RAISING THE BAR

GATORS BEFORE THE SUPREME COURT

LEGAL TANGLE EMERGES FROM GULF OIL SPILL

ASSURING ACCESS TO THE JUSTICE SYSTEM

STEPHEN N. ZACK IS FIFTH GATOR TO LEAD THE ABA
Chances are you’ve met many Gators in your life. Chances are you remember them.

As Gators, a unique experience defines us. We lead and know how to follow. We speak and know when to listen. We run Fortune 500 companies and cure diseases. We influence every field of business and science with unique perspectives and inspire collaboration. We come together to form an unbreakable bond that produces some exceedingly memorable Gators. We are The Gator Nation.

To contribute to the Florida Tomorrow capital campaign contact UF Law Office of Development and Alumni Affairs at 352-273-0640 or e-mail at frohlich@law.ufl.edu.
Access to justice
Florida judicial funding dries up and caseloads explode while the legal community struggles to maintain access to the courts for those who need it.

Gators at the high court
Alumni became regulars at the Supreme Court during the 2009-2010 term as Gators delivered seven arguments in six cases before the justices.

Big Problems
Experts and Florida local governments grapple with policy and law in the wake of the Gulf oil spill.

NEWS

4 DEAN’S MESSAGE

6 NEWS BRIEFS

24 PARTNERS
  • Florida Tomorrow Campaign
  • New gifts
  • Judge George L. Proctor Book Award
  • Scholarships help first-generation, low-income students

ALUMNI PROFILES
26 Veronica Roof (JD 06)
28 Peter Sleasman (JD 83)
30 Renee Thompson (JD 99)

CLASS NOTES
33 Marjorie Thomas (JD 76)

47 ANNUAL REPORT

WEB-XTRAS

Visit UF LAW online at www.law.ufl.edu/uflaw to view:
• Professor Michael Seigel’s expert witness testimony before the U.S. Senate
• Professor Mark Fenster discussing conspiracy theories on CBC News’ Connect with Mark Kelley
• Teresa Drake, director of the Intimate Partner Violence Assistance Clinic, discussing UF Law’s newest clinic
• UF Law’s Oil Spill Working Group’s symposium on the Gulf oil spill
• Professor Stuart Cohn’s review, “Securities Law: Principal Developments 2009-2010”
• Donors who gave up to $100

FACULTY
  • Spotlight
  • Media hits
  • Welcome
  • Paul McDaniel remembered

UP AND COMING
Dwayne Robinson (3L)

COVER PHOTO BY JOEY SPRINGER
UF Law has yet another graduate – Stephen N. Zack – serving as president of the American Bar Association. How does that impact the school and its reputation?

Our graduates have held significant leadership roles in the legal arena and public and private sectors for more than 100 years. We are very proud of Steve, and we’re also proud that more Gator grads have served as ABA presidents than any other law school in the nation during the past four decades. I wonder whether any law school has ever had its alumni serve as its state bar’s current president, Mayanne Downs; immediate past president, Jay White; president-elect, Scott Hawkins; and Young Lawyer Division president, Renee Thompson; and the ABA president – all in the same year. That’s the story of our Gator alumni in 2010-11. We are not the only law school to claim leadership development as a point of pride, but graduates like these exceptional people give us a greater claim than most. I could write a book about the leadership roles and actions of the UF Law Gator Nation, and I have referred to other examples in this space before. But for now let it suffice to say that we have a strong legacy of leadership, and our alumni live up to it every day.

There’s a lot of talk these days about branding. What is the law school’s brand?

I’m told a brand is usually defined as reality, which is based on statistical data and history, intersecting with what is important to others, or the essence of the college as reflected in the minds and hearts of others. Based on that, I know we hear over and over from our many constituencies about the strength, power and connections of the Gator Nation; that we are the state’s premier law school; that our students are leaders here and as alumni; and that our graduates are highly valued by employers. They also mention our outstanding programs in tax, environmental and land use law, and family law.

That is how others see UF Law. Is this accurate, and how you want it to be known?

I believe it is accurate. Like so many others, we want to be known for excellence, of course, and we strive to attain that in all we do. I do think we get better all the time. Each of our recent classes, for example, has ever more impressive credentials. For example, the LSAT at the 25th percentile in our last entering class is higher than the median was for our entering class just four years ago, and the GPA measured at the 25th, median, and 75th percentile should be among the top 25 or 30 law schools in the country this year. Our facilities have been completely transformed during the
past decade, and we are very proud of our faculty. If you examine our statistics, we have improved by nearly every measure in recent years, and that was despite state budget cuts. We owe the loyalty and support of our alumni for much of our success.

Q The law school is engaged in a strategic planning process that also seeks to redefine its vision and mission. How will this impact its brand?

A The strategic planning process is aimed at making us better and more effective in preparing students for success in a rapidly changing professional environment. So I believe our strongest brand components – leadership and the UF Law Gator Network, for example – will only improve. If you drill down to the program level, you will see an ongoing process to develop a collective vision for our future direction, which, of course, is occurring against the background of a rapidly changing external environment. So there are challenges, especially since strategically planning a future overlaps with the need to articulate budget priorities when funds are tight and there are many competing ideas for how resources should be allocated. The faculty, the administrative team and I are working on this, and I will keep our alumni updated on our progress in this regard. I invite your input and insights as we continue this process. You can e-mail me at jerryr@law.ufl.edu.

I would like to end by pointing out that we try to recognize as many of our UF Law alumni leaders in this publication as we can, and we greatly appreciate it when you send us tips on those we may have missed. Our contact information is at the front of the magazine.

Thank you for your continuing interest in and support of your law school. And, of course, Go Gators!
During the summer of 2010, Fredric G. Levin College of Law students worked in more externships than ever. At least 203 rising 2L and 3L students worked in externships, where they earned course credit in lieu of pay.

Externships, regulated by American Bar Association Standard 305, provide the opportunity for students to assist attorneys and judges with real legal issues and cases. Externs perform legal research, draft memoranda, motions and contracts, and attend client meetings, hearings and trials. Each student is mentored by a field supervisor (an attorney or judge at the externship site) and a UF Law faculty member.

The externship experience enables the student to apply first-hand principles learned in law school, and enhances the learning experience upon return to the classroom. Students meet new attorneys and work side-by-side with experienced attorneys and judges. In some cases, externships may lead to employment offers after graduation.

Of the more than 200 externship placements this past summer, 75 students worked for judges including 35 in federal courts, nine in state district courts of appeal and two at the Florida Supreme Court. In addition, one student is working this fall as an extern for Judge Gerald B. Tjoflat at the United States Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit.

Some of the externship sites included the EEOC, FCC, NOAA, World Intellectual Property Organization, Department of Homeland Security, ACLU and the Florida Solicitor General. Seventeen students worked as externs for private corporations, including entities such as the Discovery Network, Elizabeth Arden, Office Depot and Sony Corporation.

This summer, students worked on issues such as the Gulf oil spill and drywall litigation, and one student attended a meeting at which the Queen Elizabeth II was present.

Students celebrated for pro bono work and community service

This year’s graduating 3L students had a total of 2,763 hours of community service, compared with 1,038 from last year. They also accrued 9,204 hours of pro bono work, compared with 8,096 from last year. The combined volunteer hours for the class totaled 11,967.

“To dedicate volunteer time beyond your legal curriculum is incredible,” said Kristen Bryant, coordinator of the projects and assistant director for the Center for Career Development.

Christopher First led the class with the most pro bono hours by working with the 12th Circuit Public Defender’s Office. And Penny Taylor-Miller had the most community service hours through her work with Fort White Elementary School and the Girl Scouts.

Dean Robert Jerry commended the students for their accomplishments and for demonstrating leadership qualities.
“One of the traditions at this law school is the preparation of our graduates for leadership positions,” Jerry said. “And by leadership we mean broadly giving back to the community, giving back to the state, the region and serving other people. And what these students have done is demonstrate that, in their lives right now, they are already projecting the professional values that the Gator Nation has celebrated for quite a long time.”

Fellows make a difference with public service

Six UF Law students took part in The Center for Governmental Responsibility Public Interest Law Fellowship program, where they gained hands-on experience helping low-income people and providing legal expertise to nonprofit groups and government agencies.

The program is a cooperative effort between The Florida Bar Foundation and CGR that began in the mid-1980s. It provides low-income and indigent citizens with valuable legal assistance.

The fellowships are financed by the foundation from Interest on Trust Accounts (IOTA) and more than $700,000 has been provided to help pay for the practical legal education of selected third-year law students.

These students, supervised by licensed attorneys, serve as advocates for the poor and for nonprofit and government agencies such as Florida Institutional Legal Services, Southern Legal Counsel, Three Rivers Legal Services, the state’s Guardian ad Litem program and the 8th Circuit Public Defender’s Office.

Included as part of the students’ nine-month commitment are a required poverty-law course and projects to promote awareness within the law school and greater community about poverty issues and the public interest.

The fellows were: George Eppsteiner (JD 10), Camila Pachon (JD 10), Amber Seay (JD 10), Olga Shraybman (JD 10), Kimberly Thomas (JD 10) and Melissa Welsh (JD 10).

Sculpture by renowned artist installed at UF Law

A sculpture by internationally renowned American artist John Van Alstine was installed in the summer on the UF Law campus. Marty Margulies, whose gift to the 2005 law school renovation project was the largest single contribution for that project, chose and donated the sculpture to the law school from his extensive private art collection.

“Marty is a prominent real-estate developer, major national and international art collector and supporter of the arts, and a philanthropist of extraordinary generosity,” UF Law Dean Robert Jerry said. “This sculpture is a famous work of art, and a welcome addition to the landscape of our campus.”

The piece — entitled “Broad Reach” — is located on the northwest portion of campus in Margulies Park, which was named for Margulies in recognition of his earlier contribution.

“It was fun siting the sculpture, and I know John Van Alstine would be thrilled with its application,” said Margulies, who traveled to Gainesville to help situate the massive object.

The sculpture is a large abstract metal and stone structure that twists and turns toward the sky, striking a distinct pose at the college.

“Broad Reach” brings together old and modern materials for a unique and brand-new creation; a good fit for the study of law, where older ideas must often be built upon with newer and more modern ideas as society continues to evolve.
Access to Justice
Florida judicial funding dries up and caseloads explode while the legal community struggles to maintain access to the courts for those who need it. New ABA president Stephen N. Zack (JD 71) leads the campaign for access to justice on the national stage.

**BY KARA CARNLEY-MURRHEE (1L)**

Nearly three years of economic recession have reduced state funding of the courts, resulting in layoffs and hiring freezes during a time when tens of thousands of foreclosure cases have flooded dockets. As courts struggle to manage the increased caseload with fewer resources, the gap in access to the courts has widened between the haves and the have-nots.

One might view these circumstances as a perfect storm threatening to swamp one of our country’s most basic civil rights, but many among Florida’s legal profession are making it their mission to steady the boat by increasing access to the courts for Florida’s most needy residents. Their efforts to implement better budgeting programs, increase availability of legal aid and assistance, and provide equal access to and protection under the law are proving to be safe harbor for many.

Spearheading the access to justice campaign on the national stage is Stephen N. Zack (JD 71), American Bar Association president and administrative partner of Boies, Schiller & Flexner LLP, in Miami. Advocating for adequate and appropriate funding for the judiciary is a priority for Zack during his tenure at the ABA helm.
“I watched the rule of law destroyed as a young teenager in Cuba, and the first knowledge that we were going to have, potentially, the loss of our liberty was the attack on the judiciary,” Zack said. “And the failure to adequately fund the judiciary becomes a direct attack on the judiciary. That’s why we have been focusing on the preservation of the judicial system.”

Many courts around the country have been closing due to inadequate funding, Zack said. Though Florida has not been forced to close any of its courthouse doors, its court system is funded at a percentage considerably below the national average — 0.7 percent of the state budget, compared to 1.81 percent in other states, as indicated in the report on Florida’s Budget Fiscal Year 2010-2011. The result is a judiciary that operates below maximum cost-efficiency — one that prevents judges from focusing on expeditiously resolving the cases before them.

“We just can’t operate like that,” Zack said. “The judiciary is a co-equal branch of government, and our democracy is founded on co-equal branches of government. Co-equal means co-equal, and that begins with funding. You can’t starve the justice system out of existence and expect justice.”

As the gap in judicial funding widens, the state’s most vulnerable citizens — the poor and indigent — will potentially be budgeted right out of their fundamental right for legal redress.

“We’re talking about a justice system that serves all Americans — the rich, the middle class and the poor,” Zack said. “Particularly when we’re talking about the poor, we have a justice gap in this country. Eighty percent of poor people cannot afford a lawyer and therefore have no access. They have no ability to redress their grievances, which is guaranteed by our Constitution.”

One way Florida’s lawyers can help is by volunteering with a local legal aid organization or pro bono program, said Sheila Seig (JD 82), former pro bono coordinator of Bay Area Legal Services’ Volunteer Lawyers Program in Tampa. Seig now serves as an independent contractor for Bay Area, but worked with the organization for 15 years in its pro bono program. During her stint as pro bono coordinator, the program collaborated with local attorneys, judges, professional associations and local bar sections to create a variety of pro bono projects to provide free legal assistance to indigent clients in the community.

Under Seig’s watch, the program relocated its office to the courthouse in downtown Tampa to encourage a closer working relationship between program staff, judges and court officials and to make the program more accessible to attorneys working downtown who wanted to volunteer.

“The purpose of the pro bono program is to match indigent clients with private attorneys who are willing to donate their time and expertise. With the support from volunteers, we supplement and
One such program, staffed and operated by Bay Area, is the Legal Information Center (LIC), a self-help center located at the courthouse that assists individuals who are representing themselves in family, landlord/tenant, and small claims matters, Seig said.

“Pro se litigants can come in to the LIC and talk to our attorney about their civil legal issues,” Seig said. “The attorney can guide them and give them legal information — what forms they need, what type of action they could take, or how to file a petition or make a motion,” Seig said.

In recent years, Bay Area has expanded its services to pro se litigants by providing forms clinics. At the clinics, volunteer attorneys provide assistance in completing court-approved family law forms, Seig said.

“The LIC and the forms clinics have been an effective way for Bay Area to respond to the need for legal assistance for a large group of people who don’t qualify for legal aid,” she said.

Sylvia Walbolt (JD 63), shareholder in Carlton Fields in Tampa, has made pro bono service an integral part of her professional legal career by addressing unequal access to the law for vulnerable members of their communities.

“It is part of what we agree to do when we take our oath of admission,” Walbolt said. “Part of the exchange for the license to practice law is that we use our experience and expertise to help those who would not otherwise have access to the judicial system.”

Walbolt, recipient of the 2010 Pro Bono Publico Award of the American Bar Association Standing Committee on Pro Bono and Public Service, has established and served as the first chair of her firm’s pro bono committee and has represented a diverse group of pro bono clients, ranging from Holocaust survivors to prisoners on death row.

“There can be cases that, in very vital ways, affect the individual’s rights, such as when it involves life or liberty, as with the death penalty cases, or with child custody cases,” Walbolt said.

One of Walbolt’s pro bono clients was a widow of a migrant worker who died in a flash fire because the temporary trailer his employer provided as housing didn’t have a smoke detector. A wrongful-death lawsuit was brought on her behalf, but it was summarily denied. Walbolt was called to assist on the appeal, and she and her co-counsel successfully overturned the summary judgment.

“I think that was one of the most satisfying appellate wins of my career. It’s very satisfying to use your legal skills to help someone who otherwise would not have a lawyer, to be the voice of that person in court and to know you’ve made a real difference in their lives,” Walbolt said.

“We live in a society in which the judicial system plays an increasing role, and if you don’t have access to the judicial system with the help of a lawyer, you’re just at an incredible disadvantage.”

But while the number of licensed attorneys in the state grows by about 2,500 attorneys annually, the number of pro bono hours has stagnated. Members of The

“**PART OF THE EXCHANGE FOR THE LICENSE TO PRACTICE LAW IS THAT WE USE OUR EXPERIENCE AND EXPERTISE TO HELP THOSE WHO WOULD NOT OTHERWISE HAVE ACCESS TO THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM.**” — **SYLVIA WALBOLT (JD 63)**
Florida Bar are not required to perform pro bono service, but they are required to report their pro bono efforts. Only about half reported that they had volunteered any of their time to assist pro bono clients, according to a 2008 study by Kelly Carmody & Associates.

To increase pro bono services provided by its membership, The Florida Bar initiated the program One Promise Florida. The simple message of the program is “One Client. One Attorney.” Its goal is to encourage every attorney in Florida to take just one pro bono client. This could significantly “reduce the enormous backlog of cases and improve access to the legal system for all Florida residents,” according to the program’s website. It’s a mission Walbolt supports.

Inevitably, the tremendous demand for legal aid opens the door to the unauthorized practice of law (UPL), whether the unlicensed individual is attempting to help a friend or take advantage of the unsuspecting. When this happens, the nonlawyers may actually create more legal problems for their clients than they are helping them resolve, said William Schifino Jr. (JD 85), board liaison for the Standing Committee on Unauthorized Practice of Law for The Florida Bar, and shareholder of Williams Schifino Mangione & Steady P.A. in Tampa.

“These individuals may believe they are helping others pursue their legal rights,” Schifino said. “Other times, these motivations may not be so pure. It is often difficult to know where the line is drawn.”

One possible reason for this difficult distinction is that courts have historically been hesitant to define the boundaries of the practice of law, and the case law usually provides only general guidelines.

“So we have to analyze it on a case-by-case basis,” Schifino said. “There are committees set up throughout the state, comprised of lawyers and nonlawyers, which are responsible for vetting complaints that are filed alleging the unlicensed practice of law. And to the extent that they believe UPL has taken place, then those matters can be and are prosecuted.”

In 2009, The Florida Bar saw 658 complaints filed alleging the unlicensed practice of law, 39 of which resulted in litigation.

Once filed, these complaints are investigated by The Florida Bar Unlicensed Practice of Law. The unlicensed practice of law was prohibited in 1949.

“The Bar has a duty to protect the public from incompetent or unethical representation,” said Lori Holcomb, UPL counsel for The Florida Bar. “There is a body of case law that governs what we do. It’s very factually specific. Does it involve the person’s important legal rights? Does it require knowledge and skill of the law greater than that possessed of the average legal citizen? If so, The Bar would likely have a case against the individual for the unlicensed practice of law.”

But Holcomb said there are also areas, within specific guidelines, where the Florida Supreme Court has approved legal assistance. These include a nonlawyer assisting someone in the completion of legal forms approved by the Supreme Court of Florida or representing someone in Florida administrative proceedings, provided the individual stays within the bounds of Florida administrative proceedings rules.

“Oftentimes, what we see is that individuals are paying nonlawyers for assistance that would otherwise be free,” Holcomb said.

In fact, when you go to a nonlawyer, they are most likely using a Florida Supreme Court approved form, Holcomb said.

