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The Dickinson
School of Law

LEXICON

SUMMER 2014

JUSTICE FOR ALL: A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A HARRISBURG PUBLIC DEFENDER

Petra Gross '10 and eight alumni colleagues give legal counsel to those who can't afford it.

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Petra Gross '10, photographed in front of the Dauphin County Public Defender's office

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SUMMER 2014

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JUSTICE FOR ALL: A Day in the Life of a Harrisburg Public Defender

Petra Gross '10 (second from top-left), along with eight fellow Dickinson School of Law alumni, works at the Dauphin County Public Defender's Office, maintaining a hectic schedule as legal counsel for those who can't afford it.

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CAMPUS SECURITY CRIME STATISTICS: The Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act and Pennsylvania Act of 1988 require that crime statistics for Pennsylvania colleges and universities be made available to applicants upon request. Penn State's combined Annual Security and Annual Fire Safety Report includes statistics for the previous three years concerning reported crimes that occurred on campus, in certain off-campus buildings owned or controlled by the University, and on public property within or immediately adjacent to and accessible from the campus. The report also includes institutional policies concerning campus security, such as those concerning alcohol and drug use, crime prevention, the reporting of crimes, sexual assault, and other matters. You may obtain this information for the Penn State campus to which you are applying by accessing the website at www.police.psu.edu/clery/ A printed copy of the report may be obtained by writing to University Police & Public Safety, The Pennsylvania State University, Eisenhower Parking Deck, University Park PA 16802-6703 or by calling 814-865-1864.



LEXICON

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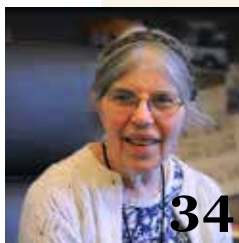
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{ *A Message from Deans Houck and Gildin* }



INTERIM DEAN
JAMES W. HOUCK

This summer we started a new chapter in the history of The Dickinson School of Law of The Pennsylvania State University. With the ABA's approval, we have begun the process of transforming into two separately accredited law schools in Carlisle and University Park. This forward-looking move by the University will allow the faculty and administrators at each campus to take better advantage of their respective strengths and offer students two distinct and strong options for legal education.

At Penn State Law in University Park, we will continue to focus on providing a superb legal education centered on equipping our diverse student population with the knowledge and professional skills they need to excel in the field. In tandem with this mission, we will forge new connections throughout one of the nation's leading public universities to create new opportunities for interdisciplinary scholarship and experiential learning. The practice of law touches nearly every professional field, and our presence in University Park will enable Penn State Law students to bolster their legal education by working with leading scholars in agriculture, business, environmental sciences, international affairs, and more.

While we look ahead and begin to shape the futures of the new, separate schools, the faculty, staff, and administration on both campuses remain committed to our current students and those joining us this fall. We are intently focused on ensuring they receive the superb, unified education they expect and deserve. Regardless of where they sit, the graduates of the unified school, like all Dickinson School of Law graduates before them, will be welcomed as alumni of The Dickinson School of Law of The Pennsylvania State University.

Penn State has shown tremendous support for both schools. As we move forward, we will also need the support of our alumni. Please keep in touch with us, engage with our students, and help us succeed in our core mission of educating the next generation of lawyers.

James W. Houck
Interim Dean
The Dickinson School of Law of The Pennsylvania State University
and
Penn State Law



INTERIM DEAN
GARY S. GILDIN

The entire Dickinson School of Law community continues to mourn the tragic loss of our good friend and loyal supporter, Lewis Katz. The fact that his name adorns our building serves as a daily reminder of Lewis' love for his law school.

I look forward to sharing with our valued alumni the specifics of the vision that make me so wildly optimistic about the future of the separately accredited Dickinson School of Law of The Pennsylvania State University, Dickinson Law. For now, I will simply sketch three distinctive features of our strategic plan.

Penn State's Dickinson Law is rededicating its commitment to graduate students who are practice-ready for a highly competitive—and increasingly global—marketplace. We have re-imagined our 1L required curriculum to begin that practical training the very first day of class. The faculty implemented an experiential learning requirement, assuring that every student will practice law in one of our legal clinics; in an externship; or in our Washington, D.C. or Harrisburg semester-in-residence programs. We also have imported into the curriculum mandatory instruction on extra-legal competencies—such as problem-solving, project management, and business development—that have become essential complements to the attorney's formal legal toolkit.

The second polestar of Dickinson Law is our commitment to a supportive community dedicated to the success of our students. We are blessed with a faculty who, in addition to being fabulous teachers and engaged scholars, cannot imagine anything other than welcoming students to their offices under an open-door policy.

Perhaps most significantly, we will intentionally limit our entering classes to 75 students, guaranteeing an intimate community that affords our students personalized attention. Curbing the size of the entering class also will help us fulfill the moral imperative of maximizing our graduates' ability to find meaningful employment.

I invite you to check out our new website, dickinsonlaw.psu.edu, for more comprehensive information about our academic program. I leave you with the simple but elegant phrase that captures our mission—Practice Greatness.

Gary S. Gildin
Interim Dean
Dickinson Law

AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION ALLOWS PENN STATE TO OFFER LEGAL EDUCATION THROUGH TWO LAW SCHOOLS

On June 18, the Council of the American Bar Association's Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar (the ABA) approved the University's proposal to operate two independent and fully accredited law schools: Penn State Law at University Park and Dickinson Law in Carlisle, Pa.

The decision by the ABA, made after a deliberate 15-month process that included approval from faculty, a formal request by Penn State, and several ABA site visits, allows Penn State to develop the respective strengths of its University Park and Carlisle law school campuses. The two campuses, which have operated together as a single law school, will now operate as independent law schools starting with the class admitted in fall 2015. Both schools will offer three-year J.D. programs and graduate law degree programs.

“The full approval of the ABA for operation as two law schools begins the next chapter of The Dickinson School of Law,” said Penn State Executive Vice President and Provost Nicholas P. Jones. “We believe that two law schools operating independently can more flexibly respond to the needs of law students entering a rapidly changing legal profession. Penn State is offering two quality alternatives to prospective students, who can gain an extraordinary law school experience and education, and stand out in the marketplace for those qualities.”

HOW DOES THE SEPARATION AFFECT ALUMNI?

All graduates of the Law School's J.D. program before 2018, including graduates before the merger of The Dickinson School of Law and Penn State, will be welcomed and treated as graduates of both law schools and of Penn State.

Beginning with the graduating J.D. class of 2018, graduates will be alumni of the law school they attend, as well as alumni of Penn State.

Prior LL.M. graduates, current LL.M. students, and LL.M. students enrolling in fall 2014 will remain alumni of both law schools and of Penn State.

Each school will begin accepting separate LL.M. students in fall 2015, who will then graduate with degrees that reflect the separate status of each law school.

ALUMNI SURVEY AVAILABLE ONLINE

We encourage you to remain connected with one or both law schools moving forward. To help us ensure we respect your preferences, please visit www.law.psu.edu/alumnisurvey. If we do not hear from you, we will assume you want to receive communications from both law schools. Alumni can choose to modify their mail controls at any time by contacting the Office of Development & Alumni Affairs (alumni@law.psu.edu).

WHAT TO KNOW

- The action to gain separate accreditation for the University Park and Carlisle law school locations was supported by faculties at both campuses.
- The move will allow each location to promote its individual strengths and create a vibrant environment for the benefit of students.
- Each school will have separate deans and separate administrations. Gary S. Gildin will serve as interim dean for Dickinson Law in Carlisle; James W. Houck will continue to serve as interim dean for Penn State Law at University Park.
- The University will move to appoint permanent deans in the 2014-15 academic year.
- The change does not affect law students currently enrolled or those who will enroll in fall 2014. The schools will begin independent operations in fall 2015. Prospective students for the classes that will start in fall 2015 may apply to either or both schools.
- Degrees and diplomas from the two law schools will be in the name of The Dickinson School of Law of The Pennsylvania State University, but will clearly reflect their independent and separately accredited status.
- Both campuses will refer to their affiliation with Penn State, but in general the Carlisle school will be known as Dickinson Law and the University Park school will be known as Penn State Law.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Read the full press release:
www.law.psu.edu/aba-approval

Consult the Alumni FAQ:
www.law.psu.edu/alumni-FAQ

LEGAL LEGEND CELEBRATED WITH PENN STATE HONORARY ALUMNI AWARD



Professor Emeritus **Louis F. Del Duca**, a man who has impacted the lives of many Penn State Dickinson School of Law alumni throughout his 57 years of teaching, was recognized by the Penn State Alumni Association with its prestigious Honorary Alumni Award and inducted as an honorary alumnus during Traditional Reunion Weekend at University Park, June 6-8.

The Penn State Alumni Association has given the Honorary Alumni Award since 1973 to recognize individuals who, though not graduates of Penn State, greatly enhance the welfare, reputation, and prestige of the University through their commitment and service. Since the award was established, fewer than 100 individuals have been awarded honorary alumni status.

“The Dickinson School of Law community joins the Penn State Alumni Association in congratulating Professor Del Duca on this latest achievement in his remarkably illustrious career,” said Interim Dean **James W. Houck**. “His visionary leadership in the field of international legal education and his influence and impact on his colleagues and students over the course of a half-century career prove that he is a worthy candidate for this prestigious award.”

Known as a pioneer in the legal world, Del Duca has collaborated with international legal experts from across the

globe to expand international educational opportunities in the American legal system. In 2000, he was honored with Penn State’s W. LaMarr Kopp International Achievement Award for his leadership in international education at the Law School.

In the late 1960s, when many educational institutions began introducing more international components into their curriculum, the dean of the Law School at the time called upon Del Duca to lead the way for The Dickinson School of Law. Del Duca willingly accepted the challenge and, in 1968, established a program for foreign-trained lawyers. He also founded the Law School’s summer programs in Europe.

The longest-serving faculty member in the Law School’s history, Del Duca leaves behind several generations of students who studied Secured Transactions, Sales, and Comparative Commercial Law under his tutelage. Alumni and students consistently remember him with affection and the highest praise for his command of the law and passion for teaching.

Del Duca’s devotion to the Penn State Dickinson School of Law and its students goes beyond his commitment to teaching, scholarship, and service. In 2000, along with his wife, **Frances ’66**, Del Duca endowed the Louis F. Del Duca Scholarship to support current and future generations of Dickinson School of Law J.D. and LL.M. students.



Photography by Christine Baker

DUSTY ELIAS KIRK '79 RECEIVES RAMBO AWARD

The Law School's Women's Law Caucus honored **Dusty Elias Kirk '79** as the twentieth recipient of the Hon. Sylvia H. Rambo Award during a ceremony on February 27 at Lewis Katz Hall in Carlisle, Pa. Kirk, a partner in the law firm of **Reed Smith**, received the Rambo Award in recognition of her exemplary contributions to the legal profession and to society as a whole.

The Rambo Award was introduced in 1993 by the Women's Law Caucus (WLC) to honor its first recipient, the Hon. **Sylvia H. Rambo**, a 1962 graduate of the Law School and the first woman to serve as chief judge of the United States District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania, where she continues to serve as a senior judge.

"Ms. Kirk's commitment to women, both within the field of law and in her community, made her the obvious choice for the Rambo Award," said **Gabriella Grosso '15**, WLC president. "We are thrilled to recognize her accomplishments."

Kirk is based in Reed Smith's Pittsburgh, Pa., office, where she serves as the leader of the Global Real Estate Practice Group. She concentrates her practice on all aspects of real estate development, acquisitions, and economic incentives, with an emphasis on real estate litigation, including real estate tax-assessment appeals, land-use and zoning appeals, and eminent domain proceedings.

Kirk has been honored by numerous organizations for her professional achievements and charitable efforts. She was selected by the *Pittsburgh Business Times* as the recipient of the 2013 Business Women First Award; named to Real Estate Forum's 2012 "Women of Influence" list, recognizing women who help shape the commercial real estate industry nationwide; chosen by *Celebrate & Share* as a 2011 Women of Achievement honoree and a 2010 Women of Distinction award recipient; and was a finalist for the 2009 Athena Award, which celebrates women who demonstrate excellence in their profession, contribute to their communities, and help other women to succeed through mentorship. She has been listed in Best Lawyers in America since 2006, and as a Pennsylvania Super Lawyer from 2011 to 2013.

Kirk is a member of the Pennsylvania Bar Association's Women in the Profession Committee, and serves as chair of the Allegheny Regional Asset District. She also has served on the Advisory Board of Chatham University's Pennsylvania Center for Women in Politics. Kirk is a past president of the Board of Directors of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation of Western Pennsylvania, and a past board chair of Planned Parenthood of Western Pennsylvania.

Prior to joining Reed Smith, Kirk was a partner in the law firm of Pepper Hamilton LLP and the founding member and president of Frank, Bails, Kirk, Murcko and Toal, P.C.



*The Law School's Women's Law Caucus honored **Dusty Elias Kirk '79** as the twentieth recipient of the Hon. Sylvia H. Rambo Award during a ceremony on February 27 at Lewis Katz Hall in Carlisle, Pa.*

THE HON. THOMAS I. VANASKIE '78 TO RECEIVE *Penn State Alumni Association's Alumni Fellow Award*

The Penn State Alumni Association will honor the Hon. **Thomas I. Vanaskie '78** with its prestigious Alumni Fellow Award. Vanaskie will be recognized at an awards banquet on October 8 in University Park, Pa.

The Alumni Fellow Program, established in 1973, is designed to invite Alumni Fellows, prominent and outstanding leaders in their fields, to return to specific colleges of the University to lend their expertise through informal contacts with students, faculty members, and administrators. The Board of Trustees has specified the Alumni Fellow title as a permanent, lifelong designation.

Vanaskie is a member of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, nominated to the court by President Barack Obama in 2009 and confirmed by the U.S. Senate in 2010. He previously served on the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania, a seat for which he was nominated by President Bill Clinton. Vanaskie held the seat from 1994 to 2010, serving as chief judge from 1999 to 2006.

Vanaskie serves as chair of the Information Technology Committee of the Judicial Conference of the United States, the policy-making body for the United States Courts, a position to which he was appointed by the late Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist of the U.S. Supreme Court. For the Third Circuit Judicial Council, Vanaskie presently chairs the Automation Committee and sits on the Library Committee. He is also a former member of the Board of Directors of the Federal Judges Association. In recognition of his impact on the judiciary and the legal community, Vanaskie has earned numerous awards and recognitions, including Honorary Master of the Bench of the Herbert B. Cohen Inn of Court in York, Pa., and the Federal Bar Association Middle District of Pennsylvania Chapter's Presidents Award.

A 1975 magna cum laude graduate of Lycoming College,



Vanaskie is a decorated scholar athlete. In June 2013, he was inducted into the Capital One Academic All-America Hall of Fame for football. Described as a “hard-nosed defender on the football field,” Vanaskie also has been inducted into the Shamokin Chapter of the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame and into Lycoming College’s Athletics Hall of Fame. He was a 1974 first team Academic All-American selection and a two-time Middle Atlantic Conference defensive back. He earned honorable mention Associated Press All-American College Division honors as a senior.

Upon his graduation from The Dickinson School of Law, Vanaskie served as law clerk to Chief Judge William J. Nealon of the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania. In 1980, he joined the Scranton, Pa., office of Dilworth, Paxson, Kalish and Kaufmann. In 1992, Vanaskie became a principal member of the law firm of Elliott, Vanaskie and Riley, which maintained offices in Blue Bell, Scranton, and Harrisburg, Pa., as well as an office in Washington, D.C.

