Making Waves—Creating Ripples
Faculty’s impact on environmental law extends from the classroom to the world

High Vantage Point
Justice Lee Solomon ’78 named to New Jersey Supreme Court

Class Notes
Delaware alumni reaching milestones and making news
“What gives me hope is that I see more awareness of environmental issues around the world and I see countries taking it seriously enough to put rights in their constitutions and to invite people to claim those rights by broadening access to justice.”

Interim Dean Erin Daly
Dear Alumni and Friends,

The search for a permanent dean of the law school in Delaware officially commenced this fall. It is hoped that the eighth dean of Widener Law Delaware will begin that post by summer of 2015. While I am serving as interim dean and as we close out the fall 2014 semester, I’m proud to report the following accomplishments:

- We continue to be proud of all of our graduates this year, we are especially proud that the New Jersey Senate confirmed 1978 alumna Lee Solomon of Haddonfield, N.J to a seat on the state’s Supreme Court—the first Widener Law graduate to reach the New Jersey Supreme Court bench. Read more about this story on page 12.
- Professors John Culhane, Dana Harrington Conner and Alicia Kelly collaborated to create the new Family Law Clinic which serves the people of Delaware and the region.
- The Environmental and Natural Resources Law Institute—a creation from the joint Environmental and Natural Resources Law Clinic which serves the people of Delaware and the region. You can read more about the global impact of the work of these organizations.
- Our Veterans Law Clinic received a 2014 Delaware Governor’s Outstanding Volunteer Award for community service facilitated by the Delaware Office of Volunteerism—the second consecutive year a Widener Law program has been recognized.
- The Institute of Delaware Corporate and Business Law is enhancing its offerings in bankruptcy law through the addition of Bruce Grohsgal, the Helen S. Balick Visiting Professor in Business Bankruptcy Law. Beyond the classroom, Bruce is assisting in creating new externship and placement opportunities for students and helping to position the law school as a premiere center for bankruptcy-related research and law reform through scholarship and continuing legal education programming.
- To ensure that students are well prepared to pass the bar exams, we are making immediate changes to pedagogy and assessments and adding support programs.
- The Environmental and Natural Resources Law Institute—created as an evolution from the joint Environmental and Natural Resources Law Clinic which serves the people of Delaware and the region. You can read more about the global impact of the work of our Institute in this issue.

We continue to rely upon your support and encouragement—now more than ever—as we move closer toward separation at Widener University School of Law with the retirement of Dean Linda Ammons, the request to the ABA for Harrisburg’s separate accreditation, the search for two new deans, and the achievement of the Law School’s overall goal as part of “Taking the Lead - The Campaign for Widener.” The office of Development & Alumni Engagement has been diligently working to make sure all transitions will be seamless for our alumni. Throughout the separation process, your voice is more important than ever, and I welcome and encourage your feedback and suggestions for ways to improve communications. We want to help you better engage with us, with each other, and with our current students.

We are grateful to our alumni, faculty, staff and friends who contributed to “Taking the Lead - The Campaign for Widener,” the University’s comprehensive campaign. Through your support we have been able to create more than twenty new scholarships for law students, significantly enhance clinic opportunities, and improve and update our academic environments with renovations to both campuses. The campaign helped us to realize just how fortunate we are to have such an outstanding community of leaders. Widener Law leadership can be seen everywhere: it is reflected in the champions of the campaign, those donors who wholeheartedly supported our efforts in our faculty, those dedicated individuals educating the future lawyers of the world while defending justice outside the classroom, and most certainly in our alumni, whose achievements and professional accolades inspire future Widener Law graduates and their communities.

As we anticipate the end of the calendar year, many of us pause to give thanks for our families and friends. It is a time to look back while we prepare to move forward. At Widener Law, we, too, pause to reflect and we are thankful to all of you for your generous support. We are confident that together we can meet all of the challenges and opportunities that will undoubtedly unfold in the coming year.

Best wishes to you and yours for a happy, healthy new year.

Laurie J. Grant
Assistant Vice President for Development & Alumni Engagement

P.S. If you have not participated in the historic efforts of the “Taking the Lead - The Campaign for Widener,” there is still time to give back to your alma mater as the campaign does not officially conclude until December 31, 2014.

DEAR ALUMNI & FRIENDS,

The last twelve months have been full of change at Widener University School of Law with the retirement of Dean Linda Ammons, the request to the ABA for Harrisburg’s separate accreditation, the search for two new deans, and the achievement of the Law School’s overall goal as part of “Taking the Lead - The Campaign for Widener.” The office of Development & Alumni Engagement has been diligently working to make sure all transitions will be seamless for our alumni. Throughout the separation process, your voice is more important than ever, and I welcome and encourage your feedback and suggestions for ways to improve communications. We want to help you better engage with us, with each other, and with our current students.

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According to a recent report from NASA, earth just experienced the warmest six-month stretch in 130 years of recorded history. Reports like this, combined with measurable evidence such as the increasing frequency of landscape altering superstorms, rising sea levels, and the ever-shrinking polar ice cap, challenge us to think creatively as we respond to environmental changes both locally and globally.

As we face complex environmental issues, it will take a multi-faceted approach to discover solutions. Environmental law is the axis around which these solutions turn, and Widener Law Delaware is taking the lead. From local legislation to international law reform, members of our Environmental and Natural Resources Law Institute use teaching, advocacy, and legal scholarship to protect the environment and improve society as a whole.

Professor David Hodas, co-author of the casebook, Climate Change: Mitigation and Adaptation, understands that addressing these issues is going to be difficult in part because economic interests often clash with environmental ones. While solar power, for example, is undoubtedly “cleaner” energy than oil or coal, it needs to be economically feasible to install.

“The stone-age did not end for a lack of stones and the fossil fuel age will not end for a lack of fossil fuel,” says Hodas, who teaches and writes on a wide range of environmental law topics. “We have plenty of it. But, we can’t use it all if we want to keep the planet from going into potentially catastrophic warming. But, it’s so valuable and so comparatively cheap that everyone is going to use it.”

Law and regulation can help. “The only way to reduce the use of fossil fuels is to have laws in place that change the price signals, restrict the use, make utilities put in renewables,” says Hodas. “Basically, we have to change the laws to give different signals to people so we can actually reduce our use of fossil fuels and still keep our economy up. In that sense, training lawyers, contemplating climate change, and exploring new ways of thinking about the law is enormously important.”

Director of Environmental and Natural Resources Law Institute Jim May elaborates, “Legislators and agencies can provide incentives for better responses to energy concerns. Lawmakers can bring things to bear, if they have the political will to do so. On one hand, lawmakers like to get elected and like to get funding. On the other hand, you have big coal, big oil, big natural gas, big pharmaceuticals, and the jobs they produce and their economic obligations to their shareholders. But lawmakers set up that framework of corporate law and can finesse it so that it makes more sense for corporations and others to do their fair share, and along the way to improve the environment, enhance land values, increase tourism and more.”

May points to the state of Delaware as a good example of how the law can intercede. “Fifty years ago, a large company wanted to build a string of giant petrochemical and petroleum refineries along the Delaware coast from Wilmington all the way down to Delaware City—20 miles of industrial development.” May says “Ultimately, the state enacted a law prohibiting new industrial facilities and heavy industries along the coast. That’s why the Delaware coastline doesn’t look like an industrial zone. It took lawmakers to step in and say ‘no,’ to make that choice, and it was a tough one. It was propelled by Governor Russ Peterson, who left a legacy that enhances land values all along the coast, and improves the environment and air quality.”

From Delaware to Durban  The following action was written by Interim Dean Erin Daly

Professor May and Interim Dean Erin Daly are bringing these lessons together in the classroom, and extending them across the world. Over the last few years, they have been exploring how constitutional law can promote environmental protection. Although the United States Constitution does not include environmental rights, the constitutions of nearly 100 countries and many sub-national units, including five American states, do. Some of these provisions guarantee an individual an enforceable right to a quality or a clean environment, while others impose duties to promote sustainability or to hold the nation’s natural resources in trust for present and future generations. Provisions like these are so common that the majority of the world’s inhabitants now live under a constitution that protects the environment in some way. Daly and May’s book, Global Environmental Constitutionalism, examines these provisions and the cases that have been decided under them. May explains, “We’re seeing what the constitutions of all these countries are
“We’re seeing what the constitutions of all of these countries are saying about the environment... and then we’re examining the extent to which the courts have been receptive to claims based on those constitutional provisions.” Jim May

Actually, courts have been very receptive: “We’re seeing cases in Argentina, Israel, India, Chile, and South Africa, in every part of the world, with different legal traditions, and different environmental challenges,” says Daly. “Courts have not been reluctant to accept the challenge of enforcing environmental rights, even though those judicial actions can have significant and serious political and economic consequences.”

Indeed, constitutional courts in all regions of the world have accepted the challenge of bringing these provisions to life. The cases involve a wide array of environmental settings—from protecting forests against unlawful timber licenses, to illegal gold mining, to unregulated dumping of toxic materials, to pollution in the rivers of Argentina and the bays of the Philippines, to the distribution of water in the deserts of Israel and the townships of South Africa. In all of these cases, courts have engaged constitutional environmental provisions to gauge governmental responsibility for protecting the environment.