“Legal aid organizations and pro se assistance centers, for instance, go a long way toward providing that access and assistance. And one of the things The Florida Bar is doing is looking for ways to improve that access,” Holcomb said. “Assistance is out there. The issue, sometimes, is getting the word out.”
It can be said of no other law school in the country. In the last 50 years, the University of Florida Fredric G. Levin College of Law boasts more graduates who have ascended to leadership of the American Bar Association than any other institution. It began with Chesterfield Smith. Now, with Stephen N. Zack (JD 71) assuming the presidency of the vaunted professional organization in August, UF Law counts five ABA presidents among its alumni.

• Stephen N. Zack (JD 71), president 2010-11
  Zack, an administrative partner at Boies, Schiller & Flexner LLP in Miami, is the first Hispanic-American president of the ABA in the organization’s 130-year history. As president of the 410,000 member group, his priorities are to help gain equal access to justice for all segments of society, adequately fund the judiciary, further integrate technology into the legal profession and ensure a proper civic education for young students.

• Martha W. Barnett (JD 73), president 2000-01
  She has been honored for her contributions to society and the legal profession by an award from Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, the National Association of Women Lawyers, the National Legal Aid Defender Association and the National Association for Public Interest Law. She participated in the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995.

• Talbot “Sandy” D’Alemberte (JD 62), president 1991-92
  In 1989, D’Alemberte, then serving as president-elect of the American Bar Association, convinced the organization to establish the Central and East European Law Initiative (CEELI), a volunteer program charged with assisting emerging democracies across the region as they worked to create legal frameworks that would guarantee the rights of individuals. D’Alemberte said that, with the end of the Cold War, he felt it was time to stop talking about spreading freedom and to actually do something to make it happen.

• W. Reece Smith Jr. (JD 49), president 1980-81
  While ABA president, Smith established the ABA Pro Bono Center, which helped increase voluntary projects from 50 to 1,000 over a 10-year period. He also played a key role in establishing Florida Legal Services, Inc. – a nonprofit group that provides civil legal assistance to those who would not otherwise be able to afford legal representation.

• Chesterfield Smith (JD 48), president 1973-74
  He was among the first public figures to call for President Richard Nixon’s impeachment and resignation and for the disarment or other disciplinary actions against lawyers who violated legal codes of ethics in the Watergate scandal. Smith’s statement that “No man is above the law” drew national headlines.
UF Law alumni at the high court

Gators became regulars at the Supreme Court during the 2009-2010 term, delivering seven arguments in six cases before the justices.

BY LINDY MCCOLLUM-BROUNLEY
When the Supreme Court of the United States convened for the 2009-10 term last fall, seven Florida cases were on its docket, representing nearly one-tenth of the cases scheduled to be heard.

“The review of the Supreme Court of the United States is largely discretionary, so though they’re asked to review maybe 9,000 cases each year, they hear and write opinions on only 75 to 80,” said Sharon Rush, a professor of constitutional law at the Fredric G. Levin College of Law. “We assume that these cases that are granted certiorari are really important, that there’s some reason the court wants to hear them.”
Indeed, the court’s rulings on the bumper crop of Florida cases that came before it last term laid to rest some of the country’s most contentious constitutional questions. The extraordinary task of preparing briefs and arguing six of the cases before the high court fell to four UF lawyers — passionate advocates who may never have expected to find themselves being peppered, rapid-fire, with complex constitutional questions in the marble temple of the oldest, most enduring high court in the world.

“I don’t see how anyone could walk in there and not feel the grandeur of the architecture and the historical ambiance of the room, to be awed and think, ‘This is the United States Supreme Court,’” said Florida Solicitor General Scott Makar (JD 87), who argued four of the state’s five cases before the court last year. “It’s a stage of much greater magnitude.”

So great, in fact, that the four UF Law alumni who posed seven arguments in six cases before the U.S. Supreme Court during the 2009-10 term catapulted the University of Florida Levin College of Law into the nation’s top three law schools — exceeded only by Harvard and Yale — based on figures compiled by the NLJ Supreme Court Insider.

In addition, Makar was reported by The National Law Journal as being the state solicitor general to have argued the most cases ever before the Supreme Court in a single term.

THE SOLICITOR GENERAL’S OFFICE

As exciting as appearing before the Supreme Court may be, for Makar, it’s all in a day’s work. As Florida’s solicitor general, whose office falls under that of the attorney general, Makar is charged with overseeing civil appeals involving the state’s interests in all state and federal appellate courts as well as any cases in the U.S. Supreme Court.

“Solicitor general is an office that handles appeals, particularly arguments before the Florida Supreme Court and the U.S. Supreme Court,” said Attorney General Bill McCollum (JD 68). “It’s a specialty office, with talent for making constitutional arguments at the Supreme Court level, both state and federal. I think those are the kinds of things you always want to see in your office, talented people with good ideas and insights who are able to apply them at the very highest levels.”

A year after being appointed Florida’s solicitor general in 2007, Makar argued his first case before the Supreme Court; a bankruptcy taxation case, Florida Dept. of Revenue v. Picadilly Cafeterias. The state’s argument prevailed. Makar was proud to have argued and won a reversal, but felt it might be his only case at the high court. Makar, who teaches a course and is preparing a book on famous constitutional cases from Florida, had no cases in the 2008 term. But the court granted review in an unprecedented five cases in 2009-10, resulting in a grueling, but no less thrilling, experience for his office. Makar worked with his staff to prepare briefs and oral arguments for four of the cases and assisted with the fifth, argued by Deputy Attorney General and Chief of Staff Joseph Jacquot (JD 99).

“It was very intense for the better part of a year. We had to do a tremendous amount of researching and writing the briefs, and preparing for oral argument,” Makar said. “The other aspect of these cases is the number of amicus briefs. … You might have one or two amicus briefs in a big case at the Florida Supreme Court, but when you’re talking about the U.S. Supreme Court, in some of these cases we had dozens of amicus briefs. So they multiply by a significant factor the amount of work you have to invest in the case.”

“IT TAKES A VILLAGE

In the Graham case alone, more than 15 amicus briefs were filed on behalf of Terrance Graham, a 23-year-old Florida inmate sentenced to life without parole for a series of nonhomicidal burglaries he committed when he was 16 and 17 years old. Graham’s attorney, Brian Gowdy (JD 99), a partner in the Jacksonville firm Creed & Gowdy, P.A., embraced the briefs and their authors as helpmates.

“Once the U.S. Supreme Court granted cert, there were many, many people who stepped forward to offer help,” Gowdy said. “There is a whole network of people out there involved in the issue of sentencing youths to very harsh punishments and they had already been in the planning stages in the anticipation that the court might grant certiorari in a case like this, not this particular case, but a case like this. It was an amazing process.”

Gowdy, who had been Graham’s appellate attorney from the start, found little in Graham’s original sentencing order to challenge on appeal. Because there were no viable procedural challenges to be made, Gowdy turned to the Eighth Amendment for a change in tactics.

“YOU MIGHT HAVE ONE OR TWO AMICUS BRIEFS IN A BIG CASE AT THE FLORIDA SUPREME COURT, BUT WHEN YOU’RE TALKING ABOUT THE U.S. SUPREME COURT, IN SOME OF THESE CASES WE HAD DOZENS OF AMICUS BRIEFS.” — SCOTT MAKAR (JD 87)
Scott Makar (JD 87) argued four cases before the U.S. Supreme Court during the 2009-2010 term.

Though Gowdy’s argument that life imprisonment for nonhomicide juvenile offenders is unconstitutional would be the one to prevail, he and Makar enjoyed a collegial and supportive relationship based on their shared experience before the high court.

“It’s comforting when you’re in the courtroom and look to the right and left and you see familiar, Florida faces, including Bryan’s and some of the judges from the First District Court of Appeal,” Makar said. “I think we both took comfort in the knowledge, that, ‘Hey, these two guys from Jacksonville made it here, and we’re going to do just fine.’ ”

LEGISLATIVE INTENT

During his argument before the court in Florida v. Powell, Jacquot drew confidence from his conviction that the Miranda warning is as much a tool for law enforcement as it is protection for suspects.

“I worked for seven years in the U.S. Senate, primarily at the Senate Judiciary Committee, and so textual interpretation is something that I’m very familiar with, mostly in regard to statutes,” Jacquot said. “But, in this case, there was a lot of textual interpretation at issue in terms of the Miranda warning itself. How does it read? Is it misleading? Is it reasonable? ... The theme I adopted was that the purpose of the Miranda warning is really to get at the truth, it’s not just about protecting a suspect’s rights.”

As with all the UF lawyers who argued before the Supreme Court, Jacquot’s preparation before his appearance at the high court was intensive. He collaborated with attorneys at the Department of Justice, who had joined in the case, to augment the original brief with additional points crucial to their arguments. He honed his advocacy skills in four moot court exercises to build confidence in the content and style of his delivery, and he studied the justice’s opinions on related cases to understand who among them could be advocates for his arguments and who could not.

“I knew going into it that I’d get some rough questioning from Justice Breyer, and indeed I did,” Jacquot said. “In the middle of an exchange with him, I heard a voice to my left say, ‘Counsel, I do believe you are correct.’ It was Justice Ginsburg, and so I quickly directed my argument to her and I saw Justice Breyer go from being on his elbows to leaning back in his chair, and I realized, ‘Now, the case is all about Justice Ginsburg.’”
Jacquot won Florida v. Powell by a comfortable 7-2 margin, with Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg writing the majority opinion, and Justice Stephen Breyer joining Justice John Paul Stevens in dissent.

“I think lawyers, particularly here in the attorney general’s office, do good every day,” Jacquot said. “But when you take a case to the U.S. Supreme Court, you know it’s going to set the law of the land. You really feel like your arguments are bettering society and, in this case, making good law, protecting law enforcement, and ultimately protecting citizens. It was a great experience.”

For Lisa Call (JD 91), an assistant federal public defender for the Middle District of Florida, getting a fair sentence for her client, Darnell Johnson, was her motivation to pursue certiorari for Johnson v. United States. Johnson had been sentenced to a mandatory minimum sentence of 15 years in prison under the Armed Career Criminal Act based on the act’s enhanced sentencing guidelines for violent felons, though his prior state conviction was for enhanced sentencing guidelines for violent felons. Call’s petition for certiorari pointed out circuit differences in interpretation of “physical force” under the Armed Career Criminal Act and argued that Florida’s definition of simple battery does not contain the element of physical force.

“When you look at Mr. Johnson’s record, you would expect to be introduced to one person, but he’s really very different than his record indicates. So I wanted a good result for him,” Call said. “It just happened that the Supreme Court has looked at this same sentencing statute several times over the last few years, so I felt like there was a good chance that once we were granted certiorari that he was going to get the good result we were seeking.”

In preparation, Call’s colleague, Rosemary Cakmis, researched and wrote an “extraordinary” brief, while Call examined past cases and attempted to anticipate policy arguments to which the members of the court would be receptive or lines of questioning they may pursue.

“I had a chart of each case that led up to our line of cases, outlining which justices had joined the opinions, when they had written separately, and what their justifications or concerns had been,” Call said. “Definitely, the level of preparation was entirely different than usual. From February until the argument in October, this was the only case I worked on. Normally, we don’t have that opportunity to just focus on one case, but because the Supreme Court hears so few cases, it’s worth the effort and dedication.”

The five-month wait until the court’s ruling was released was excruciating for Call and her colleagues, but when it was finally announced in March it was the news they’d been hoping to hear.

“I was so extremely relieved to see it in black and white that we were going to be able to come back for resentencing and that my client wasn’t going to face this extraordinary punishment,” Call said. “Mr. Johnson has recently been resentenced and received a sentence of time served. He essentially went from 15 years to four years. It was really great.”

WHY SO MANY FLORIDA CASES?

Florida is a large and diverse state of nearly 19 million people from all over the world and all walks of life, but that is most certainly not the only explanation behind the high number of Florida cases before the U.S. Supreme Court last term.

“Since the Rehnquist court came into existence, and we now also see it in the Roberts court, the court has been very interested in federalism issues, state’s rights issues,” Rush said. “Florida tends to be a leader on those types of issues, and is very progressive, I think, in putting out ideas about what state’s rights mean in the constitutional rhetoric or dialogue.”

“The advocates and the court are putting out new arguments, showing us new ways of thinking about things,” she said. “It’s an amazing system, when you think about it. It’s not perfect, but it has endured.”

The advocates and the court are putting out new arguments, showing us new ways of thinking about things.” — SHARON RUSH, UF LAW PROFESSOR
On the night of April 20, 52 miles off the coast of Louisiana in the Gulf of Mexico an explosion pierced the night sky, leaving 11 people dead and unleashing a steady stream of oil gushing into the Gulf throughout the summer, resulting in the largest oil spill in U.S. history.

The explosion of BP’s Deepwater Horizon oil rig — and the subsequent oil spill — deeply affected communities on the Gulf Coast on many levels. State governments, businesses — including the fishing and tourism industry — families, communities and wildlife have all struggled to deal with the spill.

Experts, Florida local governments grapple with policy and law in the wake of the Gulf oil spill

By Matt Walker
The questions it has raised in the legal world are still flowing freely almost two months after the well was declared dead Sept. 19. The media has largely moved on to other issues, but there is a long road ahead as legal experts assess local, state and federal laws, review previous disasters, evaluate the claims process, and mitigate the effects of — and hopefully prevent — future catastrophes.

At the University of Florida Fredric G. Levin College of Law, experts have formed the UF Law Oil Spill Working Group to assist in working through the numerous legal issues that have arisen since the spill.

“The mission of the law working group is to intensively evaluate and scrutinize the existing law that relates to oil spills,” said Jon Mills (JD 72), UF Law dean emeritus and head of the Oil Spill Working Group. “That would be evaluation of existing admiralty, federal, state laws and cases.”

“The laws are complex and overlapping. It’s not going to be easy to sort out,” said Mills, who also is director of UF Law’s Center for Governmental Responsibility.

The 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill in Alaska, the resulting federal Oil Spill Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA) and Florida statute 376 – Pollutant Discharge Prevention and Removal – are a few of the areas the group is focusing on to better grasp the current situation in Florida. But history and law offer limited guidance because of the unique circumstances of the Gulf spill.

“In Alaska there is one state involved and here there are four states. Here the damages are larger, considerably different and involve much more tourism,” Mills said.

And while many federal statutes focus on resource damage to wildlife and marine life, a big question that remains unanswered by previous legislation is remuneration for economic loss in a place like Florida. Some places in the Florida Panhandle had oil on the beaches, but Mills said many communities that did not see oil on their shores still suffered an economic loss due to the outside perception of the impact the oil spill had on the Gulf.

Mills offers this hypothetical scenario to illustrate the situation: If a hotel owner in Panama City Beach, which never had oil on the beach, still loses business over a period of years because of the perception of the Gulf Coast beaches, are those losses recoverable?

It’s still too early to know, Mills said. There are a lot of questions remaining about how the claims process will play out.

Kenneth Feinberg, the U.S. government administrator of BP’s $20 billion compensation fund, has yet to offer concrete guidelines for eligibility, but has expressed the possibility of giving more consideration to those who were not directly impacted by the spill.

For the residents of Bay County — where Panama City Beach is located — that could be good news. Although areas further west saw oiled shores, the amount of oil on Bay County beaches was negligible.

But Bay County’s tourism industry has taken a hit. County Attorney Terrell Arline (JD 80) said there was about a 15 percent downturn in Bay County tourism revenue between April, when the oil began flowing, and Labor Day weekend. The county recently filed a claim with BP for lost tourist tax revenues. And like Mills, he is also concerned with the effect of perception.

“It’s not going to wipe out the tourism industry in Florida,” he said.

ON THE GROUND

While the UF Law group was coming together to assess previous and current laws to assist with the spill, Florida’s Panhandle was preparing for the worst, trying to make existing laws work in its favor and ultimately just trying to get through the day.

“It was unprecedented. There wasn’t a playbook for this,” Arline said.

But because of Florida’s long history of dealing with the impacts of hurricanes, the state has become really good at responding to emergencies, he said. And because of their familiarity with the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) process, it was equipped to handle the potential disaster in a more efficient manner than some other places.

“We reused the FEMA process to submit our claims. We didn’t send them to FEMA, but used the FEMA protocols, the FEMA forms, the FEMA system,” Arline said.

Unlike the claims process for individuals, which are subject to Feinberg’s scrutiny, government claims are submitted directly to BP.

Arline said Bay County was limited to following the guidelines established under the Oil Pollution Act in certain situations, and that law operates on a top-down approach. He said the law’s procedures didn’t work as well for the Gulf spill, which required more immediate
action. But when the county was able to employ the FEMA approach, things progressed much more efficiently.

“The Emergency Management process is designed to be bottom-up, so the first responders are the people on the ground in the communities. They’re getting stuff done, and then they submit the bills,” he said. “We spent a tremendous amount of time trying to get approvals to do things that we felt were essential for our community because that’s the way the federal process was set up, and that just took too damn long.”

A little further west in Escambia County – one of the Florida counties that saw the most oil – County Attorney Alison Rogers (JD ’94) was also working out the best way to handle the rapidly changing situation, providing legal advice to the County Commission and its staff.

“When the oil spill first appeared to be posing a threat to our coastline we instituted a state of local emergency. We activated our emergency operations center to provide for a unified communications center so that everyone involved in the response would be under one roof to exchange thoughts and ideas,” Rogers said.

She helped dole out legal advice on a wide range of issues including environmental considerations, procuring supplies, filing claims and looking carefully at state and federal laws.

“The Oil Pollution Act and the state version of that (Florida statute 376) absolutely have been the guideposts of what we have been relying on,” she said.

Like so many communities along the Gulf Coast, Escambia County is still working through the effects of the spill and still waiting to see how things will play out.

“A lot of these issues are still unfolding,” Rogers said.

Many of the legal issues are going to be linked to the kind of damages the county suffers, and a lot of those damages have yet to be seen.

The county has claims pending with BP, and it is continuing to submit claims on a monthly basis, she said.

“We do not know at this point how much or whether property values are going to be affected by this, and if so, how much is attributable to the oil spill.” — ALISON ROGERS (JD ’94)
Joan Flocks (JD 91) said large disasters like the Gulf spill can also contribute to what some social scientists have called “corrosive communities.”

“The biggest remaining legal issue is going to have to do with property valuations,” Rogers said. Properties in Escambia County cannot be appraised until Jan. 1, “so we do not know at this point how much or whether property values are going to be affected by this, and if so, how much is attributable to the oil spill,” she said.

While the economic forecast is still uncertain, Rogers said she is optimistic that next year’s tourist season will be something to look forward to. And adding to that sense of optimism is the fact that the environmental outlook appears to be hopeful. But she said the county continues to find buried oil on beaches, and the waterways are being monitored for leftover oil as well.

Large disasters like the Gulf spill can also contribute to what some social scientists have called “corrosive communities,” said Joan Flocks (JD 91), director of the Social Policy Division of the Center for Governmental Responsibility and a member of the UF Law Oil Spill Working Group.

