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Mary Allen, Ashley Barton, Peter Castagna, John Culhane, Erin Daly, Nathan Garrison, Laurie Grant, Eileen Grena, G. Randy Lee, Todd Lineburger, Mary Marzolla, Gilberte Pierre, Ed Sonnenberg, Katrina Womack, Nancy Ravert Ward

PHOTOGRAPHY:
Mary Allen, Linda Ammons, Ashley Barton, Peter Castagna, Nathan Garrison, Laurie Grant, Todd Lineburger, Nancy Ravert Ward

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Dear Alumni and Friends,

We live in remarkable times. Change has always been a constant, but rarely has the pace and impact of change around the world been so fast. Less than a decade ago, Facebook, Twitter, and many of the technologies by which we communicate, participate in commerce, and entertain ourselves did not exist. Since the creation of the Internet in 1983, technologies have exploded and a generation of people cannot imagine the world without connectivity.

It is inevitable with all that is going on around us (markets in recession, competition from foreign markets, instantaneous information) that higher education would be challenged to find new ways of providing a superior, yet cost-effective, experience for students. Legal education is no exception, and with intensifying demands on the academy to provide hyper-connected minds even more information and to improve their ready-to-work skills, law schools once again find themselves in the midst of the debate about how they should prepare legal professionals, not only for the future, but also for the here and now. While the short-term forecast for law schools is stormy, there are oceans of opportunity for those who are willing to innovate.

Widener Law has been an incubator for years, not only for cutting-edge legal analysis and thought by our active scholars, but also for its integration of the doctrinal with our skills programs, many of which are now headed into their third decade. This edition of the magazine highlights approaches to effective teaching that blend the connective technologies of the legal marketplace with skills training and traditional pedagogy. It is exciting to see teaching and learning taking place beyond the boundaries of brick and mortar.

Two other articles in this magazine are also very timely. Both deal with issues of public health. Both have been controversial. In discussing the Affordable Care Act and the fortieth anniversary of Roe v. Wade, our faculty consider not only these seminal points in our history from a legal standpoint, but what they say about us.

There is much more in this magazine, and I hope you will once again see the vibrancy of Widener Law.

Sincerely,

LINDA L. AMMONS, JD
ASSOCIATE PROVOST AND DEAN
"The camaraderie and mutual support we as Widener Law alumni show each other are as strong as ever."

A message from
the alumni board president

Dear Alumni and Friends,

It’s spring again, and in a few short weeks we will welcome a new class of Widener Law graduates to our ranks. Commencement is always a joyful occasion, and this year is no exception.

The class of 2013 enters a profession that is in some ways much different from the one many of us joined. I do not need to tell you how the practice of law has changed over the past decade, much less since our law school’s early years.

Yet, many things have not changed. The camaraderie and mutual support we as Widener Law alumni show each other are as strong as ever. The great showing we have had at this year’s alumni events, like the recent Philadelphia Alumni Reception, is ample evidence of how much fun it can be.

Please join me in welcoming these bright and highly qualified new lawyers, both to our profession and to our alumni association. Our gifts of time and resources have provided them all sorts of opportunities throughout their tenure at Widener. Many have already achieved much with our help. All of them will achieve more still, and they will do it more quickly with our support. Please remember that their success is our success.

I hope to see both you and our new graduates at an alumni event soon. Please welcome them and show them how great it can be to be a Widener Law graduate.

Sincerely,

Renae B. Axelrod ’91
President, Alumni Association

Where has Widener Law taken you? We’d like to feature your story. Write us at law...alumni@mail.widener.edu.
Barring a sea change over the next few years, the law will remain intact.

More to the point, its effects will intensify very, very quickly. The Kaiser Family Foundation, which maintains a timeline explaining the Affordable Care Act’s rollout, lists 14 provisions of the law, from tax code alterations to changes in Medicare payments, that take effect in 2013 and 17 that take effect in 2014.¹

“It’s overnight,” says Visiting Assistant Professor of Law Chris Smith. He ticks off some of the major changes to health law that will happen January 1, 2014: “That’s when the individual mandate goes into effect, the employer mandate, the health insurance exchanges go into effect, subsidies, insurance reforms... The Medicaid expansion will kick in too—it’s optional, but if states are going to do it, it’s then. There will be new people in the system getting coverage, like some categories of childless adults. Insurers won’t be able to cap insurance payouts anymore...”

The vigorous debate about the law’s economic and public health consequences has been front-page news for some time. What no one is arguing is the scale of change the law will bring or that there will be a period of adjustment.

“It’s changing the dynamic of how healthcare services are rendered in the US, and everyone has to get on board with that,” says Samantha Wilson ’02 ’04M, legal counsel for GlaxoSmithKline’s Global Manufacturing and Supply business unit and an adjunct member of the Masters of Jurisprudence in Health Law program.

“People argue about the socialization of medicine,” says Professor John Culhane, director of Widener’s Health Law Institute. “That’s happening with the expansion of Medicaid. The rest of it is private insurance regulation and reform. If anything it will lead to more complexity, and more strain on the system given the need for additional primary healthcare providers. Expect to see more reliance on other medical professionals, especially nurse practitioners and physician assistants.”

¹If there was any doubt about the short-term future of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA), it was decimated last year by the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision in National Federation of Independent Business v. Sebelius, largely upholding the law, and President Obama’s reelection.
The law is changing both the way lawyers do their jobs and the jobs they’re doing.

Shannon Mace Heller, JD, MPH ’11, was the first graduate of Widener’s joint JD/MPH program with Thomas Jefferson University. Now health reform and health equity manager with the city of Philadelphia’s Department of Behavioral Health & Intellectual disAbility Services (DBHIDS), she says, “A lot of my job is understanding the Affordable Care Act, related regulations, how Pennsylvania is implementing them, and how that impacts Philadelphia and the folks we serve. Health reform is in my title; if the ACA didn’t exist, my entire position probably wouldn’t exist. There are new positions being created to address this.”

Indeed, the law is sprawling and multifaceted, but so are the opportunities associated with it. Prior to the ACA’s passage, health care was already one of the fastest-growing areas of the US economy. The ACA mandates additional growth and change. This will require legal counsel and representation in remarkably diverse but related areas—contracts, bioethics, privacy, fraud, and risk management, to name a very few—for countless public and private organizations as well as some individuals.

Mace Heller says, “For attorneys entering the field, even if they have no interest in health law, the ACA should be on the radar. It touches every area of law. The law itself is humongous; every day federal agencies are promulgating new regulations to help guide us.”

Samantha Wilson echoes Mace’s view on the diversity of the law’s requirements—from “the sunshine provision of the Affordable Care Act—that [affects] reporting payments we make to physicians—to an increasing concern around product safety.”

Not surprisingly, the ACA’s comprehensive sweep is affecting legal education. However, the rapid pace of change in health care and health law has for some time been driving demand for new knowledge in the law among lawyers and non-lawyers alike.

A host of anti-fraud and other legislation has already expanded the ranks of compliance professionals, which comprise corporate officials, nurses, accountants, attorneys, and many more. The Obama administration made reducing Medicare fraud a priority during its first term with the creation of the Health Care Fraud Prevention and Enforcement Action Team (HEAT), which elevated battling Medicare fraud to a cabinet-level priority under the departments of Health and Human Services and Justice. The program claims success, citing “more than 1,400 defendants who collectively falsely billed the Medicare program more than $4.8 billion.”

Not surprisingly, the use of “culture of compliance” as a catchphrase has intensified, due possibly to corporate and health care officials hoping not to join the abovementioned 1,400 defendants.

The need for ongoing training led Widener Law in 2011 to create its “compliance boot camp” programs, in which it partnered with AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals and a host of experts to train professionals in the healthcare industry to comply with a continually evolving regulatory regime. It began with four-day intensive coursework preparing professionals from local pharmaceutical companies for the Health Care Compliance Association certification exam, and quickly evolved into a Master of Jurisprudence in Health Law with a Certificate in Regulatory Analysis & Compliance. In 2012,
the law school announced a move to specialized online Master of Jurisprudence programs in both Health and Corporate Law. The programs are among an elite group in the United States accredited by the Compliance Certification Board (CCB).

In addition to the MJ degree, students can earn certificates in Regulatory Analysis and Compliance or simply take courses to advance their knowledge.

Eileen Grena-Piretti, assistant dean and executive director of institutes, emphasizes the demand for ongoing education in the face of a constantly evolving legal code. “The laws are changing constantly,” she says. The good news: “We’re on top of that. Julie Sheppard [’07], the founder of First Healthcare Compliance, is an instructor in our program. She and her company create comprehensive compliance guides for physicians. For her to stay on top of the laws is integral to our efforts.”

Samantha Wilson says, “The regulations change so much and have since I graduated. It used to be very stagnant, now it’s changing almost daily.”

Students in the law are picking up on the trend. In 2012 and 2013, Widener Law fielded its first health law regulatory compliance teams, which competed in regulatory compliance moot court competition, itself a new phenomenon.

If the pace and magnitude of change are remarkable now, before the Affordable Care Act’s major provisions take hold, they will be more so in less than a year. An oft-cited IRS statistic estimates the man-hours needed to comply with the ACA’s regulatory regime will be nearly 80 million annually. A more recent (and more partisan) congressional estimate puts them at 127 million. Are these estimates accurate? It’s hard to say, but without question complying with the law will be no small undertaking.

Following the law in the face of such complexity will be imperative—and expensive. “This is a whole new realm of regulations on health care and the healthcare industry,” says Chris Smith. “Compliance is going to cost money—no doubt.” It’s a reality that is rightly garnering interest among law students, he says. “One of my courses is the ACA seminar. The class is full... There was a waiting list, actually. More students should be looking at this for a career.”

There is a lot at stake. In a recent Health Care Compliance Association (HCCA) survey of chief compliance officers, more than a third reported their organizations’ annual revenues exceeded $500 million. Twelve percent said it was over $1 billion.3

It will, by all accounts, stimulate continued growth in compliance professions. Indeed, a casual Internet search for job postings in the field yields a vast array of open healthcare compliance positions. They range dramatically. Many, but not all, are aimed specifically at lawyers. All of them require knowledge of current and emerging law and its implications for this massive sector of the U.S. economy.

John Culhane says, “The new healthcare law is complex and has so many pieces—the expansion of Medicaid, the implementation of healthcare exchanges, how the states and the federal government are going to interact establishing and operating them... There will continue to be a need for compliance officers and lawyers trained in health law.”

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“The new healthcare law is complex and has so many pieces.... There will continue to be a need for compliance officers and lawyers trained in health law.”
Eileen Grena-Piretti sees continued convergence between the healthcare industry professionals and lawyers, all of whom will increasingly need to understand and operate within the same sweeping regulatory framework. The creation of compliance program guidances is a major initiative of the Office of the Inspector General [OIG]. In the past several years, the OIG has developed and issued compliance program guidances directed at a variety of segments in the healthcare industry.”4

“It will be huge,” she says. “From skilled nursing, to hospitals, to pharmaceutical companies to physician practices, everyone’s starting to get prepared. In fact, we have compliance officers, auditors, physicians, and attorneys contacting the program to enroll as matriculated and non-matriculated students.”

Samantha Wilson says, “Even though compliance in my company is separate and apart from legal, clearly there’s a huge connection between the two and often we work very closely together. I think the [Master of Jurisprudence] program does a good job of teaching the students basic legal concepts to be able to interface with attorneys.”

From any angle, the law will have tremendous impact.

“The ACA is a giant boulder dropped into an already turbulent body of water,” says John Culhane. “The splash is spectacular, but everyone involved in health care and health law has been navigating the rapids for some time.”

“...In the wake of the ACA it is clear that a professional class with appropriate understanding and skills will be necessary to navigate the waters in which we now find ourselves.”

Assistant Dean and Executive Director of Institutes Eileen Grena-Piretti, pictured here with Dean Linda Ammons and Assistant Dean Tony Doyle upon receiving the 7th Annual International Award for Compliance and Ethics Education.
Forty years after the Supreme Court handed down its landmark *Roe v. Wade* decision, it remains among its most controversial, spawning fevered debate and shaping four decades of political discourse. In this piece, two members of the Widener Law community reflect on where those four decades have brought us.
Roe put America into a quandary—a political, constitutional, and moral quandary—that it has not emerged from in the 40 years since the decision was announced. Roe concerned a narrow but important question: does the due process clause of the Fourteenth Amendment permit a state to ban abortion except for the purpose of saving the pregnant person’s life? A simple question to ask, but an almost impossible one to answer.