One of the most ambitious efforts to use a nation’s constitution to protect the environment is in South Africa. Their constitution creates a right to “an environment that is not harmful to health or well-being” and obligates the government to develop “reasonable legislative and other measures” that prevent pollution and ecological degradation, that promote conservation, and that commit the nation to “secure ecologically sustainable development and use of natural resources while promoting justifiable economic and social development.” Despite the broad wording and the capacious guarantees articulated in this provision, courts in South Africa have yet to fully embrace it.

Students in Dean Daly’s and Professor May’s class are trying to change that. The class—the first practicum offered at the Law School—connects students with lawyers from three South African environmental and human rights organizations: the Centre for Environmental Rights, the Center for Applied Legal Studies at the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, and the Legal Resources Center in Durban. These lawyers are relying on the students’ research to help them advance constitutional claims in current cases.

In one case, residents of a neighborhood near Durban are challenging the impacts of a major port expansion on the environment and on their human rights. Students in the class are working with the lawyers representing the residents to identify possible constitutional claims they could make and examining whether the planned expansion violates the constitutional guarantee of sustainable development. Other students are researching whether the constitutional provision could be used to compel the government to invest in compliance monitoring and enforcement of the nation’s environmental laws by the South African Department of Mineral Resources. Still others are examining whether the constitutional provision can be used to promote clean-up of abandoned mines.

These are just a few examples of the ways students are learning about environmental constitutionalism by working on live issues with lawyers across the globe. The students in the class are getting to know these South African lawyers through regular Skype conversations in the class and email contact on their own. Through this collaborative venture, the students and the South African lawyers are contributing to the full vindication of constitutional environmental rights in South Africa.

The results of the students’ work will be used by the attorneys in current and future cases. This work will be “incredibly useful,” says Melissa Fourie of the Centre for Environmental Rights. Fourie is working with 3L Chris Moore, who is one of the first researchers to investigate how the South African constitution’s protection for “well-being” can be used to improve environmental outcomes throughout the nation. There is “so little guidance on this issue. That’s why we’ve put the class on this,” smiles Fourie.

Moore is up to the challenge. “I feel like a trailblazer,” he says.

“Not Science Fiction

Looking through a different lens, Associate Dean and Professor Andy Strauss examines how international law is necessary to manage environmental issues. He poses some interesting questions, such as, what if there was a way to spray a protective chemical onto the stratosphere to filter the sun and cool the planet? Actually, there is a way. And it’s not very difficult.

“Technique is called solar radiation management,” explains Strauss, a leading expert on geoengineering, which is the attempt to intentionally alter the earth’s climate to counteract the effects of climate change. Strauss is the author of the book, Climate Change Geoengineering: Philosophical Perspectives, Legal Issues, and Governance Frameworks.

“There are about 75 different ideas for geoengineering that people talk about,” says Strauss. “But the main one right now is solar radiation management, which is to spray sulfur particles into the stratosphere. It is also the most controversial because it is technically feasible, and could have a huge impact on climate change.”

“Can you use hot air balloons or specially designed airplanes to spray fine sulfur particles so that they’ll stay up in the stratosphere for a long time,” explains Strauss. “The idea is that the sulfur would reflect the sun coming in, limit solar energy, and then the earth will heat up less quickly.”

The science is based on the effects of volcanic eruptions that spew large quantities of sulfur into the stratosphere. For example, following the eruption of Mount Pinatubo in 1992, the whole planet cooled by approximately one degree for a year or two.

While the science is intriguing, Strauss’s primary interest is in the international law aspect. “What does the governance look like if you’re going to do this? How do you get people to agree?” he asks.

These questions are relevant, because solar radiation management is viable. “A billionaire could do it on his or her own. A small country could do it,” asserts Strauss. “You can imagine an alliance of small island states, which are predicted to be under water in the next century, could get together and say,”
“The formative period of international law was based on nation states that were all sovereign. Now our problems become internationalized. The smoke you put up in the United States is not just about the climate in the United States. It’s about the global climate. So, we need a global system that’s adapted to the problems we have.” Andy Strauss

“Nobody is doing anything. We’re going under water. We’re going to sponsor solar radiation management. Who could tell them that they couldn’t? Who decides whether we do this and how can we set up a mechanism for making a decision that people will agree on? What if somebody just goes ahead and does it? How does the world respond?”

There are no easy answers. The truth is that the historical design of international law is not set up for scenarios like this one. “The formative period of international law was based on nation states that were all sovereign,” explains Strauss. “Now our problems become internationalized. The smoke you put up in the United States is not just about the climate in the United States. It’s about the global climate. So, we need a global system that’s adapted to the problems we have.”

For the record, Strauss does not believe that geoengineering is the answer. “The best solution is to stop putting carbon into the environment. The question is if we’re not able to do that politically then what do we do as a fallback?” This is getting more and more discussion, he says.

To that end, Strauss includes geoengineering as part of the discussion and debate that students need to learn about in terms of understanding the law.

He also believes that law schools play a key role in helping address environmental issues. “When you’re talking about something like climate change, the fundamental constraint on taking effective action has been politics,” asserts Strauss. “But law schools all over the country are educating, in some ways, the most politically influential class, who will be the legislators and lobbyists of tomorrow. The hope is that when they really understand the details, the science, and the law, that they will break the logjam.”

The Legal Toolbox

Part of educating that next generation is offering practical experience. Widener Law Delaware’s Environmental and Natural Resources Clinic has been doing that for 25 years. Currently under the leadership of Director Ken Kristl, the clinic provides representation and research for environmental groups, and citizens who are involved in environmental law cases. It has represented many clients, including the Sierra Club, Potomac Riverkeeper, and groups of citizens challenging development, such as the installation of a 279-megawatt power plant for a data center in Newark, Delaware.

At the same time, the clinic is heavily involved in research. Most recently, clinic faculty and students completed an influential project under a grant from the state of Delaware, in which they explored the legal options available in the state for adapting to rising sea levels. It is predicted that sea levels will rise anywhere from 1.8 to 6 feet by the end of the century. Estimates indicate that up to 11 percent of Delaware land mass could be underwater by 2050. As this occurs, complex problems abound for businesses, home owners, and municipalities along the coast, as public and private interests may collide.

“This has been identified as a problem for Delaware, so what are the strategies? What are the legal tools you could use to adapt to rising sea levels?” asks Kristl.

As part of the grant, the students researched and wrote first drafts of strategies that became Kristl’s resource as he wrote the report, “Avoiding the Legal Toolbox for Sea Level Rise Adaptation in Delaware,” which was published last year.

For Kristl, the role of Widener Law Delaware and the clinic is meaningful. “From the perspective of a clinician, who continues to practice law, in addition to being a teacher, I see that we have an important role to play in fighting to make the environment better,” he asserts.

And despite grim predictions, Kristl remains hopeful. “I’m fundamentally optimistic that from a legal perspective, the options will become clearer. I think we’ll choose the options that ultimately help us to adapt to the environmental changes that are going to take place. There are going to be changes. We’re going to have to adapt,” he says. “I have a fundamental belief that the law can and will adapt and that certainly the students I see coming through—who will be the lawyers of tomorrow—will confront these problems and find the best solution. I believe human nature and the skills of the generation that we are training now will rise to the challenge.”

Toxic Torts in a Nutshell

In addition to working on the latest version of her book and introducing Widener Law Delaware students to the world of toxic torts, science, and the law, Eggen is also an active member of a Special Committee on Congressional Relations of the ABA’s section on environment, energy, and resources. “We’ve been working with Congress, as they try to modernize the Toxic Substances Control Act,” she explains. The role of the committee is to “answer substantive legal questions and to provide members of congress with a little more information on some really, really thorny issues.”

For her part, Eggen wrote a white paper on what it would mean if the Toxic Substances Control Act had a provision that said no one could bring a state tort action. She explains, “That’s a huge issue in the Toxic Substances Control Act—whether to preempt private rights of action.”

As important legislative decisions are made and limits on substances and requirements are established, the role of this committee is a valuable one. “It’s a question of getting close to the policy makers and the legislators and being able to provide legal expertise to the people who are making the decisions—who those may not be familiar with what the issues are or how complicated they are,” Eggen explains. “They are often listening to a different group of people, to lobbyists or their constituencies. We’re trying to be impartial and provide that expertise for them.”
Faculty News

Widener Law represented the largest contingent of faculty from any law school presenting at the Academy of Environmental Law annual conference in Tarragona, Spain. Attended by the leaders in environmental policy and climate change from around the world, the conference was sponsored by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the oldest and largest global environmental network. Professors from both the Delaware and Harrisburg campuses attended, including Delaware Professors Erin Daly, David Hodas, and Jim May, and Harrisburg Distinguished Professor John Dernbach, and Visiting Scholar Don Brown. “We’re constantly getting invited to do these sorts of things and ultimately, that’s a testament to the grit and interests of the faculty,” says May.

