Inside

Congresswoman Kathy Castor Delivers in Washington

Annual Report
Alumni Recognitions
One Success at a Time

Our law school is about one thing above all others: helping our students to launch their careers. Our alumni have always played a critical role in this effort. Your help is needed now more than ever, given the unprecedented financial difficulties that face our nation and state. Please send your job openings to Cristina Carter, ccarter@law.fsu.edu, 850.644.4495, or directly to me, dweidner@law.fsu.edu, 850.644.3071. In the meantime, consider the good news of some of the destinations of our current 3Ls and 2Ls:

3L
Matthew Beville to Venable in Washington, D.C.
William Brown to Baker Hostetler in Orlando.
Tim Garding to Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick in Tampa.
Malinda Hayes to bankruptcy judge J. Rich Leonard in Raleigh, North Carolina.
Ryan Lukson to Rumberger, Kirk & Caldwell in Orlando.
Robert Powell to Clark, Partington, Hart, Larry, Bond & Stackhouse in Pensacola.
James “Danny” Puckett to Smith, Currie & Hancock in Atlanta.
Sarah Donini Rodriguez to Akerman Senterfitt in Orlando.
Trevor Thompson to federal district judge Robert Hinkle in Tallahassee.
David Weiss to Ausley & McMullen in Tallahassee.
Ashley West to Arnall Golden Gregory in Atlanta.
Bradley White to GrayRobinson in Melbourne.

2L
Stacy Cleveland to the Office of the City Attorney in Tallahassee.
Brandon C. Dodd to Fowler White Boggs Banker in Jacksonville.
Nicholas Dyal to Smith, Gambrell & Russell in Jacksonville.
Conor McLaughlin to Williams, Gautier, Gwynn, DeLoach & Sorenson in Tallahassee.
Nathan Paulich to Rogers & Hardin in Atlanta.
Zack Scharlepp to Akerman Senterfitt in Tallahassee.
Amanda Swindle to Florida Municipal Power Agency in Tallahassee.
Travis Thompson to Alston & Bird in Atlanta.
Laura Westerman to split her summer between Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz and Lightfoot, Franklin & White, both in Birmingham, Alabama.
Emily Whelchel to Hill Ward Henderson in Tampa.

Thanks in advance for any help you can give us placing our wonderful students!

Sincerely,

Don Weidner
Dean and Alumni Centennial Professor
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Florida State Law News
Congresswoman Kathy Castor (D-Fla.) has been busy since her election to the U.S. House of Representatives in 2006. Her inaugural term representing the residents of the Tampa Bay area began with her being the first freshman to speak on the House floor and is ending with the economic crisis. Along the way, she focused on issues including health care, energy and education, and is especially proud of her work to increase the value of Pell Grant scholarships. The 1991 Florida State Law graduate also spent the last several months of her freshman term running for re-election and co-chairing Barack Obama’s Florida campaign.

When talking with the congresswoman, one gets the impression that it is a strong...
affinity for her hometown that guides Castor’s service in the House.

“It is such a privilege and an honor to be the advocate for my neighbors in my hometown that I love, on issues that really matter to them,” she said. “I think coming from local government helped – it has taught me a lot. You have to keep your focus on what is happening at home and in people’s lives and how we can help them or stay out of the way.”

Castor’s love for the area she represents – which includes parts of Hillsborough, Pinellas and Manatee counties – runs deep. When she is in D.C., she misses excellent Cuban cuisine, especially roast pork sandwiches, black beans and rice and café con leche. She also roots for Tampa’s sports teams from afar during the legislative session. She loves football and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, but as one who prefers college football, she attends more University of South Florida Bulls games with her family when she is in Tampa. And no matter where she is, she also roots for the Florida State Seminoles.

The self-described “huge sports fan” also enjoys watching baseball and favors the Tampa Bay Rays. “It is all the rage in Tampa – we can’t believe that we have the team with the best record in baseball,” said Castor, who stayed awake late the night before she was interviewed for this article to watch an extra-innings Rays game.

The lifestyle of a United States representative – flying back and forth from the district to D.C. – is not for everyone, but Castor learned from her parents at an early age the importance of serving. “I always loved public policy, from when I was young,” said Castor. “My parents were very involved in Tampa in public service. My father, Judge Don Castor, was a county court judge for 30 years and my mother, Betty Castor, was a trailblazing female politician in the Tampa Bay area and then the state of Florida.”

During fewer than two years in Congress, Castor has been an instrumental member of the powerful House Rules Committee, which usually is reserved for more senior members.

In 2002, 30 years after her mother was elected to the Hillsborough County Commission, Castor was elected to the same body. The Florida native’s first elected position allowed her to impact the city she loves. While on the commission, Castor worked to secure Hillsborough County’s award-winning health-care plan, to improve transportation and to halt runaway development. Her dedication to sound growth management stems from her previous work enforcing growth management laws as an assistant general counsel at the Florida Department of Community Affairs.

Castor had not aspired to run for national office prior to 2005, but with her term on the county commission ending and the House seat she holds opening, the timing was right for her to make a change. Castor realized that her neighbors needed a Washington, D.C., outsider representing them in Congress.

“I just thought at that time, and I still do even after being here, that the folks up here are so off track; they are just not in touch with what is happening back home,” said Castor, who as an Emory undergraduate interned for Lawton Chiles when he was a U.S. senator. “There were many ethics scandals going on in Congress and the war in Iraq, and...
nation’s hardest hit by the housing crisis, correcting it is a priority for Castor. She hosted large workshops on the issue in Tampa and St. Petersburg so she could hear directly from her neighbors about their housing-related problems.

And since her constituents are among the many Floridians who are concerned about drilling off of the state’s coast, Castor was satisfied to have prevailed in September when she learned that she and her Florida colleagues had been able to protect the state’s coastline in a comprehensive energy bill passed by the House. The legislation preserves a 2006 energy agreement, which resulted in 8.3 million acres of the eastern Gulf of Mexico being available for expanded oil production. In exchange, a 125- to 234-mile buffer was adopted through 2022. The widest buffer is the result of the Military Mission line, necessary for readiness and efficiency of American troops.

“Keeping the oil rigs from coming right off the coast of Florida, that is big because it was going the other direction,” said the congresswoman.

Castor has fought to improve the nation’s health-care system because the issue is so important to her. A bill to expand health-care services for children, for which Castor strongly advocated, was vetoed by President George Bush this year, but she is confident that it will be one of the first items of business in the next Congress.

The congresswoman admits there is much more she wants to accomplish in the House. And even though being away from her family while she is in D.C. is taxing, she makes the unconventional schedule work.

Helping Castor navigate her double-duty in D.C. and Tampa is her husband,
fellow Florida State Law alumnus William R. “Bill” Lewis (’91). The Butler Pappas hiring partner and Castor, who started dating during Castor’s second year of law school, are raising two daughters, 11-year-old Julia and 9-year-old Chrissy.

“On long weeks it is tough, but we all knew what we were getting into and I have the most wonderful husband in the world,” said the congresswoman, who usually flies to D.C. on Monday and returns home by Friday evening. “For every night that I can’t be there at the volleyball game, there is another wonderful opportunity where they can be here for maybe the State of the Union. They come up during the summer and go to camp up here – there is a camp at the Smithsonian – and they spend their spring break here. I try to have them here as often as possible.”

“We have taken our children, friends and neighbors on to the House floor, the Senate floor and into the White House,” said Lewis of the tremendous opportunities the family has shared since Castor was elected to the House. “We have seen rare book collections in the Library of Congress and touched the Bible that Abraham Lincoln swore the oath of office on when he was inaugurated.

“However, watching Kathy and her office help a person whose sister in Cuba needed a bone marrow transplant and needed help with all of the red tape; being involved in getting a visa for an exchange student from Uganda whose family died of AIDS; and having the Speaker of the House call our house to formulate a policy with Kathy on offshore oil drilling have been very rewarding. I realize these things do not happen for most people so it has been fun to be a part of it.”

Castor’s parents provided wonderful examples for their daughter of how to juggle a public service career and raise a family. “I saw my mother really become a trailblazer back in the day when there weren’t many women in elected office. She did it in a way that wasn’t threatening to anyone. She was just a mom and we all went to church and she managed my softball team, but at the same time was out there fighting.

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“And my father would take us down to first appearances, where people that had been arrested the night before would come out. He was so good because he honestly listened to everyone and gave everyone the opportunity to state their case.”

Lewis added: “Kathy ran for office to stand up for our neighbors in the Tampa Bay area. She ran for office because she cared about the people of the state of the Florida, the environment and the future for our children. I think her parents set an example for her that public service should be more about what you can do for your community rather than what it can do for yourself.”

Political service also may be in the cards for the next generation of Castors. After watching her mom’s career, Castor’s oldest daughter already has expressed a desire to shape public policy. And she has big goals. Julia aspires to be the first female president of the United States.

If Castor is re-elected in November, she will continue to use in Congress many of the skills she learned in law school. She attributes her ability to problem solve and interpret legislation to her legal education and practice. “If someone gives you a big binder to read, you are just not daunted by it, you know you’ve got to get into it and read it.”

With the United States still at war, still experiencing a tumultuous economy and coming off a presidential election that will provide the nation with a new administration, Castor will have her work cut out for her if elected to serve a second term.

*At the time this magazine was published, the November 2008 election had not occurred.
Tom Cloud: Old Battles and New

As a young boy in Polk County, Florida – the area that prompted the creation of Florida’s air and water pollution laws – Tom Cloud’s education in land use and environmental issues began early.

“I grew up on mined out phosphate land just south of Lakeland,” said Cloud. “I can remember waiting in line for the school bus and there would be this soupy fog around us, burning our arms because it was laced with sulfur dioxide in fairly heavy concentrations. We used to joke about glowing at night, which was not too far wrong.”

The origins of Cloud’s legal career can be traced to an affinity for antique firearms that he developed as a child. Knowing how expensive the collector’s items could be, Cloud’s mother, Betty Jean, suggested her son become an attorney so he would be able to amass a respectable collection. Although his goal of becoming a lawyer was firmly established at a young age, Cloud did not settle on concentrating in environmental and land use law until he was earning his bachelor’s degree at Wake Forest University. Florida State’s strength in the area prompted him to apply to the law school.

“Florida State had a real expert in land use and environmental law and I really wanted to go to Florida State because it was in Tallahassee,” said the 1979 Florida State Law graduate, who was initially wait-listed. “I had been accepted at two or three other schools, but they weren’t Florida State. The acceptance came through a week before I was going to have to make a decision and I felt pretty fortunate about that.”

Upon graduation from law school, Cloud was hired by the legendary Charlie Gray to work for the newly-formed Orange County Legal Department. In January 1982 Gray recruited him to join the firm that is now GrayRobinson — despite Cloud’s Florida State law degree.

“When I first came to work at GrayRobinson, they referred to me as their affirmative action program because I was only their second FSU law grad to come to work for a firm that had the reputation for hiring only double Gator, Order of the Coif, Blue Keys,” said Cloud. “Our managing partner is now a Seminole, so we’ve come a long way.”

During almost 27 years at GrayRobinson’s Orlando office, Cloud has taken advantage of the benefits of practicing at a large, statewide firm. As the leader of GrayRobinson’s
Public Law Department, Cloud is often charged with selecting attorneys to work on cases that involve government. Because the firm has talented practitioners at all 10 of its Florida locations, Cloud reaches out to other offices when he knows the expertise he needs may not be in Orlando. “I’ve tried very hard to not let false barriers get in the way of putting together the best team on a case,” said Cloud.

And because Cloud’s clients are located around the state – he is city attorney for two cities and special counsel to several other cities and counties – he typically spends three to four days a week traveling. “I do a lot of municipal and county utility representation, which has necessitated a great deal of travel. I probably put 25,000 miles a year on my car,” said Cloud, who has been called “the road warrior” by colleagues.

Even though his schedule can be grueling, Cloud loves being able to help local elected officials find solutions to what seem like insoluble problems, and watching them implement those solutions. “Local government is where the rubber meets the road in America,” said Cloud. “I’ve met some incredibly courageous and talented people in local government. They don’t have quite the power that the state does, but they have an incredible amount of impact on our daily lives.”

Local officials in the City of Winter Park thought they had an unsolvable case until they hired Cloud to represent them against Florida Power Corporation, a major power company that Cloud said had been extorting the city. The six-year case involved the renewal of a franchise between Winter Park and the utility. Although it initially seemed like a losing case, Cloud’s GrayRobinson team partners, and hiring political operatives – did not faze the GrayRobinson shareholder.

“I enjoy dealing with bullies,” said Cloud. “If someone tries to bully one of my clients, I won’t back down.”

When not fighting for his clients, Cloud can often be found re-enacting Civil War battles. The hobby he has enjoyed for the past 15 years has increased his travels. Cloud’s artillery unit even participated in a 1998 full-scale re-enactment of Pickett’s Charge in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. With about 32,000 participants, the event is considered by most to be the largest re-enactment in the history of the world.

“If you do the hobby right, you get an appreciation for what people went through and what a tragic, screwed up event the war between the states was. That hobby has enabled me to learn so much more about American history.”

Although Cloud grew up in the South and has ancestors who fought for the Confederacy, he and his unit often “wear blue,” portraying Union soldiers. “I love it, it’s great,” said Cloud of depicting men who fought for the federal government, which usually puts him at the center of a battle. “Most of the time we re-enact blue because it is just more fun.”

The career and hobbies that Cloud enjoys today can be traced to interests he formed while growing up in Polk County. As a father of two, Cloud hopes to see his sons succeed in the endeavors that interest them. He credits his wife, Laura, with the accomplishments of both sons. His oldest son Alex, 25, is poised to become an assistant commonwealth attorney in Virginia, and 23-year-old Chris is pursuing a graduate degree to become a college music professor.

Cloud also hopes to finish his career at the firm he describes as the “closest thing to a democracy” that he has seen in a law firm. “If I can continue to do what I’ve been doing for almost the last 30 years, it really doesn’t get any better than that.”
Leron Rogers has threatened to sue practically every major record label. That may be one reason the 1999 Florida State Law graduate was chosen to grace the cover of People You Need to Know magazine. But as a top entertainment and sports lawyer, Rogers is already known by many well-known recording artists and athletes.

Rogers’ clients have included comedian Steve Harvey, rapper Lil Scrappy and multi-platinum R&B group Silk. A member of the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences, Rogers also has represented Grammy-nominated song writers and producers for Beyoncé Knowles, Jamie Foxx, Akon and Luther Vandross. His high-profile clientele has earned him invitations to some of the music industry’s biggest events, including the Grammys and MTV Video Music Awards.

Though his practice at Hewitt & Rogers is approximately 70 percent entertainment law and 20 percent sports law, Rogers entered the field primarily to represent athletes.

Knowing he would practice sports law before he ever stepped inside a Florida State Law classroom, the former Atlanta Braves draft pick and college scholarship baseball player had a passion for sports and wanted to be a sports agent. Possessing an entrepreneurial spirit, Rogers immediately became involved in Florida State’s Entertainment, Art, and Sports Law Society during his first year of law school. By his second year, he was president of the student organization, and he used the extracurricular activity to network and meet people involved in sports law.

Rogers also forged a relationship between the university’s athletic department and the law school. As a result, when sports agents
were in Tallahassee to meet athletes, they would often speak to Florida State Law students.

“I would make sure they got to the law school OK,” said Rogers. “I was picking their brains, so I just got incredible insight into the world of sports law and what it was like to be a sports agent.”

Not content to network only at law school events, Rogers also became involved in the American Bar Association’s entertainment and sports law section and attended Florida Bar meetings for sports attorneys. At a meeting during Rogers’ second year of law school, he struck up a conversation with the sports agent who would play an integral role in his career.

“There was an agent there that I just so happened to be sitting next to – his name was Gene Burrough,” said Rogers. “I convinced him to let me work with him and his company because I was from Atlanta and he really didn’t recruit in Atlanta. He gave me a couple of guys to go talk with.”

Rogers met his first client during his initial trip on behalf of Burrough’s company. Chris Terry, an offensive lineman from the University of Georgia, eventually was selected by the Carolina Panthers as the 33rd pick in the National Football League draft. During his third year of law school, Rogers became a certified NFL contract advisor so he would be able to represent Terry and other athletes.

From 1999 through 2005, Rogers maintained his certification and primarily represented professional athletes. He transitioned to an entertainment law-based practice in 2005, but still represents athletes in their off-the-field ventures. The change allows him to travel less and be at home more with his son Austin, who is 9, and 6-year-old daughter Sydney. Even though Rogers leaves the office early several days a week to pick up the children from school, his clients never have to worry that he is not on top of their legal affairs.

“As long as I get the work done, [clients] don’t care if I do it at 11 o’clock at night or whether it gets done at the office. I’ve done deals at the ballpark,” said Rogers, whose son and daughter inherited athletic prowess from their father.

Many entertainers hire Rogers because of his experience litigating – his first job out of law school was with a defense litigation firm – and in transactional work.

“I am one of the few [entertainment] attorneys that does both litigation and transactional work and so I understand how both of those worlds work together,” said the Milwaukee, Wisconsin, native.

“I really take time to educate them on the business so that they understand what they are getting into because most of the artists are young. They don’t understand a 30-page recording agreement, so you really have to explain to them not only what they are getting but what their obligations are.”

A passion for representing gifted artists will likely keep Rogers practicing in Atlanta for many years.

“I want to continue to grow my practice. Even if I won the lottery, I’d still practice. It may change my practice, but I really enjoy what I do so I want to do it,” said Rogers. “I enjoy representing talented people and not only protecting them, but helping them maximize the money that they can earn. I really enjoy that and over the long haul, I want to be able to help more clients.”

“When I first entered law school, I thought I would be content with never seeing a courtroom,” said Rogers. “Part of that was a fear of the unknown. I took trial practice and Mr. Randolph was my professor. He was great and it was an excellent course. It broke down the fear. From that, I now do litigation and that is directly attributable to that class.”

