Two Legal Heavyweights Visit and Address Mason Law Community

The first legal heavyweight, United States Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales, visited Mason Law on October 18, 2005, and addressed an audience of over 200 students, alumni, faculty, and staff on the topic of “Respecting the Constitution—In Judicial Debates and Judicial Nominations.” And the Attorney General did not come alone. Included in the motorcade were alumni Bill Mercer (’93) (Principal Associate Deputy Attorney General), Will Moschella (’95) (Assistant Attorney General for Legislative Affairs), and several George Mason law students working at Justice. The event was held in the law school’s atrium and shown nationwide on C-SPAN.

Gonzales’ address focused on judicial nominations, noting that federal judicial appointments “often represent a President’s most enduring legacy.” Though the country is currently focused on Supreme Court appointments, Gonzales opined that “a President’s greatest impact on our legal system may be his appointments to the lower courts,” in which thousands of cases are filed each year. At the time of Gonzales’ remarks, the Senate had confirmed 41 court of appeals judges and 172 district judges nominated by President Bush.

Gonzales’ remarks touched on a number of topics, including the President’s commitment to appoint nominees that will “faithfully apply” the Constitution, the importance of a “dignified and fair confirmation process,” the role of the judiciary, and the dangers associated with relying upon foreign law to interpret Constitu-


On Sunday, November 6, 2005, the Mason Law community celebrated the naming of the law school building as John T. Hazel Jr. Hall in honor of a man who figures prominently in the life and history of the law school and of George Mason University. Family (including 1984 alumnus Jimmy Hazel), friends, and university officials were present for the ceremony, which included remarks by Dean Polsby, George Johnson (former president of George Mason University), President Alan Merten, and Hazel himself.

John T. Hazel Jr., better known as “Til,” is a long-time supporter of the university and was a key player in the drive to merge the original law school, the International School of Law (ISL), with George Mason University, thus creating the School of Law as we now know it.

Hazel practiced law for over 45 years and retired as a partner in the law firm of Hazel & Thomas, now ReedSmith LLP. He has been a partner in a variety of commercial land acquisition, development, and management activities, including Tysons McLean Business Park, Virginia Center, Fair Lakes Business Park, and Burke Center.
The visit by the Attorney General at such a critical time during the Miers nomination was viewed by many as validation of the law school’s growing legal presence in the metropolitan area. The visit was well received by the audience, which gave the Attorney General a standing ovation at the end of his remarks.

Eight days after the Gonzales address, on October 26, the Mason Law community welcomed Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia back to its halls for an address on the Constitution and as a guest lecturer. Justice Scalia last visited the law school for the formal inauguration of its new building in March 1999. “It’s good to see how this law school has prospered,” he said to the standing-room-only crowd as he took the podium.

Scalia’s remarks on the Constitution explored the value of Originalism, or what others refer to as a strict interpretation of the Constitution. He noted that this judicial philosophy was mainstream 35 to 40 years ago, and we are now “in the era of the living Constitution.”

An evolving Constitution, he explained, can cut in both directions. “If you like the Constitution to evolve, it will evolve in some ways you like and it will evolve in some you don’t like.” A governing system with a static constitution, he argued, leaves subjects outside its realm “to the political system—that’s flexibility.”

Scalia also commented that a return to a strict interpretation of the Constitution would impact judicial nominations by requiring us to “go back to judicial selection that focuses on legal ability.”

The Justice took a number of questions from the audience on topics such as the role of oral argument in Supreme Court decisions and the Court’s decreasing caseload. One audience member asked “If the Framers [of the Constitution] spoke to you, would they tell you you are doing a good job?” Scalia demonstrated his famed humor and wit, to the delight of the audience, by responding “Of course they would! I dream about that [happening].”

Before addressing a large crowd in Room 121, Justice Scalia was a guest lecturer in the “Communications Policy and the Law” seminar taught by Distinguished Visiting Professor of Law Clay T. Whitehead and Adjunct Professor Lisa Sockett. He addressed how constitutional interpretation on telecommunication issues has affected society. Throughout the semester the seminar has featured distinguished guest lecturers who have played a significant role in the development of communications policy, such as Justice Scalia and C-SPAN founder Brian Lamb.
Record Breaking Judicial and Legislative Reception

Attendance and Sponsorship at an All-Time High!

The Eighth Annual Judicial and Legislative Reception reached record numbers this year with over 360 people filling the atrium on May 25, 2005. The evening continued its annual tradition of featuring wines from Virginia vineyards and cuisine with a Commonwealth flair. Attendees enjoyed remarks from Arlington Circuit Court Judge William T. Newman and were found lingering in the atrium engaged in good conversation long after the event’s ending time.

Be sure to mark May 24, 2006, on your calendar so you can join us for next year’s JLR. More information on the event will be released shortly through the law school’s alumni email updates. If you are not receiving these monthly updates and would like to, please send your name and email address to the Alumni Services Office at lawalum@gmu.edu.