Flocks describes a corrosive community as one in which individuals are “very affected by the loss of their livelihoods and all the things that are related to that: mental illnesses, depression, family breakups, financial issues and all sorts of anxiety.” These stressors can eventually lead to the breakdown of individuals and communities.

“There are some ethnic communities that have been greatly impacted by the Gulf spill because of their reliance on fishing,” Flocks said. “We know there are populations there that are probably experiencing a lot of disproportional stress related to the decline of the fishing and related industries.”

Flocks said her research is still in the preliminary stages, but there have already been reports of higher depression rates in affected Gulf Coast communities and at least one suicide reported as a casualty from the spill.

Scholars have researched the long-term effects the Alaskan oil spill had on communities and lessons learned from these studies may be used to minimize detrimental effects on communities in the Gulf, she said.

One of her team’s main goals is to find ways the legal process can work better to make communities whole again by thinking outside the box and avoiding missteps that occurred in previous disaster situations.

LOOKING BACK, LOOKING FORWARD, LOOKING UP

While it has been established that much of the blame for the oil spill lies with BP, a confluence of laws, industries and organizations all had some role in allowing the oil spill to occur, said Alyson Flournoy, a UF Law professor and member of the UF Law Oil Spill Working Group.

“There are some ethnic communities that have been greatly impacted by the Gulf spill because of their reliance on fishing,” Flocks said. “We know there are populations there that are probably experiencing a lot of disproportional stress related to the decline of the fishing and related industries.”

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Overall, when you step back from the disaster, what emerges is a series of decisions: policy decisions, decisions by industry, decisions by agencies implementing policy—all of which balanced away the protection of health, human life and the environment against costs measured very narrowly,” said Flournoy, who is director of UF Law’s Environmental and Land Use Law Program.

Flournoy coordinated, edited and contributed to a study released by the Center for Progressive Reform, “Regulatory Blowout: How Regulatory Failures Made the BP Disaster Possible, and How the System Can Be Fixed to Prevent a Recurrence.”

Along with 12 other scholars, Flournoy was able to examine the disaster on a federal level, looking at the combination of legislation and regulations—or lack thereof—that contributed to the spill. The report gave special attention to the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, the former Minerals Management Service (MMS) and the newly named Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement (BOEMRE), which took the place of MMS.

Many of the needed government reforms have to do with prioritizing safety, health and environmental protection, which Flournoy said have previously garnered too little attention from the oil and gas drilling industry.

Flournoy said a recent report issued by the Outer Continental Shelf Safety Oversight Board, based in part on a survey of BOEMRE employees, shows movement in the right direction and provides a “finer grain resolution on some of the problems, as well as a better understanding of some of the cultural problems within the agency.”

Like many who are studying the problem, Flournoy professes cautious optimism about the legal community’s ability to solve the problems laid bare by the Gulf catastrophe.

“There are positive signs, but the real question is what kind of follow-through there will be now that the well has been sealed,” she said. “And given the fact that much of the oil is settled on the bottom of the ocean, literally out of sight and out of mind, the pressure to move resources and attention elsewhere is inevitable.”

Editor’s note: As this issue of UF LAW was going to press, the Obama administration announced the appointment of John H. Hankinson Jr. (JD 79) to coordinate restoration programs and projects in the Gulf Coast region as executive director of the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Taskforce. Hankinson will coordinate interagency efforts, oversee staff and outreach efforts, develop a regional ecosystem restoration strategy and ensure that science underpins the task force’s efforts.
If you turned on the TV at all this summer, there’s a good chance you saw images of oil-covered birds or oil-sodden wetlands flashing across the screen. It’s hard to ignore the fact that the Gulf oil spill had a significant impact on wildlife and ecosystems in the Gulf.

While some legal experts were sorting out the claims process or evaluating legal precedents in previous disasters, Heather Halter’s (JD 07) focus turned toward Gulf wildlife. Halter is a marine biologist in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s (NOAA) National Marine Fisheries Service, Office of Protected Resources. She works to protect marine mammals, sea turtles and species listed under the Endangered Species Act using her unique background, which combines biology, policy and law.

“To me personally this is just devastating,” Halter said. “I grew up on the Gulf Coast of Texas and I grew up swimming in the Gulf.”

During the spill Halter worked in NOAA’s incident command center in Silver Spring, Md., where she served as a “watch stander” for the National Marine Fisheries Service. Halter said she served as a conduit for questions and information flowing in and out of the center. She directed questions to the appropriate offices and relayed information to NOAA’s other incident command centers on issues like fishery closures, which were changing on a daily basis.

Halter said NOAA employees provided valuable expertise in handling the cleanup in the Gulf. Besides helping clean and release oiled turtles that were nesting on oily shores, they discovered that early cleanup strategies of burning oil off the water’s surface was actually burning juvenile sea turtles alive, she said. Oil would collect in big bunches of sargassum – a type of seaweed – on the surface, which made for ideal places for controlled burns.

“Juvenile sea turtles like to hang out under the protection of that sargassum,” Halter said.

One of the sea turtle species most affected by the spill is the Kemp’s Ridley, which was nesting on the Louisiana shores at the time of the spill, she said. As of mid-October, NOAA reported 465 documented dead Kemp’s Ridley turtles, compared to 64 dead loggerheads, 27 dead green turtles and 40 dead unknown turtle species. The resulting casualties will no doubt result in fewer nests next year.

In addition to hosting nesting turtles, the wetlands act as nurseries for juvenile fish and sharks, and serve as nutrient sinks that boost the water quality in coastal areas. All will be affected by the spill.

“The environmental baselines of the Gulf ecosystems as we knew them have definitely changed as a result of this oil spill,” Halter said. “This raises many questions for the future, such as ‘What was lost that we cannot see at this time? What long-term effects might oil in these ecosystems have?’ These and other questions are part of the natural resource damage assessment that comes next.”
Dear Alumni and Friends,

As of Aug. 31, the Fredric G. Levin College of Law has raised just over $24 million, which is 51.4 percent of the campaign goal of $47 million. With a little more than two years remaining in the campaign, we are counting on our alumni and friends to help us reach our goals.

Any cash gift made or any five-year pledge documented prior to the end of 2012 will count in full for the campaign. In addition, if you will be age 65 by 2012 your simple bequest, trust or insurance policy can count.

If you have already included the college in your will or as beneficiary of any insurance policy or retirement plan, please let us know so that we can count your gift toward our campaign totals and recognize you for your future gift!

To discuss making your gift to the Florida Tomorrow Campaign, please contact the Office of Development and Alumni Affairs at 352-273-0640 or e-mail frohlich@law.ufl.edu.

Kelley Frohlich
Senior Director of Development

The Office of Development and Alumni Affairs’ mission is to support the college’s priorities by raising financial support from our alumni and friends. Clockwise from top is the staff: Kathy Hendrixson, assistant director, who is the LCA board liaison, manages donor stewardship, events and annual fund operations; Jennifer Beback, program assistant; Kelley Frohlich, senior director, who leads major gift fundraising and campaign strategy; Kay Wimpy, secretary; Lauren Lehr, director, who works on major gift fundraising; and Grace Northern, associate director, who works with annual fund leadership gifts, law firm giving, class gifts and student organization fundraising as well as Law Alumni Council events. To contact the office call 352-273-0640 or e-mail frohlich@law.ufl.edu.

Florida Tomorrow campaign update

New Gifts

• An anonymous donor has committed a bequest of $4.5 million to fund scholarships. This gift will count in the Florida Tomorrow Campaign.

• Betsy Gallagher (JD 76) has documented the College of Law as beneficiary of a $75,000 life insurance policy. Gallagher is a member of the Law Center Association Board and partner in the Tampa law firm Kubicki Draper.

• Gene (JD 72) and Elaine Glasser have committed an additional $50,000 cash and $35,000 bequest to the Gene K. and Elaine Glasser Endowment Fund, which supports activities such as the Glasser Barbecue for students, faculty and staff at the college. Glasser is a member of the Law Center Association Board and partner in the Ft. Lauderdale firm Greenspoon Marder.

• John (JD 71) and “Weezie” Vreeland have committed $200,000 of a life insurance policy to the college. The gift will be divided so that $75,000 will benefit the Dennis Calfee Eminent Scholar Chair, $75,000 goes to the Graduate Tax Program Endowment and $50,000 goes to establish an endowment in their name to fund law student scholarships.

• The family and friends of Gerald A. Williams (JD 75), who passed away in May, have established the Gerald A. Williams Endowed Memorial Scholarship to be awarded to a deserving member of the Black Law Student Association (BLSA) of which Mr. Williams was a member and
active alumnus. Carolyn L. Williams, his surviving spouse, is the primary donor to the fund.

- Thank you to Carol Brewer (JD 79) for her role in directing a $100,000 cy pres award to benefit the law school. Brewer is a member of the Law Center Association Board and partner in the San Francisco firm Anderson, Ogilvie & Brewer LLP.

Book Award established in memory of Judge George L. Proctor

The Jacksonville Bankruptcy Bar Association has established a book award in Advanced Problems in Bankruptcy and Debtor Creditor Law to honor the career and legacy of former United States Bankruptcy Judge George L. Proctor (LLB 49). In 1975, Judge Proctor was appointed as the first U.S. Bankruptcy Judge to serve in Jacksonville, a position he held until his passing at the age of 81 in 2007. From taking his own case files between Jacksonville and Orlando for almost 15 years, to holding hearings on Saturday and Sunday mornings, he was dedicated to the work of the court. As dedicated as he was to his work, he cherished his family above all, including his wife of over 57 years, Gloria, three children and five grandchildren. As a testament to this, his college-age grandsons referred to him as their “best friend” at his funeral.

The book award was funded by members of the Jacksonville Bankruptcy Bar Association who made direct contributions to the law school. The outpouring of support was so great that the five-year pledge was fulfilled in less than two years. The group is considering sponsorship of an additional award. If any alumnus is interested in contributing to an additional gift in honor of Judge Proctor, please contact Kristyn Barber Leederken at Kristyn_Leederken@flmb.uscourts.gov.

Scholarships help first-generation, low-income students attend UF Law

Two new scholarships inspired by the Florida Opportunity Scholars Program for University of Florida undergraduates— which provide full scholarship and grant packages to first-generation college students from families earning less than $40,000 per year—are making Fredric G. Levin College of Law degrees attainable for deserving students. And alumni thinking of creating a named endowment of their own should take note of this innovative approach.

The Jim and Sharon Theriac Florida Opportunity Scholarship in Law Fund and the Shook, Hardy & Bacon Foundation Florida Opportunity Scholarship in Law both provide support for former Florida Opportunity Scholars who have been accepted at the Levin College of Law. The Theriac scholarships will also be available to first-generation, low-income college graduates from other schools.

“It’s for students like me,” said Theriac (JD 74), a first-generation college student himself.

Theriac said that sometimes the only thing standing between these students and their goals is their financial situation.

“I hope that it eases their financial worries to the point that they can focus on their studies,” Theriac said. “I hope that they become lawyers, lobbyists, business people, teachers … just that they maximize the education opportunity available to them in whatever field they feel they can do the most good.”

Theriac said he would love to have some of the alumni donate to the fund so it can become big enough so that any student who works hard enough to get in, is able to.

“Most if not all of my peers were first-generation college students and we were able to do that because there were jobs available and scholarships available,” he said. “I think it is our duty to provide the same opportunity for following generations.”

Theriac believes that “all Americans have to have access to the judicial process. Everyone has to believe, rightfully so, that they have a part in the American dream. And law is so dominant in our society that all people should have access, and hopefully this scholarship will help achieve that goal in some small fashion.”

“The cost of tuition can take law school out of reach for some potential star students, which is why need-based financial aid is so important,” said UF Law Dean Robert Jerry. “These students will be future leaders in our communities, our workplaces, and our state and nation, so it is important they have access to a legal education today. In addition, these resources are vital to developing a vibrant student body consisting of a variety of socioeconomic backgrounds and experiences. We are grateful to the Theriacs and Shook, Hardy & Bacon Foundation for recognizing and moving to assist with this.”

The foundation established the Shook, Hardy & Bacon Foundation Florida Opportunity Scholarship in Law last July. The grant will work toward the foundation’s overall mission of increasing diversity in the legal workplace.

“We noticed that the objectives of the Florida Opportunity Scholars Program seemed to line up perfectly with the mission of our foundation,” said SHB Foundation President Jay Simpson. “We are honored and proud to provide this assistance.”

For more information on creating or enhancing scholarship funds at the Levin College of Law, contact Kelley Frohlich, Senior Director of Development & Alumni Affairs, at 352-273-0640 or frohlich@law.ufl.edu.
The Three Rs

BY MATT WALKER

Veronica Roof (JD 06) creates a sustainable career in law by developing local and state plans and policies to reduce, reuse and recycle.
It’s all about sustainability for Veronica Roof (JD 06). From her career as a solid waste management consultant to her decision to attend law school, she believes it always pays to think about how things will look down the road.

On a daily basis, Roof assists state and local governments with recycling and solid waste management issues, helping them establish more sustainable approaches for dealing with the ever-increasing amounts of refuse that are the byproducts of modern life. And her decision to return to school to earn a law degree after establishing a career as a consultant provided her with the knowledge and skills to ultimately be more effective – and sustainable – in her field.

“A large percentage of my time is spent utilizing the skills I obtained in law school,” Roof said. In her current position at consulting firm R.W. Beck, a SAIC company, she is often required to draft or review contracts, ordinances and negotiations. Her background in law contributes to her effectiveness in that role.

When she began working for R.W. Beck in 2001, Roof said she was exposed to sustainability issues early on. And as she found herself working on an increasing number of law-related projects with state and local governments, the need for a law degree became clear.

“I just knew this is the area I wanted to continue in as a career,” she said. “Consulting just offers the opportunity to have a different project every day, and with the type of work I do, I actually see my projects being put into place in communities. To me, that’s rewarding.”

One of her recent rewarding projects came when she served as the project manager of a statewide construction- and demolition-debris characterization study in Georgia. The study – a follow-up to a 2005 municipal solid-waste characterization study – was the first time Georgia characterized construction and demolition debris. Roof was pleased with the results.

“It has provided an enormous amount of information for the state to pursue opportunities to educate both the private and public sectors to recover construction- and demolition-debris materials,” Roof said. “It will be great to see the impact of that knowledge five or 10 years down the road.”

Roof enjoys the direct connection she has to governments in helping them become more sustainable.

The most fulfilling aspect is the procurement work,” Roof said, “assisting local governments that are faced with procuring solid waste and recycling services once every 10 or 20 years, and they are across the table from the private sector that handles these issues every day. I’m able to bring them to an equal playing field and it ultimately benefits the community at large.”

And there doesn’t seem to be a shortage of projects out there that require Roof’s expertise. In the past year alone, she has assisted local governments in Oklahoma, Arizona, Texas, Minnesota, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida.

But that doesn’t stop her from getting back to Gainesville once in a while.

“You always have to squeeze in a Gator football game at least once a year,” she said.

Roof’s husband, Brian Roof (JD 06), is on the UF Law Alumni Council and was a two-term president of Florida Blue Key, so they both remain very active with the law school, she said.

With an undergraduate degree in business and a career in the consulting field working on sustainability issues, Roof has been able to use her law degree in a less traditional way, and she encourages current law students to do the same.

“Simply think outside the box,” Roof said. “A law degree opens a lot of opportunities for professions that law students may not have considered initially but can be extremely rewarding in the long run.”
Alumnus Peter Sleasman (JD 83) fights on behalf of Guatemalan immigrants targeted by local government

In a March 2006 nighttime raid, armed men burst into the homes of several frightened families. With little time to gather belongings and under threat of arrest if they tried to return, more than 100 men, women and children of Guatemalan-Mayan descent were herded into the streets — evicted from their homes with no place to go.

Though reminiscent of terrifying police and army actions during Guatemala’s 36-year civil war, this raid was perpetrated by officers of the law and code enforcement officials employed by the city of Lake Worth, Fla. The victims were residents of an apartment complex targeted by the city for its large immigrant population.

“One of the most egregious aspects of this case is the night police raid in the apartment complex,” said Peter P. Sleasman (JD 83), a senior staff attorney with Florida Institutional Legal Services in Gainesville. “A lot of the residents lived in Guatemala during the civil war and (faced) issues with police and army raids at night, so this raid had a lot of overtones to this group of clients and they were greatly affected by it.”

Sleasman was a member of a team of four — also including lead attorney Lisa Carmona of the Florida Equal Justice Center and attorneys Tequisha Myles of the Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County and Charles Elsesser of Florida Legal Services — who brought a civil suit against the city of Lake Worth on behalf of three women who were members of the evicted Guatemalan families.

As research for their litigation, the team hired an expert to create a statistical study that, according to Sleasman, “showed in fairly stark terms that the city’s code enforcement efforts specifically targeted areas of high immigrant population.”

Sleasman also said city police officers looked for code violations in a crime victim’s house when responding to a call in the neighborhood. The police officers would submit their findings to code enforcement, a practice they admitted they did not follow when responding to calls in the homes of white residents.

Sleasman said the raids were the city’s calculated strategy to force immigrants out of Lake Worth and discourage landlords from providing housing to them.

“Some of the city officials made clear comments that they were concerned about what they referred to as the ‘changing nature’ of their community. We felt there was a direct connection between those comments and the selective code enforcement that was going on in this case,” Sleasman said. “They were looking, I think, to send a message to landlords who were renting to immigrants that there was going to be increased code enforcement and increased scrutiny of their properties.”

He said the two main claims the team brought in their suit were due process violations regarding code enforcement and fair housing discrimination based on national origin. The heart of the due process violation was that the city didn’t allow the tenants opportunity to challenge the evictions.

According to The Florida Bar Foundation, the case resulted in a settlement that bans nighttime inspections unless there is
ample evidence one is necessary and appropriate. The settlement also provides that evacuated residents be given a written notice of their right to challenge the evacuation order and that they be given an opportunity for a hearing. In the event of an emergency evacuation, the settlement requires that displaced residents be provided information about social services agencies that might be able to assist them.

For their efforts on this case, the litigation team was awarded in June the 2010 Steven M. Goldstein Award for Excellence. The award is given by The Florida Bar Foundation to program grantees of the Foundation Legal Assistance for the Poor in recognition of projects with significant impact. All the attorneys on the case are members of the LAP program and work for legal services firms supported by the foundation.

“It took some creative thinking and outstanding advocacy in both litigation and negotiation to get this result,” said the Hon. William Van Nortwick (JD 70), a judge in Florida’s First District Court of Appeals and chair of the Goldstein award selection committee. “I don’t know what was on the mind of the city, but the result of this project is that these folks are no longer going to be selectively removed. There won’t be people knocking on their door in the middle of the night and moving them out of their home,” he said.

Sleasman is especially proud of the outcome of the case, which is just one of many he’s tackled during his 26-year career in public interest law.

