

## Martha Barnett to Deliver Spring Commencement Address May 11

Martha Barnett (JD 73), former president of the American Bar Association and a partner in the law firm of Holland & Knight, will address the Spring 2007 graduates at the Levin College of Law's commencement at 2 p.m. Friday, May 11, in the Stephen C. O'Connell Center on the University of Florida campus.

Barnett also will be recognized as a Distinguished Alumnus of UF at the ceremony.

After graduating from law school, Barnett became Holland & Knight's first female attorney when she was hired and subsequently mentored by Chesterfield Smith (JD 48), sometimes known as



Barnett

"America's Lawyer," the firm's founding father and the first of four UF Law graduates to serve as president of the ABA. Barnett now serves as chair of the firm's Directors Committee (the firm's highest policy-making body). Her primary areas of practice are administrative, governmental law, and public policy.

Considered a groundbreaker for her work championing minorities in the legal profession, Barnett was the second woman president in the ABA's history.

Born in Lacoochee, a small town in Pasco County, the daughter of a physician, William "Doc Willie" Walters, Barnett earned a reputation

*Cont. on page 7*

## UF Law Student Wins Highly Prized Presidential Management Fellowship

After a lengthy and time-consuming application process, third-year University of Florida law student Rebecca Marci Brown recently was awarded the prestigious Presidential Management Fellowship. A May 2007 graduate, Brown will begin working in August with the National Cancer Institute at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland.

The purpose of the program is to attract to the federal service outstanding men and women from a variety of academic disciplines and career paths who have a clear interest

in, and commitment to, excellence in the leadership and management of public policies and programs. Graduate school students are eligible

to apply during their last year of school, and by early in the fall semester must submit a resume, references and an application through the program's website ([www.pmf.opm.gov](http://www.pmf.opm.gov)).

Applicants nominated by their colleges take a written exam that assesses logic, grammar, writing skills and personality traits.

Last month, Brown was notified she was one

*Cont. on page 7*



Brown



### ELULS Grant to Restore Law School Woods

A 3.3-acre wooded area across from the Levin College of Law on Village Drive will be restored thanks to a \$16,300 grant from University of Florida Student Government and UF Physical Plant.

The Environmental and Land Use Law Society (ELULS) developed the proposal to restore the UF Conservation Area across Village Drive and west of the law school campus. The Conservation Area is littered, subject to vagrancy and infested with invasive exotic species that contribute to natural habitat deterioration. The proposal was written and coordinated by third-year law student Ashley Henry (pictured above left), who will serve as project manager. She said the first step will be removing invasive exotic plant species. This summer, they'll determine what native plant species to introduce to the area, as well as what facilities to build.

"We're really excited about this," said ELULS President Christine Manning (pictured above right), whose group has committed "sweat equity" to the project along with the adjacent Golf View Neighborhood Association. "A lot of our people really like to be hands-on with working and clearing out invasives and other environmental problems."

The project will involve faculty and students from five colleges, providing expertise in botany, archaeology, landscape architecture, geomatics and law.



# CAREER Services

## Ambassadors Wanted

The Center for Career Services is looking for motivated students to serve as Ambassadors during fall On-Campus Interviews (OCI). Ambassadors will escort interviewers to their respective interview locations. It's a great chance to meet the employers. If you are interested, please email Jessie Howell Wallace at [howellje@law.ufl.edu](mailto:howellje@law.ufl.edu) for details.

## Judicial Clerkship Deadline

The deadline for requesting letters of recommendation from your professors for judicial clerkships is April 20. Request your letters of recommendation by this deadline so that the professors can draft your letter before grading finals or leaving for the summer. Your list of potential judges can be updated at a later date. For more information on the judicial clerkship application process, come by the Center for Career Services to pick up the program handout or to schedule an appointment with Jocelyn Ferguson or Dean Calvert Hanson. Subscribe to the judicial listserve by sending a blank email to [judicial-clerkship-hotline-subscribe@law.ufl.edu](mailto:judicial-clerkship-hotline-subscribe@law.ufl.edu)

## CCS Summer Hours

The CCS maintains regular office hours during the summer, with scheduled appointment availability, judicial clerkship information and access to the CCS Resource Library. Hours are Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

## 1L Shadow Program

Take a day or two this summer to participate in the 1L Shadow Program and see the law in action first hand. Attorneys have volunteered to allow a first-semester student to shadow them during a typical day and experience the life of a practicing attorney. To sign up for a lottery to participate, email [Jocelyn.Ferguson@law.ufl.edu](mailto:Jocelyn.Ferguson@law.ufl.edu). Mark your calendar for the lottery drawing on Thursday, April 19, in the Faculty Dining Room at 10 a.m. You must be present at the lottery in order to secure a shadow experience.

## Graduating in May?

### Stop by Career Services to Complete an Exit Survey and to Obtain Your Regalia

Graduating students can stop by for their quick, strictly confidential Exit Survey with a career services counselor any time between April 23 and graduation. These meetings will help you, Career Services, and the law school as a whole by providing accurate graduation statistics to be reported to the ABA, NALP, and both current and prospective students.

