded the David and Carrie Jolly Scholarship for Working Professionals. “Carrie and I established the scholarship for working professionals as our way of giving back to the Mason community. We also hope the scholarship will challenge other alumni to consider how they might support Mason Law and its students.”

Hundreds of Mason Law alumni contribute to Mason Law scholarships each year, and you can do likewise. Designate your annual gift to the School of Law General Scholarship Fund (or, if you choose, another Mason Law fund on the form included in this newsletter) and mail it with your gift. Of course, you can donate online at www.law.gmu.edu/give.

Supreme Access
Continued from page 1

possible. Professors Lund, Claey, Mitchell, Rao, O’Neill, and Zengerle all have clerked for justices of the Supreme Court. Some, like Professors O’Neill and Rao and George Mason University Foundation Professor Emeritus Robert Anthony, have developed relationships with the justices during their time in public or private practice, as well as during the confirmation process. Moreover, Mason Law alumni now contribute to this circle of connections. In the past decade, Mason alumni have clerked on the Supreme Court, served as a Bristow Fellow for the Solicitor General’s Office, worked on Supreme Court briefs in private practice and at the Department of Justice, and participated in the confirmation process of several justices by working for the Senate Judiciary Committee.

For their small and private meeting with Justice Roberts, students in Professor O’Neill’s Criminal Procedure class gathered at the Court. The visit, by all accounts, was informal and comfortable, and students freely asked questions about the inner workings of the Court—from interactions between the Justices to the intricacies of granting certiorari. They described Justice Roberts as a gracious and candid host. The justice shared stories about his professional background as well as his relatively new life on the Court. The visit, Shawn Stout (3D) reported, made the Court come alive in a way that would not have been possible in a typical law school class. “The visit allowed me to see what were previously just words and opinions as the ideas of a real person. I was very impressed by him.”

Several months later, nearly 100 students gathered in Professor O’Neill’s Criminal Law class to hear from Justice Alito (photo above), who discussed the details of his and his law clerks’ process of reviewing thousands of petitions for writ of certiorari and the details of their work once a case has been selected for oral arguments and opinions assigned. He gave the students advice about drafting superior briefs and presenting effective oral arguments. Noting how difficult his job can be, given the strong arguments frequently presented on both sides of cases, Justice Alito made a point of praising the quality of amicus briefs filed by Mason Law faculty in the Heller case.

The Scholarship Breakfast brought together those responsible for many of the law school's scholarships with those who have benefited from receiving them. Shown above, left to right, are Hasan Aijaz (3E), Robert Doyle (’88), Richard Benware (2E), and The Honorable David O. Phillips (’84), Administrative Appeals Judge for the Social Security Administration.

www.law.gmu.edu/alumni/
**George Mason Law Review Alumni and Students Gather at Arent Fox**

The law school sponsored a reception for the *George Mason Law Review* that brought current and alumni members of the law review together for a special evening hosted by Lisa Estrada ('99), partner at Arent Fox, in Arent Fox’s Washington, D.C., office.

In the course of the evening, Dean Daniel Polsby welcomed attendees and shared current news about the law school. Also addressing the group were the law review’s outgoing editor-in-chief, Elizabeth Maher ('09), and Alison Lima ('09), 2008–09 notes editor.

Lima welcomed Arthur E. Schmalz ('93), a partner at Hunton & Williams LLP, to present the Arthur E. Schmalz Award to Alyssa DaCunha (3D). The award recognizes the law student who submits the best write-on competition entry each year. DaCunha’s paper earned the highest marks from the notes editors out of nearly 100 fall 2008 entries. She serves as the editor-in-chief of the *George Mason Law Review* in the 2009-2010 academic year.

Schmalz graduated first in his class in 1993. Recent law review editors named the award after Schmalz for his work and leadership during a difficult time for the law review—a time when the students and faculty disagreed over the direction of the journal. The disagreement resulted, for a period of a few years, in students working on two different journals—a faculty-edited law review and a student-edited law review called the *George Mason Independent Law Review*, which Schmalz and colleagues created.

During the event, reunion guests had the opportunity to review archive editions of the *George Mason Law Review*, share memories, and catch up with one another in a relaxed and enjoyable setting.

**Celebrating Diversity in the Law**

The Northern Virginia legal community paid tribute to growing diversity within the legal profession at an April 10, 2009, “Celebrating Diversity in the Law” reception at the School of Law. The event followed the final round of the First-Year Moot Court Competition, which took place at the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, and provided ample opportunities for networking for alumni, members of the legal community, and law students participating in the competition.

During the course of the evening, The Honorable Rossie D. Alston, Jr., Court of Appeals of Virginia, and Distinguished Adjunct Professor, offered remarks, and the Fairfax Bar Association and Fairfax Law Foundation presented three $1,000 scholarships to current Mason Law students.

The reception was hosted by the School of Law, the Moot Court Board, Arlington Bar Association, Asian Pacific American Bar Association, Fairfax Bar Association, Hispanic Bar Association, and the Northern Virginia Black Attorneys Association. The partnership between the law school and these local bar associations demonstrates a collective dedication to fostering greater diversity within the legal profession and the community at large.

www.law.gmu.edu/alumni/
The School of Law selected William Consovoy (’01) as this year’s Distinguished Law Alumnus. Consovoy was honored for his efforts to raise the profile of the law school and his legal accomplishments.

While at Mason Law, Consovoy was editor-in-chief of the George Mason University Civil Rights Law Journal and a writing fellow in the Legal Research, Writing, and Analysis Program. In his spare time, he managed to craft several law review articles and earn first place in the Howard University National Civil Rights Moot Court Competition.

In 2001 Consovoy began his legal career as a law clerk for the Arlington Circuit Court, and became an associate at McGuireWoods the following year. In July 2003, he relocated to Houston, Texas, to become a law clerk to the Honorable Edith H. Jones of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.

Upon completing his tenure at the Fifth Circuit, Consovoy returned to Washington, D.C., as an associate at Wiley, Rein & Fielding, LLP, where his focus was, among other things, appellate matters. In 2008 Consovoy landed a position as law clerk to Associate Justice Clarence Thomas of the United States Supreme Court, becoming Mason Law’s first graduate to clerk on the high court. He returns to Wiley Rein in January 2010 when his clerkship ends.

Consovoy consistently has given his time and counsel for the purpose of advancing career opportunities for Mason Law students and recent graduates. For nearly a decade, he has participated in annual career sessions on the clerkship process, law firm recruiting, and legal interviews. He routinely calls the career services office with tips about the employment market and news about the clerkship process. During his time at Wiley Rein, his involvement in the firm’s recruiting process helped more Mason students receive offers there than ever before.

In 2005, Consovoy joined the ranks of our adjunct professors, teaching an advanced constitutional law course. In the past year, he also served as a guest lecturer in the law school’s Scholarly Writing course.

Consovoy has managed all of these activities while charting his own course with some of the nation’s most distinguished legal employers. His enthusiasm for Mason Law, his accomplishments in the legal arena, and his dedicated volunteer service have contributed greatly to the law school’s success.

Also honored at the ceremony was Ray Morrogh (’82), recipient of the Wayne F. Anderson Award for Distinguished Public Service. This award is given annually to deserving George Mason University graduates who have distinguished themselves through public service, bringing credit to themselves and reflecting favorably upon the university.

Morrogh was honored for his substantial involvement in the community, which includes serving as a member of the Fairfax Criminal Justice Advocacy Board and the National District Attorneys Association. Morrogh also is the chair of the Fairfax County Virginia Alcohol Safety Action Program.

In further contribution to his community, Morrogh serves local youth as a coach in the Fairfax Police Youth Club and through the Fairfax County Initiative Against Youth Violence.

Morrogh is the Commonwealth’s Attorney for Fairfax County and recently was invited by Virginia Supreme Court Justice Hassell to serve as a faculty member of the Virginia State Bar’s Harry L. Carrico Professionalism course, a nationally acclaimed program for new lawyers in Virginia. In addition to his law degree, Morrogh earned a Bachelor of Science in Public Administration in 1979 from George Mason University.

The Mason Law community salutes Morrogh’s dedication and commitment to his local community and to the legal profession by recognizing his distinguished record of service.
Second Annual Pro Bono Reception and Awards Ceremony

The Honorable William T. Newman, Chief Judge of the Arlington County Circuit Court, gave the keynote address at the George Mason VBA Pro Bono Society’s Reception and Awards Ceremony held on April 23. The event honored the dedication of the group’s student volunteers for their service throughout the 2008-2009 academic year.

Thirteen students received the VBA Community Servant award for certifying 35 or more hours of pro bono public service, with an additional sixteen students receiving honorable mention for completing 20 or more hours.

Outgoing president Bethany Rasheed ('09), co-founder of the society, gave the opening remarks and welcomed the new president, Christina Black (3D). Since the society’s founding in 2007, more than 200 volunteers have provided more than 3,000 hours, and more than a dozen volunteers have each completed more than 100 hours of public service work.

The VBA Pro Bono Society is dedicated to promoting public service among the students and faculty and aims to provide an arena where students can begin to engage in the ABA-recognized responsibility of providing legal services to those unable to afford them. The society’s main effort is the Intake Initiative, a program providing opportunities for Mason Law students to interview applicants for legal services from Legal Services of Northern Virginia and summarize the relevant facts in a short memo for the attorney assigned to the case.

Candidates for Virginia Attorney General Debate at Mason Law

The George Mason Law Republicans hosted the Republican National Lawyers Association and all three Republican candidates for Virginia’s attorney general for a lunchtime debate in the spring. Candidates included Ken Cuccinelli ('95), Virginia State Senator, John Brownlee, former U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Virginia; and Dave Foster, partner in Fulbright & Jaworski and former chairman of the Arlington County School Board. The well-attended debate was moderated by former Virginia Governor and Attorney General Jim Gilmore.

Cuccinelli subsequently won the Virginia Republican party nomination on June 9 and went on to win the election in November, marking the first time a Mason Law graduate has been elected to the office of attorney general of Virginia. Heartiest congratulations to Ken on his success!

The book also examines the financial crisis of 2008–2009, focusing especially on the sources of rising homeowner foreclosures. The book demonstrates that most of the trends in consumer bankruptcy and consumer lending over the past several decades may be understood by an examination of the incentives created by the consumer bankruptcy system and the side effects of increased modernization and competition in consumer lending markets.

Zywicki also has published a second book, written with former Mason Law professor Maxwell Stearns, *Public Choice Concepts and Applications in Law* (West 2009) provides teaching materials for a course on public choice and the law. Public choice has transformed legal scholarship and is increasingly influencing judicial decision-making. This book, the only one of its kind, introduces students to the basic insights of public choice theory and its implications for law.

Zywicki is a George Mason University Foundation Professor of Law at George Mason and Senior Scholar of the Mercatus Center at George Mason University. He is the author of more than 70 articles in leading law reviews and economics journals and is co-editor of the *Supreme Court Economic Review*. He has testified before Congress on bankruptcy reform issues and is a frequent commentator in the print and broadcast media. He teaches in the areas of bankruptcy and contracts.