“To the extent that the government can run roughshod over the rights of the poor, it typically sets the stage for government running roughshod over the rights of everyone,” Sleasman said. “And so everyone’s rights have to be protected, regardless of their position in society or their economic status, in order to protect the rights of all of us,” he said.
Gator graduate Renee Thompson (JD 99) gives back as president of The Florida Bar’s Young Lawyers Division.
As new alumni from the University of Florida Fredric G. Levin College of Law take their first steps into the legal profession, they can take comfort in knowing that a fellow Gator is there to offer insight and assistance. Renee Thompson (JD 99) is president of the Young Lawyers Division (YLD) of The Florida Bar, which, among other things, gives her the responsibility of introducing young lawyers to the many benefits available through local and state bar organizations.

Thompson recalls that as a student she held a common misconception of The Bar, which is that it serves mainly as a regulatory or disciplinary organization. “I never understood it, at that time, to be a leadership organization or an organization that can provide education and support to an attorney,” she said. One of the YLD’s recent developments may well change that common misconception. The YLD has created and fostered the Law Student Division, now active at each of Florida’s law schools.

“The Florida Bar has so much to offer young lawyers,” Thompson said, “and I think the Law Student Division is helping students see that earlier in their careers.”

One of Thompson’s main goals during her term is to oversee and coordinate circuit representatives to the YLD throughout the state. Each circuit has elected representatives who serve on the YLD Board of Governors, and meetings are held six times a year to plan and discuss the large number of activities and programs the YLD organizes and those planned by its local affiliates statewide. Among these programs are continuing legal education, professionalism education, pro bono and outreach activities, administration of scholarships and dozens of others. With an estimated 21,000 young lawyers in Florida, it’s no easy task.

The first several years of a lawyer’s career can be especially busy, so being active in the state YLD or a local young lawyer affiliate may seem like a struggle. However, Thompson pointed out that lawyers who are able to make time for it will improve their personal and professional lives.

“If you are a young lawyer looking around your office and thinking ‘I need others to help me find a sense of belonging,’ a young-lawyer affiliate is a great way to start,” she said. “Your local affiliate can be not only a networking opportunity and help you grow as a professional, but it can really become a source of some of your life-long friends in your practice of law.”

Thompson understands that time-crunch better than most since she has significant statewide responsibilities as well as the demands of her own career. Luckily, she says she has found a nurturing environment at Mateer Harbert, P.A., where she works as a senior associate in the firm’s Ocala office.

“They have been the most supportive group of people you can imagine,” Thompson said. “I’m tasked with the responsibility of being in a lot of places at once, in addition to handling my case load. Even still, they’ve been not only supportive of this endeavor but encouraging as well. They know that my involvement with The Bar helps me become a better practitioner.”

While Thompson’s responsibilities with the YLD can be time-intensive, they also allow her to grow as a lawyer, which benefits her firm and her clients.

“It allows me to work with amazing attorneys all over the state,” she said, “and gives me a built-in network. As a young lawyer, you really need to be able to reach out to your peers, and, in that regard, I think I bring a strong sense of community.”

Thompson is following something of a Gator tradition in taking on this responsibility, as over half of the past YLD presidents have been UF Law alumni. Thompson, for one, is not surprised by this statistic.

“The University of Florida is an amazing institution,” she said, “and they’ve always put out some of the best graduates and the best leaders in the state and in the nation.”

One of the perks of the job is that Thompson returns to Gainesville to speak with students and help them as they embark on their careers.

“I couldn’t be happier to be involved with what’s happening here at the law school,” she said. “In every opportunity I get to serve to help our students and graduates, I try to be as involved as possible.”

Thompson described part of her motivation to do so as a way of giving back. “It meant so much to me, as a student, to see the active alumni that we had and to be a part of the Gator Nation, so it’s really important to me to foster that and be a part of it now that I am a practicing attorney.”

If you are a young lawyer ... thinking ‘I need others to help me find a sense of belonging,’ a young-lawyer affiliate is a great way to start.”

— Renee Thompson (JD 99)
HON. DONALD D. SLESNICK II (JD 68), mayor of Coral Gables, received the Friend of Foreign Service Medal from Taiwanese representatives “in recognition of his remarkable contribution to the friendship between the Republic of China (Taiwan) and the United States of America.” This diplomatic tribute makes Mayor Slesnick the first Florida leader to receive a medal for his contributions to the promotion of international relations with Taiwan.

1960
James C. Rinaman, of Marks Gray P.A. in Jacksonville, is celebrating his 50th year of service to the legal profession. He has been at Marks Gray since June 1960.

1962
J. Charles Gray, of the GrayRobinson, P.A. Orlando office, was named to the 2010 Florida Super Lawyers’ list for his work in environmental law.

C. Michael Shalloway, of Shalloway & Shalloway, P.A. specializing in elder law and special needs trust in West Palm Beach, has been honored every year since 1967 in Florida Super Lawyers’ magazine.

1964
Gerald F. Richman, president of Richman Greer, P.A. in the West Palm Beach office, was named to Florida Trend Legal Elite Hall of Fame for the second year in a row. He was named a Band 2 lawyer for the general commercial litigation practice area by Chambers USA: America’s Leading Lawyers for Business. There are six bands in the ranking system, Band 1 being the highest. He was also named to the 2010 Florida Super Lawyers’ list.

1966
Jon Agee, of Fort Lauderdale, has published his third novel under the pseudonym Noah Bond. The Lost Testimony of Bones LeBeau is an accurate account of the Kennedy assassination from inception through implementation as told by a fictitious person who worked for the New Orleans mob. See noahbond.com for more information about his novels.

Richard M. Robinson, of the Orlando office of GrayRobinson, P.A. was named to the 2010 Florida Super Lawyers’ list for his work in tax law.

1968
Kirk N. Kirkconnell, of Kirkconnell, Lindsey, Snure, Yates & Ponall, P.A. in Winter Park, has been inducted as a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers.

1969
Charles H. Egerton, of Dean Mead, Egerton, Bloodworth, Capouano & Bozarth, P.A.’s Orlando’s office, was selected to chair the American Bar Association’s Section of Taxation, the nation’s largest organization of tax lawyers.

Alan G. Greer, a shareholder with Richman Greer, P.A. in Miami, was selected for the 2010 Lawdragon 500 Leading Lawyers in the U.S. list. Greer has also been named to the Florida Trend Legal Elite’s Hall of Fame for the second year in a row. He was named to the 2010 Florida Super Lawyers’ list and he was also named a Band 1 lawyer for the general commercial law.

SHARE YOUR NEWS
Send your class notes to classnotes@law.ufl.edu or to: UF Law magazine, Levin College of Law, University of Florida, P.O. Box 117633, Gainesville, FL 32611. If you wish to include your e-mail with your class note, make the additions to the class note and provide permission to print. Notes are due March 15 for the spring issue.
A foundation for success

Marjorie Thomas (JD 76) traded her legal career for the medical news business

BY ROBERTA O. ROBERTS

After 10 years of legal practice Marjorie Thomas (JD 76) discovered a nose for news.

Following her investment in a client’s startup medical news company, Thomas and client Bette BonFleur decided Thomas should take a professional leap from the law to become a 50/50 partner in Ivanhoe Broadcast News — now the largest medical news-gathering organization in the country, delivering breakthrough medical news to millions of Americans nationwide via television and its website: www.ivanhoe.com.

“I just planned to help her buy a camera for her TV news business and, lo and behold, I started doing all the things she didn’t like to do,” Thomas said.

Thomas said she loved calling station clients, negotiating contracts, conducting financial analysis and managing staff. When founder BonFleur decided to leave the Orlando-based business to move to Virginia in 1995, Thomas happily stepped up to the plate as Ivanhoe Broadcast News’ CEO and publisher.

BonFleur felt she left her business in good hands.

“It never occurred to me that she would not do the right thing,” BonFleur said. “She’s also my best friend and I trust her implicitly.”

As the company’s CEO, Thomas created an innovative corporate environment based on a philosophy she and BonFleur shared of building a business that employees would never want to leave. These innovations include a company concierge to run errands for employees, a massage therapist who makes monthly office visits, work-from-home Fridays, a dog-friendly office and a trip every other year for employees to work in a foreign country for a week.

In addition to making herself and her employees happy, Thomas said she feels rewarded when people receive the medical help they need as a result of Ivanhoe’s news distribution.

Thomas shared a story of a diabetic woman in Denver, who, after seeing a story on Ivanhoe about a new medical procedure developed by a California doctor, canceled her surgery for the next day to amputate one of her legs. Instead, she flew to California to consult the doctor featured in the Ivanhoe program, who saved her leg from amputation.

“I want each day to be better than the past day for as many people as possible, and certainly medical and technological advances are the fastest ways to do that,” Thomas said.

Before getting into the news-gathering business, Thomas was an attorney, and has worked as a banker and a computer programmer. She said she went into law because it was her best chance for success at the time.

“It was 1973 and I didn’t think the future for a woman in business was open,” she said. “I wasn’t looking to establish my own business, I was looking for jobs with other companies and I had a very difficult time getting businesses to offer me a job in a management training position. And so I said, ‘I’ve got to go back to school and get a job that has an unlimited future,’ and that is definitely what law has if people take advantage of it.”

Thomas said she became the first woman to work as an attorney at Vandenberg, Gay & Burke, now Foley Lardner, LLP, in Orlando in 1976. Although she is no longer practicing law, she believes that law gave her the foundation she needed to be successful at starting and growing Ivanhoe Broadcast News.

“If you are looking to work less hours or have less pressure than law, don’t go into the business world because it has the same or more than the legal world,” Thomas said. “But if you are looking to do something that is dynamic and exciting that you love, then if it isn’t law, move on into the business world because law is a great training ground for running a business.”

Her advice for legal professionals looking to take the leap to start their own businesses?

“Be ready to cut your income by 75 percent and work harder than you’ve ever worked in your life. And good luck,” she said, “because if you succeed, it is the most exciting thing you could do.”
LESLEY LOTT (JD 74), founder of Lott & Friedland, PA., an intellectual property law firm in Coral Gables, was elected to The Florida Bar Board of Governors on April 23. The Board of Governors is responsible for the governance of The Florida Bar, including budgeting, personnel, policy, disciplinary, professionalism, program and policy issues.

1970

The Hon. Rosemary Barkett, of the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals, received the Arab American Institute and Foundation’s Najeeb Halaby Award for Public Service. She was also a main speaker at this year’s American Society of Comparative Law’s 18th International Congress of Comparative Law in Washington, D.C.

John M. Brumbaugh, of Richman Greer, PA., in Miami, was named a Band 3 lawyer for the general commercial litigation practice area by Chambers USA: America’s Leading Lawyers for Business. There are six bands in the ranking system, Band 1 being the highest. He was also named to the 2010 Florida Super Lawyers’ list.

Robert J. Dickman, of Dickman, Epstein & Dickman in Miami, was named to the 2010 Florida Super Lawyers’ list.

1971

John K. Vreeland, of the GrayRobinson, PA., Lakeland office, was named to the 2010 Florida Super Lawyers’ list for his work in estate planning and probate law.

1972

William H. Andrews, of the GrayRobinson, PA., Jacksonville office, was named to the 2010 Florida Super Lawyers’ list for his work in employment and labor. He was also named to the 2010 Florida Trend’s Legal Elite.

Christopher M. Fear, of the GrayRobinson, PA., Lakeland office, was named to the 2010 Florida Super Lawyers’ list for his work in business/corporate law.

Gene K. Glasser, a managing shareholder of Greenspoon Marder, PA., in Fort Lauderdale, was named to the 2010 Florida Super Lawyers’ list. He practices tax, trust and estate law.

Manuel Menendez, Jr., chief judge of the 13th judicial circuit (Hillsborough County), was honored July 24 as Jurist of the Year by the Florida chapters of the American Board of Trial Advocates at its annual convention in Naples.

1973

Jeff Garvin was added to the 2011 Best Lawyers in America list in the specialties of personal-injury litigation and medical malpractice law. He was also listed in the 2010 edition of Florida Trend’s Legal Elite and has been continually on the Florida Super Lawyers’ list since 2004.

Raleigh “Lee” Greene, of R.W. Greene, PA., in St. Petersburg, was named to the Best Lawyers in America 2010 list.

Mike Palahach, of Michael Palahach III, PA., in Coral Gables, was named again to the Florida Super Lawyers’ list. He has been a member since 2006.

Pamela O. Price, of the GrayRobinson, PA., Orlando office, was named to the 2010 Florida Super Lawyers’ list for her work in estate planning and probate law.

Ronald S. Reed, of the GrayRobinson, PA., Tampa office, was named to the 2010 Florida Super Lawyers’ list for his work in family law.

Gerald A. Rosenthal, a senior partner in Rosenthal, Levy & Simon, PA., in West Palm Beach, was named to Best Lawyers in America for the 17th consecutive year. Rosenthal has dedicated his professional life to aggressively representing catastrophically injured victims of workplace accidents and toxic exposures.

1974

Frederick W. Leonhardt, of the GrayRobinson, PA., Orlando office, was named to the 2010 Florida Super Lawyers’ list for his work in government relations.

Richard Malchon, partner with Adams and Reese’s Tampa and St. Petersburg offices.
Stephen A. Walker, of Lewis, Longman & Walker, P.A.’s Jacksonville office, was named to the 2010 Florida Super Lawyers’ list. He was also named to the 2011 Best Lawyers in America list in environmental law.

L. Geoffrey Young, partner with Adams and Reese’s St. Petersburg office, was listed in Tampa Bay Magazine’s 2010 list of Tampa Bay’s Top Lawyers for his work in banking law.

Carlton F. Bennett, of Bennett and Zydron, P.C. in Virginia Beach, Va., has been listed in The Best Lawyers in America 2010. He has been listed in Virginia Super Lawyers since 2007. Bennett is recognized as an expert in traumatic brain damage litigation, nursing home malpractice and wrongful death cases.

Robert T. Cunningham Jr., of Cunningham Bounds, LLC in Mobile, Ala., was named one of the top 10 attorneys in the state of Alabama for the second year in a row by Super Lawyers magazine. He has been listed in Best Lawyers in America since 1987. Cunningham was also recently named to Lawdragon’s 500 Leading Lawyers in America 2010.

Wayne E. Flowers, shareholder of Lewis, Longman & Walker, P.A. in Jacksonville, was selected to the 2010 Florida Super Lawyers’ list in the area of environmental litigation. He was also named to the 2011 Best Lawyers in America list in environmental law and water law.

Mark P. Buell, of Buell & Elligett, P.A. in Tampa, has again been recognized as a leading trial lawyer on the Florida Super Lawyers’ list, Best Lawyers in America and The Legal Elite for 2010. Buell is Board Certified as a civil trial and business litigation lawyer by The Florida Bar. A former president of the Hillsborough County Bar Association, he practices primarily in the areas of eminent domain/property rights and plaintiff’s personal injury.

Chuck Modell, of Larkin Hoffman Daly & Lindgren Ltd., was named by Chambers USA as one of the top 20 franchise lawyers in the nation. Modell practices law in the firm’s franchise group, which was named one of the top 10 franchise practices in the nation.

Dennis J. Wall, principal with Dennis J. Wall, attorney at law, a professional association in Winter Springs and Orlando, was named to the 2010 Florida Legal Elite for his work in insurance by Florida Trend magazine. He was also named to the 2010 Florida Super Lawyers’ list. Wall is the author of Litigation and Prevention of Insurer Bad Faith, Second Edition published by Shepard’s/McGraw-Hill. Wall’s 2010 supplement has just been published in 685 pages, cover to cover, in its printed edition by West Publishing Company, and online. As of the 2010 supplement, Wall evaluates more than 3,800 cases, statutes and other authorities. Wall is also the co-author of CAT Claims, Insurance Coverage for Disasters (West Publishing Company 2008, 2010 supplement in progress).

William A. Boyles, of the GrayRobinson, PA. Orlando office, was named to the 2010 Florida Super Lawyers’ list for his work in tax law.

Robert E. Gordon, of Gordon & Doner, P.A. in Palm Beach Gardens, was named to the 2010 Florida Super Lawyers’ list.

Robert J. Merlin, of Robert J. Merlin, P.A. in Coral Gables, lectured on collaborative family law to the Collaborative Divorce Institute of Tampa Bay in June. The purpose of the meeting was to help the Collaborative Divorce Institute of Tampa Bay become established as a new organization that promotes the practice of collaborative family law in the Tampa Bay area.

Scott N. Richardson, of West Palm Beach, has become a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers. Richardson is chief counsel to State Attorney Michael A. McAuliffe of the 15th Judicial Circuit, Palm Beach County. He is board certified by The Florida Bar in criminal law and has been included in the Bar Register of Preeminent Lawyers since 2008.

Thomas J. Wilkes Jr., of the GrayRobinson, PA. Orlando office, was named to the 2010 Florida Super Lawyers’ list for his work involving government, cities and municipalities.

Richard M. Zabak, of the GrayRobinson, PA. Tampa office, was named to the 2010 Florida Super Lawyers’ list for his work in business litigation. He was also named to the 2010 Florida Trend’s Legal Elite.
HON. JOHN E. JORDAN (JD 83), an Orange County judge, was selected as the recipient of the 2009-2010 Hispanic Bar Association of Central Florida Jurist of the Year Award. Judge Jordan is recognized in appreciation for his long-time service to the HBACF and its goal of serving Hispanic lawyers, law students and the entire Hispanic community.

1979

Terri Salt Costa, a shareholder with Williams Parker Harrison Dietz & Getzen in Sarasota, was selected to Florida Trend’s 2010 Legal Elite.

Hon. Bruce E. Kasold, of Washington, D.C., became chief judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veteran’s Affairs. Kasold previously served in the Judge Advocate General’s Corps before retiring from the military in 1994.

1980

Tom Dannheisser, Santa Rosa County attorney, was appointed by Gov. Charlie Crist on Aug. 9 to take over a position being created by the retirement of Judge David Ackerman in Pensacola.

Manuel Epelbaum, of Dickman, Epelbaum & Dickman in Miami, was named to the 2010 Florida Super Lawyers’ list.

Peter T. Kirkwood, a shareholder in the Tampa firm of Barnett, Bolt, Kirkwood, Long & McBride, was named Tampa’s Tax Lawyer of the Year for 2010 by Best Lawyers.

Denis H. Noah, of Henderson, Franklin, Starnes & Holt, P.A. in Fort Meyers, was named to the 2010 Florida Super Lawyers’ list. He focuses his practice in the areas of commercial real estate transactions, commercial and residential real estate development, real estate finance and the resolution of title problems and title insurance claims.

Charles M. Rand, of Charles M. Rand, P.A., became district governor of Rotary District 6980 on July 1.

David L. Smith, of the GrayRobinson, P.A. Tampa office, was named to the 2010 Florida Super Lawyers’ list for his work involving government, cities and municipalities.

