THE MAGAZINE OF THE FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF LAW

SPRING 2007

TWO GIANTS

CHUCK EHRHARDT AND JOHN YETTER RETIRE
Standing on the Shoulders of Giants

As shown by the photos inside this issue, we had a spectacular party in honor of the retirement from full-time teaching of Chuck Ehrhardt and John Yetter. More than 400 people showed up to pay tribute to these two men who have spent their professional lives at our law school. Both have been exceptional teachers, and both have been highly interactive with the legal profession. Both, I am delighted to report, will continue to teach for us on a part-time basis, beginning this coming academic year.

Chuck and John, and other founding faculty, have given us a wonderful base on which to build. We all take a lesson from their contributions to the profession, perhaps best reflected in their dedication to continuing legal education and to continuing judicial education.

In part because our faculty members continue to be interactive with the profession, our programs continue to receive increased recognition. In the recent law school rankings issue of U.S. News & World Report, for example, our Environmental Law Program was rated 12th best in the nation and our Tax Law Program was rated 21st best in the nation, tied with Columbia. U.S. News also reports that our academic reputation is now 48th in the nation and that we have the strongest student body in Florida, as measured by LSAT scores. Since our students have had the highest bar passage rate for two of the last three times the Florida Bar Examination was administered, and since they have a 99% job placement rate nine months after graduation, we think they rate pretty highly in other ways as well.

Reputational rankings are very tricky things. Whereas most of those who vote on the reputation of law schools are in the Northeast, most of our alumni are in Florida and the Southeast. Furthermore, reputational rankings notoriously lag behind overall quality improvement. So, it is somewhat of a phenomenon that our overall ranking in U.S. News has gone from 67 to 53 since 2004. What goes up can, of course, go down. But we are doing everything in our power to make sure that what has gone up will continue to go up.

One thing that I think will help, at least in the long run, is our new and stronger-than-ever program in Law, Business and Economics. As I type this column, our very first brochure on our business program is being readied to be sent to over 3,000 prospective employers. The brochure describes our five faculty members who teach the core courses in the business area, including three new faculty members: Kelli Alces, Dino Falaschetti and Manuel Utset. Two of the five core business faculty, Dino Falaschetti and Jon Klick, are Ph.D. economists. The five core business faculty are supplemented by faculty experts in intellectual property, taxation and international business transactions. The mission of our business program is to give our students the sophistication necessary to pursue careers in the business world at the highest possible level. To that end, we offer them a solid understanding of business, economic and financial principles, with a special emphasis on how economic principles influence the development of legal institutions.

Chuck and John: Do you see what you started? Surely you see that we are all in your debt.

Sincerely,

Don Weidner
Dean and Alumni Centennial Professor
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As Two Law School Legends Retire, Their Legacy Lives On

By Julie S. Bettinger

As we seek to tell the stories of the Florida State College of Law’s two earliest professors, it’s obvious we are telling the story of the law school itself.

Professors John Yetter and Charles "Chuck" Ehrhardt are retiring after nearly 40 years of teaching. Without a doubt, they played an integral role in shaping the heart of the school – its very mission statement. And they have done well.

While some say it’s the end of an era with their departures, many are lauding their legacy.

“They set an early example for all of us at the law school,” says Dean Don Weidner. He says both have demonstrated a combination of commitment to the students, the bar and the bench.

“They have been a great example for the new faculty, proving the wisdom in remaining engaged in the legal community more broadly,” he says.

Former students credit this approach for making the law school distinctive. “FSU gained a reputation as a law school that trained practitioners,” says Fifth District Court of Appeals Judge Vincent Torpy Jr., a 1983 graduate. Both Yetter and Ehrhardt combined theory with practical application, he says, “so when you graduated, you were well equipped to enter the practice of law and hit the ground running.”

Commonalities

While Yetter and Ehrhardt each contributed uniquely to the school, there are some things they have in common. When they were hired, neither had teaching experience. It seems that this was a strategy of the school’s first dean, Mason Ladd. He would pluck a few very green lawyers direct from law school or early in practice and mix them with more seasoned professionals.

Ehrhardt recalls that there was only one measure that would determine if the strategy was a good one: the Bar Exam results from the first graduating class. Incredibly, “One hundred percent of the class passed the bar,” he says. “That gave us credibility.” Even better, internally, it affirmed Ladd’s approach and the faculty’s in their teaching skills.

Something else that Yetter and Ehrhardt had in common was moving to an unknown city during a tumultuous era. While the law school was founded in 1966, Ladd was still building his core faculty in 1968, which was a difficult time in American history and for American culture.

Martin Luther King was assassinated in April of that year, and Robert Kennedy’s assassination followed in June. There were anti-war protests taking place on college campuses throughout the United States, including Florida State.

Tallahassee, too, had become a hotbed of civil rights skirmishes, including Ad-derley v. Florida.

John Yetter says he believes in some ways that the contentious environment helped the law school. “It was polarizing, and I think that caused the faculty and students at the law school to come together in many ways.”

Although the retirement of these two esteemed professors closes a chapter in the history of Florida State’s law school, it’s clear they will continue to have an influence on the institution as well as the students. Both have agreed to return at least annually to teach a major course.

The legacy lives on.
There are a few items in Chuck Ehrhardt’s office that require explanation. Like the broom with the University of Miami logo imprinted on it (“a clean sweep”). The Gator wallpaper covering the inside of his door. And, most perplexing, the framed cover of the University of Florida Law School’s spring 1995 magazine.

The retiring Florida State College of Law professor explains that the first two are related to his reputation as a sports fan – preferring Florida State, of course. Both were the work of students from rival schools following Seminole losses to their teams.

The law magazine cover is the professor’s own doing, though. In that issue, UF’s law school was touting credentials of its professors and alumni. Look closely at the photo, and you’ll note that Ehrhardt’s book, Florida Evidence, is figured prominently.

Oops.

Yes, he chuckles, it’s been a source of delight for years.

Evolution of a book

One thing the magazine got right is the prominence of Ehrhardt’s book. Now in its ninth edition, it’s described as the “bible” for judges and trial attorneys in Florida.

“I was a circuit judge for 12 years, and I always had mine available,” says Florida Supreme Court Justice Kenneth B. Bell.

In his courtroom, it was common to have someone opening Ehrhardt’s book and citing a reference, while others would ask, “What page are you on?”

And it wasn’t just Bell’s experience.

“If you’re a trial lawyer, you dare not go into court without a copy of Ehrhardt on evidence,” says Florida State University’s President Emeritus and Professor Talbot “Sandy” D’Alemberte. “If you forget, just look on the judge’s desk and you’ll find one. Every judge has been a student of Ehrhardt at some time.”
Launching a specialty

The books, and Ehrhardt’s continuing legal and judicial education on the topic, have earned him the name “dean of evidence.”

“You’ve got the Bobby Bowden of football coaches,” says Justice Ken Bell, “well, Chuck is the Bobby Bowden of evidence coaches.”

To those who have to deal with evidence, Ehrhardt is recognized as the pre-eminent scholar, Bell says.

Still, Ehrhardt didn’t seek the title or recognition, he says. It happened more as a result of taking advantage of opportunities that came his way.

It started when former Florida State Law School Dean Mason Ladd, who hired Ehrhardt, suggested that he audit his class on evidence one spring. “Why?” the professor asked. “Because you’re going to be teaching it next fall,” he was told.

Ehrhardt immersed himself in the topic, and a few years later received a call that would make him a household name in legal and judicial circles throughout Florida.

D’Alemberte, then a member of the Florida House Representatives, says he and his colleagues were looking over the statutes and determined that the evidence code needed re-writing. The person they hired to do it wasn’t delivering. The call was to ask if Ehrhardt would consider taking over.

“That’s how Chuck got involved

Ehrhardt called one day and asked him if he would consider being a candidate for dean at FSU.

D’Alemberte recalls that at the time, he was chair of the American Bar Association section for legal education and teaching at the University of Miami College of Law.

“So my response was, ‘I know too much about legal education to think about becoming a dean.’”

But Ehrhardt persisted with a dinner invitation in Tallahassee, and the rest is history. “I entered academic life because Chuck suggested it, and that led to me being university president,” D’Alemberte says.

Sports in the courtroom

It was an earlier Florida State president who contributed to Ehrhardt’s other claim to fame — intercollegiate athletics law expert.

In 1984, Florida State President Bernie Sliger appointed Ehrhardt to chair the athletic board, and through that position he served on committees and boards of both the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) and the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC).

“I found it interesting and invigorating,” says Ehrhardt. “It was a whole different set of issues than what I was used to dealing with — and a whole separate group of people.”

Sliger’s successor, D’Alemberte, admits Board for nearly 20 years, and even served in more prominent positions. He was the faculty representative to the NCAA, chaired the Faculty Athletics Representatives Association and went on to serve as president of the ACC.

Once a student, always a student

Amazingly, Ehrhardt’s non-teaching activities haven’t been at the expense of students, or even classroom performance.

Energetic with a booming voice, his teaching style easily engages his listeners. He marches through the aisle and gets a special look in his eyes when he’s about to make an important point. You just know it’s coming.

In an e-mail expressing his appreciation for Ehrhardt’s rich teaching career, Joe Schimmel (J.D. 1993) wrote: “I had only one class with Professor Ehrhardt (torts), but some lectures replay in my mind like scenes from a great movie.”

Wayne Hogan, partner with Terrell Hogan in Jacksonville, calls him “the constant helpful professor.”

Though he was among Ehrhardt’s earliest students, graduating in 1972, he says, “Over all these years, he has continued to mentor us as practicing lawyers. He has always been willing to take a call and give us the benefit of his thinking.”

Part of the “dream team” that helped win Florida’s tobacco settlement, Hogan says, “As we geared for the trial, we knew we were going to have certain key evidentiary issues. Chuck was kind enough to come in and give us the benefit of his thinking and his coaching.”

He adds a disclaimer that reflects Ehrhardt’s signature teaching method: “He still makes us do the work to find the final answer.”

Bachelor in a small town

Taking opportunity and running with it has been classic Ehrhardt from the early days.

Out of school about three years, at age 27, he was serving as an assistant U.S. Attorney in the northern District of Iowa, when he received a call from his former dean.

See “Ehrhardt” page 7
Some things you need to know about John Yetter: He didn’t start out to be a lawyer…once in law school, he didn’t expect to be a teacher…once a teacher, he didn’t expect to be teaching criminal law…once teaching criminal law, he didn’t expect to be publishing books on the topic.

Oh, and the Pennsylvania native never expected to stay in Florida this long; certainly not Tallahassee.

Retiring now after 38 years of doing all of the above at Florida State’s College of Law, Professor John Yetter guesses he’s had a hand in molding about 5,000 to 6,000 lawyers throughout the country.

“Close to 10,000 students passed through here in 38 years,” he says, tilting his head in a thoughtful pose, a generous splash of white hair covering it. “That’s a lot of people.”

And that doesn’t include the judges and other attorneys who have attended his continuing-education lectures through the Florida Bar and judicial education programs.

**Teacher for life**

“He’s been my professor, and he’s still my professor,” says Fifth District Court of Appeals Judge Vincent G. Torpy Jr., a 1983 graduate of the school. “Even though I’m a judge now, I call him often to make sure I’m getting the law correct.”

Like Torpy, Charles J. Levin says he considers every encounter with Yetter to be a continuing-education experience.

“I never asked him a question in a legal matter where he did not have some very good insight or knowledge that was really stunning,” says Levin, an attorney in private practice in Tampa.

Yetter’s accolades reach well beyond the classroom and lecture halls. He was an editor of the *Florida Civil Trial Guide* and has authored law review and journal articles throughout his career. He also won the 1998 Selig I. Goldin Award, the highest honor given by the Florida Bar Criminal
Law Section. He is well respected for his knowledge of evidence and sports law, and somewhere along the way, Yetter became a jazz musician.

“He’s a lawyer who could have done anything with his law degree,” says Torpy. “He could have made millions of dollars practicing law, but I think teaching is what he was put on this earth for.”

Roots

Trying his best to steer the conversation away from himself, the Roberts Professor finally gets around to telling how his unexpected career path unfolded.

Though Yetter comes from a family of college and high school teachers (on both sides), he says it had never occurred to him to teach.

