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Rising to The Challenge



Phil Dorsey ('82)



Bill Blanton ('96)

From their perspective, the idea is simple, really: support the law school that played an integral part in their lives and inspire other alumni to do the same. By challenging fellow alumni either to give for the first time or increase their current giving level to new heights, **Phil Dorsey ('82)** and **Bill Blanton ('96)** have laid the foundation for The Alumni Challenge, an unprecedented fundraising campaign for Mason Law.

The two hatched the idea for The Alumni Challenge in early 2006. They have pledged to contribute a total of \$100,000 to Mason Law when 1,000 of their fellow alumni make a gift of any amount by the end of 2007. Ideally, they hope the challenge will raise \$1 million and increase alumni giving participation rates beyond the current level of 13 percent.

Who are Phil and Bill?

Two alumni from graduating classes 14 years apart, Phil Dorsey and Bill Blanton were motivated to attend the law school for different reasons and during remarkably different time periods in its existence.

Dorsey is frank about his reason for coming to Mason Law, "I chose the school after being rejected by another area law school. Thankfully, in 1979 I was selected to attend the school's summer program, run by Professor Jack

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Black Law Students Association Celebrates 20 Years at Mason Law

When the Black Law Students Association (BLSA) was first organized at Mason Law in 1986, Swatch watches were becoming the latest fashion trend, the Cosby Show was must-see TV, and Janet Jackson and Madonna dominated radio play lists. And in 1986, the nation was still waiting to see an African-American elected to the office of governor.

Fast-forward 20 years to January 18 of this year, when Mason

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Rising to The Challenge

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Costello and Dean Norvell.” The summer program was rigorous, Dorsey recalls, “but it got me ready for my spot in the class that fall.”

Dorsey was part of the first class attending a fully accredited law school for all three years. It was an exciting time, but “the atmosphere at the school was tense,” he remembers. “It was very important for us to be focused because the school’s accreditation was so new.”

Upon graduating Dorsey practiced for a D.C. law firm for a couple of years before moving back to Southern Maryland to take over his father’s law practice. He’s been there for over 20 years.

Owner of a construction company, Blanton had a “well-paid relationship with lawyers” and decided to lay himself off and apply to law school during the 1991 recession. He attended Mason Law due, in large part, to “its location and the law and economics focus, which I saw as an important tool with real practical applications.”

During school and after his graduation, Blanton remained involved in the school’s legal writing program, eventually accepting the position of director of the Legal Research and Writing Program in 1997.

Blanton left the legal writing program in 2001 and returned to his construction business full time.

The two met through business dealings and soon realized they were both alumni. Dorsey jokes that they “represent the Southern Maryland Mason Law Alumni Chapter.”

What Inspired The Alumni Challenge?

When asked how The Alumni Challenge originated, Dorsey points the finger at Blanton. “Bill started talking about doing something for the school, which appealed to me because I couldn’t have been a lawyer without the school. Costello, Norvell, the school—they gave me my chance.”

“My conversations with Dean Polsby motivated me to approach Phil about doing something,” Blanton says. “Dan realizes how easy it is for an institution to become complacent, but he refuses to accept the school’s current success as good enough. He works incredibly hard and has a defined vision for improving

the quality of the school, its faculty, and its students.”

Blanton explains the idea behind a fundraising campaign targeting alumni. “One impediment to moving forward is the law school’s ability to secure private funding, since such sources often look to alumni giving as an indicator of the quality of the institution,” he explained. “We’re still a new law school, so private sources understand that some alumni may not be able to give a lot; but it is much harder for Dean Polsby to explain away a low percentage of alumni giving.” The idea of putting up challenge dollars seemed to be “a natural way for us to help the law school achieve its goals” and get others to give.

The Alumni Challenge was formally announced by Dean Polsby in the July 2006 edition of *Mason Law News*. The campaign has its own website at www.law.gmu.edu/alumni/challenge/

that includes information about how the funds raised will be used, alumni testimonials, and an online giving form. As of February 8, 2007, nearly 600 alumni already have responded to The Alumni Challenge.

Thoughts on Why Alumni Should Give

“I think it is really important that you make a statement through giving that you are grateful for the opportunities that the law school provided you and for the work it has done throughout the years to appreciate the value of your degree,” said Dorsey.

Blanton concurs with these thoughts. “I believe many of our older alumni benefited earlier in their careers from the efforts of Norvell and Manne to build the school’s stature.” Giving to The Alumni Challenge is important because “we want recent graduates to enjoy the same benefit of a strong reputation that continues to increase over time.”

In the end, both will be happy with whatever motivates ISL and Mason Law alumni to give in response to The Alumni Challenge. Blanton jokes, “I know there are a few alumni out there who didn’t enjoy their legal writing experience while I was the director of the program. If nothing else they should look at The Alumni Challenge as an opportunity to get even, because if the campaign succeeds, I’ll have a rather large check to write to the law school.”

“...we want recent graduates to enjoy the same benefit of a strong reputation that continues to increase over time.”

Bill Blanton

THE ALUMNI CHALLENGE



A Campaign for Mason Law

www.law.gmu.edu/alumni/challenge/

Visit The Alumni Challenge website for updates on the campaign and future listings of participation rates by class year.



BLSA Celebrates 20th Anniversary

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Law students, administrators and alumni celebrated BLSA's 20th anniversary with a keynote address by L. Douglas Wilder, whom Virginians made the first elected African-American governor in United States history and the current mayor of Richmond.

It is clear that much has changed since 1986, but the mission of BLSA at Mason has not. The group's founders envisioned an organization that would help meet the needs of the law school's increasingly diverse population, which included a growing number of African-American students. Under the guidance of Professor Veryl Miles, these students sought to facilitate both the personal and professional development of the membership, while making community service a cornerstone of their activities.

Twenty years later, BLSA continues to emphasize diversity and community-based programming. Working with other student groups such as the Hispanic Law Students Association, they participate in an annual diversity reception and help plan other multi-cultural events.

In the last year, BLSA has joined with the law school admissions office to assist with minority recruitment. By corresponding with prospective students and participating in a reception for students considering Mason, BLSA has a direct hand in fostering diversity at the school.

The chapter also traditionally hosts speakers in observance of Black History Month and other events. Inspired by their 20th anniversary, this year BLSA's officers decided to formalize this practice, which led to the establishment of the L. Douglas Wilder Seminar Series.

Mayor Wilder is a native Virginian whose achievements as an attorney and public official led to his selection as the namesake for the series, which was announced at the January 18 celebration attended by Wilder. The series will highlight the accomplishments of African-American attorneys in Virginia, and the inaugural seminar featured BLSA's first faculty advisor and now dean of Catholic University's Columbus School of Law, Veryl Miles, on February 19.

BLSA president Rex Flynn (3L) says the Wilder series is just one way the current leadership is leaving its mark on the chapter.

A newly established TWEN site contains a growing database of over 100 outlines contributed by current students and alumni. The site also includes an alumni database to facilitate networking and enhance alumni relations. The site is accessible to all BLSA members, maximizing its utility.

Asked what he wished for Mason's BLSA chapter in the next 20 years, Flynn touched on the professional development benefits of BLSA membership.

"I would like to see a robust BLSA alumni group whose members, like our current alumni, continue to mentor and give advice to student members," he said.

Kellie Budd, a 2005 graduate and former BLSA president, echoed Flynn's wishes for alumni involvement, noting that the chapter has been "re-energized" in recent years.

"I hope that alumni will recognize the efforts of the current students and get involved to do their part in building an even stronger BLSA," commented Budd.

Underscoring the value of BLSA membership and its role at Mason Law, Budd observed, "As an alumna, the relationships I developed through BLSA continue to help me both professionally and personally, and the conferences, seminars, and other BLSA events continue to provide me with opportunities to create new relationships."

Do you have a BLSA story to tell? Alumni are encouraged to share their memories of BLSA membership in honor of the chapter's 20th anniversary. Please send your comments to lawalum@gmu.edu or call 703-993-8112.



L. Douglas Wilder, mayor of Richmond and former governor of Virginia, poses with members of Mason Law's Black Law Students Association, now celebrating its 20th anniversary at the law school.

When in Rome...

Peter Ganser ('00), along with wife Michelle (at rear), at a diplomatic reception with Pope Benedict. Peter is serving on a diplomatic assignment with the U.S. Embassy to the Holy See and living with his family on the north side of Rome. Peter, Michelle, and daughter Kendra will be in Italy through the end of Peter's diplomatic tour in June 2008.



2006 Law Review Alumni Reunite for Reception

Last fall the atrium was abuzz with alumni reminiscing about long hours of editing and friendships solidified over shared Bluebooks. On October 12, the law school and current members of the *George Mason Law Review* held their first Law Review Alumni Reception, designed to bring alumni back to the law school and reconnect members of this vital community. Members from almost every year were in attendance along with students from the current law review. Dean Dan Polsby and Editor-in-Chief Sean Mullaney (3L) welcomed the crowd and thanked them for their efforts while students at the law school.

The law school anticipates holding similar events in the future targeted toward alumni affiliated with other law school student groups. Invitations for this event were sent through the mail and by email to all law review alumni. If you do not recall receiving an invitation and want to make certain the law school has you flagged as a law review alumnus, please contact us at lawalum@gmu.edu or call 703-993-8112.



Law review alumnus Bill Blanton ('96) addresses the assembly.

