Living the Law School Mission:
The First Recipients of the William B. Billock Loan Repayment Assistance Program
Duquesne University School of Law has been ranked once more as one of the best in the nation, as announced by U.S. News & World Report. The 2010 rankings issue lists Duquesne’s program ahead of nearly 170 other law schools, at No. 22. The Legal Writing Specialty Ranking is voted on by legal writing directors throughout the country, reflecting the opinion of those with specialized knowledge of the field, based on information available at the start of the 2009-10 academic year. This is the third successive time the new writing program at the School of Law has been listed in the Specialty Rankings category for legal writing; approximately 30 to 35 law schools receive sufficient recognition to be ranked in that category every year.

For more information about the Law School and the Legal Writing program, visit www.duq.edu/law/lrwp/index.cfm.

Duquesne University School of Law is a Best Value law school According to National Jurist Magazine

Using data collected from the Law School Admissions Council’s “Official Guide to ABA Approved Law Schools 2009,” National Jurist indicates that Duquesne has low tuition, an outstanding academic program, a strong alumni base, and excellent job placement.

Legal Research and Writing Program Nationally Ranked

The Duquesne University School of Law’s Legal Research and Writing Program has been ranked once more as one of the best in the nation, as announced by U.S. News & World Report. The 2010 rankings issue lists Duquesne’s program ahead of nearly 170 other law schools, at No. 22. The Legal Writing Specialty Ranking is voted on by legal writing directors throughout the country, reflecting the opinion of those with specialized knowledge of the field, based on information available at the start of the 2009-10 academic year. This is the third successive time the new writing program at the School of Law has been listed in the Specialty Rankings category for legal writing; approximately 30 to 35 law schools receive sufficient recognition to be ranked in that category every year.

For more information about the Law School and the Legal Writing program, visit www.duq.edu/law/lrwp/index.cfm.

DU Law School Ranked in Top 100 Schools by Super Lawyers Magazine

Duquesne University has been included in the inaugural Super Lawyers U.S. Law School Rankings. The School of Law ranked 100 out of 180 schools on the list, and nearly 170 alumni were named to the 2009 Super Lawyers list.

“The 2010 Super Lawyers U.S. Law School Rankings is unique in that it ranks law schools based on the number of graduates who are selected for inclusion in Super Lawyers across the country,” said Bill White, publisher of Super Lawyers magazine. “Only five percent of the lawyers in each state are selected to Super Lawyers lists.”
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Ken Gormley says he made a concerted effort to seek out role models during his formative years in the legal profession.

Some 30 years later, students now look to Gormley for that same sort of mentorship.

Gormley was named dean of the Duquesne School of Law on March 29 of this year, after having served in an interim capacity since 2008.

The 1980 graduate of Harvard Law School believes Duquesne occupies a unique position in the academic landscape.

“I would like to combine our identity as a Catholic law school with our longstanding reputation as a law school that produces excellent judges, legislators and public servants to really create a special niche here as a law school that equips graduates for public service,” says Gormley, a constitutional law expert who has taught at Duquesne since 1994. “We are committed to public service as an integral part of the profession. And it’s who we are as Duquesne Law School. I would like to build upon that, and establish a stronger identity as a school with a public service component.”

Early influences

Gormley’s notions about service were influenced early on by mentors such as Dr. John Murray, who was dean at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law before joining Duquesne as president and, later, chancellor.

“I sought out people who I wanted to emulate,” Gormley, 55, says of his days as a young professional. “And I never made money a priority in any of my decisions. My priority was finding the best people to teach me in specific areas. And that turned out to be a good decision.”
At Harvard, Gormley had the good fortune of studying constitutional law under one of the most prominent figures in American legal history.

“In law school, my greatest influence was undoubtedly Archibald Cox,” Gormley says. “He was the most principled person I’ve ever met. He made decisions based upon fairness and equity in even the tiniest things he did, which made an extraordinary impression on me.”

An impression so profound, in fact, that Gormley would go on to publish a biography of Cox, who is perhaps best known for his role as special prosecutor during Watergate.

Gormley is a native of Swissvale, Pa., a working class town along Pittsburgh’s eastern border. And it was his parents who first suggested he consider a career in the legal profession.

“My mother was a teacher and my father was a chemist, and they encouraged me in the direction of law school, even though we didn’t have a single member of the family in law, just because of what they saw as the many opportunities to help other people,” Gormley says. “So even though I never had any background in the area, and my only job before going to law school was cutting grass in the summers at Sustilli’s Nursery, it seemed pretty natural to be going down this path, and seemed like a very positive thing to be doing.”

**Vision for Duquesne**

Gormley’s immediate agenda for Duquesne includes enhancing what he views as the law school’s strengths.

“I just want to continue to solidify all the great things that have been going on at the law school. We have so many wonderful pieces of this curriculum,” he says, noting the school’s nationally ranked legal writing program, trial moot court program, clinical program and student publications.

And he has been proactive about seeking improvement where necessary, bringing in advisors to address the issues of minority recruitment and the school’s appellate advocacy program.

Gormley also is excited about the prospect of marking an important milestone.

“We have our 100th anniversary coming up. I think it’s very important to have a really significant celebration of that event,” he says, explaining that there is, indeed, much to celebrate at Duquesne.

“We do many things well here, and I think it’s important to make sure the rest of the country knows about all the great things we do at Duquesne Law School.”
Dean Gormley with PBS host Charlie Rose after his appearance on the Charlie Rose show.

at Duquesne Law School. So, I’m very interested in making sure that we continue holding extremely visible programs,” he says.

“I want to make sure that people see our beautiful facility,” he continues. “Also, having our faculty, who are experts in so many areas, going out and giving presentations, and participating in seminars, and really enhancing our profile nationwide. I think we have lots of talent here, and we need to shine a light on it.”

**Acclaim for new book**

Coincidentally, Gormley’s most recent book is doing just that.

_The Death of American Virtue: Clinton vs. Starr_ is an exhaustive account of the legal controversies that marked Bill Clinton’s presidency. The 789-page tome, which took almost 10 years to research and write, has been almost universally lauded for its evenhandedness.

Unlike many authors, Gormley didn’t need to manufacture drama. It was 1998 when Gormley had just published his biography of Cox — timing that, by sheer coincidence, created great demand for Gormley’s expertise, given the emerging legal standoff between Clinton and Ken Starr.

“My book on Archibald Cox came out just as the whole Monica Lewinsky story was exploding in the media, and so I was on television shows all over the country because I was a ‘special prosecutor expert,’ of all things,” Gormley says. “So the _Clinton vs. Starr_ book just seemed like a natural transition. This story was more incredible and more unbelievable than any story you could have made up. It seemed very natural to move into this project,” he said.

Nevertheless, the scope of the affair did prove daunting.

“It was a massive undertaking,” Gormley says. “This had so many moving pieces, it was actually very terrifying at first to wade into it.”

Gormley affirms that he made a conscious decision to author an impartial account of the highly charged political drama.

“I really did set out to create a completely evenhanded account, and that required being able to gain access to both sides. And so I made a conscious decision that if I did not get cooperation from both sides, then I would not write the book,” Gormley says.

In addition to resurrecting the familiar cast of characters and well-publicized legal battles that marked the Clinton presidency, Gormley’s book includes several revelations — among them a disclosure from Gerald Ford before his death in 2006. The former Republican president confided to Gormley that he tried to convince Clinton to admit that he lied under oath to reach a censure deal, thereby avoiding a Senate impeachment trial — a recommendation that Clinton adamantly rejected.

Gormley was able to unearth so much new information by securing unprecedented access to all the central figures — although Clinton’s 2004 health problems nearly derailed the entire project.

After Gormley made several trips to Arkansas and Washington, D.C., to meet with associates of the former president, Clinton finally agreed to a 45-minute meeting during a visit to Pittsburgh for a book signing. By meeting’s end, Clinton had agreed to speak again with Gormley at a time and place to be determined.

Not long after, however, Clinton underwent quadruple heart-bypass surgery. Gormley assumed the gravity of the situation would force Clinton to scale back his commitments, jeopardizing their plans for a second meeting.

Several months later, though, Gormley received a call. Clinton was in Philadelphia and wanted to talk some more.

“He was still recovering from his surgery,” Gormley recalls of his meeting with the frail former president. “I was extremely grateful he kept his promise.”

Ultimately, Gormley hopes the notoriety surrounding his best-selling book will benefit Duquesne. _Clinton vs. Starr_ has been reviewed by _The New York Times_, the _Los Angeles Times_ and _Washington Post_, and he’s discussed the book countless times on national TV, including appearances on ABC, NBC, PBS, Fox News and MSNBC.

“I’m hoping to harness it as much as possible,” he says of the attention. He recognizes that the publicity — although “wearying at times” — presents a rare opportunity “to enhance the profile of Duquesne Law School.”

On a more tangible level, the travel and speaking opportunities he’s been afforded have allowed him to establish relationships and network with alumni.

“I’m always on the lookout for opportunities to meet with our alumni, who make this law school the successful institution that it is. I also use my out-of-town trips to look for speakers to bring to Duquesne,” he says.

“It took nine years to write the book, so I want to make the most of it.”
As a staff attorney with Neighborhood Legal Services in Pittsburgh, Nicole Scialabba spends her days working to ensure that the poor have access to legal counsel. In the wake of the recent recession, the assistance she has provided to people facing foreclosure, eviction and a lack of affordable health care has been more valuable than ever.

As important as her work may be, however, the pay is modest, especially when weighed against the burden of her student loan debt. The burden can be such, in fact, that many attorneys like Scialabba eventually are forced to forego careers serving the public interest.

But a new endowment is giving Duquesne School of Law graduates a chance to continue doing the work they love. The William B. Billock Loan Repayment Assistance Program provides help to Duquesne grads such as Scialabba, whose jobs allow them to further Duquesne’s mission of service.