1981

Kimberly L. Johnson, managing partner of both the Tampa and Naples offices of Quarles & Bradley LLP, was named to Florida Trend magazine’s 2010 Florida Legal Elite and 2011 Best Lawyers in America lists.

1982

Terry Delahunty, a shareholder in GrayRobinson, P.A.’s Orlando office, has become a Florida Supreme Court Certified Circuit Court Mediator.

Jean H. McCreary, of Nixon Peabody LLP in New York, N.Y., has been recognized by Chambers and Partners Chambers USA: America’s Leading Lawyers for Business as a leader in the field of environmental law.

Anita Ponder, of Chicago, has joined Seyfarth Shaw, LLP in New York, as a partner in the government contracts and construction practice groups. Ponder concentrates her practice in government contracts, government procurement and government relations.

1983

Robert Dellecker, a partner in Dellecker, Wilson, King, McKenna & Ruffner, LLP in Orlando, was named to the 2010 Florida Super Lawyers’ list.

Ira R. Gershon, founding dean of the Charleston (S.C.) School of Law, was named the new dean of the University of Mississippi School of Law.

William F. Hamilton, of the Quarles & Brady, LLP Tampa office, was named to the 2010 Chambers USA directory and 2011 Best Lawyers in America list for his work in litigation.

Scott G. Hawkins, shareholder and vice chair of Jones, Foster, Johnston & Stubbs, PA. in West Palm Beach and The Florida Bar president-elect became a designated director of The Florida Bar Foundation on July 1. Hawkins practices business litigation law.
Stephen L. Kussner, of the GrayRobinson, P.A. Tampa office, was named to the 2010 Florida Super Lawyers’ list for his work in real estate law.

Peter Sleasman, of Florida Institutional Legal Services in Gainesville, as part of a four-member litigation team was awarded the 2010 Steven M. Goldstein Award for Excellence in June for a code discrimination case against Guatemalans in Lake Worth. The award is given by The Florida Bar Foundation to program grantees of the Foundation Legal Assistance for the Poor in recognition of projects with significant impact.

Paul Steven Singerman, Co-CEO of Berger Singerman, a Florida business law firm, was named one of the Top 10 Florida in Super Lawyers. Singerman is active throughout the United States in large and complex restructuring, insolvency and bankruptcy cases.

George Vaka’s law firm, Vaka Law Group PL in Tampa, was named one of the “Coolest Office Spaces” in the May 14 Tampa Bay Business Journal. Vaka was also added to the 2010 Best Lawyers in America and Florida Super Lawyers’ list.

Glenn J. Waldman, of Waldman Trigoboff Hildebrandt Marx & Calnan, P.A. in Weston, has been on the Florida Super Lawyers’ list every year since 2009. He has also been elected to the Florida Trend Legal Elite each year since 2005.

John “Jay” White III, of Richman Greer, P.A. in West Palm Beach, was named to the 2010 Florida Trend Legal Elite.

Glenn J. Waldman was appointed by Gov. Charlie Crist to the 4th District Court of Appeal Judicial Nominating Commission for a four-year term beginning Sept. 8. Waldman is a former prosecutor for the Judicial Qualifications Commission and is the founder of Waldman Trigoboff Hildebrandt Marx & Calnan, P.A., a South Florida-based complex commercial-litigation firm. He is also a certified arbitrator, and a circuit- and federal-court mediator.

1984

Cheryl J. Lister has recently joined Bavol Judge, P.A. in Tampa as counsel. She was also named to Tampa Bay’s Top Lawyers list by Tampa Bay Magazine. Lister concentrates her practice in the areas of complex state and federal litigation at both the trial and appellate court levels.

1985

Robert W. Bivins, of Bivins & Hemenway, P.A. in Valrico has been elected to serve on the board of directors of the Greater Brandon Area Chamber of Commerce. He was also named to the 2010 Florida Super Lawyers’ list for his work in real estate, business law and commercial law.

Alan B. Cohn, partner of Greenspoon Marder, P.A. in Fort Lauderdale, was named to the 2010 Florida Super Lawyers’ list. He practices tax, trust and estate law.

Brenda Malouf Durden, of Lewis, Longman & Walker, P.A.’s Jacksonville office, was named to the 2011 Best Lawyers in America list in real estate law.

Mark W. Klingensmith, of Sonneborn Rutter Cooney & Klingensmith, P.A. in West Palm Beach, was elected mayor of Sewall’s Point at the Sewall’s Point Town Commission’s organizational meeting. He is also a member of UF Law’s Law Alumni Council.

John Elliott Leighton, founding partner of Leighton Law, P.A. personal injury law firm, presented a “Resort Torts: Vacation, Resort, and Recreational Liability” seminar to central and south Florida lawyers in Orlando and Miami. He was recently elected to the Miami chapter of The American Board of Trial Advocates. Leighton was re-elected for a fourth term as chairman of The Academy of Trial Advocacy. He is also co-chairman of the Inadequate Security Litigation Group of the American Association for Justice. Leighton presented “Terrorism as an Inadequate Security Case” at the AAJ Annual Convention in Vancouver, British Columbia, on July 13. Leighton was recently selected by his peers for inclusion in Best Lawyers in America 2011 in the field of personal injury litigation for the fourth consecutive year. Leighton was also selected to the Florida Super Lawyers’ list for the fifth year in a row.

Daniel F. McIntosh, attorney and partner with Lowndes, Drosdick, Doster, Kantor & Reed, P.A. in Orlando, was recently ap-
PAUL QUINN (JD 87), a shareholder in GrayRobinson’s Orlando office, has been elected to the board of directors for United Arts of Central Florida and has been re-elected vice president of the Orlando Ballet.

pointed to serve as chairman of the Central Florida Chapter of the Duke University Alumni Admissions Advisory Committee (Duke AAAC).

Clifford B. Shepard, a shareholder with Shepard, Smith & Cassady, PA. in Maitland, Fl., was named general counsel to the Florida Redevelopment Association. He is board certified by The Florida Bar in city, county and local government law and was named to the Florida Super Lawyers’ list and Florida Trend Legal Elite since 2005.

Guy Whitesman, partner and chair in Henderson, Franklin, Starnes & Holt, P.A.’s business and tax division in Fort Meyers, is now the chair of The Florida Bar tax section. He was also named to the 2010 Florida Super Lawyers’ list.

1986

John A. Kirst Jr., of the GrayRobinson, P.A. Orlando office, was named to the 2010 Florida Super Lawyers’ list for his work in civil litigation defense.

William Ruffer, a partner in Dellecker, Wilson, King, McKenna & Ruffer, LLP in Orlando, was named to the 2010 Florida Super Lawyers’ list.

Frederick S. Schrils, of the GrayRobinson, P.A. Tampa office, was named to the 2010 Florida Super Lawyers’ list for his work in business litigation.

David A. Wallace, a shareholder with Williams Parker Harrison Dietz & Getzen in Sarasota, was named to the 2010 Florida Super Lawyers’ list.

1987

William S. Callahan, former managing partner at Ruden McClosky, has joined Roetzel & Andress LPA’s Orlando office as a partner in the real estate practice group.

Hon. John “Buddy” Dyer, mayor of Orlando, has been appointed by President Obama to be a member of the advisory committee for trade policy and negotiations.

Thomas H. Gunderson, of Henderson, Franklin, Starnes & Holt, P.A. in Fort Meyers, was named to the 2010 Florida Super Lawyers’ list. His primary practice areas include commercial real estate transactions, commercial and residential real estate development, banking law and property owners’ association law.

1988

Richard M. Benrubi, partner at Liggio, Benrubi, PA. in West Palm Beach, was named to the Florida Super Lawyers’ list for the fourth consecutive year. He has also been named in the 2009 and 2010 South Florida Legal Guide to Top Lawyers. Benrubi is a Board Certified Civil Trial Lawyer who specializes in handling insurance disputes, bad faith and personal injury cases.

Mark S. Meland, co-founder and partner in the law firm of Meland, Russin and Budwick, P.A. in Miami, has been listed in the 2011 edition of The Best Lawyers in America in the practice area of real estate law.

John F. Potanovic, of Henderson, Franklin, Starnes & Holt, P.A. in Fort Meyers, was named to the 2010 Florida Super Lawyers’ list. He defends employers in discrimination and harassment lawsuits, including cases brought under Title VII, the ADA, the FLSA, as well as matters under the Fair Labor Standards Act, EEOC investigations and all aspects of employment law counseling.

1989

Stuart R. Morris, founding partner of the Morris Law Group with offices in Boca Raton, Aventura, West Palm Beach and Weston, was named to the 2010 Florida Super Lawyers list. Morris focuses his practice on estate planning. He is also a certified public accountant.
UF Law alumni took the helm of The Florida Bar during the summer as Mayanne Downs (JD 87) was sworn in June 25 as the 62nd president of The Florida Bar and Scott Hawkins (JD 83) was sworn in as president-elect during a ceremony at the General Assembly in Tallahassee.

Downs, of King, Blackwell, Downs & Zehnder, P.A. in Orlando, is Orlando city attorney and in her acceptance speech at the induction ceremony Downs credited her UF Law education with her success.

“I shall not underestimate the role you and the University of Florida law school played in shaping me and my success,” Downs said. “And it’s at the University of Florida where I became marked, forever more, by the bright orange and blue of the Gator Nation, to which I shall always be true and proud in spirit.”

Both Downs and Hawkins are double Gators. They earned their undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Florida.

PICTURED CLOCKWISE: Current and former Florida Bar leaders gather at the UF Law Alumni reception held at the Florida Bar Midyear meeting in Orlando Sept. 23. From left are: Former Young Lawyer Division president Jewel White Cole (JD 95), Board of Governors member Jake Schickel (JD 72), President-elect Scott Hawkins (JD 83), Former YLD President and board member Scott Atwood (JD 95), President Mayanne Downs (JD 87), UF Law Dean Robert Jerry, Executive Director John F. Harkness Jr (JD 69), YLD President Renee Thompson (JD 99), board member Gwynne Young (JD 74), and board member Daniel DeCubelis (JD 81).; Mayanne Downs at the General Assembly in Tallahassee takes the oath of office to become president of The Florida Bar during a ceremony administered by then-Chief Justice Peggy A. Quince of the Florida Supreme Court; Scott Hawkins (JD 83) is sworn in as president-elect of The Florida Bar accompanied by his wife Lisa.
Ellen S. Morris, a partner of Elder Law Associates, P.A., with offices in Boca Raton, Aventura, West Palm Beach, and Weston, has been included in the Super Lawyers South Florida 2010 edition and Florida Trend magazine’s 2010 Legal Elite.

Vincent L. Valenza, of McNamee, Lochner, Titus & Williams, P.C. in New York, head of the firm’s corporate and tax law department, has been elected the firm’s managing principal effective July 1.

1990

Andrea Hartley, of Akerman Senterfitt, was named National Chair of the American Bar Association’s Law Practice Management Section, effective Sept. 1. This section of the ABA is comprised of about 17,000 members.

Edward M. Mullins, a founding shareholder in Miami-based Astigarraga Davis, was newly elected as the chair of The Florida Bar International Law section.

1991

Steven L. Beiley, a partner with Adorno & Yoss, LLP, in Coral Gables, was named a top practitioner in Florida Trend magazine’s Legal Elite list for 2010. Adorno & Yoss LLP is the nation’s largest certified minority-owned law firm.

Todd L. Bradley was named to the 2010 Best Lawyers in America and Florida Super Lawyers’ lists.

Mercedes Gonzalez Hale has joined the Tampa office of Broad and Cassel’s commercial litigation practice group. A licensed Realtor, Hale has also represented clients in cases involving real estate disputes. Hale is fluent in Spanish, and she regularly represents Spanish speaking clients by assisting them with various business endeavors throughout the Tampa Bay area.

Alan M. Pickert, of Terrell Hogan P.A. in Jacksonville, was named to the Florida Super Lawyers’ list and Florida Trend’s Legal Elite every year since 2006.

Steven J. Solomon, of the GrayRobinson, P.A. Melbourne office, was named to the 2010 Florida Super Lawyers’ list for his work in bankruptcy and creditor/debtor rights.

John V. Tucker, founding shareholder with Tucker & Ludin, P.A. in Clearwater and Tampa, was a featured lecturer in April at the Annual Disability Law Conference sponsored by the National Association of Disability Representatives in Chicago. Tucker is AV-rated and his practice includes litigation and appeals of disability insurance, social security disability and veterans disability benefit claims.

1992

Morgan R. Bentley, a shareholder with Williams Parker Harrison Dietz & Getzen in Sarasota, was selected to Florida Trend’s 2010 Legal Elite.

Heather A. Owen, partner in the Constangy, Brooks & Smith, LLP Jacksonville office, was named to the 2010 Florida Super Lawyers’ list for her work in employment and labor law.

1993

M. Scott Thomas joined Rogers Towers, P.A.’s St. Augustine office as a shareholder in the commercial litigation department. Thomas’ practice includes complex commercial matters, contract disputes, business torts and real estate litigation.

1994

Clay C. Brooker, a partner with the law firm of Cheffy Passidomo in Naples, joined the Friends of Rookery Bay board of directors earlier this year. Brooker is serving on the Reserve’s Master Plan Committee. Brooker is certified by The Florida Bar as a specialist in city, county and local government law.

Christopher B. Lunny, of Radey Thomas Yon & Clark in Tallahassee, has been listed on the 2010 Florida Super Lawyers’ list in the area of employment and labor law.

Kenneth McKenna, a partner in Dellecker, Wilson, King, McKenna & Ruffier, LLP, in Orlando, was named to the 2010 Florida Super Lawyers’ list.
Jack R. Reiter, a partner in Adorno & Yoss LLP’s Miami office, was named to the 2010 Best Lawyers in America list. He heads the firm’s appellate department.

Kimberly Page Walker, a shareholder with Williams Parker Harrison Dietz & Getzen in Sarasota, was selected to Florida Trend’s 2010 Legal Elite.

J. Matthew Belcastro, of Henderson, Franklin, Starnes & Holt, P.A. in Fort Meyers, was named to the 2010 Florida Super Lawyers’ list. He was also included in the 2010 Legal Elite list by Florida Trend. Belcastro concentrates his practice in business and construction litigation, construction contract disputes, real estate and estate litigation, as well as appellate law.

Brian D. Burgoon has been elected to the board of directors of the University of Florida Alumni Association. Burgoon has also been re-elected to The Florida Bar Board of Governors. Burgoon has represented the out-of-state attorneys on the Board of Governors since 2000. He is also the sole practitioner with The Burgoon Law Firm, LLC in Atlanta and was named to the 2010 Georgia Super Lawyers’ Rising Stars list.

Karen Clark has opened the women-owned Schaffer & Clark Law PLLC, a boutique commercial real estate firm in Charlotte, N.C. Clark was one of the first attorneys in the region to receive certification as a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Accredited Professional (LEED-AP) by the U.S. Green Building Council.

Sherri L. Johnson, of Dent & Johnson, chartered in Sarasota, was listed in Florida Trend magazine’s 2010 Legal Elite. Johnson focuses her practice on property tax and exemption disputes throughout the state.

Michael Cavendish, a shareholder in Gunster, Yoakley & Stewart, PA. in Jacksonville, has been awarded the Walter S. Crumbley Practice Management and Development award given by The Florida Bar. This award recognizes a member of The Florida Bar who has distinguished himself professionally and who has rendered outstanding service to the profession of the practice and management of law.

Lark T. Mallory, of Chester Willcox & Saxbe LLP in Columbus, Ohio, has been re-appointed to the Columbus/Franklin County Affordable Housing Trust Corporation board of trustees by the Franklin County Board of Commissioners and the mayor of the City of Columbus.

Richard E. Mitchell, of the GrayRobinson, PA. Orlando office, was named to the 2010 Florida Trend’s Legal Elite for his work in business law.

Marilyn G. Moran, of Baker Hostetler in Orlando, has been appointed by the president of The Florida Bar to The Florida Bar’s Federal Court Practice Committee. Moran is the current president of the Orlando chapter of the Federal Bar Association.

Ingrid H. Ponce, a shareholder in the labor and employment department of Stearns Weaver Miller in Miami, delivered a speech on the use of social networking sites in human resources screening in June at the Association of Legal Administrators Conference in Boston.

Gregory S. Weiss, a partner of the consumer justice law firm of Leopold—Kuvin, PA. in Palm Beach Gardens, has been elected as treasurer of the Martin County Bar Association.
Kenneth H. Haney, of Quarles & Brady LLP, was named to the 2010 Florida Super Lawyers’ Rising Stars list for his work in personal injury defense: products.

Christopher T. Morrison, of the GrayRobinson, PA. Orlando office, recently became board certified in health law by The Florida Bar.

Joel E. Roberts, shareholder in the GrayRobinson, P.A. Orlando office, has been appointed to the Parks & Recreation Commission of Winter Park. He was also named to the 2010 Florida Trend’s Legal Elite for his work in commercial litigation.

Shelly J. Stirrat, of Fox, Wackeen, Dungey, et. al. law firm in Stuart, has become certified by The Florida Bar as a legal specialist in business litigation.

Catherine Cameron, of Stetson University College of Law in Gulfport, Fla., received tenure when she was promoted to professor of legal skills this year.

Mark H. Dahlmeier, a shareholder in Jones, Foster, Johnson & Stubbs, P.A.’s West Palm Beach office, has recently become board certified in real estate by The Florida Bar.

Scott M. Fischer, of Gordon & Doner, P.A. in Palm Beach Gardens, was named to the Million Dollar Advocates Forum.

Osvaldo Luis Gratacós has been confirmed as inspector general for the Export-Import Bank of the United States. Most recently, he served as the Deputy Inspector General and Legal Counsel for the Ex-Im Bank OIG. Prior to that, Gratacós was a commercial counsel at Motorola, Inc. providing legal support to the U.S. Federal Government Markets Division and the Government and Public Sector in the Latin America and Caribbean region. He also served as attorney adviser and then the Legal Counsel (Acting) to the Inspector General for the U.S. Agency for International Development, Office of Inspector General.

Adam C. Schucher is a new associate with Greenspoon Marder’s tax, trusts, estates and guardianship practice group in Fort Lauderdale. Schucher is an active member of the Real Property, Probate and Trust Law Section of The Florida Bar.

Michael J. Wilson, a shareholder with Williams Parker Harrison Dietz & Getzen in Sarasota, was selected to Florida Trend’s Up and Coming Legal Elite.

Dean Xenick, of Burman, Critton, Luttier & Coleman in West Palm Beach, has been appointed as a member of the Palm Beach County Bar Association’s Professionalism Committee and the Judicial Relations Committee.

Trevor B. Arnold, of the GrayRobinson, P.A. Orlando office, was named to the 2010 Florida Super Lawyers Rising Stars list for his work in construction litigation.

Robert L. Lancaster was named to the 2010 Florida Super Lawyers’ Rising Stars list.