Vanaskie is an adjunct professor of law at Penn State.



CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CLINIC RECEIVES PRO BONO AWARD FROM *SUPER LAWYERS* MAGAZINE

The Children's Advocacy Clinic at The Dickinson School of Law was named a recipient of a 2013 Super Lawyers Pro Bono Award in February.

"Our focus in the Children's Advocacy Clinic is always on children and on making their voices heard and their needs matter in the legal system," said **Lucy Johnston-Walsh '97**, director of the Children's Advocacy Clinic, who is "delighted" by the award. "I look forward to continued work on behalf of the most vulnerable members of society and take pride in creating the next generation of child advocates."

The annual Super Lawyers Pro Bono Awards honor individual lawyers, law firms, law students, law schools, and other institutions in the legal profession that exemplify excellence in practice through delivery of volunteer legal services to the poor, underrepresented, or exploited. The 2013 recipients were chosen by a review committee, which evaluated legal effort, personal contribution, impact to the law, and innovation. Law students and law programs were evaluated on additional factors, such as community outreach and leadership. While members of the clinic represent children in abuse and dependency matters, they also undertake policy work on behalf of foster children.

Recent graduate **Tiffany LoBello '14** worked on about fifteen cases while in the clinic. She said she not only gained confidence, but she "found her passion."

"Working at the Children's Advocacy Clinic for a year has solidified my desire to be an advocate for children and opened my eyes to a new rewarding area of law," said LoBello. "The most rewarding part of my time at the clinic was when my oldest client, who was 18 years old, told me that she was so glad that I was a part of her life and that all my work and passion made a

difference in her life. She understands the system and the people coming in and out of her life, but to make a true connection and to have gained her trust and honesty is what I believe advocating for children is all about."

Founded in 2006 under the direction of Johnston-Walsh, the Children's Advocacy Clinic provides students with access to faculty members from across Penn State—including the disciplines of medicine, psychology, sociology, and education—to address legal and non-legal issues associated with their young clients. Children are represented by both a law student and a graduate social-work student who use a team approach to address each child's needs. Clinic students also receive help in understanding medical issues, psychiatric matters, and patient files from pediatric medical residents at Penn State Hershey Children's Hospital.



The Children's Advocacy Clinic provides students with access to faculty members from across Penn State to address legal and non-legal issues associated with their young clients.

LAW SCHOOL CELEBRATES CLASS OF 2014

The Law School celebrated 176 J.D. and 62 LL.M. graduates at its 135th commencement with ceremonies in Carlisle and University Park on Saturday, May 17. The ceremonies featured **Matthew McDonald** and **Collin Cole**, both members of the Class of 2014. **Matthew Esworthy '01** spoke on behalf of the Law School Alumni Society.

University President Eric Barron, whose term as Penn State president began less than one week prior to Law School commencement, delivered opening remarks in University Park.

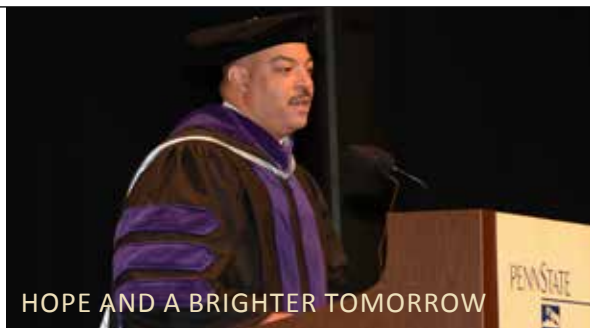
"It is an honor to share this special day with our graduates, their families, and their friends," he said, congratulating the Class of 2014 on joining a prestigious group of alumni that includes the first Secretary of Homeland Security and five U.S. Senators. "Your futures similarly hold the promise of much success and unimagined opportunities."



Attorney **Jiaying Yan**, who earned a master of laws, reflected on the experience of studying law as an international student in the United States.

"We speak 12 different languages from 20 different countries," she said, referring to the 79 LL.M. students who entered the 1.5-year program in 2013. "No matter how we shape our laws, we march toward the same goal of justice, which stands out as the same."





Commencement speaker **R. Seth Williams '89 Lib.**, district attorney of the City of Philadelphia, started by having graduates in University Park stand and applaud their families and friends in attendance whose support and encouragement made this day possible. Williams oversees 600 lawyers, detectives, and support staff and is responsible for the prosecution of more than 75,000 criminal cases annually. He explained that each day his two cell phones, iPhone, and Blackberry, alert him to a constant stream of violence and despair, "grim reminders of the failures of society." Commencement, however, is a bright spot that reminds him of what is going well in society.

"This morning, these bright shining faces, the lovely speech we just heard, the crying babies, the balloons that were outside, all represent the best, the very best, and are testimony to hope and a brighter tomorrow," he said, noting that everyone in the room has handled adversity in his or her own way. "Penn State was founded to provide a quality education for the sons and daughters of the working class. For the most part, those of you that chose Penn State are the very people this school was meant for."

Williams graduated from Penn State, where he was president of the Black Caucus and then president of the Undergraduate Student Government, representing all 57,000 undergraduate students. Williams then attended Georgetown University's Law Center, where he graduated with distinction as a Public Interest Scholar in 1992. After graduation, he returned home to Philadelphia to continue his service to the public in the city's District Attorney's Office. Williams spent ten years as an assistant district attorney. He created and led the Repeat Offenders Unit aimed at reducing the high percentage of crimes committed by repeat offenders. In 2009, he became the first African-American district attorney in Pennsylvania.

Executive Vice President and Provost Dr. Nicholas P. Jones gave opening remarks at the Carlisle ceremony. "Your futures are the promise of success and opportunity. Around the world, Penn State is known for excellence in teaching, research, and service, and it ranks among the top 1 percent of higher education institutions worldwide. Our students are also known for their desire to contribute to the larger community. Through your openness and compassion for humankind you have been wonderful ambassadors for Penn State," Jones said.



SUCCESS IS NEVER FINAL

Bhavana Boggs '91, vice president and assistant general counsel of the Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company, LLC, a subsidiary of Marriott International, addressed the Carlisle graduates. "Success is never final. You can and should create

your own formula for success. Establish your own personal reputable brand and develop relationships," Boggs said. In the context of providing efficient delivery of legal services, Boggs stated, "it's your generation of lawyers who will be at the forefront of changes inevitable in our profession." Emphasizing the importance of understanding different perspectives, she observed that as much as the legal profession is based on ideals, the work of lawyers is "about people and their very real problems."

Boggs began her career as a labor and employment lawyer and was part of Reed Smith's Labor and Employment practice in Washington, D.C., before moving to Marriott. The company earned \$12 billion in revenues last year, has 325,000 employees worldwide, and managed and franchised 3,800 lodging properties in 74 countries and territories. In her current role, her key areas of focus are managing the long-term agreements with owners of the Ritz-Carlton's assets, general operations and compliance, and protecting and advancing the Ritz-Carlton brand. Boggs studied international affairs as an undergraduate student at Lafayette College in Easton, Pa.

The Carlisle ceremony concluded with remarks from **Matthew McDonald '14**, who was chosen by his classmates. "Look at our growth from when we started school to where we sit today. It's been a hard and rigorous contest, but that's precisely why we've grown. Our adversity has made us who we are today, but we cannot forget that it will be our adversity tomorrow and the next day that will make us what we want to become."

Graduates and families joined Law School faculty and staff for post-ceremony receptions.

THON 2014 CARRIE BABIASZ '14 AND DRU MILLER '15 DANCE FOR A C U R E

By PAUL SWEENEY

PREPARING FOR THON 2014

Students in The Dickinson School of Law have been participating in the Penn State IFC/Panhellenic Dance Marathon, commonly known as THON, since 2005, but this is the first year the school's team has qualified to field dancers. That was accomplished by last year's THON campaign team, which raised \$10,266, contributing to the more than \$12 million donated to THON last year. This year, the Law School raised \$12,729.39 to contribute to the record-breaking overall total of \$13,343,517.33. The yearlong fundraising and awareness campaign for the fight against pediatric cancer engages more than 15,000 students across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. THON is the largest student-run philanthropy in the world and the oldest and longest dance marathon in the country, having raised over \$114 million dollars for the Four Diamonds Fund at the Penn State Hershey Children's Hospital since THON started.

DANCING THROUGH THE WEEKEND

The dancers, **Carrie Babiasz '14** and **Dru Miller '15**, partnered for the 46 hours that began on Friday, February 21 at 6 p.m. and ended on Sunday, February 23 at 4 p.m. Babiasz also attended Penn State as an undergrad and became involved with THON early on, as did this year's co-chair **Megan Janowiak '14**, who danced in THON as an undergrad. "I am convinced that it is

impossible to experience THON weekend and witness a maximum-capacity Bryce Jordan Center full of students, not thinking of themselves, but coming together 'For The Kids', without wanting to get involved somehow," Babiasz said. "It's infectious, and I think that has stuck with me and the rest of the group. Though some of us are about to finish law school, there is no graduating from THON," Babiasz said.

FUNDRAISING AS A TEAM

Babiasz, Donowiak, Miller, and the rest of the team—which included **Marcy McLaughlin '15**, **Jeff Gdovin '15**, **Katie Rimpfel '14**, and **Matthew McDonald '14**, and second-year students **Lauren Holzer '16** and **Jacqueline Schweichler '16**—raised funds since starting at the Law School through events such as Mr. Dickinson, canning trips, and the THONvelope partnership with the Law School's Phi Delta Phi legal fraternity.

WANT TO HELP?

Contributions can be made directly to the Dickinson For The Kids Team at <http://giveto.psu.edu/THON-Dickinson>. You can also connect with "Dickinson FTK" on Facebook.



“ A THON child wanted to play a game that I was playing with my moraler and then he quickly became attached to me. This led to him going up on my shoulders to dance to Sweet Caroline, to engage in some squirt gun fights, and tons of other fun events. He made my THON experience one I will never forget.

— Dru Miller '15

”

SCHOOL RESOURCE INEQUALITY

By CRYSTAL STRYKER

Is school resource inequality a civil rights issue? **Jessica Parisi '14** thinks the answer is yes, and she's putting her education and her passion to work to improve the lives of low-income students.

The first time Parisi visited a low-income, inner-city school for a volunteer project she was stunned. Classrooms had broken windows. The school lacked air conditioning. Of the several water fountains in the building, just one was labeled safe.

"I couldn't believe that the kids in these schools were being held to the same academic standards as the kids in the neighboring well-funded suburban schools, when many of them were coming to school without even having their basic needs met," Parisi said.

Parisi's experience with low-income students convinced her that her life's work would be in education policy. The next step was deciding how to get there. As she finished her degree in political science at the University of Pennsylvania, she chose Penn State Dickinson School of Law for the opportunity to earn a joint degree in law and education.

"Few schools have joint degree programs with law and education, and Penn State's education program is ranked among the top programs in the nation," she said. "The joint degree was a major deciding factor for me in choosing Penn State Law."

"Few schools have joint degree programs with law and education, and Penn State's education program is ranked among the top programs in the nation.

"The joint degree was a major deciding factor for me in choosing Penn State Law."

As a student, Parisi found a series of jobs in the education field. After her 1L summer she was an Urban Education Leaders intern in the District of Columbia Public Schools, where she assisted the Office of General Counsel with policy-related initiatives. As a 2L, she was a certified legal intern in the Children's Advocacy Clinic, based in Carlisle. Under the direction of Professor **Lucy Johnston-Walsh '97**, she drafted county and statewide policies related to child welfare and education, and white papers on educational stability and transportation, cyber school, and truancy. The



position brought her in contact with a variety of state and national organization representatives.

Last summer, Parisi landed her dream internship with a summer position at the U.S. Department of Education Office of the General Counsel (OGC). She spent time working in the Division of Legislative Counsel, the Division of Business and Administrative Law, and also on various special projects with senior attorneys in OGC. "I was able to work on a variety of very important projects, so I had the opportunity to really see how versatile my law degree will be in the field of education," she said.

Parisi is the daughter of two litigators, but she was initially wary of law school. "I am passionate about education and my parents had to convince me that a law degree would be useful to me in education policy," she said. "Now I cannot imagine going into education policy without a law degree."

Parisi said she would love to work in the Department of Education.

NATIONAL LAW JOURNALS PUBLISH SCHOLARSHIP BY ROBINS '14 AND RALLO '14

By ELLEN FOREMAN



Recent graduates **Anthony Rallo '14** and **Thomas Robins '14** have a significant achievement to brag about: Two prestigious, peer-reviewed legal journals accepted their scholarly articles for publication, an honor typically reserved for faculty scholars.

"I wouldn't have submitted the article if Professor **David Blankfein-Tabachnick** hadn't encouraged me," Robins said. Rallo said he also submitted his article on arbitration at the urging of Professor **Thomas Carbonneau**.

THE VEIL OF ACQUIESCENCE

Rallo's article, "The Veil of Acquiescence," was published in Volume 24, Issue 4, of the *American Review of International Arbitration*, a journal published by Columbia Law School called "the only scholarly and professional publication of its kind devoted to international arbitration." A research assistant for Professor Thomas Carbonneau, Rallo came to Penn State Dickinson School of Law after graduating from the University of Wisconsin and working as a policy analyst at the state level. "When I researched law schools, Penn State attracted me because of its focus in arbitration, which is a growing field," Rallo said.

Rallo said he got the idea for the article after looking closely at a Ninth Circuit case that was "uncharacteristically friendly toward a lower court arbitration ruling." After reviewing the case, he found "buried in a footnote" what he believes is the court's real purpose for reviewing the lower court case, which is to allow more judicial review of arbitral rulings. This is something Rallo says undermines the efficacy of arbitration.

Rallo was managing editor for the *Yearbook on Arbitration and Mediation* during the 2013-2014 academic year and served on the Health and Wellness Committee of the Student Bar Association. He plans to join a New England technology company as in-house counsel.

THE PECULIAR CASE OF THE ARA LIBERTAD

The *Harvard Negotiation Law Review* published Thomas Robins' article "The Peculiar Case of the ARA Libertad: Provisional Measures and Prejudice to the Arbitral Tribunal's Final Result." Robins said that this case fascinated him on many fronts, "First, it was international arbitration, second because it involved the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, and then because a warship was essentially impounded by another country and no shots were fired—it is an amazing example of the power of the rule of law," Robins said.

As an undergraduate at Hendrix College, in Conway, Ark., Robins majored in history. His passion for research leads him to "study emerging topics then go through legal analysis."

According to Blankfein-Tabachnick, "Tom is a remarkably thoughtful person with a rare level of intellectual curiosity and ability. Tom's publication is an extraordinary achievement for a law student; it's an example of the significant academic talent that exists among Penn State Law students."

Robins said he joined Penn State Dickinson School of Law due to his focus on public interest law and his previous experience as a Court Appointed Special Advocate. Upon graduation, Robins will serve as a clerk in the Delaware Family Court. He worked for the Arkansas Attorney General's Office as well as an employment law firm in Arkansas. "I thought employment law would be monotonous and it was anything but. Because arbitration is playing a more important role in employment cases, I can see where these experiences fit together," he said adding, "There are so many areas in which Penn State excels."

Robins is one of three students working with the Centre County Public Defender's Office through the Indigent Criminal Justice Clinic. He said he has handled, under supervision, all of the steps in the legal process, including pleadings and negotiating with the district attorneys on behalf of clients. He also served as senior editor on the *Yearbook on Arbitration and Mediation*.

