UNLOCKING THE JUDICIARY
Defending the Judiciary
Consistency and Balance
Jurists as Teachers
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Defending the Judiciary: Attacks on judicial independence are based on ignorance, says a legal scholar, and are best parried by lawyers themselves.

Consistency and Balance: A judge’s job involves mediating competing interests fairly and correctly – time and time again, observes Delaware’s top jurist.

From the Bench to the Classroom: Judge-adjuncts bring a balanced perspective to their teaching assignments...not to mention a humanizing touch and a sense of humor.

Lawyering 101: The new Professionalism Day joins orientation in introducing Widener Law students to life as attorneys.

Widener University School of Law Magazine


Photography: Mary Allen, Ashley Barton, Robert Coldwell, Rosemary Pall, Nancy Ravert-Ward, Derek Riker, Carl Socolow

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DEAR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS: This edition of *Widener Law* is devoted in part to the third branch of government — the judiciary. In recent months I have had the opportunity to hear Supreme Court Justices Souter and O’Connor speak about the attacks on the judiciary. The citizenry’s lack of understanding about the role of the third branch of government is disturbing. The threat to judicial independence is a threat to democracy. The relationship between the courts and law schools should not be underestimated. After all, nearly all judges and magistrates are legally trained. Law schools provide the law clerks who assist with the administration of justice. Respect for the rule of law is central to our doctrinal pedagogy. Widener holds the distinction of having more than 130 alumni who are serving or who have served as judges. Our contribution to public service through the careers of our alumni who have either been appointed or are elected to the bench is remarkable, particularly when you consider the Law School is less than forty years old. Our students are very competitive for selection as judicial clerks. Last year, 68 graduates served in that capacity. We are pleased to have a variety of articles by faculty and the judiciary about the third branch and its relationship to the citizens, lawyers, and law schools. Vice Dean and Professor of Law John L. Gedid begins the discussion by addressing some of the false assumptions citizens may have about members of the bench. Chief Justice Myron T. Steele of the Delaware Supreme Court makes clear the role of the court in the face of external pressures. The Honorable Richard A. Lewis, president judge of the Dauphin County Court of Common Pleas and an adjunct on the Harrisburg campus, explains the advantage of having jurist adjuncts. In addition to these articles, a few of our alumni who are on the bench talk about their experiences. Of course, there are the regular features, which include the outstanding scholarship, symposia, and the remarkable contributions of our faculty, students, and alumni. Finally, be sure to read about the new initiatives Widener is employing to make sure that our students are well prepared to join our profession. This past year, more than 544 of our graduates passed the Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware bars and now join your ranks. Congratulations to them all. I hope this issue of the magazine will give you a window on the vibrant life at Widener Law.

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

“I know of no other law school that has been so represented on the bench within such a short time of its founding.”

DEAR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS: Your law school has completed another exciting year of progress and growth. Dean Linda Ammons has piloted us to new heights of academic achievement and national recognition, thanks to her impressive slate of ambitious, exciting, and successful programs. We have maintained the quality of our entering classes despite a declining national market for law school applicants; graduates are passing their bar examinations at higher rates; exciting new challenges and programs for students have been added; and we have an ever more impressive faculty. There is a new synergy among the administration, faculty, overseers, students, and alumni that is propelling our law school to reach its goals faster than ever.

The annual golf outing at the DuPont Country Club’s championship course was held on October 22 under the bluest, warmest skies in memory. Close to 75 alumni golfed and had a tremendously enjoyable day featuring amusing banter on the course and on the golf cart paths. The event raised $2,800 for the Loan Repayment Assistance Program, and I am certain that all who attended had a fabulous day. Please look for next year’s golf outing and be certain to join.

The Alfred Avins Special Collections Library was dedicated last spring after fundraising efforts welcomed more than $200,000 in gifts. A wonderful aspect of the naming opportunity includes a scholarship awarded annually to a third-year student from each of our campuses with the highest average grades in Constitutional Law I and II. I am pleased to inform you that this year’s recipients are Michelle Groleau from the Harrisburg Campus and Janine Hochberg from the Delaware Campus. Congratulations to these two rising constitutional scholars! The Avins Library fund remains open for additional gifts and pledges, and we invite your contributions to this tribute to our school’s founder, Alfred Avins.

Several more alumni have been elected judges in the multi-state area. Congratulations to the new members of the judiciary and the more than 100 alumni who are already members of the bench. I know of no other law school that has been so represented on the bench within such a short time of its founding. It is a powerful testimonial that so many of our graduates have become judges. Please mark your calendars for March 19, 2008, for our annual Philadelphia Reception. This event saw more than 200 alumni and close to 60 judges in attendance last year. Finally, please remember to serve your law school in any way you can. As Widener Law alumni, we have helped our school attain much; the only way for it to grow further is through our combined efforts.

STEVEN P. BARSAMIAN ’75
PRESIDENT, ALUMNI BOARD
Attacks on judicial independence are based on ignorance and are best parried by lawyers themselves.

By John L. Gedid
In the past 10 years, purely political, structural attacks on the judicial branch have increased in frequency and intensity. The judiciary is the “least dangerous branch,” but it is crucial to our system of constitutional government. Because we are educated in the law, we must speak out to protect the independence of the judiciary.

As lawyers, we are aware of the crucial connections between the rule of law and judicial independence. Judicial independence assures “that judges decide according to the law, rather than according to their own whims or to the will of the political branches of government.” Judicial independence is the means to ensure the rule of law. Judges are insulated from political and other pressures so that they will be free to decide whether power asserted against citizens is consistent with law and the Constitution.

Unfortunately, most citizens are “illiterate” about judicial independence and the rule of law. Some false assumptions asserted frequently by citizens are that:

- “Judges decide cases in accordance with their ideology or political allegiance.
- “Judges decide cases in accordance with their personal or financial interests.
- “Judges favor certain individuals or classes of litigants.
- “Judges usurp the legislative role and the will of the populace by creating laws.
- “Judicial independence accords judges the latitude to subvert the will of the people and the authority of the legislature without accountability.”

In the legal profession we are aware of the oath that judges take to decide cases according to law and the Constitution, of the canons of judicial ethics, and of the disciplinary machinery for judges that exists in most states. These safeguards address most of the first three false citizen assumptions listed above, particularly those involving favoritism, bias, and personal interest. The fourth and fifth assumptions are attacks directed against the judicial institution. They are particularly damaging and rarely answered.

The misconception that judges must have less independence because they are “making law” through interpretation contains just enough resemblance to what courts do to lend an aura of persuasiveness to nonlawyers. After all, judges construe statutes in connection with particular cases, and the judicial decision about the meaning of statutory language often determines the outcome of the case. To a nonlawyer, that is “making law.”

However, in deciding a case, it is hornbook law that a judge is bound to give effect to the will of the legislature expressed in an applicable statute. The bases of judicial decisions are binding and nonbinding precedent, statute, regulation, and constitution, all of which the judge is bound to consider, if applicable.

The courts’ task in cases involving statutory interpretation is particularly difficult because of two types of cases regularly brought before the courts. First, new, unique factual situations involving statutes frequently arise. With unique facts, it is often unclear how the statute should be applied. Second, many statutes are drafted in broad language, so that it is not clear how they should be applied. Nevertheless, in cases involving these problems the judge must render a decision consistent with the will of the legislature as expressed in the applicable statute. Reasonable minds often
THE LAW IN ACTION

Delaware Supreme Court's visit to Widener inspires inaugural Judges' Day.

The Delaware Supreme Court’s visit to the Delaware Campus on April 8 will bring an impressive opportunity for Widener Law students to see the court in action. And this year, the benefits will be further enhanced, as the school plans to declare it Judges’ Day on campus.

The inaugural Judges’ Day will bring a host of state and local jurists to the school, where they will be invited to join students in listening to the Supreme Court arguments. The judges will also be invited to guest-lecture in classes that day, giving them an opportunity to share some of their experiences and insights from the bench.

Other special events are planned, and the whole experience should give students a chance to network with, and gain new insights from, the judges. At the same time, the judges will get the chance to connect with the Law School community and, especially, the students.

“This initiative is a terrific opportunity for Widener and one we hope will become an annual tradition,” Dean Linda L. Ammons said. “The Law School enjoys a collegial relationship with judges from around the region, and we want them to feel welcome and appreciated. It means a great deal to us to have them share their time and talents for a day.”

In this age of attacks on the judicial branch, we should defend the courts through our bar associations. Whenever possible, as individual lawyers we should explain the faulty assumptions that citizens make, and demagogues use, to attack the judiciary. In particular, the attacks that judges regularly make or invent law through interpretation and that they are “activist” are unfounded, but rarely answered or explained. We need to educate the public about the “least dangerous branch.”

To avoid a decision would be to abridge the judge’s duties and responsibilities of office.

That, it seems to me, is a transparent, effective answer to the activist argument. This also needs to be explained to nonlawyers. Judges interpreting statutes or applying them to new fact situations exercise discretion. That, however, is not an argument that the judiciary is doing anything wrong or improper. Cases and controversies by definition involve different parties arguing that uncertainty in interpretation or application should be resolved in their favor. One of the most important judicial functions is resolution to reach an outcome in situations where there is more than one correct possible outcome. Resolution of cases and controversies thus involves discretion to decide in more than one way. While exercising that decisional discretion, a judge is controlled, guided, and bounded by precedent, by statutory language, and, as Karl Llewellyn pointed out, by the training of lawyers to work from principle and precedent. We could abolish judicial discretion only if we could eliminate uncertainty about law or facts in connection with cases and controversies, an outcome which is impossible. So it is inaccurate—or even unfair—to chastise the judiciary for exercising discretion, for that is a principal function of the judicial branch.

In this age of attacks on the judicial branch, we should defend the courts through our bar associations. Whenever possible, as individual lawyers we should explain the faulty assumptions that citizens make, and demagogues use, to attack the judiciary. In particular, the attacks that judges regularly make or invent law through interpretation and that they are “activist” are unfounded, but rarely answered or explained. We need to educate the public about the “least dangerous branch.”

John L. Gedid is Vice Dean of the Harrisburg Campus, Director of the Harrisburg Campus’s Law and Government Institute, and Professor of Law. He teaches and writes in the areas of federal and state administrative law, contracts, legislation, sales and leases, and conflict of laws.

1 The Federalist No. 78 (Alexander Hamilton).
5 Id. at 536.
6 Id. at 542.
8 Id. Former House Majority Leader Tom DeLay stated that the courts are “out of control.”
9 Julie A. Robinson, Judicial Independence, supra n. 4, at 541.
Each year I am invited to speak around the world about Delaware’s top-ranked court system and its preeminence in corporate law. But when asked to offer insights into the challenges jurists face in resolving difficult disputes, the tough cases that immediately sprang to mind were not corporate. My colleagues and I serve all of Delaware’s citizens, not just our corporate citizens. Many of our other carefully crafted judicial opinions more directly impact our neighbors’ daily lives.

The Supreme Court’s purpose is to provide a venue for the fair, prompt, and legally correct disposition of every case appealed to us.

