The inspiring journey of Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice
Christine Donohue

ALSO INSIDE:
Meet Interim Dean Nancy Perkins
Jason Luckasevic, L’00, and sports brain injury law
A moment at the Supreme Court
I am in the unusual situation of writing a dean’s message that is my first, as well as my last. As odd as that may seem, my situation provides me with a unique opportunity to comment on the School of Law’s strength and energy from two perspectives: one of appreciation, the other of anticipation.

Having neared the end of my term as interim dean, there is much that I have seen and learned. I have experienced the pride of 30-plus alumni who were together admitted to the Supreme Court of the United States bar in March in the presence of family and friends. I have shared the joy of our trial and appellate team coaches, and our student competitors, who once again performed to near perfection in this season’s competitions. I have seen eagerness in the attentive faces of over 50 admitted students whom I addressed at our Admitted Students’ Day in March. I have witnessed the energy and creativity of our faculty as they test and adopt new teaching approaches and outcomes-based learning, explore distance education options, and publish exciting scholarship in an increasing array of books, blogs and highly ranked journals. I have been overwhelmed by the care and concern of our alumni, particularly those who sit on the Dean’s Advisory Board and the Board of the Duquesne Law Alumni Association. And day in and day out, I am assisted by an administrative staff that strives to implement our mission in everything they do.

Experiencing these and so many other events and developments in the daily operations of the School of Law has deepened my appreciation of all of our constituencies. It has also deepened my appreciation for the work of President-elect Ken Gormley, who preserved and grew the School of Law in multiple and strategic ways during trying times in legal education. Many of you, I am sure, share my appreciation for his administration’s hard work, which has made the School of Law a smaller and more highly ranked institution that has added emerging practice areas to our solid core curriculum, and that is driven to offer the best in experiential offerings. Despite these accomplishments, I expect that you, like me and everyone else in Hanley Hall, have feelings of anticipation as well.

My brief tenure as interim dean straddles the administration that was, and the administration that is yet to come, at a time when the law school applicant pool remains small and the job market tight. I can assure you that the dean search process is being undertaken with substantial effort and care. We know that great opportunities lie ahead for the School of Law, and that talented candidates will be drawn to Duquesne because of its mission, and because we live that mission.

I invite all of you to think creatively about ways to seize opportunities to further solidify Duquesne University School of Law’s reputation as an outstanding law school.

As we anticipate a change in administration, I invite all of you to think creatively about ways to seize opportunities to further solidify Duquesne University School of Law’s reputation as an outstanding law school. All of us can play a role in that endeavor. I know the next dean, whoever he or she may be, will be able to count on you—the alumni, faculty, staff and students—who have made my interim deanship so enjoyable and meaningful.

Nancy Perkins
Interim Dean
Duquesne Law rises in the U.S. News & World Report rankings

For the fourth time in consecutive years, Duquesne University School of Law has risen in the U.S. News & World Report's law school rankings.

The 2017 Best Graduate Schools, which was released on March 16, lists Duquesne Law at 111, up seven spots since last year’s publication. Duquesne's legal writing program is again ranked as one of the best in the country, this year at no. 15. The part-time JD moved up four spots to be ranked no. 44.

“Our upward movement directly reflects a commitment to excellence by our faculty, staff and students,” says Nancy Perkins, interim law dean. “Duquesne has high standards for admission and bar preparation and has not wavered, in spite of challenging times for law schools and legal markets across the country.”

“Some law schools have lowered their criteria for admission in order to accept more students,” says Ken Gormley, former law dean and president-elect of Duquesne University. “Fortunately, with the strong support of President Charles Dougherty, Provost Timothy Austin and the Board of Directors, our School of Law has maintained its commitment to the highest standards of excellence. This impressive ranking by U.S. News—the highest in our history—reflects the fact that our peers in legal education recognize Duquesne’s continued rise as a top law school in the United States.”

Duquesne’s entering LSAT scores have held steady, with the 75th percentile for incoming classes of 2015, 2014 and 2013 reflecting a strong 155 score. The GPA median for incoming classes also has held steady and even gone up slightly over the last three years.

Duquesne had a 90.3 percent overall bar passage rate in Pennsylvania for calendar year 2014, the period covered in the newest U.S. News & World Report publication. This is almost 10 points higher than the 81 percent overall rate for the jurisdiction noted in 2017 Best Graduate Schools.

“This impressive ranking by U.S. News—the highest in our history—reflects the fact that our peers in legal education recognize Duquesne’s continued rise as a top law school in the United States.”

Professor Kitchen granted tenure

Professor Rona Kaufman Kitchen will be granted tenure and promotion to associate professor effective in the 2016-2017 academic year. Kitchen focuses her scholarship on the intersection of law and motherhood. She has published articles in the Wisconsin Journal of Law, Gender & Society and the Employee Rights and Employment Policy Journal. She teaches courses in employment, family and business law.

#DUDayofGiving a resounding success!

Thank you to everyone who donated on Duquesne's Day of Giving on Feb. 16. Over $109,000 was raised University-wide, including important gifts to the School of Law Call to Excellence fund. Please mark your calendars for next year’s date, Feb. 7, 2017.
Simulation Courses:
A new way of experiential learning

Tara Willke, Assistant Professor

On April 22nd, the School of Law welcomed former Duquesne University law professor Alison Sulentic. Sulentic first met with the law faculty to discuss a simulation course that she teaches as an adjunct professor at the University of Houston Law Center titled Advanced Issues in Employment Law. The topic of Sulentic’s presentation to the Duquesne law faculty highlighted the way her course introduces students to the documents customarily drafted by attorneys practicing in the area of human resources law. Additionally, she discussed how full-time faculty members could team with adjunct faculty members to create simulation courses. After meeting with the faculty, Sulentic, who has her own law practice in Houston, Texas, provided an interview preparation workshop for the law students.

Even though the School of Law currently offers simulation courses and a number of other opportunities for experiential learning, like the law clinics and externships, effective in the 2016-2017 academic year, the American Bar Association (ABA) will require students to complete at least six hours of experiential training prior to graduating. This requirement may be satisfied through courses taken through the clinic, field placements or simulation courses. As defined by the ABA:

- A simulation course provides substantial experience not involving an actual client, that (1) is reasonably similar to the experience of a lawyer advising or representing a client or engaging in other lawyering tasks in a set of facts and circumstances devised or adopted by a faculty member, and (2) includes the following:
  - direct supervision of the student’s performance by the faculty member;
  - opportunities for performance, feedback from a faculty member and self-evaluation; and
  - a classroom instructional component.

Duquesne Law is in the process of identifying which of its current course offerings qualify as simulation courses, and, as explained at the April 22nd meeting by Professor Rona Kaufman Kitchen, co-chair of the Simulation Courses Committee, the law school offers a number of courses that meet the ABA standard. One of those courses is titled Advanced Legal Writing: Writing in Law Practice. The course was created in 2009 by then full-time Legal Research and Writing Professors Julia Glencer, Erin Karsman and myself.

In this particular advanced legal drafting course, students participate in the evolution of a relatively simple civil case and learn the basics of pretrial litigation practice from client intake through negotiation and settlement. One of the many goals of the course is to expose students to the various types of documents routinely drafted by new law firm associates during the pretrial litigation stage. Thus, students draft a number of different documents, including client letters, initial pleadings, discovery, a motion brief and settlement documents. Students are also introduced to the art of timekeeping and are required to track and bill their time at certain points throughout the course of the semester, with the focus on the content and wording of their time entries.

We believed it was important for students to understand the other expectations required of new attorneys, so in designing the course we included a professional development component. Thus, in an effort to expose students to the other types of work done by new associates, students are introduced to, and participate in, a variety of professional development activities throughout the semester. These activities have, in years past, included a networking event for the students and the development of a “continuing legal education” outline and presentation. The course educates students on other issues that are essential for performing well in a law office but that are not always discussed during law school, including working with a legal secretary and work-life balance.

Students have been very receptive to the course, and it is one of a number of other courses offered at Duquesne that integrates legal theory and the practice of law. Other such courses include ones specializing in legislative drafting, intellectual property and trial advocacy.
In spring 2015, Adjunct Professors Gabriela Steier, L’12, and Kiran K. Patel, L’12, launched a new course at Duquesne Law, Food Law and Policy. The unique course focuses on sustainable food and agricultural policy domestically and abroad and exposes students to policy intricacies and interplays between fundamental intellectual property concepts and food law. The idea for the class was sparked by Steier’s work as an attorney focusing on food law and safety in the U.S. and the E.U.

Steier wished she had taken a course in this area as a law student and says she is excited to have created the class at her alma mater. “I specifically designed the course to fit Duquesne’s curriculum,” she says.

“There has been an increasing interest in food law courses at law schools across the nation, yet many lawyers do not have a true understanding of what food law is and how many other areas of law it intersects with,” Steier says. “I’m pleased to inform rising lawyers about the nature of food law and provide them with the tools to study food safety and sustainability with a truthful and critical perspective.”

The course has been taught twice and may be offered each spring. Students have been sharing their newly acquired insights and continuing their research in the field through internships with Pittsburgh’s City Council, nonprofit organizations, conferences and through independent research for credit.

A student recently called the course “eye opening” and said the class made her realize “how much we do not know about the food we eat, the way it is grown, how it affects our health and the environment.”

As co-editor of two textbooks on international food law and with experience from guest lectures at the Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future, the Yale Law School and the University of Perugia, Italy, Steier returned to her alma mater and joined with her colleague and fellow alum Patel to spearhead Duquesne’s course in the budding field.

“Food law and policy is pervasive throughout many different practice areas and permeates all areas of life and law,” Patel says. “The corollaries that we can draw from this area of law to seemingly unrelated practice areas are of growing importance in our evolving understanding and application of the legal system. The gateway example for me can be found in the parallels between patent law and food law and policy.”

Steier and Patel bring to the course a network of materials and connections through their organization, Food Law International, LLP, www.foodlawinternational.com. Part of the organization’s mission, they say, is to advance and develop interdisciplinary scholarship on aspects of international food law and to promote environmental sustainability, public health, food safety, animal welfare and social integrity.

The goal of the new course is to prepare students to be receptive and engaged legal professionals who understand the importance of synergies among society, environment, food and the law.

“Here at Duquesne we have the opportunity to inspire and educate aspiring lawyers and to mold the dialogue in this cutting-edge field of law,” says Steier.

Third-year students Jessica Rosenblatt, left, and Sabrina Rearick presented a poster for the first Presidential Conference on the Integrity of Creation: Climate Change at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Oct. 2, 2015. The poster, “Climate Change as a Function of Food Law,” was submitted by Adjunct Professor Gabriela Steier.
A moment at the Supreme Court

33 alumni and faculty members were admitted to the Supreme Court of the United States on March 7

Jeanine L. DeBor, Director of Law Alumni Relations and Development

The “five minutes to sitting” buzzer sounds. The courtroom is silent except for an occasional rustling of clothing or clearing of one’s throat. Alumni and faculty from four law schools sit and anticipate the moment when they will get their first glimpse of a justice. In the meantime, we gaze at the breathtaking marble reliefs on all four walls, representing the administration of the law over the centuries. The courtroom is surprisingly small but no less reverential or intimidating, given the power its nine occupants possess.