“Without loan repayment assistance program opportunities like Duquesne offers, I would not be able to afford working at Neighborhood Legal Services Association,” said Scialabba, a 2006 grad. “LRAP definitely allows me to be able to continue working at a job that I love.”

The endowment was established in 2008, and 14 Duquesne School of Law graduates represent the first group to benefit. Kirsha Weyandt is grateful to be part of that group.

“Receiving the loan repayment assistance from Duquesne has been immensely helpful,” said Weyandt, who is an associate in the Allegheny County Office of Conflict Counsel. The 2006 graduate pays about $900 a month toward her law school debt.

Matthew Rogers, a 2008 graduate, likewise is burdened with formidable debt; he pays about $750 a month. “This is one of the most valuable financial assistance programs I have ever encountered,” said Rogers, a judicial law clerk in Washington County. “While I expect my law degree will pay for itself tomorrow, lending institutions still expect their payments today.”

Jessica Roberts is a Washington County law clerk, as well, in addition to working as a Protection From Abuse coordinator. “I enjoy assisting people when they are facing a difficult situation and, hopefully, giving the parties comfort. I feel I that I am able to be a voice for those who are often not heard,” the 2006 grad said.

According to Associate Dean Nancy Perkins, applicants for the loan repayment assistance must meet three criteria: 1) employment in a qualifying public interest law position 2) a maximum of $45,000 in adjusted gross income and 3) outstanding law school debt. Perkins
said the maximum amount an applicant can receive at this time is $5,000 a year.

Genylynn Cosgrove, assistant prosecutor in Lancaster, Ohio, said that the most gratifying part of her job is having “a chance to help people, whether it is a victim in a domestic violence case or a defendant who is trying to get a valid driver’s license.” However, the expenses the expectant mother and her husband soon will face compelled her to consider seeking a job in the private sector.

“When I learned that I would receive the loan repayment assistance, I realized that I could probably afford to continue working at the job I love,” said Cosgrove, who graduated in 2004.

As guardian ad litem for displaced children in Fayette County, Mariah Balling-Peck advocates for kids during custody disputes. The 2003 grad considers such service-oriented law her “calling.”

“The LRAP softens the blow of the financial hardship this type of work causes, because it is time consuming, stressful and demanding,” Balling-Peck said.

Nevertheless, she said being a voice for kids has its own rewards.

“I get something a lot of attorneys don’t get — hugs from precious little children.”

Like her fellow alumni, Nicole Wetherton appreciates the assistance from the Billock Program. “This program allows the public interest sector to keep many qualified employees who otherwise would have to leave a career that they enjoy,” said Wetherton, a 2006 Duquesne grad who works in the Allegheny County District Attorney’s Office.

Matthew Kopecki, who graduated in 2008, is a law clerk with the Berks County Court of Common Pleas. He said that LRAP has helped him stem the tide from debt incurred during his move to Reading.

“LRAP made it possible for me to continue in my position. The job market for lawyers is pretty tough right now, and I count myself lucky to be employed,” he said. “However … I was forced to incur a significant amount of credit card debt when I moved here. The LRAP money allowed me to pay off this debt and focus more of my funds on my student loans. I am very thankful for the grant, and hope to return the favor when I am in a position to do so,” Kopecki said.

Perhaps no LRAP recipient personifies Duquesne’s commitment to social justice, though, more than the Rev. Ernie Poland Jr. In addition to serving as pastor of Keyser Presbyterian Church in Keyser, W.Va., Poland operates Justice For All Legal Services, which provides counsel to people who otherwise couldn’t afford it.

The seemingly disparate nature of those jobs has given some a new perspective about the legal profession.

“Clients have expressed their gratitude and, at times, bewilderment considering the dual nature of my calling to help my fellow human beings,” said Poland, who graduated in 2005. He said that he would not be able to fulfill both callings were it not for the loan repayment assistance program.

“Since I do not attract clients who can afford legal services, the expenses of operating an office space on Main Street were forcing me to decide between two noble vocations,” Poland said. “This was not a decision I felt comfortable making, yet the bottom line was about to dictate my future. This program literally rescued me from closing my law office and forsaking my law school training.”

The loan repayment assistance program is named for the late William B. Billock, a 1938 law school graduate who served as vice president of Gulf Oil and represented the company as head of industrial relations. The $1.4 million endowment that bears his name is meant to encourage pursuit of careers in nonprofit public interest law or in local, state or federal government.

Applications for the next round of funding are due by September 1, 2010, and are available on the law school’s Web site: www.duq.edu/law/alumni.
Justice Anthony Kennedy wrote these words for the majority of the justices in 1992 in *Lee v. Weisman*, the case that held that public high school graduation prayers are unconstitutional. While the opinion ultimately turned on whether the government could arrange and provide guidelines for nonsectarian prayer — “But though the First Amendment does not allow the government to stifle prayers which aspire to these ends, neither does it permit the government to undertake that task for itself” — it is revealing that Justice Kennedy had to ask whether there is “common ground” concerning “an ethic and a morality which transcend human invention.” Of course there is such common ground, and that ethic and morality are by no means a matter only of “religion” as that term is understood in the religion clauses of the Constitution.

Exploring that common ground has become the major focus of my work. In 2007, I published *American Religious Democracy: Coming to Terms with the End of Secular Politics*. That book promoted a political common ground between religious believers and secular nonbelievers. That common ground did not consist in agreement on issues, such as abortion or gay marriage, but in the legitimacy of religious motivations in political life. The fact that voters take the positions they do for religious reasons does not render their views undemocratic or theocratic. Whatever the wall

“Common Ground” in Church and State

By Professor Bruce Ledewitz

“If common ground can be defined which permits once conflicting faiths to express the shared conviction that there is an ethic and a morality which transcend human invention, the sense of community and purpose sought by all decent societies might be advanced.”
of separation between church and state might mean, it could not mean that believers had to check their beliefs outside the political arena.

The position I was contesting — that religious reasons for public policy proposals were illegitimate “conversation stoppers” — had actually been losing political salience for several years before my book appeared. John Rawls and Richard Rorty, for example, had earlier abandoned the argument that religious motivation had no place in democratic politics. And the political power of the religious right in the 2004 presidential election had rendered quaint the idea of denying the political legitimacy of religious believers.

But I was not writing in order to contribute to an academic debate. I wanted to reduce the toxicity of political debate between believers and nonbelievers. I had hoped that secularists could be convinced to accept religious motivation in public life and that such acceptance would help to tear down walls of suspicion in politics.

That hope did not fail exactly, but it did not ultimately succeed. After the 2004 presidential election, the Democratic Party did become much more faith-friendly. This effort included personal faith confessions by party figures — a sort of rebranding effort — successfully running more faith-oriented candidates in the 2006 congressional elections and highlighting religious commitments by the presidential candidates during the 2008 presidential primary season. Thus, on the institutional level of politics, perhaps there was some greater degree of common ground.

But this change turned out to be merely cosmetic. Underneath the surface, American life was becoming more aggressively secular, even atheistic. One early indication of the growth of secularism during the period after the 2004 presidential election was the influx of atheist books. During the period 2004-2007, a phenomenon emerged in America that The Atlantic Monthly would later call “mass-market atheism.” Beginning with Sam Harris in The End of Faith in 2004, continuing with Daniel Dennett — Breaking the Spell — and Richard Dawkins — The God Delusion in 2006 — and Victor Stenger — God: The Failed Hypothesis — in 2007, to the culminating best-seller blockbuster, God Is Not Great, by Christopher Hitchens, also in 2007, this period saw the establishment of a muscular and assertively anti-religious atheism that began to reach a popular market. These writers, and a few others similarly oriented, such as Mark Lilla, who wrote The Stillborn God, are often referred as the New Atheists.

Perhaps the climax of this newly apparent nonbelief was President Obama’s reference to nonbelievers. The PEW Forum on Religion and Public Life reported in preliminary figures that the religiously unaffiliated represented 12% of the 2008 electorate, up from 9% in 2000 and 10% in 2004. To appreciate the size of this number, white non-evangelical Protestants made up 19% of the electorate, as did white Catholics.

Then, in March 2009, the American Religious Identification Survey published results that emphasized two trends at once: America was more secular than ever and less Christian. The two figures that may be said to have grabbed popular consciousness are first, that 15% of respondents nationwide responded “none” when asked their religion. This figure is even larger than the corresponding figure concerning the 2008 electorate. The figure of the “nones” in 1990, in contrast, had been 8.2%.

Perhaps even more significant was that the number of people calling themselves Christian fell to 76% of the population, from 86% in 1990. This is the figure that caused Newsweek magazine to proclaim “The End of Christian America.”

I could feel this swing away from organized religion by observing my own children and their friends and my own religious mood. For several years I had been moving away from Judaism, the religion of my childhood and the religion to which I had made a
significant commitment in my adult life. Shortly after American Religious Democracy was published, I began to wonder just what kind of secular life America and I were headed for.

In this spirit I wrote another book, Hallowed Secularism: Theory, Belief, Practice, which was published in 2009. I took the central image of hallowed secularism from a character in E.L. Doctorow’s novel, City of God. I hoped in this book to offer a different secular world to those who, like me, could not believe in all the doctrines of any of the religions, but who might be drawn to them all the same. The original title of the book was A Guide for the Non-Believer. And that is how I thought of it, as a guidebook for secularists who, in the main, knew very little about religion.

In other words, Hallowed Secularism aimed at a new common ground, not political as in my earlier work, but rather a spiritual common ground. The idea was that religion had a great deal to offer to secularists who, of course, still needed to find answers to the perennial questions of human life that religion had been wrestling with for all of human history.

