“IT IS THROUGH GIVING BACK THAT WE TRULY MOVE FORWARD”
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Mary Allen, Laurie Grant, Mary Lamb, Mary Marzolla, Gilberte Pierre, Ed Sonnenberg, 
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Widener University School of Law Magazine

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Where has Widener Law taken you?
We’d like to feature your story. Write to us at law_alumni@mail.widener.edu.
“We need more programs like Widener’s clinic—because a lawyer at a survivor’s side . . . can make a big difference. Having taught at Widener for many years, I am as proud as I am grateful for all their work.”

Vice President Joe Biden

Out of Darkness
Widener’s Delaware Civil Law Clinic provides experiential learning for students and empowers survivors of domestic abuse

Law, Government & Gedid
Looking back and moving forward with Professor Emeritus John L. Gedid

Supreme Journey
The high profile case that brought Chuck Proctor ‘76 to the Supreme Court

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Dear Friends,

As we emerge from a long, cold winter into the warmth and promise of spring, it is wonderful to see signs of renewal all around us. Like the new growth of spring, we at Widener Law are continuously striving to grow, to move forward, to innovate, to improve. For those of you who are unaware, I am currently on sabbatical. The support I have received has been humbling and inspiring. I look forward to attending the 2014 graduation ceremonies and celebrating with our great Widener Law community.

Widener Law is in good hands under the skilled leadership of Interim Co-Deans Erin Daly in Delaware, and Robyn Meadows in Harrisburg. Erin and Robyn have a wealth of knowledge and experience, each serving as respected members of our faculty for more than 20 years.

We are moving ahead with our plans to make both campuses independent and poised to further capitalize on their inherent strengths.

One of the ways that we chart our progress and growth as individuals and as an institution, is by “giving back.” In fact, as said by Vice President Joseph Biden, “we need more programs like Widener’s clinic because a lawyer at a survivor’s side . . . can make a big difference.”

We also honor the career and contributions of Professor Emeritus John L. Gedid. As the founding vice dean of Widener Law’s Harrisburg campus and the creator of its centerpiece program, the Law and Government Institute, John leaves behind a lasting legacy. We explore John’s impressive career, his inspiration for the Law and Government Institute, and his thoughts on community service as a teaching tool for students and an ethical obligation for lawyers.

As the academic year 2013-2014 comes to a close, I continue to reflect on the many ways Widener Law students, alumni, faculty, and staff contribute to their communities. It is a source of pride. When we reach beyond ourselves, we enrich our own lives and the lives of those around us. It is through giving back that we truly move forward as better citizens and lawyers.

I wish you all the best in this season of hope, growth, and renewal. Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

LINDA L. AMMONS, JD
Associate Provost and Dean

Editor’s Note: As this magazine went to press, Dean Linda L. Ammons informed President Harris that she has made the difficult decision to retire from Widener Law at the end of this academic year. We support Dean Ammons, appreciate her distinguished service, and look forward to honoring her accomplishments in the near future.
"We are confident this is the right moment to pursue a formal organizational change that will better position each campus to meet the challenges currently facing legal education."

A message from
the president

At Widener University, we are committed to providing an academic environment that goes beyond fostering a student’s intellectual development. We are also committed to developing our students into socially responsible citizens. In this issue of *Widener Law*, we share insights and stories that illustrate how our Delaware and Harrisburg law campuses are both fulfilling these aspects of our mission.

The students, faculty, and staff on both campuses not only appreciate the values of Widener University, but they also embody them every day in a myriad of ways. Through programs like the Delaware Civil Law Clinic, Widener Law is providing real-world experience to students while helping families find a brighter future. In Harrisburg, the Law and Government Institute emphasizes hands-on learning, while using its expertise to improve government law. These are among the best examples of the university's commitment to civic engagement and a culture of leadership.

These two programs also highlight the different opportunities and experiences available on each campus. The Delaware campus houses the only law school located in the corporate capital of the world. The Harrisburg campus serves the capital of the nation’s sixth largest state, Pennsylvania. In recognition of the evolving distinctiveness of each campus, we have decided to apply to the ABA for acquiescence for an organizational structure change that would result in two separately accredited Widener Law schools, one in Delaware and one in Harrisburg. As many of you know, Widener Law completed a successful sabbatical accreditation review process last spring. Understanding that each campus provides a unique program of legal education, the ABA received a separate self-study from each campus and sent independent inspection teams to visit them.

The positive review of the two campuses has reinforced our strategic decision to move forward and apply for separate accreditation. We have full support from the Board of Trustees, the Overseers, our faculty, and staff. We believe that proceeding with the application in close temporal proximity to the sabbatical review will simplify the process. Therefore, we are going to submit our application to the ABA at the same time as we forward some additional information that was requested as a follow up to the sabbatical visit.

We are confident this is the right moment to pursue a formal organizational change that will better position each campus to meet the challenges currently facing legal education. As independent law schools, each campus can optimize its strategic advantage and clearly define its unique identity.

The relationship between Widener University and the School of Law’s campuses is dynamic. As we reach for new ways to advance the educational experience we offer our students, we inspire and support each other. It is fulfilling for me to see how Widener Law lives out the mission of our university. Collectively, the impact we have on our students and our communities is powerful.

Many alumni have been urging Widener to move in this direction. Now we call on all alumni to support our efforts as we enter this exciting chapter in the history of Widener Law.

DR. JAMES T. HARRIS III
President, Widener University
Out of darkness

Widener Law’s Delaware Civil Law Clinic gives brighter futures to impoverished men, women, and children and real-world experience to law school students.

by Mary Lamb
For a moment, imagine the plight of a woman. She is living in a foreign country where she does not speak the language. She has been battered. She has no money, no means of support, and no family ties.

For many people, this scenario is all too real. Fortunately, help is available from Widener University School of Law’s Delaware Civil Law Clinic. Guided by the steady hand of long-time director, Associate Professor Dana Harrington Conner, the clinic gives student interns the opportunity to provide pro bono legal services for impoverished men, women, and children struggling with domestic violence.

“The bulk of our work is intimate partner violence, helping individuals seeking protective orders,” explains Harrington Conner. “Over the years, the clinic has worked with survivors of domestic violence in very serious cases. We’ve represented clients who have been beaten beyond recognition. In one instance, a woman was tied to a chair, and boiling oil was poured over her body. There were a number of doctors who provided pro bono help to reconstruct her face. Another woman was beaten in the presence of her young child, who had to run and find help. Women have been kicked, punched, struck. One woman was beaten with a baseball bat. There were two children who we helped with regard to custody—after their mother was shot and killed by her perpetrator. The nature of the violence is very, very serious. It’s dangerous. And the aftermath of that is often very traumatizing to the children.”

For their clients, the protection provided by the clinic is powerful. Harrington Conner relates, “we’ve had a number of clients who have come to this country, who have been abused by their significant other. Some of them have been brought to this country as mail order brides. We have other clients who’ve been in abusive relationships for ten years or more, who’ve been unable to extract themselves from the relationship because of fear of death, threats to their children, or because financially they cannot afford to survive on their own.”

With the help of the clinic, clients like these have “broken free from the violence,” explains Harrington Conner. “They have been able to protect their children. Success for us is, in essence, saving somebody’s life.”

For the student interns, who work on these cases, interacting with their clients is an eye-opening experience. “The first thing that surprised me was the resistance some clients had to accepting our help,” explains former intern Stacy Pesin ’13, who is currently a law clerk for two judges in New Castle County Family Court. “These are victims of domestic violence. During the course of the training, you learn why they might be resistant to trust someone else. It makes sense. But that was really tough to see their guard up. We had to break through that and explain to them that we were on their side.”

For recent intern, Marc Petrucci ’13, meeting with clients illuminated the sensitive nature of the work. “We had some clients who were very emotional and rightfully so. They were dealing with experiences and issues that I know would be difficult for just about anybody to deal with.”

Clinic director, Harrington Conner, has been dealing with these types of cases her entire career. A Widener alumna and former clinic intern herself, she is also one of the first lawyers in the state of Delaware to represent survivors of domestic violence seeking protection from their abusers. From 1994 to 1996, she traveled throughout the state, handling protection from abuse cases in all three counties. “All I did was handle domestic violence work. It was an extraordinary experience,” she says.

In addition to supervising the work of the clinic’s interns, Harrington Conner also teaches in the areas of domestic violence, violence against women, and professional responsibility. This background makes Harrington Conner both a passionate advocate for battered individuals, and an experienced mentor for the students in the clinic.
“The clinic’s mission is two-fold: to provide legal representation to survivors of domestic violence and to provide law students with the opportunity to gain practical skills, by representing these clients. Founded in 1984, the clinic successfully combines the best of experiential legal education with critically important community service work. Students must apply, interview, and be accepted into the program. On average, eight students are accepted into the clinic each semester.