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Women Alumnae and Students Connect (and Re-Connect) at August Networking Breakfast

On August 17, Mason Law and the school’s Women’s Law Association sponsored their Second Alumnae Networking Breakfast at the law school. Over 70 female students and alumnae gathered together at the event to meet one another, share “war” stories, and listen to remarks from Kathy Casey (’93), Staff Director of the Senate Banking Committee. Recently named one of the “Most Powerful Women in Washington” by U.S. Banker (October 2005 edition), Casey spoke to those gathered about strategies for obtaining a position on the Hill and about how her Mason Law education had made a difference in her career. The event once again provided a unique opportunity for alumnae to showcase their many different career paths and their own unique success stories.

The law school hopes to host additional networking events in the future. If you are interested in working on such an event or have ideas for networking opportunities, please contact the Alumni Services Office at (703) 993-8112 or lawalum@gmu.edu.

www.law.gmu.edu/alumni/
The Capitol Corner

“The Capitol Corner” features distinguished Mason Law alumni who are making a mark in the nation’s capital—within the Administration; on Capitol Hill; or working for key law firms, trade associations or other organizations involved in Washington policy debates. Mason law alumni are so well represented in Washington legislative and policy circles that in 1999, the law school and alumni David Landers (’92) and Jim Hyland (’92) formed the George Mason Law & Economics Capitol Hill Alumni Group. Over 300 alumni are presently included in this distinguished group, including leaders of the 1980s predecessor alumni chapter known as the George Mason University Legislative and Regulatory Group. This first Capitol Corner directs the spotlight on two young, but very distinguished, members of the Capitol Hill Alumni Group: presidential appointees Will Moschella (’95) and Bill Mercer (’93).

Will Moschella

Will Moschella was nominated by President Bush in March 2003 and subsequently confirmed by the U.S. Senate two months later as Assistant Attorney General for Legislative Affairs. In that capacity, Will is responsible for developing, coordinating and implementing all aspects of the Department’s legislative strategy and general relationship with the U.S. Congress. In effect, he acts as the “face and the voice” of the Department on Capitol Hill and has testified before the House Judiciary Committee’s Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security on such issues as the implementation of the USA Patriot Act.

During his tenure at the Department of Justice, he has served at the right hand of two U.S. Attorneys General—his current boss, Alberto Gonzales, as well as his immediate predecessor, former Attorney General John Ashcroft. National Journal has profiled Will as among the key administration officials within the Department of Justice and a key figure on issues related to the Patriot Act. Will brings a keen understanding of Capitol Hill to his work for the Department of Justice, having previously served as the Chief Legislative Counsel and Parliamentarian for the House Committee on the Judiciary, where he worked on bankruptcy reform, the Patriot Act, and many other significant legal reforms.

Bill Mercer

Bill Mercer currently splits his time between Montana—where he serves as the top federal legal officer for the state—and Washington, DC, where he has been appointed by Attorney General Gonzales to the temporary post of Principal Associate Deputy Attorney General, the top deputy to the Deputy U.S. Attorney General. Attorney General John Ashcroft first appointed Mercer as U.S. Attorney on an interim basis in April 2001. President Bush subsequently nominated Mercer for the position in July 2001, and he was confirmed by the U.S. Senate as U.S. Attorney on November 6, 2001.

In addition to his duties as U.S. Attorney, Bill has served as chairman of the Attorney General’s Advisory Committee, a group of U.S. Attorneys who advise the Attorney General on policy matters, and has testified before the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee on the impact of the Blakely v. Washington decision of the U.S. Supreme Court and its impact upon federal sentencing guidelines. He has served at the right hand of two U.S. Attorneys General—his current boss, Alberto Gonzales, as well as his immediate predecessor, former Attorney General John Ashcroft. National Journal has profiled Will as among the key administration officials within the Department of Justice and a key figure on issues related to the Patriot Act. Will brings a keen understanding of Capitol Hill to his work for the Department of Justice, having previously served as the Chief Legislative Counsel and Parliamentarian for the House Committee on the Judiciary, where he worked on bankruptcy reform, the Patriot Act, and many other significant legal reforms.

Capitol Hill Group Hosts Cocktail Reception

On April 14, 2005, the George Mason University Law & Economics Capitol Hill Alumni Group hosted its seventh professional gathering, bringing together law students and graduates of the School of Law and the Mason Department of Economics for a festive cocktail reception. Kathy Casey (’93), above left (with Greg Schoofs and Lendell Porterfield, graduates of Mason’s Department of Economics), Staff Director of the Senate Banking Committee, served as the evening’s host in the Senate Banking Committee Hearing Room of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

www.law.gmu.edu/alumni/
Making the Bar Exam Easier to Swallow

Supporting alumni once they leave the law school remains a top priority for the administration. To that end, the school continued its tradition of providing two days of lunches and a post-bar exam cocktail reception for Mason Law alumni taking the Virginia Bar in Roanoke each July. Invitations were also extended to alumni residing in the Roanoke area to join the exam takers at the celebratory reception held at the Roanoke Convention Center.

This past July, 149 alumni sat for the Virginia Bar, and the school’s overall pass rate once again exceeded the state average (see below). The law school provided lunch at the Convention Center as well as off-site at the hotel reserved for exam takers using the computer. This year over 30 alumni used the computer for their essay answers, and that number is expected to rise.

