COLLEGE ATHLETICS FOR SALE?
GATOR LAWYERS READY FOR LEGAL GUSTS IN UNIVERSITY SPORTS
College athletics for sale?
UF Law athletes weigh in on winds of change buffeting college sports

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- Alumni deaths since June 2014
- Videos of alumni events including:
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  - Legalize Marijuana? A Conversation with the Experts

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Curriculum to emphasize skills, experiential learning

As I write this, I’m sitting in the office that Bob Jerry occupied for the past 11 years (less a little time in a portable while Holland Hall was being renovated). More than ever, I appreciate how much he accomplished during that time and wonder how he did it all.

Much of the activity at the Levin College of Law this fall is a result of initiatives begun during his deanship. In particular, the faculty adopted a new strategic plan at its September meeting. The plan is the product of dedicated work by members of the committee charged with developing it as well as extensive input from the faculty.

The committee and the faculty recognize that there have been and are likely to continue to be significant changes in legal education and in the legal profession. The strategic plan represents a response to some of the issues arising out of those changes. A major focus is on the development of skills graduates will need as they enter the practice of law.

Students begin to acquire skills in areas such as writing before they enroll in law school. The plan recognizes it is important to ensure they have strong writing skills, even to the extent of offering a preparatory writing program for admitted students. As part of a two-year pilot program, one first-semester doctrinal course will be offered in three small sections. Instructors teaching small sections will have the opportunity to coordinate doctrinal teaching with instruction by legal-research and legal-writing teachers, and to assign written- or oral-skills exercises as part of the doctrinal course.

The emphasis on combining skills training with doctrinal teaching continues into the upper class years. For example, the plan calls for a category of courses known as “practicums” that bridge training and doctrinal pedagogy by incorporating skills training in small enrollment doctrinal courses. One immediate example of this is the development of an entrepreneurship practicum in which a small number of law students will assist a member of the bar in providing pro bono representation on business-development planning and related matters to new entrepreneurs and small-business owners in a high-growth technology setting. In addition, the plan calls for the college to expand its clinical offerings, particularly in fields that will diversify the substantive focus of current clinics.

In addition to clinical offerings, students will continue to have the opportunity for training in legal skills in the college’s extensive externship program. The revised Standards for Approval of Law Schools, adopted last summer by the American Bar Association Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar, require law schools to provide every student with at least six hours of credit in experiential courses. Experiential courses — defined as simulation courses, law clinics, and field placements (externships) — must integrate doctrine, theory, skills and ethics, develop the concepts underlying the professional skills being taught and provide multiple opportunities for performance and self-evaluation.

Finally, the strategic plan calls for a “semester away” program to create opportunities to enhance teaching and experiential learning in urban employment centers. The program takes advantage of the fact that the revised Standards for Approval of Law Schools now permit schools to grant students up to 15 hours of credit for distance education courses. Students participating in a semester away will be able to earn credit in an externship in a location other than Gainesville (or to work as a clerk in a law firm or agency) while also taking distance education classes developed and delivered by college faculty members. With the combination of externship and distance-education credit, a student can spend a semester away from Gainesville while still earning enough credits to graduate on schedule. This program will enable students to obtain further skills experience and could enhance their opportunities to network and find employment.

Committees are now developing strategies for implementing the strategic plan and are scheduled to report back to the faculty by the end of the fall semester. While much work remains, this new strategic plan provides a clear framework for further development of skills education at the college of law.
UF Law No. 1 in Florida Bar exam results

UF LAW HAD THE HIGHEST FLORIDA BAR EXAMINATION PASSAGE RATES in the state for the July 2014 exam, according to the Florida Board of Bar Examiners.

Graduates had a 90.6 percent passage rate, with 241 out of 266 test-takers passing the exam. This is a 2.4 percent increase in passage rate compared to the July 2013 exam.

Additionally, UF Law had the highest passage rates in Florida for August’s Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination with 57 out of 60 passing the test for a 95 percent passage rate.

UF Law Interim Dean George Dawson praised the graduates sitting for the bar examination, noting that “passing the bar examination is never an easy task and requires careful and conscientious preparation, even after earning a J.D. degree from a law school with a strong legal education program.”

Trial, Moot Court teams advance to national competitions

THE UF LAW TRIAL TEAM BEAT OUT 14 SCHOOLS to take first place in the Southeast division of the 11th annual American Bar Association Section of Labor and Employment Law Trial Advocacy Competition in Miami on Nov. 1. The team will advance to compete against seven schools in the national tournament in New Orleans in January.

The UF Law Moot Court Team advanced to nationals in the New York City Bar Association’s National Moot Court Competition. The team took second place behind Stetson Law in the regional round of the competition held Nov. 8 at UF Law’s Martin H. Levin Advocacy Center Courtroom. Moot Court Team members Brandon Butterworth (2L) and Brandt Carlson (2L) will represent UF Law.

For the Trial Team, Christopher Caproni (3L), Shayna Finkelstein (3L), Lauren Humphries (3L) and David Carlson (2L) defeated Emory in the finals of the competition, also beating teams from Louisiana State University, University of St. Thomas School of Law and Florida International University in previous rounds. They were coached by Roger Lambert (JD 75) and Jennifer White (JD 11).

The case, which the group will argue again on Jan. 30 in New Orleans, involves a labor law dispute for back wages.

“These students did an outstanding job and had excellent help from their coaches,” said Trial Practice Director and UF Law Professor Jennifer Zedalis. “We are extremely proud of them.”

Humphries said that going to nationals in this competition places UF Law among the top eight trial advocacy schools in the nation.
Former FISA judge talks privacy after Snowden

FORMER US FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE SURVEILLANCE COURT JUDGE ROGER VINSON recalled his experiences serving on the FISA court during the “National Security and Privacy After Snowden” panel at UF Law on Constitution Day, Sept. 17.

Vinson explained the history, structure and processes of the court and his personal experiences serving on it from 2006 to 2013. He explained how the court operated throughout changes made to FISA law over the years.

“It is not my purpose today to defend the statute’s language itself but to assure you that the FISA court itself has implemented the statute and protected the Fourth Amendment Rights of Americans throughout the changes in the FISA law,” Vinson said.

The panel also featured UF Journalism Professor Sandra Chance (JD 90) and Director for UF Law’s Center for Governmental Responsibility and Dean Emeritus Jon Mills (JD 72) as moderator.

Chance focused on how the First Amendment and the freedom of the press relate to national security. She stressed the importance of educating people concerning national security, the First Amendment and privacy so they can debate the subject and voice their opinions.

“Citizens — I’m looking at all of you — must take a more active role in demanding the protection of your fundamental rights. Americans must either fight for their right to privacy or lose it,” Chance said. “More government accountability and citizen oversight is necessary, not less.”

Group recognized for tax assistance


Students prepared $773,321 in tax returns and saved individuals $127,328 in tax preparer fees. The combined $900,649 in community impact represented 35 percent of the combined impact for all 13 sites in Alachua County. It was the largest single site in the county.

Site coordinator Josh Giancarlo (JD 14), his assistant Christopher Weeg (3L) and Faculty Adviser and UF Law Professor Steven Willis oversaw the site. To complete the project, 40 law students contributed over 1,000 pro bono hours.

UF Law among top 20 best value law schools nationwide

UF LAW HAS BEEN RANKED AS THE 13TH “BEST VALUE LAW SCHOOL” IN THE NATION by the National Jurist magazine.

The rankings take into account full-time tuition, cost of living, student debt, employment rates and bar-passage rates.

“U.S. News ranks us in the top 25 percent of the nation’s law schools, but students pay less in tuition, fees and expenses while graduates have less accumulated debt than nearly any of our peers,” said UF Law Interim Dean George Dawson. “This National Jurist ranking should be of particular interest to prospective students, since it also considers the important factors of bar passage and employment rates.”

Helping graduates find good jobs has been a priority at the school, and employment statistics are already on the upswing. The nine-month employment statistic for 2013 graduates was 82.05 percent, excluding students who enrolled in LL.M. programs.

The National Jurist ranking reflects a long tradition of UF Law as being among the best value in legal education. UF Law is the third most affordable out of the top 50 law schools in the U.S. based on American Bar Association data for in-state tuition and fees plus annual expenses.

Second annual Florida Tax Institute returns to Tampa Bay

TAX PROFESSIONALS, INCLUDING ATTORNEYS, ACCOUNTANTS AND FINANCIAL PLANNERS nationwide will once again converge in Tampa for the second annual Florida Tax Institute. The three-day conference, organized by graduates and tax professors of the UF Law Graduate Tax Program, the nation’s No. 1 public tax program, will be held at the Grand Hyatt Tampa Bay, from April 22-24.

The institute will feature two days devoted to business and individual taxation, and one day focused on estate planning. The list of guest speakers and panelists features a mix of top tax scholars and practitioners covering today’s most timely topics. For complete details, including agenda and speakers, visit www.floridataxinstitute.org.
W. Kent Fuchs, provost of Cornell University, has been named the 12th president of the University of Florida. Fuchs’ appointment is effective Jan. 1, 2015.

The UF board of trustees selected Fuchs on Oct. 15 and the Board of Governors confirmed the choice. Fuchs will replace President Bernie Machen, who is retiring after 11 years.

Fuchs (pronounced “Fox”) brings 20 years of leadership in higher education at institutions such as the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and Purdue University. For the past 12 years, he served as a dean of the College of Engineering, then provost at Cornell. Like UF, Cornell is a land-grant institution with a wide range of colleges and professional schools.

He earned a Ph.D. from the University of Illinois in 1985; a master of divinity from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in 1984; a master of science from the University of Illinois in 1982; and a bachelor of science in engineering from Duke University in 1977.

Fuchs’ wife, Linda, taught at The King’s Academy in West Palm Beach before they met. He graduated from Miami Killian Senior High School, and his two younger brothers and stepmother live in South Florida. Kent and Linda have three sons and one daughter ranging in age from 24 to 31 (Micah, Eric, Isaac and Christine).

To learn more about Fuchs, visit http://our12thpresident.ufl.edu.

University of Florida picks new president

photographs from nearly 100 legal-themed movie and television shows form the heart of an electronic interactive exhibit now operational on the first floor of the Lawton Chiles Legal Information Center.

“Each attorney will find his favorites here,” said William Zewadski (JD 69), who donated the collection to the law school. “From To Kill A Mockingbird, to My Cousin Vinnie, on to my own favorite television series, Rumpole of the Bailey. Most are readily available for just a little on eBay and Amazon.”

Each photograph in “Projecting the Law: The Levin College of Law Legal Movie Stills Collection” shows a single scene or, sometimes, a cast portrait. The collection proves the case that legal themes have served as a staple for movie plots since the dawn of Hollywood through the present day.

The display allows viewers to browse scanned images of the stills, read summaries of the movies and watch short video clips. The physical collection is available to view in the library. Zewadski compiled the stills from his own larger collection at the urging of former Dean Robert Jerry.

“Dean Jerry has a long interest in using legal film and television to teach about the law, both what to do, and what not to do as trial techniques, ethics, and more,” Zewadski wrote in an email. “When he learned I had a collection of movie publicity stills about classic and epic films, numbering in the many thousands, he suggested I might assemble a collection of them in the legal field for use at UF.”

The exhibit was also made possible thanks to a donation from Julie C. Miller (JD 05) in memory of her father, Wilton R. Miller (JD 62). The electronic exhibit was produced by the UF Law Communications Office with assistance from UF Law’s Technology Services.

—Richard Goldstein
Billy Steinmann (2L) traded a blue-and-orange Gator football uniform for a brand new suit, fresh off the rack at Jos. A. Bank. It was a graduation gift, intended to ease the transition from college life — and the gridiron — to the “real world” where he was about to start a career away from football.

The suit didn’t come from someone in his family. It came from Florida athletics officials, purchased with money from the NCAA Student Athletic Opportunity Fund, which provides money for athletes’ expenses like traveling home for a family member’s funeral. Or, as in this case, it provides all players concluding their college eligibility at Florida with a suit to use for job interviews and the like. Steinmann got his in 2012 after a four-year football career.

It’s simultaneously a symbol of appreciation for the player’s contributions on the football field and a nod to the future — acknowledgement that the world is waiting, whether it’s the promise of a career in professional sports or an entirely different career path.

But the suit also dresses up an uncomfortable fact: NCAA rules forbid universities from paying their athletes, and students can’t receive payment from third-parties for their participation in collegiate athletics. College athletes have begun to push back against rules barring them from a cut of the profits with a string of legal and regulatory challenges.

The most prominent of these is the Ed O’Bannon antitrust case. A federal judge ruled in August that universities must pay athletes at least $5,000 per year for the use of football and basketball players’ names, images and likenesses. The NCAA is appealing.

Steinmann is now enrolled in UF Law, hoping to launch his career in sports law. He called the suit he was given upon graduation a nice gesture useful for pursuing career opportunities. But he said players would likely prefer a cut of the profits the program earned from the use of their likenesses.

“Something like (that) could benefit a player much more, especially if they immediately begin looking for a job and do not continue with school or play professionally,” Steinmann said. “Even guys that are free agents aren’t getting everything paid for while training for a combine. So the money could benefit them, as well.”

**WHO FILLS THE SEATS?**

The athletes are the reason why the tickets are sold and the seats are filled. They give the game their all, in the process bringing entertainment to sports fans and profits to universities. And yet these players aren’t compensated for their efforts beyond the...
“Even guys that are free agents aren’t getting everything paid for while training for a combine. So the money could benefit them, as well.”

—Billy Steinmann (2L)
scholarships they receive. Their likenesses appear in television ads and popular video games, but the players don’t see a penny of the money.

At least, that’s how some college football and men’s basketball players see it. In 2009, former UCLA basketball star Ed O’Bannon and other former college athletes joined a class action antitrust lawsuit against the NCAA, alleging that the collegiate sports organization had deprived him and his fellow athletes of his right to publicity. The question of whether college athletes should be compensated for their efforts has continued to snowball.

A series of legal and regulatory decisions this year is reshaping the environment in which student athletes compete. First, Northwestern University football players successfully petitioned the National Labor Relations Board for the right to create the nation’s first college football players union (athletes had not voted to establish a union as of Nov. 1, 2014). Then, Electronic Arts and the Collegiate Licensing Company departed from O’Bannon v. NCAA and settled their portions of the antitrust lawsuit for $40 million.

Finally, on Aug. 8 federal District Judge Claudia Wilken issued her ruling in O’Bannon. Wilken ruled that the NCAA could not enforce rules that prevented Division I football and men’s basketball players from receiving profits earned through use of their likenesses in television broadcasts, advertisements and video games. Under the ruling, the NCAA is enjoined from capping scholarships below the cost of attendance and from banning trust funds created to pay players for use of their names, images and likenesses, known as NILs.

Wilken wrote in her 99-page decision that schools would be able to cap the amount that football and men’s basketball players could receive for use of their NILs, but the cap can be no less than $5,000 per year.

O’Bannon dealt a blow to the NCAA’s long-standing contention that college athletes are purely amateurs: full-time students who happen to participate in athletics. However, O’Bannon raises more questions than it answers. The path to a definitive solution is fraught with problems ranging from Title IX implications — federal statutes that prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex at educational institutions — to the financial health of many university athletic programs.

On top of all the questions, the NCAA is also facing another threat in the form of an antitrust lawsuit filed by Jeffrey Kessler on behalf of Martin Jenkins, a former Clemson football player. Kessler is the lawyer who negotiated free-agency systems in the NFL and NBA, and now he has set his sights on the NCAA. The NCAA has retained Jeffrey Mishkin, who has faced off against Kessler while representing NBA team owners.

“This Who pays them, and how much? And if it is coming out of the school coffer, how much is it and where does the money come from?”

—Steve Russell, Sports Director, WUFT

**GATOR ANGLES**

Andrew Fawbush (JD 74), the chair of the executive compensation and benefits practice at Smith, Gambrell & Russell, played football for the Gators in 1964. As a walk-on, he played fullback and wide receiver. Fawbush described his role on the team as primarily a “tackling dummy,” but today he leads University of Florida Athletic Association as president of its board of directors. The UAA is a nonprofit support organization that manages the university’s expansive athletic programs funded through ticket revenues, student fees, Southeastern Athletic Conference revenue and donations from the Gator Boosters.

Fawbush noted that he was not speaking on behalf of the UAA and could not comment specifically on the O’Bannon ruling. But he said the recent litigation and rulings could have far-reaching impacts.

Fawbush said few university athletic programs operate in the black, but Florida is one of them. The UAA contributes a portion of its revenue to other campus programs, but many other university athletics programs struggle simply to support their sports teams. Fawbush said those programs stand to suffer.

“At many of the schools that have revenue issues anyway, the student athletic opportunities may actually decrease as a result of these rulings,” Fawbush said.

Steve Russell, sports director at WUFT and host of Sportscene with Steve Russell, said the question of coming up with the money is central to the issue of paying student athletes.

“Who pays them, and how much?” Russell said. “And if it is coming out of the school coffer, how much is it and where does the money come from?”

Russell said that some universities have already moved into the realm of selling alcohol at university athletic events. He said universities likely would have to make more decisions along those lines.

Grace Collins (3L), a UF Law student who played softball at Barry University in Miami, said federal rules banning discrimination on the basis of sex at educational institutions would put additional pressure on colleges facing the prospect of paying their athletes.

“They would have to pay the same number of female athletes in order to stay in Title IX compliance,” Collins said. “Schools know this and it’s one of the other reasons they don’t want to pay, because they can’t afford both.”
Fawbush said that schools have already dropped some men’s sports in order to comply with Title IX requirements. The recent rulings, then, could spell the end for athletic programs that are already struggling.

“It may shrink the scholarship opportunities that are available for men and women at many schools,” Fawbush said.

Glenn Cameron (JD 87), a college and pro football player, said the question of fairness even extended to backup or walk-on players who practice and workout with the team but never play.

Cameron is a trial lawyer at Cameron, Gonzalez & Maroney in West Palm Beach, and played linebacker for the Gators from 1971 to 1974 before being drafted by the Cincinnati Bengals and playing 11 seasons in the NFL. After retiring from pro football, Cameron returned to UF Law to pursue a career as a lawyer.

“He works his tail off to do that every week, but he doesn’t get to run out of the tunnel in between the band and the cheerleaders,” Cameron said of the backups. “How do you pay Rudy for what he does?”

For Russell, that question can be solved by scaling the profits depending on the players’ roles, gauged by playing time and screen time.

“If it’s (Gators quarterback) Jeff Driskel, and it’s obvious he’s in that (video) game a lot, then he’s going to be paid $5,000,” Russell said, “as opposed to a guy who’s standing on the sidelines. But I still think they ought to be compensated if they’re in there at all.”

Fawbush said juggling the responsibilities of attending classes, playing football and working gave him a unique perspective on the situation. Fawbush said he considered the athletic scholarships awarded to many college athletes to be an extremely valuable resource. Cameron agreed, saying that the money the athletes would receive is nearly inconsequential compared to the value of a scholarship to a university.

“So you pay the kid five grand a year and they put it in some trust,” Cameron said. “That’s nice, but if he doesn’t have an education at the end of those four years, and he’s not in the NFL, what has all of this done to help him better himself and further himself?”

The scholarship covers the work the players put in for the team itself, Russell said. However, a scholarship alone doesn’t address the money universities pull in from using players’ likenesses on television and in video games.

“I think that’s a separate issue from players getting paid for use of their likenesses,” Russell said. “In my opinion, these players were getting exploited.”

EDUCATIONAL INVESTMENT

Jim Barrie (JD 14) was a highly recruited offensive tackle who played for the Gators from 2006 to 2009 before a torn ACL ended his college football career. Barrie went on to attend UF Law, where he wrote a research paper arguing that NCAA licensing practices violate antitrust laws.
Athletes, particularly at elite institutions, essentially work full-time jobs all year round without receiving appropriate compensation.

—Jim Barrie (JD 14)

Cameron said the most important aspect of the recent rulings had been lost in the furor over the possibility of college athletes getting paid. The players at Northwestern didn’t unionize purely to make money. They wanted increased negotiating power, which could translate to greater freedom in choosing classes.

“They’re getting paid to go to college, in the form of their education and their room and board,” Cameron said. “If you want to take the façade down, just hire them to play football.”

Cameron said the current state of college athletics can prevent players from focusing on their educations. Grueling practice schedules shuffle players into certain academic tracks that leave them unprepared for the prospect of a career after sports. That’s a far cry from Cameron’s days playing for the Gators, when players arrived late to practice because they had labs for their classes.

“I think that’s where the rubber meets the road in this antitrust litigation,” Cameron said. “That’s something we’ve lost sight of, or these athletic departments have lost sight of.”

The definition of “appropriate compensation” varies. For example, Cameron said the value of an athletic scholarship is often underestimated because people forget that scholarships allow athletes to skip the increasingly stringent college admissions process.

“If you take away their athletic scholarship, I’d like to see how many actually qualify for entrance to the University of Florida,” Cameron said. “How much is that worth to a parent who has Gator ties and would like to see their children go to the University of Florida?”

Cameron said he thought athletic scholarships were adequate compensation for playing college sports, but with a caveat: an academic scholarship is only valuable if the student actually receives an education.

“The driving force of the revenue is, of course, the players, as both the product on the field and the licensing rights to their names, images, and likenesses,” Barrie said. “Athletes, particularly at elite institutions, essentially work full-time jobs all year round without receiving appropriate compensation.”

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“For students who are medical or engineering majors, it is quite difficult to find the time, especially in the fall, to truly dedicate a large amount of time to studying,” Steinmann said. “I have seen it successfully done by walk-ons and scholarship athletes, and I have seen many fail.”

Russell said that rethinking current NCAA regulations could put the focus back on academics.

“If you truly are wanting the full welfare of the athlete, of this student, then don’t make football a year-round sport,” Russell said. “Give kids (time) off, give the coaches (time) off, give some relief in recruiting. Kids don’t have to be bombarded with this stuff. They can get a job and they can really focus on their studies.”

Steinmann got first-hand experience juggling his academic and athletic responsibilities.

“Watching film, meetings, strength and conditioning workouts, treatment and practices take a lot of time during the fall semester,” Steinmann said. “This is where having a smart and seasoned academic adviser is key for the athlete. The adviser can then place the athlete in classes that are ‘easier’ for the fall and leave the more difficult ones ‘till the spring and summer when the time demand is much less.”

While it may seem that some universities could change their own policies to ensure academic success for their athletes, Russell suggested that a desire to be successful in the big-money arena of college sports has made this unlikely.

“The problem is everybody’s scared they’re going to lose the advantage,” Russell said.

OPPORTUNITY FROM UPHEAVAL

Complications may be coming for college athletics, but Fawbush sees the situation as an opportunity for law students.

“It’s attracted political attention and it’s attracted legal attention,” Fawbush said. “There are people who have varying views on what should be done and how things should be done. That involves using lawyers, because people don’t agree and they end up in court.”

For example, students interested in compliance will likely find employment options at schools struggling to meet the new requirements.

“I think it’s going to create a lot of opportunities for people to get involved in various ways in a legal profession dealing with sports,” Fawbush said.

Steinmann, Collins and Barrie have all applied their own experiences in college athletics to their legal careers in varying ways. Collins, in particular, wants to pursue a career in compliance at a university. The Entertainment and Sports Law Society at UF Law, which had all but disappeared by 2012, is enjoying a revival, thanks in no small part to law students’ interest in the issues surrounding college athletics. The sports law seminar class at UF Law is a consistently popular course.