“The primary work the students handle is civil protective orders, and petitions for custody,” Harrington Conner explains. A Protection From Abuse (PFA) order, is a civil no-contact order that generally restricts the responding party from committing further acts of abuse against the petitioning party and to stay 100 yards away and have no contact by any means. Additional ancillary relief is available through the PFA statute to ensure that the victims and their children can remain free from violence, by providing custody of the children, counseling, support, and possession of a residence or other property.

Delaware’s Protection from Abuse statute is very broad. “This is good, because when you are looking at patterns of domestic violence, there can be some very bizarre behavior that might not be beating someone up but still qualifies,” explains former clinic intern, Noelle Thompson ’13. “The petitioners are encouraged to always have them on their person and to register them with their school and work. That way if the perpetrator shows up somewhere, the school or workplace would already be on notice that they are not to be there. The same thing with the police, the PFA makes it easier for the police to get involved.”

For law school students like Thompson, the clinic offers invaluable real world experience. She explains that, while you learn the law in the classroom, you can experience its true meaning through a clinic internship. For that purpose, she says, “I knew I wanted to participate in the clinic.”

Under the strict guidance of Harrington Conner and the clinic’s supervising attorney, Cathy Kilian, clinic students will take a case from the very beginning through to the conclusion. Following four intense weeks of training, the students are sworn in as certified legal interns by the Delaware Supreme Court, and then they are assigned their first case. Harrington Conner explains, “the interns will interview prospective clients at length. They explain the process to the client, interview witnesses, obtain copies of police reports, run criminal background checks, draft and

“What we really see is somebody go from a law student to a lawyer in just a few months. The transformation is absolutely amazing.”

Dana Harrington Conner, Director, Delaware Civil Law Clinic
serve subpoenas. Often, a lot of this is completed the day they receive the case.”

Of course, the guiding hand of the clinic staff is with them every step of the way. “Our students really do an amazing job, and they always have me or Cathy with them,” says Harrington Conner. “They never go into court alone. Everything from the letters they draft to trial preparation, opening and closing statements, direct examinations, all of their trial prep is closely edited and supervised. Nothing leaves the office, is filed with the court, or sent to anyone without a review. It is an important part of the learning process. They learn everything from corresponding with a client to motion drafting to presentation of a trial or negotiation. It’s all hands-on learning, but incredibly, closely supervised.”

That support creates a safe place for clients and students alike. Thompson, who is now working as a law clerk in New Castle County Family Court, says that she particularly appreciated “being able to grow in a supervised setting.” She also shares, “I feel like I learned a lot about myself in my ability to handle stress and go into court and speak in front of a judge or commissioner.”

After training, and before representing clients, Delaware Civil Law Clinic students are sworn in as certified legal interns by Delaware Supreme Court Justice Randy J. Holland.

DELAWARE CIVIL LAW CLINIC: 2011–2013

Individuals assisted: 101 adults and 216 children
Hours worked by students: 9853
Two year value of clinic’s pro bono work: over $1,000,000
“We’re the good guys. I try to instill that in the students. Not only do they learn how to practice law, but they also get the opportunity to help people. We wear the white hats. We get to save people’s lives.”

Dana Harrington Conner (pictured below with Delaware Supreme Court Justice, Randy J. Holland, and the clinic’s Supervising Attorney, Cathy Kilian)

The interns also learn how to cope with the intense emotions that working with domestic violence cases can bring forth. Before meeting with her first client, Pesin, says she was “really nervous.” Dealing with a sensitive topic, where children were involved, provided a unique challenge. But she called on her clinic training when she met with her clients, to control her emotions and stay objective in order to achieve the best results for the clients.

In the end, the training, interviews, angst, and hard work are worth it when the interns help their client achieve a positive outcome. “At the clinic we really wanted to help those who were in the most need of our help,” recalls Petrucci.

“The Violence Against Women Act is based on one simple idea: that freedom from violence and abuse is a basic, human right, and that no one... is entitled to violate that right.”

Vice President, Joe Biden
He felt like it took a few minutes for the
realization to sink in for his client. “It
wasn’t until we got out of the courtroom
and we went back into the room for
petitioners where we got a chance to
decompress. At that point, she started
to show that relief and gratitude,” he
says. “This is something that she had
personally been dealing with for who
knows how long. She was very grateful
and very thankful for the work that we
were able to do. It was very gratifying.”

For Pesin, the experience was equally
special. “You do something good for
someone else, who really had no idea
what to expect. When it was over, a few
of our clients cried. They thanked us so
much for our help. But they didn’t realize
that we wanted to be there and
we wanted to help them.”

And this unique experience, of
learning while giving, is the essence of
the Delaware Civil Law Clinic. The
student’s growth through the process is
“unbelievable” says Harrington Conner.
“What we really see is somebody go from
a law student to a lawyer in just a few
months. The transformation is absolutely
amazing,” she asserts.

Beyond that, the clinic experience has
long term implications for the students,
who often develop a lifelong commitment
to pro bono work. Harrington Conner
explains, “we have a lot of students
who take the clinic and come back and
volunteer for our sister agency, Delaware
Volunteer Legal Services. They’re more
likely to engage in pro bono work having
had the clinic experience.”

For Harrington Conner, running the
Delaware Civil Law Clinic is as much a
mission as a job. “We’re the good guys.
I try to instill that in the students. Not
only do they learn how to practice law
and get the opportunity to learn the best
way to practice law, but they also get to
help people. We wear the white hats.
We get to save people’s lives.”

Vice President Biden Praises
Widener’s Civil Law Clinic
on the Anniversary of VAWA

ON THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS LANDMARK
LEGISLATION, THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT,
THE VICE PRESIDENT DISCUSSES THE LAW, ITS IMPACT,
AND THE GREAT IMPORTANCE OF WIDENER LAW’S CLINIC.

In 1994 the Violence Against Women
Act (VAWA) was signed into law.
Sponsored by Joe Biden, then a U.S.
Senator from Delaware, the Act was
written in response to Biden’s three-
year investigation into the causes and
effects of violence against women.

“The Violence Against Women Act
is based on one simple idea: that
freedom from violence and abuse
is a basic, human right, and that no
one—not a boyfriend, not a husband,
not a friend, not a stranger—is entitled
to violate that right,” explains Vice
President Biden. “When I wrote the Act twenty years ago, I
wanted to establish that principle both as a matter of law and
as a matter of culture. Since VAWA fi rst passed, the nation has
made tremendous strides: annual rates of domestic violence
have dropped by 64 percent; states have passed more than 600
laws to support victims and hold offenders accountable; the
national hotline has answered more than three million crisis calls,
directing victims to life-saving assistance; and more Americans
have come to understand that this sort of violence is a crime,
pure and simple.”

For programs like Widener’s Delaware Civil Law Clinic, VAWA is
the backbone of their work. “It is difficult to express in words the
importance of the Violence Against Women Act,” explains Dana
Harrington Conner. “I began working with survivors of intimate
partner violence the year VAWA was enacted, and it is hard for
me to imagine practicing law in this field without this important
piece of legislation in place. The act provides much needed
funding and guidelines to ensure a comprehensive approach
to ending violence through education, law enforcement, civil
protections, and social services.”

And while VAWA has had a profound and positive impact, the
problem is not solved. “We still have much work to do,” says
Vice President Biden. “We need to reach teens and young adults,
because they face the highest rates of dating violence and sexual
assault. And we need more programs like Widener’s clinic—
because a lawyer at a survivor’s side, or other pro bono legal
services, can make a big difference. Having taught at Widener for
many years, I am as proud as I am grateful for all their work.”
In the 1960s, John Gedid was an undergraduate student at the University of Pittsburgh. With an affinity for languages, he had plans to teach either English or Spanish literature. He also thought about joining the Foreign Service, which led him to take several years of Chinese language studies. But a funny thing happened on the way to fulfilling those plans. John Gedid decided to go to law school.

“I came to law because when I was an undergraduate and I would see two people having a discussion or an argument, I would jump in on the losing side and try and turn it around,” he says. “That’s one of the reasons I went into law and legal education. I like the exchange, the logic. I enjoyed the debate.”

Luckily for Widener Law, that legal education, and that love of language, logic, and debate, combined with a visionary spirit to make John Gedid an integral figure in the school’s history. As the founding vice dean of the Harrisburg campus and the creator of its signature program, the Law and Government Institute, John Gedid has helped to make Widener Law’s Harrisburg campus what it is today.

Gedid came to Widener Law after many years as a professor at Duquesne University School of Law. He recalls, “I had met Anthony Santoro (then dean of Delaware Law School and founding dean of the Harrisburg campus) when I was on faculty at Duquesne. We met on several occasions and realized that we had similar philosophies on teaching law, and he recruited me. I came on full time in 1988.”

Starting a new law school campus was an exciting challenge. “It was an interesting and colossal task,” Gedid recalls. “It involved designing the buildings, recruiting faculty, recruiting and training staff, recruiting students—and every type of physical and personnel detail you could imagine.”
At the same time, Gedid and other staff members were working with the American Bar Association on accreditation for the new campus. “Because of a great deal of planning and preparation and the experience of Anthony Santoro, we were able to immediately receive provisional accreditation. We were, at the time, one of the first law schools ever to receive provisional accreditation at the same time we opened our doors for the first class.”