It took Justice Blackmun more than 16,000 words to try to resolve the controversy, and still he probably fueled the flames more than he quelled them. He consulted Greek philosophic traditions, American medical practice, the evolving legislative positions in the states, and any other oracle he could find, ultimately reaching the conclusion that the Constitution requires states to permit abortions “without interference from the states” from the outset of pregnancy until at least the third trimester. That conclusion earned him death threats for the remaining 20 years of his life.

As an elucidation of the constitutional right to privacy, the opinion stood on fairly solid ground: for decades, the court had held that the Constitution protects a realm of privacy relating to intimate personal matters like marriage, procreation, and child-rearing; only two years earlier, in a case about contraception, the court had held that “If the right of privacy means anything, it is the right of the individual, married or single, to be free from unwarranted governmental intrusion into matters so fundamentally affecting a person as the decision whether to bear or beget a child.”

Referring to the incomparable physical burden of carrying a pregnancy to term and on the profound psychological burden of having a child as a result of rape or accident or otherwise, the Roe court held that the right to privacy was broad enough to encompass a woman’s decision to terminate a pregnancy.

But of course it is not such a simple thing to analogize other interests to abortion because is not like anything else. It is morally contested, because it necessarily implicates the moral-philosophical question of when life begins. And it is politically contested because, although everyone would like to see abortions disappear, views differ on how best to achieve that goal and what to do about unwanted pregnancies while we still live in a world of imperfect birth control. And it is constitutionally contested, because the Constitution is cryptic on the subject of privacy and silent on the subject of abortion. For some, this compels the court to read the Constitution to achieve our highest values, of liberty and dignity for all. For others, this counsels against nationalizing and constitutionalizing a phenomenon that is better left to local political forces, with the variations and accountability that that entails.

“\textit{We have never resolved the right to abortion because we have never resolved the larger constitutional question—how does the federal Constitution protect the most important decisions we make as human beings?”}
In January, NBC News commemorated the 40th anniversary of Roe v. Wade by commissioning a poll, which the network ultimately used as an opportunity to declare, “Majority, for the first time, want abortion to be legal.” Even as NBC News was trumpeting the triumph of the proponents of legalized abortion, however, Time magazine, no particular friend of the pro-life movement, was proclaiming on its cover, “40 Years Ago, Abortion Rights Activists Won an Epic Victory With Roe v. Wade. They’ve Been Losing Ever Since.”

Ironically, these two proclamations were released about the same time the second half of the Super Bowl was being held in limbo because of a stadium blackout. It was ironic because when we have no way of keeping track of what’s going on in a football game or even who’s winning, we stop the game so we can fix the problem. Yet, when two of America’s leading sources of news can’t come to a uniform sense of where the abortion debate is after 40 years of discussion, discourse goes on as usual, and no one seems to think there’s even a problem to fix.

Perhaps the most telling question from the NBC poll was one that escaped mainstream distribution:

“Do you approve or disapprove the Roe versus Wade U.S. Supreme Court decision? If you don’t know enough about this to have an opinion, please just say so and we’ll move on.”

Forty-one percent of those questioned indicated they didn’t know enough about Roe to have an opinion about it, and another two percent indicated they weren’t sure whether they knew enough or not. Thus, after 40 years of relentless public debate about the case, forty-three percent of those polled had been left in the dark.

Philosopher Alysdaire MacIntyre has insisted “[t]he most striking feature” of our moral disagreements is “their interminable character.” MacIntyre explains these debates not only “go on and on and on,” but more importantly “[t]here seems to be no rational way of securing moral agreement in our society.” Although one might suggest that this results from Americans lacking a common moral vision or the issues having so much that needs to be said about them, the answer may be more procedural: that we allow ourselves to communicate about these issues in ways unlikely to be productive.

Another law professor once told me rhetoric is the art of winning an argument because one “can yell louder than his adversary.” This definition seems beneath the calling of a lawyer. Lawyers, after all, are “citizens with a special responsibility for the quality of justice.” Lawyers are people in whom society has entrusted the duty to ensure that public discourse is conducted in a manner that can be fruitful and should ultimately yield truth. If after forty years of debating Roe v. Wade we have made little if any progress toward resolution, lawyers should be the persons asking the question, “Have the lights in the stadium of public discourse actually gone out?”

Immediately after Roe, the debate surrounding the case was between those who were pro-abortion and those who were anti-abortion. It remained that way only as long as it took the former anti-abortion forces to recognize they were more accurately pro-life. Shortly thereafter, pro-abortion advocates realized they actually were not so much “pro-abortion” as they were “pro-choice.” From there the debate shifted to one between those who were pro-choice and those who would “choose life,” and this then shifted to a debate between those who would choose
life and those who would “choose choice.” Is such a summary merely a caricature of the abortion debate in America, or, indeed, does it capture our debate?

In his book *A Different Kind of Perfect*, George Lane describes how he and his wife Thea ultimately decided to give birth to their daughter Amy after testing revealed Amy had Down Syndrome. Having already heard from every sort of professional imaginable, the couple was left with a weekend to make their decision. As George prepared himself for him and Thea to spend the weekend “talking out” their choice, Thea informed George she had other plans: Thea was sending George on retreat. When George protested that the couple needed to discuss their choice together, he was surprised that Thea told him they would. “We will,” Thea said, “enter into silence, speak with our hearts, and listen in love.” Ultimately, George would acknowledge Thea had been right about the nature their discourse needed to take. Three days later, the couple shared that they had come to one decision.
Law student Christophe Clark was tied up in traffic. With only minutes to get to a meeting with four other students in her judicial externship course, she pulled into a Panera parking lot, set her laptop on her steering wheel, and connected to the eatery’s free wifi. Seconds later she entered the virtual Adobe Connect gathering on time.

Welcome to the modern law school, where what students are learning—and how they are learning it—are swiftly evolving. Fueled largely by changes in the job market that demand practice-ready attorneys and by consumer demand for convenience through automation, the in-person, lecture-heavy experience that once defined a Widener Law education is shifting.

Traditional lectures on Supreme Court case law still happen, only now a growing number of students are watching them on their electronic devices before class. In the case of some business law courses, students are watching on their devices instead of going to a classroom.

…it’s about creating an innovative virtual path for legal education that has the power to transform the law school experience.

Students in seated classes, meanwhile, are suddenly finding the in-person classroom a lot more interactive. Future transactional attorneys are being challenged with assignments that mimic what they will experience when they graduate and land in a law firm. Widener classes are training graduates who will arrive for their first jobs understanding the theory behind contract law, but also knowing what a contract looks like, and how to review, edit, and improve it.

The shift is born from progress and general evolution, for sure. But there is more. Skills proponents talk of a need to educate a new class of legal professionals who graduate ready to work. It’s about giving a Widener Law degree greater value in a tough job market, when firms no longer have the resources to devote to new-hire hand holding. And with technology, it’s about creating an innovative virtual path for legal education that has the power to transform the law school experience.
Assistant Professor Luke M. Scheuer remembers his first day as an associate at Goodwin Procter LLP in Boston. A partner gave him a shareholder rights agreement and suggested he make the first attempt at a revision.

“I remember looking at it and thinking, ‘I don’t know what this is,’” the Boston College of Law graduate recalled. “I had to learn that all, painfully, on the job.”

The experience inspired him. Now an assistant professor of corporate governance and business planning on the Delaware campus, Scheuer is constantly experimenting with his teaching approach, but his classes are always built around skills-building assignments. Students are drafting contracts, creating business plans for new companies and even teaching sections of their reading assignments to the class.

“Lawyers aren’t sitting in offices listening to lectures,” Scheuer said. “Anything that can make students as practice ready as possible gives them an edge in the job market.”

Electronic discovery and advanced electronic discovery classes are giving them another edge. Taught for more than a decade by Visiting Professor Richard K. Herrmann, partner at Morris James and a recognized leader among Delaware practitioners on matters of law and technology, Widener Law’s electronic discovery courses were the first offered in the United States, and likely the first in the world. They present students with hypothetical cases they handle from beginning to end as if part of a law firm team. Students learn how the process works and how to construct questions that will extract the information they seek in discovery.

“Reading case law isn’t going to do that,” Herrmann said. “This is pervasive in every field of the law and is so new the students really have a leg up because they know more than the people hiring them.”

Electronic discovery law is only about 10 years old, Herrmann said, and there are many attorneys who haven’t used it—yet. For example, it can introduce digital records to an old-fashioned auto accident case if an attorney needs to learn whether a driver was texting behind the wheel.

In addition to enhancing the Widener Law students’ marketability, learning electronic discovery is important to legal education in general. Attorneys have an obligation to stay current in technology. Those who are well schooled are better prepared to protect their clients’ security and confidentiality. Few schools offer electronic discovery and Herrmann said he knew of no others that offer an advanced class in the subject, as Widener does.

Associate Professor and Dean of Harrisburg Faculty D. Benjamin Barros is also striving to teach skills to his real estate transactions class. With 68 students, he’s had to get creative. This spring, Barros reinvented the course by dropping the textbook and having students read more documents than cases. Students are reviewing contracts and will get firsthand experience at title searching when he assigns them to do an actual record search through the Dauphin County Recorder of Deeds online records. His is not a full-on, lecture-heavy course.

“I can’t teach skills the traditional way,” Barros said. “I experiment. I try new things. Law students love it when you have them do the exact things that lawyers do.”

Scheuer and Barros share their experiences in monthly meetings of Institute of Delaware Corporate and Business Law faculty. Ruby R. Vale Professor of Corporate and Business Law Lawrence A. Hamermesh, who directs the institute, said Widener has done a good job of using clinics for real-life litigation practice, but transactional skills lacked the same attention. Classes like Scheuer’s and Barros’ are filling a need.

“They are the wave of the future,” he said. 

This is pervasive in every field of the law and is so new the students really have a leg up because they know more than the people hiring them.”

Visiting Professor Richard Herrmann
What talk of the future would be complete without technology? In a very short time, classrooms and teaching styles have begun changing in substantial ways. Scheuer taught Widener Law’s first entirely online J.D. course, business planning, in the fall. This spring he took a hybrid approach—half online, half seated.

Learning the law online is a limited phenomenon. Widener moved its master of jurisprudence programs entirely online in fall 2012, but the American Bar Association has limits on how much of a J.D. can be earned that way. First-year students cannot currently study online, and students cannot take an online course if they have not yet earned 28 credits. The ABA allows only 12 credits to be earned online through the course of a J.D. education and no more than four can be earned in a single semester.

Widener students have shown great interest in attending class via an electronic device. Scheuer’s entirely online class this fall was capped at 20 students; 57 wanted to enroll. Another 57 tried to sign up for the spring hybrid class, which was also limited to 20 students.

“It is popular,” Scheuer told a faculty meeting devoted to classroom technology this spring, noting its potential to impact the lives of students with long commutes. He has taught students who would drive up to two hours each way to attend a 75-minute lecture in a campus classroom.

“It is popular.... Whether you like it or not, students are going to demand it.”

Luke Scheuer

“Whether you like it or not, students are going to demand it,” he said.

The idea has captured national attention. An American Bar Association task force examining the future of legal education, which will issue a report next year, has a subcommittee examining the regulation and delivery of legal education.

“There’s a lot of pressure on the ABA to loosen this up,” Michael Slinger, director of the Legal Information Center for both campuses, said of the current rules governing online learning for J.D. students. “The genie’s out of the bottle. I don’t see how they’re going to put it back in.”

When Widener Law faculty talk about using technology to teach, there is a lot of discussion about how it has the potential to give students more control over when they choose to learn, and at what pace. But professors are also looking for it to free up class time for richer interaction by moving the black-letter-law lectures to videos students watch before class.

“The genie’s out of the bottle. I don’t see how they’re going to put it back in.”