After graduating with a bachelor’s degree from Lehigh University in 1963 (playing guard on the basketball team in his freshman year), he says he did what many young people in Pennsylvania did in those days and went to work for a steel company. He knew immediately it wasn’t his calling.

“One you work for a year in steel, you’ll figure out something else,” he says. “So I thought, ‘Why not law school?’”

He applied and was accepted to Duquesne Law School, where he graduated summa cum laude in 1967, receiving his LLM a year later from Yale. With his engineering background, his original idea was to be a patent lawyer.

Nearing graduation from Yale, he says he had some promising prospects in his native state. But before he had a chance to pursue them, a professor suggested he meet with the dean of a fledgling law school in Florida.

After the end of his interview with Florida State’s first law school dean, Mason Ladd offered to buy him lunch.

“He told me on the spot, ‘I want to hire you for Florida State University.’”

Unfortunately, he couldn’t give Yetter much time to consider the offer. Since it was a young law school, Ladd said he needed to fill positions for the following fall.

“He gave me 24 hours and said, ‘If I don’t hear from you, I’ll take that as a ‘no.’”

Yetter says he went home and discussed it with his wife. He liked the idea of having a firm offer in hand and, even though he’d only met Ladd briefly, he liked the man. He decided not to do any more interviews and took the job for a starting salary of $11,000.

Having visited Florida only once – vacationing on the east coast – Yetter arrived in hot, humid Tallahassee August of 1968. “I had no idea what it would be like,” he says. “The climate was really a shock for me.”

The making of a teacher

Because Yetter had no teaching experience, he says, “One of the first things Mason did was take me into the classroom. He went and sat in the back row and said, ‘Now, teach your class.’ So I did.”

Yetter says he was just “talking away,” when about 15 minutes into the lecture, Ladd interrupted him with a wave of his hand and said, “I’ve got a question.” The two conversed and finally, Ladd conceded: “You’ve convinced me you can handle it.”

Looking back on how it all started, Yetter says, “Had it not been for Dean Ladd, my life would be completely different.”

Yetter’s next unexpected turn was teaching criminal law.

He recalls a couple of professors at Yale who interested him in criminal law and procedure. But he had no idea he would ever teach the topic. In fact, it was Yetter’s gift of teaching criminal law that led to at least one student’s own change in career path.

“I went to law school thinking maybe I would be a tax lawyer,” says George Tragors, who practices criminal defense and personal injury law in Pinellas County. “John Yetter made it so much fun that I really wanted to try the types of cases I was reading about.” After graduating, Tragos thought that he would get experience trying cases, then move on. “But I enjoyed criminal law so much I never left.”

Never-ending student

It may be Yetter’s discover-and-be-discovered approach to life that has contributed to his reputation for thinking outside of the university walls.

Desiring to add real life experience to what he had been teaching, in 1974, Yetter says he spent the summer working under Palm Beach State Attorney David Bludworth. “They swore me in the first day, and the second day I was in court,” Yetter says. He handled well over 100 cases and a few trials during those three months. “It was a pivotal time in my career.”

Yetter says he had been teaching six years and was considering his options – including the possibility of leaving Florida.

“Bludworth convinced me not only that I should stay in Florida, but that I had something to contribute,” he says.

So he stayed and has continued his quest for outside experience as much as his teaching schedule will allow.

A few years ago, Yetter was in Cocoa Beach and called his former student and friend Judge Torpy to re-connect. Torpy was scheduled to do first appearances that weekend, and Yetter asked if he could tag along.

“This is a guy who is a full professor, has a chair, and could teach most of these subjects without any preparation,” Torpy
“Ehrhardt,” continued from page 5

Mason Ladd had retired from the University of Iowa and taken a position at FSU, launching the new law school. Though Ehrhardt had no teaching experience, he had graduated with high honors and obviously left a lasting impression on Dean Ladd.

“I got hired over the phone,” Ehrhardt says. He admits that it wasn’t so much the teaching that attracted him, as the idea of avoiding his next obvious career move – joining a law firm.

“Taking a job with a law firm was like a lifetime marriage,” he says. “People just didn’t change firms. Plus, being from Iowa, the idea of moving to a more cosmopolitan atmosphere was intriguing to a bachelor like Ehrhardt.

“The Florida I thought I was going to see was Fort Lauderdale,” he says. What he found instead was a county that was older than Ehrhardt. Some had fought in the Vietnam war and others had previous careers, including an editor of the St. Petersburg Times. But, if he was intimidated, it never showed.

Recalling those early days, former student Wayne Hogan says, “He made you answer questions no matter who you were.”

Generation next

Now retiring after 38 years of teaching, Ehrhardt says he’s reading the signs of retirement. While his continuing-education lectures over the years allowed him to stay in touch with his former students, he’s seeing reminders of them in the classrooms at Florida State.

“I’ve looked at students and realized I taught their parents,” he laughs. Another sign is the fact that all three of his children have already graduated from college, including a son who received his law degree from Florida State.

Bob Ehrhardt, now a prosecutor in Pasco County, took evidence from another professor, but dad required he sign up for his class as well.

“I told him, ‘Now you’re going to get my version of it.’ If he’s going to be a lawyer, and his name’s Ehrhardt, he’d better know my version.”

Ehrhardt says the first few years were extremely challenging to early professors because the students consisted of many with life experiences and most were older than Ehrhardt. Some had fought in the Vietnam war and others had previous careers, including an editor of the St. Petersburg Times. But, if he was intimidated, it never showed.

slowly emerging from the prohibition era – it had gone wet only two weeks before he arrived and there were only two places that offered any kind of nightlife for singles.

“This was not the Florida I expected,” he concedes.

It was to be one of many tests. Ehrhardt says the first few years were extremely challenging to early professors because the students consisted of many with life experiences, and most were older than Ehrhardt. Some had fought in the Vietnam war and others had previous careers, including an editor of the St. Petersburg Times. But, if he was intimidated, it never showed.

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Becoming a major player in the worlds of the arts, education, politics and business is tough in any city. In a place like Chicago, it takes the practical experience of professional accomplishment, a passion for life and the personal confidence to handle a wide array of demanding social situations.

In other words, it takes someone like Florida State University Law graduate Carrie Hightman. Hightman, the president of AT&T Illinois from 2001 to 2006, has earned a place among Chicago’s elite by dedicating herself to excellence and by seizing opportunities as they present themselves. Currently, that means serving on the boards of several influential and prestigious organizations in the Chicagoland area.

Foremost among those obligations, at least in terms of time required, is her new role as chair of the Illinois Board of Higher Education. “When I left AT&T, lots of people were asking me about what I was going to do,” Hightman said. “About that same time, the governor offered me the chairmanship because he said he appreciated my business background and thought it would be useful in helping to move higher education in Illinois forward.”

Hightman was quickly confirmed by the state Senate for the six-year term and began heading the entity responsible for planning and coordinating the state’s nationally respected system of nine public universities on 12 campuses, 48 community colleges, 94 independent not-for-profit colleges and universities, and 30 independent for-profit institutions. It is no small task.

“We work on a budget of more than $2.2 billion as well as approve all degree programs for both public and private institutions of higher education,” she said. “We have a consumer protection function to fulfill as well. We don’t want anyone signing up for a school and then getting
a degree that is useless because the school did not have the proper accreditation or the course was not offered properly."

Looking to the future, Hightman said the board is trying to establish a more holistic approach to education – beginning in preschool. “If our students are not ready for high school, they certainly won’t be ready for college,” she said. The board also oversees about $50 million in grants for both students and individual school programs.

Civic involvement for the Illinois native and mother of two includes serving on the boards of the Chicago Urban League, the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation, the Chicago Bar Foundation and the Lyric Opera of Chicago. “There is no other building in the world like the Civic Opera house,” Hightman said. “It attracts the best artists in the world. I got involved in 2002 in a time after 9-11 when funding was a serious issue. But through it all, the subscription base remained huge and there were never empty seats. I had never even been to the opera before, and now I love it. I am in awe of every opera I attend, but I still need to read the subtitles.”

After graduating from law school and gaining valuable experience as staff counsel for the Florida Public Service Commission and as associate counsel at the Florida Office of Public Counsel, her love of Chicago drew her back to the Land of Lincoln.

She even convinced her husband, Harry Hightman, to sell his “claim to fame,” according to Hightman – the Yum Yum Donuts he operated for six years on Apalachee Parkway near the state Capitol.

She returned to take a position with the prestigious Schiff Hardin firm and concentrated on the areas of energy, utilities and telecommunications for 14 years before being offered the position at AT&T. While it could not have prepared her more thoroughly, there still were adjustments to be made as she moved from the practice of law to the corporate environment.

“Everything I’d done in private practice positioned me well for my position at AT&T,” Hightman said. “But it was a huge change going from a large law firm where I business, navigated under her leadership through the deregulation of local phone service, a $197-million merger settlement, a return to the long-distance market after 20 years and the evolution from phone company to provider of diversified comm-
Adrienne Fechter has created her version of the dream life. A former employment law litigator, she now serves the profession — as well as regular citizens turned combatants — as a certified mediator and neutral investigator through her business, Managed Conflict.

The Florida State Law graduate lives with her husband of 12 years, former law partner Tom Dickson, and their 10-year-old son, Noah, on a small horse farm north of Atlanta with their three horses, two miniature donkeys and five dogs.

And as far as feeling fulfilled at the end of the day, Fechter has never been happier.

“I wanted to focus on resolving problems, and I get a great deal of satisfaction in seeing the fast resolution of an issue,” she said. “Mediation is a powerful tool to resolve conflict in a manner in which all parties walk away satisfied. You also can be as creative as you want to be. You can negotiate things a judge and jury never could.”

As an example, Fechter recounts a case in which the plaintiff in a labor dispute was looking for hundreds of thousands of dollars, but the defense said up front it would not pay more than $50,000. “The defense was saying they knew they would win in court and that the plaintiff was lazy because she never tried to mitigate the damages by looking for another job,” Fechter said.

After speaking with the plaintiff, Fechter learned that when she got fired, her car was repossessed, a detail she was too embarrassed to tell even her lawyer.

“She could not get around Atlanta and missed appointments because of having to rely on the bus system,” Fechter said. “She also shared that one of her children was autistic and that she was involved in an autism-related charity.”

Fechter decided she would try to convince the defendants to include a donation to the organization as well as work on the transportation issue.

“I went back and told the defense
“Mediation is a powerful tool to resolve conflict in a manner in which all parties walk away satisfied. You also can be as creative as you want to be. You can negotiate things a judge and jury never could.”

about the car, and they said, ‘We have an entire fleet of cars; we can give her one.’"

The defendant agreed to a settlement of $50,000, the car – including tax, tag and title – and four years of donations to the autism charity at $25,000 per year. It turned out that the CEO had a personal connection to autism and was thrilled to make the donation.

“Finding her underlying motivations and desires gave the plaintiff what she really needed to get her life back in order,” Fechter said. “Mediation provides resolution that you cannot get anywhere else.”

Managed Conflict handles employment-related claims through a variety of services that include mediation, arbitration, neutral fact-finding investigations, audits and the design of conflict management policies and practices. Fechter said she works as an active mediator, instead of a “shuttle diplomat” who simply takes messages back and forth between parties.

“I don’t think people pay my rates for me to take messages,” she said. “I believe I am there to do something, and without crossing the line by telling people whether they are going to win or lose, I can tell them if their case has some limitations. That’s my job – to make them think from a different perspective. I play devil’s advocate and point out potential weaknesses.”

A normal caseload is two to three cases a week, with a day off between mediations. Those days are spent preparing for upcoming cases or performing investigations for lawyers who need help fact-finding on a potential employment-related lawsuit.

What is Fechter’s opinion of some of her former colleagues’ performances during mediations?

“I find that most lawyers don’t know what to do in mediation,” she said. “We are trained as lawyers to go to war for our client – to have a position and to fight for it. When they come to mediation, they often have no real understanding of what works and what doesn’t. Mediators are trained to negotiate, to be a catalyst to eliminate positioned bargaining – the I win, you lose mentality. There are lots of ways to resolve disputes that clients and their lawyers may not understand, and it’s my job to figure that out.”

It turns out that Fechter is a natural at working out resolutions that allow all involved to feel good about the process, even if they don’t come away with everything they were seeking.