THE LAW SCHOOL WELCOMES NEW INTERNATIONAL GRADUATE STUDENTS

By ELLEN FOREMAN



The Law School welcomed new international graduate students in January. The LL.M. and S.J.D. students came to Penn State from Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Iran, Algeria, Norway, Brazil, Iraq and the Kurdistan region of Iraq, and China.

Braving the sub-zero temperatures brought on by the arctic “deep freeze,” Penn State Dickinson School of Law’s new class of LL.M. and S.J.D. students arrived in January. The incoming students—from Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Iran, Algeria, Norway, Brazil, Iraq and the Kurdistan region of Iraq, and China—got an introduction to U.S. law and an overview of reading and briefing cases.

The new group of students includes lawyers, jurists, and advisers with a broad range of backgrounds. For example, S.J.D. student **Ahmad Gahzi Bedaiwi** was an adviser to the Royal Cabinet of Saudi Arabia; LL.M. student **Hanne Hillestad** from Norway is the project manager for Legal Advice for Women; and **Sukru Say**, who is beginning his S.J.D. study, is a tax court judge in Istanbul, Turkey.

“I came last summer and love this university,” said **Andrey Rank De Vasconcelos**, an attorney in private practice from Brasilia, Brazil. “It is very different from Brasilia. We do not have hills for example,” he said.

Rank De Vasconcelos attended the Intensive Introduction to U.S. Law in August 2013 and returned to complete his LL.M. He practices both criminal and civil law in Brazil and plans to focus on international business law and constitutional law so he can link between the two countries.

LL.M. student **Okan Yardimci**, a Turkish energy expert and past board member of the Energy Experts Society, said that Penn State Dickinson School of Law is a top choice for

students studying energy law. While he will retain his position in Ankara, he said his government expects students to use the knowledge they gain while studying to enhance their work at home. “I plan to be here for two years, which will allow me to also become more familiar with the U.S. culture and language,” he said.

Xue Wang connected to the Law School via the online program last fall. “Professor Vollmer worked with me twice per week on my case briefs and other writing assignments,” she said, adding that the online program gave her the confidence to enroll in the LL.M. program. “I am interested in common law because it is very different than Chinese law.”

Many of the students mentioned the guidance they received from former Associate Dean of Graduate and International Programs **Karen Bysiewicz**. “We are so fortunate to have such an accomplished group of people join our program,” Bysiewicz said. “They truly enrich our law school with the diversity of experiences they bring.”

Amir Saed Vakil joined the LL.M. program from Tehran, Iran, where he both practices and lectures at the University of Tehran. “I first learned about the Law School from articles written by scholars and professors from the University in law and policy journals,” he said. “There are many Iranian students being educated here. I knew I would be comfortable.”

STUDENTS REAP ADVANTAGES OF OIL AND GAS BOOM

By PAUL SWEENEY



Joe Negaard, Sarah Lederach, Thomas Panighetti, Emily Overfield, and Sarah Black have completed internships within the oil and gas industry and have identified their post-graduation career plans in the industry.

The energy business in Pennsylvania and throughout the United States is expanding rapidly. According to a report by the Department of Energy, the known quantity of natural gas reserves in Pennsylvania more than doubled in 2010 and increased 90 percent in 2011. Several Penn State Dickinson School of Law students took advantage of classes, such as Oil and Gas, Law and Policy of Shale Gas Development, and Energy Law and Policy to prepare for careers in the field.

“We are in the center of shale activity,” said Professor **Ross Pifer ’95**, who researches shale gas development and the interface between agricultural and residential development. “There is a lot of research being done at Penn State, and law students are able to take advantage of all of the resources that the University offers.”

{ *Hear from the Students* }



SARAH BLACK

Sarah Black ’14 majored in religious studies at the University of Virginia before deciding to go to law school. The Pittsburgh native chose to study oil and gas because her parents are in the industry and she enjoyed Professor Pifer’s Oil and Gas class.

She also enjoys the topic because it is a rapidly expanding industry in Pennsylvania. “You can get hands-on work quickly and have a lot of responsibility,” said Black. “There is a lot of opportunity to be involved at the ground level.”

Last summer, Black earned experience in oil and gas law working for Range Resources in the land department, where she dealt with leasing and litigation management. Black noticed that about half of the interns employed by Range Resources were Penn State students or alumni. She said Penn State Dickinson School of Law is “the perfect place to study oil and gas, not only because of the great education, but because of the connections you can make in the energy community.” Black added that students interested in oil and gas should take advantage of all the opportunities at Penn State.

Looking forward, Black plans to contribute to the expansion of the oil and gas industry in Pennsylvania. She has accepted a position at Range Resources working as a “landman” and expects to begin in August 2014.



JOE NEGAARD

Joe Negaard '14 grew up on a ranch in central Montana. After working as a paralegal in the U.S. Army, Negaard decided he wanted to study law. He graduated from Montana State University-Bozeman in 2010 with a degree in political science. One year later, he decided to attend Penn State Dickinson School of Law because of its strength in agricultural law.

Negaard spent last summer as a research assistant for Professor Ross Pifer's Agricultural Law

Resource and Reference Center. During the four-month stint, he shifted his focus from agriculture to oil and gas law. He then interned at Rex Energy Corporation in State College, Pa., where he provided support for attorneys. He is a co-founder of the Agriculture Law Society and a co-founder of the Military Law Caucus.

After graduating from the Law School in 2014, Negaard began his new job as a corporate counsel at Rex. Throughout his career, he wants to help as many people as possible. "I grew up in a small rural community and you see a lot of poverty," said Negaard. "My mission is to help."



SARAH LEDERACH

Sarah Lederach '14 attended Saint Vincent College in Latrobe, Pa., where she majored in history. Her interest in law came from her father, who is a lawyer. From a young age, she wanted to follow in his footsteps. When her father began practicing oil and gas litigation in 2008, Lederach decided it was the area of law she wanted to study at Penn State Dickinson School of Law.

Last summer, Lederach finished her internship at Atlas Energy in Pittsburgh. At Atlas, she primarily

worked with lease agreements in the land department. During her time at the Law School, Lederach polished her courtroom skills at the National Environmental Moot Court Competition in White Plains, N.Y., an experience she describes as "challenging, exciting, and fun."

As for advice for students interested in oil and gas law, Lederach said it's important to be knowledgeable. "Learn as much as you can, when you can," she said. "Never stop looking for new information on oil and gas law, and never miss a good opportunity." Lederach plans to continue her career in oil and gas law in the Pittsburgh area.



THOMAS PANIGHETTI

Thomas Panighetti '14 grew up with oil and gas leases on his family's property. He chose Penn State Dickinson School of Law because the attorneys he spoke with highly recommended the school.

By studying oil and gas, he combines two of his passions: science and law. "Without a doubt there is no legal practice right now that is as booming as oil and gas, especially for young attorneys to get into and become experts in their field," said Panighetti.

To become an expert in the industry, Panighetti said it is important to gain a well-rounded perspective on oil and gas by talking to landowners, visiting well sites, and learning the science behind the law. He summered at **Jones Day** in Pittsburgh after his second year of law school and has recently accepted a position at Jones Day.



EMILY OVERFIELD

Emily Overfield '14 studied print journalism and business at the University of Texas at Austin. During her freshman year, she decided to pursue a career in law because she wanted something more challenging. Overfield's father works for ExxonMobil, so the oil and gas industry is nothing new to her.

"Penn State Law has a great environment," she said. "There is a sense of collaboration among the students and professors." In law school, she has found the challenge that she craved.

One of her most memorable moments of law school was working as an intern at the Family Law Clinic, providing free legal help for domestic issues. She remembered one particularly challenging case. She thought the case would be unsuccessful, but was able to negotiate an unexpected settlement for her client. It was the first time she "felt like a lawyer."

Overfield hopes to continue her career in Wilmington, Del., or Philadelphia using her expertise in oil and gas law at a mid-sized law firm.

LAW SCHOOL PAVES THE WAY FOR A FUTURE DISABILITY RIGHTS ADVOCATE



Photograph by Mark Armstrong

Darlene Hemerka '16 just finished her first year at Penn State Dickinson School of Law. Why law school one might ask? "To advance the rights of persons with disabilities and to educate the public and the legal profession about lawyers with disabilities," she responds.

Hemerka sees legislative policy as a key way to improve the lives of persons with disabilities. For example, she would like to help revise the current policies regarding the emergency evacuations for

ties—she listened to the players talk about the challenges they face, and sometimes shared how she handled certain situations. As an AmeriCorps member, she helped high-school freshmen with their studies, listened to their struggles, and continually told them that she believed in them.

Having been born with a disability, Hemerka has received accommodations since grade school. How do you determine which accommodations work for you? "Trial and error," says Hemerka. For law school, Hemerka downloads her text-

Hemerka's rewarding experience with mentors led her to become a mentor.

As an AmeriCorps member, she helped high school freshmen with their studies, listened to their struggles, and continually told them that she believed in them.

people with disabilities by requiring businesses, schools, and building owners to purchase evacuation equipment.

Hemerka, who has cerebral palsy, uses a walker to get around. She credits her drive and future career plans—to be an advocate for the rights of persons with disabilities—to her disability. What has she learned about her disability from her mentors? First, your disability only defines you if you let it, she says. Second, use your experiences with your disability to help serve others.

Hemerka's rewarding experience with mentors led her to become a mentor. As captain of a sled hockey team—a variation of ice hockey for people with disabili-

ties—she listened to the players talk about the challenges they face, and sometimes shared how she handled certain situations. And, because it takes her longer than others to write, she requested and was granted access to class lectures online. This allows her to go back over her notes and fill in any gaps. For accommodations that she finds no longer work, Hemerka reaches out to her disability services coordinator to explore alternatives.

"The faculty and staff at Penn State have been more than welcoming and willing to accommodate my needs so I can succeed," she says.

This story first appeared on the American Bar Association's website.

STUDENT TEACHES AND LEARNS IN PALESTINE

By PAUL SWEENEY



Photograph by Mary Szmolko

Taimoor Choudhry '14 knew there was a chance he wouldn't make it past the Palestinian border.

"I booked my flight into Jordan and then took a taxi to Palestine," said Choudhry, who graduated in May with a joint J.D. and master's in international affairs from Penn State Dickinson School of Law and the School of International Affairs. The strategy was meant to make his crossing go more smoothly. Instead, he was detained. Authorities led Choudhry from room to room to endure lengthy series of questions and didn't release him until seven hours later.

"It was a great beginning to the summer," he said jokingly.

Choudhry spent three months last summer at An-Najah University in Nablus, Palestine, where he taught courses and conducted research.

But the unexpected events continued after he crossed the border. Choudhry said it took a few weeks for him to adjust to the non-Western culture. He couldn't wear shorts. He couldn't speak with women in public. He couldn't stand too long in the blazing sun. And, most important of all, he watched fighter jets fly above him almost every day.

"It was one of the most mentally challenging things I've ever faced in my life," he said.

Still, Choudhry is no stranger to mental challenge. While in Palestine, he taught undergraduate courses in international public law and legal terminology. He supervised students in An-Najah's legal clinic as they studied human rights violations and helped individuals impacted by Israeli and Palestinian policies, and he also researched the historical roots of clinical education for a professor.

Choudhry originally made a connection to An-Najah University through his friend, a Palestinian L.L.M. student at the

Law School. Since he aspires to do energy-sector and policy work in the Middle East someday, Choudhry jumped on the opportunity to teach at An-Najah. Working there fulfilled a "lifelong dream."

With his undergraduate students, Choudhry organized a food drive during the Islamic holy month of Ramadan. He and his students collected money and eventually gave a month's worth of food to over 10 families in need.

"I wanted to do something with my students so that they would feel empowered," he said, emphasizing that with all of the foreign aid money flowing into Palestine, inhabitants often feel like they can't do much themselves.

While the food drive succeeded greatly, Ramadan was one of the more challenging periods Choudhry faced. During Ramadan, Muslims generally fast from sunrise to sundown. That meant Choudhry could not eat or drink in public—not to mention his entire schedule shifted.

"When you're alone out there, that takes a mental toll," he said.

Still, he wasn't entirely alone. Choudhry says his favorite part of the whole summer was getting to meet and interact with Palestinians. And he says jumping cultural hurdles to do so was worthwhile.

"This was an eye-opening experience for me," he said. "I would recommend everyone take a trip abroad to the area they want to work in."



An-Najah University in Nablus, Palestine

LINDSAY BERKSTRESSER '14

Honored For Her Love of Law and the Courtroom

By PAM KNOWLTON

Photograph by Mark Armstrong

When **Lindsay Berkstresser '14** received the Joseph T. McDonald Memorial Scholarship of the Pennsylvania Bar Foundation award from **Michael J. McDonald '79** this past semester, she also received a piece of advice: "Love the profession, and it will love you back." This was the same advice that McDonald, who has been referred to as one of the most esteemed personal injury lawyers in Pennsylvania, received from his father, Joseph T. McDonald, when he decided to go to law school.

Like McDonald, Berkstresser loves the action of being in the courtroom. As a second-year law student, she placed first for the plaintiff's attorney in the Law School's Mock Trial Competition. Berkstresser was a senior advocate on the Moot Court Board, competed on the ABA National Appellate Advocacy Team, and was actively involved in promoting the Law School's Trial Advocacy Program as vice president of the American Association for Justice for the Carlisle campus.

"In addition to the skills I acquired in our formidable trial advocacy program, I have had the opportunity to hone my courtroom skills by working with, and learning from, a number of accomplished attorneys on cases involving commercial litigation, personal injury, criminal

defense, insurance defense, and class actions," Berkstresser said. "I drafted pre-trial motions, participated in trial strategy conferences, and created case management plans." Berkstresser also served as a judicial clerk for the Honorable **Christylee L. Peck '01** at the Cumberland County Court of Common Pleas.

But it wasn't necessarily her advocacy achievements that made Berkstresser stand out from the other applicants for the McDonald Scholarship. McDonald said that what initially caught his eye was that Berkstresser would be graduating from law school at the age of 21, an age more likely for a college graduate than a law school graduate.

McDonald visited the Carlisle campus to present the award to Berkstresser and was accompanied by **Grace R. Schuyler '77**, president of the Pennsylvania Bar Foundation, and Marie Queen, the foundation's executive director.

In addition to the Joseph T. McDonald Memorial Scholarship, Berkstresser has been awarded the D. Arthur Magaziner Human Service Award, the Honorable Gwilym A. Price Jr. Memorial Scholarship, the Pennsylvania Bar Foundation's James W. Stoudt Memorial Scholarship, and Phi Alpha Delta's C. Raymond Justice Service



Scholarship.

"I am deeply appreciative to all the scholarship benefactors for their support," said Berkstresser. "I am inspired by the confidence that the scholarship benefactors have in me and will continue to uphold the ideals on which these awards are based."

In addition to her advocacy commitments, Berkstresser was an articles editor for the *Penn State Journal of Law and International Affairs*. She represented the Law School in the Pennsylvania Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division and is a member of the Cumberland County Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division. Upon graduation, she joined **Martson Law Offices** in Carlisle, Pa.

{ *Scholarship Info* }

About the Joseph T. McDonald Memorial Scholarship

Established in 2013, the Joseph T. McDonald Memorial Scholarship of the Pennsylvania Bar Foundation provides assistance to third-year law students enrolled full-time at Penn State Dickinson School of Law who are involved in the trial advocacy program and are interested in pursuing trial advocacy after graduation. Berkstresser is the first recipient of the McDonald Memorial Scholarship.