Michael Slinger

After a faculty workshop on teaching technologies a year ago, Dean of Delaware Faculty Andrew Strauss tapped Professor Francis Catania to lead a technology work group. Inspired professors meet periodically to share the fruits of their classroom experiments, exchange ideas and seek progress with a programmatic approach.

Professor James R. May participated in the group and decided to “flip” his classroom for a fall Constitutional Law evening course attended by 41 extended-division students. His interest piqued by the popular online Kahn Academy and a 60 Minutes story extolling its unique interactive approach, May learned the Panopto technology that allowed him to record lectures, in which students saw him and slides. Students could listen in their cars, late at night when their children were asleep, on their lunch breaks, or whenever it worked for them.

“When they came into class we were in essence 20 or 30 minutes ahead of schedule,” May said.

H. Albert Young Fellow in Constitutional Law Erin Daly tried something similar with sound and slide recordings that taught the law contained in cases like Brown v. Board of Education. She, too, sought more time for class discussion.

May’s main goal for the new approach was to improve student outcomes and help them pass the bar when that day comes.

“That’s really my metric,” he said. “The jury’s still out.”

Legal Methods Professors Iva Johnson Ferrell and Susan A. King report they saw writing skills improve in students they taught this fall with a new, free computer program. It allowed students to write a legal memo analysis, upload it anonymously, then critique the anonymous work posted by their professors.
and classmates before coming back and looking at their own with a more critical eye. The anonymity provided by the computer program kept students honest and less worried about hurting their classmates’ feelings with their reviews.

“I experiment. I try new things. Law students love it when you have them do the exact things that lawyers do.”

Ben Barros

Students reported that they found the exercises beneficial. The professors planned to expand their use of the technology this spring. It is so new they couldn’t find any other law schools using it yet, but if it can help students become better writers—and ultimately better lawyers—the professors are committed to it.

Learning digitally has its advantages, proponents maintain.

Convenience was certainly at the heart of the Adobe Connect meeting Christophe Clark, ’12, attended from her car with other judicial extern students. That technology, championed by Catania, who supervises the extern program, brought together Clark—a Rehoboth Beach, Delaware resident—and students in Philadelphia and New Jersey without a central, geographic meeting place. “That was a great way to make it work,” Clark said.

As for recorded lectures, easily distracted students can listen or watch in digestible portions. Students who didn’t catch something can stop and replay a file. Slow note takers can pause to preserve a complete thought. Those who learn best from reinforcement can watch repeatedly. Non-native English speakers can slow the pace.

“It did help me learn,” said second-year student Kristen Swift, a New Castle, Delaware mother of three who was in May’s class and took copious notes from the videos. “I had to figure out, ‘How am I going to use this?’”

There are critics, too.

Some students have reported displeasure with having to hear less from a professor during actual class time in favor of giving students more time to speak and interact, noting they have paid to learn the law from academics.

Extended-division student Holly Frey, a Doylestown, Pennsylvania paralegal by day, said she found digitized lectures helpful, but she disliked being unable to ask questions as she listened.

“In principle, the idea has merit,” Frey said. Both she and Swift, however, reported the general consensus among their classmates was that the recorded lectures felt like a lot of extra work and, for that alone, were frowned upon by students.

Strauss said in the space of the fall semester about 10 faculty found exciting new ways to incorporate technology into their teaching. The culture continues to strengthen, as the school next looks to offer an LL.M. in U.S. and Delaware corporate law for foreign attorneys, entirely online.

While new approaches can generate growing pains, Strauss firmly believes the faculty must continue to move in this direction to keep up with modern times.

“I’m proud of it,” he said.

Amid all the doubts and uncertainty that come with the sort of upheaval the legal world has experienced recently, one thing is clear: standing still in a mobile world simply won’t work.


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LINDA L. AMMONS received the Delaware Barrister Association’s “Excellence in Education Award,” which honors and recognizes “a leader of an academic institution who has made it imperative for men and women of all races, ethnic backgrounds and cultures to share in the experience of a first-class education.” Best Buddies Delaware also recognized her with the Community Leadership Award. At the invitation of Vice President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Dean Ammons attended the 57th Presidential Inauguration. Other recent appearances include interviews on Executive Leaders Radio (WNJC/1360 AM) and on WDEL radio regarding the future of legal education. She will once again be included in the roster of the top 100 African-American lawyers.

SONIA BALDIA presented “To Use or Not To Use, That is the Question: What Communicators Should Know About Trademarks” at the Delaware Press Association event on IP law; “Monetizing IP Assets in a Global Marketplace” at the Global Intellectual Property Conference in New Delhi; “Enhancing Efficiency of International IP Exchanges” at the 19th Annual CLE Conference—Update for Feminist Law Professors; and “Intellectual Property Developed Abroad: Capturing Value” at the annual DuPont/Widener Law IP seminar, which she organized and moderated with DuPont’s sponsorship and support. Prof. Baldia also mentored the Intellectual Property Transactional Law Competition Team, which placed third at a National IP Competition.

LARRY D. BARNETT recently taught a two-week course on socio-legal research at the International Institute for the Sociology of Law in Spain. Part of the curriculum for a Master of Arts degree in the sociology of law, the course focused on law-relevant quantitative research methods and data.

ANN H. BRITTON has been appointed to the Academic Advisory Board for an annual publication on aging of the McGraw-Hill Contemporary Learning Series.

JOHN J. CAPOWSKI was named Secretary of the AALS Evidence Section.

MICHAEL J. COZZILLIO served as a visiting scholar at Notre Dame Law School. He spoke about the integration of Major League Baseball at Widener Law’s annual Martin Luther King Jr. celebration.

JOHN G. CULHANE has made a number of appearances related to his book, Same-Sex Legal Kit For Dummies, co-authored with Carrie Stone. He was a guest on the Gil Gross Show, News Talk 910 (San Francisco), discussing the California bill that would allow a court to recognize more than two legal parents, and presented “Building a Queer-Friendly Legal Academy: Accomplishments and the Road Ahead” at the National LGBT Bar Association’s Annual Lavender Law conference. He continues to guest-blog on FamilyScholars.org. With other family law professors, he filed an amicus brief challenging the constitutionality of Section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act, cited by the Second Circuit in their decision in Windsor v. United States, on which the Supreme Court has granted cert. Professor Culhane also was a guest on American Law Journal TV’s “Same-Sex Marriage: Long Road to the Supreme Court” and on the CBS3 Eyewitness News feature: “Same-Sex Marriage Comes to Maryland.” His commentary was featured on the WHYY’s Newsworks Tonight story “Left Out from the Fiscal Cliff Deal: Medicare.”

ERIN DALY presented her work in progress about transitional justice in Iraq at a human rights conference at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and at the British Society for Middle Eastern Studies Annual Conference at the London School of Economics. She was a panelist (with ALAN E. GARFIELD) at Kutztown University, presenting on the Supreme Court’s decision in a first amendment case, Alvarez v. United States. She was interviewed for radio and print on the Supreme Court’s decisions on the Affordable Care Act and on the Stolen Valor Act. With James R. May, Prof. Daly presented “Water Rights in Domestic Constitutions” at the IUCN Academy of Environmental Law.
JOHN C. DERNBACH recently served as a visiting scholar at the University of Cambridge, researching England’s climate change and sustainability efforts, speaking to faculty, and serving on a discussion panel at the university’s renowned Lauterpacht Centre for International Law. Other activities include moderating a panel at the U.N. Conference on Climate Change in Doha, Qatar.

JULES EPSTEIN is leading a task force designing a response to new legislation for the Pennsylvania Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. He continues his work representing capital case defendants on appeal and post-conviction.


IVA JOHNSON FERRELL co-presented “Lessons Learned Along the Way: Teaching Strategies from Unexpected Places” with SUSAN KING at the 2012 Biennial Conference of the Legal Writing Institute. Profs. Ferrell and King co-presented on their work to date with Calibrated Peer Review at the Legal Writing Institute’s One Day Workshop at George Washington University School of Law.

ALAN E. GARFIELD coordinated, for the seventh year, a Constitution Day program designed to celebrate and spur dialogue on the Constitution. The program centers on essays solicited by Prof. Garfield and published in The News Journal. He spoke at a conference at Kutztown University about the constitutionality of the Affordable Care Act; at the congregation Kehila Chadasha in Rockville, Maryland, about “Church and State in the United States and Israel”; and to the Delaware Press Association about “Copyright for Communicators.”

MICHAEL J. GOLDBERG returned to the Third Circuit in December for oral argument in a union democracy case he has been handling for reformers in the International Longshoremen’s Association.

LARRY A. HAMERMESH has been cited on a variety of subjects including default fiduciary duties in Delaware LLCs, a $300 million fee award in a stockholder class action brought in the Delaware Court of Chancery; and a novel stockholder suit to compel disclosure of corporate political spending. His recent engagements have included “Delaware Publicly Held Non-Corporate Entities: Facts and Issues” at a New York County Lawyers Association program; “Whistleblowing in the Corporate World Series: Part 6—Whistleblowing and The Corporate Insider,” a Thomson Reuters webinar program; and as part of the “Delaware Law Matters” panel at the Practising Law Institute’s 44th Annual Institute on Securities Regulation. Prof. Hamermesh is currently serving as Reporter for the ABA Business Law Section’s Corporate Laws Committee, which supervises the updating and revision of the Model Business Corporation Act, and as a member of the Council of the Corporation Law Section of the Delaware State Bar Association, which is the principal drafter of amendments to the internationally influential Delaware General Corporation Law. He also served as co-counsel for the members of the Delaware Court of Chancery in Delaware Coalition for Open Government, Inc. v. Strine, et al., 2012 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 123080 (D. Del. Aug. 30, 2012) and in subsequent appeals.
**LOUISE L. HILL** participated in the Northern Kentucky Law Review Fall Symposium, which addressed the 2012 revisions to the American Bar Association Model Rules of Professional Conduct, in a National Business Institute–sponsored CLE program, “Dirty Litigation Tactics: How to Deal with the ‘Rambo’ Litigator,” focusing on legal ethics, and in a Lorman Education Services CLE, “Legal Ethics,” which focused on ethics and professionalism with emphasis on Delaware lawyers. At the AALS Annual Meeting, she was a panelist at the Section on Professional Responsibility’s program “New Developments in Attorney-Client Privilege.” She serves as the section’s Nominating Committee Chair. Other engagements included speaking about cloud computing and its impact on privileged communications and an interview for the *Delaware State News* and delawaregrapevine.com regarding judicial misconduct and sanctions.

**DAVID R. HODAS** has been appointed to the International Advisory Panel of Resource Management Theory & Practice. He guest-lectured on U.S. Climate Change Law at the University of Texas Law School; presented “A Global Law of Sustainable Energy” at the IUCN Academy of Environmental Law 2012 Annual Colloquium, where he also moderated a panel session on Geoengineering Legal Issues; presented his paper “Law, Ecosystem Valuation and Risk Allocation” at a research workshop sponsored by the IUCN Environmental Law Centre, IUCN Academy of Environmental Law Research Committee, and the IUCN Commission on Environmental Law; presented “A Global Law of Sustainable Energy” at the IUCN Academy of Environmental Law Annual Colloquium, where he chaired the Energy Development Policy session; and lectured on the EPA’s Regulation of Greenhouse Gases at the University of Texas Law School, Austin.

**SYDNEY HOWE-BARKSDALE** presented “President Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation: On Questions, Doubts, and the Problems of Full Citizenship” at the 18th Annual Mid-Atlantic People of Color Legal Scholarship Conference at the University of Pennsylvania Law School and “American Social Conservatives’ War on Contraception” as one of the panelists speaking about gender and citizenship.

**JAMES R. MAY** was recently inducted as a faculty member of the National Judicial College. His recent presentations include “Hydraulic Fracturing, Law and Science” at the annual American Law Institute—American Bar Association Clean Water Law and Regulation Course of Study, “The Promise and Practice of Equality under the U.S. Constitution” at the University of Delaware’s Center for Lifelong Learning, “The Future of Energy Policy” to the Federalist Society’s National Lawyers Convention; and “Future Directions in Procedural Environmental Rights” at the University of Oregon. He gave two lectures to more than 60 judges at the National Judicial College’s “Fracking and Water: A Workshop for Judges” in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

**LAURA K. RAY** was quoted in the *New York Times* about the Supreme Court’s use of per curiam opinions to resolve cases, raising such major issues as campaign finance regulation. She spoke about the court’s current term at the University of Delaware’s Osher Academy of Lifelong Learning and was interviewed on WDDE-FM, NPR’s Delaware affiliate, about the affirmative action case *Fisher v. Texas*.


