LEGAL TREATMENT

Who Is Ultimately Responsible for Public Health?

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Widener University School of Law Magazine

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### Legal Treatment: Who is Ultimately Responsible for Public Health?

Also: The Health Law Institute, *Focusing on the Legal Side of Public Health*
DEAR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS: Greetings! The 2007-2008 school year at the Widener Law School has begun with the enrollment of nearly 1,600 students from around the globe on the Delaware and Harrisburg campuses. We are beginning the year with four new full-time faculty and four visitors, including distinguished professors from Asia, all of whom bring impressive credentials and experience. More about these additions, along with items on faculty achievements and administrative appointments, can be found beginning on page 22. Our ABA-accredited Legal Education Institute, which provides training in paralegal and legal nurse consultant programs under the direction of Assistant Dean Eileen Grena, is also expanding. This edition is dedicated to the Widener Law School Institutes: Corporate and Business Law, Health Law, Law and Government, and Advocacy and Technology. If I were to use one word to describe what is happening with these programs, it would be growth. This progress is consistent with the strategic plan the faculty adopted just a year ago. The cover article on public health is written by the current director of the Health Law Institute, Professor John Culhane. The $2 trillion U.S. health care industry and health care issues dominate national and international discussions among policy makers, businesspeople and citizen-consumers. Widener has enjoyed a national reputation in health law, and we are expanding our program to reflect the unmet needs in this area. Delaware is known as the heart of Corporate America. In 2000, Widener officially established the Corporate Law Institute. Included among its distinguished programs is the Ruby R. Vale Corporate Moot Court Competition, which is in its 20th year, predating the Institute. More than a thousand students from schools across this nation have competed; finalists appear before members of the distinguished Delaware Supreme Court. The School’s Delaware Journal of Corporate Law is ranked 13th among all of the specialty legal scholarly journals. On page 9 Larry Hamermesh, the Ruby R. Vale Professor of Corporate and Business Law and Director of the Institute, explains why the name of this program was changed to Corporate and Business Law. The Law and Government Institute on the Harrisburg campus, directed by Vice Dean and Professor of Law John Gedid, is beginning its eighth year. Since last year, two associate directors have been added to the staff. Student fellows not only take coursework that will lead to a concentration certificate in law and government, but they are also engaged in the implementation of programmatic initiatives giving them additional experience with scholars, the legislature, administrative agencies and the judiciary. Finally, Professor John Nivala, Director of the Advocacy and Technology Institute, writes about taking the training of advocates to the next level. The award-winning Trial Advocacy Program is also undergoing a name change. Professor Nivala explains on page 12. As you read what your Law School has been able to accomplish and the directions that we are continuing to take, I know you will be amazed and proud. And, yes, we have only just begun.

LINDA L. AMMONS, JD
ASSOCIATE PROVOST AND DEAN
A message from the alumni board president

“I am constantly impressed by the achievements of our graduates in the legal and political arenas.”

DEAR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS: How exciting the past 12 months have been! We significantly improved our bar passage rate, we honored our first Dean and founder after 37 years, and we have already benefited from the energy and charisma of our new Dean. We continue to evolve and mature as a learning institution, and our progress is amazing. On May 19 in Wilmington and on May 20 in Harrisburg, we welcomed nearly 400 new members from both campuses into our alumni association. Commencement days were lovely, the ceremonies exciting, and 376 new Juris Doctors entered the field to make their mark. If they are anything like their predecessors, the future will witness their names and accomplishments nationally and internationally. The Alfred Avins Special Collections Library was dedicated on May 6 with 40 alumni in attendance. Honoring our founder and first Dean, Alfred Avins, alumni contributed more than $200,000 to name the special collections library and establish a scholarship to be awarded annually to the highest constitutional law student from both campuses. The appreciation and respect of those classes whom he admitted were obvious in the faces of all who attended. After the unveiling, alumni were taken to the “Church” at 20th and Washington streets, where the first students attended. What a memorable and unforgettable afternoon was spent where hundreds attended daily from 1971-1978. Welcomed by the pastor and parishioners of the now-restored church, alumni visited the classrooms, lounge and pews of what was once our law school. It was truly a momentous and emotional day and a long-overdue tribute to our founder. July marked the one-year anniversary of the leadership of Dean Linda Ammons, whose achievements in her first year exceeded all expectations and hopes. Her boundless energy and ability to understand the enormous complexities of our school and to improve it in every way possible have already yielded great dividends. The entire atmosphere of the campus is reflective of her presence and enthusiasm. She has a vision and ability to energize students, faculty, administrators and all around her to elevate our school to the next levels of excellence. Please make an effort to meet Dean Ammons if you have not already done so and lend your support where you can. I am constantly impressed by the achievements of our graduates in the legal and political arenas. Recent elections included a number of Widener Law graduates running for offices at all levels of our government. I congratulate all who entered their races since candidacy itself is a great achievement. From local elections to the legislature to judgeships, our graduates were all over the tri-state area and beyond. Significant case law continues to be made, and we are extremely well represented in all areas of practice. The 2007 alumni golf outing returns to the DuPont Championship Course in Wilmington on October 22. Please call to reserve for your foursome. Mark your calendars—try not to miss this excellent day on the links. Your financial support of and dedication to our school continue to be crucial. Take this opportunity to send in a contribution to the Widener Law Fund or to a specific program. There are many opportunities for alumni involvement from mentoring to lecturing, and your continued support is most welcomed!

STEVEN P. BARSAMIAN ’75
PRESIDENT, ALUMNI BOARD
LEGAL TREATMENT

The recent TB traveler case illustrates the confusion that exists among regulators, health officials and government agencies over who is ultimately responsible for public health.

By John G. Callhane
A young man is diagnosed with a highly drug-resistant strain of an infectious disease. Disregarding a pointed request (if not an order) not to travel, he boards a plane in Atlanta and flies through Paris to Greece to prepare for his wedding. He is soon joined by his fiancée, and after the wedding, the couple flies to Rome for their honeymoon. Federal authorities track him down there and reiterate that air travel is too risky to other passengers. Undaunted, he flies to Montreal, rents a car, and drives across the border back into the U.S. Although an electronic “flag” keyed to his passport tells the patrol officer that the man poses a public health risk, he is waved through.

Finally, authorities track the man down, order him into quarantine, and “ship” him to Denver for treatment. After the regimen is successfully completed, Congressional hearings predictably follow. Reduced to basics, the question raised at the hearings is: “What the heck just happened?”

The man’s name was Andrew Speaker, an Atlanta attorney. The disease was tuberculosis—and not of the garden variety, but the most drug-resistant strain, referred to as XDR-TB. In simplest terms, the “extensively drug-resistant” label means that almost all antibiotic treatments are ineffective, and that even with the most aggressive course of treatment, recovery rates are low and death rates high. On a worldwide level, such resistance is a major concern given that TB claims more than 1.5 million lives each year.

Fortunately, despite a positive sputum test indicating an active (and therefore potentially infectious) case of TB, Mr. Speaker was largely free of symptoms and therefore not at all likely to have infected anyone, even in the close quarters of a commercial airplane. On one level, then, the case can be seen as the proverbial tempest-in-a-teapot.

Taking such a sanguine view would be a mistake, though. The case raises several issues that are of broader concern: What is the proper legal and diplomatic relationship between the United States and other nations, and between the U.S. and the individual states in these cases, given that infection doesn’t respect borders? Why did the system fail to stop Mr. Speaker from crossing borders, seemingly at will? Perhaps most seriously but most difficult to address, why do public health officials command so little respect, given the importance of their mission? Fully answering any one of these questions would require a full law review-style article, but more succinct answers can convey the essential points.

First, the communication and coordination needed for successful interdiction are fairly well in place, but are effective only if understood and used in a timely way. Here, a combination of delay and misinformation stymied efforts to prevent Mr. Speaker’s travel. A more detailed chronological account of the events makes this point effectively.

An initial meeting between Mr. Speaker and the Fulton County (Georgia) Department of Public Health could have prevented him from traveling overseas. Depending on whose account of that meeting one credits, Andrew Speaker was either told or asked during that meeting not to make the trip. But given the severity of drug-resistant TB, the officials should have insisted that the trip not take place, and backed up that insistence with the threat of involuntary quarantine. To the extent that these officials believed that they lacked the authority to seek an order of quarantine, they insufficiently understood their own police power—the right of the state to take whatever means are necessary to protect the public’s health. A hearing on the issue of quarantine could have determined whether Mr. Speaker’s condition was sufficiently contagious to pose a serious public health threat, and, if so, what might have been done to mitigate the threat. Had this simple step been taken, the narrative that follows would have been cut off at the start.

After Fulton County officials communicated their concern to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)—conveniently, also located in Atlanta—authorities tried delivering a medical directive to Mr. Speaker ordering him not to travel, but were unable to locate him. The next day, his six-nation tour began: from the United States through France to Greece; from Greece to Italy; from Italy through the Czech Republic to Canada, where he rented a car and crossed back into the U.S.

In was not until he arrived in Rome that CDC became sufficiently concerned to attempt further intervention. The concern was justified, because by this time tests had shown that Mr. Speaker’s strain of TB was not “merely”...
drug-resistant, but highly drug-resistant (XDR). Earlier and more insistent intervention by Fulton County might have caused the test for XDR-TB to have taken place sooner, but now CDC was faced with a problem of international magnitude.

At this point, CDC needed to contact several players in order to stop Mr. Speaker from boarding a commercial airplane. But which ones? Domestically, the candidates were the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and several of its divisions: U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and the Office of Health Affairs. The extraterritorial parties with an interest by that point would have included the Italian government and the World Health Organization (WHO).

Neither CDC nor CBP contacted TSA, which could have issued a “no-fly” order. But the Department of Homeland Security was itself unsure about its authority to issue such an order, given that Mr. Speaker was not a “terrorist.” (Such an order was finally issued, but only after he had already re-entered the U.S.) Further, the timeline issued by the Congressional committee overseeing DHS suggests that CDC did not officially contact the Italian government (which itself might have prevented Mr. Speaker from flying), instead relying on a personal visit to Mr. Speaker by a former CDC employee who happened to be working for the Italian health ministry. The visit never took place, because Mr. Speaker had left his hotel by the time the official arrived. CDC did at least notify WHO in accordance with the requirements of the revised International Health Regulations, but by this time Mr. Speaker was on his way back to the U.S. (And WHO did not notify potentially affected nations until four days after they’d received CDC’s message.) As mentioned earlier, the final error took place when an electronic message linked to Mr. Speaker’s passport warning CBP personnel that he was contagious was ignored.

This course of events is obviously of grave concern. Clearer protocols and delineations of authority need to be in place. Only then can the cooperation needed for successful public health policy be realized. Officials at all levels need to be clear both on the etiology of disease and their legal authority, and every actor must be educated on the proper chain of communication in cases so clearly threatening the public. And then swift action needs to occur. WHO’s four-day delay, although unimportant in this event, might have been disastrous.

Of course, had such protocols been in place, Mr. Speaker might never have been permitted to leave the United States in the first place. But this statement invites a hard question: Why did Mr. Speaker choose to ignore the public health threat that his condition might have posed to others? In an important sense, his actions and those of the customs official who ignored the e-warning are similar: Neither took the public health threat seriously enough to do anything about it.