Although judges are appointed in Delaware, we are mindful that our decisions can set far-reaching precedents and inevitably will disappoint or even anger legislators and citizens whose
Widener Law students are the beneficiaries of a rigorous education taught by a diverse faculty of accomplished law professors and practicing judges and attorneys. Supplementing the classroom instruction from expert faculty members are several clinical and externship experiences that provide pro bono legal assistance to low-income clients or involve serving the public interest through legal work in a government branch or agency.

Our task is to apply the law to the specific case facts before us and not to use cases to express personal views or to make policy. Resolving cases in new legal areas tests judges’ ability to apply existing precedent carefully while remaining open to changed circumstances. In Doe v. Cahill, 884 A.2d 451 (Del. 2005), a local public official sought the name of the individual who had anonymously posted offensive comments about him on a blog in order to perfect process in a defamation action. The trial court applied a good faith standard and ordered the Internet service provider to reveal the blogger’s identity.

The perception that external pressures could affect our decision-making process would impugn the vital integrity of our court system.

WEALTH OF EXPERIENCE

The Wolcott Fellowship Program places the Law School’s best students in Delaware’s world-renowned courtrooms as judicial clerks.

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The School’s very best students have the opportunity to gain hands-on experience and learn at the highest levels by clerking for justices of the Delaware Supreme Court and for the Delaware Court of Chancery. Five students annually are chosen to participate in the Josiah Oliver Wolcott Fellowship Program, which provides both academic credit and a scholarship grant.

Wolcott Fellows are assigned duties routinely performed by law clerks as determined by the justice or vice chancellor to whom they are assigned. The clerkships begin shortly after Labor Day and continue through the following April, and average 20 hours a week.

“The Wolcott Fellowship Program provides our students with an unparalleled opportunity, while in law school, to participate in the making of internationally important law,” says Russell A. Hakes, Vice Dean of the Delaware Campus and Professor of Law. “Decisions of the Delaware Supreme Court and the Delaware Court of Chancery create and refine fundamental principles of corporate law in the United States. Those courts are perennially recognized as premier state courts in the country.”

Wolcott Fellows serve in their third year of the Regular Division program or third or fourth year of the Extended Division program. Applicants typically rank in the top 15 percent of their class or otherwise demonstrate strong academic credentials. The selection committee comprises a Delaware Supreme Court Justice, a Vice Chancellor from the Court of Chancery, and the Dean of the Law School.

“Wolcott Fellows clerk for judges in those courts, observe top legal talent briefing and arguing cases, and learn firsthand both substantive law and excellent advocacy skills,” says Professor Hakes.

The Delaware Supreme Court reversed, finding that a good faith standard did not adequately protect the blogger’s First Amendment right to speak anonymously.

Citing the need to “appropriately balance one person’s right to speak anonymously against another person’s right to protect his reputation,” we held that a defamation plaintiff is required to establish a genuine issue of material fact for each essential element of the claim within the plaintiff’s control before being able to obtain the name of the anonymous defendant. We understood that blogs and chat rooms are intended to be places for people to express opinions and that those offended can almost instantly reply and refute those views, and, thus, protect their reputation in a freewheeling environment designed for loose exchange of opinions.
We thought that all should be very wary of any efforts that would have a chilling effect on free speech, especially in a forum where readers should logically be suspicious of any anonymous comment’s veracity. Our decision, ironically, stimulated an even more intense blogging effort where we became the vilified.

Regardless of legal context, all judges face the difficulty of understanding parties’ competing interests, providing a fair and impartial forum for advancing those interests, and ultimately balancing those interests by disposing of disputes in a just way that comports with law and equity and preserves the integrity of the system. We can only hope we do it consistently well.

Myron T. Steele is chief justice of the Supreme Court of Delaware. A longer version of this piece was originally published in the Fall 2007 UVA Lawyer magazine.

INSIDE VIEW
Judicial Externship Program gives Widener students the chance to clerk for credit.

Widener Law students need not wait until landing judicial clerkships (see page 5) before gaining critical experience working for judges.

Thanks to the School’s Judicial Externship Program, students can spend two semesters clerking part-time for a judge in the region. In addition to learning about and reflecting upon the role of the judiciary in the law, in the legal profession, and in society, the students also earn course credits.

Widener judicial externs are placed with courts in Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Maryland. There are placements in the federal and state systems, and in appellate, trial, civil, criminal, and specialty courts.

The assignments are rigorous and comprehensive in order to develop the externs’ ability to learn from their experiences, to foster their sense of professional responsibility, and to train them in lawyering skills and the workings of the legal system. Besides the work they do in their placements, the students are assigned required readings throughout the year, are required to contribute twice weekly to an online, threaded discussion concerning placement experiences and assigned topics, and must submit a reflective writing for each assignment.

“Working for a judge this year has undoubtedly been a fulfilling experience,” wrote extern David Anthony in a reflection piece. “Beyond merely practicing legal writing and research, being in the judge’s chambers has reminded me of the important role that I can play in shaping my society.”

Judicial externs are also required to choose from a list of activities similar to those required for admission to the Delaware Bar. This list includes attendance at a range of court proceedings, preparation of documents, and performance of law-related activities.

The experience can have a profound impact on students. Extern Nicole DeSouza called it “invaluable to [her] legal career,” while Mr. Anthony noted that it would help him “to see the law in its context and understand what it says about our society.”
Justice Jack B. Jacobs of the Supreme Court of Delaware is one of many judges who serve as adjunct faculty members at Widener Law. Justice Jacobs teaches a seminar course in advanced corporations.
Why is it so important to have trial and appellate judges serving on the adjunct faculty at Widener Law School? A wise man once remarked that there’s nothing more impressive than watching a skilled and polished lawyer working an audience—or, I suppose, a classroom. So what do judges have to offer law students that an experienced litigator or noted practitioner cannot? And, by the way, aren’t judges bred to have that penetrating stare and intimidating aura that make young lawyers shake and quiver—traits that may dissuade any sensible law student from ever signing up for a class taught by a judge? Tough questions, to be sure.

Both lawyers and judges earned law degrees. Both have reams of experience on an infinite variety of issues. And, quite frankly, both are capable of doing a superb job of exposing budding lawyers to the practical nuances of those ivory tower issues that talented professors painstakingly and necessarily drill into their heads.

Perhaps the only sensible answer lies in their respective points of reference. Attorney-adjuncts are essentially advocates; perhaps a criminal defense attorney or a personal injury lawyer. They emanate from an established background that earned them a level of stature and experience, making them attractive as adjunct professors. In short, they wave a certain flag, as much as they may try to keep it in check. While a district attorney, for example, may try to present both sides of a search and seizure issue to a class, he or she will always be perceived as the standard-bearer of the government. The same holds true with a criminal defense attorney, plaintiff’s counsel, etc. (In the interest of full disclosure, I was wearing a prosecutor’s hat when I began my teaching career at Widener Harrisburg some 17 years ago.)

On the other hand, a judge has the advantage or at least the perception of holding the middle ground, of seeing the issue from both sides of the courtroom. It’s much easier for a judge to persuasively describe the argument the defense may advance on that suppression issue and what the anticipated government response might be, as well as the factors the court might consider in reaching a final resolution.

In search of another opinion on this topic, I asked my ace law clerk, Kate Higgins ’05, a Widener grad, fellow Notre Dame fan, and former student in my PA Criminal Practice class, for her thoughts. She indicated that while most law school classes focus on legal theory alone, judges bring “a real-life, practical perspective to their classrooms that no other professor can.” She added that having a judge as a law school professor is “a unique experience in that you are actually learning from someone whose job it is to interpret that same law on a daily basis.” (Is it any wonder that Kate landed a high grade in my course?)

A judge at the lectern also serves to break down the proverbial barriers between lawyers and judges. Litigation teaches us that judges are not approachable except through a written motion served on the opposing side, with briefs submitted, argument scheduled, etc. While there are solid reasons for that concept in an adversarial setting, a judge in the classroom not only teaches, but also can answer all of those
The Honorable Richard A. Lewis is president judge of the Dauphin County Court of Common Pleas and an adjunct professor at Widener Law’s Harrisburg Campus, where he teaches Pennsylvania Criminal Practice and Trial Advocacy.

“how do you do this” questions, show off a sparkling wit and genuine sense of humor, and, frankly, come off as quite human. Attorneys don’t always get a one-on-one with a judge, but law students do.

Arguably, a judge in the classroom has a calming effect on law students who venture out to practice. They soon learn that the stern visage and solemn image projected from the bench mask a normal person trying to maintain an aura of fairness and impartiality. (I read that judges are advised to develop hemorrhoids so that they always maintain that serious, concerned look on the bench.)

One of the profound joys of my teaching years at Widener has been presiding over a trial and watching a former student work a jury in a professional, competent, and effective fashion. It’s a double pleasure when both attorneys are former students. I try not to let them see me smiling.

WIDENER LAW JUDGE-ADJUNCTS

Delaware Campus
Judge Robert S. Blasi ’75
Judge William C. Carpenter ’76
Judge Robert E. Francis
Justice Randy J. Holland
Justice Jack B. Jacobs
Judge Harold U. Johnson ’83
Judge Kent A. Jordan
Justice William T. Quillen

Harrisburg Campus
Judge Robert G. Bigham
Judge John F. Cherry
Judge Scott A. Evans ‘81
Judge Richard A. Lewis
Judge Jeannine Turgeon

ALUMNI ONLINE

In January Widener University School of Law launched an alumni online community, a password-protected website designed to provide alumni with an easy way to stay connected with their alma mater and in touch with their fellow classmates. The online community is a secure site, available only to registered members.

Some features of the community are:

- Profile Page: Through this tool, you are able to update your personal profile and inform the Alumni Office of any important and exciting changes in your life.
- Alumni Directory: With our easy-to-use, comprehensive, and secure directory, you can stay in touch with classmates and friends. The database is searchable by several different fields.
- Online Event Registration: With the event registration tool, you’ll be able to RSVP for any upcoming events.
- Online Giving: Save a stamp! Donate online using the secure site.
- Career Networking: Search for fellow alumni in your legal field or network with others.

For more information on the online community, contact the Alumni Office at (302) 477-2191 or (717) 541-3974.
THE ORIGIN OF THE RULE OF LAW

Adjunct professor Justice Randy Holland's new book explores the role of London-trained barristers in the United States' founding.

In 1607 barristers from the Middle Temple Inn of Court of London were among the founders of the new English colony at Jamestown, Virginia. Over the next century and a half, many of the colonists who wished to become lawyers would return to the Middle Temple Inn to study. Five of them would go on to sign the Declaration of Independence, and seven of them put their names to the United States Constitution.

The role that these attorneys played in the founding of the new country is the subject of the recent book Middle Temple Lawyers and the American Revolution, coauthored by Adjunct Professor Randy J. Holland, a justice of the Delaware Supreme Court.

