

# Widener Law

## **SERVING THE GREATER GOOD**

Safeguarding Delaware's Children  
Providing Wills for Heroes

Also—Professor Andy Fichter Examines  
Federal Health Insurance Reform

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### Widener University School of Law Magazine

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“The privilege of being a part of this profession has with it an obligation to go beyond the personal, tangible benefits of employment.”

**DEAR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS:** This morning, while taking my routine walk, I was thinking about the new school year. As I begin this fifth year as your dean, the cascade of activities and events is unfolding in familiar ways, just like the path that I often follow. In other writings, I have talked about how well I know the twists and turns, ups and downs of my trail. I now have a pedometer, and this morning my success was measured in 7,952 steps from start to finish. ■ I had been away from my footpath for vacation and the ABA annual meeting. When I returned to it today, I discovered something new. Someone had marked it with mileposts. This sighting gave me a totally different perspective as to my accomplishment. My myopic achievement was only a part of the overall grand scheme. The mile markers gave me the bigger picture of the distance that could be covered if I would commit. There were many more miles to go until the end. ■ The privilege of being a part of this profession has with it an obligation to go beyond the personal, tangible benefits of employment. This edition of the magazine focuses on commitment to service in the communities of which Widener is a part. The lead article summarizes the daunting task that I was asked to undertake by the Governor of the state of Delaware on behalf of its people. Students on both campuses are also demonstrating their dedication to becoming citizen lawyers of the highest caliber. The story on Wills For Heroes on page 8 is but one example. ■ You will also learn about the impressive faculty contributions and changes taking place at Widener. New faculty members are joining us. Others, including Professor Andy Fichter, the author of the article on healthcare, and our Taishoff Professor of Law, Thomas Reed, are transitioning. We are grateful for their years of service. Finally, we celebrate with the alumni all of their great news. ■ Our new incoming class has been seated and the 2010-2011 school year is getting off to a great start. I hope that this year’s journey for you will be a good one as well. ■

**LINDA L. AMMONS, JD**  
**ASSOCIATE PROVOST AND DEAN**

## A message from the alumni board president



“I ask you to reach out to the law school, to make it part of your life again, and to be an active member of our alumni body.”

**DEAR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS:** With the start of the new academic year, I welcome all of our new and returning students on behalf of Widener Law’s alumni. A year of opportunities, challenges, and wonderful accomplishments awaits them. ■ Last April, Widener Law celebrated the 35th anniversary of its first graduating class—the class of 1975. The event was attended by 300 alumni, distinguished guests, and friends of the law school. ■ As alumni association president, I had the distinct privilege of presenting the Alumnus of the Year Award to Captain Robert P. Taishoff, JAGC, USN (ret.) ’89. Captain Taishoff has selflessly given of his time, his tremendous talent, and his treasure to Widener Law. His generosity was a vivid reminder of the unique service each of us is capable of rendering. ■ I was again reminded of how meaningful our service as alumni is when I had the privilege of participating in the law school’s 2010 graduation ceremonies in Wilmington and Harrisburg in May. I had not been in cap and gown since I graduated in 1991. Nonetheless, dressed in full regalia, I marched with the platform party, sat on the stage, and even had the pleasure of speaking to the class of 2010 and their families for a few short minutes. ■ I share this story with you because the energy of our graduates was contagious. Their excitement, their eagerness, and their pride to enter our profession and join the 13,000 Widener Law alumni who had walked before them were so apparent. Like those that came before them, their graduation would not have been possible without the generosity of the Widener Law family. ■ I encouraged the class of 2010 to continue making Widener Law a part of their family. I send this message to all of you and ask each of you to reflect for just a moment or two on how proud you were to become a graduate of Widener Law. I ask you to reach out to the law school, to make it part of your life again, and to be an active member of our alumni body. ■

**RENAE B. AXELROD ’91**

**PRESIDENT, ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

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# STATE OF DELAWARE



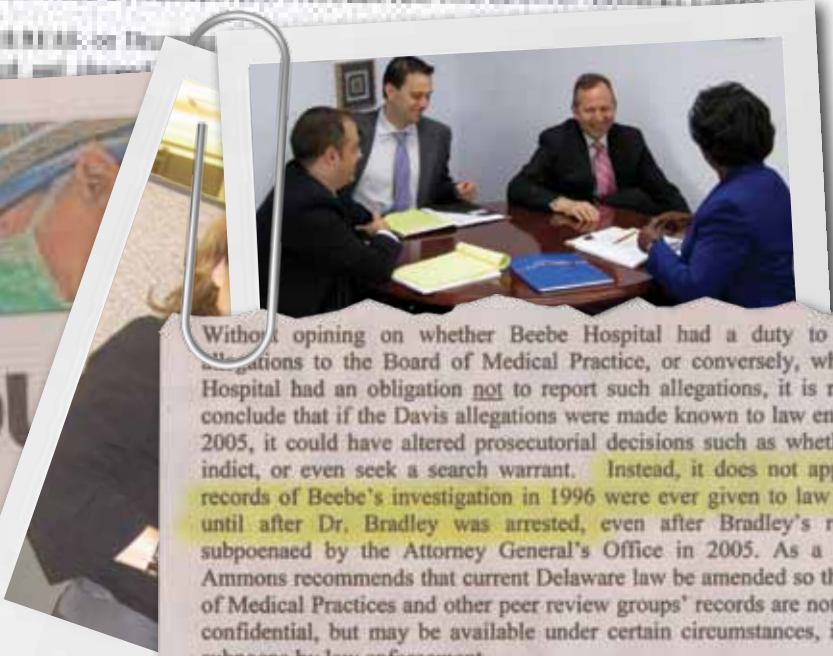
Executive Department  
Beebe

EXECUTIVE ORDER  
NUMBER 2005-001

TITLE: MEMORANDUM FOR ALL STATE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

RE: HOSPITAL RECORDS - HANDING TO LEGISLATION REVIEW IN  
DELAWARE'S POLICE AND PROSECUTORIAL RECORDS ACCESSIBILITY

MEMORANDUM FOR THE  
ATTORNEY GENERAL



Without opining on whether Beebe Hospital had a duty to report such allegations to the Board of Medical Practice, or conversely, whether Beebe Hospital had an obligation not to report such allegations, it is reasonable to conclude that if the Davis allegations were made known to law enforcement in 2005, it could have altered prosecutorial decisions such as whether to arrest, indict, or even seek a search warrant. Instead, it does not appear that the records of Beebe's investigation in 1996 were ever given to law enforcement until after Dr. Bradley was arrested, even after Bradley's records were subpoenaed by the Attorney General's Office in 2005. As a result, Dean Ammons recommends that current Delaware law be amended so that the Board of Medical Practices and other peer review groups' records are not held strictly confidential, but may be available under certain circumstances, including via subpoena by law enforcement.

DID YOU KNOW, A14-15  
**NEW WAYS OF HEALING HEARTS**  
The News Journal  
delawareonline.com

PAGE REPORT BY LINDA L. AMMONS, DEAN OF THE WORK  
**'A tragedy of magnitude may have been pre-empted'**  
if the individuals directly involved had been more focused and alert, less willing to give Bradley the benefit of the doubt, and if they had scrupulously followed the law. "

**CHILD ABUSE CASE REVIEW SHOWS MISSED 'RED FLAGS'**  
By CHRIS BARRISH  
The News Journal

LEGISLATURE  
**Bradley bills quickly pass Legislature**

Hospitals' concerns delay one of seven proposals in package





## Answering a Governor's Call

At the behest of Governor Jack Markell, Dean Linda L. Ammons undertook a comprehensive independent review of Delaware state policies and procedures governing child sexual abuse cases. The governor's request came in the wake of serial abuse allegedly perpetrated by a Delaware pediatrician.