Come what may, the Gators expect to ride out the storm.

“I don’t know that it changes a lot that we have to do,” Fawbush said. “Our role on the (UAA) board, basically, is to make sure the program stays on its mission, which is to continue to have top-quality athletic programs and to provide the education and opportunities for student athletes.

“The leadership and the athletic program at the University of Florida is so strong that they’ll make the adjustments they need,” Fawbush said.
Cannabis confusion
Can UF Law bring clarity?

The marijuana legalization debate rages as policy takes halting steps toward a new normal

BY DIANA MIVELLI
The march toward marijuana legalization in America is a misnomer. It’s more like an intoxicated ramble. Election Day saw victories for recreational marijuana in Oregon, Alaska and Washington, D.C., even as Florida voters rejected a constitutional amendment that would have authorized medicinal marijuana. Thus continues a patchwork of policies nationwide as many states, and even localities, have approved some form of legalization. Yet the federal government bans the substance as a Schedule 1 drug, the same classification as heroin.

UF Law alumni and students have attempted to bring order from the chaos of state-by-state marijuana legalization, diving into policy analysis, political advocacy and public education ahead of the Florida referendum. Meanwhile, alumni in a recreational-use state sort out the rules for marijuana-industry clients in a climate filled with legal uncertainty.

For one first-year law student, marijuana was the solution to a problem. The problem was the narcotics she was prescribed to fight chronic pain after a botched subtalar-fusion surgery where a screw penetrated her ankle joint cartilage requiring corrective ankle-fusion surgery. Saraya Pleasant said the pills caused nausea, vomiting and constipation. As her tolerance steadily increased she had to take more pills to reduce the pain and the side effects worsened. She turned to marijuana for relief.

In a town hall-style debate on medicinal marijuana featuring UF Law Professor Jon L. Mills (JD 72) and Alachua County Sheriff Sadie Darnell, Pleasant told her story before a room full of UF Law students.

“What would you say to someone actively suffering?” she asked the two panelists. “Even though the chronic pain pills are FDA-approved, the user could die. So, given that the potential for death as compared to marijuana, where there is no known lethal dose risk, you can manage pain long term and in the privacy of your own home and as long as you are abiding by the law, being a productive member of society, and not watching TV all day, why is this so wrong and why does the state know more than the person in pain?”

Darnell, who argued against approval of Florida’s medicinal marijuana constitutional amendment, said people using pot at home who are otherwise law abiding won’t come to the attention of law enforcement — unless, that is, neighbors complain of the smell. If law enforcement shows up, they have to enforce the law.

Mills, a former speaker of the Florida House who directs UF Law’s Center for Governmental Responsibility, wrote the Amendment 2 language that garnered 58 percent of the vote on Nov. 4 (60 percent is required for insertion into the state constitution). He said Pleasant would be better off if the state had a regulated medicinal marijuana regime.

But critics contend that legal medicinal marijuana is about more than helping the sick.

“There are two things you don’t do with medicines — you don’t smoke them and you don’t vote on them,” said Scott Teitelbaum, professor of
psychiatry and pediatrics at the University of Florida College of Medicine and vice chair of the Psychiatry Department. He called medical marijuana a “Trojan horse” for recreational use.

Colorado Deputy Attorney General David Blake told the story of a make-shift medical dispensary outside a Colorado Phish concert. People entered at one end of the van and exited the other with marijuana.

Blake and Teitelbaum were among six national experts at Florida Law Review’s Allen L. Poucher Educational Series analyzing the pros and cons of legalizing marijuana. The Oct. 24 discussion drew an estimated 650 to the Curtis M. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts.

Imparting his experience from the front-lines of the legalized marijuana policy realm, Blake said he opposed legalization in Colorado but is now in charge of writing regulations to make it work.

“I’m ethically bound to be a lawyer for Colorado and try and get it right, and we haven’t gotten it right yet and it’s been five years. So any state that’s going to step in and take this on, don’t assume that overnight you’re going to look like Colorado,” Blake said. “You’re going to spend a lot of money, a lot of time, a lot of toil trying to get there and from the medical side this debate is going to continue, I promise. It’s been going for 20 years and will go for 20 more.”

Vanderbilt University Law School Professor Robert Mikos said there are “too many cooks in the kitchen” with respect to marijuana policy. The U.S. government’s strict prohibition is often not enforced but still on the books; some states have legalized possession, cultivation and distribution; and some local governments promulgate their own marijuana policies.

For instance, local governments are attempting to legalize it in some states that prohibit the substance.

Mikos said the federal government cannot force states to criminalize marijuana so the states are on solid legal footing when they legalize it. But a state also can’t facilitate conduct that is illegal under federal law, and they can’t obstruct federal prosecutions. So people who are in compliance with state law can and occasionally do still face federal prosecution.

Matthew Christ (3L) and Christopher Johns (3L) waded into these minefields as they crafted draft medical marijuana rules for Florida.

“We’ve started the process by researching states that have legalized medical marijuana, identifying what has worked, what hasn’t and where it’s too early to tell,” said Christ, who worked with the pro-medical marijuana group. The Conservation Clinic’s role was to sort out the local government, pre-emption and land-use issues associated with the medicinal marijuana proposal.

With the defeat of the constitutional amendment, the new rules will not be needed in Florida. Still, the research gave them insight into the variability of our national marijuana policy.

Johns said medical marijuana laws “reflect the individual states’ personalities. For example, the framework that was written for California tends to be more laid back versus Massachusetts, where they have a bill with more comprehensive provisions. They’ve

Federal Schedule 1 case previewed by Law Review

What are the true risks of smoking marijuana? Should it retain its classification as a Schedule I drug, ruled out for approval by the Federal Drug Administration as a safe and effective medical treatment?

Bertha K. Madras, professor of psychobiology in the Department of Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School, and Carl Hart, associate professor of psychology in the departments of Psychiatry and Psychology at Columbia University, testified on opposite sides of these questions in a criminal case challenging the constitutionality of marijuana’s Schedule I classification.

But before clashing in a federal courtroom during an evidentiary hearing in U.S. v. Schweder in the eastern district of California, the scientists clashed on the stage of the Phillips Center for the Performing Arts, where they appeared as part of an expert panel brought together by the Florida Law Review’s Allen L. Poucher Educational Series.

Madras said during the Poucher Lecture that a drug is categorized as Schedule I because it has potential for abuse, it lacks medical purpose and has no proven safety standard.

“There is poor evidence that an intoxicating drug is a wise decision when alternatives may exist and I certainly do think that in terms of compassionate concern for people who are in end stages of diseases we have to examine and try to accommodate the very narrow focus for those individuals,” Madras said.

Hart has conducted tests and studied the effects of marijuana on lab subjects. He agreed that marijuana has abuse potential but questioned whether abuse potential is reason enough to make it illegal or classify it as Schedule I, the same category as heroin and ecstasy. Hart contrasted the legal status of marijuana to Adderall, an amphetamine approved to treat attention deficit disorder.

“When we think about marijuana’s abuse potential and Adderall, marijuana probably has less abuse potential than amphetamines but amphetamines are an important medication that we use in our country and we use them safely,” Hart said.

Madras and Hart also disagreed about the psychological effects of marijuana.

“If it were safe — if it were broccoli, if it were celery — we wouldn’t be here and there would be zero need for marijuana to be put on ballot initiatives in order to circumvent the Food and Drug Administration because that’s basically what this medicalization movement is all about,” Madras said.

Hart compared Madras’ approach to the attitude in 1937 when marijuana was outlawed. “I don’t know how to respond because Dr. Madras listed a litany of study findings without contextualizing things,” he said.

—Diana Mivelli
taken greater lengths to close some of the loopholes that California saw.”

Meanwhile, two UF Law graduates in Washington State are facing the unsettled legal issues of marijuana head on.

Lance Reich (JD 94) and Kevin E. Regan (JD 03) had been working on regulatory and intellectual property issues with the wine, beer, spirits and cider industries before moving to the Seattle office of Miller Nash LLP, where the firm has a team of attorneys now representing clients in the marijuana industry.

Marijuana is regulated by the same Washington State Liquor Control Board as alcoholic beverages. But if marijuana is still illegal under federal law, how do Reich and Regan protect their clients?

The answer to that question is complicated. They work with clients to comply with Washington’s statutory and regulatory provisions governing recreational marijuana. They also consider federal dimensions to marijuana issues, including the most recent guidance set out in the document that is known as the Cole Memo. Written by James M. Cole, the deputy attorney general of the United States, the memo provides guidance to federal prosecutors about marijuana enforcement under the Controlled Substances Act “in light of state ballot initiatives that legalize under state law the possession of small amounts of marijuana and provide for the regulation of marijuana production, processing and sale.”

The memo reiterates Congress’s findings that marijuana is a dangerous drug and that the illegal sale and distribution is a crime that benefits criminal networks. However, it also notes that the Department of Justice will use its resources to address the most significant threats. The memo lists the eight priorities the Department of Justice will focus on. Among them are: keeping marijuana away from minors; preventing violence and use of firearms in growing and distribution of marijuana; and growing the plant on federal public lands.

In Washington state, there are three types of licenses. Producers grow marijuana, while processors cure and package or extract active ingredients for edible products. And then there are retailers who do the actual selling of the product, Regan said.

“Under the current rules, you have to make a choice whether you are involved with the production or retail side; you cannot do both. This system mirrors the traditional rules for alcohol in Washington state,” he said.

Their clients face limited options for opening bank accounts and hiring transportation services to move products. Working spaces are hard to come by due to a 1,000-foot buffer requirement prohibiting working locations around schools, parks, libraries, bus transit centers and other places where those under 21 gather.

“In short, many problems that we are seeing are analogous to what happened when alcohol was legalized,” Reich said.

One of their clients, Michael Thomas, founder and director of Curious Ventures, has been working on product prototypes, including chocolate bars and lozenges, while he waits for his license.

Unknowns abound in the marijuana law arena. What will marijuana policies look like under the next presidential administration? Will that administration uphold the current marijuana laws? Will the legalization of marijuana cut into black market sales? How will recreational marijuana laws in some states affect neighboring states?

“The most perplexing thing about being in this space is telling clients, ‘I don’t know.’ There’s a whole host of interesting issues and we’re here on the front edge of the law trying to make sense of it all,” Reich said.
You might think catching corporate accountants and commercial fishermen accused of wrongdoing have little in common. Not if you’re the U.S. government. Because a statute lurks below the surface, one that can subject members of both occupations to federal prosecution for destruction of evidence.

In 2007, fishing boat captain John Yates found that out the hard way, when he personally experienced the far-reaching impact of the landmark legislation known as the Sarbanes-Oxley Act.

While Yates was on a fishing expedition in the Gulf of Mexico, a Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission officer — cross-deputized as a federal agent for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration — cited him for harvesting undersized grouper.

On the way back to port, Yates allegedly tossed some of the incriminating fish overboard and replaced them with larger specimens. When the officer learned of the switch from the fishing boat crew, Yates was charged with violating Sarbanes-Oxley. He was convicted and sentenced to 30 days in jail and three years of post-release supervision.

It was a unique and unprecedented use of the law, said Assistant Federal Public Defender John Badalamenti (JD 99). And that’s what Badalamenti told the nine justices of the Supreme Court during oral arguments Nov. 5.

The origins of the law lie far from the fishing grounds of the Gulf. When Houston-based energy-trading company Enron imploded in 2001, accountants scrambled to destroy evidence that they had been cooking the books. In the wake of the company’s collapse, toothless federal laws hampered prosecution of the offenders. Congress remedied the problem in 2002 with passage of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act.

A provision of the act makes it a crime to knowingly destroy “any record, document or tangible object” with intent to impede an investigation. The “tangible object” portion proved the key to the government’s case against Yates, and the maximum sentence for destroying a “tangible object” is 20 years in prison.

“Young did Congress do that?” Badalamenti asked the justices, according to a transcript of the oral arguments. “It did that because it recognized the harm that Enron/Arthur Andersen type of situations did to the financial well-being of this country and the investors in public markets, and it wanted to send a message to the public to not engage in record destruction that could impede or influence the proper administration of any matter.

A Florida boat captain was convicted of throwing back undersized fish to avoid prosecution under a law aimed at accounting fraud. John Badalamenti (JD 99) told the Supreme Court why that is wrong.
That’s why it’s important to limit the subject matter of this particular statute to just record-related matters.”

Badalamenti did not represent Yates at the trial level. But with an eye to a possible appeal, he helped develop the trial strategy that was used before the district court. Badalamenti took over the case on appeal and argued before the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals, where Yates’s conviction was affirmed. Yates then appealed to the highest court in the land.

“When I wrote the petition for writ of certiorari, my angle had to be throwing some kind of constitutional hook so that the court would be more likely to look at it,” he said.

The question, Badalamenti argued, was whether Yates was deprived of fair notice that he could be prosecuted under this law for his actions.

The Supreme Court took the bait. Badalamenti noted that the case concerns an issue of first impression, a relative rarity for the Supreme Court.

“It was very unusual that they took the case without a (circuit) split,” Badalamenti said. “That’s not generally the kind of case the Supreme Court takes. It resolves disputes among circuits, it doesn’t take one issue that’s been reached by one circuit.”

Brad Bondi (JD 98), a litigation partner at Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft who heads the firm’s Securities Enforcement and Investigation Group, has known Badalamenti since the two were UF undergraduates. Bondi wrote an amicus brief in the case on the behalf of the Cato Institute, a libertarian think tank in Washington, D.C. Bondi said that the Supreme Court would take the case is a testament to Badalamenti’s skill as an appellate lawyer.

“It’s a testament to his strength as an advocate that he was able to convince the Supreme Court to take up this case.”

Badalamenti said that accounting giant Arthur Andersen’s actions during the final days of Enron were the direct motivation for creation of the statute. The firm shredded records and documents with the goal of impeding the impending federal investigation. But it escaped criminal conviction due to the lack of a statute specifically criminalizing document destruction.

“The legislative history itself shows this was intended to apply to corporations and businesses in record-retention sorts of things to stave off pre-emptive destruction of records or documents or computer servers,” Badalamenti said.

Bondi said the government’s interpretation of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act could be carried to absurd extremes. He noted that throwing back undersized fish is only a civil infraction, but it becomes a federal crime punishable by a 20-year prison sentence under the act.

“There are a couple sections of our brief where we point out the astonishing applications of this anti-shredding statute,” Bondi said, suggesting that smoking a cigarette in a federal building and putting the cigarette in a cup of
coffee to extinguish it could be construed as destruction of evidence.

“Smoking near a federal building is a fine,” Bondi said. “That could land you 20 years in prison under the anti-shredding statute.”

Stuart Cohn, a professor and Sam T. Dell Research Scholar at UF Law, said the statute was indeed drafted broadly. However, he said the language of the statute supports the government’s case: as drafted, disposal of unlawfully caught fish to avoid prosecution could come within the language of the anti-shredding provision.

“It was probably not what Congress was thinking, but the statutory language controls,” Cohn said. “So I wouldn’t be surprised if the Supreme Court affirms the conviction.”

It all turns on the question of what constitutes a “tangible object,” and Badalamenti said the meaning of that phrase should be determined by context. In his argument, the tangible objects that fall under the statute should be limited to flash drives and other document-storage devices.

Badalamenti’s career trajectory has trended up since he graduated from UF Law after also earning a bachelor’s degree with highest honors and a master’s degree from UF. Badalamenti went to work as an Honors Attorney in the U.S. Attorney General’s Honors Program, where he was assigned to litigation and represented the government as agency counsel for the Federal Bureau of Prisons in Atlanta. After a year with the U.S. Attorney General, Badalamenti accepted a clerkship with Judge Frank Mays Hall of the United States 11th Circuit Court of Appeals. He worked for Carlton Fields in Florida then clerked for Judge Paul H. Roney, again in the 11th Circuit. Badalamenti reached the Federal Public Defender’s Office in Tampa in 2004.

Though Badalamenti has specialized in appellate work with the Federal Public Defender’s Office, this case was his first chance to argue before the Supreme Court. Badalamenti said he has worked with experienced appellate lawyers and law professors to fine-tune his argument.

“It is much different than preparations for a jury trial or argument in the United States Court of Appeals,” Badalamenti said. “In addition to extensive study of the subject matter, I’ve had moot court sessions at law school Supreme Court clinics across the United States.”

The Yates case is his biggest catch yet, and it’s an opportunity he doesn’t intend to let off the hook.

This oral argument is a keeper

Assistant Federal Public Defender John Badalamenti (JD 99) squared off against Assistant Solicitor General Roman Martinez during Nov. 5 oral arguments for Yates v. United States before the Supreme Court of the United States. Each advocate had a half-hour to make his case before the nine justices on whether a harsh federal obstruction-of-justice statute can be applied to a fishing captain who threw grouper overboard to avoid prosecution for harvesting undersized fish.

EXCERPT 1

JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: So did the government mischarge here? Could they have charged your client with violating 1512(c)? … What would have been your defense if they did?

MR. BADALAMENTI: He didn’t corruptly do it [destroy the fish]. And corruptly is wrongful, immoral, depraved or evil, not simply knowingly, which is required under 1519, which is voluntarily and intentionally done. See, “corruptly” is used in 1512(c) purposefully in that particular information because it is, perhaps, a broader class, and it is —

JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Destroyed and substituting fish is not a corrupt act.

MR. BADALAMENTI: It would have been my defense.

(Laughter)

JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Touché.

MR. BADALAMENTI: Which was the question, your honor.

EXCERPT 2

MR. MARTINEZ: I think we’re not always going to prosecute every case, and obviously we’re going to exercise our discretion. In this case, what the prosecutors did was they looked at the circumstances of the offense. And just to emphasize what happened here, Mr. Yates was given an explicit instruction by a law enforcement officer to preserve evidence of his violation of federal law. He directly disobeyed that. He then launched a convoluted coverup scheme to cover up the fact that he had destroyed evidence. He enlisted other people, including his crew members, in executing that scheme and in lying to the law enforcement officers about it. And then —

CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: You make him sound like a mob boss. I mean, he was caught [throwing back fish].

For a full transcript go to www.law.ufl.edu/uflaw/category/web-extras
Partners

Barbecue provided by Gene (JD 72) and Elaine Glasser. A break each semester when faculty, staff and students can mingle.

The Marcia Whitney Schott Courtyard, thanks to a donation from Lewis M. Schott (JD 46) in honor of his late wife and fellow alum, provides students with a central area to meet and socialize.

Gator Nation Get-Together
WASHINGTON D.C.-BASED LAWYERS Bill McCollum (JD 68), Dentons US LLP; Scott Ray (JD 88), U.S. Attorney’s Office; and Marti Cochran (JD 73), Arnold & Porter LLP, gave students advice on cracking the Washington, D.C. market inside the Chesterfield Smith Ceremonial Classroom.

The trio is part of the UF Law Alumni Group — D.C. Chapter, which gives back to students and fellow alumni with introductions and socializing in Washington, D.C.

Rachel Leggett (2L) knows all about it. She worked at the Securities and Exchange Commission over the summer where she was assigned to market oversight. A $2,500 fellowship from the D.C. chapter helped cover her living expenses.

“Through my fellowship this summer, I was able to confirm that I would enjoy working at the SEC one day,” Leggett said. “I loved the environment, and I strongly believe in the SEC’s mission.”

Alumni can get involved with the D.C. chapter by emailing dcgatorlawalums@gmail.com.

50 years after library job, Kuersteiner gives back

During his time at UF Law, Richard Kuersteiner (JD 64) worked at the reference desk in the law library. Fifty years after graduation, he can look back on a rewarding career so he and his wife, Barbara, are giving back to UF Law.

Kuersteiner practiced law for 46 years, working 26 of those years as a federal attorney: a Navy Judge Advocate General, the Navy Office of the General Counsel and NASA. He followed his government service with 22 years as a corporate attorney for Franklin Templeton Investments.

A $100,000 gift will establish The Richard L. Kuersteiner Endowment Fund. Kuersteiner has given the dean flexibility to use the gift to assist with what he sees as the college’s greatest needs.

“Barbara and I appreciate and have benefitted substantially from the first-rate legal education received at the University of Florida,” said Kuersteiner, a current member of the board of directors for Dynergy Inc. “We are delighted our gift will benefit current and future law students.”
Marking legacies of leadership for Gibbons, McBride

BY RICHARD GOLDSTEIN

One of the newest members of UF Law’s Heritage of Leadership helped build a great Florida law firm and knock down barriers in the workplace. The other helped build the American Century as one of the premiere members of the “Greatest Generation.”

Sam M. Gibbons (JD 47) and Bill McBride (JD 75) were inducted posthumously Sept. 12 in a ceremony at the Hilton University of Florida Conference Center.

Dean George Dawson told the audience, which included students about to receive book awards and their families, that future members of the Heritage of Leadership could be sitting among them, justifying the name of the combined programs: past, present and future.

Tim Gibbons, the son of Sam Gibbons, admonished students to build a legacy for themselves: “Do something that is going to have a significant impact on future generations.”

His father certainly did.

Sam Gibbons led 101st Airborne Division troops in Normandy, Holland and Bastogne, earning a Bronze Star during the campaign. He attended the University of Florida before entering the U.S. Army and, after the war, UF Law. He served as a member of the UF Hall of Fame and Florida Blue Key. Gibbons practiced law in Tampa in his family’s law firm and was later elected to the Florida Legislature. His push to establish a university in his hometown earned him the reputation as father of the University of South Florida.

He was elected to Congress in 1964 and was a key mover of health care and early childhood education and a key architect of U.S. trade policy in the 1980s and 1990s. He finished his congressional career as chairman of the powerful House Ways and Means Committee. Gibbons was awarded the French Legion of Honor. After retiring from Congress, Gibbons provided counsel and advocacy on public policy and international trade law to businesses, universities and governments.

Tim Gibbons explained what his father took from the formative elements of his life: the Great Depression and World War II. “The rule of force has to be replaced by the rule of law. He believed that nations that trade together will not go to war with each other.”

Alex Sink, the wife of Bill McBride, explained his role in opening up the legal field. “Bill was an early champion of diversity in a profession long dominated by white males,” Sink said.

Sink said she and her husband commuted halfway across the state for their jobs. At times, he was in Tampa caring for their children, Bert and Lexi, while she worked in Miami. Lying in bed with babies 15 months apart on each arm, Sink said her husband came to a realization: “This is hard work!”

From his position as managing partner of Holland & Knight, one of Florida’s largest law firms, McBride was in a position to make a difference. Sink said he changed firm policies to help women balance their work and personal lives. Later, Sink said, McBride pushed through the state’s first benefit granting medical coverage to same-sex partners of firm employees. And he instituted a “living wage” for low-paid employees, such as janitorial staff.


Gibbons and McBride join 35 others in the Heritage of Leadership Recognition Society. Inductees represent illustrious personalities in the history of UF Law since its founding in 1909. They assumed national leadership positions and distinguished themselves in legal, governmental, academic and corporate sectors. They improved the administration of justice and received the highest commendations for contributions to the profession and service to education, civic, charitable and cultural causes. Their images and a summary of their most significant accomplishments are etched into a glass display on the second floor of Holland Hall.