"Middle Temple lawyers were instrumental in bringing the rule of law to America," says Justice Holland. "The right to trial by jury, for example, and freedom from unreasonable search and seizure. These lawyers had studied the rule of law in London and when they became concerned about what King George III was doing, they took a lead role in the Stamp Act Congress and the Continental Congress."

U.S. Supreme Court Justice John Roberts and The Rt. Hon. The Lord Phillips of Worth Matravers, Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales, wrote forewords to the book, which has garnered considerable attention among judges and lawyers.

"People don’t associate the founding of Jamestown and the bringing of the rule of law with lawyers, so it’s nice to periodically review that type of history," says Justice Holland. "It’s certainly very timely if you look at what’s happening in Pakistan, where there is concern about the rule of law and what the chief justice and lawyers there are doing."

Justice Holland has taught state constitutional law and appellate practice and procedure at Widener since 1991 and says he learns much from his preparations for class and from interacting with students.

"The canons of judicial ethics encourage judges to teach and write and speak about the law," he says. "I think it complements what we do on a day-to-day basis. If you have adjunct professors, whether they’re judges or lawyers, it’s good to have a context for the principles and to see the practical application. Someone who’s involved as a practitioner or a judge can bring that perspective to the classroom."

SEEKING EQUALITY

The new Law and Inequality Project is examining the role of race in America this year.

Students and professors on the Delaware Campus began examining issues of race in America under a new annual initiative launched last fall called the Law and Inequality Project.

The project, which began October 1, involves four key components. The first is a new course being offered this spring in a seminar style, only with a larger number of students, and team taught by project faculty members: Professors Erin Daly, Robert L. Hayman Jr., Judith L. Ritter, and Serena M. Williams and Associate Professors Susan L. Goldberg, Mary Ellen Maatman, and Nathaniel C. Nichols. Additional teachers include Daniel Atkins of Community Legal Aid and Professor Leland Ware of the University of Delaware. Students will publish papers through the course.

The project also involves a community education component that will likely put law students into Delaware high schools, where they will teach about desegregation issues in conjunction with the Delaware Law Related Education Center.

Active public service is another part of the project, and will involve students putting their legal knowledge to work in the community. Ideas being discussed include a survey of polling places on Election Day for adherence to the Americans with Disabilities Act, a medical-legal aid partnership with an area hospital, and advocacy related to Delaware’s Neighborhood Schools Act.

Finally, leaders also intend to include a speaker series component. Plans are under way to bring to campus Vanita Gupta, the young attorney who spearheaded the successful effort that overturned the drug convictions of the 46 Tulia, Texas, defendants in 2003.

Widener Law students voted after the Law and Inequality Project was announced, and the results of balloting led to the Race in America focus for the project’s first year. The focus will change annually.
Bench Players

Widener Law alumni reflect on what it means to serve as judges

More than 100 alumni of Widener University School of Law are members of the judiciary. Seeking to illuminate the nature of their work for a wider audience, Widener Law asked six of these distinguished alumni three questions: What do you consider to be the most rewarding/fulfilling part of being a judge? What do you wish more people knew about the judiciary? And how did your Widener experience prepare you for the bench?

Rewards: I begin each judicial day pondering – usually en route to work – the unsought, chance circumstances that delivered me, some 15 years ago at just age 38, to the bench of the Superior Court. The notion of sitting in judgment of others – indeed, anyone – leaves me as uneasy now as did it then. As it should. With each day, however, come new faces, new cases, new challenges, and, perhaps most importantly, new opportunities to bring uniquely (I hope) to judicial process – beyond the never-enduring pursuit of correctness – humility, tolerance, patience, and circumspection. Every so often, whether by chance, intellect, Providence, or some combination thereof, a judge “gets it right.” The lawyers, the litigants, the jurors, all see it, sense it, share it. For a judge – this judge, at least – it gets no better.

Understanding: No decision is easy. A judge understands that every decision – even those entered by either mutual consent or default – bears consequence(s) that all too often the litigants have not contemplated. And reasons therefore may be many: the lawyering (or lack thereof); relative subject matter experience between counsel; pro se status of one or more of the parties; subject matter experience of the judge deciding the case; quantum and quality of evidence; availability of witnesses; constraint of time; financial burden to the parties; novelty of issue; influence of non-parties. The duty of a judge includes a careful, anticipatory consideration of these and all other relevant factors at time of decision.

The Widener experience: From the very first day in August of 1976, a diverse and extremely talented faculty demanded the very best from every student. Beyond the course load and class preparation, each professor took roll at the start of each class. Classroom unpreparedness counted as a “missed” class. Each “missed” class beyond two cost a student one-half a grade off his final course grade. Extreme at the time, I thought, but an important component to the education of young lawyers.

Rewards: Being a Superior Court Judge in New Jersey, hearing primarily juvenile matters, has provided me with the opportunity to have a lasting impact on young people who are in danger of drifting into the deep end of our criminal justice system. The chance to have a positive effect upon the young people in my courtroom, and their families, is rewarding and fulfilling because the benefits of success will last long into the future, and impact positively the larger community in which we live.

Rewards: The joy of being a judge comes from the fact that I can dedicate my working life to ensuring the vitality of the rule of law, including the Constitution. I did not think of the law in that way when I began my legal career, but after nearly 20 years on the bench, I realize that the daily challenge of the legal profession is to protect the principles which are at the foundation of our liberty. I deal with the Bill of Rights every time I decide a suppression motion; I deal with due process issues at every trial. I confront issues related to the right to counsel, to the right to a trial by jury, and to the protection of free speech. As turmoil in the rest of the world has become part of what we must understand to conduct our daily lives, I appreciate even more the institutions we have in place to maintain order and to protect our safety.

Understanding: Television often makes lawyers and judges look like cartoon characters. I think the role of the judiciary should be better understood by children and adults alike. People should understand why, on occasion, unpopular decisions are
essential. People should understand the power of the jury, and why shirking jury service is such a bad idea. People should understand the social ills which are displayed on a daily basis in courtrooms, especially those with criminal calendars.

The Widener experience: The man who started the Delaware Law School, which we all know now as Widener University School of Law, was Al Avins. Avins, or “Big Al,” as we used to call him, taught Constitutional Law. He was an old-fashioned law professor. He made us stand up to answer questions about the cases we had been assigned. He badgered us a bit. He was intimidating. He was an expert in constitutional law, and he was an excellent teacher. Since much of what we do in the practice of law flows from an understanding of the Constitution, his class provided a good, strong start for my professional life.

Rewards: The decisions I make are important and have an impact on both the people who appear in front of me as well as the public at large.

Understanding: The decisions we make are based on the facts, the law, and our oath to protect the Constitution, not political pressure.

The Widener experience: Widener encouraged diversity of thought. Students were comfortable in taking opposing points of view during discussions. The ability to disagree without being disagreeable is so important.

Rewards: I believe that serving as a judge is one of the great accomplishments an attorney can attain in his legal career. Being elected by the citizens of Philadelphia to the Common Pleas Court was a personal honor for me. I enjoy being entrusted with the responsibility of resolving legal issues after careful analysis of legal precedent. Knowing that I have done the right thing under the law is extremely satisfying, whether my deliberations involve evidentiary issues, arriving at a verdict, or deciding on an appropriate sentence.

Understanding: The main thing that I wish more people knew about the judiciary is the seriousness with which judges approach each and every case. I would hope that everyone takes the opportunity to serve, at least once, as a juror. This experience allows people to understand the responsibility that is involved in making judgments which impact upon both the liberty of another person and the safety of the community. I would hope that anyone who appears before me knows that I take each case seriously and strive to be fair to all parties and counsel.

Rewards: From my experience in the Civil Trial Division, it is rewarding and fulfilling to be part of the mediation process and to resolve cases in which all parties leave with a positive impression of our court system which strives to resolve the dispute amicably. From my involvement in Family Law areas, it was always rewarding and fulfilling to assist families and be part of a process working with the court system and other agencies to develop a plan which promotes family unity.

Understanding: Because judges are expected to be impartial, their personal views on matters should not enter into the decision-making process. However, I believe people should know more about the work ethic, qualifications, experience, and outside work performed by the judiciary. This would help them to better understand our court and heighten confidence in the members of our judiciary.

The Widener experience: I was one of the original graduates of Widener University. At that time, we were considered pioneers for the law school. Our collegiality, hard work, ethics, and true desire to master the law to become seasoned practitioners were evident. This preparation taught me to be a better lawyer and ultimately helped me in my current position as a judge, emphasizing the same sense of collegiality, work ethic, and love for the law.
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR JOHN J. CAPOWSKI delivered “Evidence Codification and Trans substantive and Bifurcated Codes” at the International Symposium on Evidence Law and Forensic Science in Beijing, China, in September. While there, he met with the committee that is drafting China’s first Uniform Rules of Evidence and was involved in many informal discussions about evidence law. The symposium was hosted by the China University of Political Science and Law Press in Beijing.

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR JULES EPSTEIN presented “Post-Conviction Traps” to the Pennsylvania Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers in November and “Legal Issues in DNA Cases” in December. He is a member of the Pennsylvania Committee on Standard Jury Instructions (Criminal) and currently represents seven indigent death row inmates. Professor Epstein is one of 30 participants at the National Institute of Justice’s Forensics Policy Summit Planning Meeting, and he is a member of a National Institute of Justice technical working group on training materials for defense attorneys in DNA cases, as well as of a Pennsylvania statewide commission investigating the causes of wrongful convictions.


PROFESSOR JOHN G. CULHANE was quoted in articles in the Wilmington News Journal and the Legal Intelligencer on Widener Law’s new joint programs in law and public health with Thomas Jefferson University. He also commented to NPR affiliate WHY-FM on the New Jersey Supreme Court’s decision to require the state to provide legal equality to same-sex couples. In October Professor Culhane spoke at a symposium, “Legal Issues in Long Term Care,” held on the Delaware Campus. He also conceived, organized, and was a featured panelist at the “Public Health Perspectives on Charged Legal Issues” symposium, which was moderated by Widener Law faculty. Professor Culhane discussed the public health dimension of marriage equality; the School of Law plans to publish the proceedings as a book, with each panelist contributing a chapter.

PROFESSOR ERIN DALY’S book Reconciliation in Divided Societies received favorable reviews in the International Journal of Transitional Justice, the Australian Journal of Human Rights, and Greater Good magazine. She joined the Faculty Editorial Board of the University of Pennsylvania Press and was quoted in a Philadelphia Inquirer story on the types of skills that are needed for reconciliation at the national and international levels. In November Professor Daly presented a paper on a theory of constitutional omissions at the annual Delaware Valley International Law Day at Temple Law School. She also lectured on the rights of detainees at Guantanamo Bay at the University of Delaware’s Center for Lifelong Learning. Professor Daly is the Delaware Campus’s first Associate Dean for Faculty Research and Development.

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PROFESSOR LAWRENCE A. HAMERMESH discussed “The Accidental Elegance of Aronsen v. Lewis,” by Professor David Skel of the University of Pennsylvania Law School, at the Eugene P. and Delia S. Murphy Conference on Corporate Law at Fordham Law School in October. He also served as a panelist on “Proxy Access: Where Things Stand” at the ABA Section of Business Law’s fall meeting in Washington, DC, in November.

