George Mason American Inn of Court Hosts Oral Argument

Mason Law was honored to have the Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces hold an oral argument session at the law school on February 27. The hearing at George Mason was part of the Court’s national Project Outreach initiative that seeks to demonstrate the quality of the military’s criminal justice system by holding full hearings, not mooting sessions, at select law schools around the country.

The Court exercises worldwide appellate jurisdiction over members of the armed forces on active duty and other persons subject to the Uniform Code of Military Justice. The Court is composed of five civilian judges appointed for 15-year terms by the president with the advice and consent of the Senate. Cases on the Court’s docket address a broad range of legal issues, including constitutional law, criminal law, evidence, criminal procedure, ethics, administrative law, and national security law.

In the case argued at Mason, United States v. Gallagher, the Appellant sought reversal of his conviction based on an alleged unlawful search of his briefcase in violation of the Fourth Amendment. Captain Matthew Kuskie, then a third-year student, appeared before the panel to argue as amicus curiae on behalf of the Appellant. An audio recording of the full hearing can be found at www.armfor.uscourts.gov/Calendar.htm.

The Levy Atrium of the law school was filled to capacity with students, faculty, Inn of Court practitioners, and alumni. Following the hearing, the judges answered questions from the audience, and the participants and guests continued the discussions during a reception.
Recognizing Alumni of Distinction

University Honors Law Alumni
Welke and Blanton for Significant Contributions

On April 21, 2008, a university-wide celebration honored outstanding alumni, students and faculty for the contributions each has made to the university. This year, two law alumni were among the honorees.

Penny C. Welke (’85) is the 2008 recipient of the University Alumni Service Award. Her contributions to Mason include serving as a member of the Alumni Campaign Steering Committee, co-chair of the Annual Fund Committee, vice president of the Alumni Association, charter member of the Legacy Society and member of the President’s Circle.

Welke received her bachelor’s degree in information systems from Mason in 1982 and her JD from Mason Law in 1985. As a paralegal, she learned about the law reader program from her boss, attorney Jack Crickenberger. While enrolled at Mason to complete her bachelor’s degree, she began her law studies. Welke continued the law reading program, passing the Virginia Bar in 1984, while still enrolled at Mason Law. With the bar exam already out of the way, she completed Mason’s JD program and graduated in 1985.

Welke is a partner at Crickenberger & Associates in Fairfax City, Virginia, where she has a successful practice in family law and wills, trusts, and estates.

“Everyone needs someone who tells her, ‘You can do it!’” she says. “If my educational experiences can serve as an example to others, that would be great.”

Mason Law is well represented among the honorees of the University Alumni Service Award. Of the past 20 recipients, seven are law alumni, including Jennifer Hodge (’95); Craig B. Young (’82), who also received the first Law Alumni Association Distinguished Alumni Award in 2007; The Honorable Lisa A. Mayne (’85); Brian C. Drummond (’88); Scott McGeary (’82); and The Honorable Jonathan C. Thacher (’80).

William “Bill” Blanton (’96) also was honored and received the Law Alumni Association Distinguished Alumni Award. Blanton was chosen for this honor for his commitment of his time and resources, which have been critical to the law school’s success.

While still a student, Blanton worked to advance the interest and success of Mason Law by working to unify the law review, whose history included a split within the organization. He also worked tirelessly to improve the legal writing program as a student assistant. Upon his graduation, Blanton became the director of the Legal Research and Writing Program—all while he continued to own and operate Chesapeake Materials. His company is a highly specialized engineering firm that engages in the design of marine facilities, coastal processes and erosion control planning and analysis, engineering of permanent and temporary earth support structures, and the design of marine and pile foundations.

After leaving his official role as director of the writing program, Blanton continued to stay involved. He served as an adjunct writing professor, and, in 2003-2004, served on the provost’s dean search committee for the School of Law. Most recently, Blanton again volunteered significant time advising the writing staff during a restructuring period for the writing program.

Since his earliest days, Blanton has been a consistent and generous financial supporter of the school. In 2006, he helped conceive of and launch the School of Law’s first-ever Alumni Challenge. The end result of his initiative was to increase alumni giving participation by 100%, raising giving levels to 20%—a number unsurpassed by any other George Mason unit. Blanton capped off the challenge by writing a check to the law school for $50,000.

You Know Where You Are... But Who Else Knows?

If you haven’t registered for the Online Law Alumni Directory, don’t put it off anymore. The directory is a great resource for finding and connecting with classmates—both personally and professionally. We find many alumni use it as a referral source. Alumni and friends of the law school often look for attorney referrals for certain practice areas. The directory database is searchable not only by name, but by practice area or geographic location. The key is that we have updated contact information and details about your practice area. If you are already registered, go to www.alumniconnections.com/olc/pub/GSL/ and be sure your profile is up to date.

Need to register? Log on to www.alumniconnections.com/olc/pub/GSL/ register/register.cgi and submit a request for a password ID number. Alumni Services will send an email to you with all the information you need to register and start to connect with the rest of the Alumni community.
Graduation 2008

The annual SBA Graduation Party officially launched the Class of 2008 graduation festivities. Over 400 graduates, family members, friends, faculty and staff attended the reception. SBA President Gene Granger ’08, Alumni Association President Rich Kelsey ’99, and Dean Polsby gave brief remarks, and Gene Granger received the University Life award for his service to George Mason while a student.

Over 220 students received their JD degrees, and five students completed one of Mason’s two LLM programs. This year’s graduation speeches included heartfelt remarks from The Honorable Stanley Klein and Virginia Supreme Court Justice Elizabeth Lacy.

The Class of 2008 heads out to impressive positions in the private and public sectors. Thus far, the majority of the class will start out in large and small firms, prosecutor or public defender offices, or the federal government, including the first Mason graduate selected for the new Department of Homeland Security Honors Program, two Presidential Management Fellows, and several JAG officers. At least 25 graduates will serve as state or federal judicial law clerks. Some graduates will begin or remain in the business sector, and a few plan to open their own law firms. One graduate, Bianca Mack ’08, joins the Mason Law staff as the new Director of Diversity Services.

Although the majority of this year’s class will stay in the Commonwealth or Washington metropolitan area, others will spread the good word about Mason as far away as North Carolina, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, New York, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, Oregon, Texas, Illinois, California, Germany and South Korea.

Law Firm Challenge Concludes Successfully

The Law Alumni Association successfully completed its first Law Firm Challenge in December 2007. Over 30 law firms participated, with 18 of them reaching 100 percent participation. The law school and Alumni Association held a reception in early April at the Washington Golf & Country Club for the Mason Law alumni at those 18 firms. Recognized for their efforts during the challenge were Smolen Plevy, the top contributing law firm and highest average contribution per graduate, and Sterne, Kessler, Goldstein & Fox, P.L.L.C., as the firm with the most alumni gifts (12). All firms that accepted the Challenge and achieved 100 percent participation were recognized in a full-page advertisement in the February 25 issue of Virginia Lawyers Weekly.

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George Mason—Forgotten Founder, Missing Man

Shown below is the renowned painting Scene at The Signing of the Constitution of the United States by American illustrator Howard Chandler Christy (1873–1952) in which he depicts the nation’s Founding Fathers in a dramatic moment at the signing of the Constitution on September 17, 1787, in Philadelphia.

George Mason, while an active and influential participant in the Constitutional Convention, does not appear in the painting, which includes the 39 convention delegates who signed the Constitution. Missing from the painting are 13 delegates who left the convention and three who refused to sign the completed document.

Among those three refusing to sign was Mason, who objected to adoption of the Constitution absent an amendment ensuring individual rights (later added as the Bill of Rights). Mason’s refusal to endorse the Constitution cost him more than his place in this painting, however, as there followed a falling out with his long-time friend and Virginia neighbor, George Washington, that lasted for the remainder of the two men’s lives.

An interesting variation of the painting’s theme can be seen in Barry Faulkner’s 1936 mural in the National Archives Building in Washington, D.C. Though a stylized rendering of the same subject, in Faulkner’s mural George Mason is clearly visible over George Washington’s right shoulder.

Noteworthy Achievements

• For the second year in a row, a Mason Law student was selected to receive the Burton Award for clarity and effectiveness in legal writing. New alumna Miranda Jones (’08) was selected by the Burton Foundation as one of the top 15 writers from law schools nationwide for her article entitled, “Permanent Injunction: A Remedy by Any Other Name is Patently Not the Same: How Ebay v. MercExchange Affects The Patent Right of Non-Practicing Entities.”

