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Alumnus Donates $1 Million

This past semester, Dr. Robert A. Levy ('94) (pictured above, right) generously donated $1 million to the law school. In recognition, the law school’s atrium has been named the Robert A. Levy Atrium. In 1995, Bob became the first graduate ever to contribute $1 million to the entire University. His first gift led to the Robert A. Levy Endowed Fellowships in Law and Liberty at the law school, a program that encourages emerging scholars in the economics, finance, or political science fields to pursue a JD and career in academia. Levy Fellows, as recipients of his grants are commonly called, continue to graduate from George Mason to this day, thanks to Bob’s generosity. Bob’s second gift is unrestricted and will be devoted to areas of greatest need at the law school.

Bob is a Senior Fellow in Constitutional Studies at the Cato Institute, which he joined in 1997 after 25 years in business. After graduating from Mason Law, Bob

Consovoy to Clerk for Supreme Court Justice

Will Consovoy ('01), left, has been selected to serve as a law clerk to Associate Justice Clarence Thomas of the United States Supreme Court. Will becomes the first graduate of Mason Law to be selected for a clerkship on the Supreme Court. “I am very much looking forward to the opportunity to clerk for Justice Thomas,” says Will.

Will earned his BA in political science from Monmouth University in 1996. As a student at Mason Law, Will graduated in the top 10% of his class and was a leader in many student activities. He served as editor-in-chief of the George Mason Civil Rights Law Journal and as a Writing Fellow in the law school’s Legal Research, Writing & Analysis program. In addition, Will volunteered for numerous admissions and career services programs and served as an associate justice on the Moot Court Board. “Will was a wonderful law student, has been an energetic alumnus and will be a superb law clerk for Justice Thomas,” said Dean Daniel Polsby.

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Basketball Madness!

Assistant Deans Darrell ("DJ") Jackson ('90) and Kristine McCord (’99) were among the lucky alumni who attended the NCAA final playoff games in Indianapolis, where Mason alumni shared a hotel and traveled to and from the games in buses, complete with police escorts who, in many cases, were decked out in Mason buttons symbolic of the spirit with which so many people rallied behind the team.

Among DJ’s favorite memories of the games are the comments of some of the Florida fans. “In the middle of the UCLA final, they kept commenting that if Mason had played UCLA in the semi-final, we would’ve been in the national championship game and that they would rather have played us in the final game. We gave them a better fight in the semi, and they appreciated that from the team and the fans. I’ve been to a lot of sporting events, especially as a player, but this was by far the most energetic, frenzied sporting event I’ve ever experienced.”

Mason Law Makes Headline News

This spring you could feel the buzz around the law school: Mason Law was in the news, the national news. Over a six-week period, the law school fielded more press inquiries than it had ever received in such a condensed time period. If you missed the press, below are some of the highlights:


March 2006: As Mason basketball mania reached a fevered pitch and sportswriters all over the country tried to describe the Mason phenomenon, Mason Law received accolades in the press for being one of the jewels in the heretofore relatively unknown Mason crown. The law school owes a special thanks to Coach Jim Larranaga, who in the week leading up to the Final Four, was oft-quoted as describing George Mason as “the largest state university in Virginia,” with “two Nobel Prize winners,” and a law school “ranked in the top 40 nationally.”


Celebration Highlights Diversity in the Law

By Jill Maguire ('06) and Jessica Packett (JD Candidate, '07)

“Celebrating Diversity in the Law” was the theme of George Mason’s annual First-Year Moot Court Competition, with its final round on April 7, 2006, taking place at the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia in Alexandria. The final round panel included The Honorable James W. Benton, Senior Judge of the Court of Appeals of Virginia; The Honorable Gerald Bruce Lee of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia; and The Honorable Leslie Alden of the Fairfax County Circuit Court.

Following outstanding performances by Jeremy Tigan (JD Candidate, ’08) for the Plaintiff and Uzoma Nkwonta (JD Candidate, ’08) for the Defendant, the three members of the distinguished panel named Uzoma Nkwonta winner of the competition.

To highlight this year’s competition theme, organizers of the event ensured that every judging panel throughout every round of the competition reflected the numerous perspectives that are a part of our legal community. This occurred in large part due to the efforts of Judge Stanley P. Klein of the Fairfax Circuit Court working with the Moot Court Judge’s Chair, Melissa Taylormoore (JD Candidate, ’07). The law school and the GMU Moot Court Board continued this celebration of diversity by hosting, in conjunction with the Fairfax Bar Association, Alexandria Bar, Arlington Bar Foundation, McLean Bar, Northern Virginia Black Attorneys Association, Asian American Bar, and Hispanic Bar, a Colors of Justice reception. The reception was held at the law school following the final round of the competition and paid tribute to the growing diversity within the legal profession. The Honorable Gerald Bruce Lee offered special remarks during the reception and also recognized the finalists. In a surprise presentation, Judge Klein presented a $5,000 check on behalf of all the program sponsors to establish a new scholarship fund.

“Celebrating Diversity in the Law” will go a long way in establishing a new means of reaching out to potential students.

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clerked for Judge Royce C. Lamberth on the U.S. District Court in Washington, DC, and for Judge Douglas H. Ginsburg on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit. Bob is a former trustee of the GMU Foundation and currently serves on the Dean’s Advisory Board.

Dean Polsby unveiled the new atrium signage recognizing Bob during the May 24 Judicial & Legislative Reception. “Bob Levy is the law school’s greatest benefactor. He has shown the way for our alumni and the whole community that cares about the law school’s continuing ascent into the first rank of American law schools,” says Dean Polsby.

One Less Thing to Worry About

In an effort to ease the stress of the Virginia Bar exam, the law school continued its tradition of providing two days of lunches and a post-bar exam cocktail reception for Mason Law alumni taking the February exam in Norfolk. Alumni residing in the Tidewater area were also invited to join the exam takers at the celebratory reception at the Norfolk Waterside Marriott, site of the exam. Alumni attending the event included James Magner ('99), Betsy Orsini ('99), and Caswell Richardson ('04).

The next post-bar celebration will take place in Roanoke in July 2006. Alumni residing in this area are encouraged to join us at the Roanoke Convention Center to toast the latest group of alumni taking the Virginia Bar Exam.

December 2005 graduates Price Koch and Dick Fiske are all smiles after taking the February 2006 bar exam in Norfolk. They smiled even more when the bar results came in!

February 2006 Virginia Bar Results

GMUSL First-Time Takers Pass Rate: 71.4%
State First-Time Takers Pass Rate: 65.2%
GMUSL Overall Pass Rate: 69%
State Overall Pass Rate: 57.9%

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Mason Law News

Career Development

Maybe when you were at the law school there was no Career Development Office, or assistance in your job search consisted of a few job notices posted on cork bulletin boards. Today, all law schools in the United States offer career services to their students and work hard to prepare and place students in post-graduation employment. Job placement numbers are weighed by incoming students and factor heavily into law school rankings. According to Ilissa Belanger, Assistant Director of Career Development and Alumni Services, “One of the major keys to success in this area is the direct assistance of alumni with our career service programs. We are better able to prepare our students for their job searches and provide them with real-world advice because of our alumni volunteers.”