“Adrienne combines top-notch skills as a mediator with a thorough knowledge of employment discrimination law,” said Leslie Dent of Paul, Hastings, Janofsky, & Walker LLP, in an online testimonial. “She has a special talent for quickly gaining the trust of the individual plaintiffs and the respect of the company representatives. We call upon her again and again to mediate our toughest cases.”

Mary Ann Oakley of Holland & Knight agrees. “Adrienne can settle dust in a windstorm,” she said.

Fechter’s interest in employment and labor law began as she was working in the family business and pursuing a master’s degree in psychology at the University of Florida with her new baby, Sadie, in tow. “I was working in human resources, and we experienced a lot of growth while I was there,” she said. “That experience made me want to go to law school and focus on employment law.”

As a new mother, Fechter saw the wisdom of going to school in-state and chose Florida State because she “fell in love with Tallahassee,” and she liked the small-school charm. It was a decision that she would come to greatly appreciate.

“I had my second baby between my second and third years of law school, and I had some serious complications before my son was born and was on bed rest,” Fechter said. “Dean (Sandy) D’Alemberte allowed me to take classes by tape recorder and stay at home. My friends would pass the tape recorder from class to class so I could listen to the lectures at night.”

“Then they allowed me to take the baby to class with me. My daughter was 3 at the time and I had to take her, too, for part of the day. She even had her own assigned seat and would quietly play during class. I had wonderful experiences there.”

Sadie, now 28, graduated from Smith College and lives in Washington, D.C., and Saul, 22, is graduating from Columbia in May.

Fechter says her life as a mediator does not resemble anything she had previously experienced. “My whole life is different,” she said. “Litigation is extremely stressful, and you have no control over your time or deadlines. Now, I often see resolution before I go home at night. The change has made an incredible impact on the quality of my life, and I can’t imagine any circumstances in which I would go back.” ☒
The Second Time Around
Tom Pelham Provides Unique Perspective as DCA Chief

BY DAVE FIORE

On January 8, 2007, Tom Pelham was appointed secretary of the Florida Department of Community Affairs by Gov. Charlie Crist. It is the job of the Florida State Law graduate to lead the state’s efforts in managing growth and development issues affecting Florida’s cities, counties and neighborhoods.

It is a job with which Pelham is quite familiar. He served in the same position under Gov. Bob Martinez from 1987 to 1991. For his service during that time, Pelham received awards from numerous organizations including 1000 Friends of Florida and the Florida chapter of the American Planning Association. In 2001, he was named the Florida Audubon Society’s Conservationist of the Year.

An attorney and certified land planner, Pelham has more than 30 years experience in environmental programs, planning and growth management. So what would motivate him to leave a private law practice and commit four more years to public service?
“First, this is a critical time for Florida in terms of growth problems,” said Pelham, who graduated from the law school in 1971. “Recent legislation enacted in 2005 is very complex, and it poses a lot of implementation challenges. I viewed it as an opportunity to make a contribution to the state. Obviously, it is an area I am interested in, as I have spent most of my career in it. I consider it to be a tremendous opportunity and an honor to serve Florida in this capacity once again.”

New challenges

Although he has been in the position only a couple of months this time around, Pelham said some differences in the landscape are apparent.

“Twenty years ago, we were trying to implement a revolutionary piece of planning legislation (the 1985 Growth Management Act). Many areas of the state had no planning process or department for managing growth,” Pelham said. “Now, we have in place a statewide planning process, but the challenge of growth is still there. We still have a net gain of 1,000 residents per day in Florida. The real challenge is how to accommodate continuing growth without destroying the quality of life we enjoy here.”

The resulting issues from that challenge remain much the same today, although Pelham said they have been intensified. “Most of the specific issues remain unchanged – providing infrastructure and protecting cultural areas.”

Pelham said that his job is an interesting combination of planning and the law. “Florida’s Growth Management Act,” Pelham said, “married land-use planning and the law, and it requires a balanced perspective – weighing and balancing competing interests.”

That weighing process is difficult, according to Pelham, because many competing interests must be balanced. “We need to protect our environmental resources while also promoting a healthy economy,” he said. “Any decision we make will make someone unhappy, but the bottom line is that everyone wins if we protect our environment and natural resources. Our coast, lakes, rivers and springs all contribute to our quality of life.”

Getting involved

An interest in land-use law began for Pelham as a law student, although there were no courses offered in the area at the time. “I was exposed to it through other classes and then in private practice. My interest grew as I pursued it in various ways.”

Pelham taught land-use planning and regulation at Southern Methodist University and later as an adjunct law professor at Florida State. He also has authored a book and many articles on Florida’s environmental, land-use planning and growth-management programs. He served on the Tallahassee-Leon County Planning Commission and, for ten years, was the president of the Florida Planning Association.

Even with the career emphasis on planning and growth issues, Pelham said his legal education and experience have played a key role in his success. “The implementation of Florida’s growth management laws requires the interpretation and application of complex legislation,” he said. “My training as a lawyer is invaluable in overseeing the interpretation and application of those laws. It has provided me a strong foundation in land-use planning law.”

The Florida State law school provided more than academic support, according to Pelham. “My years as a law student were some of the most intellectually exciting years of my life,” he said. “Law school opened up new ways of thinking. There were many young, outstanding teachers who made a lasting impression and impact on me.”

But law school almost never even happened, as Pelham planned to be a college professor of government and political science. “During my undergraduate studies in political science, I took classes in constitutional law and it piqued my interest in law,” he said. “It took a few years, but I found the right path for me.”

Tom Pelham received awards from numerous organizations including 1000 Friends of Florida and the Florida chapter of the American Planning Association, and was named the Florida Audubon Society’s Conservationist of the Year.
Florida State law professor Steven Gey was opening a First Amendment class with one of his signature warm-ups: a commentary. The U.S. Supreme Court had just delivered an opportunity for him to talk about his favorite subject—free speech—with the “Bong Hits 4 Jesus” case. In the six minutes that followed, Gey’s students were given a combination news brief and historical review of legal cases likely to be cited (going back to the 1960s).

They also received expectations of each side’s arguments from one of the most sought-out authorities on the topic—Gey, himself.

By the end of his introduction, the professor had captured the attention of nearly all 55 students. Their eyes had turned away from their icon-cluttered laptops and were fixed on the bespeckled, mustached Gey.

**Here or there**

According to those who know him well, instead of lecturing to a room full of future attorneys, the David and Deborah Fonvielle and Donald and Janet Hinkle Professor of Law could just as easily be a celebrity lawyer representing high-profile cases before the Supreme Court.

After 20 years in the classroom, some also marvel that the talented Gey chose to stay in Tallahassee, considering his metropolitan roots. He received his J.D. from Columbia University and spent his first few years out of law school as an associate for the New York-based Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison law firm. And yet by choosing to remain at FSU, he has parlayed his position into an impressive career that has included numerous television appearances and articles in some of the most prestigious journals in the country.
It hasn’t been at the expense of students, either, colleagues say. Jay LaVia, shareholder with Young van Assenderp, PA, says although Gey generously answers calls beyond the classroom for his time, the students get top priority.

“While he writes wonderfully well-received scholarly articles published in the best law reviews and journals in the country, he always finds time to meet with, mentor and work with the students,” says LaVia. “And he chooses to do that.”

LaVia, who has remained friends with his former professor since graduating in 1990 and has referred legal work his way, points to evidence of Gey’s popularity: He’s been named Professor of the Year by the Student Bar Association several times and is a sought-out advisor for Moot Court.

Barbara Leach, who is on her fifth class with the professor, confirms Gey’s commitment.

“He’s a busy man—a popular man—beyond the law school, really in national and international circles. But you still get the sense that the students always come first.”

“Student,” it seems, has a much broader application around Gey. Virtually any listener becomes a student in his company.

“Steve has always been, first and foremost, someone who appreciates the discourse of ideas,” observes Chris Kise, Florida Gov. Charlie Crist’s senior legal and policy advisor. “He’s someone who never misses an opportunity to provide an educational experience, whether it be with a young student or older lawyer.”

Tallahassee attorney Don Hinkle agrees. “He is so smart – scary smart,” he says of Gey. “He makes me want to go back and be a law student just to take his course.”

When asked what’s kept him in the classroom for more than 20 years and turning down other opportunities, Gey shrugs, “Teaching is fun.”

Watch him teach and you’ll know his answer is sincere. His interaction with the students communicates genuine interest — Steve Gey is clearly having a blast.

### Sidetracked

A recent change in his health has Gey and others pondering where his life’s work has taken him. This past January, he announced that he had been diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), also known as Lou Gehrig’s disease.

It started with what seemed to be a shoulder injury in the spring of 2006. Gey sought treatment a few months later for new symptoms that appeared to be orthopedic related. He eventually saw a neurologist and was diagnosed with suspected ALS in November. Gey sought a specialist in the disease from Emory University, and the diagnosis was confirmed in December.

At the time of this writing, Gey had lost fine motor control and his legs were weakening, but he was still able to walk and drive.

“Eventually, I won’t be able to swallow, breathe or talk,” he says. “I probably have about another year’s work, and I’ll be dead in three years.”

Though following a course of treatment that has been known to help some ALS patients, he doesn’t even pretend to be optimistic.

“I’ll just keep doing what I can do,” he says, recognizing that he is powerless over the progressing symptoms.

Despite fatigue and the physical limitations he’s experiencing, Gey is still teaching, writing and even traveling for guest lectures.

The law school is providing adaptive technologies that have, at times, been a source of humor. The electric door opener to his office, he notes, seems to have a mind of its own—opening at the press of a button, but closing without warning. He’s also working with voice recognition software that, with patience, will extend his writing and electronic communication abilities.

Gey’s lack of self-pity allows him to look beyond the prognosis and see some positives. “The good thing about this disease is that I’ve heard from just about everybody I ever taught,” he says. As news about his health travels, he receives e-mails and cards. Although he hasn’t been able to reply to all of them, he says he really appreciates knowing that people care.

He talks about his illness in sobering terms, like he tackles a legal case—stick ing to the facts; what is known about the disease.

While he writes wonderfully well-received scholarly articles published in the best law reviews and journals in the country, he always finds time to meet with, mentor and work with the students,” says Jay LaVia. “And he chooses to do that.”
Although widely known and respected within law circles for years, Gey’s profile was elevated into the public arena during the election debacle of 2000, Bush v. Gore. As television reporters were scrambling to get expert opinions to fill air space, many news organizations ended up at the Florida State College of Law.

correspondence, he appreciates it.

The return on Gey’s investment in students over the years has provided another unexpected benefit. Recognizing his failing motor skills, students have been taking turns carrying his materials to class for him. “That’s how I know it’s time for class,” he says, “someone shows up at the door to carry my books.”

In the news

Although widely known and respected within law circles for years, Gey’s profile was elevated into the public arena during the election debacle of 2000, Bush v. Gore. As television reporters were scrambling to get expert opinions to fill air space, many news organizations ended up at the Florida State College of Law.

“Very few people had read the statutes and knew the general lay of the land of Florida’s election laws,” Gey explains. He guessed there were maybe five people in the state who were up-to-date on the topic, including him, which had set off a media feeding frenzy.

Standing outside of the dean’s office one day, Gey says an ABC news correspondent who heard him scheduling an interview with a competitor approached him. The man said, “If we put you on staff and paid you to do an exclusive, would you tell them (the competitor) no?” Gey said sure. The TV reporter dialed a number on his cell phone, talked to his boss, then handed the phone to the professor.

“I had a five-minute job interview standing in the hall on the phone,” Gey says. He got the job.

For the next few months, Gey became a regular on ABC news as a legal advisor and consultant often appearing with the late Peter Jennings on World News Tonight.

Being thrust into the spotlight and appearing on TV screens worldwide would cause many to seek fame and fortune. Not Gey. To him, it was just another teaching moment. He turned the news event into an opportunity to launch a constitutional law laboratory in the backyard of the law school.

It was the ideal learning environment, he says. “The issue became integrated with the whole educational experience – the students were at the vortex; we had the whole world’s attention on us at that point.”

Gey’s imprint

In spite of the grim prognosis for his health, Gey remains upbeat. His only regret, he says, is a future cut short.

“You know when you hit 50, you’ve finally got things figured out,” he says. “It’s a shame to lose that 15 years.”

Still, friends say the Florida State College of Law will be forever touched by Gey’s legacy.

“He was part of a transition group when he got there (in 1985),” says LaVia. “You had all the old guard hired in the beginning, but Steve has sort of injected this youth. When I was in school, he wasn’t much older than us. So part of that legacy is injecting that youth into the law school.”