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR STEPHEN E. HENDERSON presented a CLE course entitled “Twenty-First Century Technology and the Fourth Amendment” for the Pennsylvania Bar Institute in Atlantic City, NJ, in August. He also presented at a meeting of the ABA Criminal Justice Standards Task Force on Transaction Surveillance, for which he is serving as reporter. In September Professor Henderson lectured at Osher Lifelong Learning Institute in Exton, PA, on “The Bush Administration’s Terrorist Surveillance Initiatives.”

PROFESSOR LOUISE LARK HILL was quoted in an article in a Cape Gazette story on possible remedies available in a taxpayer lawsuit against the Cape Henlopen School Board. Professor Hill discussed “Changing Technology and Attorney Client Privilege” as a panelist at a CLE course, “Legal Ethics: Solutions to the Most Common Challenges,” in Newark and Dover, DE, in December. She was a panel member addressing “Ethical Considerations” at a CLE course, “Trust Administration: Overcoming Challenges Before and After the Grantor’s Death,” in January in Wilmington.

PROFESSOR DAVID R. HODAS discussed executive privilege on NPR affiliate WHYY-FM in July. He also presented at a CLE course on climate change law for the Pennsylvania Bar Institute in Philadelphia in July. Professor Hodas participated in business meetings of the IUCN Academy of Environmental Law’s Research Committee in Ottawa, Canada, and Paraty, Brazil, and in January, he was elected the North American representative to the Governing Council of the Academy of Environmental Law for the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, the world’s largest intergovernmental environmental organization. He chaired monthly meetings of Delaware Governor Ruth Ann Minner’s Energy Advisory Council, for which he prepared a detailed request for proposal for consultants to assist the Council in drafting the state’s next five-year energy plan.

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR ALICIA BROKARS KELLY is a member of the executive boards of the AALS sections on Family Law and Women in Legal Education, and is secretary-treasurer of the AALS Family and Juvenile Law Section. She also chairs AALS’ Mentor Program in Family Law.

PROFESSOR GREG RANDALL LEE delivered “The Search for Wisdom in an Information Age: The Lessons of Robert Coles for Social Scientists” at the annual conference for the Society of Catholic Social Scientists at St. John’s Law School.

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR MARY ELLEN MAATMAN serves as a member of the Endowment Board for Christ Episcopal Church in Media, PA.

PROFESSOR ROBERTA F. MANN presented “Moonshine to MotorFuel: Tax Incentives for Fuel Ethanol” at the Loyola Law School Tax Colloquium in Los Angeles in October and delivered a similar presentation at a Delaware Tax Institute meeting, held at Widener Law, in November. She presented “Constitutional Limitations on State Taxation” in November at the National Tax Association Annual Meeting in Columbus, OH, where she also discussed a paper by other scholars on housing tenure choice, race, and the recommendations of the President’s Advisory Council on Federal Tax Reform. Professor Mann was ranked No. 8 among tax professors at third- and fourth-tier law schools by www.taxprofblog.com.

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR NICHOLAS A. MIRKAY presented “2006 Developments in Federal Income Taxation of Individuals” at the Delaware Tax Institute meeting in November, held at Widener Law.

PROFESSOR JULIET M. MORINGIELLO presented at a session entitled “Website Agreements: I Didn’t Agree to Those Terms, Did I?” at the ABA Meeting in San Francisco in August; the session was presented by the ABA Section of Business Law. At the meeting of the Subcommittee on Electronic Commerce of the Business Law Section’s Cyberspace Law Committee, she led a discussion on Bragg v. Linden Research, a recent decision of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania involving the wildly popular virtual world Second Life. In December, Professor Moringiello presented “Towards a System of Estates in Virtual Property” at the Second International Conference on Legal, Security and Privacy Issues in IT in Beijing, China.

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR WESLEY OLIVER discussed public schools’ prohibition on wearing the Confederate flag on PBS affiliate WITF-TV’s Smart Talk, and talked about a lawsuit against protestors at a military funeral on CBS affiliate WHP-TV. Professor Oliver also moderated a panel at Widener Law’s immigration symposium in October, spoke at a J.S.D. forum at Yale Law School and at a legal history colloquium at the University of Virginia Law School, both on the history of wiretapping, and presented a paper at Widener Law’s Scholars’ Workshop on the same topic.

VISITING ASSISTANT PROFESSOR THADDEUS M. POPE presented “Decisional Authority of Ethics Committees” and “Legal Landscape Here and Elsewhere: What Can We Learn from the Texas Advance Directives Act” at the Kaiser Permanente Bioethics Committee Offsite Retreat, held in September in San Diego. Professor Pope currently serves on the Hospital Ethics Committee of the Le Bonheur Children’s Medical Center in Memphis, TN.

PROFESSOR ROBERT C. POWER taught Criminal Law in Seattle University’s Summer Start program, in which admitted students take one intensive course for six weeks. While there he was able, at the University of Washington, to continue his research on government attorneys.

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR CHRISTOPHER J. ROBINETTE moderated a panel at a symposium entitled “Punitive Damages, Due Process, and Deterrence: The Debate after Philip Morris v. Williams” at the Charleston School of Law.

PROFESSOR ANDREW L. STRAUSS discussed global democracy in an interview that ran in The Federalist Debate, published by the Einstein Center for International Studies.

CONAWAY, ANN E., & ROBERT R. KEATINGE, KEATINGE AND CONAWAY ON CHOICE OF BUSINESS ENTITY (Thomson West 2nd ed. 2007).


CATHERINE J. WASSON, ET AL., A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO LEGAL WRITING AND LEGAL DRAFTING 3D ED. TEACHER’S MANUAL (Aspen 2007).

WRITING ESSAY EXAMS TO SUCCEED (NOT JUST TO SURVIVE) (2d ed. Aspen 2007).

U.S. Policy, in *Global Climate Change and U. S. Law*, Chapter 3 at 61 (ABA 2007).


Chapters 5, 30, 32, 33, 41, 43, in *The Prosecution and Defense of Sex Crimes*, (Bender 1976; chapters updated through 2007).


Chapter 1; Part I (B), Part II (A & B), Part III (A & B), Part IV (A, B, C, D, & E); Chapter 3, *HANDLING CAPITAL CASES* (PBI 2007).


EVANS-WALLS, TONYA M., *Contracts Companion for Writers* (Legal Write 2007).

COPYRIGHT COMPANION FOR WRITERS (Legal Write 2007).


Call of Duty

Widener’s Veterans Law Clinic has spent 10 years helping soldiers and sailors collect what is owed them.

U.S. military veterans who have trouble obtaining the benefits they’ve earned can experience bureaucratic red tape of epic proportions.

Thanks to Widener’s Veterans Law Clinic, vets in Delaware and Pennsylvania have access to free legal representation in their efforts to receive what’s due to them. With funding from those two states, as well as generous support from the Taishoff Family Foundation, the clinic has collected, on a pro bono basis, more than $1 million for disabled veterans and their dependents since its launch in 1997. It is the only clinic of its kind in Pennsylvania and one of only a few in the United States.

“The main problem with veterans’ compensation is the delay,” says Professor of Law Thomas J. Reed, the clinic’s director. “The adjudication process is incredibly slow, and there are many veterans who can’t afford an attorney but really need one to deal with the appeals.”

The clinic assists veterans who served in conflicts that date from World War II on through to the current war in Iraq. Professor Reed and the Widener Law students who work with him review claims that have been denied and gather evidence from physicians in support of their appeals of the denials.

“We’re batting about .700 in our cases over the last 10 years,” Professor Reed estimates.

Last May Professor Reed participated in a roundtable discussion in Washington, D.C., at the invitation of Rep. Bob Filner, D-Calif., chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Veterans’ Affairs. The discussion was among the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, claims stakeholders, and members of the committee Filner chairs.

Professor Reed spoke during a discussion of ideas to reduce the claims backlog and improve the current process for veterans.

“Nearly everybody in the room admitted the process was broken and needed fixing,” he says. “My contribution was a position paper looking at the choke points in the system that could be improved with very slight tinkering to move things along.”

In addition to offering a legal hand to those who need it most, the clinic provides a great way for Widener Law students to engage in hands-on learning.

“Doing these administration hearings is good training for the students,” says Professor Reed. “That’s why the clinic is attached to a school. We’re here to educate students in the practice of law.”
Nothing to Lose

By Riki R. Redente ’02

At the beginning of the fall semester as a 2L at Widener Law, one of my classmates, Joe, asked me to be his partner in a mock trial competition. Prior to that, I had had no desire to be a litigator, and basically had no idea what field of law I planned to go into. I had no experience and a very busy schedule, but Joe persisted, telling me, “What have you got to lose? It’ll be fun.” So I figured, I’ve watched Law & Order and The Practice a bazillion times; I can do this. Why not?

Joe and I prepared for our trial wholeheartedly, prepping our witnesses and ironing out our themes, regardless of the fact that neither one of us knew much of anything about the Federal Rules of Evidence, as we were both currently taking it. Amazingly, we did well. Sometimes ignorance is bliss!

When we left the courtroom that day, we were both bone weary and could hardly see straight, and I, for one, could not wait to do it again. It didn’t really matter if we won or not because we had both tried a case, from start to finish. We had done it, and we learned a tremendous amount from participating in that competition. As they say, the rest is history. I had found my niche that day and knew that from that point on there was only one thing that I wanted to do with my law degree.

After graduation I entered the arena of civil litigation. After three years in practice in Philadelphia, I experienced my first jury trial in New Jersey in a slip-and-fall case. The skills I had learned in law school doing mock trials served me well. Although the case was my first “real” trial, thanks to Widener Law it was not truly my first, and I was much more confident than I would have been had I not had that experience to fall back on.

Not too long after leaving law school to become a practicing attorney, I was asked by a former professor to give teaching a try. Similar to the day that my friend Joe asked me to take a chance on the mock trial competition, I told him I had no experience teaching, and of course there was that busy schedule...

“What have you got to lose?” he replied. “Just have fun with it!”

It started innocently, by volunteering a day or two in the Intensive Trial Advocacy Program. This quickly led to teaching a trial advocacy class, where I now coach law students who are competing in national trial advocacy competitions against other law schools. The experience, although exhausting at times, is very rewarding.

Looking back, I can see that my law school experiences truly changed my life for the better, giving me confidence in myself and expanding my horizons in a way that I never dreamed possible. I am indebted to Widener for this and believe it is important to give back in whatever way I can. I encourage all Widener alumni to find some time to give back to Widener Law School and its students. There are many ways to do so, whether it be mentoring a first-year law student, volunteering your services, sending a donation, writing an article, or teaching a class. You have nothing to lose, a lot to gain, and you might even have some fun...