There are numerous local and nationwide volunteer opportunities related to career services. Many are profiled on the next pages with a description of the time commitment required by each.

Local Volunteer Opportunities

Mock Interview Volunteer
The Mock Interview Program pairs students with alumni for mock interviews. An effort is made to match students with alumni based primarily on each student’s employer, practice area, and geographic preference. Ron Gore (JD Candidate, December ’06) reported that, “The program was an essential part of my job search preparation. My interviewer was a percep-

www.law.gmu.edu/alumni/
tive listener and suggested many excellent subtle refinements I could use in future interviews.” Mock interviews take place year round. Each interview takes approximately one hour (10 minute resume review, 30 minute interview, 20 minute feedback). Mock interviews are conducted in person at the interviewer’s office or at the law school.

Panelist
The Career Development and Alumni Services Office and many student organizations host a number of panels during the school year. Alumni panelists selected represent as wide a spectrum as possible: employer type; employer size; private vs. public employers; career changers; and different expertise levels. These one-hour panels typically take place during the lunch hour or at 5:00 p.m. in one of the law school classrooms. According to Kim Phan (’06), “While I was a student, the panels provided me a wonderful opportunity to connect with alumni and learn about the challenges and opportunities within each field.” The small group setting also allows alumni to connect with others in their practice areas.

Mentoring and Shadowing Programs
The mentoring program matches students with experienced local alumni who will be role models and available to advise students on a range of topics. This is an excellent way to share your professional experience with a motivated student. The shadowing program—often coordinated through the student division of the ABA—matches students with alumni based on employer and practice area interests and enables a student to tag along for a day-in-the-life of a working graduate. Each student and graduate pair works out the logistics of the date for and length of time of the shadowing. The time commitment for these programs is dependent upon the student’s interest and usually involves occasional phone conversations, e-mail exchanges, or face-to-face meetings at your convenience.

Nationwide Volunteer Opportunities

Career Advisory Network
The Career Advisory Network is an informational/networking tool for use by students and alumni seeking guidance as they explore career options. The program allows students or alumni to contact volunteer alumni advisors and ask questions about particular practice areas, geographic dynamics, market trends, or obtain valuable career advice. Volunteers are not contacted to solicit employment opportunities. “The Network provides me with a relatively easy way to give back to the law school. I’ve fielded questions from students who really just want a perspective of a Mason graduate working in their field of interest. This is a great program and an easy way to help out,” says Steve Prewitt (’99), who is presently working in Oregon. The commitment involves occasional phone conversations, e-mail exchanges, or informational interviews at your convenience.

Employment and Interview Surveys
The Career Development and Alumni Services Office encourages students and alumni to fill out surveys on their work and interview experiences. These surveys provide much-needed recording of institutional memory and advice about employer hiring preferences, workstyles, and salaries. These surveys can be particularly helpful to students interested in small firms or non-traditional jobs—for which there is often little published information—and clerkships. The name of the person completing the survey can be blocked from student view if the person so chooses. The clerkship survey presently can be filled out online at law.gmu.edu/career/clerkship_survey.html; employer/interview surveys will be uploaded in the 06–07 academic year and can be requested from lawcareer@gmu.edu in the interim.

Hiring Contact
Alumni are a valuable resource for students looking for summer and permanent employment. Mason Law students have diverse professional goals and are interested in many different kinds of opportunities, including work in law firms, government, business, and public interest organizations. By serving as a Hiring Contact, alumni can help to populate their place of employment with Mason Law graduates. Hiring Contacts help by getting their employer to participate in our fall or spring recruitment.

Alumna Anna Maria Nields (’00) conducts a mock interview with an eager law student.

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Alumni Volunteerism
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programs or by simply making sure that their employer’s job announcements are posted in the law school’s job bank. “I joined my firm in 2004 as a lateral associate, and in the process learned that the firm did not actively recruit from Mason Law. Last year I explained to the hiring committee the difficulty of our educational program, our ever-rising ranking, and our grading system. I also offered to conduct on-campus summer associate interviews. The firm has since hired several Mason Law graduates, as well as a Mason Law summer associate, and we are extremely happy with their work,” says Carson Sullivan ('00), with Paul, Hastings, Janofsky & Walker LLP. The time commitment can vary for this opportunity depending upon whether the graduate conducts interviews on site or at the law school or serves as a hiring coordinator.

How to Get Started
Alumni interested in getting involved in any of these volunteer opportunities should contact Dean Huber in the Office of Career Development and Alumni Services at lawcar@gmu.edu or (703) 993-8009. Alumni can also indicate their interest in volunteering for the Mock Interview Program or Career Advisory Network by updating their profile in the on-line Alumni Directory and checking “Yes” to these options. For further assistance with the Directory, contact lawalum@gmu.edu or (703) 993-8112.

Consovoy
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As a graduate, Will remains involved at the law school by volunteering for career mentoring programs and by serving as an adjunct professor. “As a student and an alumnus, Will has been the most selfless and insightful volunteer. Will has gone out of his way to counsel students on the job market. He is an astute observer of hiring trends in the courts and in law firms,” notes Victoria Huber, Associate Dean and Director of Career Development and Alumni Services.

After graduating from Mason Law, Will clerked on the Arlington Circuit Court and joined McGuireWoods LLP in its Tysons Corner, Virginia, office. From 2003–2004, he completed a one-year clerkship with Judge Edith H. Jones of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. Following his clerkship with Judge Jones, Will joined the appellate practice group at Wiley Rein & Fielding, where, among other things, he has drafted several briefs to the Supreme Court and was among lead counsel on the brief filed in behalf of the George Mason amici in Rumsfeld v. Forum for Academic and Individual Rights.

Within hours of the good news about Will reaching the school, emails were circulating in the alumni community. Tom McCarthy ('01), associate at Wiley, Rein & Fielding and Will’s co-teacher of a constitutional law seminar, echoes the sentiment expressed on the many emails in circulation: “Will loves the law, and he has a unique ability to move quickly to the heart of the matter—an invaluable trait possessed by few attorneys. More importantly, he’s a great guy. He’ll do a great job for Justice Thomas.”

Welcome Aboard, Counselor!
June saw the addition of over 35 George Mason attorneys to the Virginia Bar. Those sworn in on June 5, 2006, joined friends and family at a breakfast reception hosted by the School of Law at the Greater Richmond Convention Center. Below new attorney Tom McWeeny ('05) is joined by proud dad, Judge Michael McWeeny, at the swearing-in breakfast.

Congratulations all!
The JLR Packs Them In Again!