Scholarship support is only one of the numerous ways to help ensure a bright future for our students.

Anyone interested in exploring giving opportunities should contact Kelly Rimmer, director of development and alumni affairs, at krimmer@psu.edu or 717-240-5217.

David Kaye on DNA

In a *BBC News* article, Professor **David Kaye** said a more sensitive understanding of the Fourth Amendment is required when it comes to the Supreme Court's decision that police may routinely collect DNA samples during arrests to help solve old cases.



DAVID KAYE
Distinguished Professor of Law
Weiss Family Faculty Scholar



READ THE ARTICLE:
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-22762394>

Beth Farmer Assumes Editorship

Professor **Beth Farmer** has been appointed to serve as an editor of the American Bar Association's publication



BETH FARMER
McQuaide Blasko Faculty Scholar;
Professor of Law and International Affairs

State Antitrust Practice and Statutes.



LEARN MORE:
<https://law.psu.edu/news/professor-beth-farmer-named-editor-aba-antitrust-treatise>



Devastation after Hurricane Sandy

Stanley Brand Discusses RICO Charges Against Gov. Christie

“Overblown and premature.”

That's what Professor **Stanley Brand** said to Chris Matthews of MSNBC's *Hard Ball* on January 21 when asked what he thinks about bringing a RICO (Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act) conspiracy charge to New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie.

In January, federal officials began investigating Christie's possible misuse of Hurricane Sandy relief funds. Hoboken, N.J., Mayor Dawn Zimmer said that Christie officials told her they would withhold Sandy aid from her city unless she approved a redevelopment project favored by the governor.

“I'm not sure I know what the crime is yet in this case,” Brand said. “It may be that the threats of withholding federal monies to the mayor in



STANLEY BRAND
Distinguished Fellow in Law and Government;
On-site Director, Semester in Washington Program

Hoboken constitute the violation of an old Title XVIII statute coming from the 1880s. There may be other statutes at place. But to talk about RICO at this stage, I think is way over the top.”



LISTEN TO MORE :
<http://www.msnbc.com/hardball/watch/is-christie-facing-potential-rico-charges-123878979818>

Michael Foreman Opposes Justices' Ruling In Discrimination Cases

According to NPR's Carrie Johnson, last summer, the Supreme Court handed down rulings in two cases dealing with workers' rights. The justices split five to four along ideological lines to make it harder for employees to win discrimination lawsuits. The court raised new hurdles for plaintiffs who say they were victims of bias and then faced retaliation for raising the issue. In an interview, Professor **Michael Foreman** said:

“If you're working out in an oil derrick somewhere or you're working some situation where the team leader doesn't have the ability to fire or hire you, which was the Supreme Court's definition, but they have the ability to make your life miserable through racial harassment or sexual harassment, now there's an additional hurdle for the employee to jump through.”



MICHAEL FOREMAN
Clinical Professor of Law; Director, Civil Rights Appellate Clinic



LISTEN TO THE STORY:
<http://www.npr.org/2013/06/25/195419772/justices-rule-in-favor-of-employers-in-discrimination-cases>

195419772/justices-rule-in-favor-of-employers-in-discrimination-cases

ALSO SEE:

<http://www.morningjournal.com/general-news/20130625/justices-narrow-workers-ability-to-press-bias-cases?viewmode=fullstory>

Katherine Pearson Talks Medicare on *Marketplace*



KATHERINE PEARSON
Professor of Law

Marketplace, a radio program produced and distributed by American Public Media in association with the University of Southern California, called Professor Katherine Pearson in September

2013 to get her tips on navigating the Medicaid system. Pearson suggested starting with an Area Agency on Aging, which she says are great sources for programs available in your state as well as actual physical resources, such as home care and support services in your county.



Some of the other programs Pearson suggested are:

Legal Aid: Community legal services for low-income individuals and families; some have specialists in Medicaid benefits.

Elder Law Specialists: People above the poverty line can contact these certified, experienced attorneys with expertise in legal issues affecting the elderly. A good resource is the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (NAELA).

Elder Care Locator: A full-service resource stop, including tools to assist caregivers and their loved ones with making informed choices about health care. The toll-free number is 1-800-677-1116.



LISTEN TO HER INTERVIEW:
<http://www.marketplace.org/topics/your-money/personal-finance-reference-guide/some-comfort-caregivers>

Nancy Welsh Elected to Dispute Resolution Committee

Professor Nancy Welsh has been elected to the



NANCY WELSH

William Trickett Faculty Scholar and Professor of Law

Executive Committee of the American Bar Association's Section of Dispute Resolution. Her one-year term as budget officer will run through the 2014 Annual Meeting.



READ MORE:

<https://law.psu.edu/news/professor-welsh-elected-abas-section-dispute-resolution-executive-committee>

Flynt Leverett Discusses U.S.-Iran Relations



“The issue is whether the United States, whether the Obama administration, is prepared to do a deal on the basis of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, recognize Iran’s right to enrich [uranium], and then talk about the conditions under which that happened.”

—Professor Flynt Leverett, discussing the breakthrough in U.S. relations with Iran on PBS *Newshour* last fall.



FLYNT LEVERETT

Professor of International Affairs and Affiliate Law Faculty



WATCH IT:

http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/world-july-dec13-iran_09-26/

Catherine Rogers Leads Arbitrator Transparency Project

Professor Catherine Rogers is spearheading the International Arbitrator Information Project at Queen Mary University of London. The project is an online resource that aims to collate information about arbitrators, their appointments, and their awards



CATHERINE ROGERS

Paul and Marjorie Price Faculty Scholar and Professor of Law

to provide parties with access to information for making informed decisions in the arbitrator selection process.



LEARN MORE ABOUT CATHERINE'S WORK:

<http://globalarbitrationreview.com/news/article/31983/queen-mary-academic-leads-arbitrator-transparency-project>

Scott Gartner on Chemical Weapons



Professor Scott Gartner stated his opinion that “Israel should show leadership and ratify the Chemical Weapons Convention” in an article he

wrote for *The World Post* in November 2013.

SCOTT GARTNER

Professor of International Affairs and Affiliate Law Faculty



READ THE ARTICLE:

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/scott-sigmund-gartner/israel-should-show-leader_b_4182820.html

Randall Robinson on Opposing Apartheid

“Nelson Mandela ushered in a dramatically different kind of South Africa. We thought it was our responsibility to play a small part in that struggle.”

-- Professor **Randall Robinson** on *CBS Face the Nation* recalls when he was arrested during a sit-in six years before Nelson Mandela was released



Randall Robinson with Nelson Mandela



Randall Robinson being given the highest award the South African Government can bestow upon a non-citizen by President Jacob Zuma



WATCH NOW:

<http://www.cbsnews.com/videos/activist-remembers-the-fight-against-apartheid/>

SEE ALSO:

http://www.democracynow.org/2013/12/6/randall_robinson_on_nelson_mandela_us

Ross Pifer Comments on Natural Gas Drilling Law

The Supreme Court of Pennsylvania recently declared unconstitutional certain provisions of Act 13, the state natural gas drilling law, according to an article in the January 23 issue of the *Williamsport Sun-Gazette*.



Oil Fracking

“While only a handful of provisions were struck down, the impact could be far-reaching,” said Professor **Ross Pifer**.



ROSS PIFER

*Clinical Professor
Director, Rural Economic Development Clinic
Director, Agricultural Law Resource and Reference Center*



READ MORE:

<http://www.sungazette.com/page/content.detail/id/601850/A-closer-look--Pa--Supreme-Court-decision-on-fracking.html?nav=5011>

William Butler on Green Peace Hooliganism

On October 23, 2013, the Arctic 30, a group of 30 Greenpeace activists, were charged with ‘hooliganism’ after they were detained upon trying to board a Gazprom oil rig in the Arctic



Oil Rig

Professor **William Butler** told *The Arctic Journal* that in Russia, hooliganism is defined as “a flagrant violation of public order expressed by a clear disrespect of society.” The efforts to board the oil rig and stop it from drilling, from a factual perspective, warrant the allegations, according to Butler. “The activists boarded someone else’s property,” he said. “They intended to



make a public display of their views.” The protesters have since been released on bail.


WILLIAM BUTLER

John Edward Fowler Distinguished Professor of Law and International Affairs



READ MORE:

<http://arcticjournal.com/politics/arctic-30-far-out-russian-woods>



JUSTICE FOR ALL:
A DAY IN THE
LIFE OF A PUBLIC
DEFENDER

By LUKE RETTIG

Photography by Christine Baker

On the second floor of a downtown government building, in an office just big enough for a desk, **Petra Gross '10** is stuffing manila case folders into her shoulder bag and reaching for a suit jacket. It's 8 a.m. on a Friday in early November 2013, and court starts in an hour.

Thirty-two and tall, with designer-style glasses and a sleek black dress, Gross is an assistant public defender in the Dauphin County Public Defender's office. She joined the office after graduating from The Dickinson School of Law in 2010 and has since maintained a hectic, often six-days-a-week schedule as legal counsel for those who can't afford it.

Walking across the street to the Dauphin County Courthouse, Gross reviews her morning list of clients. Several will be wearing prison jumpsuits, hands shackled at their waists and guarded closely by armed sheriffs. Others will be taking the day off from work, hoping to resolve offenses like driving under the influence and unauthorized use of property. In each case, Gross enforces her client's rights by attempting to reduce charges, dismiss them outright, or negotiate the best deal possible for her clients.

"It's not my job to judge who's bad," she says, matter-of-factly. "It's what the DA can prove." The DA, or district attorney, is the perpetual adversary of the public defender—though in-person the two camps are friendly.

Petra Gross copes by searching for the humanity behind each client.

"I don't know that I've ever had a case that's irredeemable," she says. "There's always some story behind it. Always a reason. And that brings out the humanity."

The Dauphin County Courthouse is filled with the graduates of The Dickinson School of Law and Widener University School of Law, and it's not uncommon to see attorneys who were recent classmates now arguing against one another in court.

Gross reaches the courthouse at 8:22 a.m, where she greets a security guard by name and passes through a metal detector. After a quick elevator ride to the third floor, she exits

and makes her way toward Courtroom No. 4. The hallways are nearly full as Gross waves to several clients before ducking into the empty courtroom.

Courtroom No. 4 is a looming indoor cavern of dark wood and marble, an imposing place of hard edges where quotes from 16th century Anglican philosophers consume entire walls. Above, a soaring 20-foot ceiling undulates like a series of small waves momentarily frozen, as sunlight pours through a sidewall of windows. It's cinematically beautiful, but for those who've been charged, this is where "the system" truly begins.

Leaving her bag on a chair, Gross hurries back outside to the hallway where her first client is waiting. She's a middle-aged woman, fidgety and eager to speak. She explains her situation: that a recent death in her family caused her to go out, drink, and unfortunately drive home. But she was arrested before she made it. Gross listens, then starts with the bad news first.

"I still don't have the lab report," Gross tells the woman.

"Ugh, I don't believe it," says the woman, her shoulders falling. "Now, I have to come back again. Take another day off work." She shakes her head, distraught. "I can't keep doing this."

"I can get you finished today," says Gross. "But you'll lose

your license. And I don't want you to lose your license before the holidays."

Gross recommends seeking a continuance, allowing her time to review all the evidence before making a legal recommendation. In the interim, the woman can keep her license and continue driving to work. Later, the woman says the real scandal here is "how broken the whole system is. How it's all about the money. About bringing people back into the system, back to court again and again until the boss won't let you come back, or you'll get fired."

When a client is powerless, even admittedly in the wrong, it's the public defender who often absorbs the venting and frustration. "Sometimes they take it out on us," says Gross. "Because they can't take it out on anyone else." Gross copes by searching for the humanity behind each client. "I don't know that I've ever had a case that's irredeemable," she says. "There's always some story behind it. Always a reason. And that brings out the humanity."

Gross's empathy, whether ingrained through professional repetition or encoded at birth, does not waver during a mad-cap day of courtroom wrangling, questioning, and high-stakes deal-making with a half-dozen assistant district attorneys. She views the world through an ever-focused lens of defensive advocacy, drawing on her ability to empathize, understand, and compassionately guide clients through a complex legal system many do not understand.



Petra Gross talks with fellow defenders Veronica Padilla and Andrea Haynes (seated)



Petra Gross with fellow Dickinson School of Law alumni. First row (from bottom), left to right: Sylvia Marakas '11, Chief Public Defender Brad Winnick '96. Second row, left to right: Colby Miller '11, Suzanne Edwards '13. Third row, left to right: Petra Gross '10, Veronica Padilla '12, Ryan Lysaght '12. Fourth row, left to right: Andrea Haynes '09, Amanda Batz '08

Guiding has factored large in Gross's life. Prior to law school, Gross worked as lead instructor for the New York City chapter of Outward Bound, a popular nonprofit organization, which—in addition to helping students change their lives through challenge and discovery—offers customized courses for struggling teens. Of the many values that make up Outward Bound's philosophy, its first is compassion.

As the courtroom opens to the public and defendants stream inside, Gross watches the church-like pews fill with her office's clients. She stands and begins working the room, moving from client to client, joined by three more public defenders scrambling to speak with as many clients as possible during this legal waypoint. Gross spends several minutes with each client—laying out roadmaps for the day's proceedings—while a group of assistant district attorneys gathers at the opposing table like a competing debate team awaiting the judge.

Blue-shirted sheriffs, armed at the hip, pace slowly around the courtroom making their presence known. Then, from a door usually reserved for a jury, the morning's first prisoner

suddenly appears wearing a green Dauphin County Prison jumpsuit. Gross turns to the man, waves, and approaches with a notepad as a newly arrived sheriff sits nearby to supervise.

"Hi," Gross says to the prisoner. "Remember me?"

"Petra?" says the prisoner, nodding. "Yeah, I've just never seen you before."

The Dauphin County District Attorney's office handles over 6,500 cases per year in the County Court of Common Pleas, which, in an average year of 260 work days, divides into 25 cases per day, 3.125 cases per hour, or one case every 19.2 minutes.

Gross sits beside him and quickly explains his options, which includes a guilty plea colloquy that locks in his charges and maximum penalties. Gross has made a deal with the DA that reduces the man's sentence to 30 days in prison, and now her client must plead guilty to accept it. Seeing the reduced charge and sentencing, he agrees and Gross moves on.

In the precious 30 minutes before the judge arrives, the courtroom feels like Grand Central Station at rush hour. Defendants arrive like an endless supply of trains from the outside world, with public defenders and district attorneys playing the role of train dispatchers, shuttling defendants off to treatment programs, prison, or immediate release back to society. It's a human and distinctly imperfect system, yet arguably the best devised by mankind.

To even the casual observer, class and racial divides become immediately apparent. Courtroom staff, public

defenders, and district attorneys are overwhelmingly white class and middle class, educated, and dressed in professional attire. Defendants are predominantly the opposite. Drug and alcohol abuse is often

the tie that binds defendants, followed by firearms offenses and general violence.

At two minutes after 9 a.m., the Honorable **Judge Richard A. Lewis '72** sweeps into the courtroom to the cry of "All rise." Elected to the bench in 1993, Lewis is a grand older man of the law with neatly parted, porcelain white hair and a care-

fully trimmed salt-and-pepper mustache. His authority is unquestioned, and for a moment, the courtroom is silent. Lewis sits in his black robe and smiles broadly at those before him, then the courtroom returns to its bustling train-station atmosphere.

An assistant DA turns to the court and calls the name and case number of the first defendant. Trailed by a sheriff, a muscular young man in an orange jumpsuit rises, makes his way past several inmates, and approaches the front of the courtroom where he stands squarely between a public defender and the prosecuting assistant DA.