The idea of hosting a law review alumni reception originated with current Editor-in-Chief Sean Mullaney and his 2004/05 counterpart Michael Licals ('06).



Angela Miller ('01) with Associate Editor Sherrie Kim (2L).



Laura Fraedrich ('95), Heather Bardot ('94), and W. Hartman Young ('96) stop for a photo at the reception.

Elizabeth Keith ('01) and Betty Stevens ('01) catch up on things at the reception.



Michael Licals ('06), Sherrie Kim, (2L), Lee Istrail ('05), and Elizabeth Owens Bille ('05) share stories of law review membership.

Dean Polsby thanks the gathered crowd for attending while Sean Mullaney (3L), center, and Bill Blanton ('96), right, look on.



Law review members and 2Ls Stacey Pratt, Becky Ham, Justine Daigneault, and Jessica Hodges take a few minutes away from their articles to relax.





Alumni Volunteerism

One generation plants the trees;
another gets the shade.

— Chinese proverb

Future articles on Alumni Volunteerism will spotlight:

- Externship and Clinic Support
- Academic Opportunities
- Admissions Ambassadors

To learn more or get involved in any of these opportunities, contact lawalum@gmu.edu or call 703-993-8112.

ATTENTION MOOT COURT BOARD ALUMNI

You soon will receive a letter about ways to reconnect with the MCB and its alumni. Check your mailbox or send an email to mootct@gmu.edu for more information now.

Building the Next Generation of Advocates

This second article in a series on law school volunteer opportunities spotlights how ISL and Mason Law alumni are making a difference in the law school's oral advocacy programs. The volunteer commitments profiled vary in time and frequency, allowing alumni to pick what is most conducive to their professional and personal lives. We hope you will read further to learn how your participation as a judge, primary resource, mooted panelist, or team coach can strengthen the next generation of advocates from Mason Law.

Oral Advocacy Programs

Many alumni easily recall the first time they uttered, "May it please the court...." It wasn't in an old brick courthouse, but in a classroom. For many, it was a tense, frightening moment; for others the moment was exhilarating. Some ended the experience energized; others, once finished, swore they'd never litigate.

What all ISL and Mason Law alumni who participated in a law school oral advocacy program share was the opportunity to present their first oral argument in a friendly setting designed purely to improve their advocacy skills and test the logic of their thought processes. The goal of creating better, confident advocates remains at the heart of the law school's current oral advocacy programs. And achieving these goals relies heavily on the hard work of alumni.

Appellate and Trial Advocacy Activities at Mason Law

Today's students can take part in competitions focusing on either trial or appellate advocacy. Intramural competitions at the law school and opportunities to compete in extramural competitions with other law schools are coordinated in large part by the Moot Court Board and Trial Advocacy Association.

The Moot Court Board ("Moot Court"), formed in 1981, comprises second-, third-, and fourth-year law students interested in developing skills in appellate advocacy. The Board sponsors two intramural competitions annually, a First-Year Class and Upper-Class Competition. It also hosts its own extramural competition, The Henry G. Manne Moot Court Competition for Law & Eco-

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nomics. Moot Court members also represent the law school at numerous extramural competitions across the country.

The Trial Advocacy Association ("Trial Ad"), formed in 2000, is made up of students from all class years that are interested in developing their trial practice skills and gaining litigation experience. The group hosts a fall intramural competition open to all students and sponsors the regional leg of the National Trial Competition (NTC) in February. It also supports student teams in a number of other trial ad competitions across the country.

Judging Competitions

The intramural competitions of both Moot Court and Trial Ad provide the greatest opportunity for local alumni to get involved and support Mason Law oral advocacy programs. At times as few as 30 or as many as 150 volunteers are needed to judge these events.

Moot Court's Upper-Class Competition takes place during the fall semester and requires participants to prepare and deliver an appellate argument. The First-Year Competition, a required part of the first-year Legal Writing curriculum, takes place during the spring semester and ordinarily simulates a hearing on a pre-trial motion.

"We are looking for alumni at any level of experience to come in and judge our competitions," explains Judges Committee Chair Melissa Taylormoore (3L).

Volunteer judges are provided with everything they need to judge the morning or afternoon session of a competition, including a bench brief and executive summary reviewing each side's primary arguments and the relevant case law. Volunteers serve on a panel of three to four judges and may hear one to three arguments during a session.

"The Moot Court Board works hard to make sure panels are balanced based on experience level," Taylormoore stressed. "In addition, we welcome the assistance of both transactional and litigation folks, as the ability to judge legal reasoning and a competitor's presentation transcends any practice area."

Volunteers are also critical to Trial Ad's fall intramural competition, which alternates each year between a civil and criminal matter. These competitions, which require students to deliver opening and closing arguments and examine witnesses, require two distinct types of judges. Former Trial Ad president and coordinator for the regional NTC, **Mary White ('04)** explains, "Presiding judges preside over the trial and rule on objections, while the evaluating judges sit in the jury box and focus on evaluating each team's performance." Each trial has one presiding judge and two to three evaluating judges.

"We really need people who are involved in litigation to serve as judges," White stressed, "as their experience in the courtroom tends to produce extremely insightful and helpful feedback for the students." The intramural competition also needs volunteers to act as trial witnesses, a role which can be filled by attorneys or lay people.

Additional judging opportunities exist each February when both Moot Court and Trial Ad sponsor extramural competitions.

The positives of volunteering as a judge for these competitions are numerous; volunteering produces tangible benefits to alumni, students, and the law school.

"I enjoy volunteering," says **Allyson Kitchel ('05)**. "Catching up with old friends is a lot of fun, and it is also an easy networking opportunity. I have my current job because I casually mentioned I was looking for a new job to a former professor at a moot court competition."



Mary White ('04) and The Honorable Jonathan Thacher ('80) at the reception for this year's regional round of the NTC.

"Our volunteers have fun," says **The Honorable Jonathan Thacher ('80)**, a Fairfax Circuit Court judge and Trial Ad's faculty advisor. "Everyone enjoys giving back to the law school and playing a role in the students' educational process. These competitions teach students to think on their feet and allow them to network and learn from some of the area's strongest litigators."

There is no doubt that "by volunteering, alumni are having a direct impact on students and their eventual performance in the legal community," noted Taylormoore. "Volunteers are preparing our graduates to excel in the real world of practice, which will clearly enhance the reputation of the law school as a whole."

Working Directly with Teams—Be a Primary Resource, Mooting Panel Participant, or Coach

Extramural competitions in trial and appellate advocacy present an uniquely effective means for Mason Law to spread the word about the quality of its education and the high caliber of its student body to legal communities outside the metropoli-

Alumni Volunteerism Continued from page 6

tan area. Members of the school's adjunct faculty and some of its most dedicated alumni take great pride in working closely with Moot Court and Trial Ad teams preparing for intramural and/or heading off to extramural competitions across the country. While the need in this area is not as great numerically as that for intramural competition judges, it is just as strong in terms of helping the students reach new heights in these competitions.

To prepare for appellate extramural competitions, Moot Court Board members are encouraged to take an upper-level Appellate Advocacy class taught by adjunct faculty members Ernie Isenstadt and **Suzzette Hurley ('04)** during the semester of their scheduled competition.

"The class focuses on appellate drafting and oral argument techniques" says Hurley. "No substantive assistance is allowed while the students draft their briefs due to the competition rules," Hurley stressed. "However, practitioners can volunteer as primary resources and have preliminary general discussions with a team about particular areas of law and recent trends."

Primary resource volunteers usually speak with students via teleconference early in the semester, making this an excellent volunteer opportunity for alumni outside the local area. Common competition problems focus on First, Fourth, and Fifth Amendment law, bankruptcy, family law, communications law, national security law, securities law, and anti-trust matters.

The class also requires the student teams to complete two to three mooting sessions prior to their extramural competition. "We can always use more volunteers for these sessions," says Isenstadt, "as each volunteer brings a fresh perspective to our evaluation and recommendations for a team."

Adjunct faculty member Steven Hill works with students preparing for the Jessup International Moot Court Competition, an international extramural competition which simulates a case before the International Court of Justice. "We could really use volunteers with experience or a real interest in international law for mooting sessions in January and February," says Hill.

Christopher DeMers ('04) notes that judging mooting sessions "gives me the opportunity to review legal issues I do not typically deal with on a given day...and provides not only a learning opportunity for the students, but for me as well." Serving on a mooting panel "provides me a chance to give back to the school" and the oral advocacy programs that "benefited me so much as a student."

The impact of the preparation appears to be paying off in terms of the number of Mason Law teams advancing in extramural competitions or winning accolades. In the last three out of four years, for example, Mason Law teams have advanced to the final rounds of the National Moot Court Competition, a competition in which over 150 law schools participate. This year's team, comprising 3Ls Rocky King, Tony Schiavetti, and Kim Bierenbaum, made it to the competition's final 16 teams and won the award for best brief. In addition 3Ls Al Clarke and Samantha Mortlock won the First Amendment Moot Court Competition at Vanderbilt University the last weekend of February.

In the future Moot Court would like each team to have a dedicated volunteer coach, working with the teams through practice sessions and accompanying them to their competitions.

Trial Ad already utilizes volunteer coaches to work with



Suzzette Hurley ('04) and Christopher DeMers ('04) moot the Mason Law team heading for the advanced rounds of the National Moot Court Competition in New York.

all of the teams participating in its fall intramural competition. Coaches meet with the students a number of times as they prepare for all aspects of the competition.