Professor Francis H. Buckley’s most recent book, *Fair Governance: Paternalism and Perfectionism* (Oxford University Press), made its debut in February 2009. In it, Buckley explores the question of when the state might reasonably interfere with individual preferences, either to make its citizens better off (paternalism) or to prevent them from making immoral choices (perfectionism).

In considering the question, Buckley’s book canvasses the literature in law, economics, psychology, and philosophy and examines recent empirical studies of judgment biases and happiness.

Buckley argues that there are few circumstances in which an intrusive interference with personal preferences is justified and suggests a nuanced form of social perfectionism that seeks to promote the kind of liberal nationalism found in the United States.

Buckley has taught at Mason Law since 1989 and is a George Mason University Foundation Professor of Law, as well as Executive Director of the George Mason Law & Economics Center. Before joining the law faculty, he was a Visiting Olin Fellow of the University of Chicago Law School. He was twice a visiting professor at the Sorbonne (Paris II), and in fall 2007 was a visiting professor at the Institut d’études politiques de Paris (Sciences Po). His law degrees are from McGill and Harvard.

The author of numerous books and articles on law and economics, Buckley has published in many of the leading journals, including the *Journal of Legal Studies*, the *International Review of Law and Economics*, and *Public Choice*. Other recent books include *The Morality of Laughter* (University of Michigan Press) and *Just Exchange: A Theory of Contract* (Routledge).
Joyce Lee Malcolm

Peter's War: A New England Slave Boy and the American Revolution
Yale University Press (February 2009)

Professor Joyce Lee Malcolm found herself cast in the unlikely role of detective as she researched and wrote her most recent book, *Peter's War: A New England Slave Boy and the American Revolution*, recently nominated by Yale University Press to receive the 2010 Pulitzer Prize in the category of U.S. history.

Stumbling upon a 1765 bill of sale in a Massachusetts library, Malcolm soon found herself tracing the history of a young boy, Peter, born to slaves in 1763 and sold at the age of nineteen months to a childless white couple. Joining the Patriot army at the age of 12, Peter finds himself engaged in the Revolutionary War battles of Bunker Hill, Saratoga, and Yorktown, later gaining his freedom in return for his military service.

Malcolm also relates the story of Titus, a New Jersey slave who joins the British Army in 1775, emerging as a guerilla leader. Malcolm uses the parallel stories of Peter and Titus to give a sense of the experiences of black soldiers fighting on both sides in the war for independence from Britain.

In an interview with the *Boston Globe*, Malcolm explained her fascination with Peter’s story, saying, “I was haunted by the idea of a child that young being sold without his mother. I couldn’t get it out of my mind, and became interested in finding out more about him, his parents, and why he was sold. It opened a world I knew nothing about. There has been little study of slavery in villages in the North.”

Reacting to news of the book’s nomination for the Pulitzer Prize, Malcolm said, “I am honored and delighted that *Peter’s War* has been nominated for this prize. It was an exciting piece of detective work to uncover Peter’s life and world and to try to evoke it for readers. I loved the doing of it.”

A constitutional scholar and historian, Malcolm specializes in British and Colonial American History, focusing on the development of individual rights and on war and society. She has written many books and articles on gun control, the Second Amendment, and individual rights. *Peter’s War* is her seventh book.

David E. Bernstein

Rehabilitating Lochner
University of Chicago Press (forthcoming)

“If you want to raise eyebrows at a gathering of judges or legal scholars, try praising the Supreme Court’s 1905 decision in *Lochner v. New York*,” reads the opening line of George Mason University Foundation Professor of Law David E. Bernstein’s introduction to his latest book, *Rehabilitating Lochner*.

While making no attempt himself to praise *Lochner*, Bernstein constructs a case for the unfair historical treatment of the decision, which Bernstein believes may compete in legal circles with the *Dred Scott* case for the title of history’s most vilified Supreme Court decision.

In *Lochner*, the Supreme Court invalidated a New York law specifying maximum working hours for bakers as a violation of the right to liberty of contract. The Court’s reasoning held that the Fourteenth Amendment prohibited states from depriving citizens of liberty without due process. The decision, which Bernstein calls an “outlier opinion,” was virtually overruled in 1917, and yet the case is invoked even now, nearly a century later, in arguments over the constitutionality of laws.

In *Rehabilitating Lochner*, Bernstein outlines the evolution, decline, and influence of the liberty-of-contract doctrine and how *Lochner* became a buzz word for “constitutional evils, real or imagined.”

In 1995, Bernstein joined the law faculty at Mason, where he teaches Products Liability, Evidence, Constitutional Law I and II, and Expert and Scientific Evidence. He is a nationally recognized expert on the *Lochner* and *Daubert* cases and the admissibility of expert testimony. Bernstein served as past chairperson of the American Association of Law Schools Evidence Section.

Bernstein’s previous books include *The New Wigmore: Expert Evidence* (co-author); *Phantom Risk: Scientific Inference and the Law* (co-editor); *Only One Place of Redress: African-Americans, Labor Regulations, and the Courts from Reconstruction to the New Deal*; and *You Can’t Say That! The Growing Threat to Civil Liberties from Antidiscrimination Laws*.

No nation ancient or modern ever lost the liberty of freely speaking, writing, or publishing their sentiments, but forthwith lost their liberty in general and became slaves.

—John Peter Zenger

www.law.gmu.edu/alumni/
12th Annual Judicial and Legislative Reception
Proves To Be A Crowd Pleaser

The law school atrium was filled to capacity with alumni, judges, legislators and other guests for the 12th Annual Judicial & Legislative Reception on May 20.

As in past years, alumni enjoyed sampling fine foods, including fresh oysters from the New Point Oyster Company, courtesy of Mason alumnus Jack White ('86), and a wonderful selection of Virginia wines.

With the theme Jefferson and Wine, the JLR played host to five wineries with connections to Thomas Jefferson. The mansion house built for Governor Barbour in 1814, located on the Barboursville Vineyards' estate, was designed by Jefferson. Gabriele Rausse, operator of Gabriele Rausse Winery, is the Assistant Director of Gardens and Grounds at Jefferson’s Monticello. Jefferson Vineyards is located just a mile south of Monticello, the location of some of the first grapes to be planted in Virginia in 1773. Rockbridge Vineyards maintains its connection to Jefferson by growing the Norton grape, which was used by the Monticello Wine Company and is believed to have been used for the locally produced Claret that was in Jefferson’s wine cellar. Chris Breiner, Managing Partner and Winemaker at Stone Mountain Vineyards, is the chairman of the Jeffersonian Grape Growing Society. With this wonderful array of history and information, guests enjoyed the wine and the conversation provided by the representatives of these wineries.

This event continues to grow in reputation and stature, each year drawing a wonderful group of people who look forward to sharing an evening at Mason Law. Regular attendees of the event note that they look forward to the JLR every year because it is always so well attended by judges and legislators, and this year was certainly no exception.
Virginia—First in Wine

JEFFERSON AND WINE

“We could in the United States make as great a variety of wines as are made in Europe, not exactly of the same kind, but doubtless as good.”

—Thomas Jefferson, 1808

This year’s annual George Mason University School of Law Judicial and Legislative Reception offered a salute to the viticultural and enological vision of Thomas Jefferson.

When Thomas Jefferson was nominated to be the third president of the United States, he gave his profession as “farmer.” Monticello was largely a self-sufficient farm operation. Jefferson vigorously pursued experiments in the planting of both Native American and classic European wine grapevines with the goal of making his own wine. But, due to the volatile climate of the east coast and lack of modern viticultural technology, Jefferson never succeeded in bottling his own wine. He remained, however, a true wine enthusiast and is often referred to as the father of today’s American wine industry.

Who better could have written the following: “Wine from long habit has become an indispensable for my health” and that “wine being among the earliest luxuries in which we indulge ourselves, it is desirable it should be made here (Virginia).”

In April 1774, Jefferson, along with George Mason and others of our nation’s founding leaders, established “The Wine Company” at fifty pounds sterling each to finance a business for raising wine vines, making wine, and for other agricultural pursuits. In later life, George Mason, a sustaining friend of Jefferson, is known to have sent him “a pint of the Portugal (Madeira),” a favorite of Jefferson.

(Taken from the event program, with thanks to author Gordon Murchie.)

With Gratitude

The Law Alumni Association and the School of Law offer sincerest thanks to the generous sponsors of the 2009 event.

GOLD
Jack White (’86), Proprietor of New Point Oyster Co.
McGuireWoods LLP

SILVER
Charapp & Weiss, LLP
DimuroGinsberg, PC
Mercer Trigiani
Oblon, Spivak, McClelland, Maier & Neustadt, P.C.
Reed Smith

BRONZE
Albo & Oblon, LLP
Bean Kinney & Korman, PC
Capsalis, Bruce, Reaser & Caulkins, PLC
Cooper Ginsberg Gray, PLLC
Greenspun Shapiro Davis Leary P.C.
Hunton & Williams, PC
Jackson & Campbell, P.C.
LeClair Ryan, A Professional Corporation
Sterne Kessler Goldstein & Fox P.L.L.C.
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Trichilo, Bancroft, McCavin, Horvath & Judkins, P.C.
Troutman Sanders, LLP
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Whitestone, Brent, Young & Merril, P.C.
Wiley Rein LLP
William B. Reichhardt & Associates
Williams & Jensen, PLLC
1979 marked a turning point in the history of the School of Law, for it was the last year that students were awarded diplomas from the International School of Law (ILS). From the days of its inception, the institution has grown in size and stature, but many of its graduates will always remember that it had its roots in a church basement in Northwest Washington, D.C., where 26 students began taking law classes in fall 1972.

Professor John Costello, who began teaching at the law school in 1977, said, “The founders of ISL had a dream to which they contributed their personal fortunes and large parts of their lives. That dream was to have a law school dedicated to pursuit of the law as an ethical endeavor consistent with Judeo-Christian morality. They weren’t able to achieve the financial independence that would have made further pursuit of that dream feasible, so they acquiesced in good grace to the overtures of Rector Til Hazel and President George Johnson to merge their ISL with GMU. Not all of the original genes have disappeared.”

As enrollments grew, the school relocated to a townhouse on Rhode Island Avenue that, while nicely appointed with hardwood floors and antique fireplaces with marble mantelpieces, often lacked heat in the winter. The school quickly outgrew that location, as well. Under the leadership of Dean Ralph Norvell, ISL began seeking a new location, and, most significantly, began to take the necessary steps to achieve American Bar Association accreditation.

In November 1976, construction of the Metro’s Orange Line in Arlington had a significant impact on the area Kann’s Department Store, which suffered a huge drop in revenue and eventually closed its doors. With its demise, a new opportunity for ISL was born.

Joe Allbritton, publisher of the Washington Star newspaper and ISL Board member, helped the ISL secure a $3 million loan to purchase the Kann’s building and the 14 acres on which it stood; however, there was little left over in the budget to renovate the department store and turn it into an academic building. Consequently, students and faculty alike rolled up their sleeves and worked side by side to remodel the building on weekends and evenings after class. Former Professors Margaret Brinig and Stewart Malawer and ISL alumni Sandra Desbrow and Steve Test remember those times well.