In December of 2009, Delaware and the nation were rocked by multiple allegations of child sexual abuse by Sussex County pediatrician Earl B. Bradley. Dr. Bradley was charged with and eventually indicted on hundreds of counts of sexual assault, rape, and exploitation perpetrated against more than 100 patients over a decade.

The public dismay and anger over these alleged crimes—many consider this the worst pedophile case in our nation's history—was magnified by the fact that Dr. Bradley used his position of trust and authority to facilitate the attacks, and by the fact that concerns about his behavior were first raised at least 10 years prior to his eventual arrest in 2009. Members of the public, state government, social service organizations, and the legal community immediately questioned how such abuse could have continued over such a long period of time, especially when perpetrated by a member of the medical community. As more information came to light, and it became clear that red flags had repeatedly but futilely been raised about Dr. Bradley's alleged conduct, concern about the case expanded to include the repeated failure of the state's systems to protect children from predators. In response to this crisis, Governor Jack Markell called on Widener Law Dean Linda L. Ammons.

For Dean Ammons, the governor's call came as a surprise. She was in New Orleans attending the Association of American Law Schools' annual meeting. Fittingly, the dean was in the process of promoting the role of public service at Widener Law

when the governor called. "I was at the annual AALS meeting, serving on a panel discussing the civic importance of law schools and their engagement in *pro bono* activity," Dean Ammons recalls. "While I was speaking, touting Widener's commitment to public service, my phone buzzed. I ignored it, and later that evening when I looked at the number I didn't recognize it. It had been the governor."

When Dean Ammons returned the call to Governor Markell, he asked her to perform an independent review of the state's existing statutory and administrative policies and procedures governing child sexual abuse in order to determine how allegations against Dr. Bradley had failed to garner appropriate attention as well as how to prevent such a tragedy from occurring in the future. As a veteran of state investigations conducted during her tenure as assistant to the Governor of Ohio, Dean Ammons was under no illusions about the enormity of the undertaking. While she had concerns about completing such a task while continuing to fulfill her responsibilities as the dean of a law school spanning two campuses in two states, Dean Ammons knew that the law school's unique role in Delaware made the governor's choice appropriate and the challenge one she ought to accept. "It was a significant statement that the governor asked for my assistance because the law school is so engaged in public service in Delaware," she says. "Just months before, Governor Markell had been on our Delaware Campus to dedicate the new public service wing, and then a few months later called on me specifically to assist him in this very important

matter. We at Widener are a part of the fabric of Delaware, and take our role of civic engagement very seriously." Dean Ammons agreed to lead the investigation and quickly became immersed in the task.

At a press conference held on January 13 on the Delaware Campus, the governor was joined by the dean, state Senator Brian Bushweller, chair of the Senate Public Safety Committee, and Delaware Representative Larry Mitchell, chair of the House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee. In outlining his request, the governor said, "the bottom line is that the system failed these children. I am asking Dean Ammons to take an independent look at why this systemic failure occurred and asking that she make recommendations that will foster a child protection community of collaboration and accountability so that we can make the necessary improvements to protect our children from predators." Dean Ammons explained that her decision to undertake this onerous task was based on the centrality of public service at Widener Law: "This call to public service is in keeping with our core values at Widener, where students are encouraged to use their education and talents in ways that contribute to the communities we serve in order to make them better places."

On February 4, the governor signed Executive Order Number 16 appointing Dean Ammons to lead the review and to present a report to the Governor's Office, the Senate Public Safety Committee, and the House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee as soon as practicable. For Dean Ammons, the process would eventually span more than four months, include scores of interviews and hundreds of hours of effort, and prove even more demanding than she had expected. On May 10, Dean Ammons presented her findings to the governor and the legislature in a final report that included 68 specific recommendations drawn from evidence collected during her exhaustive examination of the case and existing state policies.

Dean Ammons' final report highlights four core issues at the heart of her investigation: whether there was proper communication and coordination between law enforcement, regulators, and the medical community; whether professional licensing and reporting requirements for suspected misconduct were adhered to and whether they are sufficient; whether current medical standards concerning pediatric care are adequate to ensure that doctors, medical staff, and parents have clear guidance; and whether current services are adequate to protect and treat children suspected of being victims of sexual abuse. In order to address these questions,

Dean Ammons set out to review the facts of the alleged abuse through records and interviews with various individuals, including victims' parents, former colleagues and employees, regulators, and employees of the government and non-profit agencies involved in child protection in the state.

The fact-finding stage of the review was complicated by the realities of investigating the subject of an ongoing criminal investigation and prosecution and ensuring that the review in no way jeopardized the criminal case. Additionally, a number of civil suits had been filed in the matter, and one party declined to be interviewed on advice of counsel. Despite these obstacles, Dean Ammons interviewed dozens of individuals connected to the case. She also consulted with child protection advocates, law enforcement experts, and medical experts from around the nation in order to further develop an unbiased understanding of the issues and maintain the independent nature of her review.

Dean Ammons was not tasked with assessing liability or culpability in any of the matters in question, and refrained from doing so in her final report. Rather, she focused on the larger issues of procedures, accountability, and safeguards that could have prevented or sooner ended Dr. Bradley's alleged attacks. Without assigning direct blame, Dean Ammons found that "it is clear that on at least several occasions, state and non-state agencies and entities missed opportunities to communicate and/or share vital information that in combination



Dean Linda L. Ammons with WHYY Radio Times host Marty Moss-Coane during her interview about the Bradley case.

# Op

## Tough

Delaware's profes establishment got a slap in the face Tuesday. Linda Ammons, dean of Widener University School of Law, firmly let the enforcement and medical communities know that

### DR. EARL BRADLEY CASE

complaints about the behavior of Dr. Earl Bradley

The Lewes pediatric is accused of raping or abusing more than 103 children since 1998. The case has shocked and sickened the state. No matter how the case turns out, the reporting procedures have been shown to be inadequate and they must be fixed.

Dean Ammons, acting at

and Dean Ammons did not have subpoena powers.

Noting investigations developed by the Milford po-

Dr. Bradley  
Dean Ammons noted that the Board of Medical Prac-



could have led to the successful prosecution of Dr. Bradley, or at the very least, led to the loss of his license to practice medicine." Dean Ammons found that the safety net designed to protect the state's children simply had too many holes. The consequences were tragic.

The dean's recommendations delivered one overarching message: "all of the entities charged with child protection must not only follow the letter of the law but also must better coordinate their efforts and communicate intra- and inter-agency." Expanding on this broad call for open and complete communication about potential abuse, the report's 68 specific recommendations, for 10 discrete groups of actors, aim to improve the judicial and administrative handling of suspected and confirmed child sexual abuse cases. These recommendations are directed toward state agencies, the Delaware Board of Medical Practice, the state Department of Justice, the police, the General Assembly, the courts, hospitals, the Children's Advocacy Center, the medical society, and the public at large. While specifically geared toward the role and mission of each group, these extensive recommendations call on these entities to increase their vigilance, foster awareness, mitigate risk, facilitate greater transparency in investigations, and diligently pursue instances of potential abuse.

When asked to describe which recommendations she feels are the most critical to preventing abuse, Dean Ammons notes that the need to increase and improve communication between all groups tasked with protecting our children is absolutely essential. Too often "state agencies and outside organizations are notorious for being silo entities," she says, "and they fail to take responsibility if the issue in question doesn't directly cross their view...agencies need to bend over backwards to be thorough and get critical information." Good intentions, clearly, are not enough. She concludes that the organizations in question must find ways to bring together discrete pieces of information from disparate sources in order to ensure that a complete picture in a case of potential abuse can be constructed and pursued.