"Competition problems come with just a fact pattern and depositions," explains White. "The trial strategy is all up to the students and the coach. The coach works with the students to determine possible objections, ways to get around them, and how to get certain evidence in."

"It is critical that we obtain quality coaches with strong litigation experience for the students," said Judge Thacher, "as some of the participants may not have taken a trial advocacy course by the time of the competition." Coaches also work with teams on presentation style and proper courtroom demeanor since competitions take such factors into account.

Two of the top four teams from the intramural competition are selected to go to the NTC, while the other two teams travel to the American Association for Justice Competition. In each instance, the team's coach from the intramural competition continues to work with the team and may travel with them to the competition.

Trial Ad President Ash Dean (3L) noted non-local alumni are needed to step in as coaches for competitions outside the D.C. area when the local coach cannot attend. "There is a coaches meeting at the beginning of each competition during which important issues about the competition are discussed," Ash explained. "Without a coach to attend the meeting, our teams are at a disadvantage. It would be helpful to have non-local alumni act as coaches for competitions local to them, giving our teams the same advantage as others with a coach in attendance."

Sign Up to Volunteer Today!

If you are interested in any of the volunteer opportunities described above that support Mason Law's oral advocacy programs, please contact the Alumni Services Office at lawalum@gmu.edu or at 703-993-8112 and let us know how you'd like to help. The office will forward your contact information along to the appropriate group or person so they can get in touch with you about volunteering.

Profiles of ISL Alumni

Looking back and catching up with... Peter Greenspun and Mark Cummings



Technically speaking, the International School of Law (ISL) existed for only seven years, from its founding in 1972 until its merger with George Mason University in 1979 when it became the George Mason University School of Law. Despite its short lifespan, no one can question the school's lasting impact, for it was in this brief time that ISL's pioneering faculty and students laid the critical foundation for today's Mason Law.

In conjunction with the 35th anniversary of the ISL's founding, *Mason Law News* will profile ISL graduates in its next several editions, sharing with you their success stories and memories of their ISL days. Our first two profiled ISL alumni were brought to our attention by other alumni. All readers are encouraged to send their suggestions for future ISL profiles to lawalum@gmu.edu or call 703-993-8112.

Peter D. Greenspun ('78) Greenspun, Davis and Leary, P.C.



Widely known for his work as a criminal defense lawyer, Peter Greenspun has not shied away from difficult, complex and even controversial cases. His extensive roster of clients includes many recognizable names including convicted D.C. sniper John Muhammad and famed sportscaster Marv Albert. Named one of the area's best criminal defense lawyers by *Washingtonian* magazine, he has been active in the Virginia State Bar and the American Bar

Association, as well as a past president of the Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, the Fairfax Bar Association and the Fairfax Bar Foundation.

A Scary Start, a New Home and... an Escalator?

A native of Philadelphia, Greenspun's legal education did not begin with designs on a traditional law career. Law school was originally intended to be a brief pit stop on the road to running his family's small manufacturing business. If not for friend and fellow ISL classmate **Jerry O'Connell ('78)**, Greenspun probably never would have heard of the International School of Law and enrolled in 1975.

Greenspun admits that entering law school was a scary prospect for the recent LaSalle College graduate, and during the first weeks of class, he actually thought about quitting. He recalls that Dean Ralph Norvell, who also arrived at ISL in 1975, would

"say, 'Good afternoon,' but somehow even that was done in the Socratic Method."

Greenspun's ISL tenure included the school's landmark transition from one of several temporary sites in the District to its permanent location in Arlington. While there may have been some disappointment about moving out of D.C., says Greenspun, "it was exciting to find a real home," referring to the Kann's Department Store building acquired by the law school.

When ISL began classes in the converted retail space, Greenspun says, "It was like going from a studio apartment to a single family house. All of a sudden you could breathe and have space. We had a library to research and study in. We had tiered classrooms. It was just a far, far better environment. But every day, several times a day, you would go up and down the [old Kann's] escalator and see this 'Hold Children by the Hand' sign. It was a reminder of where we had come from."

When Greenspun graduated from ISL in 1978, it was not yet accredited by the American Bar Association (that would happen in 1979). Without accreditation, he would need to practice law in Virginia for five years before he could be licensed in his native Pennsylvania, where the family business awaited. Fortunately for his clients, Greenspun never made it back to Pennsylvania.

"It's Been Quite a Ride."

As a freshly minted lawyer, Peter Greenspun never would have predicted that nearly 30 years later he would be one of the state's most sought-after criminal defense attorneys.

"I thought I'd be in a bank trust department or writing contracts. These were the classes I enjoyed as a student."

His first employer, the Vienna, Virginia, firm of Duvall, Tate, Bywater and Blackburn, had other ideas.

"They pretty much ignored what I said I wanted to do, and that's how I ended up in criminal law. My first day on the job I was in court by myself, and I've been there almost every day since."

When asked what motivates him to do criminal defense work, Greenspun cites the opportunity that criminal cases provide to help challenged people get assistance such as drug

International School of Law



counseling and other social services.

"It's a chance to figure out what went wrong and get them [clients] the help that they need. Cases that end with a plea or a conviction can be some of the most satisfying cases because you know they're going to get help."

Greenspun also enjoys the exhilaration of trial work that is central to criminal defense.

Asked how he handles the media spotlight that accompanies high-profile cases and clients, Greenspun says he tries to set ground rules with the media; but generally he says very little to the press.

"I think if you're worried about what's going to be said about you in the media, you can't do those cases."

Greenspun is quick to point out that "high profile cases are few and far between. Go look in the hallways of any courthouse, and that's where you're going to see defense attorneys doing their best work. It's on the regular cases for regular people where these very important matters for them are being addressed in a proper fashion."

Despite the demands of his career, Greenspun has managed to maintain a strong connection to Mason on several fronts. He is a member of the George Mason American Inn of Court, was involved with moot court for several years, and has accepted interns through Mason Law's Legal Clinic. He is a regular guest lecturer in Mason Law classes, including those taught by his former law partner, Fairfax County Circuit Court Judge Stanley Klein. **Christie Leary ('00)** and **James Davis ('97)**, named partners in his firm, are also Mason Law graduates.

Looking back on his ISL classmates, Greenspun describes them first as eclectic, then quickly adds, "They were the hardest-working group of people I have ever been around."

"Look at the graduates from the late 70s into the early 80s. You'll find judge after judge, elected attorneys, people in the state legislature, people on the Hill...Without this group and their hard work, who knows if Mason Law would be here today."

Mark D. Cummings ('78) Sher, Cummings & Ellis



Ask any attorney how he or she ended up in law school and you're likely to hear a variety of responses, ranging from "I didn't know what I wanted to do after undergrad" to the more direct "Money." But chances are few that anyone else will give Mark Cummings' response: organic chemistry.

As an undergraduate at the University of Virginia, the Roanoke native planned to become a doctor until

organic chemistry reared its ugly head. Not long after, Cummings was a history major and a regular on the Dean's List.

After graduating from Virginia, Cummings spent two years as a mortgage banker in Virginia Beach. It was in this job that he came in regular contact with real estate attorneys who piqued his interest in the law. This exposure, combined with his affinity for debate and public speaking, are what eventually led him to law school.

It was Cummings' father, however, who is responsible for his matriculation to ISL. The elder Cummings spotted ISL while walking down Rhode Island Avenue during a visit to Washington, D.C. Knowing that his son was considering law school, he stopped in and spoke with an admissions officer. Duly impressed, he picked up an application for his son, and the rest is history.

Tough Decisions and Competition at the "Kann's School of Law"

Like many of his ISL classmates at the time, Cummings had concerns about graduating from a non-accredited school. So concerned was Cummings that he considered transferring

ISL Alumni Profiles

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to William and Mary's Marshall-Wythe College of Law after his first year.

"It was an agonizing decision," Cummings says. "But in the end I decided to hitch my star to International because things were really looking brighter."

Several factors led to his decision to stay. Transferring would have meant repeating his first year, but Cummings had good grades and was on law review and didn't want to give those up. The reputation of Dean Ralph Norvell, who had seen Temple's law school through accreditation, also gave Cummings hope for ISL's future. The deciding factor, though, was something Mason Law touts even today to prospective students: Washington's unparalleled job market for young lawyers.

Cummings soon resolved any questions he had about the quality of his ISL education.

"I would audit classes at American but didn't see much difference. [Dean] Brabner-Smith had really drawn on quality professors when he started the school."

According to Cummings, his classmates were just as motivated as students at any other law school. In the face of competition, it was not uncommon to find entire cases cut out of books in the ISL library.

"You had a competitive group that realized they weren't at a top-tier school and were very motivated to excel," recalls Cummings. "I enjoyed the competition. There was camaraderie...and an intense desire to learn."

Like Greenspun, Cummings was also at ISL during its transition from the District to Arlington.

"We called it the Kann's School of Law," Cummings jokes, referring to the converted Kann's Department Store into which the ISL moved. "But really, we were delighted with the new facility."

"A Great Responsibility"

Cummings began his successful career as a litigator in the Arlington office of D.C.-based Leonard, Cohen, Gettings and Sher. As a third-year student, he sought out the firm because they were known for litigation work, and Cummings knew that was the path he wanted to take as an attorney.

Having studied medical malpractice in Professor Scott Whitney's class, Cummings was up to speed on case law and impressed his interviewer and future law partner David Sher, who was then working on a med mal case. Cummings was hired on the spot.