Christine D. Allie presented “Finding an Intangible Model Through Success: Are India and Brazil’s New servis Length Transfer Pricing Methods a Better Model for Developing Economies than the UN Model?” at Northeastern University School of Law, and also on a young scholars tax panel at the Southeastern Association of Law Schools conference. In addition, Allie gave presentations on Cooperville v. Wyant, a tax case that will be heard in the upcoming Supreme Court term, during Widener Law Delware’s 2014 Supreme Court Preview Webinar and at the school’s First Monday: A Preview of the New Supreme Court Term. She also gave presentations on Cooperville v. Wyant, a tax case that will be heard in the upcoming Supreme Court term, during Widener Law Delaware’s 2014 Supreme Court Preview Webinar and at the school’s First Monday: A Preview of the New Supreme Court Term at Young, Conway, Stargatt & Taylor, LLP.

John Culhane wrote his first piece for the Philadelphia City Paper, “When We’re Losing Where We Lose: Gavin’s Room.” He also continued writing for Slate, including “When We Lose Giovanni’s Room.” He was awarded the Douglas Jerome Award for 2014. Culhane was honored by the Pennsylvania Association of Law Libraries. “He was an excellent advocate for our library, and for his electronic research and legal writing. The Pennsylvania Association of Law Libraries is proud to honor a great contributor in this way,” notes John. Culhane was also a speaker at the University of Minnesota School of Law. With Interim Dean Erin Daly, he presented “The Future of Environmental Constitutionalism,” at Yale Law School. With Interim Dean Erin Daly, he presented “Constitutional Environmentalism and Hydraulic Fracturing,” and “Global Environmental Constitutionalism Pragmatism” at the International Union for the Conservation of Nature’s Annual Meeting.

Conrad Grohsal, as the first holder of the law school’s professorship in his name, presented “Intergenerational Economies,” at the 16th Biennial Conference on Clinical Legal Education, in Chicago, IL.

Widener Law Delaware’s 2014 Supreme Court Preview Webinar and at the school’s First Monday: A Preview of the New Supreme Court Term. He also spoke about the cases on the Supreme Court’s docket for its 2014 term at the Ooster Lifelong Learning Institute of the University of Delaware.

Judy Ritter and Francis Catania gave a presentation entitled, “Growing Up: Human Development and Clinic Students,” at the American Association of Law Schools Conference on Clinical Legal Education, in Chicago, IL.


Conrad Grohsal presented at Widener Law Delaware’s 2014 Supreme Court Preview Webinar. He reflected on the case of Widener International Network Limited v. Sharif, in which the U.S. Supreme Court in its current term will consider the extent of, and limits on, the bankruptcy court’s jurisdiction and authority. He spoke on that case again at the law school’s First Monday: A Preview of the New Supreme Court Term. Professor Grohsal was the keynote speaker at The Institute of Delaware’s Corporate and Business Law’s “Bankruptcy: A Look Back & A Look Ahead,” an event that honored U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Helen S. Balick, and introduced Professor Grohsal as the first holder of the law school’s professorship in his name.

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His journey began at Widener Law Delaware, where Solomon learned that he possessed a natural skill set that would lend itself to trial advocacy. “I was very verbal. I was a good communicator, I wrote reasonably well and I worked hard,” he says. “I thought my ability to communicate would help me as a trial lawyer and I was somewhat more interested and fascinated by the criminal law and tort courses.”

Those skills and interests led him to his first job with a small litigation firm in Philadelphia, run by a talented trial lawyer named Tom Rutter, who would become both a boss and an invaluable mentor to the young Solomon. “Tom was a terrific trial lawyer, and I knew if I could just carry his bags and watch him work, it would be a great education—and it was,” says Solomon.

In addition to the practical aspects of trial law, Rutter also taught Solomon some life lessons that he has relied on throughout his career. “Tom taught me that success and failure are not always entirely dependent on what you do. You have to be able to accept defeat and learn from it,” explains Solomon. “Understand that it’s not always because of what you did. Defeat in a courtroom is very humbling. If you look at it as—it’s not good at what I do—you’re done. You have to learn from it and accept the fact that one of the keys to winning a case is having a case that’s winnable. And then understand what it is about that case that can be successful and use that in the best way you can. In other words, you do everything you can to maximize your chance for success and that’s how...”

For as long as he can remember, Lee Solomon ’78 has had an interest in public service. “I was always fascinated by it, even in high school and college,” he says. “In American history, the philosophy that there are some concepts worth fighting for—freedom being one of them—and that there was a group of people who founded this country and were willing to give up everything—their power, their wealth, their life—for that concept is so admirable. I’ve always had a lofty view of public service.”

That vantage point has taken him to great heights. It inspired him throughout a career as a trial lawyer, into public service and politics, from town councilman, to state assemblyman, through six years as the Camden County Prosecutor, to federal prosecutor, Superior Court judge, and president of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities. Recently, he reached a new peak when he was sworn in as a Supreme Court Justice for the state of New Jersey. Serving since a private swearing-in service in June, Solomon was honored at a public ceremony in October. In a room full of New Jersey’s most powerful citizens, Solomon was proudly surrounded by his wife Dianne, and their three children, Rachel, Eric, and Aaron as he was sworn in.

Despite his soaring accomplishments, Solomon insists his career has not been a straight ascent to the top. Along with success, there have been challenges, and he values both experiences equally. “Character is what happens when you’re tested,” he asserts.

“In American history, the philosophy that there are some concepts worth fighting for—freedom being one of them—and that there was a group of people who founded this country and were willing to give up everything—their power, their wealth, their life—for that concept is so admirable. I’ve always had a lofty view of public service.”

Gene McGurk ’78, Chairman of Widener Law Board of Overseers and Secretary of Widener University Board of Trustees.
It was my experience with some of the professors and their involvement and interest that caused me "It was very good to me as a student. Without it, I couldn’t have arrived at any of the places I’ve been. It was with some of the professors and their involvement and interest that caused me to want to learn about campaigns and get involved in politics. I just wanted to give back.”

Solomon carried Rutter’s lessons forward when he opened his own firm in New Jersey and then more ambitiously entered the political arena. "If I was a good advocate, if I was well prepared, and I could present an issue well, I could be a success as a trial lawyer, and I could maybe be a success in government and politics as well, so I gave it a shot." It was a good decision.

While he’d been involved in politics at the grassroots level in Philadelphia, Solomon’s political career really took off after he had a power outage on the block. A bunch of neighbors were outside milling around and I met a neighbor across the street who had a power outage. "This is the pinnacle. I still pinch myself," he says. "It’s fascinating.”

At Solomon’s prestigious October swearing-in ceremony, New Jersey’s Lieutenant Governor Kim Guadagno offered these words of praise: "Lee possesses the patience, open-mindedness, courtesy, tact, firmness, understanding, compassion, humility, and most importantly, common sense that will serve the people of New Jersey and this judiciary well." Inspired by this new role, Solomon says, "There are challenging issues. But, I’ve never been one to shrink from an argument. I’ve never been one who’s timid. I think I’ll fill in well within the debate. My hope is that I’ll fulfill the obligation that my oath creates. I’ll work very hard and exercise good judgment.”

While he embraces the exciting challenge ahead, he offers this advice to those just starting out in their careers. "Be prepared to start at the beginning, at the bottom rung. Learn the nuts and bolts. And keep in mind that you have to look for and seize opportunity. Make the most of it and then look for the next best one. Life is not a straight line. Work is not a straight line. Career is not a straight line.”

Looking back on his own fascinating journey from Widener Law Delaware to the New Jersey Supreme Court, Solomon remains a passionate advocate for public service. "I don’t think I’ll ever lose a race. But I had plenty of defeats. I ran for Congress and did not win. It’s an important lesson. I believe that you can learn more from failure than from success. If you never taste defeat, you won’t be good at what you do. It really does teach you about yourself. It builds a quality of character.”

Keep up with Widener Law Delaware faculty scholarship by subscribing to the Widener Law Legal Studies Research Paper Series from SSRN. This free email series delivers the latest articles by Widener Law faculty to your email inbox. Visit ssrn.com link: Widener-LEG.html to subscribe.
Delaware Graduation May 2014

The Delaware campus celebrated the 2014 commencement on the lawn with Delaware Governor Jack Markell as the commencement speaker. The class also heard from Dean Linda L. Ammons, valedictorian Jordan Strokoff and Widener University President James T. Harris III.

Above, from left: President James T. Harris III poses with Dean Linda L. Ammons and Governor Jack Markell. Associate Professor Leslie A. Johnson accepts the Outstanding Faculty Award, decided by a vote of the graduating class.

Above: President James T. Harris III with Dean Linda L. Ammons. Below, from left: Delaware Superior Court Judge Jan R. Jurden, Dean Linda L. Ammons, and retired Superior Court Judge Susan Del Pesco ’75.

Graduates and friends celebrate. Below, clockwise from left: Deanna Watson ’14, Jennifer Friend-Kelly ’13, Candace Embry ’14, Jeannine Howard ’14, Roderick Thompson ’13, Chantal Jones ’14, former multicultural affairs officer Troy Riddle ’08, and Jaclyn Crittenden ’14.

Graduates and friends celebrate. Below, clockwise from left: Deanna Watson ’14, Jennifer Friend-Kelly ’13, Candace Embry ’14, Jeannine Howard ’14, Roderick Thompson ’13, Chantal Jones ’14, former multicultural affairs officer Troy Riddle ’08, and Jaclyn Crittenden ’14.

Graduate Victoria Sweeney gets a hug.

Graduate Jay Patel and family.


Graduate Jay Patel and family.