After these two books, it was obvious that American constitutional law was a barrier against any serious engagement of secularism with religion. We could not have a politics open to religion if we were required by law to have a secular politics. We could not have hallowedness, or holiness, in our personal and social lives if everything had to have a secular purpose, and secular meant without the holy. A new law of church and state was needed, one that went beyond the hostility toward religion in the public square that government neutrality and the wall of separation between church and state had come to represent.

I was searching for what could be called constitutional common ground. I agreed with the prevailing case law that government could not endorse any particular religion or even religion itself vis-à-vis nonbelief. That did not seem to me to necessitate the removal of religious language and images from the public square. Yet, I knew that these religious references were important and were not mere “ceremonial deism.” So, it was not clear on what ground these religious images and language could be utilized by the government.

My search led me to a story. At a 2008 symposium titled Is There a Higher Law? Does it Matter? Pepperdine law professor Robert Cochran told about his law student days at the University of Virginia. In the story, Cochran’s professor of jurisprudence — Calvin Woodward — illustrated through the architecture of the University of Virginia a kind of moral thinking that was disappearing in the 20th century:

Above the columns at the entrance to Clark Hall…carved in stone was the statement: “That those alone may be servants of the law who labor with learning, courage, and devotion to preserve liberty and promote justice.”

From the front, we walked into a massive entry hall, adorned on either side with murals. On one side was Moses presenting the Ten Commandments to the Israelites. On the other was what appeared to be a debate in a Greek public square. As we gazed up at the larger-than-life figures, they seemed to represent the higher aspirations of the law.17

The key to the story for Professor Cochran was the word “justice” in the inscription. Once, all or most American lawyers would have agreed that justice is an objective value — something built into the fabric of the universe. Thus, assertions about justice could be regarded as true or false in some sense and law could be measured against that objective standard as either just or unjust.
One name for this understanding of reality is the doctrine of higher law, of which the best known exemplar is natural law. According to the jurisprudence professor, this kind of higher law thinking was in decline and was being replaced by various forms of moral and legal relativism. Cochran was taught that this trend toward relativism was the major jurisprudential shift of the 20th century.

I could see immediately that this higher law tradition could constitute the common ground that I was looking for and that Justice Kennedy had curiously not been able to identify. It was, after all, the same tradition to which Thomas Jefferson had referred in the Declaration of Independence — a source of unalienable rights that “transcend[ed] human invention.” And this tradition, although it could be symbolized by religious imagery, as indeed it was in Professor Cochran’s mural and in the reference to “their Creator” in the Declaration of Independence, could also be enthusiastically embraced by nonbelievers. Even among the New Atheists, there is a reluctance to abandon objective right and wrong.

I have been working hard to further develop these insights. One result of this effort is a manuscript titled Higher Law in the Public Square, which proposes a new interpretation of the Establishment Clause along these lines, both to change the framework of constitutional law and to provide secularism with more common ground with religion. Publishers are looking at the manuscript now.

The other result of this work is a new course in Duquesne Law School’s curriculum, titled Secularism, Religion and the Public Square. The course will be offered in the fall 2010 semester. I believe the course represents the first time that secularism is the major focus of any offering in any American law school.

Despite the resurgence of religion in the world, and perhaps even because of it, America seems to be headed toward an ever more secular future. It is my hope that this secular future will not continue to define secularism as a form of opposition to religion. It is my hope instead that secularism and religion will come to see themselves as part of a large tradition transcending them both, but including them both as well. And I hope to see law contributing to this mutual recognition rather than, as at present, providing a forum for their struggle against each other.

References

2. Id.
It was 2004 when John McGinley decided to leave the Pittsburgh law firm Dickie McCamey & Chilcote and join Wilson-McGinley, the prominent western Pennsylvania beer wholesaler that bears his family's name. As vice president of Wilson-McGinley, McGinley helps oversee an operation that has been in business for more than 60 years.

Given the circumstances, some might say that he simply left one family business for another.

Like his father, Jack, and younger sister, Mary, McGinley is a graduate of Duquesne University School of Law. He was an attorney with Dickie McCamey & Chilcote for about eight years before going to work for the business his grandfather co-founded in 1949.

“I just thought it was a special opportunity that not everybody has, to be involved in a business that’s been successful and has been part of our family for so long,” explains John McGinley, who graduated from Duquesne in 1995.

His sister agrees. “I think it was a great choice for him, and I think it has been a great thing for the business,” says Mary, who has been with the Pittsburgh firm Meyer, Unkovic & Scott since 2002. “I think the stars just aligned with that one.”

Of course, it’s entirely possible that neither of the siblings would have become Duquesne-educated lawyers had it not been for the influence of their father.

“I don’t think I ever told John and Mary to be lawyers,” says the elder McGinley, who is on the board of directors and chairs the executive committee at Eckert Seamans. “I think they saw that I was a practicing lawyer, and that it’s an enriching profession. I was pleased they made the choice to go to law school, but it was their own (choice),” he says. “I’m real proud of them.”

McGinley, who graduated in 1968, was himself influenced by family in choosing Duquesne after receiving an undergraduate degree from St. Bonaventure. One major influence was Pittsburgh Steelers founder Art Rooney Sr., a 1955 Duquesne grad.

McGinley’s grandfather, Barney, co-owned the Steelers with Rooney, and Rooney and McGinley’s mother, Marie Ellen Rooney-McGinley, are siblings. It was Marie Ellen’s husband, Jack, who co-founded the beer wholesaler where John now works.

“My family had many roots at Duquesne,” Jack McGinley says. “I was always interested in a service profession. For my generation, John Kennedy got elected, and he was the first Catholic president. My interest took me toward the law.”

John, 40, did his undergraduate work at Villanova, where he studied political science — “Although my dad would say I didn’t study much,” he notes.

“I always had an idea I was going to go to law school, just because, growing up with my dad, you didn’t know what else to do,” he says. “I figured Duquesne was a natural choice.”

Mary, 32, received a degree in sociology from Penn State. It wasn’t until her junior year that she decided to attend law school.

“I did not always know that I would go to law school and become an attorney,” she says. “It was always something that I considered and thought might happen, but it wasn’t something that I was definitely going to do. But if I was going to go to law school, it was going to be Duquesne.”

In making that decision, she had the benefit of observing her brother’s experience just a few years earlier.

“I lived in the same house as my brother during his first year. I think I saw him come out of his room for meals,” she says, noting the commitment required of law students. “But I also saw when he made Law Review, and that he got a really nice job offer coming out of school.

“My father really has such a passion for the profession, I think both my brother and my father were good sounding boards in my decision-making process.”

Father, son and daughter cite many of the same qualities that make Duquesne special: the faculty, the relationships, the culture and the proximity to a bustling court system just blocks from campus. Perhaps not coincidentally, a third sibling, Kate, received an undergraduate degree from Duquesne.

After starting his career as a co-founder of Grogan, Graffam, McGinley & Lucchino in 1970, Jack McGinley reflects with a sense of satisfaction.

“I’ve wanted to serve my clients, my profession and my community. I hope I’ve been able to accomplish all three,” he says.

John says that his dad’s reverence and passion for the profession have made it difficult to distinguish the father from the attorney.

“His work just became generally part of our lives. Really quickly, we learned that his actions professionally carried into his everyday life, and you can’t separate the two. His character is consistent personally and professionally,” John says. “He’s generally very active in the community, very active professionally.

“I know all of his children have taken note of it.”
The Charles Hamilton Houston Scholars: Establishing Support for Minority Students

A celebration of civil rights was punctuated with the news that Duquesne School of Law has established two new resource funds for minority students.

The two recipients of the funds, which will provide $10,000 to each for living expenses on top of full tuition for three years, will be known as the Charles Hamilton Houston Scholars. Houston was a law professor and mentor to the late Thurgood Marshall, the first black justice to sit on the U.S. Supreme Court.

Houston’s son, Charles Jr., received his bachelor’s degree from Duquesne in 1968.

More than 400 people attended a Feb. 23 event featuring the younger Houston and John Marshall, son of the trailblazing Supreme Court justice. Later that evening, more than 100 people attended a fundraising dinner, including former Duquesne School of Law Dean Ronald Davenport, who, in 1970, became one of the first black deans of a law school in the United States.

The event, titled Living Legends: An Afternoon with John Marshall and Charles Hamilton Houston Jr., was moderated by Dean Ken Gormley.

“The institution of these two resource funds is extremely important on many levels,” Gormley said. “Everyone talks about minority recruitment and retention, but if you don’t back that up with steps to accomplish that — all of which require money — then it really isn’t going to go anywhere.”

The occasion marked the first time that the sons spoke together about their fathers’ legacies.

“The announcement of the Charles Hamilton Houston Scholars, with Thurgood Marshall’s son standing there, and Charles Houston’s son standing there, and former Dean Ronald Davenport — that was a real high point of my year,” Gormley said.
Clinics and Practicums Roundup

On April 20, 2010, the Community Enterprise Clinic (CEC), which provides legal services to nonprofit clients in the Greater Pittsburgh Region, hosted its second annual networking event. Approximately 25 individuals representing 18 organizations were in attendance. Guest speakers Susan Alexander Ott (L’05) of Rhoades & Wodarczyk, LLC, and Dean Emeritus Nicholas Cafardi presented important information on requirements of filing IRS Form 990. Scott Leff, Associate Director of the Bayer Center for Nonprofit Management, also presented CEC clients with information on management, governance and educational resources available to nonprofit organizations.

Also on April 20, the Family Division Judges of the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County hosted its Annual Pro Se Law Students Appreciation reception for the law students from Duquesne University School of Law and University of Pittsburgh who represent clients in Pro Se Motions. Students Bridget Sedlock, Stefani Trapp, and Carly Wilson were assigned to Pro Se Motions placement in the Clinic. They were supervised by attorneys William Congelio (L’04) and Elizabeth Hughes. Professor Vanessa Browne-Barbour (L’93) is the coordinator of the Civil and Family Justice Law Clinic.