If you are undecided on your post-graduation plans, there is even more reason to come in and talk with a counselor to help you make a decision or craft a plan. Appointments are not necessary for the Exit Surveys.

You may, however, make an appointment to discuss your future options by stopping by Career Services or emailing [careers@law.ufl.edu](mailto:careers@law.ufl.edu) with your desired appointment time.

Beginning May 1, you will also be able to pick up your graduation regalia in the Center for Career Services.

## Pro Bono and Community Service Certificates

Were you unable to attend the Volunteer Awards Brunch to receive your Pro Bono or Community Service Certificates? Have you just now completed at least 35 hours of Pro Bono or Community Service work? If so, stop by Career Services to pick your certificate up or to verify your hours tally.

Remember, there are many ways you can contribute to the public interest and gain valuable experience throughout your summer, whether you'll be in Gainesville or another Florida city, outside of Florida, or even in another country.

Don't forget to keep track of all of your volunteer hours and have them verified by a supervisor—chances are they will contribute either to a Pro Bono or Community Service certificate. If you have any questions, contact Samara Sarno about your service work throughout the summer.

## Interested in Public Interest Work?

Sign up for Career Services' new Public Interest Hotline by going to <https://lists.law.ufl.edu/mailman/listinfo/pubint-l> and filling out the appropriate information. By doing so, you'll receive updated public interest job and funding information as we receive it in our office.

## Bidding for Fall OCI begins in July. Will You be Ready?

Bidding for fall OCI (for summer 2008 and permanent positions), will begin mid-July. If you anticipate having a problem with computer access and thus bidding, please be sure to contact CCS before you leave for the summer.

Remember, the bidding dates are as follows:

- Early Interview Week: July 10-16
- Phase 1: Aug. 7-13
- Phase 2: Aug. 21-27
- Phase 3: Sept. 4-10

Separate bidding will occur in late September and early October for next year's incoming LLMs.

To participate in fall OCI, all students must complete an updated OCI Policies and Procedures Form (5/07). This form has been modified, and is different than the form some of you signed for Fall 06 or Spring 07 OCI. Download the form from the CCS website or stop by to sign a copy.

You will not have access in Symplicity, and thus will be unable to bid this summer and early fall, unless you have signed and submitted to Career Services a new Policy and Procedures Form. Make sure you take care of this before you leave for the summer.

Also, please note that your class year will not automatically roll to the next year in your Symplicity Profile. Log in to Symplicity and update your class year and anticipated graduation date before bidding begins in July.

Additionally, don't forget to update and upload your resume with your relevant academic and summer additions before

# VOLUNTEER AWARDS

## Students Honored, Presented with Pro Bono Certificates at Annual Brunch

bidding on employers.

Remember that Early Interview Week begins the week of Aug. 14. Make your summer plans accordingly, as this busy interview week occurs before your classes will resume next fall.

The complete Fall OCI schedule is available on the CCS website. Mark your calendars with these dates.

### Off-Campus (Job Fair) Recruiting Reminder

For a complete listing of UF-sponsored job fairs, visit the Career Services website at <http://www.law.ufl.edu/career/students/job-fairs.shtml>.

As a reminder, here are some important upcoming dates for some of the larger job fairs in which UF Law students participate.

- Southeastern Minority Job Fair (SEMJF) in Atlanta: Interviews Aug. 3-4. Registration Deadline: June 28.
- Mid-Atlantic Legal Recruiting Conference (MALRC) in Washington, DC: Interviews Aug. 24. Registration Deadline: July 6.
- Southeastern Law Placement Consortium (SELPC) in Atlanta, GA: Interviews Aug. 17. Registration Deadline: July 10.

To be eligible to participate in these UF-sponsored job fairs, you must complete a Job Fair No Show Policy Form. These forms are available in CCS. Stop by now to complete this necessary step so you don't miss out on these useful events.

**National Black Prosecutors Association** (NBPA) will host its Job Fair on Tuesday, July 17, at the Hilton Bellevue in Bellevue, Washington. The goal of the NBPA Job Fair is to promote diversity in prosecutors' offices by providing a forum where prospective employers can easily access highly qualified minority candidates from across the country.

The Job Fair will provide a unique forum where law students, recent law graduates, and experienced attorneys from across the nation can meet and interview with prospective prosecutorial employers at the

Students who completed at least 35 hours to better their communities through the Pro Bono Project were honored at the Volunteer Awards Brunch April 12.



Student Patrick Owen Jackson, 2L, receives his award from Dean Calvert Hanson.

May 2007 graduates: Yelizaveta Batres, Ronisha Beasley, Edward Blaisdell, Jessica Casciola, Natasha Crespo, J'arnie D'Aguiar, Alexandre Denault, Dina Finkel, Sergiu Gherman, Elizabeth Kenney, Julia Lee, Brian Malec, Timothy McCourt, Careshia Moore, Richard Plascencia, Nate Quirk, Jonathan Schwartz, Yekaterina Shonina, Mary Jo Smith, Kevin Sobel, Angela Steiner, Salvatore Taillefer, Jr., Joanna Theiss, Jorge Tormes, Leslie Trauger, Dorothy Watson, and Sheila Zolnoor.