The Ninth Annual Judicial and Legislative Reception, sponsored by the law school and alumni association, was a smashing success this past May. The event drew close to 400 attendees and a record number of event sponsors. The JLR continues to establish itself as one of the most popular springtime events for members of the legal and legislative communities.

We offer special thanks to our sponsors, shown below, for their generous contributions to the success of this annual event!

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- Connolly, Bove, Lodge & Hutz, LLP
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Classmates Cary Cucinelli and Barkha Patel, both class of ’05, and Greg Staiti (’06) catch up over a glass of Virginia wine.

Maureen Oldhausen (’91) and Kathleen Holmes (’92) are all smiles—and why not, with a full complement of Virginia foods and wines to be enjoyed!

Kevin Shehan (’06) and Suyong Min (’02) enjoy the company of classmates and friends in the legal and judicial communities.

Administrative Law Judge Jean Homere (’03) and wife enjoy the 9th Annual JLR.

Former law school roommates Sherri Kraham (’99) and law school Assistant Dean Kristine McCord (also class of ’99) find an opportunity to renew acquaintance at the event.

Jennifer Sarvadi (’01) is flanked by fellow alum (and dad) David Sarvadi (’86), right, and Fairfax County Circuit Court Judge and adjunct professor Robert Wooldridge Jr., left.
“The Capitol Corner” features distinguished Mason Law alumni who are making a mark in the nation’s capital—with in the Administration; on Capitol Hill; or working for key law firms, trade associations or other organizations involved in Washington policy debates.

This Capital Corner directs the spotlight to two alumni serving as staff directors of major Congressional Committees, C.H. “Bud” Albright (’80) and Hugh Halpern (’97), and one Mason alumna who is a recent presidential appointee, Kathy Casey (’93).

Bud Albright

When it comes to legislation affecting health care, energy, telecommunications, and a very broad range of policy matters, jurisdiction in the House of Representatives is found at the prestigious Committee on Energy and Commerce. The staff director of the committee is none other than George Mason’s own C.H. “Bud” Albright. A native of Rock Hill, South Carolina, Bud earned his undergraduate degree in history and political science from Presbyterian College in his home state.

Bud joined the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Energy and Commerce in March 2004, as staff director, working with Chairman Joe Barton (R-Texas), having been lured back to Capitol Hill by Chairman Barton after a successful tenure as vice president of federal affairs for Reliant Energy in their Washington, DC, office.

Bud has acknowledged that his law degree from George Mason has been invaluable as he has tackled the legislative issues that come before the committee. Bud will tell you that there is really no other job like being staff director for Energy and Commerce, but in fact he brings a long and distinguished resume to that job, both in government and the private sector. Like many Mason alumni, Bud worked on Capitol Hill while he was completing his law degree, working on the Senate Judiciary Committee as a legislative aide to Senator Strom Thurmond (R-S.C.). In addition to his tenure at Reliant, Bud has served as deputy associate attorney general at the Department of Justice and senior special assistant to the assistant attorney general of the Civil Division during Ed Meese’s tenure as attorney general; deputy general counsel of HUD during Jack Kemp’s tenure; and associate counsel on the Senate Select Committee investigating the Iran-Contra incident. From 1981 through 1986, Bud served as an assistant United States attorney in the Eastern District of Virginia.

Hugh Halpern

In the House of Representatives, one committee serves as the gatekeeper to all other committees—making the final determination which legislation goes to the House floor and which doesn’t. Sometimes referred to as the “Speaker’s Committee,” the House Committee on Rules is that gatekeeper, and serving as staff director for that powerful committee is George Mason alumnus Hugh Halpern.

Asked to describe what his job entails, Hugh said that his job is like that of the managing partner at a major law firm; however, in this case, the law firm is really the committee that serves as the speaker’s tool to manage the floor and has the authority to dictate the terms of debate and which amendments are considered by the entire House.

Hugh began his career on Capitol Hill as an intern and driver for former Representative E.G. “Bud” Shuster (R-Pa.) in 1987. After serving in a variety of capacities in that office and on Mr. Shuster’s Surface Transportation subcommittee staff, he began a nearly ten-year-long career with the Republican staff of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, winding up as parliamentarian to former Chairman Tom Bliley (R-Va.). In fact, Hugh first decided to go to law school because of a committee rule at the time that required staff to have law degrees. The rule was later changed, but Hugh completed law school even while he continued to work on Capitol Hill.

In 2001 Hugh left the Committee on Energy and Commerce to join Chairman Mike Oxley (R-Ohio) as he took over the newly established House Committee on Financial Services. During Hugh’s tenure as general counsel, Chairman Oxley and the
Committee on Financial Services were instrumental in legislation addressing terrorist financing and money laundering, improving investor confidence in the wake of the Enron and WorldCom scandals, and granting consumers important new tools to fight identity theft. In the summer of 2002, Hugh was temporarily detailed to serve as the parliamentarian to the Select Committee on Homeland Security, chaired by then-Majority Leader Dick Armey (R-Texas). Hugh was one of a handful of staff responsible for the drafting and consideration of the Homeland Security Act, which established the Department of Homeland Security.

Hugh was recruited in January 2005 by Chairman David Dreier (R-Calif) to head up the staff of the Committee on Rules, where he continues to help keep the sometimes chaotic House of Representatives a little more orderly.

Kathy Casey

Kathy Casey (’93), until recently the staff director for the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs, was nominated by President Bush and confirmed by a vote of the Senate to succeed Cynthia Glassman for a seat on the five-member Securities and Exchange Commission. Kathy’s term will run through June 5, 2011.

Kathy has served for much of her career on Capitol Hill as an aide to Senate Banking Committee Chairman Richard Shelby (R-Ala). She served as Shelby’s chief of staff and legislative director prior to assuming her duties as staff director with the Senate Banking Committee. Kathy received her undergraduate degree from Pennsylvania State University.

Virginia Attorney General Visits

On April 4 Virginia Attorney General Robert (Bob) F. McDonnell spoke at the law school about the structure and role of the Office of the Attorney General. He also answered a number of questions from students, alumni, and staff on some “hot-button” issues facing the Commonwealth, including transportation, the budget situation, and immigration.

McDonnell primarily used the talk to encourage students and alumni to pursue job opportunities in the Attorney General’s office. Calling it one of “Virginia’s largest law firms,” McDonnell noted there are many varied opportunities and practice areas for the approximately 200 attorneys affiliated with the office.

Plans are underway for Congressman Jim Moran (D-Va.) to speak at the law school in the fall as a part of the Dean’s effort to bring more state and federal level officials to the law school.
Some Highlights from Our Faculty News

Please Welcome Our New Faculty!

New Professors of Law

Leading labor law professor, Harry G. Hutchison, a visiting professor during the 2005-06 academic year, recently joined the faculty as a professor of law. He previously taught at Wayne State University and at the University of Detroit Mercy, where he also served as the faculty director of the London Law Program. Professor Hutchinson has published twenty articles, public policy studies, and Civil Rights opinions that concentrate on corporate governance, labor law, employment law, transnational labor and employment law and international trade. This fall he will teach labor law and a seminar course titled “Education and the Constitution.”