Riki R. Redente is an associate at Brookman, Rosenberg, Brown and Sandler in Philadelphia. She has worked on such high-profile personal injury cases as the collapse of Pier 39 on the Philadelphia waterfront and the Tropicana Casino garage in Atlantic City.
FACULTY ADDRESS DELAWARE TAX INSTITUTE

Professor Roberta F. Mann and Associate Professor Nicholas A. Mirkay III played prominent roles in a daylong continuing education program for tax and legal professionals held on the Delaware Campus in November. The 2007 Delaware Tax Institute event featured Professor Mann speaking on state tax issues and Professor Mirkay addressing changes affecting tax-exempt organizations and planned giving. Professor Mann also introduced the keynote speaker, Sheldon S. Cohen (pictured), former commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service and now a tax attorney at Farr, Miller & Washington, LLC.

PRODUCER RETURNS TO ADDRESS DEAN’S LEADERSHIP FORUM

Kyle Bowser ’91, of Res Ipsa Media, Los Angeles, CA, was the subject of the Dean’s Leadership Forum in September. Mr. Bowser is a producer of television, film, and multi-media programs, and most recently produced an audio version of the Bible, featuring a cast of African-American actors and performers, entitled The Bible Experience.

INTERNATIONAL JUDGES VISIT WIDENER LAW

In November Widener Law hosted 18 international jurists who visited the Delaware Campus to learn more about legal technology and legal education at the school. The judges and justices – all women – hailed from Korea, Nepal, Taiwan, Ukraine, and Nigeria. Their visit was made in conjunction with their attendance at the National Association of Women Judges’ annual conference, a four-day event held in Philadelphia. The judges are pictured here with Dean Linda L. Ammons (front row, center) and Delaware Superior Court Judge Jan R. Jurden (front row, left), who helped coordinate their visit.
SPORTS AND ENTERTAINMENT LAW ASSOCIATION CREATES BUZZ

Leading attorneys in sports and entertainment law joined business officials and scholars on the Delaware Campus in November for a daylong conference on hot topics in film, sports, music, and ethics.

The conference, now in its third year, was presented by the Law School and its Sports and Entertainment Law Association. Ivan Lee, president of the association, said the student group wanted to create a buzz with the program.

(l-r) Sports and Entertainment Law Association leaders Chris Egoville, Isha Mehta, Ivan Lee, and Dan Burton, along with association adviser and Adjunct Professor Alex Murphy ’76.

HARVARD LAW PROFESSOR SERVES AS VISITING SCHOLAR

Harvard Law School’s Robert H. Sitkoff was at the Delaware Campus for two days in October as a visiting scholar. Professor Sitkoff, whose visit was made possible by a generous gift from The Delaware Counsel Group LLP, is the John L. Gray Professor of Law at Harvard and is a trusts and estates expert. His time at Widener included a presentation to the faculty entitled “Agency Costs, Charitable Trusts and Corporate Control: Evidence from Hershey’s Kiss-Off,” which focused on the legal implications of the Hershey Trust’s efforts to sell its controlling interest in the Hershey Foods Corp. in 2002. Professor Sitkoff’s stay marked the third year the School of Law and The Delaware Counsel Group LLP have hosted a visiting scholar.

PILEGGI LECTURE WELCOMES HARVARD LAW SCHOLAR

More than 100 people gathered for breakfast in September at the Hotel du Pont, where they heard Mark J. Roe deliver the 2007 Francis G. Pileggi Distinguished Lecture in Law. Roe, the David Berg Professor of Corporate Law at Harvard Law School, spoke about Delaware’s dominance in the world of corporate charters.

The lecture, made possible through the generosity of Francis G. Pileggi, Sr., Esq., was presented by the Law School and the Delaware Journal of Corporate Law. The lecture series has attracted many renowned speakers in the area of corporate law since the first Pileggi Lecture in 1985.

HARRISBURG CAMPUS PRESENTS IMMIGRATION LAW SYMPOSIUM

The changing landscape of immigration law and policy in a Pennsylvania context was the focus of an October program on the Harrisburg Campus. Presented by the school’s Law and Government Institute, “Immigration Law in Pennsylvania: Policy and Practice” featured two panel discussions comprising some of the Keystone State’s most respected immigration law experts.

The panel that discussed immigration law practice in Pennsylvania included (l-r) Won Kidane, visiting assistant professor at Penn State’s Dickinson School of Law; Steven P. Barsamian ’75; Widener Law Associate Professor Wesley M. Oliver, who moderated; Craig R. Shagin of The Shagin Law Group LLC in Harrisburg; Troy J. Mattes of Carr & Mattes PC in Lancaster; and Benjamin D. Yerger of the Pennsylvania Immigration Resource Center in York.
Campus Events

WIDENER LAW SUPPORTS MINORITY SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Last fall Widener Law became the only law school to lend financial support to the Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network’s (PLAN) Martin Luther King Jr. Summer Internship and Fellowship Program. The school pledged a two-year gift to the effort, which encourages and supports minority attorneys working in PLAN programs across the Commonwealth; in return, one summer internship slot for a Widener Law student will be guaranteed. Dean Linda L. Ammons met with PLAN Chief Administrative Officer Cynthia G. Newcomer to discuss the gift.

FEDERAL JUDGE LECTURES ON FIRST AMENDMENT, CAMPAIGN FINANCING

U.S. Federal Claims Court Senior Judge and former faculty member Loren A. Smith returned to the Delaware Campus in November to present “Corporate First Amendment Rights and their Implication on Campaign Financing.” The visit was organized by the school’s Federalist Society. Judge Smith taught at the Law School from 1976 to 1984.

(l-r) Carol Iannelli Bailey ’84; Widener Law Professor Larry D. Barnett; Judge Smith; Linda Flaharty, secretary to the Delaware Journal of Corporate Law; and Widener Law librarian and Adjunct Professor Mary Alice Peeling ’91

PROFESSOR DISCUSSES THE DARK SIDE OF ORGAN DONATION

Professor Michele Goodwin (pictured with Widener Health Law Institute Director John G. Culhane) delivered the 2007 Raynes McCarty Distinguished Lecture in Health Law in October. She is currently a visiting professor of law at University of Chicago Law School. Professor Goodwin spoke about her book Black Markets: The Supply and Demand of Body Parts, which explores the dark side of organ donation. Her lecture at the Union League in Philadelphia was sponsored by the Health Law Institute and funded by the Philadelphia-based law firm of Raynes McCarty, which represents the catastrophically injured and their families. Professor Goodwin also spoke to students in the Ruby R. Vale Moot Courtroom on the Delaware Campus.

WIDENER LAW’S MINORITY COMMUNITIES GATHER TO NETWORK AND REFLECT

Minority students, alumni, and faculty gathered at networking socials at the home of Dean Linda Ammons in August (right) and in Harrisburg in November (left). The events allowed minority members of the Widener Law community to meet for a time of networking and sharing the ways in which Widener Law has affected their lives.
A DEBATE OVER PROPERTY LAW AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Widener Law Professor John C. Dernbach (top) squared off in a debate with Roger Pilon, director of the Cato Institute’s Center for Constitutional Studies, when Mr. Pilon visited the Harrisburg Campus in November. The debate, titled “Are property rights opposed to environmental protection?,” was presented by the school’s Federalist Society, with Associate Professor Michael R. Dimino, Sr., as moderator. The Cato Institute is a nonprofit public policy institute headquartered in Washington, DC. Mr. Pilon founded its Center for Constitutional Studies, which has become an important force in the national debate over constitutional interpretation and judicial philosophy. Professor Dernbach’s research concentrates on environmental law, climate change, and sustainable development.

DELAWARE CAMPUS HOSTS NATIONAL JUDICIAL COLLEGE CLE PROGRAM

In its continuing role as an East Coast center for the Reno, NV-based National Judicial College, the Delaware Campus hosted its third continuing legal education program for judges in March. Titled “Electronic discovery: What every judge needs to know,” it was held in the Aquipt War Room of Polishook Hall. Instructors included Richard K. Herrmann, visiting professor and chair of Widener’s Technology Law Practice Technology Center; Kevin F. Brady ’82, of Connolly Bove Lodge & Hutz LLP; and Kevin Perna of the Delaware State Police.

HEALTH LAW INSTITUTE EXAMINES CONTROVERSIAL CURRENT AFFAIRS

Members of the legal community were asked to suspend their beliefs on hot-button issues such as abortion, illegal gun trafficking, and tort reform during a symposium on the Delaware Campus in October. Those who attended were requested to consider instead what policies would best serve the public’s health and welfare with respect to those issues. The symposium was presented by the Law School and its Health Law Institute.

Panelists included (l-r) Widener Law Professor Jean M. Eggen; Elizabeth Weeks, associate professor at University of Kansas School of Law; and Widener Law Professor Susan L. Goldberg, who moderated.

DELAWARE VOLUNTEER LEGAL SERVICES MARKS 25TH ANNIVERSARY

Widener Law, the home of Delaware Volunteer Legal Services (DVLS), was recognized as a partner in the delivery of free legal services to the indigent during a November celebration marking DVLS’ 25th anniversary. At the event, held at the Hotel du Pont in Wilmington, Dean Linda L. Ammons was presented a plaque in honor of the school’s long-standing partnership with DVLS. Others honored included John C. Andrade ’78, who was given one of three founders awards bestowed that evening, and Jody Huber ’04, who received the Christine M. McDermott Legacy Award.

(l-r) DVLS executive director Janine Howard-O’Rangers ’95, Ms. Huber, and DVLS board president Karen Jacobs Louden
Alumni Events

NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETS FOR FIRST TIME

The Law School’s National Advisory Council held its inaugural meeting in September. The Council consists of highly qualified alumni and friends of Widener Law who are leaders in their practices and in business or government service. Its purpose is to advise the dean on such topics as national legal trends, alumni affairs, student recruitment, resource acquisition, and student/alumni career opportunities. At the September meeting, the group heard presentations on admissions, career development and job placement, faculty scholarship, fundraising, and alumni relations.


ALUMNI MENTORS AND STUDENTS CELEBRATED IN HARRISBURG

More than 50 alumni mentors have been paired with students on the Harrisburg Campus for the 2007-08 Alumni Mentoring Program. A kick-off reception was held in October for the 1Ls and their mentors. Here, James Matelevich-Hoang ’06 shares advice with his mentee.

2007 ALUMNI AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED

In September Widener Law announced the winners of its 2007 alumni awards, given annually to recognize outstanding leadership, service, and achievement of its graduates. The Law School has honored its distinguished alumni in this way since 1976. This year’s event was held in the Ruby R. Vale Moot Courtroom on the Delaware Campus.

The winners were Catherine N. Harrington ’88 (Alumna of the Year Award), George A. Bibkos ’03 (Outstanding Recent Alumni Award), Honorable Richard M. Cappelli ’81 (Outstanding Alumni Service Award), Jennifer Stonerod ’05 (Outstanding Recent Alumni Award), Professor Leslie A. Johnson (Outstanding Alumni Service Award), and the Reverend Lucy S.L. Amerman ’76 (Outstanding Alumni Service Award). Pictured is Ms. Harrington.