Hinkle agrees. “He’s been the leader of the new breed. I think what he’s done is elevate the school academically and intellectually to the next level.”

Law School Dean Don Weidner says Gey has been and continues to be a “superstar.”

“He’s as good as they get; he’s the total package.”

“He’s also a perpetual skeptic,” Weidner adds, with a slight smile, “and we love him for it.” ✪
Bill Corry and Curtis Bridgeman

In gratitude to his parents for instilling in him such a strong work ethic and for paying for his high school, undergraduate and law school education so he could concentrate on his studies, Corry has created the James Edmund and Margaret Elizabeth Hennessey Corry Professorship at the College of Law, where he proudly graduated with the class of 1973.

The oldest son of parents who were part of what NBC newsmen Tom Brokaw dubbed the “The Greatest Generation,” Bill Corry and his three brothers learned at an early age the value of hard work and a good education.

His father, the late James Edmund Corry, a prominent contractor, developer and rancher in Gadsden County, put Bill and his three brothers to work on the family’s 1,200-acre ranch north of Quincy, where they raised Black Angus cattle, and at his construction sites during the summer months.

The boys helped build, among other things, apartments, houses and a major sea wall in Bay County. They typically arrived at the construction sites before the crew and stayed to continue working after the rest of the crew left. His mother, Margaret, whom everyone calls Betty, was a stay-at-home mom, volunteering at her sons’ schools, participating in Cub Scouts as their den mother, involving them in church activities, and helping her husband in the administrative side of his companies.

In gratitude to his parents for instilling in him such a strong work ethic and for paying for his high school, undergraduate and law school education so he could concentrate on his studies, Corry has created the James Edmund and Margaret Elizabeth Hennessey Corry Professorship at the College of Law, where he proudly graduated with the class of 1973.

“I attribute my success today as a lawyer to my parents teaching us to buckle down and work hard—working in construction throughout the summers and at the cattle ranch in Gadsden County after school and on weekends in the winters,” says Corry, who practices personal injury law at the Law Office of William W. Corry, P.A. in Tallahassee.

The professorship is to be used to recruit or retain an exceptionally productive legal scholar. College of Law Dean Don Weidner appointed Curtis Bridgeman the James Edmund and Margaret Elizabeth Hennessey Corry Professor of Law.

Bridgeman joined the law school in 2004. He teaches Contracts, Commercial Law, Creditors’ Rights, Jurisprudence and Philosophy of Private Law. He was chosen Professor of the Year by first-year law students in each of his first two years of teaching at Florida State. He received his law degree and doctorate and master’s in philosophy from Vanderbilt University in Tennessee.

“It is a tremendous honor for me to be associated with this generous gift,” Bridgeman said. “Our alumni are fantastic partners in everything the law school does, and Mr. Corry is a great example. The fact that he was able to honor his parents through his support of education makes the donation that much more special.”
Two Giants Retire

More than 400 law school alumni and friends turned out March 30 at the Tallahassee home of Dean Don Weidner and his wife, Jiji, for a farewell reception for two of the law school’s favorite professors, Chuck Ehrhardt and John Yetter.
Chuck Ehrhardt, Sandy D’Alemberte and John Yetter.

Bottom Row (L to R)
1. L to R – Professors Nat Stern, Tahriih Lee and Donna Christie (singing along to telegram roast of Chuck and John)
2. L to R – Associate Dean Stephanie Williams (‘95), Judge Judith Hawkins (‘85), and Rep. Loranne Ausley
3. Front to Back – John Yetter and Chuck Ehrhardt (singing along to their telegram roast)
4. L to R – Front: Michael Spellman (‘91), Judy Ehrhardt, John Yetter, Bonnie Lee Woodbery; Back: Chuck Ehrhardt
5. L to R – Martha Olive-Hall (‘85), Judge Tim Harley (‘76), Marsha Orr, and Judge Judith Hawkins (‘85)
Governor Appoints Clay Roberts to Judicial Bench

BY JILL ELISH

Gov. Charlie Crist brought a lesson on the judicial appointment process to life when he made a surprise visit to the law school in February to appoint a College of Law graduate to an appellate judgeship.

L. Clayton “Clay” Roberts and FSU President Emeritus Talbot “Sandy” D’Alemberte, who co-teach a class on state constitutional law, were leading a discussion on judicial appointments when Crist and Lt. Gov. Jeff Kottkamp showed up to announce their administration’s first judicial appointment: Roberts. Roberts succeeds retired Judge Richard Ervin III on the First District Court of Appeal.

“It was wonderful that it happened in the law school that I went to and where I now teach,” said Roberts, who graduated in 1998 and is an adjunct professor. Roberts, 41, said he was stunned to see the classroom door open and his wife, Trelles, walk in with Crist, Kottkamp and other members of Crist’s team. “He said, ‘Hi, I’m Governor Crist, and I’m here to make your professor a judge.’”

Crist apparently had first gone to Roberts’ office in the Capitol, where Roberts served as executive deputy attorney general, but quickly decided to head to the law school to deliver the news upon learning that Roberts was teaching.

“Our students were really thrilled,” D’Alemberte said. “That Governor Crist would take his time to tell Clay in person is a great tribute to Clay and shows that the Governor and Lt. Governor Kottkamp are really comfortable here at FSU and that they really care about people. It also sends a signal that Crist cares a lot about judicial appointments, and not all governors do. He will pay attention to who he appoints to the judiciary.” Richard Alton, a third-year FSU law student, said the surprise appearance could not have been more on point given the day’s discussion of Article 5 of the Florida Constitution.

“The governor called him Judge Roberts and handed him a piece of paper,” Alton said. “We all just started clapping. This is one of the great things about going to law school at FSU—we have so much access to the government and the judicial branch. We have four courts within a three-block radius of the law school.”

The judicial appointment may be the first for Crist, who took office on Jan. 2, but he did not have to look far to fill the appellate vacancy. As executive deputy attorney general, Roberts served under Crist, who was attorney general until he became governor. And like Roberts, both Crist and Kottkamp are FSU alumni.

Roberts earned his FSU law degree after graduating from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y. Before serving as executive deputy attorney general, Roberts was general counsel to the Florida Department of State and director of the state Division of Elections.

“I’m excited to be able to continue my public service and will work hard to uphold the confidence of the governor and my friends who have supported me,” Roberts said.

Florida Bar Foundation Awards CAC $145,000 to Aid Poor Children

The Florida Bar Foundation has awarded the law school’s Children’s Advocacy Center two grants totaling $145,000 to carry on work on behalf of children in the areas of special education, health care, domestic violence and family law.

The Florida Bar Foundation’s gift includes a $120,000 Children’s Legal Services Grant and a $25,000 Law School Civil Clinic Grant. The Foundation is the leader in the funding of legal assistance for poor children in Florida.

“The Children’s Advocacy Center is honored to be awarded this recent grant from the Florida Bar Foundation,” said Paolo Annino, co-director of the CAC with Professor Ruth Stone. “It is through the vision and leadership of The Florida Bar Foundation that foster children have a bed to sleep in tonight, that severely disabled children are receiving necessary medical services and that special-education students are obtaining the educational services they need.”

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 their cases. Their clients are referred by the Refuge House, the Tallahassee Bar Association Legal Aid Office and Legal Services of North Florida. Among their clients: children with disabilities, those involved in custody disputes and in foster care, and those denied proper medical care.

“The students at the Children’s Advocacy Center are committed to the ideals of the Foundation in not only providing children legal protection but in providing an opportunity for children to flourish,” Annino said. “This grant reflects the long hours and creative work of the dedicated second- and third-year Law students at the Children’s Advocacy Center who are committed to helping poor children in our community.”

Said Dean Don Weidner: “In times that are very lean for law school clinics, Florida State’s Children’s Advocacy Center would not be attracting significant resources from a discerning source such as The Florida Bar Foundation unless they were doing a really great job.”
Recognitions

1969
Tom LaSalle has retired. He can be reached at P.O. Box 39821, Fort Lauderdale, Fla. 33308; Ph.: 954-942-1198; LaSALLE345@aol.com.

Terrence Russell, a partner and litigation attorney with Ruden McClosky, has been appointed to a six-year term on the Judicial Qualifications Commission. He can be reached at 200 E. Broward Blvd., Fort Lauderdale, Fla. 33301; Ph.: 954-527-6214.

1970
D. Edison Sessoms retired in January 2007 after serving 36 years with the Department of Veterans Affairs and the past 17 years as regional counsel for the states of North Carolina and Virginia. He can be reached at 115 Ridgebury Court, Lewisville, N.C. 27023; Ph.: 336-945-0899.

George Waas, special counsel in the Office of the Attorney General, appears in the current editions of Marquis Who’s Who in America (61st ed.) and Who’s Who in the World (27th ed.). He also has been appointed by the Florida Bar president to the inaugural State and Federal Government and Administrative Practice Certification Committee.

1971
Tom Pelham has been appointed by Gov. Charlie Crist secretary of the Florida Department of Community Affairs, the state agency with jurisdiction over, among other things, state land use policy.

1972
J. Michael Huey has joined GrayRobinson in Tallahassee, where he focuses in the areas of administrative and regulatory law, construction, government, litigation, mediation, professional liability defense and taxation. He can be reached at 301 S. Bronough St., Suite 600, Tallahassee, Fla. 32301; Ph.: 850-577-9090; e-mail: mhuey@gray-robinson.com.

David Fonvielle, partner with Fonvielle Lewis Foote & Messer in Tallahassee, has been recertified as an expert in Civil Trial Law by The Florida Bar. He also has been named to the board of directors of the United Way of the Big Bend.

J. Wayne Hogan was presented with the First Annual Justice Raymond Ehrlich Award by Florida Coastal School of Law in April. The award honors an outstanding member of the legal community whose professional and personal accomplishments exemplify Justice Ehrlich’s distinguished career.

1973
U.S. Senator Mel Martinez was elected to head the Republican National Committee, the party’s leading agenda-setting and fund-raising organization.

1974

Stann W. Givens has been recognized in the 2007 edition of The Best Lawyers in America. He is a frequent author and lecturer in the field of marital law.

Douglas Leon Grose’s firm has moved. He now can be reached at 9700 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. St. N., Suite 400, St. Petersburg, Fla. 33702; Ph.: 727-579-8427; e-mail: firm@douglaslgrosepa.com.

Floyd L. Matthews Jr. has formed a personal injury law firm in Jacksonville, Fla. Matthews & Guild focuses on complex civil litigation involving catastrophic injuries, wrongful death and disputes. The firm also handles appellate work in state and federal courts. He can be reached at Ph.: 904-384-0505; e-mail: fmatthews@matthewsquild.com.

George E. Tragos again has been selected for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America in the areas of White Collar Criminal Defense and Non-White Collar Criminal Defense. He is the only lawyer in Pinellas County to be so honored.

1975
Thomas M. Burke has retired from Holland & Knight in Orlando after 31 years as a product-liability defense lawyer.

1976

Pat Gleason has been appointed director of cabinet affairs and special counsel for open government in the Florida Governor’s Office.

Lonnie Groot has become the city of Palm Coast’s first in-house attorney. He can be reached at 2 Commerce Blvd., Palm Coast, Fla. 32164; Ph.: 386-986-3702.

Judge Terry P. Lewis of the Second Judicial Circuit is president-elect of the William H. Stafford Inn of Court.

Thomas L. Powell was honored in April with the 2007 Ervin Equal Justice Award by the Capital City Bar Presidents’ Council, Legal Services of North Florida, and the Tallahassee Bar Association. He and his wife Jeannie Becker-Powell have three children, Shea, Chase and Brandea, and are the proud grandparents of Ashley, 3; Georgia, 2 months; Ryleigh, 2; and Luke, 2 months. He practices criminal law and family law in Tallahassee and can be reached at 809 N. Calhoun St., Tallahassee, Fla. 32303; Ph.: 850-224-1452; e-mail: tpowellpa@earthlink.net.

Terry E. Lewis has been listed in the 2007 edition of The Best Lawyers in America.

Anne Longman has been listed in the 2007 edition of The Best Lawyers in America.

David Wilcox has been elected to the board of directors for Manatee Glens. He is a member of the board’s finance committee and the ad hoc nominating committee. He practices law in Bradenton.

