

FALL 2013

Perspectives

WESTERN NEW ENGLAND UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW



A Conversation
with the New Dean
Eric Gouvin



Moment of Triumph

Shiona Heru '13 turns from the action of the May 18 Law Commencement ceremony to share the moment with loved ones seated in the balcony of Springfield's Symphony Hall. An artist and filmmaker, Shiona is also an advocate in healthcare reform. She works for the Group Insurance Commission and is the founder of Shatzki Films, LLC.

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WESTERN NEW ENGLAND UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW PERSPECTIVES

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Dear Alumni/ae and Friends,

Thank you all for the outpouring of support on my appointment as Dean of Western New England University School of Law. It has been just three months since I took on the deanship on July 1, 2013, and I have much to share with you about our current state of affairs and future aspirations. Our work has just begun.

As I stated in the July issue of *Law Digest*, we are grateful to Dean Art Gaudio for 12 years of leadership and stewardship. He led us through two successful ABA site evaluations, major enhancements to the Blake Law Center, and the development of new programs and legal centers. We are fortunate that Art will be staying on our faculty to continue to teach and to mentor our students.

As I step into the role of dean, law practice today is evolving rapidly and the School of Law recognizes that we need to change, too. In this issue of *Perspectives*, I share with you my assessment of our challenges and opportunities at this time of transition and transformation.

One of our greatest strengths has long been our student focus, and I intend to redouble that effort. Moving forward, we must also continually evaluate what we're offering, what we're teaching, and how we're teaching it to ensure that our students become not just scholars of the law, but legal professionals. By remaining true to our core values, yet strategically innovative, I am confident we can emerge with a stronger reputation for graduating students who are career ready.

Corporate law is one field in which that professional focus is key to our graduates' ascension into leadership positions. In these pages, you will get a glimpse into corporate career paths at organizations that are major players in our region's economy, such as Mohegan Sun, Yankee Candle, and Six Flags.

This issue also shares news about our outstanding faculty and their students who remind us why earning a law degree remains an important and noble aspiration. I am happy to report that we have enrolled an accomplished and diverse JD class and that scholarship awards played an import role in that effort. I thank you for your support of scholarships and the Annual Fund for Western New England University, and I hope that you understand how critical your continued gifts are to our ability to compete for talented applicants.

I also appreciate your friendship. In my 22 years on the faculty, I have gotten to know so many of our alumni and supporters whom I now consider good friends.

In my new role, I will have greater opportunities to meet more of you on the road.

As I have learned from Art and others who have come before me, alumni play a huge role in the success of this institution. Your engagement, generosity, and feedback will help to shape my deanship and the School of Law. I look forward to sharing this journey with you.

Sincerely,

Eric Gouvin
Dean and Professor of Law

Annual Scholarships

Paying it forward by supporting today's students.

During an unprecedented time in legal education, easing the financial burden of tuition for a student at the School of Law has been an important priority.

For many law students, scholarship support is what allows them to pursue a legal education. Dean and Professor of Law Eric Gouvin explained, "Although hard work and smarts are essential to getting ahead in life, I have also found that a helping hand from a generous soul has made a difference in outcomes. I know I was a grateful recipient of scholarship money when I was in college and law school. I can never pay back the folks who helped me then, but I can pay it forward by perpetuating their generosity with contributions of my own. For me, the scholarships made the difference between attending and not attending. Being able to go to college and law school changed my life. Giving to the scholarship fund is a way to honor the generosity of those who have gone before."

Many alumni and friends have recognized this importance and have established annual scholarships at Western New England University School of Law. A named annual scholarship can be created with a minimum commitment of \$1,000 annually. These funds are given outright to deserving students. These scholarship accounts are not permanent, and only last as long as the donors continue to make contributions. Some annual scholarship donors choose to make these payments monthly as opposed to all at once, making the payments better fit their own cash flow. Donors are able to designate their scholarship towards supporting either a day or evening student.

So many of our students need your generosity. By supporting an annual scholarship you can help a student reduce financial concerns and continue on the path towards success.



If you have any questions, or would like more information about creating an annual scholarship, please contact:
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An Officer and a Business Man

By Brendan Payne '12



If you ask Professor Bob Statchen what he does during his Connecticut Air National Guard (ANG) weekends, he might jokingly tell you he defends the Nutmeg State from being invaded by Massachusetts. What he really does as an ANG Judge Advocate General (JAG) is a little bit of everything.

“It’s somewhat like being general counsel to a mid-size company,” Professor Statchen says. “I advise commanders as to administrative issues, disciplinary matters, and assisting members with pre and post deployment planning. Administratively, I handle contracts, Freedom of Information Act questions, and miscellaneous issues such as can the unit participate in a local charity event without violating the Joint Ethics Regulation and other requirements.”

Statchen has been in uniform since graduating from Chicago-Kent College of Law in 1993. As an undergrad he studied Russian on an ROTC scholarship at Clark University. The fall of the Soviet Union in 1990, which coincided with his graduation, was a foreign policy victory for the U.S. government but a setback to Statchen's career goals, as the Air Force no longer needed servicemen fluent in Russian.

"My ROTC commander told me I would probably be a transportation officer if I went directly in after undergrad, but he also said with my liberal arts background I should consider becoming a JAG officer," recalled Professor Statchen. "I didn't know much about the JAG program, but I did greatly respect my ROTC commander, so I followed his advice. Whenever I think about the impact a mentor can have on someone, I think of the guidance he provided."

And now he is a mentor in his day job as Assistant Clinical Professor and head of our Small Business Clinic, one of six experiential learning clinics. Students participating in the Clinic provide legal assistance to local small businesses, doing everything from drafting contracts, to forming LLCs, and conducting trademark searches.

"Students learn the basics of drafting, legal writing, client interviewing, and client counseling," explained Professor Statchen. "They also learn aspects of case management (through our online case management program) as well as practice management and incorporating technology into practice."

When then-Professor Eric Gouvin founded the Small Business Clinic, in the fall of 2006, it was one of the first transactional law clinics in the country. More than half of attorneys today work in transactional law and a good portion of a litigator's workload is transactional.

Professor Statchen first earned his wings in transactional matters while deployed in Bosnia in 1999 when he facilitated negotiations between the newly-created countries of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, and Serbia, on an agreement for air traffic control (ATC) over the Balkans.

"For much of the late 1990s, the upper airspace over the former Yugoslavia was still closed, which was causing 40 percent of all traffic delays in Europe," he

says. "The countries mistrusted each other. But ultimately, in coordination with each country, Eurocontrol (which oversees all ATC in Europe), and the ATC contractors, we were able to negotiate an agreement that opened the upper airspace for the first time since the war began. I still remember a colleague telling me about being in a taxi in Sarajevo when the driver stopped the car, looked up, and said it had been years since he had seen a commercial civilian aircraft flying over his country."

Upon returning to the States, Statchen began practicing transaction law in Connecticut with small- to mid-sized companies and earned his MBA and LLM in Tax. A 2006 posting in the *Connecticut Tribune* first sparked his interest in teaching at Western New England.

"I was not familiar with the process of becoming a law professor, but the idea of being able to teach and practice law helping economically challenged entrepreneurs in the Springfield region seemed nothing short of perfect," says Professor Statchen. "When I came and interviewed for the position with Dean Gouvin and met with the other faculty I really thought this was a fantastic place. Dean Gouvin really was, and continues to be, a visionary in the field of legal education from a transactional perspective, and especially in the application of practical skills and learning transactional practice. At the time, 2006, there were only a very few law schools, under 20, that offered this type of curriculum. Seven years later, there are over 100 that have clinical programs that focus on transactional practice."

The Clinic provides full legal services to 24 clients each year and general legal advice to about 16 clients through the walk-in program. "One client I am particularly proud of came in wanting to set up a business placing mentally and physically challenged adults in private homes," says Professor Statchen. "We assessed that she would need to operate as a nonprofit entity to qualify for state contracts. Additionally we did extensive regulatory analysis to assist the client with her application to be eligible to place individuals. This corporate regulatory process was a great experience for both the client and the students and she is now placing clients and growing her business."

Professor Statchen envisions the mission of the Clinic to remain similar and anticipates expanding services for clients. He also hopes to set up an online database that would allow alumni of the Clinic access to the ever-growing forms database. "I have heard numerous students indicate that during their interviews with employers, the primary issue they discussed was their work in the Small Business Clinic. I have no doubt that employers are looking for practice-ready students who can hit the ground running with minimal supervision. Participating in a clinic, I believe, is no longer optional to be competitive in this current job market."

One constant will be Professor Statchen's presence. "I really think being a clinical professor is about the best job there is in the legal profession," he says. "You get to practice law without the burden of billing clients. Our clients are all incredibly grateful and the students are exceptionally motivated and eager to learn." ♦

Dossier on Professor Bob Statchen

Credentials:

BA, Clark University
MBA, University of Connecticut
JD, Chicago-Kent College of Law
LLM, Boston University School of Law

School of Law Title:

Assistant Clinical Professor of Law

School of Law Responsibilities:

JD – Small Business Clinic, Business Planning, and International Military Conflict and the Law

LLM program in Closely Held Businesses – Design and Drafting Corporate Operating Documents, and Design and Drafting LLC Operating Documents

Years of Service: 7

Air Force rank: Lieutenant Colonel

Air Force deployments: Saudi Arabia, Bosnia, Kuwait, Egypt, Oman, and Panama

Years of Service: 20

Opposite page: (photo left) Lt. Col. Bob Statchen with Lt. Col. Jeff Knickerbocker '97, Deputy Staff Judge Advocate for his unit and an Associate at Hunt Liebert Jacobson P.C. of Connecticut; and (right) Professor Statchen at the Small Business Clinic at the School of Law.

City Teens Get Personal Introduction to Careers in Law Through Springfield Summer Legal Institute

It usually takes more than watching TV crime dramas to inspire young people to pursue careers in law. Commonly, it is meeting someone who works in the legal profession, a family member or friend, who inspires an interest in law. Too often, students from underrepresented communities don't have personal connections to such individuals and shortchange their legal potential before they ever get started.

A new program is looking to recast that dynamic and provide opportunities for students in the city of Springfield to meet inspiring mentors face-to-face.

From July 8 through 12, Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company's Career Pathways program and the Just The Beginning Foundation partnered with Western New England University School of Law to provide a free summer program developed to inspire local students to explore career paths in the justice system. The School of Law not only hosted the program at the Blake Law Center, its alumni, faculty, and students played an active role in the program's inauguration.

Leading the effort was **Dorothy Varon '95**, Assistant Vice President and Counsel in the Law Division of Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company (MassMutual), who headed an educational panel on *pro bono* opportunities in the community that included Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Beth Cohen and Assistant Director of Career Services and Public Interest Coordinator Sam Charron. Student volunteers included **Phelipe Johnson 2L** and **Justin Bailey 2L**, who led discussion groups.

The program began with Dean Eric Gouvin welcoming 22 students in grades nine through twelve to the world of law. They got a front row seat to law school lectures, including a talk on Title IX by

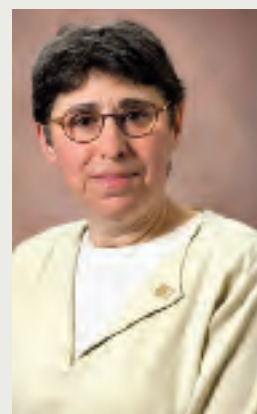
Professor of Law Erin Buzuvis. By week's end they were ready for lessons in oral argument through participation in mock trials in the multimedia J. Gerard Pellegrini Moot Court Room.

Throughout the week, participants heard directly from local attorneys about the diversity of legal career paths. They had opportunities to learn about making savvy college choices and how to impress law school admissions committees from Associate Dean of Student Affairs and Enrollment Planning Michael Johnson.

Dean Cohen, Assistant Professor of Law Julie Steiner, and Assistant Dean and Director of Career Services Paula Zimmer met with students at a networking event focused on business etiquette at MassMutual's Springfield headquarters. The students also toured the law firms of Bulkley Richardson in Springfield and Shipman Goodwin in Hartford, where many alums are in practice.

For a glimpse into careers behind the bench, the students visited the Hampden Superior and federal court houses and met with a panel of judges.

The program was a great success and plans are already underway to host it again next year. ♦



Dorothy Varon '95 spearheaded the program and led an educational panel on *pro bono* opportunities in the community.

(At left) Student volunteer Phelipe Johnson 2L leads a discussion with a group of teens attending the Springfield Summer Legal Institute.

INSTITUTE FOR LEGISLATIVE AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

SUMMARY OF EVENTS FOR SPRING 2013



(L to R) Professor and Director of our International Human Rights Clinic Lauren Carasik; Peter Iannuzzi; Nicholas Duffy; and Professor Matthew Charity

The highlights of the spring semester were two programs that reflect the Institute's ongoing commitment to housing justice and preparing students to become legal scholars.

First, we were a cosponsor of the seventh annual Fair Housing and Civil Rights Conference, which was held on April 11-12. The Conference coincided with the 45th anniversary of the signing of the Federal Fair Housing Act on April 11, 1968.

Second, for the thirteenth consecutive year, we hosted two students from Siena College under its dynamic summer legal fellows program, which Siena has with a handful of select law schools. This year, Nicholas Duffy and Peter Iannuzzi spent eight weeks on campus working with Professor Matthew Charity and Professor Lauren Carasik, the Director of our International Human Rights Clinic.

- **On April 11-12**, the Seventh Annual Conference offered a two-day program covering a variety of subjects to mark the 45th anniversary of the Fair Housing Act. Our presenters and speakers explored far-ranging topics in fair housing and civil rights, including predatory lending, residential segregation, protecting military veterans, immigration, disability and employment discrimination, issues relating to LGBT people, natural disasters and civil rights, affirmative action, and hate crimes.
- **The Siena College summer program** provides the opportunity for rising seniors to expand their understanding of the legal profession and gain real world experience working alongside professors. Nick

Duffy assisted Professor Charity researching instances where the U.S. Supreme Court has failed to apply international law standards to protect minority group victims suing in United States courts under federal law.