December 2007 graduates: Jeffrey Allen, Andrea Campbell, Adrian Chandler, Amber Contreras, Tiffany Cummins, Jerry Hanbery, Rachel Heilman, Kathryn Johnson, Yuho Kim, Carl Lammers, Latasha Marshall-Scott, Orla McCabe, Alexandra Mora, Amy Nath, Beejal Patel, Kelly Reese,

David Sams, Tania Sebastian, Joshua Webb, and Kristeen Witt.

2008-2009 graduates: Meredith Barrios, Lillian Boudrias, Alexandra Brzostowicki, Mikayla Bucci, Stacey Carter, Jercules Collins II, Elizabeth Faist, Ryan Feinberg, Vanessa Gonzalez-Vinas, Paige Hardy, Michael Hooi, John Hope, Ling-Yee Huang, Dana Israel, Jessica Jackson, Patrick Owen Jackson, Emily Katz, Kimberly Lopez, Lori Lustrin, Giselle Mammanna, Lauren Marks, Tinesha Morris, Suzanne Nebesky, Pooja Patel, Jamie Rozzi, Dorothy Russ, Chelsea Simmons, Christopher Spence, Emily White, Erin Wolfson, and Lisa Paige Ellison-Cherry.

If you are interested in the Pro Bono or Community Service Projects, and want to know what you can do to be added to this list, please see Samara Sarno in Career Services.



Mike Seigel (second from right) was presented with the award for Professor of the Year by Thomas Obhof from JMBA (far left). Seigel is flanked by Dean Bob Jerry and Associate Dean for Students Rachel Inman.

local, state, and federal levels. For application instructions and information about the event and concurrent conference, stop by Career Services.

**The Boston Lawyers Group Job Fair** for second- and third-year law students from diverse backgrounds, will be held Thursday, Sept. 13, in Washington, D.C.

The Boston Lawyers Group (BLG) is a consortium of 40 of the largest law firms, government agencies, and corporations in the City of Boston. Its mission is to promote the hiring, retention, and professional development of law students and attorneys from diverse backgrounds in the member organizations through coordinated and sustained efforts.

Among the primary goals of the BLG is to increase the number of law students from diverse backgrounds. The job fair is one way to do so.

Interested second- and third-year law students must Pre-Register for the BLG Job Fair on line at [www.bostonlawyersgroup.org](http://www.bostonlawyersgroup.org) between April 2 and May 4.

Pre-Registered students must submit their resumes and transcripts to their law school's Career Services office, as soon as the final transcripts are available. Stop by Career Services if you would like further information.

# Photos of the Year



**BLSA Trial Team earned the national title in Atlanta at the NBSA Thurgood Marshall Mock Trial Competition. Team members who competed included (clockwise from lower left) Jessica Anderson, Camille Warren, Alicia Phillip and Ronisha Beasley. The team of Anderson and Phillip defeated Georgetown in the semifinals and Georgia State in the final round.**

**Author Joyce Ann Brown asks law students at the Center for the Study of Race & Race Relations lecture to be fair when they go on to practice law. She spent nine years, five months and 24 days in prison for a crime she did not commit.**



**The Moot Court Team took home the trophy for the third consecutive year in the annual Florida-Georgia Hulsey-Kimbrell Moot Court Competition with the University of Georgia School of Law in the Court of Appeals at the Federal Courthouse in Jacksonville.**



**Supreme Court Associate Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg meets with Levin College of Law students prior to the dedication of the Chesterfield Smith Ceremonial Classroom September 21, 2006.**



**First-year students (from left to right) Alyssa Camper, Eric Burger and Raechel Steckley help paint a house in the Celebration Oaks development for underprivileged families as part as their law school orientation.**

# A Look Back

at 2006-2007



Andre Hammel gets dunked at the Law School Multicultural Fair that was sponsored by LCC and Student Affairs.



Conservation Clinic Director Tom Ankerson (at back) with students studying aquaculture off Cedar Key in early February 2007.



U.S. Circuit Judge Rosemary Barkett of the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals poses with *Florida Law Review* Editor-in-Chief Robert Kline and Symposium Editor Rachel Wagner at the 2007 Dunwoody Distinguished Lecture.

Gator fans celebrate the UF football team's national championship in January. Less than three months later, fans again took over West University Avenue as the UF basketball team became the first team in 15 years to win back-to-back NCAA titles, and Florida became the first school to win football and basketball titles in the same academic and calendar year.



Javier Banos (3L) strikes at a pinata in the Levin College of Law Marcia Schott Courtyard during a stress-relieving exercise organized by Resource Counselor Nicole Stern (back left).

# BRIEFS

## News & Events

### BLSA Honors Spring Grads

Amidst study schedules and national championship celebrations, the W. George Allen chapter of the National Black Law Students Association made time to honor its graduating members on Friday, April 6, 2007 at its annual Grad Send Off at Emerson Hall.