**MARY ANN ROBINSON** and **ALISON DONAHUE KEHNER** created six new videos on professionalism issues for use as teaching tools by law professors. Produced with Wolters Kluwer, the videos are available here: http://www.readyforpractice.com/Videos/ProfessionalismVideos.aspx.

**REBECCA L. SCALIO** was featured in an AALS Section on Part-Time Division Programs panel presentation, “Unbundling Part-Time Programs from Full-Time Programs,” at the 2013 AALS Annual Meeting in New Orleans.

**MICHAEL SLINGER** led a series of discussions on Civil War books at the Rachel Kohl Public Library in Glen Mills, Pennsylvania. Topics included: “What the Union meant to the people of the time.”
“Female Spies”, “John Brown, Abolitionism, the Raid on Harper’s Ferry & Brown’s Trial for Treason.”

VERNE R. SMITH was appointed by Gov. Jack Markell to Delaware’s Animal Welfare Task Force.

LEONARD N. SOSNOV was the principal author of amicus briefs, filed on behalf of the Pennsylvania Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, in two cases before the Pennsylvania Supreme Court involving significant Pennsylvania Constitution search and seizure issues.


SERENA M. WILLIAMS participated in the AALS New Law Teachers Conference, serving as a panelist on the “Managing the Classroom” session and leading a discussion on “Service and Professionalism for Junior Faculty.” Prof. Williams and co-author Prof. Carol Brown were invited to participate in City Square, an online discussion forum sponsored by the Fordham Urban Law Journal. They prepared a response to Professor Kali Murray’s critique of their article “The Houses that Eminent Domain and Tax Credits Built: Imagining a Better New Orleans” published in the *Fordham Urban Law Journal*.

H. GEOFFREY MOULTON JR. directly to Attorney General Kathleen Kane.

“Mr. Moulton is a highly respected former federal prosecutor who will assist us in providing a comprehensive, thorough and independent examination of the facts surrounding the handling of the Sandusky investigation,” Kane said.

Moulton began his work in February while continuing to teach.

“I am pleased and honored to be given this opportunity by Attorney General Kane and Widener. I have always been drawn to public service, and this project is one of real importance both for the Office of the Attorney General and for the people of Pennsylvania,” he said.

Widener Law Dean Linda L. Ammons wished him well.

“Geoff embodies the Widener spirit of civic engagement, and his work for Attorney General Kane and the people of Pennsylvania make him a role model for our students. I expect Geoff’s experience in Harrisburg will enhance his teaching perspective and undoubtedly enrich the experience of our students. I wish him well in undertaking this important assignment.”

MICAH J. YARBROUGH ran a workshop on the main campus with IVA JOHNSON FERRELL on Law & the Legal Profession for Chester Upland high school students.
It is ironic that the Widener Law students who host the nation’s only moot court competition, which occurs in the nation’s corporate capital and has attracted more than a thousand of the nation’s top students in corporate law over the years, cannot compete in it. But without doubt there is value in convening some of the best talent the nation’s law schools have to offer.

Indeed, this year’s winners of the Ruby R. Vale Corporate Moot Court Competition, Jeffrey DeSousa and Allyson Poulos of Georgetown Law Center, defeated the Brooklyn Law team with a performance that inspired rare superlatives from judges perhaps unused to awarding them to law students.

“This year’s competition was a tremendous success,” said Ryan Cox, Ruby R. Vale Corporate Competition Vice-President. “The competition brought together outstanding competitors from around the country and was supported by generous volunteer efforts.... It was a fitting performance for the 25th year of this competition and was an honor for its namesake.”

Established in 1989 with funding from the Ruby R. Vale Foundation and sponsored by the Delaware campus Moot Court Honor Society, the competition is named in honor of renowned attorney Ruby R. Vale. A native of Carlisle, Pennsylvania, Vale adopted Delaware as his home state and practiced law in Philadelphia, developing considerable expertise in corporation, banking, and insurance law. He also wrote prolifically and is perhaps best known for his multivolume work Vale’s Pennsylvania Digest. The Ruby R. Vale Foundation has endowed a broad range of resources at the law school in honor of its namesake, including the Ruby R. Vale Professorship of Corporate and Business Law, Moot Courtroom, and Distinguished Scholar Program.

Ruby R. Vale Professor Larry Hamermesh notes that the competition was founded “thanks to the foresight of Professor Donald E. Pease, former General Counsel of the DuPont Company. Professor Pease had the foresight to see that with its location in Delaware, the nation’s corporate capital, Widener Law had access to all the resources that have made the Vale competition a success.”

Associate Professor Paul Regan agrees. “The Vale competition gives the law school an opportunity to showcase just what a special place Delaware is,” he says. “Law students from around the country can argue cutting-edge corporate issues before expert practitioners and the very Delaware judges who decide these kinds of cases.”

It has also served to enrich the local legal community. Hamermesh says, “Over the years more than one competitor has performed so ably in the competition and found the experience so satisfying that they have determined to practice corporate law and litigation in Wilmington.”

We thank all those who have made this competition so successful for so long.
DELAWARE MOOT COURT TEAM WINS NATIONAL FAMILY LAW COMPETITION

Four students brought home awards from the 25th annual Domenick L. Gabrielli National Family Law Moot Court Competition, held at Albany Law School.

Delaware students Candace Embry, Jessica Keough, and Brian McCarthy took top honors at the three-day event, which attracted 24 teams, defeating Southern Illinois University School of Law’s team in the final. Harrisburg student Jamila Espinosa took second place for best advocate.

Candace Embry said, “This was truly an amazing experience…. Competing is more than a test of preparation. It’s also a test of personal endurance and confidence, and conviction in your arguments in front of a panel of unknown challengers.”

HARRISBURG TRIAL ADVOCACY TEAM WINS COMPETITION

Harrisburg students Langdon Ramsburg, Katie Adam, and Mitchell Jones recently took top honors at the Academy of Trial Lawyers Mock Trial Competition in Pittsburgh, defeating teams from Georgetown and Penn on their way to victory. Ramsburg also won the competition award for best advocate.

“It feels great,” team coach and Associate Clinical Professor J. Palmer Lockard said moments after the win. “I couldn’t be happier for the students. If anyone deserves this, it’s them.”

The team, one of 16 invited to participate, argued the defense position in a civil trial involving an auto accident with a struck pedestrian. Ramsburg and Adam acted as the advocates and Jones served as a trial witness.

Langdon was pleased with the win and credited the opposing teams for delivering excellent performances. “I will say that the experience the Widener Law team members gleaned from the competition was invaluable,” he said.

“Being an evening division student, this was especially validating because it is hard for individuals in our division to fully participate in a lot of extra-curricular activities,” Adam added. “Our win gives recognition to the level of talent and skill present in our nontraditional law students.”
Campaign Update
As of April 1, 2013

2013 has brought out the best in our community. With our campaign total at nearly $11 million and 92% of our goal, we have much for which to be grateful. Thank you.

It is encouraging to witness the loyalty and generosity of our alumni and friends. Legal education and professions are undergoing a rare period of transition. Please know that your support is allowing us to innovate in response to these unusual circumstances and to move your law school forward in ways that will make you proud.

Overseer George K. Miller Jr. ’81 Establishes Endowed Scholarship

With a substantial pledge, George Miller ’81, a member of the law school’s Board of Overseers, has established the Miller Scholarship Fund. The scholarship will honor the entire Miller family, whose involvement with the law school spans more than three decades and two generations. Miller’s two daughters, Kristina Miller ’09 and Tara Miller ’12, are both Widener Law graduates.

The endowment will fund an annual scholarship or scholarships for Delaware campus students who reside in New Jersey and are eligible for in-state tuition at one of New Jersey’s law schools. The student or students must have shown perseverance, overcoming challenges to maintain good academic standing.

Of Miller’s gift, Dean Linda Ammons said, “George has been a tremendous benefactor, alumnus, and leader of the law school for a number of years, and it has been a pleasure to work with him and to get to know his family. I am very grateful he has chosen to extend his legacy to future generations of Widener Law students.”
In Memoriam:

ALEXANDER SARCIONE SR.

One of Widener Law’s truest friends, Alexander V. Sarcione Sr., passed away in November. As a member of the group of attorneys who in 1971 founded the Delaware Law School, now Widener Law, he provided great leadership during the school’s efforts to secure initial accreditation and funding.

An attorney with a long and distinguished career with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, Mr. Sarcione and his wife, Nancy, took particular pride in their place in the law school’s history, relishing their role as Widener Law parents. Their sons Hon. Anthony Sarcione ’78, now a Chester County, Pennsylvania judge, and the late Alexander Sarcione Jr. both enrolled at the law school in its formative years. Anthony’s promise in the law—now fulfilled—coupled with the tragic death in 1976 of Alexander, a second-year student at the Delaware Law School, galvanized their commitment. Their gift of the Alexander V. Sarcione Jr. Memorial Award and Scholarship has given tremendous opportunities to a generation of Widener Law students who, like both their sons, excel in the study of criminal law.

“Alexander was a gentleman of the first order and a true friend of our law school. He is missed.”

Dean Linda L. Ammons

Alexander Sarcione Sr. (left) with John Wetzel ’75
Partners at one of Delaware’s oldest law firms, Prickett, Jones & Elliott, have provided a remarkable new opportunity for promising students of corporate law, creating an annual scholarship and award.

The gift endows the William Prickett Corporate & Business Law Scholarship Fund, which will provide up to a year’s tuition annually for one law student who has demonstrated academic excellence in both corporate law and civil procedure. It will also provide an annual graduation prize for outstanding achievement in corporate law to a graduate who is preparing to take the Delaware Bar. It honors William Prickett Jr., grandson of the firm’s founder and the third member of the family at the firm. Mr. Prickett’s longstanding association with Widener Law includes serving on the law school’s Board of Overseers through the early 2000s. He is also a Widener Law parent; his son William L. Prickett graduated from the law school in 1989.

“We are pleased to create this endowment in honor of Bill Prickett,” said Paul A. Fioravanti, Jr., the firm’s managing director. “The scholarship and graduation award will continue Bill’s legacy at Delaware’s law school, and we are proud to support Widener’s commitment to excellence in corporate law.”
“The law school is honored to have such a distinguished Delaware firm invest in our program and our students this way,” Dean Linda L. Ammons said. “Prickett, Jones & Elliott has played key roles in multiple landmark Delaware corporate law cases. Now the firm will play a key role in helping to educate the next generation of corporate law attorneys.”

Ruby R. Vale Professor of Corporate and Business Law Lawrence A. Hamermesh, who directs the law school’s Institute of Delaware Corporate and Business Law, was pleased as well. “This generous donation will make a real difference in the lives of deserving students who come to Widener for our corporate law program;” Hamermesh said. “It is a critical, fast-paced area of the law, and I look forward to seeing this gift create opportunities for students who have bright legal minds and an intense interest in the subject.”

The firm’s generosity came in the wake of a landmark decision by the Delaware Supreme Court, which in 2012 upheld a $2 billion judgment in a lawsuit stemming from Southern Copper Corp.’s 2005 acquisition of mining company Minera Mexico from its controlling stockholder Grupo Mexico.

Hamermesh was not surprised by the decision. “The Supreme Court’s opinion, while long, methodical, and heavily factual, reinforces the views previously expressed in Chancellor Strine’s post-trial opinion,” he said.

Representing the shareholders in both the Chancery Court and the state Supreme Court were Ronald Brown ’90 and Marcus Montejo ’06.

While at Widener Law, Brown served as articles editor for the Delaware Journal of Corporate Law. He was also a Wolcott Fellow, serving the Honorable Andrew G.T. Moore, II of the Delaware Supreme Court in 1989-90. Montejo served as managing editor for the Delaware Journal of Corporate Law and was a Wolcott Fellow for the Honorable Myron T. Steele, Chief Justice of the Delaware Supreme Court.