Nick's research focused largely on *Kiobel v. Royal Dutch Petroleum Co.*, a recent Supreme Court case. In that decision, the Justices rejected claims under the Federal Alien Tort Statute, 28 U.S.C. § 1350, asserted by Nigerian nationals against Royal Dutch Petroleum and others. The complaint alleged that throughout the 1990s the private defendants aided and abetted Nigerian military and police forces who beat, raped, and killed Nigerians, and destroyed or looted their property.

Peter Iannuzzi worked with Professor Carasik. His research focused on Vieques, a small island off the coast of Puerto Rico, where the U.S. Navy conducted military training from the 1940s until 2003. The civilian population of the island continues to experience increased incidences of cancer and higher mortality rates, and other harmful health effects due to the toxic chemicals tested by the Navy on the island.

Peter's research is the necessary predicate for drafting a petition to be filed with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, an international agency that receives human rights complaints against members of the Organization of American states. The petition seeks a remedy for those adversely affected by the Navy's decades of military training and munitions testing. Because the residents of Vieques have exhausted all of their domestic remedies without success, the petition would seek to hold the United States and the Navy responsible for the island's toxic legacy. If successful, the petition would require further decontamination measures to make the island livable once again. ♦

Q&A

“ I want to broadcast that this is the lawyer’s law school. We give students an opportunity to understand why they’re learning what they’re learning and how it applies in the legal world.”

A Conversation with the New Dean

Eric Gouvin speaks about his vision for the School of Law

After 22 years on the faculty, Professor Eric Gouvin became Dean Gouvin on July 1. *Perspectives* spoke with him as he prepared to step into the position.

Are you excited to become the dean?

I am very excited to be taking on this role, although it is only now dawning on me what the job entails. I am reaching out to the folks across campus whom I know the dean regularly interacts with and it is a long list!

You bring an entrepreneurial background to the deanship, including as the founder of the Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship. Is that something you will try to incorporate into your new role?

The Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship has been a model for how I think the School of Law can work. In the Center, we forged ties to many community groups throughout the Pioneer Valley, involved expertise across the University campus, found opportunities for meaningful involvement by the bar and other professionals—and delivered a quality

experience for the students, which is always our top priority. I'd like to take that approach in the School of Law generally.

What might that focus look like in the curriculum?

I'm excited about some changes in the first year curriculum that we'll be making in the next year or so. The idea is to have fewer courses per semester—so the courses will be more of a concentrated immersion experience—and to tie those doctrinal courses to practice and professionalism. The goal will be to have students learn the law in the doctrinal classes, but then to see why they learned that material in a new course we're working on that will contextualize the doctrinal material.

Western New England has always prided itself on being the place where we prepare people to enter the legal profession. I want to broadcast that this is the lawyer's law school. We give students an opportunity to understand why they're learning what they're learning, and how it really applies in the legal world.

There are also ways we can look across campus and offer interdisciplinary degrees that might be attractive, say, to human resources professionals or police officers or education administrators who might really benefit from having a certificate or degree geared toward their professional role. We have a lot of expertise on campus and if there are interdisciplinary opportunities, I think we should explore them. Every profession has significant interactions with legal issues. That's the way the world works. In the modern world, whether you're a lawyer or a businessperson or whatever your role, you can't know just one thing,

you have to know many things in order to do your job properly. That's why I think interdisciplinary degrees could be attractive.

Like most lawyers across the country, the majority of our students will be business owners—their business will be their law firm. The ABA tells us that nationwide, of the lawyers in private practice, 70 percent practice in firms of fewer than 10 lawyers and about half are solos. They need to know about marketing, cash flow management, appropriate technology, and hiring and firing. I'd like to build more of that into the curriculum too.

Much has been written recently about the ways law schools are changing. How might our School of Law change?

Law practice today is evolving rapidly and law schools need to change too. Western New England University School of Law has always had a student focus and I intend to redouble that effort. We need to be always reminding ourselves that what we're teaching, and how we're teaching it, is geared toward the students. And geared not just toward the students becoming learned in the law, but toward becoming practicing legal professionals as well.

We can't be everything to everybody. We should pick three or four things that we can do really well, and do those things really well. If someone wants to come here because they have an undying interest in intergalactic mineral rights law, well, maybe you ought to go someplace else where that's really a strength, because we don't have that talent on our faculty. On the other hand, if you want to study gender and sexuality, there's probably no place better in the country than here.

(Continued next page)



We've got some of the most respected people in the nation on this faculty. If you want to study criminal law, we have really deep offerings and really talented people who teach that topic. But we don't have the resources to be a boutique, offering things that are kind of intellectually interesting, but don't have a big enough market.

Like most law schools, we're tuition-dependent. The degree can be very expensive. We've been aggressive in our scholarship policy. We've tried to make it as affordable as we can for our students. But we need to be thoughtful about what our size should be. We're trying to think through, within our natural market, how many lawyers does our market need on an annual basis and how many can we supply?

Do you think the market for lawyers will increase eventually?

I think as the economy comes back generally, the law market will come back with it. I've been doing this 22 years. I've seen three down cycles. They eventually come back. This one might not come back to be as robust as it was during the early mid-2000s, but it will eventually come back. The population is growing in the United States, and just as a function of more people, there are going to be more legal problems. You're going to need new lawyers to fill in the gaps. A huge portion of the existing lawyers in the U.S. are at or near the retirement age, and although

they won't be replaced one for one, some of them will need to be replaced by hiring new lawyers. So we have some demographic trends in our favor.

Where do you see the School of Law in five years?

I would like the School of Law to be seen as a distinctive place that is known for the excellence of its programs and for preparing students to enter the legal profession.

In all likelihood, it will be a smaller place. It will be a more focused place. It will be a place that takes better advantage of our natural assets. We have a monopoly in western Massachusetts on placements for externships. That's a real asset. At schools in Boston, you've got six schools competing for the same spots. We should use our location to our greatest advantage.

Many of our students don't want to be in a big city—even Springfield is too big for some. A significant number go back to practice in their small and medium-sized cities all across the northeast. I think we should embrace that. That's always been the case. Why not focus on what they will be doing, and give them some tools that will make them more effective at that?

Will you keep teaching?

Not next year, but maybe after that. For now, I'm going to spend a lot of time learning the ropes and paying attention to the things that

need attention. Obviously, though, teaching is what attracted me to the academy and it's one of the things that I most enjoy about my job. I'm sure I'll miss it, but I think I'll be back in the classroom in a year or so.

What role can alumni play in the future of the School of Law?

I am hoping to find creative ways for the School of Law to draw on the talents of our alumni ranks. In addition to teaching law school courses as an adjunct, alumni and alumnae can be involved in many other ways—through guest lecturing, career services panels, programming in the Centers, CLE, mentoring of current students, and by sponsoring externships. Based on my experience recruiting alums to participate as presenters in programs for the Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship or as guest lecturers or serving as judges in the Transactional LawMeet, our graduates are very enthusiastic about giving their time and talent to help train the next generation of lawyers. Our loyal alumni rank among the great strengths of the School and one I hope to develop. ♦



Introducing Dean Gouvin

A native of Stonington, CT, Eric Gouvin is the eighth of nine children, the son of French-Canadian blue-collar workers with strong feelings about the importance of education. As an undergraduate at Cornell, Dean Gouvin thought about becoming a history professor, but instead enrolled at Boston University's law school. After graduating he joined a large firm in Portland, ME, where he practiced corporate, banking, and commercial law. But he never forgot about teaching, and in 1991, he joined the faculty at the School of Law.

Dean Gouvin has taught contracts, business organizations, banking regulation, secured transactions, and other business-related courses, including an innovative course blending practice and theory called the Transactional Lawyering Seminar. In the 1990s, he coached the Corporate Moot Court team. More recently, he has coached the Transactional Law Meet team—a kind of moot court for business lawyers—and several of his teams have placed highly in the national competition.

Dean Gouvin has served as Associate Dean and as the Director of the Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship, which he founded. His diverse scholarly writing covers topics including entrepreneurship policy, corporate law, banking, and international issues. He is a coauthor of the treatise *Blumberg on Corporate Groups*.

An active member of the American Bar Association, Dean Gouvin is also chair of the Association of American Law Schools' Section on Transactional Law and Skills. He has taught comparative corporate law in Paris and Lithuania, and has lectured in China as a Fulbright Specialist. His degrees include an LLM, also from Boston University, and a master of public administration from Harvard. Dean Gouvin recently received the Common Ground Award for inclusive leadership from UnityFirst.com, a leading newswire for diversity issues and news in the African American community, in recognition of the work done by the Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship.

Dean Gouvin lives in Longmeadow with his wife, an elder-law attorney, and their son and daughter.



(Facing page) Dean Gouvin enjoying a moment in his office surrounded by his collection of Red Sox memorabilia; (This page top) Dean Gouvin on a trip to the Great Wall of China; (middle) the Dean with his son, Joseph; wife, Elizabeth Lovejoy LLM'07; and daughter, Lucy; and (bottom) as "Leader of the Pack" at Fenway Park on the Tron.

Commencement 2013

By Mary McLean Orszulak G'10





Law Commencement 2013: It Was Their Day to Shine

It was their day to shine for the 159 candidates who were awarded juris doctor (JD) and master of laws (LLM) degrees. Hailing from 19 states, the graduates were encouraged by University President Anthony S. Caprio to “find passion and fulfillment in your work.” To those who would be taking the bar exam in the coming months, he advised, “Don’t forget, you have every reason to feel confident because you have studied here. You have learned the art of rigorous analysis, and you have gained hands-on knowledge of the law.”



Dr. Caprio reminded the graduates that they were the masters of their destinies. “You control what you do and how you do it,” he said. “You determine how you undertake your work, and to what greater

good and purpose you dedicate yourself. You have acquired the precious tools to make your calling fulfilling, stimulating, and satisfying.”



Kathleen Delia Tetrault '13 gave the class address, sharing with the audience tales of the law school challenge of knowing when to lead and when to lean on other students for support.

She spoke about the class’ first timid steps into leadership roles, “as professors pushed us over that edge and out of our comfort zones” to its evolution as a group that not only embraced leadership roles, but sought them out in the classroom and courtroom.

“True advocacy,” said Tetrault, is about knowing when to step up or reach out. “If we leave here utterly dependent, then we will only be advocates by proxy, parroting the advice of others instead of crediting our own. And if we leave here virtually

independent, then we will be turning away from our greatest resource—each other.”

Commencing a New Life in Law

In a bittersweet farewell, outgoing **Dean Art Gaudio** gave his final commencement speech to the School of Law Class of 2013.

“The event is called ‘Commencement’ and not ‘Conclusion,’” said Gaudio. “That means it’s a beginning and not an end . . . Rather, we are celebrating the beginning of your life as a practicing member of the legal profession—a Commencement of your life in the law.”

In his own transition, Gaudio was named Dean Emeritus and returned to teaching full-time on July 1 after 12 years of dedicated service. Longtime faculty member and director of the Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship **Eric Gouvin** was named the new dean on July 1.

The event also celebrated the contributions of **Leora Harpaz**, who was awarded Professor Emeritus status. She retired this May after 36 years of service.



School of Law Takes Novel Approach to Convocation



The featured speaker at this year’s Convocation, the celebration of the start of the academic year, was long-time supporter of the School of Law and member of the adjunct faculty, the **Honorable Michael A. Ponsor**, a senior judge on the U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts, serving in the court’s western region.

Judge Ponsor recently published a novel, *The Hanging Judge*, which he wrote after presiding over the Commonwealth’s first death penalty case in more than 50 years. While the novel is unrelated to the trial, it is the first written by a judge who has presided over a death penalty case. All incoming 1Ls had been asked to read the book and they participated in a discussion about it with Judge Ponsor during orientation a few days earlier.

Addressing the gathering at Convocation on August 23, Judge Ponsor now told them, “In the process of earning a living, you will have an opportunity to do some good in the world and that is a great blessing that being a lawyer affords. You will find that it is very deeply satisfying. . . The opportunity to practice law in this moment in history and in the world and particularly in this place is a blessed gift. Enjoy it and do good.”



From Law School to **Theme Park**

Life's been a thrill ride since
Pam Sisson '96 came on board
at Six Flags Great America

By Deb Whittemore

From her office, Pam (Harrower) Sisson can hear the electronic music pulsating from the rides each day. It's a world away from her prior life as Vice President of Finance for the hardware division at Black & Decker in Connecticut and a student at the School of Law. Today, Sisson is director of finance for Six Flags Great America in Gurnee, IL (located between Chicago and Milwaukee), one of the nation's most popular amusement parks, with more than 2.5 million annual visitors.

More than two decades ago, Sisson, a Connecticut native, had just been promoted at Black & Decker and was thinking about continuing her education. "I considered doing an MBA, but law sounded more appealing. I knew I didn't want to work at a law firm, but thought pairing law with my finance background made sense."

In 1991 Sisson began five years of night classes at the School of Law. While she didn't spend much time on campus outside of her evening classes, Sisson did find a study group of like-minded School of Law students from Connecticut, who were also juggling full-time night classes. Although the majority of their moments together were spent cramming for exams, Sisson says it was a fantastic group that provided much-needed camaraderie during a busy time.

"Several of us would drive together up to classes, too," she says. "It was nice to have the company and to share the gas and the time with each other. I made some great friendships."

Shortly after graduating in 1996, Sisson moved out to Illinois for her husband's job and passed the bar exam there. She toyed with changing her career path, applying at several law firms, but in 1997 an opening for director of finance for Six Flags Great America appeared.

"And from the first day," she says, "it's been a blast."

While Sisson's position is year-round, the park is in a continual state of ebb and flow, as 3,500 employees come on board each spring to work the park's season, which runs from April through October. There's also park management's continual quest to introduce new and exciting attractions for guests.

"This business has so much variety. It's really many businesses within a business," Sisson says. "There's the entertainment aspect, mechanical, retail, fast food—every day something different is happening."

Sisson oversees typical activities like receivables, payables, inventory and capital, and an unusual part of the finance job: a 24/7 cash control operation. She's also in charge of information systems (IS) for all of the park's electronics (cash registers, credit processing, audio/visual, ticket controls) as well as the more traditional computer/server/prINTER side of IS. And Sisson is responsible for loss prevention—whether that be employee theft, fraud, shoplifting, or ticket scalping.

While the park has a legal department, Sisson's position requires her to review all of the contracts signed with the park, including those involving vendors selling their products, ride construction, and theatrical shows.