More than any of the snafus detailed above, such indifferent responses to the requests, or even directives, of public health officials pose risks to the community. Consider these cases: An HIV-infected woman who has engaged in high-risk conduct remains ignorant of her status because she is apparently healthy and foregoes testing. A healthy young man never wears seatbelts because they’re a nuisance and, anyway, he’s not going to be involved in an accident. Millions regularly overeat because the dreadful health consequences aren’t immediately suffered.

In short, the powerful and ever-present combination of ignorance, denial and selfishness makes the work of public health challenging and at times frustrating. These problems are well known, and those in the field have devised many creative and agile strategies for dealing with them. Indeed, the examples above can be countered by focusing on population-based, rather than individual, outcomes. So, community-specific HIV prevention and awareness messages have proven somewhat successful. The relentless seatbelt campaign has greatly increased the rate of regular use, so that the gentleman in the last paragraph is now the exception; a generation ago, he was the rule. We are belatedly and haltingly addressing the obesity problem, with recent hopeful successes such as the agreement former President Bill Clinton negotiated with soft drink companies to limit access to their products within the school system.

Success is usually incremental (exceptions such as childhood vaccinations aside) and always hard-earned. Public health and its officials do themselves no favors by making their own tasks more difficult, as was surely true in the Andrew Speaker case.
For almost 20 years, the nationally recognized Health Law Institute at Widener University School of Law has been a leader in the advancement of health law practice and study. With a full slate of graduate programs and a special concentration for the JD student interested in a health law-related career, the Institute continues to anticipate coming challenges and opportunities.

With that forward-looking approach in mind, the Institute has recently unleashed several new initiatives that promise to usher in the most exciting and productive era in our almost-20-year history. First, the School of Law and Thomas Jefferson University recently announced the founding of two joint programs: the Juris Doctor/Master of Public Health and the Master of Jurisprudence/Master of Public Health. These programs, which grew out of an idea by Law School Overseer Peter Mattoon (who also sits on Jefferson’s Board of Trustees), were more than two years in the planning. Their goal is to link two highly regarded institutions in a collaborative effort to exploit the interconnectedness of law and the emerging field of public health. The launch of these programs has spurred great interest in both the legal and health fields, and students have already stated their intentions of pursuing one of these joint programs, which will position them well to assume leadership positions in public health policy.

The Institute’s emerging focus on public health is also being realized by an ambitious project spearheaded by Michele Forzley, a global public health lawyer who will be a Visiting Distinguished Professor at the law school beginning fall 2007. Ms. Forzley is currently starting up the International Public Health Law Information Project (IPHLIP), whose goal is to collect and organize no less than the health law-related information of every nation on the planet. She chose Widener because of both our national reputation in health law and our collaboration with the National Library of Medicine and the Delaware Academy of Medicine on the domestic version of this project, known as the Public Health Legal Information Project, or “PHLIP.” PHLIP has been in process since 2005, and is using Delaware as the pilot state to test-run the collection and organization of public health law-related information from every state in the United States. The pilot is expected to finish by summer 2008.

Public health law will also be the topic of an important symposium the Institute is hosting on October 19. Entitled “Public Health Perspectives on Charged Legal Issues,” the symposium will feature prominent academics who will bring a public health perspective to bear on a wide range of controversial political and legal topics, including domestic violence, racism, the fight over marriage equality, abortion, euthanasia, and the role of civil law (namely, torts) and punitive damages in achieving good public health outcomes. Plans are underway to convert the presentations into a book, with a chapter dedicated to each of the symposium’s timely topics.

Additionally, public health concerns have been a central theme of a two-part conference that the Institute has sponsored on the topic of long-term care. The first part of this timely symposium took place last spring, and the second will be in the fall. Co-sponsored by the Health Law Section of the Delaware State Bar Association and the Philadelphia law firm of White and Williams, this well-attended symposium features attorneys from the public and private sector as well as Widener faculty members in discussions of topics ranging from litigation to regulation to criminal and civil enforcement and penalty issues.

In addition to symposia such as the above, the health law faculty continue to actively engage in a wide spectrum of scholarly, teaching and service-related pursuits. To cite just a few from among a large number of examples:

- Professor Jean Eggen has added a new course, Science and the Law, to her health law-related courses that already include Toxic Torts and Tobacco and the Law. She continues to produce scholarly works at a daunting rate, with her most recent edition of the...
CORPORATE HEALTH

As general counsel at a major healthcare firm, Eileen M. Coggins ’92 has worked hard to satisfy shareholders, regulators and patients.

As a legal practitioner and corporate executive for nursing home provider Genesis HealthCare, Eileen M. Coggins specializes in reconciling the seemingly irreconcilable—navigating increasingly complex and enforcement-based federal and state regulatory regimes, producing results for investors, and, most importantly, assuring the delivery of high quality health care. These efforts have resulted in a remarkably broad range of experience, including a lead role in the company’s health care law, SEC and Sarbanes-Oxley law compliance.

Following her graduation from Widener Law in 1992, Ms. Coggins’s career developed in tandem with the implementation of several key laws governing the administration of nursing home care. This meant significant interaction with the U.S. Attorney’s Office in Philadelphia, which during the 1990s aggressively advanced theories of liability under the Federal False Claims Act against nursing home providers. These actions, combined with cuts to Medicare and subsequent payment reductions to nursing homes, proved too much for many in the industry to bear. Many larger chains faced bankruptcy, including Genesis, which filed in June 2000 and emerged in October 2001. It was a hectic period. Coggins notes, “Most of my efforts during this time period were focused on resolving claims brought by the government that had to be resolved as a condition of our emergence from bankruptcy.”

Now chief compliance officer, Ms. Coggins helped lead the reformed company back to viability, formulating a proactive approach to quality assurance and regulatory compliance. She says, “I believe that all organizations must have a sound governance structure with meaningful transparency to advance the direction of the company.”

This new approach had significant consequences. Genesis undertook efforts to minimize liability and unleash the respective values in its two operations—institutional pharmacy and nursing homes—by spinning off the latter. In 2003, Genesis Health Ventures spun off Genesis HealthCare Corporation, which began a new chapter as a free-standing, publicly traded company. Ms. Coggins was appointed general counsel and corporate secretary, focusing not only on health care compliance, but also on the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, SEC and NASDAQ reporting obligations.

In January 2007, Genesis’s board announced that the company would pursue a transaction with a private equity group, opening yet another front in her legal experience: unique provisions of incorporation under Pennsylvania law.

“These provisions, in my opinion, emphasize the social responsibility of corporations, especially in our business, where patients and caregivers may be affected by a change of control transaction.” Ms. Coggins says.

As of this writing, the company is in the process of concluding its chapter as a publicly traded company. Ms. Coggins will remain at Genesis, where, no doubt, new challenges await.

**COMING NEXT ISSUE:**
Professor Tom Reed, Director of the Veterans’ Law Clinic, testifies on Capitol Hill.

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Toxic Torts in a Nutshell book being joined by a host of recent articles appearing in both scholarly and practice-related law journals.

- Professor Tom Reed’s relentless advocacy on behalf of veterans seeking health benefits has now taken the form of a Veterans’ Law Clinic, in which he and his students prepare for and present veterans’ cases before both administrative and judicial tribunals. In addition, Professor Reed’s co-authored supplement to his book, Will Contests, was recently published by the West Group.

- Professor Andrew Fichter continues his important work on the financial and transactional side of health care. His most recent article on “lay” ownership of medical practices appeared in the Journal of Health Law in 2006. In addition, Professor Fichter was named the first Executive Director of the School of Law’s Institutes. In that capacity, he will work with their Institutes’ directors to formulate and implement programs and policies to continue their forward progress.

Additionally, two visiting faculty have joined Michele Forzley. Thaddeus Pope joins Widener from the University of Memphis, where he has been teaching and writing in the area of health law, with an emphasis on bioethics. Professor Pope holds both a JD and a PhD in philosophy, and his influential work is informed by his deep theoretical background. He will teach courses in health law and business organizations. Finally, KingJean Wu, a legal academic with a degree in dentistry from Taiwan, will also be at Widener during the 2007-08 academic year, researching the American formulation of the informed consent rule and sharing his work with full-time faculty. For more information regarding these faculty, see pages 22-23.

Things are only getting started. Within the next year, the Health Law Institute will be looking into expanding our successful externship program (perhaps to include sending law students on medical rotations with doctors), offering a new certificate program in health care compliance, and creating its own peer-reviewed health law journal. Stay tuned.
The changing realities of business law necessitate a new, practice-oriented education that reflects noncorporate entities and teaches about the full spectrum of the client’s legal needs.

From the time the School of Law was founded, Delaware and its world-renowned corporate laws and courts have nurtured many of the school’s uniquely valuable features.

For example, the influential and highly rated Delaware Journal of Corporate Law is currently ranked 13th out of 383 student-run specialized law reviews by Washington & Lee Law School based on frequency of citation in court opinions. Our Ruby R. Vale Interscholastic Corporate Moot Court Competition every spring attracts competing schools from all over the nation because of the cutting-edge quality of the corporate law problems presented. Over the years, more than 1,200 students have taken part in the Vale Competition.

Delaware’s renowned corporate judges and practitioners are actively involved in Widener’s classrooms and public forums. Those who make and practice corporate law regularly contribute to our offerings as participants, presenters, writers and teachers. In addition, our full-time faculty are regularly engaged in real-world policy-making activity. Widener business law professors, for example, have been active members of state committees that draft Delaware business laws, as well as American Bar Association committees that draft model statutes that significantly influence legislative trends in other states. Media outlets from the Wilmington News Journal to the Wall Street Journal and The New York Times frequently look to our faculty for comment on business law issues in which Delaware’s courts and laws play a role.

These traditional strengths of the Law School were the foundation of the Institute of Delaware Corporate and Business Law when it was established in 2001, and they have continued since then to constitute the core of the Institute’s activities.

The school’s strategic plan, however, demands that the Institute aspire to broader and greater achievements, starting with its name. Originally created as the Institute of Delaware Corporate Law, the center has taken on a new name—with an explicit inclusion of “business law”—that reflects several realities and goals.

Specifically, the law governing the internal affairs of business organization now encompasses much more than corporate law. In the last 15 years, there has
Telling the Delaware Story

In a variety of legal roles, John L. Reed ’91 is helping to promote the First State as a great place to do business.

Since graduating cum laude from Widener Law in 1991, John L. Reed has made a name for himself as a top corporate litigator, as a scholar, as a player in nonprofit and political activities, and, in recent years, as part of several delegations sent abroad by the Delaware Secretary of State to promote the First State’s corporation law.

Mr. Reed’s career is emblematic of his legal education and the Delaware communities—business, legal, political and philanthropic—in which he has thrived; their close proximity and deep interconnection belie their national and international impact. It is no surprise that other states and nations seeking to attract new corporate citizenship and investment look to Delaware’s Court of Chancery, Supreme Court and legal professionals as models.

“Our international delegations embody what is perhaps most advantageous about studying and practicing law in America’s corporate capital and home to more than 60 percent of the Fortune 500: the unique confluence of government and business, a nationally renowned judiciary ranked No. 1 six years in a row by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and a first-rate bar,” says Mr. Reed. “Widener Law takes great advantage of its proximity and strong connections to this environment.”