• The Virginia State Bar selected Ashley R. Brott (’08) as the recipient of the 2008 Oliver White Hill Student Pro Bono Award, which recognizes a law student’s commitment to uncompensated or minimally compensated pro bono work and other public service. Brott helped develop the LSNV-GMU Intake Initiative, a student-led program that helps Legal Services of Northern Virginia to conduct intake interviews of applicants seeking legal assistance.

• Mason Law Moot Court Board members Leland Jones and Whitney Rolig, both rising 3Ls, locked up a first-place victory in this year’s George Washington University National Security Law Moot Court Competition in Washington, D.C. The two edged out 16 other teams, including those of UVA, Harvard, and George Washington University, to claim their title.

• The Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC) selected Mason Law Student Nelson Pavlosky (rising 2L) as one of five SPARC Innovators for leadership and activism on open access. SPARC is an international alliance of more than 800 academic and research libraries working together to provide a more open system of scholarly communication to expand dissemination of research.

• And of course, no mention of achievements would be complete without acknowledging Mason’s success in maintaining its position as the youngest law school in the top tier of the U.S. News & World Report annual law school rankings.
Alumni Volunteerism

One generation plants the trees; another gets the shade.

– Chinese proverb

Alumni Going Back to School...
This Time In Front of the Classroom

This fourth article in a series on law school volunteer opportunities spotlights how International School of Law and Mason Law alumni make a difference across Mason’s curriculum by serving as adjunct teachers in skills and specialty courses. Yes, adjunct teachers are technically paid, but any adjunct will confirm: You don’t do it for the money. At roughly $1,250 per credit hour, and with countless hours of job preparation and grading, to teach as an adjunct is a labor of love. The alumni who currently teach express a common joy that comes from the experience: the quality of students with whom they work and the pride of being a Mason Law graduate.

Michael Davis (’79): Adjunct Longevity

Mason Law’s current alumnus with the longest tenure as an adjunct is Michael Davis. Davis started law school when Mason was known as the International School of Law. As a student Davis enrolled in a Trial Advocacy class taught by Senior Justice Charles Russell of the Virginia Supreme Court. “It was Justice Russell,” Davis says, “who encouraged me to pursue a career as a litigator.” Davis took the justice’s advice and has been a successful litigator for twenty years. For the past five years he has directed the litigation office for State Farm Insurance.

In 1991, the law school asked Davis to teach a summer section of Virginia Practice, and he has remained with Mason Law as an adjunct ever since. Davis also teaches Trial Advocacy and Advanced Trial Advocacy. Davis has witnessed many changes at the law school, including changes in the student body. “Today’s students,” Davis says, “are brighter, and I doubt I would be accepted to the law school today given the caliber of students I see.” Additionally, Davis finds that the students are more diverse than in his day: from the greater number of female law students to the various areas of law that students want...

Kate McSweeny (’04) is one of those who returned to the law school to teach after graduating.

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to pursue. When he was a student, Davis recalls, graduates generally followed traditional areas of small firm practice, like criminal defense or domestic relations. But now, Davis says, students come to his classes with a broader cross section of interests and backgrounds.

Davis says that he learns from his students every year. “The students keep me sharp and have even helped me develop themes or closing arguments for my own cases.” He has worked with many talented students over the years, several of whom he has hired. “There is no better job interview than to see how the students handle themselves in the Trial Advocacy classes.”

John Whitbeck, Jr. (’01): Law and Mental Illness Clinic

John Whitbeck, a partner at Whitbeck & Cisneros, P.C., in Leesburg, Virginia, returned to Mason Law to work with students in the Mental Illness Clinic. He initially volunteered to help a student in the clinic about a year after he graduated when Professor Joanmarie Davoli called to ask if he could substitute for her as a supervising attorney at a commitment hearing. That one hearing led to another and another, and now Whitbeck currently heads the Mental Illness Clinic. Whitbeck has stuck with the program, he says, because “I want to help current students have the real opportunity to practice law while at Mason.”

As a student, Whitbeck participated in the Mental Illness Clinic and attributes it and trial advocacy classes he took at Mason with Professor Davoli and Judge Stanley Klein with truly preparing him for the practice of law. “I agreed to take on the tasks of teaching the course and supervising students because I’m very proud to be associated with Mason Law. My educational experience was top-notch, and I consider George Mason to be one of the preeminent law schools in the country.” Like Davis, Whitbeck also sees that the caliber of the students accepted to Mason has only gotten better since he graduated: “I’ve worked with talented and dedicated students who often out-perform attorneys with twenty years of practice in the courtroom.” During the last academic year, 13 students participated in the clinic.

Whitbeck regularly seeks out other practitioners from various practice areas to work or speak with students in the classroom. Some are alumni—like Whitney Minter (’01), with the Federal Public Defender in Alexandria, and Jeff Overand (’01), with the Gordon Law Firm, P.C. “Providing students with access to practitioners with broad and diverse backgrounds,” says Whitbeck, “allows the students the opportunity to consider different perspectives and approaches to the practice of law.”

Benjamin Graham Nelson (’08), who recently participated in the Mental Illness Clinic, agrees. Nelson notes that “the range of professional experiences of and assistance given by the alum-ni instructors provides a simultaneously exciting and relaxed environment within which I fine-tuned my legal argument and courtroom presentation skills.”

Suzette Rodriguez Hurley (’04): Appellate Advocacy

Like Whitbeck, Suzette Rodriguez Hurley also devotes her time and expertise to a skills-based course. Presently with Wiley Rein in Washington, D.C., Hurley handles trial and appellate matters before federal and state courts as well as regulatory and administrative law matters before government agencies. As a student she served as the Moot Court Board’s Chief Justice and enrolled in the Appellate Advocacy course twice while competing in moot court competitions. When Mason needed an additional moot court coach and Appellate Advocacy instructor not long after she graduated, Hurley jumped at the opportunity. “Serving as an adjunct,” she says, “gives me the opportunity to teach, which I value as a former teacher, and to give something back to the law school. Teaching at Mason keeps me connected to what is happening at the school, and the students keep me fresh and up-to-date on a wide range of legal issues presented in the moot court competitions.”

Hurley’s adjunct position requires many late night moot- ing sessions, in addition to traditional classroom preparation and teaching time. And the hard work has paid off. Under the tutelage of Hurley and fellow adjunct Ernie Isenstadt, moot court members have won increasing numbers of prestigious awards and competitions all over the country. “I’m very proud of Mason’s current Moot Court Board—both as a graduate and as an instructor,” says Hurley. “They represent Mason Law very well.”

Naveen Modi (’01): Patent Expert

Giving back to the law school was also a reason Naveen Modi gave for wanting to teach at Mason. When he learned that the Federal Circuit Practice course, which he took as a student, was not being offered, Modi contacted the school and offered to teach the class if there was a need. He has now taught the course for two semesters and finds it to be a rewarding experience. Modi practices in the Electrical and Computer Technology Practice Group at Finnegan Henderson Farabow Garrett & Dunner, LLP, and previously served as a clerk on the Federal Circuit for The Honorable Alvin A. Schall.

While the Socratic Method may be a tried and true teaching method, Modi finds his students “regularly prepared to engage in substantive discussions and not afraid to share their thoughts in class.” “The current student population,” Modi says, “seems more diverse, and the students have a greater depth of experience that they are willing to share in classroom discussions.” Modi smiles with
Alumni Going Back to School
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pride when he speaks of Mason’s growing reputation in the intellectual property field and in all areas of the law. Even though the law school has undergone many physical changes since he studied here, Modi reports that “coming back to campus always feels like coming home.”

Joining the Adjunct Ranks

This past academic year, in addition to the alumni described above, Brent Baxter (’01), Virgil Beaston (’01), Jerry Brito (’05), Mark Cummings (’78), Josh Gessler (’00), John Henault (’00), Amanda Hine (’96), William Jarvis (’91), Brian McIntyre (’02), Kate McSweeney (’04), Frederic Meeker (’92), Suyong Min (’04), Robert Shaffer (’00), Rich Kelsey (’99), Gerry Stegmaier (’00), and The Honorable Jonathan Thacher (’80) all have devoted their time and talent as adjunct teachers. If you would like to become an adjunct or clinic supervisor, contact Assistant Dean Annamaria Nields (’00) at anields@gmu.edu or 703-993-8174.