1980


1981

Dean LeBoeuf, managing partner at Brooks, LeBoeuf, Bennett, Foster & Gwartney, was named to the “Florida Legal Elite” list by Florida Trend magazine and a “Florida Super Lawyer” by Law and Politics magazine.

Harry “Chip” Morrison Jr., general counsel for the Florida League of Cities, recently celebrated 25 years of service to the league.

1982

Henri C. Cawthon has opened the Law Offices of Henri Cawthon. He previously worked for Child Welfare Legal Services Division, State of Florida. He can be reached at 110 S.E. 1st St., Fourth Floor, Gainesville, Fla. 32601; Ph.: 352-374-0668

Carrie Hightman was named chair of the Illinois Board of Higher Education. She also is vice chair of the communications committee for the Florida Public Service Commission and vice chair of the communications and transportation law section of the American Bar Association. She is a board member of the Lyric Opera of Chicago and vice chair of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation and the Chicago Urban League.

Christiana T. Moore has joined the General Counsel Office of Legislative Services, The Florida Legislature. She can be reached at 111 W. Madison St., Suite 874, Tallahassee, Fla. 32399; Ph.: 850-487-8343.

Kent Putnam and Paula Walborsky, ’82 classmates, surrounded by friends and family, were married at their home, Wit’s End, on June 3, 2006. After a honeymoon in Alaska and trips to Boston and the Iowa State Fair, they returned to Tallahassee where Kent is chief career attorney at the First District Court of Appeal and Paula is in private practice.

1983

Sandy Feinzig is working in Cambodia for UNICEF. She can be reached at sandyfeinzig@yahoo.com.

William E. Johnson has been named to the American Board of Trial Advocates.

P. Scott Mitchell and partners have formed the law firm of Fuller Mitchell Hood & Stephens in Tallahassee. He can be reached at 526 E. Park Ave., Suite 200, Tallahassee, Fla. 32301; Ph.: 222-0770; e-mail: smitchell@fmhslaw.com.

Tom Scarritt was voted a Florida Super Lawyer by his colleagues, based on peer recognition and professional achievement. He can be reached at 1509 W. Swann Ave., Suite 280, Tampa, Fla.

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.
Linda Spaulding White has joined the Fort Lauderdale office of Broad and Cassel as Of Counsel, where she focuses on general business transaction and litigation work.

M.B. Adelson IV has joined Sachs Sax Klein’s Tallahassee office as a senior counsel in government relations, administrative law and land use practice groups. He can be reached at 200 W. College Ave., Suite 216, Tallahassee, Fla. 32301; Ph.: 850-412-0306.

M. Kristen Allman has been named managing shareholder for the Tampa office of Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart in Tampa, where she practices employment and labor law.

Anne-Marie L. Bowen was elected president of the Central Florida Bankruptcy Law Association. She practices consumer debt law at her law firm in Orlando. She can be reached at 1516 E. Hilcrest St., Suite 103, Orlando, Fla. 32803; Ph.: 407-228-1300; e-mail: ambowen@bowenbankruptcylaw.com.

Amelia “Mel” Rea Maguire has been elected to the board of InternetBar.org, the world’s first online bar association. She specializes in corporate, finance, government and regulatory matters and business transactions.

Kent D. Schenkel has joined the faculty of the New England School of Law as an associate professor. He teaches Estate Planning and Wills, Estates and Trusts. He can be reached at 154 Stuart St., Boston, Mass. 02116; Ph.: 617-451-0010; e-mail: kschenkel@faculty.nesl.edu.

Gina Smith has become a partner at Butler Pappas Weihmuller Katz Craig in the firm’s Tallahassee office.

Bruce Garrett Duncan is the president of Family Dynamics Inc. He can be reached at 1300 Citizens Blvd., Suite 300, Leesburg, Fla. 34748; Ph.: 352-314-3340; e-mail: bduncan@greggentine.com.

Gordon Palmer served on the Florida Disabled-Diversity Lawyers Initiative Committee, sponsored by The Florida Bar and the Equal Opportunities Law Section. He also spoke at the The Florida Bar Annual Convention. He is a senior attorney at the Florida Unemployment Appeals Commission, 2740 Centerview Drive, Tallahassee, Fla. 32399; Ph.: 850-487-2685, ext. 138.

Miguel M. de la O, managing partner of de la O, Marko, Magolnick & Leyton in Miami, was promoted to chairman of the Florida Board of Bar Examiners and will serve through October 2007.

Walter E. Forehand, senior attorney at Lewis, Longman & Walker, has been selected for the Second Judicial Circuit’s Pro Bono Service award.

David Joel Marsh has joined the Trial Lawyers Section of Heath & Rasky. He can be reached at 261 Pinewood Drive, Tallahassee, Fla. 32303; Ph.: 850-386-2500.; e-mail: djm@heathrasky.com.

Eric Martuza, has joined the Chicago-based Meckler Bulger and Tilson as a partner in the firm’s insurance practice. He can be reached at 123 N. Wacker Drive, Suite 1800, Chicago, Ill. 60606; Ph.: 312-474-7900.

Robert C. Downie II is a shareholder at Carlton Fields. He can be reached at 215 S. Monroe St., Suite 500, Tallahassee, Fla. 32301; Ph.: 850-224-1585; e-mail: RDownie@CarltonFields.com.
John Foote, a partner with Fonvielle Lewis Foote & Messer, has been recertified as an expert in Civil Trial Law by The Florida Bar.

Laura Louise Glenn has joined the firm of Lutz, Bobo, Telfair, Eastman & Lee, where she practices real property probate and trust law. She can be reached at 2155 Delta Blvd., Suite 210 B, Tallahassee, Fla. 32303.

Rafael E. Gonzalez Jr. has been awarded the U.S. President’s Volunteer Service Award. He also was a finalist for the 2007 Tampa Bay Business Journal Minority Business Person of the Year Award and was named Entrepreneur of the Year (2006) by the Tampa Bay Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. He can be reached at The Law Offices of Rafael Gonzalez, 16765 Fish Hawk Blvd., No. 362, Lithia, Fla. 33547; Ph.: 813-425-2549; e-mail: rgonz@tampabay.rr.com.

Christopher M. Kise has been appointed Counselor to Florida Governor Charlie Crist. He can be reached at Office of the Governor, The Capitol PL05, Tallahassee, Fla. 32399; Ph.: 850-488-4441.

Robin J. Scher has joined Shapiro, Blasi, Wasserman & Gora, where she practices family law. She can be reached at 7777 Glades road, Suite 400, Boca Raton, Fla. 33434; Ph.: 561-477-7800; e-mail: rjscher@sbwlawfirm.com.

1991

David W. Adams has joined the firm of Sponsler, Bennett, Jacobs & Adams, P.A. in Tampa.

Katherine “Kathy” Castor, a Democrat from Hillsborough County, Fla., was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, 11th District. She was sworn in as a member of the 110th Congress on January 3.

Scott E. Gwartney, a partner with the law firm of Brooks, LeBoeuf, Bennett, Foster & Gwartney, is listed as a “Super Lawyer” by Law and Politics magazine.

Erik Korzilius was a volunteer dealer at a fall fundraiser for the Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Sun Coast Denim and Diamonds event.

Andrew L. McIntosh was appointed to serve as the honorary consul for Canada in Florida to support and facilitate Canada-Florida trade and investment. He is a partner in DLA Piper US, LLP. He can be reached at 101 E. Kennedy Blvd., Suite 2000, Tampa, Fla. 33602; Ph.: 813-222-5914; e-mail: andrew.mcintosh@dlapiper.com.

Michael J. Minerva has been promoted to vice president, legal, for U.S. Airways. He has been with the airline for 12 years.

L. Clayton Roberts has been appointed a judge on the First District Court of Appeal in Tallahassee.

Michael P. Spellman, of Coppins Monroe Adkins Dincman and Spellman, was elected president of the William H. Stafford Inn of Court.

Sally Still has joined the Boca Raton office of Buckingham, Doolittle & Burroughs as a partner. She focuses on employment and labor-related litigation. She can be reached at 3535 Town Center Road, Suite 900, Boca Raton, Fla. 33481; Ph.: 561-999-3084; e-mail: sstill@bdlaw.com.

Electra Theodorides-Bustle has been appointed by Governor Charlie Crist to the position of executive director of the State of Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles. She can be reached at 2900 Apalachee Pkwy., Tallahassee, Fla. 32399.

1992

Dawn Caloca-Johnson was named 2007 Tallahassee Volunteer of the Year in the category of Non-Profit Organization. She represents The Legal Aid Guardian Program.

Yeline Goin is co-executive directors of the Community Association Leadership Lobby.

Mark Kaplan has joined the Mosaic Company as vice president for planning and government affairs for Mosaic Fertilizer, LLC. He can be reached at Westcott Station, Suite 306, 150 S. Monroe St., Tallahassee, Fla. 32301; Ph.: 850-205-3187; e-mail, mark.kaplan@mosaicco.com.

John P. Murray was elected president of the Dade County Bar Association. He can be reached at Dade County Bar Association, 123 N.W. First Ave., Suite 214, Miami, Fla. 33128.

Leslie Gayle Street has joined The Nemours Foundation. She can be reached at 106 E. Kennedy Blvd., Suite 214, Tallahassee, Fla. 32303; Ph.: 850-244-9634; e-mail: lstreet@nemours.org.

1993

Jason E. Ashford was appointed chief assistant district attorney for Houston County, Ga. He can be reached at 201 N Perry Pkwy., Perry, Ga. 31069; Ph.: 478-218-4810; e-mail: ashford@houstondga.org.

William K. Bryant has been elected a partner at Baker Hostetler, where he is a member of the Orlando office’s Business Group. He concentrates his practice on corporate and real estate matters.

Ronald W. Flury has been elected a Leon County judge (Seat 3).

Steven Grigas has joined Akerman Senterfitt’s litigation and policy groups, where he will focus on government lobbying, health care consulting, administration and regulatory law. He can be reached at 106 E. College Ave., Tallahassee, Fla. 32301; Ph.: 850-224-9634.

Fred Karlinsky, a shareholder at Colodny, Fass, Talenfeld, Karlinsky & Abate in Fort Lauderdale, was recognized in the South Florida Legal Guide in the governmental affairs and insurance areas of
Derrick Penney has joined the firm of Hall Jaffe & Clayton. He can be reached at 7455 W. Washington Ave., Suite 460, Las Vegas, Nev., 89128; Ph.: 702-316-4111; e-mail: dpenney@lawhjc.com.

Mindy “Sooni” Raymaker has joined the law firm of Blank & Meenan. She can be reached at 204 S. Monroe St., Tallahassee, Fla. 32301; Ph.: 850-681-6710; e-mail: sooni@blanklaw.com.

Kenneth E. Spahn has been named president of Restaurant Placement Group, an exclusive recruitment and placement firm for restaurants. Based in Boca Raton, Fla., Restaurant Placement Group recruits and places chefs, managers, and other professionals in the restaurant, hospitality, and food service industry. In addition, he is a renowned food and restaurant writer, and was recently featured on a TV newscast and in several newspaper articles. He can be reached at Ph.: 561-368-0003, ext. 17; e-mail: ken@restaurantplacement.com.

Jean-Jacques A. Darius has been promoted to the rank of captain in the U.S. Navy Reserve. He can be reached at the Law Office of J. Jacques A. Darius, 7211 N. Dale Mabry Hwy., Suite 228, Tampa, Fla. 33614; Tel 813-930-2222.

Matthew Foster, a partner in the law firm of Brooks, LeBoeuf, Bennett, Foster and Gwartzney, has attained a rating of “AV,” through Martindale-Hubbell.

Gloria Gonzalez-Meyer was elected a judge for the Dade County Court. She can be reached at 305-252-5848; e-mail: ggonzalezmeyer@jud11.flcourts.org

Brian A. Iten was named a felony division chief at the State Attorney’s Office, 12th Judicial Circuit. He can be reached at 1112 Manatee Ave. W., Bradenton, Fla. 34205; Ph.: 941-747-3077; e-mail: brian.iten@co.manatee.fl.us.

Wendy Brewer was elected chair of the Commercial & Bankruptcy Law Section of the Indianapolis Bar Association. She also has earned national certification in business bankruptcy law. A partner in Barnes & Thornburg LLP’s Indianapolis office, she is a member of the firm’s Finance, Insolvency and Restructuring Department and the Financial Institutions Practice Group.