Mr. Reed has contributed much to the Delaware model and has assisted those who would imitate it by promoting the First State itself as a venue for incorporation. Aside from being a frequent speaker, his many publications include the U.S. chapters of international books such as Mergers & Acquisitions and Company Formation: A Practical Global Guide (both Globe Publishing), significant articles for Directors & Boards magazine, including the legal review for the magazine’s annual report, as well as several law review/journal articles. Mr. Reed’s charitable activities include serving as a vice-chair of the Corporate and Banking Section of the Combined Campaign for Justice, an annual legal aid fundraising effort.

Mr. Reed began his legal career as a Deputy Attorney General. In the 12 years of private practice that have followed—serving as managing partner of Duane Morris’ Wilmington office and, currently, as a partner at Edwards Angell Palmer & Dodge, an AMLAW 100 and AMLAW Global 100 firm—Mr. Reed built a reputation as a top business law practitioner and is recognized by Chambers USA: America’s Leading Lawyers for Business for his representation of corporations, directors and officers, and investors such as hedge funds.

“I am proud to practice corporate law with successful Widener Law grads,” Mr. Reed says, “such as Ed Micheletti (‘97), a partner in Skadden Arps’ Delaware office; Arthur Dent (‘86), a partner with Potter Anderson, Delaware’s oldest law firm; Michael Aiello (‘94), a partner with Weil Gotshal & Manges, an elite New York firm; and Joseph Cicero (‘03), one of four Widener Law grads in Edwards Angell’s Delaware office.”

Training business lawyers has to be about more than just reading cases, statutes and regulations. As critical as it is to learn how to analyze doctrine and regulations, it is critical to understand the agreements and other documents that are the staple of effective business lawyering.

been extraordinarily rapid development of the statutes governing limited liability companies, limited partnerships and statutory trusts, and stunning proliferation in the use of these noncorporate business forms. These developments require that our curriculum and scholarship give due attention to the noncorporate entity.

A practice-oriented business law education must also offer a curriculum that exposes students to other important components of the business client’s legal needs: securities law, business taxation, corporate finance, mergers and acquisitions, and business bankruptcy. Many of these subjects have long been in Widener’s repertoire, and new faculty are bolstering these offerings. In some areas, however, the Institute is aiming for new growth: A campaign is actively in progress to create an endowed position in business bankruptcy law—a field that is already a significant feature of Delaware’s legal landscape, and one likely to develop further with a recent and dramatic increase in the number of bankruptcy judges in the District of Delaware.

Of course, training business lawyers has to be about more than just reading cases, statutes and regulations. As critical as it is to learn how to analyze doctrine and regulations, it is critical as well to understand the agreements and other documents that are the staple of effective business lawyering. The two skills—knowing the “law” and knowing the basic business transactions—are complementary. Our faculty are
Fichter will be shepherding many of the various initiatives reviewed here, and no doubt many others as well.

One of these initiatives is the creation of a new degree program offering students a master’s in jurisprudence in corporate and business law. The program has proven very popular in the Health Law Institute, which has offered the MJ degree for a number of years, appealing to many in the medical community who seek key pertinent legal knowledge but don’t want to take the necessary courses to become lawyers themselves. The Institute can offer many business professionals a valuable opportunity to learn the key components and broad structures of the legal frameworks that govern their regular work, thereby making them more informed and effective.

Widener’s business law faculty and alumni are major contributors to Harvard’s Corporate Governance Blog, and the Institute is developing its own website into a nationally significant source of information and discussion on business law topics.

This coming academic year brings an inaugural, and hopefully annual, program to Widener, in which the Section of Business Law of the American Bar Association will sponsor forums and presentations drawing business law practitioners from all over the country to discuss Delaware business law with members of Delaware’s Supreme Court and Court of Chancery. The Law School’s business law professors and other Delaware lawyers will be participating in the presentations in this program. Widener’s role as the venue for this program will significantly enhance the Institute’s already strong reputation in its field.

This is an exciting, formative time in the life of the Institute, which should continue to be a source of pride to the School of Law, its alumni and its entire community.
The Advocacy and Technology Institute

REAL-WORLD TRAINING USING REAL-WORLD TOOLS

By John F. Nivala

With legal advocacy increasingly taking place outside the courtroom and with technology use on the upswing, Widener renews its commitment to preparing lawyers for real-world issues.

The Advocacy and Technology Institute is the new name for the Delaware campus’ Trial Advocacy Institute, which was established in 1988. The name change, a result of studies done for the School of Law’s strategic plan and its ABA self study, reflects a revamped approach to training our students.

The new approach reflects two things. First, although most of our students will be advocates during their careers, most of that advocacy will occur in settings outside the traditional courtroom. They will be advocating in administrative hearings, during mediation and arbitration proceedings, in negotiations, in public appearances, and in a host of other settings including appellate practice. Although there are advocacy skills and techniques common to all of these, there is also the need to adapt to the particular situation. Past efforts in this area have earned Widener the American Trial Lawyers Association’s Gumpert Award, which recognizes outstanding national achievement in the teaching of trial advocacy. The Institute’s goal is to continue providing students with fundamental advocacy skills and to stimulate their imagination about applying those skills to the particular forum and their overall objectives.

The new name also recognizes that technology is an integral component to effective advocacy. The School of Law’s strategic plan calls for the Institute “to help students and practitioners develop and maintain the skills, knowledge and technology facility essential to practicing law at the highest level of professional responsibility.” The Institute was specifically directed to enhance “the role of technology in its mission.”
Over the past few years, the Law School has made a significant investment in upgrading the technology available for student and faculty use. Most classrooms now have smartboards and podiums equipped for Internet and DVD use. The Pretrial Methods, Trial Methods and Intensive Trial Advocacy Program courses utilize computer-available texts and materials which permit students to use technology for organizing and displaying the information relied on during the semester and in final presentations. The Law School is committed to maintaining a technology capacity adequate to meet current skills-related needs and to ensuring that the School’s capacity keeps pace with reasonably foreseeable advancements.

In spring 2005, the School, with the faculty’s endorsement, established the Law and Technology Center under the direction of Professor Richard Herrmann. This Center became the home of the Corporate Counsel Technology Institute, developed a relationship with the National Judicial College, and established a technology “war room” which provides access for students, faculty and visitors to training in pretrial and trial technology skills. Professor Herrmann teaches an introductory course in legal technology and an advanced course in electronic discovery.

The Law School is committed to maintaining a technology capacity adequate to meet current skills-related needs and to ensuring that the School’s capacity keeps pace with reasonably foreseeable advancements.

He also is assisting the School in developing new technology-related courses and in integrating technology into the existing advocacy-related courses.

The Advocacy and Technology Institute maintains the School of Law’s commitment to providing our students an opportunity to develop the fundamental skills essential to becoming competent and professionally responsible advocates. It will continue to provide students with the opportunity to take courses covering all basic advocacy skills. These courses are presented in a clearly integrated sequence taught by Institute-selected instructors using approved course materials and outlines. The fundamental courses are Pretrial Methods, Trial Methods (or the Intensive Trial Advocacy Program), Advanced Trial Methods, and Interviewing and Counseling. In addition, students have access to a number of clinical offerings—criminal and civil—which gives them the opportunity to develop further the advocacy skills necessary to represent clients in a variety of settings while also serving community legal needs.

The Institute’s coursework combines technology and teaching to produce a dynamic learning experience encompassing a variety of pedagogical techniques. Lectures, discussions and role-playing foster the interactive exchange of information. New texts allow for students to learn from the most updated resources, while students also spend considerable time learning through simulations—exercises designed to illustrate the skills they will need and to show them how to use those skills. Overseeing these simulations are experienced lawyers and judges from all over the country, who volunteer their time. Representing many different areas of practice, they include trial judges, prosecutors, public defenders, defense attorneys and civil litigators.

The Advocacy and Technology Institute presents the Intensive Trial Advocacy Program each year on the Delaware campus, which includes a lecture on trial advocacy. Judge Herbert B. Dixon, Jr., who sits on the Superior Court in Washington, DC, spoke to a large crowd in 2006.
Convincing Arguments

From colleagues to clients to family, Vera Holmes ’89 continues to use the advocacy skills she learned at Widener.

In her 14 years with chemical specialties company Hercules Incorporated, Vera Holmes has practiced law in a variety of contexts. As Senior Counsel, she provides legal services to six departments and leadership on a number of fronts, including procurement of goods and services worldwide, handling acquisitions and mergers, and conducting litigation in a variety of matters. Among her accomplishments, she cites managing the pre-trial, trial and settlement of two insurance coverage actions and prosecuting civil antitrust matters that resulted in positive outcomes for Hercules.

Recently, Ms. Holmes has been heavily involved in the negotiation and administration of two major outsourcing agreements and in safeguarding intellectual property as Hercules expands in Asia. Her priorities are those of corporate executives everywhere: bringing shareholders value by ensuring quality, efficiency, safety and environmental responsibility. Of course, limiting liability is crucial, as is client education: “The most difficult part of being in-house counsel is to make our clients understand that our job is to ensure we are protected if the deal goes bad,” she says. “We are often viewed as the obstacle to the consummation of a good business decision. Everyone else has the luxury of only looking at the upside when the deal goes well. Our job is to protect the organization if it goes poorly.”

Ironically, Ms. Holmes considers three years spent away from legal affairs, serving as a business intelligence manager for Hercules, to be of considerable benefit, noting: “Having the opportunity to concentrate on the marketing side of the company—how we identify and produce products that bring value to our customers—allowed me to better understand my role as an attorney.”

Regardless of where her career takes her, Ms. Holmes takes care to maintain the advocacy skills that helped her advance at the outset of her career, in part through her continuing involvement with the Advocacy and Technology Institute. She has experienced Widener’s trial advocacy program from all sides: as a student member of the Intensive Trial Advocacy Program’s inaugural cohort in 1988-1989, as an instructor in the program since 1990, as a team leader on both campuses, and as an adjunct faculty member teaching Trial Advocacy and Pre-Trial Methods.

“The skills developed during that process of deductive reasoning, persuasion and time management are skills that have served me throughout both my career and my life,” Ms. Holmes says.

“Although I rarely appear in court these days, I use those skills every day with my corporate colleagues and clients, and my family,” she adds. “Those skills have also come in handy when trying to convince my husband, a Superior Court Judge, that he should adopt my way of thinking and do what I want.”

The Advocacy and Technology Institute maintains the School of Law’s commitment to providing our students an opportunity to develop the fundamental skills essential to becoming competent and professionally responsible advocates.

In the Institute’s core courses and in the many advocacy-related electives, the School of Law has reinforced the notion that advocacy is, at its heart, the lawyer’s ability to make a record and then work with the record made. This describes many areas in which students will work, including non-trial procedures. Students may also, by enrolling in these courses, earn an advocacy certificate, which recognizes their achievement in four basic courses, their completion of the advanced courses, and their completion of a directed research project.

The School of Law has recognized the variety of advocacy experiences and has also recognized the persuasive influence of technology in how our students learn and how they will practice. In melding the two, Widener has renewed its commitment to educating our students to be successful lawyers who are professionally skilled, intellectually engaged and technologically prepared.