One of the world’s leading authorities in American and British constitutional history, Joyce Lee Malcolm, will permanently join the faculty this fall. Professor Malcolm is a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society, a Bye Fellow of Robinson College in Cambridge University since 1989, and in 2003-2004 held a visiting appointment in the Princeton University Department of Politics. She has written extensively about the rise of individual rights in the legal order. This fall she is scheduled to teach a course on “Common Law & American Rights.”

New Assistant Professors

Allison Hayward, (JD, University of California (Davis) School of Law, 1994), will teach Professional Responsibility this fall. She was most recently the former chief of staff to Chairman Bradley Smith of the Federal Election Commission and served as law clerk to Judge Danny Boggs of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit.

Neomi Rao, (JD, University of Chicago Law School, 1999), will teach Constitutional Law this fall. Currently she is serving as associate counsel and special assistant to the president. She is a former law clerk to Judge J. Harvie Wilkinson of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit and Associate Justice Clarence Thomas of the U.S. Supreme Court.

Sam Vermont, (JD, University of Georgia School of Law, 1994; LLM, University of Virginia School of Law, 2005), will teach Torts this fall. He most recently was the Humphrey Fellow in Law & Economics at the University of Michigan Law School. He also has practiced as a patent attorney for Hunton & Williams and Steven David Miller & Mosher.

New Visiting Professor

Randall Clark, (JD, University of Virginia, 2002), will teach Health Law and Criminal Law this year. He was an associate in the litigation department of Goodwin Procter’s Boston office and a law clerk to Judge Edith H. Jones of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.

For more biographies of and current news regarding Mason Law faculty members visit http://www.law.gmu.edu/faculty/index.php.

Professor Kimberly Moore Receives Judicial Nomination and Accolades

On May 18, 2006, the White House announced the nomination of Professor Kimberly A. Moore to be United States Circuit Judge for the Federal Circuit. Professor Moore has been a member of the Mason Law faculty since 2000. She is the editor-in-chief of the Federal Circuit Bar Journal and also teaches courses in patent litigation and strategy, patent law, and intellectual property law. In June, Professor Moore also was included in The National Law Journal list of the 100 most influential lawyers in America, which cited her recent judicial nomination and empirical research into patent law trends.

Congratulations to Professor Moore!

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Supreme Court’s Ruling in *Rumsfeld v. FAIR* Mirrors Reasoning in Law School Amicus Brief

In March 2006 the United States Supreme Court held that Congress can give the military a statutory right to recruit prospective lawyers at all schools whose universities receive federal aid, grants, or contracts. Their decision in the case, *Rumsfeld v. FAIR*, closely follows the amicus brief filed by members of the George Mason Law School community—the only members of the national community of law schools to brief the case on behalf of the armed services. Many amicus briefs were filed on the losing side (including briefs on behalf of the professors at Yale University, Harvard University, Columbia University, New York University, the University of Chicago, Cornell University, and the University of Pennsylvania), arguing that the Solomon Amendment’s requirement of equal access for military recruiters was unconstitutional under the First Amendment.

The George Mason brief was signed by Dean Daniel Polsby and Professors Nelson Lund and Joseph Zengerle in behalf of six other George Mason professors, seven George Mason law students, and some eighty professors and students from other law schools. Lead counsel on the George Mason brief was Will Consovoy (’01), along with Andrew McBride and Seth Wood of Wiley, Rein & Fielding.

A unanimous constitutional opinion by the U.S. Supreme Court, written by the Chief Justice and uncompromised by any concurring opinion, is the strongest possible American legal authority.

Press coverage of the ruling was widespread, with significant notice of the law school’s unique position in support of the military. Professor Joseph Zengerle, executive director of the law school’s Clinic for Legal Assistance to Servicemembers (CLAS), represented the School of Law in a number of interviews as the media tried to determine how so many prestigious law schools managed to find themselves on the losing side in the case. One of the more memorable quotes comes from James Taranto in his “Best of the Web” in Opinion Journal: “Given that not a single justice agreed with the views put forward by profs at Harvard, Yale, Columbia, Cornell, NYU, Chicago, Penn, etc., it seems fair to say that George Mason has the most competent professors of any law school in the nation.”

Many would agree.

What Ever Happened to Professor...

Ever wonder what happened to your favorite or most feared professor? The law school fields questions from alumni about former professors all the time. Over the years, a number of George Mason professors have retired, taken on government positions, or joined the faculty at prominent law schools across the country. The professors who visit or join other law schools, in particular, become ambassadors who spread the word about the excellent talent at Mason Law. In particular, these visiting professors have the opportunity to interact with the associate deans and faculty who fill out the heavily weighted reputational surveys for the *U.S. News & World Report* annual law school ranking.

If you would like to follow up on a former professor, send us an email at lawalum@gmu.edu. In the meantime, here are a few updates:

**Professor Michael Abramowicz** now teaches across the river at The George Washington University Law School.

**Professor Michael Green** has joined the faculty at William & Mary and is still writing recommendation letters for George Mason students and alumni.

**Professor Bill Kovacic** was sworn in as the Federal Trade Commission’s newest commissioner in January 2006. His term runs through late September 2011. Professor Kovacic remains a strong supporter of Mason Law. He often attends Mason Law events and was last seen cheering wildly during the Mason basketball team’s NCAA playoffs at the MCI Center.

**Professor Erin O’Hara** remains a faculty member at Vanderbilt, where she teaches, among other things, Conflict of Laws and a public choice and public law seminar.
Dean Announces Alumni Challenge for 2006–07

Last July and October, I had the pleasure of visiting with our graduates taking the Virginia Bar in Roanoke and with those attending the Virginia Bar swearing-in ceremony. On both occasions, I took the opportunity to congratulate the graduates and to convey the message about the importance of giving back. The amount of the gift didn’t matter, I said. The act of giving did. And, yes, there were stifled laughs and mild indignation that I had raised this issue with fresh graduates about to undertake their first loan repayments.

This spring, several of those graduates stopped by and told us that they had, in fact, given. It was not very much, they said. But they had heard my message, and it was all they could afford at this time in their lives.

Their gifts should not be measured by dollar amounts. Participation does matter, and we are so grateful for those young graduates’ contributions. When I meet with potential donors for our program, one of the first questions I am asked is what is the alumni support for the school. We are hard pressed to convince friends and foundations to support our program when our own alumni support at a rate hovering near 13% per year.

The deans, faculty, staff, and students who succeeded in making this school what it is today—people from the 1970s, 80s and 90s—had ambitious plans. And we are determined to move forward with those plans. Our vision is to break into the top 25 in the next 10 years. It will not be a straight shot—things seldom work that way—but we can do it. We will need to demonstrate the same spirit of determination it took to get from 1972 to today. Alumni commitment to this community is critical, and, not surprisingly, alumni financial participation is most important.