Members of the Heritage of Leadership Recognition Society are selected by the Heritage of Leadership Committee, which presents the slate for discussion and approval to the full membership of the University of Florida Law Center Association, Inc. board of trustees.
Gerald F. Richman, president of Richman Greer law firm in West Palm Beach, has been named “Lawyer of the Year” (2014-2015) by Best Lawyers for West Palm Beach litigation – securities. Only one lawyer per community and in each practice area is honored as a “Lawyer of the Year.” He has additionally been selected by the Florida Chapters of the American Board of Trial Advocates as the recipient of the 2014 “Joseph P. Milton Professionalism and Civility Award.”

Theodore Babbitt, of Babbitt, Johnson, Osborne & Le Clainche, P.A., in West Palm Beach, took part in the ice bucket challenge on Aug. 21 in front of his home in Jupiter, Florida. He was joined by his law partner’s son, Alex Le Clainche, to raise money for the ALS Foundation. Babbitt’s wife, Adrianne, died from the disease, also known as Lou Gehrig’s Disease, in November 2012.

Sidney A. Stubbs, an attorney with Jones, Foster, Johnston & Stubbs P.A. in West Palm Beach, has been recognized in Florida Super Lawyers (2014). Additionally, he has been named in the Best Lawyers in America (2015) in the areas of bet-the-company litigation and commercial litigation.

Richard M. Robinson, an attorney with GrayRobinson’s Orlando office, has been named to the Best Lawyers in America (2015) in the areas of corporate law and tax law. He has received the honor since 1995.

Stephen J. Bozarth, an attorney with Dean Mead in Orlando, has been named in Florida Super Lawyers (2014) in the area of real estate.

Donald D. Slesnick II, managing partner at the Coral Gables firm Law Offices of Slesnick & Casey LLP, has become the honorary consul for Australia in Florida. In the capacity, he provides assistance to Australians living in and visiting Florida, enhancing trade, economic and investment opportunities and building cultural and educational linkages between the two regions.

Charles H. Egerton, founding shareholder with Dean Mead in Orlando, has been named as a leader in tax in Chambers USA- America’s Leading Lawyers for Business (2014). He has also been named in Florida Super Lawyers (2014) in the area of tax. Additionally, he has been named chairman of the YMCA Metropolitan Board. He has been involved with the YMCA for more than 30 years, most recently in leading its $3.2 million annual support campaign.

John M. Brumbaugh, an attorney with Richman Greer in Miami, has been named in Best Lawyers in the areas of appellate practice, bet-the-company litigation, commercial litigation, legal malpractice law – defendants, litigation – antitrust, litigation – banking and finance, litigation – construction, litigation – intellectual property, and professional malpractice law – defendants and securities / capital markets law.

Tom Sherrard, founding partner of Nashville law firm Sherrard & Roe, has been named “Nashvillian of the Year” (2014) by Easter Seals Tennessee. The annual honor goes to a business individual that conveys Nashville’s spirit while demonstrating a commitment to the positive growth and economic development of the city.

William Zewadski, an attorney with Trenam Kemker’s Tampa office, has been named in Super Lawyers Business Edition (2014) in the area of business litigation.

John M. Brumbaugh, an attorney with Richman Greer in Miami, has been named in Best Lawyers (2014-2015) in the areas of bet-the-company litigation and commercial litigation.

Edward L. Kelly, an attorney with Rogers Towers in Jacksonville, has been named to the “Best Lawyers” list in U.S News & World Report magazine.

John C. Randolph, an attorney with Jones, Foster, Johnston & Stubbs P.A. in West Palm Beach, has been named in the Best Lawyers in America (2015) in the areas of municipal litigation and municipal law.
William E. Scheu, an attorney with Rogers Towers in Jacksonville, has been named to the “Best Lawyers” list in U.S. News & World Report magazine.

H. Adams Weaver, an attorney with Jones, Foster, Johnston & Stubbs P.A. in West Palm Beach, has been recognized in Florida Super Lawyers (2014). Additionally, he has been named in the Best Lawyers in America (2015) in the areas of eminent domain and condemnation law.

William E. Williams, an attorney with GrayRobinson’s Tallahassee office, has been recognized in Florida Super Lawyers (2014). He specializes in administrative law.

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Larry B. Alexander, an attorney with Jones, Foster, Johnston & Stubbs P.A. in West Palm Beach, has been named in the Best Lawyers in America (2015) in the area of real estate law.

Darryl M. Bloodworth, an attorney with Dean Mead in Orlando, has been named as a leader in litigation in Chambers USA - America’s Leading Lawyers for Business (2014). He has additionally been named in Florida Super Lawyers (2014) in the area of business litigation.

Phillip Finch, an attorney with GrayRobinson in Orlando, has been named to the Best Lawyers in America (2015) in the practice area of real estate. He has received the designation since 2008.

John K. Vreeland, an attorney with GrayRobinson’s Lakeland office, has been named to the Best Lawyers in America (2015) in the area of trusts and estates. He has received the honor since 2008.

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William H. Andrews, an attorney with GrayRobinson’s Jacksonville office, has been recognized in Florida Super Lawyers (2014). He also has been named to the Best Lawyers in America (2015) in the area of employment law – management, labor law – management and litigation – labor and employment. He has received the honor since 1989.

Gene Glasser, an attorney with Greenspoon Marder Law in Fort Lauderdale, has been recognized in Florida Super Lawyers (2014). He specializes in estate and probate.

Richard C. Grant, a senior shareholder at Grant Fridkin Pearson P. A. in Naples, Florida, has been named “Citizen of the Year” (2014) by the Naples Daily News. He has also been named the Fort Myers area “Corporate Lawyer of the Year” by Best Lawyers in America (2015). He currently serves as the 2014-2015 chairman of the Real Estate Certification Committee of The Florida Bar.

G. Carson McEachern, a partner with Roetzel in Naples, has been named in the Best Lawyers in America (2015) in the area of trusts and estates.

Mel Pearlman is currently serving as vice-chair of the West 192 Development Authority, created by the Osceola County Board of County Commissioners to direct and oversee the long-term economic development and revitalization of the 15-mile corridor adjacent to Walt Disney World. Pearlman has served on the authority since its inception in 2012.

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Dean Bunch, a partner in the Tallahassee office of Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP, has been elected to serve as chairman for The Florida Judicial Ethics Advisory Committee. He has served as a member of the committee for six years.

Lynn J. Hinson, an attorney with Dean Mead in Orlando, has been named in Florida Super Lawyers (2014) in the area of business litigation.

Pamela O. Price, an attorney with GrayRobinson’s Orlando office, has been recognized in Florida Super Lawyers (2014). She has also been named to the Best Lawyers in America (2015) in the practice areas of tax law and trusts and estates. She has received the designation since 2012.

Ronald S. Reed, an attorney with GrayRobinson’s Tampa office, has been recognized in Florida Super Lawyers (2014). He specializes in family law.

Gerald A. Rosenthal, of Rosenthal, Levy, Simon & Ryles in West Palm Beach, recently spoke to the American Association for Justice in Baltimore. He gave an overview of the significant aspects of the Affordable Care Act and how it affects Workers’ Compensation.

Faithful fans
Ronald L. Fick (JD 70) and his son, UF alumnus Ron Jr., attend the Florida home game against Eastern Michigan on Sept. 6. This marked the 87th consecutive Gator football game appearance, both home and away, for father and son. (Photo by Julian Pinilla)
1974

Joseph P. Carolan III, an attorney with Winderweidle, Haines, Ward & Woodman in Orlando, has been named in Florida Super Lawyers (2014) in the area of banking. Additionally, he has been named in the Best Lawyers in America (2015) in the areas of banking and finance law, business organizations and corporate law.

Charles H. Johnson, an attorney with Richman Greer in Miami, has been named in Best Lawyers in the areas of trusts and estates.

Frederick Leonhardt, an attorney with GrayRobinson’s Orlando office, has been recognized in Florida Super Lawyers (2014). He has also been named to the Best Lawyers in America (2015) in the areas of government relations practice and real estate law. He has received the honor since 2006.

Leslie J. Lott, a member of The Florida Bar Board of Governors, was named “Lawyer of the Year” by Best Lawyers (2015) in the category of Miami litigation – intellectual property. She was also selected by her peers for inclusion in the Miami litigation – intellectual property. She was named “Lawyer of the Year” by Best Lawyers (2015) in the category of Miami litigation – intellectual property. She was also recognized as such. She was also named among the “Top 50 Women” by Florida Super Lawyers (2014) and has been previously recognized as such. She was also recognized on a national scale for her work in wealth management in the eastern region.

Richard T. Fulton, an attorney with BakerHostetler in Orlando, has been named as a leader in estate planning tax in Chambers USA - America’s Leading Lawyers for Business (2014). Additionally, she has been listed among the “Top 50 Women” by Florida Super Lawyers (2014) and has been previously recognized as such. She was also recognized on a national scale for her work in wealth management in the eastern region.

Lauren Y. Detzel, an attorney with Dean Mead in Orlando, has been named as a leader in estate planning tax in Chambers USA - America’s Leading Lawyers for Business (2014). Additionally, she has been listed among the “Top 50 Women” by Florida Super Lawyers (2014) and has been previously recognized as such. She was also recognized on a national scale for her work in wealth management in the eastern region.

1975

Terry A. Moore, an attorney with GrayRobinson’s Jacksonville office, has been named to the Best Lawyers in America (2015) in the areas of litigation – real estate and real estate law.

Harold E. Morlan II has joined Fisher Rushmer in Orlando.

Samuel Grier Wells, a shareholder at GrayRobinson’s Jacksonville office, was presented with “The Florida Bar President’s Award of Merit” at The Florida Bar’s 64th annual convention. Each year, The Florida Bar president recognizes individuals who have provided distinguished service to the legal profession and the justice system.

1976

Michael J. Dewberry, an attorney with Rogers Towers in Jacksonville, has been named to the “Best Lawyers” list in U.S. News & World Report magazine.

Allen R. Tomlinson, an attorney with Jones, Foster, Johnston & Stubbs, P.A. in West Palm Beach, has been recognized in Florida Super Lawyers (2014). He specializes in business litigation.

1977

Lauren Y. Detzel, an attorney with Dean Mead in Orlando, has been named as a leader in estate planning tax in Chambers USA - America’s Leading Lawyers for Business (2014). Additionally, she has been listed among the “Top 50 Women” by Florida Super Lawyers (2014) and has been previously recognized as such. She was also recognized on a national scale for her work in wealth management in the eastern region.

1978

William A. Boyles (LLMT, JD 76), an attorney with GrayRobinson’s Orlando office, has been named in Best Lawyers in America (2015) in the areas of health care law.

Patricia A. Petruff, senior partner at Dye, Deitrich, Petruff & St. Paul law firm in Bradenton, Florida, was recently presented the 2014 “William C. Grimes Award for Lifetime Achievement in Community Service” by the Manatee County Bar Association. She has been an attorney in Manatee County for more than 35 years and has provided pro bono legal services and board leadership to community organizations such as the Manatee County Girls Club and Lemur Conservation Foundation.

Scott N. Richardson, an attorney at the Law Office of Scott N. Richardson P.A. in West Palm Beach, has been appointed by the Florida Supreme Court to serve on the Supreme Court Committee on Standard Jury Instructions in Criminal Cases.

Thomas J. Wilkes, an attorney with GrayRobinson’s Orlando office, has been named to the Best Lawyers in America (2015) in the area of government relations practice.

1979

Joni Armstrong Coffey, Broward County attorney, received the 2014 “Justice Harry Lee Anstead Award for The Florida Bar Board Certified Lawyer of the Year.”

Carmen Dominguez, college legal counsel at Miami Dade College, was selected by her peers as one of Florida Trend magazine’s “Florida Legal Elite” (2014), in the government and nonprofit fields. She has been college legal counsel since 2005.

James A. Edwards, a shareholder with Zimmerman Kiser Sutcliffe P.A. in Orlando, was a featured speaker at the Orange County Bar Association’s recent half-day program, “Advanced Legal Writing in a Paperless, Digital Age.” Edwards led a panel, “Professionalism, Civility and Ethics in Written Advocacy,” with Judge Thomas B. Smith, Judge Wendy Berger and Judge Alice Blackwell. Additionally, he has been named in The Best Lawyers in America (2015) in the area of personal injury litigation – defendants.
I was the fall of 1993, the Gators football team was playing an away game and law student Tim Cerio (JD 95) met up with a group of friends in Gainesville to watch the action on TV. Economics undergrad Rahul Patel (JD 97) was among the group gathered to cheer on the Gators. It was the first time Cerio and Patel’s paths crossed, but certainly not the last. A year later, Cerio would be crashing on Patel’s couch three days a week while he finished law school, commuting between Gainesville and Tampa, where his wife was working.

“I think Rahul was expecting me at some point to offer to pay rent, and as I recall, that never came to fruition,” Cerio said.

Fast-forward to the fall of 2014 — Cerio and Patel are still staunch supporters of the Gators but it goes well beyond the gridiron. Each has proven his love for the Gator Nation through the years while excelling in their professions and alumni leadership.

The two law grads have each served terms as president of the Law Alumni Council, with Cerio serving in 2005-2006 and Patel serving as president two years later. When Cerio takes the reins as president of the University of Florida Alumni Association in July, he’ll be following in the not-so-distant footsteps of Patel, who served as UFAA president for the 2013-2014 term.

Patel — now a partner in King & Spalding’s Corporate Practice Group in Atlanta and a member of his firm’s management committee — discussed his time as UFAA president.

“Our main goal last year was to support the university’s overall pre-eminence initiative to become one of the country’s top 10 public universities,” Patel said.

One of Patel’s primary strategies towards that goal was to help bolster alumni engagement by, in part, increasing the number of members in the Alumni Association.

“For the first time last year (we) crossed the 50,000 mark, so we’ve got more than 50,000 members in the alumni association, which will ultimately help our university’s ranking,” he said.

Patel himself practices alumni engagement each year. This fall was his 18th in a row interviewing UF Law students for King & Spalding during on-campus interviews. An hour before the start of interviews in August, Patel told 360 UF Law students gathered in a Reitz Union ballroom for new-student orientation that Dean George Dawson had offered him $100 to deliver the alumni exhortation. Patel said he declined, noting that the dean could probably find someone more accomplished. Then the dean offered four tickets to the Florida-Georgia football game. “So, my name is Rahul Patel and it’s my pleasure to give the alumni exhortation today,” he said to laughter.

Cerio said he and Patel use each other often as a sounding board for ideas, whether it was during their student leadership days or, more recently, pertaining to professional advice and their involvement in UF alumni activities. He expects his term as president to be no different.

Cerio, UF Alumni Association president-elect and shareholder at GrayRobinson with specialties including government affairs and health care regulation, said he plans to continue increasing alumni engagement as UF strives for pre-eminence.

“It truly is unique that the governor and the Legislature have recognized the special role and place of the University of Florida, and have allocated additional resources to help enhance UF and make it one of the top 10 public universities in the United States,” Cerio said.

“One of the ways we can most contribute to that effort and help the university is to really grow our membership numbers and grow the value that our members derive from being a part of the alumni association,” Cerio added.

Patel’s and Cerio’s involvement in giving back to UF originated while they were still students. They worked with each other in Florida Blue Key. Patel was also chairman of the Reitz Union Board of Managers. Cerio was president of his fraternity, Phi Delta Theta, student lobby director, and was appointed by Gov. Lawton Chiles (JD 55) as the student member of the Florida Board of Regents.

Currently, both Patel and Cerio sit on the UF Law board of trustees, and Patel is a trusteee of the University of Florida Foundation.

Between alumni activities and referring clients to one another’s law firms, it hasn’t been difficult for the two to remain close.

“I usually talk to Rahul at least once a week and I’ll see him probably a dozen times a year,” Cerio said. “If I have clients with any corporate needs outside the state of Florida, I send them to Rahul and his firm — he’s simply one of the best mergers and acquisitions lawyers in the country.”

Likewise, Patel doesn’t hesitate to pick up the phone to call Cerio if his clients have any health care or governmental needs in Florida. “I tell my clients that Tim is just always able to find a way to get things done in Tallahassee and Florida. He gets results.”
Robert S. Griscti, an attorney with Dean Mead in Gainesville, has been named in Florida Super Lawyers (2014) in the area of white collar litigation.

1980

Clayton W. Crevasse, a partner with Roetzel in Fort Myers, has been named in the Best Lawyers in America (2015) in the areas of commercial, construction and real estate litigation.

John W. Foster, an attorney with Baker-Hostetler in Orlando, has been named by Florida Super Lawyers (2014). He has also been named in Best Lawyers (2015) for his work in commercial litigation.

Philipppe Jeck, managing partner of the law firm of Jeck, Harris, Raynor & Jones, P.A. in Juno Beach, Florida, has been elected to the board and as chair elect for 2014-15 and serves on the executive committee for the Northern Palm Beach County Chamber of Commerce, Inc. The chamber serves the business community in 10 municipalities and unincorporated northern Palm Beach County. He has been involved with the chamber since 1982.

Raymond Lee, an attorney with Greenberg Traurig in Orange County, California, has been named in Best Lawyers in America (2015) in the area of corporate law.

Denis H. Noah, managing partner of Henderson Franklin in Fort Myers, has been named in Florida Super Lawyers (2014) for his fifth consecutive year for his work in real estate. Additionally, he has been named in Best Lawyers for the area of real estate law. Noah serves on the Horizon Council of Lee County’s board of directors and is a member of the Attorney’s Title Insurance Fund Advisory Board. He is past chairman for Habitat for Humanity for Lee and Hendry Counties and the Florida Law Network.

1981

R. Mason Blake, an attorney with Dean Mead in Viera, Florida, has been named in Florida Super Lawyers (2014) in the area of real estate.

Richard B. Comiter (LLMT, JD 80), senior partner at Comiter, Singer, Baseman & Braun in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, has been named in Florida Super Lawyers (2014). He has been selected for the honor nine times and is currently included on the top of the list.

Jose F. Valdivia Jr. earned a certificate from the mid-1970s UF Law program that offered exiled Cuban lawyers a path into the American legal profession. In October, Valdivia and other Cuban lawyers with their families attended a commemoration of the program at the Wilkie D. Ferguson Jr. Courthouse in Miami, which was sponsored by the judges of the U.S. District Court, Southern District of Florida. All participants in the 1973-1976 Cuban-American Lawyers Program, regardless of whether they went on to practice law in Florida, are invited to a UF Law commemoration to be held in October 2015. Cuban-American Lawyer Program participants should update contact information with the Office of Alumni Affairs. Email development@law.ufl.edu or call 352-273-0640.

A reunion for Cuban-American Lawyers

Jose F. Valdivia Jr. earned a certificate from the mid-1970s UF Law program that offered exiled Cuban lawyers a path into the American legal profession. In October, Valdivia and other Cuban lawyers with their families attended a commemoration of the program at the Wilkie D. Ferguson Jr. Courthouse in Miami, which was sponsored by the judges of the U.S. District Court, Southern District of Florida. All participants in the 1973-1976 Cuban-American Lawyers Program, regardless of whether they went on to practice law in Florida, are invited to a UF Law commemoration to be held in October 2015. Cuban-American Lawyer Program participants should update contact information with the Office of Alumni Affairs. Email development@law.ufl.edu or call 352-273-0640.
Kimberly Leach Johnson, chairwoman of Quarles & Brady, based in Naples, has been named in Florida Super Lawyers (2014).

William R. Lane Jr. (LLMT), an attorney with Holland & Knight in Miami, has once again been selected for inclusion in the Best Lawyers in America guide. He is recognized in the area of tax law, trusts and estates as well as closely held companies and family business law. Additionally, he was named the “Lawyer of the Year” in the Tampa Bay market in the categories of closely held companies and family businesses law.

Randolph J. Rush (LLMT, JD 80), an attorney with Winderweedle, Haines, Ward and Woodman in Winter Park, Florida, has been named in the Best Lawyers in America (2015) in the area of real estate law.

1982

Walter G. Benjamin has joined Kelley Kronenberg in Orlando.

Linnes Finney, an attorney with Greenspoon Marder Law in Port St. Lucie, Florida, has been recognized in Florida Super Lawyers (2014).

Stephen B. Hatcher (LLMT), president of the law firm Zimmerman Sutcliffe P.A. in Orlando, was named “Alumnus of the Year” by Lifework Leadership Inc. The organization is a national Christian program founded in Orlando that teaches leadership principles, conducts case studies with local leaders and hosts nationally recognized speakers.

Michael R. Levin, an attorney with Baker-Hostetler in Orlando, has been named in Best Lawyers (2015). Levin was recognized for his work in real estate law, commercial litigation and litigation – intellectual property.

Michael D. Minton (LLMT, JD 81), a shareholder at Dean Mead in Fort Pierce, has been named as a leader in tax in Chambers USA - America’s Leading Lawyers for Business (2014). He has also been named in Florida Super Lawyers (2014) in the area of tax. Additionally, he was honored as the alumni guest speaker at the Spring 2014 UF Law commencement ceremony on May 16 at the Stephen C. O’Connell Center.

Gregory A. Nelson, a partner with Novak Druce Connolly Bove + Quigg LLP in West Palm Beach, has been named to the list of Florida Super Lawyers (2014). It is his fifth year receiving the honor. He was also named in Managing Intellectual Property magazine’s list of “IP Stars” (2014).

Michael J. Nolan II (LLMT, JD 81), an attorney with GrayRobinson’s Tampa office, has been named to the Best Lawyers in America (2015) in the practice area of trusts and estates. He has received the honor since 2008. Additionally, he has been recognized in Florida Super Lawyers (2014). He specializes in tax law.

Mark Somerstein, an attorney with Greenspoon Marder Law in Fort Lauderdale, has been recognized in Florida Super Lawyers (2014). He specializes in banking.

Tim Vulte, a partner at Adams and Reese in the firm’s Jacksonville office, has been appointed by Florida Gov. Rick Scott to the 1st District Court of Appeal Judicial Nominating Commission as part of the governor’s 27 appointments across the state to judicial nominating commissions in Florida. The 1st District encompasses most of North Florida from Jacksonville to the Panhandle.

1983

Alan H. Daniels (LLMT, JD 81), a partner with Roetzel in Orlando, has been named in the Best Lawyers in America (2015) in the area of tax law.

Robert H. Dellecker, a civil trial lawyer with Dellecker, Wilson, King, McKenna, Ruffner & Sos in Orlando, has been named in Florida Super Lawyers (2014). This is his eighth year to receive the honor.

James A. Gale, co-founder of Feldman Gale P.A. in Miami, has been selected as the recipient of the 2014 “International Intellectual Property Award” from Acquisition International Magazine, a monthly publication with a global circulation covering corporate finance news.

William F. Hamilton, an attorney with Quarles & Brady in Naples, has been named in Florida Super Lawyers (2014).

Scott G. Hawkins, an attorney with Jones Foster, Johnston & Stubbs P.A. in West Palm Beach, has been recognized in Florida Super Lawyers (2014). Additionally, he has been named in the Best Lawyers in America (2015) in the areas of bet-the-company litigation, commercial litigation, environmental, intellectual property, land use and zoning and real estate litigation.

Michael Hornreich has recently joined Weinberg, Wheeler, Hudgins, Gunn & Dial LLC in Miami as a partner. He will work with the firm’s construction litigation and design professional liability litigation practices.

Stephen Kussner, an attorney with GrayRobinson’s Tampa office, has been recognized in Florida Super Lawyers (2014). He has also been named to the Best Lawyers in America (2015) in the area of real estate law. He has received the honor since 2003.