Over the years, Gedid has both appreciated and utilized the unique location of the Harrisburg campus. “The state capitol is a logical place for a law school,” he says. “It’s the nerve center of the state. The three branches of government—executive, legislative, and judicial and their numerous staff attorneys are physically located in Harrisburg. What that means is you have access to the “do-ers” in every aspect of the law—the generation of law, the making of law, and the carrying out of the law. You also have a concentration of law firms that are devoted to public law. It’s the perfect place for a law school.”
That location has also allowed Gedid and the Harrisburg campus to forge relationships with local lawyers and legal experts who teach, serve as mentors, consult, and take part in symposia and discussions of current legal topics. Importantly, these professionals are also available for students to work with as interns and externs.

For Gedid, this aspect is critical. He explains, “one of the things that interested me about Widener, that caused me to come to Widener, is that it has always had a focus on professional skills, as well as abstract theory. The legal profession and the legal academy have only just begun to become aware that they must teach practical skills in law school. Widener had these 25-30 years ago. And that continues to be a focus of the school.”

The distinctive campus location was also part of the inspiration behind one of John Gedid’s greatest achievements—the Law and Government Institute. “In the mid 90s, I realized that we had all of these resources, and we were not fully making them available for our students,” he says. “I set about creating the institute in order to make those resources, including jobs, available for our students. Also my area of expertise was administrative and constitutional law, and I wanted to improve the law in that area by making our resources available to the government. And that’s how it began.”

The Law and Government Institute officially opened in 1999 and at first, was “the new kid on the block,” Gedid says. But it didn’t take long to become an established success. “The lawyers that we connected with, both in and out of government, were effective lawyers with open minds. They saw that we were making a contribution and that our students hit the ground running. The more our students got out, the more the legal community loved them and us. And it was heartwarming to see it happen.”

Over the past 15 years, the Law and Government Institute has provided Gedid with many points of pride. He shares, “the thing I’m most proud of is the success of our students in practice. The quality and effectiveness of our graduates is the measure of the education that we offer and the contribution that we make to society. We have numerous alumni serving as judges, legislators, and high level staffers. I’m also proud of our alumni, who are in private practice and doing government law. They are making a contribution, and we like to think that their experience in the institute improved their skills and is improving the practice of public law in Pennsylvania.”

Along with the success of the school, the institute, students, and alumni, Gedid still sees areas where the legal field can improve. He is concerned about the public perception that has developed. “One thing that has happened is that there has been a lot of disrespect for the profession, and I think we need to work on changing perceptions,” he asserts. “We are a service profession. We help people. And somehow that message is not effectively reaching the public.”

“You cannot find a more dedicated person, and his contribution to the development of young lawyers, the bench, bar, Pennsylvania and the greater legal community will be felt for decades to come.”

Dean Linda L. Ammons, JD

“We needed a person who had demonstrated strong teaching abilities, excellent scholarship, administrative experience and was well regarded by the bench and bar of Pennsylvania. John fit those credentials perfectly.”

Dean and Professor of Law, 1983–1992
Anthony J. Santoro, Esq.
One way to combat that perception is through the important act of “giving back” to the community. “As lawyers we have many advantages, and they’re based on the idea that we make a contribution to society,” Gedid states. “Pro bono work is important. We are a profession devoted to helping individuals and society.”

Of course, community service is not just for alumni. Widener Law students have benefitted and continue to benefit from their exposure to pro bono work. “It is inspiring to see our students in various pro bono projects and what they bring back from those experiences of helping people,” says Gedid. “They gain an appreciation for helping others and an enthusiasm for making legal representation available to everyone. When I see that, I think that we’re doing our job if we’re getting that across to our students in a way that makes them so excited about it. Not coincidentally, our students also learn professional skills by doing pro bono work. It’s a win-win situation.”

Over the course of a long and very distinguished career, John Gedid has both witnessed and created many win-win situations. From the establishment of the Harrisburg campus, to the creation of the Law and Government Institute, to the hundreds of students who have learned the intricacies of law in his classrooms, John Gedid’s contributions to Widener Law are hard to quantify.

It is equally hard for Gedid to measure the best moments and memories from his career at Widener Law. But, as is often the case, it comes down to relationships and people. He relates, “I have worked with numerous thoughtful, talented, and caring colleagues, and I have also enjoyed a bond with an army of dedicated students. I treasure them all.”

Finally, a recent glimpse of a photograph brought Gedid full circle from those first days of opening the Harrisburg campus to today. He shares, “I looked at a photo of the staff of the Governor’s Office of General Counsel. One of our grads is the General Counsel to the Governor, but when I looked at the photo, I realized the entire staff of senior lawyers are Widener Law graduates. When I saw that, I said to myself, ‘my gosh—we’ve arrived.’”

Moving Forward

One of John Gedid’s lasting legacies at Widener Law is the Law and Government Institute. Founded in 1999 and headquartered on the Harrisburg campus, the institute was created by Gedid to improve government law and to provide students with hands-on experience. Students in the program learn the skills lawyers use to represent a client before the government or to represent the government.

“It’s John’s passion for, and dedication to government law has inspired many to contribute through public service.”

Jill Family

After serving as the institute’s director for 15 years, Gedid recently passed the torch to Associate Professor Jill Family. No stranger to the institute, Family served as the associate director from 2007 to 2013 and teaches courses in Administrative Law and Immigration Law. As the new director, Family intends to continue the mission of the institute through its student certificate program, its strong record of community engagement, and its commitment to improving government law.

“Oh, obviously, I have some very big shoes to fill, but I’m honored to have the chance to continue John’s vision, and to keep moving forward in the ways that we are engaged with the community,” Family says.

“At this point, we have 150 alumni who have graduated with a Law and Government certificate, and many other alumni dedicated to government law. I hope to bring together this growing group of experts to expand our programs.”

Looking ahead, Family is enthusiastic about the institute’s goals and opportunities. She says, “the goals of the institute are to take our students and our expertise and to improve government law.” Just as John Gedid envisioned.

To reach out to Professor Family or to be added to the Law and Government Institute mailing list, please contact her at jefamily@widener.edu.
JAMES DIEHM was re-appointed by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court to a three-year term as Vice-Chair of the Court’s Committee on Rules of Evidence.

MICHAEL DIMINO presented at a panel that was focused on the evolution of voting rights, at the AALS annual meeting. His presentation concentrated on voter-ID laws and the standards for testing the constitutionality of restrictions on the right to vote.

JEAN EGGEN was a featured speaker on the panel “Less is More? The Expanding Universe of Low-Level Toxic Tort Claims” at the American Bar Association (ABA) Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources 21st Fall Conference in Baltimore, Maryland. Her paper for the conference, “Being Small in a Supersized World: Tackling the Problem of Low-Level Exposures in Toxic Tort Actions,” was selected as Best Paper of the conference.

Professor Eggen presented a lecture, “Toxic Substances Litigation in a Nutshell,” to the Current Issues class of the University of Delaware’s Osher Academy of Lifelong Learning in Wilmington, Delaware. She became a member of the Committee on Congressional Relations of the ABA Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources.

D. BENJAMIN BARROS was elected to the Association of American Law Schools (AALS) Executive Committee, and presented at a plenary session on the future of law schools at this year’s AALS annual meeting.

JOHN CAPOWSKI spoke at the Jackson/Ho China Forum at the University of Denver’s Center for China-U.S. Cooperation. Professor Capowski’s talk was entitled “An Unexpected Harmony: Common Law Principles and China’s Judicial Reform Effort.”

JOHN CULHANE was on a panel at Jefferson Medical School in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, discussing the issues that LGBT patients present in the medical context. He presented his paper “Is Pennsylvania Ready for Gay Marriage? The Extermination of DOMA and The Explosion of Lawsuits” as a CLE to the Delaware County Alumni Association. Professor Culhane participated on a panel discussing the Affordable Care Act at the Rubenstein-Walsh Seminar on Professionalism and Ethics in Wilmington, Delaware, and a panel on same-sex marriage at Villanova University. He completed the six-hour Safe Space training course at Widener University; his office is now recognized as a “safe space” for LGBT students and other members of the Widener community.

Dean LINDA L. AMMONS was given a Multicultural Leadership Award by the Pennsylvania Diversity Council. The award recognizes people of color who have made a difference through their achievements and who exemplify the ability to excel in their fields. “I am delighted by this recognition,” said Ammons. “It speaks not only to my work, but to the accomplishments of the Widener Law community. Our school is a leader in diversity initiatives because we recognize the value and the necessity of having all kinds of people engaged in higher education.”

Professor John G. Culhane, Slate.com

“DOMA’s demise trained a bright light on the deficiency of civil unions, and the movement toward full marriage equality became a flat-out sprint in the civil-union states.”