Hutchison

The annual event is an opportunity to commemorate the accomplishments of its graduating members. This semester there were 12 honorees: Ronisha Beasley, Tiffany

Brown, Natasha Chisolm, Marie Fox, Lee Glover, James Holloway, Kemay Jackson, Suzette Maylor, Careshia Moore, Byron Owens, Melanie Thompson, and Camille Warren. Each contributed greatly in leadership in their participation in legal clinics, journals, Student Government, Trial Team, student recruitment, NBLSA, and other organizations.

Among the guests were UF Law Professors Kenneth Nunn and Kathryn Russell-Brown, director of the Center for the Study of Race & Race Relations. The keynote speaker was Lewis Hutchison, former UF Law director of admissions.

### Financial Aid Reminder

For those students who have not already done so, now is the time to apply for aid for the 2007-2008 academic year. Students are encouraged to apply electronically using FAFSA/Renewal FAFSA on the web since it can save you processing time and has a built-in editing format to reduce errors. Just go to FAFSA/Renewal FAFSA on the web at <http://www.FAFSA.ed.gov> and follow the instructions on the site. After applying via FAFSA/Renewal FAFSA on the web, you can check the status of your application and/or make corrections online. You will need to use your Federal Access Code (PIN) to complete the renewal electronically.

### Memorial Service to Celebrate Francis A. Allen April 20

University of Florida Emeritus Professor Francis A. Allen, a leading legal educator and thinker, died April 6 at North Florida Regional Hospital in Gainesville. Allen taught criminal law for more than 40 years and was a principal architect of the provision of legal counsel to indigent defendants, both through his scholarly writings and his chairmanship of the Attorney General's Commission on Poverty and the Administration of Federal Criminal Justice, which led to the Criminal Justice Act of 1964 and the Bail Reform Act of 1966.



Allen

An authority on both criminal law and juvenile delinquency, Allen helped write the Model Penal Code of the American Law Institute and was the principal architect of the Illinois Criminal Code of 1961,

which among other things decriminalized sexual acts between consenting adults of the same sex. As a scholar, Allen focused on the punishment of offenders and the workings of agencies such as police, prosecutors and penal institutions, examining these in the light of constitutional law and fundamental legal principles of fairness, an approach that established a new agenda for legal research. He also upheld legal education as a humanistic discipline, showing how, in Justice Oliver Wendall Holmes' words, the law was "a path to the world."

According to fellow UF Law professor and close friend, Jerold H. Israel, "Frank was undoubtedly one of the foremost scholars of his generation, but he was much more—a wonderful colleague and a wise and generous mentor to many, including myself. His move to Florida was a major event in the development of our faculty, and attracted national attention. Perhaps the most prominent features of Frank's writings, teaching and his everyday conversations were the thoughtful character of his analysis and his articulateness."

Allen began teaching at UF in 1986 as the newly appointed Huber C. Hurst Eminent Scholar after retiring from University of Michigan as Edson R. Sunderland Professor Emeritus. Allen remained an emeritus professor even after he ceased teaching in 1994.

"My father enjoyed his time at Florida, first of all, because it gave him an opportunity to continue doing what he loved most—teaching law and showing students how the law can be a satisfying, lifelong intellectual pursuit," said his son, Neil Allen. "He also took great pleasure in interacting with the faculty, particularly young scholars whom he was able to counsel and assist in the early stages of their careers."

Allen wrote numerous articles and reviews and delivered guest lectures at many law schools. Allen's books include *The Borderland of Criminal Justice*, *The Crimes of Politics* (originally delivered as the Holmes Lectures at Harvard), *Law, Intellect and Education*, *The Decline of the Rehabilitative Ideal* (Storrs Lectures, Yale), and *Habits of Legality* (Cooley Lectures, Michigan).

Born in Kansas City, Kan., in 1919, Allen was educated at Cornell College in Mount Vernon, Iowa, and Northwestern University Law School. Upon graduation from law school in 1946, Allen served as clerk to U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice Fred Vinson. After leaving the court, he became a member of the law faculties of Northwestern (1948-1953), Harvard (1953-1956), the University of Chicago (1956-1962 and 1963-1966) and the University of Michigan (1962-3 and 1966-1986), serving as dean of the Michigan Law School from 1966-1971. He was elected president of the Association of American Law Schools in 1976.

A Guggenheim Fellow in 1971 and 1973, Allen also received several honorary degrees, as well as the Fellows Research Award of the American Bar Foundation. Allen served in the United States Army Air Corps as a weatherman in WWII. He married June Walsh in 1947. She survives him, as do his brother William, sister Olive Thompson, son Neil, daughter-in law Roberta Allen, and grandchildren Jessica and Mark.

A service to celebrate his life will be held Friday, April 20, at noon in the Chesterfield Smith Ceremonial Classroom. A reception with members of the Allen family will follow.

# Barnett to Address Spring 2007 UF Law Graduates

Cont. from page 1

as a tough litigator and champion of the underdog. Along with Holland & Knight colleague Stephen Hanlon, Barnett won reparations for descendants of survivors from Rosewood, the predominantly black Levy County town ransacked by a white mob enraged over a black man's alleged rape of a white woman in 1923.

