

*Where will you go from here?*

## Fast Facts:

### *About George Mason University School of Law*

- *Mason Law is located in Arlington, Virginia, only a short distance from downtown Washington, D.C., with convenient access to the Orange Line of the Metro subway system.*
- *Mason Law is part of the Commonwealth of Virginia's higher education system and affords Virginia residents the benefits of in-state tuition. It is the only law school located in Northern Virginia.*
- *Mason Law has an enrollment of approximately 750 students and offers its students both a full-time day and a part-time evening program of study.*
- *Mason Law is both the most recently accredited and the fastest-rising law school in the top tier of the most recent U.S. News & World Report ranking of U.S. law schools.*
- *Professor Brian Leiter of the University of Texas has ranked Mason Law's faculty 23<sup>rd</sup> in overall productivity and impact in his "New Educational Quality Ranking of U.S. Law Schools for 2003–2004."*
- *Admission to Mason Law is extremely competitive and is comparable to that of some of the most prestigious law schools in the country.*

# George Mason University School of Law

## *On the Doorstep of the Nation's Capital*

George Mason University School of Law is located just across the Potomac River from Washington, D.C., the nexus for the creation of the world's most important legislation and jurisprudence. Metropolitan Washington offers students access to a multitude of opportunities and legal resources of tremendous scope and depth, as well as year-round employment options with major executive branch agencies, congressional commissions, and federal agencies, as well as hundreds of private law firms.

Through our clinical and externship programs, students may work for credit in judges' chambers, government agencies, and law firms to supplement their studies with practical training. Our law school, the only one located in Northern Virginia, enjoys great support from the regional legal community. Many practicing attorneys, government officials, and judges in our area not only teach courses but also mentor and help our students develop and attain their career goals.

Where will you go from here?

The answer is: *Anywhere you want*. Read about some of the varied and interesting careers currently being enjoyed by Mason Law graduates in the pages that follow.



# *The Honorable Leslie Alden*

*Class of 1983*

**Circuit Court Judge,  
Fairfax Circuit Court**



Over the years George Mason has put many law students on the path to notable achievement in the legal profession. Whether in courts, clinics, law offices or government service, Mason Law students are leading the way in the development of the law in our new, global society. George Mason's excellent reputation and its location in the Washington metropolitan area increase a graduate's ability to establish powerful professional connections and to develop significant employment opportunities.

It has been my good fortune to bring my George Mason legal education, experience and background to my present position as a state trial court judge, after many years of practice as a partner with a major Washington, D.C., law firm. I also worked with international organizations, based here in Washington, that promote the rule of law, access to justice and judicial education around the world. Indeed, even today, my continuing involvement with the innovative programs and leaders at George Mason enhances my success.



*William Mercer*

*Class of 1993*

**United States Attorney,  
District of Montana**

The George Mason evening division program allowed me to pursue a JD while working full time in the Department of Justice's Office of Policy Development. The opportunity to get a legal education without derailing my work as a policy analyst was central to my professional growth. In my work as U.S. Attorney for Montana and as Chairman of the Attorney General's Advisory Committee, I draw on both Mason Law's innovative curriculum and four years of professional policy experience at Justice that I could not have obtained without the evening division option.



# Paul Misener

*Class of 1993*

Vice President,  
Global Public Policy  
Amazon.com, Incorporated



Today's public policy is tomorrow's law. In a rapidly-evolving industry segment like e-commerce, there may be no more effective way for a lawyer to shape the legal regime that one day will face his or her clients (in my case, Amazon.com and its customers) than by affecting current policymaking.

Sometimes compared unflatteringly to sausage grinding, policymaking often is imagined to be even worse: a mere charade of binary yes/no, black/white polemics in which decisions ultimately are reached only through raw political force. In reality, most policymaking is not in black-and-white but, rather, in shades of gray, and the most effective advocates are those comfortable with ambiguity, uncertainty, and multi-variable problem solving.

This is where my George Mason education has proven invaluable. Although most schools teach well beyond the blackletter law of bar review courses, Mason Law's faculty not only taught us how to think comfortably in gray areas, they gave us an objective framework in which to develop and advocate sensible, defensible middle-ground solutions. I have been very fortunate to have had the opportunity to use this analytical framework before policymaking bodies as important as Congress and the Diet, and in places as geographically and politically distant as Brussels and Beijing; Ottawa and Olympia; and Topeka and Carson City.



# Gregory McClinton

*Class of 1989*

**Trial Attorney,  
U.S. Equal Employment  
Opportunity Commission**

In my job as a trial attorney for the EEOC's Los Angeles District Office, I am responsible for litigating employer violations of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the Equal Pay Act.