AN EXCHANGE AT THE EXCHANGE

Alumni at a September networking social in Washington, DC, represented classes from the ’70s, ’80s, ’90s, and ‘00s. There were graduates from both Widener Law campuses and from both the regular and extended division programs. Pictured are some of the alumni who attended the happy hour at the Exchange Saloon: (l-r) Martin Sendek ’85, Thomas Louthan ’75, Melanie Forshey ’98, John Pasquantino ’95, and future alumnus John Daroff ’08.
ALUMNI ADMITTED TO PENNSYLVANIA BAR

In November 43 of the 314 Widener Law graduates who were admitted to the practice of law in Pennsylvania attended a special ceremony held in Philadelphia City Hall. Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice J. Michael Eakin presided; other participants included Judge Joel S. Johnson ’91 of the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas’ Family Division; The Honorable C. Darnell Jones II, President Judge of the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas; The Honorable Charles P. Mirarchi, Jr., Administrative Judge Emeritus of the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas’ Trial Division; and The Honorable Margaret T. Murphy ’77, Supervising Judge of the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas’ Domestic Relations Division. This Widener-unique event allows the Law School’s graduates to be admitted to the bar alongside their friends and classmates. A reception that welcomed family and friends to celebrate with the graduates followed the ceremony.

The Honorable Thomas G. Saylor, Justice of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, presided over the Pennsylvania Bar Passers’ Ceremony, held at the Dauphin County Courthouse in Harrisburg in November. A reception was held following the swearing-in ceremony.

A WARM DAY TO BENEFIT WIDENER PUBLIC INTEREST LAWYERS

The Annual Alumni and Friends Golf Outing was held in October at the DuPont Country Club in Wilmington. The sun was shining, and the temperature was a very warm 80 degrees. In addition to 18 holes of golf, this year’s event featured a special short-game clinic for those who wanted to improve their game. Following the day on the course, participants enjoyed a post-tournament reception with a delicious buffet of food and door prizes. The event raised more than $2,800 for the Law School’s Loan Repayment Assistance Program, which provides grants to graduates who have chosen careers in public interest law.

(l-r) The winning foursome was Jon Madnick, Robert Zibelman, Neil Kushner, and Ken Federman ’93.

WIDENER LAW RECOGNIZES DELAWARE BAR-PASSERS

In November Widener Law faculty and staff celebrated with some of the 42 alumni who passed the Delaware State Bar exam in July. Dean Linda Ammons and Delaware Supreme Court Justice Randy Holland, an adjunct faculty member, addressed the group and commended the graduates on their distinguished achievement of being admitted to the Delaware Bar.

DELAWARE COUNTY ALUMS GATHER TO NETWORK

The Delaware County Alumni Chapter hosted a happy hour in July at Barnaby’s in Aston, PA, with 20 alumni attending. The event gave alumni the opportunity to relax after a long day at work, to network, and to socialize with fellow Delaware County Widener Law alumni. (l-r) Glenn Blackwell ’86, Marc Lamer ’76, Evan Liu ’06, and David Siegel ’95 enjoy the evening.
For Nancy and Alexander Sarcione, March 3, 1976, is a date forever etched in their minds. On that day, their lives changed dramatically and irrevocably. The oldest of their three children, Alexander, known as Sandy to the family, died tragically. The young husband and father was in his second year at The Delaware Law School, now Widener University School of Law.

Soon after their son’s death, the Sarciones established a commencement award fund in Sandy’s name, and a few years ago they added a scholarship. Both the Alexander Sarcione, Jr., Memorial Award and Scholarship are given to students who excel in the study of criminal law.

“Criminal law was his passion,” Nancy Sarcione explains, adding that she and her husband established the endowed funds “to honor our son and to perpetuate his name at the law school.”

“We hope that the funds will benefit many people who need the [financial] help to get through law school,” Nancy notes.

The Sarciones’ philanthropy is borne not only out of remembrance but also out of gratitude. They are thankful to the School of Law for the education provided to their second son, Anthony ’78. After serving in the criminal division of the Pennsylvania Attorney General’s Office, Anthony became the District Attorney for Chester County, Pennsylvania, and now sits on the Court of Common Pleas there.

Alexander Sarcione, Sr. says, “I am proud of Widener for giving him the preparation” needed for Anthony’s very successful legal career.

A conversation with the Sarciones often focuses on their family. They are proud of Anthony and daughter Jackie and find great joy in their grandchildren.

Naturally, they have a strong desire that Sandy be remembered, too. And they value the ways in which his name lives on: the monument to crime victims in a Chester County park that bears his likeness; his photo hanging in a quiet alcove in Widener’s Law Library; the Award and Scholarship Funds in his name.

When discussing these tributes, though, his mother says, “Just wait, and I’ll show you the best thing that Sandy left us.” She leaves the room and returns with three framed photos: one of his daughter, Lisa, only 17 months old when her father died, on her wedding day; and two photos of Lisa’s children, beautiful, towheaded toddlers, Sandy’s granddaughters. For the Sarciones, family is indeed a blessing.

For information about establishing an endowed scholarship, please contact Director of Development Rosemary Pall at 302-477-2169 or rrpall@widener.edu.
Tracy Warga

The attorneys Tracy Warga worked with as an Air Force Reserve JAG paralegal stationed in Germany encouraged her to think about law school, but it wasn't until one of them let her sit second chair on a court martial that she began seriously considering the idea.

“That experience was the defining moment, when I was able to sit at the prosecution table,” she says. “That’s when I knew I wanted to go from being a para-legal to being an attorney.”

Now a 3L in the Delaware Campus’s Regular Division, Ms. Warga is successfully juggling duties as a full-time law student, wife to a retired Air Force officer, and mom to two teenage daughters. Her Widener Law responsibilities this year include a prestigious Wolcott Fellowship, through which she is clerking part-time for Delaware Supreme Court Chief Justice Myron T. Steele.

“It’s allowed me to see real-life cases and to see what the thought process is behind the justice’s decision,” Ms. Warga says. “It’s been an invaluable experience to be able to listen to him say what he was thinking and which way he’s going to decide.”

Next year Ms. Warga will clerk full-time for a Kent County Superior Court judge. She is considering a career in criminal defense, but for now is grateful for the positive attitude of Widener Law’s faculty and staff and for the education she has received.

“A lot of the professors I’ve had have worked in some of the top firms in Delaware and Philly, and you couldn’t ask for a better education,” she says. “Widener stresses real-world lawyerly learning, teaching you how to be a lawyer. These prior attorneys who are now professors really give a lot of real-world examples and guidance.”

Bonnie Hershberger

Bonnie Hershberger was at a career crossroads. Her position as a market research analyst for a dental insurer had her restless, and when the thought of law school popped into her head, she and her husband, devout Christians, spent the next year praying for guidance. Halfway through that period, Ms. Hershberger was transferred to her company’s legal regulatory compliance department. Perhaps it was a sign; six months later she was enrolled in Widener-Harrisburg’s Extended Division.

Ms. Hershberger maintained her full-time job, and while that kept her from participating in many extracurricular activities, she believes her experience as a Widener Law student was nevertheless a full one. She attributes much of that to the judicial externship she completed last fall. Working for Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice J. Michael Eakin, Ms. Hershberger read petitions and lower court documents, made recommendations on the petitions, and wrote portions of opinions.

“It’s a great learning experience,” Ms. Hershberger says. “You learn the inner workings. Because it’s an appellate court, we got criminal cases, civil cases, all kinds of cases. It’s very intellectually challenging, and I enjoyed that aspect of it.”

Because of the time demands of the externship, Ms. Hershberger had to give up her job, and after graduating in December, she is concentrating full-time on studying for the bar. She credits the externship for reinforcing the classroom lessons she learned about the importance of writing, research, and logical argument, and for exposing her to a diverse range of legal disciplines.

“We are highly regarded,” Ms. Hershberger says of Widener Law. “We are very competitive in terms of our knowledge, and we’re equally competent to students and graduates of other law schools. The professors are very engaging and knowledgeable, and the law school makes so many things available to students that you’re set up to be successful. If I had to do it all over again, I’d do it the same way.”
1975

Jon D. Fox was named “America’s Most Outstanding Leader” for the month of July 2007 by NewPoliticalReview.com. Mr. Fox served in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1995 through 1998 and was a Pennsylvania State Representative from 1985 to 1991. He also served as Montgomery County Commissioner and assistant district attorney. He is a practicing attorney and an instructor of criminal law at Manor College in Jenkintown, PA.

1977

Gregory Mallon was elected to a seat on the Court of Common Pleas in Delaware County, PA, last November.

1979

Sherry L. Horowitz, a Bala Cynwyd, PA, attorney, was appointed a trustee of the Golden Slipper Club & Charities, a nonprofit organization that supports senior citizens and children.

1980

Alan Levin was named to the Centice Corporation board. Mr. Levin was formerly chairman, president, and CEO of Happy Harry’s, a leading regional drugstore chain with 2,700 employees and stores in Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey, until it was acquired by the Walgreens Company in 2006. He previously served in the Delaware Department of Justice as a deputy attorney general and as executive assistant and counsel to U.S. Senator William V. Roth, Jr. He currently serves on Widener Law’s National Advisory Council.

1981

Cary L. Flitter was invited by the Federal Trade Commission to be a representative of consumer interests and to join representatives from banking, debt collection, and government interests in presenting a two-day workshop entitled “Collecting Consumer Debts: The Challenges of Change” in October 2007 in Washington, DC. Mr. Flitter is an adjunct faculty member at Widener Law’s Delaware Campus.

1983

Robert J. Krapf, a director of Richards, Layton & Finger, was named in Who's Who Legal: The International Who's Who of Real Estate Lawyers 2008. Mr. Krapf focuses his practice on a variety of transactional matters in the areas of real estate and land use law.

1985

Thomas P. McGovern joined the Philadelphia office of Messa & Associates, P.C. Mr. McGovern was recognized as one of Arizona’s most accomplished medical malpractice and catastrophic injury trial lawyers, and he also served as Special Assistant Attorney General to the Arizona Attorney General. At Messa & Associates he will practice in the areas of products liability, medical malpractice, catastrophic birth injuries, pharmaceutical products, and other injury cases.

1986

Mary Alice Brennan was elected to a seat on the Court of Common Pleas in Delaware County, PA, last November.

1987

Joseph M. Donegan, a partner with the firm of Scarinci & Hollenbeck, LLC, recently participated in the Uniform Law Commission’s 116th annual meeting in Pasadena, CA. Mr. Donegan has served as a law commissioner from New Jersey since 1998. He practices in virtually all areas of business and corporate law, including forming and organizing new business entities, counseling...
clients on seeking capital from private investors, structuring complex commercial and corporate transactions, divestitures, and mergers and acquisitions.

Michael E. Eisenberg of Furlong, PA, joined the Fort Washington, PA, law firm of Timoney Knox LLP as a partner. Formerly a sole practitioner in Horsham, PA, Mr. Eisenberg focuses on family law, bankruptcy, and personal injury. He also has experience in general law, estate administration, and advising small businesses. Mr. Eisenberg’s bar admissions include Pennsylvania and New Jersey, as well as the United States District Court, where he practices in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania Bankruptcy Court.