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 Affairs, Tallahassee, FL 32306-1601
Edward M. Koch has been admitted to partnership in the firm of White and Williams, where he is a member of the Litigation Department. His practice consists primarily of appellate practice and consultation in state and federal courts in the areas of products liability, medical malpractice, class actions, insurance coverage, construction accidents, commercial business disputes, environmental liability, and ERISA.

Daryl Parks was appointed by Gov. Charlie Crist to the board of trustees of Florida A&M University. He is a partner in the Tallahassee law firm of Parks & Crump, LLC. He also serves on the board of the Florida A&M University Foundation and the university’s Boosters.

Meredith Trammel Roop has been elected president of the Tallahassee Bar Association. She also was named Attorney Speaker of the Month by The Florida Bar Association’s Statewide Speakers’ Bureau and received an Effective City Leader award.

Sylvia W. Smith was named director of Legal and Advocacy Services at the Advocacy Center for Persons with Disabilities Inc. She can be reached at 2671 Executive Center Circle W., Suite 100, Tallahassee, FL 32301; 850-488-9071, ext. 208; e-mail, sylvias@advocacycenter.org.

Sharon C. Tiffany is an adjunct professor at the University of North Dakota School of Law, where she teaches insurance law. She can be reached at Ph.: 305-439-5567; e-mail: sharon_tiffany@yahoo.com.

Eric S. Adams was re-appointed to the board of directors of Bay Area Legal Services. He is a partner in Shutts & Bowen’s Tampa office, where he practices in the areas of real estate and eminent domain litigation, as well as copyright litigation, insurance litigation, and business tort litigation, including the enforcement and defense of non-competition agreements.

Keith R. Kyle has been elected a Circuit Court Judge in the 20th Judicial Circuit.

Laudelina McDonald is now an assistant statewide prosecutor in the Miami Office of Statewide Prosecution. She can be reached at 444 Brickell Ave., Suite 650, Miami, FL 33131; Ph.: 305-377-5850.

Paul R. Peary is a partner at Adorno & Yoss and a member of the Litigation Department. He can be reached at 2525 Ponce De Leon Blvd., Suite 400, Coral Gables, FL 33134; Ph.: 305-460-1000; e-mail: PPeary@adorno.com.

Julie M. Zola has joined Zais Group. She can be reached at 2 Bridge Ave. The Gallery Building Three, Red Bank, N.J. 07702; Ph.: 732-530-3610.

Ellen Avery-Smith has joined Rogers Towers as a partner. She can be reached at 170 Malaga St., Suite A, St. Augustine, Fla. 32084; Ph.: 904-825-1615; e-mail: eavery-smith@rtlaw.com.

Mitzi L. Brown is senior corporate counsel for Blockbuster Inc. She can be reached at 1201 Elm St., Dallas, Texas 75270; Ph.: 214-854-3630.

William H. Hollimon has joined the firm of Pennington, Moore, Wilkinson, Bell & Dunbar. He can be reached at 215 S. Monroe Street, 2nd Floor, Tallahassee, FL 32301; Ph.: 850-222-3533; e-mail: bhollimon@penningtonlaw.com.

Richard F. Woodford Jr. has been elected to the board of regents of the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners. He is the executive assistant to the assistant inspector general for audit at the U.S. Department of Labor. He can be reached at richard.woodford@juno.com.

George B. Abney has joined the firm of Chamberlain Hrdicka as an associate and focuses in the area of tax planning and controversy. He can be reached at 191 Peachtree St. N.E., Atlanta, Ga. 30303; Ph.: 404-659-1410; e-mail: george.abney@chamberlainlaw.com.

Chanta Combs was named policy director for Florida Governor Charlie Crist. She served as his campaign and transition team policy director. She can be reached at 1601 The Capitol, Tallahassee, Fla. 32399; Ph.: 850-488-7810; e-mail: combsc@eog.state.fl.us.

Carolyn A. Egan has become a partner with the firm of Johnson, Anselmo, Murdoch, Burke, Piper & McDuff. She can be reached at 2455 E. Sunrise Blvd., Suite 1000, Fort Lauderdale, Fla. 33304; Ph.: 954-463-0100.

Lisa M. Hurley has joined Matthew Willard (’98) to form a new law firm, Willard Hurley, in Tallahassee. The firm handles criminal law, landlord-tenant disputes and other small claims cases. The firm is located at 517 E. College Ave. She can be reached at P.O. Box 10007, Tallahassee, FL 32302; Ph.: 850-224-2001.

Cindy McNeel and Sarah Lindquist’s article “Dangerous Dog Laws: Failing to Give Man’s Best Friend a Fair Shake at Justice” appears in the 2007 Volume I Journal of Animal Law. Cindy teaches animal law as an adjunct professor at the Florida State College of Law and is with the First District Court of Appeal in Tallahassee.

Steve Millsap has joined Polymer Group., Inc., in Charlotte, N.C., as assistant general counsel. He can be reached at 9335 Harris Corners Pkwy., Suite 300, Charlotte, N.C. 28269; Ph.: 704-697-5176; e-mail: mill-saps@pginw.com.

Michael R. Reiter received the 2007 Florida Bar President’s Pro Bono Service Award for the 14th Judicial Circuit. He practices consumer law at this own law firm. He can be reached at Ph.: 850-277-0777; e-mail: mikelaw32444@yahoo.com.
Todd P. Resavage has joined the law firm of Brooks, LeBoeuf, Bennett, Foster & Gwartney as an associate. He handles personal injury and criminal defense cases.

Scott Smith was elected to serve a two-year term on the board of directors of the Palm Beach County Justice Association. He also spoke at the 2007 Florida Justice Association Workhorse Seminar. His topic was titled “Redirect of Plaintiff’s Economist at Trial.” He lives in Palm Beach Gardens with his wife and two children. He can be reached at Lytal, Reiter, Clark, Foltain & Williams, LLP, 515 N. Flagler Drive, 10th Floor, West Palm Beach, Fl. 33401; Ph.: 561-820-2223; e-mail: ssmith@palmbeachlaw.com.

Joseph J. Ward has relocated with his wife and two sons to Brooksville, Fla., where he is assistant general counsel at the Southwest Florida Water Management District. He can be reached at 2379 Broad St., Brooksville, Fla. 34601; Ph.: 352-796-7211.

Matthew R. Willard’s Tallahassee law firm has expanded services, moved into a new office at 517 E. College Ave., and changed its name. With the addition of Lisa M. Hurley (’98), the firm now is Willard Hurley. The firm handles criminal law, landlord-tenant disputes and other small claims cases. He can be reached at P.O. Box 10007, Tallahassee, Fl. 32302; Ph.: 850-224-2001.

1999

Jason Brady has been elected a partner at the national law firm of Baker & Hostetler, where he is a member of the Business Group and concentrates his practice in mergers and acquisitions. He is in the Orlando office.

John Kiel Jr. has been promoted to the rank of major in the U.S. Army. He is an assistant professor in the law department at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. He can be reached at 3075B Wayne Place, West Point, N.Y. 10996; Ph.: 845-938-4542; e-mail: john.kiel@usma.edu

Sandra M. Upegui has been elected a partner in the Miami firm of Shutts & Bowen LLP, where she is a member of the International Arbitration and Litigation Practice Group and practices in the areas of complex commercial litigation, international litigation, insurance and appellate law.

2000

Edward T. Bauer has been named partner in the law firm of Brooks, LeBoeuf, Bennett, Foster & Gwartney, where he focuses on criminal defense.

Brandice D. Dickson has become an associate with Pennington, Moore, Wilkinson, Bell & Dunbar, where she is a member of its Litigation Section.

Gregory Jackson has been made a partner at the firm, Bobo, Ciotoli, Bocchino, Newman & Corsini. He can be reached at 315 E Robinson St., Suite 510, Orlando, Fl. 32801; 407-849-1060; jackson@bobolaw.com.

Christina M. Rexoat O’Brien is with The O’Brien Law Firm and can be reached at 1617 Hendry St., Suite 314, Fort Myers, Fl. 33901; Ph.: 239-332-8050; e-mail: Christy@obrien-law.com.

Danielle Tharpe has joined Gus Vincent Soto to form the law firm of Soto & Tharpe in Tallahassee. She can be reached at 1284 Timberlane Road, Tallahassee, Fl. 32312; Ph.: 850-893-7252; e-mail: dtharpe@gvos-topa.com.

Francisco Touron III has joined Areda Construction Inc., where he practices construction litigation. He can be reached at 5735 N.W. 151st St., Miami Lakes, Fl. 33014.

2001

Angela M. Price serves as a lawyer for Vice President Dick Cheney. She can be reached at Ph.: 703-413-6435; e-mail: apricelaw@aol.com.

James R. Spears is practicing insurance defense and workers’ compensation law at Broussard, Cullen, Degailer & Eagan in Orlando. He can be reached at 445 W. Colonial Drive, Orlando, Fl. 32804; Ph.: 407-649-8717; e-mail: JamesS@BCDOrlando.com.

Deborah B. Stern has joined the firm of Sandler, Travis & Rosenberg in Miami. She can be reached at 5200 Blue Lagoon Drive, Suite 600, Miami, Fl. 33126; Ph.: 305-267-9200; e-mail: deb_stern@yahoo.com.

2002

Jason Kellogg and his wife Cassandra (‘04) are expecting their first child in June 2007. He is with the firm of Hogan & Hartson, and can be reached at 1111 Brickell Ave., Suite 1900, Miami, Fl. 33131; Ph.: 305459-6659; e-mail: jkellogg@hhlaw.com.

Amy Schrader has joined the law firm of GrayRobinson in Tallahassee.

Melissa S. Zelniker has joined the Law Offices of Shlomi Presser. She can be reached at 200 Southeast Sixth St., Suite 602, Fort Lauderdale, Fl. 33301; Ph.: 954-764-1080.

2003

R. Edward Dupree has opened Dupree Law office in Houston, Texas. He can be reached at 20333 State Hwy. 249, Suite 200-103, Houston, Texas 77070; Ph.: 832-220-8108.

Danielle J. Kelley practices civil law in Tallahassee. She can be reached at 553 E. Tennessee St., Tallahassee, Fl. 32308; Ph.: 850-681-7777; e-mail: danielle@donpumphrey.com.

Jennifer Beth Levine has married and her new name is Jennifer Levine Gross. She is with Higer Lichter & Givner, and can be reached at 2999 N.E. 191st St., Suite 700, Aventura, Fl. 33180; Ph.: 305 933-9970; e-mail: jgross@hlglawyers.com.
Noelle M. Melanson has accepted a position as senior corporate counsel with Cay Clubs Int’l. She can be reached at Cay Clubs Int’l, LLC, 12800 University Drive, Suite 260, Fort Myers, Fla. 33907; Ph.: 239-333-2242 ext. 225; e-mail: NoelleMelanson@cayclubs.com.

Tracy N. Webster has joined the firm of Adorno & Yoss. She can be reached at 888 Southeast Third Ave., Suite 500, Fort Lauderdale, Fla. 33316; Ph.: 954-523-5885; e-mail: TWebster@FLPALAW.com.

Jennifer Starace Westermann has recently married. Her new name is Jennifer J. Nieves, and she is a legal placement consultant with Ajilon Legal. She can be reached at 227 W. Trade St., Suite 950, Charlotte, N.C. 28202; Ph.: 704-972-0530; e-mail: Jennifer.nieves@ajilonlegal.com.

Mark Bonfanti and Jason Vail (’05) from the management labor & employment law firm of Allen, Norton & Blue, P.A. were published in the winter 2007 Conflict Management, Volume 11, Issue 1, a publication of the American Bar Association, Section Litigation.

Elizabeth Chamblee Burch has joined the faculty of Samford University Cumberland School of Law as an assistant professor. She can be reached at 800 Lakeshore Dr., Birmingham, Ala. 35229; Ph.: 205-726-2417; e-mail: ecburch@samford.edu.

J. Celeste S. Burns has joined Gulday, Tucker, Schwartz & Simpson. She can be reached at 1983 Centre Pointe Blvd., Suite 200, Tallahassee, Fla. 32308; Ph.: 850-224-7091; e-mail: celeste@guldaylaw.com.

Min Cho, an associate in the Tampa office of Carlton Fields, was 2007’s overall winner of the Tampa Bay Business Journal’s Minority Businessperson of the Year. He also was the winner in the Young Minority Businessperson category.