“We are proud of Mr. Brown’s and Mr. Montejo’s professional successes,” said Dean Ammons. This extraordinary landmark decision must be a highlight of their careers thus far. We are always pleased to see Widener Alumni blazing a trail in law.”

“This generous donation will make a real difference in the lives of deserving students who come to Widener for our corporate law program. It is a critical, fast-paced area of the law, and I look forward to seeing this gift create opportunities for students who have bright legal minds and an intense interest in the subject.”

Ruby R. Vale Professor of Corporate and Business Law Lawrence A. Hamermesh
Hon. Eugene DePasquale ’02

Balance, Efficiency, Timing:
The public service of Eugene DePasquale

Elected Pennsylvania Auditor General in 2012, Hon. Eugene DePasquale is the first Widener Law grad to win statewide office in the commonwealth.

Pennsylvania Auditor General Eugene DePasquale ’02, who played baseball and football at the College of Wooster and once had a tryout with the Kansas City Royals, has a great office in which to talk sports and politics. He got there using an effective balance of study, hard work, native talent, and a focus on efficiency, which has been a driving force in his career.

In 2006, with the commonwealth still up in arms about the legislative pay raise scandal, DePasquale ran to fill the house seat vacated by Rep. Steve Stetler. He won on a platform of fiscal responsibility and transparency and was true to his word, posting his office’s expenses online, returning unused portions of his budget, and co-sponsoring the state’s new open records law.

This drive for efficiency led to his successful run for auditor general in 2012. His opponent stressed the need for accounting credentials in the office, but DePasquale and the voters disagreed.

“It’s a quirk of history that an accountant has never been the state’s auditor general,” he says. “It’s more of a legal function. The skills that I have as an attorney and my time as a legislator provided a perfect background from which to enter the job.” He was the first Widener Law graduate elected to statewide office in Pennsylvania and the first York Countian since 1954.

DePasquale has been a leader in his community for some time, though he is not a native. While pursuing his MPA at the University of Pittsburgh, he traveled east to take an internship in central Pennsylvania. His timing was good; the opportunity gave him both familiarity with the area and a reason to stay.

Timing also played a role in his choice of law school. “Widener was the place that gave me the flexibility I needed,” he says—the flexibility to pursue a career and raise a family.

Both were in full swing. While enrolled, and with a young child at home, he became director of economic development for the city of York. “It was a grind,” he says of balancing the competing demands of law school, family, and a new career in the public sector. “Going at night was a different experience. We had a group that would hang out together and help each other get through it…. As far as the professors go, I thought they were top-notch. I was always appreciative that they knew that in the night program your life was different than that of a day student.”

In 2003, his law degree in hand and his work with the city well underway, the governor’s office came calling, asking DePasquale to join the Department of Environmental Protection.

“When Governor Rendell was elected, he wanted someone at DEP who had a commitment to the environment but who also understood economic development,” says DePasquale. That meant efficient permitting processes, job development through clean energy efforts, and balancing the two sometime competing interests. He led the effort to bring the world’s second-largest wind energy company, Gamesa, to Pennsylvania, where it would locate its headquarters and create jobs. His experience at DEP served him well. While in the Pennsylvania house, he put it to use, authoring the Alternative Energy Investment Act, which incentivized clean energy development and overall energy efficiency, and sponsoring the Clean Energy Act, which proposed increasing the proportion of energy in the commonwealth produced from sustainable sources.

With his well-developed eye for efficiency, a run for auditor general seemed natural. Now on the job for several months, he has already launched an ambitious agenda. “Big picture—wise, we want to make sure the state is running as efficiently and effectively as possible,” he says. “On the micro side, we’re in an audit of our state’s water protection program to make sure that Marcellus Shale drilling isn’t negatively impacting our drinking water. We want to make sure that in our public schools—with the very tough budgets we’ve had at the state level—every dime possible is getting to the school level, and that when we find schools that are getting things right and making progress, we’re taking best practices in the high-performing districts and spreading the word about those.”

“We want to take a look at the money we’re spending on our job creation efforts, whether through grants or tax credits, and make sure we’re getting a good bang for the buck and people are getting back to work.”
“It’s always a question of whose ox is getting gored—whose constituents are most affected, and who can make the right political compromises. But at some point something will need to get done. Do I have confidence that it will be done in the next few months? No.”
—Health Law Institute director John Culhane on Medicaid and the fiscal cliff

“It shouldn’t take a lawyer six years to navigate a client through this system in order to get them the benefits that we as a country have promised them.”
—Veterans Law Clinic Director Justin Holbrook, on the broken system for veterans benefits in the United States

“Just because it’s tougher than others doesn’t mean it’s illegal.”
—Associate Professor Michael R. Dimino Sr. on Pennsylvania’s voter ID law

“[He is] a highly respected former federal prosecutor who will assist us in providing a comprehensive and independent examination of the facts.”
—Pennsylvania Attorney General Kathleen Kane, speaking about the appointment of Prof. Geoffrey Moulton as a special deputy to investigate the AG office’s handling of the Penn State child sexual abuse case

“An execution makes [the conversation] more real. It’s not just something you read about in the newspaper anymore or in court decisions. ... There are judges and certainly prosecutors who say the death penalty has no meaning because it’s never carried out, that it’s just sort of a remedy that has absolutely nothing to it.”
—Professor Judith Ritter on the death penalty in Pennsylvania

“Rather than talking about public benefit programs as benefitting—as they do in greatest measure—the elderly, through Social Security and Medicare, Republicans have mischaracterized government assistance as supporting Ronald Reagan’s apocryphal Cadillac-driving welfare queen; they created a wedge that used public benefits and racism.”
—Professor John Capowski in an Op-Ed

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—Professor John Capowski in an Op-Ed

“I think that this suit is in direct response to disappointment over the weakness of EPA’s rule, and it’s being brought by these eastern states because that’s where a lot of natural gas development is going on.... They’re trying to use EPA’s own positions to sort of box EPA in and force EPA to issue stronger regulations on these natural gas wells.”
—Environmental Law Clinic Director Ken Kristl on Delaware’s decision to join a multistate suit of the EPA over air pollution

“I think it will be very hard to get any bankruptcy legislation passed to address some of the bar’s concerns. The last big changes to the bankruptcy code happened after eight years of debate. I think the big bankruptcy questions are going to be decided by the courts.”
—Professor Juliette Morigiello on Delaware’s bankruptcy code

“As you form your own judgment about affirmative action, try considering what our society should want from its educational institutions. Is their job merely to train students in the arts and sciences or also to prepare students for life and a career in a diverse world?”
—Distinguished Professor Alan E. Garfield, writing in his “Bench Press” column

“If you see this as a justice issue, it transforms the way you debate about 10 issues in the climate change negotiations.”
—Environmental Law Center Visiting Scholar Donald Brown, on the intersection of environmental policy and religion
Media carrying recent faculty appearances and quotations:

360.com
ABA Journal
Altoona Mirror
Baltimore Sun
Bloomberg Businessweek
Bloomberg News
Bloomberg.com
Business Talk Radio Network
Cape Gazette
Cardhub.com
CBS News
Chambersburg Public Opinion
Chicago Tribune
Citizen’s Voice
CNBC
Coachella Valley Business Weekly
CSRwire
Delaware County Daily Times
Delaware Law Weekly
Delaware State News
Dover Post
Financial Post
Gay Marriage Watch
Greenwire
Hartford Courant
Houston Chronicle
Huffington Post
KCBS-AM San Francisco
Lambda Weekly on KNON 89.3 FM
   Dallas, Texas
Leader-Post
Legal Intelligencer
NBC 10 Philadelphia
NerdWallet
New York Times
News Journal
Newsday
NewsWorks
NPR’s All Things Considered
NPR’s It’s All Politics
Orlando Sentinel
PA Environmental Digest
Patriot-News
PBS, Frontline
Pennsylvania Cable Network
Philadelphia Inquirer
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette
Pittsburgh Tribune
Reuters
Salisbury News
San Francisco Chronicle
Slate
Slate.com
Sports Illustrated
Standard Speaker
The Chronicle of Higher Education
The Gil Gross Program on
   Newstalk 910 (KKSF)
The Legal Intelligencer
The Miami Herald
The Morning Call
The New Civil Rights Movement
The Philadelphia Jewish Voice
The Sentinel
The StarPhoenix
The Times of India
The Times-Tribune
Tribune-Review
USA Today
Washington Post
WBOC-TV 16 Delmarva
WCAU-TV NBC
WDDE 91.1 FM
WDEL 1150 AM
WFMZ-TV, CNN News Affiliate
WHTM-TV ABC 27 Harrisburg
WHYY Newsworks
WHYY Radio Times
WITF.org
WITF-FM Radio Smart Talk
WIXX-FM
WNJQ 1360 AM
WTXF-TV Fox 29
Yahoo! News
Yahoo! News Canada
York Daily Record
Widener Law and DuPont Partner in IP Program

Widener Law again teamed up with DuPont to present a daylong intellectual property symposium, this year featuring David Kappos, director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Hundreds of legal professionals, corporate officials, and others gathered to hear Mr. Kappos, who is also the under secretary of commerce for intellectual property and advises President Obama on intellectual property matters. Prof. Sonia Baldia organized and moderated the event with DuPont’s sponsorship and support.

From left, Dean Linda L. Ammons; featured speaker David Kappos, director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and under secretary of commerce for intellectual property; Widener Law student Daniel Ritterbeck, president of the school’s Intellectual Property Society; Sean Smith, vice president of the society; U.S. Sen. Chris Coons; and Michael Walker, DuPont vice president and chief intellectual property counsel.

Student Team Wins ABA Regional Negotiation Competition, Advances to National

Delaware campus students Caroline Donato and Sean Smith advanced to the ABA Law Student Division’s National Negotiation Competition Finals in Dallas, Texas, after winning the regional event in Baltimore. “It really is an honor to be going on behalf of Widener,” Smith said.

Donato added, “One of the most consistent themes is that it’s been fun. That’s probably one the reasons we’ve been so successful.”

Donato and Smith credit Assistant Dean and Alternative Dispute Resolution Society faculty advisor Patrick Johnston, as well as ADRS president Geoffrey Gleason and vice president Chris Pine, with helping them prepare effectively.

Students Shine in IP Competitions

As 2L students, Sean Smith and Daniel Ritterbeck were interested in developing their transactional practice skills. Smith says, “At the time, finding any organizations that provided such opportunities proved unsuccessful.”

So, they created their own opportunity. Members of the Intellectual Property Law Society, they founded the Intellectual Property Transactional Law Competition Team under the mentorship of society faculty advisor Prof. Sonia Baldia. The team, which also included 3L Edward Margulis, 2L Michael Terkanian, 2L Brian King, and 2L Andrew Patrick, embarked on a months-long preparation for competition. Success followed quickly.


Several months later, at the 2012 National IP Meet in Philadelphia, the team placed third. Smith says, “Professor Baldia is remarkably knowledgeable about transactional work and provided an essential understanding of IP and practical experience that was absolutely essential to our learning and preparing for success in the competition.”
High-Profile Cases Come into Focus on Both Campuses

The Penn State child sexual abuse scandal helped inspire programs on both campuses focusing on high-profile cases. In Harrisburg, “Legal Implications of the Sandusky Scandal” featured four panel discussions on topics ranging from the vulnerability of child victims to ethical concerns in abuse cases. In Delaware, just ten days after former Penn State football coach Jerry Sandusky was sentenced, his lead defense attorney, Joe Amendola, spoke to a full house as part of “High Profile, High Impact Criminal Cases,” presented by the Taishoff Advocacy, Technology and Public Service Institute. Other speakers included Jeffrey Lindy, a member of the defense team for Monsignor William Lynn of Philadelphia; Joshu Harris, a Philadelphia assistant district attorney and a member of an American Bar Association task force on “Stand Your Ground” laws; and Joshua Sanders, a New Jersey Public Defender Office appellate attorney who helped spearhead the defense of Larry Henderson.