Beyond increasing critical lines of communication to investigate potential abuse, Dean Ammons also feels that it is crucial that a range of organizations works to further educate the public

Regardless of the Medical Society was aware of the allegations of improper touching, the letter appeared to provide enough allegations to at least put into doubt Bradley's fitness to practice medicine. Therefore, the Medical Society should have filed a formal complaint with the Board of Medical Practice, even if all it did was forward the Barnes letter. In order to better ensure that mandatory reporters fulfill their duty to report, the General Assembly should couple reporters' immunity in the statute with stiffer penalties for failing to report. In addition, all licensees of the Board of Medical Practice should receive mandatory training regarding their duty to report.

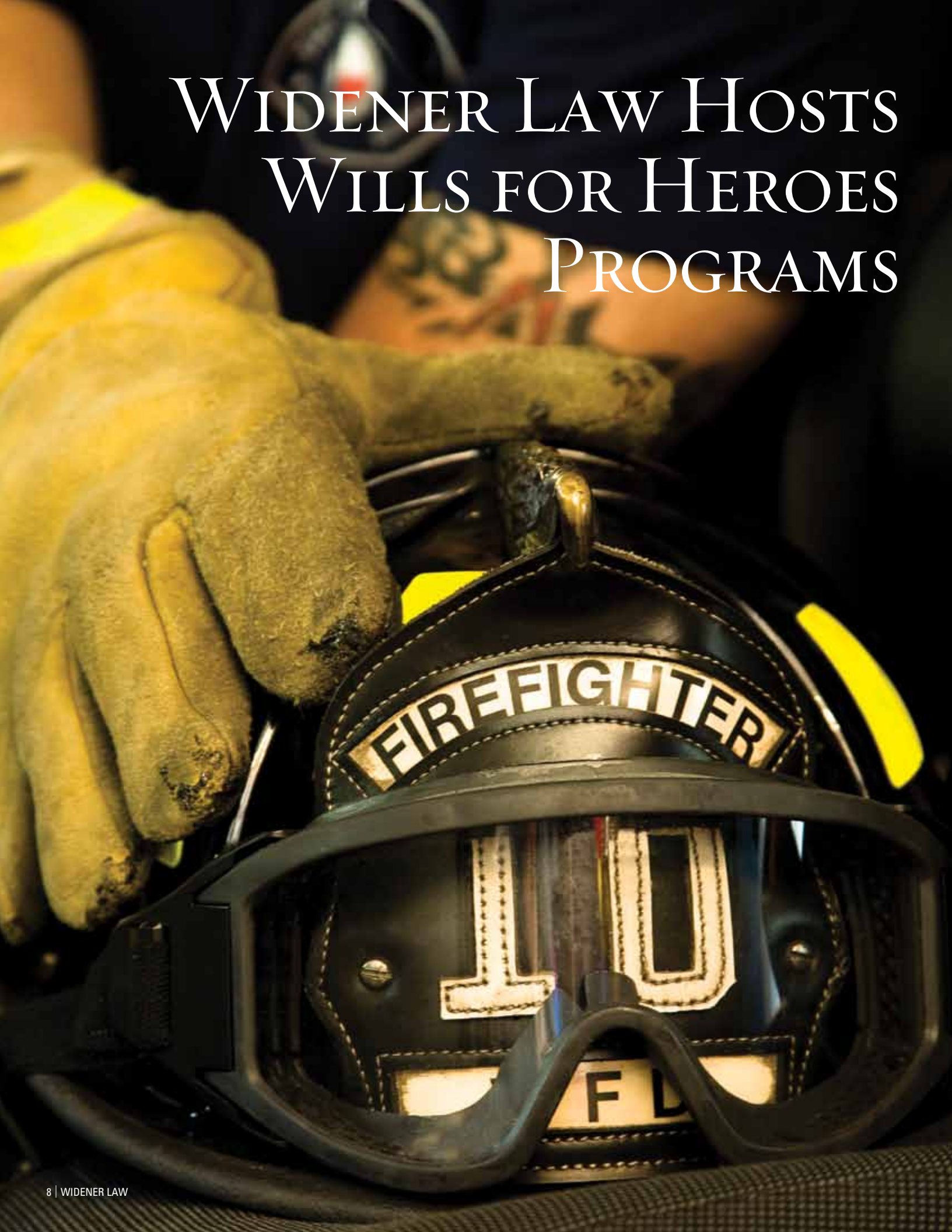
and professionals in relevant fields about the dangers and realities of pedophiles. More than just warnings about strangers, both children and adults need to know that sexual abuse of children more often occurs at the hands of someone the child knows, and sometimes, as allegedly happened in Dr. Bradley's case, by someone in a position of authority.

Finally, Dean Ammons believes that there must be improvement made in the ways that allegations of abuse are recorded, so that suspicious patterns may be brought to light. "There must be a means to track the history of allegations, so that multiple complaints against an individual can be tracked and reviewed, and repeat offenses prevented."

The magnitude and brutality of Dr. Bradley's alleged crimes are deeply disturbing, and all the more reprehensible because of the abuse of power they entail. As Dean Ammons writes in her final report, "We suspend belief that persons who have taken oaths of various kinds, including 'do no harm,' could possibly betray their professions and the very persons they have been given the privilege to serve."

One week after Dean Ammons released her report, the Attorney General's office released the similar findings of a concurrent state investigation. On June 30, Governor Markell signed a package of nine bills, informed by these reports, into law, continuing the reform process he began by securing Dean Ammons' assistance. Among their provisions, the bills mandate increased communication and information sharing between medical and law enforcement agencies, rename the Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline (formerly the "Board of Medical Practice") and strengthen its mandate to investigate and punish entities for failure to report misconduct, require the presence of a second adult during the examination of any child under 15 years of age, and outline a more rigorous system of background checks and other investigative measures for physician licensure and renewal. Earl Bradley is scheduled for trial in February 2011.

*Dean Ammons' report can be accessed at <http://governor.delaware.gov/docs/ammonsfinalreport.pdf> and at [law.widener.edu](http://law.widener.edu).* ■

A close-up photograph of a firefighter's helmet and a pair of yellow work gloves. The helmet is black with a silver-colored visor. The word 'FIREFIGHTER' is written in white capital letters on a black background across the front of the helmet. Below the visor, the letters 'FD' are visible in a similar style. The yellow gloves are worn and show signs of use. The background is dark and out of focus.

# WIDENER LAW HOSTS WILLS FOR HEROES PROGRAMS



On April 17, students, faculty, staff, and local attorneys volunteered their time in Wilmington and Harrisburg to prepare 95 wills and other legal documents for local first responders. By becoming a Wills for Heroes Foundation affiliate, Widener Law became the first law school in the nation to host this program and had the distinction of introducing it in the state of Delaware.

For first responders, service is a way of life. Every day, firefighters, police officers, and paramedics put their lives on the line to protect and serve the people in their communities. At Widener Law, the administration, faculty, and students have come together to be of service to the local heroes who nobly risk their lives.

The Wills for Heroes Foundation is a national organization founded by South Carolina attorney Anthony Hayes in the aftermath of 9/11. When Mr. Hayes reached out to his local fire department to see how lawyers could help area first responders, it quickly became clear that providing estate planning services would be a perfect opportunity for attorneys to honor and serve these everyday heroes. Since then, Wills for Heroes has grown across the country and continues to provide an excellent opportunity for legal professionals to give back to those who give so much to all of us.