The next post-bar celebration will take place in Norfolk in February 2006. Alumni residing in the Norfolk area are encouraged to come out and join the School of Law in celebrating with the next crop of Virginia Bar exam takers. To make sure you receive an invitation, please log on to the alumni directory (see info on back cover) to verify your address and email information, or contact us at lawalum@gmu.edu and let us know that you’d like to attend the next celebration!

A New Crop of Virginia Lawyers

On October 31, 2005, before the justices of the Virginia Supreme Court, Dean Daniel Polsby proudly moved for the admission of almost 100 Mason Law alumni to the Virginia Bar at its October swearing-in ceremony. The ceremony, held at the Greater Richmond Convention Center, was preceded by a breakfast reception sponsored by the law school for alumni and their guests. The reception provided a wonderful opportunity for alumni to catch up with one another and share professional updates in a relaxed setting before the ceremony. The breakfast reception has been hosted by the law school for the past five years at both the October and June Virginia Bar Swearing-In ceremonies.

They say a picture is worth a thousand words. Can you guess whether the July 2005 Virginia Bar takers pictured left are about to start, or have just finished, the exam? If you guessed that 2005 graduates Lee Istrail, Rob Lamborn, Michael Brooks, and Elizabeth Owens have just (successfully!) completed the bar exam, you’re absolutely right!

Market Yourself and Connect with Classmates

One of the easiest (and cheapest) ways to get the word out about where you practice and what you specialize in is to sign up for the School of Law’s FREE on-line Alumni Directory. Think of our directory as your own personal Martindale-Hubbell listing that Mason Law alumni can use to connect with you. The School of Law fields calls every month from students and alumni looking to engage a Mason Law grad practicing a particular specialty or in a specific city or state. Register in the Alumni Directory, and you won’t miss out on the opportunity for these types of referrals.

The Alumni Directory is also a terrific tool for connecting with fellow alumni with whom you may have lost touch over the years. Along with listing professional data, you can list personal address information including phone numbers, addresses, and email information. The amount of information you choose to list is entirely within your control...so why wait? Register today!

The registration process is simple: click on the “Alumni Directory” link on the alumni webpage at http://law.gmu.edu/alumni/index.php or contact the Alumni Services Office at lawalum@gmu.edu to receive your password to get started.

You also can sign up for the university-wide MASONline Alumni Directory, which houses basic contact data on graduate and undergraduate Mason alumni at http://www.gmu.edu/alumni/alumnidir.html.

July 2005 Virginia Bar Results

GMUSL First-Time Takers Pass Rate: 78.8%
State First-Time Takers Pass Rate: 76.3%
GMUSL Overall Pass Rate: 73.5%
State Overall Pass Rate: 70.45%

www.law.gmu.edu/alumni/
In Case You Didn’t Know...
Some Highlights from Our Faculty News

Professor Timothy J. Muris, former chairman of the Federal Trade Commission, was appointed to President Bush’s Tax Code Reform Panel, which is charged with examining the current tax codes and making recommendations for changes.

Professor William H. Lash III has returned to the law school after four years of service as Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Market Access and Compliance for the International Trade Administration of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Professor Michael O’Neill was selected to be lead legal counsel for the Senate Judiciary Committee. In that position, he has been responsible for preparation of the committee members and their aids for the confirmation hearings of Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts and nominee Samuel Alito.

George Mason University Patrick Henry Professor of Law Nelson Lund was named to a new commission to study the federal election system and recommend changes to Congress. The Commission on Federal Election Reform is a private, bi-partisan panel that is co-chaired by former President Jimmy Carter and former Secretary of State James A. Baker and includes former Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle, former House Minority Leader Bob Michel, former U.S. Representatives Lee H. Hamilton and Susan Molinari, as well as university presidents, scholars, and community leaders.

Assistant Professor of Law Michelle Boardman is taking a leave of absence from the law school to join the United States Department of Justice as Deputy Assistant Attorney General in the Office of Legal Counsel. In her new position, Professor Boardman will be responsible for assisting the Attorney General in his function as legal advisor to the president and all the executive branch agencies.

George Mason University Foundation Professor of Law Ronald D. Rotunda and Professor John L. Costello were invited by Chief Justice Leroy Rountree Hassell Sr. of the Supreme Court of Virginia to serve as task force members of the new Commission on Virginia Courts in the 21st Century. A number of Mason law students are interning for the Commission, which bears the full title “Virginia Courts in the 21st Century: To Benefit All, To Exclude None.” In addition, Professor Rotunda has just returned to the law school after serving as Special Counsel to General Counsel at the U.S. Department of Defense.

Professor Thomas W. Hazlett, Senior Fellow at the Manhattan Institute for Policy Research and former Chief Economist of the Federal Communications Commission, joined the George Mason University faculty in fall 2005 as a Professor of Law and Economics, teaching Economic Foundations of Legal Studies for first-year law students in the 2005 fall semester. In spring 2006 he will teach a communications course at the law school. In addition to his duties as a professor, Hazlett will bring his talents to the National Center for Technology & Law, where he will assume a leadership role in its research program.