John C. Sigler, current president of the National Rifle Association, addressed the Widener University community last October. Mr. Sigler spoke about NRA policies and Second Amendment rights.

1988
Robert Becker, Jr., was nominated by New Jersey Governor Jon Corzine to become a Superior Court judge for Vicinage 15, which encompasses Gloucester, Salem, and Cumberland counties. Mr. Becker is a resident of East Greenwich Township and has practiced law since 1988. He currently has an office in Mullica Hill. Over the years, Mr. Becker has served as a municipal prosecutor and public defender. He currently is the solicitor for Logan Township.

1990
Lee B. Affell works as the claims section manager for the special investigations unit at State Farm Insurance, Concordville, PA.

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

Andrew F. Garruto was certified by the New Jersey Supreme Court as a civil trial attorney.

1991
Thomas A. Boulden of Timoney Knox LLP in Fort Washington, PA, was selected by his peers for inclusion in the 2007-2008 Best Lawyers publication, which helps lawyers and clients find legal counsel in unfamiliar jurisdictions or specialties. He represents clients in trust matters and trust litigation. Mr. Boulden, who resides in Wayne, PA, joined Timoney Knox last May after working for Aker Grossman & Hollinger in Norristown, PA.

1992
Cynthia DeMatteis Cartier was elected to a two-year term as Selectman in Guilford, CT. She took the oath of office in December with her husband, Richard, and son, Joseph, 5, by her side. In early 2007, Ms. Cartier was promoted to New England regional counsel for Nationwide Insurance Company, Rocky Hill, CT.
Risa V. Ferman was elected district attorney for Montgomery County, PA, in November.

Frank A. Mazzeo was named the Trademark Committee Chair for the Pennsylvania Bar Association’s IP Section for the second consecutive year. Mr. Mazzeo also presented the trademark law portion of the Pennsylvania Bar Institute’s CLE program Legal and Intellectual Property Aspects of Sports and the Entertainment Industry, held in Philadelphia and simulcast to Pittsburgh.

Susan E. Schwab was sworn in as Deputy State Treasurer of Administration by State Treasurer Robin L. Wiessmann in a ceremony held in August in Harrisburg.

Kevin R. Shannon of Potter Anderson & Corroon LLP, Wilmington, was recognized as a finalist in Lawdragon’s list of 500 Leading Lawyers for Business.”

William S. Whitman, CPT, JA, is the Regional Counsel for the U.S. Army Regional Contracting Office in Grafenwoehr, Germany.

1994

Keith O. Barrows gave a presentation on international corporate fundraising at the 25th International Conference of the International Council for Innovation in Higher Education, held in Beijing, China. Mr. Barrows is currently serving as director of development at Lock Haven University.

Christine Fizzano Cannon was elected to a seat on the Delaware County Council in November.

Michelle Henry has been elected by the judiciary of Bucks County to the position of District Attorney to fill an unexpired term. She has been with the Bucks County District Attorney’s Office for 12 years.

1993

Joan N. Hook is a practicing attorney in New Port Richey, FL. She has also been a teacher, a curriculum specialist in the Virgin Islands, and an Olympic bobsledding coach.

Jerold E. Rothkoff was elected chair of the Elder and Disability Law Section of the New Jersey State Bar Association for 2007-2008. Mr. Rothkoff is the managing attorney of the Law Offices of Jerold E. Rothkoff, with offices in Cherry Hill, NJ, Philadelphia, and Trevose, PA. The practice is limited to elder and disability law. He resides with his wife, Erica, and their four children, Liza, Julia, Evan, and Gregory, in Cherry Hill.

Benjamin C. Telsey was sworn in as a judge of the New Jersey Superior Court in December at the Salem County Courthouse.

1995

Scott A. Holt of Young Conaway Stargatt Taylor was recognized as a leading practitioner of employment law, according to the 2007 edition of “Chambers USA: America’s Leading Lawyers for Business.”

Paul A. Lefebvre joined the firm of Marshall, Dennehey, Warner, Coleman & Goggin, where he is practicing in the healthcare group in King of Prussia, PA. Prior to joining

Anne Madonia and husband Jeff welcomed their first child, daughter Caroline Gemma Wack, born November 1 in Philadelphia.

Stephen R. McDonnell was named shareholder by the Chester County law firm of Gawthrop, Greenwood & Halsted, PC. Mr. McDonnell currently focuses his practice on litigation involving corporate/transactional issues and environmental and personal injury matters. He has been selected to serve as an arbitrator by his peers and appointed as an arbitrator by the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas.

1996

Michael K. Duricko accepted a position in the office of general counsel for F.L. Smidth, Inc., after spending the past nine years in the insurance, sports, and entertainment law fields. F.L. Smidth, headquartered in Bethlehem, PA, is one of the world’s leading engineering firms for the cement and minerals industry. Mr. Duricko, along with his wife, Sindi, and daughter, Marbella, are relocating to the Lehigh Valley.

Christopher D. McDermus was recently appointed senior vice president and general counsel of ClearPoint Resources, Inc., a publicly traded company on NASDAQ. ClearPoint is a provider of workforce management services, including vendor management services, managed service programs, and human resource outsourcing services.

Timothy F. Rayne was named one of the top Main Line lawyers for personal injury litigation law by Main Line Today in July 2007. Mr. Rayne is with the law firm of Macelree Harvey, West Chester, PA.

Jeff welcomed their first child, daughter Caroline Gemma Wack, born November 1 in Philadelphia.

Christopher D. McDemus was named senior vice president and general counsel of ClearPoint Resources, Inc., a publicly traded company on NASDAQ.

1996

Michael K. Duricko accepted a position in the office of general counsel for F.L. Smidth, Inc., after spending the past nine years in the insurance, sports, and entertainment law fields. F.L. Smidth, headquartered in Bethlehem, PA, is one of the world’s leading engineering firms for the cement and minerals industry. Mr. Duricko, along with his wife, Sindi, and daughter, Marbella, are relocating to the Lehigh Valley.

Kimberly A. Jinks served as co-chair of the Women Lawyers Committee of the Mercer County Bar Association for 2007-2008.
Association for 2007.

**Kelly F. Melcher** was appointed a Workers’ Compensation Judge in Philadelphia County.

**1997**

**Suzanne S. Becker** of the law firm of Nauman, Smith, Shissler & Hall focuses her law practice on tax and estate planning, nonprofit organizations, and corporate and transactional matters. She recently joined the Junior League of Harrisburg, a community group at the forefront of identifying and fulfilling community needs.

**Scott and Tanya Colbert Blissman** welcomed their first child, daughter Vanessa, on October 3.

**David F. Chuff** opened a practice with his partner, Joseph Kosierowski, with offices in Milford and Scranton, PA. The firm concentrates in residential and commercial real estate, civil litigation, estate planning, and estate administration.

**Vincent T. Donohue**, of Lamb McErlane FC, West Chester, PA, was elected vice chairman of the board of trustees of the Chester County Historical Society. He has served on the board since 2005 and is a member of the Chester County Chamber of Commerce’s Business and Industry Governmental Relations Committee and the board of directors of the Chamber Foundation, Chester County Community Dental Center, and Main Line Animal Rescue.

**Paul N. Heath** became a director of the firm Richards, Layton & Finger, Wilmington.

**Matthew E. Hirt** and four colleagues were recognized with the John Marshall Award for Legal Advice by the United States Attorney General as part of the A.G.’s annual awards ceremony. The John Marshall Awards are the Department of Justice’s highest awards offered to attorneys, and are given for contributions to and excellence in specialized areas of legal performance. Mr. Hirt and wife Lauren are the proud parents of two sons, ages 3 and 2.

**Joshua M. Marks**, along with Peter Rosenzweig, launched Marks & Rosenzweig, LLC, in 2004 and is now celebrating the firm’s third year of operation in Philadelphia. Marks & Rosenzweig, LLC, services the real estate, business, and employment needs of individuals and businesses.

**Paul A. Sochanchak** graduated from Temple University’s James E. Beasley School of Law in May with an LL.M. in Trial Advocacy. Mr. Sochanchak is the managing partner for Lundy Law’s New Jersey practice and specializes in personal injury law.

**Christopher G. Porreca** opened his own practice in 2003, specializing in criminal defense. In 2006 and 2007 Mr. Porreca was named a New Jersey Rising Star in criminal defense by Super Lawyers, published in New Jersey Monthly magazine.

**Gregg R. Rubenstein** and wife Sarah welcomed their first child, Andrew, in May. Mr. Rubenstein received the Martin S. Goldin Award for Family Law Excellence in January.

**1999**

**Barbara Ashcroft** joined Temple University’s James E. Beasley School of Law as an associate professor and director of its LL.M. in Trial Advocacy program. Ms. Ashcroft will teach trial advocacy courses, helping students hone their trial skills and strategy, while leading the law school’s efforts to market the program and recruit students. With more than eight years of experience in prosecution, Ms. Ashcroft most recently served as assistant district attorney in Montgomery County, PA.

**Chase T. Brockstedt** joined the firm of Bifferato Gentilotti LLC as counsel in its Sussex County, DE, office. Mr. Brockstedt is dedicated to individual representation with an emphasis on personal injury, nursing home neglect, business litigation, and real estate transactions.

**Christopher M. Galusha** joined the Florham Park, NJ,
Christopher J. Chiacchio

opened a law practice in

Oaklyn, NJ, serving a wide
variety of business clients in
their broad spectrum of legal
needs regarding banking
and foreclosure, corporate
matters and litigation,
advisory services, real estate,
and collections. Mr. Chiacchio
has specialized in these
fields since 2000. Admitted
to practice in New Jersey,
he is a member of the New
Jersey and Camden County
Bar Associations. Mr. Chiacchio,
his wife, Renee,
and their daughter, Grace,
reside in Moorestown, NJ.

Edward J. Mimnagh
resides in

Hershey, PA, with his
wife, Kim; daughter, Shaye,
2; and son, Jack, 1.

Steven A. Nash
is an
associate in the intellectual
property group of Connolly
Bove Lodge & Hutz LLP,
where he represents clients
in a variety of areas including
patent litigation, patent
prosecution, and due diligence,
with a focus on the biotechn-
ology and pharmaceutical
fields. Mr. Nash works with
clients on IP issues involving
DNA, proteins, small mole-
cule therapeutics, synthetic
polymers, filtration and other
processing systems, catheters
and implantable devices, and
similar technologies.

Anthony J. Testa
joined the

regional law firm of Margolis
Edelstein in August and
counsels and represents
business and personal clients
on a wide variety of corporate,
tax, and estate planning
matters. Mr. Testa formerly
spent 16 years at Nixon
Uniform Service, Inc., where
he was chief financial officer,
treasurer, and in-house counsel.