Dennis R. O’Connor, an attorney in Winter Park, Florida, has been inducted as a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers.

1984

David Akins, an attorney with Dean Mead in Orlando, has been named in Florida Super Lawyers (2014) in the area of estate and probate.

Bruce Ward Bennett, the partner-in-charge at Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP’s Tampa office, celebrated the 20th anniversary of the branch in June. The occasion was commemorated with a cocktail party with office members, clients and friends within the legal community.

David B. Haber, an attorney with the Miami-based Law Office of David B. Haber P.A., has been elected to the University of Florida Hillel’s board of directors.

Christopher C. Hazelpit, an attorney with Rogers Towers in Jacksonville, has been named to the “Best Lawyers” list in U.S. News & World Report magazine.
Riggs a national voice against ‘voter suppression’

BY TIM GROVES (1L)

Allison Riggs (JD 09) stood before the North Carolina Senate Rules Committee members in a scene memorialized on YouTube and shook their bill at them.

“I was angry,” she told *UF LAW* magazine. “It’s poor process. This is voter suppression at its worst. There had been no articulated justifications for what they were doing. I was fired up.”

Riggs has channeled that anger to defend voter rights in North Carolina, Texas, Florida, Tennessee and Indiana since joining the Southern Coalition of Social Justice (www.southern-coalition.org) in 2009. Her official title is staff attorney, but she might be the unofficial face of the group. “I think Florida graduates are really good at helping each other out.”

Riggs said in the opinion of the court. “And yet the coverage formula that Congress reauthorized in 2006 ignores these developments, keeping the focus on decades-old data relevant to decades-old problems, rather than current data reflecting current needs.”

“I was angry,” she told *UF LAW* magazine. “It’s poor process. This is voter suppression at its worst. There had been no articulated justifications for what they were doing. I was fired up.”

Riggs has channeled that anger to defend voter rights in North Carolina, Texas, Florida, Tennessee and Indiana since joining the Southern Coalition of Social Justice (www.southern-coalition.org) in 2009. Her official title is staff attorney, but she might be the unofficial face of the group.

“Another Florida Gator grad up here helped me get my job. I think Florida grads are really good at helping each other out.”

In the Shelby case, Riggs served as counsel for political science and law professors who filed amicus briefs arguing that Section 5 should be retained. Riggs attended the Supreme Court oral arguments where her side realized the justices’ line of questioning was not going favorably for them and expected the flood gates to open shortly after the ruling.

North Carolina was part of that deluge. In Riggs’ current home and the headquarters for the Southern Coalition of Social Justice, legislators were quick to push through a bill calling for identification requirements on voting day and a shorter window for early voting among other moves she said would hamper minority voter turnout. This prompted her appearance in front of the rules committee where she was given two minutes to comment out of the 20 minutes granted to the public.

While the law was a setback for Riggs and her organization, she is still grateful for the work she gets to do. The ability to argue before the Florida Supreme Court and to intervene in landmark Supreme Court hearings are opportunities she won’t take for granted.

Chief Justice John Roberts wrote for the court’s conservative majority, arguing that the need has passed for the federal government’s supervision of states’ voting policies.

“Largely because of the Voting Rights Act, voting tests were abolished, disparities in voter registration and turnout due to race were erased, and African-Americans attained political office in record numbers,” Chief Justice John Roberts said in the opinion of the court. “And yet the coverage formula that Congress reauthorized in 2006 ignores these developments, keeping the focus on decades-old data relevant to decades-old problems, rather than current data reflecting current needs.”

Riggs said the court’s voiding of Section 5 has made it much easier for states to change voting laws.

“Changes had to be submitted to the Department of Justice,” Riggs said. “They would post those changes on the website and we would monitor them. We could keep our eyes and ears open everywhere. Now things get flipped through before anyone knows what happened.”

Policing voter discrimination now takes much more time and effort, Riggs said. Hours once spent litigating and researching are now spent fundraising.

“My clients are nonprofit organizations or loosely banded groups of citizen activists,” Riggs said. “They aren’t corporations.”

Riggs’ interest in voting rights can be traced to her first two weeks at UF Law, when she got involved in the Restoration of Civil Rights Project. The project’s goal was and still is to help people apply to have their civil rights restored, such as the right to vote or apply for professional licensing.

Professor Meshon Rawls, the project coordinator and faculty adviser, gave Riggs the opportunity to make the project what she wanted and Riggs ran with it.

“She went over and beyond the average volunteer,” Rawls said. “Allison was intentional and deliberate in making sure that we helped as many people as possible. I gave her autonomy as the administrative assistant because I knew she understood the importance of the work and had a vision to move the project forward.”

And Riggs is making sure the Gator Nation keeps rolling along. Not only did a Gator graduate help her get her job, but her organization hired George Eppsteiner (JD 10), a UF Law graduate who she helped recruit to the organization. She hopes to further build the university’s reputation and get more Gator graduates involved in the work that she does.

“I’m always interested in helping,” she said.

Another Florida Gator grad up here helped me get my job. I think Florida grads are really good at helping each other out.”
Paul K. Heuerman, a partner with Roetzel in Naples, has been named in the Best Lawyers in America (2015) in real estate law.

John Neukamm, a shareholder with the Mechanik Nuccio law firm in Tampa, was recognized at The Florida Bar’s Real Property, Probate & Trust Law Section’s 2014 annual convention. For his contributions in promoting the highest standards of ethics and professionalism, he was presented the “William S. Belcher Lifetime Professionalism Award.”

David R. Punzak, an attorney with Carlton Fields Jorden Burt in Tampa, has been named by UF and the Pinellas County Gator Club as the “Gator Great” (2014).

1985

W. Michael Clifford (LLMT, JD 76), an attorney with GrayRobinson in Orlando, has been named to the Best Lawyers in America (2015) in the practice area of trusts and estates. He has received the designation since 2007.

Alan B. Cohn (LLMT, JD 84), an attorney with Greenspoon Marder Law in Fort Lauderdale, has been recognized in Florida Super Lawyers (2014). He specializes in estate and probate.

Lynn Drysdale an attorney with Jacksonville Area Legal Aid, has been honored with the Florida Bar Consumer Protection Law Committee’s “Florida Consumer Lawyer of the Year” award. Attorney General Pam Bondi presented her the award at a ceremony in August.

Stephen R. Looney (LLMT), an attorney with Dean Mead in Orlando, has been named as a leader in tax in Chambers USA - America’s Leading Lawyers for Business (2014). He has also been named in Florida Super Lawyers (2014) in the area of tax.

Robert P. Major, an attorney with Winderweedle, Haines, Ward & Woodman in Orlando, has been named in the Best Lawyers in America (2015) in the areas of commercial litigation.

Michael Neukamm, an attorney with GrayRobinson’s Orlando office, has been named to the Best Lawyers in America (2015) in the areas of corporate compliance law, corporate law and securities/capital markets law. He has received the distinction since 2010.

William J. Schifino Jr., managing partner at Burr & Forman LLP in Tampa, has received the prestigious “Hillsborough County Bar Association Outstanding Lawyer Award.” The annual honor recognizes an attorney who has made a significant difference in the practice of law and the Tampa Bay community through personal and professional ethics and conduct. He was also recently named president of the Hillsborough County Bar Foundation for the 2014-2015 term.

Guy Whitesman (LLMT), an attorney with Henderson Franklin in Fort Myers, has been named in Florida Super Lawyers (2014) for the ninth year for his work in tax law. He is past chair of the tax section of The Florida Bar, and he serves as chair of Henderson Franklin’s mergers and acquisitions, business organizations and planning, tax and intellectual property practice areas.

1986

James M. Craig has joined Constangy, Brooks & Smith in Tampa.

Elizabeth A. Green, an attorney with BakerHostetler in Orlando, has been selected for inclusion in Florida Super Lawyers (2014). She has also been named to Florida Trend’s “Legal Elite” list (2014). She specializes in general litigation.

Herbert V. McMillan III has joined Michael T. Gibson P.A. in Orlando.

William E. Ruffier, a civil trial lawyer with Dellecker Wilson King McKenna Ruffier & Sos in Orlando, has been named in Florida Super Lawyers (2014). This is his eighth year to receive the honor. He was additionally appointed to serve on the medical malpractice subcommittee for the Board of Legal Specialization and Education.

Frederick Schrils, an attorney with GrayRobinson’s Tampa office, has been recognized in Florida Super Lawyers (2014). He has also been named to the Best Lawyers in America (2015) in the area of commercial litigation.

1987

W. Scott Callahan, a partner with Roetzel in Orlando, has been named in the Best Lawyers in America (2015) in the area of real estate law.

Mayanne Downs, shareholder and firmwide chair of the litigation department in GrayRobinson’s Orlando office, has been recognized in Florida Super Lawyers (2014). She was also recently named to Orlando Magazine’s “50 Most Powerful” list, on which she is listed as the ninth most powerful person in the city. Additionally, she has been named to Best Lawyers in America (2015) in the areas of bet-the-company litigation, commercial litigation and family law.

James Etscorn, an attorney with BakerHostetler in Orlando, has been named in Florida Super Lawyers (2014). He has also been named in Best Lawyers (2015) in the areas of commercial litigation, litigation - intellectual property and product liability litigation - defendants.

Kenneth Goldsmith, a professor of legal studies at Chattanooga State Community College, was recently elected to the ABA Commission for Paralegal Education. He spent last fall in China, teaching business law to Chinese accounting students at Ningbo University of Technology. He serves as program director for paralegal education and faculty senate president at Chattanooga State Community College.
**CLASS NOTES**

**Thomas H. Gunderson**, an attorney with Henderson Franklin in Fort Myers, has been included in *Florida Super Lawyers* for the sixth consecutive year for his work in real estate. His primary areas of practice include commercial real estate transactions, commercial and residential real estate development, banking law and property owners’ association law.

**Paul S. Quinn Jr.**, an attorney with GrayRobinson’s Orlando office, has been named to the Best Lawyers in America (2015) in the area of real estate law. He has received the distinction since 2013.

**David Schick**, an attorney with BakerHostetler in Orlando, has been named by *Florida Super Lawyers* (2014). He was additionally named in Best Lawyers (2015) in the areas of corporate law and employee benefits (ERISA) law.

**Jeffrey Shear**, an attorney with Gunster in West Palm Beach, was elected to serve a one-year term on the board of directors of the Real Estate Investment Council. The nonprofit hosts dinners featuring prominent figures in commercial real estate as guest speakers.

**Jo Thacker**, a partner in the Orlando office of Broad and Cassel, was appointed by Mayor Buddy Dyer (JD 87) to serve on the City of Orlando’s Community Venues Oversight Committee. Thacker joins eight other committee members in providing oversight and review of the various community venues projects in the city, including the Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts, the Florida Citrus Bowl and the MLS Soccer Stadium.

**Tamela E. Wiseman** has joined Cheffy Passidomo in Naples.

**1988**

**Jack Boyay** (LLMT, JD 82), an attorney with Dean Mead in Gainesville, has been named in *Florida Super Lawyers* (2014) in the area of estate and probate.

**1989**

**Jeff Paskert**, of Mills Paskert Divers in Tampa, recently completed a two-year term as chairman of the Hillsborough County Bar Association’s construction law committee. Paskert also recently addressed a construction industry conference in Orlando on the topic of proper selection and use of expert witnesses.

**Mark A. Sessums**, founding partner at Sessums Law Group in Lakeland, has been elected to the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers Florida Chapter Board of Managers.

**1990**

**Joseph W. Bain**, a partner with Novak Druce Connolly Bove + Quigg LLP in West Palm Beach, has been named to the list of *Florida Super Lawyers* (2014). He has more than 20 years of intellectual property litigation experience in more than 100 IP disputes in various districts.
courts throughout the nation as well as several trials before the International Trade Commission.

Steve Bernstein, a partner at Fisher & Phillips LLP in Tampa, has been recognized by Florida Super Lawyers. Additionally, he has been selected by his peers for inclusion in the Best Lawyers in America (2014). He was honored for his labor and employment work.

Don E. Goebel (LLMT) has recently been named chief legal officer and chief tax officer of Maxim Crane Works L.P. The company is a leading provider of large construction cranes and turnkey lift services throughout the U.S.

Gregory F. Lunny, an attorney with Rogers Towers in Jacksonville, will lead the expansion of the firm’s new office in Wesley Chapel

Edward McCarthy III, an attorney with Rogers Towers in Jacksonville, has been named to the “Best Lawyers” list in U.S. News & World Report magazine.

Cynthia Crofoot Rignanese, an attorney in Winter Haven, has been re-elected as president of the Winter Haven, Florida, Women’s Bar Association. She is also a founding member of Females Advancing Business, which has grown to 51 members in its third year.

Bradley M. Saxton, an attorney with Windermere, Haines, Ward & Woodman in Orlando, has been named in Florida Super Lawyers (2014) in the area of business bankruptcy. Additionally, he has been named in Florida Trend as a “Legal Elite” and in the Best Lawyers in America (2015).

Robert W. Thielhelm, an attorney with BakerHostetler in Orlando, has been named in Best Lawyers (2015). Thielhelm was recognized for his work in commercial litigation.

New Levin biography out

Fredric G. Levin (JD 61) graduated third in his class from UF Law to become one of the nation’s most successful trial lawyers. And that was before figuring out a tweak to Florida law that led to historic anti-tobacco legislation and then embarking on a career as one the nation’s premiere boxing managers.

Levin’s only-in-America life is painted in the new book, And Give up Showbiz? How Fred Levin Beat Big Tobacco, Avoided Two Murder Prosecutions, Became a Chief of Ghana, Earned Boxing Manager of the Year and Transformed American Law. Proceeds will be donated to the Chabad House at the University of Florida and Florida State University.

New York Times best-selling author Josh Young tells the story of Levin’s rise from UF Law where he finished third in his class to become one of America’s celebrated tort lawyers. Levin has won more than 25 cases with jury verdicts of more than $1 million and six of more than $10 million, according to the website of his firm, Levin, Papantonio, Thomas, Mitchell, Rafferty & Proctor, P.A. He says that consumer safety improvements have been driven by the success of members of the plaintiff’s bar like him who hold businesses accountable for injuries and deaths caused by their products.

Levin continues to give back to the law school through endowment of professorships, cash gifts and, most recently, funding for a trial advocacy facility, the Martin H. Levin Advocacy Center, named for his son Martin, who graduated from UF Law in 1988.

“As for my career, my name is going to be on that University of Florida law school forever, so in 50 or 100 years people may stop to look me up,” Levin said in the book. “Hopefully history will be kind to me, but if not, I hope they at least spell my name right.”

1991

Todd L. Bradley, a partner at Cummings & Lockwood LLC in Naples, has been selected for inclusion in the U.S. News & World Report list of “The Best Lawyers in America” (2015) in the practice area of trusts and estates. Bradley has been included in the list since 2008.

Michael S. Budwick, co-founder of Meland Russin & Budwick in Miami, has been named in Florida Super Lawyers (2014).


Tad A. Delegal III, an attorney with Delegal Law Offices in Jacksonville, has become a fellow with the American Bar Association Foundation.

Keith Grossman, managing partner of Grossman Law & Conflict Management in Fort Myers, spoke on “Conflict Management in the Workplace” at the Rotary Club of Cape Coral Goldcoast in July.

Julio C. Jaramillo, an attorney in Miami, took office July 1 as president-elect of The Florida Bar Foundation, a statewide charitable organization tasked with providing greater access to justice. Jaramillo practices in the area of civil litigation.
Daniel Kanner, a partner since 1998 at Bauman & Kanner in Plantation, Florida, has been appointed as a Broward County judge. He fills the vacancy of Edward Merrigan, a judge who was promoted by appointment to the Broward Circuit. Kanner was an assistant state attorney in Broward from 1992-1998.

Steven J. Solomon, an attorney with GrayRobinson’s Miami office, has been recognized in Florida Super Lawyers (2014). He has also been named to the Best Lawyers in America (2015) in the areas of bankruptcy and creditor debtor rights/insolvency and reorganization law as well as litigation – bankruptcy. He has received the honor since 2010.

John V. Tucker, managing shareholder at Tucker & Ludin P.A. in St. Petersburg, has been named in Florida Super Lawyer (2014) in the area of employee benefits. For 23 years, Tucker has been assisting claimants in fights against insurance companies for disability benefits.

1992

Nelson C. Bellido, a partner in the Miami office of Roig, Tutan, Rosenberg, Martin, Stoller, Zumpano & Bellido, has been recognized in Florida Trend’s “Florida Legal Elite” list (2014) for his work in the area of commercial litigation. He has additionally been selected to serve as managing partner of the firm’s Miami office.

Nancy S. Freeman, a shareholder with Windereedle, Haines, Ward & Woodman P.A. in Orlando, recently received her board certification in tax law from The Florida Bar Board of Legal Specialization and Education. Freeman already holds her board certification in wills, trusts and estates, making her one of fewer than 30 attorneys in the state of Florida with both certifications.

1993

Paul Bain, an attorney with Trenam Kemker’s Tampa office, has been named in Super Lawyers Business Edition (2014) in the area of eminent domain. Additionally, he was named in Florida Trend’s “Legal Elite” list (2014).

Jere F. Daniels Jr., a shareholder with Windereedle, Haines, Ward & Woodman, was recently appointed to a two-year term on the Winter Park Chamber of Commerce board of directors. Daniels, a Winter Park native, practices mainly in the area of real estate law, assisting corporate and individual clients with transactions and disputes throughout the Southeast.

Kevin L. Lienard, an attorney with Zimmerman Kiser Sutcliffe P.A. in Orlando, has been named in Florida Super Lawyers (2014) for the area of workers’ compensation.

Erik Shuman, an attorney with GrayRobinson’s Melbourne, Florida, office, has been recognized in Florida Super Lawyers (2014). He has also been named to the Best Lawyers in America (2015) in the practice area of corporate law. He has received the designation since 2010.

1994

Christopher C. Casper has been named managing partner of James, Hoyer, Newcomer, & Smiljansc in Tampa.

Donna L. Longhouse (LLMT, JD 93), a partner at Allen Dell P.A. law firm in Tampa, has been named in Super Lawyers (2014) for the third year. She has also been designated a “Florida Legal Elite” by Florida Trend magazine (2014). Longhouse practices law in the areas of tax, trusts and estates.

Kenneth J. McKenna, a civil trial lawyer with Dellecker, Wilson, King, McKenna, Ruffler & Sos in Orlando, has been named in Florida Super Lawyers (2014). This is his fifth year to receive the honor.
Lance Reich has joined Miller Nash's Seattle office as a partner. He joins the firm's intellectual property practice team with a focus on IP procurement and defense, IP litigation and transactions and the Washington beverage industry.

Marc A. Wites, of Wites & Kapetan P.A. in Lighthouse Point, Florida, presented the "Welcome to New Citizens" remarks on behalf of the Federal Bar Association at the naturalization ceremony held at the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida in West Palm Beach on Sept. 12. He also authored the 2014 edition of his longstanding publication The Florida Litigation Guide, as well as the first editions of The New York Litigation and The California Litigation.

1995

Timothy Cerio, an attorney with GrayRobinson's Tallahassee office, has been reappointed by Gov. Rick Scott to the 1st District Court of Appeal Judicial Nominating Commission. He was reappointed from a list of nominees submitted by The Florida Bar for a two-year term beginning in July. He has also been recognized in Florida Super Lawyers (2014).

Nichole M. Mooney, an attorney with Dean Mead in Orlando, has been named in Florida Super Lawyers (2014) in the area of employment and labor.

1996

Lisa Z. Hauser (LLMT, JD 95), an associate with Comiter, Singer, Baseman & Braun in West Palm Beach, has been named in Florida Super Lawyers (2014). Her practice areas include estate planning, probate, estate & trust administration and guardianship administration.

Steven Lessne, an attorney with GrayRobinson’s Fort Lauderdale office, has been recognized in Florida Super Lawyers (2014). He specializes in estate trust and litigation.

1997

Christine T. Adams, a shareholder with Rogers Towers in Jacksonville, has been elected to the firm’s board of directors. She is the third woman in the firm’s history to hold the position.

J. Matthew Belcastro, an attorney with Henderson Franklin in Fort Myers, has been recognized in Florida Super Lawyers magazine for the fourth year for his work in construction litigation. During his career, he has been recognized by Florida Trend Magazine’s “Up and Comers” list and Florida Trend Magazine’s “Legal Elite.” He is AV rated by Martindale-Hubbell.

C. Todd Burbank has joined the real estate investment and development team at Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton’s Charlotte, North Carolina office. He was previously a partner at McGuireWoods.

Brian D. Burgoon, of the Burgoon Law Firm LLC in Atlanta, was awarded the "Tony Boggs Excellence in Disciplines Award" by The Florida Bar President Eugene Pettis (JD 85) at the annual convention. Burgoon was also re-elected as an out-of-state member of The Florida Bar Board of Governors and to the board of directors of the University of Florida Alumni Association. Additionally, he was elected to The Florida Bar Executive Committee.

Robert H. Gebaide, an attorney with BakerHostetler in Orlando, has been named in Best Lawyers (2015). Gebaide was recognized for his work in real estate law.

1998

Matthew Ahearn (LLMT), an attorney with Dean Mead in Orlando, has been named in Florida Super Lawyers (2014) in the area of estate and probate.

J. Carter Andersen, an attorney at Bush Ross in Tampa, has been elected president of the Hillsborough County Bar Association.

Rebecca L. Brock, a partner with Schwed Kahle Kress, has been elected to membership in the American Board of Trial Advocates and the Palm Beach Chapter of ABOTA.

Fabienne E. Fahnestock, a shareholder in Gunster’s business litigation practice in West Palm Beach, has been elected to serve as secretary of the Early Learning Coalition of Broward County board of directors. The nonprofit is dedicated to the implementation of an integrated, high-quality and seamless early care and education service delivery system for children.
Marilyn G. Moran has joined FordHarrison as a partner. Moran, who has more than 12 years of experience as a management-side employment attorney, comes from BakerHostetler. Moran, a fifth-generation Floridian whose ancestors came to Florida before the Civil War to farm and raise cattle, said she was drawn to FordHarrison’s strong presence in her home state and across the Southeastern United States.

Cristine M. Russell, an attorney with Rogers Towers in Jacksonville, has been named to the “Best Lawyers” list in U.S. News & World Report magazine.

Lori V. Vaughn, an attorney with Trenam Kemper’s Tampa office, has been named in Super Lawyers Business Edition (2014) in the area of business bankruptcy. Additionally, she was named in Florida Trend’s “Legal Elite” list.

1999

John L. Badalamenti, an assistant federal defender in Tampa, has been appointed to the 2014-2015 chairman of The Florida Bar’s Federal Practice Committee.

Ryan E. Davis, a shareholder at Winderweedle, Haines, Ward & Woodman P.A. in Orlando, has been selected as an academy fellow of The Florida Bar Leadership Academy. Davis completed a competitive process to join this select group of attorneys from around the state who will network, interact, collaborate and build relationships. He was also named a “Rising Star” in the area of business bankruptcy by Florida Super Lawyers (2014).

Kenneth H. Haney, a partner with Quarles & Brady LLP in Naples, has been appointed as an advisory board member for the Junior Achievement 2014 Business Hall of Fame, Collier County. The advisory board selects laureates for the 2014 Business Hall of Fame, Collier County, honoring their contributions to the local business community and recognizing their service as positive role models for young people.

