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The Alumni Challenge Is Met Early!

The March issue of Mason Law News featured a front page article about the alumni behind The Alumni Challenge, Mason Law’s most ambitious alumni development undertaking ever. Months later, Dean Daniel Polsby is very grateful to report that the School of Law met The Alumni Challenge campaign participation goal in late July, five months ahead of the December 31 deadline! Of the 1,000 alumni donors, 975 made gifts in fiscal year 2007. This equated to a participation rate of 20 percent, the highest rate for any academic unit in the history of the university.

Mason Law alumni deserve a heartfelt “thank you” for their enthusiastic response to The Alumni Challenge and for making it an unqualified success!

In 1997, in-state tuition at Mason Law hovered around $5500 per year. Today, qualified Virginia residents pay slightly over $15,000, while out-of-state students face a $26,000 charge. Ten years ago, students spent an average of $850 per month on rent. Today, apartments near the law school that have not been converted to condominiums charge as much as $1700 a month. And, while large law firm attorney salaries have grown steadily over the past decade, salaries for small firm or government attorneys, as recently reported in the Wall Street Journal Online, have not kept pace with the rising costs of tuition and life in urban areas.

Today’s law students need financial aid more than ever. “Getting a scholarship made going to law school much more feasible,” says second year student Rob Willey. “My wife and I were struggling with how to pay for law school, wondering if we could secure the loans I would need and how we would make it on just her salary. Receiving the scholarship alleviated these concerns. It also sold me on attending George Mason.”

Continued on page 20
Mason Law’s Federalist Society welcomed former U.S. Attorney General Edwin Meese back to the law school in April for an address entitled “Reclaiming the Constitution: Originalism Today.” Meese is the university’s former rector and presently sits on the law school’s Board of Advisors. During the event, open to students, alumni, and faculty of Mason Law, Attorney General Meese revisited the topic of his 1985 speech to the American Bar Association, which sparked a dramatic public debate on the question of constitutional interpretation.

Meese’s 1985 speech delineated a distinction between the Constitution and constitutional law, proposing that the Constitution is superior; a view, Meese noted, that was contrary to the conventional wisdom of judges and the legal community at the time of his speech. The theory, now commonly referred to as “originalism,” proposed that the meaning of the Constitution does not evolve and that the Constitution must be read in light of the framers’ intent. Changes to the Constitution should stem from constitutional amendments and not from a judge or justice’s current interpretation of the document’s language.

Meese discussed how, in the twenty-two years since his address, originalism has received greater attention during the judicial appointment process and become more mainstream. He also reflected upon ways in which the judiciary can return to the principle of federalism in the future. At the end of his presentation, Meese took questions from the audience regarding his remarks and current decisions from the U.S. Supreme Court, including Gonzales v. Carhart.

Commenting on the former Attorney General's visit, Dean Polsby noted "It is always good to have our old friend and former rector back to the law school. When he comes to the law school he comes not as a guest but as one who is coming home."

The former Attorney General’s visit was sponsored by The Federalist Society at Mason Law as part of a larger lecture series the group hopes to present over the 2007-2008 school year. According to the group’s president, Hubbel Relat (3L), while the series will be within the context of the group’s underlying principles, the series is designed to showcase speakers that appeal to a “diverse audience across legal philosophies. Events are best when both or multiple sides are presented and allow attendees to listen and participate in a thought-provoking dialogue of differing ideas and legal theories.” Relat added that “alumni assistance with the series, either through direct participation or helping to secure speakers would be greatly appreciated.” Alumni can contact him at hrelat@gmu.edu.
Large and Small Firms Flock to Join Inaugural Law Firm Challenge


The School of Law and the Alumni Association threw down the challenge—and firms across the region are rising to meet that challenge. The Inaugural George Mason Law Firm Challenge is underway, and law alumni from firms of every size have jumped in to contribute.

The goal of the challenge, of course, is to raise the money that is critical to our mission at the school and essential for the school’s continued rise through the rankings. Indeed, the Mason miracle continues as we are poised to overtake William & Mary in the national rankings. The Law Firm Challenge is just one component of a broad alumni and School of Law initiative to help the school improve its reputation and expand sources of private funding.

The immediate goal of the challenge is to raise alumni giving participation. The results have been terrific. Participation for giving continues to rise to record levels. Participation in the Law Firm Challenge has exceeded expectations, and that participation is a driver in raising our overall alumni participation rate. Almost every day, a new firm is reaching out to us to participate in the challenge. Those firms that are participating are achieving great results—with many firms already chalking up 100% participation among School of Law graduates.

All the participating firms are listed on our alumni webpage—and the list continues to grow. If your firm is not yet participating, find out why and get it on board. Our success in this challenge, and in moving our School of Law ahead, is dependent on the continued participation of our graduates. For more information on the challenge, visit our Firm Challenge page at www.law.gmu.edu/alumni/challenge/firm.php.

A few years ago, I wrote in our alumni newsletter with respect to our rising rankings that William & Mary should heed the famous rear-view mirror warning—“Objects in the mirror are closer than they appear.” That is more true today than ever before. We need your help, and we need your firm’s help, to continue in writing another successful chapter in the Mason story. This school’s greatest strength remains the alumni who have built her. Thanks for your participation; and as your new alumni association president, I look forward to celebrating our continued mutual success.

ALUMNI SUPPORTING IRAQ RECONSTRUCTION EFFORTS

In November 2006, John Lehmann ('04) took a temporary leave of absence from his position as Senior Counsel in the SEC’s Division of Enforcement to accept the position of Legal Advisor to the Office of Private Sector Development for the Iraq Reconstruction Management Office in the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad, Iraq. While there, Lehmann assisted the Iraq Securities Commission (ISC) and the Iraq Stock Exchange (ISX) with drafting the permanent Iraq Securities Law for presentation to the Iraqi Parliament. He also helped draft disclosure and operational regulations for the ISC that will be promulgated under the permanent Securities Law and assisted the ISX in formulating its anti-money laundering procedures. Above are Abdul Razzak Al-Saadi (Chairman of the ISC, left), Lehmann, and Dr. Talib al-Tabatabie (Chairman of the ISX, right). Lehmann returned to the SEC in May 2007.
Judicial & Legislative Reception
a Springtime Success

The Tenth Annual Judicial & Legislative Reception, hosted by Mason Law and the Law Alumni Association, again brought hundreds of attorneys to the law school. The event drew over 400 attendees, including judges, legislators, and firm representatives who were new to the Mason tradition. The reception included the oft-requested oyster bar and wine tasting. This year’s vineyards included Corcoran Vineyards, Horton Cellars Winery, Rockbridge Vineyard, and The Williamsburg Winery. For many alumni, the event has turned into a quasi annual reunion!

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

'06 graduates Lauren Douglas and Jodie Herrmann
Sarah Bruns ('06), Michelle Hess ('05), and Charles Burnham ('06)
Penney Azcarate ('98), Fairfax General District Court Judge Lisa Mayne ('85), and David Deane ('97)
Rich Kelley ('99) and Christopher Greer ('00)
Cindy Goh ('06) and Darin Lowder ('06)
Carole Capsalis ('87) and Karen Grane ('88)
Alumni Volunteerism

One generation plants the trees; another gets the shade.

– Chinese proverb

Future articles on Alumni Volunteerism will spotlight:

- Externship and Clinic Support
- Academic Opportunities

To learn more, or to get involved in any of these opportunities, contact lawalum@gmu.edu or call 703-993-8020.

Admissions Ambassadors
Spreading the Word and Recruiting the Best

This third in a series of articles on law school volunteer opportunities spotlights how ISL and Mason Law alumni can make a difference in recruiting exceptional students to attend Mason Law. The volunteer commitments profiled in this article vary in time and frequency, allowing an alumnus to pick what is most conducive to their professional and personal life. Both local and nationwide volunteer opportunities exist. We hope you will read further to learn how conveying your law school experiences in person, through email, or by phone may make the difference in a student’s decision to attend Mason Law over its competitors.

The Competition is Fierce

It is a “problem” that comes with the school’s continued success, but admittedly a good problem. Mason Law’s position in the law school rankings brings with it increased competition to recruit and demonstrate to admitted applicants the many reasons why they should choose Mason Law for their legal education. “We are competing for some of the best students,” explains Alison Price, Senior Assistant Dean and Director of Admissions, “and we are up against strong regional competitors.”