The Dartmouth College Board of Trustees elected Professor Todd J. Zywicki, Professor of Law and Senior Research Fellow at George Mason University, as an alumni trustee, following a vote by Dartmouth’s alumni nominating him from a list of six candidates.

The Foundation for the Defense of Democracies (FDD), a non-partisan policy institute headquartered in Washington, DC, has named Professor Michael I. Krauss an “Academic Fellow” for 2005. Professor Krauss will travel to Israel at the end of May for an intensive course on terrorism studies and, in particular, how democracies can defeat the worldwide terrorist threat.

On February 23, 2005, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced the appointment of George Mason Distinguished Adjunct Professor of Law John Marsh and Adjunct Professor Paul S. Rosenzweig to the Data Privacy and Integrity Advisory Committee (DHS Privacy Advisory Committee). This new federal advisory committee will provide expert advice to the Secretary of DHS and the Chief Privacy Officer on programmatic, policy, operational, and technological issues that affect privacy, data integrity, and data interoperability in DHS programs.

George Mason Professor of Law and Public Policy Charles S. Robb recently was named to the Director’s Advisory Board of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The activities of the board center on analysis of the changing mission of the FBI in today’s world.

A Homecoming of Sorts
The law school is happy to welcome back two of its graduates as visiting professors this year.

Visiting Assistant Professor of Law Horace Cooper (’94) served as Counsel to The Honorable Richard K. Armey, majority leader of the U.S. House of Representatives from 1994–2002. He also has worked as the Deputy Director of the Voice of America and as Chief of Staff of the Employment Standards Administration (a division of the Department of Labor). Additionally Professor Cooper has worked as a House Leadership Press Secretary and has served a term on the GMU Board of Visitors. He is a Senior Fellow with the National Center for Public Policy Research and the Centre for New Black Leadership. His current research focuses on U.S. intellectual property rights policy and the changing makeup of the United States Supreme Court. His teaching and interests include church and state issues, the confirmation process of the Supreme Court, political forecasting, and Federal Labor Law.
A Message From Dean Daniel Polsby

This has been a wonderfully productive year for students, faculty, and alumni alike. The year began with the peak season for faculty hiring and the admissions process, and we can look back with pride on our accomplishments. Our first-year students are now solidly on par with those at our competitors, including George Washington and William & Mary. In addition, the diversity of our student body is the highest it has ever been in our school’s history. The 216 students in this year’s first-year class come from over 122 undergraduate institutions, and almost half come from outside of Virginia.

Likewise, our faculty is more sought after and diverse than ever before in the school’s history. Some of the nation’s most prestigious law schools want to hire our professors, and the White House and Congressional leadership called several others into government service.

Our alumni strengthened our academic program this past year. As you will read in this newsletter, this fall we welcomed back two alumni to our full-time faculty ranks, visiting professors Horace Cooper and Jonathan Adler. In addition, dedicated alumni—too many to name here—participated in or, in some cases, directed several of our clinical programs. Students and alumni have long called for clinical programs in which our students can flex their legal muscles and get involved in the community, and I am pleased to report that we now offer seven of these practical programs. Our clinics span such topics as regulatory law, immigration, domestic relations, mental illness and much more. By the end of the spring semester, we will add patent law to that list.

Over the past year, thanks in part to our new online alumni directory, we received a record amount of alumni news regarding partnerships, promotions, awards, and appointments—including at least four presidential appointments. Our alumni news section in this newsletter reads like a “Who’s Who” in the legal profession. Several alumni (and students) also returned from active duty in the U.S. and overseas, and others began or continued their work in the military or law enforcement sector. One graduate even manned his law enforcement post in New Orleans during and in the days immediately following Hurricane Katrina—even though he had lost his home and car to flood waters. I thank him and all our graduates in harm’s way for their service.

I meet with the officers of your alumni association every other month, and I have had the pleasure of dining with many alumni in Washington, DC; Virginia; and New York. We continue to depend on your feedback, your volunteer service, and your career leads for our students. And we also depend on your financial participation. Every donation of any size matters, whether it is like the recent generous scholarship establishment by Joseph Curran and John Whittington or whether it is a $10 donation from a recent graduate. Participation, not dollar amount, is going to be the key for us. Though our alumni participation rate is at its highest in years (13%), we fall well behind our fellow schools. Our competitors throughout Virginia and Washington, DC, boast of alumni participation rates that are 5, 10, even 35% higher than ours. We must do better for the future of this institution.

Congratulations on all you have accomplished this past year, and stay in touch with us in 2006.

Visiting Associate Professor of Law Jonathan H. Adler (’00) teaches Administrative Law and Environmental Law. He joined the faculty of Case Western Reserve University in 2001 after serving as clerk to The Honorable David B. Sentelle of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. Prior to entering law school, he worked as the Director of Environmental Studies for the Competitive Enterprise Institute in Washington, DC. His writing focuses primarily on environmental and regulatory policy issues. He is the author or editor of three books, numerous scholarly articles, and articles appearing in well-respected publications, ranging from Environmental Law and Supreme Court Economic Review to The Wall Street Journal and The Washington Post. He also is a contributing editor to National Review Online. In 2004 Professor Adler was awarded the Paul M. Bator Award, given annually by The Federalist Society to an academic under 40 for excellence in teaching, scholarship, and commitment to students. In 2001 he received the Distinguished Young Alumnus Award from George Mason Law School.