Brinig: The move in 1979 was characterized by the community feeling that always comes when people undertake a joint and complex project (particularly since so few of the faculty and students working on the construction knew much about it).

Test: It was a very interesting time, moving from the town houses near 14th and I Street that at times lacked heat and had a library disseminated among several floors and rooms. [Students] always had a good view of the drug dealers and working ladies that roamed the neighborhood. Going to school in the old Kann building was like winning the lottery—we had a great library, a state of the art Xerox machine with touch controls, our own escalator, lecture halls with tiered seating, great meeting rooms and always great people. All in all, a law school experience unlike any other, and one I would not trade.

Desbrow: Leaving Rhode Island Avenue meant finally having a cafeteria and food on campus; but most important, a real sense of community was developed.

Brinig remembers “much of the early years in the old department store building, where my children delighted no one by going the wrong way on the escalators.” Similarly, Professor Stuart Malawer notes that former students still ask him about his children, who were just a few years old when he began teaching.
at Arlington. "I would take them to class at night. They would cause havoc, but at least they kept everyone awake!"

Desbrow recalls, "The law school was so young, so everyone pitched in to help out with their particular talent. I was very involved with early publications for the ISL. When I started law school at night, I was working for the largest military magazine covering the Pentagon. With a background in journalism, I helped create brochures for ISL."

Once proper facilities were in place, the next real challenge was obtaining final accreditation from the American Bar Association. For students preparing to graduate and take a bar exam, this was a particularly challenging time. Like many of their classmates, Desbrow and Test planned to graduate after accreditation but took their bar exams in February 1979 due to concerns over the ABA's accreditation timing.

**Test:** The feeling I remember was one of huge disappointment and discouragement when we found out in the spring of 1977 that the ABA said no, try again. The announcement came at the start of exams, resulting in the loss of provisional accreditation for our graduates to take the Maryland bar, followed by the same announcement in spring of 1978 that we were turned down again (also announced in the midst or just prior to exams), with the result that D.C. revoked its provisional grant to take the bar. Several of us, me included, elected not to wait to graduate from George Mason School of Law in August 1979, knowing the ABA might say no again, preferring instead to take the February 1979 Virginia Bar exam and a diploma from International so we did not miss the final window of opportunity. I have one of the last diplomas granted by a law school, never officially accredited by the ABA, that exists now only in memory.

**Costello:** As I recall, the word on provisional accreditation came down in June 1978. The real story of that year was the effort of Professor Conrad Philos to lobby the General Assembly with his "war room" in the original building and his busloads of students who went to Richmond in January and February 1979 wearing their "Urge to Merge" buttons to lobby the General Assembly. The dean of the law school had earlier said in public: "There are no more rabbits in the hat."

ISL faculty members also faced the challenges and benefits of the pending merger and eventual accreditation.

**Malawer:** I started the year the law school moved to Arlington. I remember coming for an interview in the old department store. The building was old and Arlington hadn't yet begun its redevelopment. But the law school worked, and we had a number of very good and very experienced faculty that came from University of Virginia, William and Mary and elsewhere. Eventually we were joined by Bob Anthony (a former international law professor of mine at Cornell) and George Zaphiriou from London (whom I met while on leave at Oxford). I encouraged both to join the early law school. Professors who also joined the early faculty were Scott Whitney from William and Mary, Chuck Engle (from General Motors) and of course David Condon from Army’s Judge Advocate General.

**Brinig:** At the time, the whole process seemed like one of amazing and unbounded opportunity. Many of us were rather new to legal education, so the merger meant not only security but also respectability and the chance to become real scholars. We had a really interesting curricu-lum, and with access to a state university would have nice facilities to attract ever better students and colleagues. I don’t think we dreamed interdisciplinary dreams yet (though that would come even before Henry Manne).

**Malawer:** Of course, accreditation was a professional necessity. One thing it meant to me was there was a gradual switch away from the international aspects of the founding of the law school. To me, being an international professor, that was too bad. In many ways the early emphasis of international and global was decades ahead of its time. Just look at the globalized world we live in today.

Continued on page 12

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Footnote—The information about the history of the law school was taken in part from the publication Vision, Struggle and Triumph: The Origins and Founding of the George Mason University School of Law, written by Thomas B. Fatauros ('99).
For Costello, the merger and future accreditation meant fruition of a life-long plan to retire from the Regular Army to pursue a career teaching law.

It is doubtful that those who taught or studied at the law school in its early years could have envisioned the School of Law in its present form and stature as George Mason University School of Law.

Desbrow: While students in the early ISL may not all have had the highest LSATs, they have certainly excelled. I know many have become judges, including Avelina Belardi Jacob (’78), a judge for the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court in Leesburg, Virginia. Early ISL graduates may have had to struggle a little more to sell themselves to employers, but with George Mason Law’s reputation, this is not true now.

From humble beginnings, the ISL underwent metamorphosis that started with the dreams and commitment of its founders and grew to encompass the dedication and hard work of faculty, students, and family members who invested time and talent to help build, quite literally, an institution in which they believed. Their spirit represents an essential part of the law school’s history that remains evident today.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Sandra Desbrow is the General Counsel for the West Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine in Lewisburg, West Virginia. She spent eight years as Associate Counsel, Office of the General Counsel, Department of the Navy, during which she traveled broadly. She also has held several academic and administrative positions at institutions such as the Naval Postgraduate School, University of Pittsburgh School of Law, West Virginia University, and Eastern West Virginia Community & Technical College.

Steve Test is currently a partner at Williams Mullen in Virginia Beach, Virginia, where he focuses his practice on civil, construction, and commercial litigation in state and federal courts. He served as Assistant Commonwealth’s Attorney in Virginia Beach from 1983–87, during which time he prosecuted several death penalty cases, including Commonwealth v. Joseph O’Dell, heard in the U.S. Supreme Court on claims of actual innocence. The case gained notoriety, post execution, when O’Dell’s corpse was "adopted" by the Italian town of Palermo as part of the pope’s and the Catholic Church’s campaign against the death penalty. The case also was given some mention by Sister Helen Prejean in her book Death of Innocents.

Margaret E. Brinig is the Fritz Duda Family Chair in Law at the University of Notre Dame and the Associate Dean for Faculty Research. Brinig joined the Notre Dame faculty in 2006 after leaving the College of Law at the University of Iowa, where she was the William G. Hammond Professor of Law. While at Iowa, she served as Associate Dean for Faculty Development.

Stuart Malawer is the Distinguished Service Professor of Law and International Trade in the School of Public Policy at George Mason University. He recently wrote two casebooks—WTO Law & Litigation (2007) (Intro by WTO Director-General Mike Moore) and U.S. National Security Law (2009) (Intro by U.S. Senator Patrick Leahy, Senate Judiciary Committee). He is still married to Sandy and recently moved to Great Falls, Virginia. He has owned a horse named Victoria for the last 15 years.

John Costello is George Mason Law’s specialist in Virginia practice and is the author of Virginia Criminal Law and Procedure, Virginia Remedies, Outline of Virginia Practice, and Cases and Materials for Virginia Remedies. Costello supervises students in Mason Law’s externship programs and teaches Virginia Practice and Virginia Remedies. In August 2009, Costello was named to the Virginia Lawyers Weekly 2009 Class of “Leaders in the Law” in honor of his significant contributions to the Virginia legal community. This October marks the 10th year he has offered a CLE class in legal ethics to alumni.

Above is an early ISL brochure showing the school’s Rhode Island Avenue location.

www.law.gmu.edu/alumni/
Where to Next?
Career Transitions and Job Search Program

On June 4, Career, Academic and Alumni Services offered a well-attended program for alumni in the midst of a job search or contemplating a career change. The program featured three legal career professionals who answered questions from the audience and offered advice on how to conduct a successful job search in today’s market. The panelists included Katie Montgomery, a managing director in the D.C. office of Major, Lindsey & Africa; Kate Neville, founder of Neville Career Consulting; and Dan Binstock, managing director of BCG Search’s Washington, D.C., office.

Binstock encouraged the group not to listen to the negative voices becoming more common in the current economic climate that prevent people from being productive and seeking out new jobs and opportunities.

Neville suggested that when considering their careers, lawyers should cast a wide net, giving consideration to alternatives to practicing law.

Keeping to a schedule is one of the most valuable strategies Montgomery found in successful candidates. She encouraged participants to keep a calendar allowing for personal time but not procrastination, allocating time every week for informational interviews, searching job websites, and making networking calls.

Participants took advantage of the opportunity to network with fellow alumni, as well as with representatives of the Fairfax and Arlington Bar Associations and other legal placement professionals, after the presentation.

To listen to the panelists’ advice and recommendations, you may download the recorded presentation in MP3 format, which is available online at www.law.gmu.edu/news/2009/where_to_next.

In addition to sponsoring programs for alumni, Alumni Services provides ongoing career services, including access to several helpful job search resources such as Symplicity, Mason Law’s online job bank, and the online School of Law Alumni Directory for networking. To obtain access to online resources, send an email to lawalum@gmu.edu with your name, address, telephone number, year of graduation, and preferred email address. Another networking resource is the Mason Law LinkedIn group, which you can join by going to the organization’s website (www.linkedin.com) and sending a request to join.

Reunions with Friends and Colleagues

Two groups of alumni met in the spring for informal reunions sponsored by the law school, where both groups enjoyed catching up on personal and professional news.

Even though it has been only a year since graduation, the Class of 2008 got together on May 31, largely through the efforts of classmates Gene Granger and Charity McKenzie, who graciously volunteered to kick off the effort. The pair managed to gather about forty of their classmates for a celebration at Caribbean Breeze in Arlington.

Members of the Class of 2004 took advantage of Patrick Quigley’s call to gather at Whitlow’s on June 10, where alumni enjoyed an evening of catching up and reminiscing with former classmates.

If you have gathered with your classmates and have pictures to share, let us know. In addition, if you are interested in reaching out to your class to organize a reunion, please contact Alumni Services.

www.law.gmu.edu/alumni/
Did you know that the number of Mason Law graduates contributing to scholarships has increased tenfold in the past ten years? Mason Law alumni have endowed, contributed to, or helped establish the following scholarships in the past decade alone:

**Endowed Scholarships**
- The Mason Law General Scholarship Fund
- The Curran (’83) and Whittington (’81) Scholarship in Trial Advocacy
- The Mary Fisher Doyle (’89) Public Service Scholarship Endowment
- The Oblon, Spivak, McClelland, Maier & Neustadt, P.C. Scholarship
- David (’01) and Carrie Jolly Scholarship for Working Professionals
- Richard S. Murphy Endowed Scholarship Fund
- Law Alumni Association Scholarship
- Smolen Plevy Scholarship

**Past and Present Current-Use Scholarships**
- The Philip H. Dorsey, II (’82) Scholarship for Law Student Library Workers
- The Greg Bedner (’83) Scholarship
- The Sterne, Kessler, Goldstein & Fox Intellectual Property Law Scholarship
- Banner & Witcoff Scholarship
- Craig Young (’82) and Shirley Keisler (’90) Scholarship
- Charitable Cruise Foundation Scholarship
- Dean Norvell Scholarship
- Dean Brabner-Smith Scholarship
- Glenn Lewis (’77) Scholarship
- We Help Each Other Fund

**Noteworthy Achievements and News**

- **Elizabeth Maher (’09)**, won a 2009 Distinguished Writing Award from the Burton Foundation during her final semester at Mason Law. Fifteen Burton Award law school winners are selected annually from law schools across the nation to receive this award, which honors partners in law firms and law students who set a high standard for clarity and effectiveness in legal writing. Maher’s receipt of the 2009 award marks the third consecutive year that a Mason Law student has been selected for a Burton Award.