The Bill of Rights, Civil Rights Law Clinic is pleased to announce that three law students presented oral arguments before the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. Students Ashley Owens and Amber Resetar presented oral argument before the United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania on April 26, 2010, in the matter of Walker v. Campbell, Civil Action No. 02-282. The Bill of Rights Clinic is under the direction of Adrian N. Roe, Katherine H. Fein, and Acting Clinical Director Tracey McCants Lewis (L’00).

The Securities Arbitration Practicum and the Low-Income Tax Practicum, under the supervision of Director Alice Stewart (L’95), is a 2010 Louis M. Brown Award Nominee for Legal Access, sponsored by the American Bar Association Standing Committee on the Delivery of Legal Services. The practicum was a sponsor of, and its students participated in, “Navigating the Financial Renaissance,” the Pittsburgh Financial Services Symposium, on April 29.

The Tax Practicum was awarded another multi-year grant from the Internal Revenue Service for its work with low-income taxpayers. The Practicum is also working with the University of Pittsburgh Low-Income Tax Clinic with the Hill House. Students from both Clinics will be counseling clients on issues related to low-income taxpayers.

The students enrolled in the Securities Arbitration Practicum participated in the inaugural Securities Dispute Resolution Triathlon hosted by St. John’s University School of Law and The Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) on Saturday, October 17, and Sunday, October 18, in New York. The final three attendees were Stephanie Garbe 3D, Alex Marino 3D and David Koba 4E, along with the program’s supervising attorneys Scott Lane, Deputy Chief Counsel Pennsylvania Securities Commission, and Sandy Garfinkel of Eckert Seamans, Cherin & Mellott. The Triathlon is the only competition to provide aspiring lawyers with an opportunity to build their advocacy skills in three critical forms of alternative dispute resolution: negotiation, mediation, and arbitration.

The Duquesne Law Clinic LinkedIn group connects current and former Law Clinic students. The purpose of this group is to help facilitate networking opportunities among members. We invite all those alumni who completed a clinic and/or externships to join at www.LinkedIn.com.
The Supreme Court Institute was held at the Law School on March 29, 2010. L—R: Hon. Bonnie Leadbetter (Chief Judge of the PA Commonwealth Court), Hon. Maureen Lally-Green (Judge, PA Superior Court, ret.), PA Supreme Court Justice John P. Flaherty, Jr. (ret.), PA Supreme Court Chief Justice Ronald D. Castille, Dean Gormley, Hon. Marjorie O. Rendell (PA First Lady and Judge, Third Circuit Court of Appeals), Hon. Kim Berkeley Clark (Judge, Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County), and Magisterial Judge Dennis Joyce.

Four visiting scholars from the China University of Political Science and Law, Beijing, China, (CUPL) visited the Law School from April 11–May 9, 2010. This year marks the 20th Anniversary of the faculty exchange between CUPL and Duquesne. Pictured here with Dean Gormley and Professor Frank Liu are: Dr. Liu Ying, Dr. Zheng (Elaine) Xuanyu, Dr. Sun Qiang, and Professor Li Shurong.

Nick Deluliis (L’02), Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of CONSOL Energy, spoke at the Law School’s inaugural Lunch N’ Learn program on November 23, 2009, on renewable energy, fossil fuels, sustainability, and climate legislation pending before Congress.
Third Circuit Judges D. Michael Fisher and Thomas M. Hardiman held a discussion on constitutional interpretation with Dean Gormley as moderator.

Linda Hernandez (L’01), Gender Equity Coordinator for the Allegheny County Bar Association, discussed challenges facing young attorneys.

Former PA Governor Dick Thornburgh (with James Thornburgh, 3D) was a guest of the Federalist Society this spring.

Dean Phoebe Haddon (L’77) from the Maryland School of Law discussed with faculty and staff challenges facing law schools today.

Distinguished Professor Robert S. Barker published “Principales aportaciones al mundo de los constituyentes de Filadelfia,” a chapter in the book El Constitucionalismo mexicano: Influencias continentales y trasatlánticas, published in 2010 by the Senate of Mexico and the Institute for Legal Research of the National Autonomous University of Mexico. He also translated into English Justice Luis Fernando Solano’s article “Constitutional Justice and the Separation of Powers: The Case of Costa Rica,” which was published at 47 Duquesne Law Review 871 (Fall, 2009); Professor Barker wrote the introduction to this issue as well.

Associate Professor Vanessa Browne-Barbour was a panelist at “Race, Class & Gender in the U.S. Justice System”, presented by the Center for the Study of Catholic Social Thought and Duquesne University School of Law on November 19, 2009.

Dean Emeritus Nicholas Cafardi was recently elected by his colleagues as president of the Duquesne University Faculty Senate. Dean Cafardi will assume this position on July 1, 2010. He was a keynote speaker at “Race, Class & Gender in the U.S. Justice System”.

As a result of the recent abuse allegations in the Catholic Church in Ireland, Dean Cafardi was quoted in the following news articles: “Hurdles that complicate efforts to sue the Vatican”, Irish Times (Dublin), December 4, 2009; “Resignations may follow meetings”, Irish Times (Dublin), December 9, 2009; “Changing Vatican’s response to abuse”, New York Times On-Line Roundtable, March 17, 2010; “Pope says Church could have, should have handled abuse”, Beliefnet (RNS—Rome), March 23, 2010; “Archdiocese led by pope admits errors on abuse”, New York Times, March 13, 2010; “Clergy abuse threatens to tarnish pope’s legacy”, Washington Post, March 26, 2010; “Milwaukee lawsuit against Pope Benedict claims Catholic Church covered up U.S. priest sex abuse”, New York Daily News, April 23, 2010. Dean Cafardi was also interviewed on this subject as follows: CNN International and BBC, London, March 17, 2010; NBC Evening News with Brian Williams, April 1, 2010; The Today Show, CNN, and Agence France-Presse, April 2, 2010. He also published his own article, “Fraternal Correction”, in the March 12, 2010 issue of Commonwealth.

Associate Professor Kirk W. Junker published “The Inherent Role of Translation in the Macrocomparison of States’ Separation of Powers”, *Duquesne Law Review* 947 (Fall 2009). Along with Adjunct Professor Antonio Lordi, he published the book *What is Private Law?,* a translation of the Italian original *Che cos’è il diritto private?* This is the second in a series titled *Comparative Legal Thinking* and edited by Professor Junker.


Associate Professor Jan M. Levine published a commentary, *Don’t Blame Us!,* for the John William Pope Center for Higher Education Policy, on April 1, 2010.

Associate Professor Joseph Sabino Mistick was interviewed in “Young Pittsburgh Mayor Faces Independent Opponents”, *Philly.com,* October 25, 2009; “Common Pleas race in Allegheny goes to five Democrats”, *Tribune-Review,* November 4, 2009; “Mayor Jackson was re-elected, but will he lose power to the County Executive?”, *Cleveland Plain Dealer,* November 8, 2009. Alumni can follow Professor Mistick’s weekly column at www.pittsburghlive.com.

Chancellor John E. Murray was selected to receive the 2010 Business Hall of Fame Award in conjunction with this year’s Spirit of Enterprise Awards from Junior Achievement of Western PA. He published “A real solution to the City’s financial problems”, *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette,* December 13, 2009, and *Contract Law of the 21st Century Practitioner* (Pennsylvania Bar Institute), the latter on which he conducted a CLE for nearly 1,000 lawyers throughout Pennsylvania (simulcast). Dr. Murray was also selected for the “Irish Legal 100,” honoring the leading attorneys of Irish heritage in America.

Professor Mark D. Yochum participated in the ethics panel of the PBI Western PA Bankruptcy Symposium with Judges Thomas Agresti, Judith Fitzgerald, and Jeffery Deller on October 9, 2009. On October 22, he presented “The Bonehead Play” CLE at the Scranton Law Alumni reception (he repeated his performance at the Pittsburgh Pirates ballgame/CLE on April 20, 2010). On December 4, Professor Yochum was a member on another ethics panel for the annual ACBA Bankruptcy Symposium with Judges Agresti and Deller. He presented a three hour ethics seminar at the Law School on March 6, 2010 on “Fees, the Media, and Professionalism”. On April 8, 2010, he was part of the two-person ethics panel with Judge Dee McGarritty of Milwaukee at the National Association of Bankruptcy Trustees convention in Savannah, GA.

Associate Professor John T. Rago testified at a PA House Majority Policy Committee public hearing on October 29, 2009, as chairman of the PA Innocence Commission. He was the keynote at the Pennsylvania State Trial Judges Conference in Philadelphia, February 19, and spoke on “An Examination of Eyewitnesses Identification Procedures: Perspectives on Wrongful Convictions.” Professor Rago is this year’s recipient of the Pete Shellem Memorial Champion of Justice Award by the Harrisburg, PA, chapter of the ACLU. The award is in memory of journalist Pete Shellem, who freed four people from life sentences after his reporting cast doubt on their convictions.
Duquesne Law Alumni Association Updates

Focus on Giving

Because of the outstanding fundraising efforts by the Duquesne Law Alumni Association during its 2009-10 membership drive, the Fund for Excellence in Legal Writing was endowed this year. This fund will provide approximately 12 prizes annually to the top brief writers in the first-year class. The fund will generate the first prizes in the fall of 2011.

Each year, the DLAA awards prizes to the top brief writers in the first-year class. This year’s recipients are (in alphabetical order): Yana Chudnovsky, Alaina Hill, Natausha Horton, Alexandra Kutchins, Bonnie Lesko, Shawn Martin, Katherine Platt, Brittany Root, Christine Serra, Catherine Spafford, Brin Tabacchi, Ashley Wiegand.