Some are here to cross an item off of a “bucket list.” Some believe that, one day, they will argue a case that will potentially change the way of life for many Americans. Most are here because it is a dream, a once-in-a-lifetime moment: to be admitted to the bar of the Supreme Court of the United States.

At 10 a.m., the buzzer sounds a second time and we rise to our feet. The justices enter, with the chief justice taking center stage next to a chair draped in black bunting, the continued mourning for a fallen brethren of the court. The only “official business” for the day is for Chief Justice John Roberts to read the holding in Americold v. Conagra Foods, a unanimous decision concerning citizenship for diversity jurisdiction penned by Associate Justice Sonia Sotomayor. Then it is our turn. Associate Dean Wesley Oliver calls us by name and we stand, facing the justices who are silently taking measure of the newest members of this prestigious bar. Many wipe away silent tears, remembering a loved one or two who would have been so proud to see this moment.

The chief justice grants the motion, and the oath is administered. We are welcomed as members of the bar, and court is adjourned. The session lasts no longer than 20 minutes.

On our way back to the stately Natalie Cornell Rehnquist Dining Room, where we earlier enjoyed breakfast, we congratulate each other and take photos. The room then falls silent as Associate Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg joins us. She is gracious and soft-spoken. She tells us the reason the portrait in the center of the room of the late Chief Justice William Rehnquist shows him in a robe with bold, gold stripes is he didn’t want his attire to be shown up by “the ladies.” Associate Justice Clarence Thomas joins us next, and states he won’t leave until everyone has the opportunity to take a photo with him. He stays for nearly a half hour, talking and laughing with each admittee as if they were long lost friends.

The following individuals were admitted on March 7, 2016:

Laura Andracchio  
Hon. Alexander Bicket  
Susan Bicket  
Dennis Biondo, Jr.  
Katherine Charlton  
Jeanine L. DeBor  
Laura DellAntonio  
Lauren Diulus  
Kristine Fritz  
Lauren Plate Hamilton  
Daryl Josephson  
Jessica M. Jurasko  
Jay Kahle  
Linda King  
Elizabeth Lamm-Earl  
Tracey McCants Lewis  
Mary P. Murray  
Leanne Nedza  
Matthew Ness  
Gery Niewtupski  
Katherine Norton  
Tyra Oliver  
Mariah Passarelli  
Dana Richardson  
Gregory Scheuring  
Laurie Buchan Serafino  
Lara Shipkovitz  
Alan Skwarla  
Catherine Spafford Loeffler  
Kimberly Tague  
Eugene Tempesta  
Beth Tibbott  
Bobbi Jo Wagner
Clinical Legal Education Updates

Civil Rights Clinic successfully argues case before board of pardons

The Civil Rights Clinic celebrated an important victory more than four years after taking on a client’s case. Duquesne law students started the work in 2011 when a Pittsburgh resident began to explore how to request a state pardon. This January, clinical students and their professor brought the case full circle when they accompanied the client to Harrisburg for an appearance before the Pennsylvania Board of Pardons, and later when the board announced a positive recommendation to the governor.

Carol Ramsey first met with students when attending a Pardon Clinic, a regular Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh program, on behalf of women she mentored. At that event, Ramsey began to wonder if, with law students’ help, the Civil Rights Clinic might be able to assist her as well.

Ramsey had criminal convictions stemming from her years abusing heroin as a young adult. While she had turned her life around by being drug-free for 19 years and was employed counseling women in the early stages of recovery, Ramsey’s record of retail theft and other charges continued to weigh on her. According to a spring 2012 article about the case in the student news magazine Juris, Ramsey’s worries included the possibility of limited job and housing options as she aged due to her record.

Then 60 years old, Ramsey decided to ask for help in preparing her formal application for pardon. Assistant Clinical Professor Tracey McCants Lewis directed the law students’ work on the complex application, which was completed by March 2012. Then as now, McCants Lewis serves as the supervising attorney of the Civil Rights Clinic. Each academic year she works with a new group of students in the yearlong program.

“I am so very proud of all of our students, those who began the pardon process with Ms. Ramsey more than four years ago, and those who were involved this year preparing her for the hearing,” McCants Lewis said after returning to Pittsburgh with the group. “This is the first client who moved through the lengthy application to have a public hearing, so we are pleased to be able to help her to a successful conclusion of her case.”

It takes approximately three to four years for the Pennsylvania Board of Pardons to complete an investigation and review a petition. Duquesne’s clinic provides assistance to clients during the entire process. Students explain the state criminal record expungement procedures and the pardon process to individuals at the Urban League’s monthly Pardon Clinic, at community events and NAACP events, and in response to phone inquiries. Students work with individuals to gather information for their applications, file petitions for expungements and later to file formal requests for clemency.

As with the Ramsey case, Duquesne law students also help clients during the hearing phase. To prepare this client, the students formulated a series of questions most likely to be asked by the Board of Pardons, then posed them to Ramsey in mock hearings at the Tribone Center for Clinical Legal Education. The students also offered advice and feedback on the client’s presentation for the board.

The School of Law is pleased to announce it will open a western office of the Pennsylvania Innocence Project this summer and launch clinical services in fall 2016. The program will be based at Duquesne’s Tribone Center for Clinical Legal Education, and students from both Duquesne Law and Pitt Law will participate. The statewide program works to exonerate those who have been convicted of crimes they did not commit and to prevent the innocent from being convicted. Look for more information on this exciting development in the next issue.
Urban Development Practicum assists with government review commission’s 10-year report

In March, students from the Urban Development Practicum participated in ceremonies marking the Allegheny County Government Review Commission’s once-every-10-years report, a document they played a key role in preparing.

Third-year students Emily Seelman, Justin Leonelli, Court Hower, Margaret McGannon, Elizabeth Tuttle and Chelsea Mague completed research assigned by the commission throughout the year and “wrote and re-wrote” sections of the official report, according to Professor Joseph Sabino Mistick, the practicum’s supervising attorney. Four of the students were on hand on March 29 when the commission turned the report over to Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald.

Allegheny County establishes the commission every 10 years to study and provide recommendations on the Home Rule Charter and county government, including the responsibilities of all county departments and agencies. The Allegheny County Council and the county executive appoint the nine commission members. Tracey McCants Lewis, assistant clinical professor at Duquesne Law, served as a commission member this year.

“We are all proud of our students,” says Mistick. “They worked on a document that had to meet the approval of a full commission and be submitted to a governing body [the

Allegheny County Council]. The students handled both the research and writing with diligence and exacting attention to detail.”

“This project provides an excellent example of the hands-on work our law students complete every day,” says Mistick. “Through our practicum and many clinical programs, Duquesne offers students opportunities to become practice-ready and prepare for legal careers in whatever fields they pursue.”

On April 28, students in the Federal Litigation Clinic argued a case before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. Third-year law students Chris Zozula, Mark Adams, Chloe Zidian, Casey Rankin and Adam Tragone (pictured below) took on all aspects of the appellate case on behalf of an indigent inmate. Rankin and Zidian argued remotely before a panel of three Third Circuit judges based in Philadelphia.

The case involved an inmate who had appealed his convictions seeking habeas relief on the grounds that his trial counsel was ineffective. The students argued that the client’s original attorney failed to present evidence that could have led a fact-finder to doubt the commonwealth’s case against the defendant.

The case was the second the Federal Litigation Clinic students handled this year. Professor Laurie Serafino, director of clinical legal education, and supervising attorneys Adrian Roe and Sam Simon directed the students’ work.
As announced in the fall/winter 2015 issue of *The Duquesne Lawyer*, Ken Gormley will become the 13th President of Duquesne University effective July 1, 2016. In the wake of this tremendous news, standing University President Charles Dougherty named Nancy Perkins as interim dean of the School of Law. The choice was met with wide approval when Interim Dean Perkins assumed the responsibilities in November. Perkins is the first woman dean in the 105-year history of the Law School, a fact that is naturally, and justifiably, receiving much attention. She keeps the notation in perspective. “As a graduate of Mount Holyoke, which is the first all-women’s college in the United States and still an excellent single-sex institution, I am proud to be here as dean. I have also had a number of female students tell me how proud they are that I am the first woman dean, and it certainly means a lot to me to be a role model for them.” But that distinction aside, Perkins was chosen because of her qualifications and proven track record. She was the obvious choice regardless of gender. Her selection stands as an example of the right person being chosen without the burden of gender bias, which is the sort of result that the women’s movement of the past half-century has been seeking.

For Perkins, the journey to Duquesne involved some interesting choices and difficult turns. As an undergraduate, she wasn’t taking aim at a career in law. “I was a music major with a theatre arts minor at Mount Holyoke, and I briefly pursued a graduate degree in music.” But while her love for the arts remained strong, she felt some inner resistance to a career in music. “I decided to take some time off. I worked in advertising while I sorted out my next move.” The practicalities of an MBA were considered but just didn’t seem to be a good fit. Following her intuition more than convention, she pursued a law degree. “When I was weighing an MBA against a JD, I felt an MBA was too divorced from the arts for me. Conversely, there is an art to law.”
“It’s a kind of lawyering in and of itself—some call it ‘cause lawyering.’ And that is something that is fully aligned with Duquesne’s mission—serving God by serving others.”

and my dad, sadly, was dying of pancreatic cancer through those three years. I was fully prepared to pull out of law school, but he said, ‘No, you’re going to stay in law school’—and I did.”

A commercial airline pilot for Eastern Airlines, Perkins’s father had been diagnosed with cancer on what was literally her first day of law school orientation. He died in March of her third year, but his spirit is still very much alive in her demeanor and approach to life. “My father was probably the single greatest influence in my life. He taught me that whatever you do in life, you have to love it and you have to work very hard at it. He was a role model—he absolutely loved what he did and he was dedicated to doing his best, always.”

Determined and inspired, Perkins graduated magna cum laude from Nova Southeastern Law Center in 1986. After passing the Florida Bar, she was in private practice for three years, working primarily in areas of property law. Although she was well-suited for the work, her career would soon take another intuitive turn. “By chance I became involved in a legal research and writing job at Nova and discovered that I loved the teaching end of things. I taught at Nova for four years before receiving a visitorship at Duquesne in 1993.” The visitorship turned into a tenured track position, and the Law School continues to be her home.

The classroom proved to be a nourishing environment for Perkins, and she in turn established herself as a valuable and cherished source of academic nourishment for the law students. “I have been very happy in the legal academy—it’s been very good for me and very good to me.” But her talents and well-rounded skill set were noticed outside the classroom, and she again was presented with an opportunity she did not court.

“When Ken Gormley was interim dean in 2009, he asked me to be his associate dean of academic affairs, a position that is largely responsible for the academic program itself—making sure we’re in compliance with ABA standards, that our curriculum is working for the students in the Law School, that sort of thing.” During her tenure the position grew. It was a time when there was an increased emphasis on outcome assessment, additional reporting and other responsibilities that fell under the banner of academic affairs. Perkins handled the duties with a dedication and efficiency that harkened back to the lessons taught by her father, but ultimately she was being pulled in another direction. “After five years I felt it was time for me to get back to teaching.”