- Four Mason Law students scored a big win by securing the U.S. Mid-Atlantic Regional Championship in the National Rounds of the 2009 Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition held in late February in Washington, D.C. The team, composed of Adeel Bashir (’09), Lucas Kline (’09), Alyssa DaCunha (3D), and Alex Morris (’09), finished the competition with a 7-0 record, winning all rounds, and bringing home a fifth place win for their memorial (brief). In addition, all four competitors placed in the top twenty oralists in a field of 96, with Bashir finishing in third place. A fifth team member, Anna Balishina (3D), participated with research and writing of the brief.

- **Rifk Ebeid (’09)** was awarded the university’s Spirit of King student award, which was conferred upon her at the annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., celebration held in late January at the Fairfax Campus. The award is presented to a student who has made an exceptional contribution to the development of a multicultural campus community. Ebeid was nominated for her longtime commitment to working for human rights causes and for her founding, with a fellow student, of the law school’s Arab Law Students Association in fall 2008.

- Mason Law third-year law students Juli Porto, Natasha Clay, and Steve Fugelsang traveled to Guantánamo Bay Naval Base during the last week of July as guests of Joint Task Force Guantánamo on a trip arranged by the Department of Defense (DoD) for about two dozen Army and Air Force Judge Advocate General (JAG) Corps summer interns. The primary purposes of the trip were to tour the base facilities and legal operations; receive briefings on the history of military commissions, as well as the background and present status of the military commission process; and participate in discussions with a prosecutor, a defense counsel, and a military commissions judge for a full perspective on the commission process.

www.law.gmu.edu/alumni/
Richard S. Murphy Pool Tournament Marks Tenth Anniversary

Carrying on a tradition begun by the Class of 1999, alumni, students, and faculty gathered at Carpool to raise money for the scholarship established in memory of Professor Richard Murphy, who died in 1997 in a boating accident. Each year the event is held to honor Murphy and to celebrate his life and memory.

The Law Alumni Association and the Student Bar Association hosted the event, with the SBA providing food and drinks for all who played or just came out to cheer on the players. Carpool generously donated the use of the pool tables for the afternoon, and twenty teams played best of three rounds to whittle things down to the top two teams. Baran Alpturk ('09) and Jiang Xin bested Ben Forrester ('07) and Ed Hof ('07) in the final round to become this year’s champions.

Thanks to all who participated through registration fees and generous donations, the event raised $2,084, which will be used to fund a scholarship that is awarded each year to a first-year student based on merit.

Pictured above from left to right are Dana Fallon ('99), Bethany Nichols ('09), and Todd Heflin ('01), joined by champion pool sharks Baran Alpturk ('09) and Jiang Xin on the right.
The Capitol Corner features distinguished Mason Law alumni who are making a mark in the nation’s capital—working on Capitol Hill or for the administration, key law firms, trade associations or other organizations involved in Washington policy debates.

This edition of The Capitol Corner directs the spotlight on Phyllis Jo Gervasio (’78) and Ashley Callen, Class of 2004.

Alumnae, students and faculty gathered together on April 7 for the annual Women’s Law Association networking breakfast. The law school hosts the breakfast each year to provide an open forum for these groups to hear remarks from notable alumni and create, or rekindle, connections. With the start of a new administration in Washington, D.C., this year’s breakfast featured alumnae in the political field from both sides of the aisle—Phyllis Jo Gervasio, International School of Law, Class of 1978, and Ashley Callen, Class of 2004.

Gervasio began her legal career as a trial attorney with the U.S. Department of Justice, Tax Division. Gervasio notes that she was the first ISL graduate hired in the Tax Division and possibly the first ISL graduate hired by the Department of Justice for a position requiring a law degree. While at the Department of Justice, she represented the United States before various federal district courts and bankruptcy courts throughout the country in numerous civil tax cases arising under the Internal Revenue Code. “The problem with working at the Department of Justice is that the work is so interesting,” Gervasio comments. “People stay and don’t leave for just any position.”

According to Gervasio, she was graduated from law school with two career goals: to be a trial attorney at the Department of Justice and to work on Capitol Hill. After many years of litigation, she was ready for a new and different challenge and to pursue her second career goal. With the change of administration and new Democrats on the Hill, Gervasio decided to apply to committees where she could best use her extensive tax experience. “I focused my search with new members of the Ways and Means Committee because I felt the work of this committee best matched my interests.”

In May 2007, she became Tax Counsel to Congressman Kendrick B. Meek (D-Fla.). “My first interview was with Representative Meek, and I accepted the position right away because he impressed me as a really good person, and he has been great to work with.” In this role, she advises Meek on substantive tax issues and a variety of other issue areas, including judiciary, financial services, agriculture, energy, environment, insurance, social security, and family issues. She also is responsible for developing legislation in tax and other issue areas; briefing Meek on all pending tax and other legislation in assigned issue areas; and preparing background memoranda, statements, and questions for multiple committee meetings and hearings.

Currently I am extremely busy with hearings for the Ways and Means Committee and the two sub-committees Representative Meek sits on, which are Select Reserve Measures and Income Security and Family Support,” Gervasio says. “Representative Meek has many bills pending, which also keeps us very busy. The work here is very interesting; interesting enough to take me away from DOJ.”

When asked what advice she has for alumni who may want to work on Capitol Hill, Gervasio recommends getting as much experience as possible. “If you feel you don’t have the experience, volunteer for a free internship. You don’t have to be a student; most offices here will take interns from any stage of a career. My office just hired someone full time who first volunteered with us after having been out of school for a number of years. Another option is to get an advanced degree. My LLM contributed to my first position at the Department of Justice.”

Gervasio earned her LLM in Taxation from The National Law Center, George Washington University and also holds a degree in biology from Fordham University.

While a part-time student at Mason Law, Ashley Callen worked on Capitol Hill in various capacities for Senator Strom Thurmond (R-S.C.). In 2003, she went to work as a law clerk...
for the U.S. Air Force General Counsel, focusing on government contractor responsibility and suspension and debarment. After law school, Callen returned to Capitol Hill and worked for Representative Louise Gohmert (R-Texas). She ended her tenure with Gohmert as a legislative director. Currently, Callen represents the Republican Party as counsel on the U.S. House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, where she focuses her practice on general oversight and investigations as well as acquisition policy. Callen received her undergraduate degree from the University of South Carolina.

Both women agree that their positions on Capitol Hill provide positive challenges that they enjoy. While Gervasio may have been among the first group of ISL and Mason graduates to open doors at the Department of Justice, she and Callen comment that they are in good company on the Hill in 2009. They see and work with many Mason Law graduates on Capitol Hill who contribute to and benefit from our extensive network of alumni focused on public policy.

Virginia State Bar Admits New Members

On June 1, 23 Mason Law alumni were admitted to the bar by the Supreme Court of Virginia. Of all the local law schools represented at the ceremony, Mason Law had the largest group of new attorneys join the Virginia State Bar. Prior to the ceremony, the law school hosted a breakfast for alumni and their family and friends who came to celebrate the occasion.

The most recent swearing in ceremony before the Supreme Court of Virginia was November 4 at the Richmond Convention Center, where the law school again hosted a breakfast for all alumni seeking admission to the Virginia Bar and their guests.

www.law.gmu.edu/alumni/
Law School Dean and Professor Daniel D. Polsby kicked off a busy year with a January visit to the American Association of Law Schools (AALS) Annual Convention in San Diego, where he was a featured panelist in one of three Presidential Programs, discussing the topic of institutional pluralism.

In August Polsby announced the selection of Professors David Bernstein and Todd Zwicki as George Mason University Foundation Professors of Law in recognition of their major contributions to the academic field of law.

Virginia Lawyers Weekly magazine selected Professor John Costello, along with Mason Law Distinguished Adjunct Professor Judge Karen Henenberg and alumnus Leonard A. Bennett (’94), as members of the magazine’s Class of 2009 “Leaders in the Law” in August. Now in its fourth year, the awards program recognizes lawyers who are setting the standard for other lawyers in Virginia.

From March through August of this year, law faculty members made a total of eleven visits to Capitol Hill to testify at Congressional committee hearings.

Professor Todd Zwicki testified in February before the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs on credit card protections. In March he appeared before the House Judiciary Committee Subcommittee on Commercial and Administrative Law to discuss the Circuit City bankruptcy. In July the House Financial Services Committee held a full committee hearing on “Banking Industry Perspectives on the Obama Administration’s Financial Regulatory Reform Proposals” in which Zwicki presented testimony.

Professor Jeremy Rabkin had an opportunity to visit the Hill in March, where he appeared before the Senate Judiciary Committee to testify at a hearing on the question of establishment of a truth commission. In October Rabkin debated the future of U.S. policy toward the International Criminal Court (ICC) at an event held at Harvard Law School hosted by the law school’s Federalist Society.

Professor J.W. Verret provided testimony on the Hill on four occasions, first in May to the House Committee on Oversight and Reform on flaws in the AIG trust agreement, then in June to the House Financial Services Committee on the topic of executive compensation. In July he appeared before the Committee on House Financial Services Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigation regarding HR 682, a bill introduced by lawmakers that would bar members of Congress and other federal employees from trading in stocks based on information not released to the public. Later in July, Verret testified at a hearing of the Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Subcommittee on Securities, Insurance, and Investment on Protecting Shareholders and Enhancing Public Confidence by Improving Corporate Governance. In addition, in April Verret lectured on federal preemption of financial services regulation at the inaugural Attorneys General Education Program Public Policy Conference held in Chicago. In late October, Verret participated in a Seton Hall Law Review Symposium on securities regulation and the global economic crisis.

In July Professor Timothy Muris appeared before the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee’s Consumer Protection, Product Safety, and Insurance Subcommittee for a hearing on “The Economy and Fraud: Protecting Consumers During Downward Economic Times.”

Professors Ilya Somin and Neomi Rao testified at the confirmation hearings of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor in July.

A number of faculty members have appeared as presenters in a variety of scholarly settings.

Professor Nathan Sales was a speaker at a May counter-terrorism conference sponsored by the Federalist Society and the Heritage Foundation at the U.S. Capitol that was televised on C-SPAN.

Also in May, Professor David Schleicher presented a paper selected for the Stanford/Yale Junior Faculty Forum in California.
The law school’s Professor Nelson Lund, Patrick Henry Professor of Constitutional Law and the Second Amendment, participated in the September 2009 “Firearms Law & The Second Amendment Symposium” held in September at Northwestern University in Chicago, featuring a select group of top Second Amendment scholars and attorneys.