Latonia P. Hines, a veteran prosecutor in Atlanta, has been named editor-in-chief of Justicia, the official Cobb County Bar magazine. Hines also currently serves as a regular legal expert on local and national television news channels such as HLN/CNN.

Brian Oblow, an attorney with GrayRobinson’s Tampa office, has been recognized in Florida Super Lawyers (2014). He specializes in business litigation.

Joel Roberts, an attorney with BakerHostetler in Orlando, has been named by Florida Super Lawyers (2014). He specializes in business litigation.

Justicia, a veteran prosecutor in Atlanta, has been named editor-in-chief of Justicia, the official Cobb County Bar magazine. Hines also currently serves as a regular legal expert on local and national television news channels such as HLN/CNN.

Katie Schweikhardt has been appointed as the executive director of the United Arts Council of Collier County. For the past three years, she has been with the Harry Chapin Food Bank, serving as director of programs and Collier County food coordinator.

Matthew Sperry (LLMT, JD 97) has been promoted to partner in DLA Piper’s Chicago office. Sperry practices in the area of corporate law.

Renee E. Thompson, an attorney with Mateer Harbert in Orlando, was recently honored with the “President’s Award of Merit” at The Florida Bar’s annual convention. Bar President Eugene Pettis (JD 85) presented the award to Thompson.

2000

Julie Singer Brady, an attorney with BakerHostetler in Orlando, has been named a “Rising Star” by Florida Super Lawyers (2014). She specializes in business litigation.

LaTeasha J. Benson has joined the Florida Department of Children and Families’ Children’s Legal Services as a senior attorney in the Daytona Beach office.

Douglas A. Cherry, an attorney with Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick LLP in Sarasota, has become president of the Sarasota County Bar Association. Cherry will focus his presidency on the future of the legal profession, empowering its members to embrace and take advantage of the opportunities that upcoming changes to the profession will present.

Mark H. Dahlmeier, an attorney with Jones, Foster, Johnston & Stubbs P.A. in West Palm Beach, has been recognized as a “Rising Star” by Florida Super Lawyers (2014). He specializes in real estate.

Tiffany T. Payne, an attorney with BakerHostetler in Orlando, has been appointed to the University of Central Florida Alumni board of directors.

2001

Trevor Arnold, an attorney with GrayRobinson’s Orlando office, has been recognized in Florida Super Lawyers (2014). He has also been named to the Best Lawyers in America (2015) in the areas of construction law and litigation – construction. He has received the honor since 2010.

John Burns (LLMT), an attorney with Dickinson Wright PLLC in Nashville, has been elected by the Tennessee Bar Association as chair of its tax law section.

Kevin B. Cook, an attorney with Rogers Towers in Jacksonville, has been named to the “Best Lawyers” list in U.S. News & World Report magazine.
Christine Marlewski, an attorney with GrayRobinson’s Tampa office, has been recognized as a “Rising Star” by Super Lawyers (2014). She specializes in business litigation.

William Riley Jr., an attorney with GrayRobinson’s Miami office, has been recognized as a “Rising Star” (2014). He specializes in land use/zoning.

2002

T. Robert Bulloch, an attorney with Quarles & Brady in Naples, has been named a “Rising Star” by Florida Super Lawyers (2014). He specializes in estate and probate.

Nancy E. Cason, managing partner of Syprett Meshad in Sarasota, has been named a “Rising Star” by Florida Super Lawyers (2014). Her practice areas focus on all aspects of real estate law, both transactional and litigation.

Chris Codling, an attorney with Givens Givens Sparks in Tampa, has been selected by Florida Super Lawyers as a 2014 “Rising Star.”

Debra Deardourff Faulk, an attorney with GrayRobinson’s Tampa office, has been recognized in Florida Super Lawyers (2014). She has also been named to the Best Lawyers in America (2015) in the practice area of intellectual property.

John Gihon has joined newly renamed firm Shorstein & Lasnetski as a partner in its second, new office in Orlando. Gihon, formerly a senior attorney with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and a division chief with the Office of the State Attorney, will focus on criminal defense and immigration law.

Evan Glasser, an attorney with Greenspoon Marder Law in Fort Lauderdale, has been recognized as a “Rising Star” by Florida Super Lawyers (2014). He specializes in general litigation.

Daniel N. Gonzalez, a partner at Miami law firm Meland Russin & Budwick, has been recognized as a “Rising Star” by Florida Super Lawyers (2014) in the category of bankruptcy/business litigation.

Brian H. Koch, a shareholder with Greenberg Traurig’s Fort Lauderdale office, was awarded the “Paul May Young Lawyers Section Professionalism Award” at the Broward County Bar Association’s Annual Installation Dinner. He was additionally named as one of the South Florida Business Journal’s “40 Under 40,” the annual listing of South Florida’s best and brightest leaders under the age of 40.

Theodore S. Kypreos, an attorney with Jones, Foster, Johnston & Stubbs P.A. in West Palm Beach, has been recognized in Florida Super Lawyers (2014). He specializes in estate and trust litigation.

Benjamin J. LeFrancois, a shareholder in the Lakeland office of GrayRobinson P.A., has been elected to the board of directors for the YMCA of West Central Florida. He has also been elected to the board of trustees for All Saints’ Academy, a college-preparatory institution in Polk County. He is past president of the All Saints’ Academy Parents’ Association and a Polk County School Board mentor.

Jennifer Olmedo-Rodriguez, a shareholder at Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney in Miami, has been elected to serve on the board of directors of the 3rd District Court of Appeal Historical Society for a one-year term. Olmedo-Rodriguez is a shareholder in the office’s litigation practice group and focuses on the area of commercial litigation and civil appellate litigation.

Michael J. Pike, managing partner of Pike & Lustig, LLP–Turnpike Law in West Palm Beach, Florida, was recently admitted to Esteemed Lawyers of America. The admission recognizes the most respected lawyers in the U.S. In addition, he was named in Florida Super Lawyers (2014) in the practice area of business litigation.

2003

Jessica P. Malchow, a partner with BakerHostetler in Orlando, has been selected as a recipient of the Florida Achievement Award from the Florida Commission on the Status of Women.

Kevin Regan has joined Miller Nash’s Seattle office as counsel. He joins the firm’s intellectual property practice team with a focus on IP procurement and defense, IP litigation and transactions and the Washington beverage industry.

JAG training

Capt. Charles Pino (JD 01), left, and Capt. Christopher Vallandingham (JD 00), who is head of collections in the UF Law Legal Information Center, completed the Operational Law of Armed Conflict course Aug. 8 at the U.S. Army’s Judge Advocate General’s Legal Center and School in Charlottesville, Virginia.
Tony Sos, a civil trial lawyer with Dellecker, Wilson, King, McKenna, Ruffier & Sos in Orlando, has been named in Florida Super Lawyers (2014). This is his sixth year to receive the honor.

Cheryl Priest Ainsworth has been promoted to partner at Affeld Grivakes Zucker LLP in Los Angeles. She was additionally named a “Top Women Lawyers in Southern California” list. Before moving to Los Angeles, she practiced commercial litigation at Holland & Knight in Tampa.

Jason H. Baruch has joined Holland & Knight in Tampa as a partner in its litigation practice group. He was previously a shareholder with Trenam Kemker.

John Castro, a Tampa attorney and partner at Anton Castro Law, volunteers for Lawyers for Literacy and serves on the board of directors for the First Tee of Tampa Bay. He has built on the success of his firm, started in 2010 with partner and fellow UF alumna Christina Anton (JD 06), by devoting his practice to criminal/DUI defense and personal injury.

Hollie Croft, an attorney with Broad and Cassel in Orlando, has earned an AV Preeminent rating from Martindale-Hubbell, achieving the organization’s highest marks for both competency and ethics.

Gregg Hutt, an attorney with Trenam Kemker’s Tampa office, has been named in Super Lawyers Business Edition (2014) in the area of construction litigation. He has also recently received his board certification from The Florida Bar in the area of construction law. Additionally, he was named to Florida Trend’s “Legal Elite” list.

Jennifer Kuyrkendall has recently published a book that is now available on Amazon.com. Deadly Escape follows the investigation of two murderers from the discovery of the body to a multistate manhunt to the ultimate prosecution.

William T. Link Jr., an associate with Reed & Mawhinney P.L. in Lakeland, has been named a recipient of the “Polk Emerging Leaders Award,” given by a collaboration of chamber groups from Bartow, Lakeland and Winter Haven, recognizing young professionals whose work and community activities significantly contribute to Polk County.

Karen Persis, an attorney in Orlando, has been inducted as president of the Young Lawyers Section of the Orange County Bar Association. She has also been chosen as a “Rising Star” by Super Lawyers and as a “Legal Elite Up and Comer” by Florida Trend.

Nadia Ahmad has joined Pace Law School in White Plains, New York, as a visiting assistant professor in environmental law. Her research explores the intersections of energy law and the environment and draws on international investment law, energy justice, corporate best practices and corporate social responsibility.

Kimberly Davis Bocelli, an associate with Roetzel & Andress LPA in Fort Myers, has been named a “Rising Star” by Florida Super Lawyers (2014).

Benjamin B. Brown, an attorney with Quarles & Brady in Naples, has been named a “Rising Star” by Florida Super Lawyers (2014). He specializes in business litigation.

Christopher Carmody, an attorney with GrayRobinson’s Orlando office, has been recognized as a “Rising Star” by Super Lawyers (2014). He has also been designated regional vice president of the University of Florida Alumni Association.

Abbi S. Freifeld, an attorney at Roig Lawyers’ Deerfield Beach office, has recently been promoted to partner. She concentrates her practice in the areas of insurance defense and the defense of PIP/no-fault insurance claims.

Erin E. Houck-Toll (LLMT) has been named a “Rising Star” in business and corporate law by Florida Super Lawyers (2014). She is Gulfshore Business Magazine’s “Top 40 Under 40” winner (2012) and is AV rated by Martindale-Hubbell. She serves on the executive council for the tax section of The Florida Bar and on the board of directors for Empowerment of Alliance of Southwest Florida, Inc. and Special Equestrians, Inc.

Jessica Z. Martin, a partner in the Deerfield Beach, Florida, office of Roig Lawyers, has been recognized as a 2014 March of Dimes “Women of Distinction” honoree. The award goes to women who have the ability to effect change. They recognize the present and future innovators, influencers and entrepreneurs. This is a multi-generational gathering of leaders who forge partnerships, find solutions and make the Broward community a better place to live.

W. Doug Martin, a civil trial lawyer with Dellecker, Wilson, King, McKenna, Ruffier & Sos in Orlando, has been named in Florida Super Lawyers (2014). This is his fourth year to receive the honor.
Cousins makes career of Lemon Law

BY JENNA BOX (4JM)

The word “lemon” might not at first bring an automobile to mind. But when a person sinks his teeth into a purchase of a new vehicle that turns out to be defective, it can certainly leave a sour taste.

Patrick Cousins (JD 89) knows that experience.

The South Florida consumer protection and personal injury attorney got his first taste of “lemon” fresh out of law school, when he bought a red Chevrolet IROC-Z Camaro convertible top from General Motors.

“It was cool at the time,” Cousins said, but the excitement wore off quickly. “In the first six months (the car) was in the shop like 36 times.”

The random break-downs were eating into Cousins’ time and making him late for work almost daily.

“My boss finally said, ‘Look, you know, whatever it is that you’re doing, you’ve got to stop because you’re going to be out of work,’” Cousins said.

Cousins brought him to the parking garage where the Camaro sat. “Let me show you who she is that’s keeping me so busy,” Cousins said, pointing to the car.

His boss chuckled — then told Cousins about a new law: Florida’s Motor Vehicle Lemon Law.

The Lemon Law is a consumer-protection measure that applies when chronic defects or conditions “substantially impair the use, value or safety of a new or demonstrator vehicle,” according to the Florida Office of the Attorney General. Under the law, the purchaser is entitled to remedies up to a full refund of cost of the car if the defects can’t be fixed after a “reasonable number of repair attempts,” according to The Florida Bar.

And so Cousins, at 25, took on his first Lemon Law case — his own — which he won. From there his law career took off — at first defending GM and then other large manufacturers. From 1991-97, he worked on their side — until the day his 5-year-old son Julian, said: “So you keep good people in bad cars?”

“That made me feel bad,” Cousins said.

He knew there were consumers losing good cases because of shoddy or no representation, he said, so he made the swap to the client side, where has remained for the last 17 years.

In a recent case against Toyota, Cousins represented a man who purchased a Tacoma pickup almost entirely rusted underneath. A South Florida TV news station was covering the issue when Cousins was hired to represent the man.

“(The Tacoma) looked like a vehicle that was 20 years old,” Cousins said, “like it had been sitting in salt water for a long time or something.”

The manufacturer argued that Florida weather and environment was causing the rust, but Cousins knew better. “I just started laughing,” Cousins said about the moment he heard Toyota’s argument.

“You’re telling me that every car near the water is subject to this kind of environmental rust?” he thought. “Shouldn’t this be happening to all of (Toyota’s) vehicles if that’s the case? That’s preposterous.”

Cousins filed the action against the manufacturer, and after six months he got the client out of the defective truck and all of his money back: $33,000.

While this case might seem straightforward, Cousins said he faces myriad challenges arguing the consumer side. One, he noted, is that his opponents have much more money and better resources — namely the experts and engineers who created the cars — than he has access to.

Robert Murphy (JD 87), a UF Law adjunct professor and a consumer rights attorney in Fort Lauderdale, noted one of the defendant’s prime advantages: “The manufacturer has infinite knowledge of their product and are in a better position to defend their Lemon Law case.”

A UF Law degree “really equips you with the ability to make your own way.”

— PATRICK COUSINS (JD 89)

Last year, Cousins was recognized by Palm Beach Post’s Legacy Magazine as one of Palm Beach County’s Most Powerful and Influential Black Professionals in Business and Industry for 2013. His firm, Cousins Law, was also honored with the 2013 Business of the Year title.

Since 1997, Cousins has expanded from handling Lemon Law cases to taking on personal injury and entertainment law cases, too.

He’s done everything from managing musician and actor Prince’s legal affairs to taking on dozens of personal injury claims from a fatal accident when a bus crashed into an overpass at the Miami International Airport in December 2012.

Amid a variety of charitable endeavors, Cousins serves on the board of trustees for UF Law and for the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia.

“Even though the job market can sometimes seem tough, it (a UF Law degree) really equips you with the ability to make your own way,” Cousins said, praising the value of a UF Law degree. “We don’t see a lot of Gator lawyers starving around here.”

Sweet Deal

Cousins makes career of Lemon Law
Heather Nason has recently joined Rogers Towers P.A. She will work out of the firm’s Orlando office.

Daniel Nordby has joined Shutts & Bowen LLP as a partner in its Tallahassee office. Previously, he served as general counsel to the Florida House of Representatives under Speaker Will Weatherford and as general counsel to Florida’s Secretary of State. He is the 2014-2015 chairman of The Florida Bar’s Administrative Law Section and is a member of the Florida Supreme Court Judicial Nominating Commission.

Adina Pollan, an attorney with GrayRobinson’s Jacksonville, office, has been named as a “Rising Star” by Florida Super Lawyers (2014). She specializes in business bankruptcy.

2006

Steven Burres has become the assistant general counsel for Rotech Healthcare Inc., a national durable medical equipment company headquartered in Orlando. He was also recently awarded an AV preeminent ranking by Martindale-Hubbell.

Jorge A. Castillo, an attorney with BakerHostetler in Orlando, has been named by Florida Super Lawyers (2014). He specializes in business litigation.

Kelly Lyon Davis, an attorney with Quarles & Brady in Naples, has been named a “Rising Star” by Florida Super Lawyers (2014). She has also become the vice president of the Collier County Women’s Bar Association for the 2014-2015 term. She previously served on the board as secretary.

Kimberley A. Dillon (LLMT, JD 05), an attorney with Quarles & Brady in Naples, has been named a “Rising Star” by Florida Super Lawyers (2014). She has also been elected president of the Collier County Women’s Bar Association for the 2014-2015 term.

Amanda Groover Hyland, an attorney with Taylor English in Atlanta, has received the Martindale-Hubbell AV Preeminent Peer Review Rating. The recognition is a result of direct feedback from attorneys and judges on their peers’ legal abilities and professional ethical standards.

Alissa Lugo, an attorney with BakerHostetler in Orlando, has been appointed to the Mid Florida Chapter Board of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. The chapter works to improve the quality of life for people affected by MS in 23 counties in Central Florida and raises funds for critical MS research.

Justin B. Mazzara, an associate with Hahn Loeser & Parks LLP in Naples, has been named a “Rising Star” in Florida Super Lawyers (2014). Mazzara devotes his practice to litigating civil matters within the firm’s complex commercial litigation group.

Sarah G. Topp has joined Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough in Jacksonville as of counsel.

2007

Tiffany Cummins, an attorney with BakerHostetler in Orlando, has been named to Florida Trend’s “Florida Legal Elite” list (2014). She has also been president of the Collier County Women’s Bar Association for the 2014-2015 term. She previously served on the board as secretary.

Yelizaveta B. Herman, an attorney with Rosenbaum Mollengarden PLLC in West Palm Beach, has been appointed as a committee co-chair of the Florida Association for Women Lawyers, Palm Beach County Chapter.

Jonathan Kaskel has joined Gunster in West Palm Beach as an associate. He focuses on complex commercial litigation, appeals, real property litigation and white-collar defense. He additionally serves as director of the Dade County Bar Association.

Sean M. Lebowitz, an associate at Gutter Chaves Josepher Rubin Forman Fleisher Miller P.A. in Boca Raton, has been installed as treasurer of the South Palm Beach County Bar Young Lawyers Section.

Latasha Scott has joined Burr & Forman LLP in Tampa as a financial services litigation associate. Her practice includes representing financial institutions, investors and mortgage loan servicers in residential mortgage foreclosures.

Christine L. Weingart (LLMT, JD 06) has joined Zimmerman Kiser Sutcliffe P.A. in Orlando. She will practice in the areas of tax and general business law within the firm’s corporate section.

2008

Thomas W. Davison, a senior associate at Alston & Bird LLP in Washington, D.C., has been named a “Rising Star” in Super Lawyers (2014) for his practice in intellectual property litigation and counseling.

Jillian L. Estes has been named partner of James, Hoyer, Newcomer & Smiljanich in Tampa.

Sean T. Estes has been named partner of James, Hoyer, Newcomer & Smiljanich in Tampa.

Brian Hayden, an attorney with Rumberger, Kirk & Caldwell in Tallahassee, has become one of 21 members selected to be part of the inaugural class of Thunderdome Tallahassee, a hands-on legal group training program designed by the Legal Aid Foundation of the Tallahassee Bar Association to provide education, mentoring, networking and leadership to a new generation of lawyers serving Leon County.
Ilan G. Kaufer was elected to the town council of Jupiter, Florida, in 2013. He is currently serving as the town’s vice mayor.

Scott J. Kennelly, an attorney with Rogers Towers in Jacksonville, Florida, has accepted an invitation to become a barrister with the Inn of Court for a three-year term. As a barrister, Kennelly will assist the Inn of Court in helping lawyers become more effective advocates.

Brian M. Malec (LLMT, JD 07), an associate with Dean Mead P.A. in the Orlando office, has earned his Florida Bar board certification in wills, trusts and estates. Certification is the Florida Bar’s highest level of evaluation of the competency and experience of attorneys in the 24 areas of law approved for certification by the Supreme Court of Florida.

Benjamin Robinson has joined Broad and Cassel’s Orlando office as an associate in the Commercial Litigation Practice Group. Prior to joining Broad and Cassel, Robinson was a deputy rules officer in the Office of the General Counsel for the Administrative Office of the United States Courts in Washington, D.C.

Meredith L. Sasso has joined Hayes Law in Orlando.

Chelsea L. Simmons, with the Public Defender’s Office in Orlando, has recently earned The Florida Bar board certification in criminal trial law. She was one of eight Florida lawyers to earn that certification.

2009

Lindsay Dykstra has joined Burr & Forman’s Orlando office. She will practice in the firm’s financial services group.

Kevin J. Healey has joined Smolker, Bartlett, Schlosser, Loeb & Hinds P.A. in Tampa. He has a wide range of legal experience but largely concentrates his practice on state and federal commercial litigation as well as insurance disputes.

David Karp has joined Coral Gables litigation boutique León Cosgrove LLC as an associate. In that capacity, he will handle appeals, commercial litigation and banking and financial service litigation. Before joining the firm, Karp was an associate at White & Case LLP, where his practice focused on appeals and commercial litigation.

Enita Kushi has opened Kushi Law Firm P.A. in Naples. The firm focuses on foreclosure defense, general civil litigation, consumer law, bankruptcy, immigration and appeals.

Lindsay M. Saxe, an attorney with Quarles & Brady in Naples, has been named a “Rising Star” by Florida Super Lawyers (2014). She specializes in business litigation.

Jessica Shapiro has joined Gunster in West Palm Beach as an associate. She has prior experience with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. At Gunster, she focuses her practice on commercial real estate transactions and real estate development and finance.

Shawn Taylor has joined the litigation practice at Akerman in Chicago. Previously, he worked at Winston & Strawn LLP, where he was a litigation associate and a summer associate. His practice has focused on commercial and intellectual property litigation.

David N. Torre has recently joined Winter Park law firm Murrah, Doyle, Wigle & Torre, P.A. He will focus on the firm’s estate planning, probate and trust administration work. Additional firm practice areas include real estate, taxation and corporate law.

2010

Jordan D. August (LLMT, JD 09) has joined Carlton Fields Jorden Burt in Tampa.

Claire M. Brueck has joined Saxon, Gilmore, Carraway & Gibbons as an associate in Tampa.

Mitchell W. Goldberg (LLMT, JD 09), an attorney with Gutter Chaves Josepher Rubin Forman Fleisher Miller P.A. in Boca Raton, has been installed as president of the South Palm Beach County Bar Association Young Lawyers Section.
Darren Heitner, a sports and entertainment lawyer in Miami, recently announced the forming of Heitner Legal. Through the firm, he represents some of the biggest and most prestigious names in sports and entertainment in addition to handling complex transactional and commercial litigation matters.

Christopher Ramsey, an attorney with GrayRobinson’s Orlando office, has been recognized as a “Rising Star” by Florida Super Lawyers (2014). He specializes in intellectual property.

Monica L. Wilson, an associate at Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP in Charlotte, North Carolina, has been recognized by the Carolinas Chapter of the Associated Builders and Contractors as its “Individual Member of the Year” (2014).

2011

Anthony A. Fouladi has joined Clayton & McCullough’s Maitland, Florida, office.

Jessica M. Kennedy has joined McDonald Toole Wiggins in Orlando.

Patrick F. Mize, an attorney with Laird A. Lile P.A. in Naples, was elected as an at-large member to the executive council of the Real Property, Probate and Trust Law section of The Florida Bar during the section’s convention May 29-June 1. Mize will represent the 20th Judicial Circuit – which includes Collier, Lee, Charlotte, Hendry and Glades counties – and will provide input on issues and updates to circuit members on proceedings of the section.

C. Andrew Roy, an attorney with Winderweedle, Haines, Ward & Woodman in Orlando, has been named a “Rising Star” by Florida Super Lawyers (2014) in the area of business bankruptcy.

2012

Leigh Anne Miller has joined Fisher Rushmer in Orlando as an associate.