Scholarship Update

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

Current Use Scholarships
- The Phillip H. Dorsey, II Law Library Scholarship
- Sterne Kessler Scholarship
- Banner & Witcoff Scholarship
- Craig Young (’82) and Shirley Keisler (’90) Scholarship
- Charitable Cruise Foundation Scholarship
- Dean Norvell Scholarship
- Dean Brabner-Smith Scholarship
- The Greg Bedner (’83) Scholarship
- Glenn Lewis (’77) Scholarship
- We Help Each Other Fund

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Change is in the Air—and on the Ground!

The Arlington Campus is under construction again! The current phase of campus development broke ground in January and will be underway until at least 2010. Once all the dust and dirt settles, the new facilities will provide faculty offices, classrooms, a general purpose library, theater-style auditorium, adjustable conference rooms, and computer labs for use by several programs within the university, including the School of Law. The new construction will connect the original law school building to the current law school building.

When completed, the new space will provide the university an additional 256,000 square feet and an expanded parking structure below the new building. An added, and welcome, feature will be a plaza facing Fairfax Drive that will create an open and inviting space for members of the Mason community to gather. Information about the status of the construction, parking, and updated photos of the progress can be found on the website at www.gmu.edu/arlburg/newconstruction.html or follow the construction progress realtime via webcam: visit arlington2webcam.gmu.edu/index.cgi and load the ActiveX or Java application. Choose the viewing program most appropriate for your computer. Log-in via the provided Guest user name and password.

From left: Bob Doyle (’88), Jon Strang (’07), Anne Loomis (’07), Sean Mullaney (’07), and Marsha Rose (’04). The Mary Fisher Doyle Public Service Scholarship honors Bob’s late wife, who was herself a Mason Law alumna (Class of ’89).

Jon, Anne, Sean, and Marsha, shown at a recent scholarship breakfast, all have been recipients of various scholarships during their time as law students at Mason. The annual breakfast honors recipients of current and past scholarships, as well as scholarship donors.

Thanks for your support!
Every day Mason Law alumni assume leadership roles in all aspects of the community—from within their own law firms and companies, in public service, in professional associations, and as volunteers in the community. In this edition, and the next few editions of the Mason Law News, we will profile alumni who step up and lead the way. If you, or a fellow alumnus, are in a leadership position at work, in a bar association or community organization, please let us know at lawalum@gmu.edu.

Susan S. Brewer, Class of 1980, to Become First Female CEO of Steptoe & Johnson, a Major West Virginia Law Firm

Several organizations that track the legal profession report that only eight percent of law firms nationwide are led by a woman. Susan S. Brewer ('80) is adding to that statistic. After a one-year transition plan, Brewer will take on the role of managing member and will become CEO effective January 1, 2009.

Brewer joined Steptoe & Johnson in 1980, two weeks after graduating from Mason Law. Hers was the first class to receive their degrees from George Mason University School of Law after the transition from the International School of Law. She became involved with the firm’s management early in her career and has served as a member of the firm’s executive committee for 16 years. She began, and has continued, her practice as a litigator specializing in professional liability defense. Steptoe & Johnson, with an almost 100-year history, is a corporate defense firm with particular strengths in energy, labor and litigation. The firm comprises over 180 lawyers in seven locations throughout West Virginia and Ohio.

“It’s an honor to begin a new role in firm leadership,” said Brewer. While she expects she will reduce her active trial practice to about 25 percent of her time, she looks forward to the challenges of running the business of the firm. The attraction to taking on this role, and the only way she sees being able to balance practice and management, is that Steptoe & Johnson has carefully created a strong administrative team. As the managing partner, Brewer wants to focus on strategic planning and expanding the practice, which she said is possible by surrounding herself with talented people.

When Brewer arrived at Steptoe & Johnson, she was only the third female attorney to join the firm. She is proud to say, “My early involvement in firm management allowed me to guide the firm’s policies with respect to many issues it had never before had to address, such as maternity leave.”

Brewer’s father was a trial attorney in Arlington, Virginia, where she was born and raised, and she wanted to follow the same path. While working full time at a D.C. law firm to pay for school, Brewer attended Mason at night for two years. “It was a privilege to be a part of it, and I had three wonderful years [at Mason].” As one of the youngest students in the evening section, she was amazed by the intelligent people that surrounded her. The vast majority of her classmates also worked full time and attended law school as a second career. Because of their work and life experience, they were well-prepared, confident, and committed to the program. She benefited greatly from the experience and knowledge they shared in the classroom.

She also credits her initial confidence in the courtroom with the education and training she received from the trial advocacy classes she took at Mason. Brewer clearly recalls working with her instructor, Senior Justice Charles Russell of the Virginia Supreme Court, who was fun and an easy person from whom to learn. When she started practicing in 1980 and compared notes with fellow associates from other law schools, she quickly discovered that her education in civil procedure and the practice of law exceeded that of her colleagues. “My Mason experience gave me a distinct advantage, and I was much less afraid to go into those first courtroom trials,” she says.

Recognizing the benefit she received from Mason’s exceptional adjunct faculty members, she tries to do the same as a lecturer and former adjunct professor in trial advocacy at West Virginia University College of Law. She enjoys working with the next genera-

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tion of law students and is very excited to see the increased numbers of women and minority students who are coming up in the ranks. Brewer notes, “While the overall numbers of women in management positions may still be low, I think that women in the profession are hitting their stride, and I expect I will not be such a rarity.”

On a personal note, Mason also led to meeting William Brewer ('80). In their third year of law school they married, and she transferred to the day program so they could graduate together. After graduation the Brewers moved back to William’s hometown of Morgantown, West Virginia, where he has his own private practice, and where they have raised four children.

Susan Brewer said she is proud to be an alumna of Mason Law when she sees the “unprecedented growth in the school’s reputation.” That reputation is only strengthened by alumnae like Brewer, who is but one example of Mason’s legacy.

Alumnae Return to Campus for the Annual Women’s Law Association Networking Breakfast

Mason Law Alumni Services, with the help of the Women’s Law Association, held the annual Alumnae Networking Breakfast on April 2. A group of over 50 alumnae and students gathered at the law school to share breakfast and the opportunity to network with each other.

As special guest, Karin Moore ('95) spoke to the group about the important role mentoring and networking plays in her career. Ms. Moore began her career with the Federal Trade Commission, which included an assignment as a special advisor to the director of the Bureau of Competition on antitrust issues. After a successful time at the FTC, she left the federal government to work at O’Melveny & Myers litigating anti-trust cases. In January of this year, she took the post of Assistant General Counsel of the Wine & Spirits Wholesalers of America, where she is responsible for coordinating the association’s national litigation strategy. She also coordinates regulatory issues that face the industry, at both the state and federal level.

Moore noted in her comments that her active involvement in the American Bar Association and its Antitrust Section provides invaluable professional resources to her, and she encouraged others to use bar associations as a networking resource.

9th Richard S. Murphy Pool Tournament

Alumni and students gathered together in honor of Professor Richard S. Murphy on April 12 to raise money for the scholarship fund established in his name after his death in 1997. Friendly competition arose between teams made up of alumni, students, and friends in the best of three elimination rounds to reach the final two teams. With alumni and students to cheer them on, the winners were Chris Davis ('00) and Rick Carrol. As a great example of how the event brought many classes together, the runners-up were Todd Flanagan ('05) and Scott Scher (3L).

The Law Alumni Association sponsored the event at Carpool, located on Fairfax Drive in Arlington, which donated the use of the pool tables for the day. The Student Bar Association co-hosted by providing food and drinks for all who played or just came out to cheer on the players. Thanks to all those who participated through registration fees and generous donations, the event raised $1,420, which will be used to fund a merit-based scholarship awarded each year to an incoming first-year student.
This year’s 11th Annual Judicial & Legislative Reception set a new standard, as evidenced by the artful display of seafood cocktails pictured above. Guests enjoyed food and wine pairings chosen for optimum appeal to the palate, the music of the GMU Jazz Ensemble, and the opportunity to mix with classmates and members of the legal and legislative communities from across the region. Also present at the event were representatives of four vineyards—Barboursville Vineyards, Château Morrisette Winery, Horton Cellars Winery, and Prince Michel Vineyard & Winery—and their efforts to enlighten guests regarding the wines and food pairings added greatly to the enjoyment of the evening.