"Thanks to law school, I have a better general understanding of the law, and I still draw on that," she says. "I think just going to law school changes the way you view or read anything. You look closely at the details. You think about the ramifications of the way certain things are written. It teaches you to analyze situations in a structured fashion that becomes second nature after a while. I wouldn't have that without formal legal training."

While she loves the ins and outs of her everyday job, Sisson most treasures what happens one night a week during the months the park is open. As the sun goes down and the lights of countless rides turn on, each evening a member of the park's senior management stays onsite, overseeing park operations and making sure things run smoothly, until the park closes as late as 10:30 p.m.

As she weaves into crowds of jubilant teenagers, parents pushing strollers, and sticky cotton candy fingers clutching stuffed animal prizes, Sisson remembers that whether it be finance or law, her work is really about making people happy.

"There's a constant hubbub here. It's challenging and fun. I can't imagine having a job that's less dynamic." ♦

The Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship

The Spring Speakers Series

By Sasha Nyary

The themes of each of the semester's three talks—creative communications, law, and pharmacy—reflected three of the University's strengths.

Communications



January 29, 2013

Entrepreneurship in Creative Communications

Tina Stevens, Principal & Creative Director, Stevens 470

Robert C. Andrews Jr., President & CEO, Digital Media Ventures (DMV) Entertainment Group

Janine Fondon, President & CEO, UnityFirst.com

"When you have employees you have to become their teacher. Having a business will show you who you are—all your ugly sides, all your strengths, everything. Because you're tested every day about money, people, values. You're the decision-maker, so how you treat those employees is a reflection of you." *Tina Stevens*

Lawyering



March 5, 2013

Lawyer As Entrepreneur

Joseph Kershenbaum '91, Executive Vice President & CFO of Salute Homecare LLC

Jayson Falcone of the Law Offices of Jayson J. Falcone

"I like to find waves to ride. I rode the Internet wave. I rode the financial services wave—until 2008, in which case like many other financial services we just got killed, through no fault of our own. And now I'm riding the healthcare wave. . . . It's a nice long wave because it's very, very hard to start companies and I'm hoping this will be the last one!" *Joseph Kershenbaum*

Pharmacy

April 11, 2013

Entrepreneurship in Pharmacy

Andrew Robinson

Owner & Director of Operations
SpecialtyScripts Pharmacy

Andrew Robinson has 25 years of experience creating and developing pharmacy businesses; he was able to retire at 52 when his business was bought by Walgreens. It all began when he was working as a retail pharmacist and heard a story on public radio about a firm that was making compounded prescription medications for animals. "That day they were making an antifungal inhalation solution for a canary," he said. "How exotic is that! . . . They were truly helping people—at least animals and the owners of the animals. That was a win right there. . . . I realized, wow, I can take my pharmacy degree and have an opportunity to control my own destiny."



Learn more about upcoming events at www.wne.edu/cie.

Extreme Business Makeover

In this series, entrepreneurs present their business plans to a panel of experts who offer advice on operations, marketing, legal matters, and profitability in front of a live audience.



January 22, 2013

BYTEBACK COMPUTERS

PRINCIPALS: **Greg and Kimberly Gavin**

PANELISTS: **David Webber, Esq.**, Shatz, Schwartz and Fentin, P.C.; **April Heavens-Woodcock**, Touching Clients; **Jennifer Little-Greer**, Greater New England Minority Suppliers Development Council; **Jackie Fallon '82**, Owner, FIT Solutions

BYTEBAK Computers helps companies looking to create or expand their business computer networks.

"You might want to consider honing in on an industry, like look at your existing clients and see if they fall into one or two industries," said panelist Jackie Fallon '82 of FIT Solutions. "You may want to look at your existing client base and see what industry knowledge you can gain to further add value to what you're bringing to the table. And not just make it about the computers, but make it about the business. . . . The more you know about that industry, the more you're going to bring value to that business owner."



June 19, 2013

BAYSTATE ACCESSIBILITY REMODELERS

PRINCIPALS: **Jason and Cynthia Harris**

PANELISTS: **Attorney Robert Walker L'05** of the Law Office of Robert Walker; **Meagan Lynch**, CEO and President, Six-Point Creative Works; **Sharon M. Czarnecki**, Assistant Vice President and Commercial Loan Officer, Westfield Bank; **Rick Giombetti**, President and Founder, Giombetti Associates; and **Kent Pecoy**, President, Pecoy Homes.

Baystate is a full-service carpentry remodeling company that specializes in safety and accessibility renovations. The Harrises also own an online business that sells accessibility products direct to consumers—and other contractors.

"You have an identity crisis," said panelist Attorney Walker. "You've got these two entities out there. I would separate the two out. Right now you have a corporation that you currently run as a Chapter S, a pass-through entity not taxed twice like most corporations, so that shields you from liability. A lot of contractors are not going to want to work with you because you are the competition . . . you have to show them that you're not the competition, you're there to help them. And that way build your niche."



In addition, the Center presented a series on "Business Law Basics for Small Businesses," which included:

January 15

Contracts, Sales, Collections, and Dispute Resolution

- Jennifer Rymarski '03
- David Parke
- Kyle R. Guplechter '02

February 5

Legal Issues in Finance

- Scott Foster
- Michael D. Sweet

March 12

Intellectual Property Law Basics

- Peter Irvine
- Leah Kunkel '92
- Kenneth "Steve" Wheelock '98

April 16

Bankruptcy

- Justin Dion '00
- George Roumeliotis '93
- Kara S. Rescia '92

A portrait of Kelvin Thomas, a Black man with short dark hair, smiling and looking towards the camera. He is wearing a grey suit jacket over a blue dress shirt and a light-colored striped tie. He is standing in what appears to be a library or study, with wooden bookshelves visible in the background. His right hand is resting on a wooden railing.

By Patricia Gagnon

A West Point graduate, an Army officer serving in Afghanistan, an ambitious law student with big dreams to make the world a better place—Kelvin Thomas 3L is a long way from the aged two-bedroom mobile home he shared with his mother and three older sisters growing up in Gainesville, FL. But not so far that he doesn't remember the lessons he learned from those humble beginnings.

Kelvin Thomas **Keeps Moving On** **with the Mission**



(L) Kelvin and members of his company on board a Mine Resistant Armor Protected Vehicle (MRAP) used to transport troops between bases and villages in the Eastern sector of Afghanistan. (R) Last year, preparing for the National Transactional LawMeet with teammate Dennis Carnelli '13.

“My mom raised us alone and worked low wage jobs to keep a roof over our heads and food on the table. We knew we were poor, but my mom was doing her best. While some may accept the situation, it drove me to improve my life,” says Kelvin.

“My mom is the greatest person that I’ll ever know,” he says. “She’s a great role model and a pioneer. She preached education to her children in an environment where education wasn’t emphasized. ‘Be open-minded, be teachable, believe that you can accomplish anything,’ she repeated often. She made sure that I understood that going to college was not simply a choice for me, it was mandatory.”

No one in his extended family completed a four-year degree, yet Kelvin headed to one of the nation’s most challenging and competitive programs—the United States Military Academy at West Point. “Early in high school I thought about a career combining politics, law, and business,” he says. “I figured that military service to the nation was the best start that a civil servant could have.”

He learned a lot during those years at the Academy, Kelvin says, especially about leadership and the ability to multitask. He also learned patience and the importance of listening to others—skills he relies on today.

After graduating from West Point, Kelvin served five and a half years of active duty. He was a paratrooper and a rigger (aerial delivery officer) stationed at Fort Bragg, NC. He was responsible for the logistical drops of equipment and soldiers from a multitude of aircraft. He served in combat as the logistics officer in charge of a Provincial Reconstruction Team in Kapisa Province, Afghanistan, where he planned and supervised logistical operations for a 75-member team. Kelvin was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and French Army Achievement Medal. He also served as the Chief of Operations for the 82nd Sustainment Brigade, where he planned and coordinated over 1,400 logistical convoy patrols throughout Afghanistan.

“I’ll never forget any of the pivotal moments from that deployment,” Kelvin says. “I learned to deal with horrible losses and to keep moving on with the mission. I’ve found that sometimes life will send failures or stumbling blocks your way, but difficulties can be overcome.” Currently, Kelvin is in the Connecticut National Guard, which has helped him transition to civilian life and attend law school.

Kelvin chose Western New England University after talking to attorneys who valued its graduates in private practice. He is now studying in the JD/MBA program. “Law and business have always gone hand in hand for me,” he says. He is national president of the LawMeets Student Advisory Board, a national organization charged with raising awareness of transactional law in law school. At Western New England University, he is a representative to the Judicial Appeals Board and is on the Admissions and Scholarship committees.

Kelvin competed on the Transactional Lawyering Moot Court team that won its regional tournament last year. “The moot court team was fantastic,” he says enthusiastically. “My partner, Dennis Carnelli, was amazing and we’ve become very close friends. The competitions by far were really exciting. Sitting across from a team of opponents while trying to maintain civility and represent my client’s best interests at the same time was an engaging experience,” Kelvin recalls.

He is currently a legal intern for Ford & Paulekas, LLP, in Hartford, CT, which focuses on commercial law and litigation. He just completed his second summer there, and was involved with commercial lending in numerous states, basic civil litigation practice, bankruptcy, and a plethora of research projects. In his scarce free time he enjoys scuba diving, running, swimming, and riding his motorcycle.

When asked about his future goals he replies, “I first want to focus on becoming a competent and successful commercial business lawyer. I want to help middle class entrepreneurs start and grow businesses that create jobs for Americans. Eventually, I want to manage my own law firm and other businesses.

“My private interest is in assisting at-risk teenagers by focusing on our troubled public education system,” says Kelvin. “I would like to focus my legal and nonlegal volunteer hours in that arena. I like to help disadvantaged young people who are trying to better their lives. That makes me happy.”

From humble beginnings, Kelvin has forged goals and a life that would make any mother proud. ♦

FACULTY and STAFF NOTES



BALDWIN



BUZUVIS



CARASIK



CHARITY



COHEN

Bridgette Baldwin, Professor of Law, gave a talk entitled “Trading Spaces: A Bellsian Analysis of NYC’s Current Stop, Question, & Frisk Practice” on a panel analyzing the work of Derrick Bell and themes of citizenship, at the Mid-Atlantic People of Color Conference at the University of Pennsylvania Law School. Bridgette served as a commentator and presenter at the AALS Midyear Conference on Criminal Justice in San Diego.

Erin Buzuvis, Professor of Law, presented at the NCAA Inclusion Forum in Indianapolis about compliance with Title IX’s equal treatment regulations. The Inclusion Forum is an annual event for athletic administrators seeking to learn about compliance obligations and best practices to support and create athletic departments diverse in terms of sex, race, sexual orientation, and disability inclusion in college sports. This is the fourth time Erin has participated in the conference as a speaker. Erin and her cobblogger on the Title IX Blog, Kris Newhall, have put together a TED Ed video on the basics of Title IX. Erin has also joined the editorial board for the *Journal of Intercollegiate Athletics*.

A recently published compilation, *Sexual Minorities in Sport: Prejudice at Play* (Lynne Rienner Publishers: 2013) includes Erin’s chapter titled “Transsexual and Intersex Athletes.”

Professor Buzuvis participated in a symposium about Title IX and transgender rights sponsored by the *Wisconsin Journal of Law, Gender and Society* and held in Madison. The paper she presented there will be published in a forthcoming issue devoted to the topic.

Erin recently taught a course on LGBTQ social policy as an adjunct in the Smith College School for Social Work. This was her fourth time teaching this course, which she believes is unique among social work programs.

Lauren Carasik, Clinical Professor of Law, traveled to Honduras in March with a human rights delegation, and visited with nongovernmental organizations, human rights defenders, and victims of human rights abuses in the Siria Valley and Lower Aguan areas, as well as with Garifuna communities. In April Professor Carasik joined a National Lawyers Guild delegation of international legal observers for the trial of former Guatemalan dictator Jose Efraim Rios Montt for genocide and crimes against humanity. The delegation met with various organizations, government officials and human rights defenders, and issued a 28-page report on the trial.

Professor Carasik has also published a number of op-eds in *Al Jazeera*: “Campesino Communities In Honduras Being Devastated, One Family At A Time,” “When Fear Eclipses Justice, We All Lose: Shutter Guantanamo Now,” “The Tragic Tale Of Guantanamo Detainee #684,” “Honduras: When Will The U.S. Stop Funding Death Squads?” “Kiobel Case: Corporate Accountability For Human Rights Abuses,” and “The Long Arc Of Justice In Guatemala.”

She has also had articles published in *The Jurist*—“U.S. Funds Still Supporting Honduras Death Squads”—and in *Common Dreams*: “As the U.N. Evades Responsibility for the Cholera Epidemic, Haitians

Continue to Suffer” and “More Bloodstained Clothing in Bangladesh.” Professor Carasik has had several articles published on the Truthout website, including “Justice Postponed in Guatemala: Rios Montt and the United States Evade Reckoning With the Past,” “Guatemala Illuminates its Dark History with a Stunning Guilty Verdict for Rios Montt,” “Unfolding Repression in the Shadows of the Guatemalan Genocide Trial,” “Did Guatemala’s President Try to Shut Down the Genocide Trial?” “Accountability for Transnational Corporations Must Be an Active U.S. Goal in the Wake of the Kiobel Decision,” and “Did the U.S. Cover Up Its Role in a Deadly Honduran Counter-Narcotics Operation?”

Finally, Professor Carasik’s piece “Justice Postponed in Guatemala” appeared in the *Boston Review* online and “The Criminalization of Campesino Resistance in Honduras: Chavelo’s Story” appeared in *Upside Down World*.

Matthew Charity, Professor of Law, had his article “Defying Gravity: The Development of Standards by States in the International Prosecution of International Atrocity Crimes,” which takes a transnational legal process approach to decoupling national and international definitions for prosecutions of crimes against humanity, genocide, and war crimes, published by the *Indiana International and Comparative Law Review*. Matthew’s paper, “Atrocity Crime Franchises,” was selected from a call for papers for the second annual New Perspectives in Comparative Law conference,

at the Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law in Indianapolis. Additionally, Matthew was elected and is currently serving as Chair of the AALS Section on Africa for 2013.