Dean Ammons’ Retirement Party

The community bid farewell to Dean Linda L. Ammons with a retirement party at the end of the spring semester in the Barristers’ Club. Widener University President James T. Harris III announced the creation of the Linda L. Ammons Diversity Scholarship at the event. Ammons is currently serving as counsel to the president for legal education at Widener University for this academic year.

Above: President James T. Harris III with Dean Linda L. Ammons.
Alumni Sworn in to SCOTUS Bar

Widener Law Delaware alumni were admitted to the bar of the Supreme Court of the United States at a hearing in Washington, D.C. Cynthia Ryan ’79 stood before the nine justices of the Supreme Court and moved for the group’s admission. Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. and Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg made personal visits to a Widener Law reception held at the court after the hearing. Admitted alumni include Jennifer D. Armstrong ’00, John D. Cirrinicione ’07, Lauren A. Pisapia Cirrinicione ’07, Michael D’Agostino ’06, Timothy W. Davenport ’01, Shelley Dugan ’97 JD and ’88 LL.M, Mary Jane E. Fitch ’96, Carol L. Gallagher ’95, Mary T. Hoang ’04, Kelley Huff ’07, Scott E. Maier ’98, James Merka ’80, Thomas A. Rothermel ’04 and Francesca Zeltmann ’03.

Jurist Academy

The Jurist Academy was held this summer, marking the seventh year of this diversity pipeline program. Coordinated by Assistant Professor of Legal Methods, Sydney Howe-Barksdale, the program brought students from undergraduate programs in Pennsylvania, Delaware, Virginia, Alabama, and New York to Widener Law Delaware.

Student Awards

Student awards were presented in the spring on the Delaware campus. Widener University President James T. Harris III presented the President’s Award to Olufunke O. Fagbami. Interim Dean Erin Daly gave the Dean’s Award to student Brittany M. Giussini.

Above: Law school advancement staff with University President James T. Harris III, from left, Public Relations Officer Mary Allen, Harrisburg Director of Development Natasha Lewis, Director of Alumni Engagement Nancy Ravert Ward, Delaware Associate Director of Development Megan Cantalupo, Assistant Vice President of Development and Alumni Engagement Laurie Grant, and Donor Relations Coordinator Judy McLaughlin. Left: The Widener group of Supreme Court bar admittees includes 14 Delaware alumni.

Below: Joanie Paet and attorney Doneene Damon, center, of Richards Layton & Finger hosted the Jurist Academy students for tours, lunch, and presentations by their firm.

From left: Interim Dean Erin Daly, Brittany M. Giussini, Olufunke O. Fagbami, President James T. Harris III. The 2014-2015 Wolcott Fellows, from left, Megan McGovern, Michael Van Goeder, Olufunke Fagbami, William Burton, Andrew Berni, and Interim Dean Erin Daly.
Welcome to the Profession

The incoming class was welcomed at a fall event in the Ruby R. Vale Moot Courtroom that featured several speakers and served to inspire students on their law school journey. Interim Dean Erin Daly, along with alumni John Cirrinicione ’07 and Kenneth Rothweider ’81, welcomed students. Professor Arthur J. Schwartz, of Widener University’s Oskin Leadership Institute reminded them that lawyers are leaders.

Widener Law Delaware hosted two debates this fall in key First State races. Interim Dean Erin Daly, left, welcomes attorney general candidates Catherine Damavandi ’99, Matt Denn, David Graham, and Ted Kittila.

Delaware launched the Family Health Law and Policy Institute this fall. Co-directed by Professors John G. Culhane, Alicia Kelly and Dana Harrington Conner, the Institute will focus on a myriad of issues, including child welfare, child abuse and neglect, juvenile justice, human rights, reproductive justice, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender rights, and more. The Institute offers a certificate program. Students will receive concentrated legal training, including field experience in areas relating to family law, health law, and the intersection of the two. In addition to specific coursework, students have a required experiential learning component involving the Medical-Legal Partnership, Delaware Civil Law Clinic, Veterans Law Clinic, or a qualifying externship.

At the start of the fall semester students mingled with Development & Alumni Engagement staff, Interim Dean Erin Daly and Associate Dean for Student Affairs Susan Goldberg while enjoying pretzels and water ice at Geesey House.

Alumni and students gathered for an informal networking opportunity in Wilmington, Delaware. Director of Alumni Engagement Nancy Ravert Ward (on the right) catches up with alumni.

The Career Development Office and Society of Recent Alumni presented a workshop entitled “My Place in the Practice” which helped students identify their niche in the practice of law.

From Left: Zachary Dryden ’15, John D. Cirrinicione ’07 and Lea Nora Ruffin, Assistant Dean, Career Development

The law school partnered with DuPont Legal to co-sponsor a day-long conference focusing on developments in intellectual property law and featuring presentations by the nation’s premier authorities on the topic.

From left: Thomas Sager, retired DuPont general counsel, partner with Ballard Spahr, and current member of Widener University’s Board of Trustees, Interim Dean Erin Daly, and Michael Walker, DuPont vice president and chief intellectual property counsel, and current member of the law school’s Board of Overseers.

At the welcome reception, clockwise from top left: AVP, Development and Alumni Engagement Laurie Grant and Alumni Association Vice President Charles Proctor III ’76; students gather and mingle; Leon A. Williams ’82 and Interim Dean Erin Daly.

The incoming class was welcomed at a fall event in the Ruby R. Vale Moot Courtroom that featured several speakers and served to inspire students on their law school journey. Interim Dean Erin Daly, along with alumni John Cirrinicione ’07 and Kenneth Rothweider ’81, welcomed students. Professor Arthur J. Schwartz, of Widener University’s Oskin Leadership Institute reminded them that lawyers are leaders.

Widener Law Delaware hosted two debates this fall in key First State races. Interim Dean Erin Daly, left, welcomes attorney general candidates Catherine Damavandi ’99, Matt Denn, David Graham, and Ted Kittila.
Pileggi Lecture

The annual Francis G. Pileggi Distinguished Lecture in Law featured Brian Chaffins, the S.J. Berwin Professor of Corporate Law at Cambridge University. He presented “Delaware and the Development of Corporate Governance.”

Widener Law Delaware faculty previewed the new Supreme Court term with the program “First Monday” held at the offices of Young Conaway Stargatt & Taylor LLP in Wilmington. Presentations were offered by professors James R. May, Christine D. Allie and Mary Brigid McManamon. H. Albert Young Fellow in Constitutional Law David R. Hodas and Helen S. Balick Visiting Professor in Business Bankruptcy Law Bruce Grohsgal.

Widener Law Delaware celebrated the arrival of Helen S. Balick Visiting Professor in Business Bankruptcy Law Bruce Grohsgal (pictured right) with a CLE program titled “Bankruptcy: A Look Back & A Look Ahead.”

Delaware Supreme Court Justice Randy J. Holland presided over a special swearing-in ceremony in which students took the oath for the limited practice of law. The students were admitted through their positions as interns with the Widener Delaware Civil Law Clinic, the Widener Environmental and Natural Resources Law Clinic, and through an externship with the Delaware Attorney General’s Office. Students included Daniel V. Cerone, Lauren D. Crump, Jennifer A. Fink, Kasi Gifford, Wilson A. Gualpa, Hayley J. Reese, Melanie A. Reynolds, Tyler J. Wilk, Moses Bates, Patrick Dearmey, Ada Husten, Andrew Schmidt, and Matthias C. Conaty.

From left: Delaware Supreme Court Justice Randy J. Holland; professor Mary Brigid McManamon; Interim Dean Erin Daly; Professor Christine D. Allie; H. Albert Young Fellow in Constitutional Law David R. Hodas; and Helen S. Balick Visiting Professor in Business Bankruptcy Law Bruce Grohsgal.

Widener Law Delaware

DE Supreme Court Hears Oral Arguments

The Delaware Supreme Court heard oral arguments on campus before a packed Ruby R. Vale Moot Courtroom. It was the eighth consecutive year the court convened at the school, and the first time newly sworn Chief Justice Leo E. Strine Jr. presided.

From left: Justice Randy J. Holland, Chief Justice Leo E. Strine Jr. and Justice Jack B. Jacobs hear arguments.

Congratulations to Delaware Supreme Court Justice Randy J. Holland, an adjunct faculty member and valued supporter of Widener Law Delaware, who received the 2014 Lewis F. Powell Jr. Award for Professionalism and Ethics from the American Inns of Court.

Interim Dean Erin Daly, Justice Randy J. Holland, and president of the Delaware State Bar Association Yvonne Takvorian Saville ’95 (front row), commended graduates who passed the 2014 Delaware State Bar Exam at an on-campus reception.

Left: Tara Pakrouh, External Managing Editor of the 2014-2015 Delaware Journal of Corporate Law. Right: Brian Chaffins, the S.J. Berwin Professor of Corporate Law at Cambridge University addressed a packed room at the Hotel du Pont.

On Campus and Beyond

law.widener.edu/events
DEAR FELLOW ALUMNI OF WIDENER LAW DELAWARE:

In the spring issue of this magazine and in subsequent communications, we announced the Widener University Trustees’ application to the American Bar Association (ABA) for acquiescence in the separate accreditation of the Harrisburg campus as an independent law school. Each law school campus would then have independent budgetary and administrative structures, while continuing to operate under the auspices of Widener University. We anticipate the ABA’s response to this request no later than June of 2015. This publication, through its unique design, begins to reflect the growing independence of each campus. Pending a positive decision from the ABA, you will see “rebranding” of each law school reflected in future marketing, communications, websites, and even in the names of the institutions.