"The Rosewood case is what Martha is about," Sandy D'Alemberte (JD 62), president of Florida State University and a past president of the ABA, told the *Tallahassee Democrat* in 2000. "Martha has made a great reputation as a lawyer and has represented many important clients, but I do not think that she has ever performed legal services which gave her as much satisfaction as the Rosewood case. She was tenacious, sensitive and courageous."

In addition to serving as president, Barnett chaired the ABA's main policymaking body, the House of Delegates, as well as serving alongside first lady Hillary Clinton on an ABA task force that studied women in the legal profession. She was also chair of one of its most significant sections, Individual Rights and Responsibilities, and served on the committee that supervises legal education and the committee that sponsors technical assistance for legal reform in emerging Central and East European democracies.

In February, Barnett was one of 11 members appointed by Florida

## Brown Wins Fellowship

Cont. from page 1

of 792 finalists and in early April, she attended the PMF career fair in Washington, D.C. to attempt to secure appointment to a position with a federal agency, which is the final stage of the selection process. Brown interviewed with numerous agencies both at the fair and at their offices in D.C., Maryland and Virginia.

"It's really vital for people to know that you shouldn't rely on just interviewing with the agencies at the career fair and make a decision about an offer," said Brown, who received five offers before accepting her position. "It's important to go to the actual office and see what the culture of the workplace is like."

In addition to helping graduates find a career in public service with good pay and benefits, Brown said, the program provides a network of past and current fellows who are "extraordinarily supportive."

Brown has a long-held interest in health policy, and her new position with the NCI holds special meaning. Her grandfather was a cancer research scientist in New York. She credits her family with instilling in her a commitment to social justice. Her aunt was a Freedom Rider, and Brown calls her mom, who is a nurse, the most selfless person she knows. Brown urged UF Law students graduating in December 2007 or May 2008 to investigate the program early because applications will be due in September 2007. She described the program as one of many opportunities to pursue a non-traditional legal career.

"You can go to law school and persevere and come out with the kind of job that's an ideal fit to connect you with your goals and contribute to happiness and balance in your work and life," she said.

### Attention Graduating Students

- Thursday, May 10, is the deadline for picking up cap, tassel and gown for graduation from the Center for Career Services.
- No tickets will be necessary. Graduating students are asked to report, with their regalia, to the O'Connell Center Martial Arts Room, entering through Gate 4 (bottom level) no later than 1:15 p.m., where they will assemble and review the program.
- Guests are encouraged to park at the parking garage adjacent to the O'Connell Center. There are plenty of accessible parking spaces, and should guests require assistance inside, there will be O'Connell Center staff to help. Guests requiring assistance should arrive early.
- A Graduation Reception will immediately follow the program and will be held in the law school's Schott Courtyard.

Governor Charlie Crist to serve on the Taxation and Budget Reform Commission. In 2006, she was named by the *National Law Journal* as one of the "100 Most Influential Lawyers in America," a prestigious list representing those attorneys who have made a national impact in their fields both currently and over the past five years. In 2004, Barnett was named one of the 174 "Most Influential Floridians" by *Florida Trend*.

### Spring Exam Schedule at the Lawton Chiles Legal Information Center

Please be aware of the following special extended closing hours for the Lawton Chiles Legal Information Center during the law spring exam period:

- From Monday, April 16, through Thursday, April 19, the Legal Information Center will close at 1 a.m.
- From Friday, April 20, through Thursday, May 3, the Legal Information Center will close at 2 a.m.

Closing hours will be clearly posted on the entrance doors to the Legal Information Center as a reminder to all.



### Back By Popular Demand

The Legal Information Center will also reserve two rooms in the building for "Law Only" study. Signs will be displayed on easels at the entrance to the rooms stating that the two rooms are reserved for the exclusive use of Levin College of Law student study only. One of the "Law Only" rooms will be the O'Connell-Supreme Court Reading Room on the center's first floor. The other is easily accessible by taking the library elevator to the Lower Level (basement) and walking straight ahead. The reserved room will be on your right.

We are able to reserve the two rooms since neither contain research materials, only tables and chairs for study, and we hope law students will use them as quiet space to prepare for spring exams.

## Send Us Your News

*FlaLaw* is published each week school is in session by the Levin College of Law Communications Office:

- Jim Hellegaard, Senior Writer, *FlaLaw* Editor
- Debra Amirin, APR, Director
- Kathy Fleming, APR, CPRC, Associate Director, *UF LAW* Magazine Editor
- Kristen Hines, Photographer

This is the last issue of *FlaLaw* for the 2006-2007 school year. To submit new for the upcoming issue of *UF Law eNews* email flalaw@law.ufl.edu, call 273-0650, stop by Communications in 287 Holland Hall, or mail it to P.O. Box 117633, Gainesville, FL 32611-7633.