After winning the first trial that he soloed, Cummings earned the trust of the firm's partners. *United States v. Mark Felt and Edward Miller* was among the high profile cases to which Cummings was first assigned. He was entrusted with the cross-examination of no less than 38 witnesses during the eight-week trial, which included testimony from President Richard Nixon and five attorneys general (incidentally, defendant Felt was later revealed to be Bob Woodward's and Carl Bernstein's infamous "Deepthroat").

In 1983, Cummings and Sher left the firm to set up their own shop. Specializing in criminal litigation, civil litigation and appellate work, today Cummings is a prominent Northern Virginia litigator. Asked what is most rewarding about being a litigator, Cummings cites the opportunity to help people.

"I have a bulletin board by my computer where I put up thank you notes from clients to remind me how important a role you play in people's lives—whether they are injured, sued, or charged with a crime, you have a profound effect on their lives. It's a great responsibility we have."

To that end, Cummings also cites the importance of service.

"I think it's very important for lawyers to remember they make their living from people with problems. In turn, lawyers must try to give something back to the community."

In fulfilling this commitment, Cummings is a dedicated supporter of the Arlington County Bar Foundation and is active in the Arlington County Bar Association. He served on the Virginia State Bar Council for eleven years, helping to revamp the rules for professional conduct. Cummings lectures new drivers about the importance of maintaining a safe driving record at Arlington County's monthly juvenile licensing ceremonies and has even produced a video on the topic with ISL classmate **Tom O'Neill ('78)**. He is also a trustee of the Vicky Collins Charitable Foundation, which provides grants to support disabled children.

In the face of his work and volunteer commitments, it's hard to imagine that Cummings also has time to teach Virginia Remedies at Mason Law. An adjunct faculty member since 2000, Cummings says he is continually impressed with the students he meets—so much so that he hired two of them, **Su Yong Min ('02)** and **Kevin Shehan ('06)**.

As an instructor at his alma mater, Cummings is in a unique position to compare the ISL students of yesterday with the Mason students of today.

"Although we were a fledgling school, my peers in '78 were highly motivated people who took their studies seriously. Many of them have risen to prominence in the profession. Likewise, the students I see today are extremely bright, and I expect the future holds similar success for them."



Cummings receives his diploma from Dean Ralph Norvell in the 1978 commencement ceremony.



Michael May ('04)



Jeff Dion ('93)

Manassas National Battlefield Park, Prince William County, Virginia

A recent special election for the Occoquan District seat on the Prince William Board of County Supervisors pitted two Mason Law alumni against one another, Democrat Jeff Dion ('93) and Republican Michael May ('04). The position opened when fellow alumnus and Board Chairman Sean Connaughton ('92) resigned to take a federal appointment and the previous Occoquan seat holder was elected to replace Connaughton.

How did each candidate learn he was running against a fellow graduate? May, a lawyer at Albo & Oblon, learned at work from David Oblon ('94). "David went to school with Jeff and spoke very highly of him on a personal level." Dion learned by reading May's bio and joked that it was then "I realized that the vote of the alumni community would be divided."

May won the election and will serve in the seat until the regular election to fill the spot is held this November. Dion has not decided if he will run again in November.

Each candidate felt the election reflected tremendously upon the law school. "It is great to have so many of our alumni entering into public service," Dion noted. "Mason Law has its hands all over this Occoquan seat," noted May. The seat also was, at one time, held by Ruth Griggs ('05) who left the seat to attend Mason Law. May's wife, Amelia Woerman May ('06), is also a Mason Law graduate. Michael and Amelia are expecting their first baby in June.

Mason Law Alumni Serving in Iraq

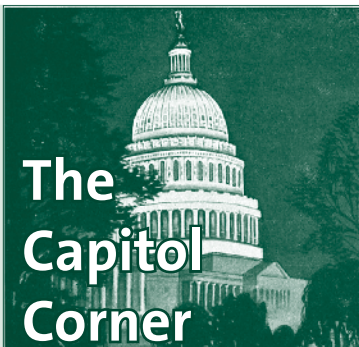
You never know where you'll meet a Mason Law alumnus! A day or two after working together in an office cubicle at Camp Victory in Baghdad, Lieutenant Patrick Lahiff ('03) and Lieutenant Colonel Albert Veldhuyzen ('90) realized that they were both Mason Law alumni. While there were 13 years between their graduation dates, they still had a lot in common; both even had Professor Buckley for Contracts.

Lahiff and Veldhuyzen were working in the Multi-National Force—Iraq Staff Judge Advocate's Office dealing with many different aspects of operational, administrative and fiscal law. Pictured are Lahiff, left, and Veldhuyzen, right.

Seven graduates from the class of 2006 are presently serving full time in the military in various capacities, including two in Iraq. If you know of Mason Law alumni currently serving in our military overseas, please let us know by contacting us at lawalum@gmu.edu or 703-993-8112.

www.law.gmu.edu/alumni/





The Capitol Corner features distinguished Mason Law alumni who are making a mark in the nation's capital—working on Capitol Hill or for the administration, key law firms, trade associations or other organizations involved in Washington policy debates.

This edition of *The Capitol Corner* directs the spotlight to Paul Reagan, chief-of-staff to Senator Jim Webb (D-VA).



PAUL REAGAN ('91)

November 7, 2006, brought sweeping changes to American government. For the first time in 12 years, the Democrats took control of both houses of Congress. Regardless of political stripe, for policy wonks and politicians on the Hill, the election results translated to one thing: new jobs.

Paul Reagan ('91) happens to be one of those with a new job on Capitol Hill.

Though he is no stranger to Congress, for the first time Reagan finds himself on the Senate side as chief-of-staff to freshman Senator Jim Webb (D-VA). Reagan's appointment caps a career in Virginia Democratic politics that has spanned almost 25 years. As chief-of-staff, Reagan is responsible for the overall management of the senator's office and helps set legislative and constituent service priorities.

The ink on his undergraduate degree from William and Mary barely dry, the Norfolk native began his political career in 1982 as a staff assistant to then-freshman U.S. Representative Rick Boucher (D-VA). He took a leave of absence from Boucher's office in 1984 to help run the congressman's first re-election campaign and after winning returned to Boucher's congressional staff as press secretary in 1985.

Reagan moved on to the staff of Virginia Beach Congressman Owen Pickett (D-VA) in 1987. It was during his service to Pickett that he joined the Mason Law ranks as an evening student, a fact of which he is particularly proud.

Reflecting on his experience as an evening student, Reagan noted how classroom debates were often enhanced by the night students' real-world experience from government jobs and elsewhere. Reagan even joked, "I think the fact that I attended law school at night was probably one of the reasons Senator Webb hired me."

After graduating from Mason Law in 1991 and passing the Virginia Bar, Reagan worked as a staff counsel for the House Science Committee, where his principal responsibilities included oversight of the U.S. Fire Administration and university research programs.

When the House of Representatives changed from Democratic to Republican control in 1995, Reagan joined the staff of Virginia Congressman L.F. Payne (D-VA) as press secretary. In 1996 he left Payne's office to become chief-of-staff to Congressman Jim Moran (D-VA). He served six years as Moran's top aide before a new opportunity knocked in the form of recently-elected Virginia Governor Mark Warner (D-VA).

Reagan was tapped to head Governor Warner's communications operation in 2002 and is credited with helping Warner shape the message for his historic budget and tax reform effort of 2004. After leaving the governor's office in 2005, Reagan joined McGuire-Woods Consulting as senior vice president, where he assisted clients with strategic communications and government relations issues. He left McGuireWoods to join Senator Webb's staff.

Speaking about his new post, Reagan said, "I have been very fortunate during my career to always be in a position where I can help my home state. I look forward to continuing on that path in Senator Webb's office."

Capitol Corner

Continued from page 12

In addition to his work in the Senate, Reagan will continue to serve on the State Board for Community Colleges, to which he was appointed in 2005.

Looking back on his career, Reagan noted that "George Mason University Law School prepared me extremely well for the career I've had in government. Its rigorous programs in administrative law, federal procurement and economics have been particularly helpful."

"Beyond the rigorous course work at the law school, I also benefited enormously from being surrounded in our night program by so many talented colleagues, both in and out of government. It's been exciting to see the law school continue to develop and prosper since I graduated 15 years ago."



March 24 & 31, 2007

First-Year Moot Court
Competition
School of Law
Arlington, Virginia

April 13, 2007

Colors of Justice Reception
School of Law
Arlington, Virginia

April 17, 2007

Scholarship Breakfast Honoring
Students, Alumni and Donors
School of Law
Arlington, Virginia

April 20, 2007

Association of Public Interest Law
(APIL) Auction
Carpool
Arlington, Virginia

May 23, 2007

10th Annual Judicial and
Legislative Reception
School of Law
Arlington, Virginia

June 4, 2007

Virginia Bar Breakfast Reception
and Swearing-In Ceremony
Greater Richmond Convention Center
Richmond, Virginia

SAVE THE DATE!

Wednesday, May 23, 2007

*Don't miss one of Northern Virginia's
most well-attended legal events!*

Join attorneys, judges, legislators, and your fellow alumni for the 10th Annual Judicial and Legislative Reception on Wednesday, May 23, from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. in Hazel Hall's Levy Atrium. (Doors open at 5:45 p.m.)

For additional information, please visit
www.law.gmu.edu/alumni/schedule.html
or contact:

Law Alumni Association
President Stephen Gold
703-841-3200
ste_gold@nema.org

Associate Dean Victoria Huber
703-993-8009
vhuber@gmu.edu

Sponsorship opportunities are available for the event and include tickets and recognition in event advertisements, as well as at the event itself.