While separation will have minimal effect upon current students, academic programming, accreditation, or the relationship between Widener Law Delaware and Widener University, the transition does impact internal operations. Departments such as Development & Alumni Engagement, Admissions, Registrar, and others are working to unbraid duties, messaging and programming that have been shared for almost twenty-five years. During this transitional year, the Alumni Association and our alumni programs will continue to represent our graduates and to provide professional development activities, and networking opportunities.

This is an exciting time in the history of Widener Law. The separation provides each campus with great opportunities to develop and strengthen relationships within the legal community at large, with those alumni we know well, and those we look forward to reconnecting with. As alumni, our advocacy and support is crucial during this transition, we hope to count on your full involvement as we move forward.

Sincerely,

Renee B. Axelrod ’91
President, Alumni Association

P.S. Mark your calendars for the annual Philadelphia Alumni Reception: March 26, 2015 at the Downtown Club. All graduates are welcome and encouraged to attend this fun night of networking and camaraderie in Philadelphia!

1981
ABBIE S. FRIEDMAN has been elected as a new trustee to the Board of Directors of the National Museum of American Jewish History.

1983
JOSEPH J. MCCORNY, JR., Chairman of the Municipal Law Department of Hamburg, Rubin, Mullin, Maxwell and Lupin has been appointed president of the Pennsylvania Super Lawyers list in the area of Land Use/Zoning.

1984
JAMES R. BURDETT counsel for Barnes & Thornburg LLP’s Washington, D.C. office was named a Rising Star by Washington D.C. Super Lawyers. Burdett was recognized for his work in intellectual property law.

1987
SHELLY C. DUGAN and her wife were one of the first same-sex couples to marry in Delaware County, Pennsylvania.

1988
EDWARD SEGLIAS, Shareholder and vice president for Cohen Seglias Pallas Greenhill & Furman PC was recently appointed president of the Racquet Club of Philadelphia.

1989
GERALD L. BOWEN, JR., attorney for Gerald L. Bowen PC in Southampton, Pennsylvania has been elected to the board of directors of the Forum of Executive Women.

1991
LISA A. DUDA, partner in the Philadelphia office of Stradley Ronon has been appointed to the board of directors of Drueding Center, Holy Redeemer Health System’s transitional housing and comprehensive counseling program for homeless women and children.

1992

1993
REGINA SPAUSE MCGRAW has joined the health care practice group of Bond, Schoeneck & King PLLC in Syracuse, New York.

SARAH C. YERGER, partner in the Harrisburg Pennsylvania office of Post & Schell PC, was awarded the annual Lynette Norton Award by the Pennsylvania Bar Association Commission on Women in the Profession.

The following alumni were recognized on the “Best Lawyers in America” list of outstanding attorneys:

JOHN R. KANCILIA ’80, shareholder for GrayRobinson, P.A. in Melbourne, Florida.

TODD BERKEEY ’95, partner for Edgar Snyder & Associates Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania office was recognized for Personal Injury Litigation, Product Liability Litigation, and Insurance Law categories.


SHANNA MCCANN, DAN WILMOTH, DAVID JONES, BILL WRABLEY, AND JARAD L. SILVERSTEIN

DELAWARE

Class Notes

Institute’s 2014 Technology Institute.

“What Lawyers Can and Should Do with...” one of the region’s top corporate journals. Philadelphia Business Journal has been recognized by the Furia Rubel Communications, Inc. has been appointed to...

1994

MEGHAN A. ADAMS has joined the law firm of Morris James in Wilmington, Delaware as an associate in its Business Litigation Group. Her practice will focus on corporate and commercial litigation.

MARK T. BRAINARD has been named the fifth President of Delaware Technical Community College in Wilmington, Delaware.

GINA F. RUBEL, TIMOTHY F. RAYNE, ARLENE M. BENTON, AND SUNNY MARIE SPARANO

1995

KENNETH LOPEZ has been appointed to the Board of Visitors for the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, Virginia by the governor of Virginia.

1996


1997

ARLENE M. BENTON has joined the Delaware law firm of Baird Mandalas Brockett as an equity partner. She focuses her practice on real estate, contracts, leases, and estate planning.

1998

AARON T. MARSHALL corporate counsel at Northrop Grumman in Lithium, Maryland has been elected board president at The Hearing and Speech Agency.

1999

ANGELA M. FOWLER has been sworn in for her first term as commissioner of the Family Court of Delaware in the historic Courthouse of the Kent County Courthouse.

2000

KRISTIN M. RUELL, authorization quality review specialist in the Pension Management Center at the Veterans Affairs, Philadelphia Regional Office became a national voice in the call for accountability at the Department of Veterans Affairs when she spoke before Congress about mismanagement at the center where she works.

2001

PATRICK J. CALLAHAN, co-founder of Archer Group and CEO of CompassRed, Inc in Wilmington, Delaware has participated in the New Castle County Chamber of Commerce Business Leaders Network panel.

2002

BRENT W. MILLER, assistant professor for the Department of Kinesiology and Health Science at University of Delaware has been named to the Board of Directors of the Homeless Advocacy Project in New York City.

2003

SHANNA MCCANN has been appointed as the chair of the Young Lawyers Division of the New Jersey State Bar Association. Additionally, she has been appointed to serve a second term as a trustee from Salem County on the New Jersey State Bar Association’s Board of Trustees. Shanna also currently serves as vice-president of the Salem County Bar Association and has been selected as a Rising Star by New Jersey Super Lawyers, for the third year in a row.

2004

GABRIELA N. SMITH has been elected to the Board of Visitors for the University of Texas. Smith counsels start-ups, entrepreneurs, and small and medium size businesses in a broad range of business, litigation, and international matters.

2005

DAVID M. JONES, stationed at Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland, has been promoted to Major in the United States Army JAG Corps. Alumni Standing Strong at Aberdeen Proving Ground also include Bill Wrabley, ’00, and Captain Dan Wilmor, ’09. Friends and co-workers of Major Jones were in attendance for the ceremony.”

MATTHEW SLATER, associate in the Philadelphia office of Willig, Williams & Davidson, has been certified as a specialist in the practice of workers compensation law by the Pennsylvania Bar Association Workers Compensation Law Section.

2006

EVAN Y. LIU of Feldman Shepherd Wohlgelernter Tanner Weinstock and Dodig LLP has been named a Pennsylvania Super Lawyer Rising Star by Thomson Reuters in Philadelphia magazine.

ANTONIO D. MICHETTI has been named to the Pennsylvania Bar Association’s Bar Leadership Institute.

2007

MARIA BERMUDEZ-HARRIS has been selected to serve as a Zone 1 delegate to the Pennsylvania Bar Association House of Delegates for a three-year term.

JARAD L. SILVERSTEIN has been promoted to counsel at Parker McCay’s Mount Laurel, New Jersey office. Silverstein focuses his practice in the area of medical malpractice defense with additional experience in HIPAA litigation and premises liability.

2008

GABRIELA N. SMITH has recently opened a private law firm, The Gabriela Noemi Smith Law Firm, PLLC in the Dallas-Fort Worth area of Texas. Smith counsels start-ups, entrepreneurs, and small and medium size businesses in a broad range of business, litigation, and international matters.
Class Notes

District 12. has run for Delaware State Representative, Lundy, LLC's Wilmington, Delaware office, corporate misconduct. specializing in securities fraud and law firm in Wilmington, Delaware Widener Law has joined 2010 CRAIG J. SPRINGER has co-founded 2009 ROBERT MONTECALLO '80 KATHRYN L. MYERS '94 KARA M. GUZZETTI '07 JEFFRY B. HERMAN '86 PAUL L. GRANT JR. '84 SAMUEL B. MILLER '81 ALICE S. LUMPKIN '93 WILLIAM J. SIPIO '91 TARA L. MILLER '12

2011 JULIA H. HARAHUS is been sworn in to practice law at a special ceremony before the Schuylkill County Court along with other county natives and Pennsylvania Bar Passers.

2013 DANIEL E. DOLENTE published an article in The Legal Intellectual titled, "Advice for Attorneys Starting Their First Real Law Firm Job.