The defendant is accused of breaking into lockers at Planet Fitness in Lower Paxton Township and stealing petty cash. He made off with about \$100, says the assistant DA, as Lewis patiently listens. The defendant, like many who follow, stares at the floor while his accusations are read aloud. With a deal in place, he is remanded to a program called Teen Challenge, a nonprofit that provides youth with Christian faith-based solutions to drug and alcohol problems. If he's accepted, Judge Lewis will grant immediate release from prison, favoring a rehabilitative program versus simple incarceration.

Lewis wishes the prisoner good luck as he shuffles back to his seat. One down, and many more to go. The Dauphin County District Attorney's office handles over 6,500 cases per year in the County Court of Common Pleas, which, in an average year of 260 work days, divides into 25 cases per day, 3.125 cases per hour, or one case every 19.2 minutes. Today's proceedings move even faster.

Next up: a West Perry man, 33 years old, in a green prison jumpsuit. He's a former Navy-enlisted sailor, father to a young daughter, and one of Gross's clients. Hands cuffed to a chain around his waist, he stands between Gross and the assistant DA, awaiting his fate while a sheriff loiters behind him.

"Sir, you have before you what is called a guilty plea colloquy," says the assistant DA. "Do you understand you're giving up significant rights?"

"Yes, sir," says the man.

Gross has already petitioned for parole and work release, and after the attorneys have settled on a resolution, Lewis addresses the defendant directly.

"So what's going on?" Lewis asks.

"I knew I shouldn't have been driving," says the man, "and I did anyway. I shouldn't have let the vehicle lapse either, that was irresponsible."

"You have a drug problem?" Lewis says. "Describe your drug problem."

"It's prescription drugs."

"What kind of drugs?"

"Oxycodone."

"Have you gone to treatment?"

"Yes, back in Williamsport in 2012."

"Didn't work very well, did it?"

"Well, it did help," the man allows.

Lewis looks down at his case notes, appearing to

{ Helpful Tips }

Zen and the Art of Criminal Defense Preparation for Trial



Gary Neil Asteak '74,
Lead Attorney at Asteak Law Offices, in Easton, Pa., shares his tips on how mindfulness can enhance the trial preparation process and allow the story to come alive.

DEEP LISTENING

During interviews with clients, family members of clients, and witnesses, as well as during the examination of police reports and documents, one must remain in an undistracted focused state of mind, probing with open-ended questions the subjective and objective reality that each person brings to the story.

BEING IN THE PRESENT

Create a state of awareness that enables you to be flexible, receptive, and nonjudgmental, opening the doors of perception on every level. This involves intentionally focusing attention on the moment-to-moment experience without being swept up by judgments or preconceived ideas or expectations.

EXPERIENCE THE STORY OF THE CASE

Crawl into the skin of each witness and see the world through all doors of perception, i.e. sight, sound, smell, touch, taste. The building blocks of the story arise from all perspectives and from all witnesses, creating multiple potential realities.

DEVELOP A THEORY OF THE CASE

For the defendant, the theory encapsulates the client's story of innocence or reduced culpability and summarizes the factual, emotional, and legal reasons for why a favorable verdict ought to be returned. Why is this a story worth telling? Why is this a story worth believing? Why should the listener embrace it and make it his own?

MASTERY OF LANGUAGE

The words and phrases we use are the tools of our trade. We must be mindful of the adjectives, adverbs, metaphors, and archetypes that describe the characters as the story is told. It is through our use of language that we communicate the subjective and objective reality created by the story.

VISUALIZE

Understand your role as storyteller, leader, and master of the truth. Prepare, by visualization, how the story will unfold in voir dire and opening, as well as during direct and cross-examination. Everything you do or say must be for a reason; therefore, you must think through how to convey your humanity, sincerity, sensitivity, and compassion through your words, body movements, dress, demeanor, and voice.

*Asteak is a member of the program faculty for the Public Defender Association of Pennsylvania's annual Trial Skills Training.

sigh. The man before him is a military veteran who's acknowledged his problem and appears intent on improving. In a clear voice, Lewis announces a sentence of no less than 30 days in prison and no more than six months.

"You'll be eligible for work release, but because you're in for such a short time, they'll be reluctant to take you," explains Lewis.

The defendant nods gratefully.

"Thank you sir, good luck," says Lewis, as the man leaves and another takes his place. The train station of justice hurries along. Each story is uniquely sad: a former "highly compensated" Ahold executive who lost his job and was arrested for DUI; a 20-year-old pregnant woman, already a mother, who works part-time at Taco Bell and allegedly assaulted her fiancé's ex-wife; a young man, who appears no older than a boy, brought before the judge on three first-class felony charges.

As each case is argued, the sidebar conversations of attorneys and clients and the thrum of courtroom deal-making never ceases. When not before the judge, Gross walks freely around the courtroom, conferring with clients in the back pews while other clients are sentenced up front. Gradually the volume of the courtroom rises until Lewis says, "I'm sorry folks, can we keep it down to a mild roar so I can hear?"

The most shocking case of the morning involves a young woman in her 20s with a streak of dye-colored hair and a tattoo running down the back of her neck. She had arrived that morning of her own volition, a free woman from the outside world. And as she waits for her time before Lewis, her attorney sits next to her and explains the possible penalties if she goes to trial.

Holding a sheaf of papers that includes a guilty plea with a reduced sentence, the attorney explains that "with these charges, you'll be facing 27 years in jail and \$40,000 in fines if you lose." The young woman doesn't react, perhaps from shock. It's the biggest conversation of her life, she's having it in public, surrounded by a dozen other defendants, and she needs to decide now. The attorney holds a pen next to the

deal, and within seconds the woman says she'll sign.

The attorney flips through the paperwork, with the woman scribbling her signature on the appropriate lines. A short while later, she's brought before Lewis, pleads guilty and a sheriff steps behind her, placing her tiny wrists in handcuffs. She's summarily escorted from the courtroom and transported to prison after court adjourns. Public defenders attempt to prevent these abrupt transitions from free citizen to jailed inmate, but when the charges demand it, law enforcement does not hesitate.

The population of Courtroom No. 4 dwindles over the next three hours. At one point, an assistant DA asks aloud if anyone in the court has anything else. After a few late arrivals, court officially adjourns at 11:34 a.m., and just as he swept in, Judge Lewis departs the courtroom through a side exit. Gross grabs her shoulder bag and, before heading to lunch, takes the elevator downstairs to file a document with the clerk of courts.

The morning's proceedings have generated vast quantities of paperwork, which must be filed, photocopied when necessary, and archived for later use by both the district attorney's and the public defender's offices. Gross says being an attorney is largely a job of customer service, and as an attorney who regularly argues before judges, she must demonstrate a persuasive facility in both spoken and written word.

Returning to her office on 2nd Street, Gross offers a quick tour along the building's narrow hallways that house nearly two dozen public defenders. Unlike district attorneys, each public defender serves as the sole representative of his or her client, and thus requires the private quarters to accommodate attorney-client privilege. For this reason, public defenders can't share offices, which accounts for the very long rows of very tiny offices.

Grabbing a miniature chocolate bar off her desk, Gross walks several blocks to Neato Burrito where she orders lunch to-go. Along the way, she explains why so many of the public defenders and district attorneys appear so relatively young. "The burnout tends to keep staffs young," she says. "There's

Students Wrap Up First Semester of Assisting Public Defenders

By PAUL SWEENEY

Recent graduates **Jessica Nixon '14**, **Thomas Robins '14**, and **Brandon Merritt '14** have represented 35 clients in the Centre County Court of Common Pleas under the supervision of attorneys **Richard Sett gast '07** and **Casey McClain**. Established last year at Penn State Dickinson School of Law, the Indigent Criminal Justice Clinic gives students the opportunity to serve criminal defendants accused of misdemeanor offenses.

"The clinic provides us the unique opportunity to learn



only so long that attorneys are willing to work six days a week.”

When exhaustion sets in, Gross draws on empathy (and a self-estimated 40 ounces of coffee per day). “On the days when I’m tired, I think: ‘If this client was my family member, how would I want their public defender to work?’ So the pressure is self-imposed. I don’t want to miss anything.” After lunch, Gross returns to her office and prepares for the drive to Colonial Park where she’ll spend the afternoon arguing before Magisterial District Judge Joseph A. Lindsey.

Following a quick car ride, Gross arrives at a small and nondescript brick building off Route 22, where she parks her

a crisp suit and advising his client, currently a prisoner in a red D.C.P jumpsuit accused of rape. “You don’t talk to anyone about your case but me,” Duda tells him. “There’s snitches in there that will snitch their mothers out.”

Gross drops off her bag and introduces herself to a newly arrived police officer who’s just arrived from prison with Gross’s first client. She disappears into a small conference room to confer with him privately.

The right to an attorney, granted by the Sixth Amendment of the United States Constitution, and drilled into the public consciousness most weeknights by prime-time police

On the days when I’m tired, says Gross: “If this client was my family member, how would I want their public defender to work?”

So, the pressure is self-imposed. I don’t want to miss anything.

Honda Civic and reaches for her shoulder bag freshly stuffed with new case folders. Today is “criminal day” for Judge Lindsey. It’s the first opportunity for the agents of the legal system—police officers, public defenders, district attorneys, witnesses, and victims if necessary—to come together and review the allegations against a defendant.

The waiting room is filled with defendants, and none are happy. Established in 1968, the Magisterial District Judge System hears cases involving traffic violations, landlord and tenant disputes, and civil matters up to \$12,000. The system also holds initial jurisdiction over all criminal cases, serving as an early filtration layer for sending cases “downtown” to the likes of Judge Lewis for further action.

Inside the tiny courtroom, with its drop ceiling and fluorescent lighting, the setting is more municipal conference room than imposing venue of justice. There are two Lower Paxton police officers sitting just behind the prosecution’s table, manned by Assistant District Attorney Codi Tucker. At the opposing table is Senior Public Defender Mike Duda, wearing

dramas gives all defendants the right to legal counsel when charged with a crime. It does not provide free legal counsel if the defendant can afford to pay. In Pennsylvania, defendants must fall below established poverty levels to apply for and be accepted by the public defender’s office. Upon acceptance, the state will pay all expenses for a dedicated public defender, but will not pay fines, court costs, or the cost of treatment programs.

At 2:11 p.m., District Judge Joseph A. Lindsey enters the courtroom and begins the afternoon session. Powered by a recent coffee run, Gross continues her energetic defensive advocacy in mirror image of her morning performance. Whenever possible, she makes deals with Assistant DA Tucker, or seeks to reduce charges, dismiss them outright, or build up her clients in the judge’s view in hopes of gaining a lesser sentence.

When a client doesn’t show up for a hearing, Lindsey calmly orders a bench warrant for his arrest, ensuring that one day the client will show up in handcuffs. By 4:10 p.m., after extensive legal wrangling over a young male defendant charged

by doing,” said Merritt. “We often walk into the clinic, get handed a client’s file, and are advocating in front of a judge within the hour.”

Clients who cannot afford private counsel are referred to the clinic through the Centre County Public Defender Office. Students are responsible for conducting interviews and navigating their clients through all phases of the criminal process.

On Tuesday and Thursday afternoons the students have client interviews and training. They also have preliminary hearings on Wednesday mornings. Nixon can’t imagine a better hands-on learning experience.

“I’ve been able to learn more about the criminal process, participate directly by appearing before the court, and work directly with clients,” said Nixon. “I have learned how to be a lawyer rather than think about it in a theoretical sense.”

Nixon said the clinic has taught her how to keep an open mind about people based on first impression. Her desire to help her clients keeps her motivated. “I want the best for

them because they want the best for themselves.”

Robins said he enjoys seeing the Constitution at work and protecting people’s basic rights. “Before law school I never imagined myself in a public defender’s office,” he said. “But just an understanding of what is at stake provides the motivation to come in here every day.”

THEIR FUTURES LOOK BRIGHT!

The students’ practice in the courtroom and classroom has paid off. Jessica Nixon will move to Albuquerque, N. M., to work at **Madison & Mroz, P.A.**, a law firm that focuses on medical malpractice and insurance defense. Brandon Merritt plans to work for a federal law enforcement agency. Thomas Robins has accepted a clerkship with the Delaware Family Court in Newcastle County.

with public drunkenness, Lindsey steps in to untangle a miscommunication between an assistant DA and the public defender's newly licensed law clerk—currently overseen by Gross.

The issue revolves around the defendant paying a booking fee of \$300, which cannot be waived, and after a long Friday filled with arguing, preceded by four long days of additional arguing, Lindsey identifies the miscommunication and clears the way for a deal both sides can live with.

"Is he out there?" asks Lindsey, referring to the defendant.

A young man is brought inside and sits. Lindsey explains the deal to the young man, who agrees to it on the spot. "You are free to go," he tells him. "Please change your lifestyle, alright?" The young man nods. "Good luck to you," says Lindsey, with the air of a man expecting change, and thus concludes the day's proceedings with Lindsey wishing the attorneys well and slipping out his private exit.

Driving back to Harrisburg in rush hour traffic, Gross says her success stories are the clients she never hears from again. With so many cases involving drug and alcohol abuse, Gross understands that treating defendants is more time consuming and expensive, but in her experience, it's also more effective than jail. She's proud to list Dauphin County's progressive slate of programs including Veteran's Court, Mental Health Court, and Drug Court, which are dedicated to helping specific individuals who may need treatment more than punishment.

It's 5 p.m. when Gross gets back to downtown Har-

risburg. The hallways are empty, the phones are silent and Gross's westward-facing office is rendered glaringly bright from the setting sun. She glances at her phone on the windowsill, where five voicemails now sit waiting. Her inbox also needs attention. It's Friday evening, and Gross wants to be driving home, listening to NPR, and taking her new puppy for a walk before tucking in with a Netflix film.

But the administrative duties cannot wait, and public defenders don't have full-time individual secretaries (there are three secretaries for approximately 24 public defenders). In a private firm, these functions would be handled automatically. Gross would have an assistant or a paralegal, but instead of freeing a woman from jail to attend her child's surgery—as Gross did earlier in the day—she would be focused on "getting her billables." Instead of arguing all day in court, responding dynamically to questions from judges and adapting on-the-fly to competing assistant DAs, she would be reviewing contracts 10 hours a day in a bigger, quieter, perhaps fancier office—and maybe she'd drive a nicer car.

It's no secret that public defenders, paid for by the government, earn far less than the generous salaries enjoyed by their private attorney contemporaries. But after spending the day with Gross, it seems she takes her payment in the bond of daily battle, in thinking and fighting on her feet and in finding the humanity behind every defendant.

This article first appeared in the December 2013 issue of *Harrisburg Magazine*.

Law School hosts annual Pennsylvania Defender Trial Skills Training

By CRYSTAL STRYKER

A select group of public defenders from across Pennsylvania honed its trial advocacy and persuasion skills in Penn State Dickinson School of Law's state-of-the-art Apfelbaum Family Courtroom and Auditorium from August 6 to 9.

Hosted in Lewis Katz Hall in Carlisle, Pa., this intensive, hands-on program gave 45 public defenders the chance to practice courtroom skills, see trial demonstrations, and hear lectures on advocacy from an experienced faculty of trial lawyers. Attorneys improved their skills in witness examinations, delivering opening statements and closing arguments, and choosing a jury. Individuals from the community served as potential jurors.