John F. Nivala is Professor of Law and director of the Advocacy and Technology Institute. He teaches and writes in the areas of evidence, civil procedure, land use planning, professional responsibility, and trial and pre-trial methods.
The Law and Government Institute

RAPID GROWTH IN FACULTY, OFFERINGS, SPEAKERS

By John L. Gedid

The School of Law’s Harrisburg campus provides a perfect setting to teach government law. Guest lecturers, with national and international profiles, add to the educational experience.

The Widener Law and Government Institute was founded in 1999 to improve government law and to enrich the education of Widener-Harrisburg students. The mission of the Institute is to educate citizen-lawyers to serve the public interest as government lawyers and private practitioners. The Institute makes available several government law certificate programs designed to make students into expert government lawyers and privately practicing attorneys in matters involving government. It also organizes symposia on government law issues, sponsors research and performs service for government.

Many—perhaps most—of today’s major issues that concern us as lawyers and citizens involve government law, such as the environment, licensing, the right to a hearing, and drug and food safety. The Law and Government Institute seeks to address these crucial areas (and many others) and to prepare students to face them as attorneys. In the modern era much of legal practice is governed by complex rules emanating from legislative enactments, rules and decisions from administrative agencies, and executive orders. To be effective, the modern lawyer must understand how the decisions of these parts of government affect the interests of his or her client. The modern lawyer must further understand how to advocate before these institutions of government to achieve results for clients. The Institute provides educational experiences to our students that prepare them to practice law in these arenas.

During the last academic year, the Widener Law and Government Institute enjoyed remarkable growth. Our program is designed to increase the legal skills of students and, hence, their employment opportunities, and to lift the level of expertise in the sector of the legal profession practicing law involving the government. The Institute’s expansion is largely a result of Dean Linda Ammons’ commitment to the study of government law on the Harrisburg campus.

The mission of the Law and Government Institute is the improvement and development of government law through teaching, research and service in law,
The mission of the Institute is the improvement and development of government law through teaching, research and service in law, policy and ethics. This mission includes any area of law to which the government is a party, and involves particular emphasis on administrative law (broadly defined to include agency law), constitutional law (with particular emphasis on structure of government and the rights of citizens against the government), legislation and local government law.

New Faces

The Institute has added two new associate directors whose backgrounds and skills have greatly increased its ability to create relevant programming for students. They are Associate Professor Jill Family and Associate Professor Wesley Oliver. Both have experience, as well as advanced degrees, in government law. They supervised students in the new Law and Government Student Group in preparing the first Law and Government Institute Newsletter and secured speakers in the field.

In 2006, the Institute formed a Law and Government Institute Student Group. The students assisted with many Institute activities. In addition to some hands-on experience with government law, Group activities gave members an introduction to networking with attorneys and officials active in public service.

Differing Interpretations

As an assistant district attorney, Erin Lentz ’05 applies her Widener training in the analysis of laws and regulations.

Erin Lentz ’05 sports a résumé of surprising depth and breadth, considering that she has been an attorney for just two short years. Ms. Lentz credits many facets of her Widener experience with helping to shape her career path and to prepare her for the various roles she has undertaken.

Currently Ms. Lentz is in the Appellate Division of the Montgomery County District Attorney’s Office, and she cites the training she received through Widener’s Law and Government Institute; her internship with the Pennsylvania Office of the Attorney General; and her clinical experience with the Harrisburg Civil Law Clinic for readying her to handle the numerous duties that come with the position she now holds.

Ms. Lentz previously was a judicial law clerk to the Honorable Robert G. Bigham of the Court of Common Pleas of Adams County. As a clerk in the family law and orphans court division, she drafted opinions, orders and bench memoranda; attended pre-trial hearings, conferences and trials; and advised attorneys and pro se litigants on procedural matters.

After a year of clerking for Judge Bigham, Ms. Lentz took on larger responsibilities—moving from a job within the local court system to a position within the state courts—by going to work for Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice Sandra Schultz Newman. During her stint as a clerk for Justice Newman, her workload included responsibilities such as analyzing petitions for allowance of appeal and briefs submitted for oral argument, as well as drafting allocatur reports, bench memoranda and disposition memoranda.

In her current role as an Assistant District Attorney, Ms. Lentz handles appeals to both the federal and state courts in cases involving homicide, rape, sexual assault, theft, burglary and robbery. She says she enjoys crafting legal arguments for appellate briefs and notes that one of the best and most challenging aspects of her position is that she often must “write and develop arguments on points of law that are unclear or have been interpreted differently by courts throughout the years.”

Ms. Lentz adds that she applies “the knowledge that she gained through the Law and Government Institute courses in legal writing and analysis of issues that arise when interpreting a statute or regulation.”

While at Widener Law, Lentz received the Outstanding Service Award, and she has continued to make a commitment to service well after graduation. In addition to her full-time career in public service with the District Attorney’s Office, Ms. Lentz lends her legal skills to the indigent. Most recently she volunteered on behalf of the Montgomery County Bar Association to provide legal counsel to individuals in need of family law services.
Awards

The National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws formally praised and recognized the work of the Institute at its annual meeting in August 2007. The Conference, the national leader in the uniform law movement in the United States, consists of commissioners from all 50 states, Canada and Mexico. It seeks to produce uniformity in state statutory law and to promote the best, most modern state policy. The Conference formally thanked Adjunct Professor Vincent DeLiberato and Director Gedid for their supervision of Institute student-fellows in the legislation certificate program, who have conducted research and produced drafts that adapt Uniform and Model acts for use in specific states. Several states have adopted the student-produced work as statutes verbatim as written by the Institute fellows.

New and Returning Law Certificates

In response to substantial student requests and a glaring need in the legal profession, the Institute added a new student specialty certificate in consumer law. Adjunct Professors Joseph Goldberg and Renardo Hicks, both of whom previously headed the Consumer Fraud Section of the Pennsylvania Attorney General’s Office, teach most of the courses in this new certificate program.

As a result of Professor John Dernbach’s return from his position with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, the Institute reinstated the popular Environmental Law specialty certificate.

Speakers and Symposia

Professor Family invited Federal District Judge John E. Jones III to speak on the “intelligent design” case, over which he had presided. Judge Jones’ speech received considerable publicity, including a national broadcast by C-SPAN. Martin Toth, Associate Counsel of the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency, spoke on the current controversy about disclosure of that agency’s files to the public.

As a result of the efforts of Professor Oliver, the Law and Government Institute founded the John L. Gedid Lecture Series, an annual event that will feature young, rising academic speakers on government law topics. The first speaker was Melissa Waters, an assistant professor at Washington & Lee Law School. The United States Department of State selected Professor Waters to train Middle Eastern judges, and she trained the judges who presided over the trial of former Iraqi president Saddam Hussein. Her presentation described the training of judges and legal conditions in Iraq and disclosed numerous societal facts not covered by the media in this country. Her talk will be published in the Widener Law Journal.

The Law and Government Institute also sponsored a symposium on the 150th anniversary of the infamous Dred Scott decision. A distinguished panel examined current thinking about that opinion. The panel included Professor Robert Burt of Yale Law School and Charles Houston, Jr., the son of the iconic Charles Houston, an early leader of the civil rights movement who promoted training of African-American lawyers and formulation of the strategy that led to the Brown v. Board of Education Supreme Court decision. The Widener Law Journal will publish the symposium papers.

The Institute plans to build on this rapid growth by continuing to engage lawmakers, judges, students, lawyers, academics and the community. We welcome the participation and input of all Widener Law alumni.

LAW AND GOVERNMENT INSTITUTE TO HOST MIDYEAR MEETING OF NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDICIARY

The Widener Law and Government Institute has been selected to host the midyear meeting of the National Association of Administrative Law Judiciary in June of 2008. The Association consists of administrative law judges from all 50 states as well as federal administrative law judges. The award of this convention and the educational function that it serves for administrative law judges are a recognition of the important work and growing stature of the Institute. Alumni will be welcome to participate in CLE sessions, for which credit will be given. More details will be forthcoming in the near future.
National Advisory Council

The National Advisory Council, which will hold its first meeting on the Delaware Campus on September 24, is a group of highly qualified alumni and other friends of the School of Law who are leaders in their practices and in business or government service. They will advise the dean on such topics as national legal trends, alumni affairs, student recruitment, resource acquisition and student/alumni career opportunities.

MARC R. ABRAMS ’78
Partner
Willkie Farr & Gallagher
New York

RONALD P. GOLDFADEN ’76
Partner
Blume Goldfaden Berkowitz
Donnelly Fried & Forte
Chatham, NJ

FRANKLIN A. MILES, JR.
Vice President,
Secretary and General
Counsel
Hershey Entertainment and
Resorts
Hershey, PA

TIMOTHY J. SNYDER ’81
Partner
Young Conaway Stargatt &
Taylor LLP
Wilmington, DE

HOWARD K. ALPERIN ’90
Partner
Ropers, Majewski, Kohn &
Bempley
Los Angeles

N. LYNNE HUGHES ’89
Vice President,
Chief Legal Officer
Harrah’s Entertainment, Inc.
Atlantic City, NJ

PATRICK J. MURPHY ’99
Member
U.S. House of
Representatives
Washington, DC

ALICE W. STRINE ’92
Executive Director
Strine Foundation
Media, PA

KYLE D. BOWSER ’91
President, CEO
Res Ipsa Media, Inc.
Los Angeles

ALAN B. LEVIN ’80
President, CEO
Alan Levin & Associates
Montchanin, DE

CYNTHIA R. RYAN ’79
General Counsel
National Geospatial-
Intelligence Agency
Bethesda, MD

LESLEE S. TABAS ’79
Law Offices of Leslie
Silverman Tabas
Narberth, PA

ALEXANDER BRATIC
Chairman
FHA Holding Company and
Mutual Fire, Marine and
Inland Insurance Company
Exton, PA

KENNETH J. LOPEZ ’95
President
Animators At Law, Inc.
Alexandria, VA

LEIF R. SIGMOND, JR. ’90
McDonnell Boehnen Hulbert
& Berghoff
Chicago

JAMES J. VENERUSO ’75
Partner
Griffin, Coogan & Veneruso
Bronxville, NY

MICHAEL A. BROWN ’91
Partner
Alcalde & Fay
Washington, DC

EUGENE D. MCGURK, JR. ’78
Managing Attorney
Raynes McCarty
Philadelphia

RICHARD P. ZARETSKY ’75
Richard P. Zaretsky, P.A.
West Palm Beach, FL

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ALICE E. EAKIN joins Widener-Delaware as Co-Director of Academic Support and a Legal Methods Professor. Professor Eakin is a 1987 graduate of Temple University School of Law. After graduating from law school, she became an Assistant Public Defender in Kansas City, MO. In 1990 she returned to the East to work for the Delaware Criminal Justice Council and clerk for the Hon. Carl Goldstein of the Delaware Superior Court. She first became affiliated with Widener in 1993, when she joined the faculty as a full-time Legal Methods Professor. She subsequently worked in the Career Development Office, serving as Assistant Dean there from 1997 to 1999. From 1999 until her current appointment, she has periodically served Widener Law as an adjunct professor. Professor Eakin has served on the Board of Directors of the ACLU of Delaware since 2000, and is currently the Delaware ACLU’s Affirmative Action Officer. She also serves on the Advisory Committee for the National ACLU’s Affiliate Diversity Initiative.