Sponsored by state affiliates—usually large law firms or bar associations—Wills for Heroes events are open to firefighters, police, corrections and probation officers, and paramedics. Despite, or perhaps because of, the inherently dangerous nature of their jobs, many first responders fail to undertake even basic estate planning. For others, the financial realities of their professions make legal services simply too expensive. By attending a Wills for Heroes program, first responders can receive, at no cost, the legal assistance necessary to plan for and protect the future of their families.

Wills for Heroes participants pre-register for the event and complete an estate

planning questionnaire prior to attending. Upon arrival, the participants are assigned a volunteer attorney who inputs their information into state-specific document-assembly software. After attorney review of the documents, they are signed, witnessed, and notarized, usually in less than a few hours. First responders leave the event with documents that are immediately effective. For these individuals, it is an invaluable service that they are often unable to obtain elsewhere.

Over the last year, Wills for Heroes programs developed simultaneously, but

independently, on both the Delaware and Harrisburg campuses. On the Harrisburg Campus, students from the Trial Advocacy Honor Society worked with representatives of the Wills for Heroes Foundation and of the pro bono arm of the Pennsylvania Bar Association to organize a document preparation program. Wills for Heroes programs had been offered for some time in the state, but this was the first such event ever to be held on a Pennsylvania law school campus. The program was an unmitigated success, resulting in the preparation of 62 wills and a number of other planning documents for program participants.

In Delaware, it was largely the work of SBA President (then president-elect) and Military Law Society President Damiano “Dom” Del Pino that brought the Wills for Heroes program to campus, and, for that matter, to the state.

## PROFESSOR REED RETIRES

Taishoff Professor of Law Thomas J. Reed retired at the end of the 2009–2010 academic year, concluding nearly three decades of remarkable service to the law school. Professor Reed joined the faculty at Delaware Law School as associate professor of law and served in that capacity from 1981-84; as associate dean and professor of law, 1984-93; and as professor of law since 1984. Professor Reed was director of the Legal Skills Program from 1993-95 and was a cofounder of the Hugh Pearce Competition. A former Marine Corps officer who saw action in the Dominican Republic Crisis of 1965, Professor Reed was—and remains—a tireless advocate for low-income and disabled veterans. He founded the law school’s Veterans Law Program in 1997, later expanding it to full clinic status. The result, Widener’s Veterans Law Clinic, operates offices in Wilmington, Delaware as well as Harrisburg and Media, Pennsylvania. The first and one of only a few such clinics in the United States, the Veterans Law Clinic has since its inception recovered more than \$2.4 million in arrearages for its clients. Fortunately, the clinic and its clients will retain Professor Reed’s considerable prowess as an advocate, as he continues serving as a volunteer attorney and adjunct professor. For the 2010-2011 academic year, he will retain the title Taishoff Professor of Law, an honor afforded him by the Taishoff Family Foundation at the founding of the Taishoff Advocacy, Technology, and Public Service Institute in 2008. Professor Reed’s colleagues and students will miss his dry wit and encyclopedic knowledge. We wish him the very best in his retirement.







*Above: Professor Leslie A. Johnson and Coordinator of Special Programs Connie Sweeney confer at the Delaware Wills for Heroes program.*

*Above left: Event organizer and 2010–2011 Delaware SBA President Damiano Del Pino*

*Left: Volunteers assist clients at the Harrisburg event.*

When Mr. Del Pino volunteered at a New Jersey Wills for Heroes event as a notary, he inquired about opportunities to volunteer in Delaware as well. Told there was no Delaware affiliate to sponsor events, Mr. Del Pino immediately knew that Widener Law would be a perfect fit. “That’s why I came to Widener — the commitment to community service. Still, since this was such a big undertaking, I expected that there might be some resistance,” he recalls. “But there was none whatsoever — within days of my introduction of the idea to the school administration, everyone was behind it.” Led by the enthusiastic support of Dean Linda L. Ammons, Widener Law became the only law school in the nation to serve as a state affiliate for the Wills for Heroes program.

Once the commitment to the program had been made, the real work of providing services tailored to the needs of Delaware first responders began. In addition to Mr. Del Pino, Professors Thomas J. Reed and Nicholas A. Mirkay were instrumental in making the program a reality. The Wills for Heroes Foundation provides software,

guidance, and support; but state affiliates ensure that documents reflect state-specific law and provide event planning, service coordination, and volunteer staff. With the help of local attorney volunteers, Professor Reed, Professor Mirkay, and Mr. Del Pino worked with the national organization to draft the document templates. After months of diligent work, the first-ever Delaware Wills for Heroes document preparation event was held on the Delaware Campus last spring, resulting in the preparation of 33 wills and a number of other documents such as healthcare directives and living wills. In its ongoing role as the state affiliate, Widener coordinated a similar event in July, assisting more than 60 clients, and plans to offer one each semester at locations throughout the state.

On both campuses, the Wills for Heroes programs offered not only an outstanding chance for students and faculty to make a difference, but also an opportunity for the hands-on learning critical to a Widener Law education. For the students who volunteered, it was a humbling and inspiring opportunity to work side by side with members of their

profession as they served those whose careers are dedicated to serving others. It was also a chance to see a number of their professors in action outside of the classroom. On both campuses, faculty welcomed the opportunity to serve and to model Widener Law’s altruistic spirit.

Beyond the tangible educational benefits, faculty and students participating in the event were rewarded by the simple gratitude of the clients and the knowledge that they had been of real service to a group of deserving individuals. As Professor Leslie A. Johnson recalled, “it was a very special event because the people we helped were so grateful, people who never would have been able to get these documents without the help of these volunteers.”

Widener Law continues to raise the bar for service in legal education and model how the profession can meet the needs of the community. To Professor Starla J. Williams, the program was proof that “busy professionals can do short term projects that can make a very meaningful contribution.” ■



# The Affordable Care Act: What Does Healthcare Reform Say About Us?

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By *Andrew Fichter*  
*Associate Professor of Law*

**First the process, then the product.**

## **PROCESS**

In case a healing amnesic balm has started to erase your memory of 2009, let me remind you that the process by which we arrived at the enactment of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (“Affordable Care Act”) was painful. Every fissure in our society was exposed, and each seemed to widen. The political center became dangerous ground. No distortion of fact was out of bounds in the service of what disparate groups hastily perceived as their self-interest. Remember death panels? We were told that our healthcare system was the best in the world, and that it was the worst among developed nations (37th in the world, in a 2000 World Health Organization assessment); we were variously warned that our elderly would lose Medicare, and that government would take over healthcare for the rest of us; we were shamed by the statistic that 46 million people in the richest nation on earth had no insurance, and infuriated upon learning that the uninsured, illegal aliens among them, received expensive care at our cost in our emergency rooms. Demagogues rose up to manipulate our irrational fears and basest motives to their political advantage.



And I think we can be proud of all that.

Democracy in action, right? But seriously, there is a reason for pride somewhere in that mess. We undertook healthcare reform in circumstances very different from those that engendered the world's other two major strategies for healthcare delivery, and the difference says a lot about who we are as a nation. The other two arrangements are the Bismarck model, which was adopted by the German government in the late nineteenth century in an effort to forestall the rise of socialism, and the Beveridge model, which was adopted in Great Britain in the wake of World War II. We, however, undertook healthcare reform in the absence of any war or political upheaval of the magnitude that provoked change in those other countries.