A record number of sponsors helped make this year’s event the success that it proved to be, and the law school and Law Alumni Association are most grateful for their support!
The Honorable Jonathan Thacher ('80) (left), Mason Law grad and distinguished adjunct, enjoys a glass of specially selected Virginia wine with Assistant U.S. Attorney Lawrence J. Leiser at this year’s JLR.

Past and present Law Alumni Board members (from left) Roger Courtney ('75), David Landers ('93), and Jim Hyland ('89) take advantage of an opportunity to relax and unwind in the company of classmates and friends.

Lessons in wine tasting are serious business, judging by the attentiveness shown by Jeff Orenstein ('06) (second from right) and Todd MacGregor ('02) (far right).

Don Featherstone ('99) and The Honorable David Sentelle, U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit

Gretchyn Meinken ('07) and Scott Taylor ('01) smile for the camera as they sample the wonderful wine and food pairings, an activity that was enjoyed by many at the JLR.
Beth Jafari

Beth Jafari ('00) is Chief of Staff for U.S. Senator John Cornyn. Senator Cornyn (R-Texas) was sworn in on December 2, 2002, and Jafari first started with the senator in January 2003 as his legislative director, becoming Chief of Staff in May 2007. Prior to joining Senator Cornyn in January 2003, Jafari spent three years at the law firm of King & Spalding, LLP. Her areas of practice included general litigation and representing various clients before Congress.

Jafari began her career in Washington, D.C., with Congressman Joe Barton (R-Texas). She spent nine years with Congressman Barton, including five years as his Legislative Director. Jafari managed the congressman’s efforts as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce (1995–1999). She planned and implemented strategies to achieve the congressman’s policies and political objectives and also directed his efforts on the 1996 Telecommunications Act (P.L. 104-104) and the Food and Drug Modernization Act of 1997 (P.L. 105-115).

Jafari notes that Senator Cornyn is extraordinarily active on issues of importance to lawyers. His legal background is deep—former litigator, district court judge, member of the Texas Supreme Court for seven years before becoming the attorney general of Texas. Part of the reason he came to Washington was to sit on the Judiciary Committee to fight for conservative judges and pass tort reform. Her job was to help shape his legislative strategies for these issues, so it definitely helped to have a legal background.

Jafari notes how her role has changed. “As Chief of Staff I am, in theory, strategizing and looking at the big picture, although there is the constant pull of getting involved in day-to-day management decisions. We have a big staff so this can’t be avoided.”

“Being a lawyer not only trains you how to think analytically, but also to be an advocate and to persuade. These are tools I use everyday. People tend to construe lawyers and legal training in a narrow way, and in reality there is a very broad application.”

“I loved my experience at Mason Law. Going at night was certainly a challenge. I worked on the House side for three and a half of the four years I was in law school. Great professors like Robert Anthony and the opportunity to take classes like Law and Economics added to my experience. Even the additional year requirement for writing turned out to be a good thing! I am proud that Mason Law has moved up the ranks the last several years and capitalized on its unique aspects (economics) to set it apart from other law schools in the area.”

Ronnie Carleton

Ronnie Carleton ('92), is a Capitol Hill veteran, having served in both the United States Senate and the House of Representatives for over 28 years.

Carleton began his service in 1980, starting on the staff of Senator Harrison Schmitt (D-NM). In 1985, he moved to the House where he began a 20-year tenure with Congressman Martin Frost (D-Texas). After stints as Chief of Staff with Congressman Brad Sherman (D-Calif.) and Denise Majette (D-Ga.), Carleton joined the staff of newly elected Congressman John Salazar (D-Colo.) in 2005.

As Salazar’s Chief of Staff, Carleton is

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responsible for managing the Congressman’s Washington and Colorado operations and helping develop policy. “It's a satisfying and fulfilling job,” Carleton noted, “although politics can also be frustrating at times, especially when the partisanship gets in the way of good policy making.”

Carleton remembers his years at Mason Law as being a time of careful and creative juggling with the responsibilities of school, full time work, and family. “I was working as a legislative assistant with a full load of issues during the day, going to law classes at night, and keeping tabs on two small children at home. At times it felt like I was juggling a bowling ball, an egg, and a melon. It wasn't easy, but somehow I made it to the other side without too much damage!”

Even though he has not practiced law in the traditional legal settings of the courtroom or in a law office, Carleton believes the skills he learned at Mason Law have served him well in his congressional career. Also, after passing the Virginia Bar Exam, Carleton was asked to join the faculty of Marymount University in Arlington as an adjunct in the School of Business’s paralegal program. He teaches Public Policy and Administrative Law every spring, along with a Constitutional Law Seminar on a periodic basis. A huge basketball fan, he somehow finds time to cheer on the Mason Patriots basketball team during March Madness!

Capitol Hill Law Alumni Group Meets in U.S. Capitol

As yet another demonstration of the strength of Mason Law’s alumni network, the Capitol Hill Law Alumni Group gathered for a reception sponsored by the School of Law in the U.S. Capitol. Over 60 alumni and friends attended the reception on July 9 in the historic Mike Mansfield Room, located just outside the Senate Chambers. Among the attendees was Paul Reagan ('91), Chief of Staff to Senator Jim Webb (D-Va.), who graciously assisted in securing Mason’s access to the Capitol. Dean Daniel Polsby and David Landers ('93), who helped spearhead the event, welcomed the group.

The Capitol Hill Alumni Group brings together Mason Law alumni, students, faculty and friends with a shared interest in Capitol Hill. The group includes over 380 distinguished alumni of the law school. Additionally, the law school extended invitations to alumni of George Mason’s graduate programs in economics to take advantage of the synergy and their shared interests with Mason Law. Included in this prestigious group of alumni are current and former Hill staffers, administration officials, and others involved in governmental affairs and lobbying.

If you are interested in joining the Capitol Hill Group, you can update your profile in the Online Law Alumni Directory by selecting “yes” on the “Capitol Hill Alumni Group” drop down menu. You will then be included directly in further communications about events or other networking opportunities related to this group. More information about how to access or update the Alumni Directory appears on page 2.

www.law.gmu.edu/alumni/
Highlights from Our Faculty News

Fall 2008 Yields a Bumper Crop of New Professors

Fall 2008 is shaping up to be a very exciting time, as Mason Law prepares to welcome no less than ten new professors to its faculty, including Professors Alvaré and Bradford, who taught at Mason Law as visiting professors, and Judge Robert Wooldridge, a long-time distinguished adjunct at the law school prior to his retirement from the bench.

Four of the ten work in the area of intellectual property, and their addition to the faculty will, in the words of Dean Daniel Polsby, give Mason “one of the most talented and interesting groups of young IP scholars in the country.”

Polsby expressed confidence that these outstanding new hires will contribute to the growing reputation of Mason’s law faculty and the education of Mason law students.

On the web at: www.law.gmu.edu/assets/files/faculty/NewFac08.htm

More News About Our Faculty...

Professor Nathan Sales was our most recent faculty visitor to Capitol Hill, where he provided testimony pertaining to laptop searches and other privacy issues for Americans returning from overseas trips at a July hearing of the Senate Judiciary Committee’s Subcommittee on the Constitution. Days later, Sales again found himself on the Hill, this time appearing before the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Homeland Security Subcommittee on Border, Maritime and Global Counterterrorism at a hearing whose topic was “Implementing the 9/11 Act Mandates for Enhancing the Visa Waiver Program.”

Professor Sam Vermont was the subject of a June profile in Washington Business Journal that focused on Vermont’s perspective and goals in teaching patent law to George Mason law students.

Professor Todd Zywicki was a panelist in a Federalist Society-sponsored conference at the National Press Club in May. Entitled “Turmoil in the U.S. Credit Markets,” the conference focused on issues such as the advisability of legislative or regulatory reform to stabilize the housing market and recent congressional efforts to tighten regulations on credit card companies.

In April the Vatican announced Pope Benedict XVI’s appointment of Professor Helen Alvaré as a Consultor of the Pontifical Council for the Laity for a five-year term effective April 11, 2008. The Council is made up of 36 members and 20 consultants and functions as an advisory body for the pope on matters concerning non-clerical persons.

In March Professor Allison Hayward participated in a panel entitled “Voter Rights, Voter Fraud, and Election Administration” at a bipartisan symposium at Harvard Law School to examine issues of campaign finance and free speech, voter ID laws, voter fraud, and other topics in a presidential election year.

Professor Sally Katzen-Dyk returned to Capitol Hill in February to testify before a full committee hearing of the House Small Business Committee on “Improving the Paperwork Reduction Act for Small Businesses.”