To that end, I have been meeting with alumni from all decades over the course of this past year. I am delighted to report that a special lead group of alumni have already made significant gifts and pledges of support to the law school, and they are challenging all alumni to join them to raise $1 million by the end of 2007.

Great things are happening here. As you can read elsewhere in this newsletter, our faculty, staff, and graduates are doing tremendous work. In one semester alone, three of our own (one professor and two alumni) received presidential nominations; the law school was featured on the front page of a national magazine and vaulted to its highest national ranking ever; we co-hosted our first Celebration of Diversity reception with almost all the area’s bar associations; we received a $1 million dollar gift from one graduate and pledges of several hundred thousand from others. The Mason basketball run in the NCAA Tournament made it all the sweeter.

But we are at a turning point. To continue the gains that we have made in recent years and to capitalize on the momentum we experienced this spring, we simply have to invest more. We must expand our faculty and course offerings. We have to do more to meet the demands of our changing and increasingly diverse student body. Our facility needs to be improved and expanded. And we must strengthen our ties to our alumni. Our Alumni Challenge affords us opportunities on all these fronts.

In the coming months, we will report to you about the campaign and our leadership gifts, the projects underway on campus, and our progress on the admissions and faculty fronts. We need you to get involved and help us move forward on the plans laid out by our founders.

www.law.gmu.edu/alumni/
Giving Options

Gifts to the current Annual Giving Campaign must be received no later than June 30.

Gift of $________________
- Check enclosed made payable to the GMU Foundation, Inc.
- Charge my credit card in full.
  (Please complete credit card authorization.)
- I gave through the web page.
  (www.gmu.edu/development/contribute.html)

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.
  (Please complete credit card authorization.)

$__________ TOTAL GIFT

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 reverse for information.)

Matching Gifts provide special recognition to alumni, parents, and friends who give $100 or more during a fiscal year (July 1–June 30):

- $5,000 to $9,999  President’s Circle Patron
- $2,500 to $4,999  President’s Circle Sponsor
- $1,000 to $2,499  President’s Circle Member
- $500 to $999  Dean’s Club Colleague
- $250 to $499  Dean’s Club Associate
- $100 to $249  Dean’s Club Member

Matching Gifts

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

Matching Gifts

Gifts to George Mason University 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 on the reverse side of this card. 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 George Mason University Development Office at 703-993-8850.

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 is to instruct your broker or banker to transfer the stock to the GMU Foundation. You or your broker may call the Foundation Financial Officer at 703-993-8738 for transfer instructions or write to the George Mason University Development Office, 4400 University Drive, MS 1A3, Fairfax, VA 22030-4444. Please do not sell the stock in your name and have the proceeds sent to us, or that will be considered a cash contribution, and you will be liable for capital gains tax. In addition, keep in mind that many corporate matching gift programs honor a donation of securities.
George Mason University
Office of Annual Giving
Attn: School of Law Gifts
4400 University Drive, MS 1A3
Fairfax, VA 22030-4444

Information Update

Please use the following space to inform George Mason University of any recent news or accomplishments:

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From:

____________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________
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Name change/correction

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ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NEWS

President’s Statement
By Stephen Gold, Class of ’99
President, GMUSL Alumni Association

W hen the Mason basketball team made its historic run through the NCAA tournament this spring, students, their parents, faculty, and university alumni who hadn’t visited the campus in a decade stepped forth to root for the team. And they weren’t alone. Northern Virginia businesses pledged their support, media outlets shouted their praise, and local politicians jumped on the bandwagon, as did households with no connection other than their proximity to Fairfax.

What made the Washington metropolitan area put aside its political squabbles and chronic traffic complaints for a few weeks? Something we don’t feel very often around here—called a “sense of community.” It’s a common feeling in locales as far flung as Charlottesville, Ann Arbor, and Berkeley—but not to George Mason alums or Northern Virginians. There are, of course, various stated reasons we lack the sense of community enjoyed by other college towns. Some point to the metropolitan area’s many distractions. Some say George Mason is still too young to instill much loyalty in the area. Some say Mason’s “commuter” image doesn’t inculcate a sense of loyalty.

And yet there we were, all rooting for Mason’s basketball team. That’s what happens when you have something special going on.

And that explains why alumni and local residents are starting to root for the law school as well. Perhaps it takes a bit longer when a ball isn’t involved, but the school’s had something special going on for a while, and students, alumni, and members of the community are starting to recognize what a remarkable gem they have sitting at an unremarkable street corner in Arlington.

It could be the fact that Mason was recently honored by U.S. News as one of the nation’s top law schools for the sixth year in a row—surely a comparable feat to making the NCAA tournament. Maybe it’s because Mason is one of the top law-and-economics schools in the country, which makes its graduates uniquely qualified to practice law. Maybe people are impressed by the extraordinary quality of students attending the school (note the recent announcement that Will Consovoy, Class of ’01, was selected to serve as Associate Justice Clarence Thomas’s law clerk), or the highly impressive credentials of the faculty (did you hear the school just added one of the world’s leading authorities in American and British constitutional history, Joyce Lee Malcolm, to the faculty?).

Whatever the reason, there’s a “buzz” on the streets about Mason’s law school and a growing sense of community. And the Alumni Association and the Career Development and Alumni Services Office want to build on this. A strong sense of community adds great value to a school and provides impetus for alumni to give back to their alma mater. The law schools with the strongest communities tend to have the highest rates of financial giving, volunteerism, and alumni-assisted placements.

Help us continue to build the Mason law community. Make a financial contribution. Work with the Alumni Services Office to schedule a brown-bag lunch with students. Attend the Judicial and Legislative Reception in May or play in the Alumni Association Golf Tournament in September (proceeds go to the alumni association’s two scholarships). Hire a Mason student as a law clerk or a graduate as an attorney. Put your law degree on your wall.

As we saw this spring in basketball, it doesn’t take much to take a school without much of a sense of community and lay the foundation for one. The key ingredient is success—something everyone affiliated with the school can be proud of. Surely no one today can doubt that the School of Law has achieved that success, and far faster than anyone could have imagined.

So break out the school banner, show your pride, and lend a hand in building a stronger, more cohesive Mason law school community. After all, you don’t want to find yourself standing alone as the Mason bandwagon—full of a growing number of alumni and supporters—pulls out and heads for higher ground.

Candidates Sought for Alumni Association Board

The law alumni association is currently accepting nominations for its Board of Directors. Individuals interested in learning more about the Association should visit its webpage at www.law.gmu.edu/alumni/association.html or contact current president Stephen Gold ('99) at ste_gold@nema.org. If you are interested in running for a board position, please send an email and your resume to the Election Committee chair, David Reed, at reed@applefcu.org on or before August 1.
Alumni Association Awards

Student Scholarships

For many years, the board of the Law Alumni Association has generously funded two scholarships for current students: the Dean Engle Memorial Scholarship and the Alumni Association Scholarship. This year, two students were awarded $3500 each. As is the case each year, the Alumni Board was faced with the challenge of choosing between several highly qualified candidates.