To be sure, there were indicia of system failure and economic hardship aplenty in the U.S in 2009. You could argue that we were forced to reform in response to the unnerving inflation of healthcare costs; but truth be told, we could have deferred reform for another generation. In certain respects our system worked, or at least its flaws were concealed. We could have continued insuring only those who did not need much care, dropping the coverage of a limited number of individuals from time to time when their care became expensive. We could have gone on in collective self-denial, because those

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“You could argue that we were forced to reform in response to the unnerving inflation of healthcare costs; but truth be told, we could have deferred reform for another generation.”

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whom we neglected were a politically powerless minority (the more powerless because they were by definition either unemployed or preoccupied by illness, or both). Any voices sounding on their behalf could easily have been drowned out by powerful lobbies and demagogues. It is to our credit that we finally listened to our better angels instead — or at least that we abandoned the devil we knew for we know not what.

By way of contrast, Germany adopted what is known as the Bismarck model for health insurance coverage largely as a counter-measure to the very real possibility of massive social upheaval in the 1880s. Seeing labor organizations winning the hearts and minds of the Industrial Revolution's emerging

labor class by providing healthcare benefits through unions, Chancellor Bismarck moved to implement a plan that made coverage universal through capitalist institutions. As a result of this social safety net, the German workforce became further obligated to capitalism and to the status quo and less interested in socialist revolution. This arrangement survives in Germany and a number of other countries to the present day. German employers and employees each contribute a percentage of wages to nonprofit insurance funds which provide coverage for most of the population. For individuals covered in these funds, the cost of coverage is determined in relation to income rather than risk level. Minimum service levels for the insurance are established by government regulation. Eighty-five percent of the population is covered in this way, and the remainder is covered through private insurance. Insurance coverage is mandatory, so coverage is effectively universal. The arrangement resembles that upon which we are embarking in the U.S., except that we will use a wider variety of coverage arrangements and continue to leave 15 million people uncovered.

Great Britain's national health plan resulted from that country's experience during and after World War II. The government had already begun assuming the task of providing care on a national scale before the war ended, as soldiers were mobilized, families disrupted, and plans were made to displace whole urban populations to more secure locations. Hundreds of hospitals were built or expanded as part of the national Emergency Medical Service. Meanwhile, the war precipitated the degradation or reallocation of the existing healthcare infrastructure. As the war came to an end, the National Health System was not only an evident necessity but also to a large extent fait accompli.

The arrival of healthcare reform in our country was not leveraged by circumstance as it was in Germany and Great Britain. We did what we did, when we did it, as much by choice as necessity, and therein lies an argument for our national courage of conviction. That being said, we should own the implications of the fact that the process took decades to unfold. Congressional attempts to incorporate health insurance into the Social Security System began in 1943 with the Wagner–Murray–Dingell bill. This and two subsequent attempts in 1945 were headed off by both employer and labor groups, which enjoyed the power that came with controlling this important benefit. These two groups were soon joined by private insurers, whose growth our employer-based system necessitated. As a nation we settled into “welfare capitalism” and accepted its talking points as doctrine: private benefits were deemed superior to public ones; welfare arrangements perpetuated unhealthy dependencies. Left behind were (a) the concept





that healthcare was a universal human right, or at least a governmental responsibility, and (b) the millions of people the employer-based model did not reach. And in the meantime, the cost of healthcare rose dramatically.

When we took the next giant step toward universal public coverage in 1965 with Medicare and Medicaid, we also scripted our dialogue about healthcare in a way that probably made national coverage less likely in the years that followed. We differentiated between earned and charitable benefits in a manner that stigmatized the latter. Medicare was a contributory entitlement, an earned right, paid for through lifelong wage deductions. Medicare recipients — all Americans over 65 — are called “beneficiaries,” and they are not means-tested for their benefits. Medicaid recipients are called “clients” by the agencies that administer their benefits, which are means-tested and stigmatized accordingly. Thus when the idea of national health insurance was re-floated in the Clinton era, the perception that benefits were either contributory, earned benefits or charitable handouts governed the conversation. It was too easy for reform opponents to marshal public sentiment against welfare healthcare (known without controversy in other countries as the right to healthcare, the provision of which is a government responsibility), so the Clinton health plan adhered to the earned-coverage approach. The employer-based, contributory model was enshrined; the social insurance, “welfare” model was in shambles. As a nation we committed to the employment-based system as the embodiment of a virtue we held fundamental to our national character.

What is self-revelatory in the fact that it took us eight decades to arrive at the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act? For one thing, we should acknowledge that we are not the bold social innovators we may imagine ourselves to be. For a nation born in revolution, we are impressive in nothing so much as our resistance to change. Where healthcare is concerned, we have moved with truly glacial alacrity. We may be revolutionaries by birth, but we are incrementalists in deed.

Moreover, what we have labored so long and hard to bring forth falls short in many respects of anything truly revolutionary. Which brings us to the second part of this piece.

## **PRODUCT**

For all the drama of 2009, healthcare reform was not so much reform as a series of tweaks. There were important tweaks, to be sure. I do not wish to belittle our accomplishment, because there is nothing insignificant about extending coverage to 31 million additional people. But if you consider that we began in 2009 with a national healthcare system based on providing private insurance through employers with government subsidies, supplemented by programs such as Medicaid, Medicare, State Children’s Health Insurance Programs (SCHIPS), and the Veterans’ Administration, but still leaving a significant part of the population uncovered, that is essentially where we ended up in 2010. In 2010 we adjusted the numbers in each category; we did not reform the underlying employer-based structure. If we reformed anything, it was the insurance industry, not healthcare as a whole.

## PROFESSOR FICHTER RETIRES

Professor Andrew J. Fichter, Executive Director of the law school's Delaware-based institutes, retired at the conclusion of the 2009–2010 academic year, concluding the latest phase in a distinguished career in the law and the academy. Arriving in 2003, Professor Fichter brought with him multiple degrees from Yale and Cambridge, teaching experience at the University of the Sciences, Villanova Law, Princeton, and Yale, as well as experience with Dechert's business practice, Hangley Connolly Epstein Chicco Foxman & Ewing, where he chaired the firm's Health Care Group, and Salvo, Russell, Fichter & Landau. He put this breadth of experience to good use directing the law school's Delaware-based institutes, which encompass health, corporate, environmental, and public service law. His expertise in health law and related constitutional issues—invaluable during the nation's efforts at health insurance reform—will be sorely missed, as will his professionalism and grace. We wish him well.



To put our reform achievement in perspective, recall that we assess healthcare systems by examining their three key variables: quality, access, and cost. What we dealt with in 2010 was access. We significantly increased the number of people who can now get access to healthcare on other than an emergency basis. We generally punted on quality and cost, however. The (possibly misnamed) Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act is unimpressive with respect to both patient protection (quality) and affordability of care (cost).

With respect to quality, the Affordable Care Act gives us a number of pilot programs. The Act will encourage experimentation with Accountable Care Organizations, for instance, which should reward providers for achieving cost-effective advances in quality of care. With respect to cost, we seem to have limited ourselves to “bending the curve,” or reducing the rate of cost increases, and this process awaits full implementation of the Act eight or nine years from now. Healthcare economists tell us that one of the most significant cost-control components of the Affordable Care Act will be the excise tax on so-called Cadillac insurance plans. Intended to discourage overuse of healthcare resources by those with extraordinary coverage, this provision is aspirational at best, a correction with respect to incentives. It does nothing directly to limit costs, but rather relies on market theories that have generated as many questions as answers. (Does demand really drive up healthcare costs? To what extent do we seek more healthcare services simply because we can afford them or because insurance

is paying, rather than because our doctors tell us they are necessary?) In any event, for better or worse, we have steered well clear of the kind of structural approaches to reducing healthcare costs that other countries use, such as rationing resources or command and control government budgeting.