Dean Ammons (right) with Starla J. Williams, Multicultural Affairs Officer and Director, Public Interest Initiative on Widener’s Harrisburg campus, who nominated her for this award.

Widener Law Faculty News

Dean Ammons (right) with Starla J. Williams, Multicultural Affairs Officer and Director, Public Interest Initiative on Widener’s Harrisburg campus, who nominated her for this award.
IVA FERRELL has been named Co-Director, Trial Admissions Program (TAP). She presented a work-in-progress entitled “No At-Risk Law Student Left Behind: Experiential Education in the Academic Support Curriculum” at the Mid-Atlantic People of Color Legal Scholarship Conference with STARLA J. WILLIAMS in Baltimore, Maryland. She has also been elected for a second consecutive year as vice president of the Norristown Area School District Board of Directors.

“A plurality of our Supreme Court recognizes that Article I, Section 27 is actual constitutional law, and that its text matters. This is a huge step in the right direction.”

Distinguished Professor John C. Dernbach, Pennsylvania Environmental Digest

ALAN GARFIELD spoke at Beth Israel synagogue in Media, Pennsylvania, about the DOMA and Voting Rights Cases. He was also quoted at length in a Patriot-News article about legislative prayer, that was later reproduced in USA Today.

LAWRENCE A. HAMERMESH, as co-chair of the Task Force on Governance Issues in Business Combinations of the Corporate Governance Committee of the ABA Business Law Section, participated in ongoing review of materials for eventual publication of a handbook on the subject. He served as a panelist in the program entitled “Shareholder Roundtable: Incentives for Activist Board Members.” Hamermesh also participated in the Institutional Investor Educational Foundation’s program “Current Issues in Shareholder Activism Roundtable” and along with Chancellor Leo E. Strine, Jr. and former Vice Chancellor Stephen Lamb, was a panelist on “Hot Topics in Delaware Law” at the 2013 Annual Global Shareholder Activism Conference. He participated as a reviewer at the George Washington Law School Junior Faculty Workshop, commenting on a paper about the duties of corporate officers in Washington, D.C.

ANNA HEMINGWAY, Dionne AnthoN, and Amanda Smith presented “Mission Impossible or Mission Accomplished? Our First Year Without the Traditional Office Memo” at the Legal Writing Institute one-day workshop at Suffolk University School of Law.

JOHN C. DERNBACH was cited by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court in Robinson Township v Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, a major shale gas case, in which the plurality decision held unconstitutional major parts of Pennsylvania’s "Act 13"—a 2012 oil and gas law designed to facilitate the development of natural gas from Marcellus Shale. In so doing, the Court breathed new life into Article I, Section 27 of Pennsylvania’s constitution, which requires the state to “conserve and maintain” public resources “for the benefit of all the people.”

According to Associate Dean and Professor, Ben Barros, “John’s work wasn’t only cited by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court—it laid the groundwork for the Court’s analysis. In a very real sense, John’s scholarship provided the analytical framework for a landmark decision on environmental rights.”

The decision and Professor Dernbach’s contribution to it mark both a personal and professional achievement for him. “Much of my scholarship agenda has been about articulating sustainable development in practical terms that attorneys and others can actually use,” he says. “So, this decision is a wonderful outcome of that effort.” The opinion is already receiving national and even international attention.

Professor Dernbach has had several recent speaking engagements around the country, pertaining to this topic, and was recently appointed to the ABA Sustainable Development Task Force.
“I think the arbitration program is useful to both Delaware and the United States because they will not be places where you are going to get involved in a tar pit of litigation and extended costs.”

Ruby R. Vale Professor of Corporate and Business Law Lawrence A. Hamermesh, Delaware Business Court Insider

LOUISE HILL presented at three CLE programs in Delaware. In a program titled “Legal Ethics in Delaware,” Professor Hill gave a presentation on “Confidentiality and Privilege: The Impact of Changing Times.” In Dover, Delaware, as part of a program titled “Legal Ethics: Solutions to the Most Common Challenges” she gave a presentation on “Becoming Familiar with the 2012-13 ABA Model Rule Revisions.” She later repeated that presentation in Wilmington.

ALICIA KELLY has a new symposium article to be published in the Michigan State Law Review called “Sharing Inequality” that is part of a Searching For Equality In Family Law Symposium. She is also working on her learning centered textbook, Property Law: A Practice and Context Casebook (with Professor Nancy Knauer), slated for publication by Carolina Academic Press in 2014. She continues to serve as program co-chair and expert reviewer for Widener Law’s Wills for Heroes program.

ERIN DALY, Interim Co-Dean of the Widener Law Delaware campus, and Professor JAMES R. MAY were two of four North Americans who traveled to Johannesburg, South Africa, to participate in a consultation that explored the idea of the right to a healthy, safe environment, which is built into constitutions of countries around the world. Daly was invited to give introductory remarks on a panel at the program. The event was convened by the United Nations Independent Expert on Human Rights and the Environment, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and the Legal Resources Centre, a South African human rights organization. The two are collaborating on the forthcoming book Global Environmental Constitutionalism.

ABIGAIL LAYTON was appointed to the Board of Directors of Prevent Child Abuse Delaware (PCAD), an organization that provides leadership for child abuse prevention activities in the state of Delaware by increasing understanding of child abuse and its solutions, serving as a resource for individuals, families, and communities, and advocating for enhanced prevention policies and programs.

RANDY LEE presented at the (AALS) meeting as part of the Section on Professional Responsibility’s panel entitled, “The Lost Lawyer and the Lawyer-Statesman Ideal: A Generation Later.” Lee was selected for the panel after his paper was chosen from a blind paper competition. Papers from the panel will be published in the ABA’s “Professional Lawyer.”

JAMES R. MAY co-chaired, along with JOHN C. DERNBACH, the conference “Marcellus Shale Development and Pennsylvania: What Lessons for Sustainable Energy?” on the Widener Law Harrisburg campus, where he presented, “Technical and Legal Issues in Hydraulic Fracturing.” He also presented “Environmental Constitutionalism—Environmental Protection as a Fundamental Constitutional or Human Right?” at the International Bar Association’s annual meeting in Boston, Massachusetts; “Hydraulic Fracturing: Legal and Technical Issues Update,” for the National Judicial College; and “U.S. Supreme Court Developments.” Professor May continues his pro bono legal work through his participation as: Signatory, Brief of Law Professors as Amicus Curiae in Support of Plaintiffs-Appellants Seeking Reversal (D.C. Cir., No. 13-5192). Co-counsel, Funk v. Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (with Widener Environmental
and Natural Resources Law Clinic and Professor Ken Kristl), Consultant, Delaware Audubon Society, and Advisory Board, Delaware Riverkeeper Network.

Juliet Moringiello was a program leader at the Eastern District of Pennsylvania Bankruptcy Conference. Professor Moringiello also gave a presentation on legal ethics and social media at the ABA annual meeting in San Francisco, California.

Laura Ray spoke at the University of Delaware’s Osher Academy of Lifelong Learning on the Supreme Court’s 2013 term.

Judy Ritter was on a panel entitled, “JFK and Justice. His Legacy in the Law,” at the New Jersey Law Center in New Brunswick, discussing changes in the law of habeas corpus during and after the Kennedy administration.

Luke Schuuer presented on the conflict between legal marijuana businesses and state business entity law at a conference in Boston, Massachusetts. He also continues his work as a director for Common Cause of Delaware, a nonpartisan watchdog group whose mission is to promote open, ethical, and accountable government.

Michael Slinger presented a series of talks on topics related to the American Civil War at the Rachel Kohl Library in Glen Mills, Pennsylvania. Topics included: Why a Civil War?: The Treatment of Civil War POWs.; Total War and its Legacy on Reconstruction.

Leonard Sosnov, on behalf of the Pennsylvania Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, prepared a memorandum challenging the validity of many Pennsylvania’s mandatory sentencing laws. He participated in the training of new lawyers at the Defender Association of Philadelphia. Professor Sosnov, on behalf of the Association, won a case in the Pennsylvania Supreme Court addressing the procedures for search and seizure motions review.

Andrew Strauss was a panelist at the International Law Association’s, International Law Weekend 2013. The title of his panel presentation was, “The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change: What We Can Expect at COP19 and Beyond.” Professor Strauss participated as a panelist at a conference on global democracy at The European Parliament in Brussels. The title of his presentation was, “The Vision of a United Nations Parliamentary Assembly.” He was a guest on WYPR, the Baltimore NPR affiliate show, “Mid-Day with Dan Rodricks,” addressing the topic of climate change and geoengineering.

“There is a very strong likelihood that at some point people are going to come around to seriously considering geoengineering, and it would be much better if we’ve done significant research and thinking about it for when that time comes. We’re on the trajectory of a pretty scary scenario.”

Andrew L. Strauss, Professor and Associate Dean of Faculty, Mid-Day with Dan Rodricks

Jules Epstein, Director, Taishoff Advocacy, Technology, and Public Service Institute, has been named a member of the National Commission on Forensic Science, a project under the auspices of the United States Department of Justice and the United States Department of Commerce.