TONYA M. EVANS-WALLS joins the Widener-Harrisburg faculty in August 2007 as Visiting Assistant Professor of Law. She is a graduate of Northwestern University and the Howard University School of Law, where she served as the editor-in-chief of the Howard Law Journal. Her current law practice in Philadelphia focuses on entertainment law, intellectual property, estate planning and municipal finance. Following graduation from law school, Professor Evans-Walls served as law clerk for Judge Theodore McKee of the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. She went on to practice law in Philadelphia with Drinker Biddle and Pepper Hamilton. Most recently, she taught an advanced survey course on music copyright law at York College of Pennsylvania. She is the author of Literary Law Guide for Authors: Copyright, Trademark and Contracts in Plain Language (2005) and Copyright Companion for Writers (2007). Professor Evans-Walls is a member of the Pennsylvania Bar Association (co-chair of its 2006-2007 Sports, Entertainment and Art Law Committee) and the African American Chamber of Commerce.

MICHELE FORZLEY comes to Widener Law as a Visiting Distinguished Professor and the Project Director for the International Public Health Legal Information Project, a joint project of our Health Law Institute and the U.S. National Library of Medicine of the National Institutes of Health. Professor Forzley also holds an appointment as Associate Professor at the Howard University Medical School Department of Family and Community Medicine. She received her M.P.H. from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and her law degree from the New England School of Law. Since 1979 Professor Forzley has had a law and consulting office and worked with numerous organizations involved in international public health issues. She was the recent chair of the International Health Committee of the American Bar Association, and a Global Health Council delegate to the WHO World Health Assembly. Professor Forzley lectures frequently and has written numerous books and papers, including a “Concept Paper on a Convention to Combat Counterfeit Drugs,” which became the basis for the World Health Organization International Medical Products Anti-Counterfeiting Task Force (IMPACT).

KATHERINE MASON JONES joins Widener-Harrisburg as an Assistant Professor of Law. Professor Jones is a graduate of the University of Georgia and Michigan Law School. She earned a master of laws degree from the University of London and is a candidate for a PhD in legal, constitutional and women’s history from the University of Virginia. Most recently, she served as visiting assistant professor of law at Syracuse University Law School. Following graduation from law school, she practiced in Washington, D.C., with Lawler, Metzger, and Milkman and with the United States International Trade Commission and the United States Federal Communication Commission. She is the author of Law, Politics, and the Political Safeguards of Federalism: The Case of Insurance Regulation and the Commerce Clause, 1938-1948, 11 Conn. Ins. L.J. 93 (Spring 2005).
EDWARD OSEI joins Widener-Delaware as an Assistant Professor of Law teaching tax and commer- cial law. Professor Osei graduated from Temple Law School, has an MBA from the Stanford Graduate School of Business, and obtained MA degrees in international relations and international management from Yale University and Baylor University, respectively. He received his bachelor’s degree from the University of Ghana and obtained a candidate for an LLM in tax from New York University School of Law. Most recently, he practiced law with Bois, Schiller & Flexner LLP in New Jersey. Prior to attending law school, Professor Osei had a successful career in business spanning a period of 15 years while working for Eastman Kodak Company, Pepsi-Cola International, Bristol Myers Squibb and AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals.

THADDEUS POPE comes to Widener Law as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Law to teach in the Health Law Institute. Professor Pope received his law degree from Georgetown University Law Center and has both an MA and a PhD with a concentration in bioethics from Georgetown University Graduate School. He is a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh. Professor Pope served as a law clerk to the Honorable John L. Coffey on the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit and practiced law for five years with Arnold & Porter in Los Angeles. Professor Pope has published numerous articles and book chapters and regularly makes presentations at scholarly conferences; a number of his most recent presentations are on medical futility policies. He has an impressive record of public service and is listed in the 2006 edition of Who's Who in Medicine and Healthcare.

TSHAKA CIVUNJE RANDALL joins the Widener-Harrisburg faculty in August as Visiting Assistant Professor of Law. He is a graduate of the University of Dayton and the University of Pennsylvania School of Law, where he was a Woodrow Wilson Scholar. He also holds a master’s degree in education from the University of Michigan. Following graduation from law school, Professor Randall served as law clerk for Senior Judge Walter H. Rice of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Ohio.

KINGJEAN WU comes to Widener Law as a Visiting Scholar from Taipei, Taiwan. Dr. Wu is the Director of Dentistry at Hsin-Chu General Hospital and has been teaching periodontology and oral embryology as a lecturer at Taipei Medical University. Dr. Wu has an LLM from Soochow University School of Law, and his MS and DDS degrees from Taipei Medical University. He is the Vice Chairman of the Commission of Legal Systems of the Taiwan Dental Association and a Commissioner of Dental Health Insurance for the Bureau of National Health Insurance. While at Widener Law he will be pursuing comparative studies of the principle of informed consent and of systems for resolving medical disputes.

Dean Ammons Announces Administrative Appointments

PROFESSOR JOHN L. GEDID has been named Vice Dean for the Harrisburg campus, replacing Professor Loren D. Prescott, Jr., who is on sabbatical before returning to the full-time faculty. Professor Gedid brings significant experience to this position, having served as Associate Dean in Harrisburg from 1989 to 1995.

PROFESSOR ERIN DALY, of the Delaware campus, and PROFESSOR SUSAN M. RAEKER-JORDAN, of the Harrisburg campus, have both been appointed to the new position of Associate Dean for Faculty Research and Development. In these roles, Professors Daly and Raeker-Jordan will focus increased time and energy on faculty scholarship, teaching and professional development.

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR ANDREW J. FICHTER has been named Executive Director of Institutes on the Delaware campus. Professor Fichter will work with the Institute of Delaware Corporate and Business Law, the Health Law Institute and the Advocacy and Technology Institute to coordinate conferences and special public lectures and to develop and expand existing programs and initiatives of each of the institutes.
Professor Larry Barnett

Delivered a presentation entitled “The Roots of Law” at the Law and Society Association Conference in Berlin, Germany, in July.

Associate Professor D. Ben Barros

Presented papers entitled “Property and Freedom” at the University of Colorado School of Law and “Group Size and Heterogeneity in the Design of Legal Structures” at the Law & Society Conference in Berlin, Germany.

Associate Professor Michael Dimino

Presented a paper entitled “Merit Selection versus Election for Judges” at the Conference on Judicial Selection of the Las Vegas Chapter of the Federalist Society. He also moderated a panel among the presenters at the Dred Scott symposium in March 2007.

Associate Professor Jules Epstein

Has been named a member of Pennsylvania’s Joint State Government Commission Advisory Committee on Wrongful Convictions. Professor Epstein also presented “Capital Case Training for Judges” at the National Judicial College in Harrisburg last spring, in Oklahoma in August, and in Phoenix in September. He co-chaired and was a panelist for the symposium “Cross-Examination: The Great Engine(?)” on the Delaware campus in April, and was involved in planning and presenting Pennsylvania Bar Institute courses on “Capital Cases” in Philadelphia in April and in Harrisburg in June, and on “Hollywood Looks at Cross-Examination” in Philadelphia in August. Professor Epstein provided DNA training for the National Institute of Justice in Miami in May and in Phoenix in June, presented “Sex Crimes” to the Pennsylvania Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers in September, and was a consultant for the National Institute of Justice’s focus group on expert testimony, in Washington, D.C., in June.

Visiting Assistant Professor Tonya M. Evans-Walls

Was named a “Pennsylvania Rising Star” by Superlawyer Magazine. Her latest book, Contracts Companion for Writers, was released in July.

Associate Professor Jill Family


Vice Dean John Gedid

Was appointed to the Board of Advisors for the Journal of the National Association of Administrative Law Judiciary. Members of the Board serve as referees for submissions to the journal.

Professor Larry Hamermesh

Has been named chair of the Corporate Practice Committee of the Business Law Section of the American Bar Association.

Legal Methods Professor Anna Hemingway

Presented a paper on the legal ethics of blogging for the legal profession at the early July meeting of the Association of Legal Writing Directors at the City Law School in London, England.

Associate Professor Michael Hussey

Received a Community Service Leadership Certificate of Appreciation from the Department of the Treasury’s Internal Revenue Service for his work in supervising the VITA program on the Harrisburg campus.

Professor Randy Lee

Taught a three-hour ethics CLE session entitled “The Lessons of Robert Coles for Lawyers” for the New York Urban Justice Center Consortium of Legal Services Attorneys. He also taught a program, “Advocacy and Disability Law,” at the Pennsylvania State University Harrisburg campus.

Professor Roberta Mann

Participated in panel discussions entitled “Remodeling the Home Mortgage Interest Deduction” at the ABA Tax Section meeting and “Tangles Of Taxes: Problems In The Tax Code” at the National Tax Association Spring Symposium, both in Washington, D.C., in May. She spoke on coal tax incentives at the ABA Tax Section meeting in Vancouver, Canada, in September and will present a co-authored paper on ethanol tax incentives at the 8th Annual Global Conference on Environmental Taxation in October in Munich, Germany.

Associate Professor Wesley Oliver

Presented a paper entitled “The Political Question Doctrine and Dred Scott” at the Dred Scott symposium in March. The Widener Law Journal will publish the paper.
For Linda Needleman, mother of Michael ’01, remembering Widener Law through a testamentary bequest was an easy decision. Needleman, who resides in Plymouth Meeting, PA, with husband Jeffrey, is a retired high school history teacher with 29 years of service to the Philadelphia School District. As her son began his legal career, she recognized that “Widener Law gave Michael the boost he needed to be successful,” and when she recently re-wrote her will, she decided to include Widener Law.

Michael Needleman, who is married with a two-year-old son, Julian Oliver, practices in the areas of employment, title insurance and real property, and general civil litigation with The Chartwell Law Offices in Philadelphia. His mother says of her son, “He did well at Widener,” and credits Professor Michael Goldberg, under whom her son served as a research assistant, for sparking his interest in labor law.

Needleman says, “I always thought that there were a lot of good kids who can use a hand up. To me, education is how you contribute to the world and make it a better place. If this little bit of money helps one student, then that student can help another student. My gift, combined with that of others, gives someone else a chance.”

It is not surprising that Needleman’s approach to retirement also revolves around giving back. She helps care for two elderly relatives, volunteers at the cancer center at Einstein Medical Center, and, of course, spends time with grandson Julian. Her philosophy is that “it has to matter that you have lived, not just for your immediate family, but you have to make a difference—you have to leave your mark on the world.”
The 33rd graduating class of Widener University School of Law’s Delaware campus received diplomas in a ceremony on the school lawn on Saturday, May 19. The 321 graduates heard remarks from the Hon. Thomas L. Ambro, judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. Newark, DE, resident Thomas Uebler was the regular division valedictorian, while Eifion Phillips, PhD, of Boothwyn, PA, was the extended division valedictorian.

The 16th graduating class of Widener University School of Law’s Harrisburg campus received diplomas on Sunday, May 20, in a ceremony at The Forum, located in the Capitol Complex. The 123 graduates heard remarks from Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice Cynthia A. Baldwin. Lancaster resident Ann L. Martin was the class valedictorian.

Both Law Dean Linda L. Ammons and Widener University President James T. Harris III encouraged graduates at each ceremony to use their degrees to help others. “There is always more need than there is help. As law graduates, it is your duty to seek out those you can help and serve,” Harris said.