Beth Cohen, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Director, Legal Research and Writing, has been promoted to full professor. As part of the 2013 Law Day, “Realizing the Dream: Equality for All,” Beth, along with Career Services Assistant Director and Public Interest Coordinator **Sam Charron**, Professors **Leora Harpaz**, and **Bridgette Baldwin** presented to classes at SABIS International Charter School in Springfield.

As a board member of Scribes: The American Society of Legal Writers, Beth participates on the Brief Writing Award Committee; she coordinated the National 2013 Brief Writing Competition. The Scribes Brief Writing Committee solicits winning briefs from national moot-court competitions and selects the finest of those winning briefs—the best of the best. This year’s winning authors were recognized at the Scribes annual meeting, which was held during the American Bar Association meeting in August.

Dean Cohen also served as a judge in the final round of the National Association of Women Lawyers Annual Selma Moidel Smith Law Student Writing Competition. The National Association of Women Lawyers (NAWL) established the annual Selma Moidel Smith Law Student Writing Competition to encourage and reward original law student writing on issues concerning women and the law.



FREEMAN '93



GOUVIN



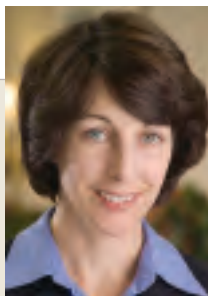
LEAVENS



LEVI



NEWCOMBE '01



NOAH

Harris Freeman '93, Professor of Legal Research and Writing, was a presenter on Significant Developments in Massachusetts Public Sector Labor Law at the Boston Bar Association's fortieth annual Workshop for Public Sector Labor Relations Specialists at Harvard Law School.

He was also a panelist on Labor Law and Labor Insurgency since the 2008 Economic Crisis at the Labor and Working Class History Association's National Conference at the City University of New York.

Eric Gouvin, Dean and Professor of Law, participated in a symposium at Moritz College of Law at Ohio State University on legal and policy implications of business incubators, presenting a paper entitled "Legal Support of Incubating Businesses: What, Where, Who, and When."

Arthur Leavens, Professor of Law, participated in St. John's University School of Law's symposium, Criminal Justice in the 21st Century: The Challenge to Protect Individual Freedoms, Civil Rights, and Our Safety, speaking as a member of a panel called Technology and Criminal Law.

Jennifer Levi, Professor of Law, gave a lecture at Harvard Law School sponsored by the student organization Lambda, where she presented materials related to a recent Massachusetts district court decision, *Kosilek v. Department of Corrections*.

Professor Levi attended a White House reception for national LGBT leaders hosted by President Barack Obama and Vice President Joseph Biden.

Professor Levi argued a case at Maine's highest court, the

Supreme Judicial Court, on behalf of a transgender girl who was made to use a separate bathroom at the elementary school she attended in Orono, ME. Professor Levi also served on a committee created by Senator Elizabeth Warren to review federal district court judge applicants for the western Massachusetts open seat. She also participated in an ABA webinar entitled "Transgender People and Family Law: Current Legal Challenges and Best Practices" as part of the Emerging Issues in LGBT Law Series.

Patricia Newcombe '01, Associate Dean for Library and Information Resources, has had an article accepted in *Library Management*, which publishes articles of interest and value to senior managers and academics within the library and information profession. Pat coauthored the piece, "Becoming Director: An Internal Candidate's View," with James Donovan from University of Kentucky College of Law Library.

Barbara Noah, Professor of Law, has had two articles published: "Two Conflicts in Context: Lessons from the Schiavo and Bland Cases" and the "Role of Best Interests Analysis in the United Kingdom," [36 HAMLINE L. REV. 1-26 (2013)] and "In Denial: The Role of Law in Preparing for Death," [21 ELDER L.J. 101-132 (2013)]. Professor Noah presented "In Denial: The Role of Law in Preparing for Death" at the Law & Society Conference in Boston and "Inclusion of Pregnant Women in Research: The Perils of Procrastination" at the

(Continued next page)

Faculty & Staff in the Media

Arthur Leavens

3/15/13	Cara Rintala Case	WGGB
6/27/13	Search and Seizure	Lawyers.com

Bridgette Baldwin

3/13/2013	Cara Rintala Case	WSHM
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Eric Gouvin

7/3/13	Gouvin Named Dean	The Faculty Lounge
7/3/13	Gouvin Named Dean	Connecticut Law Tribune
7/7/13	Gouvin Named Dean	The Republican
7/8/13	High School Legal Clinic	ABC-40
7/8/13	High School Legal Clinic	The Republican
7/29/13	New Dean's Plans	BusinessWest
9/4/13	Transactional Law Meets	ABAJournal.com

Erin Buzuvis

3/26/13	Supreme Court on Gay Marriage Ban	WSHM
4/4/13	Transgender debate at Smith College	The Sophian
4/7/13	Title IX	Baltimore Sun
4/13/13	Title IX	Daily Hampshire Gazette
4/25/13	Title IX	Boston Globe
5/13/13	Title IX	The Dartmouth
7/23/13	Title IX	The Dartmouth
8/5/13	Sexual Assault	The Dartmouth
8/9/13	Title IX	Inside Higher Ed

Giovanna Shay

4/24/2013	State's Challenges to Prison	The Daily Journal
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Harris Freeman

2/12/2013	Clerkship	BusinessWest
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Jennifer Levi

3/25/2013	Supreme Court on Gay Marriage Ban	Associated Press
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Lauren Carasik

3/31/13	Devastation in Honduras	Aljazeera
4/1/13	Corporate Accountability for Human Rights Abuses	Aljazeera
4/19/13	Lawsuit Against Canadian Mining Giant	CorpWatch
4/22/13	Working Towards Justice in Guatemala	Aljazeera
6/20/13	Guantanamo Bay Detainee	Yahoo! Maktoob

Paula Zimmer

2/12/2013	Clerkships	BusinessWest
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FACULTY and STAFF NOTES (continued)



ORLEN



REICH-GRAEFE



SETTY



SHAY



STEINER

International Association of Law & Mental Health Conference in Amsterdam.

Myra G. Orlen, Assistant Dean and Director for Academic Success and Associate Professor of Legal Research and Writing, recently completed a Land Use Facilitation Training program sponsored by the Mediation and Training Collaborative. Myra is now included on the list of panel facilitators who are knowledgeable in the area of land use conservation and work with family landowners faced with the task of deciding what to do with parcels of land.

Myra also presented her current project on the captioning of family law cases at Albany Law School's Sharing Scholarship, Building Teachers: Scholarship and Teaching Development workshop.

René Reich-Graefe, Professor of Law, presented a current work in progress, "Deconstructing Corporate Governance: The Psychology of Group Trusting and Impersonal Trust," at the 2013 Law and Society Association annual meeting in Boston. René also chaired and served as discussant on a second panel titled "Emerging Approaches to Corporate Governance and Corporate Social Responsibility."

Professor Reich-Graefe presented another work in progress, "The Hallucinogenic Nonsense of 'Fiduciaries' in Corporate Governance: A Comparative Analysis of the Anglo-American Approach," at the third annual Workshop on International and Compar-

ative Law, held at Washington University School of Law, as well as at the second annual Younger Comparativists Committee Conference of the American Society of Comparative Law, held at the Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law. He also served as moderator for presentations in a second panel at the Indiana conference titled "Corporate Law, Finance, and Economic Development." René has been appointed as a member of the Conservation Commission in East Longmeadow, MA.

Sudha Setty, Professor of Law, has been accepted onto the roster for the Fulbright Specialist Program and looks forward to organizing a visit or two to foreign universities during her eligibility period. Professor Setty presented her recent article, "National Security Interest Convergence" at Yale Law School's conference on Critical Race Theory: From the Academy to the Community.

Professor Setty was also a panelist and discussant on "Bush and Obama: Continuity or Change?" at the annual meeting of the Law & Society Association. She was a guest lecturer at the School of Critical Social Inquiry at Hampshire College, speaking about "The Global War on Terror: New Legal and Philosophical Frameworks." Professor Setty was an invited speaker at the University of Pennsylvania Law School, Mid-Atlantic People of Color Legal Scholarship Conference, where she discussed "Post-9/11 Accountability and the Mimicry of Law."

Giovanna Shay, Professor of Law, presented her paper "In Open Court" at the Law & Society Association Meeting in Boston. Giovanna contributed an article on two U.S. Supreme Court federal habeas cases from the October 2011 term to an *Akron Law Review* symposium on recent Supreme Court cases on the rights of the accused and the incarcerated. Her article was "The New State Postconviction," 46 *AKRON L. REV.* 473 (2013).

In the spring 2013 semester, the Center for Gender & Sexuality Studies at Western New England School of Law hosted two events focusing on the anticipated decisions from the Supreme Court about marriage equality. Prior to the arguments in *United States v. Windsor* and *Hollingsworth v. Perry*, the Center hosted a panel discussion on March 13, 2013, with Professors Levi, Buzuvis, Shay, Harpaz, and Miller, as well as then-2L Chris Erchull. Watch a video at www.law.wne.edu. Following the oral arguments, the Center hosted a listening event on April 3, 2013, that featured excerpts from the audio of the Supreme Court arguments and a Skype real-time discussion with distinguished constitutional law scholar and Dean of UC Irvine School of Law Professor Erwin Chemerinsky.

These community events capped a year-long tutorial in which Professors Levi and Shay met periodically with small groups of law students to discuss the marriage equality cases. Beginning with the

cert petitions, the tutorial group read pleadings in marriage equality cases at the Court, discussed likely cert grants, and then followed the progress of the cases in which the Court granted cert. Students benefited in particular from the participation of Professor Levi, who was cocounsel in the Massachusetts marriage equality litigation and who helped to develop the litigation strategy that ultimately produced the invalidation of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) in the Windsor case this term.

Julie E. Steiner, Associate Professor of Law, was invited to participate at a conference entitled "Shale Gas Development in Massachusetts" by the American Ground Water Trust, a national nonprofit organization focused on water resource education, held at UMass Amherst. Professor Steiner's session covered current Massachusetts water laws and regulations and how they would guide or control shale gas development that might occur in Massachusetts. Professor Steiner moderated a panel entitled New Applications of Bell's Critical Legal Theory at a full-day symposium organized and sponsored by Western New England University School of Law entitled "Building the Arc of Justice: The Life and Legal Thought of Derrick Bell."

Study Abroad Course Offered for First Time

Law students to study gender law in Israel this wintersession



By Sasha Nyary

Titled “Comparative Law: Gender in U.S., Israeli, and Jewish Law,” the School of Law’s first study abroad course will be led by Professor Jennifer Levi for 10 days over wintersession.

An expert in gender and sexuality and the law, Professor Levi will focus this course on three examples of challenges to gender segregation—at worship spaces, on public buses, and in restrooms. Students will examine, compare, and explore the basic principles of gender, discrimination, equality, and justice across the three different legal regimes.

The course runs from December 23, 2013 to January 3, 2014 and will be held at the Haim Striks School of Law in Rishon LeZion, near Tel Aviv. Details can be found at www.wne.edu/israel.

“I chose Israel because of the contemporary social issues there that parallel important civil rights struggles here,” Levi says.

The right of women to wear religious garments typically worn by men, pray, and read from the Torah at the Western Wall in Jerusalem has been a hugely controversial issue in Israel.

Concurrently, American state courts have wrestled with the question of how the authorization of sex-segregation in restrooms can be squared with equality commitments to transgender youth and adults.

“I have been very interested in the ways in which the struggle for women’s access to worship spaces in Israel is similar to—yet very different from—the struggle for transgender civil rights in this country,” says Levi.

“As the Women of the Wall cases have advanced in the Israeli court system, I became increasingly interested in concretely exploring these connections.”

The goals of the ABA-approved course are two-fold, Levi says. “The first is to learn comparative international law by studying three different legal systems—Israeli, Jewish, and American. Second is to learn substantive law as it relates to contemporary legal issues of lawful and unlawful gender segregation.” The three Israeli experts coteaching this course are also experts on gender issues.

“I hope students will learn a structure for exploring international comparative law,” Levi says, “as well as gain substantive knowledge applying ideas about gender and law to real work issues.” ♦

Peter Wagner '03 Champions Prison Policy Reform

By Mary McLean Orszulak G'10



Peter Wagner '03 was recently honored with the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers' 2013 Champion of State Criminal Justice Reform Award. This award is granted to individuals whose exceptional efforts have led toward progressive reform of the state criminal justice system.

Peter is an attorney and Executive Director of the Prison Policy Initiative in Easthampton, MA. He was recognized for his tireless decade-long work to expose how the U.S. criminal justice system negatively impacts all people, even those who are not directly involved in the legal system.

He pursued his law degree at Western New England with the original intent of working in prison conditions litigation or criminal defense. From 2000-2001, he conducted an independent study under the guidance of Professor James Gardner that changed the focus of his educational goals and ultimately his career.

Internships at Massachusetts Correctional Legal Services (now Prisoner's Legal Services) and at the Capital Defender of New York confirmed for Peter that his real passion was in policy work because he wanted to make change on a larger scale.

Through his research, Peter found that an archaic Census Bureau policy, which counts incarcerated individuals as residents of prison locations, artificially inflates the resident count and thus political influence of communities that contain prisons. This dilutes the votes cast by everyone who does not live near a large prison. After discovering problems with the current system, Peter

built and led a bipartisan urban and rural movement to abolish the practice.

"From my research, I wrote a paper about how the Census Bureau's practice of counting incarcerated people from New York City as residents of rural upstate communities, combined with the state's practice of barring incarcerated people from the polls, was undermining the constitutional "one person one vote" guarantee," he says. "*The New York Times* later named this phenomenon 'prison gerrymandering.'"

The paper formed the core of the Prison Policy Initiative's first report, *Importing Constituents: Prisoners and Political Clout in New York*, which was published while Peter was still a student "with some great help from my Western New England classmates," he says.

That report led to the national movement to end prison gerrymandering. According to the National Association of Criminal Defense Attorneys, "The U.S. Supreme Court's endorsement of Maryland's law to end prison gerrymandering has been hailed as one of the major criminal justice and civil rights victories of the decade."

Peter's work has been featured in hundreds of papers nationwide and he has won editorial endorsement for criminal justice reform from such publications as *The New York Times* and the *Boston Globe*.