Christine A. Marlewski, a shareholder in GrayRobinson, P.A.’s Tampa office, has recently been board certified as a civil trial lawyer by The Florida Bar.
Maggie Mooney-Portale, shareholder at Lewis, Longman & Walker, P.A. located in Bradenton, Jacksonville, Tallahassee and West Palm Beach, was recently elected to serve on the Board of Governors for The Florida Bar’s Young Lawyers Division in the 12th Circuit.

Sarah P.L. Reiner, of the GrayRobinson, P.A. Orlando office, was named to the 2010 Florida Trend’s Legal Elite for her work in employment and labor law.

C. Read Sawczyn, of the GrayRobinson, P.A. Tampa office, was named to the 2010 Florida Super Lawyers Rising Stars list for banking law.

Lisa Schiavinato, co-director of the North Carolina Coastal Resources Law, Planning and Policy Center, recently received a Governor’s Conservation Achievement Award. Schiavinato is also the law, policy and community development specialist for the North Carolina Sea Grant.

Monica J. Williams, of Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart, P.C. in Tampa, was named to the 2010 Florida Super Lawyers Rising Stars list.

2002

T. Robert Bulloch, of Quarles & Brady LLP, was named to the 2010 Florida Super Lawyers Rising Stars list for his work in estate planning and probate.

Debra Deardorff Faulk, of the GrayRobinson, P.A. Tampa office, was named to the 2010 Florida Super Lawyers Rising Stars list for her work in intellectual property.

Samantha Schosberg Feuer, was installed as president of the Florida Association for Women Lawyers, Palm Beach County Chapter for the 2010-2011 year. She is also assistant attorney general at the Florida Attorney General’s Office in the Economic Crime Division.

Daniel N. González, of Meland Russin & Budwick, P.A. in Miami, has been elected second vice president of the Bankruptcy Bar Association for the Southern District of Florida.

Jennifer L. Grosso, an associate with Williams Parker Harrison Dietz & Getzen in Sarasota, was named to the Florida Super Lawyers Rising Stars list.

Alexa Sherr Hartley, formerly of Greenberg Traurig's Manhattan and West Palm Beach offices, is president of Premier Leadership Coaching, LLC, an organizational and executive coaching firm with a focus on leadership development. Hartley recently presented “Using the Coaching Process to Advance your Career” for the Florida Association for Women Lawyers. She discussed how coaching could help advance professional goals and led several exercises showing how to apply coaching techniques.

LaShawnda Jackson, of Rumberger, Kirk & Caldwell in Orlando, has been designated president-elect of the Young Lawyers Section of the Orange County Bar Association.

Jesse Little, an attorney with the Morris Law Group with offices in Boca Raton, Aventura, West Palm Beach and Weston, was named to the 2010 Florida Super Lawyers Rising Stars list and Florida Trend magazine’s Legal Elite 2010. Little focuses his practice on estate planning for high net worth individuals and families.

Britton G. Swank, elder law attorney with Osterhout, McKinny & Prather, P.A. in Fort Meyers, has been elected president of the Board of Trustees of The Alvin A. Dubin Alzheimer’s Resource Center.

Allen C. Winsor, of the GrayRobinson, P.A. Orlando office, was named to the 2010 Florida Super Lawyers Rising Stars list for his work in appellate law.

2003

Heidi N. Boyles, of Greenspoon Marder, P.A. in Fort Lauderdale, was named to the 2010 Florida Super Lawyers Rising Star list. She practices business, commercial and real estate law.

Sarah Cortvriend, of West Palm Beach, has been inducted as president-elect of the Palm Beach County Chapter of the Florida Association for Women Lawyers.

Stephen M. Fernandez, of Shapiro, Goldman, Babboni & Walsh, P.A. in Sarasota, was named to the 2010 Florida Super Lawyers Rising Stars list.

Rose-Anne B. Frano, a shareholder with Williams Parker Harrison Dietz & Getzen in Sarasota, was named to the Florida Super Lawyers Rising Stars list. She was also selected to Florida Trend’s Up and Coming Legal Elite.

Pamela Jo Hatley, of Tampa, presented her paper “Citizen Participation and Community Planning: Will a Community’s Vision Become Reality?” in February at the
fourth International Academic Conference on Planning, Law, and Property Rights at the Technische Universität Dortmund, in Dortmund, Germany.

Lauren C. Heatwole has joined Morgan & Morgan, P.A.’s new business litigation trial group in Orlando. She has also been appointed to the Orange County Bar Association Legal Aid Society Board of Trustees.

Anthony Sos, of Dellecker, Wilson, King, McKenna & Ruffier, LLP in Orlando, was named to the 2010 Florida Super Lawyers Rising Stars list.

Michael G. St. Jacques II, of Bruce E. Loren & Associates in West Palm Beach, was named to the 2010 Florida Super Lawyers Rising Stars list.

Darlene Corey Zakharia, of the 11th Judicial Circuit Court office of the General Counsel, was elected to a second term as a director of the Dade County Bar Association Young Lawyers Section.

2004

M. Travis Hayes, an associate at Cummings & Lockwood LLC in Naples, has been appointed chair of the trusts and estates section and to the board of directors for the Young Lawyers Section of the Collier County Bar Association for 2010-2011.

S. Douglas Knox was named to the 2010 Florida Super Lawyers Rising Stars list. He has also joined Quarles & Brady LLP’s new Tampa office as an associate in the commercial litigation practice. The Tampa office opened in April.

2005

Cara F. Barrick, of Bruce Loren & Associates in West Palm Beach, was named to the 2010 Florida Super Lawyers’ Rising Stars list.

Benjamin B. Brown, of Quarles & Brady LLP, was named to the 2010 Florida Super Lawyers Rising Stars list for his work in business litigation.

Christopher L. Carmody, of the GrayRobinson, P.A. Orlando office, was named to the 2010 Florida Super Lawyers Rising Stars list for his work in government relations. He has also been selected to the 2010 class of Orlando Business Journal’s 40 Under 40.

Erin E. Houck-Toll, of Henderson, Franklin, Starnes & Holt, P.A. in Fort Meyers, was named a 2010 Florida Super Lawyers Rising Star. She concentrates her practice in the areas of federal and state taxation, as well as many aspects of business planning including health care law and mergers and acquisitions.

Kimberly E. Lorenz, an associate in Fisher, Rushmer, Werrenrath, Dickson, Talley & Dunlap, P.A. in Orlando, was named to the 2010 Florida Super Lawyers Rising Stars list for her work in personal injury defense.

Thomas J. McLaughlin, an associate with Williams Parker Harrison Dietz & Getzen in Sarasota, was named to the Florida Super Lawyers Rising Stars list.

2006

Brian S. Coursey, of Atlanta, has joined Hull Barrett, PC in Atlanta as an associate. He will practice in the areas of taxation, estate planning, probate as well as business and corporate law, including employee benefits.

Jason A. Davis, of Shuffield Lowman – Attorneys and Advisors in Orlando,
was named to the 2010 Florida Super Lawyers Rising Stars list. Davis concentrates his legal practice in corporate law, mergers and acquisitions, securities and tax law.

Kelly Lyon Davis, of Quarles & Brady LLP, was named to the 2010 Florida Super Lawyers Rising Stars list for work in business litigation.

Justin B. Mazzara, of Hahn Loeser & Parks, LLP in Fort Meyers, was named to the 2010 Florida Super Lawyers Rising Stars list.

Christopher D. Russo, of Moody Law P.A., took a personal injury case to a jury trial as lead counsel this year. His client received a verdict of approximately $194,000 as a result of the civil trial in the 10th Judicial Circuit for Polk County.

Brikena Isai Tomasic, who concentrates much of her legal practice on construction law at Lowndes, Drosdick, Doster, Kantor & Reed, P.A., has recently been appointed to the board of directors for the National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC) in Orlando.

2007

Ronald D. Edwards Jr., an associate with Lowndes, Drosdick, Doster, Kantor & Reed, P.A. in Orlando, was recently appointed to serve on the Family Services of Metro Orlando board of directors for a three-year term.

Christian George, of Liles, Gavin, Costantino, George, & Dearing, P.A. in Jacksonville, was named to the 2010 Florida Super Lawyers Rising Stars list. He practices commercial litigation and is an active Member of the Board of Governors of the Jacksonville Bar’s Young Lawyers Section.

2008

Adam Bird, of the GrayRobinson, P.A. Melbourne office, was named an elected board member to the Brevard County Bar Association’s Young Lawyers Division board. Bird is a member of the litigation department and focuses on insurance, maritime and employment law.

Katherine DeBriere, of Florida Institutional Legal Services in Newberry, wrote an amicus brief that resulted in a policy change for the developmentally disabled. The court decided that the decision of whether or not a person in jail should receive competency training for mental retardation should lie in the hands of the court and not the Agency for Persons with Disabilities. The court decided it was the agency's job to provide the services but not necessarily to determine who is eligible for them. The agency had much stricter standards than the state statute.

2009

David Karp recently completed a term as a law clerk to Senior U.S. District Judge Susan C. Bucklew of the Middle District of Florida. He will begin as an associate at White & Case, LLP in Miami in the fall.

2010

Marla Bohlander joined Trenam Kemker’s Tampa office as an associate. She will practice in the area of wealth planning and preservation with an emphasis on estate planning, wills and trusts, tax planning and business transactions.

Martina L. Nethery recently became an associate in The Martin Firm, PL in Cape Coral. Her practice focuses on estate planning, probate, estate and gift taxation, asset protection and civil litigation.
**IN MEMORIAM**

**Judge Debra Bernes (JD 78)** passed away July 20, 2010, at the age of 54 after suffering from cancer.

Bernes, of Marietta, Ga., was an appellate court judge in the Georgia Court of Appeals. She was first elected to the appellate court in 2004 and was a former Cobb County prosecutor.

Bernes had suffered from renal cancer for two years before her death. Throughout her career, Bernes dedicated herself to serving a wide array of professional organizations. She served as president of the Cobb County Bar Association and as secretary of the Appellate Section of the State Bar of Georgia. She was a fellow of the Lawyers Foundation of Georgia, and was a member of the Georgia Association of Women Lawyers, the Cobb Justice Foundation, and the Lawyers Club of Atlanta.

Bernes played an active role in teaching and lecturing on a host of legal topics, including criminal law and appellate practice. She served as an instructor for the North Georgia Police Academy, the Prosecuting Attorney’s Council of Georgia, and the National District Attorney’s Association. She also was active in continuing legal education, having served as co-chair of several appellate advocacy seminars and chair of the Continuing Legal Education Committee for the Cobb County Bar Association.

In addition to her professional service, Bernes volunteered her time and energy to a broad spectrum of civic and charitable organizations. In 2004, the Y.W.C.A. of Northwest Georgia recognized her as a Woman of Achievement. She served as chair of the Cobb Chamber of Commerce Public Safety Committee and on the boards of the Jewish Educational Loan Fund and the William Bremen Jewish Home.

In addition to her law degree, Bernes earned her undergraduate degree in education from the University of Florida. She was originally from Atlanta.

Bernes is survived by her husband Gary; daughter Lane, 26, of Manhattan, N.Y.; son Matthew, 23, of Cobb County; her parents Alvin and Sherry Halpern; her sister Gail Holzer; and her brothers Marty Halpern and Jay Halpern.

**Warren M. Cason (JD 50)** passed away July 15, 2010, at home in Tampa at the age of 85.

Cason’s support of education and his alma mater spanned many years and included his service as president of the UF Foundation, UF Alumni Association and Gator Boosters, chairman of the UF Law Center Association, special counsel to the UF president, a former director of the UF Athletic Association and a member of Florida Blue. Key and the President’s Council. In 1977 he was named a UF Distinguished Alumnus.

Cason served with a U.S. Navy underwater demolition team during World War II in the Pacific Theater.

He began his legal career with the Orlando firm of Pleus, Edwards & Rush. From 1952 to 1960, he was a partner in the Tampa firm of McEwen & Cason and then opened the law office of Cason & Henderson in 1961. In 1960, he was appointed by Gov. Farris Bryant to represent the West Coast of Florida as a member of the State Road Board (now the Florida Department of Transportation). Cason served as Hillsborough County Attorney from 1964 to 1973, and as Tampa City Attorney in 1978 and 1979.

In 1989, his firm Cason, Henderson & Baker merged with Holland & Knight where he became a senior partner and maintained an office there until his death.

Cason was extensively involved in the business community. He was a former chairman of Brandon State Bank, the Bank of Riverview, Sun Bank of Tampa Bay, and Liberty Federal Savings and Loan Association; and a former member of the boards of directors of SunBanks, Inc., SunTrust Banks, Inc., CUC International, Inc., Major Realty Company and Founders Life Assurance Company.

Cason is survived by his wife Dot; children Mary Lib Howell, Warren Cason Jr., Carey Gibson, and Melissa Cason-Kinney; sisters Betty Jo Rydell and June Bass; 12 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his brother Tom, and his sister Winifred “Sis” Cason.

**Gerald A. Williams (JD 75)** passed away May 25, 2010, at the age of 59. Williams was chief counsel to the School Board of Palm Beach County. Williams was born Oct. 9, 1950, in Pensacola.

While at the University of Florida, he served as president of the Black Law Student Association. He was a first-generation law student who made history as one of the pioneering African American graduates of UF Law.

In 1978, he joined Dade County Public Schools as assistant special counsel. In 1981, Williams and his law school classmate, J. Michael Haygood (JD 75), established Haygood & Williams, PA, in West Palm Beach. In 1992, the firm merged with the Atlanta-based labor law firm of Mack & Bernstein to create Mack, Williams, Haygood & McLean, PA., a national firm. Williams served as managing partner of Florida operations.

In 1997, Williams left private practice and returned to Dade County Public Schools where he served as chief labor counsel and chief officer of labor and legislative relations. Later, the School Board of Palm Beach County appointed him chief counsel, a position he held until May 2010.

Williams served in leadership positions on numerous professional and community boards, including the Executive Board of The Florida Bar Labor & Employment Section; The Florida Bar Committee on Judicial Independence; the Board of the Florida Lawyers’ Legal Insurance Corporation; and general counsel for the Virgil Hawkins Florida Chapter of the National Bar Association.

To honor of his legacy, the Williams family and friends have established The Gerald A. Williams Endowed Memorial Scholarship Fund for students at the University of Florida Levin College of Law, and pledged annual awards to the Virgil Hawkins Justice Foundation/Florida’s First Scholarship. To recognize his service to the School District of Palm Beach County, the School Board renamed the District legal department in his honor, the Gerald A. Williams, Esq. Office of Chief Counsel, and dedicated the Gerald A. Williams Esq. Law Academy at Palm Beach Lakes Community High School in West Palm Beach.

Williams is survived by his wife Carolyn Leggins Williams; children Monica Jerelle Williams (JD 01), Erica Kari Williams (JD 05), both of Tampa, and Gerald Alan Williams of Orlando; two brothers, Erven Williams of Powell, Tenn., and Levoyd Williams of Lauderdale Lakes; sister Deborah Mobley of Miami; and a granddaughter.”
WHAT A DIFFERENCE
YOU 
HAVE MADE

UF LAW HONOR ROLL
UF LAW CENTER ASSOCIATION, INC. | 2009-2010
The domestic and international economies continued to experience general malaise during the 2009-2010 fiscal year, and while the areas of development and career placement were impacted negatively, the effect on the Fredric G. Levin College of Law and Law Center Association activities was less than anticipated, and far less than experienced by other colleges of law around the country with which we compete. Moreover, in the midst of the economic doldrums, UF Law experienced significant successes during the past academic year:

- UF Law was ranked fourth among public law schools in 2009, and eighth among all law schools, in number of graduates serving as federal district court and circuit court of appeals judges;
- UF Law was the only Florida law school ranked by U.S. News & World Report in 2010 within the top 50 law schools in the United States, both public and private;
- In its first-ever ranking of the nation’s law schools, Super Lawyers ranked the University of Florida Levin College of Law eighth in the country among all law schools, public and private, and fourth among public law schools. This ranking was based largely on the graduates of law schools around the country and how well respected they are based upon their selection to appear in the publication Super Lawyers;
- The Graduate Tax Program at UF Law ranked third in the country, continuing its tradition as one of the pre-eminent graduate tax programs in the United States;
- Despite a legal environment that has resulted in severe reductions, and in many cases elimination, of the hiring of associates in private law firms around the country resulting in significant unemployment or under employment of recent law school graduates, our 2009 graduates had a 0.5 percent unemployment rate, compared to 3.3 percent in 2008 and 3.9 percent in 2007. Viewed another way, our success rate for the graduating class of 2009 was 99.5 percent, an extraordinarily high percentage, regardless of the law school or the geographic area with which it is compared.

I feel compelled to give due credit for this success to the incredible efforts made by the members of our Board of Trustees and its Career Development Committee in seeking placement opportunities for 2009 graduates; to Dean Robert Jerry for the creative ways he has found funding for programs, such as fellowships, which provide employment opportunities for deserving 2009 graduates; to the extraordinary legal education provided by our outstanding faculty; and, of course, to the increasingly talented and hard-working students who have prepared themselves so well to enter the legal marketplace.

A chairman’s message would be incomplete without reference to the Annual Fund. Our UF Law alumni have, once again, responded positively in the face of our difficult economy. Although the average gift declined slightly, we had impressive increases in total dollars raised and participation percentage. Finally, sincere gratitude and appreciation is extended to the 2010 graduating class, whose class gift was $79,197. You have set a shining example, not only to those who follow you, but also to those who preceded you.

President Bernie Machen and Dean Jerry continue to be resourceful and creative in allocating limited resources to maintain the quality of UF Law’s faculty, curriculum and facilities in the face of reduced state funding. These challenges underscore the importance of private giving, not only with current resources, but also through bequests and other estate planning devices. We have created a Planned Giving Task Force of the Board of Trustees to focus exclusively on outreach to alumni in order to provide education and encouragement in the area of planned giving. Please build UF Law into your estate plans, because only through such gifts can we hope to achieve our goal to be one of the top five public law schools in the United States.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the law school and on campus in the near future.

Go Gators!

Peter W. Zinober (JD 69), Chair, UF Law Center Association, Inc.
One of the greatest characteristics of UF Law alumni is our pride and appreciation for our law school. Membership in the Gator Nation and the Gator Lawyer Network are badges of honor throughout the United States and in our great state of Florida.

We show our pride and appreciation in many ways — we return to Gainesville for Gator games, law school events and national conferences. We keep in touch with our classmates and refer business to Gator lawyers throughout the state. Perhaps most important of all, we give back to our College of Law!

Please accept my heartfelt appreciation and thanks to each of you who made a contribution to the Levin College of Law Annual Fund! This year, you generously gave a total of more than $729,000 to our Annual Fund, which represents the second highest total for gifts to the Annual Fund in our college's history.

Your generosity has had tremendous positive effects! Current students enjoy the greatest facilities, the best faculty and the strongest learning environment UF Law has ever seen. We now attract the best and brightest students from every state in the country and keep home the best and brightest Florida residents.