Putting aside any discussion of its merits, what does the Affordable Care Act tell us about ourselves? That we can move slowly, for one thing. More significantly, that we are ambivalent about undertaking healthcare on a communal level. We never fully embraced the idea that we are all in it together with respect to healthcare — that it is a social obligation for each of us to provide for the others, and a fundamental right of each of us to have basic care as needed. Instead, as we cling to our employment-based, private insurance coverage arrangement, imperfectly supplemented by a variety of government programs and needs-based subsidies, we seem to say “some of us have earned healthcare privileges; we are willing to extend ourselves somewhat to those of you who have not, but not to the extent of jeopardizing what we have garnered to ourselves.” That we differ from Great Britain and Europe in this attitude is perhaps a function of our different national experiences during the 1940s, as some have suggested; but it may run deeper than that.

Taken together, the process of enacting the Affordable Care Act and the Act itself verify an observation about our national character made by Alexis de Tocqueville nearly 200 years ago. We are pulled between what Tocqueville called “social” behavior and “individualism.” For Tocqueville, America distinguished itself from other nations by providing its citizens with “equality of conditions,” or equal access to the circumstances and means for achieving security, prosperity, and general well-being. Somewhat surprisingly to Tocqueville, the effect of this was to nurture radical individualism rather than any sense of community. As Americans experience equal access to their resources, Tocqueville tells us, the “bond of human affections is extended and loosened,” and we drift towards “individualism,” the “habit of always considering [ourselves] in isolation.”

It is not an especially good habit where healthcare is concerned, as everything about managing health on a national scale points to interdependency: the health of each of us affects all of us; the best approach to risk is to spread it widely. Our national habit of considering ourselves in isolation does not serve us well in dealing with these matters. Perhaps the most important legacy of the Affordable Care Act will be to have renewed this discussion. It would be a shame, on the other hand, if the Act left us thinking we have now adequately addressed the problem. That will not have happened until we have fully embraced the idea that in matters of healthcare, each of us has a responsibility to all of us. ■

## Students Making a Difference: Student Bar Association Presidents Lead the Way



To Harrisburg Campus student Devyn Zachary and Delaware Campus student Damiano “Dom” Del Pino, the Student Bar Association (SBA) is more than just the organization that oversees student events on campus. As the 2010–2011 SBA presidents, both Ms. Zachary and Mr. Del Pino see the SBA as a key contributor to Widener’s success, setting lofty goals for working with SBA members and student groups for the next year. They plan to help the Widener community serve the public, further the law school’s reputation, promote its graduates, and help their fellow students emerge from law school as well-rounded, civic-minded citizens and successful legal practitioners.

Ms. Zachary sees her role as SBA president as an opportunity to make key improvements for Widener–Harrisburg students and to serve the local community. Having previously served both as a first-year SBA representative and as the SBA vice president in charge of student relations and non-academic student activities, she sought the presidency because she “enjoys working in the organization and feels it can make a difference.” Ms. Zachary hopes to foster community service by raising money for the Relay for Life and supporting volunteer opportunities for students in the city of

Harrisburg and surrounding communities. She also hopes to promote communication between the classes in an effort to aid students’ networking opportunities, and to support new ways for the SBA to help advance the Widener name in the legal field and market Widener students and alumni.

In addition to her involvement in the SBA, Ms. Zachary was a re-founding member of the Federalist Society, helping to reintroduce the organization to the Harrisburg Campus. Originally from Kennett Square, Pennsylvania, she holds a bachelor’s degree from the University of Delaware and, following graduation in May, plans to take both the PA and NJ bar exams with hopes of working in either the Harrisburg or Philadelphia areas.

Mr. Del Pino is equally enthusiastic about the positive impact that the SBA can have on the Widener community. He came to Widener with an already impressive record of community service, previously volunteering as a family court mediator, as a member of the child placement review board, and as an emergency medical technician in his hometown of Toms River, New Jersey. At Widener, Mr. Del Pino has served both as the president of the Military Law Society and as president of the American Association for Justice, a trial advocacy student association. He was instrumental in bringing the Wills for Heroes program to the Delaware Campus.

In his role as SBA president, Mr. Del Pino hopes to “steer student organizations away from just social events to events that mix social activities with community service; to find ways to bridge the gap between the two campuses; and to foster the amazing connections that exist at Widener among the faculty, the administration, and the students.” Set to graduate in May, he is interested in pursuing a clerkship and hopes to stay in the Mid-Atlantic region. We applaud Ms. Zachary’s and Mr. Del Pino’s goals and wish them the very best this year.





Richard K. Herrmann is a visiting professor at Widener Law, chair of the law school's Corporate Counsel Technology Institute (CCTI), and a partner at Morris James LLP, where he handles many forms of complex litigation, including intellectual property, commercial, and technology. He may be reached via email at [rherrmann@morrisjames.com](mailto:rherrmann@morrisjames.com).

## Four Best Email Practices

By Richard K. Herrmann

*We all try to be good lawyers. We know we have obligations under the Rules of Professional Responsibility to maintain client confidentiality and we work hard at practicing law ethically. At the same time, we strive for maximum productivity and efficiency. Unfortunately, all too often these drivers can compromise our ethics. The trick is to use technology safely and to avoid the pitfalls of breaching client confidentiality simply to save a few minutes of time. Take your time and protect your reputation.*

**1. SECURE YOUR COMPUTER AND YOUR HANDHELD WITH A PASSWORD.** We need to password our laptop computers because of the risk of loss or theft, but also must do so with our portable computers. There should be no exceptions. It is a must. For some reason, however, too many lawyers do not adopt the same best practices with their Blackberries, iPhones, Droids or other handheld computers. It is obvious these devices are more prone to loss; it is equally obvious the client email and other confidential information require protection. Not only is there a capability to password the Blackberry and the iPhone; there is also the capability of remotely wiping the memory clean once the handheld is reported lost or stolen.

**2. "REPLY TO ALL" ONLY WHEN YOU MEAN IT.** We all make mistakes, some of us more than others. Now that we have taken on the responsibility of sending our own correspondence, we need to adopt a few best practices regarding the use of email. It is too easy to click the "Reply to All" button inadvertently. It is even more of an issue on a handheld since the compact nature of the device may hide all of the names copied on the email. "Reply to All" should be selected very carefully and only when you are fully informed and consciously mean it. This has become such an important issue, the Delaware

State Bar Association has developed an Outlook plug-in requiring the sender to confirm he/she actually intends to send to the list of people on the confirmation screen. Yes, it is an extra step; and yes, it would be more expedient not to take the extra step; but it may very well fall into the category of a "best practice."

**3. CLICK "SEND" ONLY AFTER YOU HAVE REVIEWED THE ENTIRE EMAIL,** particularly if you are replying or forwarding. Again, this is a particular problem on handheld devices that may not easily display the entire email string. But it is also a significant issue with desktop computers as well. All too often we hear of lawyers forwarding an email to opposing counsel, only to find the bottom of the email string included sensitive client information from another lawyer on the team or the client itself. As a best practice, it is necessary to take the step of scrolling to the end of the message to confirm the email ends where you think it ends.

**4. DON'T FORGET THE "AUTO FILL IN" WILL HELP YOU SELECT THE NAME IN THE "TO" FIELD.** All law firms have taken to adding disclaimer language at the bottom of the email. One of the reasons for this language relates to emails inadvertently sent to the wrong recipient. This often happens as a result of the auto fill-in feature being turned on. As you type a name in the "to" field, the computer will look-up the name in recently sent emails and "guess" whose name you intend to complete. Unless you take the time and carefully review your email, you may very well be sending it to the wrong person. Either turn this feature off or take the time to review each email very carefully before clicking the "send" button.