When making their decision on where to apply or eventually attend, students want to know more than just the academic position of the school. Price explains, “Prospective students are eager to learn about a number of things, including the sense of community at the school, student and faculty relationships, and the marketability of a Mason Law degree.” While admissions office staff and marketing materials address these topics, “interaction with a member of our alumni community provides invaluable insight to a prospective student on the Mason Law experience and the quality and practicality of the legal education provided here.”

Continued on page 6

www.law.gmu.edu/alumni/
Mason Alumni Admissions Ambassadors Program

To connect prospective students with alumni, the Admissions Office has developed the Mason Alumni Admissions Ambassadors Program (MAAAP). The MAAAP acronym is no mistake, Price smiles, “We see law alumni helping to guide the way” for prospective students.

There are many different volunteer opportunities within MAAAP that allow an alumnus/alumna to connect with prospective or admitted students. Alumni may attend a recruiting function in their area on behalf of the law school, participate in an alumni panel during a law school weekend open house, or serve as a direct contact for admitted applicants. These opportunities are profiled below along with a description of the time frame and time commitment for each of the activities.

Regional Recruitment Functions

The Admissions Office seeks out qualified applicants at regional law fairs or college law fairs and would like MAAAP volunteers to assist with staffing tables at such recruiting functions. The fairs are traditionally held from September through November and are attended by students with an interest in attending law school. The law school typically attends events up and down the east coast and would like to begin targeting events in Chicago, Texas, and California, as well.

“There is something appealing to prospective students about meeting an alumnus at such an event,” shared Christine Malone (‘00), “students see it as an opportunity to obtain the inside scoop on classes or the culture, which they feel an admissions officer cannot provide.” Prior to such an event, the Admissions Office provides MAAAP volunteers with talking points and marketing materials for students attending the fair. Such events usually require a two- to four-hour time commitment on the day of the fair.

Alumni Panels at Open-Houses

Another volunteer opportunity geared toward local MAAAP volunteers is participation in an alumni panel at one of the law school’s three open houses for interested students. These events, traditionally held on a Saturday or Sunday, allow prospective students to visit the law school, tour the facility, and hear from panels of admissions staff, current students, and alumni about the law school. Ideally, the alumni panel is composed of four alumni who can speak for a few minutes about their law school experience, what they are doing now, and answer any questions from those assembled. The time commitment is usually one hour for such events.

Direct Contact with Admitted Applicants

While encouraging highly qualified students to apply is one part of the Admissions Office’s mission, the somewhat more difficult task can be conveying all the benefits of attending Mason Law versus attending one of Mason’s competitors. Admitted applicants often think to speak with current students, but Price strongly encourages them to speak with alumni as well. “There is a benefit in hearing from an alumnus that Mason is indeed the strong community we bill it as. Moreover, alumni offer a fuller picture of the law school experience, answering questions that the admitted applicant may not have even thought to ask.”

Kay Hill (‘06) recently had such a conversation with an admitted applicant grappling with attending Mason or one of its competitors to the northeast. The contact initially started with emails, but then the two set up a time to talk by phone.

“This student was particularly interested in IP,” Hill recalled, “so she wanted to know exactly how the school prepared me for practice. I spoke to her about the IP classes, the value of the adjuncts who practice in the field by day and teach us at night, the key location of the school in relation to this practice area, and the name recognition Mason Law has within the legal community.”

In the end the student decided to come to Mason. Hill reflected, “I think giving her the perspective of the Mason experience from beginning to end, from being a student to now practicing in the field, was an important part in her final decision.”

MAAAP needs alumni volunteers, local and nationwide, to serve as direct contacts for admitted applicants. Such volunteers will agree to email or call up to five admitted applicants in the spring, congratulate them on their admission, and offer to answer any questions they may have about the law school. As many questions from admitted students relate to professors, facilities, and career services offerings, it appears that graduates from 2000 on are most helpful in this volunteer role. The Admissions Office will provide alumni volunteers with a template to work from for phone or email contact.

Be a Guide—Join MAAAP today!

Alumni really can make a difference in a student’s decision to apply to or attend Mason Law. If you are interested in joining MAAAP to volunteer for one or more of the opportunities highlighted above, please contact the Admissions Office at lawadmit@gmu.edu or (703) 993-8010.

www.law.gmu.edu/alumni/

ANOTHER MASON LAW ALUM JOINS EXECUTIVE BRANCH

Law Students Volunteer in New Orleans Over Spring Break

Six Mason Law students traveled to New Orleans over spring break to volunteer their time to assist communities still suffering from the effects of Hurricane Katrina. Stefan Black ('07), Edyta-Christina Grzybowska (2E), Andrea Loveless ('07), Andrew Lyons (2D), David Malmstrøm (2D), and Brian Repper (2D), were part of a large influx of law students who traveled to New Orleans in conjunction with the Student Hurricane Network (SHN), developed by law students to address the legal problems stemming from Hurricane Katrina’s landfall in August 2005.

To help offset the cost of their trip, the students spent weeks fundraising by holding bake sales and reaching out to friends and alumni for financial support. These private donations and contributions from the law school’s Career, Academic and Alumni Services Office and SBA helped to make the trip possible.

Once in New Orleans, the students were divided into two groups. The SHN assigned the first group to visit FEMA trailers to survey the residents and determine their legal needs. Despite the residents’ ongoing struggles, the students consistently reported that the residents were welcoming, optimistic, and genuinely thankful for the volunteers’ help.

The second group of students worked at the Louisiana Capital Assistance Center, where they read over 1,000 arrest warrants to determine whether the arrests were supported by probable cause. “I was amazed to find so many instances where the prosecution just failed to plead an element of an offense,” reported Black. The statistical data the students prepared is expected to be used in a federal civil lawsuit the Center intends to file later in the year.

Upon their return a number of the students expressed shock as to the devastation that continues to plague particular areas of the city and how overburdened New Orleans legal system remains; however, Black noted, “The trip was an inspiring and rewarding reminder of the profound ways in which we, as lawyers, can help those in need.”

“We are very proud of the efforts of these students,” said Associate Dean Victoria Huber. “Their initiative and hard work reflects those qualities fostered at Mason Law.”

Members of the Class of 2007 left Mason Law in a blaze of glory and with great promise. While finishing their degrees, members of this class hosted multiple, well-received journal symposia; created and reenergized many student organizations; secured positions or fellowships with judges and organizations that have never before hired Mason graduates; and more. Below are some highlights from their banner final semester.

Moot Court Competitions

Hockey fans might term the spring accomplishments of our Mason Law Moot Court teams as a hat trick. In one month’s time, Mason Law teams, all members of the 2007 graduating class, claimed three titles at major competitions across the country.

At the 57th Annual National Moot Court Competition, Kim Bierenbaum, Rocky King and Tony Schiavetti won top honors for best brief. A week later Al Clarke and Samantha Mortlock bested 34 other teams to win the 17th Annual National First Amendment Moot Court Competition. Rounding out the string of victories, Melanie Fett, Andrea Loveless, and Pete Whelan took first place in the 19th Annual Gabrielli Family Law National Moot Court Competition.

In addition, the school was represented by 2007 graduates Jeremy Kidd and Robert Spendlove in the invitation-only International Intellectual Property Law Moot at Worcester College in Oxford, England. Kidd and Spendlove were the only American team to compete and placed second, falling to an Australian Team in the final round.

Writing Awards

Sarah Graves won the 2007 ABA Public Contract Law Journal Writing Competition. Graves presented her paper at the 13th Annual Federal Procurement Institute, and it can be found in the June edition of the Public Contract Law Journal.

A trip to the Grammy awards was among the honors Josh Carpenter received upon being named runner-up in The GRAMMY Foundation’s Entertainment Law Initiative 2007 Writing Contest. His article on how the U.S. Supreme Court’s “substantial non-infringing use” doctrine has stunted innovation in the music industry will be published in the forthcoming Vanderbilt Journal of Entertainment and Technology Law.

www.law.gmu.edu/alumni/
Profiles of ISL Alumni
Looking back and catching up with... members of the first graduating class
Thomas Barry, Jon Haitsuka, and Jerry Jensen

Technically speaking, the International School of Law (ISL) existed for only seven years, from its founding in 1972 until its merger with George Mason University in 1979 when it became the George Mason University School of Law. Despite its short lifespan, no one can question the school’s lasting impact, for it was in this brief time that ISL’s faculty and students laid the critical foundation for today’s Mason Law.