UF Law's reputation continues to grow. We are being recognized nationally for the high quality attorneys practicing throughout the U.S. In the first national ranking of law schools to consider "output," i.e., the caliber of a school's graduates, Super Lawyers magazine ranked UF Law first in Florida, eighth overall nationally and fourth among public schools nationally. The Super Lawyers ranking was based on the number of each school's graduates in the magazine's annual state and regional listing of exceptional lawyers. Bill White, publisher of Super Lawyers magazine, stated: "In the real world — the world of clients and juries and judges — no one cares about your GPA or LSAT score. All that matters is how good and ethical a lawyer you are. That's the focus of Super Lawyers."

Your generosity also has created a culture of giving that is being matched by our recent graduating classes. Over the past five years, the graduating class gift has steadily increased to a remarkable level — the Spring 2009 graduating class, despite graduating in the wake of the most difficult legal job market in recent memory, came together to pledge over $113,000 as the class gift. This is by far the largest class gift in the history of UF Law! A typical pledge from these recent graduates was $200 per year for five years.

Your continued participation and support for the Annual Fund of the law school has helped assure the continued success of UF Law. Along with most publicly funded law schools in the country, UF Law relies heavily on donations from alumni to the Annual Fund. The Annual Fund is a general fund directed by the dean of the law school used to help students, professors, programs and the law school as a whole. Gifts to the Annual Fund influence national rankings, recruitment of students and faculty, support co-curricular student organizations and services and programs for students and alumni.

I also would like to say a special thank you to Dean Robert Jerry and his wonderful wife Lisa, and to the great people at the Office of Development and Alumni Affairs at UF Law for their commitment to making the University of Florida Levin College of Law the best it can be.

Thank you again for your support, and Go Gators!

Carter Andersen (JD 98), President, University of Florida Law Alumni Council
Thank you to the many UF Law alumni and friends who, from the beginning, have made contributions of time, treasure and talent to bring us here — full circle.
endowment income

Gifts to the law school’s endowment are not spent, but instead are carefully invested to yield a dependable, stable source of income in perpetuity. Approximately 4 percent of earned interest from the market value of the endowment fund balance was transferred and spent for specific uses designated by donors and by college administrators for annual operating and administrative costs. (The additional earned interest above the 4 percent is returned to the fund balance.) The fund is managed by the University of Florida Foundation Investment Company (UFICO), which oversees investments and law school endowment income.

### Annual Fund Contributions

Contributions received to non-endowed, non-building funds

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>Fund Balance</th>
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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 gave in the 2009-2010 fiscal year.
Endowment by Alex Sink and Bob Bolt (JD 71) in honor of Bill McBride (JD 75)
Robert S. Bolt
Adelaide A. Sink

Gene K. Glasser and Elaine Glasser Fund
Gene K. & Elaine R. Glasser
Sandra & Leon G. Gulden Private Foundation
Russell H. & Karen H. Kasper
William E. Rosenberg Foundation

Gerald T. Bennett Prosecutor/Public Defender Training Program
The Florida Bar
The Florida Bar Foundation

Law Review Endowment
Jeffrey W. & Amanda M. Abraham
William R. Abrams & Susan G. Goffman
Jolyon D. & Christine M. Acosta
R. Mitchell Prugh & Mary E. Adkins
Justin S. Alex
Jeffrey L. & Jamie L. Allen
Drew M. & Jamey B. Burns
Robert A. Caplen
Clay M. Carlton
Courtney B. & Justin M. Casp
Amanda M. Christie
Matthew R. & Anna K. Clark
Ryan S. Cobbs
Sally H. Foote & Forrest S. Crawford
Jerry B. & Anne O. Crockett
Frank & Melissa I. Cruz-Alvarez
Raul A. & Mary L. Cuervo
Deborah E. Cupples
Joshua D. Curry
Bonnie C. Daboll
Sara C. & William B. Dana
Kelly L. & Aaron M. Davis
Cary B. & Kelly F. Davis
Kimberly A. Davis
Blake J. & Jennifer M. Delaney
Lauren Y. Detzel
Benjamin F. Diamond
Jennifer A. Dougherty
Charles T. Douglas Jr.
Lawrence J. Downs
Michelle R. & Kenneth J. Drab Jr.
Dunwoody, White & Landon
Donald A. & Gene S. Dvornik
Megan J. & James E. Ellis II
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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.

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“I will be forever grateful for my UF education, and so the decision to support UF financially is an easy one for me. At the University of Florida, I learned the law, I learned about myself, I made friends with those who would forever shape my life, and I became branded forever a Gator. When the University placed that degree into my hands, it was a promissory note. I’m grateful to keep making payments.”

—MAYANNE DOWNS (UD 87)
Shareholder, King, Blackwell, Downs & Zezner, P.A., Orlando
The 1909 Society commemorates the founding year of the University of Florida Levin College of Law, while recognizing alumni and friends who sustain and advance the college with gifts to the Annual Fund in the amount of $2,000 and up during a single fiscal year. Support at this level improves the quality and innovation of programs for students, student organizations, teaching and research, academic programs and services and outreach efforts.
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.

Please note: Names are listed for gifts of $100 and up.
“The College of Law has consistently provided the educational foundation for leaders of our profession, not only within our state but also throughout our nation. I am proud to be a part of such a distinguished heritage of leadership, and believe that through our dedication as alumni we can provide the College of Law with the tools required to create even better opportunities for tomorrow’s leaders.”

—GREGORY S. WEISS (JD 98)
Leopold Kuvin, P.A., Palm Beach Gardens
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We made a mistake. Despite our best efforts, errors and omissions occur. If so, please accept our apologies and notify the UF Levin College of Law Office of Development &AlumniAffairs, P.O. Box 117623, Gainesville, FL 32611 or e-mail Kathy Hendrixson at khendrixson@law.ufl.edu.

Please report any corrections to Kathy Hendrixson at khendrixson@law.ufl.edu or call 352-273-0640.
"UF Law gave so many great Florida lawyers and leaders of our state a great education at a low cost. That is why so many give back time, talent, and treasure to make UF Law a better place for today’s students. When I give back to UF Law, I follow two pieces of advice of my hero, Mother Teresa of Calcutta: ‘Do not wait for leaders; do it alone, person to person’ and ‘If you can’t feed a hundred people, then feed just one.’"

—J. CARTER ANDERSEN (JD 98)

Bush Ross, P.A., Tampa
# TAX ALUMNI

## CLASS OF 1961
- No. in Class: 3
- Participation: 33%
- Trualler Society: William A. Boyles
- Enrichment Society: David H. Evaul
- No. in Class: 38
- Participation: 16%
- Founders Society - silver: K. Lawrence Gragg
- Partners: Robert E. Glennon Jr.
- Trualler Society: Dennis A. Caffe
- Enrichment Society: Harry S. Colburn Jr.
- No. in Class: 67
- Participation: 9%
- Class Total: $3,820.00
- Class of 1977
- Participation: 12%
- No. in Class: 43
- Associates: Bernie A. Barton Jr.
- Founders Society - gold: Brian M. O'Connell
- Associates: Cheryl L. Gordon
- Enrichment Society: John J. Scroggin
- Founders Society - silver: Steven C. Lee
- No. in Class: 75
- Participation: 8%
- Class Total: $26,271.50
- Class of 1978
- Participation: 9%
- No. in Class: 67
- Associates: Paul D. Fitzpatrick
- Class Total: $3,800.00
- No. in Class: 62
- Participation: 11%
- Class of 1980
- Participation: 26%
- No. in Class: 47
- Founders Society - gold: Brian M. O'Connell
- Founders Society - silver: Lindy L. Paul
- Partners: Peter T. Kirkwood
- Enrichment Society: Harris H. Barnes III
- Alfred M. Falk
- Gerald R. Kleecehn
- Gary E. Lakritz
- Charles J. Nash
- R. Lee Rowe III
- Ronald A. Worley
- No. in Class: 66
- Participation: 12%
- Class of 1982
- Participation: 3%
- No. in Class: 74
- Associates: Randolph J. Rush
- Enrichment Society: William R. Lane Jr.
- Patrick J. McGowan
- Anton H. Zidansek
- No. in Class: 48
- Participation: 11%
- Class of 1984
- Participation: 6%
- No. in Class: 73
- Enrichment Society: Linda S. Griffin
- James A. Lowe III
- Sharon A. Zahner
- No. in Class: 68
- Participation: 9%
- Class of 1985
- Participation: 9%
- No. in Class: 75
- Class of 1986
- Participation: 5%
- No. in Class: 62
- Class of 1987
- Participation: 7%
- No. in Class: 44
- Class of 1988
- Participation: 6%
- No. in Class: 73
- Class of 1989
- Participation: 13%
- No. in Class: 62
- Class of 1990
- Participation: 8%
- No. in Class: 48
- Class of 1991
- Participation: 3%
- No. in Class: 63
- Class of 1992
- Participation: 4%
- No. in Class: 60
- Class of 1993
- Participation: 4%
- No. in Class: 57
- Class of 1994
- Participation: 3%
- No. in Class: 63
- Class of 1995
- Participation: 5%
- No. in Class: 74

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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.
“The University of Florida Levin College of Law has had a profound impact on my career and family. I am grateful for my legal education and meaningful relationships formed with faculty and alumni colleagues. I have been inspired by exemplary alumni leaders who have led The Florida Bar, the American Bar Association and many governmental and private institutions with courage, integrity, judgment and commitment to personal excellence.”

—SCOTT G. HAWKINS (JD 83)
President-Elect, The Florida Bar; Vice Chair, Jones, Foster, Johnston & Stubbs, P.A., West Palm Beach
Regulating a revolution
Professor advocates new statutory framework for GMOs

For reasons ranging from reduced pesticide requirements to increased profit margins, genetically modified organisms (GMOs) dominate today’s U.S. food market. Nearly 100 percent of U.S. sugar beets and soy bean crops are GMOs, as is 85 percent of corn and canola crops, according to the International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-Biotech Application and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Many people are unaware of the true extent of transgenic tinkering with food crops and animals — inserting genes from animals and bacteria into the DNA of plants, and vice versa — because the government doesn’t require food labels to identify GMO ingredients. As with many new technologies, the legal and regulatory framework has been slow to catch up.

“It’s a relatively new technology where we’re actually creating new living organisms that spread and reproduce in the environment,” explains Mary Jane Angelo, professor of environmental law in the University of Florida Fredric G. Levin College of Law. “It’s still sort of a big experiment to see what’s going to happen with it.”

The FDA is now considering approval of the first GMO animal for human consumption, a salmon that grows twice as fast as its wild counterparts, and a GMO pig is waiting in the wings.

With this experiment on Mother Nature as a backdrop, Angelo will explore shaping laws and regulation to harness the benefits while protecting the public from the potential harm of GMOs in a forthcoming book, Poison, Pests & Policy: The Coevolution of the Law and Science of Pesticides.

Angelo initially grappled with these questions as an Environmental Protection Agency staff attorney during the 1990s as one of the primary drafters of the comprehensive regulations and policy documents on genetically engineered plant pesticides.

“When these genetically modified organisms first started being approved in the United States back in the mid-1990s, it totally slipped under the radar,” Angelo says. “We ended up with millions and millions of acres of these genetically modified crops before most people even knew about it.”

Under the framework, EPA regulates GMOs primarily under the legal authority of the Federal Insecticide Fungicide and Rodenticide Act, or FIFRA, which includes regulatory concepts first established by the Federal Insecticide Act of 1910.

Another of the framework’s policy positions was that the “products” of biotechnology, rather than the “process,” would be regulated.

“Using these old authorities to regulate this completely new technology that no one could have even dreamed of a few decades ago just isn’t a good fit,” Angelo said. “Because of the policy decision early on to look at just the product and not the process, we’ve ignored the science of the process in our regulatory decision-making and haven’t adequately examined the risks that exist because the process is doing something that would never have happened in nature.”

Angelo says that although GMOs pose unique risks, which should be fully evaluated before GMO products are allowed on the market, many GMOs can have significant societal benefits. For example, the now widely used GMO crops that produce BT, a pesticide considered to be safe enough in conventional application that it is a mainstay of organic farming, have the advantage of reducing the need for more hazardous chemical pesticides that can spread into the soil and water. Angelo adds that certain GMOs also have the potential for improving the health of people in the developing world by providing important nutrients such as vitamin A and folic acid that are otherwise lacking in their diets.

While the benefits are real, Angelo says the government currently treats GMOs as if they are merely chemicals added to crops or supplements added to the diet. However, she notes that GMOs pose different types of risks than do chemicals because GMOs are living organisms that can reproduce and spread in the environment.

Angelo said that because the risks and benefits of GMO food crops were not adequately addressed before they became widely used, the courts and regulatory agencies have been forced to address emerging issues on an ad hoc basis.

Our understanding of the unintended consequences of widespread use of GMOs on the environment, public health and on the economy are only beginning to evolve, and Angelo believes the law must evolve with them.

“I think the biggest issue is that back in the late ’80s, when these genetically modified products were first being contemplated, the United States decided not to treat them any differently than any other product,” Angelo said. “That’s an overly simplistic way of viewing it because the process by which we’re developing these GMOs is so new and different. I think it’s worth contemplating a new statute that abandons the idea that we will rely on existing authorities to regulate GMOs the same as any other product and that instead specifically addresses the development and use of genetically modified organisms.”
"Most planning advocates would love to have the structure we have in Florida, but most Floridians know that the structure doesn’t work. Amendment 4 suggests that, on the ground, this system is really broken."

— MICHAEL ALLAN WOLF, Richard E. Nelson Chair in Local Government Law


“Denying him the permit had nothing to do with the content of his speech, and enforcement of the law presumably has nothing to do with the content of his speech. If I set a bonfire in my front yard here in Gainesville, presumably they would do the same thing.”

— LYRISSA LIDSKY, Stephen C. O’Connell Chair; Professor of Law

SEPT. 8, Associated Press, “Florida pastor has legal right to burn Qurans”

“Obama is correct in the most general terms. Federal law can go away in one of two ways: Congress can repeal it or a court can find it unconstitutional. … He’s finding it easier said than done for a president to say, ‘Even though I’m commander in chief, I’m going to stay out of it.’ The pressure is becoming greater for him to justify how he can stay out of it.”

— DIANE MAZUR

Professor of Law

Oct. 19, Newsweek, “Is Obama’s excuse for not repealing ‘don’t ask, don’t tell’ legitimate?” Mazur was also quoted by The Washington Post and Associated Press on the topic of “don’t ask, don’t tell” and recently published the book A More Perfect Military: How the Constitution Can Make Our Military Stronger.
**Gimme shelter**

Health care law has implications for the tax code

**BY MATT WALKER**

When President Obama signed the Health Care and Education Affordability Reconciliation Act of 2010 back in March, most of the attention was focused on the country’s new health care laws. But tax professionals and scholars were also tuned into a lesser-known portion of the act: a provision that codified in the Internal Revenue Code the judicially developed economic substance doctrine.

University of Florida Levin College of Law Stephen C. O’Connell Professor Martin J. McMahon Jr. was one of those scholars who took note of the newly codified doctrine and he published an article in the Aug. 16 edition of Tax Notes – “Living with the Codified Economic Substance Doctrine” – which examines the new legislation and its significance.

Before exploring McMahon’s analysis, a quick history lesson is in order. Over the years, taxpayers and tax lawyers have found ways of gaining tax benefits by engaging in transactions that were very different than the types of business-motivated transactions the authors of the Internal Revenue Code intended them to be applied, McMahon said.

“What the economic substance doctrine has come to mean is that a tax benefit, such as a claimed loss, will be denied if there is no business purpose for the transaction and the transaction does not have economic substance,” McMahon said.

“Very smart tax lawyers read the Internal Revenue Code and regulations and figured out how to invent transactions that produce a fictional loss on the tax return that’s not matched by any true economic loss to try to shelter income,” McMahon said.

The courts have concluded that these types of transactions – while not necessarily fraudulent – are abusive, and the new legislation is basically saying to taxpayers, “You should know better.”

The new legislation McMahon examines in his article is intended to clarify the economic substance doctrine, with the intent of disallowing tax benefits from the types of questionable tax shelter transactions that became increasingly common throughout the ‘80s and ‘90s.

The new legislation also seeks to create more concrete guidelines within the economic substance doctrine. Now, transactions that are subject to the economic substance doctrine must pass a two-prong test: one objective test and one subjective test, McMahon said.

The objective test requires that a transaction change the taxpayer’s economic position in a meaningful way outside of tax purposes. The subjective test requires that the taxpayer have a “substantial nontax purpose for entering into the transaction,” McMahon said.

Has the tax world been turned upside down by the new provisions? Are lives ruined and fortunes destroyed by this? Not exactly, McMahon said.

“It’s just old wine in a new bottle,” he said. “The sky is not falling; the substantive law hasn’t changed but marginally.”

Congress has been moving toward the clarification of the doctrine for about a decade, McMahon said, so it wasn’t a big surprise to anyone. And lawmakers have been applying various interpretive doctrines to these types of situations for about 60 years.

“But what Congress did add that was very significant is a strict-liability penalty if a transaction is held by the courts to not have economic substance,” he said.

Even if the taxpayer has an opinion from a tax lawyer that the expected tax benefits will be allowed, if the tax benefits are disallowed, it will now result in a strict-liability penalty of 20 percent of the tax deficiency resulting from the transaction for those who still try to slide by with transactions. And the penalty is increased to a hefty 40 percent if the transaction was not fully disclosed on the tax return.

Even if the clarifications weren’t earth-shattering, the changes caused a number of tax practitioners to look to the IRS and the Treasury Department to publish an “angel list,” which would be a list of transactions that would be immunized in advance from the rules of the economic substance doctrine, McMahon said.

McMahon argued in his article that such a list should not be published because the Treasury and the IRS simply cannot anticipate the new transactions that would be devised by the army of hardworking tax mavens who will plumb the depths of the angel list searching for anomalies around which new tax shelters can be designed. In September, the IRS and the Treasury agreed, announcing they would not be publishing an angel list, he said.

Although the newly codified economic substance doctrine is far from radical, McMahon said it will raise the bar for tax compliance.

“What this statute will do is bring the mentality of tax advisers back to what it was 40 years ago, when the standards were higher,” he said. ■
“We’re trying to anticipate the questions that will arise. We’ll gather and analyze the existing laws. We have the advantage of having scientists telling us, ‘Well, in actuality, the environmental impact in this area won’t be seen for years.’ We can think about how the law will apply in those cases. A lot of this is going to be developing over time.”

— JON MILLS, Director of Center for Governmental Responsibility; Dean Emeritus, Professor of Law; Chair, UF Law Oil Spill Working Group; Member, UF Oil Spill Task Force


“The court of public opinion may already have convicted them, and politicians don’t want to be called soft on the Holocaust or anything.”