Rogers understands that to best represent his clients, he must play the role of educator. “In the entertainment industry, new artists think that they are going to be rich on their first recording deal,” said Rogers. “Oftentimes, I am the first person to bring the reality to them of what they can reasonably expect.

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“In the entertainment industry, new artists think that they are going to be rich on their first recording deal,” said Rogers. “Oftentimes, I am the first person to bring the reality to them of what they can reasonably expect.”
When a knee injury ended Mike Hook’s dream of becoming a professional baseball player, he turned his attention to becoming a lawyer. The former college baseball catcher wanted to use the law to help people. After more than 20 years practicing civil defense law and representing major insurance companies, Hook’s self-described career change has him helping hundreds of victims from New Jersey to Pensacola, where he lives with his wife of 33 years, Tricia.

A world away from The City of Five Flags, Hook has taken mission trips to Russia for the past six years. His wife and daughters Kimberly and Kristina joined him recently for the two-week journey.

While in Russia, Hook introduces children to Christianity while teaching them one of his childhood passions – baseball. The trips provide him the opportunity to share his beliefs and reinforce his appreciation for the legal profession and life in America.

“If you want to be proud of our profession, go to Russia — those people have no safeguards,” said Hook. “I’ve seen so many health and safety hazards. The value for human life is not the same. The trips to Russia are a reminder of how blessed I am to live here and to be able to do what I do.”

The life Hook enjoys in Pensacola took a drastic turn in 2001, when a young man suffering side effects from Accutane visited Hook’s law office. The man’s doctor believed that the drug primarily used to treat acne had caused him to develop inflammatory bowel disease (IBD).

While evaluating publicly available information about Accutane, Hook found evidence of wrongdoing by Roche, the pharmaceutical company that manufactures the drug.

“My background in the defense side
helped me know what to look for,” said Hook. “That public information raised a lot of red flags and I knew the private information would provide even more.

“I knew taking on a pharmaceutical company would take a lot of time and expense. Doing it for one case, from a business and economic standpoint, would have been difficult. That is what the large pharmaceutical companies bank on. Who is going to take them on for one case? It doesn’t make good business sense.” With that rationale and the knowledge that there were probably hundreds more who had developed IBD after taking Accutane, Hook knew there would be many additional clients.

Before the 1980 Florida State Law graduate would commit to taking on a pharmaceutical company, and the tremendous time and expense it would require, he discussed the decision with his wife. Hook explained that the commitment would change their lifestyle. With her full support, he began representing victims of Accutane.

To help transition from a practice that was 90 percent civil defense to exclusively representing plaintiffs in cases against Roche, Hook brought on board his Hook & Bolton law partner, Steve Bolton (’81), as well as some of the nation’s top torts litigation law firms, giving him the necessary manpower, expertise and financial resources needed to battle the pharmaceutical company. Of the approximately 560 Accutane cases they have amassed so far, three have gone to trial, each resulting in multimillion dollar judgments for Hook’s team and clients.

But those victories have not been easy. The discovery process took more than four years and began with a steady stream of deliveries from the pharmaceutical company to Hook’s office. “In dealing with corporate giants, nothing is easy,” said Hook. “I have shown up for depositions where the pharmaceutical company has nine lawyers and it’s just me.”

Despite the consuming nature of his cases, Hook says it is rewarding to be involved in such high-level litigation.

“While it is frustrating, it is also gratifying. The gratifying part is the success in trial. I know we are doing the right thing. I don’t know what the financial outcome will be, but I do know we’ve made an impact in the medical community. We’ve been able to get the word out that this drug causes IBD. If we’re able to save one kid, then it’s worth it. This litigation has been successful in that regard – getting the word out.”

The Accutane lawsuit success is the result of numerous sacrifices. With clients located all over the country, Hook typically travels two to three days a week. Hook is currently trying three cases concurrently in New Jersey. The trials will have him away from his Pensacola home for at least five weeks. Leaving his home is easier now that his daughters are in college and his wife can accompany him. In earlier years, Tricia stayed home to be with the girls. “Her commitment has been as big as mine,” said Hook of his wife’s sacrifices.

Hook also has surrendered his golf game and the time he used to devote to fishing and attending Florida State football games. Before taking on the Accutane cases, Hook played golf once or twice a week and had been to almost every home Florida State football game during the previous three decades.

For now, Hook’s legal career is strictly focused on Accutane cases. But a pending United States Supreme Court case may change his practice again. If the Court rules in favor of the petitioning pharmaceutical company this fall, it would halt every pharmaceutical case in the country, including all of Hook’s cases. The decision would prevent patients from bringing cases against any drug approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

The Supreme Court case makes Hook’s dedication to his clients even more admirable. Although he has no idea if the hours he is putting in now will translate into financial rewards and additional courtroom victories, he believes in what he is doing. “I don’t know when it will be over, but I know we are doing the right thing. This has been fascinating litigation for me. The verdicts are being reported all over the world. It’s pretty good that the verdicts have that kind of impact.”

But whenever the cases end, Hook admits that he will be glad to return to the life he knew before Accutane. And if the Court rules that individuals wronged by pharmaceutical companies still have the right to bring lawsuits, he is prepared to continue fighting for what he believes is right. “If Roche wants to fight for the rest of my career, I’m ready.”

“In dealing with corporate giants, nothing is easy,” said Hook. “I have shown up for depositions where the pharmaceutical company has nine lawyers and it’s just me.”
Instead of using the summer as a well-deserved break before beginning their final year of law school, four third-year law students served as federal government externs in Washington, D.C. Ramona Thomas worked for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and James “Jim” Worsnopp externed at the U.S. Patent Office. Matt Childs and Amanda Hansson were externs for Senator Mel Martinez (’73).

As a law clerk for the Legal Counsel Division of the Office of Criminal Enforcement, Forensics, and Training within the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance, Thomas gained insight into criminal enforcement and criminal investigation.

She researched and wrote on issues ranging from false statement provisions to violations of state-supervised clean water act enforcement.

Worsnopp’s technical background — eight-and-a-half years as a computer programmer — served him well. “It was a very competitive process,” he said of qualifying for his externship in Alexandria, Virginia.

He spent the bulk of his internship responding to petitions about patent applications. His final weeks were spent reviewing — and rejecting — a patent application. Some externs, he said, do not get to review an application.

Martinez’s office selects four legal externs a year. Childs and Hansson were the only legal externs selected this summer. Each spent six weeks working for Martinez’s Washington office.

The duo, which was not in Washington at the same time, conducted research and wrote questions for Martinez for a variety of issues, including a nursing home bill he proposed, called the Fairness in Nursing Home Arbitration Act, during a Special Committee on Aging hearing.

The most challenging part, according to Hansson, was writing for Martinez’s staff. “I had to tailor my writing to be as fact-based as possible,” she explained.

Both worked for Martinez’s general counsel and focused on judicial aspects of the senator’s work, helping keep the senator informed.

Other Experiences

The chance to live and work in the nation’s capital provided the students a variety of opportunities. Each enjoyed different aspects of the experience.

Thomas joined the Federal Bar Association’s Young Lawyers Division and visited other federal agencies, including the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and Atomic Safety and Licensing Board. She also visited the Library of Congress and learned about the Congressional Research Service. She attended a CLE session hosted by Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia.

As president of the Federalist So-
ciety at Florida State Law, Worsnopp enjoyed attending a student leadership conference in D.C. He also met Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito at a party.

For Childs and Hansson, some days at the Capitol were virtual Who’s Who opportunities. Childs met General David Petraeus and Martinez, who attended several meetings with externs and undergraduate interns. Childs also had lunch in the Senate dining hall among Senators Chris Dodd (D-Conn.) and Jay Rockefeller (D-W.Va.).

Shortly before Sen. Joe Biden (D-Del.) was selected as Sen. Barack Obama’s (D-Ill.) running mate, Hansson had the opportunity to sit near him and was in the gallery during hearings. Hansson also toured the Library of Congress and listened to oral arguments at the Supreme Court.

Plans for the Future

“I learned a huge amount about things like metadata and ACC/AWP privilege assertion requirements,” Thomas said. “Those experiences specifically will be very useful to me in the future because I am interested in appellate advocacy.” She has filed several applications with a variety of government agencies in anticipation of her spring graduation.

The externship appealed to Worsnopp because he is interested in being a patent attorney after he finishes his education at Florida State Law. The externship was an opportunity to network and meet patent attorneys, plus “unless you have experience prosecuting patents, you may wind up being a patent attorney, but only doing it part time,” the third-year student said.

Worsnopp plans to apply for a position at the U.S. Patent Office. Hansson is now an intern with the Florida Senate and is enjoying the opportunity to sit near him and was in the gallery during hearings. Hansson also toured the Library of Congress and listened to oral arguments at the Supreme Court.

Working in Washington opened a lot of doors for the 3Ls and the opportunity should pay dividends well into the future for each of them.

BLSA President Helps Women and Children in Rwanda

In June 2008, second-year law student Alicia Jacobs fulfilled her dream of traveling to Africa. A six-week legal internship coordinated through Florida State’s Center for the Advancement of Human Rights allowed her to work for a legal services organization that assists women and children in Kigali, Rwanda. What appealed to Jacobs about working for Women’s Equity in Access to Care and Treatment (WE-ACTx) was the fact that she would not be sitting behind a desk. Working directly with clients in the field allowed Jacobs to behold the beauty of Rwanda – the site of one of the largest genocides in history.

“A lot of people have this misconception of Africa – that it’s really not that developed,” said Jacobs. “But Kigali was extremely developed. There were many times that I forgot I was actually in Africa; it is so much like America. They had these beautiful coffee shops, great shopping plazas, a lot of professionals and a lot of students. It was a fast-paced area, but really beautiful.

“After the genocide, they really worked to develop that area. So even though there was major genocide in that country, being in Kigali, you can’t tell just by looking at the city.”

During her internship with WE-ACTx, Jacobs conducted research on the legal rights of women and children, interviewed families in their homes and collaborated on a children’s rights handbook. Her work supported the organization’s mission to improve the living conditions of those affected by genocide and HIV in Rwanda.

Now back in Tallahassee, Jacobs says the internship gave her a new outlook. “I spent a lot of time with children who have nothing. They are so appreciative; they are so happy with the little that they have. I just appreciate life so much more and the things that we have.”
Manuel Utset: Cuban-American Authority on Behavioral Law and Economics

Manuel A. Utset, Jr. is a firm believer in a philosophy handed down from his grandmother. The philosophy — if you appear to be invisible, people will see you; your work will be noticed and you will accomplish more — has guided much of his life, both professionally and personally.

The Florida State Law Charles W. Ehrhardt Professor, a first-generation American born to Cuban parents, said his family taught him the value of education from a young age. His parents had been from wealthy families in Cuba, and like so many others, they left their material possessions behind when they moved to Miami.

Utset’s first day of school was very telling as to the person he would become. His mother encouraged him to sit at the front of the class, pay attention and get good grades. Utset’s mother watched, half-pleased and half-horrified, as he tackled a little girl to get the front-and-center seat she had encouraged him to take. However, he did later give the seat back to her, possibly in exchange for two pieces of Perugina candy she shared with him at lunch that day.

“That day, my future as a Wall Street lawyer was sealed,” he laughed. Utset, who grew up speaking Spanish at home, came to academia after a career at Sullivan & Cromwell in New York City, where he travelled the world helping countries privatize their utilities and other companies.

Utset’s family, including both sets of grandparents, was fortunate to remain intact after leaving Cuba.

His father worked nights in central Florida sugar cane fields and days as an elevator operator in Miami. Later, Utset and his father became licensed pest control operators. Although his parents always stressed the importance of having another profession on which to fall back, Utset has since let his license expire.

“I’m very blessed,” Utset said. “I have the greatest parents, the greatest brother and sister, the greatest grandparents.” His sister is 10 months his senior, while his brother is only 13 months younger.

Tallahassee and Florida State Law are a good fit for Utset. His family still lives in Miami, and his wife, Denise, hails from North Carolina, so she too enjoys being in the South. The duo met on Match.com nearly three years ago. After teaching a course in law and economics where one of the themes was to learn from the lessons of Match.com, Utset decided to give up his solitary existence and created a profile using the theories from his class. Within a month, he met Denise, and he proposed seven months later in Paris.

“Marriage can be very difficult when you bring a lot of books to the table,” Utset joked. “Since I was a little kid, one of my goals has been to build a personal library like both my grandparents had.”
Reading is a passion for both Utset and his fashion director-turned-designer wife. She reads in artistic and creative fields, primarily, and most of his books are about philosophy, economics or poetry. He also has an affinity for dictionaries. He owns first, second and third editions of the Webster’s International Dictionary.

“None should be without all three,” Utset said. “Words and language are constantly changing so they provide a snapshot of what people see as the current state of the word.”

When reading statutes, Utset often goes straight to the appropriate dictionary to understand a word’s meaning. He owns a variety of other, older dictionaries as well. His favorite dictionary: A Black’s Law Dictionary that belonged to his grandfather.

Utset knows that throughout college, law school and his career, people have gone out of their way to help him; sometimes he did not discover they had helped until years later.

“I’ve always tried to do the same for others,” he said. “I love learning and I love being able to help others.”

That is why he makes special effort to help junior faculty members. “I enjoy spending time with junior faculty members; reading their work, learning from them and providing encouragement,” he said. “We have such a great group of junior faculty that I learn far more from them than they do from me, although they are all kind enough to dissimulate otherwise.”

Florida State Law was in the midst of expanding its core group of business lawyers when he joined the faculty in 2007. “There was a built-in group that was cooperating, interacting with each other and sharing their scholarship,” the professor explained, adding that was something he had found missing at other institutions. Presentations and group discussions of scholarship add to the synergies the Law, Business and Economics faculty has developed.

Utset’s scholarship focuses on behavioral law and economics, which applies cognitive psychology and economics to legal issues.

“With my scholarship, I try to explore what results occur if we relax the assumption that individuals are perfectly rational and that capital markets are perfectly efficient,” Utset explained. Many laws assume that individuals are perfectly rational, but Utset asks, “What results occur if we relax that assumption, if we model individuals in a more realistic fashion? Since laws are there to guide people’s behavior, it is important that scholars and lawmakers start with a conception of human motivation that is firmly grounded in reality. We cannot simply choose to abstract away from our many imperfections in order to make our theories more tractable or elegant,” he explained.

One focus for Utset is what he calls “nibbling opportunism,” a process by which people, like the executives at Enron, carry out systematic misconduct over long periods of time. According to Utset, the behavior is an extenuation of self-control problems, much like smoking, procrastinating or overeating.

One focus for Utset is what he calls “nibbling opportunism,” a process by which people, like the executives at Enron, carry out systematic misconduct over long periods of time. According to Utset, the behavior is an extenuation of self-control problems, much like smoking, procrastinating or overeating.

“Toward a Bargaining Theory of the Firm” in the Cornell Law Review, Utset has advocated adopting a model of corporate governance that fully accounts for the dynamic nature of corporations and the environment in which they operate. He argues that even relatively small divergences from perfect rationality, if repeated enough times by the same people, can lead to catastrophic failures in corporations and markets of the sort we have experienced twice since 2001.

“It is very strange to me that we encounter these same regulatory failures again and again,” Utset said. “We need to design a system that better anticipates problems and that provides for real-time corporate transparency, instead of waiting until it is too late to see what can happen.”

He further explained: “Bankers and CEOs routinely procrastinate and over-consume food, cigarettes and other things that they want to avoid. It would be foolhardy to believe that when they get to work, they magically regain perfect rationality and self control. The people responsible for the recent meltdown were trained to believe that reason and markets would never let things get too far out of hand. Even when managers were acting irrationally or taking on too much risk, they could find comfort in the fact that others were certainly engaged in sound, rational business practices. But if everybody believes that, then we end up with what I call the ‘market for lemmings.’ Unfortunately, Wall Street players seem to have gleefully marched over the cliff, thinking correctly that the rest of us would be at the bottom to cushion their fall.”
Avery McKnight Leads FAMU’s Legal Team

As Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University’s (FAMU’s) general counsel, Avery McKnight spends his days providing advice to the institution’s president, board of trustees and senior management team. Although he has been on the job for a relatively short time – since July 2007 – McKnight already has been instrumental in securing some significant accomplishments.

“The best part of my job is helping to return the university in good standing with SACS – the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools,” said McKnight. “Having SACS probation lifted has to be one of the hallmarks of my career, along with being a part of such an outstanding leadership team that was assembled by President (James) Ammons.”

McKnight has been honing his legal talents to be part of that team since he was a law student. During his third year of law school, McKnight had a clinical internship at the office he now leads. The 1992 Florida State Law graduate also previously worked for more than a decade in the office in various capacities before practicing labor and employment law at Allen, Norton & Blue, P.A. During his tenure at the firm, he worked with general counsels for several state agencies and universities. The experience has prepared McKnight to lead a legal team that provides advice on a wide variety of issues.

“There is so much that goes on with a university,” said McKnight. “Universities, especially universities the size of FAMU and Florida State, are almost like a municipality. The issues that we see are diverse. I would describe them as being contractual in nature, administrative in nature, or issues involving labor and employment. Of course, we have student disciplinary issues that we provide advice and counsel on, as well as handling and being involved with an array of complex litigation.”

Because his employer is a public body corporate, McKnight believes when the board and administration make decisions that are in the university’s best interest, they also are helping to maintain and enhance the quality of life for all Floridians. McKnight plans to continue his work to strengthen the university in the next several years. One way he seeks to do so is by assisting Ammons and law school Dean LeRoy Pernell in securing full American Bar Association accreditation for the FAMU College of Law.

“I hope to continue providing sound legal counsel, which will help the FAMU board of trustees, President Ammons and his leadership team to ensure greater institutional accountability, stability and advancement, especially during these financially challenging times,” said McKnight.

McKnight also is a leader in the community. He volunteers with Big Bend Hospice and serves on the boards of the Character Center, which focuses on the educational, physical, emotional and spiritual needs of young students, and the University Center Club. In addition, McKnight remains committed to Florida State Law.

“I encourage my classmates to give back to the institution that gave us so much,” said McKnight, whose location in Tallahassee allowed him to serve on a moot court panel for the law school in 2007.

When he is not working or volunteering, McKnight is usually spending time with his family. He and his wife, Chiquita, welcomed their daughter Sydney in February, and he also has a 16-year-old son, Elliott, and 14-year-old daughter, Alexia. McKnight also uses his time away from the office to pursue his love of music and ministry. In July, he released his second self-produced gospel CD, “Awakening.”
White & Case Hosts Student Reception

Three Miami attorneys from White & Case LLP hosted a reception Tuesday, August 12 prior to the firm’s on-campus interviews with Florida State Law students.

Approximately 20 students took advantage of the advanced opportunity to meet the attorneys. White & Case associates Ileana Cruz (’00), Cristina Lumpkin and Chauncey Kelly mingled with students at the University Center Club.

Florida State faculty and staff members who attended the reception included law school Dean Don Weidner, Professor Jim Rossi and Professor Manuel Utset, along with Wendi Adelson, program director for the Center for the Advancement of Human Rights.

Stephanie Williams Ray Chairs Florida Public Employees Relations Commission

Stephanie Williams Ray (’95) has been appointed by Governor Charlie Crist to chair the Florida Public Employees Relations Commission, pending Senate approval. As chair, Stephanie serves as chief executive and administrative officer of the agency. Her term began September 29 and will end January 1, 2012.

The commission issues final orders on labor and employment disputes statewide, registers unions and conducts elections when public employees wish to be represented by a union.

Prior to her appointment, Stephanie served as the Assistant Dean for Development at Florida State Law. She also was Associate Dean for Administration and Director of Career Placement during her nine-year tenure at the law school. Before joining the Florida State Law administration, Stephanie practiced law with the Tallahassee law firm of Ausley & McMullen, P.A.

“Stephanie was a dynamo at the law school and is someone we already miss very much,” said Dean Don Weidner. “We are all extremely proud the governor selected her to lead PERC.”
Noteworthy

Justices Bell and Cantero Retire from Florida Supreme Court

Two friends of the law school have retired from the Florida Supreme Court. Justice Raoul G. Cantero, III, retired in September and Justice Kenneth B. Bell (‘82) retired in October. Alumnus Ricky Polston (‘87) was appointed by Governor Charlie Crist to fill the vacancy on the court created by Bell’s retirement.

Bell, who was the first Florida State Law graduate appointed to the Florida Supreme Court, retired after five years on the court. He has returned to his hometown of Pensacola and is a partner at Clark, Partington, Larry, Bond & Stackhouse.

In addition to meeting with Florida State Law students, Bell remained engaged in the law school by speaking at classes and events such as a graduation ceremony, an annual Moot Court banquet and a Real Estate Legal Society forum. He also hosted several interns in his office.

During his tenure on the court, Bell remained involved with the Waterfront Rescue Mission and is now president of the organization’s board. He also served as the court liaison to several commissions, as well as the Real Property, Probate and Trust Law Section of The Florida Bar.

On September 4, more than 100 area dignitaries attended a ceremony at the Florida Supreme Court marking Cantero’s retirement. Cantero retired after six years to spend more time with his extended family in Miami, where he is now a partner at White & Case LLP.

At the ceremony, Florida State Law Dean Don Weidner offered remarks congratulating Cantero on his impressive career and thanking him for his dedication to the education of Florida State Law students. Cantero, during his tenure as a Florida Supreme Court justice, served Florida State Law in many capacities, including as a commencement and new student orientation speaker and as a teacher.

Weidner’s remarks included statements from students who had been touched by Cantero.

Trevor Thompson wrote that Cantero’s Decision-Making in The Florida Supreme Court course “counts as the single most moving experience I have had in law school and has had a significant impact on my career goals, leading to a subsequent externship at the Florida Supreme Court and solidifying a desire for post-graduation clerkships.”

“Cantero’s impact has been felt in many ways, large and small,” Weidner said. Mentoring students during Networking Nosh lunches and hosting Spanish American Law Students Association (SALSA) events at his home helped Cantero develop lasting relationships with law students.

In 2007, Cantero received the Class of ’66 award for his “distinguished service to our law school and to the community,” Weidner said. The annual law school award recognizes non-alumni who have significant impact on the future successes of Florida State Law students.
Jim Bacchus (’79), whose resume is filled with superb accomplishments, visited Florida State Law on September 10-11 to speak to students in Professor Frederick M. Abbott’s International Trade Law class and at a luncheon sponsored by the International Law Students Association (ILSA).

Bacchus told the students gathered at the ILSA meeting about how President Bill Clinton nominated him to serve on the World Trade Organization’s (WTO) appellate body. As a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, Bacchus had been intimately involved in negotiations that led the Florida congressional delegation to endorse the approval of the North American Free Trade Agreement. Instead of taking credit, as a Democrat, he deferred the recognition to another congressman, senior Republican Congressman Tom Lewis, to help create consensus. He explained that at the time, Florida’s congressional members were overwhelmingly Republican and he knew that Lewis would have more success convincing the delegation to vote for the deal.

The Greenberg Traurig shareholder said he didn’t discover until much later why his name had been recommended for the appellate body. Clinton said that by deferring to Lewis, Bacchus demonstrated the consensus building skills he would need in Geneva, Switzerland, as a judge.

During his eight years of service to the WTO, he was the only American, and the only North American, on the appellate body.

Bacchus recently published a book, Trade and Freedom, that he wrote while in Geneva. The publication is about the philosophical view of world trade that is the basis and motivation for the world trading system.
1969

JOHN W. FROST, II, of Frost Van den Boom & Smith, P.A. in Bartow, has joined the American Trial Lawyers Association.

JAMES N. MCCONNAUGHAY, a partner in the law firm of McConnaughhay, Duffy, Coonrod, Pope & Weaver, P.A., has been selected as a 2008 Florida Super Lawyer.

RONALD AARON MOWREY, of Mowrey & Mitchell P.A. in Tallahassee, was named one of Florida Trend’s Legal Elite government attorneys.

1970

TERRY COLE has been named to Florida Trend’s Legal Elite list in the environmental and land use practice area. He is a shareholder in Oertel Fernandez Cole & Bryant, P.A. in Tallahassee.

JEROME M. NOVEY, of Novey Mendelson & Adamson in Tallahassee, was named to Florida Trend’s Legal Elite list in the area of adoption, marital and family law.

GEORGE LEE WAAS, of the Florida Attorney General’s Office, was named a top government attorney by Florida Trend in its Legal Elite issue.

1972

JOEL D. BRONSTEIN, of Bronstein, Carlson, Gleim, Shasteen & Smith, P.A. in St. Petersburg, has been named to Florida Trend’s Legal Elite list in the area of tax law.

FRED H. CUMBIE, JR. has been reappointed to the board of directors of the Kissimmee Utility Authority and now serves as chairman. He is president of the Kissimmee law firm Overstreet, Miles, Ritch & Cumbie, P.A.

PETER M. DUNBAR, a shareholder at Pennington, Moore, Wilkinson, Bell & Dunbar P.A. in Tallahassee, has been named to Florida Trend’s Legal Elite list in the government and administrative law category.

THE HONORABLE WILLIAM GARY has retired as a Second Judicial Circuit of Florida judge. He served in that capacity since 1985.

WAYNE HOGAN has been named to Florida Trend’s Legal Elite list in the area of civil trial law. He is a partner at Terrell Hogan in Jacksonville.

ROY M. KINSEY, JR. was named to the First Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission by Governor Charlie Crist. He is president of Kinsey, Troxel, Johnson & Walborsky, P.A.

C. EDWIN RUDE, JR. is now in private practice at 211 E. Call St., Tallahassee, Fla. 32301.

CAROLYN MARIE SNURKOWSKI, of the Florida Attorney General’s Office, was named one of Florida Trend’s Legal Elite government attorneys.

EUGENE E. “GENE” STEARNS, a shareholder at Stearns Weaver Miller Weissler Alhadeff & Sitterson, P.A. in Miami, has been named to Florida Trend’s Legal Elite list for his work in the area of commercial litigation.

CHARLES FREDERICK TUNNICLIFF, of the Florida Department of Business & Professional Regulation in Tallahassee, was named to Florida Trend’s Legal Elite top government attorneys list.

C. GARY WILLIAMS has been named to Florida Trend’s Legal Elite list in the area of civil trial law. He is a shareholder at Ausley & McMullen, P.A. in Tallahassee.

1973

LYNWOOD F. ARNOLD, JR., of Pennington, Moore, Wilkinson, Bell & Dunbar P.A., in Tampa, has been made a shareholder. Arnold’s practice is in the areas of construction law, real estate planning and probate, real property and condominium law, estate planning, administration and general litigation.

DONALD D. CONN, of Pennington, Moore, Wilkinson, Bell & Dunbar P.A.’s Tampa office, has been made a shareholder. Conn’s practice focuses on administrative law, land use, environmental law, local government, real property and condominium law.

WILLIAM W. CORRY has been selected for the 2008 Florida Super Lawyers Directory.

SENATOR MEL MARTINEZ recently released his first book, A Sense of Belonging: From Castro’s Cuba to the U.S. Senate, One Man’s Pursuit of the American Dream. The book focuses on Martinez’s arrival in the United States as he fled Cuba during “Operation Peter Pan.”

S. WILLIAM MOORE, a partner at Brigham Moore, LLP in Sarasota, has been named to Florida Trend’s Legal Elite list for his eminent domain work.

C. EDWIN RUDE, JR. is now in private practice at 211 E. Call St., Tallahassee, Fla. 32301.
THE HONORABLE EMERSON R. THOMPSON, JR. received the first Honorable James G. Glazebrook Memorial Bar Service Award from the Orange County Bar Association, which recognizes a state or federal judge serving in Orange County who supports the local legal community and is dedicated to professionalism both in and out of the courtroom. He also has been reappointed to The Florida Bar Foundation and is the longest serving member of the board.

CHARLES L. WOODY recently was named a leading lawyer in West Virginia in labor and employment law in Chambers USA. Woody is a member of Spilman Thomas & Battle, PLLC in Charleston, W.Va.

1974

GORDON D. CHERN is a general magistrate/judicial hearing officer for the Second Judicial Circuit in Tallahassee.

BRIAN S. DUFFY has been selected as a 2008 Florida Super Lawyer. He is a partner at McConnaughhay, Duffy, Coonrod, Pope & Weaver, P.A.

STANN W. GIVENS has been elected president of the Florida Chapter of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers. He also was recently selected for inclusion in the 2008 edition of the Best of the U.S. list of the best professionals in the country. Givens is president of Knox & Givens, P.A. and is board certified in marital and family law and a fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers.

NANCY G. LINNAN has been named to Florida Trend’s Legal Elite list in the practice area of environmental and land use law. She is a shareholder at Carlton Fields in Tallahassee.

ROBERT A. PIERCE has been named to Florida Trend’s Legal Elite list in the area of tax law. He is a shareholder at Ausley & McMullen, P.A. in Tallahassee.

BRUCE MICHAEL STONE has been named to Florida Trend’s Legal Elite list in the wills, trusts and estates category. He is a shareholder at Goldman Felcoski & Stone P.A. in Coral Gables.

1975

BRUCE CAMPBELL is part of the Tallahassee City Attorney’s Office team that gained law firm commendation from The Florida Bar for 15 years of pro bono work. He was an assistant city attorney for the City Attorney’s Office from 1995-2000.

JAMES R. ENGLISH, an attorney in the Tallahassee City Attorney’s Office, was instrumental in the office earning a law firm commendation from The Florida Bar for 15 years of pro bono work. He has worked for the City Attorney’s Office since 1984.

THOMAS M. GONZALEZ, a partner at Thompson, Sizemore, Gonzalez & Hearing in Tampa, has been named to Florida Trend’s Legal Elite list for his work in the area of labor and employment law.

STEPHEN W. METZ has been elected vice-chairman of the Florida Sports Foundation. He is a shareholder at Metz Husband & Daughton, P.A. in Tallahassee.

PETER DUNCAN RINGSMUTH has been named to Florida Trend’s Legal Elite list in the area of criminal law. His law office is in Fort Myers.

BETTY J. STEFFENS was named one of Florida Trend’s Legal Elite government attorneys. She is general counsel for Florida State University.

DANIEL H. THOMPSON, of Berger Singerman in Tallahassee, has been named to Florida Trend’s Legal Elite list in the area of environmental and land use law.

BRUCE B. BLACKWELL recently was presented a Grassroots Advocacy Award by the American Bar Association. It honors his long-term efforts to provide adequate funding at the federal level for The Legal Services Corporation, a legal resource for the poor. Blackwell is the first Florida lawyer to receive that recognition. The president of The Florida Bar Foundation also recently received the Florida Council of Voluntary Bar Presidents 2008 Past Presidents Award. He also received the first Judge James G. Glazebrook Distinguished Service Award from the Judge George C. Young First Central Florida Inn of Court. The award is the highest presented by the group. Blackwell is a partner with King, Blackwell, Downs & Zehnder, P.A. and was named to Florida Trend’s Legal Elite list in the area of commercial litigation.

We Need Your Help
Please take a moment to log in to the Florida State Law Alumni Directory Web site, www.law.fsu.edu/alumni/alumnidir.html, and update your personal information. This is a great reference tool for classmates to get in touch with one another, to network and to refer business to fellow alumni.
1976

LAWRENCE N. CURTIN, a partner at Holland & Knight in Tallahassee, has been named to Florida Trend’s Legal Elite list for his work in environmental and land use law.

PATRICIA R. GLEASON was honored as one of the top government attorneys in Florida Trend’s Legal Elite issue. She works in the executive office of the governor.

THE HONORABLE TIMOTHY DAVID HARLEY retired from the Second Judicial Circuit Court in April. He began serving as a judge in Leon County in January 2000.

BOB OWENS serves on The College Board, formerly the Board of Trustees of Institutions of Higher Learning, of Mississippi’s eight public universities. He was appointed in 2004 and his term ends in 2015. He practices in Jackson, Miss., as a partner at Owens Moss, PLLC.

1977

SILVIA MORELL ALDERMAN, managing shareholder of Akerman Senterfitt in Tallahassee, has been named to Florida Trend’s Legal Elite list for her work in the area of environmental and land use law.

CHARLES DODSON was elected to a seat on the Second Judicial Circuit Court of Florida. He previously practiced law in Tallahassee for 31 years, except for two breaks during which he taught high school.

ROBERT STEVEN GOLDMAN has been named to Florida Trend’s Legal Elite list in the area of tax law. He is a partner at Madsen Goldman & Holcomb, LLP in Tallahassee.

RICHARD “RICH” BRYCE HADLOW has been named to Florida Trend’s Legal Elite list for business law. He is a partner at Holland & Knight in Tampa.

CHRISTOPHER JOHN WEISS, a partner at Holland & Knight in Orlando, has been named to Florida Trend’s Legal Elite list in the category of construction law.

BERT WHITAKER was appointed vice president for academic affairs at St. Johns River Community College. He taught history, government and business law at the school for 23 years before accepting the administrative position for the college’s three campuses. He can be reached at bertwhitaker@sjrcc.edu.

1978

ROBERT A. COLE has been named trial lawyer of the year by the Florida chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates. In honor of the recognition, the board donated $5,000 to the Florida State Law mock trial program.

KEVIN X. CROWLEY, a shareholder at Pennington, Moore, Wilkinson, Bell & Dunbar P.A. in Tallahassee, has been named to Florida Trend’s Legal Elite list for environmental and land use law.

C. HOWARD HUNTER, a shareholder at Hill Ward Henderson in Tampa, has been named one of Florida Trend’s Legal Elite in the practice area of civil trial law.

KRISTINE KNAB serves as executive director of Legal Services of North Florida. She has worked with the organization for 30 years.

SHEILA MCDENVITT was recently named chair of the Board of Governors of the State University System of Florida. She will serve as chair for two years. She also recently joined Akerman Senterfitt’s Tampa office as of counsel in the corporate practice group.

MARGARET ANN “PEGGY” ROLANDO has been named to Florida Trend’s Legal Elite list in the area of real estate transactions. She is a partner at Shutts & Bowen LLP in Miami.

VICTORIA LYNN WEBER has been named to Florida Trend’s Legal Elite list in the practice area of tax law. She practices at Hopping Green & Sams in Tallahassee.

GEORGE SHELDON has been named secretary of the Florida Department of Children & Families. He previously served as assistant secretary for operations.

1979

MIRANDA F. FITZGERALD was named in the 2008-09 National Association of Professional and Executive Women registry for “Women of Excellence.” She also has been named to Florida Trend’s Legal Elite list for environmental and land use law. She is a partner in the law firm of Lowndes, Drosdick, Doster, Kantor & Reed, P.A.

MAYOR JOSEPH S. GELLER is now a partner at Greenspoon Marder after its merger with Geller, Geller, Fisher & Garfinkel. He focuses on civil litigation, administrative law, election law, government relations and municipal law. He will work in the Aventura office, heading development of the firm’s Miami-Dade office.

MELANIE ANN HINES, of Berger Singerman in Tallahassee, has been named to Florida Trend’s Legal Elite list in the area of criminal law.

TERRY E. LEWIS, a shareholder at Lewis, Longman & Walker, P.A. in West Palm Beach, has been named one of Florida Trend magazine’s Legal Elite in environmental and land use law.

PATRICK E. HURLEY, senior assistant city attorney for the Tallahassee City Attorney’s Office, was instrumental in the office earning a law firm commendation from The Florida Bar for 15 years of pro bono work. He has worked for the City Attorney’s Office since 1992.

JAMES “ALLEN” COX was recently appointed to the Fourteenth Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission. He is president of James A. Cox & Associates, Inc. in Port St. Joe.

DONALD M. HINKLE, of Hinkle & Foran in Tallahassee, has been named to Florida Trend’s Legal Elite list in the area of civil trial law.

BRUCE DOUGLAS LAMB has been named to Florida Trend’s Legal Elite list in the area
Gifts to Florida State Law provide critical support for students, faculty and academic programs. This Annual Report gratefully acknowledges all gifts received between July 1, 2007 and June 30, 2008. Gifts received between July 1, 2008 and June 30, 2009 will be recognized in the fall 2009 issue of *Florida State Law*. Your support makes an exciting difference. Thank you so much!

We strive to produce a complete and accurate report. Please call any errors or omissions to the attention of:

Becky B. Shepherd, Director of Alumni Affairs & Annual Fund
The Florida State University College of Law
Tallahassee, FL 32306-1601
850.644.0231 / 800.788.7097
rshepher@law.fsu.edu
DEAR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS:

This was a year of great success for the law school. The reputation of our outstanding students and faculty continues to blossom. The highlight of recent external recognition was when *U.S. News & World Report* rated our Environmental Program 10th in the nation (up from 12th last year).

Private fund-raising has been an important part of our successes, and this past year’s results have been excellent. Our Annual Fund has been an unprecedented success, and our new major gifts are already making a difference.

**ANNUAL FUND**

Last year’s Annual Fund hit another new high: 27 percent of our alumni made gifts to the law school. This level of alumni support sends a powerful signal about the enthusiasm our alumni have for the school. We are now the nation’s 3rd best public law school in terms of alumni giving rate. Our student enthusiasm and generosity bodes well for the future. This past year, 68 percent of our students contributed to our Annual Fund. They are blazing the trail for us all!

Gifts to the Annual Fund enrich our entire academic program. The Annual Fund supports everything from student scholarships to distinguished speakers to graduation receptions for our students and their families to lunch at the Florida Bar exam!

**MAJOR GIFTS**

This past year, we received Major Gifts totaling $2,140,611.69 in cash and $12,722,500 in additional pledges, for a grand total of $14,863,111.69. This success is remarkable. The “Cash Gifts By Level” portion of this Report includes only payments made during the fiscal year, even if they are but a portion of a larger gift. We want our reporting to you to be as conservative as possible. Under the heading of “Recent Larger Gifts,” we outline the larger gift commitments that we received in the 2007-2008 fiscal year.

All these gifts and pledges have provided important encouragement to all of us at the law school and are helping us to transform our program. The dollars invested in the school are paying great dividends.

Thank you for all of your support.

Sincerely,

Don Weidner, Dean
$1 million or more

Tampa attorney and charter class ('69) alum, Stephen C. Cheeseman, has increased his charitable bequest to Florida State Law so that it is now in excess of $10 million. The income from the endowment that will be created by this bequest will be used to: (1) award scholarships to students who have financial need and who are average students who would not otherwise be considered for a scholarship; and (2) establish and maintain a Mediation Program at the law school. When the testametary gift matures, it will be eligible for a 100 percent match from the state of Florida. Steve is a founding partner in the Tampa firm of Cheeseman & Phillips. He is also active in real estate.

$300,000 to $999,999

A Florida State Law graduate and her husband, who have asked to remain anonymous, have agreed to make a $350,000 testamentary gift that will create an Endowment for Excellence in Elder Law. The annual distribution from the endowment will be used to advance the richness of the law school’s program in Elder Law, in ways that include, but are not limited to, scholarships for students who have demonstrated a commitment to elder law; a professorship for a faculty member teaching and researching in the area of elder law; funding for students to engage in pro bono service in elder law; and funding for the law school to host distinguished lectures, conferences or symposia in elder law. When the testametary gift matures, it will be eligible for a 50 percent match from the state of Florida.

$100,000 to $299,999

Pensacola attorney B. Richard Young ('84) and his wife Suzanne initially made a commitment of $100,000 over time to create the Young Family Endowment. They have increased this commitment by an additional $50,000 to bring their total gift to endowment to $150,000. The income from the endowment will be used to: (1) support the law school’s Mock Trial Team; and (2) award a merit scholarship to one or more incoming law students who have demonstrated academic excellence. This gift will be eligible for a 50 percent match from the state of Florida. Richard is a named partner in the Young, Bill, Fugett & Roumbos, P.A. law firm and specializes in the representation of insurance companies and their insureds.

Tallahassee attorneys and alumni couple, Larry ('76) and Jeanne ('02) Curtin have made a commitment of $100,000 over time to endow the Larry and Jeanne Curtin Scholarship. The income distributed from the endowed scholarship will be used to recruit top students to the law school. This gift will be eligible for a 50 percent match from the state of Florida. Larry is a partner in the Tallahassee office of Holland & Knight and practices in the areas of environmental and administrative law. Jeanne is a founding member of the Hartman Curtin law firm in Tallahassee. Jeanne focuses her practice in the areas of environmental and land use law.
Tallahassee attorneys, Benjamin L. Crump and Daryl D. Parks, both 1995 graduates of the law school, initially made a commitment of $25,000 over time to create the Parks & Crump Diversity Enhancement Scholarship. They have increased this commitment by an additional $75,000 to bring their total gift to endowment to $100,000. The income distributed from the endowed scholarship will be used to support students from groups historically underrepresented in the legal profession. It is Ben and Daryl’s preference that the recipient is either a Florida resident or will make a commitment to remain in Florida to practice law for at least three years. This gift will be eligible for a 50 percent match from the state of Florida. Ben and Daryl’s Tallahassee law firm, Parks & Crump, LLC, represents injured clients in medical malpractice, personal injury, automobile accidents, nursing home neglect/abuse, defective products and pharmaceutical products litigation.

Jim Douglass, a Florida State University College of Business graduate and parent of one of our current 3Ls, Rob Douglass, has made a gift of $100,000 to endow the Colonel James R. Douglass Veterans Scholarship. The income distributed from the endowed scholarship will be used to award at least one scholarship each year to a law student who is currently serving in the armed forces or who is a former member of the armed forces. This gift will be eligible for a 50 percent match from the state of Florida. Jim was a corporate turnaround expert who specialized in energy companies before he retired. Coming out of retirement, Jim settled in Pittsburgh, Pa., and has formed his own private capital investment group.
Tallahassee attorneys and alumni couple Carol L. Gregg (’74) and Ken Hart (’75) have made a commitment to give the law school $100,000 over time to endow the Carol Gregg and Ken Hart Endowment for Excellence for the Public Interest Law Center. The income distributed from this endowment will be used to provide financial support where it is needed most within the Public Interest Law Center, with a preference for supporting litigation expenses. This gift will be eligible for a 50 percent match from the state of Florida. Carol is assistant general counsel with the Department of Health. Ken is a shareholder with the law firm of Ausley & McMullen, and his practice focuses on administrative law, alternative dispute resolution, government and litigation.

Fort Lauderdale attorney Fred E. Karlinsky (’92) initially made a commitment of $25,000 over time to create the Karlinsky Family Scholarship. He has increased this commitment by an additional $75,000 to bring his total gift to endowment to $100,000. The income distributed from the endowed scholarship will be used to recruit an incoming student. This gift will be eligible for a 50 percent match from the state of Florida. Fred is a named partner in the firm of Colodny, Fass, Talenfeld, Karlinsky & Abate, PA. Fred concentrates in the areas of insurance regulatory law and related matters, executive and legislative governmental affairs, administrative law and corporate representation.

Panama City attorney Sherri Denton Mallory (’87) has made an additional commitment of $25,000 to supplement the existing $25,000 scholarship in honor of her late brother, Chad Wayne Denton. The Chad Wayne Denton Memorial Scholarship is used to attract applicants with outstanding academic credentials. Sherri is a named partner with Mallory & Mallory, P.A. in Panama City.

Professor Emeritus Charles W. Ehrhardt has made a gift of $25,000 to create the Ehrhardt Endowment for Excellence. The income distributed from the endowment will be used at the discretion of the law school to enhance excellence. Chuck retired from full-time teaching in 2007 after 40 years of service. He continues to teach at least one major course a year at the law school.

Orlando attorneys and alumni couple Byrd F. “Biff” (’78) and Tracy A. Marshall (’90) have made a commitment of $25,000 over time to create the Tracy and Biff Marshall Endowment for Excellence. The income distributed from the endowment will be used, at the discretion of the law school, for purposes ranging from student scholarships to merit incentives for faculty. Biff and Tracy are partners in the Orlando office of GrayRobinson, P.A. Biff practices securities law and Tracy is a trial lawyer who practices in the areas of eminent domain, land use litigation and commercial litigation.
**Financials**

### 2007-2008

**Total Cash Received** $2,514,608.06*  

- Unrestricted $1,152,424.01  
- Scholarships $385,325.18  
- Faculty Development $524,362.50  
- Student Enrichment $78,500.00  
- Annual Fund** $373,996.37

*Includes $1,099,900 in state match  
**See Total Annual Fund Giving breakdown

### Alumni and Students Cash Giving Rates

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Alumni</th>
<th>Students</th>
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<td>2003-04</td>
<td>24.70%</td>
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<td>25.44%</td>
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<td>26.32%</td>
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<td>2006-07</td>
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<tr>
<td>2007-08</td>
<td>27.03%</td>
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### Total Alumni Cash Gifts to the Annual Fund*

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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*Includes Book Awards

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*Includes $1,099,900 in state match  
**See Total Annual Fund Giving breakdown

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*All cash gifts of $10,000 or less made by alumni and friends that are not earmarked for endowment or part of a larger pledge.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>CLASS OF 1966</th>
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<td>Stephen W. Buckley</td>
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<td>J. Riley Davis</td>
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<td>Lyman T. Fletcher</td>
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<td>H. Lawrence Hardy</td>
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<td>John J. Hemrick</td>
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<td>A. Edward McGinty</td>
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<td>Anthony P. Pires, Jr.</td>
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<td>Admiral Harold E. Grant</td>
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<td>Clement H. White</td>
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<td>L. Lee Williams, Jr.</td>
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Jane Rigler
Peter D. Ringsmuth
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L. David Zube

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D. Michael Mathes
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Cynthia Piotrowski
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Jeffrey W. Pepper
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Number of Donors: 58
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Manuel Vega, Jr.
Robert H. Wilson, III
Walton M. Wilson
Professor JoLen Rawls Wolf

Class of 1978
Alumni: 145
Number of Donors: 50
Participation: 34.48%
Paul H. Amundsen
Betty Anne Beavers
Timothy P. Beavers
Helaine M. Blum
E. Scott Boyd
R. Terry Butler
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Martha H. Chamber
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Christopher J. Weiss
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John G. Wood, Jr.

Class of 1979
Alumni: 164
Number of Donors: 58
Participation: 35.37%
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Robert T. Anderson
Bruce D. Barkett
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Susan K. Baumel
Gerald T. Berry
Sarah M. Bleakley
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F l o r i d a S t a t e U n i v e r s i t y C o l l e g e o f L a w 2 0 0 7 - 2 0 0 8 A n n u a l R e p o r t
Assistant Professor Elizabeth Burch, the first Florida State Law graduate to join the law school’s faculty in a tenure-track position, talks with students.
<table>
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<th>Participation: 31.25%</th>
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<td>Randal L. Schecter</td>
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<td>B. Richard Young</td>
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CLASS OF 1989
Alumni: 156
Number of Donors: 35
Participation: 22.44%
Jodi L. Abramowitz
Alan Abramowitz
Marianne Lloyd Aho
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Lt. Col. Steven P. Hester
Kathryn Bessmer Hoek
Chet Kaufman
Gretchen K. Kluyman
Gregory E. Lang
Dr. Arthur H. Lester
Gregory E. Lang
Gretchen K. Kluyman
Michael P. Petrovich
W. Scott Patterson
Daniel F. O'Shea
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Pamela Parker Martin
Dr. Arthur H. Lester
Alan Abramowitz
Jodi L. Abramowitz

CLASS OF 1990
Alumni: 168
Number of Donors: 40
Participation: 16.13%
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Gene S. Boger
Aminie Mohip
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Steven P. McDonald
Thomas I. Mayton, Jr.
David E. Marko
Claire M. Macchi
Sara Hay Lamb
Erik V. Korzilius
William Howard Crawford
Kathleen L. Brennan
John R. Buben, Jr.
J. Steve Carter
Mary Ellen Davis
Mary Beth Perry
Frederick R. Jorgenson
Mark E. Kaplan
Robert F. Meeks
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Markus Nolfi
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Thomas G. Thomas
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Laura L. Vaughan
Michèle M. Wagner-Gutkowski
Cheng-Shou Wang
Samantha L. Ward
Lori A. Willner
Laurie S. Zimmerman

CLASS OF 1991
Alumni: 248
Number of Donors: 40
Participation: 16.13%
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Gene S. Boger
Aminie Mohip
Michael J. Minerva, Jr.
Steven P. McDonald
Thomas I. Mayton, Jr.
David E. Marko
Claire M. Macchi
Sara Hay Lamb
Erik V. Korzilius
William Howard Crawford
Kathleen L. Brennan
John R. Buben, Jr.
J. Steve Carter
Mary Ellen Davis
Mary Beth Perry
Frederick R. Jorgenson
Mark E. Kaplan
Robert F. Meeks
Randall P. Mueller
Markus Nolfi
Bridget L. O'Ryan
Marvin P. Pastel, II
John H. Pauly, Jr.
Mary Beth Perry
Samuel P. Queirolo
Ricardo A. Reyes
John S. Sommer
Hubert Bryan Stivers
Thomas G. Thomas
David S. Tobin
Laura L. Vaughan
Michèle M. Wagner-Gutkowski
Cheng-Shou Wang
Samantha L. Ward
Lori A. Willner
Laurie S. Zimmerman

CLASS OF 1992
Alumni: 166
Number of Donors: 48
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Alejandro P. Joya
Gregg S. Kamp
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Shirley Esperanza Kinney
Robert F. Kohlman
Paul J. Layne
Elizabeth J. Maykut
Bruce R. Meeks
Travis L. Miller
Kelly A. O'Keefe
Lacey Powell Clark
Captain Alan S. Richard
Dena H. Sokolow
John Marc Tamayo
Damin C. Taylor
Shira R. Thomas

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Cecilia F. Birk
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L. Antonio Cabassa
Angela C. Cabassa
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Damin M. Fletcher
Mark H. Gelman
Kenneth S. Gluckman
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W. Cochran Keating, IV
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Leenette W. McMillan
Jacquelyn Lewis Newman
Curtis S. Pajic
Daryl D. Parks
Luis J. Perdomo
Christopher Perone
Bryan T. Pugh
David E. Ramba
Kimberly Redmon-Jones
Gary A. Roberts
Diego Rodriguez
Marlene Sallo
Kimberly J. Sisko-Ward
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Hadas Kohn Stagman
J.B. Ruhl, the Matthews & Hawkins Professor of Property, is an expert in environmental law, land use and property.
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Number of Donors: 61
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Kelly H. Papa
Ian E. Pate
Jason M. Peery
Kenneth D. Pratt
Mari M. Presley
Leron E. Rogers
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Florida State University College of Law 2007-2008 Annual Report

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- Richard Zimmer
- Brent T. Zimmerman
- L. David Zube
Book Awards recognize the highest student grade in each sponsored course and provide the law school a reliable stream of discretionary income. Awards are sponsored with a minimum annual contribution of $3,000 a year for each of five years. The funds support a full range of student and faculty activities and programs. For information about Book Award sponsorship, please contact Becky Shepherd, Director of Alumni Affairs & Annual Fund, at 850.644.0231 or rshepher@law.fsu.edu.
ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIPS

Our faculty members have distinguished themselves both nationally and internationally as leaders in their fields. Their scholarship is both visible and influential and is helping to build the reputation of Florida State. Many of them have been pursued by other top schools, both public and private.

It is critical to retain these extraordinary faculty members at Florida State. Just as in the private sector, productivity bonuses help. Endowed professorships provide salary supplements based on merit. They are not sinecures. Faculty members are appointed to endowed professorships for five-year terms, with renewal contingent on continued scholarly productivity.

The minimum gift needed to endow a professorship at Florida State Law is $200,000.

ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIPS

Our single greatest need from private giving is endowed scholarships. Our tuition has steadily increased and will continue to do so as our law school continues down what seems to be the inevitable road to privatization. To continue to serve our mission of providing access to all, including those from families of modest means, we will need significantly more scholarships. Scholarships can be based on merit, need or a combination of both and are awarded according to the intent of the donor.

The minimum gift needed to endow a scholarship at Florida State Law is $25,000.

Gifts to endowment are almost invariably made over time, usually over a five-year period. The state of Florida matches gifts to endowment at incremental ratios, starting with 50 percent for gifts of at least $100,000 and increasing to 100 percent for gifts of $2,000,001 and larger.

For more information and other endowment options to support the law school through a wide variety of tax-deductible charitable giving methods, please contact: Ryan Little, Assistant Dean for Development, at 850.644.5160 or rlittle@law.fsu.edu.
SUMMARY OF NAMED FUNDS
(as of June 30, 2008)

UNRESTRICTED
Allen, Norton & Blue Book Award in Labor and Employment Law
Anonymous Endowment for Excellence
Attorney General Endowment for Excellence
Mike and Peggy Coleman Fund for Excellence
Ehrhardt Endowment for Excellence+
Equels-Fahrb Endowment for Social Justice
Steve Gey Fund for Excellence+
Tracy and Biff Marshall Endowment for Excellence+
McConaughhay and Rissman Endowment for Excellence
Sheila M. McDevitt Memorial Endowment for Excellence
Lawrence Family Endowment for Freedom
A. Wayne and Gwen Rich Endowment for Excellence
Kevin Wood & Mary Jo Peed Endowment for Excellence
Peggy Rolando Fund for Excellence

CHAIRS & PROFESSORSHIPS
Alumni Centennial Chair
Elizabeth C. and Clyde W. Atkinson Professorship
Attorneys’ Title Insurance Fund Professorship in Real Estate
Edward Ball Eminent Scholar Chair in International Law
Larry and Joyce B. Bok Professorship in Torts
Lance and Carol Block Children’s Advocacy Center Clinical Professorship
D’Alemberte Professorship
Patricia A. Dore Professorship in Administrative Law
Richard W. Ervin Eminent Scholar Chair
Florida Bar Health Law Section Professorship
David and Deborah Fonvielle Professorship
John W. and Ashley Frost Professorship
Loulia Fuller and Dan Myers Professorship
Steven M. Goldstein Professorship
James Edmund and Margaret Elizabeth Hennessy Corry Term Professorship
Donald and Janet Hinkle Professorship
Mason Ladd Professorship in Evidence
Matthews and Hawkins Professorship in Property
Sheila M. McDevitt Term Professorship
Gary and Sally Pacic Professorship
Ruden, McClosky, Smith, Schuster & Russell, P.A. Professorship
Stearns Weaver Miller Weissler Alhadeff & Sitterton Professorship
Jeffrey A. Stoops Professorship
Tallahassee Law Alumni Professorship
Tobias Simon Eminent Scholar Chair in Public Law
William and Catherine VanDercreek Professorship
Harry M. Walborsky Professorship

SCHOLARSHIPS
Amelia White Rowell Endowed Scholarship
American Academy of Matrimonial Law Scholarship
Sandra Anderson Single Parent Scholarship
Atter Family Mentoring Scholarship
Attorney General Endowed Scholarship
Dubose Ausley Endowed Scholarship
Ralph Bailey Scholarship
Sandra Barr Memorial Scholarship
Bedell Standley Scholarship
Carol Z. Bellamy Memorial Scholarship
Jennifer Betz Scholarship
Blank-Miller Scholarship
Joan and Garrett Briggs Endowed Scholarship
Justice Raoul C. Canino, Ill, Diversity Enhancement Scholarship
Broad and Cassel Scholarship
Thomas W. Conroy Scholarship
Larry and Jeanne Curtis Scholarship+
Bud Daley Memorial Fund
Cody F. Davis Scholarship
Colonel James R. Douglas Veterans Scholarship+
Richard M. Davis Scholarship
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Denise Diaz Memorial Scholarship
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Joe and Paula Flood Oxford Studies Scholarship
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Wayne and Patricia Hogan Scholarship
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Steven and Blanche Keogler Scholarship
Mason Ladd Merit Scholarship
Julio and Rene Martinez Diversity Enhancement Scholarship
B.K. and Mary N. Roberts Scholarship
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Calvin Patterson Civil Rights Endowed Scholarship
Parks & Crump Diversity Enhancement Scholarship+

John S. Rawls and Samuel Wolf Endowed Scholarship
Rick Rumrill Public Interest Scholarship+
Tom & Linda Scarlett Oxford Studies Scholarship
WP and Erin Shelley Endowed Scholarship
Daniel & Natalie Solowy Diversity Enhancement Scholarship
Doug and Judy Spears Endowed Scholarship
Tubbs Memorial Fund
Bob & Betty Weber and Helen Powell Oxford Studies Scholarship
Thornton J. and Harriett W. Williams Scholarship
Mark and Ruthelen Williamson Scholarship
Bruce A. Wragg Memorial Scholarship
Young Family Endowment+
Robin Lynn Young Memorial Scholarship

SPECIFIC PROGRAM GIFTS
James and Anne Corrigan Endowment for Moot Court
David and Debbie Fonvielle Public Defender Service Award
John W. Frost, Il Moot Court Endowment
Carol Gregg and Ken Hart Endowment for Excellence for the Public Interest Law Center+
Wayne Hogan Endowment in Civil Trial Justice
Wayne and Patricia Hogan Endowment
Journal of Land Use and Environmental Law Endowment
Amelia Rae Maguire Endowment for Business Law Lectures
B.K. Roberts Hall Endowment
James Harold Thompson Endowment Fund
Summer Program for Undergraduates
Transnational Law Journal Endowment
Wells Family Endowment for Moot Court
Young Family Endowment+

DEFERRED GIFTS
Anonymous Endowment for Excellence in Elder Law+
Michael and Helen Atter Endowment for Excellence
Cecelia Bonifay Moot Court Endowed Scholarship
Stephen C. Cheeseman Endowment+
William J. and Susan P. Cohen Professorship in Environmental Law
Elizabeth Daniels Fund for Excellence
David and Debbie Fonvielle Public Defender Service Award
Richard B. Hadlow Endowment for Excellence
Howard L. Nations Fund
Kelly Hoverstede Johnson and Hal Johnson Endowment for Excellence
Kevin Wood & Mary Jo Peed Endowment for Excellence
John C. and C. Jeannette Webb Memorial Fund

+ Denotes new gift or increased commitment for fiscal year 2007-2008
For more information about options to support the law school through a wide variety of tax-deductible charitable giving methods, please contact:

Ryan Little, Assistant Dean for Development, at 850.644.5160 or rlittle@law.fsu.edu.
of health law. This is the fourth consecutive year the partner at Ruden, McClosky, Smith, Schuster & Russell in Tampa has been recognized in the publication.

DAVID HYWEL LEONARD, a shareholder at Carlton Fields in Atlanta, has been named to Florida Trend’s Legal Elite list in the bankruptcy and workout category.

WILLIAM R. “BRETT” MAYER has relocated to the Teaneck, New Jersey, office of DeCotiis, FitzPatrick, Cole & Wisler, LLP, from the firm’s Trenton location. He can be reached at 500 Frank W. Burr Blvd., Ste. 31, Teaneck, N.J. 07666.

STEPHEN ALLEN MECK has been named one of Florida Trend’s top government attorneys in its Legal Elite edition. He works for the Public Employees Relations Commission in Tallahassee.

CHARLES TRAVIS MOORE has been named to Florida Trend’s Legal Elite list in the practice area of civil trial law. He is a partner at KnopikVarnerMoore in Tampa.

1981

HOWARD E. “GENE” ADAMS, a shareholder at Pennington, Moore, Wilkinson, Bell & Dunbar P.A. in Tallahassee, has been named to the 2008 edition of Florida Trend’s Legal Elite list in the area of government and administrative law.

ROBERT B. BEITLER was among 62 top government attorneys selected for Florida Trend’s 2008 Legal Elite issue. He works in the Office of Financial Regulation in Tallahassee.

EDWARD M. BOOTH, JR. is now a partner at Quintairos, Prieto, Wood & Boyer, P.A. He can be reached at 1 Independent Dr., Ste. 1650, Jacksonville, Fla. 32202, ebooth@qpwblaw.com or 904.354.5500.

STEPHEN G. CHARPENTIER, a partner at Childress & Charpentier, P.A. in Melbourne, has been appointed to the Eighteenth Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission. He also was named to Florida Trend’s Legal Elite list in the practice area of civil trial law.

THOMAS MURRAY JENKS has been named to Florida Trend’s Legal Elite list for his work in the area of real estate transactions. He is a shareholder at Pappas Metcalf Jenks & Miller in Jacksonville.

JAMES P. “JIM” KELAHER has been named to Florida Trend’s Legal Elite list in the area of civil trial law. He practices at Kelahe Law Offices, P.A. in Orlando.

MICHAEL MATTIMORE, a partner at Allen Norton & Blue, P.A. in Tallahassee, has been named to Florida Trend’s Legal Elite list in the area of labor and employment law.

1982

THE HONORABLE KENNETH BELL resigned from the Florida Supreme Court in October and returned to Pensacola.

Send Us Your News

The most avidly read section of Florida State Law is “Class Action.” The law school’s more than 7,000 alumni want to know what their classmates have been doing — awards they have received, high-profile cases they have won, law firms or cities they have moved to, pro bono activities they have undertaken and more. Just as important: Did you get married? Have a baby? Write a novel? Run a marathon? Perform in a band?

If you have anything that you would like to include in Class Action, please send information to aluminfo@law.fsu.edu or mail this form to:

The Florida State University College of Law,
Office of Development and Alumni Affairs,
Tallahassee, FL 32306-1601
JAMES MANN “JIM” ERVIN, JR. has been named to Florida Trend’s Legal Elite list in the area of tax law. He is a partner at Holland & Knight in Tallahassee.

SENATOR STEVEN A. GELLER is now a partner at Greenspoon Marder after it merged with Geller, Geller, Fisher & Garfinkel. He will head the firm’s zoning and land use practice in Fort Lauderdale. He also was recognized for his efforts to have the “Window of Opportunity Act” signed into Florida law. The act increases health insurance benefits for autism and development disability therapies.

ROBERT W. GOLDMAN has been named to Florida Trend’s Legal Elite list in the category of wills, trusts and estates. He is a shareholder at Goldman Felcoski & Stone in Naples.

KELLY OVERSTREET JOHNSON was honored in April by the Tallahassee Democrat as one of the “25 Women You Need to Know.” She also was named to Florida Trend’s Legal Elite list in the practice area of commercial litigation. She is a partner at Broad and Cassel in Tallahassee.

JOHN WESLEY LITTLE, III, of Brigham Moore in West Palm Beach, has been named to Florida Trend’s Legal Elite list for his work in the area of eminent domain.

JOHN TRAPHOFNER is special counsel for quality assurance for the Florida Department of Children and Families’ group that represents children who have been neglected or abused — the Law Firm for Florida’s Children.

1983

LANCE BLOCK was honored with the Florida Governor’s Points of Light Award in July. The weekly award recognizes a Florida resident who demonstrates exemplary service to the community. Block is chairman of the Governor’s Commission on Disabilities and has dedicated himself to eliminating barriers that people with disabilities face.

SUE COLLINS, who worked as an assistant city attorney for the Tallahassee City Attorney’s Office from 1986-1994, was part of a delegation that earned law firm commendation from The Florida Bar for 15 years of pro bono work.

CAROL HENDRIX was part of a group from the Tallahassee City Attorney’s Office that earned law firm commendation from The Florida Bar for 15 years of pro bono work. She was an assistant city attorney from 1991-1997.

A. LAWTON LANGFORD is president and CEO of Municipal Code Corporation. He is a member of the boards of Tallahassee Community College, Tall Timbers, Community Foundation of North Florida and Tallahassee Freenet.

MATTHEW S. MUDANO, of Ogden & Sullivan P.A. in Tampa, presented “Direct Examination of the Treating Physician” at a Florida Defense Lawyers Association Conference hosted by Stetson University College of Law, Center of Excellence in Advocacy in Tampa. He also offered remarks to applicants at the 2008 Civil Trial Certification Review Course in Tampa.

VICTOR K. ORAHAM is a speaker with the Ayco Company, a subsidiary of Goldman Sachs. He also has been securities licensed for the past few years.

1984

WAYNE HAMPTON BASFORD can be reached at the Metro Conflict Defender Office, 104 Marietta St., N.W., Ste. 200, Atlanta, Ga. 30303, 678.431.9861 or wbasford@bellsouth.net.

CARI LYNN ROTH, an attorney at Bryant Miller Olive in Tallahassee, has been named to Florida Trend’s Legal Elite list for her work in the area of environmental and land use law.

NEAL ALLEN SIVYER, of Sivyer Barlow & Watson, P.A. in Tampa, has been named to Florida Trend’s Legal Elite list for his work in construction law.

CODY FOWLER DAVIS, of Davis & Harmon, P.A. in Tampa, has been named to Florida Trend’s Legal Elite list in the area of civil trial law.

RANDALL WAYNE HANNA, managing shareholder at Bryant Miller Olive in Tallahassee, was named to Florida Trend’s Legal Elite list for his work in the area of public finance and bonds.

VALERIA HENDRICKS, of Davis & Harmon, P.A. in Tampa, has been named to Florida Trend’s Legal Elite list in the area of appellate practice.

TIMOTHY J. KOENIG, of Key West, was recently appointed to the Third District Court of Appeal Judicial Nominating Commission by Governor Charlie Crist. He is a partner in Feldman Koenig & Highsmith.

J. STEPHEN MCDONALD has been named to Florida Trend’s Legal Elite list for commercial litigation. He is a shareholder for ShuffieldLowman in Orlando.

HALA A. SANDRIDGE has been named to Florida Trend’s Legal Elite list for appellate practice. She is a shareholder at Fowler White Boggs Banker in Tampa.

RUSSELL P. SCHROPP has been named a 2008 Florida Super Lawyer. He is a stockholder at Henderson, Franklin, Starnes & Holt, P.A., where he chairs the land use, zoning and environmental law division. He is a member of the Real Estate Investment Society of Lee County and serves on the Fort Myers Board of Zoning Adjustments and the Nuisance Abatement Board. He can be reached at P.O. Box 280, Fort Myers, Fla. 33902.

JAMES R. “JIM” SHENKO recently was appointed by Governor Charlie Crist to a judgeship on the Twentieth Judicial Circuit Court to fill a mid-term vacancy. Shenko was a sole practitioner and a county, circuit-civil and federally certified moderator.

NICOLAS JOHN WATKINS, a shareholder at GrayRobinson in Miami, has been named to Florida Trend’s Legal Elite list for his work in the area of appellate practice.
Florida Trend’s Legal Elite list in the area of immigration and naturalization.

1985

JOHN A. BOUDET recently joined the law firm of Roetzel & Andress, LPA as a partner practicing in the Orlando office. He will serve as co-chair of the firm’s National Products Liability and Toxic Torts Practice Group. He is a founding member of the Orange County Hispanic Bar Association. He also is a member of the Orange County Bar Association; the American Bar Association, Litigation Section; The Florida Bar, Trial Lawyers Section and Defense Research Institute, Products Liability and Industry-Wide Litigation committees. Boudet also serves as president of the board of directors of the Mennello Museum of American Art and is a member of the board of directors of the Museum of Florida History.

MARTIN ROBERT DIX, a shareholder at Akerman Senterfitt in Tallahassee, has been named to Florida Trend’s Legal Elite list in the area of health law.

MARK ELLIOTT HOLCOMB, of Madsen Goldman & Holcomb, LLP in Tallahassee, has been named to Florida Trend’s Legal Elite list for tax law.

SAMUEL P. KING has been elected secretary for the board of directors of the American Board of Trial Advocates, Central Florida Chapter. He also has been named a 2008 Florida Super Lawyer and recently presented a seminar for the National Business Institute called “Settling Uninsured and Underinsured Motorist Claims.” He is a partner with the law firm Dellecker Wilson King McKenna & Ruﬀ er, LLP and is board certified and AV-rated in civil trial law.

EVAN LANGERT is now a broker of record and director of commercial real estate for M. Properties Global Network, Inc., in San Francisco. He can be reached at 265 Magnolia Ave., Ste. 201, Larkspur, Calif. 94939, www.mpgni.com or 415.927.7100.

DOUGLAS PAUL MANSON, of Carey, O’Malley, Whitaker & Manson in Tampa, has been named to Florida Trend’s Legal Elite list for his work in the area of environmental and land use law.

DAVID C. SCHWARTZ, a shareholder at Fowler White Boggs Banker in Orlando, has been named to Florida Trend’s Legal Elite list for his work in the area of insurance law.

LINDA SPALDING WHITE has been named president of Pinion, Inc., an organization of community leaders dedicated to raising funds for and supporting Special Olympics Broward County and its athletes. White, who is of counsel at Broad and Cassel in Fort Lauderdale, has been involved in Pinion for seven years, has served on its board of directors for six and has chaired the group’s fund-raising holiday event for two years. She also served on the Rotary Club of Fort Lauderdale board of directors, is active with the Fort Lauderdale Ski Club and served on the Florida State Law Alumni Association board for 10 years.

1986

BLAKE M. CARLTON has opened Blake Carlton Law Offices, P.A. The firm handles a variety of civil law cases. He can be reached at 2699 Stirling Rd., C 407, Fort Lauderdale, Fla. 33312, or by calling 954.364.4844.

ROBERT NEIL CLARK, JR. has been named to Florida Trend’s Legal Elite list for commercial litigation. He is a shareholder at Ausley & McMullen, P.A. in Tallahassee.

THE HONORABLE CYNTHIA L. COX was re-elected without opposition to another term as circuit judge in the Nineteenth Circuit. She has been on the bench since 1996 and is assigned to the felony division, mental health and drug courts, in St. Lucie County. She also recently was appointed to the Florida Board of Bar Examiners Character & Fitness Commission. She can be reached at Cox@circircuit19.org.

JAMES J. EVANGELISTA, a shareholder at Bush Ross, P.A. in Tampa, has been named to Florida Trend’s Legal Elite list for his work in the area of health law.

THE HONORABLE JAMES R. “JIM” KLINDT is now a Middle District of Florida judge. He served as a federal prosecutor for 18 years before his appointment as a judge.

1987

FRANK EDWARD BROWN has been named to Florida Trend’s Legal Elite list in the area of labor and employment law. He is a shareholder at Macfarlane Ferguson & McMullen in Tampa.

DAVID M. CALDEVILLA recently was elected to serve as the vice-chair of the Judicial Nominating Commission for the Florida Second District Court of Appeal and was named to Florida Trend’s Legal Elite list in the appellate practice area. Caldevilla also was presented with the “Chair Service Award” for outstanding service to the City, County and Local Government Law Section of The Florida Bar. He is certified by The Florida Bar and is a shareholder in the Tampa law ﬁ rm of de la Parte & Gilbert, P.A.

JEFFREY LOUIS COHEN, of Strawn Monaghan and Cohen, P.A. in Delray Beach, was named to Florida Trend’s Legal Elite list in the health law practice area.

DAVID L. POWELL, of Hopping Green & Sams in Tallahassee, has been named to Florida Trend’s Legal Elite list for his work in the

RICHARD ALAN LOTSPEICH was named a top government attorney on Florida Trend’s Legal Elite list. He is general counsel for Tampa Bay Water in Clearwater.

GEORGE VAUGHN MATLOCK has been named to Florida Trend’s Legal Elite list in the area of insurance law. He is an attorney for Gulf Atlantic Legal Defense Insurance, Inc., in Tallahassee.

BELINDA H. MILLER, of the Florida Office of Insurance Regulation, was named one of Florida Trend’s Legal Elite top government attorneys.

FRANCISCO J. “FRANK” SANCHEZ, JR. is presidential candidate Barack Obama’s national Hispanic finance chairman and adviser on Latin America. He is of counsel in Akerman Senterfitt’s Tampa oﬃ ce.

DEBRA SCHIRO helped the Tallahassee City Attorney’s Ofﬁ ce earn law ﬁ rm commendation from The Florida Bar for 15 years of pro bono work. She worked at the ofﬁ ce from 2000-2007.
area of environmental and land use law.

MATTHEW POWELL’S first film recently debuted. The documentary titled “Hidden Damage” addresses the legal and medical aspects of car crashes. The film is intended to help the public understand its rights and obligations after a car crash. He is a civil litigation plaintiff’s attorney with the firm of Eaton and Powell in Tampa.

TIM RAMSBERGER has been appointed to the board of directors for the Florida Sports Foundation. He is also on the board of directors of the Tampa Bay Sports Commission and All Children’s Hospital Foundation. He is vice president and general manager of Andretti Green Promotions LLC and the Honda Grand Prix of St. Petersburg.

ROBERT ADAM SCHREIBER, of Ulmer Hicks & Schreiber in Coral Gables, has been named to Florida Trend’s Legal Elite list in the area of eminent domain.

THE HONORABLE MARY SCRIVEN has been appointed to a U.S. district judgeship for the Middle District of Florida. Scriven had been appointed to a U.S. district judgeship for the area of eminent domain.

LANCING C. SCRIVEN has been named to Florida Trend’s Legal Elite list in the area of commercial litigation. He is in private practice in Tampa.

1988

LINDA ANN BAILEY’S law office has moved to 2520 Barrington Cir. #1, Tallahassee, Fla. 32308. She can be reached at 850.514.3333 or lindabailey@earthlink.net.

JASON B. BURNETT, of GrayRobinson in Jacksonville, has been named to Florida Trend’s Legal Elite list in the area of bankruptcy and workout.

MARIANNE LLOYD AHO has joined Marks Gray, P.A., as a shareholder and will practice civil litigation with an emphasis on the defense of catastrophic injury and wrongful death claims, trucking and transportation and products liability. She also has been named to Florida Trend’s Legal Elite list in the practice area of civil trial law.

GREGORY ALAN HEARING, managing partner of Thompson, Sizemore, Gonzalez & Hearing in Tampa, has been named to Florida Trend’s Legal Elite list for his work in labor and employment law.

MIGUEL MANUEL DE LA O has been named to Florida Trend’s Legal Elite list in the area of civil trial law. He is managing partner at de la O, Marko, Magolnick & Leyton in Miami.

MIKE DONOVAN served as an assistant city attorney for the Tallahassee City Attorney’s Office from 2000-2001 and as part of that office, earned law firm commendation from The Florida Bar for 15 years of pro bono work.

MATTHEW FEIL has joined the Tallahassee office of Akerman Senterfitt. His consulting and litigation practice focuses on water, telecommunications and technology.

R. STEPHEN COONROD a partner at the law firm of McConaughhay, Duffy, Coonrod, Pope & Weaver, P.A., has been selected as a 2008 Florida Super Lawyer.

BRUCE G. DUNCAN is now president of Family Dynamics, Inc., of Leesburg. He remains counsel for the firm of Potter Clement Lowry & Duncan in Mount Dora. He can be reached at 1300 Citizens Blvd., Ste. 300, Leesburg, Fla. 34748, 352.314.3340 or bduncan@greggentinc.com.

CATHLEEN E. “CATE” O’DOWD is now a partner at Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick, LLP. She can be reached at 101 E. Kennedy Blvd., Ste. 2800, Tampa, Fla. 33602.

EDUARDO A. “ED” SUAREZ has been named to Florida Trend’s Legal Elite list in the area of criminal law. His practice is in Tampa.

DAWN WHITEHURST has earned law firm commendation from The Florida Bar for 15 years of pro bono work as part of the Tallahassee City Attorney’s Office. She was an assistant city attorney from 1994-2000.

1989

BRETT Q. LUCAS has been named to Florida Trend’s Legal Elite list in the area of arbitration and mediation. His law office is located in Jacksonville.

KENNETH A. KNOX recently spoke at a Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce workshop entitled “Business Insights — Tips from the Experts: HR, Accounting & Outsourcing.” He is a partner with Fisher & Phillips LLP.

ROBERT MARTIN was part of the Tallahassee City Attorney’s Office that earned law firm commendation from The Florida Bar for 15 years of pro bono work. He served as an assistant city attorney from 1998-2000.

STEPHEN R. SENN, of Peterson & Myers, P.A. in Lakeland, has been named to Florida Trend’s Legal Elite list in the area of appellate practice.

KELLY SULLIVAN has joined Wuesthoff Health System as corporate counsel. She is certified by The Florida Bar in health law.

GLENDA THORNTON, a partner at Foley & Lardner LLP, is a member of the boards of the United Way of the Big Bend, the American Heart Association, Workforce Plus, Leadership Florida, the Tallahassee/Leon County Downtown Redevelopment Commission, the Southeastern Community Blood Center, Tallahassee Memorial Health Care and is chair of the Greater Tallahassee Area Chamber of Commerce. She can be reached at gthornton@foley.com or 850.513.3375.

1990

JORGE MARIANO CESTERO, of Sasser Cestero & Sassar, P.A. in West Palm Beach, was named to Florida Trend’s Legal Elite list for his work in the area of adoption, marital and family law.

DALE W. CRAVEY has joined the firm of Trenam Kemker in St. Petersburg as a shareholder. He focuses on commercial litigation, concentrated on banking litigation and issues involving bank deposits and collections, federal regulations that govern the check deposit, payment and collection process and electronic fund transfer systems.
LISA REINHARDT ECHEVERRI, of the Florida Department of Revenue in Tallahassee, was recognized as one of the top government attorneys in Florida Trend’s Legal Elite edition.

RAFAEL GONZALEZ has become corporate counsel for FCCI Insurance Group. He also recently authored three books in a Florida Workers’ Compensation Practice Series: Permanent Total Disability, Medicare Set Asides and An Introduction to Florida Workers’ Compensation Law, published by the Florida Workers’ Compensation Institute.

BRIDGET O’RYAN has moved her practice, O’Ryan Law Firm, to 8900 Keystone Crossing, Ste. 520, Indianapolis, Ind. 46240. She can be reached by calling 317.705.9955.

SAMANTHA WARD was elected a circuit judge in the Thirteenth Circuit of Florida. She had served as administrative counsel for the Hillsborough County Public Defender since 2006, was an assistant public defender for 14 years and assistant state attorney for three years. She also has been liaison to the Florida Public Defender Association and local and state agencies.

1991

KATHLEEN BRENNAN is executive director and attorney for 4Kidz Foundation in Tallahassee. She is also active in the Florida-Puerto Rico Affiliate of the American Heart Association.

TIM CENTER is vice president of sustainability initiatives at the Collins Center for Public Policy. He can be reached at 1415 E. Piedmont Dr., Ste. 1, Tallahassee, Fla. 32308.

GORDON A. DIETERLE, a partner at McClosky D’Anna & Dieterle, LLP in Boca Raton, has been named to Florida Trend’s Legal Elite list in the area of commercial litigation.

1992

JOSEPH MONROE HELTON, JR. was named a top government attorney in Florida Trend’s Legal Elite list. He works for the Florida Department of Business & Professional Regulation in Tallahassee.

KENNETH E. LAWSON has been appointed vice president of compliance for nFinanSe, a financial services company offering gift cards. He can be reached at P.O. Box 89355, Tampa, Fla. 33619 or 866.907.7531.

ANDREW L. MCINTOSH has joined the Tampa office of Fowler White Boggs Banker as a shareholder in the business transactions and corporate law practice group. He concentrates in business law, international franchising, licensing and asset-based lending.

MICHAEL SPELLMAN was named to Florida Trend’s Legal Elite list for his work in the area of labor and employment law. As an assistant city attorney for the Tallahassee City Attorney’s Office from 1998-2004, he also was part of the team that earned law firm commendation from The Florida Bar for 15 years of pro bono work. He is a shareholder for Coppins Monroe Adkins Dincman & Spellman, P.A. in Tallahassee.

SHAW PHILLIP STILLER, of the Florida Department of Community Affairs in Tallahassee, was named one of Florida Trend’s Legal Elite top government attorneys.

JOHN JEFFRY WAHLEN, a shareholder for Ausley & McMullen, P.A. in Tallahassee, is the Leon County School Board’s attorney. He also serves on the boards of the Tallahassee Memorial Foundation, Leadership Florida, the Florida Board of Bar Examiners and Florida School Board Attorneys. He was named to Florida Trend’s Legal Elite list for his work in government and administrative law.

1993

GARY W. FLANAGAN is now vice president- assistant general counsel for Lowe’s Companies, Inc. He is responsible for all employment litigation for Lowe’s throughout the United States, Canada and Mexico. He can be reached at 704.758.2002 or gary.w.flanagan@lowes.com.

LAVERNE LEWIS GASKINS has been appointed to the State Bar of Georgia Board of Governors for a two-year term. She also was nominated for Woman of the Year by the American Association of University Women, Valdosta Chapter, for 2008. She is university attorney for Valdosta State University.

KATHERINE EASTMOORE GIDDINGS, a shareholder at Akerman Senterfitt in Tallahassee, was named to Florida Trend’s Legal Elite list the area of appellate practice.

FRED E. KARLINSKY will teach a course at Florida State Law this spring with Associate Professor of Law and Economics Dino Falaschetti. Karlinsky helped create the course, entitled “The Law and Economics of Insurance Regulation.” He is a shareholder with Colodny, Fass, Talenfeld, Karlinsky & Abate, P.A.

ANDREW L. MCINTOSH has joined the Tampa office of Fowler White Boggs Banker as a shareholder in the business transactions and corporate law practice group. He concentrates in business law, international franchising, licensing and asset-based lending.

MICHAEL SPELLMAN was named to Florida Trend’s Legal Elite list for his work in the area of labor and employment law. As an assistant city attorney for the Tallahassee City Attorney’s Office from 1998-2004, he also was part of the team that earned law firm commendation from The Florida Bar for 15 years of pro bono work. He is a shareholder for Coppins Monroe Adkins Dincman & Spellman, P.A. in Tallahassee.

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1992

PEDRO F. BAJO, JR. has been named to Florida Trend’s Legal Elite list in the practice area of civil trial law. He is a shareholder at Akerman Senterfitt in Tampa.

GARY W. FLANAGAN is now vice president-assistant general counsel for Lowe’s Companies, Inc. He is responsible for all employment litigation for Lowe’s throughout the United States, Canada and Mexico. He can be reached at 704.758.2002 or gary.w.flanagan@lowes.com.

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STEVEN MICHAEL PURITZ, a shareholder at Pennington, Moore, Wilkinson, Bell & Dunbar, P.A. in Tallahassee, has been named to Florida Trend’s Legal Elite list for his work in civil trial law.

DR. MABLE SMITH is the founding dean of the College of Nursing at the University of Southern Nevada. She also recently won the Health Care Headliner & Woman of Distinction and the Robert Wood Johnson Nurse Executive Fellow awards.

ALLAN S. WACHS, a shareholder at Volpe, Bajalia, Wicke, Reger & Wach in Jacksonville, has been named to Florida Trend’s Legal Elite issue in the commercial litigation category.

1994

SANDRA L. BROWN has opened the Law Offices of Sandra L. Brown, P.C. Her practice focuses on entertainment law. She can be reached at 191 Peachtree St., Ste. 3300, Atlanta, Ga. 30303.

MARC W. DUNBAR, a shareholder at Pennington, Moore, Wilkinson, Bell & Dunbar P.A. in Tallahassee, has been named to Florida Trend’s Legal Elite list in the area of government and administrative law.

CYNTHIA L. MAY, who is of counsel at Greenberg Traurig in Tampa, has been named to Florida Trend’s Legal Elite list for her work in labor and employment law.

RYON M. MCCABE was recently installed as president of the North County Section of the Palm Beach County Bar Association. He practices at McCabe Rabin, P.A. in West Palm Beach, where he focuses on business and securities litigation and white-collar criminal defense. He also was named in Florida Trend’s Legal Elite issue for his work in commercial litigation. He can be reached at Centurion Tower, 1601 Forum Place, Ste. 301, West Palm Beach, Fla. 33401, 561.659.7878 or rmccabe@mccaberabin.com. McCabe Rabin, P.A. also hired third-year student Evan H. Frederick as a summer associate.

KELLY A. O’KEEFE, a shareholder at Berger Singerman, has been named president-elect of the Tallahassee Bar Association.

SEAN PITTMAN, president of The Pittman Law Group, serves on the boards of the Children’s Home Society, the Orange Bowl Committee, The Mary Brogan Museum of Arts & Sciences, Hancock Bank of Florida, Leadership Florida and The Young Black Male Discovery Project. He also is a member of the executive committee of the Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce.

JONATHAN SANFORD is part of the Tallahassee City Attorney’s Office team that earned law firm commendation from The Florida Bar for 15 years of pro bono work. An assistant city attorney, he has worked for the City Attorney’s Office since 2007.

1995

WENDY D. BREWER, a partner at Barnes & Thornburg LLP’s Indianapolis office, was named to the Indiana Super Lawyers 2008 list. She also recently earned certification in business bankruptcy.

LUIS A. CABASSA, a partner at Thompson, Sizemore, Gonzalez & Hearing in Tampa, has been named to Florida Trend’s Legal Elite list for his work in the area of labor and employment law.

BENJAMIN CRUMP has been named to Florida Trend’s Legal Elite list for civil trial law. He and law partner Daryl Parks (’95) recently donated $1 million to Legal Services of North Florida during its 30th Anniversary Endowment Fund drive. Crump served as co-chairman of the drive.

SHANNON HARTSFIELD was recently honored by her firm, Holland & Knight, for serving as a Guardian Ad Litem for the Tallahassee Bar Association’s legal aid program, representing children in custody cases and other family law disputes.

1996

ERIC SCOTT ADAMS, a partner at Shutts & Bowen LLP in Tampa, has been named to Florida Trend’s Legal Elite list in the area of commercial litigation.

TERRANCE L. ASHANTA-BARKER was recently appointed to the Hamilton County (Ohio) Juvenile Justice Committee. He is an associate at Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP and a board member of the Cincinnati Business
1997

ELLEN AVERY-SMITH is now a shareholder in Rogers Towers’ St. Augustine office. She can be reached at 170 Malaga St., Ste. A, St. Augustine, Fla. 32084, eaverysmith@rtlaw.com or 904.824.0879.

HOLLY ASHBY DINCMAN has obtained board certification in labor and employment law from The Florida Bar. She is a shareholder at Coppins Monroe Adkins Dincman & Spellman, P.A. and can be reached at 1319 Thomaswood Dr., Tallahassee, Fla. 32308 or by calling 850.422.2420.

ROGER J. “R.J.” HAUGHEY, II has been named to Florida Trend’s Legal Elite list for commercial litigation. He practices at Sivyer Barlow & Watson in Tampa.

1998

SCOTT CALLEN, senior counsel at Foley & Lardner LLP in Tallahassee, has been named to Florida Trend’s Legal Elite list in the area of labor and employment law.

SCOTT MONROE COFFEY has been named to Florida Trend’s Legal Elite list in the area of business law. He is a partner at Squire Sanders & Dempsey LLP in West Palm Beach.

1999

KIDD CRAWFORD is the new legal services attorney for the Fresno County Board of Education. He can be reached at 1111 Van Ness Ave., Fresno, Calif. 93721 or 559.265.3003.

EARNEST A. DELOACH, JR. has been named one of the Best Up and Coming Attorneys in Florida Trend’s Legal Elite issue. His firm, DeLoach Law LLC, is located in Orlando.

ALTON E. DREW has opened a law practice, Alton Drew LLC, focused in bankruptcy and landlord-tenant disputes. He can be reached at 500 Heather Ridge Dr., Unit C, Frederick, Md. 21702 or 301.662.5349.

RICHARD P. LAWSON has been appointed to the Florida Bar Traffic Rules Committee and reappointed to the Board of Veterinary Medicine. She is a partner at Willard Hurley, LLC in Tallahassee.

CHARLES R. “CHIP” FLETCHER, who was recently named city attorney for Tampa, has been appointed to the Florida Biofuels Association’s board. He also recently spoke before the Florida delegation of the U.S. House of Representatives about alternative water supplies.

PETER P. HARGITAL, a partner at Holland & Knight in Jacksonville, has been named to Florida Trend’s Legal Elite list for his work in the area of commercial litigation.

JEREMY N. JUNGREIS has been named a legislative affairs liaison for Marine Corps Installations West in his reserve capacity and is on a leave of absence from his firm, Nossaman LLP, in Irvine, California. Jungreis also has published several articles and made several speeches of interest to practitioners of water and air law.

RUSSEL LAZEGA has been named to Florida Trend’s Legal Elite list for his work in insurance law. His office, the Law Office of Russel Lazega, P.A., is in North Miami.

JORGE A. MESTRE, of Rivero Palmer & Mestre LLP in Miami, has been named to Florida Trend’s Legal Elite list in the area of commercial litigation.

ALICIA SANTANA TORRES opened her own law firm, Santana Torres Law Offices, PL, in January. The office focuses on family law and children’s rights, estate planning, probate and guardianship administration. She lives in North Miami with her husband and four children — two boys and two girls, all under the age of 6.

EVELYN MCREE FLETCHER, senior partner at Hawkins & Parnell LLP, was elected as the southeast regional director of the Defense Research Institute (DRI) for a three-year term, beginning in October. She also is vice chair for the 2009 DRI Sharing Success, A Seminar for Women Lawyers, as well as the vice chair of the distinguished 2008 DRI Asbestos Medicine Seminar. She practices civil litigation defense in Alabama, Florida and Georgia.

KELLY R. HIGH, a shareholder at Bush Ross, P.A. in Tampa, has been named to Florida Trend’s Legal Elite list in the area of civil trial law.

LANNIE DALTON HOUGH, JR., a shareholder at Carlton Fields in Tampa, has been named to Florida Trend’s Legal Elite list in the area of construction law.

LISA M. HURLEY has been appointed to the Washington, D.C., office of Alston & Bird LLP. He previously worked in the firm’s Atlanta office. He can be reached at The Atlantic Building, 950 F St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20004 or 202.756.3300.

HEATHER PINDER RODRIGUEZ recently received the Orange County Bar’s Liberty Bell Award for outstanding community service, including pro bono work in helping to obtain the release of an American citizen who was imprisoned in Vietnam. She is senior counsel for Holland & Knight in Orlando.

MATT WILLARD, managing partner of Willard Hurley, LLC, was appointed to another three-year term on the Tallahassee Community College Alumni Association board of directors. He is also alumni liaison to the TCC Foundation Board.

THOMAS O. INGRAM recently represented windsurfer Nancy Rios in an arbitration concerning who would represent the United States in the 2008 Olympic Games. He contributed more than 200 pro bono hours to the case and received a directed verdict by the sports arbitrator to Rios and U.S. Sailing. Ingram also is an avid windsurfer.

TODD S. MCCLELLAND has relocated to the Washington, D.C., office of Alston & Bird LLP. He previously worked in the firm’s Atlanta office. He can be reached at The Atlantic Building, 950 F St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20004 or 202.756.3300.
KENNETH D. PRATT was named Barack Obama’s Campaign for Change deputy political director for Northeast Florida in August. Pratt also is a legislative aide for state Reprepsentative Geraldine F. Thompson and serves as president-elect of the Virgil Hawkins Florida Chapter National Bar Association.

CHRISTIAN F. O’RYAN, a shareholder at Pennington, Moore, Wilkinson, Bell & Dunbar P.A. in Tampa, has been named to the 2008 edition of Florida Trend’s Up and Coming Legal Elite.

LEMON E. ROGERS, a partner in the firm of Hewitt & Rogers in Atlanta, was featured on the cover of People You Need to Know. Rogers heads the firm’s entertainment, technology and media law practice group. He also was recently honored as one of the top counselors in Who’s Who in Black Atlanta.

YOVANNIE RODRIGUEZ STORMS was recently married and can now be reached at Marchena and Graham, P.A., 976 Lake Baldwin Ln., Ste. 101, Orlando, Fla. 32814 or 407.658.8566.

DAMIAN E. THOMAS has been elected to a three-year term on the board of directors of The Florida Bar Foundation. A partner in Wasserman & Thomas, P.A., Thomas also is vice president of the board of trustees of the North Dade Center Inc., a school for adults with disabilities; a member of the board of the Miami-Dade County Law Library; a board member of the Wilkie D. Ferguson Jr. Bar Association; and a fellow of The Florida Bar Foundation.

2000

BRANDICE D. DICKSON, of Pennington, Moore, Wilkinson, Bell & Dunbar P.A. in Tallahassee, has recently been named a shareholder. She is a general civil litigator and appellate practitioner who focuses on employment law. She also was named to the 2008 edition of Florida Trend’s Legal Elite Up & Comers.

SEAN TIMOTHY DESMOND has been named one of the best up and coming attorneys on Florida Trend’s Legal Elite list. He is a partner at Desmond & Maceluch, P.A. in Tallahassee.

PETER G. FISHER, of the Office of Financial Regulation in Tallahassee, was honored as a top government attorney in Florida Trend’s Legal Elite edition.

CATHERINE A. MARLOWE, of the Florida Attorney General’s Office in Orlando, was named a top government attorney by Florida Trend in its Legal Elite issue.

MICHAEL R. D’ONOFRIO, an associate at Quarles & Brady LLP in Naples, has been named an Up & Comer in Florida Trend’s Legal Elite issue.

AMY E. OSTERYOUNG was recently appointed assistant editor for the Affiliate Newsletter, a publication of the American Bar Association. She also was appointed to The Florida Bar Unlicensed Practice of Law committee. She has previously served as the vice chair of The Florida Bar Editorial Board. She is a partner at Johnson & Osteryoung, P.A. and lives in St. Augustine with her husband and son Jackson.

MARK C. REID is now vice president and mortgage regulatory counsel for the EverBank family of companies in Jacksonville. He can be reached at 904.623.8204 or mark.reid@everbank.com.

HEATHER ANN WALLACE married Jason Bridwell on November 4, 2007, in Palm Beach Gardens. She is an attorney with Peterson & Bernard, P.A. in Stuart.

2001

JEFFREY T. “JEFF” BANKOWITZ has been named partner at Lowndes, Drosdick, Doster, Kantor & Reed, P.A. His practice focuses on real estate transactions, development and finance.

SARAH BUTTERS was honored recently by her firm, Holland & Knight, for completing more than 400 pro bono hours of service in the past year in a variety of areas, including criminal, appellate and tax law. She assisted local charities in obtaining IRS recognition as tax-exempt organizations.

CARLOS J. CANINO has been named one of the best up and coming attorneys in Florida Trend’s Legal Elite issue. He is an associate at Stearns Weaver Miller Weissler Alhadeff & Sitterson, P.A. in Miami.

AHJOND S. GARMESTANI works at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency National Risk Management Research Laboratory in Cincinnati and is an adjunct assistant professor at the University of Cincinnati Center for Environmental Studies.

THOMAS A. ROBES is a partner with Bogani & Robes, PLCC and specializes in personal injury and civil litigation. He can be reached at 730 S. Federal Hwy., Lake Worth, Fl. 33460, 561.296.2266 or trobes@boganiandrobes.com.

NATALIE SMITH, director of regulatory relations for Florida Power & Light, is now a member of the Mary Brogan Museum’s board of directors.

NICOLLE SMITH married Joseph Shelley in November 2007 and resides in Gainesville where she is an assistant city attorney. She can be reached at P.O. Box 535, Gainesville, Fla. 32602.

BRIAN C. USSERY has been named one of Florida Trend’s Up and Comers in the magazine’s Legal Elite issue. He is an associate at Ford & Harrison LLP in Tampa.

2002

JEANNE BISNETTE CURTIN was named to the “25 Women You Should Know” list by the Tallahassee Democrat. Curtin also was a leading force behind the premier of the Tallahassee Film Festival, serves on the board of the Capital Area Chapter of the American Red Cross, tutors for Wesson Elementary School and volunteers for Refuge House and Meals on Wheels.
MEGHAN BOUDREAU DAIGLE opened her own law firm, Daigle Law Firm, P.A., where she practices family, probate and appellate law in Tallahassee. She can be reached by calling 850.201.8845.


JAMES DAVID “JAY” GORDON, III and LANORA PEPPER GORDON announce the birth of their second daughter, Maggie Leigh Gordon. She was born in Sarasota on March 5, 2008, weighed 7 pounds, 12 ounces and was 19 ½-inches long. She was welcomed by big sister Marina, who is 2. Jay is a shareholder at Wilkins Frohlich, P.A., in Port Charlotte; Lanora is a stay-at-home mom.


JASON KELLOGG (’02) and Cassandra Kellogg (’05) are the proud parents of James Reed Kellogg. He practices at Hogan & Hartson LLP in Miami.

GWENDOLYN A. WELCH IACI works in the Naval Sea Systems Command Office of Counsel at the Washington Naval Yard. She can be reached at 202.781.1885 or gwendolyn.iaci@navy.mil.

BRIAN W. SCHAFFNIT is now an associate at Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick, LLP in Tampa.

2003

ERIC J. ANDERS can be reached at Adcox Associates LLC, 2205 4th St., Ste. 21, Tuscaloosa, Ala. 35401, eanders@adcoxlaw.com or 205.469.0469.

AMY AVALOS has joined Greenberg Traurig as an associate in the firm’s Boca Raton office.

2004

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JASON GRANT is an associate at the Cragun Law Firm P.C. He can be reached at 1920 W. 250 North, Ste. 1, Ogden, Utah 84404, 801.866.0031 or jason@utah-lawfirm.com.

JESSICA LEIGH works for the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and can be reached at 2520 North Monroe St., Tallahassee, Fla. 32303, leighjdobaacs.state.fl.us or 850.245.5506.

DANIEL T. PASCALE, of Berger Singerman in Miami, has been appointed to the Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee for Miami-Dade County.

CRAIG SPENCER is an attorney for Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida, where he specializes in domestic violence cases.

2005

DANIELLE M. APPIGNANI is a staff attorney for the United States District Court, District of Nevada. She can be reached at 400 South Virginia St., Reno, Nev. 89501.

ROBERT A. FLEMING, III has been named one of Florida Trend’s Legal Elite Up & Comers. He is an associate at Harrison, Sale, McCloy, Duncan & Jackson in Panama City.

JUSTIN B. GREEN works in the General Counsel’s Office for the Florida Department of Revenue. He can be reached at P.O. Box 6668, Tallahassee, Fla. 32314, GreenJ@ dor.state.fl.us or 850.488.0712.

TOR JENSEN-FRIEDMAN, of the Florida State Attorney’s Office, was named a top government attorney in Florida Trend’s Legal Elite issue.

JAMES MICHAEL SHEA GENTRY has joined Rissman, Barrett, Hurt, Donahue & McLain, P.A. He focuses his practice on insurance defense and insurance fraud.

CASSANDRA KELLOGG (‘05) and Jason Kellogg (‘02) are the proud parents of James Reed Kellogg. She is an attorney for the Eleventh Judicial Circuit, Family Division Case Management Group in Miami.

KRISTOPHER J. KEST is a member of the board of directors of the Orlando County Bar Association Young Lawyers Section and was recognized for his outstanding chairmanship of the recent CLE event “Afternoon at the Courthouse.” This was the second year Kest chaired the event. He is an associate with Lowndes, Drosdick, Doster, Kantor & Reed, P.A.

BRIANNA KIRTLEY practices with BearingPoint Management & Technology Consultants in the area of government contracts. She can be reached at 6123 Gardenia Ct., Alexandria, Va. 22310.

JEDEDIAH A. MAIN has joined Rissman, Barrett, Hurt, Donahue & McLain, P.A. His practice focuses on workers compensation.

J. DAVID MARSEY has joined the Sniffen Law Firm, P.A. His practice is in the areas of employment litigation, civil rights defense, general tort and insurance defense and commercial litigation. He can be reached at 211 E. Call St., Tallahassee, Fla. 32301 or 850.205.1996.

CHARLYNE M. “KHAI” PATTERSON works for the appellate division of the Florida Department of Health in Tallahassee.

PAVLINA PETROVA opened her own firm, Pavlina Petrova, Esq., at 2039 W. 1st St., Ste. 6, Fort Myers, Fla. 33901. She can be reached at 239.233.9616 or pavlina7criminallaw@embarqmail.com.

PHILLIP H. TAYLOR, of the Taylor Law Firm P.L., can be reached at 443 Panarea Dr., Punta Gorda, Fla. 33950, 941.639.2567 or taylorlawfirmspl@comcast.net.

TIMOTHY R. QUALLS is the new executive director of the Florida Tax Collectors Association. Qualls is an attorney with Young van Assenderp, PA.

JASON ERIC VAIL, of Allen Norton & Blue, P.A. in Tallahassee, has been named one of Florida Trend’s Legal Elite Up & Comers.

C. BRENT WARDROP and wife Kelly added a new member to their family August 21, 2008. Baby Hailey Elizabeth was welcomed by big sister Madison Katherine, who is 2. Brent is an associate at deBeaubien, Knight, Simmons, Mantzaris & Neal, LLP and Kelly is the former assistant director for development and alumni affairs for Florida State Law.

2006

CLAY ADKINSON opened his own law firm, Adkinson Law Firm, LLC, in Destin. He can be reached at 850.892.5195.

MICHAEL J. BROWN has opened a new law practice and can be reached at 110 E. Broward Blvd., Fort Lauderdale, Fla. 33301 or mjbrown.law@gmail.com.

JOSHUA E. DOYLE has been named one of Florida Trend’s Legal Elite Up & Comers. He is an associate at Metz Husband & Daughton in Tallahassee.

DOUGLAS J. “DOUG” HELLING is senior attorney for Solvay Pharmaceuticals, Inc. He can be reached at 901 Sawyer Rd., Marietta, Ga. 30062, douglas.helling@solvay.com or 770.578.5219.

ALI JAMAL is practicing at The Jamal Law Group, PC, an immigration, family law and criminal defense practice. He can be reached at 1590 Atkinson Road, Ste. 205, Lawrenceville, Ga. 30043, 770.813.1358 or www.jamallaw.com.

JENNIFER K. LITTLE is now a QLTT trainee with Clifford Chance LLP. Once she completes her Qualified Lawyer’s Transfer Test and serves three six-month stints in different departments at Clifford Chance, she will qualify as a solicitor in England and Wales. She can be reached by e-mail at jennifer.little@cliffordchance.com.
JOHN MARTINEZ has been appointed to the board of directors of the Frederick Leadership Initiative. The organization aims to foster an interest in public service, charity and politics in Central Florida’s next generation of leaders. He is an associate at Lowndes, Drosdick, Doster, Kantor & Reed, P.A.

NICHOLAS ANTHONY NUNES has been named an Up & Comer in Florida Trend’s Legal Elite issue. He is an associate at Allen Norton & Blue, P.A. in Tallahassee.

EMILY PSALMONDS is now an associate at The Switlyk Law Firm, P.A. She can be reached at 2168 Main St., Sarasota, Fla. 34237, www.switlyklaw.com or 941.955.7900.

CAROL TAYLOR has joined the Taylor Law Firm P.L., where she focuses on criminal appeals. She can be reached at 443 Panarea Dr., Punta Gorda, Fla. 33950, 941.639.2567 or taylorlawfirmpl@comcast.net.

JASON A. WATSON has joined the law firm of McRae & Metcalf, P.A. He will be based in the firm’s Tampa office, serving clients in the construction and surety business. He also continues to focus on restrictive covenant and trade secret litigation. He can be reached at jwatson@mcraemetcalf.com.

JEFFREY PAUL DAVIS and SARA DOROTHY FAIRBROTHER were married on March 9, 2008, on Little Torch Key. He works with the Office of Criminal Conflict and Civil Regional Counsel in Fort Pierce. She works with the Office of Criminal Conflict and Civil Regional Counsel in Stuart. They live in Port St. Lucie.

JAMI LEWIS HORNE gave birth to Jackson Edward Horne on March 27, 2008. She is married to Jeremiah Horne and is an assistant public defender for the South Georgia Judicial Circuit in Bainbridge, Ga.

DARIEN M. MCMILLAN has joined Rissman, Barrett, Hurt, Donahue & McLain, P.A. His practice focuses on workers compensation defense.

WINSTON TAITT has moved to Orlando to work in public service after living in an ecovillage/intentional community in the Georgia mountains.

ADAM WICK has joined Rissman, Barrett, Hurt, Donahue & McLain, P.A.

In Memoriam

MICHAEL E. CONNELL, ’85, of Tampa, died March 10, 2008. He had worked in criminal defense.

ROBERT L. CUMMINGS, ’78, senior prosecuting attorney for Leon and Jefferson counties, passed away April 9, 2008.

PHYLLIS FLEMING SLATER HAMPTON, ’84, died May 30, 2008, from complications of lung cancer. She had served as assistant general counsel to Governor Lawton Chiles and general counsel to Secretary of State Jim Smith and the Florida Elections Commission. She also helped develop the Battered Women’s Clemency Project in Florida before she retired.

FLOYD L. MATTHEWS, JR., ’74, died June 25, 2008. He was a Jacksonville product liability attorney who won a major victory against a tobacco company in the 1990s.

SANDRA ZEMM, ’75, passed away September 4, 2008. She was a lifelong resident of Chicago and a long-time equity partner at Seyfarth Shaw LLP in its labor and employment department.

2007

ERICA AGNEW is an associate at McRae & Metcalf, P.A. She can be reached at 2612 Centennial Place, Tallahassee, Fla. 32308 or 850.386.8000.

DAVID ANDERSON is now an associate at Frost Van den Boom & Smith, P.A. He can be reached at danderson@fvslaw.com.

JOE D. BRIGGS is director of strategic operations for Impact, an organization of 20-somethings established to foster civic engagement, increase knowledge in the political and legislative processes and enhance economic empowerment opportunities for other emerging leaders, ages 21 to 40.
Environmental Law Faculty Leads Program to Top 10 Ranking in U.S. News & World Report

From ecosystem management to water law to energy law, the professors of Florida State Law’s environmental and land use law program are experts in their fields. Faculty members help set the agenda around the nation and beyond for policy makers, practitioners, scholars and students, which has not gone unnoticed by U.S. News & World Report. The magazine has ranked the environmental law program 10th in the nation for 2008.

The cadre of professors has written six casebooks and numerous texts used by students around the country. In addition, the faculty members are active as speakers, experts and consultants nationally and internationally.

“I have met with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, to explore responses to climate change, and the Environmental Protection Agency, to research ecosystem services. I try to make my scholarship relevant and influential to policy and help these agencies,” Matthews & Hawkins Professor of Property J.B. Ruhl said.

The faculty is held in such high regard, in part, because of its cooperative spirit.

“I enjoy working with colleagues who are trying to connect with other academics, practitioners, and most importantly, the students,” Ruhl said.

Harry M. Walborsky Professor and Associate Dean for Research Jim Rossi, an expert on energy law, added: “My research also benefits from an environmental law faculty that draws on a variety of interdisciplinary perspectives, including political science, economics and psychology.”

As a member of two National Research Council (NRC) committees, Robin Kundis Craig has briefed congressional staff and the press about the findings of an NRC report on the Mississippi River. The Attorneys’ Title Insurance Fund Professor also writes extensively on all things water.

“Part of what attracted me to Florida State Law was the synergies,” she said. “This is a great place to hash out attempts at improving environmental policy. Plus, the faculty is engaged not just in academia, but the profession as a whole.”

In addition, according to Elizabeth C. & Clyde W. Atkinson Professor and Associate Dean for International Programs Donna Christie, “The environmental law faculty members at Florida State really bolster each other. We all have strengths in a particular area, but fit together and complement each other nicely.” Christie is an ocean and coastal law expert.

The international dimension of Florida State Law’s environmental law program is added by Dave Markell, the Steven M. Goldstein Professor. His work, recently, has explored “the effectiveness of current enforcement efforts in achieving environmental goals” and identified “ways in which enforcement efforts could be more effective.”