Today, at the Prison Policy Initiative, Peter researches and brings to light a wide range of issues plaguing the U.S. prison system. He recently presented his research on perverse incentives and price gouging in the prison and jail phone industry at a Federal Communications Commission workshop.

Peter hopes his work will help the legal community and citizens at large to better understand how the prison system impacts them.

"Because we build prisons and jails in out-of-the-way places, it is easy to miss just how many people we lock up in this country," he says. "It's one percent of our adult population, far more than any other country on the planet. And because this population is so large, the economic and political effect of this mass incarceration policy choice reverberates throughout our society to the detriment of everyone."

Peter is honored that his award has brought attention to the Prison Policy Initiative's work to bring real change that creates stronger communities. "In a decade, we transformed a law school paper into a broad-based movement that has permanently changed how our democracy works in four states and hundreds of counties and cities," he says. ♦

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The Spring Speakers Series

By Sasha Nyary

The Clason, Color of Law, and Center for Gender and Sexuality Studies speakers series generated thoughtful, informed discussions.

The Clason Speaker Series

The Clason Speaker Series, now in its 25th year, offers a venue for experts to present works in progress on current legal topics. The spring focus was International Law and Human Rights.



January 29, 2013

Fionnuala Ní Aoláin

The Dorsey & Whitney Chair in Law at the University of Minnesota Law School and Professor of Law at the University of Ulster's Transitional Justice Institute in Belfast

"Rethinking Reparations for Conflict-Related Sexual Violence"

"Sexual violence in war is a form of communication between combatants. That is to say that men often rape women not because of the act of rape itself but that it is a form of communication to other men. And understanding that, essentially the emasculation of communities by the use of sexual violence, has been an extraordinarily cogent tactic."



March 12, 2013

Penelope Andrews

President and Dean, Albany Law School

"Conditional Interdependence and Rethinking Strategies for Pursuing Women's Human Rights"

"When I look at the anti-apartheid struggle or the Civil Rights struggle, one issue is really clear: That people of color, in particular black Americans during the civil rights struggle and black South Africans had to bring on board whites to insure that the struggle was long-lasting, that the gains were deep and long-lasting. You cannot have an anti-racist struggle without involving whites. The struggle against sexism and patriarchy has to include men."



April 5, 2013

Wadie E. Said

Associate Professor of Law, University of South Carolina School of Law

"The Criminal Terrorist Prosecution"

"Courts of Appeals have reasoned that terrorists are unique in that they cannot be rehabilitated and are extremely likely to recidivate. The problem is, that statement exists on its own, with no evidence. Is that the truth in every situation in which the government calls someone a terrorist? Some groups are labeled terrorists more for political reasons than for the fact that they target the United States. They are involved in political disputes with allies of ours."

Center for Gender & Sexuality Studies

The Center for Gender & Sexuality Studies serves as a focal point for work in a broad range of areas relating to gender and sexuality. Its events included:



January 23, 2013

Telling Amy's Story, a documentary about domestic violence, was presented in conjunction with Hampden County District Attorney **Mark G. Mastroianni '89**. The evening included a talk by **Detective Deirdri Fishel** of State College, PA.



February 20, 2013

Protection: Men and condoms in the time of HIV and AIDS, was presented in collaboration with the AIDS Foundation of Western Massachusetts. **Jill Lewis**, Professor of Literature and Gender Studies at Hampshire College, who conceived and produced the documentary, was present to discuss the film.

April 9, 2013

"Using U.S. Courts to Protect Human Rights Abroad: A Community Discussion of Sexual Minorities Uganda v. Scott Lively," was held on April 9. Attorney Pam Spees of the Center for Constitutional Rights discussed the pending case and the emerging role of American courts as a venue for protecting human rights abroad.



March 13, 2013

"Gay Marriage and the Supreme Court: A Public Discussion," was presented prior to the oral arguments for *Hollingsworth v. Perry* (California's Proposition 8) and *United States v. Windsor* (the Defense of Marriage Act). The panelists were professors **Erin Buzuvis**, **Leora Harpaz**, **Jennifer Levi**, **Bruce Miller**, and **Giovanna Shay**, and **Chris Erchull 2L**.

April 3, 2013

"Gay Marriage and the Supreme Court: Reflecting on the Oral Arguments" was presented on April 3. Professor and Founding Dean **Erwin Chemerinsky**, a renowned scholar constitutional law scholar at the University of California, Irvine School of Law, appeared virtually to present his analysis and take questions.

Color of Law Roundtable

The Color of Law Roundtable showcases local professionals who bring career insights to current students.

February 20, 2013

Elizabeth Rodriguez-Ross '07
former City Solicitor for the City of Holyoke
Attorney, *Ramos Robinson & Rodriguez-Ross, LLC*

When she was 22, Ross's Colombian husband was arrested and deported, leaving her alone with their children. "I have never felt so alone, so disenfranchised, and so helpless, ever in my entire life, as I walked through the criminal justice system with my husband," she said. "It seemed that nobody cared." She told herself, "I will be the voice for those people who don't have a voice and make sure that they know that somebody actually does care."



March 27, 2013

Proloy K. Das
Partner at *Rome McGuigan, P.C.*

Das handles appeals and special litigation in criminal, civil, contract, and family law cases. "The interesting thing about appellate work," he said, "is that you really are in every area of the law. Being an appellate lawyer is like being a career student, because you're always learning about different areas. . . . The rule of law is where we define society. And as an appellate lawyer you get to live that every day."



Sleith Hall Expansion Re-engineers Learning Environment

Last summer Sleith Hall began a \$12.8 million renovation and expansion plan that is providing a tremendous boost in the College of Engineering's new and foundational programs. The project, which is slated for completion in 2014, will include a two-story, 8,600 square-foot addition to the south side of the building, along with a major renovation of the building's interior.



Visit www.wne.edu/sleithproject to learn more about this latest investment in the Western New England University campus.

"The alumni I've talked to are extremely enthusiastic about the metamorphosis of Sleith Hall—and justifiably so," says College of Engineering Dean S. Hossein Cheraghi. "It will provide a premier home for our excellent and expanding programs. The laboratories and classrooms will be equipped with the latest technology and will greatly enhance our competitive position in the world of higher education."

Upon completion, Sleith Hall will boast two new computer facilities, a materials characterization lab, four lab facilities for the Civil and Environmental Engineering program, a biofuel lab, a Freshman Design and Innovation lab, an expanded instrumentation lab, and a hospital suite built to simulate a hospital environment for the rapidly growing program in Biomedical Engineering.



Caramagna



Casartello Jr.



Lind



Konarski

Two Law Alumni Among Newest University Board of Trustee Appointees

The Board of Trustees welcomed four new members recently, including **Carmel A. Caramagna L'84**, **Charles R. Casartello Jr. L'87**, **Dennis M. Lind '80**, and **Michael Konarski '13**. Both Caramagna and Lind were appointed to three-year terms.

Carmel Caramagna is a Senior Vice President at Houston Casualty Company in New York City. She is a member of the New Jersey, New York, and Massachusetts Bars and has served as board attorney for Rutherford (NJ) Downtown Partnership as well as a member of the finance committee at the Church of St. Mary in Rutherford. Recently, Caramagna served

a two-year term as Alumni Trustee. She earned her BA in Political Science with a minor in Business Administration from Rutgers University, her JD from Western New England University School of Law, and a Diploma in Real Estate Investment Analysis from New York University.

Charles R. Casartello Jr. will serve a two-year term as Law Alumni Trustee. He received a BS from Springfield College and JD from Western New England University School of Law. He is a partner in the law firm of Pellegrini, Seeley, Ryan & Blakesley, PC, located in Springfield. In addition, he has been involved for many years on the board of directors of Community Legal Aid and with the Griffin's Friends Marathon Challenge Children's Cancer Fund.

Dennis Lind serves as Vice President of Design & Engineering and Global Integrated Facility & Operations Strategy at Walt Disney Parks & Resorts and is also a licensed professional engineer in the state of Florida.

While at Walt Disney World, Lind has sponsored and established an internship program, which

includes students from more than 65 universities and colleges in the United States. Lind serves on the Western New England University College of Engineering Industry Advisory Board and was recently inducted into the University's Engineering Hall of Fame. He earned his BS in Engineering from Western New England University and his MBA from Webster University in St. Louis.

Michael J. Konarski was appointed to serve a one-year term on the board as Alumni Trustee. He graduated from Western New England University in May with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and certification in SAP Software. At the University, he was recognized with the 2013 Student Association First Year Success Cocurricular Award for demonstrating an on-going commitment to first year students. He served as President of the student group One in Four, part of a national organization devoted to ending sexual assault, and was a four-year member of the Class of 2013 Class Council. In addition, Konarski was honored with the Alumni



College of Business Awards First Frances and Norman Cohen Endowed Scholarships

An active philanthropist, Frances Cohen, wife of alumnus and entrepreneur Norman Cohen '34, was a savvy investor and generous supporter of Western New England University.

At her passing in 2011, Frances bequeathed a \$1 million gift to the Western New England University College of Business. Her generosity has funded a new trading room, student-managed investment fund, and established the Frances and Norman Cohen Endowed Scholars Program.

On August 23, the College of Business recognized the first Cohen Scholars at a luncheon ceremony. The recipients include juniors Abigail Brown, Thomas Cowin, and P. J. Nassar. Brown is a junior majoring in Accounting and Finance. Cowin is majoring in International Business. Nassar is double majoring in Accounting and Finance.

(L-R) Frances Cohen's longtime friend and attorney Jeff Sagalyn L'76, Peter Nassar, Abigail Brown, Thomas Cowin, and Dean Julie Siciliano



Tribal Counsel: Alums Travel Unusual Corporate Path at Mohegan Sun

By Mary McLean Orszulak G'10

For Scott Wells '97, the walk to his office is a daily adventure. Each morning, he passes by the roaring 55-foot high Taughannick Falls waterfall and spectacular Chihuly glass sculpture at the Mohegan Sun Resort and Casino in Uncasville, CT. He winds through the property's soon-to-be expanded retail hub and occasionally spies a passing celebrity scheduled to appear at the casino's top-ranked arena that evening.

On some days, he pauses for a moment to gaze up at the ceiling, where millions of intricate beading and carvings pay homage to the facility's tribal roots to create a patron experience unlike any other. Nearly nine years into his tenure with the gaming industry giant, Scott still takes great pride in working for an organization that is attentive to even such minute details.

That focus comes with the territory in his work as Vice President and General Counsel for the Mohegan Tribal Gaming Authority (MTGA), the business arm of Mohegan Sun.



"I'm proud to be a part of this entity," says Scott, who has a key role in managing Mohegan's \$1.7 billion in bond and debt financing. Included among them is the monumental task of securing partnerships and financing for the Tribe's ambitious \$1 billion casino and recreation destination proposed for Palmer, MA, just miles from the Western New England campus.

One of the unique aspects of working for MTGA is dealing with legal issues arising at the intersection of transactional and tribal law. "The Tribe is a sovereign Indian nation with its own constitution, laws, government, court system, police and fire departments," he says. "It's a microcosm."

In addition to in-house counsel like Scott, the Mohegan Tribe maintains tribal law attorneys to handle complex issues that fall into their domain.

Scott joined the Mohegan Sun organization in 2005 following stints in corporate/securities

firms in New York City and Norwalk, CT. He brought much to the table, including a business degree from the University of Connecticut and an LLM in Taxation from New York University School of Law. While earning his JD at Western New England, he served as managing editor of the *Western New England Law Review*, an experience that sharpened his natural penchant for clear and concise communication, a necessity when one constantly walks the lines between the legal and financial worlds.

The Art of the Deal

Scott's focus today is on the future as he brings those skills to bear setting up mega-deals for new properties such as the proposed Massachusetts project and others in development in Philadelphia and Washington State. Keeping current properties in the black, particularly in a down economy, also takes artful negotiation and management of Mohegan's billion-dollar plus bond and debt portfolio. Adding to Scott's challenges is distinguishing the highly successful Mohegan Tribe from other gaming Indian tribes that have experienced financial difficulties. "They tend to paint you with same brush," says Scott.

Scott and his colleagues have made concerted efforts to change that perception. "Today," he says, "people are excited to do business with us because they know we're different. We're a strong operation and attentive to detail. That good name helps me because there are always new deals to do."

Scott works closely with fellow alumnus **Joseph Lobe '09**, Legal Counsel and Senior Financial Analyst for MTGA. Joe began working in the gaming industry as a Hotel Income Audit Clerk at Foxwoods Resort Casino working the graveyard shift the summer of his junior year in college. When Joe graduated with a BS in Accounting from Eastern Connecticut State University, the casino offered him a promotion. Joe took a chance on the gaming industry and hasn't looked back.

Joe worked at Foxwoods and later at Mohegan Sun as a Financial Analyst when he attended the part-time evening law program at Western New England.

In his dual role at MTGA, Joe's time is split 60 percent on legal issues and 40 percent on

business financial matters. He seconds Scott's assertion that the combination of business and legal backgrounds coupled with strong communication skills are key to standing out in the corporate arena. He also continues to rely heavily on lessons learned from Dean Eric Gouvin's Contracts class.

This semester, Joe is at the head of his own class as an adjunct professor teaching Hospitality Law at Mitchell College.

Joe laughs when considering the unusual scope of his responsibilities at MTGA. "I have actually handled contracts for manure removal because we have a racetrack at our Mohegan Sun Pocono Downs property. But I also have negotiated contracts for MTV to film here and recently worked with Scott on a contract for a Jennifer Lopez concert."

He routinely works on reviewing leases for the Mohegan Sun mall retailers, administering service contracts, and handling demand letters for contractors who failed to meet obligations.

Joe also has been deeply involved in the Palmer project. MTGA is one of three western Massachusetts bidders vying for a gaming license from the Massachusetts Gaming Commission. Selection is expected next spring.



Like Scott, Joe has fully embraced the unique corporate culture created by the Mohegan Tribe. "It's the variety that I like about this industry," he says. "Every day is different. You get great exposure and the opportunity to work on a wide array of things." ♦

(Facing page) Scott Wells '97 (left) and Joseph Lobe '09 (right)

roundup of regional receptions and activities

Reunion 2013: Celebrating the Ties That Bind

What makes a law school reunion different from your college or high school gathering? And more importantly, why should you never miss one?