I am currently lead attorney in *EEOC v. Universal Pictures*, the EEOC's first lawsuit examining racial discriminatory practices in the movie industry.

Before joining the staff of the EEOC, I practiced business litigation, entertainment, and family law in Culver City, California. Wynton Marsalis, Jermaine Jackson, and James Brown were among my clients in private practice.





# Kathryn Dickerson

Class of 1999

Senior Associate Attorney,  
Smolen Plevy



As a litigator, my practice is predominantly family law. I have appeared in the District of Columbia, state, and federal courts and in the District and Circuit Courts of the various Northern Virginia jurisdictions, as well as the Federal District Court and the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Virginia.

One of the best (and worst) aspects of my job is the immediate feedback an attorney receives from the Bench as to how well a case was presented. Litigation is a constant learning process. Before each case, you research and prepare. After each case, you review and evaluate. My practice is never boring.

I know that I have benefited from the small size of our firm, and the partners actively teach and guide associates through the practical aspects of the practice of law. At the time I joined Smolen Plevy, all of the attorneys were Mason Law graduates. Even now, our firm is still made up predominantly of Mason graduates. Our firm's sponsorship of a scholarship at the school is further evidence of its commitment to Mason Law and is in keeping with the character of the firm and its members.





# *Kevin Streeter*

*Class of 2002*

**Deputy Project Director  
Schools and Clinics Construction  
and Refurbishment Program  
CHF International**

I spent several years in the Peace Corps before going to law school, and the experience altered and expanded my view of the world. I became interested in the field of international relief, and that led to my decision to study law. When I began to research law schools, it was evident to me that Mason Law's location just across the Potomac River from downtown Washington, D.C., offered opportunities for someone with my career interests that were unsurpassed anywhere else in the United States.

My law background helps me to recognize and focus on key issues and challenges that international relief projects must overcome in order to achieve success and help improve the world in which we live. My current assignment in Kabul, Afghanistan, provides me with an inside look at the struggles of a Third World nation as it begins to rebuild after a long period of strife.



# *O'Kelly McWilliams*

*Class of 1993*

Partner,

Pepper Hamilton LLP

Labor and Employment

Practice



My practice is primarily in the area of employment matters, and my clients include government contractors and commercial entities in the energy, high tech, university, financial services, telecommunications, retail, hospitality, and food service industries.

I advise on all aspects of the employer/employee relationship, including employee recruiting, hiring, evaluation, promotion, compensation and incentive programs, discipline and termination. I am frequently called upon to provide corporate counsel and human resources personnel with guidance in developing strategies and documentation for handling difficult and sensitive employee situations, including confidential internal investigations.

From 2001–2002 I served as president of the Virginia State Bar Young Lawyers Conference, and I currently am a member of the American Bar Association's Board of Governors.



*Jon Wright*

*Class of 2002*

**Associate,  
Sterne, Kessler, Goldstein & Fox**

I started law school having just completed seven years in the U.S. Navy submarine force. As a nuclear and electrical engineer, I knew I wanted to focus my legal career in Intellectual Property. I initially chose George

Mason because I felt its IP specialty track best suited my career goals, while its public school status made it very affordable. I can tell you now that George Mason *far* exceeded my expectations.

First, George Mason's world-class faculty challenged me and expanded my legal perspectives far beyond my initial focus on IP. Second, the law school's fantastic location and small class size provided ample opportunity for me and my classmates to distinguish ourselves. Finally, George Mason's exploding reputation in the legal community provided me superb opportunities for professional growth beyond graduation. Having recently completed a year-long clerkship at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, I am now practicing at the elite IP specialty firm of Sterne, Kessler, Goldstein & Fox. A law degree from George Mason provides an unbeatable return on investment!



# James Hyland

Class of 1989

Of Counsel,  
DLA Piper Rudnick



I am currently Of Counsel at DLA Piper Rudnick, one of the top five largest law firms in the world, specializing in federal relations and financial services law. While attending Mason Law's night program, I worked on Capitol Hill, where I spent a total of 18 years working as an aide to three U.S. Senators and for the House and Senate Banking Committees.

While working on the Hill, I came to realize that many Mason Law grads were serving as staff members in the House and Senate, working as lobbyists, and appearing regularly on the Hill as representatives of a variety of firms and organizations. Along with fellow alum David Landers ('93), I worked to establish our current Capitol Hill Alumni Group, an organization that meets regularly on the Hill to bring together Mason Law and Department of Economics alumni, students, and faculty with a shared interest in Capitol Hill.



*Moin Yahya*

*Class of 2003*

Assistant Professor of Law,  
University of Alberta

I teach law at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

Currently I teach Contracts and Corporations, but I will be introducing courses in Law & Economics and Quantitative Methods for Lawyers. My education at Mason Law gave me both the doctrinal and theoretical skills needed to teach law from both a traditional and a theoretic approach. My research is also a product of my years at George Mason, as many of the issues I research came to my attention during my JD education.