Professor Alison Hayward contributed to a campaign finance reform conference in May at the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University and to an election law panel discussion in April held at the American University’s Washington College of Law. In June Hayward took part in the Seventh Annual American Constitution Society for Law and Policy (ACS) Convention as a panelist in a discussion entitled “Universal Voter Registration” hosted by the organization’s Democracy and Voting Issue Group.

In addition to a May appearance on C-SPAN’s Washington Journal and a July appearance on National Public Radio’s Talk of the Nation to discuss the Sotomayor Supreme Court nomination, Professor Neomi Rao took part in an April Ohio State University symposium on the jurisprudence of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

In late March, Professor Adam Mossoff was invited to join a prestigious group of scholars for a symposium on the scholarship of Richard Epstein held at the University of Tulsa College of Law. In October Mossoff organized and moderated a Federalist Society Intellectual Property Practice Group discussion and podcast concerning the Supreme Court’s decision in Quanta Computer v. LG Electronics and the impact of that decision on patent licensing.

Professor Helen Alvaré was especially busy in the winter and spring months, beginning with a visit to Mexico City in January to speak at the World Meeting of Families. In March she presented a paper at a Boston College Law Review symposium on the jurisprudence of marriage and other adult relationships. Later that month, Alvaré participated in a forum on same sex marriage held at American University’s Washington College of Law. In April she was a respondent in a George Washington University roundtable on assisted reproductive technologies, and she finished up the month as a luncheon speaker for a women’s conference held in Washington, D.C.

Finally, no summary of faculty news would be complete without a mention of the April 1 release of the latest in the series of Supreme Court bobbleheads produced and distributed by Professor Ross Davies for The Green Bag. The newest likeness, sixth in the series, is that of U.S. Supreme Court Justice David Souter.

For more information on our faculty and their achievements, visit the faculty homepage and click on Faculty News (www.law.gmu.edu/faculty).

Mason Law Holds First John L. Costello National Criminal Law Trial Competition

This year the George Mason University School of Law Trial Advocacy Association established and hosted the first John L. Costello National Criminal Law Trial Competition.

The Trial Advocacy Association chose to name the competition after the law school’s long-time Professor John L. Costello to recognize Costello for both his tireless contributions to the law school and his positive impact on a generation of law students and lawyers.

“From the very beginning of George Mason University School of Law, and indeed even before, Professor Costello has contributed to the success and stature of our institution,” remarked The Honorable Jonathan C. Thacher (’80), Distinguished Adjunct Professor, faculty advisor for the Trial Advocacy Association and a former student of Costello.

The competition took place February 5-8, 2009, at the Fairfax County Courthouse in Fairfax, Virginia. Twenty-two teams from around the country were invited to advocate a criminal trial problem written by the Trial Advocacy Association Executive Board. During the final round, the Trial Advocacy Association was honored to have Costello sit on the panel of judges, along with Judge Thacher and Judge and Distinguished Adjunct Professor Stanley P. Klein, who presided over the courtroom. The judges chose the Brigham Young University team to take top honors, with the University of Virginia team coming in second.

A number of students from the law school and area trial attorneys volunteered as witnesses, judges and coordinators. Mason Law’s Trial Advocacy Association is immensely grateful to all those who helped make the competition a success.
In the past two editions of the *Mason Law News*, we have shared portraits of Mason Law alumni who have taken leadership roles in law firm management and bar associations. In this edition, we highlight five of our alumni who have pursued and excelled in public interest careers.

**Charlene E. Gomes ('00)**
Equal Justice Works
Washington, D.C.

Charlene Gomes ('00) entered law school with the belief a law degree would provide her with the skills and knowledge she would need to help advance women’s rights. It was in her third year of law school, while working as a public interest fellowship administrator for the National Association for Public Interest Law (NAPIL), now known as Equal Justice Works, that Gomes discovered her calling as a legal program manager.

After working for four years on women’s rights issues as program director for the Women’s Law and Public Policy Fellowship, she became assistant director of the Office of Public Interest at American University Washington College of Law. Five years later, Gomes found herself back at Equal Justice Works, this time in the Law School Advocacy and Outreach unit.

The mission of Equal Justice Works is to create a just society by mobilizing the next generation of lawyers committed to equal justice. As a senior program manager, Gomes supports the law school faculty and staff who teach, administer, and participate in public interest and pro bono programs. In addition, she oversees *The Equal Justice Works Guide to Law Schools: Where to Find Public Service Programs, Financial Aid and Hands-on Learning Opportunities*, a free interactive online resource.

**Aaron Green ('08)**
Attorney, Humane Society of the United States
Washington, D.C.

Aaron Green ('08) is one of a very few practicing attorneys who can count playing with dogs during work breaks as a job benefit.

But Green’s job as an attorney for the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) offers some unconventional as well as traditional benefits.

Green is a Litigation Fellow in the Animal Protection Litigation Section of the HSUS and began his work shortly after taking the Virginia bar exam last year. Specifically he works in the Companion Animals and Animal Cruelty section of HSUS’s Animal Protection Litigation department, where his focus is on puppy mill and animal fighting issues.

Green credits fellow alum Samantha Mortlock ('07) with having a profound influence on his interest in animal law. “She really introduced me to the field when I met her my first year at Mason at the student organizations fair,” he says. “In addition to preceding me as president of the Student Animal Legal Defense Fund, Samantha helped me get my foot in the door professionally by suggesting a firm in D.C. where I ended up working my first summer. Of course, my animal law professor (and current boss) Jonathan Lovvorn, introduced me to the various practical applications of animal law, and I have to credit all of the faculty at Mason Law for providing me what I truly believe to be a great legal education.”

It is difficult for Green to describe a typical day in his practice area.

“The only thing typical about my day is that it’s always different, challenging and rewarding,” he says. “My current and past cases range from consumer protection and contract issues to providing assistance at various stages in criminal prosecutions. At some point in the day it feels like I’m working at a traditional litigation firm, others at a prosecutor’s office, and sometimes it seems like I’m in veterinary school! Of course, another fairly typical part of my day involves taking frequent breaks to play with one of the several dogs in the office. I challenge anyone to find a more relaxing ‘client meeting,’” he laughs.
Kevin Kimo Streeter (’02)
United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
Diwaniyah, Iraq

Unlike most students beginning their law studies, Kevin Streeter (’02) entered law school a man with a mission. Having spent over two years in the Peace Corps, followed by a stint working in Bosnia in the 1990s, Streeter had a practical knowledge of the sacrifices that many public interest careers entail and was prepared to continue down the road he had begun to follow years earlier once he earned his JD.

Since his days as a law student, Streeter has worked primarily for NGOs in faraway places like Afghanistan and Sudan. His current home, courtesy of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), is a military base in the province of Diwaniyah, Iraq, where he is attached to a Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT).

Streeter begins each day in his Spartan surroundings with a quick morning routine that includes breakfast in a “to go box” from the camp’s dining facility. Then he is off to his job as Senior Development Advisor for the United States government in the province, where he works hand-in-hand with the Iraqis to improve the gains they have made in their province in areas such as governance, economics, health, and rule of law. In the course of the day, he may meet with the governor, Provincial Council members, and representatives of various ministries and NGOs, as well as U.S. military personnel. Streeter explains that meetings taking place “outside the wire” (off the base) involve travel with a Personal Security Detail of 12-20 U.S. soldiers in three to five Humvees and/or MRAPS, a sobering reminder of the tight security necessary to protect people from the dangers of the political environment in today’s Iraq.

The long day ends for Streeter much as it began, with dinner in a “to go box” and an evening spent finishing up the day’s work and planning for tomorrow, with just enough time for a quick visit with the folks back home via Skype before turning in.

One of approximately 150 USAID employees in the country, Streeter is the only one assigned to the province. In addition to overseeing USAID programs there, Streeter is head of the Government Line of Operation (LOO), working closely with individuals in construction and engineering, public health, public finance, and other key areas to facilitate such things as improved electricity distribution, clean water, and removal of sewage.

Despite the fact that Mason Law did not have an international public sector focus during Streeter’s time as a student, he credits the law school with providing him an ability to communicate with lucidity and brevity.

“I owe a debt to every professor who tried to push me to a higher level,” says Streeter, “And I owe a tremendous debt to Dean Victoria Huber and (former) Dean Anne Richard, who were ALWAYS there to offer advice, friendship, and input on my not-too-worn career path.”

Streeter has advice for those interested in pursuing a career in public interest law.

“Enter the field of public interest with clear vision. While I have found my career extremely rewarding, I also knew the risks and challenges before embarking on this career path,” he says. “International humanitarian and development work can be physically demanding and mentally challenging…and one does not exactly rake in the cash during the early stages of one’s career. For what I do, there are years of being away from home, many a Christmas spent separated from family, friends’ weddings that I was unable to attend, and also some of the simple pleasures in life, such as reliable electricity, good food (or even enough food), bathing on a regular basis, etc.”

Despite substantial challenges, Streeter is grateful to be able to do what he loves.

“I feel a sense of accomplishment every time I help people improve their lives,” says Streeter. “I have the coolest job in the world. Each day I roll out of bed and get a shot at making the world a better place…and they pay me for it!”

www.law.gmu.edu/alumni/
John Snook ('03) entered Mason Law already focused on non-profit law. He began working for the Treatment Advocacy Center, which addresses mental health law issues, while a student and also participated in the Law & Mental Illness Clinic. “I learned a lot from the clinic, gaining practical experience but also learning the theory and background of this area of law.”

His experience representing clients in civil commitment hearings was invaluable when he was appointed to the commission that reviewed and rewrote the regulations governing civil commitment hearings in Virginia. “While at the Treatment Advocacy Center, I was working with legislators to review the regulations,” Snook says. “After the tragedy at Virginia Tech, the importance of these issues was spotlighted, and the chief justice of the Virginia Supreme Court established a commission to make recommendations to improve the system. I was able to be a part of the process.”

Snook began working with Habitat for Humanity International in January 2008 and is currently very busy working on projects related to the impact of the economic and mortgage crisis as it affects Habitat’s partner families. “Habitat funds and services its own mortgages and has a very low default rate. But our families live in communities that have been hit very hard by the foreclosure crisis, and we have the opportunity to help these communities and families.” Snook is not alone in his efforts to help Habitat for Humanity families. He is joined by fellow alumnus, Christopher Ptomey (’04), who is the domestic Capitol Hill staffer working on Congressional relations.

“People don’t think of non-profit law as a career path,” Snook says. “But, when I compare the work I do with my wife, who is a lawyer, and my law school friends, I see how really broad and rewarding non-profit work is. I encourage people to take a serious look at it as a career path. I saw non-profit law as interesting because it is always changing, and I felt that in this area of law, there would be so much work to do.” He adds, “The continuing draw of this area of law is that I work on different projects every day. I have interesting work for larger causes. At the end of the day, I can see that I’ve done some good.”

Snook says people who are passionate about housing issues and the mission of Habitat for Humanity can get started in various ways:

“Habitat affiliates are always interested in the contributions of smart, engaged volunteers, both at a worksite or in other capacities. Interested attorneys should contact their local affiliate about opportunities to contribute,” he says.

Kathryn Monroe ('90) is the director of the Rocky Mountain Innocence Center (RMIC), which works to correct and prevent the conviction of innocent people in Nevada, Utah, and Wyoming.