NEWEST ALUMNI JOIN VIRGINIA BAR

This past October over 100 Mason Law alumni were sworn in as members of the Virginia Bar. These alumni, along with their friends and families, attended a breakfast reception hosted by the School of Law prior to the ceremony.

Pictured is new alumnus David Chamowitz ('06), far right, with dad Michael Chamowitz ('77).



www.law.gmu.edu/alumni/



Highlights from Our Faculty News

Mason Law professors have been frequent visitors to Capitol Hill in recent months, with **Professors Muris, Wright, and Zywicki** testifying as witnesses before Congressional committees a combined total of four times since last summer.

At a July 2006 hearing of the Senate Judiciary Committee to examine credit card interchange rates, **Professor Timothy Muris**, a former chairman of the Federal Trade Commission, testified on the potential harm of regulating payment cards.

In November 2006, **Muris** again appeared on Capitol Hill, this time to provide expert testimony on loyalty discounts in one of a series of joint public hearings before the Federal Trade Commission and the Department of Justice's Antitrust Division designed to examine the implications of single-firm conduct under the antitrust laws.

Earlier in November 2006, **Professor Joshua Wright** testified on exclusive shelf space arrangements for a related joint public hearing before the Federal Trade Commission and Department of Justice's Antitrust Division.

Professor Todd Zywicki made an appearance before the Senate Committee on the Judiciary Subcommittee on Administrative Oversight and the Courts in December 2006 during hearings to consider the effectiveness of the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005 (BAPCPA) following its one-year anniversary.

In September 2006 **Professor Michael Krauss** was a presenter at a Hudson Institute-sponsored symposium entitled *The UN and Beyond: United Democratic Nations*. The conference, held at the Union League Club in New York City on September 11, 2006, offered an examination of the United Nations and its effectiveness in today's world and featured panelists and presentations by national and international leaders, journalists, and policy experts.

Mason Law **Professors Ilya Somin and Steven Eagle** joined with six other law professors from across the country to submit an amicus brief to the Supreme Court of the United States in *Didden v. Village of Port Chester*. The brief was written by Professor Somin and argues that the Court should hear this key property rights case in the wake of last year's controversial *Kelo* ruling.



Wright



Muris



Zywicki

Professor Joshua Wright was in the news again in January when Federal Trade Commission Chairman Deborah Platt Majoras announced his appointment to the newly created position of scholar-in-residence in the Bureau of Competition of the Federal Trade Commission.

Law faculty have been heard over the airwaves, as well. **Director of the Clinic for Legal Assistance to Servicemembers (CLAS) Kyndra Rotunda** appeared on two popular talk radio programs to promote Mason's unique clinic and discuss armed forces members' needs for pro-bono legal representation. She was joined on air by Bill Placke, one of the leading attorneys in the effort to organize a pro-bono servicemembers' clinic in Missouri, a clinic specifically modeled after CLAS. To learn more about CLAS, see the December 2005 issue of *Mason Law News*.

Mason Law July 2006 Bar Passage Rates Soar!

Mason Law Pass Rate (First-Time Takers): 86.3%
State Pass Rate (First-Time Takers): 76.8%

Mason Law Pass Rate (Overall): 83.2%
State Pass Rate (Overall): 71.9%

A Gift From The

Heart



This past August, Craig Young ('82) and Shirley Keisler ('90) walked down the aisle, four years after being introduced by a mutual law school friend. There was an unique Mason Law twist to the wedding, as friends and family were asked to make contributions to the Young and Keisler Scholarship Fund at the law school in lieu of buying gifts for the couple.

"For the past several years, Shirley and I have worked to support the effort to move the law school into the ranks of the very best law schools in the nation," Young explained. Increasing the amount of scholarship dollars available to students is critical to the law school's continued rise. "So, when we got married, it was really a no-brainer for us to ask our guests to contribute to our scholarship fund rather than gift us with another set of dishes."

Craig and Shirley's thoughtful generosity has raised approximately \$5,000 for the fund as of this date.

Adding another Mason touch, alumna Judge Leslie Alden ('83), pictured far left, was one of two judges presiding over the ceremony.

Of Interest

Thirty of our graduates recently were selected by their peers to be listed among "Virginia's Legal Elite" according to *Virginia Business Magazine*:

Dickson Young ('77)
Glenn Lewis ('77)
Rodney Leffler ('78)
Stephen Test ('79)
David R. Clarke ('79)
Anthony W. Anderson ('81)
W. William Gust ('81)
Jerry L. Erickson ('84)
David M. Hall ('85)
Daniel P. Franco ('86)
Sandra L. Havrilak ('86)
John E. Holloway ('87)
Ian D. Titley ('87)
Edward W. Cameron ('88)
Catherine Senko Croft ('88)

Kevin M. Diamonstein ('90)
Douglas M. Foley ('92)
Daniel P. Lyon ('92)
Kathleen J.L. Holmes ('92)
K. Brett Marston ('93)
David Oblon ('94)
Amy M. Ashworth ('95)
Thomas D. Yates ('95)
Aimee S. Clanton ('95)
Anne M. Devens ('96)
Melisa G. Michelsen ('96)
Kristie G. Haynes ('97)
Thomas F. Quinn III ('98)
Wendy A. Alexander ('98)
Sarah L. Allgeier ('00)

Friends in High Places

Imagine their surprise when Bob Gainer ('04), right, and former law school Director of Development Jack Wertzberger bumped into each other at the inauguration of Iowa Governor Chet Culver in Des Moines in January. Gainer is currently a trial attorney in the Office of the U.S. Trustee, Southern District of Iowa.





Dean Polsby poses with L. Douglas Wilder (left), former governor of Virginia and current mayor of Richmond, and Rex Flynn (3L), president of Mason Law's Black Law Students Association. Read the related story about Wilder's visit on page 1 of this issue.

A Message From Dean Polsby

George Mason University School of Law was founded only three decades ago as the International School of Law. Its founder, John Wesley Brabner-Smith, believed that the traditions of Christian learning on which the Anglo-American legal system was based had largely dropped out of contemporary legal education and needed to be put back. From 1972-1975, Dean Brabner-Smith and a small but hardworking group of faculty and students carved out what was, at that time, a very unique place in the legal academy.

While the absorption of the International School of Law into George Mason University necessarily ended the theologically grounded content of the curriculum, the spirit of the ISL continues to find a home here in other important ways, especially in the tolerance that is shown here for all points of view and in the work ethic of our students and faculty. In recent years the number of active student organizations has almost doubled, and groups that in other law schools might never communicate join forces here. We now have an active student-run Federalist Society, ACLU, Mason Republicans, and American Constitution Society for Law and Policy. We long have had an active Jewish Law Students Association and J. Reuben Clark Law Society, and this year we expect to welcome the new Muslim Law Students Association. And student groups that have been in existence for years have a renewed sense of mission. As you see in this newsletter, our Black Law Students Association recently hosted former Governor Wilder and launched a new lecture series. Our Moot Court Board took on the additional responsibility of hosting a regional round of the Jessup International Law Competition.

Likewise, our faculty has neither rested on its laurels nor tired of its commitment to expand George Mason's reputation. The faculty consistently ranks among the top in the country in Social Science Research Network downloads and in scholarly reputation. This past year alone, several full- and part-time faculty —some of whom are alumni—have testified before Congress, served in government agencies or committees, and participated in ABA and state bar programs.

Not unlike their ISL predecessors, however, our current faculty and students struggle daily with limited resources. They want to and can do more. While we have increased tuition and requested additional student organization funding from the university, these measures alone cannot support our student and faculty activities. It is my charge to expand private support from alumni, friends, foundations, and corporations. I am extremely grateful to Bob Levy, Bill Blanton and Phil Dorsey for leading the charge on alumni fundraising with The Alumni Challenge. I hope more alumni will respond to their example.

At every critical phase of this law school's history—its founding, its transition to a public law school, and its rise from the third tier to the top tier of national rankings—our students and alumni have been critical to mission success. This time is no different. Good things are happening here; even more can happen if we expand support.

Daniel D. Polsby

THE ALUMNI CHALLENGE

A Campaign for Mason Law

MY GIFT TO MASON LAW

In support of the George Mason University School of Law, I allocate my gift to the following area(s):

\$ _____ School of Law General Account
 \$ _____ School of Law Student Scholarships
 \$ _____ School of Law Library
 \$ _____

(Specify other purpose.)

\$ _____ **TOTAL GIFT***

Giving Options

Gift of \$ _____

☐ Check enclosed made payable to the GMU Foundation, Inc.
 (Please note "School of Law" on your check.)

☐ Charge my credit card in full.
 (Please complete credit card authorization.)

Pledge of \$ _____

☐ Payable in _____ installment(s) in the month(s) circled below:

JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC
 JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN

☐ Please charge equal payments to my credit card in the months circled above.