Designed to improve performance in the courtroom, the program may change the way that more experienced advocates approach trials. Each attorney brought a real case file from his or her office and used that particular case for practice and skill-building exercises.

In its thirteenth year, the program is funded in part by a grant to the Public Defender Association of Pennsylvania from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD).

"We are grateful to PCCD for funding this training. Pennsylvania is the only state in America that does not provide any funding

for indigent criminal defense. Public defenders are dependent on their individual counties to provide all of their salaries and resources," said program organizer Fred Goodman, a public defender in Philadelphia. "There is often little left over for training and many public defenders work in counties with small offices. They can wind up isolated and pretty much on their own. This training brings public defenders together from across the state and provides an opportunity for them to hone their trial skills and learn about and work together on issues that affect the entire criminal defense community."



UPCOMING EVENTS / FALL

October 3, 2014

SHINING THE LIGHT ON GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AT HOME AND ABROAD

Lewis Katz Hall, Carlisle, Pa.



Hosted by the *Penn State Journal of Law & International Affairs* (JLIA), the Center for Immigrants Rights, the Family Law Clinic, and the Community Law Clinic, this program will explore the role of domestic and international law in protecting victims of domestic violence.

MORE INFO HERE: law.psu.edu/events/shining-light-gender-based-violence-home-and-abroad

October 10-11, 2014

ALUMNI & REUNION WEEKEND

Lewis Katz Hall, Carlisle, Pa.



Save the date for Alumni & Reunion Weekend 2014, celebrating reunions for classes ending in 4s and 9s. The weekend includes:

- Welcome Reception with faculty, staff, and students on Friday evening
- Free Continuing Legal Education classes taught by DSL alumni and faculty
- Barbeque at Lewis Katz Hall
- Alumni & Reunion Class Dinners on Saturday evening

MORE INFO HERE: law.psu.edu/events/alumni-and-reunion-weekend-2014. If you would like to assist with your reunion planning and outreach to your classmates by becoming a Reunion Challenge volunteer, please contact us at alumni@law.psu.edu.

October 29, 2014

EDUCATION LAW DAY

Lewis Katz Building, University Park, Pa.



School board members, attorneys, school administrators, teachers, and advocates are invited to this event on education law, which includes an update on child abuse reporting laws. The program is sponsored by Penn State Dickinson School of Law, Penn State College of Education, and the Pennsylvania School Study Council.

MORE INFO HERE: law.psu.edu/events/education-law-day



For more events, visit: <http://law.psu.edu/events>

PROMOTING DIVERSITY

Photograph by Christine Baker

Trent Hargrove '80, of Harrisburg, Pa., is passionate about promoting diversity in a variety of settings within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. That's why the Pennsylvania Bar Association (PBA) has named him as its diversity officer.

"The Commonwealth's population is increasingly diverse—a direct reflection of the ever-changing demographics of this great state," Hargrove said. "Pennsylvania's lawyers have a wide array of experiences, perspectives, talents, skills, and needs. The role of the PBA diversity officer is important to me to help meet the challenge of ensuring that every service we deliver appropriately meets the needs of every citizen and that diverse lawyers and populations are included in all aspects of the legal profession."

Hargrove, who has an extensive background in diversity development, will be responsible for overseeing and facilitating the PBA's efforts to improve diversity within the association and within Pennsylvania's legal profession. He will work with the PBA Diversity Team, Board of Governors, and senior staff members to develop and execute the PBA's diversity programs, and he will work with the state's legal community to provide resources and tools in support of diversity goals, objectives, and initiatives.

"I feel honored and privileged to have this opportunity to create a platform for discussion about the process of diversity and inclusion management within the legal

profession across Pennsylvania," Hargrove said. "Through its members' participation in various sections, committees, programs, and services, the Pennsylvania Bar Association generally touches most of the organizations and entities associated with the practice of law within the Commonwealth, so I am fortunate to have this unique chance to work with such a wide cross-section of lawyers. One of my professors at The Dickinson School of Law taught me that 'the greatest treason is the right answer for the wrong reason.' I feel that serving in this position is the right answer for the right reason, since lawyers play a role in shaping our society through the services, counsel, and opportunities we provide to people."

According to Hargrove, the Law School provided him with even more preparation for the job. "I was very well-trained in the practical application and theories of law, research skills, pleadings, and common-sense approaches to problem solving," he said.

Hargrove was the chief diversity officer for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania from 2007 to 2012. In that capacity, he managed a major new initiative to evaluate the Commonwealth's diversity programs and implement best practices. He worked with the Office of Administration to develop programs to recruit, hire, and retain a diverse workforce; increase participation by minorities in Commonwealth contracts; and coordinate diversity and inclusiveness in all aspects of

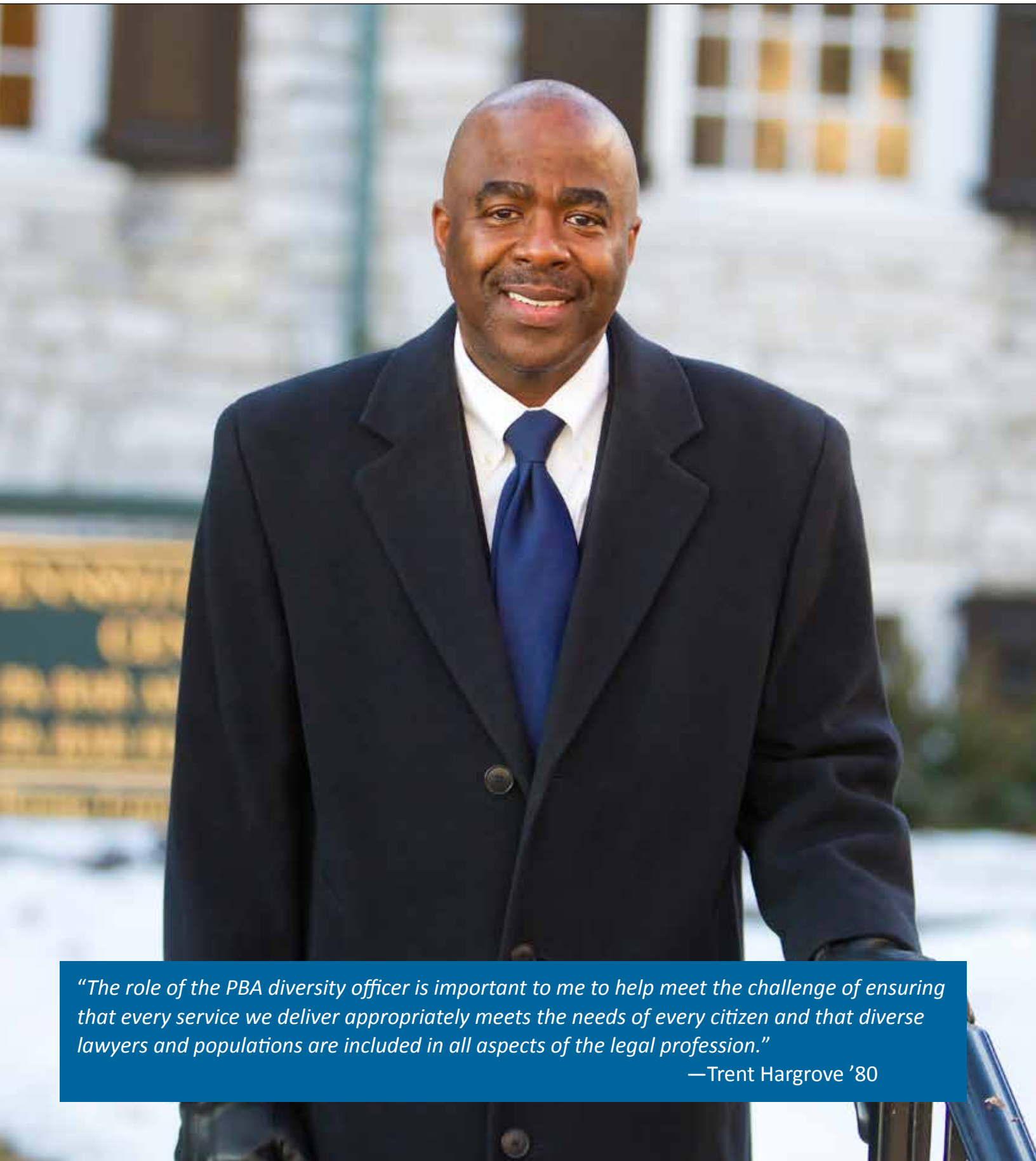
Commonwealth work.

From 2003 to 2007, Hargrove was chief counsel of the Governor's Office of General Counsel in the Department of General Services. From 1992 to 2003, he was chief deputy attorney general of the Civil Rights Enforcement Section, Public Protection Division, Office of Attorney General. He served in other Commonwealth positions from 1981 to 1986 and from 1990 to 1992. He was an associate at Harrisburg's McNees, Wallace, and Nurick from 1986 to 1990.

Hargrove is a member of the PBA Minority Bar Committee and the PBA Government Lawyers Committee. He previously served on the PBA Civil Rights and Responsibilities Committee and the PBA Legal Services to Persons with Disabilities Committee. He earned a bachelor's degree in political science and psychology from Bucknell University and a juris doctor from The Dickinson School of Law.

"Trent's experience, professionalism, and leadership will be critical to ensure that the PBA is a bar association for everyone," said **Barry Simpson '69 Bus.**, PBA executive director. "We are fortunate to have someone with Trent's depth of knowledge to lead and support the growth our diversity efforts."

This article first appeared on the Pennsylvania Bar Association's website.



“The role of the PBA diversity officer is important to me to help meet the challenge of ensuring that every service we deliver appropriately meets the needs of every citizen and that diverse lawyers and populations are included in all aspects of the legal profession.”

—Trent Hargrove '80

YOUNGEST JUDGE APPOINTED IN MAINE RETIRES AFTER 32 YEARS ON THE BENCH

By JUDY HARRISON



It wasn't being the second woman appointed to the bench that made her job so challenging in 1976. It was being the youngest person ever to serve as a judge in Maine that caused problems.

Jessie Briggs Gunther '72 was 28 years old when she donned the same black judicial robe she wore her last day on the job before retiring.

"It was just a lack of experience because I hadn't been a lawyer all that long," she said. "My appointment was opposed on youth grounds by the editor of the *Piscataquis Observer*. But I think it turned out alright."

In all, Gunther, 64, of Castine, Me., served nearly 32 years on the bench, most of it as a district court judge. She first was appointed by Gov. James Longley. After four years, she was elevated in 1980 to the Superior Court bench by Gov. Joseph Brennan.

She left that position in January 1986 to spend more time with her infant daughter. Gunther again was appointed a district court judge in 1990 by Gov. John McKernan and was reappointed several times by his successors.

A native of Montana who grew up in Damariscotta, Gunther is a granddaughter of Harold Murchie, chief justice

of the Maine Supreme Judicial Court from 1949 to 1953. She is a graduate of Wells College in Aurora, N.Y., and The Dickinson School of Law.

Leigh I. Saufley, chief justice of the Maine Supreme Judicial Court, said at a dinner to honor Gunther sponsored by the Penobscot County Bar Association that the judge had achieved a number of firsts during her judicial career. Gunther was the first woman to serve on the Superior Court, the first female judge in office to have a baby, and the first Maine judge ever to go on maternity leave. She also is the longest-serving female judge in the state's history.

Gunther was the first woman to serve on the Superior Court, the first female judge in office to have a baby, and the first Maine judge ever to go on maternity leave. She also is the longest-serving female judge in the state's history. That is not what she will be remembered for by the attorneys who have practiced before her during the past 20 years.

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Stephen Smith, a Bangor attorney who practiced before Gunther for more than a decade, described her as "a wise, grandmotherly figure who exercised her judicial authority in the kindest possible way under what sometimes were the most difficult circumstances."

Saufley said that she first heard about Gunther from her father, Richard "Dick" Ingalls, who is not a lawyer, before she ever met her.

"When I was a still a baby lawyer, my father's company had a case in Penobscot County," Saufley said at the dinner for Gunther. "He came back from a hearing on a major dispositive motion and said, 'You're not going to believe this, but the judge was a woman.' He said she was prepared and fearless in her questioning. More importantly, she got [it] right, which for dad meant she ruled in his favor.

"When I was appointed to the District Court, I called my dad to tell him," the chief justice continued in a tribute to the retiring judge. "He said, 'I hope you'll be as good a judge as Judge Briggs [Gunther].' My whole life on the bench, I've had to live up to Jessie Gunther."

During her three decades on the bench, Gunther saw many changes in the judicial system. She began her career in

the cramped district court courtrooms in Dover-Foxcroft and Bangor and ended it in the Penobscot Judicial Center, where her private office was about a third the size of the courtrooms in the old building, which now houses the Bangor post office.

The biggest change Gunther saw in the courtroom was the dramatic increase in the number of people who appeared before her without lawyers.

"Most of what I do now is with litigants who represent themselves in cases where 30 years ago, people

always had a lawyer," she said a few weeks before she retired.

Gunther said that she and her colleagues spend a lot of time helping people who represent themselves negotiate the legal system and its rules of evidence and procedure.

The kinds of criminal cases she dealt with most often also changed.

"Society as a whole has been tremendously successful in decreasing the number of OUIs in court," she said. "There's been a significant impact there. On the other hand, the drug problem has increased tremendously. We had little of that 30 years ago."

Gunther said she plans to spend her retirement gardening, perfecting her curling game, which she took up just a couple of years ago, and spending time with her husband, Frederick Gunther.

This article first appeared in the *Bangor Daily News*. Jessie Briggs Gunther retired from the Penobscot Judicial Center last summer.

CRYSTAL SHERIDAN WORKS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

By CRYSTAL STRYKER

“So many of these refugees have faced horrors that I cannot even imagine and yet they are persevering and fighting to move on with their lives. They deserve nothing less than respect.” — Crystal Sheridan

Cystal Sheridan '09 is not one to back down from a challenge. The Dickinson School of Law graduate and former Presidential Management Fellow speaks Swahili, travels to conflict-stricken countries, and has administered a \$19.2 million foreign assistance budget for the State Department.

A former program officer at the Office of the Special Envoy for Sudan and South Sudan (USSESSS), Sheridan served as the contracting officers' representative and grants officers' representative for USSESSS programs. She managed contracts and grants from solicitation to close-out while coordinating with other State Department and USAID offices providing support to Sudan and South Sudan. She now works as a foreign service officer and will deploy to her first post in Mexico in December.

Sheridan chooses to face all kinds of challenges in her career. She has worked as a rape crisis counselor, teacher, and legal assistant,

and for the United Nations in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

“What we deal with can be hard to listen to and hard to think about,” she said, referring to hunger, displacement, and violence of all kinds. “But at the end of the day it is better if we can help in some concrete way one step at a time,” she said, adding that she enjoys being on the program administration side as opposed to the policy side.

Her legal education has been “extremely helpful” to her career. Sheridan understands contract law, procurement, and legislation. She also credits law school with giving her above-average communication skills. “I take a very logical approach with contracts and grants. I write with a lot of brevity, which people find helpful and refreshing.”

Sheridan has developed a particular interest in Africa. Prior to law school, Sheridan was a Peace Corps volunteer in Tanzania, where she taught mathematics to teenage

students and started an English class for local village mothers. When her Peace Corps experience ended, she worked as an assistant in a law firm and then decided to earn a J.D.

As a law student, Sheridan kept her sights focused on a public interest career. After her first year, she interned for Amnesty International in Washington, D.C. She worked on the “Jena Six” cases and maintained a database of prisoner abuse complaints.