“Lawyers have the awesome capability and power to change lives,” Ammons added. She then wished them great success and said, “May you have just enough challenges to stretch you and keep you humble.”
HARRISBURG COMMENCEMENT

Law Dean Linda L. Ammons and Widener University President James T. Harris III at the Harrisburg commencement.

Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice Cynthia A. Baldwin, left, addressed the Harrisburg graduates after receiving an honorary degree. Widener University Senior Vice President and Provost Jo Allen adjusts Justice Baldwin’s hood, which reflects the Widener colors.

HARRISBURG COMMENCEMENT

Harrisburg graduate and Army Capt. Cory Angell salutes the flag.

Delaware graduate Neal J. Sampat and family.

President Harris greets Judge Thomas L. Ambro, honorary degree recipient.

Delaware graduates Kenisha L. Ringgold, left, and Knut R. Hill sing the national anthem.

HARRISBURG COMMENCEMENT

Harrisburg Professor James W. Diehm stands with the school mace.

Campus Events

FSU TEAM CAPTURES 19TH ANNUAL VALE COMPETITION

The team from Florida State University won the 19th annual Ruby R. Vale Interschool Corporate Moot Court Competition, held March 22-25 on the Delaware campus. Pictured are Mercer University School of Law team finalists Nnena Ukuku, Laura A. Murtha and Cheryl Staugatis, Delaware Supreme Court Justice Carolyn Berger, Florida State University College of Law competitor Christina Taylor, Delaware Supreme Court Justice Henry duPont Ridgely, Florida State University College of Law competitor Kim Nguyen, Delaware Supreme Court Justice Jack B. Jacobs, and Delaware Court of Chancery Vice Chancellors Stephen P. Lamb and John W. Noble. The justices and vice chancellors judged the final round of competition.

HARRISBURG SYMPOSIUM EXAMINES SPRAWL


VETERANS LAW CLINIC EXPANSIONS

Law Professor Thomas J. Reed talks with veteran Reginald Tyler about his case, handled by the Veterans Law Clinic on the Delaware campus. The clinic is expanding thanks to a $250,000 grant from the Pennsylvania Legislature, which will allow the Law School to add two part-time staff attorneys who will handle cases—one on each law campus—and supervise student clinicians on cases involving Pennsylvania veterans.

GARFIELD DELIVERS YOUNG FELLOWSHIP LECTURE; POWER NAMED NEXT YOUNG FELLOW

Professor Alan E. Garfield, the outgoing H. Albert Young Fellow in Constitutional Law, discussed “The Constitution as a Symbol” when he delivered the Young Fellowship lecture on the Delaware campus April 25, which was attended by members of the Young family. Harrisburg campus Professor Robert C. Power was named the next H. Albert Young Fellow in Constitutional Law. His term began in July and runs through 2009.

Professor Alan E. Garfield, left, and Professor Robert C. Power.
WIDENER MARKS DRED SCOTT DECISION

Charles Hamilton Houston, Jr., son of the late Charles Hamilton Houston, a noted civil rights attorney, spoke at the symposium “Dred Scott after 150 Years: A grievous wound remembered,” held April 2 on the Harrisburg campus. Organized by the school’s Law and Government Institute, the program marked the anniversary of the infamous decision that upheld slavery.

GEDID LECTURE SERIES LAUNCHED

The Harrisburg campus launched the John Gedid Lecture series April 19 with a presentation by Washington and Lee Assistant Law Professor Melissa Waters. Waters worked with Iraqi judges and attorneys, training them in international human rights law and criminal defense law. Some of the judges participating in the training went on to preside over Saddam Hussein’s trial.

DELWARE CAMPUS DISCUSSSES CROSS-EXAMINATION

More than 100 people attended the daylong symposium “Cross Examination: The Great Engine?” at the Widener Law Delaware campus on April 20. The event, sponsored by the School of Law and its student-run Widener Law Review, included six panel discussions featuring academics, practitioners and judges from around the country who explored the idea of cross-examination as an engine for determining truth.
Alumni Events

SCRANTON/WILKES-BARRE ALUMNI RECEPTION
A reception for Widener Law alumni, students, incoming students and special guests was held on June 4 at the Radisson Lackawanna Station Hotel in Scranton, PA. Dean Linda Ammons took time to chat with each guest, including the Honorable Richard Conaboy.

LOS ANGELES DINNER
Dean Linda Ammons met with Los Angeles-area alumni on April 10 at Il Moro Ristorante. Pictured (l-r) are Patricia Ciuffreda ’96, Lisa Miller ’84, Jim Talbott ’83, Dean Ammons and Howard Alperin ’90.

HARRISBURG ALUMNI AND FRIENDS GOLF OUTING
The winning foursome of (l-r) Joe Baker, Pat Sullivan, Rocco Imperatrice ’80 and Carl Pierce are shown at the first annual Harrisburg Alumni and Friends Golf Outing, held on May 7 at the Blue Ridge Country Club.

NEW JERSEY CHAPTER RECEPTION AND WELCOME TO BAR PASSERS
On January 23 the New Jersey Alumni Chapter hosted its inaugural event with a reception held at DoubleTree Guest Suites in Mount Laurel. The event gave New Jersey alumni, students and accepted applicants an opportunity to connect. Dean Linda Ammons is shown addressing the group and extending special congratulations to those present who recently passed the New Jersey Bar.

RECEPTION FOR DELAWARE BAR PASSERS
New admittees to the Delaware Bar are shown at a reception in their honor held at Widener Law on February 19. Delaware Supreme Court Justice Randy Holland addressed the group and commended them on their achievement. Pictured (l-r) are John Ellis ’06, Rochelle Gumapac ’06, Dean Linda Ammons and Raeann Warner ’06.

CLASS OF 1981 REUNION
Delaware Law School alumni from the Class of ’81 gathered on April 27 for a reunion at McKenzie’s Brew House in Glen Mills, PA. More than 35 alumni and guests attended. Shown reminiscing are (l-r) Cary Flitter ’81, Mark Pinnie ’81 and Tom Nolan ’81.
PHILADELPHIA ALUMNI RECEPTION

Members of Widener Law’s Class of 2006 gathered at the Philadelphia Alumni Reception on March 22 along with more than 250 other alumni, judges, students, friends, faculty and staff. Shown (l-r) are Evan Liu ’06, Tanya Bridges ’06, Lisa Pectol ’06, Anna Darpino ’06 and Marybeth O’Connor ’06.

HARRISBURG ALUMNI RECEPTION

Pictured enjoying the good company and fine art at the Harrisburg Alumni Reception are Jan Budman ’06 and Bret Keisling ’05. This year’s event was held on April 4 at the Susquehanna Art Museum.

Jim McMahon ’94 poses with Dean Linda Ammons at the Harrisburg Alumni Reception.

WIDENER WOMEN’S NETWORK

Maureen Farrell ’06, Christian Harding ’02 and Crystal Woodley ’02 are pictured at the Widener Women’s Network meeting.

The Honorable Nitza I. Quinones Alejandro (l) and Widener Women’s Network Chair Miriam Barish ’92 are shown at the Widener Women’s Network event on June 14. Judge Quinones Alejandro addressed the topic of “Judicial Insight and Guidance for Effective Advocacy.”

PHILADELPHIA ALUMNI RECEPTION

Guests at the Philadelphia Alumni Reception are shown bidding on silent auction items. The silent auction, organized by members of the Widener Law Alumni Board, raised more than $5,000 for the Widener Law Fund.

Alumni pictured catching up at the Philadelphia Alumni Reception are (l-r) Joe Marano ’01, Derek Layser ’88 and Maria McLaughlin ’92.
More than 40 alumni gathered on May 6 to celebrate the dedication of the Alfred Avins Special Collections Library at the Law School’s Delaware Campus. The event honored Dean Avins, the founder of Widener Law, and was the culmination of a fundraising campaign in his honor to benefit the special collections library and a scholarship in Dean Avins’ name. Pictured (l-r) are Avins Campaign Co-Chairs John Wetzel ’75 and Steven Barsamian ’75 unveiling the plaque that honors Dean Avins.

Alumni and guests attending the Avins dedication traveled to downtown Wilmington to tour what is now the Sharon Temple Seventh-day Adventist Church. The Church was the home of the School of Law during its early years. The Widener group is shown on the steps of the Church with Dean Linda Ammons.
THOMAS S. LODGE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED

On March 20, members of the Lodge Family, the Lodge Scholarship Committee and donors gathered at the School of Law’s Wilmington campus to celebrate the awarding of the first Thomas S. Lodge Memorial Scholarship and to congratulate its first recipient, Harrisburg campus student Lisa Kelly. The scholarship honors the late Tom Lodge, an esteemed member of the Delaware Bar who served as a University trustee and as a Law School overseer, and will be awarded annually to a student who has a demonstrated commitment to public interest legal work. Pictured (l-r) are Gail Lodge, Lisa Kelly, Scott Lodge and Martha Lodge Holjecki.

MONROE GARDEN OPENED

On April 5, faculty and staff of the School of Law gathered in the newly planted space outside of the Financial Aid and Registrar’s Offices for a ribbon-cutting ceremony to dedicate a beautiful new outdoor garden. Landscaping for the garden was the gift of Bruce ’96 and Elizabeth Monroe, who were present and, with Dean Linda Ammons, participated in the ribbon-cutting. The patio was a gift of Andrew McK. ’93 and Heather ’95 Jefferson, through the Graham Foundation. Widener Law and all students, faculty and staff who will enjoy the garden area are grateful to these generous donors.
Kevin P. McCann took the oath of office as Secretary of the New Jersey State Bar Association in May 2007 during the Association’s annual meeting in Atlantic City. Mr. McCann will also serve as trustee for the New Jersey State Bar Foundation, the NJSBA’s philanthropic arm.

Abby Resnick-Parigian has been named counsel for the law firm of Wilentz, Goldman & Spitzer, P.A., Woodbridge, NJ. Ms. Resnick-Parigian concentrates in the area of toxic tort litigation, which includes representation of individuals afflicted with occupational and environmental illnesses, and she also handles defective product cases. Prior to her work with the firm, she practiced in New York City for 11 years and in Philadelphia for three years.

Joseph P. Schumacher, a leading franchise attorney, has joined Goddard Systems, Inc., out of King of Prussia, PA, and New Haven, CT, as chief operating officer. Mr. Schumacher has represented GSI as its lawyer since its inception in 1988 and has been a member of its management team since 2002. Mr. Schumacher was formerly a partner with Wiggin and Dana, LLP.

Joel L. Frank, a partner of Lamb McErlane, PC, in the litigation department and chairman of the firm’s executive committee, has been appointed to the Delaware Valley Regional Finance Authority, for a one-year term in 2007. Mr. Frank is the solicitor for the Republican Committee of Chester County and serves as solicitor and on the Board of Directors of the Chester County Chamber of Business and Industry and on the Board of the Chester County Bar Foundation.

Delia A. Clark was elected to partnership in the law firm of Rawle & Henderson, Wilmington, DE. Ms. Clark is the resident attorney for the commercial motor vehicle section.

Jonathan Shub, a class action attorney, has joined the Philadelphia office of Seeger Weiss as the resident partner.