“It has been a great honor to serve as your Law Alumni Association president this past year. We are all extensions of our law school, and we represent it in all that we do, and in how we live our lives by adhering to our motto, ‘Salus Populi Suprema Lex - The Welfare of the People is the Highest Law.’ There are other presidents of other law alumni associations across the country, but there is nothing more special than having the privilege to serve as president of the Duquesne University Law Alumni Association.”

GINO F. PELUSO, L’80, DLAA PRESIDENT 2009-10

The Law Alumni Scholarship provides tuition for both day and evening students. DLAA President Gino Peluso is shown here with two of this year’s recipients, Mindi Albert (4E) and Christina Horton (3D).

Board of Governors 2009 – 2010

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Gino F. Peluso, L’80
President
F. Christopher Spina, L’81
President-Elect
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Vice President
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Michelle A. Mantine, L’06
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Steven P. Franckhauser, L’86
P. Brennan Hart, L’73
Jon R. Perry, L’91
Theodore M. Trbovich, L’72

Trustees of the Scholarship Fund
Professor Vanessa Browne-Barbour, L’93
Mäny Emamzadeh, L’92
Dean Ken Gormley
John E. Hall, L’69
Joanne Sciuullo Huber, L’86
Matthew Loughren, L’96
Gino F. Peluso, L’80
From law student to “Harponian,” Carol Michaels’ unusual legal path has been an adventure of a lifetime. Here she talks with law alumni director Jeanine DeBor about her exciting career and current position as senior counsel to the *Oprah Winfrey Show.*

**JD: Where were you born?**
CM: I was born in Pittsburgh, Pa.

**JD: Tell us how you got from Duquesne Law in Pittsburgh to Harpo Studios.**
CM: After graduation from law school I went directly in-house to work, which was unusual at that time, and even more unusual today. I have been working in-house ever since and have had the good fortune to work for companies with great brands, including Hard Rock Cafe, Starbucks, Bacardi and now Oprah Winfrey and Dr. Oz. My practice has always been one of a corporate generalist; in addition to that, I have a specialty in intellectual property law and digital media. These areas are ever-changing, and I am continually challenged with issues in these fields.

**JD: Describe a typical day as senior counsel to the Oprah Winfrey Show.**
CM: There is no typical day at Harpo Studios. When the *Oprah Winfrey Show* is taping, particularly when we’re doing a live show, one never knows what issues will arise depending on the topics to be discussed and the people appearing on the show. Issues I have dealt with include whether the content and materials that will be featured on an episode of *Oprah* that deals with child pornography can be transported across state lines by producers without the risk of violating criminal laws, or whether showing certain parts of the human anatomy on an episode of *The Dr. Oz Show* is restricted by the FCC. I have even had the opportunity to work with Governor Ed Rendell’s office on puppy mill legislation reform when the horrors of puppy mills were exposed on *Oprah.*

**JD: What do you enjoy most about your job?**
CM: Undoubtedly, the people I meet, as well as the variety of work.

**JD: What is the most exciting and/or unusual experience you have had in your position?**
CM: It would have to be the “Trip of a Lifetime” Oprah took all Harponians (and family members) on last summer. Oprah treated us all (1,600 people) to a two-week Mediterranean cruise aboard the Norwegian Gem cruise ship. She reserved the entire ship just for the company, and we sailed to ports in Spain, Italy, Greece and Turkey. Oprah also planned special entertainment events for us at places like the Pueblo Espanol in Barcelona and the Ciragan Palace in Istanbul. She was a terrific hostess; her generosity is beyond words, and it is a trip I will never forget. What a boss!

**JD: Why did you choose Duquesne Law School?**
CM: I was very familiar with Duquesne University having grown up in Pittsburgh. It has a great reputation, and at the time I wanted to attend a school in the Pittsburgh area.

**JD: How did your legal education prepare you for working in the entertainment industry?**
CM: I would say that Duquesne provided me with a legal education for work in any field, not just the entertainment industry, as I have worked in a variety of industries throughout my career.

**JD: You are incredibly busy with your job, but if you have spare time, what do you like to do?**
CM: I am an equestrian. I own Peruvian Pasos and Rocky Mountain horses and ride in the mountains and on the beaches of the West Coast.
Fall Alumni Reception
Pittsburgh — October 8, 2009

DLAA President Gino Peluso addresses the attendees.

Rob Marino and Anthony Plastino

Chris Spina, Hon. Joe DeSole, John Quinn

Adrienne Sadosky, Professor Martha Jordan, Kelly Kaufold Iverson

George Janosco, Dennis Biondo, Ted Trbovich

The DLAA honored retiring judges Donetta Ambrose and Maureen Lally-Green, pictured with Joe and Katie Charlton.

Jack Goodrich and Celia Shapiro
On the Road: Law Alumni Receptions

NYC reception, October 15, 2009

Jane Carlona, Dean Gormley, and Joe Murphy at the Scranton CLE/reception, October 22, 2009

Philadelphia reception, March 11, 2010

Washington D.C. – November 5, 2009

Associate Dean Nancy Perkins, Major Michele Forte, Grace Remington

Al Guttman and Renay France McCarty

Rosezella Canty-Letsome and Professor Amelia Michele Joiner
1972
Charles W. Kenrick was elected Secretary on the board of directors of FamilyLinks.

1974
Samuel W. Braver was named a Fellow in the American College of Trial Lawyers.

Honorable Maureen Lally-Green was named to the "Irish Legal 100," honoring the leading attorneys of Irish heritage in America.

1975
Ann L. Begler was honored by the Women and Girls Foundation as part of its fifth-anniversary celebration, "The Art of Justice: Women Shaping the Law."

Rita F. Joyce received the 2009 St. Thomas More Award in Pittsburgh.

1978
Honorable Kate Ford Elliott received the Amen Corner Robert E. Dauer Award for Judicial Leadership and Excellence.

1979
John B. Bechtol, a vintage car racer competing nationwide, was added to the board of directors of the Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix.

Edward C. Morascyzk received the 2009 Robert Ceisler Professionalism Award from the Washington County Bar Association.

1980
Honorable Cynthia A. Baldwin was honored by the Women and Girls Foundation as part of its fifth-anniversary celebration, "The Art of Justice: Women Shaping the Law." She was also honored with this year’s Government Award at the annual History Makers Dinner, and was appointed to be the full-time general counsel and chief legal officer of Penn State University.

Kenneth J. Horoho was again named to the "Irish Legal 100," honoring the leading attorneys of Irish heritage in America. He was also elected to the board of trustees of St. Francis University in Loretto, PA.

Honorable Nancy D. Vernon was the first woman elected to the Fayette County Court of Common Pleas.

1981
Joan Ellenbogan was elected to a two-year term on the board of directors of the International Network of Accountants and Auditors.

Lisette McCormick was honored by the Women and Girls Foundation as part of its fifth-anniversary celebration, "The Art of Justice: Women Shaping the Law," and by the Homer S. Brown Law Association.

Honorable Joan Orie Melvin was elected to the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania.

Gwendolyn M. Robosson was recognized by the New York Magazine as one of New York’s top women attorneys.

Nancy R. Winschel was elected to the American College of Trial Lawyers of Allegheny County.

1982
Barbara M. Carlin received the Mind, Heart & Spirit Award presented by Duquesne University, and was a panelist at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in The Hague, Netherlands.

Arthur J. Rooney II received the 2010 Community Impact Award from the Pittsburgh Area Jewish Committee.

1983
Michael J. Foley was elected to the board of the American Association of Justice.

Richard N. Lettieri started the Lettieri Law Firm, focusing on the law related to electronic evidence and e-discovery.

Manning O’Connor became the managing partner of the expanded Pittsburgh office of Cohen Seglia Pallas Greenhall & Furman PC.
Heidi A. Sherman joined Steiner & Blechman, LLC, as an associate.

Henry M. Sneath was named first vice president of DRI – The Voice of the Defense Bar.

1984
Bernard J. Bercik, a U.S. Army Reservist in the Judge Advocate General Corps, was deployed in Afghanistan for a four-month tour and promoted to Colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve.

Gregory C. Fajt received the 2009 ACHIEVA Award of Excellence for work as chief of staff for PA Governor Ed Rendell.

Honorable Michael E. McCarthy is an “IrishEcho Law and Order Honoree.”

Gery T. Nietupski was named chair of Small Practice Division of the Erie County Bar Association and celebrated 25 years as an Adjunct at Gannon University.

1985
Paul J. Gitnik joined Keevican Weiss Bauerle & Hirsch LLC as Counsel, was elected to the Phipps Conservatory & Botanical Gardens board of trustees, and was named chair of the Pittsburgh Opera Company’s 56th Annual Diamond Horseshoe Ball.

Edward T. Harvey received the 2008 Jane F. Hepting Individual Pro Bono Award presented by the Allegheny County Bar Association.

Patricia Wozniak Henk was appointed secretary to The Collaborative Law Association of Southwest Pennsylvania.

Andrew C. Hughey was hired as General Counsel at Texas Southern University in Houston, TX.

Madelyn A. Reilly was appointed Assistant General Counsel and Director of Risk Management for Duquesne University.

Honorable Joseph K. Williams was elected a Judge for the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas.

1986
Michael L. Bruno, Falco A. Muscante, L’87, and Lawrence J. Maiello, L’88, of Maiello Bruno & Maiello were appointed Solicitor for the Allegheny County and Westmoreland County Tax Collection Committee.

1987
John P. “Jack” Goodrich was again named to the “Irish Legal 100,” honoring the leading attorneys of Irish heritage in America. He was also an “IrishEcho Law and Order Honoree.”

Marie Milie Jones was recipient of the 2010 Susan B. Anthony Award by the Women’s Bar Association of Western Pennsylvania.

Anne Mullaney was named to the “Irish Legal 100,” honoring the leading attorneys of Irish heritage in America.

1988
John Lucas joined Morris Jove & Cook as Of Counsel in Pittsburgh.

Scott E. Mooney was named partner in the Pittsburgh office of K&L Gates.