The following gift societies provide special recognition to alumni, parents, and friends who give \$100 or more during a calendar year:

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 \$50,000 to \$99,999 ...Benefactor
 \$25,000 to \$49,999 ...Patron
 \$10,000 to \$24,999 ...Sponsor
 \$ 5,000 to \$ 9,999 ...Colleague
 \$ 2,500 to \$ 4,999 ...Associate
 \$ 1,000 to \$ 2,499 ...Member

Dean's Club

\$500 to \$999 ...Dean's Club Colleague
 \$250 to \$499 ...Dean's Club Associate
 \$100 to \$249 ...Dean's Club Patron

Mail form to:



c/o George Mason University Foundation, Inc.
 4400 University Drive, MS 1A3
 Fairfax, Virginia 22030-4444

NAME _____

Address _____

Address _____

Class of _____

Credit Card Authorization

☐ VISA

☐ MasterCard

Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____

Name as it appears on card (Please print.) _____

Signature _____

☐ Please credit my Mason spouse: _____

☐ Matching Gifts (See below for information.)

In addition to my or my spouse's own personal commitment, the following company will match the gift. I have enclosed the completed matching gift form.

Company name _____

☐ Future support through planned giving

I am interested in making a gift through a will, a gift of securities, a trust, an insurance policy, or a retirement plan. Please have a university development officer contact me regarding the tax advantages of deferred gifts.

QUESTIONS?

Contact Mason Law's Director of Development

Christopher Corish

703-993-9346 ccorish@gmu.edu

U07CSE

Matching Gifts

Gifts to George Mason University School of Law may be doubled or even tripled through matching gift programs provided by more than 1,000 corporations in support of qualified higher education programs. Since the individual and the company making the match receive recognition credit, a matching gift could qualify you for one of the giving societies listed above. If your employer or your spouse's employer matches contributions, please enclose the matching gift form when you make your gift. For additional information about matching gifts, please contact your human resources department or the School of Law Development Office at 703-993-9346.

Gifts of Securities

Gifts of appreciated stocks, bonds, or mutual funds can provide special tax advantages. These include a charitable deduction for the full fair market value of the gift and avoidance of capital gains taxes. The simplest and most efficient way to make a gift of stock to George Mason University School of Law is to instruct your broker or banker to transfer the stock to the GMU Foundation. You or your broker may call the School of Law Development Office at 703-993-9346 for transfer instructions or write to the School of Law Development Office, 3301 Fairfax Drive, MS1G3, Arlington, VA 22201. You may also e-mail the Director of Development at ccorish@gmu.edu. Please do not sell the stock in your name and have the proceeds sent to us, or that will be considered a cash contribution, and you will be liable for capital gains tax. In addition, keep in mind that many corporate matching gift programs honor a donation of securities.

George Mason University School of Law
c/o George Mason University Foundation, Inc.
Attn: School of Law Gifts
4400 University Drive, MS 1A3
Fairfax, VA 22030-4444

Street address

City	State	Zip
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[illegible]

Alumni Board Launches Inaugural Law Firm Challenge

By Rich Kelsey, Class of '99
Vice President, Law Alumni Association

When it comes to giving, who will be the top law firm? Will it be a big name, a small name, a new name or a surprise name? Remember the class rankings when you were in school—there was always a surprise. This year, Mason Law takes its next big step in launching a Law Firm Challenge fundraiser! Where will your firm finish—and how can you help your firm win the challenge?

While Mason continues its ascent in the rankings, its leadership has recognized the need to address an area where traditionally we have fallen short, even among our peers—donation participation rates among the school's graduates. Hey, asking for money is never easy—and often giving it is easier than the task given to those who ask. The truth is, George Mason School of Law has a participation rate of giving right around 13 percent. Most of our peer schools are over 20 percent, and the schools we are trying to surpass in the rankings have giving rates of 30 percent or more. Participation is important, because it also helps our institution when we seek large gifts. Participation requires giving something. The more the better—but the participation rate itself reflects only the rate of people who have given something, anything.

The good news is our grads are recognizing that the value of their diplomas is tied to the success of the school, and our school needs our support. Participation is rising, and we believe it will skyrocket just like our rankings.

To bolster the participation rate, the alumni board, working with the School of Law, is launching the first-ever Law Firm Challenge. During the challenge alumni volunteers at each firm will be asked to encourage fellow Mason Law colleagues to make a gift to the law school.

Over the next few months, alumni board directors will be calling, organizing, lobbying, and working with law firms of every size to find law firm captains and to help drive law firm participation. Firms that achieve strong participation rates will be honored both in print and with a reception. Firm captains will be honored as distinguished alumni. While the law school will be the biggest winner, we are working on special recognition for the firm that wins the challenge. Finally—in case you missed it while in school, you have the chance to be number one again.

Don't wait for us to contact you. If you are interested in participating in the challenge, call the alumni board now—operators are standing by! Not really, it's just my work phone number below, but I want to talk to you and get you started. Look for more on the Law Firm Challenge beginning in March. Law firm challenges are the norm among our competitors, and nothing breeds giving like good, old fashioned competition. So...let the competition begin!



Richard Kelsey
Vice President,
Law Alumni Association
703-738-0516



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School of Law
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Sincere thanks to our alumni golf tournament sponsors:

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LAW ALUMNI NEWS

Alumni news has been gathered from many sources over the past several months. If your information has changed, or if you have news to share, please send an email to lawalum@gmu.edu.

2000-2006

Matthew Spengler ('06) was named a Bryce Harlow Scholar for 2005-06 by the Bryce Harlow Foundation, which encourages and supports students interested in a career in public affairs, government relations or lobbying by awarding its annual scholarships to those it considers professional advocacy's most promising students.

Remus Fetea ('06) has been promoted to senior associate at Oblon, Spivak, McClelland, Maier & Neustadt, where he focuses on patent prosecution in the firm's electrical and mechanical group. Prior to joining the firm in 2001, he was a research scientist with the Condensed Matter Research Institute in Romania.

Paula Haurilesko ('06) is a recipient of the Virginia State Bar Family Law Section's Law Student Book Award given annually to the top graduating student from each of the seven Virginia law schools who has demonstrated the most promise and potential for the practice of family law.

Kevin McSorley ('06) and Michelle Sefczek were married on December 2, 2006, in Washington, D.C. Michelle works for Freddie Mac, and Kevin is with the U.S. Marshals Service. They reside in Arlington.

Sarah Moffett ('06) is currently with LeClair Ryan in its Alexandria office. Her first book, *Growing Up Moffett*, is scheduled for release on April 1 and is available for pre-order through Amazon.com and other major retailers.

Libby Phelps ('05) finished a busy year by completing her clerkship in mid-August, being married in September, and beginning a new career at Holland & Knight in October. Congratulations on all three counts, Libby!

Kristina Wolfe ('05) has secured a clerkship with Judge Lee in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District in Alexandria for the 2007-08 term. She is finishing up a two-year clerkship with Judge Felton at the Virginia Court of Appeals.

Michelle Hess ('05) has accepted a position with Holland and Knight, where she will be working in the litigation group at the firm's McLean office.

Timothy Keeler ('05) has been named chief-of-staff for the White House Office of the U.S. Trade Representative. Tim previously served as Deputy to the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs at the Treasury Department.

William Groh ('05) and Monica Bosson were married in August 2006. They make their home in Washington, D.C. Bill is with the law firm Pompan, Murray and Werfel.

Roger Skalbeck ('05) is now at Georgetown Law School serving as Associate Law Librarian for Electronic Resources & Services.

Jessica Sauer ('05) and **Travers Garvin ('04)** were married on May 6, 2006, in Baltimore, MD. Travers is an associate in the Public Law and Policy practice group of Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld in Washington, D.C. Jessica is an associate in the Corporate practice group of Cozen O'Connor, also in Washington.

Patrick Quigley ('04) and wife are the happy parents

of Sean Nicolas, born in October 2006 weighing just over 6 pounds.

Jeff Pienta ('04) and **Allison Caalim ('04)** recently became engaged. Jeff is an Attorney Advisor with the Chief Administrative Law Judge of the U.S. Coast Guard, and Allison is an associate at Stephen R. Bruce Law Offices in Washington, D.C., where she practices ERISA litigation. A wedding is planned for early 2008.

Hana Brilliant ('04) has moved to Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP.

In November 2006, **Suzzette Rodriguez Hurley ('04)** was honored as a "Rising Legal Star" by the Hispanic Bar Association of the District of Columbia. Suzzette also has recently moved to Wiley Rein LLP.

Lewis Conner ('03) has joined Gentry Locke Rakes & Moore, LLP, where he focuses on tax and finance issues in the firm's growing General Commercial practice group.

Valerie Hughes ('03) has been appointed chair of the Fairfax Bar Association's Circuit Court Committee effective January 2007.

Meredith and Clair Smith (both class of '03) recently moved to Bowling Green, Ohio, where Clair is teaching economics at Bowling Green State University.

Kimberly Vander Haar ('03) and husband are pleased to announce the birth of their second child, Ashley Grace, on October 9, 2006. Kimberly transferred to the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Fort Collins, CO, with one week's notice and gave birth to Ashley a week later!

Jeffrey Gabriel ('03) serves as legislative director to Representative Christopher Carney (D-PA).

Gregory Fleming ('03) reports that he was married in December 2004 to Shannon McManus. Fellow Mason Law grads **Jeff Thiebert ('03)**, **Pat Lahiff ('03)**, **Erin Moore Thiebert ('02)**, and **Cameronne Powell ('02)** were participants in the ceremony, while **Karen Hickey ('03)** and **Seth Garfield ('03)** were attendees.

Emily ('03) and **John Perkins ('02)** recently relocated to Greenville, SC, where John joined the Intellectual Property Group of McNair Law Firm, P.A. John's practice continues to focus on patent litigation and prosecution but has expanded into many areas of general practice.