Hurricane Katrina Alumni Update

If you or someone you know weathered Hurricane Katrina, we’d like to hear from you. We succeeded in reaching several graduates—including some whose homes were flooded—but would like to hear from those we may have missed.

www.law.gmu.edu/alumni/
The Clinic for Legal Assistance to Servicemembers (CLAS) began operations in 2004 because of strong patriotic values shared by the students, faculty and staff at the law school. It is one of the first full-service clinics established by the law school; its startup therefore resembles the creation of a small law firm within the school, complete with space, technology, forms, library and administration.

Clients are the first order of business, as they are in any law firm. An initial needs assessment disclosed a defense program under Title 10 of the U.S. Code which authorizes each armed service to provide civil “legal assistance” to eligible persons, primarily servicemembers and their dependents, subject to the availability of “legal staff resources.”

CLAS eligibility criteria roughly parallel the Title 10 program, in that clinic representation is limited to civil matters for active-duty servicemembers and their families (including reservists being mobilized) for whom it would be an undue hardship to retain paid counsel. Each armed service has a legal assistance “chief” in its Judge Advocate General’s (JAG) Corps. All five JAG chiefs signed a letter supporting CLAS and undertaking to encourage referrals from their organizations; the services remain the principal source of applicants.

CLAS signed on its first client in early 2005. Student-advisors use standard clinic forms designed to elicit important information from applicants for services for intake, and they use engagement letters tailored to individual matters which formalize the lawyer-client relationship once an application is accepted. All students are supervised in this relationship by a bar member.

The clinic does engage in activities other than direct representation. For example, Dean Dan Polsby, Professor Nelson Lund and I initiated the preparation of a brief amicus curiae in the Supreme Court in support of the Solomon Amendment, which conditions the grant of federal funds to universities based on their providing equal access to JAG recruiters. The case, Rumsfeld v. FAIR, was argued before the Court on December 6, 2005. Seven CLAS students were amici curiae on the brief.

In this first year of clinic client work, 15 students have successfully represented or continue to represent 18 clients. We have recruited bar members in surrounding jurisdictions, from solo practitioners through partners in major international law firms, including a number of law school alumni, to oversee the work of student-advisors in their fields of expertise. The clinic’s cases cover a range of subjects including consumer affairs, domestic relations, landlord-tenant and administrative law.

Here are some results achieved by the clinic:

1. **Agency Reversal.** A Marine Corps corporal who had served in Iraq, and his wife, were fined by a state agency and placed in a status that would have caused them to spend thousands of additional dollars to secure commercial services. The clinic challenged the administrative determinations and obtained a hearing, after which the hearing officer issued a written order reversing the determinations, ordering a refund of fines and amending the record to change the clients’ status to avoid the additional commercial expenditures.

2. **Court Dismissal.** An Army widow home-schooling her two young children received an eviction notice from her landlord to quit her residence in 30 days. The landlord filed an unlawful detainer action against the client in state court. After CLAS secured an extension to obtain discovery to develop the theory of retaliatory action, the landlord dismissed the action and the client vacated the premises without having to pay her final month’s rent.

3. **Premium Refund.** An Army specialist purchased securities from an insurance company at a cost that was far in excess of their worth. After the clinic’s coordination with the office of the state insurance commissioner and the Army judge advocate at the installation where the purchase was made, and communication with the company, the client received a full refund of premiums paid over the three years since the purchase had been made.

4. **Contract Cost Recovery.** The wife of an Army sergeant serving in Iraq entered into an agreement with a telecommunications company that overcharged her, imposed unjustified fees and placed adverse marks on her credit record. After negotiation with the company’s assistant general counsel, the clinic obtained a refund of the excess charges, cancellation of the fee obligations and removal of the negative credit report.

CLAS functions like a small law firm: confidentially of all discussions reigns, students submit weekly timesheets and status reports on all cases, and legal principles relevant to practice generally and client work specifically are taught. Eleven students have registered for the clinic next semester, plus one independent study project. One former clinic student is in the JAG Corps, two have been JAG interns and three have JAG applications pending. We hope we’re making a small difference, for clients and students.

www.law.gmu.edu/alumni/
In the late 1930s, an undersized horse named Seabiscuit rose from obscurity to become the best racehorse “pound for pound” in the country. A decade later a welterweight boxer named Sugar Ray Robinson was dubbed the best fighter “pound for pound” in the world. If experts can apply such a tribute to horses and boxers, why not to law schools? And if so, who would dare challenge George Mason’s claim as the best law school in the country “pound for pound” (or perhaps more appropriately, “brick for brick”)?