## College of Law Administration

- Robert H. Jerry, II, Dean
- George L. Dawson, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
- Stuart R. Cohn, Associate Dean for International Studies
- Michael K. Friel, Associate Dean & Director, Graduate Tax Program
- Rachel E. Inman, Associate Dean for Students
- Christine Klein, Associate Dean for Faculty Development
- M. Kathleen "Kathie" Price, Associate Dean for Library and Technology
- Gail E. Sasnett, Associate Dean for Students, Professionalism and Community Relations
- John Plummer, Assistant Dean for Administrative Affairs
- Adrian Jones, Assistant Dean for Diversity and Community Relations
- Linda Calvert Hanson, Assistant Dean for Career Services
- J. Michael Patrick, Assistant Dean for Admissions
- Debra D. Amirin, Director of Communications
- Kelley Frohlich, Senior Director of Development and Alumni Affairs

# SCHOLARSHIP & Activities

## Mary Jane Angelo

### Assistant Professor

- Her article "Embracing Uncertainty, Complexity, and Change: An Ecopragmatic Reinvention Of A First-Generation Environmental Law," which was published in *Ecology Law Quarterly* last year, has been selected by a panel of peer reviewers as one of the 20 best land use and environmental law articles of 2006.



Angelo

## Thomas T. Ankersen

### Director, CGR Conservation Clinic and Costa Rica Law Program; Legal Skills Professor

- Participated in and presented at University of Maryland School of Law's 2007 Ward Kershaw Environmental Law Conference, "Globalizing Clinical Education to Protect the World's Health and Environment," April 11-13.



Ankersen

## Mark A. Fenster

### Associate Professor

- His essay, "The Folklore of Legal Biography," recently was published in the *Michigan Law Review*.



Fenster

## Juan F. Perea

### Cone Wagner Nugent Johnson, Hazouri and Roth Professor

- Gave the opening keynote address for the "Race in 21st Century America" conference at Michigan State University on April 4. His speech was titled "Why We Need a Truth and Reconciliation Commission."



Perea

## Christopher L. Peterson

### Associate Professor

- Presented a paper entitled "The Mythology of American Usury Law" to faculty and students at the Ohio State University April 2.
- Invited to testify before the U.S. Senate Banking Committee's Subcommittee on Securities, Insurance, and Investment on April 17. The title of the hearing is "Subprime Mortgage Market Turmoil: Examining the Role of Securitization." Peterson was asked to discuss his law review article, "Predatory Structured Finance," which is forthcoming with the *Cardozo Law Review*.



Peterson

## Michael Allan Wolf

### Professor, Richard E. Nelson Chair in Local Government Law

- Published a review essay entitled "Looking Backward: Richard Epstein Ponders the 'Progressive' Peril" in the *Michigan Law Review*.



Wolf

## Danaya C. Wright

### Professor

- Selected to receive a University of Florida Research Foundation Professorship Award for 2007-09.



Wright

## In the News

## Winston P. Nagan

### Professor; Samuel T. Dell Research Scholar; Director, Institute of Human Rights and Peace Development

- *The Gainesville Sun*, March 26. In an op-ed on the government's moves in Iraq he wrote, "What is most critical however is how strategically and tactically our forces and other assets are used to ensure these strategic values of our commitment."

## Christopher L. Peterson

### Associate Professor

- *Kansas City Star*, March 20. In article on a city council vote to impose licensing and distance restrictions on payday lending stores, he said, "states are often in a better position to do things such as limiting interest rates charged by payday loan shops."

## Michael L. Seigel

### Professor

- *Orlando Sentinel*, March 30. Published op-ed on thin line U.S. attorneys walk between politics and policy and Department of Justice's role in protecting them from outside forces.
- *The New York Times*, April 6. On a judge's decision to withhold psychological evaluations for former NASA astronaut Lisa Nowak, he said, "Because we're dealing in this case with things that have special sensitivity, like psychological evaluations, that can sort of tip the scales toward what the judge did, but it's definitely the exception rather than the rule."

## Lee-ford Tritt

### Director, Center for Estate and Elder Law Planning and Estates and Trusts Practice Certificate Program

- *The Gainesville Sun*, March 12. In article on Anna Nicole Smith's will he said, "An estate attorney should create harmony. This did not help with family harmony, and it created this worldwide circus around her estate."

# Center for Governmental Responsibility Fellows

## Inherited Blame: The Effects of Incarceration on Women and Children By Adrian Chandler

Through my work with the Women's Outreach Project of Florida Institutional Legal Services (FILS), I've been given the opportunity to help incarcerated mothers navigate the intricacies of the child welfare system and minimize the collateral effects of incarceration.



Chandler

The number of incarcerated women has increased eight-fold in the last twenty-five years, largely due to state laws mandating minimum drug sentences. At FILS, I have had the opportunity to address issues distinctly unique to women prisoners through the Women's Outreach Program. In addition to mental health and reproductive rights, one of the major issues being tackled by the Women's Outreach Project is parental rights. This facet of the project aims to help incarcerated mothers preserve the parent-child relationship and inform them on decisions concerning the care and custody of their children.

It's estimated that more than one and a half million children in the United States have a parent behind bars. While incarceration and parental rights issues affect men, women are the primary caregivers in American society. As the number of incarcerated women rises, so do the number of children under the supervision of children welfare agencies.