The Dean Engle Memorial Scholarship is awarded annually to a student who exhibits exceptional academic achievement and dedication to the law. This year’s winner is Uzoma (“Zo”) Nkwonta (JD Candidate, ’08). Zo’s undergraduate and law school academic records are exemplary. He studied economics at the University of Manitoba, Canada, and arrived at George Mason after living substantial portions of his life in Nigeria and Canada. He already has distinguished himself at the law school by placing first in the First-Year Moot Court Competition. Zo hopes to remain in the Washington, DC, area upon graduation and is spending his first-year summer at Steptoe & Johnson.

The Alumni Association Scholarship is awarded annually to a student who is committed to the Mason Law community and has demonstrated this dedication through organizational participation and leadership. This year’s recipient was Samantha Mortlock (JD Candidate, ’07). Samantha founded the Animal Law student organization and was instrumental in the introduction of an Animal Law class. She is the Executive Editor of the George Mason Law Review, an active member of the Moot Court Board, and a regular volunteer for career development panels. Samantha is spending her summer at Paul, Hastings, Janofsky & Walker, LLP.

Do you know where these graduates from the Class of 1978 are today? The year 2007 will mark the 35th anniversary of the founding of the law school, and Mason Law News would like to spotlight the journeys of International School of Law graduates (1975 through 1979). If you have suggestions about an ISL graduate to spotlight in the next issue or are an ISL graduate with your own news to share, please let us know by contacting us at lawalum@gmu.edu or 703-993-8112.

Pictured above is the 1978 graduating class of the International School of Law on the steps of Constitution Hall.

Twenty of our graduates were recently selected by their peers to be listed among “Virginia’s Legal Elite” in specific categories, according to Virginia Business Magazine:

Dickson Young (’77)    Karen Keyes (’91)
Glenn Lewis (’77)       Daniel Lyon (’92)
Stephen Telfeyan (’77)  Michael Goodove (’92)
Peter Greenspun (’77)    Arthur Schmalz (’93)
Rodney Leffler (’78)    K. Brett Marston (’93)
David Clarke (’79)      Mark Petrovich (’93)
Stephen Test (’79)      Thomas Yates (’95)
W. Gust (’81)           William Porter (’97)
David Hall (’85)        Craig Franco (’97)
John Holloway (’87)     William Connors (’03)

Of Interest

Pictured above is the 1978 graduating class of the International School of Law on the steps of Constitution Hall.
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 for our newsletter, please send an email to lawalum@gmu.edu.

2000-2006

Huong Thanh Thien Lam ('06) and Craig Lee Milburn are planning a May 2007 wedding.

Iliana Ilieva Lundblad ('06) and husband Mark announce the birth of a daughter, Emelia, in February 2006.

United States Trade Representative Susan C. Schwab announced that Timothy J. Keeler ('06) will be the Chief of Staff of USTR.

Bridget Dooling ('06) and Jerry Brito ('05) are the co-writers of an op-ed on the orphan works problem in copyright law that appeared in a March edition of the Wall Street Journal.

James Waterman ('05) and wife Ann are the parents of a baby boy, James IV, born in November 2005.

D. Burke Walker ('05) has joined Kazem (Scott Kazem ('01)), Kazem & Robl (Thomas Robl ('88)) PLC in Leesburg as an associate.

Kimberly Graber ('05) and husband Ric Sjapeki welcomed daughter Emmelina Elizabeth Sjapeki on January 22, 2006. She weighed 7 pounds, 7 ounces and was born at home.

Aaron Frishman ('05) recently trained for a marathon in Steamboat Springs, CO, in June 2006. Aaron raised money for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society as a part of his training.

Jennifer Ellis Lattimore ('05) and husband Gary are the happy parents of little Grace Ellis Lattimore, born May 23, 2006, in Arlington, Virginia.

Arnold Baek ('05) is employed in the Republic of Korea (ROK) Air Force JAG, Court Division, in Daejin, Korea.

Robert Gainer ('04) recently accepted a job with the U.S. Trustee’s office in Des Moines, Iowa, working as a trial attorney for the U.S. trustee following completion of a judicial clerkship.

Erin ('04) and Chase ('04) Karsman welcomed Lily Evelyn on January 23, 2006.

Claire Shamblin ('04) has been hired as an associate by the Alexandria, Virginia, office of Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease. Before joining the firm, Claire was a law clerk for Fairfax County Circuit Judge Robert Wooldridge Jr.

Abigail Trammel-Miller ('04) is employed as Special Counsel in the Office of Special Counsel, Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Social Services, Division of Child Support Enforcement, in Manassas, Virginia.

Jon Burd ('04) taught Commercial Paper with Professor Byrne again in spring 2006. In September he will begin employment with Wiley, Rein & Fielding in Washington, DC, after a two-year clerkship.

Christopher Lattin ('04) is an associate with Connolly Bove Lodge & Hutz LLP, where he assists clients with a variety of intellectual property issues, including obtaining and enforcing patent rights. Currently he specializes in the prosecution and litigation of patents in the electrical, chemical, and mechanical areas.

Joseph Weiss ('04) has joined the firm of Connolly Bove Lodge & Hutz LLP as an associate in the Wilmington office, where he practices in the area of intellectual property law.

Kristopher Henman ('04) has joined Troutman Sanders’ Tysons Corner, Virginia, office as an associate in the firm’s lending and structured finance practice group, representing clients in a broad range of sophisticated lending and financing transactions. Kris and classmate Carrie Gray ('04) celebrated their wedding in South Carolina in May 2006.

Bill Olien ('04) has accepted a position as an assistant public defender in Winchester, Virginia, where he also is active on the Soil and Water Conservation Board.

Katherine (Pauley) Barecchia ('03) has joined Blank Rome as an associate in the firm’s intellectual property and technology practices, focusing on design and utility patent protection in a variety of technologies, including medical devices, cancer diagnosis, business methods, and telecommunications.

Jean Homere ('03) was selected by the USPTO Board of Appeals and Interferences as an Administrative Law Judge.

J. Justin McKenna ('03) was sworn in as a member of the California Bar in December 2005. He is currently an associate at Banks & Watson, a litigation boutique in downtown Sacramento. His practice encompasses professional malpractice and commercial litigation. Justin and wife Anna live in Folsom, California, with their two children, Chiara and John, and enjoy trips to Lake Tahoe and visits to San Francisco and Monterey to see family.

Cynthia Collins ('03) happily announces the adoption in May 2005 of her second daughter, Rebecca Xiao Tong, from the People’s Republic of China. Rebecca, now 4, joins big sister Alida.