Mary-Jo Rebelo was re-elected to the Houston Harbaugh 2010 executive committee.

1989
Anita Astorino Kulik was honored with the Silver Award for the “Best Attorneys in Western Suburbs” by the TribMedia Reader’s Choice Awards.

William S. Evans opened his own general practice law firm representing individuals, small businesses and corporations before state and federal courts.

1991
Gene L. Jazwinski joined Burleson Cooke LLP based in Canonsburg, PA.

Jon R. Perry received the Mind, Heart & Spirit Award presented by Duquesne University Alumni Association and Office of Alumni Relations.

Lisa J. Sciullo was named to the board of directors of the Pittsburgh Planned Giving Council as co-chair of the emerging philanthropy conference.
1992
Kimberly A. Rossman joined O’Brien, Rulis & Bochicchio, LLC, as a member of the Workers’ Compensation practice group.

1993
William F. Caye II, Senior Deputy Attorney General, was assigned child predator prosecutions for the Western Region of Pennsylvania.

Ann Borro Hays joined Julian Gray Associates concentrating in elder law and disability planning.

Tina O. Miller, formerly a federal prosecutor, joined the law firm of Farrell & Reisinger, LLC, working on complex litigation.

1994
Amy L. Liska accepted a position as an associate with Grudowski & Thompson focusing on consumer bankruptcy and family law.

1995
David C. Kaleda was promoted to partner of the Alston & Bird, LLP, Washington D.C. office in the Employee Benefits and Executive Compensation practice group.

Kristen M. Humphrey joined Elliot & Davis P.C. as chair of the firm’s domestic relations practice.

Robert R. Schweers joined Burns White & Hickton’s Medicare group focusing on the creation of Medicare Set Aside arrangements and Medicare compliance.

1996
Michael E. Moser opened The Law Office of Michael Moser, concentrating on Criminal Defense.

Michael L. Sensor was elected President of the Parish Council of St. Michael the Archangel Orthodox Church for Wilmington, DE. Sensor serves as President of the East European Folk Life Center, Inc, a nationwide non-profit cultural organization which promotes Balkan and Eastern European music and dance. He is also a member of the Board of Governors of the Delaware State Bar Association and the editor of the Delaware State Bar Association’s monthly magazine.

Nicola Henry-Taylor opened the Law Office of Nicola Henry-Taylor, LLC, focusing on Criminal Defense, Family Law and Social Security Disability. She was also elected vice-chair of the Judiciary Committee of the Allegheny County Bar Association.

1997
Harry F. Smail, Jr. was appointed Coordinator of Westmoreland County Legal Explorers for Law and Government. He was also elected to the Board of Directors of the Westmoreland County Bar Association.

1998
Matthew P. Heiskell, practicing in Morgantown, WV, was elected partner of Spilman Thomas & Battle, PLLC.

James S. Urban was named partner in the Pittsburgh office of Jones Day.

1999
Brian H. Simmons was promoted to shareholder with Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney P.C.

Chrystal A. Tintsman joined Strassburger McKenna Gutnik & Gefsky practicing family law.

Terry J. Yandrich was elected to shareholder of Dickie McCamey & Chilcote.

2000
Elisabeth M. Bennington was nominated to a three-year term as a Council Member of the Allegheny County Bar Association Family Law Section.

Nick A. Rodriguez-Cayo became the General Counsel and Secretary for MTR Gaming Group, Inc.

2001
Linda V. Hernandez was honored by the Women and Girls Foundation as part of its fifth-anniversary celebration, “The Art of Justice: Women Shaping the Law.”

Heather L. Schmidt has been elected to a four-year term with Dormont Borough Council.

Anthony C. Sunseri was promoted to member of Burns White & Hickton.

2002
Matthew G. Breneman was promoted to director at Zimmer Kunz.

Nicholas J. Cerimele III joined O’Brien, Rulis & Bochicchio as an associate in the Pittsburgh Office.

Courtney C. Murray joined Lynch Weis, LLC, as an associate in the corporate group concentrating in corporate counseling.
2003

Christopher A. Cafardi joined the Pittsburgh office of Cohen Seglias Pallas Greenhall & Fruman P.C. as an associate.

William Thomas Fahey III joined Burleson Cooke LLP based in Canonsburg, PA.

Douglas C. Hart joined the Pittsburgh office of Cohen Seglias Pallas Greenhall & Furman, P.C., as an associate.

Patrick W. Murray and his wife, Alison (Hamrika), L’04, celebrated the birth of their son, Dylan Patrick.

2004

Jessica M. Jurasko joined Picadio Sneath Miller & Norton P.C. as an associate.

Steven M. Toprani was named by PUMP and Pittsburgh magazine to the 2009 40 under 40, which recognizes 40 people under the age of 40 who are committed to shaping the Pittsburgh region and making it a better place for everyone.

2005

Danielle M. Bacco was named by PUMP and Pittsburgh magazine to the 2009 40 under 40, which recognizes 40 people under the age of 40 who are committed to shaping the Pittsburgh region and making it a better place for everyone.

Katie G. Horigan joined the Pittsburgh office of White & Williams, LLP, as an associate.

Joyce E. Howard was selected as a Roy H. Park Fellow at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill’s School of Journalism and Mass Communication.

Erin J. McLaughlin was named to the board of directors for Blind & Vision Rehabilitation Services of Pittsburgh.

2006

Sarah L. Andrews and Steven M. Andrews, 2E, celebrated the birth of their son, Xavier.

Nichole E. Humes joined Burns White & Hickton as an associate in the Litigation group’s Insurance Defense team.

Amanda M. Mesler joined Grishkevich and Curtis Law Offices in Weirton, WV.

2007

Timothy S. Bytner was appointed to a two-year term on Pennsylvania’s Storage Tank Advisory committee.

Shawn P. McClure was appointed to the development advisory committee for the board of Three Rivers Center for Independent Living.

Casey D. White opened the Law Office of Casey D. White, focusing on personal injury and criminal defense matters.

2008

Narlu Castellano married Antonio Lordi on February 26, 2010, in a ceremony in Squirrel Hill.

Kathryn L. Harrison completed a clerkship with the Honorable Maurice B. Cohill Jr., and joined Campbell & Levine, LLC, in Pittsburgh as an associate in the commerce litigation and bankruptcy practice.

Stephanie L. Solomon joined Burns White & Hickton as an associate working in the firm’s Litigation Group defending professional malpractice and commercial cases.

Christopher J. Watson joined Zimmer Kunz PLLC, as an associate focusing in the area of general liability civil litigation.

2009

Megan E. Baloh joined Leech Tishman Fuscaldo & Lampl, LLC, as a member in the corporate, estate planning and administration and taxation practice groups.

Thomas G. Donahue joined Burns White & Hickton in the Transportation Group.

Lynee L. Finnerty joined Dodaro, Matta & Cambest, P.C., as an associate.

Kelly Kaufold Iverson joined Cohen & Grigsby in the firm’s Litigation Services Group.

Erica L. Koehl joined Babst, Calland, Clements and Zomnir, P.C., as an associate in the Litigation Services Group.

Megan E. Lehman joined Burns White & Hickton in the Construction Practice and Business groups.

Christopher G. Murrer joined Hodgson Russ LLP as an associate concentrating in estates and trusts law.

Brandon P. Neuman joined Robert Peirce & Associates.

Justin T. Romano joined Robb Leonard Mulvihill LLP as an associate focusing on complex insurance coverage and litigation.

Joseph A. Valenti married Kathrine Brabilk and joined the Pittsburgh office of K&L Gates.

Allison D. Warden joined Cohen & Grigsby, P.C., in the firm's Business Practice Group.

Steven A. Walton joined Leech Tishman Fuscaldo & Lampl, LLC, as a member in the corporate, employment and immigration practice groups.

Sarah R. Weissman joined Meyer Darragh Buckler Bebenek & Eck, PLLC, concentrating in civil litigation.

We want to hear from you!

Please contact the alumni office at lawalumni@duq.edu or 412-396-5215 with your recent achievements, recognition and advancements.

We are pleased to announce that a tremendous number of Duquesne University Law alumni have been selected as Pennsylvania SuperLawyers and Rising Stars. As our space here is limited, we have posted these alumni on our Web site (www.duq.edu/law/alumni).

Stay connected!

Be sure to log on to Facebook and LinkedIn and stay up to date with all the happenings at Duquesne Law School.

In Memoriam

It is with deep sadness that we list the following Law School alumni who passed away between November 1, 2009, and April 30, 2010:

Daniel J. Beggy, L’61
Patricia L. Blais, L’89
James R. Conner, L’56
Zigmund L. Dermer, L’60
Michael Fedor, L’77
Jeffrey J. Gabriel, L’99
Roslyn L. Hassain, L’87
W. Stevens Hidey, L’75
Robert Kennedy Jr., L’88
Elizabeth Kerns, L’75
Eileen M. Knox, L’89
Cynthia J. Lowery, L’80
The Honorable J. William McLafferty, L’68
James O’Connell Jr., L’84
Linda L. Robinson, L’79
Patricia S. Sechan, L’90
Edward F. Urbanik, L’59
Gregory Van Doren, L’73

The Law School has formed a Judicial Tradition Committee to assist us in honoring alumni who are committed to serving the public through the judiciary. In order to ensure our records are accurate, please contact us if you are serving or have served on the judiciary.

This list is provided through Duquesne University’s Advancement Records Office and may not be a complete list. If you have information on a Law School alumus who passed away this past year and is not listed, please contact the Law Alumni Office at 412-396-5215 so that we may update our records.
Anna Welsh, 1E, was crowned Miss Armstrong County on 11/7/09 and will compete in the Miss Pennsylvania pageant on June 13, 2010.