In conjunction with the 35th anniversary of the ISL’s founding, Mason Law News has been profiling ISL graduates, sharing with you their success stories and memories of their ISL days. The alumni highlighted below were brought to our attention by other alumni and friends of the law school.

Discussions with members of the ISL’s first graduating class reveal similarities between them and those making up Mason Law’s student body today. Former military personnel, Hill staffers, married professionals, and recent college graduates formed the ISL’s initial class in the fall of 1972. They too learned by the Socratic Method, continued legal discussions after class with friends over coffee, and tried to balance the demands of law school with their personal lives.

The discussions also reveal that these pioneers were perhaps bigger risk takers than law students of the present. Unlike today’s student attending a nationally recognized, ABA accredited institution, ISL’s first students matriculated into a school without ABA accreditation and name recognition. Their first classes were held in a conference room at the Federal Bar Center in Washington, D.C., because the school had no official space of its own. They prepared for class, worked hard, and took their exams with little sense of how the ISL legal experiment would turn out or how their degrees would be viewed by the legal community.

Was it a risk worth taking? Absolutely is the response from three alumni we interviewed, Thomas Barry, Jon Haitsuka, and Jerrold Jensen, who each indicated that they would do it all again without hesitation.

Thomas T. Barry (’75)
Presiding Justice, Hillsborough District Court, New Hampshire
Partner, Nixon, Raiche, Vogelman, Barry & Slawsky, P.A.

A New Hampshire native, Thomas (Tom) Barry was married and working on the Hill in the office of U.S. Senator Norris Cotton in 1972 when he read in the newspaper about a new law school starting up. “I’d wanted to go to law school and was intrigued by the article,” Barry recalls. In the end, his decision to attend was a practical one. Barry admits, “the timing was just right in terms of its opening and my ability to attend the school while continuing to work.”

Though the facilities were nothing like those of other law schools in the region, Barry remembers the professors and dean were quite serious of purpose.

“The classes were very challenging, but you also felt a real sense that the professors wanted us to succeed.”

And while he describes the atmosphere among the students as competitive, Barry notes there was a great deal of camaraderie as well. “We were all very supportive of one another as first-year students in a brand new school, getting together after class and even on weekends.” This sense of community was buoyed by ISL founding Dean Brabner-Smith, “who even hosted a reception for us all out at his Virginia horse farm.”

After graduating with his degree and finishing up on the Hill, Barry headed back to New Hampshire and took a job as a law clerk at the Supreme Court of New Hampshire.

“I went to the court thinking I would stay for about six months, but wound up staying for ten years,” Barry chuckles. He held a number of different staff positions during the time, working on major projects including the unification of New Hampshire’s courts in the early eighties and the state’s mandatory judicial education programs for judges, the first of their kind in the nation.

He decided to leave the court in the late eighties and enter private practice, recalling the ruminations of a former acquaintance who had regretted never having done so himself. The career change fit well, and Barry rose to become a partner in the Concord law firm of Upton & Hatfield where he handled personal injury and employment matters, insurance defense cases, and represented a number of school districts in New Hampshire.

While in practice, Barry was nominated and confirmed in 1997 as a Special Justice of the Hillsborough District Court in New Hampshire, a position he held until becoming the Presid-
Justice of the court in January 2006. The court is one of limited jurisdiction involving juveniles, small claims, landlord-tenant matters, and minor crimes and violations. Barry has enjoyed serving as a member of the bench and continuing to work with clients in private practice.

“Serving as a judge and as an attorney are both honorable professions,” Barry explains. “It really is the best of both worlds to be able to serve as an advocate on some days and a judge, or referee if you will, on others.”

Barry now primarily focuses on personal injury work with his new firm, Nixon, Raiche, Vogelman, Barry & Slawsky, PA., formed in March 2007.

Aside from his work, Barry also reports recently celebrating his 36th wedding anniversary with wife Margaret Goodrich Barry, “who really earned one-half of my J.D. for all of the papers she used to type for me.” The Barrys have two daughters, one a second-year student at Oberlin College, the other a second-year law student at the New York University School of Law.

Though Barry hasn’t seen the law school in many years, he has kept an eye on the school’s progress through emails, newsletters, and news reports. “Though it is a different school than the one I attended, I am proud of the school and amazed that in 35 years it has come so far. It is a testament to the hard work of the administration, faculty, and the students.”

Jon M. Haitsuka (’75)
Program Analyst,
U.S. Small Business Administration

When asked how he found out about the start-up ISL, Jon Haitsuka will tell you that it was a personal phone call from Dean Brabner-Smith that enlightened him and persuaded him to give the school a try.

A native of Oahu, Hawaii, Haitsuka was considering law school on the mainland and had sent an application to the George Washington University School of Law. “Since my application was incomplete, G.W. didn’t consider it with the others. Dean Brabner-Smith was involved with G.W. at the time and reached out to a few folks that the school did not accept to encourage us to apply and try ISL for a year.”

Though he describes his classmates as a “rag-tag group” of different ages and backgrounds, Haitsuka said everyone got along and worked together to make the experience a success. “Dean Brabner-Smith showed so much care and interest in seeing us succeed that we were all motivated to do so.” The students even helped with construction of the classroom space at the ISL’s Rhode Island Avenue location. “I particularly remember Nick Chabra (’75) participating and organizing us to help—he knew how to get things done construction-wise.”

After graduation, Haitsuka decided to stay in Virginia and went into private practice by himself. He recalls there being a glut of attorneys in 1975 and few jobs, so he did work for two other attorneys in his office building to defray the rent and took on court-appointed work.

“It was a tremendous learning experience, sort of trial by fire; but the judges helped me along, and I was able to make good friends on both sides of the aisle.”

After twelve years of handling a wide variety of legal matters, Haitsuka says his wife, whom he married in 1983, and a friend encouraged him to get out of private practice litigation and join the government. He took a position with the Small Business Administration in 1987, where he has been for the last twenty years in a variety of roles including trial attorney, attorney-advisor, and now as a program analyst for its Office of Size Standards. The work includes many facets, including drafting changes to federal regulations for publication in the Federal Register. Haitsuka jokingly says “I’m basically trying to make sure the language is clear, which is hard to do with government regulations.”

Like many current Mason Law alumni, Haitsuka fills his time with work and shuttling back and forth with his wife to the many sporting events of his children. He has a son entering VMI in the fall and two daughters, one who is a senior at the
University of Wisconsin and the other a junior at T.C. Williams High School. Nevertheless, he has kept up with the growth and advancement of the law school. He jokes “If I applied today, I wouldn’t be accepted.”

Haitsuka also confides that he is not surprised at the law school’s success over the years, “I never doubted that Dean Brabner-Smith would make something everyone could be proud of when it was finished, and I am always pleased to hear about the school’s continued progress.”

Jerrold S. Jensen (’75) Assistant Attorney General, Utah Attorney General’s Office

Jerrold (Jerry) Jensen, can quickly sum up the initial feelings accompanying his decision to attend the ISL: “Reluctance, hesitancy, trepidation…I figured I’d give it a shot and if it didn’t work out after a semester I would apply elsewhere.” But after that first semester, Jensen stayed on, for while the law school’s initial facilities “didn’t make it feel like a law school… the quality of the professors and the close relationships with other students” reassured him he was somewhere special.

Jensen looks back on his years at ISL fondly, “The professors gave us a good mix of the Socratic Method and practical insight, which was helpful for practice later on.” And while the educational experience was similar to other schools, Jensen recalls the uniqueness of the ISL’s atmosphere that bonded the students together and to the school.

“I remember when the ABA was going to send some of their folks out for the first time to assess the school. All of us pitched in for this huge effort to clean the place, make it spic-n-span, and I thought there are probably no other law school students in the country doing this. A real ‘esprit de corps’ developed from things like this and benefited the students and the school.”

Jensen worked for the federal government while in school and took a counsel position in the U.S. House of Representatives after graduating in 1975. “Summer humidity in Virginia” he jokes, brought him back to his home state of Utah in 1978, where he entered private practice and focused primarily on real estate and construction law. During his fifteen years in private practice, Jensen ran for and won a seat in the Utah State Legislature where he served from 1989 to 1993.

“I very much enjoyed serving at the state level. I felt like you could really make a difference on policies affecting the state.”

When asked why this position appealed to him, Fields indicated it was his long-term goal to join higher education in an academic or administrative role that would allow him to help others. “Mason Law was particularly appealing to me, because a former Interior colleague of mine, Todd Heflin (’01), had spoken so highly of the law school.”