Annual Pileggi Lecture

Lyman P. O. Johnson, the Robert O. Bentley Professor of Law at Washington and Lee University School of Law, delivered the 2012 annual Francis G. Pileggi Distinguished Lecture in Law at the Hotel du Pont in Wilmington. He spoke on “Unsettled and Unsettling Issues in Corporate Law” at a breakfast event, then gave an encore lecture to students on the Delaware campus.

U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York Preet Bharara

The South Asian Bar Association of Delaware marked its fifth anniversary by hosting U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York Preet Bharara on the Delaware campus. Named one of Time magazine’s “100 Most Influential People in the World” in 2012, Bharara is known for his high-profile prosecutions of insider trading and other financial fraud on Wall Street. He has also successfully prosecuted several international terrorists, including the Times Square Bomber, Faisal Shazad, and modern-day pirate Abduwali Abdukadir.
National Advisory Council Gathers on Delaware Campus

The National Advisory Council held its annual meeting with Dean Linda L. Ammons on the Delaware campus. Comprised of experts in law, business, and education, the council provides the dean expert advice on a variety of issues.


LALSA Hispanic Heritage Month Mixer

The Delaware campus Latin American Law Students Association observed Hispanic Heritage Month with an outdoor mixer that drew students, alumni, and friends from the Hispanic legal community in the tristate area. Association President Claudia Bustamonte (center) recognized Thomas A. Warnock Sr. (left), in-house counsel at DuPont, and Marcus Montejo ’06 (right) of Prickett, Jones & Elliott, P.A. Warnock served as the event chef and Montejo is president of the Delaware Hispanic Bar Association, which provided support for the mixer.

International Law Takes Center Stage

The Delaware campus International Law Society hosted a discussion about the importance of the United Nations to U.S. foreign policy, the benefits of the U.N. system as a whole, and the significance of United States compliance with international law. Speakers included Gillian Martin Sorensen, senior advisor at the United Nations Foundation, and Ambassador Robert Grey Jr., director of the bipartisan security group at the Global Security Institute, a nonprofit organization that promotes security for all through the elimination of nuclear weapons.

Retired Ambassador to Oman John Craig spoke at the Harrisburg campus on the topic, “Understanding the Conflict in Syria... It’s Really all about Iran.” Craig also served as special assistant to the president and senior director for combating terrorism under President George W. Bush.

From left, Vice Dean Robyn Meadows, Ambassador John Craig, and Dean of Students Keith Sealing
Martin Luther King Activities Highlight History, Accomplishments

The law school honored Paulette Sullivan Moore, the first African-American woman to pass the Delaware bar, with the school’s Martin Luther King Service Award. Sullivan Moore, who serves as vice president of public policy for the National Network to End Domestic Violence, was honored as someone who has lived King’s dream and manifested in her life’s work commitments to community service and social justice. She served as keynote speaker for the Delaware campus Martin Luther King holiday program.

The next day, the Harrisburg campus marked the holiday with a historical talk by Distinguished Professor Michael J. Cozzillio on the Negro Leagues and players breaking the color barrier in major league baseball.

Garrison, Hemphill Retire

Longtime Delaware campus staff members Paula Garrison and Dorothy Hemphill retired in 2012 after a combined six decades of service to Widener. Garrison began at Widener in 1982, eventually becoming assistant to the dean. Hemphill began her career in 1981 and rose to the position of registrar, overseeing offices on both campuses. The university recognized both women on several occasions over the years. Most recently, Garrison was the recipient of the 2012 William David Eckard Jr. Awards for Distinguished Service to Widener University. Hemphill received the Employee Appreciation Award for the spring 2012 semester. Both will be missed.

Law & Government Institute

The Law & Government Institute launched a new partnership with Pennsylvania Cable Network, which will produce six “Law & Government Forum” news discussion shows. Featuring a panel of Widener Law professors and other thought leaders, the forums provide analysis of timely topics and ample time for audience participation.
Widener Law celebrated the successes of its alumni in Pennsylvania’s state government at a reception in the capitol. More than 100 people gathered in the East Wing Rotunda to socialize and hear from Dean Linda L. Ammons and multiple alumni elected to office in the commonwealth. “Tonight we recognize your commitment to embodying excellence in the law, ethical conduct, and the standard of unselfish service that we have sought to instill in each of our graduates since the law school’s founding,” Ammons said.

New York Alumni gathered to catch up and hear remarks by Richard White ’90, who was appointed by Governor Cuomo as the first Deputy Commissioner of the Tenant Protection Unit for the New York State Homes & Community Renewal.
New Lawyers Join the Pennsylvania Bar at Ceremonies in Harrisburg and Philadelphia

The capitol’s Supreme Court Chamber was the site of the swearing-in ceremony for Harrisburg campus graduates newly admitted to the Pennsylvania bar. Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice and Widener Law Jurist in Residence Thomas G. Saylor presided. In Philadelphia, Widener Law graduates were admitted at the Honorable Charles P. Mirarchi, Jr. Pennsylvania Bar Induction Ceremony in City Hall. Newly admitted attorneys were joined by several members of the judiciary: Hon. Paul P. Panepinto ’76, Hon. George W. Overton ’86, Hon. Margaret T. Murphy ’77, and Hon. Pamela Pryor Dembe, each of whom gave remarks. William P. Fedullo ’76, Chancellor-Elect of the Philadelphia Bar Association, moved the group for admission.

Firms Host Widener Women’s Network Events

K&L Gates LLP and the Widener Women’s Network Harrisburg chapter hosted a luncheon with Hon. Anne E. Covey ’84 serving as guest speaker. Her topic: “Navigating to Success.” In Philadelphia, the Widener Women’s Network welcomed Professor Doretta McGinnis, associate director of the law school’s legal writing program. Sponsored by Miriam Barish ’92 at her law firm, Anapol Schwartz, Professor McGinnis’s talk at the luncheon addressed her experience practicing at a large firm contrasted with her position in legal academia.
Rising Leaders Mark Successes in Harrisburg and Delaware

Nearly 70 recent Harrisburg graduates gathered at Tröegs Brewing Company to celebrate their successes and hear from Vice Dean Robyn L. Meadows, Assistant Director of Financial Aid Kara Wealand, and Matthew Krupp ’08, of the Pennsylvania Dept. of Labor & Industry.

In Wilmington, recent Delaware bar passers gathered to celebrate and for remarks by Marcus Montejo ’06 and Delaware Supreme Court Justice Randy Holland. Justice Holland, a member of Widener Law’s Board of Overseers and adjunct faculty, reminded the alumni of the small but elite bar they have joined. Mr. Montejo advised, “…work hard and your reputation will reflect that. We are a small bar so your reputation is one of the most important things you have.”

Legacy Pathway Dedicated

Dean Ammons celebrated the many successes and the generous philanthropy of its alumni, friends, and students at a Harrisburg campus ceremony dedicating the new legacy pathway. Featuring engraved pavers contributed by the Widener Law community, the pathway honors their contributions and achievements and supports the Widener Law Fund as well.

LEAVE YOUR LEGACY

Visit lawalumni.widener.edu/waystogive or call 302-477-2754
Delaware Class of 2002 Celebrates 10 Years

The Delaware campus class of 2002 gathered in Delaware for a reunion, after which they repaired to Scrimmages to continue the celebration. Organized by Donna Lumpkin Thompson, Renee Veney Duval, and Angela LaManna, the evening included a game of 2002 trivia and prizes awarded for the alumni with the most children, the most degrees, the most miles traveled to attend the reunion, and more. Melissa Dutton said, “It was so great getting together to spend time with old classmates and friends and hear about their careers and families. Although it had been 10 years since some of us saw each other, it felt like we had been together just yesterday. As I said the night of the reunion, the friends I made at Widener Law are friends for life! Thanks to everyone that made this happen!”

To those unable to attend ... we missed you!

Minority Students and Alumni Gather for Annual Social

More than 80 students and alumni attended Dean Linda Ammons’ Minority Student and Alumni Networking Social on the Delaware campus. The event drew a diverse crown, representing eight states and a variety of countries including Peru, Turkey, China, and Pakistan.

Harrisburg Alumni, Faculty & Staff Run/Walk

Alumni—and future alumni—enjoyed the student-alumni Fun Run/Walk hosted by the Dean of Students Office. Students, faculty/staff, alumni, and family are invited to participate in this annual event.

Robert O’Connor ’95 Presents to Delaware County Alumni Chapter

The Delaware County Alumni Chapter, chaired by Jonathan Peri ’99, hosted a luncheon and CLE program in Media, Pennsylvania. The CLE portion of the program, titled “Municipal Law and Local Government,” was presented by alumnus Robert O’Connor, Esq., who graduated in 1995.
Third-year student Sara Horatius and first-year student Andre Mason have a few things in common. As undergraduates, they both majored in philosophy—Horatius at Temple, Mason at York College of Pennsylvania. Both credit the discipline’s intensive regimen of reading, writing, and critical thinking as good preparation for the study of law. Both attended the JURIST Academy—the law school’s summer program for academically accomplished undergraduates from groups historically underrepresented in legal education. The two-week summer program teaches and refines the skills necessary for admission to and success in law school, which both cite an interest in attending from childhood.

Horatius, a Boston native, says, “My parents and I used to rent. Our landlord was a bad landlord, and I wanted to sue...” However, it was an e-mail she received about the JURIST Academy while at Temple’s law society that made her realistically consider the possibility of becoming an attorney. She applied to the program, though she estimated her chances to be poor. She was wrong. In the summer of 2009, she entered the JURIST Academy. It was her first exposure to Widener.

Mason’s impetus was tragedy. He says, “In September of 1999 I lost a brother due to senseless violence... While the guy was apprehended and he is now serving time for his crime, I realized that I wanted to help someone get the same type of closure that I received, at least from a legal perspective. I received the catalyst necessary to keep pushing myself to be better as a person...and here I am.”

It was through a member of his parents’ church that he heard about the JURIST Academy. His application resulted in admission to the inaugural Harrisburg program.

Launched in Delaware in 2008 in response to continuing underrepresentation among ethnic and other minorities in the legal profession, the JURIST Academy selects promising undergraduates from regional colleges and universities and provides them a tuition-free, two-week-long intensive preview of the law school experience—LSAT preparation and mock testing, condensed coursework, and in-depth conversations with distinguished members of the regional bar and judiciary. The program expanded to Harrisburg in 2011.

For both Horatius and Mason, the JURIST Academy focused their interest, honed their skills, and gave them the confidence that legal education and careers were within the realm of possibility.

“It cemented my interest in being a lawyer,” Mason says. “I had the skills and the mindset, but I didn’t know if I wanted it. It was a lot of fun—very intense, very time-consuming.”

Prof. Starla Williams, director of the Harrisburg JURIST Academy, says, “Andre was well-respected by his peers and quickly emerged as a ‘lead thinker’ among the aspiring law students.”

After considering several admissions offers, he enrolled at the Delaware campus—its proximity to his Philadelphia home having won out over his attachment to the Harrisburg campus. He likes the friendly, but challenging, environment. “The Widener community is inclusive,” he says. “It’s a very competitive environment—and that’s understood at a foundational level—but it’s still very friendly.”

Horatius credits the program’s regimen of in-depth exposure to legal professionals in the field with further piquing her interest. In 2010, she applied to TAP, completed it successfully, and enrolled at Delaware. Now at the end of a successful legal academic career, she reflects, “The best thing I’ve done was interning with York immigration court last year. I want to do immigration law.”

Mason says, “This is cliché, but I want to help people...I’m still not entirely sure what area of law that I want to get into, as many different fields interest me, but as long as I’m helping someone resolve their disputes with others, I’ll be happy.”