After her second year of law school she worked as a protection intern at the United Nations Commission for Human Rights in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. There, she conducted interviews with individuals who were hoping to be resettled to other countries and served as a contact person for urban refugees. The summer internship was made possible in part by the Public Interest Law Fund, an organization she led as president during her third year. “So many of these refugees have faced horrors that I cannot even imagine and yet they are persevering and fighting to move on with

their lives,” she wrote during the summer of 2010. “They deserve nothing less than respect.”

She remembers her time with the Public Interest Law Fund fondly. “It was meaningful leadership experience and I’m still so glad I participated in it,” she said. She also built leadership and international experience as a member of the *Penn State International Law Review*, which is now the *Penn State Journal of Law and International Affairs*.

Sheridan is married to law school alumnus **Brian Sheridan '09**, who is a trial attorney in the National Security Division of the U.S. Department of Justice and a member of the U.S. Army National Guard. They welcomed their first child in February. Together, they wish to be global citizens and make a difference.

Read more on our website:
<http://law.psu.edu/news/crystal-sheridan-works-human-rights-and-safe-stable-africa>



*Photograph by
Erin Rexroth*

\$12,729.39



The amount of money that Law School students raised for THON this spring.



The number of Law School alumni who work as public defenders at the Dauphin County Public Defenders office in Harrisburg, Pa.



6 The number of scholarships received by **Lyndsay Berkstresser '14**.



The foreign assistance budget that **Crystal Sheridan '09** managed for the U.S. State Department.



9 The number of home countries represented by The Law School's class of LL.M. and S.J.D. students who arrived on campus in January.



28

The age of **Jessie Briggs Gunther '72** in 1976, when she became the youngest woman ever to serve as a judge in Maine.



2

The number of Law School students who participated in the dance portion of THON in 2014, the first year that the school has sent dancers to the event.

\$19.2 million

1950s

Howell C. Mette '51, founding shareholder of **Mette, Evans & Woodside** in Harrisburg, Pa., was selected by his peers for inclusion in *Best Lawyers in America*, 2014 edition, in the practice area of Trusts & Estates. He was first recognized by *Best Lawyers* for his work in Trusts & Estates in 2009.



1960s

William F. Hoffmeyer '61, senior partner in the law firm of **Hoffmeyer & Semmelman, LLP** in York, Pa., was a guest speaker at Penn State Dickinson School of Law. His lecture to third-year students addressed the unauthorized practice of law, rules of professional conduct, and method of ownership of real estate for small businesses.



Hoffmeyer concentrates his practice on real estate and zoning, corporate, estate planning, decedent's estates, and elder law. He serves as an expert witness in real estate matters throughout Pennsylvania and is a current co-chair and former chairman for the Unauthorized Practice of Law Committee of the Pennsylvania Bar Association.

Thomas J. DeMarino '62, administrative law judge for the Division of Workers' Compensation in Denver, received the Denver Bar Association's 50 Year Law Practice Award in 2013.

G. Robert Marcus '69, chairman of the Management Committee at **Norris McLaughlin & Marcus, P.A.**, in Bridgewater, N.J., was selected for inclusion in the Corporate Law section of *Best Lawyers in America*, 2014 edition. He concentrates his practice on corporate transactions and tax matters.



1970s

Walter G. Reinhard '70, member of **Norris McLaughlin & Marcus, P.A.** in Bridgewater, N.J., has been selected for inclusion in the Energy Law section of the *Best Lawyers in America*, 2014 edition. He practices administrative, environmental, and regulatory law involving public utilities and other regulated industries, such as telephone, cable television, electric and gas, water, sewer, and solid waste.



Huowitz Receives Eric Turner Memorial Award

Neil Huowitz '58 received the Eric Turner Memorial Award from the Pennsylvania Bar Association's Family Law section on July 13, 2013. The purpose of this award is to recognize his valuable contributions to family law, not only the practice of family law, but the education of other attorneys in the practice of family law. His family law practice includes both simple and complex divorce cases and financial issues and difficult custody and support situations as well as cases involving parental and grandparental visitation rights, spousal abuse, and alimony.

Thomas B. Schmidt III '74, counsel and attorney in charge of **Pepper Hamilton LLP** in Harrisburg, Pa., has been selected as a recipient of the 2013 Thaddeus Stevens Champion Award by the Public Interest Law Center of Philadelphia (PILCOP) for his role as co-counsel in *Rivera v. Lebanon School District*, a case brought by PILCOP to halt and reverse excessive and abusive truancy fines in the school district. Thomas' litigation practice includes complex commercial disputes, administrative agency matters, professional liability claims, construction claims, product liability claims, insurance coverage claims, and "bad faith" claims. His appellate practice includes frequent appearances in Pennsylvania's Supreme, Superior, and Commonwealth courts.

Ward A. Bower '75, principal in the law firm of **Altman Weil, Inc.**, in Newtown Square, Pa., has been named to the *National Law Journal's* inaugural list of 50 Business



of Law Trailblazers & Pioneers. He was recognized in the category of Strategists and Drivers for his work on law firm mergers and acquisitions.

Karen F. Copenhaver '79, a partner in the Business & Technology Group at **Choate, Hall & Stewart LLP** in Boston, Mass., has been named a 2013 Top Woman of Law by



Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly. The award is given to women lawyers who have made great professional strides and demonstrated outstanding accomplishments in private practice, the corporate arena, and social advocacy. Copenhaver's practice emphasizes technology transfer and licensing of intellectual property, particularly in the areas of patent licensing, software licensing, and open-source business models. She is the director of intellectual property strategy for the Linux Foundation, serves on the Board of Directors of the Center for Women and Enterprise, and is a partner with Social Venture Partners Boston. She is on the Advisory Board of Design That Matters, for which she provides pro bono counsel.

1980s

G. Thompson Bell III '80, co-chair of **Stevens & Lee's** Reading, Pa., Litigation Department, was named president of the



Berks County Bar Association for 2014 at a ceremony held October 24, 2013. He was elected to the post in October 2012 and served as president-elect during 2013.

Teresa L. Conaway '80 joined Utah Valley University in Orem, Utah, as an assistant professor of legal studies.

John P. Rynkiewicz '81 was



recognized in *World Trademark Review 1000 (2014)* – *The World's Leading Trademark*



Corcoran Inducted Into Wall of Honor

Gerald Corcoran '75, a partner in the Litigation Department at **Montgomery McCracken Walker & Rhoads, LLP** in Linwood, N.J., has been inducted into Shore Medical Center's Governance Wall of Honor. He concentrates primarily in the area of civil litigation, with experience in both state and federal court. His civil litigation practice focuses on utility representation, defending pharmaceutical class action and mass tort matters, and complex commercial cases.

Professionals as being among the top 1,000 trademark practitioners worldwide. The publication noted that Rynkiewicz provides “solid advice and has a great instinct for which battles are worth fighting.” He is senior trademark counsel with **Kaye Scholer LLP** in its Washington, D.C., office and previously was chief trademark counsel for W.R. Grace & Co.

Craig J. Staudenmaier '81, managing partner at **Nauman Smith Shissler & Hall, LLP** in Harrisburg, Pa., has been selected for a second consecutive year by his peers for inclusion in *Best Lawyers in America*, 2014 edition, in the practice area of Commercial Litigation.

Daniel L. Sullivan '81 of the Carlisle, Pa., office of **Saidis, Sullivan & Rogers**, was selected by his peers for inclusion in *Best Lawyers in America*, 2014 edition, in the practice areas of Litigation-Trusts and Estates and Commercial Litigation.

Jeffery R. Elliott '82 is retired from the Pennsylvania Army National Guard and the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's Corps (JAGC), and was promoted on the retired list to Brigadier General Pennsylvania Army National Guard, after 34 years of commissioned service as an officer in the U.S. Army. In private practice, Elliott has been a partner with **Kozloff Stoudt** in Wyomissing, Pa., since 1992, having joined them in 1987 upon leaving U.S. Army active duty.

Karen Oilly Moury '82 joined the



Harrisburg, Pa., office of **Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC**. Moury will be of counsel in the firm's Energy Section. She is the

former director of regulatory operations of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) and brings more than 30 years of state government experience, spending the past 16

years in executive and management positions with PUC.

Hon. Thomas G. Paese '82,



shareholder in the Harrisburg, Pa., office of **Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC** and chair of the firm's Government

Relations Section, was selected by his peers for inclusion in *Best Lawyers in America*, 2014 Edition, in the area of Government Relations.

Brigadier General Christopher F. Burne '83 has been nominated for appointment to the grade of lieutenant general and assignment as the judge advocate general of the U.S. Air Force. Burne currently serves as the staff judge advocate of Headquarters Air Combat Command at the Langley Air Force Base in Virginia.



Becoming Members of the Multi-Million Dollar Advocates Forum

Melissa Scartelli '87 and **Peter Paul Olszewski Jr. '84** have been certified as members of the multi-Million Dollar Advocates Forum. To become a member, a lawyer first must have acted as principal counsel in at least one case resulting in a multi-million-dollar verdict, award, or settlement.

Scartelli is founding partner and president of **Scartelli Olszewski, P.C.** in Scranton, Pa., where she handles automobile accidents, auto defects, construction and workplace accidents, defective drugs and medical devices, insurance bad faith, liquor liability, medical malpractice, nursing home negligence, premises liability, product liability, professional liability, and psychiatric malpractice.

Olszewski is managing partner of Scartelli Olszewski, P.C. He currently focuses his practice on medical malpractice, automobile and truck accidents, and criminal defense matters. He previously served as district attorney of Luzerne County and as a Luzerne County Court of Common Pleas judge, where he presided over criminal and civil jury trials.

Michael E. Scullin '83 moderated a panel discussion examining Philadelphia's role on the international stage as part of the Global Philly™ 2013 festival. Scullin, the



honorary consul of France in Philadelphia and Wilmington, Del., and counsel to **McElroy, Deutsch, Mulvaney & Carpenter, LLP**, has broad experience in commercial, nonprofit, and international matters. Scullin is the president of the Consular Corps Association of Philadelphia, Inc., and an adjunct professor at Temple University. The World Trade Center of Greater Philadelphia recently honored the Consular Corps Association of Philadelphia at its annual Philadelphia International Showcase Reception.

Elyse E. Rogers '84, of **Saidis, Sullivan & Rogers'** West Shore office in Lemoyne, Pa., was selected by her peers for inclusion in *Best Lawyers in America*, 2014 edition, in the practice areas of Litigation-Trusts and Estates and Tax Law. She has been included in *Best Lawyers* for at least 20 years.

Brian J. Clark '85, shareholder in the Harrisburg, Pa., office of **Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC** and co-chair of the firm's Environmental Practice Group, was selected by his peers for inclusion in *Best Lawyers in America*, 2014 Edition, in the areas of Environmental Law, Environmental Litigation, and Water Law.

Ronda K. O'Donnell (Kiser) '86



was named by **Marshall Dennehey Warner Coleman & Goggin** as chair of the Employment Law Practice Group in the firm's

Professional Liability Department. O'Donnell has devoted her practice to employment law litigation and the defense of employers in matters involving discrimination, violation of federal and state statutes, wrongful discharge, breach of contract, and other tort claims. She was named one of the Top 50 Women Pennsylvania Super Lawyers of 2013, and is rated AV® Preeminent™ by LexisNexis Martindale-Hubbell. She is a member of the Pennsylvania and Philadelphia Bar Associations.

Robert L. Ruben '86, of **Duane Morris LLP**, has joined the firm's Corporate Practice Group as a partner in the firm's Baltimore, Md., and Washington, D.C., offices. He focuses his practice on business and finance work for the gaming industry. He represents casino owners in licensing matters, including competitive bidding for casino licenses, regulatory affairs, financing, and M&A matters in various states, in particular Maryland and Pennsylvania.

Hon. Edward G. Smith '86 of Northampton County Court of Common Pleas (Pa.) was nominated by President Obama to fill a vacancy on the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. Smith handles both civil and criminal trials and is currently the presiding judge of



Class of '91 classmates **Gretchen Dell Hanrahan**, **Christine Hodson Egan**, **Hon. Julie Hoskins**, and **Katherine Shea White** completed the Chicago Half-Marathon on September 8, 2013.

the Asbestos Division in Northampton County, where he serves as a supervising judge of the county's grand jury. He is a 27-year veteran of the U.S. Navy, holding the rank of captain. He serves as a military trial judge presiding over military courts-martial at Navy and Marine Corps bases internationally.

Eric D. Kline '88 J.D., '90 LL.M., a partner in the Corporate and Securities Practice at **Pepper Hamilton LLP**, in Pittsburgh, Pa., has been named the Pittsburgh Financial Services Regulation Law "Lawyer of the Year" by *Best Lawyers*. He provides legal and business advice to growth companies from startup through sale or IPO, and advises Fortune 500 companies in merger and acquisition, strategic partnering, and joint venture transactions. He was co-chairman of the 2013 3 Rivers Venture Fair and is a former director of the Pittsburgh Venture Capital Association.

1990s

Jayson Wolfgang '91, shareholder in the Harrisburg, Pa., office of **Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC**, presented on state procurement law at the Office of General



Counsel University in September 2013. The annual, two-day CLE event invites all state government attorneys and is hosted by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Office of General Counsel. Wolfgang also participated in a panel for the Pennsylvania Bar Institute CLE program, "Public Contracting with the Commonwealth," in January. Wolfgang has been selected for inclusion in *Best Lawyers in America*, 2014 edition, in the area of Commercial Litigation.

Benjamin C. Dunlap Jr. '92, a partner at **Nauman Smith Shissler & Hall, LLP** in Harrisburg, Pa., has received an AV Preeminent® Martindale-Hubbell® Peer Review Rating in his primary practice areas of administrative and employment/labor law and litigation.

Dunlap concentrates his practice in business and employment law for companies ranging in size from startups to major national corporations, in addition to public utility and related work for railroad clients.

Brian McTague '92 was the recipient of the ABA's Outstanding Military Service Career Judge Advocate Award for 2013. McTague, a captain in the U.S. Coast Guard, was recognized by the ABA's Standing Committee on Armed Forces Law for his 21 years of service as a Coast Guard officer, lawyer, and military judge. McTague and his family reside in Danville, Calif.

Daniel E. Cummins '93 was selected as a 2013 Top Rate Lawyer in Insurance Law by American Lawyer Media and Martindale-Hubbell®. He handles insurance defense matters in auto accident and premises liability matters in the Northeastern Pennsylvania region as an attorney in the law firm of **Foley, Comerford & Cummins** in Scranton, Pa.

Kathleen D. Leslie '93 accepted a position with World Relief as the director of Immigrant Legal Services. In this position, she will provide leadership and strategic direction to Immigrant Legal Services in the Baltimore, home office and in World Relief's over 20 U.S. field offices, as well as build capacity with World Relief's church partners and provide coordination between various World Relief programs and church denominations.



Doug Davison '93 participated in the Penn State Smeal College of Business Candid Career Program in Washington, D.C. He is a vice chair of **WilmerHale's** Securities



Department and was selected as a leading attorney in the 2013 edition of *Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business*, as well as named to Securities Docket's inaugural "Enforcement 40," a list of the 40 best and brightest individuals in the securities enforcement defense field. He, his wife, and two daughters live in Bethesda, Md.

Michael J. Kowalski '94 has been named to the list of Pennsylvania Super Lawyers for the fifth consecutive year by *Philadelphia Magazine*.