Following a brief sabbatical she returned to the classroom. She taught for one year before being presented with another unforeseen opportunity. “When Dean Gormley was chosen to be the president-elect, he asked if I would be interested in being interim dean for a semester while we conducted a dean search. With that understanding, and the understanding that I would not be a candidate for the permanent position, I said I would be happy to step in as interim.” Her response reflects her sense of duty and responsibility for the common good, but she also recognized that the experience held the potential for personal growth. “I thought it would be a good learning process, that it would give me a different view of law school operations—and it has. I’m confident there will be a new permanent dean coming in soon, and I’ll be available to help out in whatever way is needed, but I’m hoping to get back to doing more research and writing.”

When she speaks on the subject, Dean Perkins’s passion for teaching is abundantly clear. “I teach in the property area, and I also teach in environmental law. I’m especially anxious to dig back into various topics of environmental law. One of the courses I taught before was an environmental justice seminar and I’d like to resurrect that course, especially in light of things that are going on in places like Flint, Mich.”

The student of the arts now personifies art in law and art in education, bringing the two together to provide a valuable offering for Duquesne law students and for society as a whole. “One of the opportunities a course like environmental justice gives you as a faculty member is to talk about situations where lawyers and public servants have brought attention to some really deplorable conditions. It’s a kind of lawyering in and of itself—some call it ‘cause lawyering.’ And that is something that is fully aligned with Duquesne’s mission—serving God by serving others.”

Whether in an administrative capacity, in the classroom or strolling around campus, the School of Law is being well-served by Dean Nancy Perkins.
"I am of the last generation from northern Pennsylvania who can say their father worked in the deep mines."
Visitors to the borough of Lansford in Carbon County, Pennsylvania, will undoubtedly notice the No. 9 Mine and Museum, a tourist attraction dedicated to the anthracite coal mine that was in operation from 1855 to 1972. This would constitute the bulk of the tourist industry in the area, but the site is worthy of preservation. During the lifespan of the old No. 9, mining anthracite coal defined that section of the state. The closing of the mine coincided with the virtual end of deep mining in the region, leaving Lansford to search for a new identity. But as the museum aptly demonstrates, there is no shortage of Americana in Carbon County. The area and its inhabitants continue to demonstrate the resilience, integrity and determination upon which the finer ideals of the nation were built. An impressive example of these traits is Lansford native Christine Donohue, L’80, who on Jan. 8, was sworn in to a seat on the Pennsylvania Supreme Court.

From birth through her undergraduate years in college, Justice Donohue experienced the anthracite coal culture of northeastern Pennsylvania first hand. Her father, Steve Lewis, was a coal miner and a United Mine Worker. “I am of the last generation from northern Pennsylvania who can say their father worked in the deep mines. By the time I was 7, the deep coal mining industry was on its way to extinction, for environmental and business reasons,” she recalls. Justice Donohue has early childhood memories of her father heading to the mines and the extreme dangers the miners faced on a daily basis. “When I was about 5, there was a collapse of one of the mining tunnels where my dad was working. Instead of taking him to the hospital, they brought him home and my mom and I picked the little pieces of coal out of his face. It was a very, very tough way to make a living.” By the time she was in school her father was significantly disabled by pneumoconiosis, more commonly known as black lung disease. He could no longer work in the mines.

Receiving black lung disability benefits was a lengthy process that could feasibly stretch longer than the sufferer’s lifespan. And when, or if, payments were procured, they were not exactly a windfall. Justice Donohue’s mother, Mary Berke Lewis, was a union seamstress in a nearby dress factory. With her husband’s disability, Mary became the sole financial support for the family. “She walked to the factory every day because we didn’t have a car,” Justice Donohue remembers. Not wanting to sound as if her family was especially burdened, she adds that “most families from northeastern Pennsylvania will be able to relate to this story.”

Times were indeed tough, but the Lewis household did not concede. “Mom was very driven, very focused, very hardworking. And she was very intent on making sure I would have the same types of things and opportunities my friends had despite our lack of money.” While it may not have been quite as inherently hazardous as coal mining, factory work was draining and offered insufficient compensation for the toll it took on the workers. Mary Lewis regularly worked six days a week, yet she would often stay up late into the night making clothes for her daughter and otherwise tending to the needs of the family. “She was an amazing woman in every sense of the word. She’s really my model for knowing that you do whatever it takes to reach your goal. I grew up watching her do that every day.”

“My parents believed that I could do anything I set my mind to do.”

Despite health concerns and other difficulties, both proud parents were able to share in Justice Donohue’s graduation.
Because of his deteriorating health, Steve Lewis was seriously limited as to what he could physically accomplish—but that didn’t hinder his spirit. “He couldn’t work but he was civic-minded and active in various community events. Because he was on the borough council, he was politically involved. On election days we would go from house to house to encourage people to vote and things of that nature. My civic-mindedness developed at an early age.”

Folks from coal mining communities did not generally give higher education much thought during that time. The Lewis household had been no different in that respect—until daughter Christine came along. “I was the first person in my family to attend college, so my parents had very little insight as to how one would go about pursuing a college education, but they were very supportive and nurturing concerning my traveling a path that would take me out of the hometown and on to bigger and better things.” Faced with limited resources, Justice Donohue had few feasible options. But, following her mother’s example, she was determined. Though it wasn’t easy, she secured a student loan and enrolled at East Stroudsburg State College, which was within driving distance of Lansford.

After deciding to major in political science, Justice Donohue initially envisioned herself going to graduate school and eventually becoming a professor of political science. As can happen for young people who demonstrate exceptional ability, the wisdom of academic advisors intervened. “Two of my professors at East Stroudsburg encouraged me to pursue a career in law. They planted the seed that law school might be a good fit for me.”

Seeking a smaller law school, the ambitious student was introduced to the Duquesne School of Law during a visit to Pittsburgh. The more she learned about the school on the bluff, the more natural it felt. She had found her academic home—even though it would mean she would be living further away from Lansford. But the Law School had much to offer besides a stellar academic reputation, and her parents were paying attention. “Having grown up a Catholic and having attended Catholic schools, Duquesne being one of the top Catholic universities in the nation helped my mom and dad accept my decision to move across the state.”

The ranks of the Law School that welcomed Christine Donohue consisted of about 30 percent women. The faculty included Joy Flowers Conti, L’73, and Carol Los Mansmann, L’67. When Mansmann, the first woman appointed to the federal bench in Pittsburgh, earned her JD from Duquesne, she was one of only two women graduates. Conti, current Chief Judge for the United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania, entered the Law School in 1971. In her words, “There were very few women in the program—only six out of 140—and we were generally not looked on as being able to succeed.” But the early and mid-’70s was a time of intense societal and cultural growth, and, while there were many obstacles remaining, feminism was rapidly invoking positive change.

Christine Donohue did not hesitate to step through the doors opened by those who came before her, and in the process served as a leader for those who would follow. Through it all she never lost sight of her beginnings. “My parents believed that I could do anything I set my mind to do. They might have scratched their heads at some of the things I set my sights on, but they were always supportive.” Despite health concerns and other difficulties, both proud parents were able to share in her graduation. “My mom, who was the driving force in terms of the type of woman I would become, died a year after I graduated. My dad, whose life had been such an inspiration, died a year after I graduated. “My dad, whose life had been such an inspiration, died a year after I graduated. But the early and mid-’70s was a time of intense societal and cultural growth, and, while there were many obstacles remaining, feminism was rapidly invoking positive change.

Christine Donohue began clerking at Sikov and Love, a small personal injury practice in Pittsburgh. “I was recruited to that firm by a Duquesne Law alumnus, Charles Evans, L’67, who in the tradition of Duquesne alumni always went out of his way to make sure a Duquesne Law student had an opportunity to interview with his firm.” Initially Justice Donohue was simply looking for a means of financial support. When she started at the firm her job description was essentially that of a file clerk. Among other duties, she went from court office to court office filing pleadings and made hand deliveries of mail around the city. But a genuine connection was made early on. “I took to that law firm and they took to me.” Unlike many other women entering the legal profession at that time, the concept of gender inequality provided minimal obstruction for Justice Donohue. “I was the only female in the office but the attorneys never treated me as anything other than an aspiring lawyer, and when I was a lawyer they treated me exactly as they did the other new lawyer there, who happened to be male.”

Justice Donohue was offered a job with the firm upon completing law school, and she tried her first jury trial within six months of graduation. “I was extremely fortunate about how my legal career got started and the attorneys with whom I was practicing, Charles Evans, Seymour Sikov and the other attorneys allowed me to develop as a lawyer in a way that was totally divorced from any gender bias or gender imprint on my development. I was blessed with wonderful mentors in that regard. Unfortunately, my story is a little bit outside of the norm for women who graduated at about the same time as I did.”
Justice Donohue was a trial lawyer for 27 years, first in personal injury practice and then in commercial litigation. Her success did not go unrecognized. Her many accomplishments include her admission into the prestigious American College of Trial Lawyers, International Academy of Trial Lawyers and Academy of Trial Lawyers of Allegheny County. But she remained ever mindful of growth opportunities.

“The law firm in which I was a partner was merging with another firm, and during the natural transition period I found myself considering other options. I always thoroughly loved being a lawyer—I loved the writing, I loved the research, the analysis, the challenge—and I always thought that being on an appellate court would be a wonderful place to engage in all of those practices.” Starting in 2008, Justice Donohue served on the Superior Court of Pennsylvania, participating in about 7,000 decisions during her tenure. “I served on the superior court for about seven years, and during that time I truly believed that I could make a significant difference on the state Supreme Court, so I became a candidate in 2015.” Justice Donohue was one of three Democrats elected to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court in the November 2015 election.

Having witnessed and supported the struggles for gender equality and civil rights throughout her career—within the legal profession and within society—Justice Donohue speaks on the subject authoritatively. “There are certain cultural biases that are extremely difficult to break. We struggle in the court system trying to assure that women are treated equally in courtrooms. It is getting better, but we have to be constantly vigilant.” She took the opportunity to emphasize this point on the occasion of her being sworn in to office on Jan. 8: “The political parties of Pennsylvania have an obligation to endorse and support women and people of color so that this bench, and all benches of justice in this commonwealth, reflect the population of this commonwealth.”

Just as she had benefited from Duquesne Law traditions in the early stages of her career, Justice Donohue keeps the traditions alive. “I make it a point to interview and hire alumni as clerks in my chambers. Two of my permanent clerks are Duquesne Law and my summer clerk is likewise from the Law School.”

And the Duquesne connection is shared at a high level. Justice Max Baer, L’75, has served on the Pennsylvania Supreme Court since January 2003. “During my decades as a lawyer and judge, I have always been impressed with Duquesne graduates,” Justice Baer recalls. “They combine a rare blend of intellectual ability, thoughtful pragmatism and ethical concerns. Christine Donohue exemplifies the very best of each of these traits. This makes her a valued and most welcome addition to our Court, where she is destined to serve with great distinction, leaving a legacy of excellence in heart, mind and spirit consistent with Duquesne’s cherished ideals.”

Emerging from humble beginnings is but a portion of the journey upon which Justice Donohue continues to travel, but it’s a portion that speaks highly of her character. Though she doesn’t try to overstate or romanticize her upbringing, Justice Donohue is well aware that her story is not typical. “As a child my family and I had very little contact or interface with people within the legal community. Growing up I only had views of lawyers such as could be discerned from books and television. Given this background, my going on to become a lawyer and eventually sitting on the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania is an unlikely story to say the least.” And as inspirational as it is unlikely.