Toni Pellegrini (L’75) and Sarah Andrews (L’06) were honored by the Women’s Law Association at their 18th annual Woman of the Year Reception. L—R: Andria Krupa (2D), Rachel Roney (3D), Sarah Andrews (holding baby Xavier), Toni Pellegrini, Kelly Goodrich (3D), Stephanie Jones (2E).

Color of Justice

Each year, in conjunction with the Women’s Bar Association of Western Pennsylvania, Duquesne University School of Law hosts the Color of Justice program. The purpose of the program is to introduce minority and female students to the legal profession. Student participants are introduced to a diverse group of minority judges, lawyers and law students whose stories show them the many career options available in the law and the judiciary. Students hear how the participating attorneys became lawyers and what they do in their jobs, as well as the many career opportunities available to students today. Students are divided into small groups and visit attorneys who focus on different practice areas and work settings. By the end of the program, students have a better understanding of the personal commitment, academic requirements and skills needed to be successful in a career in law.

On March 3, 2010, approximately 50 students from Langley, Oliver, Pittsburgh CAPA and Schenley high schools participated in the program. Attorneys Candace Ragin (L’06), Marsha Grayson and Leah Duncan participated along with Assistant Professor Amelia Michele Joiner and third-year law student Demytra Brown. The Law School is very grateful to the Women’s Bar Association for helping to coordinate this very successful event that encourages minority students to consider the law as a profession.
The Law School is pleased to announce its new online Criminal Law Journal available at www.duquesneclj.com. The Journal is a student-run organization that publishes scholarly works semi-annually in an online format. Its goal is to bring a venue to analyze all issues in the field of criminal law. The Journal utilizes a unique system of peer review, in which members from the legal community review submissions to the Journal, thus maintaining a higher academic standard. Editor-in-chief is Mark Tutelo (3D) and Executive Editor is Eve Tasios (3D).

The Duquesne University School of Law’s arbitration team won the regional championships hosted Nov. 21 and 22 on Duquesne’s campus. Members of the winning Duquesne team were Julie M. Katz, Eve M. Tasios, Abigail L. Marusic and Keaton Carr. Our other two teams—Chad Doman, Andria Krupa, Tiffany York, Timothy Relich, Allison Lachat, Benjamin Knauff, Taralynn Stayer, Danielle Cairns—were semi-finalists in the competition. The teams were coached by Sarah Andrews, L’06, and Chris Borsani L’07. The faculty advisor is Professor Al Peláez.

Sarah Connelly (3D) received the 2008 Law Student Pro Bono Award from the Allegheny County Bar Association at their annual dinner on September 17, 2009. Sarah received this award for her work in the Civil and Family Justice Clinic at the Law School.
Law students break world record!

Over the weekend of October 17, 2009, 10 law students played the world’s longest game of wiffle ball, playing for 25 hours continuously (the record was 24 hours) for 126 innings. Final score: 179-170, plus $1,000 raised for the LIVESTRONG Foundation. Kudos!
A team of second-year Duquesne Law students won the National Trial Competition Regional Tournament held in Philadelphia February 5-7, 2010. Keaton Carr, Cassidy Neal and David Renner defeated Villanova in the final round to advance to the National Championship in Dallas, March 24-27. Carr was named Best Advocate of the tournament. Associate Professor Bruce Antkowiak, Adjunct Professor Michelle Mantine (L’06) and Kelli Giles (3D) coached the team.

This is the first time Duquesne has won this tournament, hosted every year by Temple Law School. Professor S. Michael Streib, director of the trial advocacy program at Duquesne, noted that this win was not “a flash in the pan. It took years and years of hard work studying the competition format and preparing teams. It also took years and years of getting to the finals and losing, without losing hope, and coming back each year to do it again. Professor Antkowiak deserves the credit for his work with this trial team over the past 10 years.”

The team went on to finish in the top eight in the country — tied for fifth place — at the finals in Dallas. That competition is one of the most prestigious and competitive in the country, with over 150 law schools sending over 200 three-person teams to compete in regional competitions. Of this number, 28 regional champions then travelled to Dallas for the national finals event. Duquesne was one of only eight teams to then proceed to the quarterfinal round, where they lost a close contest to Stanford.

The entire Duquesne team included Amanda Sorrell, Josh Lamm, Casey Mullen, Curt Schaffner and Derek Jones.

No Duquesne team had ever advanced to the finals of this competition although many teams had made it to the regional finals in Philadelphia. The efforts of this team were truly remarkable given that none of the members had ever competed for the Law School in trial competitions before this year.

As a result of its success, the National Trial Team is this year’s recipient of the Murray S. Love Memorial Award for Excellence in Trial Advocacy. The award was presented to them by Timothy Conboy, Esquire, President, Pennsylvania Association for Justice (formerly PA Trial Lawyers Association).
American Association of Justice (formerly ATLA) trial team

Our third-year team, Max Petrunya, Patrick Sullivan, Michaelene Weimer and Matthew Smith, defeated Richmond in the championship round to win the AAJ (formerly ATLA) regional competition in Pittsburgh. The second-year team, Katie Chengery, David Brown, Jonathan Bechtel and Abbey Faett, made a strong showing, advancing to the semi-finals. At the end of the first three rounds of competition, Duquesne’s trial teams were ranked as the No. 1 and No. 2 teams (being the only undefeated teams in the region). As a result, Duquesne sent both of its teams to the final four.

The third-year team competed in the national competition against the other 14 regional winners from March 18-21, 2010, in New Orleans. Coaches are Professor Streib, Professor Amelia Michele Joiner and Adjunct Professor Michael Gianantonio (L’02).

Gourley Cup

Paloma Araujo, Elizabeth Fischer, Joseph Bowen and Kaitlin Connelly placed second out of all Plaintiffs’ teams at the Gourley Mock Trial Competition, held annually in Pittsburgh and sponsored by the Allegheny County Academy of Trial Lawyers. The team was coached by Adjunct Professor Peter Giglione (L’02) and Anthony Patterson (L’94).
The 2009–2010 academic year got off to a bumpy start with an On-Campus Interview season that offered few positions to top students. Although the number of employers participating did not decline significantly, the number of summer associate positions available with large law firms plunged. There were also an increased number of 2009 graduates still looking for full-time legal positions. Due to layoffs, the number of alumni availing themselves of the services of the Career Services Office had also jumped.

Despite all of the negative indicators relating to large law firms, there were still indications that most medium-sized and smaller firms had weathered the economic downturn. The key then was to outfit our students and alumni with the information and skills to find positions in this sector. Accordingly, in addition to our traditional programs — Interviewing Skills, Judicial Clerkships, Government Legal Positions, Public Interest Legal Positions, Beyond Fall Recruiting and Mock Interviews — Career Services increased the number of programs that addressed networking skills and provided students with opportunities to meet alumni. Donna Gerson came to the Law School in the fall and presented programs on small-firm hiring and networking. In the spring, Ari Kaplan spoke to students about standing out in a stagnant economy.

During the spring semester, the CSO also hosted Susan Gainen, who presented the program “Alternative Careers: Getting to ‘There’ in a Troubled Market”; and Heather Jarvis, who addressed the topic “Student Debt Relief: Income-Based Repayment and Public Service Loan Forgiveness.”

Most significantly, however, the CSO launched a new Practice Area Lunch-n-Learn program and hosted two networking events. These programs addressed the following practice areas: Family Law, Criminal Defense, Criminal Prosecution, Employment Law, Insurance Defense and Plaintiffs’ Practice. The sessions, limited to 20 students, were all very well-attended and provided students with a comfortable setting in which to learn about practice area options and to meet alumni. In addition to our annual Practice Area Table Talk, which is a speed-networking program that also provides students with an opportunity to meet alumni and learn about various practice areas, the CSO also co-hosted a program with the Women’s Bar Association that provided a unique opportunity for the female members of the class of 2010 to meet several female attorneys from Allegheny County and to get advice on the transition to practice.

Despite the rocky start, by February of 2010 placement stats for 2009 graduates paralleled that of the class of 2008 at approximately 89%. Also, the lateral market began to improve. Large firms’ employment of summer associates will likely never return to the levels seen prior to the great recession; however, the market for attorneys does seem to have stabilized.

The Career Services Office is extremely grateful to the following alumni who made the 2009–2010 programming such a success: Julie Arbore, Dennis Biondo, Christopher Borsani, Courtney Butterfield, Michael W. Calder, Charles J. Chulack, August M. Damian, Mark K. Dausch, Lisa DiCerbo, Jay Glunt, Dodi Walker Gross, Jacqueline Herzog, Meghan Jones-Rolla, Robert A. Krebs, David Laurent, Rebecca Magyar, Craig Maravich, Darice McNelis, Matthew Mohn, Timothy Mazzocca, David S. Pollock, Nicole Scialabba, Doneld G. Shelkey, Bryan R. Schuster, Brian Simmons, Luke Sizemore, Jennifer Staley, Brian D. Walters and Kirsha Weyandt. Thanks also to the following members of the Women’s Bar Association who assisted with the WBA’s Speed Networking event at the Law School: Paula Allan, Gail Calderwood, Devin O’Neill, Marie Elash, Meghan Jones-Rolla, Marijah Passarelli, Judge Lisa Pupo Lenihan, Tina Miller, Cynthia Maleski, Kate Arbogast, Carol Hesz, Michelle Pierson, Shweta Gupta and Christina Gill Roseman.
The Wecht Institute to Mark 10th Anniversary

Annual Conference on Forensic Death Investigation Scheduled for November

By Benjamin Wecht, Program Administrator

The Cyril H. Wecht Institute of Forensic Science and Law will mark its 10th anniversary this fall with an annual conference centered on the profession of its namesake and advisory board chairman, forensic pathologist and longtime Duquesne University Law School Adjunct Professor Dr. Cyril Wecht.