*In the event you wish to share any Best Email Practice Tips, send them to me at [rherrmann@morrisjames.com](mailto:rherrmann@morrisjames.com).*



## E. John Wherry Jr. (1942-2010)

*Former Widener Law Professor E. John Wherry Jr. passed away on March 21, 2010 in Southington, Connecticut at the age of 68.*

Professor Wherry built a long and varied career in the law, practicing and performing pro bono service in New Jersey and Massachusetts, as well as teaching at Widener Law and at what is now Barry University School of Law in Orlando, Florida, where he was the founding dean. His tenure at Widener Law was an eventful one. He began as an adjunct in 1984, taught as a visiting professor in 1992, and joined the faculty full time until 1995. He was the co-founder of the Intensive Trial Advocacy Program (ITAP), which garnered the prestigious Emil Gumpert Award for excellence in trial advocacy education, as well as the Hugh B. Pearce Competition. A generous benefactor, he created and funded the E. John Wherry Jr. Award, which is given each year to a student exemplifying effective advocacy and public service. He continued to teach trial advocacy throughout the United States and internationally for more than 25 years. It was our pleasure to have known Professor Wherry, and we are grateful for his many lasting contributions to the law school.

*Professor Wherry's family requests that donations in his memory be made to Widener University School of Law for The E. John Wherry Jr. Trial Advocacy Endowment Fund.*



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## The Honorable Charles P. Mirarchi Jr. (1924-2010)

*The Honorable Charles P. Mirarchi Jr. passed away on May 11, 2010 in Philadelphia at the age of 85.*

A beloved figure whose involvement with the law school began at its founding, Judge Mirarchi devoted countless hours to assuring its future. He gave of his resources generously, establishing the Charles P. Mirarchi Sr. Memorial Scholarship and urging others to join him in supporting the law school. He was a longtime overseer and a member of the adjunct faculty from 1974 to 1999, during which he taught Pennsylvania Practice. The founder of and an active participant in Widener Law's Pennsylvania Bar Induction Ceremony, he welcomed hundreds, if not thousands, of Widener Law alumni into the ranks of proud legal professionals in the commonwealth. His longtime involvement brought him close to many at the law school. Nancy Ravert Ward, associate director of Alumni Relations, says of him, "I first met Judge Mirarchi in 1983 when I started working at the law school and was immediately drawn to his gentle manner...He was passionate about the law, his family, and his life. There was never a time I would run into Judge Mirarchi when he wasn't pleasant. He always greeted the ladies with a kiss on the hand and was a pure gentleman." He will be missed.

*Donations in memory of Judge Mirarchi can be made to the Charles P. Mirarchi Sr. Memorial Scholarship Fund at Widener University School of Law.*

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## National Advisory Council Welcomes Four New Members

*Widener Law's National Advisory Council recently welcomed four new members.*



**CHARLENE D. DAVIS '84**, Ms. Davis is a director at Bayard, P.A. where she practices bankruptcy, creditors' rights, and commercial litigation, and serves on the firm's executive and marketing committees. She is an experienced federal litigator and was an Assistant United States Attorney prior to joining the firm in 1988. Ms. Davis graduated from Ohio Wesleyan University and Widener Law. A past member of the Advisory Committee to the United States District Court for the District of Delaware and a past president of the Delaware Chapter of the Federal Bar Association, Ms. Davis has also served as a member of the Advisory Committee to the Third Circuit Court of Appeals and on the Third Circuit's Bench-Bar Relations Committee. She was the first recipient of the Caleb R. Layton Service Award of the Federal District Court in Delaware, and is currently the chair of the Bankruptcy Law Section of the Delaware State Bar Association.



**BRENDA ALDERMAN JAMES '92**, Ms. James is a sole practitioner whose practice focuses on the representation of plaintiffs in civil rights and employment discrimination matters as well as advocacy for the homeless and the disabled. Prior to

attending law school, Ms. James worked as an administrator at IBM. Ms. James holds degrees from the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana, the University of Pennsylvania Wharton School, and Widener Law, where she was a staff writer for the Delaware Law Forum. Upon graduating, she worked as a legal intern and case administrator in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, and later served as an administrator for the Court of Common Pleas of the City of Philadelphia. She is an active member of the Dean's Minority Alumni Advisory Committee at Widener's Delaware Campus, and supports Emmanuel Ministries, a program that provides services to the homeless in Philadelphia.



**HARRY DILLON MADONNA '97**, Mr. Madonna is chair and CEO of several non-profit organizations whose subsidiaries collectively operate rehabilitation, skilled-nursing, and assisted-living facilities in Florida, Massachusetts, and Pennsylvania, providing healthcare and wellness services to thousands of patients and residents. During his tenure, Mr. Madonna has overseen the improved operations of the organizations' facilities to ensure that they are well positioned to meet the challenges of the healthcare environment. Prior to his involvement with these organizations, Mr. Madonna practiced with several law firms in Philadelphia, and participated in numerous judicial clerkships and clinics. Mr. Madonna received degrees

from the Pennsylvania State University and from Widener University School of Law. He serves on the board of the Timothy School Development Fund, and is involved with numerous other philanthropic organizations and causes.



**JOHN REED '91** is a partner in the Wilmington, Delaware office of Edwards Angell Palmer & Dodge LLP, where his practice spans all facets of business law and is augmented by a "Delaware counsel" practice. He is listed in *Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business* and *Super Lawyers* for business litigation and the handling of matters before the Delaware Court of Chancery. A frequent author and lecturer, he has traveled as part of state-sponsored international delegations to promote the "Delaware model" abroad. His philanthropic contributions include serving as an associate trustee of the Lawyer's Fund for Client Protection and a co-chair for the annual Combined Campaign for Justice. Mr. Reed is a member of U.S. Congressman Michael N. Castle's Finance Committee and was a member of former U.S. Senator William V. Roth, Jr.'s Finance Committee. A graduate of Villanova University and Widener Law, he began his career as a deputy attorney general and served as general counsel to two Delaware cabinet secretaries. Prior to joining Edwards Angell, Mr. Reed was managing partner of Duane Morris's Wilmington office.

# New Faculty



**SONIA  
BALDIA**

*Widener Law will welcome two new full-time faculty members and three visiting professors this fall:*

**SONIA BALDIA** joins the Delaware Institute for Corporate and Business Law and will teach intellectual property law, after practicing as a partner in Mayer Brown LLP's Business and Technology Sourcing Practice. Professor Baldia received an SJD in intellectual property law from The George Washington University Law School, an LLM from the University of Georgia School of Law, and an LLB from the University of Delhi Faculty of Law. Her practice focuses on global sourcing transactions, international intellectual property counseling, and India-related corporate matters. Prior to joining Mayer Brown LLP, Professor Baldia was a consultant to the U.S. Agency for International Development and to the U.S. Department of Commerce, where she advised foreign governments on IT, telecommunications, e-commerce, and IP-related development projects.



**STEVEN  
ERICKSON**

**STEVEN ERICKSON** joins the Harrisburg Campus as a visiting associate professor. Professor Erickson is a distinguished expert in criminal and mental health law, whose work centers on issues of individual responsibility, social intuitions of judgment, and culpability. Previously, he served on the faculties at the University of Missouri School of Law and was the John M. Olin Fellow in Law at the University of Pennsylvania Law School. Prior to his tenure at the University of Pennsylvania, Dr. Erickson was a postdoctoral fellow at Yale University and also served as the Chief Fellow in Psychiatry at the University of Rochester. A graduate of the University of Massachusetts Medical School internship program in forensic psychology, Dr. Erickson has worked as a forensic and clinical psychologist at numerous state psychiatric hospitals, jails, and prisons. Dr. Erickson has also served as a Law Guardian and assigned counsel in the Fourth Judicial Department of New York State on a diversity of family court matters, including custodial, visitation, and abuse and neglect cases.