In roughly three decades, Mason has pulled itself up from extremely humble beginnings to become one of the finest law colleges in the country. It climbed into the U.S. News & World Report Top 50 faster than any other law school ever. Its faculty is ranked among the Top 25 in professional stature and productivity by the New Educational Quality Ranking of U.S. Law Schools. National Jurist named Mason one of America’s “best value” public law schools. And with admission offered to fewer than 15% of the over 6,000 applicants this year, Mason has earned a reputation as one of the nation’s most selective schools.

All of this was earned despite quite modest means (think Kann’s Department Store for accommodations) and limited state support. And yet our greatest challenge has been—and remains—the need to build much greater enthusiasm and support among our own alumni base. Whatever the reasons for the lack of financial commitments relative to other Top 50 schools, it’s time we overcame them. In the highly competitive world of legal academia, where the best and brightest faculty and students are effectively “free agents” awaiting the best offers, there is no guarantee that Mason will maintain its hard-earned and well-deserved reputation. The alumni—who have gained much from that enhanced reputation—can do a lot to help preserve that reputation.

But to accomplish this, we need to start building a better sense of community, not an easy task with such a relatively young school. That job lies with the alumni association. Working closely with Dean Dan Polsby and the alumni services office, the alumni association’s board of directors—comprising 18 remarkably dedicated alumni whose graduation dates span the history of the school—is in the process of developing a business plan that will help build the fabric for such a community. Among the key elements of the plan:

- To provide relevant tools and information to alumni, through CLEs and other means, to help them achieve and maintain membership in the bar and to make them more effective attorneys.
- To disseminate information through a newsletter to alumni, students and the legal community about school and alumni news, professional information, public relations, and information necessary to alumni involvement.
- To provide opportunities for interaction among alumni—through reunions, golf tournaments, and the annual Judicial and Legislative Reception—and with members of the legal community, students and faculty through organized events and other means.
- To provide support and guidance to students through such means as scholarships and brown-bag exchanges.

George Mason’s not the biggest law school, nor the richest, nor the most celebrated. But pound for pound—brick for brick—it’s probably the best. That’s something that all alumni can be proud of; and at least one reason why we hope you’ll help the alumni association build a stronger alumni support system. Your first step is to contact one of the board members listed to the right to see how you can become involved. We look forward to hearing from you!
Law Alumni News

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

2000-2005

Jennifer Ellis Lattimore ('05) and husband Gary are happy to report that they are expecting their first child in May 2006.

Jessica Sauer ('05), joined Cozen O’Connor as an associate in August 2005.

Jane Ceryak ('04) and Erik Wishneff ('04) were married on October 15, 2005. Jane is an attorney with the Manufacturer’s Alliance/MAPI in Arlington, Virginia. Erik is an attorney with the law firm of Bankert and Associates PC in Fairfax, Virginia.

Patrick Quigley ('04) joined Paul, Hastings, Janofsky & Walker, LLP, this fall to do litigation.

Carrie Gray ('04) is a law clerk in the Chief Staff Attorney’s office at the Virginia Supreme Court. In 2006 she will clerk for Justice Barbara Keenan of Alexandria for a period of two years. Carrie and classmate Kris Henman ('04) will marry on the beach at Hilton Head in May 2006.

Hana Brilliant ('04) is working in the field of labor and employment law with Morgan Lewis.

Andrew Sommer ('05) and Hillary Brie Smith were married on May 22, 2005, in Annandale, Virginia. Andrew is an associate with Howrey LLP in Washington, DC.

Jennifer Pitts ('04) competed as Miss Virginia in the April 2005 Miss USA Competition in Baltimore. In 2003 Jennifer represented Virginia in the Miss America Pageant in Atlantic City.

Sunjeet Randhawa ('03) was featured in a recruiting commercial for the FBI that was shown during the 2005 Super Bowl game. Check it out at: http://www.fbi.gov/filelink.html?=/real/recruit/intell Analyst.mp.

Jonathan Klick ('03) has been named the Jeffrey A. Stoops Professor at Florida State University’s College of Law. The professorship, established in 1994, is designed to encourage a highly productive faculty member to specialize in corporate, business, or securities law.

Joanna Frizzell ('03) has joined the Tyson Corner, Virginia, office of McGuireWoods as an associate in the real estate and environmental department, focusing on land use. She served previously as an assistant city attorney for the City of Alexandria, Virginia.

James Knaack ('03) recently concluded 2 ½ years with the City of Alexandria Circuit Court and has joined the law firm of Hancock, Daniel, Johnson & Nagle, PC, in Fairfax, Virginia. He practices in the areas of defense of health care providers and hospitals in medical malpractice lawsuits in Virginia.

Ellen Terpak ('03) is busy working for the American Prosecutors Research Institute and chasing son Max, 14 months, around her house with husband George.

Holly Brooke James ('03) is practicing litigation law with Squire, Sanders & Dempsey, L.L.P.

William Foster Jr. ('02) has joined the Tysons Corner, Virginia, office of McGuireWoods as an associate in the commercial litigation department.

Kevin Streeter ('02) is following up his recent assignment in Afghanistan with a stint working in Southern Sudan doing conflict mitigation and democracy/governance work.