Cause of Death: A Multidisciplinary Look at the State of Forensic Death Investigation Today will feature forensic experts, criminal investigators, attorneys and judges presenting and discussing pertinent developments and issues in the methodologies and strategies used to investigate and adjudicate sudden, suspicious and/or medically unattended deaths in the United States.

“We’re very excited about taking on this topic, especially at this time,” said Institute Director and Associate Professor of Pharmacology and Toxicology Frederick W. Fochtman. “Not only is death investigation at the heart of what so many of the forensic sciences are all about, but to host a conference on the occasion of our 10th anniversary focusing on Cyril’s own profession seems very fitting.”

In addition to Drs. Wecht and Fochtman, confirmed speakers as of publication time included biomechanics expert Dr. Steven Batterman, forensic nursing pioneer Ann Wolbert Burgess, former Allegheny County homicide prosecutor Christopher Conrad, emergency medicine authority Dr. Jerome Hoffman, forensic odontologist Dr. Lowell Levine, former FBI Behavioral Analysis Unit Special Agent Mark Safarik and forensic psychiatrist Dr. Michael Welner. A program agenda and complete faculty list will be announced to the Institute’s e-mail list and on its Web site later this summer.

The Return of Forensic Fridays

The annual conference will come on the heels of a very productive year for the Institute, which has seen, among many other developments, the launch of a monthly CLE and professional education series called Forensic Fridays. Initiated in January, this series has addressed topics such as the science of DUI law, the diagnosis of football-related brain injuries, and the role of psychological evidence in divorce and child custody actions, introducing the Institute to hundreds of new registrants in the process.

On the strength of its success, Forensic Fridays will be returning this fall with a series of 10 seminars over the course of the 2010-2011 academic year, including programs on the following topics:

- Problems and Advances in the Science of Eyewitness Identification
- The Law and Science of End-of-Life Decisions
- DNA for Attorneys and Judges
- Forensic Investigation of Products Liability Claims

Confirmed topics, seminar dates, speakers, and CLE and other continuing education credit information will also be available on the Institute’s Web site and via e-mail later this summer.

Established at Duquesne University in the fall of 2000, the Wecht Institute is a multidisciplinary educational organization that strives to engender in its participants a better appreciation for the critical ways in which science and the law can and should work together in the pursuit of truth and justice. The Institute collaborates with the university’s schools of Law, Natural and Environmental Sciences, Nursing, Health Sciences, Liberal Arts, Leadership and Professional Advancement, Business, Education and Pharmacy, as well as with other academic institutions throughout the region, to offer degree, certificate and professional education programs, conferences and seminars to a diverse group of students.

To learn more about the Institute or to add yourself to our e-mail list, please visit us online at www.duq.edu/forensics, or contact us at 412-396-1330 or wechtinstitute@duq.edu.
Tsegaye Beru, L’96, Assistant Director for Public Services for the Center for Legal Information, published “Allegheny County Cases with their parallel citations to the District County Reports, 1891-1999,” with the assistance of Michael J. Goebl (L’99) and Robert J. Novak (L’02).

Norma Caquatto, L’79, Acting Assistant Clinical Director, presented a CLE on April 10, 2010, at Duquesne University School of Law with Dean Emeritus Nicholas Cafardi on “Almost Everything You Wanted to Know About Nonprofits.”

Jeanine L. DeBor, Esquire, Director of Law Alumni Relations and Development, was the keynote speaker for the Gold Star Wives North Atlantic Region conference in Pittsburgh on April 10, 2010. She also published “Suffragists, Unite!: Remembering the struggle for women’s suffrage” in the Allegheny County Bar Association’s LawyersJournal, February 26, 2010.

Joel Fishman, Ph.D., Assistant Director for Lawyer Services, has been appointed a member of the Pennsylvania Bar Association Constitutional Review Commission. He has published the following: “Index to the Fiduciary Review (1933-2009)” (Allegheny County Law Library, 2010); “Index to the Pennsylvania Bar Association Volumes 1-81 (1929-2009)” (PBA Website 2010); “The Law and Harry Potter” 119-26 (Jeffrey Thomas and Fritz Snyder, eds., 2010); “Seven Pennsylvania Lawyers, Seven ABA Presidents,” 32 no. 1 Pa. Lawyer 23-27 (Jan.-Feb. 2010); “Matthew Hale (1609-2009): Four Hundredth Anniversary,” in 15 no. 3 LHé-RB 1, 4-7 (Fall 2009); and with Amy Lovell, manager of database systems for the Center for Legal Information, “Pennsylvania Administrative Law: An Introduction to the Pennsylvania Independent Regulatory Review Commission and Its Website,” WPLLA Newsletter 1, (Spring 2010).

Amy Konop was hired as the new Law School Business Manager. She has an extensive background in office and business management, including budget development and monitoring, pre- and post-award grant coordination, and human resources management.

Tracey McCants Lewis, L’00, Acting Director of Clinical Legal Education, served as a panelist at the March 4, 2010, community forum “Know Your Rights” program focusing on racial profiling and youth interaction with police sponsored by the ACLU and Black Political Empowerment Program (B-PEP) at St. James AME Church in Pittsburgh. She also served as a moderator at the March 29, 2010, community conversation “End Racial and Ethnic Profiling: Face the Truth, Stand Together, Help Make the Change” sponsored by the Pittsburgh Interfaith Impact Network (PIIN), the Black Political Empowerment Program (B-PEP), the ACLU and the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), Pittsburgh Chapter.

Alice L. Stewart, L’95, Director of the Low-Income Tax and Securities Arbitration Practicums, served as a panelist at the ABA Section of Taxation 2010 Midyear Meeting in San Antonio, Texas, discussing the Tax Practicum’s 3rd Circuit Appeal, Mannella v. Commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service, and the state of current litigation to Section 6015 (Innocent Spouse Relief) applications.
Sixteen years ago this summer, my wife, Laura, helped me to haul boxes into a sweltering faculty office in the basement of the law library, preparing for a new professional adventure as a faculty member at Duquesne University School of Law. Laura was eight months pregnant, we were expecting baby number-three; I had just left a private practice at Mansmann, Cindrich & Titus and a teaching stint at Pitt Law School. Setting up my desk in that dark office nestled amidst musty library stacks was one of the happiest days of my life.

I’m not sure where the time has gone; but every minute has been rewarding.

Now, sixteen years later, with four not-so-small children (one of whom is now a sophomore at Duquesne in pre-pharmacy) and file drawers bursting with old papers and exams from two decades’ worth of Constitutional Law, First Amendment, Civil Rights and State Constitutional courses — papers I cannot bear to part with because they represent the tangible memory of sixteen years’ worth of wonderful students — I am beginning another exciting chapter in my career. Being appointed to serve as Dean of Duquesne Law School is not just a supreme honor; it is an awesome responsibility as we step out front to lead the legal academy, and the legal profession, in marking the Law School’s hundredth anniversary in 2011.

This academic year has been an incredibly productive time for the Law School. We are destined to be blessed with an ever-rising tide of successes.

In the past year, we hosted a regional Legal Research and Writing symposium organized by Professor Jan Levine, solidifying our national prominence in this area. Our trial moot court teams racked up a fresh string of victories under the leadership of Professors Mike Streib, Bruce Antkowiak, and Amelia Joiner. In February, we hosted the “Living Legends” program featuring the sons of civil rights icons Justice Thurgood Marshall and Charles Hamilton Houston; with former Dean Ron Davenport at my side, I announced the creating of two new minority scholarships that will allow us to become more competitive in the national arena when it comes to recruiting excellent minority applicants. In March, Pennsylvania’s first lady, Judge Midge Rendell, joined by Chief Justice Ronald D. Castille, chose Duquesne Law School as the site for the Supreme Court Institute, training educators in this region to develop civics education curricula for their students. Also, Dean Phoebe Haddon of Maryland Law School, our own alumnus, came to campus to speak to both students and faculty about cutting-edge challenges in the field of legal education. In April, the Law School’s Federalist Society hosted former Governor and Attorney General Dick Thornburgh to talk about his remarkable career in public service.

Yet hosting major events was not the only thing keeping us busy at the Law School. We successfully recruited a talented full-time faculty member — Rona Kaufman Kitchen — a dynamic young scholar who has just completed an advanced LL.M. degree at Temple Law School. We also commissioned a thorough study of our clinical program conducted by Professor Jeff Pokorak, a nationally-renowned expert in clinical education. Our faculty, in the meantime, has been producing scholarship at a brisk pace. (Professor Bruce Ledewitz has received an offer from Indiana University Press to publish his new book on law and religion; Indiana is one of the top publishers in this field in the nation.) And one of our third-year clinical students, Amie Thompson, argued a prisoner’s civil rights case in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit under the supervision of Acting Director Tracey McCants Lewis and Adjunct Professor Adrian Roe — a proud day for Duquesne Law School.

There are many proud days ahead. As I look back on my sixteen years at this special institution, where I watched my children grow up (as they trekked to work with me on weekends) and my students transform themselves into talented attorneys, I see a Law School filled with rich traditions and dazzling successes becoming even richer and more dazzling in its accomplishments.

All of this is primarily due to our alumni, the most loyal and vigorous alumni base of any law school in the United States. In my travels over the past year, and in my interaction with Duquesne Law alumni for nearly two decades, I have observed a dedicated and talented group of leaders who are prepared to use their talents for the good of their alma mater, in order to allow the next generation of graduates to succeed and excel as they have succeeded and excelled.

It is my hope that the best is yet to come. I look forward, immensely, to working together in creating new opportunities for this very special Law School, as its rich history continues to unfold.
SAVE THE DATES!

Pittsburgh Fall Reception
September 30, 2010, LeMont Restaurant

New York City Fall Reception
October 7, 2010, Paramount Hotel

Washington, D.C., Fall Reception
October 28, 2010, location TBD