“Working at the Innocence Project is a dream job for me,” she says.

Prior to joining RMIC in 2006, Monroe was senior counsel at the Constitution Project, an attorney for the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, and a member of the board of directors of the Mid-Atlantic Innocence Project. In 2002, Monroe won federal habeas corpus relief for her mother, Beverly, who was wrongly convicted in 1992 and sent to prison for a murder later determined to have been a suicide. Monroe spent ten years working to free her mother and founded a grassroots advocacy organization to conduct outreach and education and organize citizen action about wrongful convictions.

“Despite a real push, whether it is direct or indirect, to funnel law students into private practice, I found my way to public interest law. There are so many areas in which a lawyer can work within the public interest arena, whether lobbying for an issue or providing direct legal services. And, a career in public interest can be done; you can have a fulfilling career and pay the bills.”

Monroe recognizes that working to help the wrongfully convicted is a niche field; however, she believes the effort benefits everyone, because when the wrong person is convicted, the person who committed the crime is not.

“This issue is important to victims, law enforcement, and the public at large. By seeking to exonerate the wrongly accused, I am not just an extension of the criminal justice system; I also support the public safety system, while promoting truth and justice in the legal system.”

In addition to working on specific cases, Monroe works to educate the public and law enforcement. “We find that many cases are preventable, so we assist with training and provide resources within the pre-trial criminal justice system that address areas that can lead to mistakes.”

Innocence projects around the country provide many opportunities for lawyer involvement. The Salt Lake City Magazine reports that since the first case was overturned based on DNA evidence in 1989, 217 cases have been overturned due to review of DNA evidence. The 217 exonerees came from 31 different states and spent an average of twelve years in prison. Projects utilize pro bono counsel and law students, who do the initial case development work, often as part of a clinic or externship. Once the case is fully developed and considered ready for litigation, innocence projects seek out
private attorneys to take over the case.

Monroe, who says she has never questioned her career choice, encourages interested alumni to seek out opportunities to serve pro bono or full time in her chosen field of law.

Portraits—Charlene Gomes ('00)

Continued from page 20

The organization also hosts the nation’s largest public interest career fair in Washington, D.C., each October and is a national leader in providing information on educational debt relief through loan repayment assistance programs and the College Cost Reduction and Access Act.

Gomes says, “Program administration is definitely on the far end of the spectrum of alternative legal careers, but I love it. I am able to work with a wonderful community of lawyers and have the opportunity to travel, speak at conferences, do research, and write articles. It also provides a better work-life balance than the private sector, and although there are certainly times when the work gets quite intense, the ebb and flow is usually predictable.”

Equal Justice Works supports up to 50 postgraduate public interest fellowships annually, a postgraduate AmeriCorps program for lawyers, and a Summer Corps program for law students working in public service.

Portraits—Aaron Green ('08)

Continued from page 20

Green is excited about the work he is doing and about continuing his career, whether in prosecution or additional nonprofit work on social issues about which he is passionate.

“Most of the positions I have held, whether they were legal positions or not, have been in the public interest—and I can’t stress enough how rewarding all of the work has been,” Green explains. “That doesn’t mean that public interest careers aren’t sometimes frustrating due to the challenges associated with bucking the status quo and having access to fewer resources than the private sector. I have found that these challenges also mean that positions like the one I’m in now are often hard to find because there are so few of them.”

That notwithstanding, Green offers some advice for finding these types of positions: “It’s clearly cliché by this point, but networking was invaluable for me to find and secure my fellowship. All through school I thought I was terrible at networking, but I found that by getting involved in an issue you care about, the valuable networking simply comes as an added bonus.”

The HSUS has the largest Animal Protection Litigation program in the country, with a staff comprising 13 lawyers located in Washington, D.C.; New York; San Francisco; and Seattle, as well as a network of over 1,000 pro bono attorneys working on dozens of active cases. To learn more about the Animal Protection Litigation section of the HSUS, visit www.hsus.org/in_the_courts/.

Portraits—Katherine Monroe ('00)

Continued from page 22

of the state pass rates.

Our congratulations to these newest Mason-trained practitioners.

**July 2009 Results:**

- Mason First-Time Takers Pass Rate: 90.6%
- State First-Time Takers Pass Rate: 80.2%
- Mason Overall Pass Rate: 89.1%
- State Overall Pass Rate: 75.4%

www.law.gmu.edu/alumni/
A Message From Dean Polsby

“Feeling like and being treated as a future student and alumna of Mason Law rather than a number or statistic was a major deciding factor in choosing Mason Law.”

“Welcoming environment.”

“Staff and professors were super helpful and very responsive.”

“The kindness of the Mason staff has been a wonderful surprise.”

“Major factor for me [in choosing to come to Mason] was genuine enthusiasm shown by admissions, students, and profs.”

—Select comments from 2009 New Student Survey

There you have but a taste of the overwhelmingly positive comments we received from our annual new student survey. Almost 250 students joined the Mason community in August. They rank, by all objective measures, in the top 12% of all entering law students in the country. Over half are non-residents of Virginia. Matriculants came from 146 undergraduate institutions, and close to 15% of them have advanced degrees. They already have enriched our community.

Of course, these newest students cited many reasons they selected George Mason. Some wrote of our national reputation or location, others our various tracks or our law and economics courses. But the single most common response to all of the different survey questions always returned to the students’ interaction with our staff, professors, and alumni.

It’s something of which we can all be proud. For all of the changes this institution has experienced in its 37 years, our strength remains the vitality and cohesiveness of our community. Students and alumni are more than just names and numbers to us and, indeed, to each other. Professors routinely correspond with past and present students on their Twitter or Facebook accounts. Adjunct professors and alumni with hiring authority regularly look to Mason students and graduates to populate their ranks. As in years past, today’s student organization leaders strive to organize social and educational events for full-time and part-time students with vastly different backgrounds, interests, and schedules. Our student services staff knows the names and professional aspirations of almost every student. And our alumni association leaders time and time again have served as sounding boards for the leadership of this school and its student organizations.

The care and feeding of this community is something we take very seriously and on which we have spent a great deal of time and money. Over the course of the past decade, we have been able to more than triple our financial aid and fellowship funds. Two years ago, through the persistence and work of law school staff and many recent graduates, the university increased funding for student organizations by double. In the past five years, we have dramatically increased our academic assistance and career services staff and programs. We also have devoted more resources to career counseling for senior alumni making career transitions in a difficult economy. And our faculty/student ratio is the best in recent memory: this year, no first-year class has an enrollment over 65.

In 1979, as you will see in this issue of Mason Law News, it was the combined efforts of students, alumni, faculty, and community friends that paved the way for the Commonwealth’s approval of the merger of the International School of Law into George Mason University School of Law. Thirty years later, your alma mater needs that same level of commitment. We have budgeted our resources wisely and so can weather the current fiscal crisis without skimping on the quality of our educational program or diminishing our support for our students. But we want to do more than just survive—continued alumni investment will help us excel. To get more involved, reach out to your former student organization, your favorite professor, the career services or admissions office, or our director of development. All of our contact information can be found at law.gmu.edu. Take some time to peruse our newly redesigned website. See what is going on with your colleagues, your alma mater, your community.

www.law.gmu.edu/alumni/
MY GIFT TO MASON LAW

In support of the George Mason University School of Law, I allocate my gift to the following area(s):

- $__________ School of Law General Account
- $__________ School of Law Student Scholarships
- $__________ School of Law Library
- $__________ (Specify other purpose.)
- $__________ TOTAL GIFT*

Giving Options

Gift of $__________

☐ Check enclosed made payable to the GMU Foundation, Inc.
   (Please note “School of Law” on your check.)

☐ Charge my credit card in full.
   (Please complete credit card authorization.)

Pledge of $__________

☐ Payable in ________ installment(s) in the month(s) circled below:
   JUL  AUG  SEP  OCT  NOV  DEC
   JAN  FEB  MAR  APR  MAY  JUN

☐ Please charge equal payments to my credit card in the months circled above.

The following gift societies provide special recognition to alumni, parents, and friends who give $100 or more during a calendar year:

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Mail form to:

c/o George Mason University Foundation, Inc.
4400 University Drive, MS 1A3
Fairfax, Virginia 22030-4444

- NAME ________________________________
- Address ________________________________
- Address ________________________________
- Class of _____________

Credit Card Authorization

☐ VISA  ☐ MasterCard

- Card Number ____________________________
- Expiration Date _________________________
- Name as it appears on card (Please print.) ________________________________
- Signature ______________________________

☐ Please credit my Mason spouse: ________________________________

☐ Matching Gifts (See below for information.)

In addition to my or my spouse’s own personal commitment, the following company will match the gift. I have enclosed the completed matching gift form.

Company name ________________________________

☐ Future support through planned giving

I am interested in making a gift through a will, a gift of securities, a trust, an insurance policy, or a retirement plan. Please have a university development officer contact me regarding the tax advantages of deferred gifts.

QUESTIONS?

Contact Mason Law’s Director of Development
Christopher Corish
703-993-9346  ccorish@gmu.edu

10ALP

Matching Gifts

Gifts to George Mason University School of Law may be doubled or even tripled through matching gift programs provided by more than 1,000 corporations in support of qualified higher education programs. Since the individual and the company making the match receive recognition credit, a matching gift could qualify you for one of the giving societies listed above. If your employer or your spouse’s employer matches contributions, please enclose the matching gift form when you make your gift. For additional information about matching gifts, please contact your human resources department or the School of Law Development Office at 703-993-9346.

Gifts of Securities

Gifts of appreciated stocks, bonds, or mutual funds can provide special tax advantages. These include a charitable deduction for the full fair market value of the gift and avoidance of capital gains taxes. The simplest and most efficient way to make a gift of stock to George Mason University School of Law is to instruct your broker or banker to transfer the stock to the GMU Foundation. You or your broker may call the School of Law Development Office at 703-993-9346 for transfer instructions or write to the School of Law Development Office, 3301 Fairfax Drive, MS1G3, Arlington, VA 22201. You may also e-mail the Director of Development at corish@gmu.edu. Please do not sell the stock in your name and have the proceeds sent to us, or that will be considered a cash contribution, and you will be liable for capital gains tax. In addition, keep in mind that many corporate matching gift programs honor a donation of securities.
George Mason University School of Law
c/o George Mason University Foundation, Inc.
Attn: School of Law Gifts
4400 University Drive, MS 1A3
Fairfax, VA 22030-4444
Now that I have finished my term as the president of your Alumni Association, I reflect on a great two years and look forward to serving two more as the immediate past president. In my nearly ten years on the Alumni Board of Directors, I have been fortunate to work with some of the truly great alums who have contributed much to our university. From that position of observing and watching these alums give forward and give back to our school, I have learned that the real difference in this great Mason story is you—my fellow alumni.

Thank you for all you do for our school; for your fellow classmates; for our profession; and for the clients, companies, and organizations we serve daily. I have watched our events mature each year, like the Judicial & Legislative Reception, which grew from infancy to the premier legal social event in Northern Virginia. I have watched our alums pick each other up, challenge each other, give back to the school, to their classmates, and to their communities. I see this happening at early morning breakfasts, working lunches, brown-bag events, dinners, galas, and in the trenches where alumni provide pro bono services to the indigent, and to our soldiers. I have never once met a George Mason alum who did not speak highly of his fellow alums and who did not look to hire, help, promote, teach, or mentor alums. In fact, many of our alums work actively to help recruit top applicants to our school.