Daniel J. DeFranceschi, a director at Richards, Layton & Finger, P.A., has been appointed to serve on the Preliminary Review Committee of the Board of Professional Responsibility for the Supreme Court of Delaware.
Delaware for a three-year term. The Board regulates the professional conduct of the members of the Delaware Bar. As a Director in Richards, Layton & Finger’s Restructuring and Bankruptcy Group, Mr. DeFranceschi represents debtors and creditors in Chapter 11 cases. In addition to the Delaware State Bar Association, he is a member of the United States District Court, District of Delaware and Third Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals.

Jonathan Ostroff, founder of DivorceDoneRight, has opened new offices in Media, Norristown and West Chester, PA. DivorceDoneRight offers mediation for the entire spectrum of family disputes and has 16 mediation suites located throughout the Delaware Valley. DivorceDoneRight was awarded the 2007 Forbes Enterprise Award for its ideas and innovations in business and for its professional efforts and accomplishments.

1990

Joseph A. Carita was recently elected to the Burlington County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. Mr. Carita will serve on the Board for the 2007-2008 term. In addition to this new position, Mr. Carita currently serves on the Chamber’s Economic Development Committee. A resident of Delran, NJ, he is also a member of the Burlington County, Camden County and New Jersey State Bar Associations and the New Jersey Defense Association, and is a founding member of the Central Jersey Claims Association.

1991

George S. Bobnak was elected a shareholder of Christie, Pabarue, Mortensen and Young, PC. Mr. Bobnak’s practice includes defense of insureds, self-insured entities and insurers in product liability and construction defect litigation.

Donald E. Souders, Jr., has joined the Phillipsburg, NJ, office of Florio Perrucci Steinhardt & Fader, L.L.C., as a partner.

1992

Alfred J. Carlson, an attorney with Martin, Banks, Pond, Lehocky & Wilson, participated in the PESI’s 20th Annual Pennsylvania Workers’ Compensation Law Seminar. Mr. Carlson presented an overview of the 2006 amendments to the Pennsylvania Workers’ Compensation Act including mandatory mediation, new hearing scheduling procedures, changes affecting the appeals board process and strategies for practitioners litigating and settling cases. Mr. Carlson, a partner with the firm, has been a litigator of Pennsylvania workers’ compensation cases since 1992. For the first seven years of his practice, he worked at a leading defense firm representing major corporations, insurance companies and state and local government agencies in Pennsylvania workers’ compensation matters.

John P. Dogum served as faculty for the Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers Association’s program entitled “Liens & Subrogation,” held in March 2007. Mr. Dogum is with the firm Martin, Banks, Pond, Lehocky & Wilson and has limited his practice to Pennsylvania workers’ compensation since 1992.

Risa V. Ferman, first assistant district attorney for Montgomery County, PA, since early 2002, is the Republican nominee to become the county’s next district attorney.

Eric S. Solotoff joined the law firm of Fox Rothschild LLP as a partner in May 2007 in the family law group of the litigation department in the Roseland, NJ, office. Mr. Solotoff was recently certified by the Supreme Court of New Jersey as a matrimonial lawyer and included as a Super Lawyer in New Jersey for family law.

Timothy J. Trott, managing partner of the West Chester law firm of Teti, Cox, Trott and Bishay, LLP, has won
the Democratic nomination for District Attorney in Chester County, PA. Mr. Trott has been a lawyer for more than 15 years. In 2004 he was recognized by the Pennsylvania Bar Association with its Pro Bono Award for providing no-fee legal services to the poor of Chester County. Prior to becoming a lawyer, he was a Vice President of Marketing at CoreStates Bank of Delaware, as well as a Vice President at Ketchum Advertising in Philadelphia.

Karen Creasia Yarrish was recently elected by the Board of Directors of Penn National Insurance to the position of vice president, secretary and general counsel. Previously, she was vice president, legal.

Scott B. Cooper, a partner at SchmidtKramer PC, has been selected as a Pennsylvania Super Lawyer by Law and Politics Magazine. Mr. Cooper specializes in personal injury law with an emphasis on motor vehicle accident and insurance cases. Additionally, he edits one of the leading treatises on the Pennsylvania Motor Vehicle Financial Responsibility Law and has been involved in several prominent appellate cases. Mr. Cooper was recently asked to join the American College of Trial Lawyers, which is composed of top trial bar members from the United States and Canada. He also is an active member of the Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers Association and serves as its assistant secretary, is co-chairman of its Legislative Policy Committee, and serves on both the Executive Committee and Board of Governors.

Christie Corado has been promoted to Vice President and Associate General Counsel of The BISYS Group, Inc.’s Harrisburg office. Ms. Corado lives in Hershey, PA, and is married with five children.

Curtis J. Crowther, of Young Conaway Stargatt & Taylor, was awarded the Achievement Award by the Delaware State Bar Association at the Pro Bono Awards Breakfast in April 2007.

Carl F. Staiger was named a partner in the firm of Meyer, Unkovic & Scott LLP, Pittsburgh, PA. Mr. Staiger, a member of the firm’s business transactions and planning group, concentrates his practice in business and tax planning for commercial transactions, including mergers, acquisitions and real estate transactions, and planning involving partnerships, S corporations and other closely held businesses.

Colonel Chuck Mitchell, U.S. Army, began his second year-long deployment to Iraq in November 2006. He is serving in Baghdad in the Operations Section of the Multi-National Corps under Lieutenant General Raymond Odierno, Commander of Combat Forces. Upon completion of his tour, he will return with his unit to Fort Hood, TX. He was awarded the Bronze Star during his first tour while serving as the Inspector General under General George Casey from 2004 to 2005.

William H. Woolworth III was named Vice President, director of risk management, of First National Bank of Chester County’s financial-services department. Mr. Woolworth is responsible for the bank’s risk management program, including compliance, audit, fraud and security, and compliance.

1994

Michael J. Aiello has joined as a partner in the international law firm of Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP, in the mergers and acquisitions group in the New York office.

David R. Bronstein is a member of the litigation department with White and Williams LLP, Philadelphia, PA. He concentrates his practice on construction defect cases and has defended numerous clients in litigation areas involving construction accidents, construction defects, motor vehicle, premises liability and products liability as well as general liability and insurance litigation.

William G. Bush of Dover, DE, was appointed by Delaware Governor Ruth Ann Minner to serve as her legal counsel. Mr. Bush currently has a private legal practice in Dover and serves as attorney for the House Democratic Caucus. He is a former policy advisor and
legal counsel to the Secretary of the Department of Public Safety and Homeland Security. Prior to his work in state government, Mr. Bush practiced with the Dover firms of Hudson, Jones, Jaywork & Fisher and Prickett, Jones & Elliott.

Jeff Foreman, practicing with Foreman & Foreman, P.C., in Harrisburg, PA, has been appointed Chief Counsel to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives Majority Leader.

James L. Griffith, Jr. has been promoted to partner of Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP, in Philadelphia, PA. Don P. Palermo became a partner in the law firm of Hannon & Palermo, P.C., Philadelphia, in July 2006 and specializes in personal injury. Palermo lives in Holland, PA, with his wife, Lisa, six-year old daughter, Marina, and stepson, Andrew, who is a student at Penn State University.

Gina Rubel, president and chief executive officer of Furia Rubel Communications, Inc., Doylestown, PA, was featured at the Female and Fabulous High Tea in March 2007. Rubel shared her business knowledge and work-life balance strategies with more than 100 women and men from the region in honor of Women’s History Month. Furia Rubel Communications, Inc. is a women-owned certified public relations firm, which represents a wide range of clients.

1995

Richard G. Russell and Joy Maatman were married in September 2006 in Harrisburg, PA. Mr. Russell is the Director of State and Local Government Relations for The Hershey Company, and Ms. Maatman is a Senior Government Affairs Manager for Hoffmann-LaRoche.

Louis B. Stevens has joined the law firm of Weltman, Weinberg & Reis Co., L.P.A., Philadelphia, as an associate and will be working in the legal action recovery department. Mr. Stevens was previously employed at Allstate Insurance as in-house counsel.

1996

Roger D. Anderson has become a member of the firm Smith Katzenstein Furlow LLP, located in Wilmington, DE.

Charles A. Bruder of Norris McLaughlin & Marcus, PA., of Somerville, NJ, spoke at a March 2007 seminar entitled “Selling Your Business: Prepare Now For What Lies Ahead.” This seminar was designed for business owners who are contemplating selling their business now, in the coming year, or some time later in the future.

Kathleen Friel has been elevated to partner with the firm of Shimberg & Friel, P.C., in Haddonfield, NJ. Ms. Friel resides in Marlton, NJ, with her husband, Michael, and their two young daughters.

Eric C. Garrabrant has joined Flaster/Greenberg as a shareholder and member of the Cherry Hill, NJ-based firm’s real estate practice group in its Egg Harbor Township office. Mr. Garrabrant, a Wildwood Crest, NJ, resident, had his own law practice in Wildwood and was a partner in another South Jersey-based law firm for three years.

1997

Mary Ann Gerber of Millersville, PA, has announced her intention to seek the Republican Party’s endorsement to run for Lancaster County Register of Wills and Orphans Court. Ms. Gerber is a retired English teacher from Solanco School District, President of Millersville Borough Council, a GOP committee-woman and a member of the advisory committee and the Women’s Republican Club. Ms. Gerber and her husband, Phil, have been married for 33 years.

M. Eve G. Campbell was elected to partner status with Williams Mullen and practices out of the firm’s Richmond, VA, office.

Maria Granaudo Gesty will staff the newly opened law office in Wilmington, DE, of McKissock & Hoffman, P.C. Michael W. Horner is a member of the Litigation Department with White and Williams LLP, Philadelphia. He focuses on products liability, employment law, premises liability, trucking litigation, insurance coverage and professional liability.

Ronald J. Reybitz and his wife, Kim, welcomed a daughter, Ava Elaine, on March 23, 2007. Mr. Reybitz was also named a rising star in the December 2006 issue of Philadelphia Magazine.

Barry J. Roy was named a partner with Rabinowitz, Lubetkin & Tully, LLC, of Livingston, NJ.
Matthew E. Hirt and wife Lauren are pleased to announce the addition of their son, Sullivan, to their family, on April 26, 2006. Sullivan joins big brother Gibson, who is two-and-a-half. Mr. Hirt is currently living in Bethesda, MD, and practices labor and employment law with the Department of Justice.

David Kotler and Danielle Corradino ’01 welcomed their second son, Leo, in March 2007.

Thomas D. Walsh joined Fox Rothschild, LLP, as a partner in both the litigation department and the financial restructuring and bankruptcy department, in the Wilmington, DE, office.

1998

Patricia L. Enerio has become a partner in the Wilmington, DE, firm Proctor Heyman. Ms. Enerio focuses her practice in the areas of corporate and commercial litigation in the Court of Chancery.

Kimberly L. Gattuso was promoted to special counsel, Wilmington office, by Saul Ewing LLP. She works in the litigation department.