SELECTED 2012-2013 JURIST ACADEMY SPONSORS

Ballard Spahr, LLP
Central Pennsylvania College
DuPont
Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott, LLC
Fox Rothschild, LLP
Highmark, Inc.
Keystone Bar Association
Morris James, LLP
Pennsylvania Bar Association
Pepper Hamilton, LLP
Reilly Janiczek & McDevitt, P.C.
Rhoads & Sinon LLP
Richards, Layton, and Finger
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher, and Flom, LLP
The Delaware Bar Foundation
The Gilliam Foundation
Tucker Law Group
Young, Conaway, Stargatt & Taylor, LLP

Thank you to the many individual donors as well who make our JURIST Academy program a success.
Bringing Relief

Within days of Hurricane Sandy, both campuses’ Student Bar Associations organized relief efforts for the storm’s victims. The Harrisburg campus SBA collected food and other necessities as well as monetary donations in support of Red Cross efforts. Some traveled to areas affected by the storm to provide assistance directly. “The generosity of the Harrisburg campus never ceases to amaze me,” Student Bar Association President Kristen Potter said.

Meanwhile, nearly 40 students from the Delaware campus climbed aboard a chartered bus made possible by law school overseer John T. Carroll III ’81 of Cozen O’Connor and jammed with food, clothing, and other supplies donated by the campus community. They traveled to Ventnor City, New Jersey, delivering supplies to a local church for distribution and then getting to work on the homes of an Ocean City senior citizen and others.
ARE YOU NOTABLE?

Tell us why.
Please feel free to include a photograph as well (digital 300 dpi or hard copy). We look forward to hearing from you.

1975

LARRY S. RAIKEN has become a solo practitioner under the name Larry S Raiken LLC.

1976

HON. THOMAS F. LIOTTI held a Constitution Day celebration in Westbury Village Justice Court, New York, where he invited distinguished lawyers, judges, and elected officials to speak.

1979

HON. RAYMOND A. BATTEN was appointed Presiding Judge of the General Equity Division, Superior Court, Vicinage I, Atlantic/Cape May Counties, New Jersey.

1980

BERNARD W. SMALLEY has been named to the Super Lawyers “Top 100 Philadelphia Super Lawyers” list.

1981

ANDREW E. DI PIERO of Baratta, Russell & Baratta in Huntingdon Valley, Pennsylvania, has been elected to the board of directors of Quaint Oak Bank, which has offices in Bucks and Lehigh counties, Pennsylvania.

GREGORY M. MCCANLEY authored TAXJAMS: Simple Solutions, a book on IRS tax collection matters.

1982

KEVIN F. BRADY was named to the Lawdragon “500 Leading Lawyers in America” list.

ROBERT T. SZOSTAK, co-chair of the Philadelphia Bar Association State Civil Litigation Section, developed and served as a course moderator of a comprehensive multi-county civil litigation practice seminar at the Bar Association Bench Bar Conference in Atlantic City, New Jersey. He also presented “Views from a Plaintiff’s Attorney” to physicians and attorneys at Einstein Medical Center Montgomery as part of the Anatomy of a Lawsuit CME/CLE Program jointly sponsored by the Montgomery County Medical Society, Montgomery Bar Association, and Abington Memorial Hospital.

1984

CHARLENE D. DAVIS was recognized by Chambers USA for outstanding achievement in bankruptcy and restructuring and was named to the “Best Lawyers in America” 2013 list for bankruptcy and creditor debtor rights/insolvency as well as reorganization law and bankruptcy litigation.

JOSEPH J. FOX was elected a fellow of the College of Labor & Employment Lawyers.

1985

TODD BERKEY was selected to the “Top 100 Philadelphia Super Lawyers” by Super Lawyers magazine.

CLAUDIA L. HUOT has been made partner at Wisler Pearlstine in Blue Bell, Pennsylvania. She recently won a Third Circuit Court of Appeals victory on behalf of the Abington School District regarding the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act in D.K. v. Abington School District and also served as moderator of a presentation at Lehigh University’s 40th Annual Special Education Law Conference on the topic, “Legal Issues and Trends in Emotional Disturbance Identification.”

Send your class note to:
Office of Development & Alumni Relations
Attn: Class Notes
Widener University School of Law
P.O. Box 7474
Wilmington, DE 19803-0474

Or e-mail us:
law_alumni@mail.widener.edu
1986

THOMAS F. SACCHETTA was named to the “Top 100 Philadelphia Super Lawyers” list by Super Lawyers magazine.

HON. PETER E. WARSHAW was confirmed as judge of the Superior Court of New Jersey.

1987

DAVID H. DEPENBERG has been named to the Philadelphia Bar Association executive committee.

MARK F. HIMSWORTH was elected to the board of directors of the Montgomery Bar Association.

ANDREW J. REILLY succeeded Pennsylvania Governor Tom Corbett on the Delaware River Port Authority board of commissioners.

1988

FREDERICK P. SANTARELLI was named to the “Top 100 Philadelphia Super Lawyers” list by Super Lawyers magazine.

1989

TIMOTHY R. LAWN was named to the “Top 100 Philadelphia Super Lawyers” list by Super Lawyers magazine.

PAUL T. PARRINI was appointed general counsel and secretary of YuMe, a provider of digital brand advertising software and services based in Redwood City, California.

CORINNE M. WEBB was appointed associate vice president of enrollment at Wayne State University.

1990

DALE S. ARDIZZONE has been promoted to COO of The Inspiration Networks. He will continue to serve as general counsel, with expanded oversight including sales, distribution, and communications.

EMMANUEL J. ARGENTIERI has been named to SJ Magazine’s “Top Attorneys in Southern Jersey” list in the area of bankruptcy law.

PETER L. FRATTARELLI participated on a panel that discussed the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act during the Hispanic Leadership Summit of New Jersey at Rowan University.

ANDREW F. GARRUTO has been accepted as a board-certified civil trial advocate by the National Board of Trial Advocacy.

GREGORY A. LOMAX has joined Lauletta Birnbaum as a member in the firm’s Turnersville, New Jersey, location. Mr. Lomax’s practice focuses on business disputes involving partnerships, closely held corporations, corporate governance matters, and other complex business and real property disputes as well as unfair trade and trademark matters, land use, real estate, insurance, and general equity litigation.

MARY ANN PLANKINTON-PEACH of the Chester County, Pennsylvania, firm MacElree Harvey, has been named a “Top Lawyer” by Delaware Today magazine and an “Awesome Attorney” by Suburban Life magazine.

JAMES J. RUGGIERO JR. of Ruggiero Law Offices in Paoli, Pennsylvania, has been named a “Top Lawyer” in “Estate, Trust & Elder Law” in Main Line Today magazine.

1991

THOMAS A. STEVENS joined McCarter & English LLP as a partner in the firm’s Wilmington, Delaware, office. Mr. Stevens practices patent law.

1992

JOHN F. BARRETT coordinated the 2012 Northeast Region On-Site Legal Conference for the United States Army in Philadelphia.
JEFFREY M. CARBINO joined the Bankruptcy and Creditors’ Rights Practice Group of Cohen Seglias in the firm’s Philadelphia and Delaware offices.

ALFRED J. CARLSON has been named to the Super Lawyers’ “Top 100 Philadelphia Super Lawyers” list.

EILEEN M. COGGINS has joined AmeriHealth Mercy Family of Companies (AMFC) as its senior vice president, compliance and risk management.

HON. CARL C. DANBERG, commissioner of the Delaware Department of Corrections, was confirmed to the Delaware Court of Common Pleas.

HON. RISA VETRI FERMAN, Montgomery County (Pennsylvania) district attorney, has been named a L’Oreal Paris Woman of Worth. The Women of Worth campaign recognizes women who are making a difference in their communities. She was also awarded the Lewis Hine Award for Service to Children by the National Child Labor Committee.

HOWARD JAFFE has been appointed a founding board member of Teen Cancer America, Inc, the U.S. charity of the band The Who. The charity works with hospitals to establish specialized oncology units for teenagers.

HON. SUSAN E. SCHWAB was appointed U.S. magistrate judge for the U.S. District Court, Middle District of Pennsylvania at Harrisburg.

LISA SHEARMAN spearheaded a “Wills for Heroes” event in Lansdale, Pennsylvania, for the men and women of the Plymouth Community Ambulance Association as well as other local police, fire, and EMT departments. This event was sponsored by her firm, Hamburg, Rubin, Mullin, Maxwell & Lupin. She also presented “Wheel of Fortune vs. Family Feud—Avoid the Dispute, Prepare a Will” at the Philadelphia Legal Secretaries Association.

HON. R. MARIE BERGER, Montgomery County (Pennsylvania) court of common pleas judge, has been named a L’Oreal Paris Woman of Worth. The Women of Worth campaign recognizes women who are making a difference in their communities. She was also awarded the Lewis Hine Award for Service to Children by the National Child Labor Committee.

HOWARD JAFFE has been appointed a founding board member of Teen Cancer America, Inc, the U.S. charity of the band The Who. The charity works with hospitals to establish specialized oncology units for teenagers.

JOEL J. FELLER of Ross Feller Casey, LLP, represented several of the victims in the Jerry Sandusky case, including three who testified in Sandusky’s criminal trial, and successfully argued a case against an outpatient center in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, where a 17-year-old girl died after a routine tonsillectomy, resulting in a settlement and policy changes at the surgical center.

ANNMARI KAESER was appointed to a three-year term on the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board by Governor Tom Corbett.

WILLIAM O. KREKSTEIN has been named a shareholder at Nelson Levine de Luca & Hamilton, based in Blue Bell, Pennsylvania.

JEFFREY S. MASOM was named managing director, national accounts, at Legg Mason & Co., LLC, Global Asset Management in Baltimore, Maryland.

CHARLES P. NEELY was unanimously approved as a proctor in admiralty by the Maritime Law Association of the United States (MLA).

HON. VIVIAN L. RAPPOSELLI, secretary for the Department of Services for Children, Youth & their Families, was confirmed to the Delaware Superior Court Bench.

ROBIN B. SNYDER, a shareholder in the Scranton, Pennsylvania, office of Marshall Dennehey Warner Coleman & Goggin, was elected to the firm’s board of directors at their annual shareholders meeting.

ROBERT TORRES joined the Capital BlueCross, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, team as vice president for health information technology. He has also been elected by the Pennsylvania eHealth Initiative as its board chairperson for 2013.

Left to right: Michelle Healey, Christina Organtini, Ethan O’Shea Esq., Lisa Shearman Esq. ’92, Joan Wean, Bernadette A. Kearney Esq., and Susan Piette Esq. at the Wills for Heroes event organized by Ms. Shearman.

1993

MARY H. BURCHIK of Buzgon Davis Law Offices in Lebanon, Pennsylvania, has been named to Philadelphia magazine’s “Pennsylvania Super Lawyers 2012, The Ultimate Guide to the Best Attorneys in Pennsylvania.”

JOEL J. FELLER of Ross Feller Casey, LLP, represented several of the victims in the Jerry Sandusky case, including three who testified in Sandusky’s criminal trial, and successfully argued a case against an outpatient center in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, where a 17-year-old girl died after a routine tonsillectomy, resulting in a settlement and policy changes at the surgical center.

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1994

MEGAN L. CONSEDINE was unanimously confirmed as secretary/parliamentarian for the Pennsylvania State Senate.

GINA R. FURIA RUBEL’S marketing firm, Furia Rubel, was named the top legal marketing agency in The Legal Intelligencer “Best of 2012.” Furia Rubel has earned the number-one or “gold” ranking in two consecutive years and has placed in the top tier in each of the last three.

DANIEL T. GALLO was one of 10 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency employees nationwide honored for helping federal agencies protect the environment through smarter purchases and use of electronic products. Gallo’s efforts helped federal agencies save $78 million and cut harmful greenhouse gas emissions last year, earning him the 2012 Federal Electronics Challenge Award.

LISA B. GOODMAN was the recipient of the ACLU of Delaware’s 2012 Kandler Memorial Award.

RICHARD I. G. JONES JR. has been named state director of The Delaware Chapter of The Nature Conservancy. Mr. Jones has practiced in corporate litigation for 18 years, most recently with Ashby & Geddes in Wilmington, and serves as a trustee or committee member for a variety of environmental and educational organizations.

HON. LINDA M. KASSEKERT has been confirmed as a New Jersey administrative law judge.

HEMANT PATHAK was promoted to assistant general counsel at Microsoft. He is based in the company’s Washington, D.C., area offices and is legal counsel for Microsoft’s Healthcare, Life Sciences, and Federal Government industry divisions.

PETER RUSSO was honored in the Harrisburg Magazine “Simply the Best” listings in the family law attorney category.