Jennifer McRobbie ('02) recently joined the USPTO as a trademark examining attorney.

Mary Lutz ('02) is now an attorney at the law firm of Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP in Washington, DC.

Todd Spignardo ('01) and wife Barbara Anne Pointkowski Spignardo ('02) welcomed new daughter Bella Anna on October 5, 2005.

Heather Eilers-Bowser ('01) is back on Capitol Hill as tax and budget counsel for Senator George Voinovich (R-Ohio) after spending four years as legislative counsel and director of federal relations at the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors.

Dean Crowhurst ('01) has opened his own practice, Dean H. Crowhurst, PLLC. He remains the city attorney for Manassas Park and will continue to focus on land use and municipal law matters in his new practice.

Tom McCarthy ('01) and wife Rachel Reda McCarthy ('01) announce the birth of their triplets, Abigail Beatrice, David James, and Virginia Annette, born on November 10, 2005. The triplets join older sister Samantha.

Susana Ortiz-Ang ('01) is working as a contractor for the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR/HHS) with the unaccompanied children’s division, a position that allows her to utilize both her legal and her social services backgrounds.

LCDR Alec Levy ('01) is a Navy logistics officer who recently returned from Kuwait. He is presently working at Fiske & Ebersohl.

Sharon Donovan ('01) has been appointed Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia assigned to the Domestic Violence Misdemeanor Section of the Superior Court Division.

Rebecca Warsinsky ('01) accepted a job as director of admissions at the University of Illinois College of Law, following previous admissions positions with both the University of Maine Law School and more recently with Chicago-Kent Law School.

Todd Marks ('01) and his wife Jennifer have moved to Florida and welcomed a new daughter, Sela Corinne, in November 2005.

Jennifer Sarvadi ('01) is working in the Bankruptcy and Creditor’s Rights group at LeClair Ryan in Alexandria, Virginia.

Barbara Nolan Prasse ('00) has joined Bavlod Judge, PA., of Tampa, Florida, as an associate. The firm practices in the areas of civil litigation in all state and federal courts, class actions, defense of product liability claims, medical malpractice claims, construction and general commercial litigation.

Alice Armstrong ('00) and husband Brett Londeree are pleased to announce the birth of their son, Brendan Armstrong Londeree, in April 2005. The family lives in Richmond, Virginia, where Alice does criminal litigation for the Office of the Attorney General.

Christine Malone ('00) and her husband Paul are happy to announce the birth of their daughter Allie on August 30, 2005.

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Mother, father, big brother Andy (now 6) and Allie are all doing well.

Cristina Finch ('00) has accepted a position with the Human Rights Campaign as a senior counsel.

Annamaria Nields ('00) and husband Tim welcomed their son Andrew (now 1 year old) home in November 2004.

1990-1999

Tom Fatouros ('99) and wife Meghan McGhee Fatouros ('04) added a new family member in 2005—daughter Lauren, who joins big brother Evan, 2, to round out the family.

Leola C. DeSandre ('99) has joined Jones Walker’s New Orleans office as an associate in its corporate and securities practice.

Ashley Disque Jenkins ('99) lives in Georgia with husband Mike and their daughter.

Libby Meares ('99) and husband Scott are the proud parents of William Michael Meares, born March 31, 2005, in Alexandria, Virginia. “Mike” joins big sister Maggie.

Steve Prewitt ('99), a patent attorney, recently joined Schwabe, Williamson & Wyatt as an associate in the firm’s Portland, Oregon office. Steve will practice in the nanotechnology and microtechnology law practice group, the first of its kind in the Pacific Northwest.

Brock Swartzle ('98) is a clerk for Judge David McKeague on the U.S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals.

David Whitestone ('98) was listed on the Washington Legal Journal’s top lawyers list under “Top Guns.”

Monica Riva Talley ('97) was a 2005 recipient of the Burton Award for Legal Achievement in the “Firms” category for her work for Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow, Garrett & Dunner LLP.

Kenneth Prillaman ('97) received a presidential appointment to be chief human capital officer at the Department of Homeland Security.

Jennifer Newberry Moats ('97) has accepted a new position with the Board of Veterans’ Appeals, where she works with former classmate Lauren Berger Cryan ('97).

Gregg Hawrylko ('96) was married to Debra Leigh Roth on August 13, 2005, in Buffalo, New York. Gregg is senior advisor to the deputy administrator of the Transportation Security Administration in Washington, DC.

David Higbee ('96) recently became a partner in Hunton & Williams LLP after serving as Deputy Assistant Attorney General and chief of staff of the Antitrust Division of the Department of Justice since 2004. Prior to that he served as special assistant to President George W. Bush at the White House and as Deputy Associate Attorney General at the Justice Department.

Mark Costley ('94) recently joined Alston & Bird as counsel in the financial services and products group.

Granta (“Grant”) Nakayama ('94) was confirmed as assistant administrator for the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA) for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Scott Doyle ('93) has become a partner in Steptoe & Johnson LLP’s intellectual property practice in Washington, DC. In 2004 he was named the region’s Intellectual Property “Young Gun” by the Washington Business Journal.