(Top photo) Andrew Herreth '08 receives a Western New England University School of Law mug from outgoing dean Art Gaudio; (Left) the class of 1983 poses for the camera; and (Right) alums James Van Hoof Jr. '88, Toby Wilson '88, and Michael Borg '88 share stories at the reunion.

If you can't make it back to the School of Law to reconnect, we may be coming to a city near you!

◀ “It’s the bonds of the first year experience—that whole fox hole type of connection that makes it different,” says **Michael Borg ’88**, who has been actively coordinating his class reunions for nearly two decades. “You’re all in it together. It was like going through mental boot camp.”

Such bonds were rekindled on Friday, June 6, when members of the Class of 1983 kicked off Reunion Weekend festivities with dinner at Mama Iguana’s restaurant in downtown Springfield.

On Saturday night, nearly 100 alums and guests representing the Classes of 1983, 1988, 1993, 1998, 2003, and 2008 attended Reunion 2013 at the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.

The classmates talked of their careers and passions, favorite past-times, and family news. They shared first-year war stories and dusted off old inside jokes.

Mike, a partner with Soffer, Rech & Borg, LLP in Manhattan, feels his class is particularly close because its members coalesced so well together. “One name that came up a lot at reunion was Frank Motley, the Dean of Admissions back in the eighties, who played a significant role in influencing many of us to come here.

“I think he saw that as a group we would work well together and I’ve observed that in other classes from that era.”

What was the best part of reunion for Mike? “It was like we picked up where we left off with the same stories, the same jokes,” he laughed. “There was definitely less hair—or grayer hair—but otherwise it was like 25 years had never happened.”

Young Alums Take a Walk Down Memory Lane

Andrew Herreth ’08 traveled all the way from Houston to be a part of his five-year reunion, the first for his class.

“Attending the reunion was important for me because our campus is undergoing major changes and so far I’ve only read about them in *Perspectives*,” says Andy, who recently joined Encore Capital Group Inc. as a staff attorney.

“I really wanted to see the expansion, the new library, and the classrooms firsthand,” he says. “On Friday afternoon, **Scott Patterson ’08** (who traveled from Florida), **Adam Keating ’08**, **Ian Naramore ’08**, **Michael Gilligan ’08**, **Ken Daniels ’08**, and I walked the halls, said ‘hello’ to professors and administrators, and reminisced on our time at Western New England. Everyone agreed that the School looks great, is growing well with the times, and has served us well as alumni by bringing in quality law students.”

Beyond returning for reunions, even as a recent alum Andy says, “I feel its important for the alumni to stay connected to the School of Law and to give back. I think its necessary for future growth to have an alumni population with a strong relationship with the School.”

FIRST TUESDAYS

Feb 5, 2013

The First Tuesdays alumni networking event was hosted by **Glen Ringbloom ’05** at Max Burger in Longmeadow, MA. Fifteen alums attended.

March 5, 2013

In March First Tuesdays drew 17 alums to JP’s Restaurant in Holyoke, MA. **Shana Wilson ’10** served as the alumni host.

April 9, 2013

Returning to an old student hangout, 15 alums reconnected at Theodore’s in Springfield, MA, with host **Chris Todd ’00**.

May 7, 2013

Fourteen alums from the Berkshires held a spring gathering at Patrick’s Pub in Pittsfield, MA. hosted by **Jonathan Mack ’07**.

June 4, 2013

Jon Longobardi ’10 hosted 11 Fairfield County alums at a First Tuesday event held at Darien Social, a hot spot in the rejuvenated downtown of Darien, CT.

ALUMNI RECEPTION

May 8, 2013

An Alumni Reception in upstate New York was attended by 13 alums at the Bull & Bear Pub in Syracuse. The event was hosted by **Hon. Nick DeMartino ’83** and cosponsored by the Onondaga County Bar Association.



DIAL-A-LAWYER

May 21, 2013

31 volunteer lawyers

RED SOX OUTING

July 25, 2013

Red Sox Game vs Tampa Bay Rays – 110 alums, staff and friends.

CORRECTION: In the spring 2013 issue of *Perspectives* (page 8) the photo four identification should have read: Lillian Green-Gray ’12 and Noel Bishop ’13.

SAVE the DATE

REUNION 2014 / Class Years Ending in “4” and “9”

**Saturday, June 7, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.
Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame**

Visit www.law.wne.edu/alumni
for details and reservations.

Keep informed about speakers, events, and other news of the School of Law by visiting www.law.wne.edu. For news about the Law Alumni Association, visit

www.law.wne.edu/alumni



ALUMNI Notes

FALL 2013



Darling '77



Riley '78



Nicolai '79

1970

Class Agent Hon. Peter Sokaris
usapgs@nycap.rr.com

1973

Class Agent Dr. Walter Powell
WVP29@aol.com

1974

40 Years

CLASS REUNION
June 7, 2014

WANTED:
Reunion Volunteers

1976

Class Agent Gary Thomas
gary@wealthtechnology.com

David Gallop has retired from the Bureau of National Affairs, Inc., where he was a Legal Editor for more than 32 years. He and his wife are spending their time traveling and cruising.

1977

Class Agent Marty Martin marty_martin@martinlegalhelp.com

Hyman G. Darling has been appointed as secretary of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys 2013-2014 board of directors. Hyman has also been distinguished as a New England "Super Lawyer" in *Boston Magazine*.

Marty Martin was the featured speaker for the *Philanthropy Journal* webinar entitled "How to Start a Nonprofit—A Step by Step Guide." Marty's law firm in Raleigh, NC, serves as counsel for and provides training to nonprofit and tax-exempt organizations and their boards of directors.

William T. Walsh Jr. has been selected as an assistant clerk in Hampden Superior Court (MA). William is filling the position left when **Laura S. Gentile '91** was elected Hampden Superior Court Clerk.

1978

The Honorable Michael E. Riley was awarded the Connecticut Trial Lawyers Judicial Award for 2013. His sons **Mark A. Riley '07** and **Jacob P. Riley '10** are also attorneys in Connecticut. His daughter, **Kathleen E. Riley '13**, is also an alumna of the School of Law.

William L. Whitman is the owner and manager of New Community Partners, LLC, located in Washington, DC, which focuses on building, rebuilding, and preserving communities through the creation of real estate value in underserved markets nationally. William has over 25 years' experience in the fields of urban planning, real estate development, and law in both the public and private sectors.

1979

35 Years

CLASS REUNION
June 7, 2014

WANTED:
Reunion Volunteers

Class Agents: Anne Geoffrion
anne.geoffrion@jud.state.ma.com
Deborah Grover
attorneygrover@comcast.net
Lew Kurland
lkurland@verizon.net

Col. Brian P. Farley (correction) has become Deputy Chief of Staff for the New York Guard at Camp Smith Training site in Peekskill, NY. He has also received the New York State Conspicuous Service Medal for his service as Brigade Commander since 2003, leading the unit's soldiers at Fort Drum during Operations Phoenix and Patriot East, supporting and preparing regular

Army, Army National Guard, U.S. Air Force and Dutch and Belgian air forces for combat. As acting Brigade Commander, Farley led activated brigade soldiers at the time of the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center.

Paul Peter Nicolai is the newest registered mentor at Valley Venture Mentors. Mentors volunteer their time to advise and help startup companies plan and network at monthly meetings. Attorney Nicolai will provide advice on business, legal, and capital-raising planning.

1980

Michael S. Haigh has become a partner at PB Mares in Richmond, VA, where he focuses on business and estate planning.

1981

Class Agent Bill Stevens
wmstevens@snet.net

Jay M. Elias has been appointed to the board of directors at Hospice & Palliative Care Federation of Massachusetts. Attorney Elias specializes in healthcare law and is currently President of the Dyer-Lake Charitable Foundation, Inc. and also serves as General Counsel & Managing Partner of Dyer-Lake Funeral Home and Cremation Services, LLC, located in North Attleboro.

Edward J. McDonough has been confirmed as a Hampden County Superior Court Judge for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

1982

Class Agent Tina S. Page
tina.page@comcast.net

Anthony J. Andrade, a partner at Shook, Hardy & Bacon, LLP, hosted Western New England University President Anthony S. Caprio for the first University and School of Law Alumni Dinner in the Kansas City area.

Tony and his wife, Carolyn, were very happy to open their home to Dr. Caprio and Western New England University alumni.

Lisa A. Prager has joined the firm of Schulte, Roth & Zabel, LLP, located in New York City. Lisa is a partner focusing on the areas of government investigations and enforcement.

1983

Class Agents: Maureen Burns
meh@pellegrinolawfirm.com
Ellen Teller
eteller@frac.org

Sem Aykanian has been elected as the new chairman of the board of the Marlborough Savings Bank. Sem has been a director of the board and a member of the investment and compensation committees since 2004.

Charles J. Emma has retired after 26 years of practicing law, and has founded Aqua Vitae Realty Company in Punta Gorda, FL.

Karen A. Goodrow has been confirmed as a New London District Superior Court Judge for the State of Connecticut. She was a longtime public defender and the former director of the Connecticut Innocence Project.

1984

30 Years

CLASS REUNION
June 7, 2014

WANTED:
Reunion Volunteers

Class Agent Ina Forman
aliforman@aol.com

Carmel A. Caramangna has been named to the Western New England University Board of Trustees. Carmel is employed as a Senior Vice President at HCC Indemnity Guaranty Agency, Inc. in New York City.



Elias '81



Aykanian '83



Scala '84



Denver '92



Fallon '95

Irve J. Goldman has received recertification in business bankruptcy law. Attorney Goldman is a partner in the law firm of Pullman & Comley, LLC, in Bridgeport, CT.

Joseph C. Scala has been appointed to serve as the first in-house general counsel for Beech-Nut Nutrition Corporation where he will oversee the establishment of their in-house legal department. Attorney Scala will continue to serve his private practice clients through the Law Office of Joseph C. Scala, LLP, in Saratoga Springs, NY.

1985

Marshall Caggiano was recently appointed into the Senior Executive Service (SES) of the federal government at the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Office of the General Counsel (OGC) in Washington, DC. Upon appointment he was selected to be the Associate General Counsel for the Technology Programs Law Division, where he is the primary legal advisor to DHS's Under Secretary for Science and Technology. He oversees legal services to DHS's Office of Health Affairs, Defense Nuclear Detection Office, and the Intellectual Property Group. He serves the entire DHS enterprise, including its legacy components like FEMA, Secret Service and the U.S. Coast Guard. Marshall joined DHS OGC five years ago after retiring as a colonel from the U.S.A.F. JAG Corps following 22 years on active duty. He earned his LL.M. degree in Environmental Law at the George Washington University Law School in 1992.

1986

*Class Agent Judith Jones
jonesjh@aetna.com*

Kathleen T. Breck was a panelist for the fourth annual Women in Law program held at Western New England University School of Law held April 11, 2013. Kathleen is the Deputy City Solicitor for the City of Springfield Law Department.

Elton "Bud" Harvey III has been elected Chairman of the Connecticut Bar Association Real Property Section for 2013-2014. His firm, Baillie & Hershman, has offices in Cheshire, West Hartford, Norwalk, and Norwich, CT.

1988

*Class Agent Michael Borg
mborg@SRBLLP.com*

Michael A. Borg has accepted a position as Adjunct Professor in the Department of Criminal Justice & Paralegal Studies at Briarcliffe College in Bethpage, NY. He will be teaching Legal Aspects of Business. Michael is a partner in the law firm of Soffer, Rech & Borg, LLP, located in New York City.

James Van Hoof has joined Hubbell Incorporated of Shelton, CT, as Vice President of the tax department.

1989

25 Years

CLASS REUNION
June 7, 2014

WANTED:
Reunion Volunteers

Kathleen Carrigan is founder of Carrigan & Associates, LLC, which offers legal, regulatory, strategic planning and public relations in the energy and telecommunications industries. Previously, Kathleen was senior Vice President, General Counsel, and Corporate Secretary for ISO New England Inc.

1990

*Class Agent Kathleen Porter
kporter@rc.com*

Robyn Stewart Johnson has been confirmed as a judge of the Hartford District Superior Court for the State of Connecticut. She was a Senior Assistant State's attorney.

1991

Philmore H. Colburn II is the Co-managing Partner at the firm of Cantor Colburn, LLP, located in Hartford, CT. The firm has been ranked one of the top 10 patent law firms in the U.S. by *Intellectual Property Today*.

Joshua Hawks-Ladds has been recognized as the March of Dimes Connecticut Chapter's 2012 "Volunteers of Excellence" at its third annual Franklin Delano Roosevelt Spirit of Giving celebration. A member of the Chapter board since 1996, Joshua has served as the chair of the board of directors, and currently serves as its chapter's counsel. Joshua is a partner in the law firm of Pullman & Comley, which is also a leading supporter of March for Babies.

Michael K. Yudin was the keynote speaker at the Supporting Students, Saving Lives fourth annual national Educator Conference hosted by San Diego State University's Center for Excellence in School Counseling and Leadership (CESCaL). Michael is the acting Assistant Secretary of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services for the U. S. Department of Education.

1992

Russell F. Denver has joined FieldEddy Insurance as an Employee Benefits Compliance Specialist. Previously, Russell was the president of the Affiliated Chambers of Commerce of Greater Springfield, and has also practiced employment law.

1993

*Class Agents: Katie Stone-Harrington
bharrington5207@comcast.net
Holly Lemieux
hlemieux@lynchlynch.com*

Dean Dulchinos is currently Portfolio Manager for Cornerstone Real Estate Adviser's commercial real estate debt program, where he is responsible for

investment strategy, portfolio finance, and reporting, located in Hartford, CT.

1994

20 Years

CLASS REUNION
June 7, 2014

WANTED:
Reunion Volunteers

Hope C. Button was a panelist for the fourth annual Women in Law program held at Western New England University School of Law. Hope is a civil and criminal litigator with the law firm of Denner Pellegrino, in Springfield, MA.

Timothy P. Murray has accepted a private-sector position as President and CEO of the Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce. Previously, he was the Lieutenant Governor of Massachusetts.