1995

JENNIFER-KATE M. AARONSON was appointed Chief Disciplinary Counsel in the Office of Disciplinary Counsel by the Delaware Supreme Court.

TIMOTHY F. RAYNE of the Chester County, Pennsylvania, law firm MacElree Harvey, has been named a “Super Lawyer” by Philadelphia magazine and Super Lawyers magazine. Mr. Rayne was also named a “Top 100 Lawyer” in Philadelphia and Pennsylvania, the only Chester County attorney named on those lists.

JAMES A. ROCCO III has been elected to the Philadelphia Bar Association board of governors. He was the course planner and featured speaker for the Pennsylvania Bar Institute-sponsored seminar “Paternity Cases: Is the Standard for Paternity in Pennsylvania Changing?” in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania.

JULIA SWAIN presented a webinar, “Prenuptial Agreements for First, Subsequent and Later-In-Life Marriages,” through Strafford Publications.

1996

HON. J. CHRISTOPHER GIBSON was sworn in as a Superior Court Judge in Cape May Court House, New Jersey.

DONALD A. NOGOWSKI has been named to the SJ Magazine “Top Attorneys in Southern Jersey” list in the area of bankruptcy law.

GREGORY W. WERKHIESER, a member of Morris Nichols’ business reorganization and restructuring group, was named to the advisory board of Widener Law’s Institute of Delaware Corporate and Business Law.

1997

EDWARD B. MICHELETTI of Skadden Arps in Wilmington has published a book, Mergers and Acquisitions Deal Litigation under Delaware Corporation Law, with three co-authors.

PAUL A. SOCHANACHAK has been named to the SJ Magazine “Top Attorneys in Southern Jersey” list in automobile law.

RHODIA D. THOMAS was elected to the Pennsylvania Bar Institute’s board.

HON. DAMON G. TYNER was confirmed as an Atlantic County, New Jersey, administrative law judge.

1998

JEFFREY CAMPOLONGO was named to The Legal Intelligencer “2012 Lawyers on the Fast Track” list.

LISA A. MILLER has been made partner at ConnorsLaw LLP in Exton, Pennsylvania. She practices in workers’ compensation.

JAMES D. SCHULTZ was appointed general counsel of the commonwealth by Pennsylvania Governor Tom Corbett.

STEPHANIE V. SHREIBMAN was named to the Philadelphia magazine “Pennsylvania Rising Stars” list and the Thomson Reuters, Legal magazine “Pennsylvania Super Lawyers” list.
1999

AIMEE R. BELGARD recently received the American Cancer Society’s most prestigious award, the St. George National Award, for her volunteer service in the fight against cancer.

2000

WILLIAM P. DOYLE was confirmed as a federal maritime commissioner.

BRIAN NAGLE of the Chester County, Pennsylvania, law firm MacElree Harvey has been named a Pennsylvania Rising Star by Philadelphia magazine and Pennsylvania Super Lawyers magazine.

DANTE RAVETTI was recently promoted at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and is looking forward to expanding his role by becoming a judge at the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences.

JEFFREY M. SEYFRIED has joined Weber Gallagher as an associate in the firm’s Harrisburg office. Mr. Seyfried focuses his practice in workers’ compensation defense.

AMY L. SMITH was named to the SJ Magazine “Top Attorneys in Southern Jersey” list in domestic violence law.

2001

EMMANUEL CAULK was appointed superintendent of the Portland, Maine, public school system.

MARIA C. MONTERO was a featured speaker at the Latino Harvest Festival in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania.

MICHAEL J. NEEDLEMAN presented an online CLE class for Lawline.com entitled, “Duty to Defend in New Jersey and Pennsylvania” for insurance professionals and attorneys who represent insurance companies.

KRISTIN W. PERI appeared on the Food Network’s “Sweet Genius” competition show hosted by Ron Ben-Israel, master pastry chef par excellence.

MATTHEW R. SHINDELL has been named special counsel at the Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, office of Goldberg Segalla.

2002

HON. RICHARD L. ALLOWAY was elected to the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education’s board of directors.

ROBERT DEAKEY joined Rawle & Henderson’s Delaware office as an associate. Mr. Deary concentrates his practice in the areas of workers’ compensation and professional liability matters.

EUGENE A. DEPASQUALE was elected Pennsylvania auditor general.

CHRISTINA L. HARDING was elected assistant chief public defender in Bradford County, Pennsylvania.

2003

ERIC M. ANDERSEN opened a boutique corporate litigation firm, Mark Andersen, P.A., in Wilmington, Delaware.

CINDY S. HUANG has joined Helsell Fetterman in Seattle, Washington, as an associate.

HERCULES W. GRIGOS has been made partner at Obermayer Rebmann Maxwell & Hippel LLP. He concentrates his practice in real estate development with an emphasis on zoning and land use.

THOMAS W. PURTELL has joined the San Francisco–based law firm Willis DePasquale, LLP, as an associate.

MATTHEW D. SCHELKOPF has been made partner at Chimicles & Tikellis LLP in the firm’s Haverford, Pennsylvania, office. He was recently recognized on the National Trial Lawyers’ “Top 40 Under 40” list and in “Lawyers on the Fast Track” by The Legal Intelligencer.

JENNIFER M. ZELVIN has joined the Philadelphia and Delaware offices of Rawle & Henderson, LLP, as an associate. Ms. Zelvin practices in bankruptcy, business finance, and commercial litigation and transactions.

THOMAS C. KELLY was promoted to member at Burns White LLC. Mr. Kelly focuses his practice in workers’ compensation, handling related litigation in Pennsylvania and New Jersey.
RAYMOND E. MACK has been made partner at Nelson Levine de Luca & Hamilton in Blue Bell, Pennsylvania.

2004

STEPHEN M. CAPRIOTTI has been made partner at Kelley Jasons McGowan Spinelli & Hanna & Reber LLP.

ROBerson has been named to the National Trial Lawyers “Top 40 Under 40” list.

WILLIAM C. MARTSON has joined Abom & Kutulakis, LLP, in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, as an associate.

2005

PAUL R. RUFFOLO and his wife Melissa recently welcomed their son Carter Cristiano Ruffolo.

2006

MATTHEW P. D’EMILIO has been selected to the Super Lawyers “Delaware Rising Stars” list.

BENEDICT R. HEINZ joined Weber Gallagher as an associate in firm’s Philadelphia office.

EVAN Y. LIU, MD, and Royce W. Smith, LL.M., of Feldman Shepherd Wohlgelernter Tanner Weinstock & Dodig LLP, presented “Social Media & Ethics” and “Ethical Considerations of Social Media Marketing” at a continuing education conference held at Temple University’s Fort Washington campus.

MELISSA L. MIGNONNA was recognized in the SJ Magazine “Top Attorneys in Southern Jersey” list in domestic violence law.

MATHEW L. SAMPSOn was named of counsel at the law firm Steptoe & Johnson’s Bridgeport, West Virginia, office.

2007

JASON D. CHRISTIAN joined Capital Institutional Services, Inc., in Dallas, Texas, as general counsel, director of compliance. He and his wife LEAH TRESSLER CHRISTIAN ’08 recently welcomed a daughter, Cecilia Jem Christian.

MARIA E. HARRIS was named vice chair of the Pennsylvania Bar Association Young Lawyers Division.

ROBERT F. MANZI has joined Holsinger, Clark, & Armstrong P.C. in Indiana, Pennsylvania. Mr. Manzi practices in civil litigation, criminal defense, estate planning and settlement, and mineral, gas, and oil rights.

LAUREN K. MILKS of Lamb McErlane was selected to be a member of the United Way of Chester County (Pennsylvania) Community Investment Team.

JOHN P. SANDERSON was recently named a Pennsylvania Super Lawyers Rising Star for 2012.

TARA MONDELLI SCHELLHORN of Riker Danzig Scherer Hyland & Perretti’s Bankruptcy and Reorganization Group in Morrisstown, New Jersey, was named a New Jersey Super Lawyers Rising Star for the second consecutive year by Law & Politics magazine.

JARAD L. SILVERSTEIN was selected to the SJ Magazine “Top Attorneys in Southern Jersey” list in the area of medical malpractice.

JESSICA L. WRAY has been named general counsel at Post Acute Medical, LLC, a specialty healthcare company that provides post-acute services to medically complex and rehabilitation patients.

2008

DAVID J. CHAPMAN won a substantial judgment for a client blinded by an errant shotgun blast in Mifflinburg, Pennsylvania.

CHRISTINA M. FISHER was selected to the SJ Magazine “Pennsylvania Rising Stars” list for the second consecutive year.

ROBERT B. HAMILTON joined Saidis, Sullivan & Rogers in Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

JOSHUA H. ROMIROWSKY presented “Update on Combating Medical Provider Fraud: Bad Economy and the Plot Thickens” at the 2012 SUI/Insurance Fraud Seminar.

JOSHUA B. SCHWARTZ was elected to a two-year term on the Pennsylvania Association for Justice’s board of governors. Mr. Schwartz was also elected to serve as the vice chair of PAJ’s future leaders section.

ANNE P. SCHMIDT joined Burns White LLC’s Philadelphia office as health care and long-term care associate.

2009

MICHAEL L. BILEC of Capehart Scatchard in Mt. Laurel, New Jersey, has been promoted to shareholder.

ROBERT R. CALLI was appointed assistant district attorney in the Herkimer County. New York District Attorney’s Office.

DANIEL B. FIX and his fiancé are engaged and will marry in May.
ALEXANDRA C. KOKURA married Nicholas Frank Kravitz at St. John the Evangelist Church in Pittston, Pennsylvania.

KRISTIN A. MOLAVOQUE of the Chester County, Pennsylvania, law firm MacEldree Harvey, has been named to the “Awesome Attorneys” list by Suburban Life magazine and to the Super Lawyers “Pennsylvania Rising Stars” list.

ADAM L. SANTUCCI has been elected to the Humane Society of Harrisburg Area board of directors.

2011

ABRAHAM J. CEPEDA has joined the Community Justice Project in Reading, Pennsylvania. The network’s first immigration law expert, he will handle immigration cases for legal aid programs throughout the commonwealth.

KAAN EKINER has joined Rawle & Henderson’s Delaware office as an associate. Mr. Ekiner practices in product liability, bankruptcy, and business finance, premises liability, insurance coverage, workers’ compensation, and environmental, mass, and toxic torts.

JESSE B. HALLINAN joined Burns White LLC’s Philadelphia office as an associate. He practices in workers’ compensation.

TAISHA K. TOLLIVER has joined Burns White LLC in Cherry Hill, New Jersey. Ms. Tolliver is a health care and long-term care group associate, concentrating on medical and nursing home malpractice defense.

HANNAH L. WHITE-GIBSON has joined Saidis, Sullivan & Rogers in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. Mrs. White-Gibson practices in domestic law and transactional real estate.

2012

PETER T. RUTH has joined Stock & Leader in York, Pennsylvania, as an associate.

RECENT JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS

HON. RAYMOND A. BATTEN ’79, Presiding Judge, General Equity Division, Superior Court of New Jersey, Atlantic/Cape May Counties.

HON. CARL C. DANBERG ’92, Delaware Court of Common Pleas

HON. J. CHRISTOPHER GIBSON ’96, Superior Court of New Jersey, Cape May County

HON. LINDA M. KASSEKERT ’94, New Jersey Office of Administrative Law

HON. VIVIAN L. RAPPOSHELLI ’93, Superior Court of Delaware

HON. SUSAN E. SCHWAB ’92, U.S. Magistrate Judge, U.S. District Court, Middle District of Pennsylvania at Harrisburg.

IN MEMORIAM

Costas S. Krikelis ’75
Patrick J. McHugh ’75
Joseph P. Ryan ’78
John B. Sikorski ’80
Edward P. Kelly ’81
Donald E. Evans ’82
Benjamin D. Cowley ’82
Carl A. Malatesta ’97
Brian L. Ware ’02
Stephanie A. Harris ’03

HON. DAMON G. TYNER ’97, New Jersey Office of Administrative Law

HON. PETER E. WARSHAW JR. ’86, Superior Court of New Jersey, Mercer County, Family Division

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