Visiting Assistant Professor of Law Victoria Espinel addressed the Congressional Intellectual Property Caucus in February to discuss pending legislation on intellectual property rights. The “RPO IP” bill was introduced in December by a bipartisan group of members of the House Judiciary Committee.

In February Patrick Henry Professor of Law and The Second Amendment Nelson Lund drafted an amicus curiae brief filed by the Second Amendment Foundation in District of Columbia v. Heller, a landmark Second Amendment case that overturned the Washington, D.C., handgun ban. Lund’s brief earned the praise of Second Amendment authority David Kopel, who called it “a model Supreme Court brief.” Lund also spoke at the Federalist Society Supreme Court Wrap Up Session on July 1.

“University Endowments: Their Role in Higher Education and Possibilities for Reform” was the title of a discussion sponsored by the American Enterprise Institute in February in Washington, D.C., in which Professor Todd Zywicki, who also is an alumni trustee of Dartmouth College, served as moderator for the event’s first panel discussion. Mason Law alumnus Dean Zerbe (97), at that time tax counsel for Senator Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa), participated in the day’s second panel.
Virginia’s Legal Elite

Virginia Business Magazine receives nominations and votes from members of the Virginia Bar to identify lawyers to be included in its annual Legal Elite list. In December 2007, the following Mason Law Alumni were listed as Virginia’s Legal Elite. We proudly congratulate each of them!

BANKRUPTCY
Douglas M. Foley (’92)
McGuireWoods LLP (Norfolk)
Angela H. France (’01)
Albo & Oblon LLP (Arlington)
Joseph F. Jackson (’90)
Williams Mullen PC (McLean)

CIVIL LITIGATION
Declan Leonard (’96)
Albo & Oblon LLP (Arlington)
William B. Porter (’97)
Blankingship & Keith PC (Fairfax)

CONSTRUCTION
Edward W. Cameron (’88)
Odin, Feldman & Potterman PC (Fairfax)
M. Melissa Glassman (’87)
McGuireWoods LLP (McLean)
K. Brett Marston (’93)
Gentry Locke Rakes & Moore LLP (Roanoke)
Melisa G. Michelsen (’96)
Litten & Spiv, LLP (Harrisonburg)
Stephen G. Test (’79)
William Mullen PC (Virginia Beach)
Charles Williams (’87)
Butler Williams & Skilling PC (Richmond)

CRIMINAL LAW
Anthony F. “Tony” Anderson (’81)
Anderson & Friedman, Attorneys at Law (Roanoke)
David Deane (’97)
Albo & Oblon LLP (Arlington)
Kevin M. Diamonstein (’90)
Patten, Wornom, Hatten & Diamonstein (Newport News)
Peter Greenspun (’78)
Grad, Logan & Klewans PC (Fairfax)
Rodney G. Leffler (’78)
Leffler & Hyland PC (Fairfax)

CRIMINAL LAW (continued)
David A. Oblon (’95)
Albo & Oblon LLP (Arlington)
Dickson J. Young (’77)
Whitestone, Brent, Young & Merrill PC (Fairfax)

FAMILY/DOMESTIC RELATIONS
Daniel L. Gray (’96)
Cooper Ginsberg Gray PLLC (Fairfax)

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
Kathleen J.L. Holmes (’92)
Williams Mullen PC (McLean)
Ian D. Titley (’87)
The Law Office of Ian D. Titley PC (Glen Allen)

LABOR/EMPLOYMENT LAW
Daniel P. Lyon (’92)
McCandlish & Lillard PC (Fairfax)

REAL ESTATE/LAND USE
William C. “Tom” Thomas Jr. (’87)
Fagelson, Schonberger, Payne & Deitchmeister PC (Fairfax)

TAXES/ESTATES/TRUSTS
W. William Gust (’81)
Gentry Locke Rakes & Moore LLP (Roanoke)

YOUNG LAWYERS (UNDER 40)
Sarah L. Allgeier (’00)
LeClairRyan PC (Norfolk)
Jeremy Carroll (’97)
Glenn, Feldmann, Darby & Goodlatte PC (Roanoke)
Anne Dailey (’03)
Troutman Sanders LLP (Richmond)
Michael Goodove (’92)
Rabinowitz, Swartz, Taftterro, Swartz & Goodove PC (Norfolk)
Kristie G. Haynes (’97)
McSweeney, Crump, Childress & Temple PC (Richmond)
Matthew R. Sheldon (’97)
Reed Smith LLP (Falls Church)

Retired General Mick Kicklighter Named Director of CIP Program

The law school welcomes Claude M. “Mick” Kicklighter as director of the Critical Infrastructure Protection Program, a project that specializes in basic and applied interdisciplinary research in critical infrastructure protection and security and defense issues.

Kicklighter joins Mason after spending the past year as inspector general of the Department of Defense. He is a graduate of Mercer University and holds a master’s degree from George Washington University. He is also a graduate of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces.

“We are delighted to welcome one our country’s most illustrious soldiers and public servants to Mason,” remarks Dean Polsby. “Mick Kicklighter has the ideal combination of expertise, energy and people skills for this assignment.”
A Message From Dean Polsby

The relatively tranquil days of summer provide an opportunity for faculty, staff, and deans to take stock of the past academic year and prepare for next year’s challenges. Looking back, 2007-08 was a year of many firsts for Mason Law. The strain of the ever-shrinking state budget for higher education did not dampen the spirits or work of our community.

In December, your Law Alumni Association successfully completed its first formal fundraising outreach program to law firms. Through the Law Firm Challenge, law alumni in firms large and small contributed and helped Mason Law once again achieve the highest participation rate of any unit at George Mason University. In the spring, we hosted our first live court session, thanks to efforts of the George Mason Inn of Court and the Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces. We also rolled out our new constitutional law curriculum in the spring with the first-year course entitled The Founders’ Constitution. By year’s end, we hired ten new faculty members—the most in a single hiring season in Mason’s modern history.

Our alumni, students, faculty, and friends in the legal community made these things—and more—happen. There is, of course, more to do. I’ve now been at Mason Law as a teacher and administrator for nine years, and I’ve never seen the school more poised to take the lead in any number of areas—from faculty scholarship, to student quality, to reputation among the bench and bar. But we need help from every constituency in this community to reach our potential. We have serious budgetary and physical plant challenges to overcome. To our alumni across the country: We need you to stay involved, mentor and hire our students, welcome our prospective students, and, yes, support our financial aid and academic programs. Those of us in the building must continue to be good stewards of your investment while we simultaneously look for new avenues of support and growth.

Next year will mark the 30th anniversary of the merger of the International School of Law with George Mason University. Much like summertime, it will be a period for serious reflection upon how far this institution and its alumni body have come. I look forward to hearing from you and reporting back on achievements sure to come in 2008-09.

THEY DID IT AGAIN!

Our February 2008 bar takers once again proved to be well prepared for the rigors of the Virginia Bar Exam, with first-time taker and overall rates both running approximately 16% higher than the state first-time taker and overall rates.

We congratulate this new crop of Mason-trained practitioners and wish them well as they begin their law careers!

Mason First-Time Takers Pass Rate: 80%
State First-Time Takers Pass Rate: 64.6%
Mason Overall Pass Rate: 71.7%
State Overall Pass Rate: 55.6%
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 $__________

☐ Payable in _______ installment(s) in the month(s) circled below:

JUL  AUG  SEP  OCT  NOV  DEC
JAN  FEB  MAR  APR  MAY  JUN

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

Mail form to:

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

NAME ___________________________
Address ___________________________
Address ___________________________
Class of __________

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:

President’s Circle
$100,000+ ...Senior Benefactor
$50,000 to $99,999 ...Benefactor
$25,000 to $49,999 ...Patron
$10,000 to $24,999 ...Sponsor
$ 5,000 to $ 9,999 ...Colleague
$ 2,500 to $ 4,999 ...Associate
$ 1,000 to $ 2,499 ...Member

Dean’s Club
$500 to $999 ...Dean’s Club Colleague
$250 to $499 ...Dean’s Club Associate
$100 to $249 ...Dean’s Club Patron

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 ccorish@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.
Coming Home to George Mason

By Rich Kelsey, Class of '99
President, Law Alumni Association

Every year, more and more of our alums are coming home to George Mason and actively participating in social, professional development, and student outreach events. Your active participation with the school has been a great asset to our community-building efforts, and alumni routinely find their interaction with old friends and new students rewarding, both personally and professionally. In the last year, alums have participated in mock interviews, speed-networking events, and served as moot court judges. And, of course, you have been helping, networking with, recommending, and hiring our graduates. All of this enriches our school, and the Alumni Association has been proud to help in these efforts and so many other events.