Robert J. Sander, currently a Montgomery County, PA, Assistant District Attorney, will seek the Republican Party’s nomination for county controller. Mr. Sander is currently the captain of the DA’s drug prosecution team, overseeing five assistant district attorneys, 11 narcotics enforcement team detectives and 450 special county detectives enlisted from municipal police departments. Mr. Sander also serves in the Army Reserve, where he is a captain in the Judge Advocate General’s (JAG) Corps. He recently was appointed command judge advocate for the 338th Medical Brigade, responsible for advising military commanders on issues ranging from military justice to regulatory issues to financial liability. In 2003, Mr. Sander was deployed for six months in support of Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom, serving as trial counsel for V Corps in Darmstadt, Germany.


1999

Darren M. Breslin works for the Administrative Office of PA Courts in Philadelphia, and as counsel to the state Commission on Judicial Independence. In March, Mr. Breslin was a panelist at the Matthew J. Ryan Law and Public Policy inaugural Forum on Judicial Independence, sponsored by the PBA and Villanova Law School.

Jamison Mark has opened his own law firm in Basking Ridge, NJ, where his primary focus is on employment and labor law, personal injury and real estate. Mr. Mark and his wife, Carrie, are the proud parents of Alexa (3), Taylor (2) and a baby girl, Sierra, born on May 14.

2000


Aris R. Murphy joined the firm of Potter Anderson & Corroon LLP as an associate in April 2007.

Steven G. Weiler has become an associate of the firm Ferry, Joseph & Pearce, P.A., in Wilmington.

2001

Danielle Corradino and David Kotler ’97 welcomed their second son, Leo, in March 2007.

Kerry A. Duffy has joined the firm of Norris McLaughlin as an associate in the firm’s litigation, banking and financial services and bankruptcy and creditors’ rights law groups. A resident of Flemington, NJ, Ms. Duffy held a judicial clerkship in the Superior Court of New Jersey Appellate Division for the Honorable Edwin R. Alley, J.A.D., during the 2001-2002 Court term. She is a law alumni class agent, acting as a liaison between her alumni class and the Law School.

Paul M. Lambrecht was promoted to Vice President, Clinical and Support Services, at Underwood-Memorial Hospital and advanced to fellow status with the American College of Healthcare Executives.


2002

David J. Soldo has joined Morris James LLP as an associate in the Wilmington office.
2003
Amy Shellenberger has joined the Marlton, NJ-based law firm of Parker McCay as an associate. Ms. Shellenberger concentrates her practice in real estate and transactional law with a specific emphasis on representing the interests of residential lenders in real estate closings.

2004
Joseph J. DeFelice and his wife, Rosemarie McConomy DeFelice, announced the birth of their first child, a son, Joseph Jude DeFelice, Jr., on March 16, 2007. Joey Jr. weighed in at 7 lbs, 9 oz.

Christopher A. Iacono, of Miller Alfano & Raspant P.C., wrote, with Stephen G. Stroup ’98, an article, which was published in the summer 2007 edition of the Pennsylvania CPA Journal, regarding the whistleblower provision of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act.

Brian M. Rostocki has joined the firm of Fish & Richardson P.C. in the Wilmington office as an associate in its litigation group. Mr. Rostocki will continue to focus his practice on complex corporate and commercial litigation as well as federal securities actions. Prior to joining Fish & Richardson, he was an associate at Grant & Eisenhofer P.A.

Erica L. Steele, an associate in the State College office of law firm Babst, Calland, Clements and Zomnir, P.C., Pittsburgh, PA, was recently elected to the board of directors of the State College YMCA. Ms. Steele focuses her practice on employment and labor law, real estate and general contracting.

2005
Melissa N. Donimirski has become associated with the firm of Prickett, Jones & Elliott, Wilmington.

Ellen L. Kapalko joined Summers, McDonnell, Hudock, Guthrie & Skeel, L.L.P., in Pittsburgh, PA, in October 2006 and handles insurance defense litigation cases.

Kathleen Maloles has joined The Law Offices of Peter L. Klenk, Wilmington, as an associate.

Kevin J. Rifenstahl recently joined the workers’ compensation department at Capehart Scatchard law firm’s Mount Laurel, NJ, office. Mr. Rifenstahl represents insurance carriers and employers in the defense of workers’ compensation claims at all stages of litigation. His professional activities include membership in the American, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Philadelphia Bar Associations, and he also is a volunteer for the Homeless Advocacy Project of Philadelphia.

Heather A. Schwenzer has joined Morris James LLP as an associate in the Wilmington office.

Raj Srivatsan has joined the law firm of Morris James LLP as an associate in the Wilmington office.

Vincent C. Thomas has joined Morris James LLP as an associate in the Wilmington office.

2006
Bryan D. Cutler was one of nearly 60 freshman legislators who took the oath of office on January 2, 2007. Mr. Cutler represents the 100th District in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. Mr. Cutler took the oath of office as his wife of 11 years, Jennifer, and their two children, Cheyanne Marie and Caleb Dean, stood by his side.

Jeanna Lam has joined The Law Offices of Peter L. Klenk, Wilmington, as an associate.

Marcus E. Montejo has become associated with the firm of Prickett, Jones & Elliott, Wilmington.

ATTENTION, ALUMNI
Class Notes invites alumni to write to the Development/Alumni Office with news of interest. If your name has not appeared recently in Class Notes, take a moment to share some news about yourself for an upcoming issue. If you wish, include a photograph with your information (digital 300 dpi or hard copy).

Send your Class Note to:
Alumni Office
Widener University School of Law
P.O. Box 7474
Wilmington, DE 19803-0474
Or use our handy online form at http://www.law.widener.edu/alumni/submit_class_notes.shtml

Deceased
1976 Rolfe C. Marsh
1976 Stephen H. Skale
1980 Susan J. Dictor
1991 David Robert Anderson, Sr.
1994 Joseph M. Doria
1995 Gary L. Strohm
True Representation

A range of Widener initiatives explores issues of diversity and seeks to make the legal profession reflect the population it serves.

The School of Law’s commitment to diversity has gained momentum from a number of recent events and initiatives on both campuses. Widener’s efforts to further diversify the school and the legal profession are demonstrated in support for programs that explore a wide range of interests and issues.

Discussion on Immigration
The topic of immigration, which has garnered intense and vast attention nationally, took center stage in Delaware on February 7, when about 100 people gathered in the Ruby R. Vale Moot Courtroom for the program “The city of Hazleton v. illegal immigration: A discussion of local initiatives to challenge undocumented immigration.” The event was co-sponsored by the law school and the Immigration Policy Center of the American Immigration Law Foundation.

Dean’s Alumni Diversity Advisory Committee
In February, Dean Ammons called together a group of alumni to assist Widener Law in welcoming, attracting and retaining students of color. The group shared insights into their experiences at Widener and in the legal profession. The Dean also hosted a gathering for minority students and alumni at her home in August.

Community Forum on Muslim Issues
Professor Alan E. Garfield organized a community forum series program March 18 titled “A Conversation with Delaware Valley Muslim Leaders.” More than 100 people gathered in the Vale to hear a panel of four speakers cover topics from the fundamentals of Islam to the concept of jihad to the role and status of women in Islam.

Dean’s Leadership Forum on Diversity
On the Harrisburg campus, Dean Ammons kicked off the first Dean’s Leadership Forum on Diversity, with a focus on diversity in higher education. The daylong public conference held March 29 featured 13 speakers, including Frank W. Hale, Jr., vice provost and professor emeritus from the Ohio State University. Dean Ammons established the Forum and plans to make the topic of diversity an annual focus.

Diversity Pipeline Programs
Law students on the Delaware campus got involved April 14 when they hosted 20 minority undergraduate students who competed in the Student Bar Association-organized Diversity Pipeline Mock Trial Competition. The program was funded, in part, with a gift from the Multicultural Lawyers and Judges Section of the Delaware State Bar Association. This initiative won the Henry Ramsey Award, given by the ABA at its annual meeting in San Francisco.

On April 17, the Delaware campus hosted a visiting day for the DuPont Diversity Pipeline High School Program. About 30 Howard High School students spent part of the day on campus taking tours, attending classes and having lunch. They were paired with law and paralegal students who acted as escorts and role models. A generous grant from E.I. duPont de Nemours makes this program possible.

Delaware Diversity Retreat
The School of Law proudly hosted the first Delaware Diversity Retreat, presented by the Multicultural Judges & Lawyers Section of the Delaware State Bar Association, on May 11. Several area law firms sponsored the daylong program, which was dedicated to reaffirming a commitment to diversity in Delaware’s legal profession. Panelists included Delaware Chief Justice Myron T. Steele, Delaware Attorney General Joseph R. “Beau” Biden III, University of Delaware Provost Daniel Rich, Delaware State University President Allen L. Sessoms and Dean Ammons. Joshua W. Martin III, partner with Potter Anderson & Corroon LLP, moderated.

Online Journal on Law, Economics and Race
A new law journal, to be launched during the 2007-2008 academic year and funded with a generous grant from the law firm of Maron, Marvel, Bradley, & Anderson, will focus on the intersection of law, economics and race. The journal, an idea which students generated and developed, will be disseminated in a completely electronic format and will be a collaborative endeavor involving students on both the Wilmington and Harrisburg campuses.
THANK YOU

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Alumni generosity made this possible.

Gifts to the Widener Law Fund make all the difference.
Calendar

SEPTEMBER 2007
24  Dean’s Leadership Forum, Wilmington Campus
24  Annual Alumni Awards Ceremony, Wilmington Campus
27  Washington, D.C., Alumni Chapter Happy Hour
28  Francis G. Pileggi Distinguished Lecture in Law (CLE), Wilmington

OCTOBER 2007
4-5  Visiting Scholar Program, Wilmington Campus
10  Career Development Office Mentoring Program, Wilmington Campus
11-12 Corporate Law CLE Program, Wilmington Campus
13  Pennsylvania Bridge the Gap CLE, Wilmington Campus
18  Career Development Office Mentoring Program, Harrisburg Campus
19  Hot Topics in Public Health Law (CLE), Wilmington Campus
22  Alumni and Friends Golf Outing, DuPont Country Club, Wilmington
25-26 Delaware Bridge the Gap, Wilmington Campus
27  American Bar Association Conference, Wilmington Campus
30  Current Legal Issues in Long Term Care Part II (CLE), Wilmington Campus
30  Reception for Graduating Students and Young Alumni, Wilmington Campus

For a complete and up-to-date calendar, please see http://www.law.widener.edu/news/calendar/index.shtml

NOVEMBER 2007
9  Delaware Tax Institute (CLE), Wilmington Campus
13  Delaware County Alumni Lunch and CLE, Media, PA
14  Ceremony and Reception for Pennsylvania Bar Passers, Philadelphia
15  Ceremony and Reception for Pennsylvania Bar Passers, Harrisburg
16  Sports and Entertainment Law Symposium, Wilmington Campus
19  Reception for Delaware Bar Passers, Wilmington Campus
30  Veterans’ Law Conference (CLE), Wilmington Campus
30  Reception and CLE for Reunion Classes, Harrisburg Campus

JANUARY 2008
3  Alumni and Friends Reception, AALS Annual Meeting, New York City
5  Open House for Prospective Students, Wilmington and Harrisburg Campuses
22  New Jersey Alumni Chapter Reception and Welcome for Bar Passers

FEBRUARY 2008
21  Lancaster Area Alumni Reception
25  Widener Law Journal Symposium (CLE), Harrisburg Campus

MARCH 2008
3  United States Supreme Court Swearing-In for Widener Alumni
19  Philadelphia Alumni Reception