Demonstrating the efficiency and determination that have marked her career, she summarizes her present position concisely and on point: “I’m precisely where I want to be, and I am deeply grateful that I have this opportunity to serve.” And gratitude works both ways—from the citizenry and from her fellow Duquesne alumni.
Monongahela, Pa. is situated in the Mid Mon Valley, a rural area outside of Pittsburgh that has famously demonstrated a knack for producing star football players. Joe Montana, Eric Crabtree, Fred Cox, Bill Malinchak and Sam Havrilak are just a few of the big-name pro football players to hail from the Mid Mon Valley. Jason Luckasevic, L’00, also hails from the Mid Mon Valley. By the time he graduated from Charleroi Area High School in 1994, Luckasevic, an accomplished golfer, could be fairly certain that his own name would not come to be identified with the National Football League—at least not as a player.

Luckasevic’s next stop was Washington & Jefferson College, a small liberal arts school in nearby Washington, Pa. Among the notable alumni of Washington & Jefferson is Roger Goodell, who was named commissioner of the National Football League in 2006, but that fact was not of any importance to Luckasevic as an undergraduate. He was busy working toward a joint degree in political science and English—a degree he earned in just three years. With degree in hand, he applied to two law schools, but only one really held strong appeal. As he recalls, “Duquesne was the proper fit for me for two reasons. One, the class size. I’ll always be a small-town guy at heart. And two, I come from a Catholic upbringing, so the school’s connection with the church was important.”

During his time at the Law School he acquired a job with Goldberg, Persky & White, P.C. After earning his JD in 2000 and passing the Bar, he remained with the firm. “I just celebrated 18 years here, 16 as a lawyer.” Luckasevic began his career representing asbestos victims and their families. He managed the western Pennsylvania asbestos docket, which consisted of thousands of injured asbestos victims. “We’ve represented probably 50,000 people over the years. In my career I’ve done somewhere between 2,000 and 3,000 depositions, this of course in addition to the cases I’ve tried.”

As his academic career had demonstrated, Luckasevic wasn’t inclined to just settle into a comfortable niche. He was looking to grow. “I wanted to move beyond asbestos because I felt that the legal profession was more than just doing one thing. I put myself in the game and volunteered my services.” He became involved in discrimination cases, then disability cases, then worker’s compensation, then personal injury—gaining experience and insight each step of the way. “Now I chair the department that handles complex medical malpractice cases. I just tried one that had 13 doctors testify at trial, which I’ve been told is a new record in Allegheny County. But I ultimately spend a lot of my days handling the sports brain injury cases.”

Sports brain injury cases have provided a cause for which Luckasevic has proven to be particularly well-suited, and his introduction to the issue was basically happenstance. Through his brother, an intern at the medical examiner’s office, he met Dr. Bennet Omalu. The two professionals became friends, and each took an interest in the other’s career. Starting the day with conversation over an early morning cup of coffee was not an unusual circumstance for these friends. “He happened to be in my office one morning in 2006 when I was reading the Post-Gazette. He was getting beat up pretty good in the paper by Dr. Joseph Maroon, who was the chief neurosurgeon for the Steelers, and by Dr. Eliot Pellman, who was the head of the NFL’s traumatic brain injury committee.”
Former Pittsburgh Steelers lineman Terry Long committed suicide in 2005 by drinking antifreeze. Omalu had participated in Long’s autopsy and concluded that the ex-football player had committed suicide due to the chronic traumatic encephalopathy that had resulted from his long-term play in the NFL. Maroon and Pellman took exception to Omalu’s conclusion. “They called his findings concerning Terry Long ‘preposterous and unscientific,’ ‘unfounded,’ ‘speculative’—using all those buzz words that we as lawyers know,” Luckasevic says. “It didn’t make sense to me because he is a pathologist with a neuropathology specialty, and all he did was look at some tissue under a microscope. It either shows brain damage or it doesn’t. It is black and white in the world of pathology; it is not gray.”

Disturbed by the harsh criticisms and attacks toward Omalu, Luckasevic encouraged his friend to formulate a legal counterattack. “His response to me was, ‘You’re a good lawyer; you figure it out.’ And that’s exactly what happened. Luckasevic began seriously investigating the subject and meeting with retired NFL players. Many of these men suffered from headaches, memory loss, depression and sleeplessness. Their plight was not a theory; it was a daily reality. As he built a case against the NFL, he developed friendships with many ex-players. Through these interactions he personally witnessed the sort of damage that spending years playing a violent game can cause to the human brain.

For Luckasevic, the legal system is a means by which legitimate change can be accomplished, something which is all too often missing from political efforts. “Litigators are more important than politicians. The NFL was aware of this issue through scientists and doctors; they didn’t do anything about it. The issue went before Congress in 2009 and 2011. Nothing happened. Finally in July 2013 I teamed up with some exceptional lawyers and filed the first two lawsuits against the NFL on behalf of about 120 players suffering from chronic traumatic encephalopathy brain injuries. This led to the truth finally being made public. It’s one of the purest examples of how litigation occurs from a grassroots ground level.”

Public perception of the legal system is often skewed towards the belief that litigation is about receiving money. The potential nobility of the work being performed is easily overlooked. “Dr. Omalu should be given a Nobel Prize for his groundbreaking discoveries with regard to the effects of football on the human brain, but if not for the litigation and the lawsuit, the NFL would not have cared. Litigation changes the world. It puts pocketbooks at risk, it brings the spotlight to important issues and it raises vital issues to the level of a public concern.”

On Feb. 4, Luckasevic brought his knowledge and experience to the School of Law in the form of a continuing legal education program titled Sports Concussion Litigation. He was joined by Daniel Kunz, L’02, a Duquesne University School of Law adjunct professor who serves as an NFL Players Association certified contract advisor and chairman of the Allegheny County Bar Association Sports Law Committee. The well-received CLE covered the laws surrounding various leagues, the discovery process and defenses, and an overview on the science and medicine of brain injuries. “When discussing sports concussion litigation, the most important thing that I tell anyone is that I am not anti-sport. Rather, I am pro-athlete,” Luckasevic says. “They deserve proper care, safety measures and being warned of any known health risks. I see myself as their voice and advocate when leagues, owners and coaches let them down and treat athletes as being disposable.”

The work started by Omalu and Luckasevic has not only changed the way we look at sports, but it’s also changed the way we look at every area of litigation because the brain has become the focus of injuries in cases. “Litigation has given victims a sense that they are not malingering or making up stuff—they actually have injuries.”

A board member of the Brain Injury Association of Pennsylvania, Luckasevic carries the fight well beyond the world of sports. “We’ve done a study of the Graterford Prison system in the Philadelphia area, which included neuro-psychological evaluations to inmates to determine whether they are capable of returning to society. One of the things we’ve found through our study is that somewhere between 70 percent and 80 percent of inmates have a history of TBI—traumatic brain injury. The future of our criminal defense may surround the issue of whether they had TBI and the effect it may have had on their ability to assess their behavior.”

His summary of the motivation behind his determined pursuit on this issue is simple and succinct: “It’s about justice.” And, though he never starred on the gridiron, justice is why Jason Luckasevic may prove to be the Mid Mon Valley’s most influential contribution to the world of professional football.

“Litigation has given victims a sense that they are not malingering or making up stuff—they actually have injuries.”

Luckasevic with Dr. Bennet Omalu
Presidential Candidates and Data Security

How the FBI’s Demands on Apple Will Shape the Upcoming Election

By Kevin Neumar, Associate Editor

Consider the following scenario: The government unlocks your iPhone by having Apple invent a new operating system that bypasses any protection-saving measures that may be in place. This very scenario has sprung a major debate between Apple and the FBI after the attacks in San Bernardino. The unprecedented proposition of absolute access to personal electronic information is such a contentious issue that presidential candidates are forced to choose a position. A position that does not fall easily within party lines.

All ‘Lame Duck’ or No Dinner

The Vacant Supreme Court Seat and the Vacancy’s Effect on the 2016 Presidential Campaign

By Justin Bernard, Associate Editor

With the passing of Justice Antonin Scalia, a void exists on the Supreme Court and the next justice selected to fill that void could drastically affect the political make-up of the Court for years to come. In the event that no justice is confirmed to fill the vacant seat, the potential for 4-4 deadlocks could leave lower court rulings in place and effectively prevent the Supreme Court from resolving key issues. Although confirmations during a presidential election are quite rare, they are not unheard of. On Feb. 4, 1988, Justice Anthony Kennedy was confirmed by the Senate after President Reagan’s nomination. In the last 60 years, 19 of the 20 most moderate Supreme Court nominees have been confirmed by the Senate, but only time will tell if Chief Judge Merrick Garland will get a hearing before the Senate.
D.R.E.A.M.: Debt Rules Everything Around Me

By Mike Jones, Web Editor

A founding principle of public universities is that the relative low cost gives greater access to affordable education for lower and middle class state residents. The rising cost of higher education has made the accessible into the insurmountable. Over the past 25 years the number of administrators and staffers employed by universities has more than doubled, a rate twice as fast as the growth of students; all the while schools have entered into an arms race over more livable (and superfluous) campus amenities. As time goes on, and higher education becomes more expensive, fewer graduates are able to repay their debts. The system is broken and it begs for reform from candidates in the upcoming national election.

The Democratic Donkey and the Republican Elephant

By Sarah Weikart, Executive Editor

It all started with an insult. During Andrew Jackson’s 1828 presidential campaign, his political opponents labeled him a “jackass.” All political parties express their ideologies to the electorate through symbols such as flags, posters and slogans. As the political debate heats up in this year’s upcoming election, there are two prominent symbols that America sees day in and day out, the Democratic donkey and the Republican elephant. The historical basis on which these two famous party animals were founded has helped shape their respective political parties.

The Pennsylvania Attorney General Office: The Perils of Voting for the Wrong Candidate

By Katie Burns, Staff Writer

On Nov. 6, 2012, Pennsylvanians created history when election results yielded not only Pennsylvania’s first Democrat attorney general-elect, but its first woman attorney general-elect. For three years, it appeared to the outside world that Attorney General Kathleen Kane was an exemplary model for how the office should be run; that is, however, until 2015, when evidence surfaced alleging that Attorney General Kane leaked confidential grand jury testimony to the media and lied about it under oath. While most Pennsylvanians understand that the role of attorney general entails charging perpetrators with violating state law, few realize that the office tasks its custodian with being a member of the Pennsylvania Board of Pardons, the body that is charged with making recommendations to the governor on which Pennsylvania citizens deserve to have their criminal records cleared. In light of the recent scandal that compelled the state to prosecute Kane for her alleged crimes, allowing her to complete this particular task may present an ethical problem because it effectively allows an individual, who presently does not exhibit virtuous behavior, to pass judgment on others who have made efforts to change their criminal ways and become productive members of society.

Multilingualism is Presidential, “English Only” is Not: Why the Candidates’ Language Skills Matter

By Natalie Tupta, Staff Writer

The months preceding the presidential election mark the most lengthy, extensive and public job interviews held in the United States. During this period, Americans and U.S. residents consider the candidates’ qualifications and skills which would enable the candidates to serve the American people and represent our country with dignity. A candidate’s language usage is one such characteristic which speaks to the candidate’s ability to communicate with a wide variety of people in our country and abroad. Multilingualism is a “presidential” trait voters should consider when casting their vote in the upcoming election.