Ronnell D. Robinzine, an associate with Akerma in Miami, has become the recipient of the “George Edgecomb Bar Association Outstanding Young Lawyer’s Award.”

Melissa F. Williams has joined the law firm of Boyette, Cummings & Nailos. She will be part of the firm’s new office located in the retirement community of The Villages, Florida. Williams’ practice focuses on the areas of estate planning, elder law, guardianship, Medicaid and probate. Prior to joining the firm, Williams was an associate with Mary F. Trotter PA in The Villages, where she concentrated her practice in the areas of elder law and estate planning.

2013

Scott Hyman has joined Weiss Serota Helfman Pastoriza Cole & Boniske in Fort Lauderdale. He will focus his practice in the community association, club and resort practice group. He is active in the community and is involved in both the Young Lawyers Division of The Florida Bar and the Leadership Broward Foundation.

Nicolette Iannaccone, an attorney at Williams, Ristoff & Proper PLC, has recently been published in Southern Lawyer’s Trial Division magazine. Her article, co-written by Steve Williams, was titled “If You Knew Touhy.”

Armando Nozzolillo, an attorney with Rogers Towers in Jacksonville, has accepted an invitation to become a barrister with the Inn of Court for a three-year term. As a barrister, Nozzolillo will assist the Inn of Court in helping lawyers become more effective advocates.

2014

John Bunge (LLMT) has been chosen as a winner in a Tax Analysts writing competition. His paper, titled “Is the Belgian Fairness Tax in Conformity With European Union Law?” will be published in the magazine, the leading trade journal for tax practitioners in the U.S. Entry rules required students to be enrolled in a law, economics, or tax postgraduate program. Papers were between five and 25 pages long and focused on an unsettled question in tax law or tax policy. Submissions were judged on argument, content, grammar and overall quality.

In Memoriam

JOHN ARTHUR JONES (JD 49), known as “Mr. Probate” and the “Father of Probate Law,” passed away Aug. 12. He was 92. Jones was a mainstay of the law firm Holland & Knight and the entire Florida Bar, working to build the state’s thriving legal industry.

During World War II, Jones served in the European Theater under the command of Gen. George Patton’s 3rd Army and received a Bronze Star for his actions in the Battle of Metz, France. Jones ultimately finished his military career through the reserves and attained the rank of lieutenant colonel.

Before the war, he worked as a bookkeeper at a lumber company in Immokalee, Florida. After the war, he attended business college in Jacksonville before enrolling in UF as an undergraduate student. He obtained both his bachelor’s and law degrees in three years.

Upon graduating from UF Law in 1949, Jones joined the Tampa law firm of Knight, Thompson, Knight and Bell. Jones later partnered with Chesterfield Smith to create the law firm with the iconic name Holland & Knight and build it into an international enterprise.

Throughout his long career, Jones earned a national reputation in the field of trusts, estates and fiduciary law. Jones served as chair of the Real Property, Probate and Trust Law Section of The Florida Bar. He served for many years as chair of the section’s Probate and Guardianship Forms Committee, and developed what’s widely recognized as the most comprehensive set of probate and guardianship forms in the country.

Jones was the first recipient of the Section’s William S. Belcher Lifetime Professionalism Award, and the section’s annual service award is named after him. Holland & Knight has honored Jones many times including as one of the first recipients of the firm’s highest individual accolade for a partner, the Chesterfield Smith award. In 2009, he was honored by the firm for his six decades of contributions to the field of law.

Jones is survived by his four children, Matthew, Lisa, Malcolm and Darby. His wife, Sally, who he married in 1949, passed away in 2013.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.
Donations support the law school’s mission to train ethical, practice-ready lawyers.
THIS PAST FISCAL YEAR (2013-14) AT THE LAW CENTER ASSOCIATION, we saw the Levin College of Law and its graduate programs achieve new milestones under the leadership of Dean Robert Jerry. We are also beginning the process for a dean search to replace Dean Jerry, who stepped down as dean of the College of Law after 11 years at the helm. We are glad that Dean Jerry will continue as a member of the College of Law faculty.

Our Annual Fund contributions remain at near record levels with more than $825,845 raised this past year. In addition, alumni participation increased to over 7 percent this year, moving us closer to meeting our goal of a $1 million annual fund. It is due to the generosity of dedicated alumni and friends that our law school has continued to thrive despite significant reductions in public funding. On behalf of the College of Law and alumni everywhere, I cannot thank you enough.

With the University of Florida being designated by the Legislature as the Pre-Eminent Institution in the State of Florida, the law school competed for and was awarded funding to attract a new prominent professor. I am pleased to report that Professor Robert Rhee has joined the UF Law faculty in the corporate and business law areas of practice.

The Graduate Tax Program also achieved a new milestone by successfully co-sponsoring the inaugural Florida Tax Institute which was held this past February in Tampa. This program received rave reviews and successfully raised $25,000 for the Graduate Tax Program. Please plan to join us next year for this annual program which will be held in Tampa on April 22-24, 2015.

To prove the Gator Nation knows no boundaries, the law school has also joined the MOOC revolution (Massive Open Online Course) with a program entitled The Global Student’s Introduction to U.S. Law.

On April 5, 2014, the LCA Board of Trustees honored Dean Jerry and his wife, Lisa, by presenting an endowed scholarship in their name for students attending the Levin College of Law. During the quiet phase of this campaign, the board raised almost $230,000. Anyone wishing to contribute to this scholarship in honor of the leadership our law school enjoyed under Bob and Lisa Jerry, please contact Development Coordinator Missy Poole at poole@law.ufl.edu or 352-273-0647.

As we embark on the coming year under Interim Dean George Dawson, our first priority will be the effort to fill the big shoes left by Bob Jerry and select a dean who will inspire and challenge all of us to build upon the foundation and continue to improve the quality of education, reputation and stature of the College of Law. In order to attain these lofty goals, we will be undertaking the challenge set forth by the University of Florida Foundation to raise funds for endowed chairs and to provide supplemental support through the Annual Fund to allow our law school to achieve excellence.

I encourage you to join your fellow alumni of the College of Law and its LLM programs by contributing to the Annual Fund or one of the many other giving opportunities. We have kind, helpful people waiting to hear from you!

I thank you for your continued service to and support of the Levin College of Law.

MICHAEL D. MINTON (BS 79, JD 81, LLMT 82)
Chair, Law Center Association

GREETINGS UF LAW ALUMNI. On behalf of the Levin College of Law and alumni everywhere, I thank you sincerely for your past contributions. Your gifts have enhanced significantly the education of UF Law students and provided critical discretionary resources to send students to conferences and competitions, fund law journals and publications, provide scholarships and financial aid, support student organizations and provide unique enrichment to future UF Law alumni.

This year has seen many changes at the College of Law yet the passion and commitment of our alumni remains strong. Working out of state in Washington, D.C., I am frequently reminded of our national presence and inspired by the enthusiasm and patronage of our alumni across the country. Due to the generosity of dedicated alumni and friends, the College of Law raised more than $825,000 for its Annual Fund during the past fiscal year. Moreover, this year saw record alumni participation rates for both the Annual Fund and overall giving.

Your generosity has directly enhanced our college resulting in current students enjoying the most distinguished faculty, advanced facilities and foremost learning environment ever experienced. To continue UF Law’s rise in national prominence, however, we need your help. We ask that you please consider participating in the Law Firm Giving Program, sponsoring a Book Award, or making a financial contribution. With your continued participation in and support of the Annual Fund you help assure the continued success of UF Law.

Go Gators!

TAYLOR K. ROSE (JD 98)
President, Law Alumni Council
THANK YOU to the many UF Law alumni and friends who have made contributions of time, treasure and talent.
Financial Report

GIFTS RECEIVED July 1, 2013, through June 30, 2014

Total Cash Received

- **2008-2013**: Represents all gifts from all sources (including realized bequests) to the Levin College of Law. State matching money has been excluded.

New Pledges

- **2008-2014**: Includes new documented expectancies and new gifts for each fiscal year.
THE UF FOUNDATION INVESTMENT COMPANY (UFICO) carefully invests this fund to yield a dependable, stable source of income in perpetuity. Approximately 4 percent of earned interest from the market value of the fund was transferred and spent for uses specified by donors and college administrators for annual operating and administrative costs (earned interest above 4 percent is returned to the fund balance).

**UF Law Annual Fund**

2008-2014: Contributions received to nonendowed, nonbuilding funds.

**UF LAW ENDOWMENT AT JUNE 30, 2014**

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<tr>
<th>FY</th>
<th>Fund Balance</th>
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<td>2014</td>
<td>$97,125,469</td>
<td>$3,074,224</td>
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</table>

**ENDOWMENT INCOME**

**UF LAW ENDOWMENT AT JUNE 30, 2014**

- Chairs & Professorships 32%
- Unrestricted 29%
- Scholarships 21%
- Academic Program Support 9%
- Co-Curricular Student Activities 4%
- Endowed Lecture Series 2%
- Other Student Support 2%
- Other 1%

Grand Total: $97,125,469
The Endowed Fund provides a permanent foundation for the college and provides ongoing support for important programs and activities. The donors recognized on these and the following pages made a cash gift in the 2013-2014 fiscal year.
The Endowed Fund provides a permanent foundation for the college and provides ongoing support for important programs and activities.
Honor Roll

The Honor Roll includes the names of all donors to the UF Levin College of Law from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014. If your name is not included and you think it should be, one of the following may be the reason it is not:

- The gift was made before July 1, 2013 (and was recognized in a previous report) or after June 30, 2014 (and will be recognized in a future Honor Roll).
- You made a pledge instead of a gift and planned to fulfill your commitment after June 30, 2013. (Only actual pledge payments made between July 1, 2013 and June 30, 2014, are listed.)
- A personal gift was made using your company’s check or letterhead. Or

If so, please accept our apologies and notify Missy Poole, Development Coordinator, at poole@law.ufl.edu.

For more information on making an endowed or estate gift, please contact the Office of Development & Alumni Affairs at 352-273-0640 or development@law.ufl.edu.

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ADVANCED CONSTITUTIONAL LAW
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- Murphy & Walker, P.L.

AGRICULTURAL LAW & POLICY
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- Grable Stoutamire

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- Mark and Shari Sommerstein In Honor of George Dawson

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- W. C. Gentry, Esq.
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Sarah Ritterhoff-Williams & Daniel C. Williams
Peter A. Rivellini
Keith W. & Suzanne I. Rizzardi
Kathleen H. & Jon W. Roberts, Jr.
Tance E. & Michael Z. Roberts
Dwayne A. Robinson
Simon A. & Jessica B. Rodell
Esther G. Rodriguez
Scott L. & Pamela E. Rogers
Cecil D. & Jacquette L. Rolle
Brian A. & Veronica T. Roof
John F. & Sandra L. Roscow
Kelly B. & David A. Rose
Evan M. Rozen
Howard M. Rosenblatt & Eve D. Ackerman
Louis K. & Denise D. Rosenblum
Paul E. & Maxine S. Rosenthal
Selden R. Ross
Canan L. Rotchfeld
Peter S. & Diane C. Roumbous
Ronald L. & Barbara B. Rowland
John P. Rowley III
Francisco J. & Leslie Roza
Alan L. & Suzanne A. Rubens
Elizabeth F. & Scott P. Runyon
Cristine M. Russell
Patricia V. Russo
Edward F. Ryan
John B. Ryan
Kerry A. Ryan & Noaman W. Siddiqui
Elliot J. & Barbara W. Safer
Alban & Leslie Salaman
Richard J. & Alice L. Salazar
Kathy K. Samek
Renee C. Samson
Charles T. & Linda Sands
John A. & Cheryl L. Sapora
Richard J. & Pamela B. Sarafan
Kristine E. Sarkis-Kezeboom & Victor E. Rozeboom, Jr.
Brian J. & Alison B. Sasadu
Bradley M. & Denise H. Saxton
Paul D. & Nancy P. Scala
Matthew P. Schaefner
Maria R. Schiuma
Alan M. Schissel
Gratias L. Schmidt & Erin M. Swick
David A. Schmudde
Tara L. Schnebel
Darren Schweigher
Pierre J. & Joanmarie K. Seacord
William H. & Agota E. Seaver
Jeffrey D. & Karen L. Segal
John H. & Julie H. Seibert
Jan K. & Susan C. Seiden
Sheila C. Seigel
Susan M. Seigle
Julie L. Sellers
Jeremy M. & Christine R. Sensinger
William S. & Alice L. Sessions
Stephen W. & Diana J. Sesumms
Jeff Seul
Rachel E. Sigro
Bruce G. & Pamela K. Shaffner
Kevin Sharbaugh
Dylan R. Shea
L. David & Casey Shear
Robyn A. & Gary Shelton
Jennifer N. Shepard
James E. & Kathleen A. Sherby
Emily S. & Matthew C. Sherlock
Alexa Sherr Hartley & Charles J. Hartley III
Richard N. & Elizabeth G. Sherrill
James T. Shirley
Brent D. & Kathryn P. Shore
Edward H. & Helen D. Siegel
Ronald L. Siegel
Michael B. Sikora
Morris Silberman & Nelly N. Khouzam
Joseph S. Silver
Sidney S. & Ruthe Simmons
Young J. Simmons
Michael D. & Jennifer L. Simons
Patrick W. & Joanne M. Skelton
David S. Sloan
Ted W. Small

Please report any corrections to Missy Poole at poole@law.ufl.edu or call 352-273-0647.
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THE LAW FIRM GIVING PROGRAM encourages Gators to make a gift to the Levin College of Law and support a variety of worthwhile programs. Listed are the firm names, office locations, and volunteer champions of the participating firms in the categories of 100 percent and 50-99 percent. Thank you for your engagement!

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  Champion: Jeffrey S. Weiss
- Coker, Schickel, Sorenson & Posgay, Jacksonville
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  Champion: Dana M. Apfelbaum
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  Champion: Ladd Fassett
- Harris Guidi Rosner Dunlap & Rudolph, Jacksonville
  Champion: Robert Harris
- Hill Ward Henderson, Tampa
  Champion: Paul E. Pokidis
- Johnson, Pope, Bokor, Ruppel & Burns, Clearwater
  Champion: Wally Pope
- Johnson, Pope, Bokor, Ruppel & Burns, Tampa
  Champion: Wally Pope
- Keefe, Anchors & Gordon, Fort Walton Beach
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- Leavengood, Daubau & Boyle, St. Petersburg
  Champion: Ian R. Leavengood
- Levin, Pantonio, Thomas, Mitchell, Rafferty & Proctor, Pensacola
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  Champion: Lewis W. Murphy, Jr.
- Pressly & Pressly, West Palm Beach
  Champion: Grier Pressly III
- Quarles & Brady, Naples
  Champions: Dennis C. Guccido & Robert E. Glennon
- Quarles & Brady, West Palm Beach
  Champion: Tito S. & Vicky J. Valdivia
- Wright,kazałendi, Martz, Carlson, Max
  Champion: William A. Boyles
- Richman Greer, West Palm Beach
  Champion: Felipe Guerrero
- Morgan, White-Davis & Martinez, Winter Park
  Champion: Chelsea Colette, Theo Kypros
- Kubicki Draper, Miami
  Champion: Betsy Ellwanger
- Kubicki Draper, For Myers
  Champion: Betsy Ellwanger
- Morgan, White-Davis & Martinez, Winter Park
  Champion: Ryan A. Feinberg
- Morgan, White-Davis & Martinez, Winter Park
  Champion: Bill L. King
- Morgan, White-Davis & Martinez, Winter Park
  Champion: Rose Q. Spano
- Morgan, White-Davis & Martinez, Winter Park
  Champion: Amanda M. Traweek
- Morgan, White-Davis & Martinez, Winter Park
  Champion: J. Carter Andersen
- Morgan, White-Davis & Martinez, Winter Park
  Champion: Freefall Management
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Names are listed for gifts of $100 and up. Names followed by a diamond (♦) are life members of the Trusler Society and names followed by a star (*) are Premium Charter Members of the UF Law Young Alumni Society. Loyalty Society members are recognized in the online version of the Annual Report.

Class of 1948
Class Total: $150.00
No. in Class: 49
Participation: 4%
Enrichment Society
William C. Owen, Jr.

Class of 1949
Class Total: $250,350.00
No. in Class: 66
Participation: 6%
Enrichment Society
Larry G. Smith

Class of 1950
Class Total:  $750.00
No. in Class: 57
Participation: 2%
Enrichment Society
John R. Bonner, Sr.

Class of 1951
Class Total:  $45,302.83
No. in Class: 68
Participation: 10%
Founders Society - platinum
Charles T. Johnson, Jr.

Investment in our programs: $1,200.00
Class Total:  $7,250.00
No. in Class: 120
Participation: 7%
Founders Society - silver
Charles T. Wells

Class of 1953
Class Total:  $4,200.00
No. in Class: 30
Participation: 10%
Founders Society - gold
Robert P. Gaines

Partners
Stephen H. Grimes

Class of 1954
Class Total:  $6,500.00
No. in Class: 30
Participation: 10%
Founders Society - gold
Joseph Garcia

Partners
Stephen H. Grimes

Class of 1955
Class Total:  $4,450.00
No. in Class: 27
Participation: 11%
Trusler Society
Joseph Garcia

Class of 1956
Class Total:  $27,532.32
No. in Class: 28
Participation: 18%
Enrichment Society
George B. Barrs

Class of 1957
Class Total:  $2,150.00
No. in Class: 39
Participation: 18%
Founders Society - silver
A. Ward Wagner, Jr.

Partners
Louie N. Adcock, Jr.

Class of 1958
Class Total:  $100.00
No. in Class: 46
Participation: 2%
Enrichment Society
Clarence T. Johnson, Jr.

Class of 1959
Class Total:  $10,850.00
No. in Class: 50
Participation: 10%
Partners
Clifton R. McDonald, Jr.

Class of 1960
Class Total:  $1,200.00
No. in Class: 55
Participation: 5%
Enrichment Society
Robert P. Gaines

Class of 1961
Class Total:  $3,050.00
No. in Class: 63
Participation: 13%
Founders Society - platinum
Fredric G. Levin

Founders Society - silver
Paul M. Goldman

Founders Society - silver
C. Parkhill Mays, Jr.

Class of 1962
Class Total:  $4,450.00
No. in Class: 68
Participation: 11%
Founders Society - silver
William L. Hendry

Class of 1963
Class Total:  $114,571.00
No. in Class: 84
Participation: 11%
Founders Society - gold
John C. Bierley

Partners
Bruce S. Rogow

Class of 1964
Class Total:  $7,250.00
No. in Class: 120
Participation: 7%
Founders Society - silver
Charles T. Wells

Partners
Gerald F. Richman

Trusler Society
Stephen D. Gardner

Please report any corrections to Missy Poole at poole@law.ufl.edu or call 352-273-0647.
J.D. ALUMNI BY CLASS.
Alumni from many graduating classes made financial commitments to help the college grow stronger and expand programs and services, thereby permitting the college to strive toward its full potential.
Make a Contribution

THE OFFICE OF DEVELOPMENT AND ALUMNI AFFAIRS coordinates alumni activities and fundraising for the Levin College of Law. This includes activities of the Law Center Association, Inc. Board of Trustees and the Law Alumni Council. To make a contribution, please make your check payable to UF Law Center Association to the address below. Donations are tax-deductible as allowed by law. For more information on making an endowed or estate gift, please contact the Office of Development & Alumni Affairs at 352-273-0640 or development@law.ufl.edu.

George D. Gabel, Jr.
Charles I. Holden, Jr.
Robert M. Johnson

Charles P. Pillans III
Stephen J. Powell
Gregory A. Presnell
John F. Roscow III

Dwight L. Geiger
Jonathan C. Gordon
Edwin F. Hornbrook
Robert D. McIntosh
Douglas J. Milne
Charles T. Sands
Mitchell H. Spingarn
Warren E. Williams

Class of 1969
Class Total: $16,510.10
No. in Class: 172
Participation: 11%

Founders Society - gold
F. Wallace Pope, Jr.

Partners
Robert W. Mead, Jr.
Trusler Society
Charles H. Egerton
Howell L. Ferguson
James C. Fleming
Alan G. Green

Founders Society - silver
William K. Zewadowski
Peter W. Zinober

Enrichment Society
A. Graham Allen
James O. Birk, Jr.
Marc A. Cianca
William A. Evans
Thomas B. Hyman, Jr.
Timothy A. Johnson, Jr.
Noel H. Nation
Ben Patterson
Donald R. Tescher
Robert F. Williams

Class of 1970
Class Total: $12,949.69
No. in Class: 172
Participation: 10%

Founders Society - platinum
Stephen N. Zack

Founders Society - gold
W. C. Gentry

Partners
Robert S. Bolt

Associates
Leslie J. Barnett
Trusler Society
J. Fraser Himes
Richard A. Horder

Enrichment Society
Larry B. Alexander
Darryl M. Bloodworth
Phillip R. Finch
Louis F. Hubener III
Charles H. Livingston
Bruce G. Shaffner
Brent D. Shore
Martin J. Sperry
Wayne Lee Thomas

Class of 1972
Class Total: $47,901.41
No. in Class: 339
Participation: 11%

Founders Society - gold
Gene K. Glasser
Jeffrey W. Warren

Founders Society - silver
William H. Bokor
Hal H. Kantor
James G. Pressly, Jr.
Clifford A. Schulman

Partners
Mark Hicks
Trusler Society
Richard C. Grant
Mark L. Horwitz
Donald S. Kohla
Manuel Menendez, Jr.

Enrichment Society
William H. Andrews
Wings S. Benton
Barbara P. Blue
Allan L. Casey
Christopher M. Fear
Stephen F. Gertzman
Frank B. Gummey III
James M. Matthews
G. Carson McEachern III
William D. McFarlane, Jr.
Emeritus Jon L. Mills
James S. Moody, Jr.
James P. Nilson
David A. Schmudde
James W. Sherby
Leighton D. Yates, Jr.

Founders Society - silver
K. Lawrence Gragg
Edward F. Koren

Partners
Andrew J. Fawbush
Gwynne A. Young

Enrichment Society
Buddy Schulz
Gerald A. Rosenthal

Partners
Mark A. Kramer

Founders Society - gold
John H. Dasburg

Founders Society - platinum
John D. Beasley
Paul M. Cummings
George D. Dekle, Sr.

Partners
Martha L. Cochran
Raleigh W. Greene III
Abraham M. Shashy, Jr.

Associates
Philip A. DeLaney

Trusler Society
Martha W. Barnett
Kenneth C. Ellis
Mary B. Ellis

No. in Class: 275
Participation: 13%

Founders Society - gold
Richard P. Cole

Robert G. Merkel
James S. Theriac III

Founders Society - silver
K. Lawrence Gragg
Edward F. Koren

Partners
Andrew J. Fawbush
Gwynne A. Young

Enrichment Society
Buddy Schulz
Gerald A. Rosenthal

Partners
Mark A. Kramer

Founders Society - gold
John D. Beasley
Paul M. Cummings
George D. Dekle, Sr.

Partners
Martha L. Cochran
Raleigh W. Greene III
Abraham M. Shashy, Jr.