This past term, the Alumni Association, in conjunction with the School of Law, held a reception for participants of the school’s first Law Firm Challenge. The challenge was enormously successful, with over 30 firms participating. Many firms achieved a 100% participation rate in giving. The post-challenge event to honor participants was held at the Washington Golf and Country Club, with Dean Polsby stopping by to personally thank the participants.

Also recently, the Alumni Association and the Student Bar Association teamed to again host the Richard Murphy Memorial Pool Tournament at Carpool. This old-fashioned pool tournament has been a great cause over the years to raise money for the Murphy Scholarship, in honor of Richard Murphy, a young Mason Law faculty member who died tragically in the spring of 1997. The event not only raises money for scholarships for our students, it is a great event for coming together with fellow alumni—many of whom pay tribute to the robust life of Professor Murphy, which included an occasional great game of pool.

In May, we hosted our signature event. In reality, it is now the signature event for the Northern Virginia legal community and, of course, our alums. That event is the Judicial and Legislative Reception (JLR). The JLR featured about 400 alumni and dignitaries, gathering for the purpose of tasting fine wines, paired with an array of great hors d’oeuvres, and reconnecting with each other. The event grows each year, and each year we welcome both new and old friends to the extended Mason legal family.

If you have not had a chance to get involved with George Mason, or to see old friends and colleagues, this year I hope to personally welcome you home at one of our events. Your active participation is the key to our continued success as an institution. This year, come home to George Mason.

We would like to recognize and thank Alumni Association Board members Amy Mirabile and David Reed for their hard work as they complete their terms.

Congratulations to incoming board members for 2008–2009:

• John Caulfield (’80)
• Anne Heishman (’02)
• Buzz Hawley (’07)
LAW ALUMNI NEWS

Alumni news has been gathered from many sources over the past several months. If your information has changed, or if you have news to share, please send an email to lawalum@gmu.edu.

2000–2008

Echo Schaub ('08) and Jesse Coleman ('07) were married in El Paso, Texas, on May 24, 2008.

Juan Carlos Estevéz ('08) wrapped up his time as a law student by receiving the Outstanding Student Award presented by the American Society of Public Administration in June subsequent to his joining the ranks of Mason Law alumni.

Peter Whelan ('07) has joined Sutherland's Washington, D.C., office as an associate in the litigation practice.

Scott Woodhouse ('07) is an associate in the biotechnology/chemical group at Sterne, Kessler, Goldstein & Fox in Washington, D.C.

James D. Watson ('07) is associate counsel at the Board of Veterans Appeals.

Shawn Love ('07) is with Wiggin and Dana in New Haven, Connecticut, and living in nearby Guilford.

Kimberly Bierenbaum ('07) has joined Parker Poe Adams & Bernstein LLP in the firm’s Charlotte, North Carolina, office.

Keith Mullervy ('07) is an associate with Squire, Sanders & Dempsey in Tylsons Corner, Virginia.

Brian Brisnehan ('07) is an associate with Banner & Witcoff in the firm’s patent prosecution and litigation practice.

Jonathan Strang ('07) has joined Sterne, Kessler, Goldstein & Fox as an associate in the electronics group.

Elijah Garmon ('07) has received the President’s Volunteer “Call to Service” Award, which is a lifetime achievement award presented to citizens who have performed 4,000 or more hours of volunteer community service. The award was presented on behalf of President George W. Bush by Secretary of Transportation Mary E. Peters in January 2008.

Jennifer Bisk ('06) joined Crowell & Moring in Washington, D.C., as part of their IP group.

Robert Hall ('06) and wife Liz are happy to announce the birth of their daughter, Isabel Emelina, on March 27, 2008.

Captain Kevin M. Adams ('06) has been deployed to Iraq and is currently serving as Chief of Operational Law, 1st Sustainment Command.

Bridget Dooling ('06) has completed a clerkship for Judge Stansell-Gamm and is working as a policy analyst in the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget in Washington, D.C.

Deborah (Collins) Penza ('06) was married to Carmen J. Penza Jr. on August 25, 2007, at Venice Plaza in New Jersey.

Erin Keaney ('06) is engaged to be married. Her fiancé, Patrick Robert Noonan, is also an attorney.

Brandon Chad Bungard (LLM ’06) received a presidential nomination to become General Counsel of the Federal Labor Relations Authority.

Elizabeth Owens Bille ('05) and her husband Todd welcomed daughter Katherine Hannah on June 14, 2007. Elizabeth also is working as the legal and policy advisor to Vice Chair Leslie E. Silverman of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in Washington, D.C.

Steve Baker ('05) recently announced his engagement to Susan Marla Samarasinghe. The couple plan to marry on August 30, 2008. Steve is currently with Kalbaugh, Pfund and Messer-Smith P.C.

Erik Newton ('05) reports that his family law practice in San Francisco is booming.

Jennifer Lattimore ('05) and husband Gary are pleased to announce the birth of their second daughter, Ella Catherine, on February 14, 2008. Ella joins big sister Grace to round out the family circle.

Donald W. Tomlinson ('05) has joined the Manassas, Virginia, law firm of Vandervoort, Frostick & Nishanian as an associate in the transactional and real estate departments. He practices primarily in the areas of real estate law and business law. He is also a member of the U.S. Navy Reserves.

Christopher Maier ('05) and brother Timothy Maier ('00) are pleased to announce the formation of their new intellectual property law firm, Maier & Maier, PLLC, in Alexandria, Virginia. They encourage you to visit their website: www.maierandmaier.com.

Jennifer Stanford ('04) has opened a practice, Aoun & Stanford, in Fairfax, Virginia, with a Georgetown law grad. Jennifer is engaged to Sunjeet Randhawa ('03), who is in the General Counsel’s Office at the FBI. The couple will marry in July 2008.

Ashley (Hurt) Callen ('04) has begun a new job with the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee.

Jacob Manning ('04) has joined Dinsmore & Shohl LLP as a member of the litigation department in their Wheeling, West Virginia, office. His practice includes civil and criminal litigation with an emphasis on appellate practice and white collar crime.

Antigone Kriss ('04) has returned to Finnegan Henderson Farabow Garrett & Dunner after completing a clerkship for The Honorable Kimberly Moore at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit.

Andrew Sommer ('04) also has just completed a clerkship for The Honorable Kimberly Moore at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, returning to Howrey LLP in in their IP practice group.

Brian V. Lee ('04) has launched Lee Legal, PLLC, providing bankruptcy and civil litigation services to clients in both Virginia and the District of Columbia. The firm is located in Washington, D.C.

Kate McSweeney ('04) was named to the Board of Directors of the Historical Society for the D.C. Circuit.

Tia Fenton ('04) has been named a senior associate in the litigation department of Oblon, Spivak, McClelland, Maier & Neustadt in Alexandria, Virginia.

Jonathan Klick ('03) is currently a Visiting Professor of Law at the University of Pennsylvania Law School (he is visiting from Florida State University).

Moin Yahya ('03) has been granted tenure and a promotion to Associate Professor at the University of Alberta, where he...
Alumni News
Continued from page 20

was Assistant Professor and Associate Dean of Graduate Studies, Faculty of Law.

Greg Fleming ('03) has left the legal department of BB&T after 12 years with the company to join the Virginia Beach office of Williams Mullen as an associate in their financial services and real estate group.

Erin Karsman ('03) reports that she has accepted a position as an assistant professor at Duquesne Law School, where she will teach legal research and writing. Husband Chase Karsman ('03) recently began an in-house position with FedEx Ground in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where the couple reside with their two small daughters.

Matthew Sutter ('03) was married to Alexis Louise Norris on December 1, 2007. Matthew is currently an attorney with Wade, Friedman & Sutter, P.C., in Alexandria, Virginia.

Cameron woman (Powell) Taillon ('02) was recently married.

Nita Gheir ('02) is happy to announce the birth of her second child, Tara Kiran McCormick, born May 25, 2008. Tara surprised everyone by arriving a bit early, but she is doing well.