1995

Charlene (Williamson) Fallon and her law firm partner, James Linnan, were sixth in the nation in *Lawyers USA's* list of the Top 10 Jury Verdicts for 2012 for their \$144,690,039 jury verdict. The case involved a claim against a hospital for failing to recognize or properly treat a heart attack for Fallon's client, causing severe and permanent damage to her heart. The resulting verdict was not only the sixth largest in the country for 2012, it was also the largest in New York State. Fallon's firm, Linnan & Fallon, LLP, is based in Albany with offices also in Glens Falls, Catskill, and Oneonta, and it specializes in representing clients who have been injured while in the healthcare system. Ms. Fallon was working as a registered nurse while she attended the School of Law evening program.

1996

Lauren Elliott is currently the assessor for Greenwich, CT. Previously, Lauren was principal at New England Property Tax Group.

(Continued next page)



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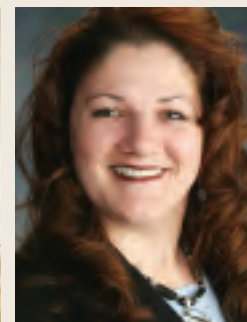
Western New England University School of Law



Fava '96



Palermo '96



Barry '99

Gina Pangione Fava recently released her new suspense novel, *The Race: A Hell Ranger Thriller*, which draws from her time spent living in Rome and her passion for car racing.

Ingrid C. Palermo has joined the Rochester, NY, firm of Bond, Schoeneck & King, PLLC, as a partner, where she focuses on business restructuring, creditors' rights, and bankruptcy.

Allayne W. Proels is currently an attorney with the firm of Proels & Proels in Beachwood, OH.

1997

*Class Agent: Michael Blanchard
michael.blanchard@bingham.com*

Anthony V. Zeolla is the founder and managing partner of the Zeolla law firm, with offices in Avon and Greenwich, CT. The firm specializes in real estate and litigation with an emphasis on mortgage lending, foreclosure, loss mitigation, and asset protection. The firm also handles complex commercial and residential real estate transactions. As of-counsel to 12 law firms in eight states, Attorney Zeolla represents clients in state and federal courts throughout Connecticut and Massachusetts. He was previously associated with Morrison Mahoney, LLP, and Merrill Lynch Global Wealth Management.

1998

Darlene N. Massery has joined TA Associates, located in Boston, as the Director of Human Resources.

1999

15 Years

CLASS REUNION
June 7, 2014

WANTED:
Reunion Volunteers

*Class Agent Rebecca Mitchell
proakisbeck28@yahoo.com*

Gina M. Barry has been distinguished as a New England "Rising Star" in *Boston* magazine. She is a member of the estate planning and elder law department at Bacon Wilson, P.C., in Springfield, MA.

Gineen Bresso has joined the Wasie Foundation, located in Fort Lauderdale, FL, as director and general counsel.

Erik Ness is currently the owner of Ness Law, LLC, in Somers, CT. Attorney Ness focuses on matters involving utility, energy, and environmental law.

Patrick J. Stanzione's law firm, Stanzione & Kim, LLP, has been recognized by *Intellectual Assets Magazine*, based in London, as one of the top 10 Intellectual Property Law Firms in the United States for quality. Patrick's law firm is located in Washington, DC.

2000

*Class Agent Jim Winston
james@jameswinstonlaw.com*

Justin H. Dion has been distinguished as a New England "Rising Star" in *Boston* magazine. He focuses on insolvency, business, and financial matters at Bacon Wilson, P.C., located in Springfield, MA.

Kevin Erwin is an auditor with the Litigation Cost Management Group with Chubb Insurance in Hartford, CT.

Suzanne Giorno is currently a financial advisor at Merrill Lynch Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated, in New London, CT.

Jeremy C. Johnson and his wife, **Amy C. (Smith) Johnson '01**, welcomed their third child to the world, Cole Magnus Johnson, on May 30, 2013. Jeremy is a partner at the Virginia-based law firm of Johnson, Gasink & Baxter, LLP.

Carolyn L. McCaffrey has established the McCaffrey Law Firm P.C. in Enfield, CT, where she focuses on civil litigation.

2001

*Class Agents: Jenny Desch
Jenny.desch@yorkcountygov.com
Jennifer Zalnasky
jkzesq@comcast.net*

Amy C. (Smith) Johnson and her husband, **Jeremy C. Johnson '00**, welcomed their third child to the world, Cole Magnus Johnson, on May 30, 2013.

Stephanie Reynolds, a partner at the firm of Pope, Berger & Williams, LLP, located in San Diego, CA, and her husband, Gary Reynolds '92 engineering alum, hosted President Anthony S. Caprio for a University and School of Law Alumni dinner at the Crossings at Carlsbad, in Carlsbad, CA.

2002

Adam J. Basch has been distinguished as a New England "Rising Star" in *Boston* magazine. He is a member of the litigation department at Bacon Wilson, P.C., located in Springfield, MA.

Carmina Fernandes was recently interviewed for the community profile column in *BusinessWest* magazine. Carmina serves on the Town of Ludlow's Board of Selectman and the East of the River 5 Town Chamber of Commerce board, in addition to owning a law practice in Ludlow, MA.

Crescent A. Moran has become a partner in the law firm of Honigman, Miller, Schwartz, and Cohn, LLP, located in Detroit, where she practices in the corporate department focusing on executive compensation and employee benefits matters.

Paul Pimpinella has been named to the board of trustees for the Presbyterian Homes Foundation. Paul is managing partner and principal at the law firm of Compson & Pimpinella, PLLC, in Utica, NY.

Gautam Sen is currently Senior In-House Counsel for Constellation Energy Nuclear Group, located in Baltimore.

2003

*Class Agent Karen Romano
karen161@msn.com*

Benjamin M. Coyle has been distinguished as a New England "Rising Star" in *Boston* magazine. He is a member of the business & corporate, estate planning, and elder, litigation, and municipal departments at Bacon Wilson, P.C., in Springfield, MA.

Brian J. Ladouceur Jr. is currently General Counsel and Vice President of materials at Accel International, located in Meriden, CT.

Peter Wagner has been awarded the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers' third Champion of State Criminal Justice Reform Award at NACDL's 12th Annual State Criminal Justice Network Conference in San Francisco. This award honors individuals or groups whose exceptional efforts have led toward progressive reform of a state criminal justice system. Peter is currently the Executive Director of the Prison Policy Initiative.

2004

10 Years

CLASS REUNION
June 7, 2014

WANTED:
Reunion Volunteers

*Class Linda Fakhoury
fakhourylaw@aol.com*

Become a Class Agent

If you are interested in serving as a Class Agent, please contact Carol Thompson at cthompson@law.wne.edu or visit the School of Law Alumni Class Agent webpage in the "Get Involved" section.



Dion '00



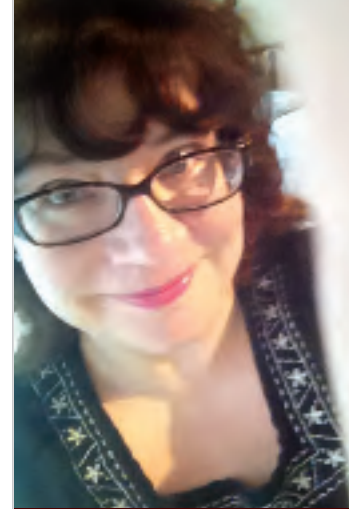
Johnson '00/'01



Basch '02



Coyle '03



Sarah Butterfield '00

*Director of Consumer Sales & Counsel
Mace Personal Defense & Security, Inc.
Bennington, VT*



Amie M. Kingman '04 married Daniel Charles McEleny on September 2, 2012, in Carolla on the Outer Banks of North Carolina. Amie's matron of honor was **Jennifer Mancini '04**. **Nicole Bertrand Boston '04** served as a bridesmaid, and was accompanied by husband, **Adam Boston '04**. Their son, Declan, served as ring bearer.

2005

*Class Agent: Kelly Cooper Miller
kelleycoopermiller@mac.com*

Debra A. Curry was recently admitted to the New York State Bar. She is also a member of the Connecticut Bar and working for the Office of the State Comptroller in Albany.

Andrew Markowski is the founding principal of Statehouse Associates, LLC, located in Avon, CT, which is a full-service government relations and public affairs firm that is uniquely positioned to help develop legislative and regulatory solutions for businesses or organizations.

Ryan McKeen has opened his solo practice, McKeen Law Firm, LLC, located in Glastonbury, CT, where he focuses on Connecticut trial and real estate law.

2006

*Class Agent: Julia Lentini Marquis
juliaklentini@gmail.com*

Ijeoma A. Ugezi is currently an associate with the firm of Cordell & Cordell, located in Houston, TX.

2007

*Class Agents: Kelly Koch
kellykoch32@gmail.com
Stephanie Schlatter
sschlatter@hotmail.com*

Jane L. Albrecht Mantolesky has joined the firm of Fitzgerald Attorneys at Law, located in East Longmeadow, MA, where she practices in the areas of estate planning and probate administration, corporate law, real estate transactions, banking law, and litigation. Prior to joining the firm, Jane was associated with Jack Mikels & Associates, LLP, in Quincy, MA, and primarily focused on banking law and litigation. Jane recently married **Gary Mantolesky '07**, a claims manager at The Hartford Insurance Group.

Teresa Bogacz is currently an International Trade Compliance Manager in the finance department at Pratt & Whitney, located in East Hartford, CT.

Benjamin A. Bristol is an associate attorney at Royal LLP, of Northampton, MA, focusing his practice on matters including labor relations, workplace safety and OSHA, unfair competition and trade secrets, employee privacy, disability and other leave laws.

Brendan Witherell has joined Fiserv, Inc. as senior corporate counsel, located in Glastonbury, CT.

2008

*Class Agents: Kendra Berardi
Kendra.berardi@gmail.com
Michelle Hummer
mhummer@ofalaw.com*

Michael Belarmino is now Associate Legislative Director/Associate General Counsel at National Association of Counties in Washington, DC.

Kenneth B. Danielsen is currently an associate with the firm of Kaufman, Dolowich & Voluck, LLP, located in Hackensack, NJ. Attorney Danielsen regularly appears in the state and federal courts of New York and argues cases involving construction site defects and accidents, maritime catastrophes, ship allisions and collisions, general personal injury, products liability, professional liability, employment discrimination, and not-for-profit liability involving serious injury or death.

Andrew R. Herreth has recently accepted a position as staff counsel for Encore Capital Group Inc., located in Houston. He also received the "farthest traveled award" at our Law School Reunion 2013. See article on page 32.

Where are they now?

What are your primary responsibilities at Mace?

"I acquire, manage, and maintain the consumer sales of Mace products in the United States. I also draft and negotiate contracts, such as sales or licensing agreements, for other sales categories, including sporting goods, law enforcement, and international, and for the acquisition of new products."

What aspects of the job are you most passionate about?

"I am most excited about my work lobbying on behalf of revised pepper spray laws in the United States. For the past year, I have been working with Gailanne Cariddi, representative to the Massachusetts House of Representatives for the 1st Berkshire District, on the revision of the Commonwealth's current restrictive pepper spray laws. We are working to change the classification of pepper sprays from *weapon* to *self-defense tool*, its true purpose. I hope that the revised language will become law in 2014."

Are you a consumer of your company's products?

"Luckily, I have never had to use any of our Mace pepper sprays in a scary situation. I have tested them several times over the years—one of the great things about our products is that they are easy to use, even for a novice like myself. We also have home protection tools like our Big Jammer, which I use on doors in my house."

What did you enjoy most about law school?

"Western New England was a wonderful experience. I must admit I enjoyed studying law more than practicing it! Professor Goldstein's advanced evidence class allowed me to combine two of my interests, law and history, and Professor Baker really pushed me to think like a lawyer, which was difficult to do, coming from a history background."

(Continued next page)

ALUMNI Notes

FALL 2013



Sarah Mullins '93
Associate General Counsel, Yankee Candle
Deerfield, MA

Where are they now?

How did you end up at Yankee Candle?

I like to say I found my job through Monster. I was working at Fidelity Investments and I loved my job, but I was commuting to Boston from western Massachusetts every day. So I started looking around to see what was available. Monster had an ad for Yankee Candle. Luckily, the sun, the moon, and the stars all aligned. I was what they were looking for and they were certainly what I was looking for. It's been a wonderful nine years.

What do you do all day?

A little bit of everything. We have a very small legal department, so just about anything that is legally related comes across my desk. I do a lot of employment work, trademarks, patents. I do contract reviews, general corporate work, mergers and acquisitions. We are just about a billion-dollar company, with an office in the U.K. and distributors across the world, so the fact that we've got only three attorneys supporting that always blows my mind!

What law classes were particularly useful?

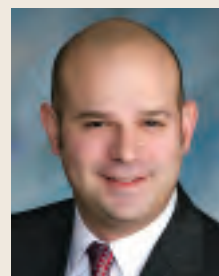
[Dean] Eric Gouvin was new when I was a first-year and I took Business Organizations with him. And I remember thinking, this is a really great class; I love this. When am I ever going to need any of this? I really didn't see myself going into the corporate side of things. I thought estate planning would be the focus of my career. In 2007, Yankee Candle went from being a publicly-traded company to a being a privately-held company, so much of what I'd learned in that class comes back to me, over and over. I'm so glad I paid attention!

Do you have candles all over your house?

I keep a stockpile in my closet. People are always asking for candles. The thing that's so nice is that you tell people where you work and they just smile! Everybody seems to like our product and have good memories of it. Everybody's got a favorite fragrance.



Shea '08



Stone '08



Reidy '11

Lina Alexandra Hogan has been given the 40 Under Forty Award by *Business-West* magazine. Alex is an associate at Shatz, Schwartz and Fentin, P.C. of Springfield, MA.

John D. Shea has joined the staff of Morrison Mahoney, LLP, providing estate planning, wills, trusts, and business succession services.

Spencer A. Stone has joined the firm of Bacon Wilson, P.C., as an associate in the bankruptcy, real estate, and business and corporate departments.

2009

CLASS REUNION
June 7, 2014

WANTED:
Reunion Volunteers

Class Agent John Bandedian
jbandedian@gmail.com

5 Years

Angelica Agnitti is an associate in the New York office of Lewis, Brisbois, Bisgaard & Smith, LLP, focusing her practice in the area of general liability.

Aziza Ashy has joined the Law Offices of Fogle Keller Purdy, PLLC, located in Hinesville, KY, where she practices in the area of workers' compensation.