Charles T. Williams III
joined the

law offices of Connolly
Bove Lodge & Hutz LLP as
an associate in the firm’s
business law group. Mr.
Williams represents clients
in a variety of areas including
corporate finance and
securities, private equity and
venture capital, Delaware
corporate counseling, mergers
and acquisitions, business
planning, alternative entities
and joint ventures, Delaware
opinions, and general corporate
services. Before joining the
firm, he served as a judicial
law clerk to the Honorable
Joseph T. Walsh of the
Supreme Court of Delaware.

Jennifer Zimmerman
was recognized as one of Central
Pennsylvania’s “Forty Under
40” business leaders by the
Central Penn Business
Journal. Ms. Zimmerman is
an attorney with Rhoads &
Sinon LLP in Harrisburg.

2003

Timothy P. Brennan
was a faculty member of the 4th PBI
Animal Law Seminar, where
he spoke on equine law.

Thomas C. Kelly
joined the

law firm of Burns, White &
Hickton, Plymouth Meeting,
PA, as an associate. Mr. Kelly
practices in the workers’
compensation section of
the firm’s litigation group.
He has several years’
experience in the areas of
workers’ compensation and
insurance defense.

Oren Klein
was appointed to
the Southern New Jersey
Board of the Jewish National
Fund. Mr. Klein will serve on
the board for the 2007-2008
term. He is an associate with
the Marlton, NJ-based law
firm of Parker McCay, PA.,
and concentrates his practice
on representing the rights of
creditors in both state court
and federal bankruptcy
proceedings, with a focus on
representing the interests of
residential and commercial
lenders in state court foreclo-
sure matters and associated
bankruptcy proceedings.

Kimberly M. Large
became an
associate with Mika Meyers
Beckett & Jones PLC, Grand
Rapids, MI. Ms. Large
practices in the litigation area.

Russell A. Steinberg
was appointed deputy general
counsel of the New York City
Department of Juvenile Justice.

Tara A. Zimmerman
joined the law firm of Smith Hulsey
& Busey in the litigation
department. Before joining
Smith Hulsey & Busey,
she practiced law in
Pennsylvania, where she
was admitted to the bar in
2003. Ms. Zimmerman’s
practice includes litigation,
mediation, and arbitration
in the resolution of complex
commercial disputes.

2004

Bradley A. Bizzle
was admitted to practice law in
Florida in September. He is an
associate with Powell,
Rogers and Speaks, a firm
that handles debt collection
and related litigation. Mr.
Bizzle is assisting in the
development of the firm’s
Florida legal department
and also works with the Pennsylvania legal department.

**Jeffrey E. Kaylor** joined Reed Smith LLP as an associate in the tax, benefits, and wealth planning group and is resident in the firm’s Pittsburgh office. Mr. Kaylor concentrates his practice on federal income taxation and advises clients ranging from tax-exempt organizations to private equity funds on numerous planning and compliance issues.

**2005**

Noelle Palazzo joined the firm of Messa & Associates, P.C., in its Philadelphia office. She was inducted into the National Order of Barristers and is a member of the Justinian Society, where she was recently elected to the Board of Governors.

![Paul Ruffolo with Bill Clinton](image)

Paul Ruffolo

Paul R. Ruffolo is president and founder of Ruffolo Associates LLP. Most recently he represented a Dutch wind energy company at the Clinton Global Initiative in New York. Mr. Ruffolo was recently signed as a player and team business advisor by the Washington Steam Arena II football team.

Amanda L. Snoke became the business manager and human resources director of First Capital Engineering, Inc., York, PA.

Pamela Whitney heads the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Mediation Program. She is an RID-certified sign language interpreter and a trained mediator with more than seven years of experience. Ms. Whitney has been working with the deaf community for more than 17 years.

2006

Kristen S. Coy joined Willson, Jones, Carter & Baxley, P.A., as an associate in the firm’s Greenville, SC, office.

Christina L. Gearhart began as judicial law clerk for the judges of Perry and Juniata Counties, PA, in September.

Evan Y. Liu became associated with Feldman Shepherd Wohlgelernter Tanner & Weinstock in Philadelphia. He is also a board-certified doctor of family medicine.

Keli M. (Knapp) Neary is an attorney for the Pennsylvania State Police Gaming Enforcement Office. She clerked for the Honorable C. Joseph Rehkamp, president judge of the 41st Judicial District of Pennsylvania Court of Common Pleas, from September 2006 to August 2007 and was married to Kevin J. Neary in June. Ms. Neary serves as class agent for Widener Harrisburg’s Class of 2006.

Eifion Phillips joined the firm of Fish & Richardson P.C., in its Wilmington office as an associate in the patent prosecution group. Mr. Phillips will focus his practice on patent prosecution for the firm’s life sciences clients. Prior to joining Fish & Richardson, he was an associate at Drinker, Biddle & Reath, LLP. Phillips received his D.Phil. in organic chemistry in 1992 and prior to attending law school was a medicinal chemistry team leader at AstraZeneca. He is admitted to practice in Pennsylvania and before the United States Patent & Trademark Office.

Dana L. (Vinograd) Reynolds began a one-year judicial clerkship working for Senior Judge Jane R. Roth of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit in August.

2007

Marjan May Afshar joined Goldberg Segalla LLP as an associate. Ms. Afshar spent several years working in the health-care industry as a registered nurse before becoming an attorney. She is a member of the Pennsylvania Bar Association, Philadelphia Bar Association, American Health Lawyers Association, American Society for Healthcare Risk Management, and Defense Research Institute. She will concentrate her practice on medical malpractice defense, health law and compliance issues, professional liability, and products liability litigation.

Travis W. Bliss joined Potter Anderson in the intellectual property group. Mr. Bliss is a registered patent agent with the U.S. Patent and Trademark office and worked at Potter Anderson in this capacity while pursuing his law degree. He holds a Ph.D. in molecular genetics and biotechnology and a B.S. in agricultural biotechnology, and conducted post-doctoral research in animal sciences at the University of Delaware.

Katherine R. Mason joined the Philadelphia office of Stradley Ronon Stevens & Young, LLP. As a member of the firm’s nationally ranked investment management group, Ms. Mason focuses her practice on advising investment companies, investment advisers, and broker-dealers on regulatory and compliance matters.

Chris Schellhorn is an assistant district attorney for Franklin County, PA.

Deceased

1975 Robert E. Dunleavy, Jr.
1976 Charles Golin
1980 The Honororable Emerson R. Avery
1985 Lucy Kendikian-Smith
1986 Louis A. Reilly
1989 James F. Graham
1992 Ann-Michele G. Higgins
1992 Janine M. Luka
Lawyering 101

The new Professionalism Day joins orientation in introducing Widener Law students to life as attorneys.

Most would say that law students become lawyers when they pass the bar.

Widener Law has a different idea.

With a theme of “A Welcome to the Profession,” orientation began with presentations from judges and bar association representatives and included, for the first time, an Affirmation of Professionalism made by each new student:

I…understand that I am joining an academic community and embarking on a professional career. I gratefully acknowledge the privileges inherent in becoming a lawyer and willingly accept the responsibilities that accompany those privileges and are entrusted to me by the bench, the bar and the public.

I promise to do my utmost to live up to the high ideals of my chosen profession and to uphold the highest standards of academic honesty and ethical practice throughout my training and the remainder of my professional life. I will remember that my actions reflect not only upon myself, but upon Widener University School of Law and the legal profession.

To strengthen the law school community, I will conduct myself with dignity and civility and will treat all of my colleagues – students, staff and faculty – with kindness and respect.

I will be a person of principle, compassion, strength, and courage. I will recognize my weaknesses and strengths and strive to develop the character that is expected of a lawyer and that will earn the respect of my clients, my colleagues, my family, and myself.

I commit to conduct my academic, professional, and personal life to honor the values and standards that are expressed in the Widener University School of Law Honor Code and are shared by the legal profession.

“Students really become members of the profession on their first day of law school — and need to conduct themselves like professionals, not undergraduate students,” says Ann Fruth, dean of students at the Harrisburg Campus.

Accordingly, in November students on both of the Law School’s campuses participated in the first annual Professionalism Day, an event designed to give them an edge in presenting themselves to the business world as polished professionals.

In Delaware, students across all levels in both divisions attended programs on topics ranging from “Success in finding and keeping legal employment” to “Success on the bar exam.” In Harrisburg, first-year law students in both divisions attended a three-hour evening program broken up into a number of discussion topics that ranged from “Reality check: Law school debt” to “What not to wear.” Both campuses drew on the strengths of Widener Law alumni as presenters.

Professionalism Day built on many of the lessons imparted during each campus’s August orientation sessions, three days of classes the school refers to as “Introduction to Law.”

With that level of commitment, starting on day one, is it any wonder Widener Law alumni enjoy such accomplished careers?
However you define excellence, we need your help.

On average, alumni at top-tier law schools contribute at rates twice our own. It is a reflection of the opportunities we are able to provide our students and the greater legal community. If we are to gain the recognition we deserve—recognition commensurate with your and our successes—we must make progress in this area.

Your gifts help fund distinctive, innovative programming. They increase the Law School’s reputation, and the marketability of its graduates. They boost the value of a Widener Law degree.

You make the difference.

By phone: 302-477-2172
By mail:
Widener University School of Law
Office of Development/Alumni Relations
P.O. Box 7474
Wilmington, DE 19803-0474
Online: law.widener.edu/giving
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MARCH 2008</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>United States Supreme Court Swearing-In for Widener Alumni</td>
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<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Philadelphia Alumni Reception</td>
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<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Eastern and Central Maryland Alumni Reception</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27-30</td>
<td>Ruby R. Vale Interschool Corporate Moot Court Competition, Delaware Campus</td>
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<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Delaware County, PA, Chapter Event</td>
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APRIL 2008

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Florida Alumni Reception</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Delaware Supreme Court Oral Arguments and Judges’ Day, Delaware Campus</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Event</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Wilmington Alumni Chapter Event</td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Widener Law Review Symposium (CLE), Delaware Campus</td>
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MAY 2008

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Reunion Dinner Dance, Wilmington</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Delaware Journal of Corporate Law Symposium (CLE), Delaware Campus</td>
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<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>New Jersey Bar Reception, Atlantic City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Harrisburg Alumni Reception</td>
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For a complete and up-to-date calendar, please see law.widener.edu/news/calendar/index.shtml

JUNE 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Widener Women’s Network Luncheon, Philadelphia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Harrisburg Alumni and Friends Golf Outing, Carlisle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-26</td>
<td>National Association of Administrative Law Judiciary (Mid-Year Meeting), Harrisburg Hilton and Harrisburg Campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28-July 5</td>
<td>Venice Alumni and Friends CLE Program</td>
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Coming This Fall ...

Dates, times, and locations for the following Widener Law events, scheduled for Fall 2008, will be posted on the Law School’s Web site, law.widener.edu:

- Constitution Day
- Alumni Awards Ceremony and Reception
- Annual Francis G. Pileggi Distinguished Lecture in Corporate Law
- Annual Raynes McCarty Distinguished Lecture in Health Law
- Admissions Open House
- Annual Sports and Entertainment Law Symposium
- Long Term Care Symposium
- Corporate Law Symposium