How Can Iowa & New Hampshire Both Be First?
The Difference Between a Primary and a Caucus

By Thomas Cocchi, Executive Editor

Anyone who has been paying attention to the 2016 presidential election season has certainly heard about the Iowa caucuses and the New Hampshire Primaries. It is even likely, depending on which news source you rely on the most, that you’ve begun to see the words “primary” and “caucus” used interchangeably. However, these terms encompass significantly different electoral events in the political process that leads to a party nomination for president. Understanding the differences between a primary and a caucus is important to understanding just how much, or how little, wins in different states might mean to a primary candidate.
Steven Baicker-McKee

PUBLICATIONS/ARTICLES

• Federal Litigator (newsletter) (October 2015-April 2016).
• “Change, Turn, and Face the Strange 2015 Amendments to the Fed. R. Civ. P.” Federal Practice Committee Newsletter (March 2016).
• Series of articles re: FRCP in Legal Solutions Blog found on ThomsonReuters.com.

PRESENTATIONS


Robert S. Barker

PUBLICATION/ARTICLES

• El Concepto de Precedente y su Significado en el Constitutional de Los Estados Unidos (The Concept of Precedent and Its Significance in the U.S. Constitution). Book is posted on a website that gets 2,000 visits daily in Peru (Dec. 2015).

PRESENTATION

• Speaker at the Meeting of the Council of the Inter-American Bar Association (IABA), Washington, D.C. (Dec. 2015). Barker was Chairman of the IABA’s Constitutional Law Committee for 12 years (1984-1996), General Reporter of the IABA for five years (1999-2004), and has been a member of the IABA’s governing Council since 1995.

MEDIA

• Guest on “KD/PG”, KDKA-TV, Pittsburgh, Pa., to discuss international legal issues related to terrorism (Nov. 22, 2015).

Nicholas P. Cafardi

PRESENTATION


PUBLICATION/ARTICLE


Julia M. Glencer

PRESENTATIONS


HONOR/AWARD

• 2016 Student Bar Association Excellence in Teaching award

Kenneth E. Gray

PUBLICATION/ARTICLE


Rhonda Gay Hartman (Visiting Professor)

PRESENTATIONS

• Recent Developments in Reconstructive Transplantation: Considerations for Ethics, Law and Policy. Annual Meeting of Reconstructive Transplant Surgeon (lecture conducted from Duquesne University School of Law). American Society of Reconstructive Transplantation, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md. (Dec. 1, 2015).
• The Affordable Care Act’s Impact on Advance Health Care Planning. Grand Rounds Lecture, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, Pittsburgh, Pa. (Nov. 10, 2015).

HONOR/AWARD

• Recognized by Georgetown University’s Kennedy Institute of Ethics for inclusion in the list of most cited to legal scholarship in bioethics and medical ethics (Dec. 2015).

Howard Katz (Visiting Professor)

PUBLICATIONS/ARTICLES

• Series editor for Wolters Kluwer’s Focus Series, a casebook series, and has signed to three new casebooks: Civil Procedure, Constitutional Law and Professional Responsibility (Dec. 2015).
• Blog post on the usefulness of the negotiation course as a vehicle for addressing the issue of professional identity formation in law school. Best Practices for Legal Education Blog (Nov. 25, 2015).
Bruce Ledewitz

PUBLICATIONS/ARTICLES

• “The Threat of Independent Spending to Democratic Life—and a Plan to Stop It.” 64 Cleveland St. L. Rev. 133 (2016).

• “The five days in June when values died in American law.” 49(1) Akron Law Review 115-178 (Nov. 2015).


Jan Levine

PRESENTATION

• We’re Not in Memo and Brief Land any More: “Statutes and Rules and Regs! Oh My!” (with Schiavone, A.) Presented at the Sixth Annual Capital Area Legal Writing Conference, University of Maryland School of Law, Baltimore, Md. (March 11, 2016).

Tracey McCants Lewis

PUBLICATION/ARTICLE


PRESENTATIONS

• The developing picture of police body cameras on sentencing and re-entry (with Rago, J.). A Day for Learning and Speaking Out, Duquesne University School of Law. Pittsburgh, Pa. (March 15, 2016).


HONORS/APPOINTMENTS

• Recipient, YWCA Greater Pittsburgh 2015 Legal Racial Justice Award (Nov. 12, 2015).

• Individual Nominee, 2016 CORO Martin Luther King Jr. Award.

• Reappointment to the Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania for the term of three years commencing on Nov. 3, 2015.

MEDIA

• Newsmaker, Pittsburgh Tribune-Review (interview with Bob Bauder) (Nov. 21, 2015).

Joseph Sabino Mistick

PUBLICATION/ARTICLE

• Ongoing weekly opinion column in Pittsburgh Tribune-Review, including “To be Welsh” (Feb. 27, 2016).

Jane Campbell Moriarty

PRESENTATIONS


Katherine L. W. Norton

PRESENTATION


Wesley M. Oliver

PUBLICATIONS/ARTICLES


PRESENTATIONS


MEDIA

• “Regarding charges against Bill Cosby.” Social Media Sidebar blog, NBCNews.com (Dec. 30, 2015).
John T. Rago

PRESENTATIONS

• Police Body Cams Deployment and Evidence-Based Practices … Pennsylvania Police and Prosecutors Belatedly Acknowledge the Public Owns the Criminal Justice System. Faculty Exchange program. University of Akron School of Law, Akron, Ohio (April 1, 2016).
• The developing picture of police body cameras on sentencing and re-entry (with McCants Lewis, T.). A Day for Learning and Speaking Out, Duquesne University School of Law. Pittsburgh, Pa. (March 15, 2016).

Jacob H. Rooksby

Professor Rooksby was elected president of the Pittsburgh Intellectual Property Law Association (PIPLA) on April 20. He’s pictured here with third-year student Christian Angotti, who received the PIPLA Student Leadership award.

PUBLICATIONS/ARTICLES

• “Copyright in Higher Education: A Review of Modern Scholarship.” 54(1) DUQUESNE LAW REVIEW 197 (2016).
• Intellectual property and the University: An Introduction. 54(1) DUQUESNE LAW REVIEW 1 (2016).
• “A Legal Perspective on University Technology Transfer” (with Hayter, C. S.). 41 JOURNAL OF TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER 270-289 (2016).

PRESENTATIONS


MEDIA

• Interview, Regarding social media legal issues. Social Media Sidebar blog (Dec. 2, 2015).

Ann Marie Schiavone

PUBLICATIONS

• “Barking Up the Wrong Tree: Regulating Fear, Not Risk.” 22 ANIMAL LAW REVIEW 9-78 (2016).

PRESENTATION

• We’re Not in Memo and Brief Land any More: “Statutes and Rules and Regs! Oh My!” (with Levine, J.) Presented at the Sixth Annual Capital Area Legal Writing Conference, University of Maryland School of Law, Baltimore, Md. (March 11, 2016).

Tara L. Willke

PUBLICATION


PRESENTATION

Elizabeth Bailey of Murrysville, an admired and respected lawyer who actively practiced law for over 68 years, died on Jan. 29, 2016, at the age of 95. Bailey graduated from the University of Pittsburgh in 1941 and started her career as an English and history teacher at West View Junior-Senior High. She had a deep desire to learn more and in the summer of 1942, she took graduate courses in English at the University of Chicago. In 1943, she decided to enroll in evening classes at Duquesne University School of Law where she graduated in 1948. She was admitted to practice law on Oct. 9, 1948 and began her career at Lawyer’s Title Company.

In 1949, Bailey joined the law practice of James C. Tallant in Pittsburgh and later in Murrysville, and under his guidance, became an excellent and most trusted attorney state-wide. They practiced together for 46 years until his death in 1994. She was well known for her work in interstate custody matters, and Commonwealth ex rel. Buckner v. Barr, 379 Pa. 9, 101 A.3d 62 (1954) was one of her most well-known cases. She also practiced in the areas of adoption, real estate and estate administration.

Bailey never needed any notes when appearing before the court. She was always prepared. She could recite to the court the metes and bounds of a chain of title by memory. She argued cases at all levels of the court system in Pennsylvania. She drafted thousands of wills and deeds.

Bailey worked until the time of her passing with Walter F. Baczkowski and James W. Creenan at the Murrysville law firm of Creenan & Baczkowski, P.C. She prided herself on her work ethic, her commitment to her clients and her respect for the law. She demonstrated all that was good in our legal system. She enjoyed most that which she did every day—help people.

Bailey was a proud member of the Westmoreland County Bar Association and the Allegheny County Bar Association. She was just the 76th woman admitted to the Allegheny County Bar. In 2008, her peers selected her to speak at the ACBA’s event honoring its 50- and 60-year practitioners, and she spoke for the exact time allotted—seven minutes—without notes. She told the younger 50-year practitioners that the next 10 years of practice would be their best. She noted that the most rewarding part of her career in the law was the opportunity to help others. Duquesne University School of Law selected her as one of three women honored during its Centennial Celebration of Women in the Law in 2011.

Ken Gormley, President-elect of Duquesne University, reflected that “Elizabeth Bailey was an incredible woman who served as an inspiration to me and thousands of other lawyers in the region. As the oldest living alumna of Duquesne Law School—and the oldest living practitioner in Pennsylvania—Elizabeth embodied the spirit of service to the legal profession with energy, grace and an unyielding desire to assist fellow citizens, particularly the underserved. Her presence in the legal community will be deeply missed.”

Jim Creenan, L’96, remarked that, “It has been an honor and a privilege to work beside Ms. Bailey each day. She helped generations of families during the most important and sometimes difficult phases of their lives. Her clients trusted her sound legal judgment and advice. She was well-respected by the members of the bench and bar for her intelligence and legal acumen. There was no one better than Ms. Bailey.”

Molly Creenan, L’96, added, “We all deeply respected Ms. Bailey and her contributions to our profession. She was a wonderful attorney, advocate and mentor. She was well-respected by her peers and everyone in the Murrysville community.”

It is with deep sadness that we list the following School of Law alumni who passed away:

- Kathleen J. Fantazzi, L’95
- Marilyn E. Gilman, L’91
- Kristen M. Humphrey, L’95
- Gail Booker Jones, L’81
- Mariah Lewis Klinefelter, L’06
- James M. Legnard, L’57
- James P. Lochner, L’61
- Helen Marie Lynch, L’79
- John W. McCreight, L’77
- Dennis J. Miller, L’78
- Bartholomew G. Reisdorf, L’57
- John E. Wall, L’73
- Paul J. Walsh, L’93

SUMMER 2016 21
1965
Alfred C. Maiello has received the President’s Award for Distinguished Career Achievement from the Pennsylvania School Board Solicitors Association.

Thomas Reich is a founding partner of the law firm Lanza, Reich & Daniel.

1969
Robert G. Lovett was appointed as chair of the Board of Visitors for the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health.

1972
Richard I. Thomas has joined Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney, P.C., as of counsel in the labor and employment practice.

Theodore Trbovich was named president of Conservation Consultants, Inc., a nonprofit organization promoting responsible energy and resource use.