Fields encourages alumni to contact him for ways they can assist with the law school’s diversity efforts. He can be reached at rfields@gmu.edu.

www.law.gmu.edu/alumni/
For the second consecutive year, the law school hosted a Colors of Justice reception after the final rounds of Mason Law’s annual First-Year Moot Court Competition. The reception, held April 13, 2007, was hosted in conjunction with the Alexandria Bar Association, Arlington Bar Association, Asian American Bar Association, Fairfax Bar Association, Hispanic Bar Association, and the Northern Virginia Black Attorneys Association.

The reception captured the competition’s theme “Celebrating Diversity Within the Law” and brought students, judges, faculty, and friends to the Levy Atrium after the competition’s final round to acknowledge the performance of the finalists, Lucas Kline (2D) and Adeel Bashir (2D) and underscore the importance of diversity within the legal profession.

Special remarks were delivered by the Honorable Vanessa Ruiz, who spoke of the need to increase diversity among the judiciary so that it may truly be independent and decide cases without respect to superficial factors such as a party’s race, gender, and/or socioeconomic background. Judge Ruiz is past president of the National Association of Women Judges and part of an effort to encourage minorities to join the legal profession.

To highlight the theme of the First-Year Competition, the Moot Court Board sought to have every judging panel in the competition reflect the varied perspectives that make up the legal community. Judge Stanley P. Klein of the Fairfax Circuit Court played a vital role in this effort and also spoke at the reception, echoing Judge Ruiz’s sentiments.

The reception, one of the last projects for Darrell Jackson (’90), former Assistant Dean and Director of Diversity Services, who left the law school in May for a doctoral program in Colorado, raised $8,000 for the Colors of Justice Diversity Scholarship Fund. The funds were generated from the generous support of the reception’s twenty-one sponsors.

On Wednesday, July 11, faculty, staff, adjuncts, and alumni gathered together to bid a fond farewell to Associate Dean Sid Moore, who retired this summer after almost 20 years at Mason Law. He takes with him the title “Associate Dean Emeritus.”

As many know, Dean Moore worked tirelessly behind the scenes on many matters of critical importance to the Mason Law community. As Dean Polsby noted, “There is nothing that has been accomplished here over the past years that does not bear Sid’s stamp. He helped to retain and manage our immensely talented adjunct faculty, oversaw the development of Mason’s first clinical programs and contributed his wisdom and good judgment to every effort we made to upgrade the status and reputation of the law school.”

Several alumni have joined together to create a current-use, student scholarship in Dean Moore’s honor. If you would like to contribute, simply note on your check or, if giving online (http://www.law.gmu.edu/alumni/challenge/give.php), in the “other established fund” box, “Scholarship Donation in Honor of Dean Moore.”

Surrounded by well-wishers, Associate Dean Sid Moore (right) accepts the gratitude of the law school community as he bids farewell to an institution at which he has been an institution and prepares to enjoy his retirement.

Brian Williams (3D), Charity McKenzie (3D), Jin Kim (3D), and Tasha Gibbs (2E) enjoy food and friendship at the reception.

www.law.gmu.edu/alumni/
Dean Zerbe (‘97)

Whether it is private equity partnerships, non-profits, oversight of the nation’s Internal Revenue Code and its loopholes, or reducing the federal budget deficit, if there is an important tax policy debate occurring in Congress (which is almost always), more than likely Dean Zerbe (‘97, High Honors) is right in the center of it.

As the senior tax lawyer and investigator on the Republican staff of the tax-writing Senate Finance Committee, Dean is widely viewed around Capitol Hill as one of a handful of central characters shaping what is happening behind the scenes.

Dean works for Senator Chuck Grassley (R-IA), the former Chairman and currently Ranking Republican on the Senate Finance Committee, among the most influential committees in Congress. A native of Omaha, Nebraska, Dean worked for Senator Grassley in his personal office by day while he attended law school at George Mason at night. Dean notes that the senator was always flexible when he was pulled between school and work, which was a big help. But when the senator became the Chairman of the Finance Committee in 2001, Dean was called back by Grassley from a stint in private practice because “I owed him,” as Dean puts it—so that he could put his valuable George Mason law degree to work for his mentor.

Dean has shaped tax policy and conducted a number of key investigations in his time on the Hill. In June 2005, Dean was profiled by *The Chronicle of Philanthropy*, which noted:

From his earliest days on the Hill, Mr. Zerbe has gravitated to high-profile inquiries. As a 20-year-old aide in the House of Representatives, Mr. Zerbe worked with House and Senate staff members as they persuaded Members of Congress to freeze government spending on defense during the cold war after discovering excessive spending at the Department of Defense. A year later, in 1986, Mr. Zerbe and his colleagues in the Senate and House got word that the United States was selling arms to the Middle East and diverting some of the proceeds to supply Nicaraguan rebels with military support. The inquiry, conducted mostly by others, led to what was known as the Iran-Contra scandal. When news of it broke, causing a stir around the world, Mr. Zerbe knew he had found his calling.

Dean believes that his law and economics training from George Mason has served him very well in the Senate, since it is so applicable to his work in helping members of Congress shape tax policy. And he tips his hat to George Mason University Foundation Professor of Law Emeritus Robert Anthony for the class he taught on Administrative Law and the valuable insights it gave him. But Dean’s education didn’t always point so clearly toward a path as a leading Senate tax staffer. Yes, he received his LLM in Taxation from New York University in 1998; and yes, he has served as an associate at Lionel Sawyer & Collins of Nevada and counsel for the Senate Small Business Committee and National Commission on Restructuring the IRS. But perhaps less well known to his fellow law school alumni is that Dean received his undergraduate degree in film production from New York University, putting himself through school in part by performing in jazz bars as an accomplished pianist.

Dean continues to give back to George Mason—he has been called upon to appear at career panels at the law school—and by his count, has brought in at least eight George Mason law school interns to date to help him as he oversees various Senate investigations. And he says he hopes to have more Mason Law interns in the future. Polish up those resumes!

www.law.gmu.edu/alumni/
ALUMNAE NETWORKING BREAKFAST
Mason Law’s Alumni Services Office and the Women’s Law Association again joined forces to host a breakfast networking reception for Mason alumnae and students this past spring. Close to 80 graduates and students turned out to exchange information, war stories, and advice. Dean Polsby welcomed the guests and newly appointed Fairfax General District Court Judge Lisa Mayne (’85) spoke to the group for a few minutes about her experiences surviving private practice and the judicial nomination process. This is the third time this event has taken place and the tradition is expected to continue in 2008.

Bar Passage Rates Hit a New High!
Mason Law graduates’ performance on the July 2007 Virginia bar exam far surpassed any prior results, said Dean Polsby, who proudly announced the bar passages rates as follows:

Mason Law pass rate for first-time takers 93.2%
State pass rate for first-time takers 78.2%

Mason Law pass rate overall 88.8%
State pass rate overall 71.9%

VIRGINIA BAR SWEARING-IN BREAKFAST
This long-awaited moment is one to be enjoyed as Amelia May (left center) and Michelle Boyle (right center) savor the excitement of being sworn in to the Virginia Bar, as well as the delicious breakfast, hosted by the law school, that preceded the June event. Michael May (’04) is seated left, while Peter Boyle joins Michelle on the right.

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

The Mason Law faculty has proved to be a valuable resource for those in need of expert advice in their quests for the 2008 United States presidency.

In June, 2008 presidential candidate Rudy Giuliani named Professor Peter Berkowitz part of his new foreign policy team, positioning Berkowitz as Senior Statecraft, Human Rights and Freedom Advisor.

Guiliani’s selection of Berkowitz was followed almost immediately by the announcement that a second Mason Law professor had been named an advisor to a 2008 presidential candidate as Foundation Professor of Law Timothy Muris was selected by Senator John McCain of Arizona to be part of his economic policy team.

In October, a third Mason Law professor was tapped as an advisor to a presidential candidate with the naming of Professor Michelle Boardman to Governor Mitt Romney’s Advisory Committee on the Constitution and the Courts.

Members of our law faculty also have been busy on panels and presentations of various sorts. Professors Michael Krauss and Joyce Lee Malcolm were presenters at a conference sponsored by the James Madison Program in American Ideals and Institutions and the Association for the Study of Free Institutions.

In June, Professor Thomas Hazlett took part in a panel discussion on the topic of spectrum management at the Wireless Communications Association International’s annual Washington show.

Professors Nelson Lund, Neomi Rao, and Ilya Somin were part of a June expert panel analyzing decisions of the 2006-07 Supreme Court via live video webcast by The Federalist Society.