Professor Epstein taught several courses, nationally and locally, including: an Advanced Evidence program in San Diego, California, and a webinar for military judges handling sexual assault cases, for the National Judicial College; courses on forensics and eyewitness identification for federal defense counsel at a national training and at a separate program for Kentucky public defenders. He taught forensics to judges at the annual judicial college in New Jersey, and to prosecutors and defense counsel in Pennsylvania. Professor Epstein is also training newly elected Pennsylvania trial judges. As a volunteer attorney, cooperating with the Pennsylvania Innocence Project, Professor Epstein litigated an ‘actual innocence’ challenge to a 15 year old homicide conviction and won his client, Lance Felder, a new trial.


HAMERMESH, LAWRENCE A., & Leo E. Strine, Jr. and Matthew Jennejohn, Putting Stockholders First, Not the First-Filed Complaint, 69 BUS LAW. 1 (2013).


HEMINGWAY, ANNA P. & Jennifer Lear, Tips for Lawyers Writing in a Time Crunch, 40 LITIGATION 33 (Fall 2013-14).

KRISTL, KENNETH. T., Allocating Responsibilities for Environmental Cleanup Liabilities Through Purchase Price Discounts, in CORPORATE COUNSEL’S GUIDE TO ACQUISITIONS & DIVESTITURES, Chapter 20 (Thomson Reuters, WESTLAW 2014).


Gifts from alumni in support of the Widener Law Fund are vital to moving the law school forward.

Double your impact through your employer’s matching gift program.

To give to the Widener Law Fund, please visit lawalumni.widener.edu/GiveNow

For more information please contact Laurie J. Grant
Assistant Vice President, Development & Alumni Engagement
302-477-2168 / ljgrant@widener.edu

Widener Law Alumni Judges
In the last issue of the Widener Law Magazine, we printed a list of our alumni judges. Your response was overwhelming and enthusiastic. Since publication, we’ve discovered that there are in fact, even more alumni judges, listed below. This brings our total to 182 judges!

Hon. Kathy S. Gravell ’95
Hon. Alexandra C. Kokura Kravitz ’09
Hon. J. Scott O’Keefe ’79
Hon. Sherry A. Ruggiero-Fallon ’86
Hon. Brenda A. Sexton ’87
Hon. Susan L. Torres ’95
Hon. Paul J. Ware ’02
Hon. Tracy Warga ’08
Hon. Michelle E. Wolfe ’97
Chuck Proctor ‘76 wasn’t thinking about the Supreme Court in the fall of 2012 when he took a call from Randall Wenger, the general counsel for the Pennsylvania Family Institute. But that is exactly where that call led him. Now Proctor, a Widener alumnus and member of the school’s adjunct faculty, is the man responsible for getting one of the nation’s hottest cases in front of the U.S. Supreme Court.

On March 25, 2014, the Supreme Court heard oral arguments in Conestoga Wood Specialties v. Sebelius, and its companion case, Sebelius v. Hobby Lobby Stores. The consolidated cases involve a labyrinth of issues including corporate rights, religious freedom, federal mandates, and women’s rights. To say that this is getting a lot of attention is an understatement. “It was quite an experience,” says Proctor.

With demonstrators lining the steps of the Supreme Court building, heavy news coverage, and long lines of citizens—some of whom camped out for days in order to have a chance to be in the courtroom—the atmosphere was electric. “I’ve been to the Supreme Court before, but not for a case that was getting this kind of scrutiny,” says Proctor. “The courtroom was packed. They had a chair in every corner and a lot of people couldn’t get in. Even the congressman from the district where our clients live only got a ticket at the last minute.”

The case itself began in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. The devoutly religious owners of the Conestoga Wood Specialties Corporation were concerned about a new mandate built into the Affordable Care Act, requiring them to provide insurance coverage for contraceptive services—including the ‘morning after’ pill—for their roughly 950 employees. As members of a Mennonite family, owners Norman and Elizabeth Hahn felt that providing that kind of coverage conflicted with their religious beliefs.
With the Hahns facing potential daily fines of $95,000 for failing to provide the coverage, Proctor got to work on the case. He filed a legal challenge to the requirement in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. He began briefing and arguing the religious freedom angle with Wenger as co-counsel.

“When we took the case, I wasn’t expecting to go to the Supreme Court,” explains Proctor. “But the way it evolved and the way it developed—in less than a year we were granted a writ of certiorari. It all happened so quickly.”

When the Supreme Court heard the oral arguments in March, it was the first time Proctor didn’t argue the case. “It was a team effort,” says Proctor, who remained the primary contact with the Hahns, oversaw all the briefs, took part in the argument preparation, and sat before the court at the hearing. “We were able to have the benefit of former solicitor general, Paul Clement, argue on our behalf. It was the 73rd time that he has argued before the Supreme Court, so he knows them personally. There is a certain style, a certain familiarity, just like you would have here in Pennsylvania.”

“We feel that it went very well. The Justices asked the questions that we were expecting and explored them with both sides in depth. We expect them to announce their decision the last week of June.”

Even as Proctor enjoys the challenge and excitement of a Supreme Court case, his ties to Widener Law remain strong. The law offices of Proctor Lindsay & Dixon are just five miles north of the Delaware campus, and Proctor’s desk sits across from a bookcase that holds every copy of the Delaware Journal of Corporate Law. He serves as vice president of the Widener Law Alumni Association and is a fervent cheerleader for his alma mater.

Proctor began teaching on the Delaware campus in 2007. He has taught classes in contracts, bankruptcy, real estate, and wills and trusts, for the Legal Education Institute and the law school. Most recently, Proctor’s influence extended to the Harrisburg campus, when he mentored students preparing for a moot court competition based on the Hobby Lobby/Conestoga Wood Specialties case.

Returning to Widener Law in these roles has been very fulfilling. “I love it. It’s very rewarding,” Proctor says. “You see the kids learning, growing, developing. You hope you’re having some positive influence on them.”

“Both personally and professionally, it is really rewarding to see him attain this level of success. It is difficult to describe in words my respect and admiration for him as he reaches this pinnacle in his career.”

Renae B. Axelrod, Alumni Association President
Evening at the Capitol

The Harrisburg campus kicked off its third-annual “Evening at the Capitol,” held in the building’s main rotunda. The event celebrates the presence and leadership of Widener Law alumni in the commonwealth. This year’s program honored Professor Emeritus John L. Gedid, founding vice dean of the Harrisburg campus, pictured below as he is presented with a plaque by Dean Linda L. Ammons.

The law school and its Environmental Law Center presented a first-of-its-kind program on what hydraulic fracturing, known commonly as “fracking,” means for an environmentally sustainable America. The daylong event “Marcellus Shale Development and Pennsylvania: What Lessons For Sustainable Energy?” was held on the Harrisburg campus.

Distinguished Professor John C. Dernbach speaks at the symposium on Marcellus Shale and sustainability. He co-directs the Environmental Law Center with Professor James R. May, seated at right.

More than 250 people attended the Advanced Litigation Skills conference on the Delaware campus. Organized by Professor Jules Epstein through the Taishoff Advocacy, Technology and Public Service Institute, it will become an annual event. Epstein spoke with panelists discussing witness impeachment as they used a scene from “To Kill A Mockingbird” to frame the conversation.
Commonwealth Court Judge Mary Hannah Leavitt gave her first lecture as the Harrisburg campus’ new Jurist in Residence to an audience of students, alumni, faculty, staff, and community leaders. She spoke about the use of civil forfeiture in the war on drugs, with an emphasis on Pennsylvania jurisprudence. “It is a great honor to serve as the Jurist in Residence,” she noted.

Under the direction of Harrisburg Civil Law Clinic Director and Associate Clinical Professor J. Palmer Lockard II, students participated in a day-long training program provided by staff members from Pennsylvania’s Public Utility Commission (PUC).

John D. Cirrinicione, ’07 (pictured), presented “Networking Nuts & Bolts” to over 40 students. This event was sponsored by the Office of Development and Alumni Engagement in partnership with recent alumni.

Widener University School of Law held a reception congratulating graduates who passed the July 2013 Delaware State Bar Exam. Interim Co-Dean Erin Daly and Justice Randy J. Holland, center, welcomed the guests and commended the graduates on their accomplishment.

Recent graduates from the Delaware campus took their oath and were inducted into the Pennsylvania Bar at the Honorable Charles P. Miriachi Jr. Pennsylvania Bar Passers Ceremony.

In the Supreme Court courtroom, a group of recent graduates from the Harrisburg campus were sworn in and officially became members of the Pennsylvania Bar.
The Institute of Delaware Corporate and Business Law kicked off the Ruby R. Vale Distinguished Speaker Series with a talk by then-Delaware Chief Justice Myron T. Steele on “The Contractual Duty of ‘Good Faith’—An ‘Unresolved Enigma’ in the ABO World.” The series continued with a talk by then-Delaware Court of Chancery Chancellor Leo E. Strine Jr. on the role of public officials in the administration of the death penalty. Strine has since been elevated to the role of Delaware Supreme Court Chief Justice.