— WINSTON P. NAGAN, Samuel T. Dell Research Scholar Professor of Law; Affiliate Professor of Anthropology; Founding Director, Institute for Human Rights and Peace Development

SEPT. 1, Associated Press, Fox News.com, ABC News, “Holocaust survivors want French rail’s bid for Fla. high-speed project derailed for WWII role”

“If she really does have this problem, then prison is a very good place to get that kind of attention, to be detoxed and rehabilitated because you don’t really have control over your own life.”

— MICHAEL SEIGEL, Professor of Law
MAY 28, The Miami Herald, “Guilty official blames alcohol, pill use”

“Under trademark law, universities essentially have a legal obligation to police the use of their marks. Failing to do so could mean giving up the right to stop unauthorized uses.”

— ELIZABETH ROWE, Associate Professor; Director, Program in Intellectual Property Law

SEPT. 21, The Gainesville Sun, “UF takes on high schools to protect logos”
Representational competence
Professor argues courts should give criminal defendants greater opportunity to represent themselves

BY KARA CARNLEY-MURRHEE (1L)

While attempting to steal shoes from a downtown Indianapolis department store in July 1999, Ahmad Edwards fired three gunshots at a security officer, grazing him and striking a bystander. Edwards, who suffered from schizophrenia, was charged with attempting to steal shoes while attempting to steal shoes from a downtown Indianapolis department store in July 1999, Ahmad Edwards fired three gunshots at a security officer, grazing him and striking a bystander. Edwards, who suffered from schizophrenia, was charged with attempted murder.

Based on lengthy psychiatric reports, a state trial judge ordered Edwards to proceed to trial with the help of an attorney, despite Edwards’ request to represent himself. The judge determined Edwards was “competent to stand trial … (but) not competent to defend himself.”

How can a defendant be competent for one matter but not for the other? Courts have long struggled with determining what cognitive abilities should be required of mentally ill defendants who wish to represent themselves at criminal trial.

E. Lea Johnston, assistant professor in the University of Florida Fredric G. Levin College of Law, takes a fresh look at the issue of the Sixth Amendment’s right to self-representation, the article elaborates on Johnston’s contention that lower courts should look to psychology for a solution. Drawing on social problem-solving theory, Johnston proposes a “representational competence” standard that outlines the abilities a defendant should possess in order to represent himself at trial.

“If you conceptualize self-representation as problem solving, where the prosecution generally is the ‘problem’ against which the defendant must defend, then it’s clear that psychology has a lot to offer,” Johnston said. “I draw upon social problem-solving theory to identify capacities that are necessary for rational decision making and argue that a court should allow a defendant capable of autonomous decision making to control his defense unless the self-representation poses a grave threat to the reliability, fairness or integrity of the adjudication.”

Although the Sixth Amendment guarantees a defendant’s right to self-representation, the U.S. Supreme Court in Edwards v. Indiana recognized that the Constitution may permit trial courts to find defendants competent to stand trial but incompetent to represent themselves. In essence, the court permitted a more rigorous competency standard for self-representation than to stand trial. The decision meant that trial courts could force attorneys upon unwilling defendants. This was a dramatic new interpretation of the Sixth Amendment, Johnston said.

“Most scholars and courts assumed that a higher standard for self-representation would be unconstitutional,” she said. “But the Supreme Court rejected that view in Edwards.”

Yet the Supreme Court in Edwards declined to delineate what components of a representational competence standard would be constitutional, only suggesting that findings of incompetence based on a lack of decision-making ability would withstand constitutional scrutiny.

Without a clear description of the components of a representational competence standard, Johnston said it has been up to lower courts to determine what that standard should look like, sometimes to the detriment of mentally ill or disabled defendants.

“Courts routinely treat mentally ill individuals differently, limiting some constitutional rights such as self-representation and even subjecting them to wholly new structures of supervision and punishment,” Johnston said. “Research reveals that persons with mental illness or disability are largely capable of rational thought and action, and I believe the legal system should recognize and promote their autonomy.”

By applying normative theories of self-representation and decision-making, Johnston’s article proposes a representational competence standard that attempts to reform the legal system to be more respectful of mentally ill defendants’ autonomy.

“Certainly fairness and the reliability, accuracy and integrity of the criminal justice system are very important values, but they cannot override the exercising of a constitutional right by a criminal defendant, unless those values are in too great of danger,” Johnston said.

“So long as a pro se defendant possesses certain capacities — such as the abilities to perceive problematic situations, generate alternative courses of action, maintain mental organization, and communicate decisions to a functioning of the court — his self-representation should satisfy minimal requirements of reliability and fairness.”
“We are not saying these are individuals who are angels of the Lord, shall we say. But we are saying they are entitled to rely on the presumption of innocence that all American citizens are entitled to. Exoneration is the correct legal term for the status of affairs we are talking about.”

— KENNETH NUNN, Professor of Law

OCT. 1, The Florida Bar News, “Panel hears from the wrongly convicted”

“There’s little case law to address the question, so it’s likely the Supreme Court will take it up. This is a very important piece of legislation to a whole lot of people. I think it’s the kind of issue that is very likely to get to the Supreme Court.”

— JOSEPH LITTLE, Emeritus Professor, speaking on potential challenges to the Affordable Care Act

Aug. 28, The Palm Beach Post, “Florida’s challenge could topple insurance mandate”

“The problem you get into with quotas, every stop is open to public criticism. The accusation is, ‘You did it because you had a quota to make, not because the person was doing something wrong.’ That’s why quotas are a bad idea.”

—GEORGE “BOB” DEKLE, Legal Skills Professor

Aug. 20, South Florida Sun-Sentinel, “Sunrise police officers required to make three traffic stops a day”
Tom C.W. Lin has joined the faculty as an assistant professor of law. His current scholarship and teaching interests are in the areas of business law, securities regulation and behavioral law and economics. He was previously an instructor of law at Brooklyn Law School in New York. Prior to entering academia, Lin practiced law at the New York State Attorney General’s Office, Davis Polk & Wardwell and Dewey Ballantine. He is a graduate of New York University and the University of Pennsylvania Law School, where he served as an advanced legal writing instructor and senior editor of the Journal of Constitutional Law and the Journal of Law and Social Change.

Shira Megerman joins the faculty as student services reference librarian. She attended law school at Washburn University School of Law in Topeka, Kan. She graduated with her JD in 2007 and is licensed to practice in Kansas. Before joining UF, Megerman spent the past two years as a research specialist at the University of Missouri-Kansas City while pursuing her master’s of library science. Other than her reference duties, Megerman is working on programming events for the library and on outreach to students.

Rachel Rebouché has joined the UF Law faculty as an assistant professor teaching family law and comparative family law. For the 2010-11 academic year, she will be an affiliated faculty member with the Johns Hopkins Herman Institute of Bioethics. Prior to joining UF, she was the associate director of adolescent health programs at the National Partnership for Women & Families and an adjunct professor at American University Washington College of Law. Rebouché received her JD from Harvard Law School, LLM in international law from Queen’s University, Belfast, Northern Ireland, and BA in politics and sociology from Trinity University. Following graduation from law school, she clerked for Justice Kate O’Regan on the Constitutional Court of South Africa and completed a fellowship at the National Women’s Law Center. Before law school, she was a researcher for the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission and a research associate at the Human Rights Centre of Queen’s University, Belfast, Northern Ireland.

Jennifer Wondracek has joined the Legal Information Center as the new instructional services reference librarian. She will be working with faculty on distance-learning course creation and other instructional issues. Also, Wondracek will be teaching legal research, both online and in the classroom, and joining the reference staff to help meet the needs of the center’s patrons. Wondracek came from Elon University School of Law in Greensboro, N.C., where she held the position of reference and government documents librarian. She obtained her MLIS from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee’s online program in 2006 and has been a law librarian ever since. Prior to becoming a librarian, Wondracek obtained her law degree from the University of North Carolina School of Law and practiced law in North Carolina.

Paul Gugliuzza has joined the faculty as a visiting legal skills professor, teaching appellate advocacy and legal research and writing. Gugliuzza completed his undergraduate studies at the University of Oklahoma and graduated summa cum laude from Tulane University School of Law where he served as managing editor of the Tulane Law Review. After law school, he clerked for the Honorable Ronald M. Gould on the United States Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit. Gugliuzza joins the faculty directly from the Washington, D.C., office of Jones Day, where he was a member of the firm’s Issues and Appeals practice group.
Mark D. Snider (2009 LLMT) has joined the faculty as the interim visiting assistant professor in tax. Snider received his JD, summa cum laude, from the University of Illinois in 1986 and obtained his LLM in taxation degree from UF Law in 2009. He was a partner at two leading Chicago-based law firms, where he practiced for more than 12 years working on complex business and financing transactions. He also worked for several years as the general counsel of a national service company headquartered in Florida with business locations throughout the United States, and as a partner in a law firm based in south Florida. He is admitted to practice in Illinois and Florida.

STAFF

Rick Goldstein joins the staff as associate director of communications and the editor of UF LAW magazine. He joins the university after 20 years as a reporter and editor at newspapers and wire services in Florida and Illinois. Goldstein earned his bachelor of arts degree from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale.

Debra Hyatt has joined the staff as the new registrar. She joins UF Law from Florida Atlantic University where she worked in student affairs for more than five years. A native of Tampa, Hyatt has a bachelor’s degree from the University of Florida and a master’s degree from Nova Southeastern University.

Grace Northern joins the staff as the associate director of development and alumni affairs. Northern comes to Gainesville from Washington, D.C., where she worked at the White House as assistant to the director of presidential personnel. In this capacity, Northern worked with senior members of the White House staff to identify and fill presidential appointments across the administration. Prior to her time at the White House, Northern worked on the Presidential Transition Team. As one of the first employees of the Obama for America campaign, she worked in a variety of capacities in six states during the primary and through the general election, including Florida. Before entering politics, Northern worked in the Washington, D.C., office of the Glover Park Group, a large public affairs firm. A native of Louisville, Ky., Northern received her Bachelor of Arts in English from Xavier University in Cincinnati.

Whitney Smith joins the staff as the new Communications Coordinator and editor of FlaLaw Online and UF Law eNews. Smith previously worked at The Gainesville Sun. She has experience in graphic and page design, online content management, editing and news and feature writing.

Matt Walker has joined the staff as media relations manager and assistant editor of UF LAW magazine in the Office of Communications to the law school. Walker brings years of journalism experience to the position, and has worked as a writer, reporter, columnist and magazine editor in Florida, Georgia and California. He is responsible for running a vigorous reactive and proactive media relations program, including planning and implementing publicity programs, writing and disseminating press releases, and writing for UF LAW magazine and other publications.

FareWELL

UF Law bids farewell to Kathleen Price

A ssociate Dean for Library and Technology Kathie Price retired in June after more than four decades of outstanding service to legal education and law librarianship.

Price came to the University of Florida Fredric G. Levin College of Law as a visiting faculty member from New York University, where she was a law professor and director of the law library from 1994 through 2003.

She is also the former Law Librarian of Congress and director of law libraries at Duke and University of Minnesota, and was instrumental in founding the International Legal Information Network.

UF Law Dean Robert Jerry said that during her time at UF Law, she was a valuable and dedicated asset to the college and her contributions to the field of academic law librarianship will be missed.
Paul R. McDaniel, Emeritus James J. Freeland Eminent Scholar in Taxation and Professor of Law at the University of Florida Fredric G. Levin College of Law, passed away at his home in Gainesville on July 16 after a long illness.

“Professor Paul McDaniel, our colleague and dear friend, was a great scholar, but his professional career was devoted to our students,” said UF Law Dean Robert Jerry. “His affection for and commitment to them, both inside and outside the classroom, were extraordinary.”

McDaniel joined the faculty at UF Law in 2004. He had a long and distinguished career as a tax lawyer and professor, and was active as a full-time faculty member, teaching international tax classes and producing tax scholarship through the fall term of 2009 before being diagnosed with his final illness around the New Year.

He was an exceptional teacher and scholar, and he will be sorely missed by all who have known him as a colleague, teacher and friend.

“We were all very fortunate that Paul chose to spend the last six years with us,” said Graduate Tax Program Director Mike Friel. “He was a distinguished teacher and scholar of enormous international renown who always had time for his students and his colleagues – time to listen, to care and to inspire. He leaves behind a graduate tax program and law school community that are much the better for his having been among us, and he will be remembered with great gratitude and affection.”

McDaniel graduated from Harvard Law School in 1961 and his impressive academic career includes teaching at Boston College Law School and NYU School of Law, where he helped develop the LLM in International Taxation program and served as the director of the Graduate Tax Program. In 2004 he was named the James J. Freeland Eminent Scholar in Taxation and Professor of Law at UF Law. He published over 60 articles on U.S. and international taxation and co-authored 10 books on U.S. taxation, six of which are actively in use in law schools in the U.S. and abroad.

He was instrumental in developing the LLM in International Taxation program at UF Law, which has proved highly successful in attracting students from Latin America, Europe and Asia. A key element of the program is the close interaction between international students and U.S. students and faculty.

McDaniel is recognized as one of the most influential tax scholars of the past 50 years. The groundbreaking work he did with Stanley Surrey in developing the concept of tax expenditures in their important 1985 book, Tax Expenditures, remains one of the most significant developments in tax theory and continues to play a significant role in the evolution of tax law.

During his career, McDaniel also served as attorney adviser in the Office of Tax Legislative Counsel, U.S. Treasury Department; acting associate tax legislative counsel for the Treasury Department; and was a partner at the Boston law firm Hill & Barlow. McDaniel remained active in the tax legislative process, both at the state and federal level, including as adviser to then-governor of Massachusetts Michael Dukakis and to Sen. Edward Kennedy. He proudly displayed on his office wall a photograph of himself working with Kennedy.

Throughout his life, McDaniel was also actively involved as a lay leader in the church. He served as Moderator of the Metropolitan Boston Association of the United Church of Christ in the early 1990s and was highly regarded for his preaching on social issues. His leadership was instrumental within the denomination to welcome gays and lesbians to full participation in the life of the church.

McDaniel’s greatest gift as a teacher and human being was nurturing relationships, and he is remembered fondly and with great respect by all his students and colleagues. McDaniel always went out of his way to welcome international students enrolled in the International Tax Program, hosting a welcoming reception for them and their families at his home each year and, when feasible, before the program grew to its now large size, hosting a Thanksgiving Day dinner at his home for the international students and their families.

Over the many years of his teaching career, McDaniel’s character and intellect inspired countless students to pursue careers in tax law, a number of whom he also inspired to follow in his footsteps as law school tax professors.

McDaniel is survived by his wife, the Rev. Virginia Ann McDaniel, pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Alachua; a daughter, Alysa, and her husband, Craig Emden, and granddaughters Alix and Maia; a son, Kyle, and his wife, Barbara, and grandsons Aubyn and Rowan; a brother, Ron (Buzz), and his wife, Betty; stepchildren Kate and Andrew Mason; and his former wife, Joyce (Kirchner) McDaniel.

– Special thanks to Martin J. McMahon Jr. for his contributions and assistance with this tribute
UP & COMING

Florida Law Review’s changing leadership

BY ROBERTA O. ROBERTS

Dwayne Antonio Robinson (3L) doesn’t think of his position as leaving behind a legacy. “Don’t live your life to create a legacy,” he said. “Live life to do well for yourself, your friends, your family and your community, and that should be enough.”

As the current editor-in-chief of the Fredric G. Levin College of Law’s Florida Law Review, Robinson plans to take the review, his staff and himself to new heights. “Whatever you do in life, do it to the best of your abilities,” he said.

Robinson’s achievements show these words in action. Robinson graduated cum laude with bachelor’s degrees in journalism and political science, along with a minor in business administration from the University of Florida in 2005. As an undergraduate, he was editor-in-chief of The Independent Florida Alligator, and is now a member of its board of directors. After graduation he worked as a reporter for The Palm Beach Post for three years.

At UF Law he has been a speaker for the Ninth Annual Nelson Symposium, a teaching assistant for Legal Research and Writing and Appellate Advocacy, academic chair for the Black Law Student Association, a member of the review bylaw committee and was review research editor.

Robinson also worked during his second year and summer for Gunster, Yoakley & Stewart, P.A. in West Palm Beach to help pay for law school. He ultimately plans to work for Gunster in business litigation, but said he also has an interest in land use law.

After graduation, he will clerk for Judge Ed Carnes, U.S. Circuit Judge for the U.S. Court of Appeals 11th Circuit in Montgomery, Ala. A natural writer, Robinson loves the idea of clerking for a judge whose written opinions often detail the very compelling accounts and lives of the people before the court. However, Robinson wasn’t always interested in clerking.

“The amount of support I got solidified everything in my mind that we were going to go forth and change the way people thought of the Florida Law Review.”

— DWAYNE ROBINSON (3L)

Robinson covered the 2008 Florida legislative session as a reporter, and his work in the media has made him somewhat jaded to people in the public eye. He isn’t easily impressed. “I’ve met or covered events featuring Obama, Crist, Kerry, Bush and Giuliani and none compare to him. He (Thomas) is the one I want to sit down and have dinner with.”

Surpassed only by meeting Thomas, the night Robinson was elected to editor-in-chief of the Law Review is a close second when it comes to his most memorable and rewarding experiences at UF Law. “The amount of support I got solidified everything in my mind that we were going to go forth and change the way people thought of the Florida Law Review,” he said of the election night.

The face of the review has been changing over the years. This year, the vast majority of new members are women, and last year, three out of the four candidates for editor-in-chief were minorities. All of them are now in executive positions on the review.

“The interesting thing is, I don’t think anyone even realized it,” Robinson said of the diversity in candidates for editor-in-chief. “And that’s a good thing.”

Robinson said the increased diversity is “an indicator of where our country is going” and he appreciates the hard work of his staff, which ultimately encouraged him to run for editor-in-chief. “I believe in what we’re doing at the law review,” he said. “I saw so much potential. (Review staff) just needed a little inspiration, someone with a vision and drive to get them there. The staff members put their faith in me. I am not going to disappoint them.”

FALL 2010

83
FEB. 11
Richard E. Nelson Symposium
Location: Hilton University of Florida Conference Center
Contact: Barbara DeVoe, 352-273-0615 or e-mail devoe@law.ufl.edu

FEB. 17-18
Law and Entrepreneurship Scholars Conference
Location: UF College of Law
Contact: Daniel Sokol, 352-273-0968 or e-mail sokold@law.ufl.edu

FEB. 24-26
Public Interest Environmental Conference
“It’s Not Easy Being Green: Our Energy Future”
Location: UF College of Law

MARCH 24
Center for the Study of Race and Race Relations Spring Lecture

MARCH 24-25
Dunwody Distinguished Lecture in Law
Location: UF College of Law
Speaker: Richard A. Epstein, Laurence A. Tisch Professor of Law, New York University

MARCH 26
Music Law Conference
Location: UF College of Law
Speaker: TBA

APRIL, DATE TBA
Wolf Family Lecture
Location: UF College of Law
Speaker: Joseph William Singer, Bussey Professor of Law, Harvard University

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS