Looking Back on Another Great Year

As I type, the spring 2006 graduating class is getting ready to “walk.” This is an exciting time for all of us—especially for the new graduates and their families who have sacrificed so much to help them achieve personal and professional success. We have high hopes for our new graduates, hope based both on their quality and on the successes of our recent graduates.

The marketplace has been extremely receptive to our graduates. Last spring’s graduating class had a 99% placement rate nine months after graduation. We at the law school are doing everything in our power to continue this enviable record.

Our students are leading the charge to help us become one of the nation’s top 15 state law schools. I am particularly proud of the students who are projecting their talents at a national and international level. This past year—

- Our Mock Trial Team won 1st place in the Lone Star Classic National Mock Trial Competition in San Antonio, Texas
- Our Moot Court Team won 1st place in the Mugel National Tax Moot Court Competition in Buffalo, New York
- Our student-edited scholarly journals, the Florida State University Law Review, the Journal of Land Use & Environmental Law and the Journal of Transnational Law & Policy, were all rated high in terms of “impact factor” by Washington & Lee University
- Our Black Law Students Association was selected the national BLSA Chapter of the Year
- Of the 10 accredited law schools in Florida, our December graduates had the highest passing rate on the February administration of the Florida Bar Exam
- 58% of our students contributed financially to our student Annual Fund drive, helping to establish the culture of philanthropy that is necessary for us to achieve “top 15” status

The faculty has continued to press full-steam ahead. This year, the faculty has—

- Published more than three dozen articles in prestigious law journals
- Published 10 books
- Posted more than 200 working papers to the online Social Science Research Network
- Made more than 100 professional presentations outside of Tallahassee
- Been cited in a wide range of national and international media

We continue to rise in the national rankings. This spring, we rose three ranks in the influential U.S. News & World Report rankings—for a total rise of 14 ranks over the last two years. In addition, for each of the last two years, U.S. News has rated our environmental law program the 14th strongest in the nation.

Make no mistake about it: We recognize that your financial contributions are critical to our successes. To take but one example, our students have been successful in national advocacy competitions because we have been able to provide generous support for their training and for their travel. Last fall, we completed our share of the University-wide Capital Campaign. Over the five years of this Campaign, our alumni contributed an impressive $18 million to the law school. We are putting that money to good use supporting the efforts of our students and faculty. In this year’s Annual Fund drive, which only lasts through June, we have not quite reached our goal of a 26% alumni giving rate. If you have not done so already, please send your check, payable to the College of Law, and join the alumni who are helping move the law school ahead so dramatically.

I am honored to be your Dean.

Thanks!

Don Weidner
Dean and Alumni Centennial Professor
COVER PHOTOGRAPH BY RAY STANYARD
Ben Crump
Winning the ‘No-Win’ Cases

BY BARBARA ASH

Ben Crump recalls the day in 1993 when he ran into Daryl Parks during their first week at the Florida State University College of Law. They had met as undergraduates when Parks was a two-term president of the Florida A&M University student body and Crump was president of the Black Student Union at Florida State.

“We naturally gravitated toward one another because we had concluded that we were the poorest people in the law school and that we had the most to prove,” Crump said recently. “We were there not to carry on the family tradition, but to give our families—not just us—a chance for some success. The whole family was counting on us to make it through law school so we could save them.”

Now 13 years later, the former classmates are partners in one of the most successful personal injury law firms in Florida and the second largest African-American-owned plaintiff’s law firm in the country. Civil
rights leader the Reverend Al Sharpton has called the two “the next Johnny Cochrans” of the nation.

They formed Parks Crump Attorneys at Law with three employees in 1996, moving into a 1,000-square-foot building on East Tennessee Street in Tallahassee. Today, the firm’s 10 lawyers and 30 support staff occupy a 14,000-square-foot office on Magnolia Street, across from the Tallahassee Democrat.

Looking back, Crump said he and Parks were naïve to think it would be a piece of cake to set up a law firm right out of law school and make it self-sustaining. They did it, however, because they didn’t believe other firms would let them practice the kind of law they were passionate about.

“We wanted to represent people from our community in situations where it’s the little guy against the system and we wanted to hold the system accountable,” Crump said. “My motto is: ‘Where’s the glory in helping Goliath beat David?’ Now, people who are seeking justice come to us because they don’t know where else to go.”

Championing the Cause of the ‘Little Guy’

Walls throughout the handsomely decorated office are covered with framed newspaper articles detailing the pair’s successes in “David v Goliath” cases. Among their clients:

- The mother of 2-year-old Zaniyah Hinson, who died after being left inside a scorching van for more than two hours by employees of a church-run day care center in Daytona Beach. The case was settled for $2.4 million.
- A former bat boy for the Boston Red Sox who was molested by the clubhouse manager in Polk County, the team’s summer training camp, more than 20 years ago. He received a substantial confidential settlement even though the statute of limitations had expired.
- A 27-year-old Georgia woman injured after being hit by a company car driven by the president and general manager of an auto dealership in Mariana. A jury awarded her $3.5 million.
- A 12-year-old cheerleader injured in a fall inside a Wal-Mart store in Tallahassee. The company refused to settle for $5,000 and the jury awarded the girl $250,000. “That surprised the judge as much as it shocked Wal-Mart,” Crump said.
- A man, who sustained injuries when a UPS truck ran into his car. The company said the damages were worth no more than $600. The jury awarded him $424,000.
- The family of a popular church leader in Thomasville, Ga., who was killed by a drunk driver and told by the company that owned the car that the life of an African-American man in South Georgia wasn’t worth more than $1 million. The jury awarded his widow $5 million, the largest recovery for a single wrongful death case in Thomas County.

“We’re going to get big settlements, or, if we’re forced to go to court, we’re going to get big verdicts,” Crump said matter-of-factly. “But we’ve never been comfortable with just getting a monetary resolution. Daryl and I have attempted to build a legal justice center—not just a law firm—predicated on helping people who historically have been denied justice. We’re trying to make a lot of wrongs right.”

Influencing the Court of Public Opinion

Since the beginning of January 2006, Crump has relentlessly pursued justice on behalf of the parents of Martin Lee Anderson, the 14-year-old boy who died January 6, the day after he was restrained, beaten and kneed at the Bay County juvenile boot camp. Crump filed a wrongful death suit

‘Where’s the glory in helping Goliath beat David? Now, people who are seeking justice come to us because they don’t know where else to go.’
against the Department of Juvenile Justice and the Bay County Sheriff's Department, which ran the camp. The camp's security cameras captured the incident on videotape. Though the camp was forced to make the videotape public in February, officials there denied the guards had anything to do with Anderson's death. The Bay County medical examiner said that same month that the boy died from sickle-cell trait. A second autopsy released in early May, however, concluded that Anderson died from suffocation when the guards forced ammonia up his nose while covering his mouth. By mid-May, the family was still waiting for arrests to be made.

The Martin Lee Anderson case—and similar wrongful death cases involving law enforcement and minorities—gives Crump the opportunity to practice the kind of law and seek the justice he is passionate about. Many of his colleagues in the legal profession, he said, see those types of cases as no-win and won't touch them.

“I would dare to say that 10 other law firms would have turned the Martin Lee Anderson case down,” Crump said. “It wasn’t until the video was discovered that it became such a good case. Before that, you only have the innuendo of a little black boy being killed by the police suspiciously and all the law enforcement officials in Bay County saying Martin was being uncooperative.”

The Anderson story continues to grab almost daily headlines in the national media and has attracted support from prominent civil rights leaders, the attention of Florida’s governor and legislature and the astonishment and ire of the public. “People are so passionate about this because you aren’t supposed to be able to kill someone, lie about it and not be held accountable,” said Crump, who has been aggressive in his efforts to keep the story in the forefront of the public conscience.

Those efforts have included Crump’s advising Florida A & M and Florida State University students who in April staged a sit-in at the governor’s office and a march to the Old Capitol. Led by Sharpton, the Reverend Jesse Jackson, Anderson’s parents and Parks and Crump, the rally drew more than 2,000 protesters demanding arrests in the case.

Crump knows how to apply steady pressure to the powers that be and his tactics have paid off. Though they are still waiting for an arrest, the family, whom Crump has accompanied to numerous press conferences, has succeeded in getting what they have wanted—from the release of the videotape and the shutting down of the boot camp (followed by the closing of all the state’s boot camps) to the resignation of the FDLE chief, whose objectivity was called in to question after his e-mails informing the Bay County sheriff of the next steps of the investigation surfaced.

Both Jackson and Sharpton said they were impressed by Crump’s ability to keep the story on the front pages of national newspapers and on primetime newscasts. “Not only is Ben Crump bringing this to court, he has brought it to the court of public opinion,” said Jackson. “What he is doing will affect politics, behaviors and jurors. He and his group are organizing public opinion very effectively.” Crump and the family appeared on “Anderson Cooper 360,” “The O’Reilly Factor” and “Good Morning America” and have invitations to appear on “The Oprah Winfrey Show” and “The View.”

Said Crump: “No way would Martin’s parents have had an audience with Governor Bush if we weren’t working this case every day, every week, trying to make it an issue so that people won’t try to see it as an old story or sweep it under the rug and say the more time that goes by, the more irrelevant it becomes.”

Crump and Anderson’s parents had an opportunity to express their frustration with the events following the aftermath of the teenager’s death when the governor invited them to his office the day before the march.

“I said, ‘Governor Bush, the problem is that in our society when people have this much evidence on them, nobody should have to wait this long to have an arrest made. It almost suggests to all the citizens of Florida that if you have a badge and a gun, that you are above the law.’”

“As I was talking with the governor,” Crump said, “I thought, ‘Wow, it was a very powerful demonstration of that whole law school process going the whole way.’ That’s why you go to law school: to try to get justice for the least of us. That’s exactly why I went to law school.”

‘The Statistics Were Against Me’

Crump spent his early childhood in rural North Carolina. His mother supported her three sons by working in the local Converse shoe factory, making shoes she could not afford to buy for her children. At the start of high school, he moved to Fort Lauderdale to live with his father, a math teacher, and witnessed many friends’ futures end tragically on the streets.

“The statistics were against me the whole way of ever getting out of the projects, of ever becoming a lawyer, of ever becoming someone who was considered an asset to society and a productive citizen,” he said. “Statistics were, of course, more slanted to my dropping out of school or winding up in jail. I was no different from those other little boys who grew up in my community and for whatever reason would not be able to overcome the statistics.

“I honestly believe that if it were not for the strong women in my life who wouldn’t let me stray, I’d have ended up like they did. But I had a strong mother, Helen, and a strong praying grandmother, Ma Mittie, who instilled in me a will to try to do something with my life. When those street lights came on, I’d better be in that house. I knew when I got home from...
school Ma Mittie would have that switch in her hand, asking me what I learned. I was motivated to be able to tell her something I’d learned.”

He said that to this day, he still is motivated by strong women, including his wife Genae and the women in his law firm because they remind him of the strong spirit that his mother and grandmother exhibited.

Crump beat the odds and went on to earn a scholarship to Florida State University, where he majored in criminal justice and English. He was in the inaugural session of the law school’s Summer for Undergraduates Program, which introduces undergraduates to alumni and the rigorous curriculum they would be expected to conquer if they went to law school.

“I was inspired by other graduates from the law school I met, like Wayne Hogan, ‘72, and Tommy Warren, ‘74, who were successful and gave back to the law school and made it possible for people like me to even have a chance to get a legal education.”

Mindful of the encouragement they received along the road to success, Crump and Parks reach out to African-American children with the aim of urging them to seek higher education. Over the past five years, the firm has been a popular destination for African-American middle-school students on field trips from South Florida. “They visit the Capitol, the universities and our law firm,” Crump said, smiling.

He and his colleagues coach them in videotaped mock trials, held in the firm’s courtroom.

“Daryl and I see a lot of ourselves in these kids,” Crump said. “We try to put in their heads that college can be for them and that they don’t have to get a job at McDonald’s. We tell them, ‘Look, Ben and Daryl graduated from college and law school and started a law firm. If you pray and work hard, it can certainly work for you, too.

“We feel good about that, because we’re inspiring the next generation of young people to be successful. That’s why we think it’s important for alumni to give back to the law school. You may make a bigger impact than you can ever imagine.”
Power Broker

Law School Provided a Solid Foundation For President of Energy Giant

BY DAVE FIORE

Joe Richardson is in power at a major energy company in Pennsylvania.

As a student, Joe Richardson knew that his law education would play an important role in his future success—he just wasn’t exactly sure how.

Now, as president of Allegheny Power, the Florida State University College of Law graduate is responsible for the delivery of electric service to about 1.5 million customers in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Maryland and Virginia. “I always envisioned that I would have a business career,” Richardson said. “Law school was a strong foundation for a career in business and has a lot to do with where I am today.”

Allegheny Power, headquartered in Greens-
burg, Pa., is owned by Allegheny Energy, an investor-owned utility that also owns Allegheny Energy Supply, which operates electric generating facilities.

Long before Richardson knew anything about the power business, he was leaving suburban Chicago to earn his bachelor’s degree in economics from Cornell University—the first person in his family to graduate from college. He left the school with more than an Ivy League education.

“I met my wife Karen there; she had transferred from FSU,” Richardson said. “She grew up in Florida and wanted to return and wanted me to come with her. I was actually close to going to business school, but Vietnam was still going on, and after graduating from Cornell I expected to be drafted. However, by mid-1971 when I graduated from college, the draft was being phased out.”

With this change of events, the couple headed for Tallahassee to see if there were any way he could still get into law school. “I was a very late applicant—more like a walk-in,” he said. “Somehow I got in, and I went back to Chicago to break some important news to my parents. I had to tell them that I got engaged, thought I was probably going to law school and I was moving to Florida. They were surprised but very supportive.”

Richardson started school the fall of 1971 and Karen got a job as a home economics extension agent at the University of Florida extension in Jefferson County. He said he wasn’t sure what to expect from the whole experience.

“I was commuting 8 to 5 every day from our house in Monticello, I was new to Florida and didn’t know a lot about FSU,” he said. “I was a little nervous and apprehensive about the move, but I found a positive, terrific young faculty, who were extremely sharp. I also was surprised at the diversity of the program. There were a lot of female students for the time and strong Latin American contingent.”

After graduation, he landed at a Jacksonville firm that focused mainly on banking and securities issues. Two years later, he responded to an ad in The Florida Bar Journal that would change his life.

The ad was for an in-house attorney to do securities work for Florida Power.

“I got the job and was in that position for 10 years,” he said. “In 1986, I moved to a management position with our real estate subsidiary for five years before returning to the power business—this time in management.”

Richardson said moving from the legal to the business side of the company was a natural evolution for him. “Even while I was in law school, I was always more of a businessman than a lawyer,” he said. “In the back of my mind, I always knew it, even though I practiced law for 12 years and really liked it.”

But when it came time to make the change—even though it was within the same company—Richardson said it was far from worry-free. “When the opportu-
Few people are qualified to answer the following question:
Which is harder—singing opera, being an 8-handicap golfer or building a successful law career?

While contemplation of such a question may make for good happy-hour banter, to get the real answer, one would only have to ask 1979 Florida State University College of Law graduate and Clearwater lawyer Beth Daniels.

Daniels is a shareholder in the firm of Johnson, Pope, Bokor, Ruppel and Burns, an accomplished soloist and a single-digit handicapper who can hold her own on the golf course.

Her passion for the law came later in life, but her love for sports and singing was evident in her childhood.

She began golfing at age 7, and by high school had earned a place on the boys’ varsity team—sort of. “I was the only girl on the boys’ team, because there was no girls’ team,” she said. “But I wasn’t allowed to compete in the actual matches, even though I was the No. 2 player on the team. I could practice, but I couldn’t play.”

Daniels earned an academic scholarship to Wake Forest University in 1971, but found the situation there much the same. There were virtually no athletic scholarships for women, and it also lacked a women’s golf team. This time, however, she was not going to be a practice partner for the men.

“I have always been known as being a dynamite stick, so I helped start
a golf team at Wake,” she said. “I basically jumped up and down on the desk of the athletics department, until they listened to me. They already had a national champion men’s golf team, but there was no women’s team.”

She was given permission to help start a team, but experienced women golfers were not easy to find on campus. “The problem was that no one was at the school to be a golfer, but I beat the bushes and found some who could play, and we began something. Now, Wake has a nationally ranked program.”

Daniels was recognized for her contributions in 1999 when she received the prestigious Rolex Achievement Award, given by the College Golf Foundation and Rolex Watch U.S.A. The national awards—given annually to one male and one female—honor former varsity collegiate golfers who have achieved excellence in their chosen career (outside of golf) and have made a special contribution to society.

“Rolex is a class operation, and it was a very nice event,” Daniels said. “They flew my parents and me to the school and picked us up in a limo from the airport. It was a thrill.”

Just as special was the fact that it was presented by Wake Forest alumnus and golfing legend Arnold Palmer. “Before the event, we had a private dinner with Arnold and his wife and VIPs from the school,” she said. “If I had to invent something a girl could give her dad as a present, I couldn’t have done any better than that. I think it could give her dad as a present, I couldn’t have done it any better than that. I think it was a bigger thrill for him than me.”

Daniels now uses her course management skills to her professional advantage. “I still play a lot, and I can hold my own in a scramble,” she said. But her gender and diminutive frame do not always instill confidence in first-time playing partners.

“At first, sometimes guys will say, ‘Great, there is girl playing with us.’ But I never hear any crap after the first or second tee. I get asked to be on tons of tournament teams, and it’s also good for business.”

Her golf success does not keep Daniels from pursuing her passion for singing. She even finds creative ways to combine the two. “When I am watching the Masters on TV, I will turn down the sound and listen to an opera,” she said.

Daniels says her love for music has strong genetic ties. “I come from a musical family—my parents and grandparents all play musical instruments and sing,” she said. “I grew up singing in ensembles, the church choir and as a soloist. In college, I had vocal coaching and I attend opera workshops and still take voice lessons today. Until recently, I had a singing activity five days a week—but now I am too busy with work.’ She has been a member of Florida Opera West, the Tampa Bay Opera Company and the Sunstate Opera Society.

“It is interesting that singing is not unlike athletics—you use it or you lose it. You have to stay in shape—use muscles and techniques—it takes stamina and range.”

With such strong ties to athletics and music, how did she end up in the law? “It was a big decision. I thought about being a singer, but for my brain, not my body.”

With such strong ties to athletics and music, how did she end up in the law? “It was a big decision. I thought about being a pro golfer, then I realized that only a handful in the world can make a living at it,” she said. “Music was also there—I even had an application prepared for Juilliard, but the same odds applied to being a singer.

“Ultimately, the conclusion was to go to college, because with either of the other choices, I would have to be one in a million to make a living at it, and there would come a time when I couldn’t do it anymore. I thought it might be a good idea to rely on my brain, not my body.”

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Daniels says that before she got to law school, she had never even met a lawyer, but she knew where she wanted to go to school. “I have two sisters who are FSU graduates and I wanted to practice in Florida, so choosing the law school was easy.”

Before graduating with high honors, Daniels wanted to share her love for opera with her classmates, so she held a vocal recital the same weekend as her law school graduation ceremonies.

“My last semester, I had already gotten a job, my class ranking was pretty well established, and I had some pass/fail credits to take. I thought that was my chance to get back into music,” she said. “I got the dean of the music school to give me permission to use Oppermann Music Hall, and I did a recital of all opera. It was called ‘Confessions of a Closet Diva.’ A lot of my classmates came with parents as well as some law faculty and even a couple music school professors.”

The recital was a success, as was her career choice. She is with the same firm she joined after graduation in 1979. She works in commercial and real estate litigation and deals most often with cases that “involve property in one way or another.”

Daniels says she initially interviewed through the College of Law’s Placement Office with big firms, but the desire to pursue her outside interests led her to explore smaller firms. “I have put in the time to be an effective and successful lawyer, but many times I would work different hours to get it all done,” she said. “Sometimes I would work around rehearsal times for productions, and my firm gave me that flexibility. I put in the hours, but I may have done it a little differently. You have to find a way to do what you want.” ☉
Securing Financial Futures
Jason Lazarus Helps Claimants Plan for What’s Next

BY DAVE FIORE

Many lawyers help victims in personal-injury cases recover money after an accident. But it’s after these recoveries have been made that Jason Lazarus steps in: He helps claimants receiving personal injury awards make wise choices about their financial futures.

Lazarus is a certified structured settlement consultant and president of Millennium Settlements, which specializes exclusively in advising personal injury victims. He also is Of Counsel and a founding member of Attorneys Settlement Law Group. The firm handles special-needs trusts, public benefit preservation issues, guardianship, probate, estates and trusts.

The 1996 graduate of the Florida State University College of Law says his multiple business interests keep him busy. “I am always wearing at least three hats. I am working on my own cases helping personal injury victims. I am acting as president of Millennium—running day-to-day operations and overseeing a staff of more than 20 consultants across the country. And I am providing services on an Of-Counsel basis at the law firm.”

In the past, settlements were made to claimants in personal-injury cases as lump-sum cash payments. But the laws changed in the 1970s, allowing defendants to purchase structured settlement annuities to fund their obligation to claimants and make installment payments over long periods of time to satisfy the settlement.

While at first this system of payment was used almost exclusively for large, catastrophic-injury cases, claims as small as $5,000 now are being structured. Most settlements include up-front cash for attorney fees, medical expenses and existing liens resulting from the injury, but the claimant still is faced with handling the balance of the settlement and protecting it so that it serves its intended purpose.

Lazarus says that while he and his colleagues deal in personal injury cases, they are not personal injury attorneys. “Trial lawyers bring Millennium in to work with their personal-injury clients—to advise the client about their financial options,” he said. “We are not competing for the same services. We have no involvement in the representation—we get involved only at the end when it is being settled or after the verdict.”

He says the same is true for Attorneys Settlement Law Group. “I found a disconnect between the delivery of financial services and legal services such as special needs trusts, public benefit preservation issues, guardianship, probate, estates and trusts.”

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After receiving a bachelor’s degree from the University of Central Florida and graduating with high honors from the College of Law, Lazarus practiced as a medical malpractice and workers’ compensation attorney in Orlando. In addition to being a member of The Florida Bar, Academy of Florida Trial Lawyers and American Trial Lawyers Association, he holds a Life, Health and Variable Annuity license plus a Series 6 Securities license.

Lazarus, who is married with three children, says he is excited about the direction of Millennium and the new law firm. “We have a found a unique niche and are stepping forward to make a big difference—both for our success and in the lives of the people we serve.”

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Who is that man in the suit and tie? It's rock 'n' roller Nick Lioce's alter ego... a tax attorney on a recent visit to his alma mater.

Tax Attorney By Day...

BY JESSIE R. EASON
Rock ‘n’ Roller By Night

What do you get when you take one prominent tax attorney add one microphone, one pair of sunglasses, a handful of hair gel and a drove of female groupies? A self-proclaimed “flesh magnet” and lead singer of a popular West Palm Beach rock band. Meet Domenick “Nick” R. Lioce, esq., C.P.A. and partner at Nason Yeager Gerson White & Lioce, P.A.

While you’ll find many attorneys in the West Palm area turning to golf clubs to relieve stress from the day-to-day legal grind, Lioce prefers the retreat of his air-conditioned, sound-proof garage-turned-rehearsal studio to unwind from a hard day. “I go into my studio, lock the door and just practice singing,” says Lioce, a 1979 Florida State University College of Law graduate.

His hours of rehearsing have paid off. Lioce’s band, Nick-O-Rockwa & The Contraband, has created a substantial following in the West Palm area. The group has its own Web site (www.nicksband.com) and regularly sends out e-mail blasts to more than 400 list subscribers announcing upcoming gigs. Performing a blend of blues, soul, rock and pop, the ensemble has played at a number of local festivals and concerts and opened for popular acts such as The Kingston Trio, The Turtles, Gary Puckett & The Union Gap, Dion Dimucci, The Marshall Tucker Band, Johnny Maestro and Bobby Rydell.

In the front row of any given Nick-O-Rockwa appearance, you’ll even find a gaggle of women donning “Nick’s Chicks” tee shirts. The leader of Nick’s Chicks is, by no coincidence, his wife of three years, Celeste Lioce. They met at one of his concerts and Celeste, owner of a C.P.A. firm in West Palm, likes to tease “the only reason I married Nick was because he sings rock ‘n’ roll.”

Lioce’s love of music, and rock ‘n’ roll in particular, began at a young age. After earning his undergraduate degree in 1973, Lioce’s music took a backseat to examining banks for the federal government, which he did until he returned to Florida State to study law. But he picked up singing and playing again about 18 years ago and formed Nick-O-Rockwa & The Contraband in 1987. Lioce calls his music “a great release.”

He performs two to three times a month in between practicing law, speaking across the state at events including The Florida Bar Tax Section meetings, serving on committees such as the Revised Uniform Partnership Act, and traveling back to Tallahassee for football games, alumni events or to visit his stepdaughter, who is studying business at Florida State. His son also graduated from Florida State and teaches high school English in West Palm.

During a recent visit to Tallahassee, Lioce participated in a Networking Luncheon with College of Law students after guest lecturing for a law taxation class. He enjoys sharing his knowledge with students and the close ties he still has to Florida State, where he received his bachelor’s and master’s degrees before attending law school. After graduating from law school, Lioce joined Shutts & Bowen in Miami. To try his hand at practicing law with a smaller firm, he made the move in 1991 to Nason Yeager Gerson White & Lioce, P.A., where he’s found his niche.

“Nick Lioce is a great transactional and tax lawyer who has given a significant amount of time to continuing legal education and to the process of law reform,” said Dean Don Weidner, who served on the Revised Uniform Partnership Act committee with Lioce.

In addition to the education he received at Florida State, Celeste Lioce credits her husband’s musical outlet for his professional success. “Music makes him better at everything he does,” she said.

Lioce agrees and enjoys the duality his pastime creates. “I throw on my sunglasses, slick back my hair, pick up the mic and I’m no longer the lawyer, I’m a rock ‘n’ roll singer. I don’t bother telling anyone what my day job is and I don’t think they would ever guess.” #
As is the case with many contributions to the College of Law, the creation of the John S. Rawls and Samuel Wolf Scholarship had a dual meaning for JoLen Rawls Wolf and the Honorable James R. Wolf, College of Law adjunct professor. While honoring the memories of their fathers, John Rawls and Samuel Wolf, both attorneys, the Wolf’s also wanted to help fill what they saw as a void in the judicial system: the representation of minorities. “My father was a judge and my husband is a judge, so creating a scholarship promoting careers in the court system was a natural fit for us,” said Rawls Wolf, a 1976 College of Law graduate and now a legal writing professor at the law school.

For Rachic Wilson, receiving the scholarship meant she could accept an unpaid judicial externship at the First District Court of Appeal, which has resulted in the offer of a full-time position upon graduation. “Without the Rawls and Wolf scholarship, I couldn’t have left my paid position to do the externship and wouldn’t be where I am now—about to become a staff attorney with the First District Court of Appeal,” says Wilson.

Professorships and academic chairs enable the College of Law to recruit, retain and reward first-rate faculty. Program endowments for co-curricular activities, such as the Moot Court and Mock Trial teams or the Florida State University Law Review, help students fine-tune skills essential to success in the practice of law. And private scholarships make Florida State an appealing choice for the nation’s top students, while creating living testimonies to the impact of gifts.
Calvin Patterson Civil Rights Endowed Scholarship

FURTHERING THE CIVIL RIGHTS CAUSE

The simple act of purchasing a soft drink at a Florida State University football game set into motion a series of events that would ultimately result in one of the most admired endowed gifts to the College of Law. When Tommy Warren saw the plastic cup erroneously commemorating the first African-American Florida State football player, he knew he had to right a historical wrong. Warren’s teammate and roommate during his years at Florida State, Calvin Patterson, was in fact the first Florida State football player to break the racial barriers still standing strong in 1968. “The misinformation was a miscarriage of justice and not fair to Calvin’s memory, his family or all African-Americans,” said Warren, a 1974 College of Law graduate. Warren’s efforts eventually led to the university’s official acknowledgment of Calvin Patterson as the first African-American to play football for Florida State and recognition in the university’s Legacy Walk—a historic trail that highlights Florida State’s heritage.

The most influential component of Warren’s efforts came in the form of an endowed scholarship. Warren and his wife Kathy Villacorta, a 1977 law school graduate, created the scholarship in Patterson’s name to be given to students demonstrating a significant interest in furthering the civil rights of minorities. “Unfortunately, I know from personal experience there is still a need for lawyers who do civil rights work, and my wife and I thought a scholarship supporting students with a commitment to civil rights was a fitting tribute to Patterson, who himself was subject to racial discrimination,” said Warren, a Tallahassee civil-rights attorney.

Hillary Grimes, a recent College of Law graduate, received the Calvin Patterson scholarship for two consecutive years and says her life at the law school would not have been the same without the award. “It was about so much more than money; what meant the most was people of such prominence, the Warren’s, saw potential in me,” says Grimes, who plans on using her law degree to champion for individuals less fortunate than she. “Every time I walk past Calvin’s portrait, I am reminded of how privileged I am.”
Tom and Linda Scarritt Oxford Studies Scholarship
BROADENING HORIZONS THROUGH WORLD TRAVEL

To encourage students to “open their minds” through international travel, Tom and Linda Scarritt established a scholarship for students who want to study at the oldest American summer law program at Oxford University.

Tom Scarritt, a 1983 College of Law graduate, said he and his wife wanted to tailor their gift to the law school around two things for which they are passionate: the law and foreign study. “I believe studying at Oxford is especially beneficial for students because our system is based on the British legal system,” Scarritt said. Other alumni have followed the Scarritts’ lead, something they have found particularly gratifying.

David L. Powell and Vicki Weber, 1986 and 1978 College of Law graduates, respectively, along with Joseph Flood, 1982 College of Law graduate, and his wife Paula also have endowed scholarships supporting study abroad programs.

Tyler Everett, third-year law student and recipient of the Scarritt Oxford Studies Scholarship, is grateful for both the professional and personal opportunities during his summer at the prestigious Oxford University. He was able to study comparative and common law in their original setting and travel across Europe, experiencing new cultures and making “memories of a lifetime.”

Prior to Everett’s European adventures, his law school career was affected by another private scholarship. A phone call from the College of Law’s Office of Student Affairs offering him the Goldstein Scholarship for students interested in environmental law convinced Everett that Florida State was the place for him. “No other law school took the initiative to contact me with a scholarship offer like Florida State did,” said Everett, a University of Florida graduate who worked as an environmental engineer before attending law school. “The Goldstein scholarship definitely sealed my decision to come to Florida State.”

Scholarships not only ‘sealed’ the decision to come to Florida State for Tyler Everett, but allowed him to make ‘memories of a lifetime’ at Oxford University.
was to foster leadership and community service,” she said.

Private scholarships vary in amount and may be in the form of endowments, one-time gifts, annual gifts or combined awards. They can be need-based, merit-based, based on other factors such as geography or area of study, or a combination of those criteria. Scholarships may be earmarked for only second- and third-year students or be in the form of recruitment scholarships. “We are very grateful for private scholarships, which are essential for recruiting the best students and making law school a viable option for them,” says Nancy Benavides, associate dean for student affairs.

If you are interested in creating a scholarship or offering another type of gift to the Florida State University College of Law, please contact Assistant Dean for Development Mark Pankey at 850-644-5160 or by email at mpankey@law.fsu.edu.

Kellogg Family Scholarship
ENCOURAGING PARENTS TO PURSUE THE STUDY OF LAW

The endless responsibilities of single parenthood would be enough to deter most people from undertaking the arduous task of completing law school. Not the case for Christina Scaringe, a second-year law student and mother of a 7-year-old daughter. Nevertheless, the decision to leave a stable, well-paying position as a physical therapist to follow her heart to a career where she could truly “make a difference” was not an easy one. She was still grappling with the decision until the day news came she had received the Kellogg Family Scholarship. “It felt like an affirmation that I was doing the right thing; that someone else understood and was encouraging me to follow my passion,” says Scaringe.

Lawrence Kellogg, a 1981 College of Law graduate, knows from personal experience how difficult it can be to balance parenting, studying and attending class. “I wanted to create a scholarship to help students who have the responsibility of supporting and raising a family while attending law school, and who have financial need as a result,” said Kellogg, who raised his son, Jason, during his years as a law student.

A 2002 law school graduate, Jason Kellogg was editor-in-chief of the Florida State University Law Review and now is an associate with Hogan & Hartson L.L.P. According to his father, “Jason’s accomplishments confirm that this is a family scholarship; you never know how helping one person may echo through succeeding generations.”

Kellogg credits the education he received at Florida State for his “lucrative and fun career” and wants other parents to have the same opportunity he had. “This (scholarship) is to help people motivated to better themselves, and who are raising children. I knew a lot of people in that situation, and I know how hard that can be, and how rewarding it can be. These are the people who ought to be lawyers,” he said.
McConnaughhay, Rissman Establish Endowment for Excellence

Charter class member Jim McConnaughhay, ’69, and Steve Rissman, ’72, have created the McConnaughhay and Rissman Endowment for Excellence. The $200,000 gift from the two noted workers’ compensation lawyers celebrates the relationship between the College of Law and the Florida Workers’ Compensation Institute, which they established in 1987. It can be used to fund a McConnaughhay and Rissman Scholar, for faculty incentives and for co-curricular activities, such as the law review and Moot Court and Mock Trial teams.

“We are giving the gift because we both have an abiding interest in workers’ compensation and in the law school,” said Rissman of the Orlando firm of Rissman, Weisberg, Barrett, Hurt, Donohue & McLain.

Rissman and McConnaughhay, a partner in the firm of McConnaughhay, Duffy, Coonrod, Pope & Weaver in Tallahassee, say they are hopeful that Florida State law professors will continue to provide judges of workers’ compensation claims with relevant education at the Institute’s annual Workers’ Compensation Educational Conference and become more involved with workers’ compensation issues.

As general chair and program chair, respectively, of the Institute, McConnaughhay and Rissman have organized the annual education conference in Orlando since 1987. This nationally recognized meeting draws between 7,000 and 8,000 attendees, and is the nation’s largest gathering of individuals involved in workers’ compensation issues, including insurance agents, employers, lawyers, doctors, judges, mediators, nurses, rehab providers and adjusters.

The Florida Workers’ Compensation Institute also has sponsored, among other things, an annual Moot Court Competition, scholarships for children of employees injured on the job, educational functions for judges, and an annual spring forum update on workers’ compensation.

McConnaughhay and Rissman, who have been friends since the late 1970s, keep in close contact with their alma mater, and have taught workers’ compensation courses at the College of Law.

“Workers’ compensation law and the FSU law school have been major players in our legal careers,” McConnaughhay said. “We are extremely pleased to join the two together to enhance the study of workers’ compensation, an area of the law that is extremely important to the state of Florida.”

New Flagler County Courthouse to be Named after Law School Alum

On February 20, 2006, Flagler County, Fla., officials broke ground for a new $32.7 million courthouse to be named after 1972 College of Law graduate Circuit Judge Kim C. Hammond.

“The new courthouse will certainly improve the administration of justice in Flagler County,” Judge Hammond said. “I am truly honored by the board of county commissioners’ decision to name the new courthouse after me.”

The 136,426 square-foot, four-story facility will house circuit and county judges, court administration, clerk of court, state attorney and public defender offices and is expected to be completed summer 2007.
As he was approaching graduation from Florida State’s College of Law, John Kiel knew he needed practice for upcoming interviews with the big law firms coming to campus through the law school’s Placement Office. So, he set up a time to hone his interviewing skills with a much less likely suitor—a U.S. Army recruiter.

But as Kiel—now Capt. John Kiel, law professor at the U.S. Military Academy—discovered, he learned more from that encounter than he could have ever expected.

Kiel said he wanted to get trial experience right away, so the plan was to get into the JAG corps, get the experience he wanted and get out. But it didn’t exactly work out that way.

His first assignment was to Fort Bragg, N.C., home of the Army’s special forces and airborne troops. Immediately upon arrival, he left for the Army Airborne School at Fort Benning, where he learned to jump out of C-17 and C-130 cargo planes. At Fort Bragg, Kiel served as a claims judge advocate and prosecutor before being deployed to Afghanistan for seven months shortly after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

Part of his job in Afghanistan was to consult with the Army’s main planning group to determine the legality of proposed military operations. “I was in operational law in Afghanistan, making sure that our overriding goals would fit into our rules of engagement,” Kiel said. “We had to make sure that international laws and treaties were observed. We addressed issues such as areas to attack and what we could and couldn’t target. In terms of planning attacks, the hardest part was trying to tell the difference between members of the Taliban and Al Qaeda and regular Afghans.”

He also served in Germany as a criminal defense lawyer, defending soldiers who got in trouble in Germany, Kosovo, Iraq and Afghanistan.

The next phase of his military service offered a dramatic change of scenery—West Point, N. Y. At the U.S. Military Academy, Kiel teaches law as part of a faculty made up of active-duty soldiers who have a talent for, and desire to, teach cadets. He teaches constitutional and military law, and next year will lead a class in criminal law.

“This is hands-down the best job I have ever had,” he said.

Kiel said the law classes are required for the cadets, and the context in which they are learning makes it quite different from a law-school setting. “This is not as technical as a law-school class—we try to help them grasp the legal principles,” he said. “With all their other responsibilities, they have very little time to read.”

Kiel teaches four sections in addition to serving as an assistant boxing coach for the academy. The team recently placed third in the National Collegiate Boxing Association Championships—with seven All-American and two national champions.

He visited the College of Law in 2003 to return a flag provided by the school as a sign of support for the troops. It was flown in Operation Enduring Freedom on board an Air Force A-10 fighter during an official mission in Afghanistan.

Kiel said he wanted to get trial experience right away, so the plan was to get into the JAG corps, get the experience he wanted and get out. But it didn’t exactly work out that way.
In the seven years since graduating magna cum laude from the College of Law, Sean Cronin has made a name for himself in a solid and steadily growing practice as a plaintiff’s attorney in three unique areas of the law. A partner in the Jacksonville trial firm Spohrer, Wilner, Maxwell & Matthews, Cronin’s focus is on aviation accidents, federal torts claims stemming from military medical malpractice and on civilian medical malpractice cases.

These choices are no accident. They are part of the plan he formulated while serving as a U.S. Naval Officer and P-3 Pilot before attending law school. Cronin’s naval career coincided with the cold war, during which he spent tracking Soviet submarines and pursuing drug smugglers. As a naval pilot and military officer, he gained strong analytical and dynamic leadership skills, and “a whole degree of seasoning,” as he characterizes it. He also received special training in aviation safety in Monterey, Calif. “This was the beginning of my interest in becoming an aviation accident attorney—I wanted to bring my advanced knowledge of aviation safety to assisting people who were injured or suffered loss in the absence of that safety,” he said.

In 1995, upon release from active duty, Cronin enrolled in the College of Law to begin executing that very plan. “I was attracted by the school’s reputation for excellence and impressed by the people I met during initial interviews,” he said, explaining his selection of a law school. “Also, at the time, my wife Amy and I had two small children and the Tallahassee environment was very appealing.”

Taking On National and International Aviation Cases

During his time at the College of Law, Cronin received an offer to clerk from Bob Spohrer, a veteran aviation accident attorney. In this role, Cronin saw immediate action, investigating and prosecuting complex national and international aircraft accidents. He also participated in the landmark case brought by firm partner Norwood “Woody” Wilner: Carter v. Brown & Williamson—the nation’s first successful suit against “big tobacco.” The historic case garnered national media attention and was Cronin’s introduction to the spotlight for dynamic cases. His work during this clerkship resulted in an offer by the firm to join as an associate when he graduated in 1998.

Since joining Spohrer, Wilner, Maxwell & Matthews, Cronin has followed with near-military precision his goal of becoming a successful aviation accident attorney. Working with Bob Spohrer and other members of the legal team, he participated early on in a successful suit against United Technologies for the fatal crash of a Sikorsky helicopter in Wiesbaden, Germany.

The case concluded with a jury verdict of $22.9 million. Spohrer shares the credit for this outcome with Cronin. “Sean’s knowledge and training as a military pilot give him a unique ability to examine and interpret key crash data and to reconstruct the actual chain of events,” Spohrer said. “This was essential to the success of this case and, indeed, in all of our aviation cases.”

Cronin credits Professor Chuck Ehhrardt for helping him at a critical point in this same suit. “I remembered an exception to the hearsay rule from my evidence class and was able to use it to get a previously excluded crucial piece of evidence admitted during trial,” he said.

Certified Aviation Specialist

The United Technologies case was to be the first of many complex, high-profile
Aviation attorney Sean Cronin at the investigation of a crash involving families of his clients

Aviation cases for Cronin in association with the firm—suits against major aircraft manufacturers and operators from accidents in places as far ranging as Spain and Afghanistan. These cases have been widely reported by the Associated Press, The Washington Post, The Army Times and Stars and Stripes, as well as by media in his hometown of Jacksonville.

Demonstrating his long-term commitment to this area of legal practice, in May of 2005 Cronin became one of fewer than three dozen Florida attorneys who carry the distinction of being Board Certified in Aviation Law by The Florida Bar. Cronin joins firm partner Spohrer, and Florida State law school graduates Chad Roberts, ’91, and Ed Booth Jr., ’81.

Parallel Focus on Medical Malpractice

Though aviation law continues to be a strong concentration for him, Cronin has built a parallel practice in medical malpractice—both military and civilian. His service background led to and informs his advocacy on behalf of Navy families who have suffered loss or injury due to military medical negligence. This work has been covered by the Associated Press, profiled in the Navy Times and was at the core of an investigative series published by the Florida Times-Union in Jacksonville. Cronin’s track record of success and his reputation for going the distance for these clients continues to bring him new cases.

While the number of attorneys in Florida focusing on medical malpractice shrinks due to tort reform, Cronin’s practice continues to grow. He is doggedly determined to advocate on behalf of people injured by civilian doctors and hospitals and approaches the challenges inherent in these cases with the same laser focus and steady discipline instilled in him during his military career. In fact, in 2005, Cronin obtained a jury verdict of $7.165 million in a case against Ormond Memorial Hospital.

The law firm recognized Cronin’s successes in both aviation law and medical malpractice in 2003 by making him a partner. When asked how he has accomplished so much in what, in the legal field, is a short time, he said: “I had the benefit of being fairly mature when I came to the law—my military training and being a father both made serious contributions to that. Equally important has been the firm I was fortunate enough to join; the level of cases they undertake and the powerful mentoring of Bob Spohrer and Woody Wilner has been invaluable to my growth and success as a trial attorney.”

‘I wanted to bring my advanced knowledge of aviation safety to assisting people who were injured or suffered loss in the absence of that safety.’
Lesley Friedsam: Divorce Lawyer Finds Love on the High Seas  BY DAVE FIORE

When Lesley Friedsam left Argentina in 2002 for a cruise to Antarctica that included a stop at the sub-Antarctic island of South Georgia, she knew she was in for an adventure. What she didn’t expect was that she would return the next year and meet the man she later would marry in the exact same spot where they had met.

Friedsam, a 1982 Florida State University College of Law graduate, and Peter Damisch, owner of a California sailing school and sailboat chartering company, caught each other’s attention at the gravesite of famed explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton. She said their mutual interest in the region and fascination with Shackleton led to long conversations and eventually romance.

Their unique love story was featured in a recent Sunday New York Times article, complete with photographs of the February 19, 2006, Antarctic ceremony at Shackleton’s gravesite.

The couple maintains separate homes for the moment, relying on long weekends once a month and plenty of e-mail and phone calls to bridge the miles between Tampa and Marina del Rey. “We have no plans for a change in the near future,” Friedsam said. “But I did just pass the California Bar exam.”

Friedsam confesses that she sees the irony of a 59-year-old divorce attorney finding love on the high seas. But taking a different path—or finding her own way along the journey—has been her style from the beginning.

She earned a bachelor’s degree in journalism in 1967 from American University in Washington, D.C. From 1972 to 1979, she worked as a reporter and anchor for the CBS affiliate in Tampa—the first woman that station. She spent the last four years of her on-camera career in Tallahassee covering politics and hard news, including the Ted Bundy murders and trial.

Friedsam said she would later discover how similar being a journalist and lawyer could be. “You ask questions, rely on gut feelings and seek the truth. You also have to speak, write, research facts and get information from people who don’t want to give it to you.”

At age 33, she felt that there was no future for a woman news anchor after age 40, so she started planning ahead and applied for law school at Florida State. She said the thought had not even occurred to her as an undergraduate.

“I never thought about the law in 1967. Women became teachers, nurses and flight attendants,” she said. “By the late 70s though, about one-third of the law classes at FSU were made up of women students.”

She confessed that she was lucky to get into the College of Law. “I had a low GPA and a marginal LSAT score, but with some extra effort got in,” she said. “I loved it, and I got the best grades of my life in law school.”

Friedsam graduated magna cum laude, finished in the top 10 percent of her class, made the Florida State University Law Review and went on to earn an LLM from Yale University. She now is board certified in marital and family law and is a partner in the firm of Levine, Hirsch, Segall, MacKenzie & Friedsam in Tampa.

A. Wayne Rich Gives Back to Law School

With a gift of $100,000 to the Florida State University College of Law, Orlando attorney A. Wayne Rich has created the A. Wayne and Gwen Rich Endowment for Excellence.

The A. Wayne and Gwen Rich Endowment for Excellence will help fund a number of the law school’s resources, including student scholarships, faculty incentives and co-curricular activities. In making the disbursement of the donation flexible, Rich, a member of the law school’s second graduating class of 1970, said he is hopeful that the gift will aid any person or activity at the school that needs a little extra help.

“Fortunately, I am in a position where I could give back to the school that helped my career so much,” said Rich, an Of Counsel attorney in the real estate and eminent domain practice in the Orlando office of Broad and Cassel.

“Hopefully, this will help put a person or group over the top and allow them to do the things they want in school.”

While in law school, Rich and his classmates were among the first law students to work at state agencies, which led to externships for college credit. “Florida State College of Law had a significant impact on my business and legal career,” Rich said. “This is a worthwhile thing to return the favor.”

A lifetime Orlando resident, Rich served as attorney for the city of Orlando. He was appointed by Gov. Lawton Chiles in 1992 to the Orlando County Expressway Authority and served as its chairman for seven years. He also is active in a number of community and professional organizations.
Negrón Appointed to National Post as Legal Advocate for Public Schools

The National School Board Association has selected 1991 College of Law graduate Francisco M. Negrón Jr. as its new associate executive director and general counsel. The NSBA is a not-for-profit federation of state school board associations, which represents 95,000 local school board members throughout the United States. In addition to overseeing the association’s corporate legal work, Negrón will lead the NSBA’s nationally recognized legal advocacy program and 3,000-member Council of School Attorneys.

“I am honored by the opportunity to serve as a national legal advocate for our country’s public schools, and thrilled at the prospect of contributing to the national debate on public education, especially before the U.S. Supreme Court,” Negrón said.

Negrón previously served as general counsel for the State Education Office of the District of Columbia. Before moving to D.C., he held the same position with the Escambia County School Board in Pensacola, Fla., where he successfully represented the school board in The Intervention Group v. School Board of Escambia. In that case, the court of appeals upheld the school board’s action to revoke the charter of a school endangering students.

“We are indeed fortunate to have Mr. Negrón on board, as he brings a wealth of practical experience from his previous work as general counsel to a state education agency and a local school district, and as staff counsel for a state teacher’s union,” said NSBA executive director Anne Bryant.

Negrón graduated from the University of West Florida with a bachelor’s degree in international studies. He is a member of the District of Columbia and Florida bars, and was president and co-founder of the Tallahassee Hispanic Bar Association. As a member of the Escambia-Santa Rosa Bar Association and Law Week chair, Negrón organized a live, prime-time, televised town hall meeting in April 2002, which allowed local high school students to question experts on democracy and terrorism in the post-9/11 era. A model for other bar associations, the program is included on the American Bar Association’s Web site and earned him the George Washington Honor Medal from the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge.

Negrón attributes much of his success to the education he received at FSU. “I’m proud of the legal training I received at Florida State and the guidance I enjoyed from mentors and role models like (former) Professor Meg Baldwin,” says Negrón.
Recognitions

1969

H. Lawrence Hardy, Of Counsel at the Tallahassee office of George, Hartz, Lundeena, Fulmer, Johnstone, King & Stevens, was inducted into the American Board of Trial Advocates, whose members are elected based on high personal character, honorable reputation and proficiency as a trial lawyer.

1970

Marsha L. Lyons was elected membership chair of the Tallahassee Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates at the organization’s April meeting.

Jerome M. Novey of Novey, Mendelson & Adamson was included in The Best Lawyers in America in the area of family law. He can be reached at 851 E. Park Ave., Tallahassee, Fla. 32301; Tel., 850-224-2000; e-mail, JNOVEY@NMALAW.COM.

Jim Spalla of the Law Firm of A.J. Spalla was named one of Florida’s Legal Elite by Florida Trend magazine. He can be reached at 201 S. Monroe St., Suite 500, Tallahassee, Fla. 32302; Tel., 850-224-4361.

George L. Waas, special counsel to the attorney general of Florida, has been selected for biography inclusion in the 60th Diamond Anniversary edition of Marquis Who’s Who in America.

Ben Wilkinson of Pennington, Moore, Wilkinson, Bell & Dunbar was selected as a Top Florida Lawyer in America 2006 based on a peer review survey.

1971

Thomas G. Pelham has been elected to the executive council of the American Bar Association State and Local Government Law Section. He authored “The Local Comprehensive Plan as Law: Some Lessons from Florida,” in Planning Reform in the New Century, a book published in 2005 by the American Planning Association. He also was a speaker on the topic of coastal planning and regulation in Florida at the Second Louisiana State University Presidents’ Forum on Meeting Coastal Challenges in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, in March 2006. He practices environmental and land use law at Fowler White Boggs Banker in Tallahassee.

Lee Willis of Ausley & McMullen in Tallahassee is listed among the Best Lawyers in America 2006 based on a peer review survey.

1972

Peter Dunbar of Pennington, Moore, Wilkinson, Bell & Dunbar was selected as a Top Florida Lawyer in Florida Trend magazine’s 2005 Legal Elite issue.

Kim C. Hammond, circuit court judge for the Seventh Judicial Circuit, is being honored by Flagler County, which has named the county’s new courthouse after him. The Kim C. Hammond Justice Center is expected to be completed in summer 2007.

Steve Shackelford and his wife Carolyn celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in April with a family dinner, a trip to Callaway Gardens, Ga., and are planning a cruise this summer to Alaska.

Gary Williams of Ausley & McMullen in Tallahassee is listed among the Best Lawyers in America 2006 based on a peer review survey.

1973

William W. Corry of the Law Offices of William W. Corry has been certified as a member of the Million Dollar Advocates Forum. He recently was a panelist and presenter for the National Center for Victims of Crime at its Civil Justice for Victims of Crime seminar and training session for victim advocates and service providers.


Harold M. Knowles’ law firm, Knowles & Randolph, has moved to 3065 Highland Oaks Terrace, Tallahassee, Fla. 32301.

Molly J. Tasker spent October and November of 2005 in Baghdad, where she was working as a contract consultant with the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Regime Crimes Liaison Office, supporting the Iraqi High Tribunal, which is hearing the war crimes trials of Saddam Hussein and other ranking officials of the former regime of Iraq. She can be reached at Tasker and Stephens, P.O. Box 98, Melbourne, Fla. 32902.

W.S. “Spider” Webb Jr., president of Office Systems Consultants, was elected as a member of the Canon Dealer Council, which comprises only six Canon Image Filing Systems dealers in the nation.

1974

James D. Beasley of Ausley & McMullen in Tallahassee is listed among the Best Lawyers in America 2006 based on a peer review survey.

Melvin Burruss received the Dr. Jerome H. Holland Power of Humanity Award from the American Red Cross. The award is given to honorees from various fields who reflect the accomplishments of Holland, the first African-American president of the organization, as an athlete, educator and diplomat. Burrruss is an attorney with the New York State Insurance Department. He lives in Peekskill, N.Y.

Thomas F. Lang has joined the firm of Shuffield, Lowman & Wilson as Of Counsel. He practices in the areas of public finance law,
bond finance, corporate law, commercial law, local government law, sports law and entertainment law. He can be reached at 1000 Legion Place, Suite 1700, Orlando, Fla. 32801; Tel., 407-581-9800; e-mail, ucfom@aol.com.

Nancy G. Linnan, a shareholder in Carlton Field's Tallahassee office, was elected to the firm's 2006 board of directors.

Robert A. Pierce of Ausley & McMullen in Tallahassee is listed among the Best Lawyers in America 2006 based on a peer review survey.

Roosevelt Randolph's law firm, Knowles & Randolph, has moved to 3065 Highland Oaks Terrace, Tallahassee, Fla. 32301.

Bruce Michael Stone's law firm, Goldman Felcoski & Stone, has moved to 95 Merrick Way, Suite 440, Coral Gables, Fla. 33134; Tel., 305-446-2800; e-mail, bstone@gfes-tatelaw.com.

George E. Tragos was selected for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America 2006 under the categories of non-white-collar criminal defense and white-collar criminal defense. He is the only lawyer in Pinellas County to be chosen for this honor. He also chairs The Florida Bar Criminal Procedures Rules Committee. He can be reached at 600 Cleveland St., Suite 700, Clearwater, Fla. 33755; Tel., 727-441-9030; e-mail, greek.law@verizon.net.

Sidney L. Matthew was voted president-elect at the April meeting of the Tallahassee Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates.

Jane Rigler has retired from teaching law and has been named Professor of Law Emerita at the Dickinson School of Law at Pennsylvania State University. She also works as a labor arbitrator and mediator. She can be reached at 150 S. College St., Carlisle, Pa. 17013; Tel., 717-240-5266; e-mail, jxr47@psu.edu.

David Miller of the Tallahassee office of Broad and Cassel has been elected to the board of directors of Workforce Plus in Tallahassee.

Nikki Clark, a judge with the Second Judicial Circuit in Tallahassee, has been chosen presiding judge in the newly created Unified Family Court in Tallahassee. The court opened in February 2006.

William H. Davis has begun his term as president of The Florida Bar Foundation. He practices in the areas of civil, criminal and administrative litigation at the Tallahassee firm of Messer, Caparello & Self.

Charles W. Dodson was named Lawyer of the Year by the Tallahassee Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates.

Robert D. Mendelson of Noye, Mendelson & Adamson has been included in Best Lawyers in America 2006. He practices in the areas of commercial real property transactions, estate planning, probate and business transactions.

John Newton, senior assistant attorney with the Florida Attorney General's Office in Tallahassee, has been accepted as a Master Lawyer in William H. Stafford Inn of Court. He also was appointed to the Second Judicial Circuit Grievance Committee.

Jose Rodriguez was honored with Orlando's Hispanic Chamber of Commerce's 2005 Don Quijote Award of Excellence. He also received the Martin Luther King Jr. Drum Major Award for Civic Affairs from the Juvenile Drug Treatment Courts for his community work in Hispanic cancer education. He is a judge in the Ninth Judicial Circuit, 2000 E. Michigan St., Orlando, Fla. 32806; Tel., 407-836-0417.

1975

Philip Blank of the Tallahassee firm of Blank, Meenan & Duphy has been appointed to the Civic Center Authority by the Leon County Board of County Commissioners.

James B. Fensom became the tenth circuit judge in Bay County in December when he was appointed by Gov. Jeb Bush. He can be reached at the Bay County Juvenile Justice Courthouse, 533 E. 11th St., Panama City, Fla. 32401; Tel., 850-914-6485.

Kenneth R. Hart of Ausley & McMullen in Tallahassee is listed among the Best Lawyers in America 2006 based on a peer review survey.

1976

1977

1978

Paul Amundson of Amundsen & Gillroy gave a presentation titled “Consent Decrees Under the Clean Air Act.”

Ana Tangel-Rodriguez was one of four women presented with the 2005 Summit Award for leadership and contributions to the Orlando community.

Teresa J. Sopp has been elected to a second term for 2006-2007 as president of the Nassau County Bar Association. She can be reached at 96124 Lofton Square Court, Yulee, Fla. 32097; Tel., 904-277-2737; e-mail, tjsopp@crimlawyer.com.

1979

Peter Antonacci, a shareholder with the firm of GrayRobinson, has been appointed to the Northwest Florida Water Management District. His term began in March 2006 and will end in March 2008. He concentrates his practice in the areas of white-collar defense, governmental lobbying, civil litigation and administrative law.

Robert Routa, who practices in the area of environmental and land use law in Tallahassee, has been elected to the board of directors of Workforce Plus.

Alaine S. Williams was named by Philadelphia Magazine as one of the Top Female Super Lawyers in the state of Pennsylvania and as one of the state’s Super Lawyers overall. She is a partner in the firm of Willig, Williams & Davidson, where she has practiced union side labor law for 25 years.

We Need Your Help

Please take a moment to log in to the Florida State University College of Law Alumni Directory Web site, www.law.fsu.edu/alumni/directory, 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.
1980

Hywel Leonard, a shareholder of Carlton Fields, was elected treasurer of the firm’s 2006 board of directors.

Ralph Peterson of the firm of Beggs & Lane was chosen as one of Florida Trend magazine’s Legal Elite. He can be reached at P.O. Box 12950, Pensacola, Fla. 32576-2950; Tel., 850-432-2451; e-mail, rap@beggslane.com.

1981

Stephen G. Charpentier of Childress and Charpentier has been sworn in as president of the Brevard County Bar Association for 2005-2006. He can be reached at 2285 W. Eau Gallie Blvd., Melbourne, Fla. 32935; Tel. 321-308-8020; e-mail, steve@brevardlawyer.com.

Dean LeBoeuf received special recognition at the April meeting of the Tallahassee Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates for his law firm’s 2005 Christmas fundraising efforts for Stand Up for America.

Jim Towey has been named the 16th president of the 160-year-old Benedictine Saint Vincent College, effective July 1, 2006. He has been assistant to the president of the United States since February 2002 and directed the Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives.

Thornton Williams of Williams Wilson & Sexton has been elected vice chair of the Tallahassee Downtown Improvement Authority Board. He and his law partner, Mel Wilson, ’84, were the focus of the cover story in the April issue of Florida Transportation Monthly magazine.

1982

Anthony “Tony” DiResta has been named a partner in the Regulatory Litigation Group at Reed Smith. He can be reached at 1301 K. St. Northwest, Suite 1100, East Tower, Washington, D.C. 20005.

Lesley J. Friedsam, a partner in the firm of Levine Hirsch Segall MacKenzie & Friedsam in Tampa, was married to Peter Damisch on February 19, 2006, on the sub-Antarctic island of South Georgia. She eventually will move her divorce law practice to Marina del Rey, Calif., where she and her husband own a home. In anticipation of the move, she passed the California Bar Exam in July 2005.

Louis ”Buck” Vocelle Jr. and his family were honored by the Vero Beach Heritage Center as a Pioneer Indian River County Family. He can be reached at Clem, Polackwich, Vocelle & Berg, 3333 20th St., Vero Beach, Fla. 32960; Tel., 772-562-8111 ext. 101; e-mail, BVocelle@cpvlaw.com.

1983

Craig A. Dennis was elected president of the Tallahassee Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates at its April meeting.

Erin Lydia McLaughlin has joined the Office of the General Counsel, Department of Corrections, as an assistant general counsel. She can be reached at 2601 Blair Stone Road, Tallahassee, Fla. 32399; Tel., 850-488-2326; e-mail, McLaughlin.Erin@mail.dc.state.fl.us.

Cari L. Roth was appointed by Gov. Jeb Bush to serve a four-year term on the state’s Environmental Regulation Commission. She practices law at Bryant Miller & Olive and chairs the firm’s land use and governmental consulting practice areas.

Tom Scarritt of Scarritt Law Group was a featured speaker at the February Ethics Seminar in Tampa. He spoke on the purpose and function of the Florida Commission on Ethics and the Hillsborough County Judicial Campaign Practices Committee. He serves as chairman of both.

1984

Cody F. Davis has written a new legal thriller titled Green 61. The novel was published by Little Moose Press. He is a partner in the Tampa firm of Davis Harmon. He can be reached at 110 N. 11th St., Second Floor, Tampa, Fla. 33602; Tel., 813-222-3600.

Randy Hanna, managing shareholder of Bryant Miller & Olive, announced that the firm has relocated to 101 N. Monroe St., Suite 900, Monroe Park Towers Building, Tallahassee, Fla. 32301. He has been named to the Leadership Tallahassee’s 2005-2006 board of governors.

Joshua A. Whitman was appointed to the national board of directors of the American Board of Trial Advocates and elected treasurer of the Florida Chapters of ABOTA. He is a civil trial lawyer with Milton, Leach, Whitman, D’Andrea, Charek & Milton. He can be reached at 815 S. Main St., Suite 200, Jacksonville, Fla. 32207.

Mel Wilson of Williams Wilson & Sexton and his law partner, Thornton Williams, ’81, were the cover story in the April issue of Florida Transportation Monthly magazine.

1985

Jeffrey M. Fleming was appointed by Gov. Jeb Bush to the Ninth Judicial Circuit Court. He can be reached at Orange County Courthouse, 425 N. Orange Ave., Room 425, Orlando, Fla. 32801; Tel., 407-836-2312; e-mail, ctijujf1@ochjcc.org.

Samuel P. King, a partner in the firm of Dellecker, Wilson, King, McKenna & Ruffier, has been reaffirmed as AV-Rated by Martindale-Hubbell. His practice focuses on personal injury, wrongful death, automobile accidents, medical malpractice, nursing home negligence, defective products, premises liability, insurance company bad faith and business torts.

Mary Jo Peed has been named vice president and associate general counsel for commercial operations at BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. She can be reached at 875 W. Peachtree St., Suite 4300, Atlanta, Ga. 30309; Tel., 404-335-0705; e-mail, mary.peed@bellsouth.com.

1986

Robert N. Clarke Jr. of Ausley & McMullen in Tallahassee is listed among the Best Lawyers in America 2006 based on a peer review survey. He also is listed as one of Florida’s Legal Elite in Florida Trend magazine.

Andy Dogali of Forizs & Dogali was elected president of the board of directors of the Faces of Courage Foundation for 2006.
Bill Garvin of The Garvin Law Firm in Tallahassee was elected to the board of directors of the Tallahassee Kiwanis Club.

Marshall Gordon Geisser’s firm, Personal Injury Trial Group, has a new address. He can be reached at 3521 W. Broward Blvd., Suite 208, Fort Lauderdale, Fla. 33312; Tel., 954-523-4357; e-mail, mgeisser@pitrialgroup.com.

Ennis Leon Jacobs Jr. has opened the firm of Williams Jacobs & Associates. He can be reached at 1720 S. Gadsden St., MS 14, Tallahassee, Fla. 32301; Tel., 850-222-1247; e-mail, ljacobs50@comcast.net.

Kathy J. Maus was named a national director of the 22,000-member DRI—The Voice of the Defense Bar, the nation’s largest civil defense organization. She is a partner in the Tallahassee firm of Butler Pappas and is active in the firm’s bad faith, casualty and first- and third-party insurance coverage practices.

Stephan A. Pendorf has joined the law firm of Akerman Senterfitt in West Palm Beach. You can reach him at 222 Lakeview Ave., Suite 400, West Palm Beach, Fla. 33401; Tel. 561-653-5000; e-mail, Stephan.pendorf@akerman.com.

Floyd Self of Messer, Caparelo & Self in Tallahassee has been named to the 2005-2006 board of governors of Leadership Tallahassee.

Frank E. Brown has joined MacFarlane Ferguston & McMullen in Tampa and can be reached at One Tampa Center, 201 N. Franklin St., Suite 2000, Tampa, Fla. 33602; Tel., 813-273-4200.

Mallory D. Cooper was appointed to the new circuit court judgeship for the Fourth Judicial Circuit. She can be reached at Duval County, Fourth Judicial Circuit, 330 E. Bay St., Room 300, Jacksonville, Fl. 32202; Tel., 904-630-7154; e-mail, mcooper@coj.net.

1987

1988

Stephen S. Dobson III of Dobson, Kitchen & Smith is listed as one of Florida’s top lawyers for the second consecutive year in Florida Trend magazine’s Legal Elite issue.

Judge Cynthia G. Imperato participated in a training session in Tampa for the chairpersons of the judicial nominating commissions throughout Florida. She was a panelist for the Young Lawyer Section of The Florida Bar’s “Practicing with Professionalism Seminar.”

Send Us Your News

From all surveys, the most avidly read section of the FSU Law magazine 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 as a lead singer in a band?

If you have anything that you would like to include in Class Action, please send your name, class year, phone number, e-mail address, and information to aluminfo@law.fsu.edu or mail this form to:
The Florida State University College of Law Office of Development and Alumni Relations Tallahassee, FL 32306-1601
Michael Jackson, the district attorney in Selma, Ala., received the Trailblazer Award from U.S. Congressman Artur Davis in Washington, D.C., in September. He can be reached at Michael.Jackson@lada.gov.

Alex Villalobos has joined the firm of Akerman Senterfitt as Of Counsel in the firm’s Miami office. He is in the policy group, bond group and land-use practice. He currently is a member of the Florida Senate.

Harriet Williams, general master at the Leon County Courthouse, has been named to the 2005-2006 board of governors of Leadership Tallahassee.

1989

Leonard J. Dietzen III has joined the Tallahassee office of Rumberger, Kirk & Caldwell as partner. He practices civil litigation.

Pablo Meles is with the firm of Akerman Senterfitt in Fort Lauderdale. You can reach him at 350 E. Las Olas Blvd., Suite 1600, Fort Lauderdale, Fla. 33301; Tel., 954-759-8959; e-mail, pablo.meles@akerman.com.

Glenda Thornton of Foley & Lardner in Tallahassee has been elected to the board of directors of Workforce Plus.

1990

Faye Lynette Allen was appointed a judge in the Ninth Judicial Circuit in October. She can be reached at 425 N. Orange Ave., Suite 820, Orlando, Fla. 32801; Tel., 407-836-2257.

Rafael Gonzalez of Barrs, Williamson, Stolberg, Townsend and Gonzalez in Tampa has published a book titled Workers’ Compensation and Politics in Florida: A Compilation of Articles Studying Florida’s Most Recent Legislative Changes.

Michael Jay Hauversburk was appointed by Gov. Jeb Bush to serve as a county judge for Bay County.

J. Jeffry Wahlen was appointed by the Florida Supreme Court to serve on the Florida Board of Bar Examiners. He is a shareholder at Ausley & McMullen and attorney for the Leon County School Board. He also is among the attorneys who draft questions and grade essays on The Florida Bar exam. He can be reached at P.O. Box 391, Tallahassee, Fla. 32302; Tel., 850-224-9115.

1991

Nina Ashenafi, an attorney for the Florida Education Association, was honored by Leadership Tallahassee with the Pacesetter Award during the 2006 Distinguished Leadership Award ceremony. The organization recognized her for the pro bono work she provides the Legal Aid Society.

Tammy deSoto Cicchetti was selected as the National Businessperson of the Year for the State of Florida by the President of the United States National Business Advisory Council. She also serves as co-chair for the State of Florida for the organization and provides advice to the leadership as an appointed member of the United States Presidential Business Commission.

Jo Ann Barone Kotzen was featured in an A&E television special on women who run all-female law offices. She can be reached at 224 Datura St., Suite 1300, West Palm Beach, Fla. 33401; Tel., 561-833-4399; e-mail, jbkotzen@aol.com.

Francisco Negrón has been selected as the associate executive director and general counsel for the National School Boards Association. He will oversee the association’s corporate legal work and provide leadership for its legal advocacy program and 3,000-member Council of School Attorneys. He can be reached at 1680 Duke St., Alexandria, Va. 22314-3493; Tel., 703-838-6710; e-mail, FNe- gron@nsba.org.

Jorge del Valle has joined Turnberry Associates, where he practices real estate law. You can reach him at 19501 Biscayne Blvd., Suite 400, Aventura, Fla. 33180; Tel., 305-937-6200.

Chris Rodems’ law firm, Barker, Rodems & Cook, has relocated to 400 N. Ashley Drive, Suite 2100, Tampa, Fla. 33602; Tel., 813-489-1001. He represents clients in class actions arising under ERISA and the Florida Deceptive and Unfair Trade Practices Act.

Sally Still, a member of Christine D. Hanley & Associates, recently was named to the editorial advisory board of Thompson Publishing Group’s publication, The Employer’s Guide to Fair Labor Standard’s Act. She can be reached at 1000 Southern Blvd., 2nd Floor, West Palm Beach, Fla. 33405; Tel., 561-659-1260.

1992

Daniel Te Young has joined the construction law firm of Vezina, Lawrence & Piscitelli as a shareholder. He can be reached at 350 E. Las Olas Blvd., Suite 1130, Fort Lauderdale, Fla. 33301; Tel., 954-728-1270; e-mail, dyoung@vlplaw.com.

John P. Murray of Wagar Murray & Feit will be installed in June as president-elect of the 4,000-member Dade County Bar Association. He can be reached at 3250 Mary St., Suite 302, Miami, Fla. 33133; Tel., 305-443-7772; e-mail, JMURRAY@COMPUSOURCE.NET.

1993

Victoria Heuler has joined the firm of McConnaughay, Duffy, Coonrod, Pope & Weaver in Tallahassee, where she practices in the area of elder law and focuses primarily on guardianship and capacity.

Jason Lazarus is a certified structured settlement consultant and president of Millennium Settlements, which specializes exclusively in advising personal injury victims. He also is Of Counsel and a founding member of Attorneys Settlement Law Group. He can be reached at 4767 New Broad St., Orlando, Fla. 32814; Tel., 407-977-3387; jlazarus@mille-niumsettlements.com.

Michael A. Novo has joined Baptist Health South Florida. He can be reached at 6855 Southwest 57th Ave., Suite 500, Coral Gables, Fla. 33143; Tel., 786-662-7022; e-mail, mnovo@miami.edu.

George Sarduy will be installed as a County Court Judge for Miami-Dade County in June. He can be reached at 1137 Alhambra Circle, Coral Gables, Fla. 33134.

1994

Neibra Collins has joined the Pittman Law Group in Tallahassee. She focuses on marital and family law, probate and guardianship, personal
injury and general civil law. She can be reached at 528 E. Park Ave., Tallahassee, Fla. 32301; Tel., 850-216-1002; e-mail, neibra@pittman-law.com.

Marc W. Dunbar of Pennington, Moore, Wilkinson, Bell & Dunbar was selected as a Top Florida Lawyer in Florida Trend magazine’s Legal Elite issue.

Matthew K. Foster, a partner with the law firm of Brooks, LeBoeuf, Bennett, Foster & Gwaltney, has been appointed to a three-year term on The Florida Bar’s Grievance Committee.

1995

Linda G. Bond has joined the Tallahassee office of Rumberger, Kirk & Caldwell, where she practices civil litigation. She can be reached at 215 S. Monroe St., Suite 130, Tallahassee, Fla. 32301; Tel., 850-222-6550; e-mail, lbond@rumberger.com.

Nicola A. Boothe-Perry has joined the Florida A&M University College of Law in Orlando as an associate professor. She also is affiliated with Zimmerman, Kiser & Sutcliffe. She can be reached at 407-254-3268.

Damian Mark Fletcher has joined Gordon Hargrove & James, where he focuses on general civil litigation, medical malpractice and commercial and personal injury litigation. He can be reached at 2400 E. Commercial Blvd., Suite 1100, Fort Lauderdale, Fla. 33308; Tel., 954-958-1583; e-mail, dflletcher@haliczerpettis.com.

Shannon B. Hartsfield, a partner with Holland & Knight in Tallahassee, is listed in the inaugural Guide to the Leading U.S. Healthcare Lawyers, published by Legal Media Group.

Marlon A. Hill was recognized by Success South Florida magazine in the Black Power issue as one of the most influential black professionals in South Florida. Honorees were recognized for their professional excellence, extraordinary corporate citizenship and regional influence. He is with the law firm of Delancyhill and can be reached at 200 S. Biscayne Blvd., Suite 2750, Miami, Fla. 33186; Tel., 786-777-0184; e-mail, mhill@delancyhill.com.

Jennifer (Johnson Watkins) Seraphine of Jones Day has transferred from the firm’s New York office to the San Francisco office.

She continues to practice intellectual property litigation, with an emphasis on complex patent litigation. She can be reached at 555 California St., 26th Floor, San Francisco, Calif. 94104; email, jseraphine@jonesday.com.

Phyllis Smith has joined the Florida A&M University College of Law as an associate professor. She can be reached at One N. Orange Ave., Orlando, Fla. 32801; e-mail, phyllis.smith@famu.edu.

Francisco Javier Vinas has formed the firm of Bryan & Vinas. He can be reached at 90 Amleria Ave., Suite 200, Coral Gables, Fla. 33134; Tel., 305-372-3650; e-mail, irank@bryanvinaslaw.com.

Stephanie Williams, associate dean for administration at the FSU College of Law, has been named to Leadership Tallahassee’s 2005-2006 board of governors.

1996

Theodore A. Avellone has joined the firm of Coppins Monroe Adkins Dinman & Spellman in Tallahassee as an associate specializing in commercial and civil litigation.

Jason McGrath was named partner and managing partner in McIntosh, Sawran, Peltz & Cartaya’s West Palm Beach office, where he specializes in medical malpractice and general liability litigation. He can be reached at 625 N. Flagler Drive, Suite 502, West Palm Beach, Fla. 33401; Tel., 561-655-7520; e-mail, JMG McGrath@mspcesq.com.

Leo Rydzewski was named a partner in the Washington, D.C., office of Holland & Knight. He is a member of the firm’s litigation section and concentrates his practice in the areas of intellectual property, media and real estate litigation. He can be reached at 2099 Pennsylvania Ave., Suite 100, Washington, D.C. 20006; Tel., 202-944-3000.

Craig D. Varn has joined the firm of Fowler White Boggs Banker as a shareholder. He practices environmental and land use law, administrative and governmental law and transportation law.

1997

Jeremy E. Cohen is practicing in the areas of personal injury, family law, criminal defense and trial practice at Black & Cohen in Tallahassee. He can be reached at 4015 Centre Point Blvd., Suite 103, Tallahassee, Fla. 32308; Tel., 850-907-9700; e-mail, Jeremy Cohen_attorney_at_law@yahoo.com.

1998

Kurtis Bauerle’s firm, Harris, Harris, Bauerle & Sharma, has relocated its office to 1201 E. Robinson St., Orlando, Fla. 32801; Tel., 407-843-0404.

Jaret Fuente was elected shareholder at Carlton Fields in Tampa, where he practices personal injury, wrongful death and products liability defense. He can be reached at 4221 W. Boy Scout Blvd., Suite 1000, Tampa, Fla. 33607; Tel., 813-223-7000; e-mail, jfuente@carltonfields.com.

Todd McClelland was elected a partner at Alton & Bird in Atlanta. He can be reached at 1201 W. Peachtree St., Atlanta, Ga. 30309.

George A. Smith Jr. has been named a shareholder in the firm of Bryant Miller & Olive. He practices in the areas of public finance and affordable housing. His volunteer activities include work for the American Red Cross, Ronald McDonald House and Take Stock in Children. He can be reached at 101 S. Monroe St., Suite 900, Tallahassee, Fla. 32301; Tel., 850-222-8611; e-mail, gsmith@bmolaw.com.

Matthew R. Willard has created the law firm of Matthew R. Willard, where he concentrates in the area of criminal defense. He also is engaged to Lisa M. Hurley, a law school classmate. He can be reached at 111 N. Calhoun St., Tallahassee, Fla. 32312; Tel., 850-224-2001; e-mail, mattlaw@tmo.blackberry.net.

1999

Christy L. Bigelow has joined the firm of Thomas Kennedy Sampson & Patterson at 3355 Main St., Atlanta, Ga. 30337.

Shannon L. Novey has joined the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corp. and can be reached at 1200 K St. Northwest, Washington, D.C. 20005.

D. Scott South has been elected a partner at Lowndes Drosdick Doster Kantor & Reed in Orlando. He practices in the areas of mergers and acquisitions, real estate transactions, development and finance and corporate and real estate transactions.
securities. He also serves on the board of directors for Habitat for Humanity of Orlando.

Byron C. Starcher has joined the firm of Nelson Mullins as an associate specializing in practice areas of bankruptcy and creditors’ rights, business litigation, financial institutions and public finance. He can be reached at 399 Peachtree Street N.E., Suite 1400, Atlanta, Ga. 30309; Tel., 404-817-6135; e-mail, byron.starcher@nelsonmullins.com. He is co-editor of Preference Quarterly Law Journal.

2000

Rosalyn Sia Baker-Barnes was selected as one of South Florida’s “40 Most Influential and Prominent Black Professionals Under Age 40” by Success South Florida magazine. Individuals were selected for excellence in professional achievement and community service. She is with the law firm of Searcy Denney Scardola Barnhart & Shipley in West Palm Beach. She specializes in personal injury, medical malpractice and wrongful death litigation.

Bruce Edward Kuhse has joined the Office of Financial Regulation at 200 E. Gaines St., Suite 526, Tallahassee, Fla. 32399; Tel., 850-410-9896; e-mail, bruce.kuhse@fldfs.com.

Anthony B. Miller is an adjunct instructor at Tallahassee Community College for the spring semester in the area of constitutional law. He is an assistant general counsel with the Department of Management Services, where he represents the agency in various litigation matters and advises the agency in areas of real property management, building construction and contracts. He can be reached at 4050 Esplanade Way, Suite 160, Tallahassee, Fla. 32302; Tel., 850-576-4100; e-mail, rpe.elsontlawfirm@hotmail.com.

2001

Robert P. Elson has opened The Elson Law Firm, where he specializes in the areas of DUI, criminal defense and civil litigation. His new office is located at 241-A E. 6th Ave., Tallahassee, Fla. 32302; Tel., 850-576-4100; e-mail, rpe.elsontlawfirm@hotmail.com.

Michael R. Lennon has joined the Office of the State Attorney, 13th Judicial Circuit. He can be reached at 800 E. Kennedy Blvd., Tampa, Fla. 33602; e-mail, michaelrlennon@hotmail.com.

2002

J. Breck Brannen of Pennington, Moore, Wilkinson, Bell & Dunbar was honored by Florida Legal Services Inc. for his volunteer services in helping the organization to purchase its first headquarters in Tallahassee.

Jason Kellogg has joined the firm of Hogan & Hartson in Miami. He can be reached at 111 Brickell Ave., Suite 1900, Miami, Fla. 33131; Tel., 305-459-6500; e-mail, JKellogg@HHHLAW.com.

Carlos Moore has opened his own law practice, Moore Law Office. He can be reached at his new office, 2026 S. Commerce St., Suite 5, P.O. Box 1402, Grenada, Miss. 38902; Tel., 662-227-9940; e-mail, moorelawoffice@bellsouth.net.

Tommie Dewayne Pearson’s first novel, Love at Second Sight, is available on Amazon.com. It’s a romantic comedy chronicling the pitfalls of dating set against the backdrop of law school in Florida. She can be reached at 803-419-7561; e-mail, dewaynepearson@hotmail.com.

2003

Diane M. Barnes has joined the firm of Butler Pappas Wehmuller Katz Craig as an associate, practicing primarily in defense of first-party property insurance coverage. She can be reached at One Harbour Place, Suite 500, 777 S. Harbour Island Blvd., Tampa, Fla. 33602; Tel., 813-281-1900; e-mail, dbarnes@butlerpappas.com.

J.R. “Rob” Boyd Jr. was elected vice chair of the Local Board of Attorneys Committee during the convention of the Florida Association Board of Realtors. He is with the firm of Lindsey & Sliger, which serves as general counsel to the Tallahassee Board of Realtors.

Anthony G. Davis has opened the Law Firm of Anthony Davis. He can be reached at 5150 Old National Highway, Suite A, College Park, Ga. 30349; Tel., 866-404-4529; e-mail, agdavislaw@hotmail.com.

Shawn Demers has joined the firm of Greene & Lee. He can be reached at 111 N. Orange Ave., Suite 1450, Orlando, Fla. 32801; Tel., 407-648-1700; e-mail, fsulaw03@msn.com.

Christian M. Givens has joined the divorce litigation firm of Knox & Givens in Hyde Park, Fla. He represents clients in military divorce, paternity, child custody and criminal defense matters, as well as practice mediation. He can be reached at 607 W. Horatio St., Tampa, Fla. 33606.

Martin M. Randall has joined the firm of Judkins Simpson Hiff & Villeneuve. He can be reached at 1102 Gadsden St., Tallahassee, Fla. 32303; Tel., 850-222-6040; e-mail, mrrandall@yahoo.com.

Steve Rapp has joined the firm of Weinberg, Wheeler, Hudgins, Gunn & Dial, and can be reached at 950 E. Paces Ferry Road, Suite 3000, Atlanta, Ga. 30326; Tel., 404-832-9522.

Michael Ruff has joined the Department of Financial Services at 200 E. Gaines St., Tallahassee, Fla. 32399; Tel., 850-413-4283.
2004

Brandon Banks and his wife Lisa welcomed their first child Madeline in April 2005. He is with Akerman Senterfitt and can be reached at 420 S. Orange Ave., Suite 1200, Orlando, Fla. 32801; Tel., 407-419-8591; e-mail, Brandon.banks@akerman.com.

Aaron Bates has joined Mirabilis Venture, Inc., a mergers and acquisitions corporation in Orlando. He can be reached at 140 2nd Ave., Grove Hill, Ala. 36451; e-mail, acbates22@comcast.net.

Mark Bonfanti of Allen, Norman & Blue completed the 2006 Walt Disney World Marathon. He and Jason Val, ’05, raised $5,000 for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. You can reach him at Allen, Norton & Blue, 906 N. Monroe St., Suite 100, Tallahassee, Fla. 32303; Tel., 850-562-3503; e-mail, mbonfant@anblaw.com.

Jennifer B. Boucher has joined the Office of the Attorney General Children’s Legal Services Division as an assistant attorney general. She can be reached at 501 E. Kennedy Blvd., Suite 1100, Tampa, Fla. 33602; Tel., 813-272-0407; e-mail, Jennifer_Boucher@oag.state.fl.us.

Kathleen Guilfoyle of the Guilfoyle Law Firm concentrates her practice on real estate law and estate planning in Illinois. She can be reached at 1316 Meriden St., Mendota, Ill. 61342.

Robin Myers has been named an assistant state attorney for the Second Judicial Court in Quincy.

Benjamin A. Odom has joined the International Speedway Corporation. He can be reached at 940 Village Trail, Apt. 2-302, Port Orange, Fla. 32127; Tel., 386-681-5793; e-mail, bodom@lsmotorsports.com.

Brent T. Zimmerman has joined the firm of Smith, Gambrell & Russell. He can be reached at 50 N. Laura St., Suite 2600, Jacksonville, Fla. 32202; Tel., 904-598-6138; e-mail, bzimmerman@sgrlaw.com.

Richard M. Benham has started his own practice, Benham Law Firm. He can be reached at 2910 Kerry Forest Parkway, Suite D4-345, Tallahassee, Fla. 32309; Tel., 850-321-9612; e-mail, rbenham@aol.com.

Rebecca J. Bonfanti has accepted the position of director of alumni affairs and advancement at the Florida State University College of Business in Tallahassee.

Michael D. Cerasa has joined the firm of Rumberger, Kirk & Caldwell in Orlando. He can be reached at 300 S. Orange Ave., Suite 1400, Orlando, Fla. 32801.

David W. Childs has joined Hopping Green & Sams, where he practices in the areas of environmental law, submerged lands and intellectual property law. He can be reached at 123 S. Calhoun St., Tallahassee, Fla. 32301; Tel., 850-222-7500; e-mail, dchilds@hgslaw.com.

Alexia L. Cox has joined the Office of the State Attorney, Fifteenth Judicial Circuit, as an assistant state attorney. She can be reached at 401 N. Dixie Hwy., West Palm Beach, Fla. 33401; Tel., 561-355-7100; e-mail, acox@sa15.state.fl.us.

Ashley Dickson has joined The Law Office of Brian C. Keri at 1695-2 Metropolitan Blvd., Tallahassee, Fla. 32312; Tel., 850-297-2222; e-mail, Ashley.dickson@earthlink.net.

Todd Engelhardt has joined Akerman Senterfitt as an associate in the Tallahassee office’s Litigation Group.

Edith L. Escalona has joined First American Title Insurance Co. as associate regional counsel, where she focuses on regulatory compliance, acquisitions and corporate governance. She works for the southeast region, which comprises nine states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. She can be reached at 2075 Centre Pointe Blvd., Tallahassee, Fla. 32312; Tel., 850-402-4101.

Robert A. Fleming has joined Ausley & McMullen as an associate. He practices civil litigation.

Leslie D. Gaines has joined the firm of Baker & Hostetler in its Orlando office. She can be reached at 200 S. Orange Ave., Suite 2300, Orlando, Fla. 32801; Tel., 407-649-4693; e-mail, lgaines@bakerlaw.com.

James Gentry has joined DeCubellis, Meeks & Uncapher as an associate. He can be reached at 837 N. Garland Ave., Orlando, Fla. 32801; Tel., 407-872-2200; e-mail, JGENTRY@DMULAW.COM.

Stephen K. Hachey has joined The Florida Default Law Group of the law firm of Echeverria, Codilis & Stawarski. He can be reached at 813-342-2200 ext. 3012; e-mail, shachey@defaultlawfl.com.

Kristopher Kest has joined the firm of Lowndes Drosdick Doster Kantor & Reed in Orlando, where he practices in the areas of real estate transactions, development and finance.

Erick David Langenbrunner has joined the firm of McLin & Burnsed, where he works on commercial real estate development projects for The Villages, a large retirement community near Ocala. He can be reached at P.O. Box 491357, Leesburg, Fla. 34749; Tel., 352-259-5016.

Kerry Louderback-Wood’s academic paper, “Jehovah’s Witnesses, Blood Transfusions, and the Tort of Misrepresentation,” which appears in the Journal of Church & State, was the subject of an article by the Associated Press and appeared in newspapers around the U.S., including The New York Times and The Washington Post. She is with the firm of Henderson Franklin, 1715 Monroe St., P.O. Box 280, Fort Myers, Fla. 33902; Tel., 239-344-1266; e-mail, kerry.louderbackwood@henlaw.com.

Lisa Nieuwveld has joined the firm of Van Mens & Wisselink at their Rotterdam, Netherlands office in the International Arbitration Section. She can be reached at Struisenburgdwarsslaat 234, 3063 BV Rotterdam, Netherlands; e-mail, Lnieuwveld@yahoo.com.

Beth Penny has joined Citizens Property Insurance Corporation in Jacksonville, Fla. She can be reached at 6676 Corporate Center Parkway, Jacksonville, Fla. 32218; Tel. 850-445-8127.

Breton H. Permesly has joined the firm of Johnson Pope Bokor Ruppel & Burns as an associate, practicing in the areas of intellectual property and commercial litigation. He can be reached at Tel., 813-225-2500; e-mail, bretonp@jpfirm.com.

Kirk Reams is a candidate for Clerk of the Court in Jefferson County. The primary will
be held in September. He can be reached by e-mail at kirkbradleyreams@gmail.com

Lisa C. Scoles has joined the firm of Radney Thomas Yon & Clark as an associate. Her practice focuses on energy, administrative and insurance law and commercial litigation.

Bradley Stark has joined the firm of Van Winkle, Buck, Wall, Starne & Davis in North Carolina. He can be reached at 11 N. Market St., P.O. Box 1531, Tampa, Fla. 33601; Tel., 813-273-4295; e-mail, Bstark66@hotmail.com.

Christa L. Sterling has joined the firm of Macfarlane Ferguson & McMullen, where she practices in the areas of tax and planning; wills, trust and estate planning; and business litigation. She can be reached at 201 N. Franklin St., Suite 100, P.O. Box 7376, Asheville, N.C. 28802; Tel., 828-258-2991; e-mail, Bstark66@hotmail.com.

Phillip Harold Taylor has joined the firm of Van Winkle, Buck, Wall, Starne & Davis in North Carolina. He can be reached at 11 N. Market St., P.O. Box 7376, Asheville, N.C. 28802; Tel., 828-258-2991; e-mail, Bstark66@hotmail.com.

Jason Vail of Allen, Norman & Blue completed the 2006 Walt Disney World Marathon. He and Mark Bonfanti, ’04, raised $5,000 for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. You can reach him at Allen, Norton & Blue, 906 N. Monroe St., Suite 100, Tallahassee, Fla. 32303; Tel., 850-562-3503; e-mail, jvail@anblaw.com.

Mark Vogt has joined the firm of Lang, Richert & Patch in Fresno, Calif. He can be reached at 5200 N. Palm Ave., Suite 401, Fresno, Calif. 93704; Tel., 559-228-6700; e-mail, mvogt@lrplaw.net.

In Memoriam

Thomas Eugene Bevis, ’72, who had served as a county judge in DeLand for 13 years, died of a rare form of cancer March 26, 2006. He was 63. Memorial donations may be made to the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Sarcoma Research, P.O. Box 4486, Houston, Texas 77210, or to Hospice of Volusia/Flagler, 3800 Woodbridge Lane, Port Orange, Fla. 32129.

Peter “Doug” Brinkmeyer, ’75, died Feb. 2, 2006, in Tallahassee, after a yearlong battle with cancer. He had worked in the Leon County Public Defender’s Office as head of the appellate division of the 2nd Judicial Circuit since 1981. He was 56. Memorial contributions may be made to Habitat for Humanity, Doug Brinkmeyer Celebration Build, 2921 Roberts Ave., Tallahassee, Fla. 32310, or visit www.brinkmeyer.org.

Robert Treat Graham, ’75, died on April 5, 2005, in Pensacola, where he practiced law. He was 62.

Judy L. Groover, ’89, who practiced family law, died in January 2006 at her home. She was 43.

Douglas P. Lawless, ’73, died March 4, 2006, in Sarasota, after a 15-year battle with cancer. His practice concentrated on insurance defense litigation, medical malpractice defense, catastrophic injuries and construction cases. He was 59.

G. Keith Quinney Jr., ’76, died Jan. 2, 2006, in Tallahassee. A graduate of the U.S. Military Academy, he practiced law for many years in Ohio, Virginia and Florida. He was 59. Memorial Contributions may be made to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society at www.nmss.org.

Horace Schow II, ’77, who practiced in the areas of banking and securities and patent law, died in Tallahassee.

Pamela J. Smoak, ’86, died in August 2005. She had worked at the State Attorney’s Office in Panama City, Fla.

Last Chance to Give to the Annual Fund

Our goal this year is to reach a 26% alumni giving rate. Right now, our participation rate is 23%. We only need 198 new donors to make our goal. This is your last chance to give to this year’s Annual Fund because it ends on June 30th. Please help us reach our goal by sending your gift in any amount (check, Visa, MasterCard or American Express) to:

The Florida State University College of Law
Office of Development and Alumni Relations
Tallahassee, FL 32306-1601

You can also make your gift online at: http://www.law.fsu.edu/alumni/annual_fund_gift.html

If you have any questions on how to make your gift to this year’s Annual Fund, please contact Becky Shepherd by phone at 850-644-0231, or by e-mail at bshepherd@law.fsu.edu.

Thank you for your support of the Annual Fund and The Florida State University College of Law!

Remember, you only have until June 30th to CONTRIBUTE TO THIS YEAR’S ANNUAL FUND!
World Trade, Humanitarian Intervention
Topics of New Books by Abbott, Tesón

Professor Frederick M. Abbott

Earlier this year, the University of Michigan Press published International Trade and Human Rights, Foundations and Conceptual Issues (World Trade Forum, Volume 5) for which Florida State law professor Frederick M. Abbot served as co-editor. Presenting a selection of papers discussed at the 2001 World Trade Forum, which addressed the most controversial issues in the globalization debate, International Trade and Human Rights examines the relationship between international trade from a unique and important interdisciplinary perspective. Christine Breining-Kaufmann, a law professor at the University of Zurich and a senior research fellow and board member of the World Trade Institute in Berne, and Thomas Cottier, managing director of the World Trade Institute and law professor at the University of Berne, co-edited International Trade and Human Rights.

According to The University of Michigan Press, “This book goes beyond listing the arguments for or against globalization and offers recommendations to the international community for possible reforms to better account for the human rights interests affected by the globalization process.”

Abbott, Edward Ball Eminent Scholar Professor of International Law at the College of Law, is rapporteur for the Committee on International Trade Law of the International Law Association; on the Panel of Experts of UNCTAD’s Program on the Settlement of Disputes in International Trade, Investment and Intellectual Property; and consultant to the UNCTAD Project on TRIPS and Development, to the World Bank Global HIV/AIDS Program and to the Quaker United Nations Office (Geneva).

Professor Fernando R. Tesón

The third edition of Professor Fernando R. Tesón’s book Humanitarian Intervention: An Inquiry into Law and Morality was published by Transnational Publishers in 2005. First published in 1988, Humanitarian Intervention is a classic and controversial defense of the right to use force for the protection of fundamental human rights. In his fully revised, expanded and updated third edition, Tesón includes recent interventions in Kosovo and Iraq; discusses incidents that were not included in prior editions, such as the interventions in Panama, Liberia and Sierra Leone; and responds to critics throughout.

“Fernando Tesón is the world’s preeminent moral philosopher of international law; this timely third edition to his classic volume, updating recent events and development in this significant area of international practice, is a welcome addition to the literature on humanitarian intervention,” said Professor David J. Bederman with Emory University School of Law. “Tesón’s volume will remain a keystone work for years to come.”

Known for his scholarship relating political philosophy to international law (in particular his defense of humanitarian intervention), and his work on political rhetoric, Tesón also is author of Rational Choice and Democratic Deliberation (Cambridge University Press 2006) [with Guido Pincione]; A Philosophy of International Law (Westview Press 1998); and many articles in law, philosophy, and international relations journals and collections of essays.
With the crumbling of the Berlin Wall in 1989, millions of people living under communist rule were given their first taste of freedom. Today, many of those same people are citizens of growing democracies and enjoy the legal protections of national constitutions and independent judiciaries. Talbot “Sandy” D’Alemberte, one of the individuals who helped make such a radical transformation possible, was recognized internationally for his efforts.

In February, D’Alemberte, president emeritus of Florida State University, a former dean of the College of Law and now a professor at the law school, was presented with the International Bar Association’s prestigious Rule of Law Award in Miami. The award honors men and women who have made a significant and lasting contribution to upholding the rule of law worldwide.

In 1989, D’Alemberte, then president-elect of the American Bar Association, convinced that organization to establish the Central and East European Law Initiative, a volunteer program charged with assisting emerging democracies across the region as they worked to create legal frameworks that would guarantee the rights of individuals.

Over the years, CEELI has succeeded beyond its founders’ wildest dreams. Now known as the Central European and Eurasian Law Initiative, the organization has helped dozens of nations establish viable legal systems to enforce the rule of law, as well as develop independent judiciaries and legal professions. The CEELI model also has been adapted to help fledgling democracies throughout Africa, Latin America and Asia. CEELI now has offices in 24 countries across Central Europe, Eurasia and the Mideast. Since its founding in 1990, more than 5,000 American judges, attorneys, law professors and legal specialists have contributed more than $200 million in pro bono assistance to promoting the rule of law throughout the world.

As director of the College of Law’s externship program and member of the clinical faculty, Larry Krieger has spent the past 15 years providing his students with the skills to succeed as professional attorneys. Yet, it is what he has helped his students remove from their lives that led The Florida Bar to award him the 2006 Faculty Professionalism Award.

Presented annually by The Florida Bar’s Standing Committee on Professionalism, the award recognizes efforts of a faculty member from one of Florida’s law schools whose activities best represent the committee’s dedication to promoting professionalism within the legal system.
Environmental Forum Series Continues with Two Spring Events

The College of Law’s 2006 Symposium, “Law and Policy of Ecosystem Services,” held April 7 and 8, featured 21 leading experts from around the United States, including four from the College of Law. The symposium examined the impact of ecosystem services on environmental law and policy. Panel topics included: “Water and Watersheds,” “Agriculture and Rangeland Resources,” “Ecosystem Services and Coastal Land Development,” “Biodiversity and Land Use,” “Common Law Remedies and Public Law Enforcement” and “Second Generation Approaches for Energy and the Environment.”

The law school also hosted the spring 2006 Environmental Law Forum in late March. Covering integration of land and water use regulations in the Florida Panhandle, speakers included Janet Bowman, general counsel for 1000 Friends of Florida; Bob Dennis of Water Supply Planning, Florida Department of Community Affairs; Janet Llewellyn, deputy director of Water Resource Management, Florida Department of Environmental Protection; John Scholz, Eppes Professor of Political Science, Florida State University; and George Willson, Willson Consulting. The discussion focused on large-scale planning projects that deal with both land use and water management, with the intention that lessons from these projects will help to inform thinking about land use and water management issues.

The Law School launched its Environmental Forum Series in 2003 as a way to provide a neutral forum for the discussion of timely environmental issues.

Krieger focuses his teaching on instilling in students critical values that promote professional behavior while relieving the stress and depression often associated with legal work. He researches and publishes in the area of law student and lawyer health and satisfaction and served as vice-chair of The Florida Bar Committee on Quality of Life and Career from 1996 to 2005.

“There were a number of highly qualified nominations for this award and your unanimous selection by the subcommittee is a tribute to your innovative approach to the creation of programs at Florida State University that make professionalism more relevant to law students,” James Floyd, chair of the standing committee, wrote in a letter to Krieger.

Krieger says his focus on teaching students about the stresses of the profession originated as “little jots of information” that he worked into his clinical externship classes nearly 10 years ago. However, after receiving overwhelmingly positive feedback from students, the brief lessons soon became a prominent aspect of his teaching.

Because stress can have a negative effect on behavior, Krieger says he believes that by adding this aspect to the legal skills already provided, law schools could produce not only great legal minds, but also great professionals.

“There’s an expectation by students that they’re going to be stressed and miserable and that’s just the way things are,” Krieger said. “I’m trying to change that expectation by showing them that they can be successful and personally thrive at the same time.”

Krieger, who has published widely circulated articles and booklets, lectured and created a national list-serv on this issue, will accept his award at The Florida Bar’s annual meeting on June 22, 2006.

Clinical Professor Ruth Stone, co-director of the law school’s Children’s Advocacy Center, won the award in 2004.
New Fall Faculty

The College of Law will welcome four new faculty members in the fall. They include experts in environmental law, tax law, intellectual property and international law. Here’s a brief glimpse of the additions to our faculty:

**Professor Robin Kundis Craig**

The Attorneys’ Title Insurance Fund Professor of Law Robin Kundis Craig is nationally recognized for her work in all things water—the Clean Water Act, the connection of fresh water regulation to ocean water quality, marine biodiversity and marine protected areas, property rights in fresh water, and science and water resource protection.

As a result of her Clean Water Act work, including her book *The Clean Water Act and the Constitution* (Environmental Law Institute 2004), the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences appointed her in 2005 to a two-year committee to assess the effects of that Act’s regulation on the Mississippi River.

Professor Craig also is author of an environmental law text, *Environmental Law in Context* (West 2005), and more than 20 law review articles and numerous shorter works. She teaches or has taught Environmental Law, Water Law, a Clean Water Act seminar, Civil Procedure, Ocean and Coastal Law, Administrative Law, Property, and Bioethics and Biotechnology. Before entering academia as a professor, she clerked for the Hon. Robert E. Jones at the U.S. District Court for the District of Oregon and worked in the Natural Resources Section, General Counsel Division, Oregon Department of Justice.

**Professor Brian Galle**

Brian Galle writes on tax and broader administrative law issues, with a particular focus on the impact that the designs of tax programs and other fiscal tools have on the relationship between the federal government, state and local governments, and private regulatory partners and stakeholders.

He practiced for three years as an attorney in the Criminal Appeals and Tax Enforcement Policy Section of the Tax Division, U.S. Department of Justice, arguing more than a dozen cases before U.S. courts of appeals. Before that, he clerked for the Hon. Robert A. Katzenmann of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, and the Hon. Stephen M. Orlofsky of the U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey.

He earned an L.L.M. in taxation from Georgetown University Law Center, where he was a Graduate Tax Scholarship Program Fellow, and a J.D. from Columbia Law School, where he was a Kent Scholar and special issues editor of the *Columbia Law Review*. He teaches Taxation I, Taxation of Business Entities I and II and other advanced tax courses.

**Professor Lorelei Ritchie de Larena**

Lorelei Ritchie de Larena’s research addresses intellectual property law, with a particular emphasis in her publications to date on technology issues relating to university licensing. She teaches courses in Intellectual Property, Contracts and Alternative Dispute Resolution.

Professor de Larena practiced intellectual property and commercial law in New York City and Los Angeles. Most recently, she served as intellectual property manager for UCLA where she focused on the intersection of universities, technology transfer and intellectual property law. She has been appointed to state and international committees, and has been an invited speaker at numerous conferences. In 2005, she taught Intellectual Property Licensing at Loyola Law School.

**Professor Lesley Wexler**

Lesley Wexler’s scholarship addresses the intersection of social norms and international law. At Florida State University College of Law, she will teach courses in international law, torts and employment discrimination.

Professor Wexler has taught at the University of Chicago Law School as a Harry A. Bigelow Law Fellow. She clerked for the Hon. Thomas Reavley at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit and the Hon. William Wayne Justice at the Eastern District of Texas. An editor of both the *University of Chicago Legal Forum* and the *Chicago Journal of International Law*, she received her J.D. from the University of Chicago Law School.
ROB ATKINSON
RUDEN, MCCLOSKEY, SMITH, SCHUSTER & RUSSELL PROFESSOR

AMITAI AVIRAM
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

DEBRA LYN BASSETT
LOULA FULLER AND DAN MYERS PROFESSOR
Articles: The Forum Game, 84 N.C. L. REV. 333 (2006); The Rural Venue, 57 ALA. L. REV. 635 (2006). Presentations: The Defendant’s Responsibility to Ensure Adequate Representation in Class Actions (UMKC School of Law, Class Actions Symposium, April 2006); Distancing Rural Poverty (Georgetown University Law Center, Symposium on Rural Poverty, April 2006)

CURTIS BRIDGEMAN
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

DONNA CHRISTIE
ELIZABETH C. AND CLYDE W. ATKINSON PROFESSOR AND ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

JOSEPH DODGE
STEARNS WEAVER MILLER WEISSLER ALHADEFF & SITTerson PROFESSOR

CHARLES EHRHARDT
MASON LADD PROFESSOR

SALLY GERTZ
CLINICAL PROFESSOR

STEVE GEY
DAVID AND DEBORAH FONVIELLE AND DONALD AND JANET HINKLE PROFESSOR
Articles: Is It Science Yet? Intelligent Design, Creationism and the Constitution, 83 Wash U. L.Q. 1 (2005); Empirical Measures of Judicial Performance: An Introduction to the Symposium, 32 Fla. St. U. L. Rev. 1001 (2005) (with Jim Ross). Presentations: Constitutional Principles and Legal Strategies in the Creation and Evolution Debates (St. Louis, American Association for the Advancement of Science Annual Meeting, February 2006); Science Standards (Chicago, ABA Section on Science and Technology Law, ABA Midyear Meeting, February 2006); Panelist on Religious Liberty (University of North Carolina Law School Symposium on Religion in the Public Schools, February 2006); Briefing for U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee staff on Alito confirmation (U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee, January 2006); Constitutional Law Regarding Intelligent Design and State Science Standards (University of Kansas, Dole Institute for Politics, January 2006); The Dover, Pa., Case and Beyond:

PAOLO ANNINO
CLINICAL PROFESSOR
Presentations: Update on Children’s Law (Orlando, Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence, February 2006); Stopping the Schoolhouse to Jailhouse Track (Florida State NAACP Conference, September 2005)

ADAM HIRSCH
WILLIAM AND CATHERINE VANDERCREEK
PROFESSOR OF LAW

Presentations: Tone and Text: A Theory of Testamentary Obsolescence (University of Pittsburgh Law School, Faculty Colloquium, January 2006); (Boston College Law School Faculty Colloquio, November 2005); (New England School of Law Faculty Colloquio, November 2005); (University of Connecticut School of Law faculty colloquia, November 2005)

JON KLiCK
JEFFREY A. STOOPS PROFESSOR OF LAW


Presentations: The Fugibility of Damage Awards: Substitution and Punitive Damage Caps (Columbia Law School’s Blue Sky Lunch, March 2006); Abortion Legalization and Crime Rates: Is There A Relationship? (Washington, D.C., American Enterprise Institute forum, March 2006); Individual Income Tax (Orlando, Florida Bar Tax Section’s Tax Certification Course, February 2006); Ending the Wraparound Insurance Tax Shelter (Byu School of Law Faculty Colloquium, January 2006)

LARRY KRIEGER
CLINICAL PROFESSOR AND DIRECTOR OF CLINICAL EXTERNSHIP PROGRAMS


TAHIRIH LEE
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR


CHARLENE LUKE
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR


Presentations: Individual Income Tax (Orlando, Florida Bar Tax Section’s Tax Certification Course, February 2006); Ending the Wraparound Insurance Tax Shelter (Byu School of Law Faculty Colloquium, January 2006)

DAVID MARKELL
STEVEN M. GOLDSTEIN PROFESSOR


JIM ROSSI
HARRY M. WALBORSKY PROFESSOR AND ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR RESEARCH


J.B. RUHL
MATTHEWS & HAWKINS PROFESSOR OF PROPERTY

Presentations: The Effects of Wetland Mitigation Banking on People, NATIONAL WETLANDS NEWSLETTER, MAR.-APR. 2006, at 1 (with Jim Salzman); Regulation by Adaptive Management —Is it Possible?, 7 MINN. J. LAW, SCI. & TECH. 21 (2005); Toward a Common Law of Ecosystem Services, 18 ST. THOMAS L. REV. 1 (2005); Ecosystem Services and the Common Law of “the Fragile Land System,” 20 NAT. RES. & ENVT. 3 (Fall 2005); Cooperative Federalism and the Endangered Species Act—Is There Hope for Something More?, in STRATEGIES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SUCCESS, 325 (MICHAEL AALL WOLF ED., ELI PRESS 2005). Presentations: Intertemporal Choice in the Regulatory State, (Vanderbilt Law School, Society for Evolutionary Analysis in Law 2006 Scholarship Workshop, April 2006); Eminent Domain after Kelo (Georgia State University College of Law Faculty Workshop, January 2006); The Demographics of Wetlands Mitigation Banking (Georgia State University Center for Comparative Study of Metro Growth speaker series, January 2006); Task Force participant, Keystone Center Endangered Species Act Working Group (November 2005) (task force convened at request of U.S. Senate to examine ESA reforms); The Effects of Wetlands Mitigation Banking on People (Georgetown University Law School Faculty Workshop, November 2005); The Effects of Wetlands Mitigation Banking on People (University of Minnesota Law School Faculty Workshop, October 2005); The Common Law of the “Fragile Land System” (St. Thomas University Law School Faculty Workshop, October 2005)
MARK SEIDENFELD
PATRICIA A. DORE PROFESSOR OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW AND ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS
Presentation: Agency Decisions to Act
(Washington University School of Law Faculty Workshop, January 2006)

LOIS SHEPHERD
D’ALEMBERTE PROFESSOR

PHIL SOUTHERLAND
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

JUDITH WISE
VISITING ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
Presentations: Hunger and Thieves: Anticipating the Impact of WTO Subsidies Reform on Land and Survival in Brazil (University of Idaho College of Law, 4th Annual International Law Symposium, Indigenous Peoples and International Law: Land, Liberties and Legacies, March 2006); Barriers to Trade Negotiations: Subsidies and the Graduation of Developing Countries in the WTO (University of Chicago Law School Legal Scholarship Workshop, November 2005)

RUTH STONE
CLINICAL PROFESSOR
Chapter Update: History and Philosophy of the Juvenile Court, in Florida Juvenile Law & Practice (Florida Bar 2005)

JORDAN S. LEE
CLINICAL PROFESSOR

FERNANDO TESÓN
TOBIAS SIMON EMINENT SCHOLAR
Presentations: The Vexing Problem of Authority in Humanitarian Intervention (University of Wisconsin, Madison, Symposium on Humanitarian Intervention after 9/11, March 2006), online at http://www.law.wisc.edu/newsletter/2006/03/humanitarian_intervention_after_9_11.html; Rational Choice and Democratic Deliberation: A Theory of Discourse Failure (with Guido Pinzone) (University of Alabama-Birmingham Department of Philosophy, April 2006); Global Justice, Human Rights, and Trade: A Case of Discourse Failure (co-authored with Jon Klick) (Duke Law School, Global Law Symposium, January 2006); Expert on Humanitarian Intervention (Mexico City, Conference on Human Security, February 2006); Ending Tyranny in Iraq (Wellesley College Campus-Wide Lecture, November 2005); Free Trade and Globalization (Ilha do Papagai, Brazil, Liberty Fund Colloquium, October 2005); debated Ken Roth, Executive Director of Human Rights Watch, on the legitimacy of the war in Iraq (New York, Carnegie Center for Ethics and International Affairs, October 2005)

JOHN VAN DOREN
ROBERTS PROFESSOR
Presentation: Developments in the Law of Evidence: Civil and Criminal (Viera, Florida, Brevard County Bar Association Spring CLE Meeting, March 2006)

DONALD WEIDNER
DEAN AND ALUMNI CENTENNIAL PROFESSOR
College of Law’s BLSA is National Chapter of the Year!

By Roland Hermida, 3L, College of Law

They faced heavy competition from some of the country’s most prestigious law schools, but the College of Law’s Black Law Students Association emerged from the organization’s national convention in Washington, D.C., as the National BLSA Chapter of the Year.

Judges from chapters at law schools across the country considered each group’s community service, academic initiatives, first-year law student support, political awareness, professionalism efforts and social activities. Community involvement during the past year allowed the Delores Poindexter Auzenne Chapter of BLSA at Florida State to compile a profile of accomplishments impressive enough to beat out chapters at Harvard, George Washington, New York University, UCLA, the University of Virginia and Boston College, among other top law schools.

The chapter’s many activities included a Hurricane Katrina relief drive, volunteer work at the Ronald McDonald House, and the establishment of a mentoring program for pre-law students at Florida A&M University.

Chapter president Conti Moore said BLSA’s activities revolved around the theme “Looking Forward While Reaching Back.”

“The ‘looking forward’ represents the networking and other opportunities we hope will help our members further their legal careers, while the ‘reaching back’ represents our desire to help other people get here, to where we are,” said Moore.

The 34 members of the chapter, which Moore said continues to grow in number and influence at Florida State, hope their efforts will help attract more minority law students and tenure-track African-American professors by showing them how much the Florida State College of Law has to offer.

“We want to show them that when they come here, they will have a strong support system,” Moore said. “We think this is a great law school, and we want others to get to see that for themselves.”
The Florida Bar Foundation awarded the College of Law's Children's Advocacy Center two grants totaling $100,000 to continue work on behalf of children in the areas of special education, health care, domestic violence and family law.

"A little bit of legal aid goes a long way, whether for a child or an adult; but legal aid for a child can have an astounding and almost immediate impact for good," said foundation president and Tallahassee attorney Bill Davis, a 1977 College of Law graduate.

The Florida Bar Foundation’s gift includes a $75,000 Children's Legal Services Grant and a $25,000 Law School Civil Clinic Grant.

The center, which is divided into the Children’s Section and the Domestic Violence/Family Law Advocacy Section, is home to one of the nation’s leading legal internship programs. Its mission is to instill in law students a sense of professional responsibility toward poor children and to create a pool of future lawyers trained and motivated to do pro bono work for children. In 2005, the Clinical Legal Education Association presented the center with its Excellence in Public Interest Award.

Students are certified by the Florida Supreme Court to practice law as interns and—under the supervision of a clinical professor—are responsible for all facets of cases to which they are assigned. Their clients are referred by the Refuge House, the Tallahassee Bar Association Legal Aid Office and Legal Services of North Florida, and include children with disabilities, children involved in custody disputes, in foster care and those who have been denied proper medical care.

“We are grateful for the Florida Bar Foundation’s continued support of the Florida State University College of Law Clinic,” said Clinical Professor Ruth Stone, who heads the CAC’s Domestic Violence Section. “The new grant allows us to increase our representation of other under-served populations in our area, including persons referred to us by the local battered women’s shelter, the domestic violence hotline, Legal Aid, and other agencies referring indigent people who would not otherwise receive legal representation.”

The clinic’s work has been featured in the national and international media, including ‘60 Minutes II,’ ‘Fox News’ and ‘The O’Reilly Factor’.

The clinic’s work has been featured in the national and international media, including “60 Minutes II,” “Fox News” and “The O’Reilly Factor,” the German newspaper Bild and Madrid’s El Pais. It has received front-page coverage in The New York Times and was a cover story in The New York Times Sunday Magazine.

“Without legal advocacy, children’s health and special education rights will not be enforced, and they will not receive the health care and special education that children need to flourish or even get by in life,” said Paolo Annino, a clinical professor heading the Children’s Section.

REALS Hands Out Honors to Supporters

At the Real Estate Law Society event in April, the group’s president, Keith Halpern, presented Sen. Fred Dudley and John LaJoie with REALS’ highest honors. Dudley, a REALS advisor, received the Chief Justice John Marshall Medal for highest honors and dedication to Florida State’s REALS. John LaJoie received REALS’ highest honors for dedication and support.

Dudley, a sustaining member of the executive council of the Real Property Probate and Trust Law Bar Section, has served as an advisor and adjunct professor in land transfer and finance. LaJoie is vice president and senior regional council of First American Title Insurance Co. LaJoie and First American have supported REALS’ panel discussions.

Alan Fields, ’86, also received highest honors for his support of the organization. Fields is state counselor for First American and vice chair of the Property Rights Committee of RPPTLS. Dudley and Fields invited four REALS members to the annual Real Property and Probate Executive Meeting at Amelia Island. At the meeting, Dudley declared that Florida State’s Real Estate Law Society is the model for the other Florida law schools.
More Moot Court Good News

It was an exciting and successful season for the Moot Court team, as its members brought home accolades from competitions in New York, North Carolina, California and Washington, D.C.

- James “Rusty” Spoor and Kim Nguyen took first place at the Mugel National Tax Competition held in Buffalo, N.Y., in February. The two also won the Best Overall Brief. In addition, Spoor was named first-runner-up as Best Oralist. The team was coached by Professor Charlene Luke, whose extraordinary dedication was underscored by her willingness to accompany the team to Buffalo in February.

- Because of their stellar performance at the regional Frederick Douglass Competition sponsored by BLSA and held February in Durham, N.C., Karlyn Hylton and Sasha Watson advanced to the finals in Washington, D.C. Team members also took home individual honors: Out of 54 competitors, Hylton was named Best Oralist and Watson, first runner-up. The team was coached by College of Law graduates Janea Daniels and Meredith Charbula.

- Kristina Klein and Patsy Palmer placed second in the Luke Charles Moore Competition held at Howard University in Washington, D.C., in March. In addition, the team received the Best Brief Award for the competition. The two were coached by Judge Charles Kahn Jr. of the First District Court of Appeal, who accompanied them to the competition.

- Clay Adkinson won Best Oralist in the National Criminal Procedure Tournament held in the fall at the University of San Diego.

Members brought home accolades from competitions in New York, North Carolina, California and Washington, D.C.

And the Winners Were...

Student organizations competed for a chance to have lunch with Dean Weidner during this year’s Student Annual Fund Drive Organization Challenge. The winners were the J. Reuben Clark Law Society, which had the best participation rate (100 percent of its members contributed) and the FSU Law Review, whose members donated the highest dollar amount to the fund.
Mock Trial Team Continues on Path of Success

The College of Law Mock Trial Team finished its tenth year of competition on a high note with a second-place finish at the Association of Trial Lawyers of America regional competition. The ATLA competition concluded the most successful year yet for the team. Traveling to locations as close as Gainesville and far away as Buffalo, N.Y., to vie against some of the nation’s best trial advocacy teams, Florida State squads proved they were up to the task by finishing in the top six at five of the seven competitions in which they participated.

And thanks to some recent adjustments to the structure of the Mock Trial program, next year’s team accolades should be even more impressive. Rather than waiting until the fall semester of their second year, students will now try out for the team during their first spring semester. Team members also will be required to take an evidence course and a trial advocacy class taught specifically for the mock trial team by adjunct faculty member Bill Fuller of Fuller, Johnson & Farrell.

“We think the changes made to the team will result in our members having a new level of preparation for the competitions,” said Josh Grosshans, 2005-2006 Mock Trial Team president.

The Mock Trial Team credits much of their success to the dedication of faculty advisor Ruth Stone and volunteer coaches and mentors from the legal community Ron Flury, Teresa Flury, Kathy Garner, Joe Guastaferro, Lisa Hurley, Tom Kirwin, Michael Minerva, Christopher Nichols, Roxanne Rehm, the Hon. George Reynolds, Maria Santoro Matt Willard and the Hon. James R. Wolf.

Team highlights from the 2005-2006 year:

- In January, Justin Dees, Karlyn Hilton, K.F. Lee and Conti Moore finished second at the Association of Trial Lawyers of America regional competition in Montgomery, Ala.
- Shelly Gentner, Josh Grosshans, Demere Mason and Adam Morrison celebrated a second-place finish at the Chester Bedell Memorial Mock Trial Competition in Miami, Fla.
- The team of Robyn Blank, Joshua Grosshans, Jonathon Stimler and Joshua Taylor brought home the national title from the San Antonio, Texas, Lone Star Classic in November.
- In November, David Brooks, Nora Cho, Seth Kerr, K.F. Lee and Rebekah Smith finished in the top four at the Academy of Florida Trial Lawyers Competition in West Palm Beach, Fla.

Becky Shepherd Joins Alumni Affairs Office

Becky Shepherd is the College of Law’s new assistant director for Development & Alumni Affairs. She joined the law school in December 2005. Her background includes work in both the public and private sectors. She has extensive experience in the areas of higher education administration, special event planning, public relations, marketing, alumni relations and fundraising. She has been with Florida State University for six years, working in the Vice President for Student Affairs Office and in Student Affairs at the College of Medicine. Before coming to Florida State, Becky served in event planning, public relations and marketing positions at Florida Physician’s Insurance Company in Jacksonville, Fla., The Tallahassee Democrat and Beverage Law Consultants Inc. in Tallahassee.

“Moving to the law school has been a positive experience. I’ve enjoyed meeting alumni, and look forward to meeting many more.”

Becky earned her master’s degree in higher education administration in 2002 and her bachelor’s degree in communication in 1999, both from Florida State.
A Reason to Celebrate...

Family and friends gathered at the Leon County Civic Center for the commencement ceremony of the 201 College of Law Spring graduates.

Florida Supreme Court Justice Kenneth B. Bell, ’82, was the featured speaker at the law school graduation held on May 6, 2006.

Hard work finally paid off for law school graduates Megan Menagh and Satyam Mehta.

New College of Law alums Erin McKenney, Emily Williams, Kristin Register and Kristen Guttmann enjoy the law school reception at the rotunda following the graduation ceremony.

Professor Ehrhardt congratulates graduate David Brooks.
**U.S. News & World Report** shows the College of Law as one of the fastest rising law schools in national rankings. The College rose 14 slots in just two years to 53.

**U.S. News & World Report** ranks the Environmental Law Program at the College of Law as 14th strongest in the nation.

The College of Law has been listed repeatedly as one of the nation’s “Top Ten Law Schools for Hispanics” by *Hispanic Business* magazine.

The current student body of the College of Law represents 34 states, 12 countries and 209 colleges and universities.

Twenty-five percent of the students at the College of Law have LSAT scores of 161 or higher and the average LSAT is 159. The average GPA is 3.4.

The College of Law has an enviable 99 percent placement rate nine months after graduation.

The College of Law is home to Eminent Scholar Fred Abbott, one of the nation’s leading experts in international intellectual property.

The College of Law’s Eminent Scholar Chair holder Fernando Tesón has been hailed as “the world’s preeminent moral philosopher of international law.”