It has been a great honor to serve beside such distinguished and selfless alums. It would be a disservice to try to thank all who have worked with me, helped me, struggled with me, or merely put up with me over the years. My intention is to continue in the proud tradition of alumni service started long before me. I look forward to seeing all of you along the way as we continue to write the story of George Mason’s rise to a top 25 law school. With the talent and dedication I have witnessed, we cannot fail.

I especially look forward to working with David Ginsberg, our new president. David is a friend, a great practitioner, and one of the great lawyers of Northern Virginia who tirelessly serves his community in pro bono activities that change lives forever. David and the entire Alumni Association can use your continued help, and I thank you in advance for all you will do in the coming year.

The School of Law and the Alumni Association extend their sincere thanks to

Stephen Gold (’99), Past President 2005–07;
Karen Hickey (’03); and
Mary Lutz (’02),
who completed their terms as board members this past year. Each served the alumni and students of the law school with dedication and enthusiasm.

www.law.gmu.edu/alumni/
2000–2009

Christopher Cazenave (‘09) is an associate in Jones Walker’s Business & Commercial Litigation Practice Group in the firm’s New Orleans office.

Spiros Komis (‘09) has joined the Law Office of Paul S. Schleifman (‘82) in Clarendon, Virginia, as an associate.

Ben Goodhue (‘09) and Laine Mitchell Goodhue (‘09) were married this fall. Among the guest were Laine’s aunt, Mary Dunn (‘89), and fellow 2009 classmates Chris Reams, Eddie Holman, Matthew Bottomly, Mark Blackborow, Eric Hayes, and 3D Joanna Cohn.

Adam Bowser (‘08) has joined Arent Fox as an associate, focusing his practice on litigation for local exchange carriers and other telecom providers.

Andrew Grossman (‘08), senior legal policy analyst for the Heritage Foundation, testified in June before the Constitution, Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Subcommittee of the House Judiciary Committee on HR 984, the State Security Protection Act of 2009.

Neil Coleman Bridge (‘08) has accepted the position of Special Assistant to the Director of the Office of Security and Integrity in Washington, D.C.

Christopher Hixon (‘08) and Kristina Moore (‘07) have both been appointed minority Senior Counsel for the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. Kristina’s focus is on energy and environmental policy.

Sherrie Kim (‘08) and Anthony Schiavetti (‘07) were married September 5. Sherrie is a trial attorney with the Georgia Capital Public Defender’s Office.

Elliot Fitzgerald (‘08) has joined the litigation section at Spotts Fain, where he focuses on commercial litigation, employment and intellectual property law.

Mark McNally (‘07) is a settlement attorney with MBH Settlement Group, LC, in Oakton, Virginia.

Thomas Julian (‘07) was elected to the board of directors for the Civil Engineering Institute at George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia. He is a professional engineer and a legal counsel for Centennial Contractors Enterprises, Inc., in Vienna, Virginia.

Samantha Mortlock (‘07) is an associate in the Los Angeles office of Kaye Scholer, LLP, where she specializes in secured finance, wind power and renewable energy, securities, mergers and acquisitions, and regulatory law.

Benjamin Diliberto (‘07) married Nadine Yvonne Zakhour on August 8, 2009, in Charleston, South Carolina. He is currently employed by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Jamie Belcore (‘07) and Charles “Shahin” Saloom (‘06) were married in October 2008.

Tamar Nedzar (‘07) is the Associate General Counsel for the U.S. Election Assistance Commission in Washington, D.C.

Shiraz Panthaky (‘07) recently accepted a counsel position with the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency at the Department of Homeland Security, where she works in the Office of the Senior Advisor.

Nicholas Moraites (JD ‘06 and LLM ‘07) was sworn in as a Magistrate Judge for the 17th Judicial District in Arlington, Virginia.

Jamie Susskind (‘07) is at the Federal Communications Commission in the Telecommunications Access Policy Division of the Wireline Competition Bureau, where her practice focuses on issues relating to administration of the Federal Universal Service Fund, including the Rural Healthcare Pilot Program and the Schools and Libraries E-rate program.

Shejal Desai Carpenter (‘06) is General Counsel and Vice President of VIP Properties, Inc.

Charlie Burnham (‘06) and Eugene Gorokhov (‘06) opened their new Arlington, Virginia, firm, Burnham & Gorokhov, PLLC, in September of this year. Their practice focus is on criminal defense, civil litigation, and appeals in both the state and federal courts.

Felicia Davenport (‘06) and husband Daniel welcomed their first child, Oliver Jack Davenport, on July 8, 2009.

Michelle Boyle (‘06) is proud to announce the birth of her son, George Boyle, born on March 9, 2009, weighing 9 pounds 10 ounces and measuring 22 inches long.

Timothy Keeler (‘06) has joined Mayer Brown as counsel in the firm’s government and global trade practice.

Dave Gutkowski (‘06) and his wife welcomed a daughter, Sophia, on June 12. Sophia joins big brother Justin.

Kay Hill (‘06) was married to Andrew Thomas Foy on August 29, 2009, in Staunton, Virginia. She practices patent law at Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow, Garrett and Dunner, LLP, in Washington, D.C.

Glen Sturtevant (‘06) received a Virginia State Bar Young Lawyers Conference Service Award at the 71st Annual Meeting of the Virginia State Bar, held in Virginia Beach on June 19. He was honored for his service as chair of the VSB Young Lawyer Conference’s Emergency Legal Service Committee, which partners with the VBA Young Lawyers Division to provide emergency statewide pro bono legal assistance when and where disaster strikes in Virginia.

Cary Cucinelli (‘05) welcomed a new son, David Louis, on October 24, 2009. David joins older brother Leo, 2.

Daniel Fisher (‘05) left his post as counsel for Senate Judiciary ranking member Arlen Specter to join the law firm Obadal, Filler, MacLeod & Klein as a legislative associate. He is director of government affairs and associate counsel for the Associated Equipment Distributors, for which he lobbies.

R. Christian Walker (‘05) has joined the Wilmington, Delaware, corporate group of Potter, Anderson & Corroon, where he practices primarily in the areas of corporate and commercial litigation in the Court of Chancery.

Sun Park (‘05) has joined the FDA/healthcare practice at Morgan, Lewis & Bockius, where she focuses on health care regulatory matters, including developing, implementing, and evaluating compliance programs.
Suzzette Hurley (’04) and Chris DeMers (’04) were married on October 11 in Virginia. Suzzette joined George Mason as the director of the Legal Research, Writing and Analysis (LRWA) program.

Stephanie Scruggs (’04) was named a shareholder in Hanify & King, where she represents clients in a variety of intellectual property matters, including patent litigation and prosecution, as well as product clearance and patent validity opinions.

Travers (’04) and Jessica (Sauer) Garvin (’05) are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter, Clare Regina, on January 9, 2009.

Abigail Miller (’04) has joined the law firm of Stephens Boatright, Primeau, Cooper & Coleman in Manassas, Virginia, where she practices with an emphasis on family/domestic relations law; commercial and consumer litigation, wills and estates, and general civil litigation.

Scott Redington (’03) is working in the Office of the Inspector General for the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation in San Francisco.

Caroline Bruckner (’03) was named to the United States Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, where she serves as counsel for tax, finance and labor.

Veronica Ascarrunz (’03) recently became the mother of twins, a girl and a boy.

Ryan Johnson (’03) has been named partner at Watson Rounds. He heads the Las Vegas office, where he practices in the areas of negligence and product liability litigation, premises liability and professional negligence litigation, business litigation, and insurance coverage and bad faith insurance litigation.

Jason Cody (’03) welcomed the birth of his daughter Maben Frances in July 2008.

Christopher Judson (’03) manages a group of about 40 Lockheed Martin employees providing a range of litigation support services to the U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Division. Services his team provides include application development, data processing and forensics, support and help desk, and server and database administration.

Daniel R. Simmons (’03) is the American Enterprise Association State Affairs Director.

Jennifer Sarvadi (’01) and Todd Hefflin (’01) are happy to announce the birth of their daughter, Katherine Ann (Kate), born April 21, 2009, in Manassas, Virginia.

David May (’01) has been promoted to partner in the intellectual property group in the Washington office of Nixon Peabody, where he focuses on patent, trademark, copyright and Internet law.

Cara Putman (’01) recently had her book, The Complete Idiot's Guide to Business Law, published. A resident of Lafayette, Indiana, Putman has published nine books to date and also works as a lawyer and an occasional lecturer at Purdue University.

Angela France (’01) has joined PCT Law Group, PLLC, as Managing Member of its new Alexandria, Virginia, office. She was recognized in 2007 and 2008 as one of Virginia’s “Legal Elite” attorneys by Virginia Business Magazine.

Carson Sullivan (’00) and husband Jeff are the proud parents of Timothy Tucker (Tucker), born four weeks early on April 15 weighing 6 pounds, 4 ounces, joining a delighted sister Kate. Carson is slated to be the president of the Virginia State Bar’s Young Lawyers Conference next year.

Pablo Yacub (’00) was named general counsel of MTV Networks Latin America, where he was formerly vice president of business and legal affairs.

Commander Doug Barber (’00) is a military judge with the U.S. Navy, located in Washington, D.C.

Stephanie Duck Merritt (’00) is Chief Counsel at the Virginia Department of Forensic Science, after having spent seven years previously as a prosecutor. Her new position is essentially a general counsel position in which she deals with employment law, regulatory law, lobbying, and department policy issues.

Courtney Dow (’00) was married in October 2008. Wife Rose is an attorney working as a legislative assistant to Rep. Dennis Moore (D-Kansas). Courtney was hired as an attorney for the litigation office at FEMA.

Sarah Lehner Allgeier (’00) welcomed her second child, James Michael, on September 17, 2008. She has relocated to LeClairRyan’s Washington, D.C., office.

1990–1999

Allison Domson (’99) has been promoted to partner at Williams Mullen's Richmond, Virginia, office, where her practice focuses on financial services matters, including real estate and transactional lending.

Ruth Teitelbaum (’99) is with Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer US LLP in their New York office, where she is a member of the Latin American arbitration group. She specializes in disputes involving states or state entities under commercial or international law.

David Schnare (’99) serves (pro bono) as director of the center for Environmental Stewardship at the Thomas Jefferson Institute, a public policy foundation. He is also a Senior Attorney and Environmental Scientist in the Office of Regulatory Compliance at the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Christy McCormick (’99) is in Iraq for a year on behalf of the Justice Department. She works on the Iraqi National Elections, is a U.S. government liaison to the Kurds, chairs a commercial law working group, and works on judicial issues with the Iraqi Higher Judicial Council.

Christi Shewman (’99) was named Acting Legal Advisor for wireline, universal service, and consumer issues at the Federal Communications Commission in August of this year.

Mark Stone (’99) has become Legal Advisor for wireline issues in the office of FCC Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein.