# *Lizette Benedi*

*Class of 1999*

Deputy Assistant  
Attorney General,  
Office of Justice Programs  
United States Department  
of Justice



I knew after completing my undergraduate degree in government at the University of Virginia that I wanted to continue my education at a law school near the nation's capital. After researching all of the law schools in the region, I realized that I would receive a first-rate education for a reasonable price at George Mason.

After graduating from Mason Law, I spent three years in the U.S. Department of Justice in the Office of Legal Policy before my appointment as Deputy Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Justice Programs. Our office provides federal leadership in developing the nation's capacity to prevent and control crime, improve the criminal and juvenile justice systems, increase knowledge about crime and related issues, and assist crime victims. My studies at Mason Law provided me with the skills to conduct the complex analytical and economic analysis necessary to do my job successfully.



## *Michael Barnes*

Class of 2002

**Managing Attorney,  
Barnes Law Practice**

George Mason enabled me to earn my law degree from an institution with a fast-growing reputation while keeping my finances in order, gaining more work experience, and building professional relationships in Washington, D.C. In my second and third years of law school, for example, I worked part time on anti-terrorism cases of first impression and interned for academic credit for U.S. Senator George Allen. Immediately after passing the bar exam, I took a legal position in the Executive Office of the President.

My strong educational foundation, legal experience and contacts, and lower-than-average law school debt load made it possible for me to start my own firm relatively early in my career. I now run my own federal and international law practice. I have offices in metropolitan Washington and in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and represent my clients in negotiations and transactions spanning five continents.





# Pablo Yacub

Class of 2000

In-house Counsel,  
Business and Legal Affairs  
Department  
MTV Networks Latin America



After graduating from George Mason Law, I moved to Miami Beach to work as in-house counsel for MTV Networks Latin America. Our television network comprises MTV, Nickelodeon, VH-1, and five digital channels (i.e., MTV Hits, MTV Jams, VH1 Soul, VH1 Mega Hits, and Nickelodeon's GAS), which we transmit to over 20 countries in Latin America.

My role at MTV's Business & Legal Affairs Department consists of advising the different departments on all legal issues, as well as negotiating contracts with on-air talent, music labels, cable operators, program distributors, satellite providers, wireless companies, and all other production-related agreements.

In the past five years, I have had the good fortune of moving up the corporate ladder to second in command of my department while witnessing a parallel escalation of George Mason's reputation as a first-tier law school. In fact, in the latest *U.S. News & World Report* rankings, George Mason ranked higher than any law school in Florida, which explains why Mason alumni are so heavily recruited. I am truly grateful for the legal education that I received at Mason and the opportunities that it provided me.



*M. Todd Heflin*

Class of 2001  
Special Agent,  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
New Orleans Division  
Public Corruption Squad

I always loved the law and knew I wanted to attend law school. After seven years as a police officer, I chose Mason initially through a simple cost benefit analysis (Mason was the least expensive school on my list, and it was near my family). I started law school with the intention of working for a large law firm doing civil litigation. I immersed myself in law school, enjoying the academics as well as the social aspects, serving on the editorial board of the *Civil Rights Law Journal* and as president of the Student Bar Association.

Although Mason prepared me well for the practice of law, my heart never left law enforcement. While doing my clerkship after graduation, I applied to the FBI. After a 14-month process, I was hired in August 2003. After attending the Special Agents Basic Class at Quantico, Virginia, I was transferred to the New Orleans Field Office and began work on a public corruption squad, a real “dream job” for me.



# Steven Fredley

Class of 2002  
Associate,  
Jones Day



I arrived at George Mason Law with a degree in architecture from the University of Utah. A young school with an ever-increasing reputation for excellence, Mason Law helped prepare me for a career in the demanding Washington, D.C., legal market through its emphasis on legal writing and economic analysis.

The law school has devoted significant resources to assisting students in securing employment both during school and upon graduation. I had the opportunity, after graduation, to work as a law clerk to The Honorable Frank Bullock Jr. of the United States District Court for the Middle District of North Carolina. I worked in Judge Bullock's chambers assisting in the management and disposition of criminal and civil matters. This experience and the organized recruiting efforts of the the law school helped me secure permanent employment with Jones Day, one of the world's largest international law firms with more than 2200 attorneys in 30 offices around the world.

*George Mason University  
School of Law  
3301 Fairfax Drive  
Arlington, Virginia 22201  
703-993-8010*

*[www.law.gmu.edu](http://www.law.gmu.edu)*





School of Law

*On the Doorstep of the Nation's Capital*