1974
David S. Pollock continues his tenure as treasurer of the Pennsylvania chapter of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers after being re-elected in July. Pollock is also a fellow of the AAML, as well as of the International Academy of Family Lawyers, for which he serves on the board of governors and the finance committee of the USA chapter.

John S. Vento has co-authored a chapter in the recently published Discovery Deskbook for Construction Disputes.

1975
Linda Kelly has been named the new administrator for the Fifth Judicial District Court.

Harvey R. Linder, a partner in the law firm of Culhane Meadows, PLLC, became an Adjunct Professor in the Emory University School of Law.

1977
Brian J. Cali has been reappointed as a member of the Disciplinary Board of Pennsylvania for a second term of three years, commencing April 1, 2016.

David H. Dille, Lawrence J. Baldasare, L’79, Brian S. Kane, L’92, and Matthew A. Meyers, L’86, have merged their practices with Burns White, LLC.

1980
Kenneth Horoho has been appointed to the position of Vice Chairman of the Pennsylvania Continuing Legal Education Board.

1981
Robert S. Bernstein has been selected by the American College of Bankruptcy to be inducted as a Fellow of the College.

Patricia L. Dodge has been re-elected to serve as managing partner of Meyer, Unkovic & Scott. Dodge has also been named a 2016 BTI Client Service All-Star by BTI Consulting Group.

Joseph A. Macerelli joined Burns White as a member.

1982
Joseph Napoli has been elected member of the board for the Western Pennsylvania Chapter of the Association of Corporate Counsel.

Garry Nelson was named to the Duquesne University Men's Basketball All-Century Team.

1983
Carol Behers was the recipient of the Heart of Justice Award at the Allegheny County Bar Foundation’s Red Tie Gala on March 12, 2016.

1984
Stephen A. Zappala, Jr. was re-elected for his fifth term as District Attorney of Allegheny County, Pa.

1985

1986
Michael Brungo has been named primary attorney for the Jeannette City School District. Muscante is a partner of Maiello Brungo & Maiello.

1987
John Cerilli, Littler’s Pittsburgh office managing shareholder, has been named co-chair of the firm’s energy industry group.
Mark Thomas Del Duca has joined the law firm of Shenderovich Shenderovich & Fishman.

Falco A. Muscante has been named primary attorney for the Borough of Glassport. Muscante is an associate of Maiello Brungo & Maiello.

William P. Smith joined Spilman Thomas & Battle, PLLC, as counsel.

1988
John A. Bass joined Burns White as a member of the health care and long-term care group.

Mary-Jo Rebele was elected as secretary of Houston Harbaugh’s three-member executive committee.

Steven P. Roth has been named managing partner of Rosenn Jenkins & Greenwald, LLP.

1989
Sen. Jay Costa has joined Dickie, McCamey & Chilcote, P.C., as a principal to the firm.

1991
Gene Jazwinski has been named a shareholder at Dickie, McCamey & Chilcote, P.C.

Colleen Ramage Johnston is pleased to announce that she has formed Johnston Lykos, LLC with fellow Duquesne Law School alumna Nikki Velisaris Lykos. The firm is dedicated to the practice of employment law.

1992
Hon. Tamara Bernstein has been elected as judge for the Cambria County Court of Common Pleas.

Amy Dolan Strano, president of Achieva Family Trust, has been named a 2016 BusinessWomen First award winner.

1993
William F. Caye, II was named to be a member of the Serra Club of the Diocese of Pittsburgh. Caye also joined BusinessLegal P.C. as a senior of counsel attorney.

John J. Hare has been appointed by Chief Justice Thomas G. Saylor to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court’s Civil Procedural Rules Committee.

Brian K. Parker joined Parker Poe Adams & Bernstein in North Carolina as a partner.

Hon. Craig C. Stephens has been elected Magisterial District Judge.

1994
Mark T. Aaron was re-elected for his fifth term as District Attorney of Clarion County, Pa.

David L. Conn has joined the law firm of Shenderovich Shenderovich & Fishman.

John M. Hartzell, Jr. was elected as treasurer of Houston Harbaugh’s three-member executive committee.

Paul Homick is now president of Mercy Health Foundation Mahoning Valley.

1995
Francis J. Schultz was re-elected for his fifth term as District Attorney of Crawford County, Pa. He was also elected to serve as president of the Pennsylvania District Attorneys Institute.

James P. Thomas has joined Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney, P.C., as a shareholder in the labor and employment practice.

1996
Eric L. Bradley has been promoted to equity member with Metz Lewis Brodman Must O’Keefe LLC.

James Greenan was elected as Chairman of the Board of the Westmoreland County Chamber of Commerce.

Dawn Gull opened her firm, The Offices of Dawn K. Gull.

1997
Thomas B. Anderson was elected to membership in the Academy of Trial Lawyers of Allegheny County.

Kevin L. Colesimo joined another former Burleson partner to open a Pittsburgh office for Frost Brown Todd, LLC.

The Hon. Harry F. Smail, Jr. has been elected for a full term as judge of the Westmoreland County Court of Common Pleas.

2000
Elisabeth Bennington has formed Bennington Law Firm LLC, located in Shadyside and specializing in divorce, custody and support law.

Benjamin Sorisio joined Meyer Darragh Buckler Bebenek & Eck, PLLC, as an associate.

2001
Richard Heiser has been elected vice president – pro bono initiatives for the Western Pennsylvania Chapter of the Association of Corporate Counsel.

Frank Kosir has been selected as the Peters Township representative on the South Hills Area Council of Governments.

Janet Meub has joined Dickie, McCamey & Chilcote, P.C., as a principal to the firm.

Alka A. Patel has been named a Distinguished Alumni Leadership Award Finalist of the 2016 Coro MLK Awards.
Christopher Smith, Jr. has been elected by Meyer, Unkovic & Scott to serve on the management committee.

2002

Matthew G. Breneman has been elected as shareholder at Zimmer Kunz, PLLC.

Hon. Jennifer Staley McCrady has been elected as judge for the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas.

Marcy Smorey-Giger has been elected vice president – advocacy for the Western Pennsylvania Chapter of the Association of Corporate Counsel.

2003

Turahn Jenkins has been promoted to Chief Deputy Director of the Public Defender’s Office of Allegheny County.

2005

Kaylyn Boca has been named partner of the real estate and corporate practice groups at Leech Tishman Fuscaldo & Lampl LLC.

Robert Max Junker was named a shareholder for Babst Calland.

Jillian Nolan Snider was elected to membership with Tucker Arensberg, P.C.


2007

Jeannette A. Bellon is now an attorney at Green & Ackerman, P.A., in Boca Raton, Fla.

April Trimble Dugan has joined FedEx Ground as a senior attorney.

Brian Kahle has joined the law firm of Tucker Arensberg, P.C. in the estates and trusts investment management and business practice groups.

Meghan A. Moran joined Babst Calland as an associate.

Marla N. Presley has been elevated to litigation manager of Jackson Lewis P.C.’s Pittsburgh office.

Kara Eaton is now an attorney at the new Pittsburgh location of Frost Brown Todd, LLC.

Michael Flynn has been named a shareholder at Dickie, McCamey & Chilcote, P.C.

Nikki Velisaris Lykos is pleased to announce that she has formed Johnston Lykos, LLC with fellow Duquesne Law School alumna Colleen Ramage Johnston. The firm is dedicated to the practice of employment law.

Shawn P. McClure is now an account executive with The Reschini Group.

Scott K. McKernan was named a shareholder for Babst Calland.


Gregory Michaels has been named a shareholder at Dickie, McCamey & Chilcote, P.C.

Hon. Guy Reschenthaler has been elected to District 37 of the Pennsylvania State Senate.

Vaughn Schultz has been named a shareholder at Dickie, McCamey & Chilcote, P.C.

Christopher W. Rogers is now an attorney at the new Pittsburgh location of Frost Brown Todd, LLC.

Kara S. Eaton is now an attorney at the new Pittsburgh location of Frost Brown Todd, LLC.


2008

Katrina Brantley joined Mylan, Inc., as assistant operations counsel.

Bridge Guarascio was named an honoree of the 2015 40 under 40 Award by Pittsburgh Magazine and PUMP.

Michael Metcalfe has been named partner in the litigation and taxation practice groups at Leech Tishman Fuscaldo & Lampl LLC.

Brian Kahle has joined the law firm of Tucker Arensberg, P.C. in the estates and trusts investment management and business practice groups.

Meghan A. Moran joined Babst Calland as an associate.

Marla N. Presley has been elevated to litigation manager of Jackson Lewis P.C.’s Pittsburgh office.

Kara S. Eaton is now an attorney at the new Pittsburgh location of Frost Brown Todd, LLC.

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Christopher W. Rogers is now an attorney at the new Pittsburgh location of Frost Brown Todd, LLC.

Kara S. Eaton is now an attorney at the new Pittsburgh location of Frost Brown Todd, LLC.
James D. Miller was named a shareholder for Babst Calland.

Thomas J. Schlegel has been promoted to shareholder at Fitzpatrick Lentz & Bubba, P.C.

Jessica Tully is now an executive director for B.R.A.V.E., a nonprofit organization.

2009
Sarah E. Edwards has been elected as Butler County Register of Wills.

Rachel Maldonado has joined Burns White LLC as an associate, concentrating her practice in Medicare compliance issues.

Justin T. Romano was named a board member of PULSE (Pittsburgh Urban Leadership Service Experience).

2010
Ramma Barakat is now an assistant district attorney for Lehigh County.

Matthew J. Fischer became a title attorney at Rice Energy.

Cara Group has been elected secretary for the Western Pennsylvania Chapter of the Association of Corporate Counsel.

Juliann L. Haynes-Held joined Tucker Arensberg, concentrating her practice on bankruptcy, insolvency and creditors’ rights law.

Bradley Matta started a new position at Mylan Inc. as associate litigation counsel.

Matthew J. Morphy is now Trust Advisor at PNC Wealth Management.

2011


Daniel Craig is now an attorney at the new Pittsburgh location of Frost Brown Todd, LLC.

Ashley R. Hart was named an honoree of the 2015 40 under 40 Award by Pittsburgh Magazine and PUMP.

Ryan Hauck joins Marshall Dennehy’s Pittsburgh office as an associate.

Ashley M. Kral is an associate at Robb Leonard Mulvihill LLP.

Adam J. Ventura joined Dickie, McCamey & Chilcote, P.C. as an associate.

2012

Marjorie Bagnato joined Dickie, McCamey & Chilcote, P.C. as an associate in its commercial law and litigation practice group.

Krista M. Baron joined Keveican Weiss Bauerle & Hirsch, LLC, as a member in the firm’s financial services group and mergers & acquisitions group.

Kelly C. Cheponis is a senior litigation associate for BDO USA, LLP.

Elizabeth P. Gaetani joined Cordell & Cordell as an associate.

David J. Miller formed his own firm, The Law Offices of David J. Miller, LLC, in December 2015.

Adam L. Morris has joined the Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry.


Robert Raver, associate attorney at Pollock Begg Komar Glasser & Vertz LLC, has been elected for a three-year tenure as a council member to the Allegheny County Bar Association Family Law Section.

Kira M. Rivera has joined Chaffin Luhana, LLP’s West Virginia office as an associate.