Eight women on the Delaware campus made history this year when they were elected to the Student Bar Association (SBA) executive board. It marked the first time in campus history that all the executive slots were filled by women. A January 2013 report from the American Bar Association Commission on Women in the Profession noted two out of three attorneys in 2012 were men. On the Delaware campus, roughly 45 percent of law students this year are women. “We have really come a long way, but there’s a long way to go,” SBA President Liya Groysman told The (Wilmington) News Journal, which published a feature story about the group.

The SBA executive board, from left, Arielle Williams, treasurer; Amanda DiLiberto, ABA/LSD representative; Julie O’Dell, vice president of student and alumni relations; Megan McGovern, corresponding secretary; Jennifer Young, extended-division liaison; Marta Skuza, vice president of academics and community service; Kayleen Piszczek, recording secretary; Liya Groysman, president.
A

ssociate Professor Minor Myers of Brooklyn Law School was Widener Law’s 2013 annual Visiting Scholar in Residence in Business and Corporate Law. Myers gave the lecture, “Stockholder Appraisal in Delaware,” for members of the bench and bar at The Wilmington Club. His talk was presented by Widener Law, its Institute of Delaware Corporate and Business Law, and The Delaware Counsel Group LLP, Attorneys at Law. He also visited the Delaware campus and spoke at a lunch gathering for faculty, staff, and students.

Guhan Subramanian, the Joseph Flom Professor of Law & Business at Harvard Law School, delivered the 2013 annual Francis G. Pileggi Distinguished Lecture in Law at the Hotel du Pont (far left). He gave an encore version for students on the Delaware campus (left) after receiving a copy of the Delaware Journal of Corporate Law containing his first published academic article.

The third-annual Voices of Leadership Dinner held on Widener University’s main campus, featured a conversation with Ellen Kullman, Chair and Chief Executive Officer of DuPont. Those in attendance included Thomas L. Sager, Senior Vice President and General Counsel for DuPont, left, and P. Michael Walker, Vice President, Assistant General Counsel and Chief Intellectual Property Counsel for DuPont Legal. Sager is a member of the Widener University Board of Trustees, and Walker is a member of the Widener Law Board of Overseers.

Alumni, adjunct professors, and partners of Flitter, Lorenz, P.C., Ted Lorenz ’92 and Cary Flitter ’81 present a check to Senior VP of Academic Affairs & Provost, Stephen C. Willhite, D.Phil., and AVP of Development & Alumni Engagement, Laurie J. Grant, in support of clinical work in consumer advocacy.

Above: Ruby R. Vale Professor of Corporate and Business Law Lawrence A. Hamermesh, Minor Myers, and Ellisa Opstbaum Habbart, founding partner of The Delaware Counsel Group, LLP.
Widener Law’s MLK Community Service

Both campuses observed the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday with special programs. In Delaware, the 2014 Martin Luther King Service Award was given to alumna Lisa B. Goodman ’94 and her wife Drewry N. Fennell at a program celebrating their work as civil rights advocates who are leaders in the movement for LGBT equality. In Harrisburg, alumna Tracy Henry ’94, Chief Administrative Law Judge, Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare, Bureau of Hearings and Appeals and President, Dauphin County’s Keystone Bar Association spoke at a Pizza and Policy in the Pit event. Throughout the day, students, alumni, faculty, and staff from both campuses participated in various service projects.

Left: Professor and Director, Health Law Institute, John G. Culhane, Lisa B. Goodman ’94 and her wife Drewry N. Fennell, and Professor Serena M. Williams.

Below: Tracy Henry ’94, speaks at a Pizza and Policy in the Pit event.

Members of the Widener Law Alumni Association Board (above) volunteered at Stetser Elementary School in Chester. Other volunteers included Widener University President, Dr. James T. Harris, III, and Widener Law’s Laurie J. Grant (above right).
The Black Law Students Association (BLSA) on the Delaware campus celebrated Black History Month with its fourth annual Trailblazers Honor Banquet. The students recognized alumnus Carl Battle ’82 for his groundbreaking work in the private sector and in service of his community. Battle’s friend and former classmate Leon Williams ’82, accepted for Battle, who was traveling abroad the night of the event. The program also featured a keynote address by Fox Rothschild LLP associate attorney Wali Rushdan II.

From left: Leon Williams ’82 and Romona Fullman ’84 attended the banquet in support of their friend, Carl Battle ’82. Law students Gilberte Pierre, Shaunda Fennell, Kendrick McLeod, Valerie Duarte, and Y. Grace Guan.

The Harrisburg chapters of Black Law Students Association (BLSA) and Latin American Law Students Association (LALSA) co-sponsored the 2014 Widener Law Minority Reception where Widener Law alumni Sharon Lopez ’93 and Tracy Henry ’94, were both recognized by the student organizations for their contributions and efforts to diversify the legal community in central Pennsylvania.

Pictured from left to right: Jamilah Espinosa 3L, President, LALSA, Sharon Lopez ’93, Tracy Henry ’94, and Morgan Davis 3L, President, BLSA.

The Harrisburg campus celebrated National Pro Bono Week with a series of events, including two that honored members of the Pennsylvania legal community. The school gave its inaugural Pro Bono Recognition Award to Sandra Ballard, Esq., the pro bono/public services coordinator for the Dauphin County Bar Association. It honored Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice J. Michael Eakin with the inaugural Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Pro Bono Service Provider Award.

Left: Sandra Ballard (center) with students. Right: Supreme Court Justice J. Michael Eakin with students.
Students from the Law & Government Institute on the Harrisburg campus volunteered at a charity softball game dubbed the “Capitol All-Stars.” The game at Metro Bank Park featured more than 50 state legislators from both sides of the aisle coming together as East and West teams to benefit Feeding Pennsylvania and Hunger-Free Pennsylvania.

From left: Alumnus Eric Failing ’97, students Jesse Rhodeside, Jacqulyn Harris and Melissa Chapaska, and Law and Government Institute Director Jill E. Family.

Alumni Honor and Celebrate

Widener Law held its biggest alumni event of the year at the Down Town Club in Philadelphia. The reception celebrated the achievements of Philadelphia-area alumni and brought together graduates from both campuses for an evening of networking and socializing. 300 alumni, judges, students, faculty, and staff were in attendance.

Pictured above, far right: Renae B. Axelrod, Alumni Association President. Pictured below: Alumni from both campuses connect at the Philadelphia reception.

Honorable Maria McLaughlin ’92 (below, right) received the Alumna of the Year Award, and Catherine Dotto ’09 (below, left) received the Outstanding Recent Alumna Award for their great service at Widener Law’s annual Alumni Awards Ceremony.

New Jersey alumni, current students, and accepted applicants mingled for an evening of networking and fun. Our most recent New Jersey bar passers were also honored.

Below: Eugene D. McGurk, Jr., Chairman, Board of Overseers, and Secretary, University Board of Trustees

The Women’s Law Caucus on the Delaware campus raised funds for breast cancer research through the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk in Wilmington, Delaware.
Susan Ray Kempki, ’89, Hon. J. Kevin Brobson,’95, and James Holzman served as judges in the Harrisburg Internal Moot Court competition. Students competing were Katie Riggleman-Thomas ’14 and Jordan Davis ’15. Katharine Costlow ’14 is a student on the dais with the judges.

Widener Law and DuPont partnered again this year to co-sponsor a conference on developments in intellectual property law. The event, held at the DuPont Country Club, featured speakers who are among the nation’s premier authorities on the topic.

From left: P. Michael Walker, DuPont Vice President and Chief Intellectual Property Counsel, Dean Linda L. Ammons, and Andrew Schaeffer ’87, Assistant Chief Intellectual Property Counsel at DuPont gather before the start of the conference, which Ammons opened with welcome remarks.

Harrisburg alumnae gathered to discuss leadership lessons learned in the legal field. Four prominent alumnae highlighted ethical behavior and professional responses when encountering difficult situations.

Left to right: Catherine Boyle, Esq. ’95, Rhodia Thomas, Esq. ’97, Susan Bucknum, Esq. ’98, panel discussion moderator, Professor Anna Hemingway, and Hon. Alexandra Kokura Kravitz ’09.

A busy competition season for students from both campuses

A three-person team (from left), Jon Landua, Caroline Donato, and John Henry of the Delaware campus made it to the finals of the Academy of Trial Lawyers Mock Trial Competition at the U.S. Federal Courthouse in Pittsburgh. They were coached by adjunct professors Constance Clarke and Catherine Berryman.

Susan Ray Kempki, ’89, Hon. J. Kevin Brobson,’95, and James Holzman served as judges in the Harrisburg Internal Moot Court competition. Students competing were Katie Riggelman-Thomas ’14 and Jordan Davis ’15. Katharine Costlow ’14 is a student on the dais with the judges.