Dana Fallon (’99), Mason Law’s Assistant Director, Alumni Services, was appointed to a three-year term on the Gannon University Board of Trustees. She also serves as president of Gannon University’s National Alumni Association.

Paul Dean (’99) and wife Kathleen welcomed daughter Delaney Caroline on February 24. She joins three older brothers.

Mike Langan (’99) has won two national literary awards for his second mystery novel, Ready for the Defense.

Michael Hazzard (’98) joined Arent Fox’s telecommunications practice as a partner and focuses his practice on adjudicatory, regulatory, corporate, and e-commerce matters.
Goutam Patnaik (’98) practices in the Bingham McCutchen intellectual property and patent litigation group. He recently was promoted to partner in the firm’s Washington office.

Jonathan Marashlian (’98), partner at Helein & Marashlian, the ConnextLaw Group, recently established the ConnextLaw Group, an affiliated telecom regulatory consulting services firm.

Brock Swartzle (’98) has joined the litigation department in Detroit’s Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn.

Peter Lawson (’97) is vice president of government relations for Ford Motor Company. He is based in Washington, D.C.

Vladimir Arezina (’97) has joined the Global Legal Services Division of Shure Incorporated as Associate General Counsel in the company’s corporate headquarters in Niles, Illinois.

David Bahuriak (’96) owns the Bahuriak Law Group, which defends drivers under the influence cases among members of the entertainment industry.

Ian Corey (’96) is the Staff Judge Advocate for the U.S. Army’s 1st Armored Division in Wiesbaden, Germany, where he resides with his wife and two sons.

Michael Newman (’96) was elected Commonwealth’s Attorney in Danville, Virginia, where he has been a senior assistant on the current Commonwealth Attorney’s staff.

Susan McBee (’96) is joining Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz, PC, as a shareholder in its Life Sciences Division of the Intellectual Property Practice Group at its Washington, D.C., office.

Thomas Repczynski (’96) was recently named to the Board of Directors of the Fairfax Bar Association.

Leslie Norwalk (’96), a nationally recognized expert on Medicare and healthcare legal issues, recently joined the Board of Directors of Sound Inpatient Physicians, a hospitalist organization that focuses on hospital inpatient care.

David Oblon (’95) was elected to the Virginia State Bar’s Bar Council from the 17th Circuit (Arlington and Falls Church).

Jennifer Hodge (’95) returned to the Department of Justice following her run as Director of Mason’s Legal Research, Writing and Analysis Program.

Ken Cuccinelli (’95) won election to the office of Virginia Attorney General. He has served in the Virginia General Assembly as a state senator for the past 7 years. (See related article on page 5)

Grant Nakayama (’94) has returned to Kirkland & Ellis LLP, where he specializes in environmental and energy issues.

William C. “Scotty” Scott (’94) was named to the Board of Governors of the Family Law Section of the Virginia State Bar and is serving a four-year term that began in June. He also was recognized by the Virginia Trial Lawyers Association for his leadership and service to the association, the profession, and the public. He is an attorney with Michie Hamlett Lowry Rasmussen & Tweel PLLC in Charlottesville, Virginia.

Eric Schoenborn (’94) is a partner in the Business Department and chair of the Publicly Held Companies Practice Group at Stradley Ronon Stevens & Young, LLP. He represents public and private companies with business transactions, finance matters, and corporate and securities regulatory compliance.

Ritchena Dodd (Shepherd) (’93) is the director of business development and marketing for the law firm Hill Wallack, LLP, in Princeton, New Jersey.

Charles Schmidt (’93) has been named a partner in the law firm of Duffy & Sweeney in Providence, Rhode Island. He concentrates his practice in both business law and intellectual property and technology law.

K. Brett Marston (’93) was named a Virginia Super Lawyer for 2009 in the area of construction litigation. He is with Gentry Locke Rakes & Moore.

Sean Connaughton (’92), former Maritime Administrator, was named vice president for government affairs for the American Bureau of Shipping, where he acts as its primary liaison with national governments at senior levels and establishes close relationships with government policy makers on matters of safety and classification.

Michael Wassman (’92) joined Invesco, Ltd., as general counsel, managing the firm’s licensing unit and all contract, legal, regulatory, and compliance issues arising in the operation of the company’s life settlements back office and brokerage service center operations.

Darcy Shoop (’92) began a solo practice in July 2009 focusing primarily on settlement advocacy with an emphasis on Collaborative Practice and mediation. Shoop was named Washingtonian Magazine in 2007 and 2009 as a top divorce lawyer. She is the founding and past president of the Collaborative Divorce Association, as well as the Maryland Collaborative Practice Council. Her offices are in Rockville, Maryland.

Kathleen J.L. Holmes (’92), partner at Williams Mullen in Tysons Corner, Virginia, is a candidate for a vacancy on the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals for a district court opening in the Eastern District of Virginia. She also is Leadership Chair of the Northern Virginia Women Attorneys Association.

Julia B. Strickland (’92) founded the Law Offices of Julia B. Strickland, PLLC, in January 2009 and focuses on commercial real estate transactional work.

Victoria Heiden Kauffman (’92) has been a senior attorney at NASA Headquarters Office of General Counsel in Washington, D.C., since 2007. She is in the contracts and procurement practice group.

Michael Goodove (’92), a partner with the Norfolk law firm of Rabinowitz, Swartz, Taliaferro, Swartz & Goodove, PC, was recognized as a Virginia Super Lawyer in 2009 in the area of personal injury law by Law and Politics Magazine. Super Lawyers represent the top 5%.

Jonathan Raymond (’91) became superintendent of the Sacramento Unified School District of California in August of this year.

Michael Knight (’91) has joined Jones Day as a Washington-based partner in the antitrust practice.

LaBavina Jenkins (’91) was elected to a four-year term as Fredericksburg, VA, commonwealth’s attorney in the November 2009 election. She had previously won the seat in a special election.

Richard Jordan (’91) is an attorney at Dickinson Wright PLLC in Washington, D.C.
Alumni News
Continued from page 30

Victoria Lipnic (’91) was nominated in November by the Obama Administration as Commissioner of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

Ellen Murray (’90) was nominated by the Obama Administration to serve as Assistant Secretary for Resources and Technology at the Department of Health and Human Services.

1981–1989

Kelly McNamara Corley (’89), executive vice president, general counsel, and secretary at Discover, was the subject of a National Law Journal article in the June 8 edition of the publication.

Charles (Chuck) Collins (’88) recently published Holding Onto Love: Searching for Hope When a Child Dies, a grief support book (www.holdingontolove.com). Author royalties over production costs are donated to The Compassionate Friends, Inc., an international group providing grief support without cost. Collins was recently elected to a three-year term on the national board of directors for that organization.

Gary Juras (’88) won a seat in November’s elections on the bench of the Court of Common Pleas in Cambria County, Pennsylvania.

Manny Capsalis (’88) received a William L. Winston Award from the Arlington Bar Foundation in November 2009 for his “long-standing and selfless service to Arlington’s Legal Community.”

Dave Krasnow (’88) has joined the intellectual property practice at Smith Moore Leatherwood LLP in the Raleigh, North Carolina, office.

Anna Clarke Sas (’87) has joined the Virginia Beach Law Group, where she specializes in family law, guardian ad litem, civil litigation, contracts, construction law, and community association law.

Walt Peake (’86) has been named to Best Lawyers in America and Super Lawyers in 2008 and 2009 in the field of Medical Malpractice defense.

Dan Varas (’86) operates a private practice in South Florida. As the highest ranking federal immigration attorney in the State of Florida, he has been involved in many significant immigration matters centering on counterterrorism and counterintelligence. He also has been an instructor at INS, ICE, and FBI conferences.

Barbara Kinosky (’84), principal and president of Centre Consulting, Inc., and Centre Law Group, LLC, was appointed to the National Contract Management Association’s Executive Advisory Council (EAC) effective July 1 through June 30, 2010. Centre Consulting, Inc., in Vienna, Virginia, offers expert federal market consulting and legal advice on all aspects of government contracting.

Holly Kozlowski (’84) has been recognized by Chambers USA 2009 as one of the top attorneys in Ohio in the area of Intellectual Property. She is with Porter Wright Morris & Arthur.

Judge Leslie M. Alden (’83) traveled to Budapest, Hungary, in January 2009 as the president of the International Association of Women Judges. While there she attended the inaugural meeting of the Hungarian Women Judges Association at the Supreme Court of the Republic of Hungary. Speaking at the meeting was Robert Almosd (’05), Director of Amnesty International for Hungary. “How delightful it was to travel that far around the world and meet up with another GMU student,” said Alden.

Elizabeth T. Walker (’82) specializes in Native American law and government relations in Washington, D.C., where her firm, Walker Law LLC, publishes The Native Law and Policy Journal, a newsletter about issues affecting Native American communities.

Paul S. Schleifman (’82) has formed his own practice, the Law Office of Paul S. Schleifman, in Clarendon, Virginia, focusing on commercial litigation and transactional matters.

Denise Bode (’82) was named the Women’s Council on Energy and the Environment’s Woman of the Year in 2009. She was recognized for leadership and accomplishments in advocating for clean and affordable energy. Bode is CEO of the American Wind Energy Association.

David O’Donnell (’81) took the bench in Harrisonburg, Virginia, Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court in April 2009, closing his area practice of 27 years.

Senior Judge Thomas Bateman (’81) retired from the circuit court in January 2009 after 35 years of public service and joined the Tallahassee law firm of Messer, Caprello & Self, PA.

W. William Gust (’81) of Gentry Lock Rakes & Moore has been named a Virginia Super Lawyer for 2009 in the area of tax.

1980 and Earlier

Donald J. Purser (’80) is General Counsel for the Barack H. Obama, Sr. Foundation, a non-profit organization that advances the works of the senior Mr. Obama, raising funds for the development of Kenya’s infrastructure and health care facilities.

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IN MEMORIAM

The entire Mason Law community extends its heartfelt sympathy to the families and friends of those alumni listed below. Our ranks are diminished by their loss.

Bonnie Scott Byrd (’03)
Kristin Blair Cooper (’90)
Linda Bushee (’89)
Christopher V. Taffe (’82)

The Shape of Things to Come

Construction of the new Founders Hall on the Arlington Campus continues at a steady pace. The photo above shows the view from the third floor back stairwell in Hazel Hall looking toward the original law school building.

At the end of October, the building was approximately 60% complete. Current projections are that demolition work to link Founders Hall to the Hazel Hall back stairwell will take place during the winter 2009–10 timeframe.

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Stuart Levy (’80) has joined Sughrue Mion, PLLC, as Of Counsel to the firm. Previously he served as an Administrative Patent Judge with the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences at the USPTO.

James L. Kane (’78) was one of seven individuals to receive a 2008 Outstanding Leadership Award from the Apartment & Office Building Association of Metropolitan Washington.

Brian O’Donnell (’77) retired from law practice in his forties. He and wife Karen spend their leisure time snow skiing and boating on the aptly-named Spare Time.

Denyse Sabagh (’77), a partner in Duane Morris LLP, was recognized by Chambers USA 2009 as one of the top lawyers in Washington, D.C., in the area of Immigration.