Ellen Terpak Dague ('02) has joined the law firm Carter & Lay PLLC in Alexandria, VA.

Seema Ruchandani Holland ('02) was married in December 2004 and gave birth to a daughter, Elena, in December 2005. Seema writes that she met her husband, a police officer, in court!

Liz Gallenagh ('02) has been promoted to Director, State Government Affairs for the Healthcare Distribution Management Association.

Craig McRobbie and **Jennifer Hood McRobbie (both class of '02)** are happy to announce the birth of Emma Mei on February 3, 2007.

John Kaplan ('02) retired from the Air Force after 20 years of service and began a clerkship with Judge Rader on the Federal Circuit in January 2007.

Alumni News

Continued from page 20

Meredith Hartley ('02) has begun an associate position in the real estate practice group in ReedSmith's Falls Church office. Her practice has a special emphasis on planning and development of condominiums, mixed use projects, and planned use developments as well as the preparation of community association documents for developers and builders.

Thomas McCrocklin ('02) and his fiancée, Jacqueline Moran, plan a March wedding. He is currently vice president of federal affairs for Zurich Financial Services. Jacqueline is with the Committee on Financial Services for the U.S. House of Representatives.

Nita Ghei ('02) is a visiting assistant professor at the School of Law this year. Nita is a former Levy Fellow who went on to serve as a Searle Fellow at Northwestern University School of Law, where she taught Comparative Law in spring 2006. At Mason Law she taught International Business Economics in the fall and is teaching International Trade and Comparative Law in the spring semester.

Jack Kitaeff ('01) announces the publication of his new book, *Jews in Blue*, which chronicles the contributions of American Jews in law enforcement. This is Jack's second book, the first being *Selected Readings in Forensic Psychology* (2006). A third book, *Phantom Psychological Phenomena, Pseudoscience, and Junk Science in the Courtroom*, comes out next winter.

Eric Janson ('01) is an associate in the Washington, D.C., offices of Seyfarth Shaw.

David Jolly ('01) has joined the lobbying firm of Van Scoyoc Associates. David is a former general counsel for Representative C.W. (Bill) Young (R-Fla.) when he was chairman of the Appropriations Committee.

Brent Baxter ('01) recently accepted a position as Legal Counsel and Chief Deputy to the Clerk of the Arlington County Circuit Court.

Leah Garcia ('01) lives with husband John and their two sons on Pleasure Island in North Carolina, where they own and operate a company called Mad Science, bringing science programs to schools and other venues.

Cara Putman ('01) is excited to announce that her first book, *Canteen Dreams*, will be released from HeartSong Presents in October 2007. She also maintains her own blog, The Law, Life & Books, at carasmusings.blogspot.com.

Andrew Shore ('01) is enjoying new daughter Katie, born in August 2006.

Mark Looney ('00) has been elected a partner in the law firm Cooley Godward Kronish. Mark is a business attorney in the firm's Reston, VA, office. His practice includes representing major developers and companies in all areas of land use.

Greg Kalinsky ('00) heads GEICO's California and West Coast operations as regional vice president. Previously Greg served as vice president for national underwriting practices in the company's Washington, D.C., headquarters.

Catherine Gilabert ('00) is a captain in the U.S. Army JAG Corps and recently moved from Wuerzburg, Germany, to Fort Monroe, VA.

Jeff Summers ('00) is County Attorney for the County of New Kent in Virginia. He reports that life is good, including a 10-minute commute to his nearby office each day.

Danielle Giroux ('00) was named partner at Harman,

Claytor, Corrigan and Wellman in Glen Allen, VA. Her primary areas of concentration are commercial, motor vehicle, products liability and premises liability litigation.

1990-1999

Mike Miller ('99) recently left Delaware and moved overseas to Amsterdam to head the compliance division for ING Direct.

In September **Rich Kelsey ('99)** became president and COO of LanpherWilson Corporation and Turiss LLC. Rich's new firm specializes in computer forensics, digital investigations, and information and technology security. The United States Secret Service recently selected Turiss to host the October meeting and conference of the Washington D.C. Electronic Crimes Task Force, a collection of private companies and federal and state agencies that work together on solutions for identifying and combating cyber and electronic crimes issues. The conference was held at the School of Law. Turiss representatives discussed intellectual property protection solutions, including a specific Turiss project designed to protect high profile data from being leaked to the public prior to its commercial distribution.

Kathryn Dickerson ('99) has become a principal in the firm of Smolen Plevy. Her practice areas include general litigation with an emphasis in family law, divorce and custody. She has been appointed a member of the Supreme Court of Virginia's Futures Commission. She serves as president of the Virginia affiliate of the Asian American Bar Association and as a member of the board of directors of the Virginia Women Attorneys Association, Northern Virginia Chapter.

Mark Carlton ('99) was named partner at Harman, Claytor, Corrigan and Wellman in Glen Allen, VA. He concentrates his practice on insurance coverage litigation.

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LOST ALUMNI

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

We would like to send *Mason Law News* to as many of our graduates as possible. Although many ISL and Mason Law alumni can be located easily, thanks to the Internet, there are a number of alumni we cannot find. In the next few issues of *Mason Law News* we will list "Lost Alumni" from particular class years. If you happen to have any information regarding the alumni listed, please contact us at:

lawalum@gmu.edu.

1977

Michael Acham-Chen
Jules B. Altman
William W. Bateman
Alan Barry Cramer
Judy L. Feinberg
Beth A. Walker

1978

F. Michael Ballard
Douglas R. Bourdon
Samuel W. Ferebee
John W. Keenan
David A. McArthur
Nathaniel R. Trott

Alumni News

Continued from page 21

Kara Austin Hart ('98) is Associate General Counsel with the Virginia State Corporation Commission. She lives with her husband, Mike, and two children, Charlotte and Jackson, in Richmond, VA.

Jonathan S. Marashlian ('98) has become an equity partner with shared firm management at the former Helein Law Group, now known as Helein & Marashlian, LLC, The *CommLaw* Group.

Bill Guidera ('98) and his family have relocated to Minnesota, where Bill continues to work for Microsoft from his new home.

In January 2007, **Carol Gosain ('98)** was promoted to partner at the D.C. office of Steptoe & Johnson.

Ellen Louise Stefani Clemente ('98) married Nicholas Pyle on July 18, 2006. Ellen is in private practice in Washington, D.C., where Nicholas is a principal with Pyle & Associates, a lobbying firm. The Pyles live in Arlington, VA, with their six children.

Bryan Haynes ('98) has been elected partner in Troutman Sanders LLP, where he practices in the Richmond office. Haynes is a member of the complex litigation and antitrust practice groups, as well as a member of the firm's tobacco and franchise and distribution teams.

Law graduates **Craig Peters ('98)** and **Craig Franco ('97)** were named finalists in the "Young Guns" category of the *Washington Business Journal's* list of Top Washington Lawyers.

Richard Jacobus ('97) was appointed Senior Litigation Counsel for the U.S. Department of Justice's Tax Division.

Kathleen Giraitis ('97) is working in Florida as a trial attorney for U.S. Immigration & Customs Enforcement. She also is a JAG Corps officer in the U.S. Army Reserve.

Leslie Norwalk ('96) is currently serving as interim head of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services at HHS.

Kimberly Welch ('96) joined the San Francisco law practice of GCA Law Partners LLP in December 2005.

John Monahan ('96) recently was made partner in Jaeckle Fleischman and Mugel's Buffalo office.

Daniel R. Quarles ('96) has become associated with the Newport News office of Kaufman & Canoles, where his practice focuses on litigation.

Will Moschella ('95) is currently serving as Principal Associate Deputy Attorney General at the Department of Justice, where he serves as the legislative liaison between DOJ and the U.S. Congress, representing the interests and opinions of the Department before members of the House and Senate.

Wesley Russell ('95) was married to Dr. Kathryn Wellington Bates on November 4, 2006, in Richmond, VA. Russell is a founding partner at McSweeney, Crump, Childress and Gould. The couple makes their home in Richmond.

Jean Baxley ('95) was named counsel in Crowell & Moring's tax practice, where she concentrates on insurance-taxation issues, privilege issues, civil tax penalties, and tax reporting and disclosure.

Stephen K. Gallagher ('94) has become a partner in Venable LLP's offices in the District of Columbia and Vienna. He

specializes in the buying and selling of assets from companies in bankruptcy reorganization.

Andy Levin ('94) recently testified before the House Judiciary Committee. Andy is Executive Vice President and Chief Legal Officer for Clear Channel Communications, Inc., in San Antonio, TX.

Donald McPhail ('94) has joined the Washington, D.C., office of DuaneMorris as a partner in the Intellectual Property practice group. He represents clients in matters of patent infringement, validity, and enforcement before the federal courts of the United States.

Charles "Chip" Nottingham ('94) has been appointed chairman of the Surface Transportation Board by President George W. Bush. The board is an economic regulatory agency that is charged with resolving railroad rate and service disputes and reviewing proposed railroad mergers.

Alexandria attorney **S. Howard Woodson III ('93)** was elected in June to a two-year term as president of the statewide Old Dominion Bar Association.

Bill Mercer ('93) has been nominated by President George W. Bush to fill the third-highest ranking job at the Department of Justice. As associate attorney general, Mercer would be a principal member of Attorney General Alberto Gonzales' senior management team and would advise the attorney general and deputy attorney general on the formulation and implementation of Justice Department programs and policies.