Harrisburg campus students (from left). Richard Sgrinoli, John Dixon, Joshua Harshberger, and Maria Anderson competed in a Moot Court competition at the Charleston School of Law.
Dear Alumni and Friends:

As we reach the end of the academic year 2013-2014, I am eager to attend the upcoming graduation ceremonies on our Delaware and Harrisburg campuses. It is always exciting to see the look of accomplishment and enthusiastic anticipation on the faces of our graduates as they transition from Widener Law students to Widener Law alumni.

Throughout this magazine, there are examples of alumni participating in community service, mentoring, and giving back. Widener Law alumni are a generous group. As we have moved forward in our lives and careers, we remember where we started and are proud to give back to our alma mater and our communities. In fact, our alumni board has done great volunteer work this year, such as cleaning and organizing the library at Stetser Elementary School on Martin Luther King Day.

The alumnus profiled in this issue, Charles Proctor III, is an example of a truly generous spirit. Even as he took a case to the U.S. Supreme Court, Chuck still found time to help Widener Law student, Josh Harshberger, and his team prepare for a Moot Court competition at the Charleston School of Law.

Recently, we held the annual Philadelphia Alumni Reception, attended by over 300 alumni, judges, friends, and students. At a separate event, we presented our annual Alumni Awards, which honored 2013 Alumna of the Year Award recipient, the Honorable Maria McLaughlin ‘92, Outstanding Service Award recipient, Carl Battle ‘82, and Outstanding Recent Alumna Award recipient, Catherine Dotto ’09.

On behalf of myself and the entire Alumni Association Board, I would like to congratulate all of our new graduates, a student body that will certainly be our next generation of committed alumni.

Sincerely,

Rena B. Axelrod ’91
President, Alumni Association
“Americans can pray in their houses of worship and their homes or privately to themselves. But at official government meetings, no American should feel excluded because of his or her faith. By being inclusive, we ensure that each of us is a full-fledged member of ‘We the People.’”

Distinguished Professor Alan E. Garfield, OPED, The News Journal

DAVID J. FERRY, JR., attorney of Joseph & Pearce, P.A., in Wilmington, Delaware was honored in “Delaware Today” magazine as one of the Lawyers’ Choices for Delaware’s Best Lawyers, in the area of elder law.

KEVIN F. BRADY of Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellot, LLC, in Wilmington, Delaware was honored in “Delaware Today” magazine as one of the Lawyers’ Choices for Delaware’s Best Lawyers, in the area of elder law.

JOSEPH J. MCGRORY, JR., Chairman of the Municipal Law Department at Hamburg, Rubin, Mullin, Maxwell and Lupin in Lansdale, Pennsylvania, has recently participated as a panel member in the “Philadelphia Mental Health Court Civil Commitment CLE Update 2013.” He was also recently appointed to the Council of the Municipal Law Section of the Pennsylvania Bar Association.

MARY M. CULLEY of Morris James, LLP, in Wilmington, Delaware was honored in “Delaware Today” magazine as one of the Lawyers’ Choices for Delaware’s Best Lawyers, in the area of elder law.

SHAWN DOUGHERTY attorney of Weik, Nitsche & Dougherty, in Wilmington, Delaware was honored in “Delaware Today” magazine as one of the Lawyers’ Choices for Delaware’s Best Lawyers, in the area of elder law.

HON. SHERRY R. FALLON was sworn in as a United States Magistrate Judge, joining Magistrate Judges Thynge and Burke.

JOEL L. FRANK, managing partner and executive committee chairman of Lamb McErlane P.C., in West Chester, Pennsylvania, has been nominated by Governor Tom Corbett to serve as a Commissioner on the Pennsylvania State Athletic Commission.

CYNTHIA KAISER, attorney of Richards, Layton & Finger, in Wilmington, Delaware was honored in “Delaware Today” magazine as one of the Lawyers’ Choices for Delaware’s Best Lawyers, in the area of elder law.

DAWN G. SUTPHIN, Delaware estates attorney at Law Offices of Dawn Getty Sutphin in Delaware County, Pennsylvania, was recently nominated to the Anne B. Anstine Excellence in Public Service Series, an annual professional leadership program.

“[We have] certain laws banning certain kinds of discrimination, but there’s no law banning discrimination because of viewpoints about sexual orientation.”

Associate Professor Michael R. Dimino, Sr.
ABC27 News
1990

**Peter L. Frattarelli**, Chair of the Labor & Employment Law department at Archer & Greiner P.C. in Haddonfield, New Jersey has spoken on the topic of the “Italian Job: A Look at Employers’ and Workers’ Rights in Italy and the United States.” Mr. Frattarelli also participated on a panel discussing the federal health care reform law during the Hispanic Leadership Summit of New Jersey at Rowan University.

**James J. Ruggiero, Jr.**, of Ruggiero Law Offices LLC in Paoli and Center Valley, Pennsylvania, has been certified as an estate planning law specialist by the Estate Law Specialist Board, Incorporated.

“*They would rather keep every single inmate in than risk damage to their political careers if a person was released and did something that got bad publicity.*”

Professor Leonard N. Sosnov, *The Patriot-News*

1991

**John Brady** was elected and sworn into the office of Clerk of the Peace for Sussex County, Delaware, where he is the head of the Marriage Bureau for the county. Mr. Brady was also confirmed by the Delaware State senate for a six year term on the Delaware State Industrial Accident Board.

**Brett L. Messinger** has been promoted to partner at Duane Morris LLP in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

1992

**David W. Barron** was elected President Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Mifflin County, Pennsylvania.

**Lisa C. Katterman**, an officer of the Association of Corporate Counsel accepted an award on behalf of the organization for its efforts in diversifying the profession at the Dauphin County Bar Association’s annual meeting and dinner.

1993

**Thomas Ost-Prisco**, assistant district attorney of Chester County was recently elevated to deputy district attorney. Mr. Ost-Prisco heads the arson and explosives investigations in the county, acting as a liaison to Chester County fire departments and arson investigators.

**Lisa A. Shearman**, attorney with Hamburg, Rubin, Mullin, Maxwell & Lupin PC’s Lansdale, Pennsylvania, office, was recently awarded the Honorable Milton O. Moss Public Service Award.

**Christopher D. Carusone** was made partner at Conrad O’Brien PC in the firm’s Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, office. He is the newest member of Conrad O’Brien’s elite white collar criminal defense and internal corporate investigations practice.

**Renee Merion**, assistant district attorney of Chester County has been elevated to deputy district attorney. Ms. Merion has been a prosecutor for 19 years and is the head of the Chester County District Attorney’s Juvenile Unit, handling all aspects of juvenile prosecutions.
THEODORE J. KOBUS III, partner of BakerHostetler in New York, New York has been named an MVP by national legal publication Law360 and profiled as an “elite law firm partner” on their site. He has been recognized in the area of Privacy & Consumer Protection.

JOANN NEEDLEMAN, vice president and managing attorney of the Philadelphia office of Maurice & Needleman, P.C., was sworn in as president of the National Association of Retail Collection Attorneys (NARCA) at the association’s Fall Collection Conference in Washington, D.C. Needleman will serve as NARCA’s president for the next two years.

HEMANT PATHAK received the “Attorney of the Year” award at Microsoft’s Worldwide Legal & Corporate Affairs Summit in Bellevue, Washington. Hemant is assistant general counsel in Microsoft’s Washington, DC area offices and supports their Public Sector and Health & Life Sciences industry units.

GINA F. RUBEL, president and CEO of Furia Rubel Communications, has been awarded the Maxine Elkin Award for Distinguished Service by The Public Relations Society of America’s Philadelphia Chapter.

1995

JENNIFER HOLSTEN MADDALONI, attorney of Holsten & Associates in Media, Pennsylvania, has been elected as the Register of Wills and Clerk of Orphan’s Court for Delaware County, Pennsylvania.

JONATHAN LAYTON of Layton & Associates, P.A., in Wilmington, Delaware was honored in “Delaware Today” magazine as one of the Lawyers’ Choices for Delaware’s Best Lawyers, in the area of criminal law.

TIMOTHY F. RAYNE, partner of MacElree Harvey, Ltd. has received AV Preeminent Rating with Martindale-Hubbell. Mr. Rayne focuses his practice on personal injury cases.

1996

J. MICHAEL SHELDON has been elected as the vice president of the Dauphin County Bar Association.

JOHN B. ZONARICH, a member of the Harrisburg law firm SkarlatosZonarich LLC, has been named to the board of the Ehlers-Danlos National Foundation.

1997

JOAN M. BERGMAN, real estate attorney at Bell, Davis & Pitt in Winston-Salem, North Carolina has been named to North Carolina’s Legal Elite Hall of Fame by “Business North Carolina” magazine.

CHRISTOPHER J. KNIGHT made partner at his firm Hawke McKeon and Sniscak LLP in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

1998

WADE A. KAGARISE was sworn in as a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Blair County, Pennsylvania.