Matthew Douglas Hagarty ('02) is happy to announce his marriage to Sara Elizabeth Mies on September 29, 2007, at St. Clare Catholic Church in Clifton, Virginia. The couple reside in Clarendon. Having spent the past 11 years at America Online, Matthew now heads up their Corporate eDiscovery group. (Note: Apologies to Matthew for the error in his name in the last issue!)

Heather Austin Jones ('02) has joined the Washington, D.C., Regional Office of the Sands Anderson Marks & Miller law firm, where she is a member of both the Business & Professional Litigation and Healthcare practice groups.

John Wingate ('02) is Senior Counsel Trading for Koch Industries, Inc., in Wichita, Kansas.

Vince Perez ('02), a former Golden Gloves champion, is co-owner of Rock Steady Gym in Indianapolis, a non-profit facility where Parkinson’s Disease patients are taught boxing as a method of treating symptoms of the disease. Perez is Senior Vice President/General Counsel of Forensic ID in Indianapolis.

Eliza Fendell ('02) has a new baby, Duncan Joseph, born March 22, 2008. He joins brother Magnus and sister Fiona.

John Hawthorne ('02) is practicing on his own in Fairfax, Virginia, and also has a new real estate settlement company, Hawthorne Title Group, LLC, established in early 2006. Wife Jeannie is a full-time mom to Taylor, 4, and John, 1.

Tom Moore ('01) is a staff attorney with National Veterans Legal Services Program in Washington, D.C. He is a member of the U.S. Army Reserve and a Command Judge Advocate for the Military Intelligence Readiness Command, Ft. Belvoir.

Dr. Jack Kitaeff ('01) announces the publication of his third book, Malingering, Lies and Junk Science in the Courtroom (Cambria Press), which presents a scholarly examination of some of the most popular disorders, syndromes, addictions, and emotional injury claims to determine whether they are being used to achieve financial gain through litigation, or as a means of escaping criminal or civil responsibility. Jack also taught in the Catholic University combined JD-MA (law and psychology) program in spring 2008.

Jennifer Sarvadi and Todd Heflin (both '01) were married on October 6, 2007, in Haymarket, Virginia, and are living in Arlington. Todd works for the FBI, and Jennifer recently became a partner with LeClairRyan in the Alexandria office.

Chris Waite ('01) is in the Army JAG Corps and has just returned from tours in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and South Korea. He is assigned as a Special Assistant U.S. Attorney, prosecuting in U.S. District Court crimes that occur at Ft. Knox.

Whitney Minter ('01) is an Assistant Federal Public Defender in Alexandria, Virginia.

Ghida Aljuburi ('01), husband Hussein, and son Zayd announce the arrival of Salma Lina Damirji on February 7, 2008.

Cara Putman ('01) reports the birth on May 10 of Rebecca Paige, who joins older siblings Abigail and Jonathan. Publication of Cara’s two latest books, Sandhill Dreams and Deadly Exposure, also occurred in May, which proved to be a very busy month for Cara. In addition to writing, Cara is teaching business and employment law classes at Purdue University in Indiana.

Shannon (Ogden) Menapace ('01) reports that she and husband Doug welcomed their second son, Owen George, on August 30, 2007. He joins big brother Ty, born April 30, 2004.

Kimberly (Hrabosky) Melvin ('00) has joined a partner in the insurance and litigation practices of Wiley Rein.

Sebrina Wiggins ('00) has joined the law firm of Landis, Graham, French, P.A., in Deland, Florida, where her practice focuses on family law and civil litigation.

Steven Sparling ('00) has been elected partner in Sutherland's Washington, D.C., office, where he works in the energy and environmental practice.

Bob Hicks ('00) and his wife are happily anticipating the birth of their daughter in mid-July.

Sarah Allgeier ('00) was promoted recently to partner at LeClairRyan. She is in the firm's Norfolk, Virginia, office.

Wayne Paugh ('00) has been appointed by President George Bush to be Coordinator for International Intellectual Property Enforcement at the Department of Commerce.

Heather Gonzales ('00) has joined the Portland, Maine, firm of Strike, Goodwin and O'Brien as a trial attorney specializing in criminal defense.

1990–1999

Nicole Allen ('99) has rejoined the Council of Insurance Agents & Brokers as its vice president for industry affairs. She had spent the past five years with the Fireman’s Fund Insurance Company and its parent company, Allianz of America Corp., as a regulatory and legislative expert.

Eva Juncker ('99) and Victoria Wheeler ('94) are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter, Brennan Moore, on February 17, 2008.

Dana Fallon ('99) returned to Mason Law in January as the Assistant Director of Alumni Services. She is excited to be back at the law school again and looks forward to working with her fellow alumni.

Ronald Robinson ('99) is a solo practitioner and has been doing divorce and family law exclusively for the past four years. He and his wife have three sons (ages 9, 8, and 3) and celebrated
the birth of their first daughter, Elizabeth Mae, on May 13, 2008.

Leon Radomsky (’99) has been named a partner by the law firm of Foley & Lardner LLP. Radomsky is chair of the firm’s nanotechnology industry team and is a member of the firm’s chemical & pharmaceutical and electronics practices and emerging technologies and energy industry teams.

DeAnn Malone (’99) was honored as a Star Volunteer for work with the Combined Federal Campaign on behalf of her employer, the Internal Revenue Service. Malone also was honored at the White House and awarded the Presidential Service Award in 2006 for dedication to serving members of the military and their families and for volunteer work at military hospitals.

Kathryn Dickerson (’99) was selected as one of fifteen people in the Commonwealth of Virginia designated “Leader in the Law 2007” by Virginia Lawyers Weekly.

Brent “Bernie” McBurney (’99) was appointed as the Director of Attorney Ministries for the Christian Legal Society and will be continuing as Director of Christian Legal Aid, as well.

John Petrolino (’99) currently works for Savient Pharmaceuticals in East Brunswick, New Jersey, as the Associate General Counsel. He recently was elevated to the position of Pharma Compliance Officer with responsibility for developing and implementing a company-wide compliance program for OIG guidelines for pharmaceutical manufacturers, PhRMA Code and ACCME Standards for Physician-Sponsor Interactions. He currently is enrolled in the LLM program in Health Law at Seton Hall University Law School.

Chris Costa (’99) has accepted a position with the Fairfax County Attorney’s Office, where he will be an Assistant County Attorney in the Land Use section.

Scott Talbott (’99) is senior vice president of government affairs for The Financial Services Roundtable, where he manages the daily legislative and regulatory advocacy efforts. Talbott also serves as counsel to the organization and runs the Roundtable’s Political Action Committee.

Erik Milch (’99) has become a partner in the Cooley Godward Kronish patent counseling and prosecution group.

Richard E. Phillips (’99) joined Virginia Beach law firm Norris, St. Clair & Lotkin as an associate. His practice focuses on eminent domain, commercial disputes and bankruptcy.

Former law school assistant deans Kristine McCord (’99) and Darrell “DJ” Jackson (’90) will be married on July 26, 2008, in Yorktown, Virginia. Kris is Assistant Dean for Admissions & Financial Aid at the University of Colorado Law School in Boulder. DJ is enrolled in a PhD program at the University of Colorado.

Jesse D. Lyon (’98) has been elected to the executive committee of his firm, Davis Wright Tremaine LLP. He is in the Portland, Oregon, office.

Penney Azcarate (’98) was sworn in as a judge of the Fairfax County General District Court in June 2008.

Mike Langan (’98) is a career law clerk for U.S. Magistrate George H. Lowe in Syracuse, New York. In his spare time, Langan is a writer and recently celebrated publication of his debut legal thriller, Dark Horse. Another book is in the works.

Bruce McCulloch (’98) has been promoted to counsel in Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer’s Washington, D.C., antitrust, competition, and trade practice.

Anne Sterba (’98) has been elected a member of Rothschild, Figg, Ernst & Manbeck, P.C., where her practice focuses on domestic and international trademark and copyright matters.

Bill Guidera (’98) recently left Microsoft’s legal department to join News Corporation as Vice President for State Government Affairs. He will remain in Minnesota but travel to state capitols across the nation on Internet and media policy matters.

Dean Zerbe (’97) left his position as senior counsel to Sen. Charles E. Grassley to open the Washington, D.C., office for Houston-based tax consulting company the Alliant Group. Dean is national managing director for the company.

J.V. Schwan (’97) has been nominated by President Bush to be a Commissioner of the United States International Trade Commission for the remainder of a nine-year term expiring in June 2017.