Karen Hickey ('03) left the Department of Transportation and joined the Federal Trade Commission in June 2006.

Robert Lunger ('02) was hired by the City of Waynesboro, Virginia, as its city attorney. A native of Waynesboro, Robert and his wife Lynn have two children ages 7 and 4.

Steven Fredley ('02) recently joined the Washington, DC, office of Harris, Wiltshire & Grannis as an associate.

Michael H. Belinke ('02) was the featured tenor soloist at the National Symphony Orchestra’s Christmas concert and sang the debut of Marvin Hamlisch’s new Hanukah song.

James Martin ('02) has joined the Virginia firm Garbia & MacGregor, LLP, a firm operated by two Mason Law alums, Sam Garbia ('02) and Todd MacGregor ('02). James focuses on domestic relations, criminal defense, real estate, immigration, civil litigation, and corporate services.

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Alexander Raring ('02) recently married Sarah Denham in Arlington, Virginia. The couple now resides in Richmond, Virginia, where Alexander works as a patent attorney, while Sarah represents the Richmond Department of Social Services.

Michael Barnes ('02), a Washington lawyer who formerly served as counsel in the Office of National Drug Control Policy, recently wrote an op-ed for The Atlanta Journal–Constitution in which he discussed cannabis in the nation’s food supply.

Kerith (Strano) Taylor ('01) and her husband Robbie Taylor ('02) had a daughter, Laurin Elise, on November 17, 2004. They have a joint practice in Brookville, Pennsylvania, with Kerith focusing on family law and Robbie primarily working in criminal defense.

Ian Dillner ('01), most recently acting legal advisor to FCC Chairman Kevin J. Martin, has joined the office of FCC Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate as a legal advisor.

Courtney (Hoben) Warner ('01) and husband John welcomed the birth of daughter Carrie Hart Warner on January 23, 2006.

Heather Hendrickson ('01) recently accepted a position at the Federal Communications Commission in the Competition Policy Division of the Wireline Competition Bureau.

Andrew Shore ('01) has joined Mayer, Brown, Rowe & Maw as a partner in the firm’s government and global trade practice.

Sean Myers-Payne ('01) has been appointed Of Counsel to the Reston, Virginia, intellectual property law firm of Greenblum and Bernstein, PLC. Sean specializes in prosecuting biotechnology and pharmaceutical patents.

Todd Marks ('01) is proud to announce that he has started a title company in Tampa, Florida, called Westchase Title, LLC, and a law firm called Westchase Law.

Ghida AlJuburi ('01) is happy to share the news that she gave birth to a son, Zayd, in 2005. Ghida reports that motherhood is both “exciting and exhausting!”

Karen Walking Eagle ('01) is the founder and president of the InSight PreLaw Program (IPP), an organization that promotes diversity in the legal profession by preparing high school and college students from historically underrepresented groups for law school.

Renee (Toy) Voltz ('00) and husband Dave are the proud parents of Luke, born in October 2005. Renee separated from active duty with the Air Force last summer but continues as a JAG in the Reserves. They are currently living in Macon, Georgia, where Dave remains on active duty as defense counsel for Robins Air Force Base.

Ken Falkenstein ('00) is proud to announce his marriage to the former Kimberly Cullison on September 25, 2005. Kim and Ken live in Virginia Beach, Virginia, where Kim practices as a hospice nurse and Ken practices insurance defense law.

Jillian Cass ('00) married Charles Jackson in Nassau, Bahamas, on November 19, 2005. Karen McIntyre ('00) was a member of the Jacksons’ bridal party. Also in attendance were

Michael Welch ('00), Heather Archer ('00), Jeff Eagan ('00), and Sean O’Hanlon ('00).

Jerome Gress ('00) married Sharon Wills in December 2005. Jerry has opened his own practice in Lovingston (Nelson County), Virginia.

Wayne Paugh ('00) has accepted an opportunity to return to the Bush Administration. He will be working with Secretary of Commerce Gutierrez and Chris Israel, the Coordinator for International Intellectual Property Enforcement, combating IP counterfeiting and piracy across the globe.

1990-1999

Andrew Beverina ('99) has been elevated to senior associate at Oblon, Spivak, McClelland, Maier & Neustadt, PC, where he practices in the firm’s litigation department.

Ashley (Disque) Jenkins ('99) is the newly-elected Sandy Springs, Georgia, City Councilmember for District 4. She was elected in a run-off for this 4-year elected position.

Grace Lee ('99) has taken a position with the law firm Hunzeker, Lyon & Leggett, PLC, in Ashburn, Virginia.

Jennifer Sledge ('99) has accepted a position with Wachovia in their corporate tax department in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Chris Nolen ('99) and his wife are the proud parents of twin girls, Francesca Celeste and Anne Cabel, born in December 2005 weighing approximately two pounds each. The girls are thriving and keeping their parents quite busy! Chris is with Williams Mullen in Richmond, Virginia.

Dennis Pryba ('99) recently opened a retail location for Pryba Fine Art, a full service art gallery engaged in the identification, valuation, restoration, acquisition and sale of 17th through 20th century paintings, prints and sculptures by recognized artists. The gallery is located in The Plains, Virginia. When not dealing in art, Dennis manages his real estate investments.

Gregory Lydon ('98) has been elected partner in Wilcox & Savage. He practices in the commercial real estate section, where he focuses on acquisitions and development.

Mike Hazzard ('98) was promoted to partner in Womble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice’s technology and commerce practice. He advises communication companies on regulatory, litigation, corporate, and e-commerce matters.

Sunwoo Lee ('98) has joined the firm Jenkins & Gilchrist as a shareholder. Sunwoo’s practice has concentrated on all aspects of intellectual property law, including patent litigation, counseling, patentability and non-infringement opinions, due diligence, licensing and agreement work, and patent portfolio strategy planning and management.

After moving to Richmond, Virginia, several years ago to work for McGuireWoods in the firm’s financial services department, Jesse Bausch ('97) began writing a comic series called “Strange Detective Tales” with artist James Callahan and remains actively involved with the publishing of the comics both in print and on his website (oddgodpress.com).

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Alumni News

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Matthew B. Kirsner ('97) recently was elected partner in Troutman Sanders LLP. He practices in Richmond, Virginia, and is a member of the firm’s complex litigation practice group. His practice focuses on business litigation and adversarial proceedings before federal and state regulatory bodies.

Craig Franco ('97) was elevated to partner with Odin, Feldman & Pittelman, PC, the Fairfax-based law firm where he practices as a trial attorney in the firm’s litigation practice group.

John Shin ('97) recently joined the Washington, DC, office of Paul, Hastings, Janofsky & Walker, LLP, as a member of the firm’s litigation department.

Ellen Farrell Sharpe ('97) has joined the real estate and land use group of Odin, Feldman & Pittelman, PC. Ellen, who was formerly with ReedSmith, joins the firm as Of Counsel. Also joining the firm is Donald Goldrosen ('96), who joins as a partner.