2013

Simone L. Delerme has joined the Harrisburg office of Pepper Hamilton as an associate.


2014

Daniel Conlon has joined firm Salzmann Hughes, PC as an associate

Samuel Marchese joined Belkin Burden Wenig & Goldman, LLP, a New York firm, as an associate in the administrative department.

James Mazzocco is an associate at Babst, Calland, Clements & Zomnir, P.C.

Brian Sichko and his wife, Amanda, welcomed their son, Liam Louis Sichko, on Nov. 11, 2015.
Megan Musial joined Schmidt Bresnahan Law Group, LLC, as an associate attorney.

Shayna A. Petrella is an associate at Robb Leonard Mulvihill LLP.

Judy Hale Reed is a member of the Pro Bono Steering Committee for Cities for CEDAW (Pittsburgh).

2015

Spencer A. Anderson joined Reed Smith's corporate & transactional advisory group as an associate.

Emily Bittle is now an associate attorney at K&L Gates.

Russell J. Bopp joined Dinsmore and Shohl LLP's litigation department as an associate.

Nate Boring joined Dodaro, Matta & Cambest, P.C. as an associate.

Gina D. Cerilli has been elected Westmoreland County commissioner.

Theo A. Collins is an attorney for the Law Offices of Edward J. Krug & Associates.

Krystal T. Edwards is an associate attorney/paralegal at Urban & Blattenberger, P.C.

Lindsay Sherwood Fouse joined Clark Hill PLC as an associate.

Annemarie K. Harr has been named associate at Weiss Burkhardt Kramer LLC.

Colin B. May is now a judicial law clerk for the Beaver County Court of Common Pleas.

Jonathan R. McCloskey is now a judicial law clerk for the Washington County Court of Common Pleas.

David A. Rocchini has joined EY in the diversified staff group, tax services.

Brandon T. Uram is now an associate with Blumling & Gusky, LLP.

Ashley Wilkinson joined the firm of Meyer, Unkovic & Scott as an associate. Wilkinson was also selected by Robert Morris University School of Communications and Information Systems as a 2016 Distinguished Alumna.

Correction

The fall/winter 2015 issue of The Duquesne Lawyer listed Jan Jumet as a 2001 law alumnus. Jumet received his JD in 1997 and his MS in taxation in 2001.

John (Jack) McGinley, Jr., L’68, was awarded the Spiritus Award at Duquesne University’s Scholarship Dinner on April 21. The award recognizes exceptional philanthropic service to Duquesne University and its students. McGinley, center, is pictured here with President Charles Dougherty, President-elect Ken Gormley, family members and the 2016 class of McGinley Law Fellows.

The 2016 McGinley Fellows:

- Eduardo J. Benatui, Costa Rica Judiciary
- Megan Caren, Jefferson Co. District Attorney’s Office
- Gabrielle M. Conti, Allegheny Co. Court of Common Pleas
- Keila Estevez, U.S. District Court for Western District of Pa.
- Fayezez Haji Hassan, Allegheny Co. Court of Common Pleas
- Chalyn Kaufman, U.S. District Court for Western District of Pa.
- Margaret McGannon, war crimes research: Bosnia, The Netherlands and Germany

- Elizabeth Mylin, Governor’s Office, General Counsel, Environmental Hearing Office
- Abigail Rae Nath, Anchorage, Alaska District Attorney’s Office
- Kelsey Reno, Hocking Co., Ohio Municipal Court
- Jessica Rosenblatt, Pa. Dept. of Environmental Protection
- Emily Schimizzi, U.S. District Court for the Western District of Pa.
- Kayla Schindler, Allegheny Co. District Attorney’s Office
- Adam Tragone, Pa. Dept. of Transportation
- Tynishia Williams, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Moot Court Round-up
Appellate Moot Court Board shines this spring

Two Appellate Moot Court Board teams excelled at the American Bar Association Client Counseling Competition Feb. 12-14. Tom Pié (3L) and Carly Loomis-Gustafson (2L) emerged as semifinalists. The team of Moe Al-Bidhawi (2L) and Hillary Cox (3L) defeated the University of Pittsburgh School of Law in the semifinal round and finished in second place overall. David Frantz, L’15, coached both teams.

Duquesne also advanced at the National Appellate Advocacy Competition Feb. 18-19. NAAC is one of the largest moot court competitions in the country. The team of Cezanne Tollari, Alyssa Dedola and Jamie Spithaler defeated teams from Barry University School of Law and Drexel University School of Law in the preliminary rounds and advanced to the semifinals. At the conclusion of the competition, the team was awarded Third Best Brief. Professor Erin Karsman coached the team.

Two Duquesne teams participated in the National Energy and Sustainability Moot Court Competition hosted by West Virginia University, March 3-5. The teams of Bruce Castor, Cynthia Howell and Jeff Childs and Kara Beck, Filip Rams and Liz Mylin advanced through the preliminary rounds to the quarterfinals. Students Carly Loomis-Gustafson and Robert Shope coached both teams.

Our 3L students once again had an excellent showing at the Thurgood Marshall Federal Bar Association Competition in Washington, D.C. March 3-April 1. Hillary Weaver and Luke Watterson reached the semifinals and finished in third place overall. Watterson was awarded Best Oralist for the competition, making this the second consecutive year Duquesne Law has taken that award. Alyssa Sweeney and Dave Zimmermann advanced through three preliminary rounds and made it to the quarterfinals, for which only eight teams were selected. Third-year student Adam Tragone coached the two teams.

Kate Montgomery (4E) and Devon Ferris (3L) finished in the top four of 36 teams in Brooklyn Law School’s Dean Jerome Prince Memorial Evidence Competition March 31-April 2, one of the most prestigious moot court competitions in the country. Marty McKown, L’15, coached the team.

Finally, third-year students Chloe Zidian and Jill Denicola finished as semifinalists and won Second Best Brief out of 24 teams from across the country at the National Moot Court Competition in Law & Religion, Touro Law Center, April 7-8. The team was coached by students Moe Al-Bidhawi and Brook Dirlam, along with Frank Stoy, L’12.
Congratulations and special thanks to the alumni who donated their valuable time to the teams and provide feedback that contributed to these successes. We are grateful to Frank Stoy, Kate Lewis Stoy, L’12, Ryan Wilk, Emily Bittle, L’15, David Franz, L’15, Sarah Molinero, L’14, Aleksandra Kocelko, L’14, Martin McKown, David Leake, L’14, Lisa Brunner Leake, L’14, Matt Pilsner, L’12, Aaron Weiss, L’15, Emilia Rinaldi, L’15, Andrew Griffin, L’14, and Robert Raver, L’12.

The Appellate Moot Court Board is under the direction of Professor Erin Karsman. To learn more about the program, visit duq.edu/law/appellateadvocacy.

Trial Advocacy news

Third-year students Abigail Nath, Christopher Quinn and Anthony Calguire advanced to the semifinals of the Texas Young Lawyers Association National Trial Competition, Feb. 11-13. 2L students Anthony Hassey, Andrew Kiger and Nialyn Reid-Pagliari, all first-time competitors, also excelled, unanimously defeating Widener in the first round. The teams were coached by A. Michael Gianantonio, L’02, Robert F. Daley, L’98, and Jaime M. Hickton, L’13.

Members of Duquesne’s National Trial Team advanced to the semifinal round of the regional American Association for Justice Student Trial Advocacy Competition, which was held in Philadelphia March 9-13. Team members Ryan Naumann (2L), Tallie Val Vuren (3L), Sarah Weikart (3L) and Matthew Newman (2L) beat teams from Seton Hall University, Pennsylvania State University and Rutgers University before losing a close trial against Drexel University, which went on to win the competition. The team was coached by Brock E. McCandless, L’09, and Max Petrunya, L’10.

Congratulations to third-year student Corey Young, who was named Outstanding Advocate at this year’s South Texas Mock Trial Challenge in Houston, Texas, April 13-17. The team of Chris Pruessner, Nicole Pitt, Young, Kaitlyn Burns and Eric Rudel advanced to the “Sweet 16” for the first time.

The Trial Advocacy Program is under the direction of adjunct professor Pete Giglione, L’02. Read more about the competitions and teams at duq.edu/law/trialadvocacy.
Manning, L’72, bestowed honorary membership in Phi Alpha Delta

Sarah K. Weikart, 3L

On Feb. 17, 2016, Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity, International (PAD) bestowed an honorary membership on President Judge Jeffrey A. Manning, of the Fifth Judicial District of Pennsylvania, by its Egan Chapter at Duquesne University School of Law.

PAD is a professional law fraternity advancing integrity, compassion and courage through service to the student, the school, the profession and the community. As one of the largest student organizations at the Law School, and the largest law fraternity in the country, PAD offers a distinguished alumni network to the benefit of its members. This year, PAD initiated 63 students for a total of 137 members in the Chapter.

Honorary membership is extended to any individual who has attained unusual distinction in the legal profession or in the field of law. Honorary initiates must be ratified through the formal Petition for Honorary Membership submitted by a chapter and approved by the International Executive Board.

Judge Manning has attained such distinction throughout his legal career. He was appointed judge in 1988, and over the past 26 years has presided over thousands of criminal cases. Judge Manning currently sits as the President Judge of the Fifth Judicial District of Pennsylvania, which is the second largest court system in the commonwealth.

Prior to his judicial tenure, Judge Manning served as Allegheny County Assistant District Attorney, homicide prosecutor and supervisor of the Violent Crimes Unit, Assistant U.S. Attorney, and First Assistant United States Attorney. Between 1976 and 1988, Judge Manning handled the most significant federal criminal cases, involving international narcotics trafficking, complex fraud, organized crime, and racketeering and public corruption. Additionally, he has previously served as a commissioner of the Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing, and is presently chairman of the Supreme Court’s Criminal Procedural Rules Committee.

On March 16, Judge Manning actively participated in his first Phi Alpha Delta event, a criminal mock trial. This mock trial showed students the typical proceedings of a criminal trial, including pretrial motions, objections and court rulings, as well as charging the jury. Other special guests who actively participated in this educational experience included Allegheny County Chief Public Defender Elliot Howsie, L’98, and Amanda Sorrell, L’11, assistant district attorney for Allegheny County.

Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice Wecht speaks with JLSA

Joshua Allenberg, 1L

Beginning with the appointment to the court of Horace Stern in 1936, the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania has a rich history of Jewish justices, including our own alumnus, Justice Max Baer, L’75. Justice David N. Wecht, who was elected this past November, is the latest addition to this legacy.

On Feb. 18, Justice Wecht accepted an invitation from the Jewish Law Students Association to speak at the School of Law. Topics he discussed included how Jewish values have shaped his personal values, the election of judges in the commonwealth, and reforms that the Pennsylvania Supreme Court can adopt to increase transparency and integrity. Students and faculty in attendance then engaged in a Q&A session with Justice Wecht.