Kathy Casey ('93), Staff Director of the Senate Banking Committee, was named to a list of “The Most Powerful Women in Washington” by U.S. Banker.

U.S. Attorney Bill Mercer ('93) has, in addition to his duties as U.S. Attorney for the District of Montana, become Principal Associate Deputy Attorney General for the United States Department of Justice.

O’Kelly McWilliams ('93) received the R. Edwin Burnette, Jr., Young Lawyer of the Year Award from the Virginia State Bar Association. The award honors an attorney who has upheld high standards for the legal profession, participated in programs to improve the legal system and its responsiveness to the public, and served the legal profession and the public through pro bono and leadership activities. O’Kelly is a partner in the Washington, DC, office of Mintz Levin Cohn Ferris Glovsky and Popeo.

James J. Merek, Robert N. Blackmon ('93) and David H. Voorhees ('88) are pleased to announce the formation of Merek, Blackmon, and Voorhees, LLC, located in Alexandria, Virginia. The firm specializes in patent, trademark, and copyright law.

Michael Branca ('93) has become a partner in the law firm of Peckar, Abramson, Bastianielli & Kelley specializing in government contracts and construction law.

Shrinath Malur ('93) was married to Michael J. McElwain, a faculty member at Mason’s School of Public Policy, on July 9, 2005. Shrinath is a patent attorney and partner at the law firm of Mattingly, Stanger, Malur & Brundidge.

Heidi B. McCree ('92) of Tampa, Florida, was selected by unanimous vote as the first female governing board chair in the 44-year history of the Southwest Florida Water Management District.

In July 2005, Pamela L. Grizzle ('92) was formally invested as a judge on the Loudoun County Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court.

Erin Taylor Rauner ('92) has joined Monarch Title as a managing partner in their Old Town Alexandria, Virginia, office.

Michael Goodove ('92) was recently featured in a Virginia-Pilot article that described him as the “face of Mothers Against Drunk Driving in South Hampton Roads” for his tireless lobbying efforts aimed at strengthening Virginia’s drunk driving laws and his representation of those injured by drunken drivers. Michael is a member of the Norfolk law firm Rabinowitz, Swartz, Taliaferro, Swartz & Goodove.

Maureen Olhausen ('91) has been appointed director of the Office of Policy Planning for the Federal Trade Commission.

Gigi Hyland ('90) received a presidential appointment to a six-year term as a member of the National Credit Union Administration Board. She has 14 years’ experience within the credit union system, including, most recently, serving as senior vice president and general counsel to Empire Corporate FCU, Albany, NY.

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1981-1989

Christine McAnney ('89) joined Balfour Beatty Construction, Inc., of Atlanta as general counsel. Prior to joining the firm, Christine was head of Washington, DC-based Venable’s Construction Law Group.

James K. Lowe, PE, Esq. ('88) was promoted to senior vice president at HSMM in Roanoke, Virginia, in August 2005.

James J. Merek, Robert N. Blackmon ('93) and David H. Voorhees ('88) are pleased to announce the formation of Merek, Blackmon, and Voorhees, LLC, located in Alexandria, Virginia. The firm specializes in patent, trademark, and copyright law.

Colleen Duffy Kiko ('86) received a presidential appointment to serve as general counsel at the Federal Labor Relations Authority. Colleen previously served as a member of the Employees’ Compensation Appeals Board at the Department of Labor and has served as associate counsel for the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights.

John Toner ('85) has joined Seyforth Shaw as of counsel in its labor and employment practice group. Previously, Toner was chief of staff for the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, an independent U.S. government agency that preserves and promotes labor-management peace and cooperation.

Mary Waters ('85) has joined The Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation (Farmer Mac) as vice president for corporate relations. She will lead government relations and producer group outreach efforts and manage other external corporate relationships.

Holly D. Kozlowski ('84), with Dinsmore and Shohl LLP, was recently named to Best Lawyers in America.

James Gorney ('83) has moved his offices to The Baldus Centre in LaPlata, Maryland.

John Byrne ('83) was appointed to the position of anti-money laundering strategy executive in Bank of America’s Compliance Risk Management Division.

Len Zawistowski ('82) was recently honored by the director of the FBI for his role in post-September 11 investigations of terrorist financing. Len is a senior special investigator in the Federal Reserve Board’s Special Investigations Section. He conducts investigations of illegal and suspicious activities related to foreign and domestic financial institutions. Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan presented Len with the award in May 2005.

1980 and Earlier

David McCarthy ('80) was appointed as the Bureau of Reclamation’s deputy commissioner for external and intergovernmental affairs. In this role, he oversees Reclamation’s Congressional and Legislative Affairs and Public Affairs activities and is responsible for the bureau’s national relationships with federal, state and local governments. He lives with his wife and four children in Arlington, Virginia.

IN MEMORIAM

We recognize with sadness the loss of the following alumni/alumnae:

James Mathews Mead ('91)
Thomas Dean Simmons ('85)
Dorothy E. Olin ('83)
Timothy R. Walters ('82)
Barbara Anne Fennig Kilmann ('80)

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