Beverly Frank ('96) has joined Proskauer Rose LLP’s Los Angeles office in the labor and employment and litigation departments as senior counsel.

Damon Wright ('96) has been elected partner at Venable, where he concentrates his practice on complex commercial, unfair competition, and white-collar criminal litigation.

Susan McBee ('96) has become a partner in Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz in its intellectual property practice group. Susan is a registered patent attorney with experience in the engineering, chemical, and biochemical fields and specializes in patent prosecution, patent licensing, and patent and trademark portfolio management.

Barbara Bettelhausen ('96) has become a partner at Arent Fox, where she works in the real estate group and focuses on commercial real estate development and finance. She specializes in representing institutional equity investors and developers.

Jeffrey McClure ('96) is Chairman and CEO of The Bear Companies, an Arlington-based investment and merchant banking firm, which has recently acquired an exclusive origination agreement to act as lead placement agent for Kodiak Funding, LP, a newly formed specialty finance company focused on investments in the real estate sector. Former classmate Harry Devens ('96) is COO and president of The Bear Companies.

Scott Samuels ('96) has been promoted to partner in Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky and Popeo, PC. Scott practices in the Business & Finance Section of the firm’s Boston office.

David Oblon ('95) was cited in the July 2006 Washingtonian magazine’s list of the “Top 40 Lawyers Under 40.”

Thomas McNulty ('94) joins Metcalf & Eddy as vice president. He will be based in Maryland and will serve as M&E’s business unit leader in the Maryland, Virginia, and DC areas. M&E provides planning, design, construction and operational services for water, wastewater, wet weather, and hazardous waste management facilities and programs.

Brian K. Madden ('94) and wife Colleen are expecting their sixth child in October. Brian is a real estate agent based in Arlington; however, he maintains his law office in Fairfax.

J. Michael Littlejohn ('94) has become a shareholder in the law firm Akerman Senterfitt Wickwire Gavin as a result of the merger of his firm Wickwire Gavin, PC, and Florida-based Akerman Senterfitt. Michael will continue his government contracts, construction, and commercial litigation practice with the new combination of firms.

Laura Vallance ('93) and husband Bill McMoil welcomed their six child in October. Brian is a real estate agent based in Washington, DC.

U.S. Attorney General Alberto Gonzales has named Jeff Dion ('93), a senior attorney at the National Center for Victims of Crime, the recipient of the first Ronald Wilson Reagan Public Policy Award. The award honors an individual whose leadership, vision, and innovation have led to significant changes in public policy and practice that benefit crime victims. Jeff received the award at a ceremony in Washington, DC.

K. Brett Marston ('93), a partner in the law firm of Gentry Locke Rakes & Moore, LLP, has been elected president of the Roanoke Bar Association for 2006–2007.

Buta Biberaj ('93) has been appointed a Substitute Judge for the Twentieth Judicial Circuit, Juvenile and General District Courts in Virginia.

Two Mason Law grads recently testified on Capitol Hill at the same hearing of the House Judiciary Committee. Paul Misener ('93), Vice President for Global Public Policy at Amazon.com, and Earl Comstock ('92), President and CEO of COMPTEL, appeared as witnesses in the April 2006 hearing on network neutrality presided over by U.S. Representative F. James Sensenbrenner Jr. (R-Wis.).

Darcy (Gould) Shoop ('92), is the current president of the Collaborative Divorce Association in Montgomery County, Maryland, and was just elected president of the Maryland Collaborative Professionals Council, which is the Maryland state organization for Collaborative Law. Darcy is a partner in the law firm Stein, Sperling, Bennett, De Jong, Driscoll & Greenfeig, P.C., in Rockville, Maryland.

Charles D. (Cully) Stimson ('92), a Naval Reserve officer and an assistant United States attorney in Washington, DC, has been named the Defense Department’s chief advisor on detainee issues, becoming the deputy assistant secretary of defense for detainee affairs.

Kathleen Holmes ('92) joined Williams Mullen in Tysons Corner, Virginia, as a partner in the litigation practice. She concentrates on commercial and intellectual property litigation.

Sean Connaughton ('92) has been nominated by President George Bush to be the next administrator of the U.S. Maritime Administration. Sean currently serves as chairman of the Prince William County (Virginia) Board of County Supervisors.

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1981-1989

The Board of Governors for the Republican National Lawyers Association has selected Pat Munroe Woodward Jr. (’91) to be national vice president for Washington, DC, operations. Pat established his own law firm in 2004 and lives in Annapolis, Maryland.

Connetics Corporation, a specialty pharmaceutical company that develops and commercializes dermatology products, has named Freddie Park (’90) to the position of vice president, intellectual property. She is responsible for managing the Connetics intellectual property patent portfolio, directing IP strategy and IP due diligence, and negotiation of strategic alliances.

Jonathan Forster (’89) was promoted to co-managing partner in Greenberg Traurig’s Tysons Corner, Virginia, office where he continues to serve as the national chair for the firm’s wealth management group. His practice includes business planning for privately held companies, business succession, executive compensation, and estate planning, in which he represents numerous government contracting firms and the life insurance industry.

Dan Maller (’89) won a seat on the Falls Church (Virginia) City Council in May 2006. Dan is general counsel for Williams Industries, Inc.

Mike Kearney (’88) has returned to his high school alma mater, Monsignor Donovan, in Tom’s River, New Jersey, where he coaches the school’s basketball team. Mike spent several years in California coaching at inner city schools before returning to his roots on the East Coast.

Donald S. Harris (’83) has been appointed to be deputy general counsel for the Office of General Counsel at the Federal Labor Relations Agency. He lives with his wife and four children in Warrenton, Virginia.

Denise Bode (’82) is running for the Congressional seat being vacated by Ernest Istook in Oklahoma’s 5th District.

Judge Thomas Bateman III (’81) was named Trial Judge of the Year by the Tallahassee, Florida, Chapter of ABOTA in January 2006. In February 2006 he placed second in the 2005 ABA Judge Edward R. Finch Law Day Speech Award Competition.

1980 and Earlier

David McCarthy (’80) joined the House Energy and Commerce Committee staff as chief energy counsel in April 2006. David, an Arlington resident, had been with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation for two years, serving as deputy commissioner following a stint as chief of congressional affairs.

Gene Stilp (’80), a Harrisburg activist, recently ran as a Democratic candidate for lieutenant governor of Pennsylvania. Gene played a key lobbying role in last year’s decision to rescind legislative pay raises in Pennsylvania’s General Assembly.

Michael Edward Murphy (’78) was promoted to the newly created position of national director of client service at Mellon Financial Corporation.

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.

Robert Wegmann (’02)
Jonathan Hack (’00)
Mary Kathryn Hammock (’92)
Francis Xavier “Frank” Lillis (’84)