Kowalski also has been named to the Top 100 Trial Lawyers by The National Trial Lawyers and has become a member of The Million Dollar Advocates Forum. He is a shareholder in **Distasio & Kowalski, LLC** in Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

Jason P. Kutulakis '94 was honored on March 27 at the annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Children and Youth Solicitors Association held at the Nittany Lion Inn in State College, Pa.



Kutulakis also received the George E. Hoffer Service to Youth Award on January 23 from the Cumberland County Bar Association for his work on the task force and development of ChildFirst PA, a statewide training for first responders to reports of suspected child abuse.

Kutulakis is a founding member and senior partner of the law firm of **Abom & Kutulakis, L.L.P.**, in Carlisle, Pa.

Robert C. Gerhard III '95 was elected to serve as a director of the Pennsylvania Association of Elder Law Attorneys and recently returned to the Law School as a guest lecturer



to teach "How to Start and Build an Elder Law Practice" for Professor **Katherine Pearson's** elder law class. The tenth edition of his treatise, "Pennsylvania Medicaid, Long-Term Care," was released in January.

Daniel J. O'Connor '95 has been appointed president and chief executive officer of **Advaxis, Inc.**, Princeton, N.J. Advaxis, Inc., is a

clinical-stage biotechnology company developing the next generation of immunotherapies for cancer and infectious diseases.

Lisa M. Grayson '96 was elected as the register of Wills & Clerk of Orphans' Court for Cumberland County, Pa. She was sworn



into office by the **Honorable Kevin A. Hess '72**, president judge of Cumberland County. She took office in January. Grayson continues to serve part time as a judge advocate general in the Pennsylvania Air National Guard, currently stationed at the 112th Air Operations Squadron in State College, Pa., holding the rank of lieutenant colonel.

Michael D. O'Mara '96, a partner in the Philadelphia, Pa., office of **Stradley Ronon Stevens & Young, LLP**, has been appointed



to the firm's board of directors. As a board member, he will help to develop the strategic direction of the firm. Chair of the firm's 65-attorney Litigation Department, O'Mara focuses his practice on corporate disputes, business torts,

securities fraud, and other complex commercial matters. He recently was appointed to the Board of Directors of the Center for Autism.

Alexandra Chiaruttini '97 has been



named a 2014 Woman of Influence by the *Central Penn Business Journal*. The Women of Influence awards recognize 25

women leaders in the midstate who are influential in their companies, industries, and communities and have solid reputations based on their experience, integrity, leadership, and accomplishments. Chiaruttini is a partner in the York, Pa., law firm **Stock and Leader** where she serves as chair of the environmental law practice group.

Jennifer R. Sletvold '97 has been elected to a 10-year term as judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Northampton County, Pa. She was sworn in on January 10.

Stephen C. Gierasch '98, managing shareholder of the Harrisburg, Pa., office of **Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC** and a member of the firm's board of directors, was selected for inclusion in *Best Lawyers in America*, 2014 edition, in the area of Corporate Law.

Joshua R. Lorenz '99, a partner at **Meyer, Unkovic and Scott LLP**, in Pittsburgh, Pa., was named to the Pennsylvania Rising Stars list for 2013. Lorenz is a member of its Business

Litigation, Construction, and Real Estate groups, serving as co-chair of its Construction Group.

2000s

Amy Phillips '00, senior associate at



Hoffmeyer & Semmelman, LLP, in York, Pa., spoke at the summer meeting of the PBA Family Law Section in National Harbor, Md.,

on July 14, 2013. This is a semi-annual meeting attended by family law attorneys from across Pennsylvania. Phillips presented summaries of significant appellate court decisions during the year in the area of custody. Phillips' 12 years of legal experience focuses on family law, divorce, custody, and support.

Michael P. Smith '01 is now of



counsel in the New York, N.Y., office of **Blank Rome LLP**. He concentrates his practice in commercial litigation, with a particular emphasis on

international disputes. Smith counsels clients in the United States and abroad in such areas as commercial contract disputes, breach of warranty disputes, application of foreign law in U.S. courts, obtaining evidence in foreign countries, tracing assets, civil RICO, maritime, and the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act.

Steven T. Boell '02 was named to



the Bucks County, Pa. 40 Under 40 Class of 2013 by the *Bucks County Courier Times* and the *Intelligencer*.

Boell was honored November 4, 2013, at the Buck Hotel in Feasterville, Pa. The 40 Under 40 program recognizes 40 up-and-coming business and community leaders who are making a difference in Bucks County. Boell is an attorney and senior associate in the law firm of **Fitzpatrick Lentz & Bubba** in Center Valley, Pa.

Major Matthew E. Dunham '03

is serving with the U.S. Air Force as staff judge advocate in the Office of Military Cooperation of the U.S. Embassy in Kuwait.

Sean M. Shultz '03, of **Saidis,**



Sullivan & Rogers in Carlisle, Pa., recently was sworn in as a council member of the Carlisle Borough.

He was appointed chairperson of the Sustainability & Community Planning Committee that is responsible for land development and zoning issues and sustainability initiatives. He also was appointed to the Employee Relations & Citizen Participation Committee.

Brent C. Diefenderfer '04 was elected as a member of **CGA Law Firm** in York, Pa. Diefenderfer represents individuals and businesses in debt restructuring and bankruptcy and provides legal counsel on estate planning, asset protection, residential real estate transactions, and civil litigation. He advises businesses on entity formation, commercial leases, purchase agreements, and asset acquisitions. Certified by the American Board of Certification as a consumer bankruptcy specialist, Diefenderfer is one of only 25 certified attorneys in Pennsylvania. Prior to joining **CGA Law Firm**, he served four years as an active-duty army officer and judge advocate general, deploying to Iraq for one year with the 101st Airborne Division "Screaming Eagles."



Ryan R. Corkery '05 was promoted to partner at the litigation and trial firm **Ansa Assuncao LLP** in Philadelphia, Pa. He was selected to the 2011, 2012, and 2013 Super Lawyers "Rising Stars" lists for his national litigation and trial practice involving the defense of commercial motor carriers and product manufacturers. His practice also includes advising corporate clients on business and regulatory matters and handling sophisticated insurance coverage and bad faith disputes. Previously, he was an associate with **DLA Piper LLP** in Philadelphia.



Anthony R. Holtzman '05 has been named partner in the Harrisburg, Pa., office of **K&L Gates LLP**. Holtzman's practice is focused on environmental law, constitutional law, appellate litigation, gaming law, and commercial litigation.



Benjamin F. Johns '05 was elected partner of the law firm **Chimicles & Tikellis LLP** in Haverford, Pa. In addition, he recently was elected to a three-year term on the Executive Committee of the Philadelphia Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division. Johns presently serves on the Editorial Board of the *Philadelphia Bar Reporter*, the Board of Directors for The Dickinson School of Law Alumni Society, and the vestry of the Church of the Holy Comforter in Drexel Hill, Pa.



Matthew D. Miller '05 has been elected to the partnership of the law firm of **Rupp, Baase, Pfalzgraf, Cunningham & Coppola LLC** in Buffalo, N.Y. Miller focuses his practice on business litigation, construction and development law, employment law, and general business matters. He joined the firm in August 2011 as an associate.

Ryan P. Newell '05 has been elected partner at **Connolly Gallagher LLP**, Wilmington, Del. He focuses on corporate and commercial litigation in the District of Delaware, the Delaware Court of Chancery, and the Delaware Superior Court. Newell's practice also includes corporate counseling, and he is a certified mediator in the Superior Court. He has been recognized by Super Lawyers as a Rising Star in Business Litigation. The Delaware Supreme Court appointed him to the Commission on Law and Technology, where he chairs the electronic discovery subgroup. In 2010, the Delaware State Bar Association presented Newell with its New Lawyers Distinguished Service Award.

Matthew Mobilio '08, an attorney with **Norris McLaughlin & Marcus, P.A.** in Allentown, Pa., has been elected to the Board of Directors of the Lehigh County Senior Center.



Frank Tamulonis III '08 joined the Philadelphia, Pa., office of **Blank Rome LLP** as an associate. As a member of the firm's Environmental Group, he concentrates his practice on environmental litigation matters. He previously served as law clerk for the **Honorable Sylvia H. Rambo '62** in the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania.

Jessica VanderKam '08 is now partner at **Stuckert & Yates** in Newtown, Pa. VanderKam joined the firm in 2010 after serving as law clerk to three judges on the Bucks County, Pa., bench, and currently serves on the



Board of Directors of the Bucks County Bar Association, chairs the Bucks County Young Lawyers' Division, serves on the Executive Board of the Bucks County American Inn of Court, and is a member of the Newtown Rotary Club and Pennridge Youth Aid Panel.

Lisa D. Epperly '09 co-founded **Babb & Epperly, PLLC** in Charlotte, N.C. The law firm specializes in the needs of small and mid-sized businesses in North Carolina, with a focus on business law, corporate formations, employment law, family business succession planning, and outsourced in-house counsel.

Katherine F. Mahan '09 has been appointed regulatory and legal manager at **United Federal Credit Union** in St. Joseph, Mich. She will provide leadership to the Compliance, Regulatory, and Legal Team in the areas of regulatory compliance and legal review.

Monica D. Ansay '11 is a senior associate with **Grant Thornton LLP** in Seattle, Wash. She is in the Corporate Strategic Federal Tax Services Department.

Matthew H. Kita '11 is an associate in the Corporate, Finance, and Capital Markets Group at **Stevens & Lee** in Reading, Pa. He focuses his practice on corporate and securities law, general business law, and commercial law.

Joseph A. Lockwood III '12 joined the Title and Energy & Natural Resources groups of law firm **Babst Calland** in Pittsburgh, Pa. Lockwood counsels various energy, oil and gas, and mineral-related clients on transaction matters related to oil and gas title issues and opinions.



Nathaniel J. Flandreau '13 has joined **Nauman, Smith, Shissler & Hall, LLP** in Harrisburg, Pa. Flandreau concentrates his practice in the areas of litigation, business and employment law, and municipal law. He previously served as a judicial extern for the **Honorable Sylvia H. Rambo '62** in the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania and as a summer law clerk for the Honorable James F. Nilon Jr. in the Delaware County Court of Common Pleas (Pa.).

Hynes joins Stock and Leader

Kate E. Hynes '13 joined **Stock and Leader** in York, Pa., as an associate. She is a member of the firm's Business and Real Estate Practice groups, focusing her practice in the areas of business and commercial transactions, business planning, and commercial real estate and finance.



LAW SCHOOL COMMUNITY MOURNS DEATH OF PHILANTHROPIST LEWIS KATZ

∞ 1942 - 2014 ∞



The Law School community is saddened by the loss of Lewis Katz, a member of the Class of 1966 who passed away unexpectedly on May 31. The Law School's buildings in University Park and Carlisle bear his name.

"The news of Lewis Katz's untimely death is a tragedy. As an alumnus, he was generous in his support of Penn State Dickinson School of Law. We are saddened by this news and our hearts go out to all who knew him. He cared deeply for the Law School, and he will be missed," said James Houck, interim dean of the Law School.

In 2007, Katz made an unprecedented \$15-million gift to The Dickinson School of Law, one of the single-largest philanthropic acts in Penn State's history.

Katz was an owner of the New Jersey Nets and New Jersey Devils and served as a member of the Board of Governors of the National Basketball Association. He was a shareholder in the New York Yankees and a former owner of the New Jersey Devils hockey team. In each of those enterprises, he pledged a share of team profits to benefit inner-city youth. At the time of his death, he was co-owner of the *Philadelphia Inquirer*.

in Cherry Hill, N.J. He is the former owner of Kinney Parking Systems, the largest parking company in New York City, and the former chairman of Interstate Outdoor Advertising, one of the largest regional outdoor-advertising firms in the country. He served as a member of the Board of Governors of the Boys and Girls Clubs of America and a member of the Board of Trustees of the National Constitution Center.

Katz supported a number of charitable and philanthropic causes and was director of the Katz Foundation.

A native of Camden, N.J., Katz established several programs to help the children of Camden, one of the nation's poorest cities. He helped build two Boys and Girls Clubs that serve nearly 3,000 young people each year. Katz also helped build Jewish Community Centers in New Jersey.

Katz served on the Board of Trustees of Temple University, his alma mater. He was a member of the former Board of Trustees and current Board of Counselors of The Dickinson School of Law, where he graduated first in his class.

Katz was a founder of **Katz, Ettin and Levine**,



The Class of 1966; Top row, far right



Far right, on bike



Front row, seated, center

SENIOR MEMBERS — Seated: Grinberg, Davis, Katz, Yaskin.
Standing: Spockland, Mills, McHale, Cahilly.
Back row: Rutherford, Ziegler, Yeager.

MOOT COURT BOARD



 { *In Memoriam* } 

Maureen M. Abboud '09
October 27, 2013. Washington, D.C.

Jacob R. Bowers '49
May 12, 2014. Laureldale, Pa.

Harry D. Brownlee '66
March 11, 2014. Butler, Pa.

D. Bruce Cahilly '66
January 22, 2014. Ulysses, Pa.

Hon. Cyril J. Clancy '57
September 21, 2013. St. Louis, Mo.

William R. Cooper II '48
October 23, 2013. Montgomeryville, Pa.

George F. Combs '48
February 11, 2014. Frederick, Md.

G. Ronald Darlington '72
May 20, 2014. Mechanicsburg, Pa.

Carroll W. Dukes '58
November 13, 2013. Danville, Ill.

Merle K. Evey '55
December 13, 2013. Altoona, Pa.

Anthony C. Falvello '53
February 27, 2014. Sugarloaf, Pa.

James D. Flower Jr. '78
October 12, 2013. Carlisle, Pa.

Morris F. Good '53
May 04, 2014. Montoursville, Pa.

James M. Ecker '55
December 25, 2013. Pittsburgh, Pa.

William S. Hudson '60
April 11, 2013. Dover, Del.

Clifton H. Franks '54
February 14, 2014. Harrisburg, Pa.

Lewis Katz '66
May 31, 2014. Cherry Hill, N.J.

Daniel E. Long Jr. '61
November 10, 2013. Washington, Pa.

Kenneth J. Lyons '79
June 10, 2013. Oakton, Va.

Clarence J. Mattioli Sr. '47
July 29, 2013. Ocean City, N.J.

Anne M. MacDonald-Fox '01
January 18, 2014. Dallas, Texas

G. Thomas Miller '48
July 3, 2013. Dillsburg, Pa.

Jeffrey M. Mottern '77
March 17, 2014. Hummelstown, Pa.

Matthew J. Oravec '00
October 18, 2013. Richland Township, Pa.

Hon. Thomas G. Peoples Jr. '64
September 19, 2013. Altoona, Pa.

Paul H. Price '51
June 3, 2013. Morristown, N.J.

Murray W. Popkave '66
January 17, 2014. Narberth, Pa.

William B. Quinn '50
December 5, 2013. Garnet Valley, Pa.

Rayford A. Robel '52
September 18, 2013. Cary, N.C.

Charles A. Rowe '63
April 2, 2013. San Francisco, Calif.

William J. Samuels '60
November 23, 2013. Scottsdale, Ariz.

Charles V. Snyder Jr. '48
June 17, 2013. Lancaster, Pa.

Gerald J. Spitz '66
December 5, 2013. Garnet Valley, Pa.

Charles J. Staudenmeier '85
November 2, 2013. Gulph Mills, Pa.

William G. Williams '46
April 29, 2013. DuBois, Pa.

Dana E. Wolfe '93
August 5, 2013. Washington, D.C.

William E. Young '48
February 19, 2014. Julian, Pa.

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