In 2000, the Bureau of Justice Statistics found that more than sixty-four percent of incarcerated mothers lived with and cared for their children before prison.

Incarcerated mothers (46% of state, 51% of federal) were also more likely than incarcerated fathers (15% of state, 14% of federal) to have been the only parent living with the children in the month preceding their arrest. Finally, thirty-one percent of mothers in prison had been living alone with their children, compared to 4% of fathers.

Enacted under the Clinton administration, the Adoption and Safe Families Act has had an extraordinary impact on the parental rights of incarcerated mothers. The act establishes a bright-line test concerning the termination of parental rights of incarcerated parents. While a commendable attempt to establish stability for foster children, the act accelerates the process for termination of parental rights. The law requires that states begin the process for termination of rights if a child has been in foster care for fifteen of the last twenty-two months absent a showing of compelling

reasons.

This fifteen-month framework is difficult for many incarcerated mothers to meet. Since many incarcerated mothers are serving sentences that are longer than fifteen months, a significant number of mother-child ties risk being severed forever. Furthermore, incarcerated mothers often have difficulty attending their termination hearings. When an incarcerated mother is in federal prison, federal prisons cannot be compelled to transport them to state court hearings.

Even mothers who are released from prison experience difficulty setting up a home environment stable enough for children.

Due to current laws and the lack of knowledge by incarcerated mothers, the child is punished for the transgressions of the mother. Children who experience the termination process often suffer from separation anxiety, low self-esteem and a variety of other negative consequences. Also, courts have long recognized the fundamental right of a parent to have a relationship with her child, thus parent-child relationships have been protected from government intrusion.

The Women's Outreach Project seeks to refocus the debate from the punishment of the parent to the best interest of the child, which is – in many cases – reunification. In Florida, the paramount goal in the permanent placement of a child is reunification. By enabling a child who has been placed in out-of-home care to safely return to his or her parent at the earliest possible time, the trauma associated with termination is avoided.

## How to Help the Poor without Becoming Poor: Finding Funding for Public Interest Law Jobs

By Dina Finkel

Public interest attorneys are devoted to using the law to promote equality and justice for impoverished and marginalized members of society. While these lawyers are passionate about their work, they are poorly paid relative to their colleagues in private law firms. Moreover, public interest employment is difficult to attain and candidates are often required to have significant experience. Idealistic law students confront the problem of repaying student loans with low salaries and uncompensated internships. However, alternate forms of funding exist to enable current law students to pursue social justice both during law school and after graduation.



Finkel

Fellowships and stipends are used to

fund summer internships and post-graduate employment. One such program is the Equal Justice Works Fellowship, which is organized by the eponymous non-profit devoted to promoting public interest work. The fellowship program provides funding for law school graduates to complete a project that the fellow designs. In 2006, the program paid an annual stipend of \$37,000, provided full benefits, and paid \$6,000 of the fellow's law school loans. Recent UF graduates who received the fellowship include Jill Mahler, Virginia Hamner and J. Samantha Vacciana. The Skadden Fellowship, colloquially known as the "legal peace corps," similarly provides a two-year post-graduate fellowship for projects that assist the legally underrepresented. Some national organizations, such as the Southern Poverty Law Center, sponsor post-graduate fellowships as well. These are often posted on national websites, such as Public Service Law Network. Most of these fellowships require applicants to apply by the fall of their third year of law school.

There are also many ways for law students to secure funding for summer internships. The Florida Bar Foundation provides an excellent opportunity for law students interested in public interest law. Students work full time for eleven weeks for legal services providers throughout Florida. Losmin Jimenez (3L) spent last summer working for the Legal Aid Society of the Dade County Bar Association and worked primarily on family law issues, such as divorce, custody and child support.

Other scholarship opportunities for current law school students provide stipends. Equal Justice Works provides \$1,000 as a tuition voucher for law students who work a specified number of hours to a 501(c)(3) organization that provides legal services to traditionally underrepresented clients. Another way to gain financial backing for an unpaid summer position at a nonprofit is to apply for the Association for Public Interest Law's summer scholarship. Sarah Stephenson received \$2,900 and worked at the National Women's Law Center in Washington, D.C. where she researched federal judicial nominations and federal opinions. Dina Finkel received \$2,900 and interned at the Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia in the Public Benefits unit.

Students can also serve as public interest law fellows during their third year of law school. The program, funded by the Florida Bar Foundation, requires students to devote 270 hours to a local public interest organiza-

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# Center for Governmental Responsibility Fellows

tion, such as Florida Institutional Legal Services and Guardian Ad Litem. Fellows receive \$3,500 in compensation.

Law students who are interested in public interest should not be discouraged from pursuing the field solely because of funding. The fellowships and scholarships listed provide financial support for students and graduates and make it feasible for them to advocate for social and legal justice.

## The Best Interests of the Child

By Bard Prochaska

Every time I walk into mediation with the program attorney for the Guardian ad Litem introduces herself I can't help but think what an incredible responsibility she has. This is what she says: "I represent the Guardian ad Litem's office, we have been appointed by the court to represent the best interests of your child".