In July, Professor Jeremy Rabkin participated in a panel hosted by the American Enterprise Institute to discuss the proposed Senate ratification of the U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Professor Ronald Rotunda was one of a small and elite group of speakers at the July 2-3 International Judicial Conference in Riga, Latvia, at which U.S. Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito was guest of honor and keynote speaker.

Professor David Bernstein presented a paper at an event sponsored by the American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy in Washington, D.C.

Of course, no report on our professors’ activities would be complete without noting a few more trips to testify on Capitol Hill. In April Professor Todd Zywicki testified before the House Financial Services Committee Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit Subcommittee hearing on “Credit Card Practices: Current Consumer and Regulatory Issues.” In May Zywicki’s colleague Professor Timothy Muris contributed to the final hearing in the Department of Justice and Federal Trade Commission series of joint public hearings on single-firm conduct. And in July, Zywicki was back on the Hill again to testify before the House Committee on the Judiciary’s Subcommittee on Commercial and Administrative Law on the topic of medical debt and bankruptcy.

New Faces on the Faculty

Jeremy Rabkin, a renowned authority in public international law and recently confirmed by the U.S. Senate as a member of the Board of Directors of the United States Institute of Peace. (FALL 2007)

Eric Claeys, formerly of St. Louis University, one of the nation’s most important young property scholars. (FALL 2007)

Douglas Smith, currently a partner at Kirkland & Ellis, one of the country’s most prominent young constitutional historians. (SPRING 2008)

Nathan Sales, currently Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy Development at the Department of Homeland Security, an administrative law and national security law expert. (SPRING 2008)

New Visiting Faculty

Laura Bradford, visiting from George Washington, will teach Trademarks and Intellectual Property.

Christine Kymn (’06), a former Robert A. Levy Fellow in Law and Liberty, will teach Environmental Law and co-teach American Legal History.

Helen Alvaré, visiting from Catholic University of America, will teach Family Law.

Alyse Graham, previously one of our adjunct professors, will teach Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure.

Victoria Espinel, currently the Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Intellectual Property and Innovation, will teach Multinational Intellectual Property and Policy, as well as International Trade.

www.law.gmu.edu/alumni/
Alumna Named Virginia State Bar’s Young Lawyer of the Year

On June 15, Sarah Louppe Petcher (03) (far left) received the R. Edwin Burnett Jr. Young Lawyer of the Year Award by the Virginia State Bar’s Young Lawyers Conference. Petcher currently serves as chair of the YLC’s Immigration Outreach Committee. Under her leadership the committee partnered with the National Center for Refugee and Immigrant Children to recruit volunteer attorneys for children’s immigration cases. Her advocacy on behalf of immigrants also includes training Northern Virginia juvenile and domestic relations judges on the topic of undocumented-status juveniles and creating a CLE program on immigration consequences of criminal convictions.

Petcher’s volunteer work also extends to activities at Mason Law. She has served as the attorney adviser for the school’s Domestic Relations Legal Clinic, in which students assist self-represented litigants in uncontested divorces. In this role, she oversees the students’ work and serves as case manager for approximately 35 to 40 cases each semester. She also has coached the law school’s Jessup International Moot Court Competition team, a team on which she participated in 2002 when she won Best Oralist honors.

These activities “are very rewarding” Petcher reports. “I enjoy working with the students in the clinic, and my work with the Jessup team allows me to satisfy my continuing interest in international law, an area I don’t get to practice daily.”

“The award from the VSB was quite a surprise,” Petcher said, “I wasn’t even aware that I had been nominated until a week before it was awarded.” Fellow alumna Gina Marine (99), who serves with Petcher on the board of the Northern Virginia Chapter of the Virginia Women’s Attorney Association, nominated her for the award.

The Burnette Young Lawyer of the Year Award recognizes dedication to the YLC, the legal profession and the community. Petcher also received the YLC’s Outstanding Service Award in 2006 and 2007.

Modern Day Juggling Act— Attorney and Author Sarah Moffett

Balancing 2,000 billable hours while writing and then promoting a new book sounds easy and enjoyable after speaking with Sarah E. Moffett (05). Sarah’s book “Growing Up Moffett: The Rise and Fall of Innocence in a Pathos Plagued Year” was published in April, and since then Sarah has been touring bookstores and coffee houses to promote her coming-of-age memoir while continuing to practice law at LeClair Ryan in Alexandria, Virginia.

“I learned how to multi-task while I was an evening student at Mason Law,” Moffett jokes, “writing a book, touring, and serving as a second-year associate is just balancing different demands.”

The book is a memoir of Moffett’s childhood and tells the story of a year in her life when, at age twelve, three family members suddenly were diagnosed with terminal cancer. The memoir describes the sacrifices her family made in a move across the country to care for the relatives and how these events affected her own life.

“I decided to write the book after speaking with family members and finding that we had shared, as well as different, recollections of that time,” Moffett explained. “I wanted to preserve the memories and have the book serve as a tribute to my family, which inspired me through their sacrifices.”

Where did she find the time to pen her first book? “I actually wrote it all in six weeks,” she timidly admits. “I’d work all day and then come home in the evening and write. What was more difficult than finding the time was switching my writing style from the formal one required in legal writing to a more creative and descriptive style. I realized I needed to write the book now, not in five or seven years, for fear of creative atrophy.”

According to Moffett, her Mason Law experiences were helpful as she prepared and wrote her book. “Aside from the practical skills such as self-editing, which I learned while I was on the Federal Circuit Bar Journal, the Jeffersonian apprentice style I experienced at Mason allowed me to come out of law school more seasoned and more confident. I was freed up for other pursuits now because of the experience and background Mason Law provided me.”

An outline is already in the works for a second book, describing what Moffett calls her “sketchy undergraduate experiences that laid the ground for the unique and warm post-graduate experience that I had at Mason Law.”

More information on the author, her memoir, and future book tour dates can be found at www.sarahmoffett.com.
A Message From Dean Polsby

Two months ago I had the honor of welcoming our strongest class ever to Mason Law. They join us from over 145 undergraduate institutions, and 60 percent are from out of state. This new class boasts a median LSAT of 164 and a median GPA of 3.62. They are smart. They are ambitious. And they are entering, I emphasized, a community that places a premium on professionalism and service. The anxious new students that sat before me will go on to practice together, make referrals to one another, support each other for elected positions, and lead our businesses. They will be Mason Law’s principal source of support, serve as our adjunct and clinical professors, and hire our future students. Deans and faculty come and go, but the connection of the alumni body to Mason and to each other endures.

In 2007, our alumni demonstrated the strength of that Mason connection and sense of service as never before. A thousand of you—20 percent of our alumni ranks—contributed to the law school in response to the challenge of your colleagues Bill Blanton and Phil Dorsey. We had the highest participation rate of any academic unit in the history of George Mason. Almost 30 percent of you were first-time givers. Several of you, as you see in this newsletter, endowed or expanded scholarships. And, as 2007 draws to close, our alumni association has taken the lead on our first-ever law firm challenge.

Your unprecedented display of loyalty and leadership comes at a critical time. Today we face ever-more-challenging budgetary constraints. While we lag behind our competitors in financial aid, we have been told to expect our tuition to increase at a frightening clip of 10 percent a year. The Commonwealth of Virginia recently has imposed new, permanent budget cuts. Our students—fresh off of reading about lagging new attorney salaries, limited opportunities, and staggering tuition in the Wall Street Journal and elsewhere—are rightfully concerned.

We continue to offer one of the most innovative law programs out there, despite these challenges. I wish you could be here on a typical day. You would see such energy: new student events, faculty workshops, clinical meetings, room renovations, and staff working with students at all hours of the day. You each are a part of this vibrant community. With your continued involvement in Mason Law, we can do even more to help our students and to increase further the value of your degree.

And Did We Happen to Mention...

Rodney G. Leffler ('78) received the Virginia State Bar’s 2007 Harry L. Carrico Professionalism Award at its Criminal Law Seminar in Williamsburg, Virginia.

Leffler, with Leffler & Hyland PC in Fairfax, Virginia, was given the award for his commitment to the highest ideals of professionalism. He is a frequent provider of ethics training, continuing legal education courses, and presentations for the Criminal Law Section’s annual seminar.
MY GIFT TO MASON LAW

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

- $________ School of Law General Account
- $________ School of Law Student Scholarships
- $________ School of Law Library
- $________ (Specify other purpose.)