Associates
Philip A. DeLaney

Trusler Society
Martha W. Barnett
Kenneth C. Ellis
Mary B. Ellis

No. in Class: 275
Participation: 13%

Founders Society - gold
Richard P. Cole

Robert G. Merkel
James S. Theriac III

Founders Society - silver
K. Lawrence Gragg
Edward F. Koren

Partners
Andrew J. Fawbush
Gwynne A. Young

Enrichment Society
Buddy Schulz
Gerald A. Rosenthal

Partners
Mark A. Kramer

Founders Society - gold
John D. Beasley
Paul M. Cummings
George D. Dekle, Sr.

Partners
Martha L. Cochran
Raleigh W. Greene III
Abraham M. Shashy, Jr.

Associates
Philip A. DeLaney

Trusler Society
Martha W. Barnett
Kenneth C. Ellis
Mary B. Ellis

No. in Class: 275
Participation: 13%
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<th>Participation: 10%</th>
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<tr>
<td>James A. Gale</td>
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<td>Paul S. Singerman</td>
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<th>Class of 1986</th>
<th>Participation: 6%</th>
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<td></td>
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<td>Edward Downey</td>
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<td>Brian J. Stack</td>
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<tr>
<td>Andrea E. Zelman</td>
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<td>Associates</td>
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<td>Enrichment Society</td>
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<tr>
<td>John C. Bales</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marybeth McDonald</td>
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<td>Morris Silberman</td>
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<td>Virginia M. Buchanan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Katherine Upchurch</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gerard F. Wehle, Jr.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Class of 1989</th>
<th>Participation: 7%</th>
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NEW YORK
STATE OF MIND

LOOK AT THE RIGHT TIME during the fall semester, and you would have found a couple of big city lawyers in UF Law’s Marcia Whitney Schott Courtyard. This shot of Karen Dyer (JD 87) and Mike Smith (JD 85) was taken during a break at the UF Law board of trustees meeting in September.

Dyer’s firm, Boies, Schiller & Flexner, hosted a reception in New York City for UF Law alumni. It’s something that Dyer and Smith are planning on a regular basis with a group of New York City-based Gator lawyers.

Dyer is the administrative partner for the Orlando office of Boies, Schiller & Flexner, one of the nation’s top law firms. She practices commercial litigation while splitting her time between Orlando and New York City.

As for Smith, he’s chief operating officer for one of the world’s largest insurers, American International Group, Inc., better known as AIG.

So why are key players leading international enterprises joining the UF Law board of trustees?

Dyer said she wants to make sure UF Law gets the credit it deserves: “This school tries to do a very good job of taking care of its alumni and support people coming out and getting jobs. I’m just proud of this school. I just think it needs to be recognized for the national presence it has.”

And Smith said he wants to support those who come next: “We have an opportunity, having some experience after we left UF, to help some people along the way, so that they might have a good career, do some good and benefit the state of Florida as well.”

Please report any corrections to Missy Poole at poole@law.ufl.edu or call 352-273-0647.
Class of 1998
Class Total: $16,605.00
No. in Class: 385
Participation: 9%
Partners
J. Carter Andersen
Rebecca L. Brock
Taylor K. Rose
Gregory S. Weiss
Trusler Society
Marco Ferri
Wesley D. Tibbals
Enrichment Society
Bill R. Abrams
Eric N. Appleton
Brannon B. Belcastro
Thomas J. Fraser, Jr.
Irene B. Frick
Jeffrey M. Hazen
Bryan W. Keene
Daryl J. Krauz
Ivan A. Morales
M. Scott Noble
Cristine M. Russell
Brian J. Sasadu
Jeffrey A. Sudduth
Brian K. Zibilavsky
E. John Wagner II
Moneque S. Walker-Pickett
Joshua B. Weingard

Class of 1999
Class Total: $8,125.00
No. in Class: 386
Participation: 5%
Partners
J. Grier Pressly III
Enrichment Society
Bradley T. Borden
Ryan E. Davis
Dina A. Doyle
Aubrey H. Ducker, Jr.
Jonathan A. Feldman
David M. Gonzalez
Bryan S. Gowdy
Kimberly J. Gustafson
Gregory C. Harrell
Maureen M. Hazen
Antony B. Kolenc
Kathy-Ann W. Martin
Katherine A. Martin
Richard N. Sherrill

Class of 2000
Class Total: $5,525.00
No. in Class: 393
Participation: 5%
Partners
Ian R. Leavengood
Trusler Society
Asnardo Garro, Jr.
Enrichment Society
Mark H. Dahlmeier
Andrea L. Ducayet
Ashley D. Foster-Pinnock
Russell Koonin
Ashley B. Moody
Michelle L. Naberhaus
Robert J. Naberhaus III
Julie L. Sellers
Amy G. Sudduth

Class of 2001
Class Total: $3,610.09
No. in Class: 384
Participation: 5%
Partners
Robin L. Leavengood
Enrichment Society
Ben Alexander
Carol A. Daly
Paul E. De Hart III*
Christy S. Evans
Bradley R. Gould
Duane L. Pinnock
Stacey A. Prince-Troutman
Sarah Reiner
Kathleen L. Wukker

Class of 2002
Class Total: $10,060.00
No. in Class: 401
Participation: 5%
Partners
Robert H. Thornburg
Trusler Society
Salvatore Bochicchio
Enrichment Society
Elizabeth F. Blanco
T. Robert Bulloch
Shawn M. Cline
Byron D. Flagg
Andrea K. Fourman
Adam N. Frisch
Sierra D. Frisch
Steven T. Gold
Brian H. Koch
Jennifer L. Kypreos
Theodore S. Kypreos
Wendy S. Martin
Vanessa Newton
Alexa Sherr Hartley
Michael A. Ungerbeuhler*
Allen C. Winser
Nikitas G. Zissimopulos

Class of 2003
Class Total: $7,690.00
No. in Class: 428
Participation: 5%
Partners
Julie C. Miller
Trusler Society
Jeffrey L. Allen
Douglas S. Allison
Ian M. Alperstein
Neil W. Blackmon
Scott A. Bowman
Michael P. Carolan
Carnesha J. Craft
C. Matthew Detzel
Bradley John Ellis
Christina L. Faulbel
Ashley K. Feasley
Dina S. Finkel
Jessica Furst-Johnson
Erin R. Hines
Megann Hoskison Bowman
Ghada S. Lieser
Brian M. Malec
Jessie S. McIntyre
Holly R. Miller
Nellie A. Morley
John H. Reins IV
Elizabeth F. Runyon
Darrell W. Smith
Kevin S. Sobel
Joshua L. Spoor
Carolyn R. Ward

Class of 2004
Class Total: $5,704.75
No. in Class: 376
Participation: 6%
Partners
Trusler Society
Eduardo L. Quinones
Enrichment Society
Osha G. Banks
Jarrett D. Bingemann
Amy N. Bokor
Brian K. Bokor
Lauren F. Carmody
Joshua D. Curry
David D. Duncan
Dayna G. Duncan
Anthony P. Felice
Christine L. Fuqua-Gay
Daniel J. Glassman
Jason H. Hawkins
Shalonda N. Inniss
Kevin M. Jinks
Harris B. Kirsch
Jeffrey P. Lieber
Gavin W. MacMillan
Howell W. Melton III
Kristin Y. Melfon
Nicholas A. Norden
Brian A. Roof
Veronica T. Roof
John H. Seibert
Sarah E. Stephenson
Lauren L. Valiente
Joseph R. Worst

Class of 2005
Class Total: $7,372.40
No. in Class: 445
Participation: 9%
Partners
Trusler Society
Jeffrey L. Allen
Douglas S. Allison
Ian M. Alperstein
Neil W. Blackmon
Scott A. Bowman
Michael P. Carolan
Carnesha J. Craft
C. Matthew Detzel
Bradley John Ellis
Christina L. Faulbel
Ashley K. Feasley
Dina S. Finkel
Jessica Furst-Johnson
Erin R. Hines
Megann Hoskison Bowman
Ghada S. Lieser
Brian M. Malec
Jessie S. McIntyre
Holly R. Miller
Nellie A. Morley
John H. Reins IV
Elizabeth F. Runyon
Darrell W. Smith
Kevin S. Sobel
Joshua L. Spoor
Carolyn R. Ward

Class of 2006
Class Total: $6,715.00
No. in Class: 407
Participation: 9%
Trusler Society
Eduardo L. Quinones
Enrichment Society
Osha G. Banks
Jarrett D. Bingemann
Amy N. Bokor
Brian K. Bokor
Lauren F. Carmody
Joshua D. Curry
David D. Duncan
Dayna G. Duncan
Anthony P. Felice
Christine L. Fuqua-Gay
Daniel J. Glassman
Jason H. Hawkins
Shalonda N. Inniss
Kevin M. Jinks
Harris B. Kirsch
Jeffrey P. Lieber
Gavin W. MacMillan
Howell W. Melton III
Kristin Y. Melfon
Nicholas A. Norden
Brian A. Roof
Veronica T. Roof
John H. Seibert
Sarah E. Stephenson
Lauren L. Valiente
Joseph R. Worst

Class of 2007
Class Total: $7,372.40
No. in Class: 445
Participation: 9%
Enrichment Society
Jeffrey L. Allen
Douglas S. Allison
Ian M. Alperstein
Neil W. Blackmon
Scott A. Bowman
Michael P. Carolan
Carnesha J. Craft
C. Matthew Detzel
Bradley John Ellis
Christina L. Faulbel
Ashley K. Feasley
Dina S. Finkel
Jessica Furst-Johnson
Erin R. Hines
Megann Hoskison Bowman
Ghada S. Lieser
Brian M. Malec
Jessie S. McIntyre
Holly R. Miller
Nellie A. Morley
John H. Reins IV
Elizabeth F. Runyon
Darrell W. Smith
Kevin S. Sobel
Joshua L. Spoor
Carolyn R. Ward

Class of 2008
Class Total: $5,525.00
No. in Class: 393
Participation: 5%
Partners
J. Grier Pressly III
Enrichment Society
Bradley T. Borden
Ryan E. Davis
Dina A. Doyle
Aubrey H. Ducker, Jr.
Jonathan A. Feldman
David M. Gonzalez
Bryan S. Gowdy
Kimberly J. Gustafson
Gregory C. Harrell
Maureen M. Hazen
Antony B. Kolenc
Kathy-Ann W. Martin
Katherine A. Martin
Richard N. Sherrill

Class of 2009
Class Total: $7,372.40
No. in Class: 445
Participation: 9%
Enrichment Society
Joshua S. Altschuler
Dana M. Apfelbaum
Christopher D. Baehman
Alekisas A. Barauskas
Jonathan M. Blocker
Denise B. Cazobon
Lisa Clason
David M. Crane
Hunter S. Edwards
Mitchell W. Goldberg
Dennis C. Gucciardo
Heather J. Howdeshell
Han Huang
Jennifer Erin Jones
Natalie C. Lashway
Adam J. Lee
Brian R. Levy
Brett D. Lieberman
Sasha A. Lohn-McDermott
Adam C. Losey
Mary Catherine E. Losey
Matthew I. Lufrano
Michael W. Luong
Christopher J. McVety
Christopher A. Pavilonis
Jason A. Pill
Marisa E. Rosen
Shawn M. Taylor
Carly C. Todd
Wesley A. Todd
Natasha L. Waglow
Francis R. Waters
Reggie Zachariah
WHEN DAVID BILSKER (JD 90) set foot on the UF Law campus for the first time in 25 years this fall, he had two reactions: disorientation and nostalgia. Disorientation because the buildings and layout have changed since he was a student. Nostalgia because, well, it’s his law school.

“I’m not sure I can actually navigate my way around here by myself, but, yeah, I do feel a little homesick about being here and I think it’s kind of cool,” Bilsker said.

Back in his new hometown of San Francisco, Bilsker handles antitrust, intellectual property and life sciences-related cases for Quinn Emanuel. The photo shows Bilsker’s return to his alma mater giving a hand to a current law student after teaming up with UF Law’s Office of Career Development. He gave advice and talked with students about their job search on an informal basis. It was called “office hours.”

“I try to stay in touch with UF law school alumni in the San Francisco area,” Bilsker said. “And, you know, my heart is still kind of here having grown up here and having gone to the law school here, so I want to help out.”
Tax Alumni By Class

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Names are listed for gifts of $100 and up. Loyalty Society members are recognized in the online version of the Annual Report.

Class of 1975
Class Total: $2,530.71
No. in Class: 38
Participation: 11%

Founders Society - silver
K. Lawrence Gragg

Trusler Society
Dennis A. Caffee

Enrichment Society
Harry S. Colburn, Jr.

Class of 1976
Class Total: $4,725.00
No. in Class: 41
Participation: 17%

Trusler Society
James B. O’Neal
Robert A. Pierce

Enrichment Society
Bernie A. Barton, Jr.
Walter G. Clayton III
John H. Jones
Ronald L. Rowland

Class of 1977
Class Total: $57,855.00
No. in Class: 39
Participation: 15%

Founders Society - platinum
Ellen Bellet Gelberg

Associates
Peter M. MacNamara

Enrichment Society
John J. Collins, Jr.
James A. Watson

Class of 1978
Class Total: $5,250.00
No. in Class: 66
Participation: 11%

Partners
William A. Boyles

Associates
Everett R. Moreland
Paul D. Fitzpatrick

Enrichment Society
Kevin M. Daly
Don H. Goode
Bradley C. Grossenburg
Ronald L. Siegel

Class of 1979
Class Total: $7,810.00
No. in Class: 44
Participation: 20%

Founders Society - gold
David H. Peek

Partners
John J. Scroggin

Enrichment Society
Cheryl L. Gordon
Jonathan C. Gordon
C. Gray Johnsey
Kimon P. Karas
Steven C. Lee
William J. Lindsay, Jr.

Class of 1980
Class Total: $11,370.00
No. in Class: 47
Participation: 15%

Founders Society - silver
Lindy L. Paul

Associates
Peter T. Kirkwood

Enrichment Society
Harris H. Barnes III
Gerald R. Kleedehn

Class of 1981
Class Total: $10,530.00
No. in Class: 65
Participation: 23%

Founders Society - gold
David E. Bowers

Partners
Randolph J. Rush

Enrichment Society
Richard B. Comiter

Class of 1982
Class Total: $19,932.50
No. in Class: 60
Participation: 10%

Founders Society - gold
Michael D. Minton

Enrichment Society
Patricia L. Burquest-Fultz
Gary J. Cohen
Marvin A. Kirser
Alan L. Rubens
Patricia A. Willing

Class of 1983
Class Total: $7,275.00
No. in Class: 60
Participation: 15%

Class of 1984
Class Total: $3,450.00
No. in Class: 72
Participation: 6%

Partners
Mark T. Tate, Jr.

Enrichment Society
Michael D. Miller

Class of 1985
Class Total: $2,414.16
No. in Class: 73
Participation: 10%

Associates
Guy E. Whitesman

Enrichment Society
Charles L. Balch III
John E. Knight III
Stephen R. Looney

Class of 1986
Class Total: $8,475.00
No. in Class: 61
Participation: 10%

Enrichment Society
Glenn A. Adams
William L. Curry
Clay H. Davis
Jonathan H. Nason

Class of 1987
Class Total: $8,800.00
No. in Class: 43
Participation: 7%

Associates
John B. Boay

Enrichment Society
Jane D. Callahan
Edward E. Wollman

Class of 1988
Class Total: $550.00
No. in Class: 63
Participation: 6%

Class of 1989
Class Total: $650.00
No. in Class: 53
Participation: 8%

Enrichment Society
Charles L. Cooper, Jr.
James W. Forsyth
John E. Lawlor III
Joe F. Yonek

Class of 1990
Class Total: $650.00
No. in Class: 53
Participation: 8%

Enrichment Society
Glenn A. Adams
William L. Curry
Clay H. Davis
Jonathan H. Nason

Class of 1991
Class Total: $750.00
No. in Class: 63
Participation: 6%
TAX ALUMNI BY CLASS.

Graduates of the Graduate Tax Program, ranked No. 1 among publics, provided significant financial support so the college could continue to meet the challenge of achieving top-tier excellence in legal education.
TAX ALUMNI

ALUMNI FROM OUR MANY GRADUATE DEGREE PROGRAMS made financial commitments to help the college continue to be an institution of excellence. Names are listed for gifts of $100 and up. Loyalty Society members are recognized in the online version of the Annual Report.

Class of 2003
Class Total: $10,000.00
No. in Class: 12
Participation: 8%
Founders Society - silver
Jorge F. Ramirez

Class of 2006
Class Total: $100.00
No. in Class: 8
Participation: 13%
Enrichment Society
Queen E. Meheux

Class of 2011
Class Total: $100.00
No. in Class: 12
Participation: 8%
Enrichment Society
Byron D. Flagg

Enrichment Society
Todd A. Hauss
Michael G. Little
Charles Pillitteri
Daniel H. Waters, Jr.

Class of 1992
Class Total: $200.00
No. in Class: 60
Participation: 2%
Enrichment Society
Ailish C. O’Connor

Class of 1993
Class Total: $2,900.00
No. in Class: 57
Participation: 12%

Trusler Society
Rosanne M. Duane
Wilton B. Hyman
Enrichment Society
Dwayne W. Barrett
Elizabeth A. Carrie
Tance E. Roberts
William P. Zox

Class of 1994
Class Total: $3,700.00
No. in Class: 63
Participation: 6%

Trusler Society
Gary W. Huston
Donna L. Longhouse
Arnold P. May
Enrichment Society
Mary P. Williamson
Camille L. Worsnop

Class of 1995
Class Total: $295.00
No. in Class: 70
Participation: 6%
Enrichment Society
Bruce R. Jacob

Class of 1996
Class Total: $425.00
No. in Class: 69
Participation: 6%
Enrichment Society
Lamont C. Loo
Matthew R. O’Kane
Peter A. Rivellini

Class of 1997
Class Total: $100.00
No. in Class: 53
Participation: 2%
Enrichment Society
Keith M. Olivia

Class of 1998
Class Total: $1,775.00
No. in Class: 69
Participation: 12%
Enrichment Society
Matthew J. Ahearn
Monica D. Armstrong
Robert J. Barna
Tina A. Denapoli
Andrew T. Huber
Dan C. Young

Class of 1999
Class Total: $900.00
No. in Class: 45
Participation: 9%
Enrichment Society
Joseph M. Depew
Rahul P. Ranadive
James H. Sutton, Jr.
E. John Wagner II

Class of 2000
Class Total: $825.00
No. in Class: 64
Participation: 6%
Enrichment Society
Bradley T. Borden
James F. Loebi
Renee C. Samson

Class of 2001
Class Total: $900.00
No. in Class: 64
Participation: 6%

Enrichment Society
Alton D. Bain
Keith C. Kantack
Kathleen M. McRoberts

Class of 2002
Class Total: $4,800.00
No. in Class: 63
Participation: 8%
Partners
Heath K. Dedmond
Stacy L. Kenyon
Enrichment Society
Elena Kaplan
Stacey A. Prince-Trounman
Kerry A. Ryan

Class of 2003
Class Total: $3,950.00
No. in Class: 80
Participation: 8%
Partners
Terrence T. Dariotis
Trusler Society
Salvatore Bochicchio
Enrichment Society
Telly J. Meier
Alan M. Schissel
Benjamin A. Swift

Class of 2004
Class Total: $580.00
No. in Class: 79
Participation: 5%
Enrichment Society
Alexander D. DeVitis
Adam N. Frisch
Barry D. Lapides

Class of 2005
Class Total: $295.00
No. in Class: 78
Participation: 5%
Enrichment Society
Michael J. Faehner
Shawn M. Richter

Class of 2006
Class Total: $310.00
No. in Class: 73
Participation: 4%
Enrichment Society
Kimberley A. Dillon

Class of 2008
Class Total: $2,575.00
No. in Class: 85
Participation: 9%
Trusler Society
David F. Pressly
Enrichment Society
Scott A. Bowman
David D. Duncan
Daniel J. Glassman
Brian M. Malec
Kristeen R. Witt
Joseph R. Worst

Class of 2009
Class Total: $1,225.00
No. in Class: 91
Participation: 5%
Enrichment Society
Andrew R. Comiter
Elizabeth A. Fast
Jamie L. Meola
Day O. Nelson
Grant W. Stedman

Class of 2010
Class Total: $1,210.00
No. in Class: 110
Participation: 9%
Enrichment Society
Dana M. Apfelbaum
Denise B. Cazobon
Wooje Choi
Mitchell W. Goldberg
Han Huang
Christopher A. Pavilonis

Class of 2011
Class Total: $275.00
No. in Class: 96
Participation: 2%
Enrichment Society
Robert J. Braxton

Class of 2012
Class Total: $400.00
No. in Class: 101
Participation: 7%
Enrichment Society
Bradley D. Kay
Jonathan C. Squires

Class of 2013
Class Total: $270.13
No. in Class: 113
Participation: 4%
Enrichment Society
Austen R. Byars
Adam J. Smith

Please report any corrections to Missy Poole at poole@law.ufl.edu or call 352-273-0647.
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In Honor:
Warren W. Lindsey
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In Memoriam

We honor those donors who passed away during the year of their giving.

2013-2014 FISCAL YEAR
Anonymous
Frank Wottitzky
Law Center Association, Inc.

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Robert Rhee argues for cash competition to make rating agencies compete on Wall Street.

Stuart Cohn writes the first-in-Florida law for a new class of corporations that work for the greater good.
Angelo joins Everglades water research team

MARY JANE ANGELO, director of the Environmental and Land Use Law Program, is part of a six-member University of Florida research team this fall that is conducting a technical review of the options to move water from Lake Okeechobee to the Everglades. The Florida Senate contracted the UF interdisciplinary team for the research project, which will conclude with a report from the team in early 2015. The group will review documents and reports, and gather information from agencies, organizations and individuals with expertise on reducing regulatory discharges from Lake Okeechobee to the estuaries and increasing the flow of water from the lake to the Everglades.

DiMatteo scholarship quoted in New Mexico Supreme Court decision

AFFLIATE PROFESSOR LARRY DIMATTEO was recently quoted in a decision of the New Mexico Supreme Court: “Ruling on substantive unconscionability is an inherent equitable power of the court, and does not require prior legislative action. ‘Equity supplements the common law; its rules do not contradict the common law; rather, they aim at securing substantial justice when the strict rule of common law might work hardship.’ Larry A. DiMatteo, “The History of Natural Law Theory: Transforming Embedded Influences into a Fuller Understanding of Modern Contract Law,” 60 U. Pittsburgh Law Review 839, 890 (1999).” King v. B & B Investment Corp., 329 P.3d 658, 670-71 (Supreme Court of New Mexico 2014).

Russell-Brown selected as Dunlevie Honors Professor

KATHERYN RUSSELL-BROWN, director of the Center for the Study of Race and Race Relations, was selected as an Elizabeth Wood Dunlevie Honors Term Professor for the 2014-2015 academic year. The goal of the professorship program is “to encourage the most esteemed faculty at the University of Florida to participate in the University Honors Program as instructors and mentors.” Between two and four faculty from across the campus are selected for this program each year in a competitive application process. Russell-Brown will teach an honors undergraduate course on Race, Criminal Law, and Justice in the spring semester.

Scholarship established in Seigel’s honor

THE MICHAEL L. SEIGEL CRIMINAL JUSTICE FELLOWSHIP FUND has been established in honor of Professor Michael Seigel, who had a recurrence of lymphoma earlier this year that will prevent him from returning to teach at UF Law. Seigel was the moving force in the creation of the Criminal Justice Center and the faculty recognized his long-standing service to and relationship with UF Law with the fellowship fund. The income from the fund will provide stipends to assist law students in meeting living expenses while they gain unpaid field experience with federal criminal justice agencies.