INDIVIDUALS Leadership Circle $100,000+ Alexander ’96& & Ann Bratic Cavy ’81 & Nancy Hutter Thordar ’92 & Anne Pasche ’81’ Coleer Christina ’31 & Caroline Bratic ’11 & Mazea Garbage C. Miller Jr. ’91 & Odrea Maldro CAPT Robert Tashoff, JAAC, LON (Ret) ’99 & Laurie Tashoff

Jury’s Society $25,000 - $49,999 Richard ’90 & Estelle Hermann

Chancellors’ Club $20,000 - $24,999 Richard ’95 & Elizabeth Shikerman ’79 ’Taps

Ambassadors’ Club $10,000 - $15,999 Carl Burt ’10 & Joel ’95 & Kim Feller Eugene ’82 & Linda Landy Sam ’74 & Laurie Landy

Hon. Allan Levin ’80 & Ellen Levine James McKee ’82 & Chris Munea Susan ’94 & Thomas Raines Walter Strine Jr. & Alice Washin ’87’ Strine Revised ’78 & Donna Warlick Leon ’82 & Judy Williams

Partners’ Club $5,000 - $9,999 Michael ’75 & Valerie Difilip Bruce ’16 & Elizabeth Morris Michael ’97 & Nancy Sager Lee Solon ’75 & Diane Solon ’75

Benefactors $250 - $4,999 Dean Linda Arenson, J.D. ’95 & Barbara ’95 & Stanley Altschul Hon. Bernard Bakalik & Hon. Helen Bakalik John ’74 & Barbara Carroll Christine & Brinno Eagan ’70 ’Captured Walter ’82 & Jane Giovanni Robert Seiber ’75 ’ & Karen Gitler Garbage C. & ’80 & Evangeline Kam Harry ” & Margaret Elmardine ’70 & M. Jane Mahoney ’76 Eugene McQuillan ’79 ’ ’ & Elizabeth ’37 & Melissa Michelleti Hon. Paul Pasche ’81 & Nancy Pasche ’81

Dean’s Council $1,500 - $2,499 Patricia ’95 & Thomas H. Brown ’95 & Donna Brown

Jackson ’95 & Priscilla Pearson ’90 Michael ’35 & Valerie Difilip Bruce ’16 & Elizabeth Morris Michael ’97 & Nancy Sager Lee Solon ’75 & Diane Solon ’75


2009 JOHN A. KIRK, co-founder of MUNI Tech, LLC in Wilmington, Delaware has participated in the New Castle County Chamber of Commerce Business Leaders Panel. JEFF M. PORTER, manager at Sargent & Lundy, LLC’s Wilmington, Delaware office, has run for Delaware State Representative. District 12. CRAIG J. SPRINGER has co-founded Andreas & Springer LLC, a new boutique law firm in Wilmington, Delaware specializing in securities fraud and corporate misconduct.

2010 ANDREW R. SILVERMAN has joined MacElree Harvey, Ltd. as an associate in the firm’s West Chester, Pennsylvania office. Mr. Silverman’s practice focuses on the representation of clients in connection with business, commercial, and other civil litigation matters.

2011 MATTHEW J. BLUKER, associate for Eckell, Sparks, Levy, Auberger, Monte, Moanhes, and Axelauder, P.C. in Wilmington, Pennsylvania Media, Pennsylvania office, has been named the newest member of the Marple Newtown School Board in Newtown Square, Pennsylvania.

Thank you for your support!

Widener Law 2012-2013 Honor Roll of Donors

This listing recognizes gifts made between July 1, 2013 and June 30, 2014.

Our staff has made every effort to ensure that the honor roll is accurate and complete. If, however, you discover an error or omission, please contact Megan Cantalupo at mccantalupo@widener.edu.
Class years indicate Widener Law class only.  
^Member, National Advisory Council  
*Widener Law Overseer  
+Widener University Trustee  
~Deceased  

Hon. Robert Burke '78 & Judy Burke '83

July 1, 2013–June 30, 2014

WIDENER LAW DEPARTMENT
LAW HARRISBURG

Class Notes

2009
MATTHEW KRUPP
is now an attorney with 2008
MATTHEW KRUPP’s office of General Counsel
and serves on the Board of Directors of the

2009
AMIR RAMINPOUR
is now managing attorney
LISA GAIER
is now an associate

2011
Jorge Conforme
has joined Shaffer & APC., San Diego, CA.

2012
Amy Quimby
has joined Engle Law Offices, Harrisburg, PA.

2012
Anthony Bowers
has joined the firm of Starla J. Williams, who passed away Nov. 14, 2014. As director of Multicultural Affairs, Pro Bono Activities and Externships and coordinator of the JURIST

2014
M. Elizabeth Burton
has joined the National Constructors Corporation.

2014
Chealsey Crocker
has joined the Business Development Team at Investors Bank.

2014
Matthew Eyet
is now an associate

2014
Matt Elyaczik
is now the legal counsel at Weber Gallagher.

2014
Nicole Guevara
is now associate attorney at Russell, Kraft & Gruber, LLP.

2014
Julia Skinner
is now an associate attorney at DLA Piper.

2014
Jesse Tumlinson
is now an associate attorney at Buzgon Davis Law Offices, Lebanon, PA.

2014
Katy S. Nixon
is now an associate attorney at Lance Brown Associates, LLC in Robbinsville, NJ.

2014
Anna Coleman
is serving as law clerk for Judge Jeffrey D. S. Sartwell.

2014
Courtney Hair
is now an assistant district attorney at the Lackawanna County District Attorney’s Office.

2014
Lucas Csovelak
is now an assistant attorney at Weber Gallagher.

2014
Tarin Stauffer
is serving as law clerk for Judge Jeffrey D. S. Sartwell.

2014
Timothy J. Lavin
is now legislative research attorney at the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.

2014
Jethro V. Wiseman
is now an associate attorney at Gibbel Kraybill and Hess LLP, Lancaster, PA.

2014
Brandy Berenato
is now an associate attorney at Dibbini & Werner, P.C., Yonkers, NY.

2014
Maria Anastasopoulos
has joined the Republican Caucus in the PA House of Representatives.

2014
Michael Caruso
is now an assistant counsel at the Lackawanna County Solicitor’s Office.

2014
Dina Khmelnitsky Hollandaise
is now associate attorney at Warner Coleman & Eyster, LLP, Moorestown, NJ.

2014
Beau Huch
is working on constituent relations at the NJ Legislative 10th District.

2014
Debra Dibbini
is now an attorney at Cipriani & Werner, P.C.

2014
Kopf & Associates, LLC
is now limited to criminal defense, expungements, and the purchase of nearly 80 streetlights and 26 photocells for an Allison Hill-area project.

2014
John M. Hart III
is an associate attorney at Lance Brown Associates, LLC in Robbinsville, NJ.

2014
Megan Henry
is now an associate attorney at Carbro & Associates.

2014
Andrew Race
is now an associate attorney at Kenneth M. Kitay & Associates.

2014
Kaitlyn Worsham
is now an attorney at the Lackawanna County District Attorney’s Office.

2014
Maeve Scanlon
is now director of business operations at Gibbel Kraybill and Hess LLP.

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Maeve Scanlon
is now an associate attorney at Russell, Kraft & Gruber, LLP.

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is now an associate attorney at Russell, Kraft & Gruber, LLP.

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Maeve Scanlon
is now an associate attorney at Russell, Kraft & Gruber, LLP.

2014
Paul Edger
is now legislative research attorney at the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.

2014
Lucas Csovelak
is now an assistant attorney at Weber Gallagher.

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Jesse Tumlinson
is now an associate attorney at DLA Piper.

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2014
Julia Skinner
is now an associate attorney at DLA Piper.
The following alumni were chosen by the "Central Penn Business Journal":

**2007**

KELLY STEWART is now an attorney at Frommer & Henderson as a partner in the firm’s Harrisburg office.

**2006**

KRISTEN B. HAMILTON is now assistant counsel, Compensation Office of Adjudication.

**2005**

ANGELA SINDACO is now an attorney at Frommer & Henderson as a partner in the firm’s Harrisburg office.

**1999**

ANGELA RAINEY is now vice president, Senior Estate Settlement Administrator at PNC.

**1998**

RONALD J. REYBITZ has been appointed a partner in Suresh A Shroff & Co.

**1997**

P. RICHARD WALTERS has become a partner in Blakinger Byler & Henderson as a partner in the firm’s Harrisburg office.

**1996**

DANIEL G. SNYDER has been appointed a partner in the firm’s Workers’ Compensation Department.

**1995**

KACEY C. WIEDT has been elected to the Washington, D.C. office of Nossaman LLP, has been promoted to assistant general counsel at PPL Corporation.

**1994**

RICHARD A. WOLFE has become a partner at Galerman, Tabakin & Wolfe, LLP. He concentrates in the firm’s executive committee.

**1993**

FRANK W. BRENNER has been named assistant director for the Dennehey’s Camp Hill, Pennsylvania office.

**1992**

RICHARD L. FUNK, shareholder for Marshall & Vanòe, has been appointed a partner at D’Amico Anderson.

**1991**

DANIEL G. SNYDER was appointed chief counsel to the Pennsylvania Partnership Authority in September 2014. She oversees the alignment and implementation of laws and policies related to the use of electronic health information exchange (eHIE) in Pennsylvania.

**1990**

FREDERICK T. DOMBO has been designated at Amarchand & Mangaldas & Suresh A Shroff & Co. as an associate in the area of personal injury litigation.

**1989**

JENNIFER E. WILL has joined Rawle & Paine as an associate with the firm’s Workers’ Compensation claims in Pennsylvania.

**1988**

KATHLEEN HIGGINS was appointed to the use of electronic health information exchange (eHIE) in Pennsylvania.

**1987**

KRISTEN B. HAMILTON has been appointed to the Pennsylvania Exchange Program in New York.

**1986**

JUDITH N. MOTT, partner in the firm’s Workers’ Compensation Department.

**1985**

THEODORE M. BLATT has been appointed to the Pennsylvania Partnership Authority in September 2014. She oversees the alignment and implementation of laws and policies related to the use of electronic health information exchange (eHIE) in Pennsylvania.