$________ TOTAL GIFT*

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

Pledge of $________

- Payable in ________ installment(s) in the month(s) circled below:
  - JUL  AUG  SEP  OCT  NOV  DEC
  - JAN  FEB  MAR  APR  MAY  JUN
- Please charge equal payments to my credit card in the months circled above.

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

**President's Circle**

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

**Dean's Club**

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

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Signature __________________________

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Matching Gifts (See below for information.)

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

Company name __________________________

Future support through planned giving

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

QUESTIONS?

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

Matching Gifts

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

Gifts of Securities

Gifts of appreciated stocks, bonds, or mutual funds can provide special tax advantages. These include a charitable deduction for the full fair market value of the gift and avoidance of capital gains taxes. The simplest and most efficient way to make a gift of stock to George Mason University School of Law is to instruct your broker or banker to transfer the stock to the GMU Foundation. You or your broker may call the School of Law Development Office at 703-993-9346 for transfer instructions or write to the School of Law Development Office, 3301 Fairfax Drive, MS1G3, Arlington, VA 22201. You may also e-mail the Director of Development at ccorish@gmu.edu. Please do not sell the stock in your name and have the proceeds sent to us, or that will be considered a cash contribution, and you will be liable for capital gains tax. In addition, keep in mind that many corporate matching gift programs honor a donation of securities.
George Mason University School of Law  
c/o George Mason University Foundation, Inc.  
Attn: School of Law Gifts  
4400 University Drive, MS 1A3  
Fairfax, VA 22030-4444

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City State Zip

Telephone

Business: ______________________ (effective date)

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City State Zip

Telephone

Name: ______________________

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

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No Rest for the Ambitious

By Stephen Gold, Class of ’99
Immediate Past President, Law Alumni Association

Fall has brought another talented crop of students to Mason Law, and the cycle of law life begins anew. Our continuous pursuit to be the best—to have the best faculty, to attract the best students, to achieve the recognition that Mason warrants—never ends. Not for the school’s administrators, and not for the alumni association either. Yes, we’re ambitious. And our efforts continue to pay off: Mason continues to climb in the U.S. News rankings and continues to gain in reputation in key circles, including the growing number of individuals who apply for admission each year. Even the ABA, in its accreditation visit this past spring, acknowledged that Mason deserves far more respect from certain quarters than it presently receives.

During my two-year tenure as president of the alumni association, we ambitiously did our part to continue building Mason’s reputation in the community. For example, through the efforts of the alumni association and the law school’s Development and Career, Academic and Alumni Services Offices, we helped boost the participation rate in alumni giving from approximately 12% to 20%. We threw a Judicial & Legislative Reception in May that drew more attendees—including local judges and legislators—as well as more sponsors than in any prior year. And we continued to provide funding for law school scholarships.

My term as president came to an end in June. Rich Kelsey (’99), a highly talented and respected member of our community, now takes over the helm. Still, I intend to continue promoting Mason law. We alumni must continue to help build a stronger Mason community. As I explained to the graduating class of ’07, the Mason community is growing all the time. Not only does it comprise the students, alumni, faculty and administration—it also includes the parents and spouses and offspring, and a growing number of other supporters, like Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas (who spoke at my graduation in ’99) and Rep. Tom Davis (who spoke at the ’06 graduation), and Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals Judge J. Harvie Wilkinson III (who delivered the graduation address this year—much to the delight and occasional chagrin of his son, Nelson, who sat among the students).

A strong sense of community adds great value to a school and to its alumni. In this, my final column, I encourage our alumni to always remember this, and to remain—or become—an active part of the George Mason community.

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The Honorable Liam O’Grady

Liam O’Grady (’77) was confirmed in July as a U.S. District Court judge for the Eastern District of Virginia.

A New Jersey native, O’Grady received his bachelor’s degree from Franklin & Marshall College in 1973 and his law degree from the International School of Law in 1977. He is another of the outstanding professionals who are part of Mason Law’s ISL era.
The High Cost of Learning
Continued from page 1

Moreover, sought-after prospective students routinely attempt to barter with admissions offices for better scholarship packages. The law school has more than doubled its investment in student aid to keep pace with requests, yet Mason Law still provides significantly less financial aid than its primary competitors. "Applicants are no longer shy about asking for money; they are worried about debt," says Alison Price, Senior Assistant Dean for Admissions. "We sometimes lose exceptional candidates to other law schools with higher tuition but better financial aid and scholarship packages."

Alumni have begun to step up to the plate to help Mason Law decrease the financial aid gap with its competitors. In 1995, Bob Levy ('94) was the only graduate to contribute a major gift to the law school. He endowed the Robert A. Levy Fellowships in Law & Liberty for students with PhDs in economics or related fields who intend to pursue academic careers. In 2002, Jason Smolen ('77) and Alan Plevy ('77) became the second and third graduates to give a major gift when they pledged to create the Smolen Plevy Scholarship.

Smolen and Plevy formed their own firm in 1977 after graduating from the International School of Law. Their business has grown from a two-man shop to a firm of 10 attorneys who serve businesses and individuals on matters ranging from estate planning and family law to corporate law and litigation. Their ranks include several Mason alumni: partners Dan Ruttenberg ('97) and Kathryn Dickerson ('99) and associates Scott Taylor ('01), Melanie Fett ('07), and Gretchen Meinken ('97).

The Smolen Plevy Scholarship specifically is directed to attracting and retaining non-Virginia residents. "We were celebrating 25 years of successful practice in the Northern Virginia metropolitan area, and we wanted to use the opportunity to give back to our adopted community," recalls Jason Smolen. "We were both out-of-state students when we began our legal education at GMUSL, and we were proud of how the school had grown in character and reputation since our graduation. As former out-of-state students, we were aware of the difference in tuition and other expenses for out-of-state students as opposed to in-state students. We could, and therefore did to the extent we were able, address that issue for this new generation of GMUSL students."

A named graduate scholarship at George Mason requires a $50,000 endowment, which in turn pays out about $2000 a year to a student recipient. Endowments can be paid over a period of years, and contributions can be directed to current use as well as to endowment. In Smolen and Plevy’s case, the two partners elected to accelerate their payment plan for the scholarship and increase their total giving. "We were at our 30 year anniversary, and we decided to celebrate by increasing our giving to the school," says Alan Plevy. "When we created our firm, among other things, we wanted to ensure an environment that encouraged attorneys and staff to be involved in the community. As attorneys, we have a unique perspective on the legal system, the manner in which it permeates people’s lives and its effect, occasionally unequal, on the various members our community. All of our attorneys are actively involved in one or more bar association or community groups, and we support their involvement. This dedication is part of our firm’s outlook."

Carrie elected to endow a student scholarship. "The benefits of continuing my career development while attending the evening program were immeasurable," says Jolly. "We hope the scholarship we have endowed will afford other working professionals the same personal and career advancement. We also hope this scholarship will challenge other alumni to consider financially supporting Mason Law and its many scholarships that are essential to attracting great students." Like many past and present Mason students, Jolly has long worked in the political arena, and he presently works at Van Scoyoc Associates, Inc., a well-known government affairs firm. The Jolly scholarship will help Mason continue its tradition of attracting talented public policy and other evening students.

Mason alumni and their firms can help the school turn the corner on financial aid. Individuals or firms interested in a named scholarship can contact Christopher Corish, Director of Development, at ccorish@gmu.edu for more information.

National Recognition for Mason Law

2007 has been a banner year for Mason Law. Many are coming to learn what we have known for a long time—that hardworking Mason students, faculty, and alumni make the institution a force with which to be reckoned in legal education. Some of the highlights from 2007 include:

U.S. News & World Report Law School Rankings—
Mason Law Ranked No. 34
Mason Law’s highest ranking ever on this annual review of law schools.
Go to www.usnews.com/sections/rankings/index.html for more information.

Brian Leiter’s Law School Rankings — Mason Law Faculty Ranked No. 23 for Scholarly Impact
Ranking based on measurement of per capita citations to faculty scholarship.

Top 25 Most Underrated Law Schools—Mason Law Ranked No. 6
Survey conducted by career publisher Vault, Inc.
Go to www.vault.com/lawschool/underrated for more information.

Top Moot Court Programs—Mason Law Ranked No. 10
Ranking based on school’s success in competitions with 24 or more teams.
Go to www.bestmootcourtprograms.com for more information.

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

2000–2007

Dan Beaty ('07) is currently helping to launch a family business, Provenance—Old Soul Architecturals, in Philadelphia.