It is often said that you can’t be what you can’t see. While the judiciary is rife with Jewish jurists, it is still inspiring to me as a Jew to have the opportunity to hear a member of my faith who has reached the highest level of the judiciary in the state speak to how our common values have shaped his career, as I hope they will shape mine.
Woman of the Year

Rebecca Traylor, 2L

The 24th Annual Women's Law Association's (WLA) Woman of the Year event was held on April 20. Each year, WLA honors an alumna and a recent graduate who demonstrate leadership and dedication to the community and whose work inspires women law students and attorneys alike. This year's Woman of the Year and Recent Graduate of the Year award recipients, Cynthia E. Kernick, L'85, and Christy M. Gamble, L'13, proved to be exceptional choices.

Kernick is a partner and trial lawyer at Reed Smith in Pittsburgh, focusing her practice on intellectual property litigation. While she is a leader in her field and has had a prosperous career litigating cases all over the U.S., perhaps most notable has been her outstanding pro bono work. In a case that garnered international media attention, Kernick successfully recovered the misappropriated photographic archive of photographer Charles H. "Teenie" Harris, regarded as one of the most significant documentations of the African-American urban community in the 20th century.

In addition to her law degree, Gamble has a DrPH in epidemiology, a MPH in epidemiology and biostatistics, and a BS in microbiology. Pursuing her passion for advocating for access to quality, affordable health care for all, she currently works as a staffer for the U.S. House of Representatives Health Counsel, Oversight & Government Reform Committee. She has been featured by the National Black Lawyers—Top 40 under 40 and, while a law student, was a Schweitzer Environmental Fellow.

These women clearly impressed the crowd of colleagues and friends, along with Duquesne law faculty, students and alumni at the annual reception. Kernick, shy in the face of rapt admiration, accepted her award modestly, speaking about the importance of teamwork and always advocating for justice. Equally inspiring was Gamble, who enthusiastically recalled her story about persevering as an underdog and creatively working her way to where she is today.

So moving and motivating were their stories that I left the evening with an urgent sense of what great thing can I accomplish tomorrow. With such encouraging role models to turn to, with tips on how to be a great attorney and good person, I feel like that might be anything.

Dine & Dialogue: Part I

On Nov. 9, the Federalist Society hosted a Dine & Dialogue discussion with Judge Thomas M. Hardiman of the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.

About 20 students attended this yearly event and had the opportunity to interact with Judge Hardiman in a small group setting. He spoke about serving as a judge and his legal experience prior to being appointed to the federal bench. Students were encouraged to ask questions, as Judge Hardiman wanted the event to be a conversation rather than a lecture. The students attending the event enjoyed the opportunity to interact with a judge outside of the traditional courtroom setting.

During the spring semester, Judge Hardiman teaches Advanced Constitutional Law: Current Issues at the Law School.

Dine & Dialogue: Part II

During the 2016 Black History Month, the Black Law Students Association hosted a series of events including its second annual Dine & Dialogue dinner that provides students with an opportunity to speak with judges about their careers, lives and perspectives on current events.

This year’s guest speaker was Judge Dwayne D. Woodruff, L’88, who was accompanied by his daughter, Jenyce Woodruff, L’08. Judge Woodruff shared his experience obtaining his juris doctor and practicing for three years while simultaneously playing the cornerback position for the Pittsburgh Steelers. Among his many community service projects, Judge Woodruff serves as the co-chair for Pittsburgh’s chapter of Do the Write Thing, an initiative of the National Campaign to Stop Violence. The initiative challenges local middle school students to submit essays on preventing youth violence. Local essay finalists are chosen to compete against finalists from other chapters nationwide.
2015 Law Alumna Interns at United Nations Tribunal

Cassandra Bodkin, 3L; Alison Palmeri, 3L; and Carlie Masterson, 2L.

Following her 2015 graduation from Duquesne University School of Law, Laura Veith knew she would have a few months off between taking the bar exam and beginning her job at a major law firm in Pittsburgh. After hearing Caroline Durbin, L’14, speak about her six-month internship in Cambodia to students last year, Veith was inspired. She knew this would be an educational and exciting way to fill that time.

Veith interned in the Pre-Trial Chamber in the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC), located 18 kilometers outside of Phnom Penh. Currently, the ECCC is conducting war crimes trials for Khmer Rouge cadres who are charged with carrying out genocide and crimes against humanity throughout the 1970s. During her three-month internship, Veith worked primarily with a judge from France and a judge from South Korea. The close working quarters allowed her to get to know people from all over the world and within all parts of the court system. Additionally, she had the chance to observe some of the ongoing trials.

During her internship, Veith took advantage of her very little spare time to explore the city of Phnom Penh and the Cambodian coast. She found Cambodia to be a “colorful country” and described both the work and the local people as “tremendous.”

Before attending Duquesne Law, Veith spent a year and a half in Thailand teaching English. Falling in love with the country, Veith knew she had to return one day and was able to spend a month there before starting her internship. Following her time in Cambodia, Veith had the opportunity to spend a little more time in Thailand, in addition to Malaysia and Bali.

On April 30, Veith, now an associate at K&L Gates LLP, spoke with Duquesne’s International Law Society. She never anticipated she would have ended up in Cambodia after law school and described her internship as immensely valuable to her personal growth and perspective. Veith would recommend this eye-opening experience to anyone who is lucky enough to have the opportunity.

Prohibitionist v. Originalist: A Student’s Perspective

Nicholle Pitt, 2L.

At Duquesne University School of Law, many students who have heard of Professor Wesley Oliver have also heard that his Criminal Procedure class largely draws on the history of Prohibition. He frames the history in such a way that it not only makes perfect sense, but you also cannot help but agree with him.

I eagerly awaited the “conversation” between Professor Oliver and his close friend, Professor Michael Dimino of Widener School of Law, hosted by the Federalist Society, on March 17. While Professor Oliver firmly believes the history of criminal procedure, and the Fourth Amendment in particular, is influenced by the history of Prohibition, Professor Dimino believes that an Originalist framework is best used as the lens for the cases that have flowed from the history of search and seizure in this country. Professor Dimino is a longtime supporter of Justice Antonin Scalia and even has a poster of him in his office; a person’s idol on the Supreme Court can tell you a lot about him.

Because Professor Dimino is a staunch supporter of Justice Scalia, his Originalist perspective made a lot of sense to me. Justice Scalia’s opinions always seem to draw on history that predates Prohibition by several decades, and while his opinions and the framework for those opinions are compelling, Justice Scalia is also often the dissenting opinion of the Court. Listening to the two of them discuss the matter over an hour hardly seemed like enough time.

The differing perspectives made a great deal of sense in my mind. However, I am still very compelled by Professor Oliver’s argument that Prohibition shaped our country’s stance on searches and seizures because of the great deal of evidence that corroborates this idea. I do not think either perspective is necessarily wrong; rather, after listening to both professors, I have come to my own conclusions. My conclusion is that the Originalist perspective works best in understanding why certain justices disagree with the law as it stands, and that the Prohibitionist view works best in understanding how the law has developed in the manner that it has and both perspectives are vital to understanding the Fourth Amendment.
immigrants and their legal representatives are not aware of potential status implications, or the basic rights immigrants are entitled to under the law. These misunderstandings can often lead to poor decision making with detrimental outcomes.

Panelists included Tom Farrell, L’91; John Zatkos, L’96; Joyce Ramirez, L’93; and Hon. Eleanor Bush, Family Division, Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas. Henry-Taylor served as the moderator.

The panel educated the community on important legal issues immigrants face in their daily lives and are most likely to affect an immigrant’s status and the path to become a United States citizen, such as employment. This is an important event for the immigrant community as well as the attorneys who represent them.

Career Services Updates

Maria D. Comas, L’00, Director of Career Services; and Samantha H. Coyne, Employer Outreach Manager

First solo and small firm job fair a success!

The majority of Duquesne Law graduates go to work at small firms of less than 10 attorneys. After speaking to several local practitioners, the Career Services Office found that finding the time to post a position with the Law School, review resumes and interview candidates is challenging. Feedback from students indicated that they are often unsure about how or when to approach solo and small firms. In April, the CSO hosted the first annual Solo and Small Firm Job Fair and Networking Event. Five employers were present (one additional employer asked for resumes to be collected on their behalf) and approximately 30 students attended to take advantage of on-the-spot interviewing.

The comments from both employers and students was overwhelmingly positive. Employers remarked on the students’ professionalism, preparedness and enthusiasm. Most students chose to speak to each employer, and remarked at how convenient it was to have this event on campus.

The CSO thanks all of the participating employers—Covelli Law Offices, P.C.; Flaherty & O’Hara, PC; Kraemer, Manes & Associates, LLC; Law Office of Lauren Darbouze; Steele Schneider; and Worgul Law Firm, LLC—with special thanks to our Duquesne Law graduates who supported our students. Any solo or small firm practitioners are welcome to contact Samantha Coyne (coynes1@duq.edu) if they are interested in participating in upcoming job fairs and networking events.

CSO offers professional development series.

The Career Services Office continually strives to meet the demands of our students, alumni and employers with whom we work by offering dynamic programming and services to these groups. To that end, in February we offered a three-part series intended to give Duquesne Law students an advantage in interviewing, work performance and professional advancement. Working with Alyson Lyon of Higher View Coaching & Consulting, we offered sessions that focused on the ABA’s Grit & Growth Mindset study, Lawyers as Emerging Leaders and Emotional Intelligence for Lawyers. As students begin their careers, they will often be asked to lead in many facets of their practice, sometimes without having a specific leadership title. Through these programs, students gained an understanding of characteristics that many successful lawyers have, such as determination and perseverance (grit), flexibility (growth mindset), and other qualities that are unique strengths to each of them.

Employers have identified the topics that were discussed in this series to be important in their evaluations of candidates and employees, and the CSO offered this programming so students can identify these traits and characteristics in themselves, share them appropriately at interviews, and continue to grow in these areas during law school and as practicing attorneys. This series was paid for in part by the Law Alumni Career Services Endowed Fund. CSO is very grateful to the alumni who support this fund and who worked with our students at these sessions.
Thank you, Ken Gormley
for your contributions to the School of Law
during more than 20 years of service as Professor of Law and Dean

1997
Archibald Cox:
Conscience of a Nation

Archibald Cox discusses his role in historical events with Professors John Murray and Ken Gormley.

1999
President Ford’s Pardon of Richard M. Nixon: A 25-Year Retrospective

Dean Nicholas Cafardi and Professor Gormley present an honorary degree to President Gerald Ford in 1999.

2001
Justice Sandra Day O’Connor visits

U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice Sandra Day O’Connor with Professor Gormley.

2009
A Tribute to the Chief:
Remembering Justice Ralph Cappy

The entire Pennsylvania Supreme Court sat in a rare special session honoring the late Justice Ralph Cappy. Dean Gormley is pictured here with Justice Max Baer, L’75, and Janet Cappy.

2011
Centennial Celebration
and Gala

Ken and Laura Gormley with Centennial keynote speaker, U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice Antonin Scalia.

2016
Celebrating Martin Luther King, Jr.

President-elect Gormley with members of the Black Law Students Association, Interim Dean Nancy Perkins, and members of the judiciary and bar at the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Prayer Breakfast.

TRIBUTE TO
Ken Gormley

6.23.16 • WILLIAM PENN HOTEL PITTSBURGH
A CALL TO EXCELLENCE FUND EVENT
duq.edu/law/alumni/support-duquesne-law
SAVE THE DATE:

64th Law Alumni Reunion Dinner
Oct. 21, 2016
Duquesne University Union Ballroom