Lisa Livezey Comingore has joined the Office of Insurance Regulation as an assistant general counsel. She can be reached at 200 E. Gaines St., Tallahassee, Fla. 32399; Ph.: 850-413-4175; e-mail: lisa.comingore@fldfs.com.

Daniel T. Pascale has joined the Administrative Law Team of Berger Singerman in Miami. He can be reached at 200 S. Biscayne Blvd., Suite 1000, Miami, Fla. 33131; Ph.: 305-755-9500.

Tara Rosenblum heads the Tax Project for Legal Services of North Florida. She can be reached at 219 Delta Blvd., Tallahassee, Fla. 32308.

William Sansone is a law clerk for the Honorable Charles R. Wilson, who sits on the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit in Tampa.

Lauren R. Tabas is now practicing in the field of mortgage foreclosures as an associate at the firm of Shapiro & Kreisman in Pennsylvania. She can be reached at 3600 Horizon Drive, Suite 150, King of Prussia, Pa. 19406; Ph.: 610-278-6800, ext. 228; e-mail: ltabas@Logs.com.

Jeanine Womble has returned from a six-month tour of duty as a Navy JAG individual augmentee in Kabul, Afghanistan. She served as a mentor to the Afghan National Army’s Judge Advocate General, his headquarters staff, and all of the military judges, prosecutors and defense counsels in Afghanistan. She can be reached by e-mail: bairaeday@yahoo.com.

Joanna Bonfanti has moved to the Florida Chamber of Commerce. She can be reached at 136 S. Bronough St., Tallahassee, Fla. 32301; Ph.: 850-521-1200; e-mail: jbonfanti@flchamber.com.

Leslie D. Porter Gaines has joined the firm of Hill & Ponton, where she focuses on Social Security. She can be reached at 605 E. Robinson St., Suite 250, Orlando, Fla. 32801; Ph.: 407-422-4665; e-mail: lesliedionnegaines@yahoo.com.

James S. Gentry has joined GrayRobinson as an associate in the firm’s Orlando office. He is a civil trial lawyer and focuses his practice in medical malpractice defense, insurance defense litigation and health care law.

Christopher Mark Hamilton has joined Baker & Hostetler as an associate in the firm’s Orlando office. He can be reached at 200 S. Orange Ave., Suite 2300, Orlando, Fla. 32801; Ph.: 407-540-7919.

Matthew Z. Leopold has joined the Environmental and Natural Resources Division of the U.S. Department of Justice. He can be reached at 950 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W., Room 2616, Washington, D.C. 20530; Ph.: 202-514-9050; e-mail: Matt.Leopold@usdoj.gov.

Rasha G. Lutfi has joined The Law Office of David Goren, where she practices immigration law. She can be reached at 8600 2nd Ave., Silver Spring, Md. 20910; Ph.: 301-588-8066.

Adrienne C. Love has joined Pennington, Moore, Wilkinson, Bell & Dunbar, where she focuses on general litigation and intellectual property. She can be reached at 215 S. Monroe St., Tallahassee, Fla. 32301; Ph.: 850-222-3533.

Nathaniel Joseph Malavenda is a member of the California Bar. He can be reached at nmalavenda@gmail.com.

Kirk Reams has been elected clerk of courts in Jefferson County, Fla.

Phillip H. Taylor has opened his own law firm. He can be reached at Taylor Law Firm, OMNI Executive Center, Suite 26, 4055 Tamiami Trail, Port Charlotte, Fla. 33952; Ph.: 941-629-5287; e-mail: ph6@earthlink.net.

Jason Vail and Mark Bonfanti (’04) from the management labor & employment law firm of Allen, Norton & Blue, P.A. were published in the winter 2007 Conflict Management, Volume 11, Issue 1, a publication of the American Bar Association, Section Litigation.
C. Brent Wardrop has joined the firm of Johnson Hobgood Rutherford, LLC. He can be reached at 600 Galleria Pkwy, S.E., Suite 950, Atlanta, Ga. 30339; Ph.: 770-333-9933; e-mail brentwardrop@gmail.com.

2006

Lt. Bryan Blackmore passed the Virginia Bar in June and is working for the U.S. Coast Guard Atlantic Area, Fifth District. He can be reached at U.S. Coast Guard Atlantic Area, Fifth District, Legal Office, 431 Crawford St., Portsmouth, Va. 23704; e-mail: bryanblackmore@hotmail.com.

James T. Burton has joined the firm of Harrison, Kemp & Jones, where he practices litigation and dispute resolution. He can be reached at 3800 Howard Hughes Pkwy., Las Vegas, Nev. 89169.

Jennifer DiLorenzo has joined the firm of Ford & Harrison. She can be reached at 1275 Peachtree St. N.E., Suite 600, Atlanta, Ga. 30309; e-mail: jdilorenzo@fordharrison.com.


Elecia J. Lyn has joined the Collier County State Attorney’s Office as a prosecutor. She can be reached at 3301 E. Tamiami Trail, Naples, Fl., 34112; e-mail: Lawele@aol.com.

Kim Ngoc Phan has joined the West Palm Beach firm of Beasley Hauser Kramer Landon & Galardi, where she practices commercial litigation. She volunteers at Justice Lewis’ Justice Teaching, a program in which attorneys and judges teach civics in community schools. She can be reached at knphan@gmail.com.

Jared M. Ross has been named director of Public Policy for the American Cancer Society, Florida Division.

Zachary L. Ross has joined the firm of Kirk-Pinkerton, where he practices litigation. He can be reached at 720 S. Orange Ave., Sarasota, Fla. 34236; Ph.: 941-364-2400.

Frank J. Ullo Jr. has joined the Jacksonville office of Lewis, Longman & Walker. He practices environmental and governmental law and litigation.

Jason A. Watson has been named shareholder in the Tampa law firm of Steele Watson & Benner, where he represents businesses and individuals in trade secret and restrictive covenant litigation. He also recently married Jennifer McCoy (’06). He can be reached at 201 E. Kennedy Blvd., Suite 425, Tampa Fla. 33602; Ph.: 813-223-2060; e-mail: jwatson@steelelawgroup.com.

Emily Sears Williams has joined the Office of the State Attorney of the 6th Judicial Circuit. She can be reached at 14250 49th St., North Clearwater, Fl. 33762; e-mail: emilysearswilliams@hotmail.com.

CABA Scholarship Honors Justice Cantero

Keeping with its 2007 theme of opening doors for minorities, the Cuban-American Bar Association honored Florida Supreme Court Justice Raoul Cantero III in March with a scholarship in his name. CABA presented a check for $50,000 to the law school at a reception held in the Rotunda, and attended by other Florida justices, legislators, Florida Bar leaders and Lt. Gov. Jeff Kottkamp, among others. Cantero, said Raul Chacon, chair of CABA’s Scholarship Committee, represents “everything that CABA stands for.” Its mission is to promote equality of minorities, to preserve the law, provide equal access to the law and facilitate the administration of justice.

In Memoriam


Steven D. Holmes, ’85, of Fort Myers, Fl., died Sept. 10, 2006. He was 47. He was a prosecutor for the State Attorney’s Office, had his own law firm and was an attorney for many of the law firms in the Fort Myers area. Memorial contributions may be made to a trust fund for his children. Please call 239-297-3598 for information.

Elaine Sehrt-Green, ’76, of Potomac, Md., and formerly of Jacksonville, Fl., died April 18, 2006. Memorial contributions may be made to National Foundation for Cancer Research, 4600 East-West Hwy., Suite 525, Bethesda, Md. 20814 or to Montgomery Avenue Women’s Center, 12250 C. Wilkins Ave., Rockville, Md. 20852.

Richard S. Hunt, ’99, has died.

Michael John Pitts, ’83, of Pensacola, died August 8, 2006.
More than 30 of the world’s most creative thinkers and leading experts on pharmaceuticals were at the law school April 5-7 to discuss the future of global pharmaceutical regulation, ways to improve the system, research and development for new pharmaceuticals and assuring access to medicines.

Participants in the roundtable "Global Pharmaceutical Regulation 2007: Tackling Regional Priorities" included, among others, representatives from the World Health Organization, the World Bank, Medecins Sans Frontiers, the Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance, the Latin American Association of Pharmaceutical Industries (ALIFAR), Consumer Project on Technology, the Federal Trade Commission and the National Institutes of Health.

The roundtable was organized by Fred Abbott, the Edward Ball Eminent Scholar Professor of International Law at Florida State. He is acknowledged as a leading figure in world public health and has been highly effective in helping the world’s poor secure access to essential medicines.

“The international system for the development, production and distribution of pharmaceutical products faces enormous challenges, but the nature of the challenges is not universal,” Abbott says. “Instead, the problems facing patients, industry and regulators vary substantially by region.”

For example:
- The U.S. pharmaceutical sector, with the highest gross expenditure on research and development, is hampered by economic distortion and roadblocks to genuine innovation, increasingly burdening consumers and the economy as a whole.
China and India have emerged as major pharmaceutical suppliers to the world, while struggling to adapt domestic regulatory systems and address local patient needs.

Africa confronts a massive disease burden, not only from HIV-AIDS, malaria and TB, but also from intestinal disease, cancer and pulmonary disease, diabetes and neglected diseases such as sleeping sickness.

The Caribbean seeks to address an HIV-AIDS treatment crisis, and to develop effective regional production and distribution strategies.

Latin American pharmaceutical producers increasingly confront challenges from Pharmaceutical companies demanding marketing exclusivity for their drugs. At the same time, income disparities among patient groups present major access problems.

During the roundtable, the experts sought answers to questions such as, “Are there potential common solutions to the problems confronting the global pharmaceutical sector?” “Are there models for research and development that would reduce distortions and improve the environment for innovation?” “Could regulatory efficiency be improved by increased reliance on regional and/or multilateral regulatory agencies?” “What is standing in the way of regional production facilities with capacity to supply large patient populations?” “Is there an alternative to relying on monopolies and marketing exclusivity as a means to attract research and development capital?” “Should the U.S. be exporting its costly regulatory structure for pharmaceutical supply?”

Please visit www.law.fsu.edu for more information about topics that were covered during the roundtable.
Includes publications/external talks/items that have occurred between publication of Fall 2006 issue of FSU Law alumni magazine through mid-April 2007

FRED ABBOTT
EDWARD BALL EMINENT SCHOLAR

KELLI ALCES
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

PAULO ANNINO
CLINICAL PROFESSOR

ROB ATKINSON
RUDEN, MCCLOSKY, SMITH, SCHUSTER & RUSSELL PROFESSOR
Presentations: The Good Samaritan of Boston Legal: Modern American Causation versus Ancient Western Traditions? (FLORIDA FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT’S ANNUAL PROFESSIONALISM CONFERENCE, FEBRUARY 2007); The Good Samaritan of Boston Legal: Modern American Causation versus Ancient Western Traditions? (WEST PALM BEACH COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION ANNUAL PROFESSIONALISM CONFERENCE, MARCH 2007).

DEBRA LYN BASSETT
LOULA FULLER AND DAN MYERS PROFESSOR

TAMARA G. BLENKHW
LEGAL WRITING PROFESSOR
Presentations: Legal Research and Citation (CERTIFIED BANKRUPTCITY ASSISTANT SEMINAR AND EXAM, OCTOBER 2006); Proper Legal Citation Under the Eighteenth Edition of the Bluebook (FIRST DISTRICT COURT OF APPEAL, CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION LECTURE, AUGUST 2006).

CURTIS BRIDGEMAN
JAMES EDMUND AND MARGARET ELIZABETH HENNESSEY CORRY PROFESSOR

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

ROBIN KUNDIS CRAIG
ATTORNEYS’ TITLE INSURANCE FUND PROFESSOR OF LAW
LORELEI RITCHIE DE LARENA
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR


JOSEPH DODGE
STEARNS WEAVER MILLER WEISSLER ALHADEFF & SITTKER PROFESSOR


CHARLES EHRHARDT
MASON LADD PROFESSOR


BRIAN GALLE
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR


SALLY GERTZ
CLINICAL PROFESSOR


STEVE GEY
DAVID AND DEBORAH FONVILLE & DONALD AND JANET HINKLE PROFESSOR


ELWIN J. GRIFFITH
TALLAHASSEE ALUMNI PROFESSOR


ADAM HIRSCH
WILLIAM AND CATHERINE VANDERCREEK PROFESSOR OF LAW


FAYE JONES
DIRECTOR OF LIBRARY AND PROFESSOR


JON Klick
JEFFREY A. STOOPS PROFESSOR OF LAW

Tahirih Lee
Associate Professor

Presentations: Iraq, Countannam, and the U.S. Court for China (George Washington University Law School, November 2006).