Huong Thanh Thien Lam ('06) and Dr. Craig Lee Millburn, both of Myrtle Beach, were married on June 3, 2007, at the Dunes West Golf Club in Charleston, SC.

Min H. Park ('06) is an associate in the Washington, DC, law offices of Connolly Bove Lodge & Hutz LLP. Min is in the Intellectual Property Group, where he represents clients in a variety of areas, including due diligence, patent litigation, and patent prosecution within the electronic areas.

Jodie Herrmann ('06) is currently a clerk for The Honorable Liam O’Grady ('77) of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia.

Rob Hall ('06) is working for Judge Luckern at the U.S. International Trade Commission. The Halls are expecting a baby in 2008.

Hollis Peterson ('06) is moving to Jones Day’s West Coast offices subsequent to her husband’s military activation.

Jon McKay ('06) is an assistant state’s attorney in Kane County, Illinois, assigned to traffic and misdemeanor cases.

Garrett Gluth ('06) has taken a position as a Senior Tax Analyst with accounting firm Grant Thornton.

Wendi Collier ('06) is working for Willeford Haile, a CPA firm in Roswell, Georgia.

Sarah Bruns ('06) has joined the Loudoun County Public Defender’s Office.

Chris Murray ('06) is Associate Counsel at the Board of Veterans Appeals.

Dean Anderson ('06) has joined The Law Firm of Evan H. Farr, PC, in Fairfax, practicing estate administration and planning and Medicaid asset protection planning.

Trent England ('06), Director of the Citizens Action Network of the Evergreen Freedom Foundation in Olympia, Washington, has been elected by the Kitsap County Republican Party to be their state committeeman.

David Plunkett (JM '04, JD '06) has left the Hill to take a position as Senior Staff Attorney at the Center for Science in the Public Interest.

Brendan Lynch ('05) stayed in Orlando, Florida after his clerkship. He is with Lowndes, Drosdick, Doster, Kantor & Reed, P.A., doing real estate, zoning, and land use work.


Jennifer Lattimore ('05) has joined the DC Litigation group of Ballard Spahr Andrews & Ingersoll LLP and specializes in Labor and Employment Law.

Brett Buick ('05) is currently an Assistant District Attorney in the Montgomery County District Attorney’s Office in Norristown, Pennsylvania.

Roger Skalbeck ('05), wife Maria, and son Henry returned in June from a trip to Thailand, where they increased the size of their family with the adoption of new son Zachary.

Adam Kaplan ('05) is a Privacy Compliance Analyst for Accenture National Security Services in Reston, Virginia.

Jon ('05) and Mary ('02) Lutz happily announce the birth of their second daughter, Amelia Anne, on August 28, 2007.

Katie Brouwer ('05) and Marcos Araus ('04) were married on September 8, 2007. In June Marcos began a new position in the General Counsel’s office at FERC.

Blair Schiff ('05) and Anne Penarczyk ('04) were married in November 2006.

Patrick Quigley ('04) has moved to Venable in Tysons Corner, where he works on government contracts.

Nick and Jodi (Wildermann) Simopoulos (both '04) have relocated to Richmond, Virginia, where Nick has taken a position with Harman, Claytor, Corrigan & Wellman, while Jodi is with LeClairRyan.

Jennifer Pitts ('04) is planning an April 2008 marriage to Kenneth McKenna of Orlando, Florida. Jennifer is Senior Counsel for College Loan Corporation in Washington, DC.

Andrea Tiglio ('04) has joined Townsend and Townsend and Crew LLP in its Washington, DC, office as an associate.

John Lehmann ('04) has returned to his position as Senior Counsel with the SEC’s Division of Enforcement after rendering assistance to the Iraq Reconstruction Management Office in the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad. (See photo and related story on page 3.)

Margaret Anderson ('03) has joined Mirick O’Connell as Director of Marketing and Business Development. She is based in the firm’s Worcester, Massachusetts, office.

A. Wesley Ferreebee ('03) has joined Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP as an associate in the area of software patent practice.

Sarah Louppe Petcher ('03) is Associate General Counsel for the Northern Virginia Association of Realtors in Manassas, Virginia. Husband Rhett Petcher ('03) is with Seyfarth Shaw in Washington, DC. (See photo and associated story of Sarah’s recent award from the Virginia State Bar’s Young Lawyers Conference on page 15.)

Moin Yahya ('03) writes that a paper he presented at the April 2005 Levy Workshop has been accepted for publication in the Osgood Hall Law Journal. The paper also has received the 2007 Canadian Association of Law Teachers’ scholarly paper award.


Brian Biggie ('03) has been named an associate in the law firm of Goldberg Segalla.

J. Justin McKenna ('03) has moved to the Sacramento office of Bullivant Houser Bailey PC. His practice focuses on commercial and business litigation, construction defect claims, and premises liability defense.

Erin and Chase Karsman (both '03) report that they...
Alumni News
Continued from page 21

have moved to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Daughter Chloe Rose was born in September, joining older sister Lily. Chase is with Jones Day, while Erin works for Smith Pachtner from home.

Andrew Soresen (’03) is currently a student at Notre Dame working on his MBA.

Jeff Thiebert (’03) and Erin Moore Thiebert (’02) currently reside in Lufkin, Texas, where Jeff is the Southwest Regional Director for The Concord Coalition. Erin is General Counsel for her family’s construction company, Moore Building Associates, LLP. The Thieberts are pleased to announce the birth of their son, Owen Marshall Thiebert, on April 20, 2007.

Su Yong Min (’02) has opened her own practice, Su Yong Min, PLLC, in Fairfax, Virginia.

Scott and Hope (Fields) Rosen (both ’02) announce the birth of their son Jacob Mason on September 11, 2006.

Tom Tollesfson (’02) reports that his move has gone well, and he is now an associate with Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft LLP in New York.

Danielle Waterfield (’02) has accepted the position of Assistant Legal Counsel for The Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries. Danielle and husband Joel are also happy to announce the arrival of their second son, Mason Daniel, born on July 17, 2007.

Michael Douglas Hagarty (’02) was married in September 2007 to Sara Elizabeth Mies. They reside in Clarendon. Having spent the past 11 years at America Online, Matthew now heads up their Corporate eDiscovery group.

Tony King (’02), formerly with Rutan & Tucker in Southern California, began his own practice in April 2007.

Lisa Thatch (’02) and husband John welcomed son Hunter on December 21, 2006. Hunter joins brother Tyler, now three.

Todd (’01) and B.A. (Pointkowski) (’02) Spignardo welcomed their second daughter, Calla Anna, on March 1, 2007. Calla joins older sister Bella Anna, born October 5, 2005.

Betty Stevens (’01) was promoted to Senior Litigation Counsel at the Office of Immigration Litigation at the Justice Department.

Tom Temple (’01) is a trial attorney with the Law Offices of William R. Satterberg Jr. in Fairbanks, Alaska, specializing in criminal defense, personal injury, and wrongful death cases. Tom and wife Amy are also happy to announce the birth of their fourth child, Saffron Renea, on April 1. Tom reports that he spends his free time hunting The Last Frontier.

Todd Marks (’01) and his wife recently had the pleasure of hosting the Lieutenant Governor of Florida at their home. Todd is with Westchase Law Group, P.A. in Tampa, Florida.

Jeff Perez (’01) joined Third Security, LLC, as Managing Director and Associate General Counsel, Intellectual Property.

Robert Pope (’01) and Jessica Branhm were married on May 6, 2007, in Fairfax, Virginia.

Grant Clovery (’01) has joined Ceteris, a company that assists clients with their transfer pricing, litigation support and valuation matters.

Angela France (’01) was recently named partner at Albo & Oblon, L.L.P. Her primary areas of concentration are business and corporate law, bankruptcy, and creditors’ rights. She works in the firm’s Arlington, Virginia, office.

Andrew Shore (’01) and two former Mayer Brown colleagues opened a new government affairs firm called Jouchum Shore & Trossevien. (See photo and related story on page 2).

Chandra Branhm (’01) joined Arent Fox in September. She is working in their health care practice group.

Rachel (Moore) Goldstein (’00) has been elected a partner at Gary & Regenhardt PLLC in Leesburg, Virginia.