Administrative law expert Mark Seidenfeld rounds out the environmental law faculty. The Patricia A. Dore Professor of Administrative Law is one of the most prolific and most cited administrative law professors, according to Ruhl, and is well versed at analyzing the big theoretical picture of administrative law and governance.
Faculty Media Hits

Fred Abbott was quoted in an April 22 Intellectual Property Watch article about patents.

Paolo Annino and the Public Interest Law Center were featured in an April 11 Palm Beach Post column about the Children in Prison Rehabilitation Act. The act and the center were also featured in a Florida Bar News article on May 1.

Beth Burch was quoted in two recent articles about Zyprexa litigation in Product Liability Law (January 31 and March 4).

Robin Craig was quoted on April 23 in a USA Today article about the Southeast’s water problems. The article also was reprinted in the April 24 Detroit Free Press.

Steve Gey was the subject of an April 18 St. Petersburg Times feature article.

Larry Krieger’s work on law student mental health issues was featured in a California Bar Journal article in May.

Wayne Logan was interviewed for a March 7 Florida Times-Union article about women and the death penalty. He was also quoted in a National Law Journal article on June 9, a Miami Herald article on June 21 and a September ABA Journal article about sex offender lists. The National Law Journal article was reprinted in the Daily Report on June 12.

Dan Markel was interviewed by the Flint Journal about parents and escaped convict children on June 11. His blog titled “Poetic justice instantiated” was referenced in a June 4 Wall Street Journal blog. He also was quoted on August 22 in a Chicago Daily Law Bulletin article about women publishing in law reviews.

Don Weidner was quoted in a July 4 Sun-Sentinel article about the Nova Southeastern University law school dean stepping down.

Lesley Wexler was interviewed for an August 1 article in the Tallahassee Democrat about Lt. Col. Stuart Couch’s recent visit to the Florida State Law campus.

Florida State Law Highly Rated in Scholarly Productivity Study

According to a recently released empirical study, Florida State Law is third best in the nation for scholarly productivity among law schools not ranked in the top 50 by U.S. News & World Report.

According to University of Chicago Law Professor Brian Leiter, who publishes well-known law school rankings, the data confirms his high regard for Florida State. The study shows the Florida State Law faculty is significantly more productive than a number of schools ranked in the top 50 by U.S. News.

The study, produced by Roger Williams University School of Law, evaluated scholarly productivity over a 15-year period. Only articles published in top journals qualified for inclusion.

“This study confirms what everyone at Florida State Law has known for years — our faculty is among the nation’s best,” said Dean Don Weidner. “Our extraordinary faculty scholarly output is just one reflection of the fact that merit reigns supreme at our school, both among faculty and students.”

Florida State’s faculty members are also active speakers and experts for professional groups around the nation, testifying both before the Florida Legislature and the United States Senate.

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Balancing Legal Education

As a leading scholar on balance in legal education, Florida State Law Clinical Professor Larry Krieger regularly receives speaking invitations from law schools around the nation. The schools are hoping to learn how to combat a trend of decreased well-being in the legal profession. Krieger’s expertise comes not only from years of researching the issue, but also from practicing law for a decade before entering law teaching in 1991. Experiencing the stresses of law school and practice actually led Krieger to formulate his initial theories about the need to humanize legal education.

“Legal education is very academic, very technical, and there is a huge amount of theory that students have to learn, as well as a new way of thinking,” explained Krieger. “We need to add a humanizing dimension to legal education. It needs a more personal and interactional focus.”

It was not until he read an article about lawyer distress in 1996 that Krieger was inspired to begin conducting research in the area. Along with a top University of Missouri modern psychologist, Krieger studied law students at three institutions around the country, tracking them through their three years of law school. The pair collected data on psychological indicators, such as values and motivators, and well as performance measures, including grades, LSAT scores and success on the bar exam. They published their findings in psychology journals in 2005 and 2007. The articles also provide potential solutions to problems with the current model of legal education.

“The research confirmed most of my thoughts,” said Krieger, whose undergraduate degree in biology is an asset to his research. “Now we know how to teach people how to support law students so they thrive, which means in empirical terms that they learn and test well, do well and feel well.”

The study’s findings, and Krieger’s related scholarship, have been embraced by many in the legal education community. Those in the profession find the issue so important that in 2007, the Association of American Law Schools approved a Balance in Legal Education Section and appointed Krieger its inaugural chair.

Interest in the section’s work has been increased by two 2007 reports – the Carnegie Report and Best Practices in Legal Education Report – that called for more balance in legal education.

“There is a big trend toward re-framing legal education,” commented Krieger. “What we had in legal education is excellent – how we train people to think like lawyers. We want to add more dimensions so students are prepared to thrive in practice, not to just be good lawyers, but to be satisfied with their lives and their work.

“The purpose [of the section] is to take a legal profession which is already very good and doing a lot of good, and to make it as good as it can possibly be. I think we’ve got the knowledge to do that now.”

Experiencing the stresses of law school and practice actually led Krieger to formulate his initial theories about the need to humanize legal education.
The Florida State Law faculty is bolstered this year by the return of Justice Stanley A. Moore as a visiting professor. Justice Moore, who is a Justice of Appeal of the Republic of Botswana, also taught at the law school during the spring 2006, 2007 and 2008 semesters. As a retired senior justice of the Supreme Court of the Bahamas, Northern Division, and a retired senior resident judge of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court, Justice Moore has a wealth of judicial and international experience. Justice Moore is currently teaching Comparative Constitutional Law and he will teach Public International Law in the spring.

“The greatest thrill of my life is to see a talented student maximize his or her talent,” said Justice Moore. “I am very proud to be part of this school. The atmosphere of Tallahassee is reserved, tranquil and serene. And the people that I have met here have all been very pleasant. The students are mature, they are engaged and they work hard.”

In addition to his teaching and judicial experience, Justice Moore served as attorney general and acting governor of Montserrat. He also was a senior cabinet minister in his native Guyana.

Justice Moore, whose interests range from sports to music to gardening, also has been a broadcaster and was active in the world amateur boxing community. A former member of the executive committee of the International Amateur Boxing Association (AIBA), Justice Moore officiated at the Olympic Boxing Tournaments in Los Angeles in 1984 and in Seoul in 1988.

During one Seoul Olympics match, Pensacola’s Roy Jones outscored his opponent, South Korean boxer Park Si-Hun, 86 punches to 32 punches. The judges, however, scored in favor of Park, denying Jones the gold medal. Justice Moore persuaded his colleagues on the executive committee to present the Val Barker Trophy to Jones for being the best stylistic boxer of the 1988 Olympic Games.
For the Record

Faculty Notes

Includes faculty publications, external presentations and recognitions since the last issue of Florida State Law.

Frederick M. Abbott
EDWARD BALL EMINENT SCHOLAR


Kelli A. Alces
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR


Rob E. Atkinson, Jr.
RUDEN, MCCLOSKY, SMITH, SCHUSTER & RUSSELL PROFESSOR

Presentations: *Rediscovering the Duty of Obedience: Toward a Trinitarian Theory of Fiduciary Duty* (New York, New York Nonprofit Forum, June 2008); *Remodeling the Temple of Professionalism: A Blueprint for Neo- Classical Republicanism in Law and Business* (Gold Coast, Australia, Third International Legal Ethics Conference, July 2008); *Averting the Captain Vere “Veer:” Billy Budd as Melville’s Republican Response to Plato* (Gold Coast, Australia, Third International Legal Ethics Conference, July 2008); *What Is It Like to Be Like That?: The Progress of Law and Literature’s “Other” Project* (Gold Coast, Australia, Third International Legal Ethics Conference, July 2008); *Rediscovering the Duty of Obedience: Toward a Trinitarian Theory of Fiduciary Duty* (Queensland, Australia, Queensland University of Technology, Faculty of Business, Australian Center on Philanthropy and Nonprofit Studies, July 2008); *Developments in Cy Pres in the United States* (Melbourne, Australia, Queensland University of Technology, Faculty of Business, Australian Center on Philanthropy and Nonprofit Studies, July 2008).

Curtis Bridgeman
JAMES EDMUND & MARGARET ELIZABETH HENNESSEY CORRY PROFESSOR

Elizabeth Chamblee Burch
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

Robin Kundis Craig
ATTORNEYS’ TITLE INSURANCE FUND PROFESSOR

Talbot “Sandy” D’Alemberte
PRESIDENT EMERITUS AND PROFESSOR
Recognition: Received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the International Academy of Mediators.

Joseph Dodge
STEARNS WEAVER MILLER WEISSLER ALHADEFF & SITTONER PROFESSOR

Charles W. Ehrhardt
EMERITUS PROFESSOR

Dino Falaschetti
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF LAW AND ECONOMICS

Brian Galle
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

Adam J. Hirsch
WILLIAM & CATHERINE VANDERCREEK PROFESSOR

Faye Jones
DIRECTOR & PROFESSOR

Lawrence S. Krieger
CLINICAL PROFESSOR AND DIRECTOR OF CLINICAL EXTERNSHIP PROGRAMS
Tahirih V. Lee
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
Presentations: International Trade in and with China (Tianjin, China, Nankai University, Law Department, July 2008); Technology Transfer in China (Tianjin, China, Nankai University, Law Department, July 2008); Foreign Direct Investment in China (Tianjin, China, Nankai University, Law Department, July 2008); Negotiating Strategies and Business Culture in China (Tianjin, China, Nankai University, Law Department, July 2008).

Wayne A. Logan
GARY & SALLYN PAJCIC PROFESSOR AND ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Dan Markel
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

Gregg D. Polsky
SHEILA M. MCDEVITT PROFESSOR

Jim Rossi
HARRY M. WALBORSKY PROFESSOR AND ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR RESEARCH

J.B. Ruhl
MATTHEWS & HAWKINS PROFESSOR OF PROPERTY

Mark B. Seidenfeld
PATRICIA A. DORE PROFESSOR OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

Phil Southerland
EMERITUS PROFESSOR

Nat S. Stern
JOHN W. & ASHLEY E. FROST PROFESSOR

Ruth Stone
CLINICAL PROFESSOR
Chapter: History and Philosophy of the Juvenile Court, in Florida Juvenile Law and Practice (Florida Bar 2008).

Fernando Tesón
TOBIAS SIMON EMINENT SCHOLAR
Presentations: Brain Drain (University of San Diego Institute of Law and Philosophy Conference on National Borders and Immigration, April 2008);
Why Countries Fail and Prosper (Bowling Green State University Social Philosophy & Policy Center, July 2008).

Manuel A. Utset, Jr.
CHARLES W. EHRHARDT PROFESSOR


Donald J. Weidner
DEAN AND ALUMNI CENTENNIAL PROFESSOR

Presentations: Educating Lawyers (Orlando, Spring 2008 Retreat of the Florida Supreme Court Commission on Professionalism, March 2008).

Lesley Wexler
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

Presentation: Human Rights Impact Statements (Loyola University Chicago School of Law Faculty Workshop, April 2008).
Hispanic Business magazine has named Florida State Law the fifth best law school in the nation for Hispanics. This is the fifth year in a row that the law school has been named in the top 10 and the highest ranking ever for Florida State Law.

The magazine surveyed law schools accredited by the American Bar Association and based its ranking on a variety of factors, including the percentage of full-time Hispanic faculty, services for Hispanic students, Hispanic recruitment efforts and retention rates, the percentage of Hispanic students enrolled, and quality of education and reputational ranking as reflected in U.S. News & World Report.

Florida State Law’s Summer for Undergraduates Program is one example of an academic program offered to Hispanic students and others historically underrepresented in the legal profession. Undergraduates selected to participate receive scholarships to attend the four-week, annual program, which familiarizes students with the American legal system and introduces them to minority and Hispanic role models in the legal profession.

Hispanics made up 7 percent of the law school’s student body enrollment and received 20 of the 233 law degrees (9 percent) awarded to the class of 2007. More than 10 percent of the law school’s full-time faculty was Hispanic.

Although other law schools have more Hispanic students than Florida State, a significant Hispanic presence in the faculty and administration has helped us to climb in the Hispanic Business rankings,” said Dean Don Weidner. “Our excellent academic reputation and dedication to the success of students from all backgrounds elevates us above other law schools.”

PHONATHON

From October 6-24, students were busy calling alumni as part of the law school’s annual Phonathon.

In part because of the efforts of students during last year’s Phonathon, 27 percent of Florida State Law alumni made cash contributions to the law school’s annual fund during the 2007-08 fiscal year, making the 2008 alumni giving rate the highest in the law school’s history. Thank you to everyone who answered the call and pledged their support as we try to surpass last year’s accomplishment.
Florida State Law Student Bar Association named ‘SBA of the Year’

The Florida State Law Student Bar Association has been selected as “SBA of the Year” by the American Bar Association’s (ABA) Law Student Division. The honor was announced August 8 at the ABA Annual Meeting in New York City.

Numerous student bar associations from around the nation competed for the annual award. Florida State Law’s Student Bar Association was recognized following a year of many accomplishments. The organization sponsored a Homelessness Awareness Week; established a speakers bureau and hosted speakers including state lawmakers and U.S. Sen. Mel Martinez (’73); created an innovative Web site to communicate with students; and helped the law school achieve an unprecedented 68 percent student giving rate. In addition, as national co-chair of the ABA Law Student Division’s Mental Health Initiative, SBA Immediate Past President Ben Gibson (’08) helped raise awareness about law student mental health issues at law schools around the nation.

“It was an honor to lead such a great student body this past year,” said Gibson, who was in New York City for the award presentation. “This award would not have been possible without the outstanding work of the entire 2007-2008 SBA executive board, as well as Florida State Law’s very supportive student body, faculty and administration.”

“We are thrilled by this national recognition of the creativity and vibrancy of our Student Bar Association,” said Dean Don Weidner. “Congratulations and thanks go to the entire SBA board and especially to its president, Ben Gibson, for his superb leadership.”

Third-Year Student Named First Law Student Division President

The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division (YLD) recently created a new Law Student Division and named its first president, third-year Florida State Law student Joseph “Joe” Percopo.

The Law Student Division will provide an extension of the YLD’s work to familiarize young lawyers with the services offered by The Florida Bar as they transition from law students to lawyers.

“It is our goal to also promote professionalism and implement mentoring programs for law students,” said Percopo. “We anticipate creating a huge opportunity for law students to network with local attorneys and attend events in which attorneys throughout the state participate.”

“Having the first president of this new and important networking option as a representative of Florida State Law is outstanding,” said Dean Don Weidner. “I am sure Joe will do a good job establishing and promoting the office.”

According to Percopo, taskforce members from each of Florida’s 10 law schools were active in the development of the division and its goals. Other Florida State Law taskforce members were Greg Noonan (’08) and Abby Robinson, a second-year student and member of the Law Student Division Board.
Several New Faces Join Florida State Law Administration

Several key administrative positions recently have been filled at Florida State Law. Jennifer Kessinger joined the law school in May as the new Director of Admissions and Records, filling the vacancy left by Sharon Booker’s departure. In July, Janeia R. Daniels (’04) became Assistant Dean for Student Affairs. Wayne Logan became Associate Dean for Academic Affairs this summer and Ryan Little was named Assistant Dean for Development in September.

Kessinger joined Florida State Law’s administrative team after serving as vice president of student services for Keiser University. At Keiser, Kessinger managed student services on 22 campuses in Florida, South Carolina and North Carolina. She was intricately involved in strategic planning and developed several large-scale marketing and recruiting campaigns using various multi-media formats in addition to representing the university at community recruiting fairs. Kessinger received her bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Florida State University.

Kessinger is responsible for educating prospective students about Florida State Law and recruiting talented students from all over the country.

Daniels, a December 2003 Florida State Law graduate, is tasked with a wide range of student support and outreach programs, including academic support, placement and financial aid.

Daniels clerked for the Honorable Philip J. Padovano of the First District Court of Appeal before becoming an associate at Meyer and Brooks, P.A. She also served as an adjunct professor at Florida State Law, teaching a seminar for students in state and federal judicial internships. She is an active member of the Tallahassee Bar Association, the Tallahassee Barristers Association and The Florida Bar.

Logan, a law school faculty member since 2007, is a prolific scholar in criminal law, criminal procedure, sentencing and torts.

As Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Logan is responsible for all matters that relate to the program of study at Florida State Law. His responsibilities include creating the class schedule, academic advising, enforcing the law school grade curve, approving students applying credit toward their J.D. for courses taken outside of the law school, hiring and training adjunct professors, advising the Dean on faculty assignments, hiring visiting professors, and recommending to the faculty and implementing updates and changes to the rules governing the academic program.

Little replaces Stephanie Williams Ray (’95), who was recently appointed chair of the Florida Public Employees Relations Commission. As the new Assistant Dean for Development, Little will work directly with the Dean to develop opportunities for and to secure major gifts of $100,000 or more. His career in higher education began at Mississippi State University’s James Worth Bagley College of Engineering. He oversaw the development operation of the largest fund-raising college at Mississippi State, surpassing the college’s goal for the State of the Future capital campaign. Little comes to the law school from Florida State’s College of Criminology and Criminal Justice.

2009 Summer for Undergraduates Program

Do you know any undergraduate students considering law school? Encourage them to apply today for the 2009 Summer for Undergraduates Program — the law school’s intensive, four-week program that provides select students, particularly those from groups historically underrepresented in the legal profession, with an inside look at law school and the legal profession.

The 2009 program will run from May 18-June 12 and applications must be postmarked by Friday, March 27, 2009. For more information, visit www.law.fsu.edu/slp or e-mail saffairs@law.fsu.edu.
PreLaw magazine ranks us the nation’s 4th “Best Value” law school, based on employment rate, bar passage and tuition.

Our current students represent 36 states, 10 countries and 172 colleges and universities.

Twenty-five percent of the students in our 2008 entering class have LSAT scores of 161 or higher and the average LSAT is 159. The average GPA is 3.5.

Ninety-nine percent of the graduating class of 2007 was placed within nine months of graduation.