Wayne A. Logan
Gary & Sallyn Pajic Professor


Charlene Luke
Assistant Professor

Presentations: Risk, Return, and Economic Substance, (University of California-Davis, April 2007); Individual Taxation (Panelist), (Florida Bar Tax Law Section, Tax Bar Certification Review Course, February 2007)

DAN MARKEL
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

Articles: Connectingness and Dis Disconnects: The Difficulties of Federalism and Criminal Law, 4 Ohio St. J. Crim. L. 573 (2007); Presentations: Wrong Turns on the Road to Alternative Sanctions (William and Mary School of Law, November 2006); Criminal Justice and the Challenge of Family Two (University of Maryland School of Law Faculty Workshop, November 2006; Boston College School of Law Faculty Workshop, October 2006; Osage Hall Law School - York University Faculty Workshop, October 2006; University of Miami School of Law Faculty Workshop, October 2006; Law and Society Conference (with Jennifer Collins), July 2006)

DAVID MARKELL
STEVEN M. GOLDSMITH PROFESSOR


DAVID F. POWELL
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR


Benjamin J. Priester
Assistant Professor


J.B. Ruhl
MATTHEWS & HAWKINS PROFESSOR OF PROPERTY


Mark Seidenfeld
PATRICIA A. DORE PROFESSOR OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW AND ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

LOIS SHEPHERD
D’ALEMBERT PROFFESSOR


DONALD WEIDNER
DEAN AND ALUMNI CENTENNIAL PROFESSOR


LESLEY WEXLER
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR


JOHN YETTER
ROBERTS PROFESSOR


FERNANDO TESÓN
TOBIAS SIMON EMINENT SCHOLAR


MANUEL ANTONIO UTSET JR.
CHARLES W. EHHRHARDT PROFESSOR


JOHN W. VAN DOREN
PROFESSOR

Presentation: A Jurisprudential Restatement: Preliminary Thoughts (CONFERENCE IN SHANTOU MAY 2007).
The law school’s Moot Court team has brought home another big national victory. Kim Nguyen and Christina Taylor took first place at the Ruby R. Vale Corporate Moot Court Competition in Wilmington, Del., in March.

This was Kim’s second first-place finish in a national competition. She also was a member of last year’s team that won the Albert Mugel National Tax Moot Court Competition. Kim is the first member of the Moot Court team to achieve this extraordinary double.

The two also received the competition’s Best Brief Award. They were coached by Judge Marguerite Davis of the First District Court of Appeal and by Tallahassee attorney Arthur Stern III, and were assisted by Professor Barbara Banoff.

In the final round, Kim and Christina argued in front of three Delaware Supreme Court justices and two Delaware Court of Chancery judges. This was Kim’s second first-place finish in a national competition. She also was a member of last year’s team that won the Albert Mugel National Tax Moot Court Competition. Kim is the first member of the Moot Court team to achieve this extraordinary double.

The Moot Court team has had a string of successes in the past year. They include:

- First place in the Ruby R. Vale Corporate Moot Court Competition held in Wilmington, Del., in March
- Brian Sites and Nathan Prince took first place in the National Religious Freedom Moot Court Competition held in Washington, D.C., in January.
- Nathan was named Best Oralist in the finals; Brian was named Best Oralist in the semifinals.
- Marina Burton was named second-best oralist and Chris Bruce was named fifth-best oralist at the Albert Mugel Tax Competition held in Albany, N.Y., in March. The team was coached by Professor Charlene Luke.
- Spencer Bishins, Michael Makdisi, and Erika Siu made the quarterfinals (among 67 teams entered) of the Pace Environmental Law Competition held in late February in White Plains, N.Y. Erika was named Best Oralist for the preliminary rounds of the competition. The team was coached by Tallahassee attorneys Tony Cleveland and Segundo Fernandez.
- Alex Burkett and Ben Greiving reached the quarterfinals of the Craven Constitutional Law Competition held in Chapel Hill, N.C., in February.
- Ty Jackson and Wes Sherman reached the semifinals of the Manne Law and Economics Competition. The team was coached by Professor Jonathan Klick and Judge Edwin Browning Jr., of the First DCA.
- Ruth Lee and Christy Ruth reached the quarterfinals of the Wagner National Labor & Employment Law Competition. The team was coached by Judge James Wolf of the First DCA.

In addition, here are some recent accomplishments by members of the Moot Court team:

- Lisa Milnamow and Ben Webster took second place at the Luke Charles Moore Invitational held in Washington, D.C., at the beginning of March. They also won the award for Best Brief, while Ben was named runner-up for Best Oralist at the competition. The team was coached by Judge Phil Padovano of the First DCA.
- Patsy Palmer was named Best Oralist at the Gabrielli Family Law Competition held in Albany, N.Y., in early March. The team was coached by Judge Charles Kahn Jr. of the First DCA.
Law School
Continues to Rise in U.S. News Rankings

The new U.S. News & World Report law school rankings came out at the beginning of April, and there was more good news for the law school.

The law school’s environmental law program is now ranked 12th in the nation (up from 14) and, for the first time ever, the tax law program has been specially ranked, at 21, tied with Columbia. U.S. News also shows Florida State’s academic reputation is in the top tier of American law schools, at 48. Over the past three years, the law school’s overall ranking in U.S. News has gone up 14 slots, to 53. The magazine also reported an increase in the school’s reputation among judges and practitioners.

“We are thrilled with our school’s continued progress in the rankings, which are finally beginning to reflect the excellence of our programs,” said Dean Don Weidner.

Networking Noshes

Naples attorney Chris Lombardo, above, was at the law school in March to talk to students about the ins and outs of being a civil trial lawyer. The 1983 College of Law graduate—who also is the attorney for Everglades City—met with the students as part of the Placement Office’s Networking Nosh luncheon series. The luncheons give attorneys an opportunity to share knowledge about the legal profession with students in an intimate and casual setting. The Placement Office coordinates the events, which are held several times a year. Past participants include Nick Lioce of Nason, Yeager, Gerson, White & Lioce; Thomas Maida of Foley & Lardner; M. Katherine Simpson of Huey Guilday; Leon County Judge Ron Flury; Kelly O’Keefe of Broad and Cassel; and Circuit Court Judge Terry Lewis. If you would like to participate in a Networking Nosh, please get in touch with Tinsley Furry at 850-644-2262 or tfurry@law.fsu.edu.
When Professor Steve Gey announced in December that he was diagnosed with ALS (known as Lou Gehrig’s disease), former and current students, colleagues at the law school and friends could have sat around and moped.

Instead, the inspired group of Gey fans formed Team Gey and swam (one-third of a mile), biked (16 miles) and ran (3.1 miles) in a March 24 triathlon at Maclay Gardens in Tallahassee and raised more than $37,000. The proceeds from the triathlon went for ALS research in Steve’s name.

The effort was coordinated by 2006 grad Kristina Klein and third-year student Barbara Leach. If you’d like to donate, you can send a check directly to Kristina at the following address: Kristina N. Klein, Troutman Sanders, 600 Peachtree St. N.E., Suite 5200, Atlanta, Ga. 30308; or call or e-mail her at 404-885-3436 kristina.klein@troutmansanders.com.

At an event the same evening at Café Cabernet, students presented Steve with a Friend of Darwin award from the National Center for Science Education. This prestigious award has been won by such notables as Richard Dawkins and Stephen Hawking. Here’s a link for the NCSE and a little info about the Friend of Darwin award: http://www.ncseweb.org/resources/ncse_content/vol19/2575_ncse_members.
A SUCCESS!

CLOCKWISE FROM UPPER LEFT
1. Team Gey gathers in the Rotunda before the big event.
2. Law School grad Laura Johnson and Steve Gey. She made this great poster!
3. Kristina Klein, a 2006 grad, and Steve cheer the team on.
4. Steve, his sister-in-law Joanne Baizan, brother-in-law Hanson Baizan, and niece Kelsey Baizan
5. 2006 grads Kristina Klein and Megan Menagh flank their favorite law professor.
6. Judge Tim Harley and Legal Writing Professor Jolen Rawls Wolf were at Maclay Gardens to support Team Gey.
7. Third-year Barbara Leach and Steve
8. The big—and successful—finish to a great day!
Wayne Logan Named the Gary and Sallyn Pajcic Professor

Wayne Logan, a prolific criminal law scholar, has been named the Gary and Sallyn Pajcic Professor of Law at The Florida State University College of Law.

The professorship was established by 1972 alumnus Gary Pajcic, who passed away in 2006, and his wife Sallyn. The $150,000 gift to endowment, and its legislative match, helped attract Professor Logan to Florida State.

Logan will be teaching Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure, and Sentencing Law. His current research focuses on the interplay among the state, federal and local criminal justice systems. Immediately prior to joining Florida State, Logan was a visiting professor at the Marshall-Wythe School of Law at the College of William and Mary, and prior to that he was the William Mitchell Professor of Law at the William Mitchell College of Law.

Curt Pajcic, Gary’s son and 1995 law school alumnus, said that the family is thrilled to have Wayne Logan named to the professorship. “Dad’s heart has always been at FSU,” Curt said. “He gave FSU and the FSU College of Law credit for allowing him to springboard into the community and do a lot of very positive things. This is where his career started.”

Logan said he is honored to be the first Gary and Sallyn Pajcic Professor of Law. “It is a tremendous honor to be appointed to the Gary and Sallyn Pajcic Professorship, and I am extremely grateful to the Pajcic family for their support of the law school and their generous contribution to its mission. Gary’s remarkable life and contributions to the law and his community will be a constant inspiration to me as I continue my teaching, scholarship, and law reform-related efforts as a member of the FSU faculty.”

In 1974, Gary and his older brother, Steve Pajcic, formed Pajcic & Pajcic, a personal injury law firm in Jacksonville. Curt and his brother Seth, a 2004 graduate of the law school, are both attorneys at Pajcic & Pajcic.

Sallyn is a driving force in a number of charities, including the Jacksonville Public Library Foundation and its annual book festival, “Much Ado About Books.”

Lance Block, a 1983 graduate of the Florida State University College of Law, and his wife, Carol, are donating $150,000 over time to endow the Lance and Carol Block Children’s Advocacy Center Clinical Professorship. “This is an historic gift for the law school because it is the first professorship specifically endowed to attract or to retain a clinical professor,” said law school Dean Don Weidner. When the endowment is fully funded, it will be eligible for a fifty percent match from the State of Florida.

“The vision Carol and I have is to help insure the law school retains faculty who are tirelessly devoted to children in need, enthusiastically devoted to the students and passionately devoted to teaching,” says Lance, “We’ve been particularly impressed with the work that’s being done at the Children’s Advocacy Center. We are both sensitive to the fact that children in our state and throughout the nation have been neglected when it comes to legal representation, and the Advocacy Center is doing a great job.”

Founded in 1991, the Children’s Advocacy Center (CAC) trains second- and third-year law students in legal advocacy with an emphasis on intensive one-on-one and small group instruction. The Center is unique among law school clinical programs for providing a broad range of legal services. With approximately 80 on-going cases, it represents children, persons with disabilities, and victims of domestic violence. It also handles special education, Medicaid, foster care, delinquency, criminal, school expulsion, developmental services and supplemental security income (SSI) cases.

“Carol and I are thrilled to be in a position to do this for the law school,” Lance says, “We’re proud to support it.”

Lance and Carol Block Endow Professorship at the Children’s Advocacy Center

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Some notes about our law school...


The *U.S. News & World Report* ranks our environmental law program 12th in the nation and our tax law program 21st in the nation. Overall, *U.S. News* ranks us in the top tier of American law schools in terms of academic reputation (at 48). We also have program strength in International Law and in Law, Business and Economics.

Ninety-nine percent of the class of 2006 was placed within nine months of graduation.

Law schools across the nation use books written by our faculty in areas as diverse as bioethics, civil procedure, endangered species law, energy law, federal courts, international intellectual property, law and economics, legal ethics, ocean and coastal law and tax law.