JASON METTLEY has been named partner at the Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, based law firm, Meyer, Unkovic & Scott. He works with clients on matters related to employee benefit plans, fiduciary responsibility, plan governance and contributions collections.

JOHN D. SHERIDAN has been inducted as the new president of the Dauphin County Bar Association.
1999

MARK CONTE, assistant district attorney of Chester County has recently been elevated to deputy district attorney. In addition to his trial assignments, Conte runs trial-advocacy training for the District Attorney’s Office.

DAVID KAPLAN was admitted as partner to the boutique law firm of Brown Kaplan Gold LLC. Mr. Kaplan brings with him a wealth of knowledge in the areas of securities, private equity, hedge fund, and real estate.

JONATHAN PERI, vice president of Neumann University has been elected as president of The Delaware County Bar Association’s Board of Directors.

ANGELA PINTO-ROSS of the Law Offices of Doroshow, Pasquale, Krawitz & Bhaya, in Wilmington, Delaware was honored in “Delaware Today” magazine as one of the Lawyers’ Choices for Delaware’s Best Lawyers, in the area of social security disability.

2000

STEPHANIE L. HANSEN of Young Conaway Stargatt & Taylor, LLP, in Wilmington, Delaware was honored in “Delaware Today” magazine as one of the Lawyers’ Choices for Delaware’s Best Lawyers, in the area of environmental law.

2001

JULIEANE E. FRY opened a private practice, Fry Law Office, in Allentown, Pennsylvania, after 13 years in the legal profession.

VINCE L. CHAMPION, Widener Law Board of Overseers member, has opened his own firm, Champion Law Firm, LLC, in Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

“For a city in as dire straits as Detroit is, you’d have to think of bankruptcy as an option. What do they really gain if the case is dismissed? There’s no money to pay anybody.”

Professor Juliet M. Moringiello, CNN Money

2003

ADAM S. GETSON was promoted to partner of Wapner, Newman, Wigrizer, Brecher and Miller in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

2004

NATHANIEL M. HOLMES of Chartwell Law Offices, LLP in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, has been awarded with the “Outstanding Pro Bono Lawyer” award by the Dauphin County Bar Association at their annual meeting and dinner.

2006

MELISSA L. MIGNOGNA of Capehart Scatchard in Mt. Laurel, New Jersey was voted in as partner. She concentrates her practice in all aspects of family law.

SHANNON P. MILLER has joined as an associate to Maurice & Needleman’s Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, office. He focuses his practice on various aspects of creditors’ rights law.
KRISTI L. TERRANOVA has joined Pashman Stein Family Law Practice in Hackensack, New Jersey. She will handle a variety of family law matters including marital dissolutions, child custody and parenting time disputes, support issues, relocation, pre-nuptial and reconciliation agreements, domestic violence and probation proceedings, and appellate practice.

2007

MARIA BERMUDEZ-HARRIS, attorney at Martin LLC in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, spoke to Widener Women on the topic of “The Evolution of the Law Office Environment” at an event at the law offices of Anapol Schwartz hosted by the Philadelphia Chapter of the Widener Women’s Network. She has also been voted Chair-Elect of Philadelphia Bar Young Lawyers by the group’s Executive Committee. As Chair-Elect, Bermudez-Harris will assist in the overall direction and administration of the Philadelphia Bar Young Lawyers forums and, in 2015, assume the Chair role.


JEFFREY L. OSTER has joined the Philadelphia office of Rawle & Henderson as an associate. He concentrates his practice on general negligence, premises liability, motor vehicle liability, trucking, professional liability, medical malpractice, employment law, and toxic torts.

TARA MONDELLI SCHELLHORN, an associate in the Bankruptcy & Reorganization group of Riker Danzig Scherer Hyland & Perretti, LLP in Morristown, New Jersey, was among 40 up-and-coming bankruptcy attorneys from across the country selected to participate in the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges Next Generation Program.

BRIAN PHILLIPS has joined the law firm of Curtin & Heefner LLP as an associate for its insurance litigation department.

ADAM H. TANKER was recently hired as an associate of Williams Family Law, P.C., in Doylestown, Pennsylvania. Mr. Tanker focuses his practice on all aspects of family law matters including spousal support and divorce.

2009

MICHAEL L. BILECI, workers’ compensation attorney and shareholder of Capehart Scatchard in Mt. Laurel, New Jersey, recently spoke at the Tri-County Orthopedics annual conference in Morristown, New Jersey discussing the “Basic Defenses in Workers’ Compensation.” Mr. Bileci also spoke at the NovaCare Rehabilitation Industrial Seminar in Princeton, New Jersey addressing the topic of “Permanency Awards—Statutory Provisions, Case Law and Other Factors that Impact Awards.”

MARK A. BUTERBAUGH, representative of District C in Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, has been sworn-in as a member of the Shippensburg Area school board.

PATRICK J. MURPHY, litigation partner in the national law firm of Fox Rothschild LLP, was recently reappointed by President Barack Obama to the West Point Board of Visitors.

2010

RYAN CICOSKI, business and litigation attorney of Womble Carlyle in Wilmington, Delaware, was one of only two attorneys in the United States selected to receive the 2014 Pegasus Scholarship opportunity to study the English legal system in the United Kingdom.
Friends from the Widener Law Harrisburg Class of 2010 gathered in Coral Gables, Florida, to celebrate the wedding of 2010 ALUMNUS JORGE L. CONFORME, of Miami, and Andrea L. Nappi, of Chicago. Appearing in the picture, left to right, are: Lauren Jordan McHugh, Katelyn Cutinello, Matthew McHugh, Andrea Nappi Conforme, Jason Alterbaum, Jorge Conforme, Shawn-Ryan White, Jonathan Villa, Alison Villa, Peter Yochum, and Nicole Santo.

SCOTT MACMULLAN, owner and founder of Scott MacMullen Law, LLC, in Annapolis, Maryland, has been appointed to the Maryland State Bar Association Judicial Appointments Committee.

SHUAIYB NEWTON has joined Martin LLC, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, as an associate in the areas of social security disability and long-term disability.

2011

MATTHEW BILKER has joined Eckell Sparks in Media, Pennsylvania, as an associate in the litigation department.

ULYSSES WILSON, associate of Johnson, Duffie, Stewart & Weidner in Lemoyne, Pennsylvania, appeared on ABC’s “Whodunit?” The show pits 13 contestants against each other in a scenario similar to the classic Clue board game. Contestants vie to find evidence in a series of “murders” at the Rue Manor estate.

IN MEMORIAM

Mark A. Cunningham ’75
Edmund M. Hillis ’80
James F. Kilcur’77
James W. McNulty III ’94
Donald B. Scace Jr. ’76
Renee E. Scrocca ’85

2012

GABRIELA RAFUL served as a panelist at Albright College’s “Hispanic Heritage Panelist Discussion,” discussing the challenges facing Hispanics in the Reading, Pennsylvania, area. Ms. Raful also spoke at the Reading Latino Lecture Series. Her topic of discussion was “The Power of Latino Women,” discussing the need for strong role models for Latino youth.

ANA C. TAPIAS has joined Rawle & Henderson LLP’s Philadelphia office as an associate. She concentrates her practice on workers’ compensation matters.

2013

PATRICK J. GALLO, JR., has joined MacElree Harvey, Ltd. as an associate in the firm’s civil and commercial litigation department. Mr. Gallo concentrates his practice on a broad range of litigation matters, with an emphasis on complex commercial and business-related issues.

BRANDON O’DONNELL became an associate with Abom & Kutulakis, L.L.P. in the firm’s Carlisle, Pennsylvania, office.

WHITNEY E. SNYDER has joined Hawke McKeon & Sniscak in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, as an associate focusing in the petroleum, electricity, and natural gas sectors, practicing before the PA PUC and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

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We’d like to know where you are and what you’re doing.
We are thrilled to announce that we have reached our Taking the Lead ~The Campaign for Widener goal with $12.3 million dollars committed from our alumni, friends, and community supporters. However, we are not finished yet. The campaign does not officially close until the end of the 2014 calendar year. Two campaign priorities—Endowed Scholarships and the Widener Law Annual Fund—are still in vital need of your support.

Please give back, and help us finish strong!

| Facilities for Living, Learning, and Serving | Goal | $500,000 | Funded | $443,537 |
| Special Project Opportunity Fund | Goal $4,000,000 | Surpassed and still climbing $5,413,797 |
| Academic Excellence and Endowment | Goal $5,000,000 | Funded $3,968,738 |
| Widener Law Fund | Goal $2,500,000 | To date $2,428,676 |

To discuss establishing an endowed scholarship, please contact: Laurie J. Grant, AVP, Development & Alumni Engagement 302-477-2168 / ljgrant@widener.edu
Taking the Lead, One Step at a Time

Please make your gift to the Widener Law Fund today—a gift of any size makes a difference.

STEP IT UP!

If you or someone you know is pictured in this photo, please contact:
Laurie J. Grant, AVP, Development & Alumni Engagement
302-477-2168 / ljgrant@widener.edu

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