Prochaska

I have gotten to hear that introduction many times over the last year as a Florida Bar Foundation CGR Public Service Law Fellow assigned to work with the Guardian Ad Litem's office in Gainesville. The Guardian program has been operating in Florida since 1980 when a pilot program was first begun. Since 1990 there has been a program in operation in all of Florida's judicial circuits. In Florida the Guardian ad Litem (GAL) program involves both lawyers and non-lawyers and depends on volunteers. Volunteers are the ones who meet with the children and gather information and monitor the activities surrounding their care and make recommendations to the court about their case. Case coordinators supervise the volunteers and a program attorney handles legal matters.

GAL volunteers are required to complete a 30-hour training program before they are assigned to a case. After that most of them spend a few hours a week visiting with the child they are assigned to and preparing reports on their condition. Their reports are used by the Judge to help decide what is in the best interest of the child. Most of the cases assigned to the GAL office involve abused or neglected children but they are also sometimes appointed in child custody and criminal cases. Any party to a case can request that the GAL be appointed but it is up to the judge to decide if their services are warranted.

The program attorneys for the GAL represent the volunteers and the case coordinators in court. Their job is to help them take their observations and recommendations to the judge in a way that allows the judge to act on

them. There are also private attorneys that take on cases through the GAL program. The GAL office acts independent of any other party involved with the case so sometimes they come down on the side of the parents and sometimes on the side of the State. Because their focus is on the child's best interest and nothing else the judge usually gives a lot of weight to their recommendations and follows them most of the time.

Getting involved in the GAL program in any way would be a worthwhile experience whether as a volunteer or a program attorney or a Pro Bono attorney. Any work or volunteering done for this program will directly benefit the life of a child. There is also a program called the guardian angel program coordinated through the Guardian ad Litem office where you can sponsor a child who is involved with the office. By buying him or her Christmas presents and making sure he or she has the resources to participate in school field trips or other activities you can help make their lives a little more normal.

My internship with the Guardian ad Litem's office was through the Florida Bar Foundation Center for Governmental Responsibility Public Service Law Fellows program.

## My Experience As a Public Interest Law Fellow

By Veniese A. Wilkinson

I'm currently serving as a Public Interest Law Fellow during this Spring 2007 semester. The Fellowship is funded by the Florida Bar Foundation and is overseen and directed by the Center for Government Responsibility and the Center for Career Services here at the Levin College of Law. Placed at the Florida Institutional Legal Services (FILS) here in Gainesville, I've gained a wealth of insight and experience. FILS is a non-profit law office that provides free legal assistance to the impoverished who are incarcerated in Florida. Services include but are not limited to: advocating for change in the provision of mental and physical health services, advocating for improvement in women's rights, advocating for the protection of prisoner's religious freedoms as well as those subject to physical abuse and neglect.

As a Fellow I was welcomed with open arms by the Attorneys at FILS. My assignments are interesting and the Attorneys are always available to answer any and all questions. Being that our clients are incarcerated, their only means of communication is through persuasive, articulate, handwritten letters; so in order to screen

each letter for any legal substance I've been involved with the "intake process". This process involves reading and analyzing each letter and making a brief synopsis for the Attorneys so that they can easily determine whether there are any substantive legal claims.

While conducting research on various cases I've realized how easy it is to get emotionally attached to a segment of the case. Whether it's children who are affected by the actions of the parent or whether it is a young girl who made some bad decisions in her life. I can't help but wonder—"what if"? What if these individuals were surrounded by a different group of people? What if they were exposed to different choices? Would there outcomes be the same? It's hard not to ask these questions.

I've also received wide exposure in regards to the operations of the Department of Corrections and the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice. As administrative agencies they adhere to their own policies and procedures. Having a profound interest in Administrative Law-it was a treat to conduct research and analyze whether or not their rulings are in compliance with applicable legal standards. I'm now in the process of drafting a request to the Department of Corrections to adhere to their own rules and regulations in reference to allowing our client to have visitation with his children.

In addition to conducting extensive research, I've conducted a jail and prison visit along with my colleague Adrian Chandler. The jail visit was at the Alachua County Jail and the prison visit at the Lowell Annex female prison in Ocala Florida. Those experiences while different were equally profound. The client-interviewing skills that I've mastered this semester through the Family Law Pro Se Clinic proved extremely useful when interviewing our clients-especially these clients who had so much to express to us. Both of the visits were to meet with the clients in person, and or follow up on changes-if any-made by their institutions regarding their mental/physical health, as well as any safety concerns they had. One of these clients was a very young girl who was sexually abused at home and would be released soon but was in fear of returning home.

Being apart of a team who advocate on behalf of these individuals who have no other voice has been an invaluable experience. I encourage any and all students who have an interest or just a curiosity in Public Interest, to consider applying for a Fellowship during a future semester-placements are various, extremely interesting and a great learning experience.

*Adrian Chandler, Dina Finkel, Bard Prochaska and Veniese A. Wilkinson are 2006-07 Florida Bar Foundation Public Interest Law Fellows.*