Peter G. Decker III ('93) of Norfolk, VA, has been appointed to the Virginia Board of Corrections by Governor Timothy M. Kaine. Peter is with the firm Decker, Cardon, Thomas, Weintraub, Neskis & Parker.

Andrea Reister ('93) was promoted to partner at Covington & Burling, where she works in the patent area, in October.

Robert Goodove ('92) was selected as a 2007 "Super Lawyer" in Virginia and named as a "Rising Star" as one of the Top Young Lawyers in Virginia in the area of plaintiffs' personal injury law by the *Law & Politics* publication.

John Dragonetti ('92) has entered a monastery in upstate New York.

Arlington County Board Member **Paul Ferguson ('92)** was the subject of a *Washington Post* article about the environmentalist's initiatives to lower the county's greenhouse gas emissions. Ferguson recently announced his intention to run for Clerk of the Circuit Court in Arlington County, VA.

The Associated Press has named **Lorraine Cichowski ('91)** to be senior vice president in charge of its global technical staff. She will lead a team of more than 600 people delivering technical services to AP's members and subscribers around the world.

Carolyn Grimes ('91) of Alexandria was a winner of the Virginia State Bar's Local Bar Leader of the Year Award. The award recognizes dedication of local bar leaders who offer important service to the bench, bar and public while working closely with the Virginia Bar.

Jonathan Raymond ('91) has joined the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools in Charlotte, NC, as chief accountability officer. He will lead the district in the development of a new accountability system.

Alumni News

Continued from page 22

Robert Barlow ('91) opened a firm in Fredericksburg, VA, in 1997. In 2000 he opened a satellite office in Warsaw, VA.

Katie Monroe ('90) was featured in a *Salt Lake Tribune* article entitled "Fighting wrongful verdicts a passion." She recently began work as the first executive director of the Utah-based Rocky Mountain Innocence Center, a privately funded organization that investigates claims of innocence in Utah, Nevada, and Wyoming.

1981-1989

Jonathan Forster ('89) has been named to a list called "Top Washington Lawyers" in the category of Tax, Trusts and Estates by *Washington Business Journal* magazine.

Thomas Doyle ('89) was named president of the American Basketball Association, which is the largest pro-sports league in the country.

Michael Hund ('88) was appointed to the Penn State Harrisburg Board of Advisors. He is a shareholder with the Harrisburg office of the firm Buchanan Ingersoll and is a member of the Corporate Finance group.

Manuel Capsalis ('88), a member of the Virginia State Bar's executive committee and a former president of its Conference of Local Bar Associations, will serve as president-elect of the VSB in 2008-09. He is a partner in the Arlington, VA, firm Capsalis, Bruce & Reaser PLC.

Alex Pincus ('87) currently serves as underwriting counsel for Stewart Title & Settlement. He formerly worked in private practice, where he specialized in bankruptcy and real estate law. He is a member and past president of the Tidewater Bankruptcy Bar Association.

Brian Dettelbach ('86) is the Assistant Inspector General for Legal, Legislative, and External Affairs for the Department of Transportation Office of Inspector General. Prior to joining DOT in 1997, he served as Counsel to the U.S. Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs. Brian and his wife live in Springfield with their three daughters, the oldest of whom is a student at GMU.

Diane Smith ('86) is the CEO of Auroras, a startup company that is launching a HITS satellite-based content distribution system for IPTV. Diane moved to Montana, where her company is located, several years ago.

William Fisher ('86) recently joined Nossaman Guthner Knox & Elliott LLP's Virginia/D.C. office as a senior attorney in the firm's rapidly growing national infrastructure practice.

John Toner ('85) was inducted in the College of Labor and Employment Lawyers, Inc. Fellows of the College are dedicated to the study and enhancement of professional ethics in the practice of labor and employment law and to the improvement of the delivery and quality of labor and employment legal services. John is of counsel in the Washington, D.C., offices of Seyfarth Shaw LLP.

Lisa Mayne ('85) was sworn in as the Fairfax County General District Court's 11th judge. She was elected by Virginia's General Assembly to fill a new judgeship created this year. Formerly a partner with Kelly, Mayne and Daughtrey, Lisa also served as a substitute judge for district courts in neighboring jurisdictions. She is past president of both the Law Alumni As-

sociation and the GMU Alumni Association, as well as a recipient of the GMU Alumni Service Award.

David Hall ('85) was named to the Virginia Business Legal Elite and was profiled in *Virginia Business* as a criminal defense attorney. He is with the firm Phillips, Beckwith, Hall and Chase in Fairfax, VA.

Holly Kozlowski ('84) was recognized as being a leader in the intellectual property law field when her firm, Dinsmore & Shohl, LLP, was included in the Chambers USA legal guide *America's Leading Lawyers for Business*.

George Mickum ('84) recently joined Spriggs & Hollingsworth's Washington office as a partner in the pharmaceutical products group. He defends complex litigation and represents clients before regulatory agencies in federal and state jurisdictions at both the trial and appellate levels.

Nora Raum ('83), a National Public Radio newscaster and Arlington attorney, was recognized this summer by Legal Services of Northern Virginia for her volunteer legal work.

Michael Coster ('83) has left his position as Senior Counsel for the Department of Homeland Security and returned to private practice in McLean, VA. His practice includes federal employment law litigation and a range of federal administrative law matters. He is of counsel to the Schleicher Law Firm of Waco, TX.

George W. Dodge ('82) of Arlington was a winner of the Virginia State Bar's Local Bar Leader of the Year Award, which recognizes dedication of local bar leaders who offer important service to the bench, bar and public and who work closely with the Virginia Bar.

Craig Young ('82) was named by *Smart CEO* magazine as one of the the "Greater Washington Legal Elite." Craig is with the Washington office of Connelly Bove Lodge & Hutz LLP. He is an adjunct professor at the law school and has held the office of president of the Law Alumni Association twice. (See profile on page 15.)

Scott Clarkson ('82) has just completed a two-year term as Chair of the Los Angeles County (California) Bar Association Bankruptcy Committee and has been elected to the Executive Board of the L.A. County Bar's Commercial Law & Bankruptcy Section. He recently was named a 2007 "Super Lawyer" by *LA Magazine*, which lists the top 5% of Southern California's lawyers as chosen by their peers in their respective fields.

John Terrana ('82) was toastmaster of a Columbus Day banquet at the Woodlands Inn and Resort. He is a member, past president and former chairman of the board of the Wilkes-Barre (PA) Chapter of UNICO and is a founding member of the Italian-American Association of Luzerne County, PA.

Members of Virginia's General Assembly have unanimously elected Fauquier Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney **Gregory Ashwell ('82)** to fill a judicial vacancy in the 20th Judicial Circuit. Ashwell will assume the bench in May in Fauquier Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court.

W. William Gust ('81) of Roanoke-based Gentry Locke Rakes & Moore, LLP, recently was named to the *Best Lawyers in America* list for 2007. The Best Lawyer lists, representing 30 specialties in all 50 states and Washington, D.C., are compiled through a peer-review survey.

Alumni News

Continued from page 23

Lt. Col. **Hugh Teitelbaum ('81)** recently was named the senior reservist to the legal advisor of Lt. Gen. James G. Rodebush, surgeon general of the Air Force. He is vice president and general counsel for St. Barnabas Health System.

1980 and Earlier

Monte Straight ('80) has been appointed Special Agent in Charge of the FBI's Kansas City Field Office, headquartered in Kansas City, MO, with eight resident agencies covering all of Kansas and the western half of Missouri.

The Direct Marketing Association has announced that **Steven Berry ('80)** has joined the organization as executive vice president for government and consumer affairs, taking on a key leadership role at DMA and its Washington operations.

After 40 years of public service, **Tony Zagami ('77)** retired from the U.S. Government Printing Office at the end of the year. He had served as GPO's general counsel since the early 1990s and had spent 25 years working for the U.S. Congress prior to that.

Denyse Sabagh ('77) was featured in a *Legal Times* story about 10 selected attorneys practicing immigration law. She heads the Duane Morris firm's eight-lawyer immigration group.

Ed Wolfe ('77), a former Deputy Assistant Secretary of State in the Reagan Administration, is a principal of the Wolfe Law Offices in Bremerton, WA, where he also serves as a judge pro tem in the Municipal and District Courts. In January he was installed as president of the Kitsap County Bar Association.

After 34 years in the federal government, **Philip Kiko ('77)** will be leaving Capitol Hill to join Foley and Lardner. He will join the firm in late March.

Eric Meyers ('76) is a partner in Stark, Meyers & Eisler. The new multipractice firm will have offices in Rockville, MD; Washington, D.C.; and Vienna, VA. His practice focuses on preparing estate plans and advising clients on real estate transactions.



Law Alumnus Takes Helm of Virginia Bar Association

Glenn C. Lewis ('77) was sworn in as the 107th president of the Virginia Bar Association at the association's February annual meeting.

Lewis is the chairman and founder of The Lewis Law Firm based in Washington, D.C., and specializes in family law.

A graduate and former adjunct professor, Lewis has been honored with the Mason Law Distinguished Alumnus Award for his service in private practice as well as to the law school. Last fall Governor Tim Kaine appointed Lewis to George Mason University's Board of Visitors.

IN MEMORIAM

The entire Mason Law community extends its heartfelt sympathy to the families and friends of those alumni listed below. Our ranks are diminished by their loss.

C. Richard Gibson ('88)
Jeanette Papillo ('81)
Joseph West ('78)



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