**1984**

ROBERT T. WILCOX has been appointed a partner in Suresh A Shroff & Co.

**1983**

KATHLEEN M. STEWART has been appointed to the Pennsylvania Exchange Program in New York.

**1982**

KATHLEEN M. STEWART has been appointed to the Pennsylvania Exchange Program in New York.

**1981**

KATHLEEN M. STEWART has been appointed to the Pennsylvania Exchange Program in New York.
Jordan proudly wear their Law & Professors Jill Family, John Bottom: Kayla Randall celebrate Spirit Day. Students, faculty, and staff show their pride by wearing blue and gold to support University’s Homecoming, in conjunction with Widener law.widener.edu/events.

Students, faculty, staff, family and friends celebrated the annual Dean’s Forum this fall.

2014 Graduates Get Connected & Stay Involved

Widener Law alumni • Discounts for alumni are available at locations throughout the region.

• Programs offered on-campus and at locations throughout the region.

• Discounts for alumni are available for many CLE programs.

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Welcome 1Ls

The incoming class was welcomed at a fall event featuring several speakers, who inspired students as they begin their law school journeys. Adam Santucci '09 spoke and Judge Mary Hannah Leavitt of Pennsylvania’s Commonwealth Court, who currently serves as the visiting scholar in residence, delivered the affirmations.

Adam Santucci '09 speaks to the incoming class.

Incoming law students Mark Bogush and Acacia Bellamy at the welcome reception.


The 2014 Dean’s Diversity Forum was held in observance of the 20th anniversary of the Violence Against Women Act and focused on the impact of domestic violence on impoverished and minority women. Entitled “Why Rachel Weeps,” the forum featured two panel discussions, as well as remarks from Pennsylvania Rep. Patty Kim, Interim Dean Robyn L. Meadows and Widener Law Harrisburg alumna Rhodia Thomas '97, Executive Director, Mid Penn Legal Services.

Above: Tonya Lovelace, senior director, Women of Color Network addresses attendees at the 2014 Dean’s Diversity Forum.

Left: Alumna Rhodia Thomas '97, Executive Director, Mid Penn Legal Services explains her organization’s role in helping underprivileged women throughout Central Pennsylvania.

The Jurist Academy program returned to the Widener Law Harrisburg campus this summer for its fourth year. The two-week law school immersion program is designed for undergraduate students, who come from backgrounds that are often underrepresented in the legal profession, and includes LSAT prep classes, mini law school courses, and practice exams. They visited with judges at the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania, the U.S. Attorney’s Office, and the Federal Public Defender’s Office in Harrisburg.

Above: Magistrate Judge Susan E. Schwab '92 and Chief Magistrate Judge Martin C. Carlson, both of the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania, speak to students.

Below: Students visited with Intelligence Specialist John Marsh, left, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Gordon A. D. Zubrod, right, at the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Middle District of Pennsylvania.

The law school partnered with Pennsylvania Cable Network and the Pennsylvania Legislative Correspondents Association to present a primary debate held in the administration building. With welcome remarks, Professor Jill E. Family (left), director of the Law & Government Institute, opens the debate among Democratic gubernatorial candidates, from left, Katie McGinty, Tom Wolf, and Rep. Allyson Schwartz.

The formal reception room in the administration building has been renovated and renamed The Gallery, to reflect its newly-added function as a showcase for artwork. The Art Association of Harrisburg will supply the law school with rotating art exhibitions every three months. The inaugural installation features local artist Kelly McGee Curran, wife of Matthew J. Curran '13.

law.widener.edu/events
Student Awards

Student awards were presented this spring on the Harrisburg campus. Widener University President James T. Harris III gave the President’s Award to Richard Sgrignoli. Interim Dean Robyn Meadows gave the Dean’s Award to Camille Howlett.

From left: Interim Dean Robyn Meadows, Camille Howlett, Richard Sgrignoli and President James T. Harris III.

Law & Government Institute students—(from left) Jordan Wartman, Patrick Parsons, Kayla Randall, Nick Dalessio, Landa Porter, and Doug Kozak—and Institute Director Jill E. Family (center) volunteered this fall at the Second-Annual Capitol All Stars Game, played at Metro Bank Park, benefi tting Feeding Pennsylvania and Hunger Free PA. Legislators from both sides of the aisle played a full softball game in an effort to assist Pennsylvanians struggling with hunger.

Kathryn A. Watts, the University of Washington School of Law Garvey Schubert Barer Professor of Law, was the speaker at the Law & Government Institute’s eighth-annual John L. Gedid Lecture.

From left: Carol Gedid, Professor Emeritus John L. Gedid, Kathryn A. Watts, the University of Washington School of Law Garvey Schubert Barer Professor of Law, and Professor Jill E. Family, director of the Law & Government Institute.

Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts, a new public service initiative designed to support the arts in central Pennsylvania, pairs income-eligible artists and organizations with pro bono attorneys who can assist with a wide array of legal needs. Providing valuable hands-on experience for students, and quality legal representation to struggling artists, the project is coordinated by Professor Juliet M. Moringiello and Associate Professor Michael J. Hussey in cooperation with the Dauphin County Bar Association.

Events

law.widener.edu/events
On Campus and Beyond

Graduate Maria Anderson gets a hug of congratulations.

The Harrisburg campus celebrated graduation at The Forum in the Capitol Complex with Pennsylvania Auditor General Eugene A. DePasquale '02 as the commencement speaker. The 113 graduates also heard from valedictorian Camille Howlett and Widener University President James T. Harris III.

Pennsylvania Auditor General Eugene A. DePasquale '02, which included an address on the current opioid crisis in Pennsylvania and a call for greater community engagement and support for those struggling with addiction.

Speaker Mary Dishong-VanEtten, vice president and director of corporate security for Metro Bank, addressed identity theft, recent data breaches, current fraud schemes, and best practices in information security.

Widener Law Harrisburg welcomed U.S. District Judge John E. Jones III of the Middle District of Pennsylvania. At a presentation that was open to the public, Judge Jones discussed judicial independence. He also authored the recent opinion in Whitewood v. Wolf, which struck down Pennsylvania's ban on same-sex marriage.

Widener Law Harrisburg, in partnership with Metro Bank, presented an event for attorneys on fraud protection. Speaker Mary Dishong-VanEtten discussed security and fraud protection.

Dean Ammons’ Retirement Party

The Harrisburg community bid farewell to Dean Linda L. Ammons with a retirement party at the Hilton in Harrisburg. Widener University President James T. Harris III announced the creation of the Linda L. Ammons Diversity Scholarship Award.

Widener Law alumna Kathryn Peters '12.

Left: Dean Linda L. Ammons with Eugene D. McGurk '78, chairman of the Board of Overseers and member of the University Board of Trustees.

Right: Widener Law alumna Kathryn Peters '12.

Left: Interim Dean Robyn L. Meadows (far left), and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs D. Benjamin Barros present Dean Linda L. Ammons with a print of the Harrisburg skyline.

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Raising the Bar

they have to work smarter than ever to get ahead.

Judge Brobson is well aware of the changed nature of their Harrisburg office.

Ingersoll & Rooney, P.C. as a commercial litigator in District of Pennsylvania, and later joined Buchanan Kelly of the United States District Court for the Eastern

Widener students up against the top students at any law school anytime, anywhere," he says emphatically. "I would put the top first initial wasn't J. "She said, 'The J

Judge Brobson graduated summa cum laude from Widener University School of Law in 1993.

is for Judge!' I'm not sure I'll ever really think. "But that's why you don't have a single judge in

Judge Brobson says that sitting on the same court as his law practice mentor is a thrill, although he notes with a

My interest was piqued immediately, and Hannah was assigned to a complex insurance case that included

Judge Brobson welcomes the introduction of cameras into the

He urges students to join law review, en banc proceedings of the Commonwealth Court says he regrets only one thing about becoming a judge.

Where do I want to be?' the easier it is for yourself 'What do I want to do?' and "And the sooner you ask

He speaks with conviction about his call of public service, and this is a great way to let the public

The only way you are going to achieve your goals is to

Widener students up against the top students from actions taken to enforce money

Our court's place in our government!" He

The sleeves!' he laughs. "I wish I had known what he wishes he had known at the beginning of his

He speaks with conviction about his call of public service, and this is a great way to let the public

Judge Brobson is almost halfway through his ten-year term. "The sleeves!' he laughs. "I wish I had known what he wishes he had known at the beginning of his

He urges students to join law review, expanding the court's jurisdiction. He is pleased that the Commonwealth

Judge Brobson lays out three areas that he is exploring during his term: the rules on unreported decisions, making them easier to find. While the unreported

and unreported—on the www.pacourts.us website, citing as persuasive more frequently than before. Judge

believes makes the court more accountable and allows authoring a decision—to report the case, which he

The other way you are going to achieve your goals is to

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"Are you going there?" I asked. "Yes, I'm going to Harrisburg!" he said in jest. "Oh, no, I'm a constructionist until Judge Brobson, each answered that they were strict

Each panel was a smaller panel appellate hearing, trials and

Cameras in the courtroom, and expansion of the court's

Government is a three-legged stool, the judicial branch, the legislative branch, and the executive branch. It's a lot of fun to see a little more.