Todd Castleton (’96) has been promoted to partner in the Washington, D.C., office of McDermott Will & Emery, where he is in the employee benefits department.

Kimberly Welch (’96) has launched a new firm, Meridian Law Group, in San Francisco, California. The firm specializes in government contracts, licensing, and technology transactions.

Missy Santoro Estabrook (’96) and husband Matt are thrilled to announce the birth of their son—John Anthony (“Jack”) Estabrook—on May 21, 2007. Missy is a lobbyist with Deloitte & Touche in Washington, D.C., and Matt is an attorney at Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher.

Christopher M. Salter (’95) has been made a partner at O’Melveny & Myers, where he is a member of the securities enforcement and regulatory counseling practice in the Washington, D.C., office.

Karin Moore (’95) has joined the Wine and Spirits Wholesale- sers of America as assistant general counsel (see story page 9).

Virginia State Senator Ken Cuccinelli (’95) declared his candidacy for Virginia attorney general in March 2008. Ken represents Fairfax County in the Virginia General Assembly and is also a patent lawyer.

John A. Jackson (’95) announces the opening of his private practice in Charleston, South Carolina. You can visit him on the Web at lawofficeofjaj.com.

Will Moschella (’95) left federal service in January 2008 after 17 years to enter private practice with Brownstein Hyatt Farber and Schreck in Washington, D.C. He is of counsel in the firm’s government relations practice.

Stephen K. Gallagher (’94), a partner with Venable LLP, was named to the Best Lawyers in America annual legal rankings guide published by Woodward/White, Inc. The publication derives its rankings from anonymous peer assessments of candidates’ legal abilities.

Arthur Schmalz (’93), a partner with Hunton & Williams LLP, has been honored with a writing award by the George Mason Law Review as a tribute to Schmalz’s involvement in maintaining the law review as a student-run publication.

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Alumni News
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Michelle Rosati (’93) has been promoted to partner with Holland & Knight. She is a partner in the real estate section of the firm’s McLean office. She was previously senior counsel.

Jennifer E. Holt Enriquez (’93) writes that she was married to Tony Enriquez on October 13, 2007. The couple live in Alexandria, Virginia.

K. Brett Marston (’93), a partner in Gentry Locke Rakes & Moore in Roanoke, was named by Roanoker Magazine to its December 2007 list of “The Valley’s Top Attorneys” as Top Attorney in Construction Law. He also was named recently to the 2008 Best Lawyers in America in construction law.

Darcy (Gould) Shoop (’92) was named to the Washingtonian Magazine December 2007 “Top Lawyers” list in the area of family law.

Thomas deButts (’91) has been named a partner in Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman’s Washington, D.C., international trade group.

Dan Weissburg (’91) is living in Madison, Wisconsin, where he is Director of Compliance for the University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics.

David Kaufman (’91) was selected by the American Bar Association to serve in key national leadership roles. He serves as the 2007-2008 Chairman of the Litigation Committee and as Vice Chairman of the Technology Committee within the General Practice, Solo and Small Firm Division of the ABA.

Jeffrey Schanz (’91) has been appointed Legal Services Corporation’s new Inspector General effective March 2008.

Kevin Smith (’90) is running for the office of Commonwealth’s Attorney in Culpeper, Virginia, in the November 2008 election.

1981–1989


Michael Dingman (’89), a partner in the Falls Church office of Reed Smith LLP, has been honored with the James Keith Public Service Award by the Fairfax County Bar Association for his many years of pro bono work and community service. His practice focuses on commercial litigation in the construction industry, and he serves as pro bono coordinator for the Falls Church office of Reed Smith.

Steve Hickman (’87) leaves his position as headmaster at South Carolina’s Heathwood Hall Episcopal School in Columbia and assumes leadership of a private school in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Daniel N. Vara Jr. (’86) former District Counsel, INS/DOJ, and a former Chief Counsel, ICE/DHS, has joined the Orlando, Florida, law firm of Nelame, LaFay, Jancha, Vara, Barker and Joshi, PA, as a partner.

Kathryn Zachem (’85) has joined Comcast Corporation as Vice President of Regulatory Affairs and Senior Vice President of Regulatory Affairs for Comcast Cable. She is based in Comcast’s Washington, D.C., office, where she oversees the company’s regulatory efforts.

Michael Zupan (’85) has joined Mercer Trigiani, a new law firm providing corporate, litigation and public policy legal counsel to more than 350 condominium and property owners’ associations and real estate developers in Virginia and Washington D.C.

Nancy Garland (’85) is running for the Ohio House of Representatives. She is currently the CEO of the Ohio Physical Therapy Association.

Caryn M. Groedel (’85) won a $2.1 million verdict against Kohl’s in a pregnancy discrimination case (Theresa Lerman v. Kohl’s) in May 2007.

Holly D. Kozlowski (’84) of Dinsmore & Shohl LLP was selected by her peers for inclusion in the 2008 Best Lawyers in America publication in the area of intellectual property law.

Stu Mendelsohn (’84) is on a task force charged with engineering the new look of Tysons Corner through new zoning and expansion of Metrorail service. He is a partner at Holland & Knight LLP.

William Scott McGary (’82) was profiled by Human Events in its first reader profile article. He is area manager for Virginia Public Affairs for the Washington Gas Company. Scott lives in Arlington with his wife, Linda, and son, Joey.

Ray Morrogh (’82) was recently elected as Commonwealth’s Attorney in Fairfax County, Virginia. Prior to the election, he was Chief Deputy Commonwealth’s Attorney for Fairfax County.

Charles Nance (’82) took over as Chairman of the Board of the Virginia College Savings Plan in March 2008. Specializing in elder law, estate planning and estate administration, Nance heads the Richmond, Virginia, Nance Law Firm PLC.

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LOST ALUMNI

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

We would like to send Mason Law News to as many of our graduates as possible. Although many ISL and Mason Law alumni can be located easily, thanks to the Internet, there are a number of alumni we cannot find. In the next few issues of Mason Law News we will list “Lost Alumni” from particular class years. If you happen to have any information regarding the alumni listed, please contact us at:

lawalum@gmu.edu

1987
Michael Hancock
Rosaria Puglisi
Marian Dereska
1988
Lawrence McClure
1997
Jinzi Liu
1998
Winnie Ihemaguba

www.law.gmu.edu/alumni/
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W. William Gust ('81) was designated as a Top Attorney in Tax Law by Ransomer Magazine in its December 2007 edition listing “The Valley’s Top Attorneys.” A partner in Gentry Locke Rakes & Moore in Roanoke, Virginia, Gust was recently named to Virginia Super Lawyers in 2007 for tax law.

1980 and Earlier

George O’Connor ('80), a Washington attorney and former energy policy advisor at both the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the U.S. Senate, has been selected to head Entergy Corporation’s Washington, D.C., office.

Susan Brewer ('80) has been named managing member-elect and will become CEO of the law firm Steptoe & Johnson effective January 1, 2009. She will become the first woman to be CEO of a major West Virginia law firm. (See related story on page 8.)

Steven Berry ('80) has been appointed head of government relations for Merrill Lynch. In addition to his private sector experience, he has served extensively in the public sector, most recently as a member of the bipartisan commission appointed to review all U.S. foreign assistance programs.

Michael King ('81) is currently a mentor for the Torts class in Thomas Edison State College’s new professional certificate in Nurse Paralegal Studies. He is currently chair of the Business Division at Essex County College and has been involved in legal education for more than 20 years.

Judge Thomas Bateman ('81) recently served as chairman of a task force created by the chief justice of the Florida Supreme Court to analyze the management of cases involving complex litigation, turning over the task force report to the Florida Supreme Court in April.

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.

Carol Zmitros Morrissey ('89)
Kelly Martin Calahan ('88)
Thomas W. Farrell ('87)
Col. Peter B. Farrell ('85)
Valerie Szabo Goldenhorn ('80)

Cathy A. Catterson ('78), a longtime Clerk of Court for the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, will see her duties expand as the new head of the Office of the Circuit Executive, the administrative arm of the Judicial Council of the Ninth Circuit, which governs federal courts in the western states.

Paul Nichols ('78), a principal in the law firm Nichols, Zauzig, and Sandler, P.C., is a member of the Virginia House of Delegates for the 51st District in Prince William County, Virginia, and is the chair for corporate fundraising for the annual Light the Night walk in the county.

Joseph Waiter ('77) has been named vice president, general counsel, and secretary of Enventure Global Technology of Houston, Texas.