Vallandingham awarded Army Achievement Medal

CAPT. CHRISTOPHER VALLANDINGHAM (JD 00) was awarded the Army Achievement Medal. This medal is awarded to members of the U.S. Armed Forces who have distinguished themselves by
meritorious service or achievement. He earned the medal on Feb. 22 for his presentation of a day-long seminar at Camp Parks in California on intelligence law to members of the 75th Legal Operations Detachment. Vallandingham, who is head of collections in the Lawton Chiles Legal Information Center and a UF Law adjunct professor, is a member of the Judge Advocate General’s Corps, United States Army.

Sokol named Chamber’s academic adviser on antitrust

Professor D. Daniel Sokol has been named academic adviser for the Antitrust Council of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. “He is well connected both within academic circles, but also with practitioners,” explained Sean Heather, vice president of the Center for Global Regulatory Cooperation and executive director, International Policy & Antitrust Policy for the U.S. Chamber. “As a result his insights and advice both domestically and internationally are deeply appreciated as we deliberate matters of competition policy and enforcement.” Sokol took over the position from Bill Kovacic, former Federal Trade Commission Chairman and George Washington Law School professor. Kovacic left the academic adviser role to serve as a director of the United Kingdom’s Competition and Market Authority. The Chamber represents over 3 million businesses on domestic and global issues and the Antitrust Council serves as the premier forum for the development of antitrust policy for the business community.

Scholarship’s home address

UF Law professors stand daily in front of students explaining the fundamentals of tort law or going through the tricky ins and outs of estates and trusts. But in addition to prepping the minds of our future leaders and lawyers, these educators are working on innovative and original scholarship published across the country in respected law journals.

The UF Law Scholarship Repository is a user-friendly service from the college’s Lawton Chiles Legal Information Center that provides easily accessible abstracts and full-length faculty papers, past and present. The database has the latest published works from most law faculty. It also has recent issues of the Florida Law Review, conference presentations and other works that may not be published elsewhere. The website highlights the top 10 faculty scholarship downloads, working papers, a “Paper of the Day” and breaks down scholarship into separate disciplines.

“One of the main reasons we wanted to create and maintain the repository was to be able to promote and collect law faculty scholarship,” said Elizabeth Outler, associate director at the LIC.

The repository at http://scholarship.law.ufl.edu is spearheaded by Reference Librarian Avery Le (JD 11). Le works with digital assistant Joe Kaleita to gather scholarship information and upload it. Outler said such scholarship repositories are becoming more common. UF Law is among 54 law schools that currently have such a program. Through the end of October, 100,000 downloads from UF Law had been recorded over the past 12 months. A feature on the site allows viewers to see in real time where in the world downloads are made, even what article is being viewed. The scholarship repository is part of the Digital Commons Network, a database of scholarship from universities and colleges worldwide.

—Matt Walker
It’s all about having skin in the game, said UF Law Professor Robert Rhee. He’s talking about competition — a concept he knows well as a former Wall Street investment banker — among the big three credit rating agencies.

In a recent article published in the Northwestern University Law Review, Rhee addresses how this lack of competition contributed to the significant failures of the agencies to properly assess asset risks leading to the 2008 financial crisis. His paper proposes a simple way to avoid the same mistakes in the future by introducing monetary incentives for rating agencies to accurately gauge those risks.

Sitting in his third-floor office in Holland Hall, UF Law’s new John H. and Marylou Dasburg Professor of Law explains the inherent problems with the credit ratings agencies and how his article, “On Duopoly and Compensation Games in the Credit Rating Industry,” came about.

“One of the major storylines to come out of the financial crisis is that these mortgage-backed bonds … had been represented to the global investment community as something very safe,” Rhee said. “But the reality was that the bonds were “toxic securities” and never should have been rated as investment grade to begin with.

So how did this happen?

In his article, Rhee illuminates several factors that lead to inaccurate credit ratings and the short answer is: “Credit rating agencies suffer from a lack of competition and a will to do better than other agencies, which diminishes the quality of credit ratings.”

The big three agencies — Standard & Poor’s, Fitch, and Moody’s — are complacent in the current system because there is no motivation for one to out-perform another. (Small credit rating agencies also operate, but the big three take up an estimated 97 percent-plus of the market, according to data compiled by Bloomberg Businessweek in 2011.)

“Right now they are enjoying a situation in which there are only three of them,” Rhee said. “The market really needs credit ratings and every time there’s a bond is-
sued we can be sure that at least two of the three or possibly all three will be enjoying an engagement from that. So given that nice situation, where’s the incentive to really do well?”

Rhee explained that the credit rating agencies are protected in that they are making a commercial form of speech. And as such, there are no real repercussions if a bond is inaccurately rated. In a faux-innocent tone, Rhee adopts the voice of the credit rating agencies: “I’m just giving my opinion, no one has to listen to me.”

In reality, bond issuers do have to listen to them and they rely on those ratings. The credit industry is far too vast for bond issuers to even attempt to compile all the necessary data to rate bonds on their own, Rhee said. The credit rating agencies provide an essential aggregation service that facilitates the desired result — a rating — much like a library aggregates research materials for scholars to access the information necessary to complete their research.

And adding to the already-fuzzy nature of this game, the agencies operate on an issuer-pay model, which Rhee said results in a built-in bias towards the client.

“It’s really a question of does a dog tend to bite the hand that feeds it?” Rhee said. He noted that the tendency to try and please those who are paying you can mean bumping up a borderline toxic security to an investment grade rating.

Rhee said even if credit ratings turn out to be inaccurate on one bond, the issuers still come back for ratings on the next bond because there are so few choices. So besides dominating the credit ratings market, the big three rating agencies earn revenue from the bond issuers they are providing ratings for. They please the issuers that pay them, and since ratings are necessary there is no real reason for the agencies to step up their games.

Not surprisingly, since 2008 there has been much talk about how to improve upon this flawed system, ranging from doing away with the credit rating agencies altogether, having the government assign agencies to bond issuers, or completely revamping the issuer-pay model.

“I haven’t been really satisfied with any of these proposals and that’s the reason why I wrote my own law review article on this problem,” Rhee said.

Rhee’s article offers a solution so simple it may leave some wondering why the idea hasn’t been suggested sooner.

“If competition doesn’t in fact exist now, why don’t we just create an artificial competition with real stakes?” Rhee asked.

In the article, Rhee proposes creating a compensation game where each of the big three credit rating agencies would take a small percentage of their revenue and put it into a bonus. They would be evaluated at regular intervals to see which agency provided the most accurate credit ratings during the time period.

“Whoever performed the best takes the pot,” he said. Thus, rating agencies would be mandated to participate in a competition for a bonus pool that is funded by a portion of their earned revenue.

Rhee compares it to competitions in other industries like the rivalry between Samsung and Apple. Competition is fierce to put out a better product than the competitors.

Rhee said his proposal has garnered positive feedback and he has presented it at several workshops and conferences. Several journals have invited him to write follow-up pieces to the article, which are in progress.

UF Law Professor D. Daniel Sokol believes Rhee is on to something.

“The paper provides an analytical sound way to address the problem and, more importantly, a possible workable solution,” said Sokol, an internationally recognized expert in antitrust law.

Besides being a straightforward solution to incentivizing better performance, Rhee’s plan does not require complex regulations or a fundamental change in the current issuer-pay model.

Rhee said while the amount an agency would initially pay into the pool would be a small percentage of their overall revenue, winning the pool on a consistent basis would result in quite a large sum of money at the expense of the losers, thus creating the proper incentives to perform.

“The point here is that even in small financial increments — as a matter of percentages — can actually yield quite a lot of shareholder value for the company that does the job the best,” he said.

“If competition doesn’t in fact exist now, why don’t we just create an artificial competition with real stakes?”
—Robert Rhee
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f corporations are people, does that mean they can also have a conscience?

In July, Florida corporations gained the chance to move just a little closer to an altruistic existence by using a larger portion of revenue for the greater good, thanks in part to UF Law Professor Stuart Cohn and the passage of a new law allowing for corporations to operate as “benefit corporations” or “social purpose corporations.”

Cohn, an active member of The Florida Bar Business Law Section, was a principal author of the legislation. The difference between these new classifications and what defines a traditional corporation is the bottom line.

“For traditional corporations there is always a concern that the directors have a fiduciary duty not to go too far (using revenue for social causes),” Cohn said, “because they must think of the best interest of the stockholders in terms of creating dividends for them and maximizing the profits of the corporation for the long term.

“This new legislation is intended for corporations that want to go further.”

Florida was the second state — one of only three — to adopt both the benefit corporation and the social purpose corporation, Cohn said. He explained that directors of benefit corporations are required to consider all categories relevant to public interest when making any corporate decision. Directors of a social purpose corporation can consider narrower goals.

James Glover (JD 13), a real estate attorney in Miami at the Law Office of Steven M. Lee, P.A., worked with Cohn on The Florida Bar Business Law Section committee that produced the legislation.

Glover said it was an exciting opportunity as a law student to participate in the drafting process and “state-level policy discussions surrounding a complex area of law.”

For Glover, the most difficult part of the project was not drafting the leg-
islation, but waiting for the Legislature to act.

“I hadn’t considered that the entire effort would be at the mercy of the political process, but thankfully we received bipartisan sponsorship and unanimous support for the bill,” Glover said.

He credits success to the thorough job the committee did on the project and to Cohn’s “exemplary reputation throughout the Florida legal community.”

“Florida is a leading state in environmental protection, innovation and policy. It only makes sense for Florida to adapt its corporate law to the needs of our environmental and social entrepreneurs, and to encourage green businesses to incorporate in our state,” Glover said.

Cohn said the law is expected to bring business to Florida because of the increasing number of socially minded investors and entrepreneurs looking to set up shop.

“It’s very new so we don’t have much history here, but we’ve already had some existing corporations convert,” Cohn said.

The first of those companies was Clean the World Foundation, Inc., an Orlando-based company that collects and recycles unused and discarded soap and shampoo throughout hotels in the U.S. It then distributes them and other donated hygiene products to people in need throughout the world to help “prevent the millions of deaths caused by hygiene-related illnesses every day,” according to the Clean the World website.

The company was founded as a nonprofit in 2009. It added a for-profit LLC division in 2011 to increase opportunities to bring in investment capital and help further the goals of the company, said Shawn Seipler, co-founder and CEO of Clean the World.

“Benefit corporations made sense to Clean the World really from day one because the entire reason for having our LLC in place — which is now our B-Corp — was to drive social impact and environmental impact at a greater pace,” Seipler said.

Seipler listed the financial advantages to adding a for-profit arm: “From a banking perspective, from a loaning perspective and debt equity perspective, you’re in a better position when you have a for-profit company.”

Cohn said traditional corporations can still engage in public benefits, but the new law gives entrepreneurs more options for constructing their businesses.

Seipler said socially minded entrepreneurs face challenges in traditional corporations and under the nonprofit approach. The best option for financially supporting social causes in a traditional for-profit company was to make as much money as possible and donate it. Conversely, a nonprofit company is very limiting because it’s hard to make a decent living if you’re interested in having a large family and sending your kids to college.

The benefit corporation offers the perfect solution for a growing number of socially conscious entrepreneurs and investors, he said. Clean the World’s social cause is built directly into its business plan. At the same time, it is working to draw more social entrepreneurs to Central Florida.

“We have a vision and we have a goal to make Florida the global hub for social entrepreneurs, so we are partnering with some significant entities in town that really drive a lot of philanthropy,” Seipler said.

Cohn said lawyers must keep up with changes in their field, citing the new benefit and social purpose corporations as prime examples.

“The word is out in the social responsibility community and those entrepreneurs are going to want to form (corporations), and they’re going to go to lawyers,” he said. “Lawyers need to know this.”
“Put simply, the effort to control state information requires human, organizational, technological, and textual mechanisms that often fail in the checks and balances of a democratic state, sometimes by design and sometimes by the weakness of bureaucratic control. Secrecy of any sort and to any degree is costly and difficult to accomplish and can only stem the authorized flow of official information.”

—JONATHAN COHEN
Professor of Law

“Lawsuits are usually charged, stressful periods for the parties. Listening with an open mind in the midst of such conflict can be particularly difficult. Ego, anger, fear, and distractedness — to name but a few factors — may all kick in, making parties in conflict particularly resistant to new ideas and information.”

—ANNA K. COHEN
Associate Professor of Law

“Over the past few years, a broad consensus has formed around the need to reduce prison populations, with even prominent ‘tough on crime’ conservatives calling for criminal justice reform. In response, states have instituted various measures to reduce prison populations and correctional spending, including increased use and diversity of early-release mechanisms.”

—LEA JOHNSTON
Associate Director of Law; Assistant Director, Criminal Justice Center

“Smoke and Mirrors: Model Penal Code § 305.7 and Compassionate Release” 4 Woke Forest Journal of Law & Policy 49, 2014

—MARK FENSTER
Professor of Law; Cone, Wagner, Nugent, Hazouri and Roth Tort Professor

“Under the current legal doctrine, students have almost no legal recourse to address conditions creating prison-like environments in schools. This Article offers a reformulated legal framework under the Fourth Amendment that is rooted in the foundational Supreme Court cases evaluating students’ rights under the First, Fourth, and Fourteenth Amendments.”

—ELIZABETH ROWE
University of Florida Research Foundation Professor of Law; Feldman Gale Term Professor of Intellectual Property; Director, Program in Intellectual Property Law

“Virtually all businesses have a presence, either directly or indirectly, on the Internet and in ‘the Cloud.’ Unfortunately, the inherently public nature of the Internet poses many challenges to an intellectual property framework that relies on secrecy.”

—JASON NANCE
Associate Professor of Law; Associate Director, Center on Children and Families

“In recent years, the geographic background of the United States Supreme Court, for instance, has shifted from one which is representative of the nation, to one dominated by appellate judges from the northeast. The importance of this shift cannot be overstated, as studies have shown that judges are as much as twice as likely to affirm opinions from their geographic ‘home’ courts as those from any other.”

—SHARON RUSH
Associate Dean for Faculty Development; Irving Cypen Professor of Law; Associate Director, Center on Children and Families; Co-founder, Center for the Study of Race and Race Relations


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“People will look at the report and assume that things are better than they are, and there won’t be pressure on lawmakers and the governor to make the changes that have to be made to keep kids safe.”

—SHANI KING
Professor of Law; Co-Director, Center on Children and Families


“It’s liberating to post. The conversation is informal, free-wheeling, so you feel like anything goes. But the truth is, you can be held accountable if you make comments that damage the reputation of someone else.”

—LYRISSA LIDSKY
Professor of Law; Stephen C. O’Connell Chair; Associate Dean for International Studies

“Beach man sued for defamation over YouTube video” (Sept. 9, 2014, The Virginian-Pilot)

“Mental illness is a medical concept. Insanity is a legal concept.”

—BOB DEKLE
Master Lecturer; Director, Criminal Prosecution Clinic; Assistant Director, Criminal Justice Center

“When the Supreme Court decides this issue, courts presiding over pending cases in Florida and elsewhere will have to follow this new precedent.”

—DARREN HUTCHINSON
Professor of Law; Stephen C. O’Connell Chair

“Locally, gay marriage ruling brings excitement” (July 17, 2014, The Gainesville Sun)

“I would be surprised if she had said anything else.”

—TERESA DRAKE
Director, Intimate Partner Violence Assistance Clinic; Visiting Legal Skills Professor

“Experts not surprised as Janay Rice defends Ray Rice” (Sept. 9, 2014, Tampa Bay Times)
New faculty deliver expertise in business, energy, employment

**Stephanie Bornstein - Assistant Professor**

**AS A NEW ASSISTANT PROFESSOR** at UF Law, Stephanie Bornstein is teaching Employment Law this fall and Civil Procedure in the spring. Bornstein practiced labor and employment law in California, which is the area she hopes to develop at UF Law, she said.

Bornstein has published multiple papers in the area, including one on gender stereotyping and another entitled “Work, Family, and Discrimination at the Bottom of the Ladder.” Bornstein wants to inspire passion in students for the study of law and to encourage strategic thinking about networking and their careers. She also wants to teach them ways they can use their law degrees to serve the public interest, she said.

Bornstein received her J.D. from the Berkeley School of Law at the University of California and her A.B. from Harvard University. Before coming to UF, she practiced as an employment discrimination attorney. She also worked as a visiting assistant professor and deputy director of the Center for WorkLife Law at the University of California Hastings College of the Law.

**Robert Rhee - Professor**

**ROBERT RHEE, THE NEW JOHN H. AND MARYLOU DASBURG PROFESSOR OF LAW,** brings a background of business to UF Law.

Rhee, a former investment banker, corporate advisor and professor at Johns Hopkins Carey Business School, taught Unincorporated Business Enterprises in the fall and will teach Corporate Finance and Corporations in the spring.

Rhee’s background as an investment banker and corporate adviser helps him to communicate to students the complexities of business topics in a more manageable way, he says. He hopes to help students by ensuring the school has a “vibrant curriculum” in the area of business law.

Rhee said his writings and research also give him new perspectives to bring to the classroom.

Rhee is working on several projects, including: an article about executive compensation, a casebook on corporate finance, and a “multimedia training package” on business concepts for junior lawyers in law firms. Additionally, he is about to start work on an article about shareholder primacy.

Rhee received his J.D. from George Washington University and his MBA from the University of Pennsylvania (Wharton). Before working in the business world and becoming a professor, he practiced law as an attorney with the U.S. Department of Justice.

Rhee was hired under the University of Florida’s Preeminence Plan, which aims to boost the university’s reputation into the strata of the nation’s top-ranked research universities. The state has promised $15 million annually for five years. Adding money raised by UF from alumni and friends, as many as 130 new faculty members will be hired in coming years through the initiative.

**Amy Stein - Associate Professor**

**AMY STEIN HAS TAUGHT ENERGY LAW** for the past six years and published multiple articles on topics including energy storage and regulations and the federal government’s role in developing renewable energy. This fall she joined UF Law as an associate professor teaching Energy Law and Policy.

“It’s what I live and breathe,” Stein said.

Stein said she makes sure no prerequisites are required for her energy classes because she wants them accessible to all students. Stein wants to help students who already love the subject “dig deeper into energy,” but also wants to light the spark in “students who have no idea,” she said.

Prior to UF Law, Stein was an associate professor of law at Tulane Law School, an adjunct professor in the Environmental Studies program at The George Washington University, and a visiting associate professor of Legal Research and Writing, acting associate director of the Legal Research and Writing Program, and co-director of the Scholarly Writing Program at The George Washington University Law School. Before her academic appointments, she practiced as an environmental and litigation associate for Latham & Watkins LLP in the firm’s Washington, D.C., and Silicon Valley offices.
Law in the shade of

CHOCOLATE
BY LAURA HOGAN

Gentry Mander normally refuses the offer. “Chocolate?” she said. “No thanks, I’m not really a chocolate eater.”

But Mander (3L) isn’t refusing the opportunity to help start a chocolate company as an offshoot of planting shade-grown cacao to protect and restore the forests of Belize.

“Most people love the chocolate component,” Mander said. “But for me, it’s about the forest and the farmers.”

She’s talking about a project that echoes from a Massachusetts superfund site to the jungles of Belize where indigenous farmers struggle to make a living, back to the neighborhoods of Gainesville and a nascent chocolate business. All carried on the wings of songbirds.

See, planting cacao in Belizean jungles is part of a reforestation project headed up by the Belize Foundation for Research & Environmental Education, or BFREE. Reforestation helps protect the wintering habitat of migratory neotropical songbirds — including warblers and thrushes. Their warm-weather habitat was damaged by hazardous chemicals at the Nyanza Chemical Waste Dump Superfund Site in Ashland, Massachusetts, according to the U.S. Department of the Interior. Tropical crops such as pineapple require removing trees to let in the sun, but cacao grows with the tree canopy intact. So reforestation could make a viable business out of cacao beans as a cash crop.

“The law school was the impetus of it all,” Mander said.

A spring break trip in 2013 led by UF Law Professor and Conservation Clinic Director Tom Ankersen (JD 86) took her to Belize and the BFREE’s research station. There she learned that BFREE was in search of an organic farmer to help research Belizean cacao, the plant from which cocoa beans, the central ingredient of chocolate, are harvested.

When Mander arrived in Belize, she investigated its cacao supply chain and found it has only three players: farmers, exporters, and craft chocolate makers. These players divided the revenue from Belizean chocolate, which ranged from $35 to $65 per pound.

Then Mander set out with her Maya guide and translator, Elmer Tzalam, to interview farmers. Their five- to 10-mile treks through the forest and communities were hot, with temperatures regularly reaching 100 or more degrees.

After talking to 14 or 15 cacao farmers, Tzalam and Mander were shocked to learn that farmers were typically only paid about $1.25 per pound of beans. A pound of beans is roughly the amount of beans needed to produce a pound of chocolate. The exporters earned little more than the farmers in the transaction, and the chocolate makers were raking in the rest.

This discovery upset Mander. “I had a hard time sleeping for the first couple weeks,” she said. “It just killed me, and it killed Elmer too.”

As they walked around the villages and discussed the issue, Mander said they realized solving the farmers’ income problem required control of the end product. And by improving the price for a pound of cocoa beans she figures she could also boost the number of farmers who will abandon sun-loving pineapples for canopy-loving cacao.

“The solution is to make chocolate,” Mander said. Some of the profit would be shared with farmers to encourage them to grow the highest quality, most environmentally and bird-friendly organic beans they could.

So Mander, Jacob Marlin, executive director of BFREE, and Heather Barrett of BFREE are becoming chocolate makers.

They met this fall in Marlin’s house in Gainesville to start experimenting with their first batches. Using Marlin’s oven and small-batch equipment purchased by BFREE, the budding entrepreneurs concocted 70-percent dark chocolate from the Belizean cacao beans.

Marlin said the company will use beans from BFREE’s farm and the farms that are a part of the Belize Cacao-based Agroforestry Restoration Project, which is comprised of eight farmers with 53 acres of land.

Ankersen said Mander researched the legal issues associated with making cacao into chocolate and using it to benefit the Belize farmers. She also researched whether they could trademark the geographic origin of this cacao, which has been grown by the Maya since ancient times in this region of Belize.

“She was looking at development assistance and international law,” Ankersen said. “Suddenly here she is looking at … forming start-ups and entrepreneurship, as well as intellectual property law.”

Mander is now writing a business plan for the chocolate company, and she spent the summer learning about regulations for food products and how to obtain permits. She also took Unincorporated Business Enterprises at UF Law to learn more about the business aspect. Mander, who graduates in December, plans to go to Belize in the spring after taking the bar exam to figure out the logistics of exporting cacao beans to the U.S. She added that she never could have imagined law school would lead to starting a chocolate company.

And Mander said she hasn’t found a better way to do the things she cares about most. “I could fight for the environment in court, or I can go to the rainforest and see first-hand: There are 10 acres that we saved. There is a farmer who is getting a little higher wage,” she said. “For me, it feels more hands-on and a way to see the difference I have helped make.”
Florida Supreme Court Chief Justice Jorge Labarga (JD 79) talks with UF Law students Oct. 20 in the Martin H. Levin Advocacy Center after delivering the Overton Lecture. Labarga will be honored during the May 18 commencement as a University of Florida Distinguished Alumnus. (Photo by Julian Pinilla)