Victoria Barnard is currently a casualty specialist at Safeco Insurance, located in Keene, NH.

Brett Blank has joined the Boston law firm of Proskauer Rose, LLP as a litigation associate.

Chris Borzumato has opened the Borzumato Law Office in Berlin, MA, where he focuses on bankruptcy and criminal law.

Taylor Bouchard is a family law associate at Feinberg, Mindel, Brandt & Klein, LLP in Los Angeles.

Alina Bricklin-Goldstein has joined the law firm of Schulman & Associates, and is working in the Office of the Connecticut Public Defender Child Protection Division. Alina is also a teacher and Kadima Advisor at the Emanuel Synagogue.

David Cadalso is an attorney with the New York Prosecutors Training Institute in East Greenbush, NY.

Ryan M. Caponera has joined the Caponera Law Firm located in Albany with his father, **Victor A. Caponera Jr. '77**, and his uncle Philip S. Caponera.

Francisco Antonio Cardona is working at the law offices of Gerald M. Beaudoin, LLC, in Hartford, CT.

Philip Clark is currently a procurement contract agent at Aetna Life Insurance Company in Hartford, CT.

Erielle Dexter has joined the firm of Conley & Wirick, P.A., located in Bath, ME.

Kathleen E. Dion is an associate at the firm of Robinson & Cole, LLP, in Hartford, where she is member of the Litigation Section.

James W. Donohue is an attorney with the firm of Bendett & Mchugh, P.C., in Farmington, CT.

Stephanie Duclair is a Patent Examiner at the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office, in Washington, DC.

Victoria Forcella has joined the law firm of Martha Croog, LLC in Hartford.

Anthony R. Franco is working at the Law Offices of Brian A. Desautels, LLC, is Vice President of the West Haven Chamber of Commerce, and also owner of Noble Technologies, LLC, located in Branford, CT.

Melissa S. Harris is an attorney with the Hartford law firm of Dowley & Associates.

Nathan G. Johnson is working at the law office of Shechtman Halperin Savage, LLP in Pawtucket, RI, where he focuses his practice in the area of consumer collections and creditor's rights.

Justin Kumpulianian is a managing partner at the firm of LeMay & Kumpulianian, LLC, in Hartford, CT.

Josh Papapietro is currently an investigator at the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination (MCAD) in Boston.

Lisamaria T. Proscino is a partner at Lucibello & Proscino, LLP in Orange, CT, where she focuses in the areas of criminal defense, divorce and family law, and personal injury law.

Kathleen E. Rallo is an attorney with the firm of Woolf & Macci, LLC, located in East Hartford, CT, where she focuses on civil and criminal litigation.

Sarah Biolsi Vangel is currently working at the Kramer Law Office, PC in Brattleboro, VT, where she practices in the areas of criminal law, civil litigation, real estate, and probate matters.

2010

Class Agent: Staci Zaretsky
staci.zaretsky@gmail.com

Richard C. Buturla has joined the law firm of Bercham, Moses & Devlin, P.C. in Milford, CT, where he practices in the areas of litigation and insurance defense.

Anthony C. Cillis III is an associate at the Law Office of Jonna M. Spilbor, PLLC, located in Poughkeepsie, NY.

Ann Dargie has joined the Law Offices of Jennifer Thorn, PC, in Springfield, MA.

Louis P. Del Giacco is currently an attorney with the Fulton County (NY) Department of Social Services, located in Albany, NY.

We are always interested in hearing from you. If you have news of career advancement or change, professional accomplishments or activities, marriages, births, changes in address, or any other news, please share it with us.

Email: cthompson@law.wne.edu

Charity Dore is a staff attorney with the Committee for Public Counsel Services (CPCS), in Springfield, MA.

Dustin A. Levine has joined the law offices of Ancona Associates in Mineola, NY.

Jason L. Levine has joined the law office of MurphyMcCoubrey, located in Chicopee, MA.

Melissa Mollen is an associate at Margolis Edelstein, located in Berkley Heights, NJ.

Eric J. TeVelde is an associate with the firm of Day Pitney, LLP, in Hartford, CT, where he focuses on patent prosecution and counseling, and patent litigation.

2011

*Class Agents: Julie McKenna
Julie.mckejd2@gmail.com
Maren Law
maren.law@gmail.com*

William J. Barry III has been appointed as Assistant District Attorney for Oneida County (NY), where he will be assigned to the City Court Bureau to handle various felony, misdemeanor, violations, and traffic matters.

Isaac Mass has been given the 40 Under Forty Award by *BusinessWest* magazine. Isaac is the founder of the Law Office of Isaac J. Mass in Greenfield, MA. He has also served four terms as a Greenfield town councilor.

Peter Meggers has joined the law firm of Halloran & Sage, LLP, in Hartford, CT.

Thomas R. Reidy has joined the firm of Bacon Wilson, P.C., as an associate in the litigation, real estate, and zoning departments.

Danielle Wisniewski has been promoted to Assistant Director of Undergraduate Admissions at American International College in Springfield, MA.

Di Wu is the Strategic Partnership Director at Jaben Productions, a new international movie production company.

2012

Casie Barnette is working for the State of Florida Department of Health as an Administrative Prosecutor where she enforces healthcare professional licensing laws, particularly working on emergency action cases to obtain emergency orders issued by the State Surgeon General.

Yevgeniy "Eugene" Gormakh has joined the law office of Michael S. Rose, located in New York City.

Michael O'Shea has founded the law office of Michael S. O'Shea, located in Sharon, MA. Michael is also a contact investigator for Omniplex World Services Corporation, and a police sergeant with the Quincy (MA) police department.

Nathan Scharoff has joined Hartford HealthCare as an Investment Analyst.

Melanie Skroski has joined Royal LLP, in Northampton, MA, where she will focus on labor and employment law litigation exclusively represented management.

Allison Turner has recently published her first children's book, entitled *Cameron Can Too*. The book teaches about the importance of equality and being true to oneself.

2013

*Class Agent: Amber Gould
amber.m.gould@gmail.com*

Heard Around the Common Edwin Chemerinsky on Marriage Equality



After the U.S. Supreme Court heard arguments about marriage equality, the Center for Gender and Sexuality Studies hosted an event featuring Professor and Founding Dean Erwin Chemerinsky, a renowned constitutional law scholar at the University of California Irvine School of Law, who appeared virtually via Skype:

“The very first, the modern contemporary case with regard to marriage equality is a case called *Baehr v. Lewin* in the Hawaii Supreme Court. It said that laws that deny marriage equality to gays and lesbians are a form of sex discrimination. I can't marry another man solely because of my sex. A woman cannot marry another woman solely because of her sex. That's sex discrimination.

“In *Baehr v. Lewin* there was a determination of whether or not strict scrutiny was met, because strict scrutiny was used for sex discrimination under the Hawaiian constitution. Hawaii voters then amended their constitution to prohibit same sex marriage.

“Since *Baehr v. Lewin*, courts have been unreceptive to the argument that laws that restrict marriage equality are a form of sex discrimination. Their analysis says that, well, men and women are treated the same. Men can't marry men and women can't marry women, therefore it's not sex discrimination. That's wrong, though. It's wrong because equal protection should focus on individuals, not on groups. I as an individual cannot marry a man because of my sex. That's sex discrimination. Moreover, in *Loving v. Virginia*, the case involving a Virginia law prohibiting interracial marriage, Virginia's defense was, it's not race discrimination because whites can't marry blacks and blacks can't marry whites. And the Supreme Court rejected that argument.

“I think it's equally flawed here. At one point in the oral argument, petitioning attorney Chuck Cooper was asked, is this sex discrimination, and he said, courts don't regard it as sex discrimination. I think it should be regarded as sex discrimination. That would automatically trigger intermediate scrutiny under equal protection in the U.S. Constitution.”

In Memoriam

The magazine has received notice of the deaths of the following members of the School of Law family.

Joe Ed Barbee '73 passed away December 13, 2012. He leaves his wife, Lani; daughter, Cynthia Barbee Suggs; and two sons, Adam Barbee and Walter Barbee. He is survived by his brothers Ramiro Rivera, David Barbee, Willie Barbee, George Barbee, James Barbee, and Ray Excinia.

Arthur E. Hoffman '62 passed away March 3, 2013. He is survived by his son, Arthur L.; his daughter, Lou-Ellen Renshaw; and his brother, Kenneth Hoffman.

Edward J. "Mac" McMahon '66 passed away February 28, 2013. He is survived by his wife, Mary McMahon. He also leaves his five children: Elizabeth M. Smith, Brian McMahon, Maureen McMahon, Jennifer Whiting, and Kara B. McMahon.

Geraldine Mortell '77 passed away June 9, 2013. She is survived by her brother, James J. Mortell Jr.

John E. Reed '42 passed away May 9, 2013. He is survived by his son, Stewart B. Reed.

Joseph E. Rodgers '65 passed away May 5, 2012. He leaves his wife, Shirley Rodgers; and two children, Mary P. Tomer and Dr. Joseph W. Rodgers.

Charles S. Sadoski '73 passed away January 24, 2010.

Thomas A. Waldron '73 passed away May 26, 2013. He leaves his sons, Anthony Waldron, and Christopher Waldron.

As an alumnus/a of Western New England University School of Law, the following benefits and services are available to you:

Alumni Finder and Alumni Website

Use our website to receive news from the School, access library resources, or find other Western New England University School of Law alums through our "Alumni Finder" feature. Visit www.law.wne.edu/alumni.

Continuing Legal Education Programs

Our highly successful CLE programs have covered topics ranging from probating an estate to trying OUI cases. All alums get a discounted rate of \$80. For details, visit www.law.wne.edu.

Career Services

Alumni seeking career advice or offering employment can take advantage of the services of the Office of Career Services. The office assists with résumé writing, employment correspondence, interviewing preparation, career decision-making, and job search strategy. Through the online Intercollegiate Job Bank, alums have access to job listings from law schools across the country. The office can also coordinate reciprocity of job postings with over 50 law schools. Contact Career Services at jobpost@law.wne.edu or 413-782-1416.

Networking and Referrals

Networking opportunities for alumni include, not only area receptions, but also the ability to search the alumni database. Once you have created an account and logged in, you can use the Alumni Finder online tool to search for fellow alums by different criteria such as state, grad year, or area of practice. This is also a great resource when looking for a colleague to refer a case to. Visit www.law.alumni.edu/alumni.



School of Law Library

Free access to western Massachusetts' only academic law library is an outstanding alumni resource. For hours or information, call 413-782-1457 or visit the School of Law website at www.law.wne.edu/library.

D'Amour Library

The D'Amour Library serves as a valuable resource for alumni undertaking professional research or expanding their personal reading enjoyment. Alumni I.D. card required. Call 413-782-1535 or visit <http://libraries.wne.edu>.

Law Library Access Policy for Alumni/ae

Law alums are allowed immediate access to the Law Library (after presentation of **Alumni Association ID** at the Security Desk) on weekdays until 7:00 p.m. For library use on the weekend or after 7:00 p.m. on weekdays, alums must have an Access Card to enter the building. To obtain an Access Card, complete the Library Access Form (available online at www.law.wne.edu/alumni or at the Public Safety Office) and bring it to the Public Safety Office, along with an Alumni Association ID Card and a photo ID, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday. Once obtained, the Access Card will provide access to the building on subsequent visits.

The Alumni Healthful Living Center (AHLIC)

Law alumni are welcome to use the world-class facilities of the AHLIC free of charge. Popular amenities include the fitness center, pool, and track. For details, call 413-782-1518.

Alumni Association ID Card

The Alumni Association ID allows alumni to use the resources on campus, including the Law Library and the Alumni Healthful Living Center. For details, call 413-782-1311 or email cthompson@law.wne.edu.



Alumni Publications

Alumni of the School of Law receive the full-color *Perspectives* magazine twice a year, the *Law School Digest* newsletter two times a year, and *The Law School Minute*, the Dean's email, throughout the year.

Transcript Requests Law transcripts are issued by the Student Records Office at the School of Law. For more information, call the Student Records Office at 413-782-1402 or fax your request to 413-796-2067.

Replacing a Diploma If your diploma is lost or damaged, you can replace it by calling Student Administrative Services at 800-325-1122 ext. 2080. (A \$50 service fee is required.)

J.D. Course Auditing J.D. courses in the School of Law may be audited on a space-available basis with the permission of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs by an alumnus/a who has completed the J.D. degree at Western New England University School of Law. Call 413-782-1402 or visit www.law.wne.edu/alumni.

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There's no better way to proudly display your law school connection than with a shirt or memento from the University Bookstore. For more information, call 413-782-1284 or visit www.wne.bkstr.com.

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Western New England Law Review

Law Review is now electronic!

Volume 35, Issues 1 & 2 were published entirely online in spring 2013.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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Learn more about alumni benefits and services.
www.law.wne.edu/alumni

The Office of Law Alumni Relations serves as a resource to our members, committees, and regional chapters. Feel free to contact Carol Thompson at 413-782-1311 with questions about benefits, events, or volunteer opportunities.

PERSPECTIVES

Perspectives is a publication of Western New England University School of Law.

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Dean and Professor of Law

BARBARA MOFFAT

Vice President for Marketing and External Affairs

MARY MCLEAN ORSZULAK G'10

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Elizabeth Barszcz BSBA '07



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CALENDAR of EVENTS

OCTOBER 2013	NOVEMBER 2013	DECEMBER 2013	MAY 2014
24 New York City – President's Reception at the Terrace Club 6-8:00 p.m.	8 14th annual Dinner for Students and Alumni of Color at The Carriage House at The Barney Estate, Forest Park 6-9:00 p.m.	3 12th annual Bankruptcy Conference at the Blake Law Center 4-7:00 p.m.	17 Law Commencement Ceremony 9:30 a.m.
	14 Hartford Alumni Reception at Max Downtown 6-8:00 p.m.	FEBRUARY 2014	JUNE 2014
		11-13 Florida President's Receptions	7 Reunion 2014 Celebrating the years ending in "4" and "9" at the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame 6-9:00 p.m.
		APRIL 2014	
		3 Springfield Alumni Reception	
<p>visit www.law.wne.edu</p> <p>For more information, visit www.law.wne.edu/alumni or call Carol Thompson at 413-782-1311.</p>			