The current temporary Commonwealth Court and the airing of court proceedings should also

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FAIR WEATHER: The Ethical Justice and ethical dimensions are so obvious. People get it if you speak again. That has been my experience time and again. The good questions. Two days later, they asked me to come back and cause the problem. The vulnerable people can't do anything to protect gases, but the countries that are most at risk from these emissions, in developing states, rising sea levels threaten to put salt water into the rivers for water supply," he explains. Meanwhile, in small-island disappearing and hundreds of millions of people depend on those Southeast Asia, where the waters are glacier fed. "The glaciers are For example, Brown points to the dwindling water supply in developed a unique vantage point on climate change. Having devoted his professional life necessity thing." Brown began his career as an environmental lawyer and went on to environmental skills and knowledge in almost every part of our lives. Having environmental law world. On his first state retirement boards. He figured... "there's a anything about environmental law?" the senior attorney says—'there's a environment from around the world, the conference was sponsored... by leaders in environmental policy and climate environmental law permeates almost every area of practice. It's a necessary thing." he was a million miles away from the environment that the government should be focused on the ethical dimension because... this is a problem of the developing world, this is an ethical problem, and we have to deal with it ethically. We have to deal with it in a way that's consistent with the ethical principles of sustainability. And that means that we have to be... things that we need to do to protect the environment, but those things need to be done in a way that's consistent with the principles of sustainability and the principles of fairness. And that's why I think that's... the problem isn't just about the environment, it's about the people who live in the world. And that's why it's important for us to think about... the problem isn't just about the environment, it's about the people who live in the world. And that's why it's important for us to think about... the problem isn't just about the environment, it's about the people who live in the world. And that's why it's important for us to think about... the problem isn't just about the environment, it's about the people who live in the world. And that's why it's important for us to think about... the problem isn't just about the environment, it's about the people who live in the world. And that's why it's important for us to think about... the problem isn't just about the environment, it's about the people who live in the world. And that's why it's important for us to think about... the problem isn't just about the environment, it's about the people who live in the world. And that's why it's important for us to think about... the problem isn't just about the environment, it's about the people who live in the world. And that's why it's important for us to think about... the problem isn't just about the environment, it's about the people who live in the world. And that's why it's important for us to think about...
"So, the most immediate, shale gas operations can govern where practical impact of the which refers to the entire process." understanding of hydraulic fracturing technical definition, not the popular ground water, ‘they’re using a narrow industry says, ‘there’s not an example ground water and have. When the gas from two miles below the ground. All of way in which the gas is recovered way in which the water is handled, and the use of fluids, hydraulic fracturing, more than that—the drilling process, or high pressure water to fracture the by itself is simply the use of explosives referred to as “fracking,” is often the The fracturing of the rocks, commonly that involves a lot of water, very high "uses a particular kind of technology "part of the process that attracts the most instead, developers first drill vertically sucking it up like a straw." through the rock itself. You can’t oil or gas, not in pools or reservoirs, but very high speed. The water ultimately back water is created during the drilling process, when massive amounts of water rich with radioactivity and salts, flow near the drilling site, to potential groundwater contamination due to a leak in a pipe or the mishandling of back when the gas is being recovered. The answer is no. The Pennsylvania Supreme Court decision is very explicit about that.”

A Cabot Oil & Gas drill rig nestled into the landscape near Kingsley, PA. A drill worker, covered in shale mud and drill in the marketplace. Known as “Act 13,” this decision to step into this controversial So, in 2012, the Pennsylvania legislature decided to step into this controversial. Shale development in Pennsylvania. there is a wealth of interest in Marcellus economic benefits are not small," says huge economic opportunities presented On the other side of the issue, are the that accompanies it is diminished.”

Widener Law Harrisburg campus. Austin Langon, a current 2nd year student relates, "My professor is John C. Dernbach. He was named a fellow in my environmental law class by local zoning. They also believed that sued the government in order to reclaim them proved controversial. For example, the act is very explicit about that.”

Environmental rights framework for a reframe the conversation we have about the Robinson Township case has the potential to protect people’s rights under the local governments their authority could take place. In fact, the legislature did many things to control revision did many things to control environment OR the economy. “Sustainable development isn’t about economic problems, while also achieving social goals. “Decision makers..." sustainable development, which he says is a way of addressing environmental..." deal with every day, actually make a huge difference." the environment and economic goals. “Decision makers often employ a reflexive environment and economic goals. “Decision makers..."
the world.

a change that has

in Pennsylvania—

to change

Supreme Court

and the state

state constitution,

the Pennsylvania

development,

with shale gas

Dernbach converged

Professor John

of Distinguished

Recently, the work

4

Volume 21, Number 2

FEATURE

by Mary Lamb

D

Robinson Township v. Commonwealth

Dernbach was grading seminar

Distinguished Professor John

scholarship."

the environmental issues that motivate

to have a large real-world impact on

nationally, and deservedly so. The case

a landmark decision on environmental

provided the analytical framework for

reinvigorated the amendment.

unconstitutional. The decision has

even by a plurality, to hold a statute

rights amendment had ever been used,

but on other legal grounds. Still, it was

parts of the law are unconstitutional,

amendment. A fourth justice provided a

of the state's shale oil and gas law for

justices (a plurality) invalidated part

amendment in a manner that could be

its history and purpose. Then, I

my initial interest was in understanding

no one treated it as law," he says. "So,

my initial interest was in understanding

the environmental rights amendment

environmental rights amendment when he began teaching

at Widener in 1993.

amendment, the Pennsylvania Department of

When Dernbach was working at

benefit of all the people.

property of all the people, including

values of the environment. Pennsylvania's

the natural, scenic, historic and esthetic values of

environmental issues have proven to be

environmental issues have proven to be

in Pennsylvania since the 1800s.

and gas drilling that has been occurring

different from the conventional oil

gas from Marcellus Shale is quite

The process used to extract natural

equally compelling.

A Cabot Oil & Gas drill rig nestled

Pennsylvania. (Photo by

Pennsylvania. (Photo by

a Cabot Oil & Gas natural

A drill worker, covered in

shale mud and drill cuttings,

A drill worker, covered in

seals off a well and cleans

shale mud and drill cuttings,

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DEAR ALUMNI & FRIENDS,

Widener Law Harrisburg celebrates the 25th anniversary of the campus’ founding. Since our doors first opened in 1989, we have had the distinction and honor of educating the future lawyers of the world while defending justice outside the courtroom. Our graduates have contributed to community service for another 25, 30, or even 50 years into the future.

We are proud of the 25 years of public service that our students and alumni have provided to the region, and we look forward to continuing this commitment to community service.

We are grateful to our alumni, faculty, staff and friends who contributed to the success of the Law School’s overall goal as part of the Taking the Lead ~ The Campaign for Widener University School of Law with the support of our alumni, faculty, staff and friends.

We want to help you better engage with us, with each other, and with the profession. We value your feedback and suggestions for ways to improve communications.

Your voice is more important than ever, and I welcome and encourage your feedback and suggestions.

Sincerely,

Laurie J. Grant
Assistant Vice President for Development & Alumni Engagement

Greetings from your current interim dean, Fabio Brobson. His profile represents just one of the many leaders of the University’s comprehensive fundraising campaign. Through your support we have been able to create more than 75 additional scholarships for law students, significantly enhance our academic environments, and expand our scholarship support to legal information centers.

I look forward to updating you throughout this time of transition. I urge you to consider additional gifts to the University’s request for our separation from the Delaware campus, we are busy planning our future. We’ve already taken the first steps in the process. We want to make sure that you are receiving information that is valuable to you both as alumni and as legal professionals.

We hope you like it and find the content meaningful. Your input will undoubtedly unfold in the coming year.

Please be the foundation of your legal training. And we are excited to celebrate 25 years of our achievements and yours, as have our faculty, as seen in Faculty News and Faculty Publications.

We are diligently working to make sure all transitions will be seamless for our alumni. Throughout the separation process, we will keep you up to date on our progress and news, and we are committed to making sure that together we can meet all of the challenges and opportunities that will arise.

We are proud of the 25 years of public service that our students and alumni have provided to the region, and we look forward to continuing this commitment.

P.S. If you have not participated in the historic efforts of the campaign, please contact Natasha Lewis, Director of Development Harrisburg, at 717-541-3974.

APRIL 18, 2015

Date

Manada Golf Club

3800 Vartan Way

Grantville, PA 17110

For more information, please contact Natasha Lewis, Director of Development Harrisburg, at 717-541-3974.

The 2015 Widener Law Harrisburg 25th Anniversary Celebration

SATURDAY

April 18, 2015

Save the Date

25th Anniversary Celebration

Harrisburg, PA

1224.0x792.0
Breaking Ground

Distinguished Professor John Dernbach’s work lays the foundation for a landmark environmental rights decision from the Pennsylvania Supreme Court.

Raising the Bar

Judge P. Kevin Brobson ’95 makes his mark on the Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court.

Class Notes

Harrisburg alumni reaching milestones and making news.

Interim Dean’s Message

Development and Alumni Engagement’s Message

Faculty News

Events

Faculty Publications

Honor Roll of Donors

WHERE HAS WIDENER LAW TAKEN YOU?

Where has Wideners Law taken you?

Widener University School of Law Magazine

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