Jonathan Dols (’00) received the Department of Transportation’s Lawrence R. Schneider Award, which is given annually to a DOT attorney with a “distinguished record of ability and accomplishment.” He currently serves as Chief, Air Travel Consumer Protection and Air Carrier Licensing Branch, an arm of the DOT General Counsel’s Office of Aviation Enforcement. In August 2007 he will hold DOT’s student billet at the Industrial College of the Armed Forces (ICAF) at Ft. McNair in Washington, DC, studying the relationship of civilian industry to national defense.

Kenneth Falkenstein (’00) and wife Kim are proud to announce the birth of their son, Adam Joseph, on July 6, 2007. Ken practices as a business litigation attorney with the Newport News, Virginia, law firm of David, Kamp & Frank, L.L.C.

Mark Looney (’00) reports the birth of son Jake Robert (8 pounds, 13 ounces) in August 2007. Mark was sworn in as chairman of the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce Board on June 26. He is a partner at Cooley Godward Kronish, where he specializes in development and land use.

Carson Sullivan (’00) is the proud mother of Katherine Stewart (Kate) Sullivan, born July 24, 2007.

1990–1999

Matthew Kensky (’99) is happy to announce that his second child, Owen, was born in July 2004, joining sister Abigail, who finished kindergarten in June 2007. In 2004 the family moved from Gainesville to Manassas, Virginia.

Dawn-Marie Bey (’99) has become a partner in King & Spalding, where she works in the Intellectual Property Group in the firm’s Washington, DC, office.

Suhana Rai (’99) has joined the administrative staff of Florida Coastal School of Law as an Academic Success Counselor. She prepares and presents workshops, counsels and advises students on academic probation, and plans and executes student orientation. Suhana has settled in Jacksonville, Florida, with her husband and two children.

James Wiser (’99) was married to Carrie Rae Peters (also an attorney) in October 2007. James is employed by the Suffolk Commonwealth’s Attorney’s Office in Suffolk, Virginia.

Jennifer Sledge Felts (’99) and new husband Troy reside in Charlotte, NC. Earlier in the year, the Felts were married in a ceremony attended by a large showing of Mason Law alumni.

Paul Dean (’99) was named Director of Government Relations of the American Public Transportation Association, where

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he will serve as chief lobbyist for the public transit industry in Washington.

DeAnn Malone ('99) won the 2007 Civilian Heroine for the Combined Federal Campaign of the National Capital Area. The award was given based on CFCNCA volunteer activities, as well as community-wide volunteer activities.

Brian Block ('98) recently earned his certified residential specialist designation, placing him in the top 4% of realtors nationwide. Brian specializes in real estate in Alexandria, Arlington, and Falls Church, Virginia.

Jonathan Link ('98) has joined Townsend and Townsend and Crew LLP, an intellectual property law firm, as a partner in the Litigation Practice Group. Jonathan works in the firm's eighth and newest office in Washington, DC.

Scott Bucci and Mark Dix (both class of '98), who were partners in the Richmond litigation boutique Morris & Morris, have left to form their own firm, Bucci & Dix.

Christopher Gamber ('97) has opened a law firm, Seidel Gamber, PLLC, in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. The firm concentrates on estate planning, charitable planning and consultation, and business and corporate consultation and planning.

Mark J. Nuell ('97) has been appointed partner in Birch, Stewart, Kolasch & Birch. He joins the firm's biotechnology practice in its West Coast offices in San Diego, California.

Leslie Norwalk ('96) has left the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to form her own health consultancy firm, Norwalk and Associates.

Laura Wytasma ('96), has joined the Los Angeles office of Loeb & Loeb as a partner in the intellectual property litigation group. Laura also has litigated in the areas of antitrust, false advertising, defamation, and complex commercial disputes.

John Boyd ('94) has moved with his family to Ridgefield, Connecticut, after 10 years in Manhattan. He and his wife, Yvonne Tran, have two daughters, Taylor and Stella. John reports that he left his job as Chief Intellectual Property Counsel for a semiconductor technology company to launch his new social/business networking website, www.travelersTable.com.

Harlan Sands ('94) is Associate Provost for Administration and Finance at the University of Alabama in Birmingham.

Stephen Gallagher ('94) of Venable LLP has been named to the Best Lawyers in America annual legal rankings. Best Lawyers selects its annual rankings based upon more than 12,000 anonymous peer assessments of candidates' legal abilities.

Johnny Kumar ('93) has joined Winston & Strawn as a partner in the firm’s DC litigation practice. He is a patent litigation, counseling, and transactional attorney.

J. Dwight Poffenberger Jr. ('93) was promoted to partner at Wood, Herron & Evans, L.L.P., an intellectual property boutique firm in Cincinnati, Ohio, in January 2007.

William Adams ('93) has been promoted to Senior Managing Director by FTI Consulting, Inc., where he specializes in litigation discovery, database creation and management, and courtroom presentation technologies.

Patrick Doody ('93) has joined Goodwin Proctor LLP’s Washington, DC, office as a partner. Patrick focuses his practice on intellectual property with an emphasis on patent law.

Bryan McGahan ('93) has accepted a position as Underwriting Counsel for Conestoga Title Insurance Company in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

Caron Byrd ('93) has left the Mid-South Chapter of the American Red Cross to become the Executive Director of Ronald McDonald House Charities of Memphis.

David M. Young ('92) has joined Goodwin Proctor LLP as a partner in its Washington, DC, office, where he is part of the firm's IP Litigation practice.

Kathleen Uston ('91) has joined the Virginia State Bar’s Alexandria, Virginia, office as an Assistant Bar Counsel after having been a solo practitioner in Alexandria previously.

Michael Knight ('91), formerly Senior FTC Attorney, has joined Cooley Godward Kronish LLP as a partner.

Veronica Gillespie ('90) is Majority Elections Counsel for the Senate Rules Committee.

1981–1989

David Hannah ('88) has joined Bean, Kinney & Korman as Of Counsel. He represents lenders with an emphasis on real estate acquisitions, development, finance, leasing, and land use.

Sheldon Kline ('87) has joined the Washington, DC, office of Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton LLP as a partner in the firm’s Labor and Employment practice group.

Judge Leslie Alden ('83) recently became President Elect of the International Association of Women Judges.

John J. Byrne ('83) was named by Irish America to its Tenth Annual Wall Street 50, a list of leaders in the financial industry

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LOST ALUMNI!

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

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

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having an Irish heritage. John is Regulatory Relations Executive for Bank of America.

Cathy Betz (’83) has been appointed Vice President, Government Affairs, for Wolters Kluwer Health. She is based in Washington, DC.

Denise Bode (’82) has accepted the position of head of the American Clean Skies Foundation.

Walter Wilson III (’82) graduated from the University of Richmond in May with an MBA (finance concentration). He is AVP & Commercial Underwriting Counsel for LandAmerica in Glen Allen, Virginia.


Craig Young (’82) is coauthor of a new handbook entitled Bankruptcy and Its Impact on Intellectual Property.

Former District Judge Thomas J. Love (’81) has been named Administrative Judge of Prince George’s County (District Five). He is responsible for administration of the court; the supervision of all judges, officers, and employees; expeditious disposition of cases; management of the trial calendar; and oversight of the court’s budget and procurement functions.

1980 and Earlier

Hugh Reed (’80) is the founder and National Director of Reed Law Group, Ltd, d/b/a PassYourBar.com, LawSchoolTutoring.com, Pre-LawReview.com and MaxYourLSAT.com. His company has its headquarters in Chicago, Illinois.

Paul Nichols (’78) is a founding partner of Nichols Za- uzig Sandler PC, a 10-lawyer firm with an emphasis on trial litigation with its primary offices in Woodbridge, Virginia. He was selected by his peers to be listed in “Best Lawyers in America” in the field of family law. In addition, he was recognized by Washingtonian Magazine as among the “Top Family Lawyers” in the Washington metropolitan area.

Phyllis Jo Gervasio (’78) is tax counsel for Rep. Kendrick Meek (D-Fla.), after having served as a trial attorney at the Department of Justice for 18 years.

Liam O’Grady (’77) was confirmed in July as a judge for the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia. (See related photo and information on page 19.)

Douglas Lashley (’76) is Managing Director and General Counsel for Green Vest, an environmental advisory and eco asset development firm headquartered in Annapolis, Maryland. He remains a principal in Douglas L. Lashley, PC, a law firm with special emphasis on environmental and conventional land use planning, regulatory compliance, and permitting issues in the Mid-Atlantic region.

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.

Hugh Teitelbaum (’81)
Robert P. Remet (’80)
Pete Murchison (’80)
Joseph McGovern (’78)
Eugene Shine (’78)