**CAROLINE M.  
GENTILE**

**CAROLINE M. GENTILE** joins the Delaware faculty for the 2010-2011 academic year, serving as a visiting associate professor of law and the Ruby R. Vale Research Scholar. Professor Gentile received her law degree from the Yale Law School, where she was symposium editor of *The Yale Law Journal* and editor of the *Yale Journal on Regulation*. Following her studies, Professor Gentile was an associate in the corporate department of Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP. Professor Gentile has served as a lecturer at the UCLA School of Law, and as an associate professor at Fordham University School of Law. Her research interests lie in the integration of economic analysis into the legal analysis of the organization of business enterprises and the operation of the capital markets.



**JUSTIN G.  
HOLBROOK**

**JUSTIN G. HOLBROOK** joins the Delaware Campus as the new director of the Veterans Law Clinic following the retirement of Professor Thomas J. Reed, and will also teach criminal law and evidence. Professor Holbrook recently separated as a captain from the United States Air Force, following his most recent deployment as Staff Judge Advocate for Joint Special Operations Task Force-Philippines. Prior to joining the Air Force, Professor Holbrook practiced law at King & Spalding LLP in Atlanta, Georgia. Professor Holbrook received his law degree from Harvard Law School, and served as production editor and articles editor for Harvard's *Journal of Law & Technology*.



**ANDRE L.  
SMITH**

**ANDRE L. SMITH** will be a visiting associate professor on the Delaware Campus for the 2010-2011 academic year from Florida International University College of Law. Prior to his appointment at Florida International University, Professor Smith was a visiting assistant professor of law at Pennsylvania State University Dickinson College of Law. Professor Smith obtained his JD with Honors from Howard University, where he served on the *Howard Law Review*, and his LLM from Georgetown University Law Center. While earning his LLM, Professor Smith served as an attorney-advisor to the Honorable Maurice B. Foley on the United States Tax Court. Professor Smith will teach in the areas of tax and administrative law.



**ERIN DALY**



**MICHAEL R. DIMINO, SR.**



**JILL E. FAMILY**



**ALAN E. GARFIELD**



**DAVID R. HODAS**



**STARLA J. WILLIAMS**

**LINDA L. AMMONS** presented the results of her probe of Delaware statutory and administrative procedures governing child abuse and exploitation in connection with the case of Delaware pediatrician Earl Bradley to Delaware Governor Jack Markell in May. Her report and the press conference that followed its presentation generated more than 200 media stories around the country. Stories about her work appeared in a number of high-profile venues, including *USA Today* and on NPR's *Morning Edition*, and she was featured as a guest on *Radio Times* in Philadelphia. In addition, Dean Ammons spoke before a number of groups during the first half of 2010, including the Pennsylvania Bar Association and Delaware State Chamber of Commerce. In June, she presented "Engaging the Unengaged — Setting the Stage" at the 2010 ABA Law School Development Conference X in Jackson Hole, WY. In August, U.S. Sen. Tom Carper of Delaware recommended Dean Ammons to President Obama for a vacancy on the U.S. District Court bench in Delaware.

**LARRY D. BARNETT** toured Italy over spring break, giving presentations at four universities on his study of the societal conditions that led to the adoption in Europe of legislation recognizing same-sex non-marital partnerships and same-sex marriage.

**D. BENJAMIN BARROS** received the Douglas E. Ray Excellence in Faculty Scholarship Award at the 2010 commencement ceremony.

**ANN E. CONAWAY** served as a panelist for a number of events, including an ALI-ABA telecast from Washington, DC on "Choice of Business Entities in Distressed Times," for the PLI program "What All Lawyers Should Know About Delaware Law" in New York City, and on "The Intersection of Federal Bankruptcy and State Law," held at the law school in May.

**MICHAEL J. COZZILLO** organized the 2010 Dean's Leadership Forum on Diversity. This year's topic was "Diversity: An Idea Becomes an Ideal in Central Pennsylvania and Beyond."

**JOHN G. CULHANE** is a weekly columnist on 365gay.com, a website that provides news and commentary on lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender issues.

**ERIN DALY** spoke on transitional justice at a conference on state building in Afghanistan co-sponsored by the University of La Verne Law School and the Public-Private Partnership of the State Department. She is the chair-elect of the AALS Section on International Human Rights and also serves as the secretary of the Board of Common Cause/Delaware.

**JOHN C. DERNBACH** received the 2010 Award for Distinguished Service to the Profession by the Pennsylvania Bar Association Environmental and Energy Law Section. Professor Dernbach also recently gave the keynote address, "Environmental Justice and Sustainability: Setting the Agenda for Legal Education," at the Conference on Environmental Justice in Legal Education, held at the UK Centre for Legal Education in Coventry, United Kingdom. He gave major addresses on climate change and sustainable development at the Annual Meeting of the Energy Bar Association, Bloomsburg University's Teach-In on Global Warming Solutions, the University of Denver Sturm College of Law's Conference on Sustainable Development, Corporate Governance, and International Law, and the symposium, "Implementing Climate Change Policy: Looking Forward to the Hard Part," co-sponsored by Columbia University, the University of Virginia, Vanderbilt University, and the Environmental Law Institute.

**JAMES W. DIEHM** was chosen to receive the Outstanding Faculty Award by the Harrisburg graduating class at the 2010 commencement ceremony.

**MICHAEL R. DIMINO, SR.** was a recent guest on WITF-FM's *Smart Talk*, an interview and call-in show broadcast by the Harrisburg public radio station. Other recent faculty guests on *Smart Talk* include **TONYA M. EVANS** and **WESLEY M. OLIVER**.

**MICHAEL R. DIMINO, SR., TONYA M. EVANS, WESLEY M. OLIVER,** and **ROBERT C. POWER** spoke at the 2010 Widener Law Journal Symposium, "Internet Expression in the 21st Century: Where Technology and Law Collide."

**JEAN MACHIAROLI EGGEN** launched a nanotechnology law blog, <http://blogs.law.widener.edu/nanolaw/>, with Eric Laury,



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class of '11. It is among the first blogs to consider this cutting-edge area of the law.

**JULES EPSTEIN** has been named to the editorial advisory board of the Encyclopedia of Forensic Sciences (Elsevier Publishing) and is helping to edit the upcoming second edition. Professor Epstein continues to teach capital case CLEs, presenting programs for both the Pennsylvania Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers and PBI, and is serving as pro bono appellate counsel in two Pennsylvania capital cases, one of which he argued before the Pennsylvania Supreme Court in April. He spoke at a national innocence conference on latent print issues, presented at a National Institute of Justice conference on pattern and impression evidence, and presented continuing legal education for judges, with lectures for military judges, Delaware state judges, and Philadelphia and Pennsylvania trial judges. He is co-editor of an upcoming book, to be published by the ABA, on the future of evidence. Professor Epstein is also serving as principal author of an amicus brief in the United States Supreme Court in support of a petition for writ of certiorari, on behalf of several Pennsylvania organizations and one national organization, that asks the Court to accept a case on how the confrontation guarantee applies to hearsay statements of children made during abuse investigations. He was also a recipient of the 2010 Douglas E. Ray Excellence in Faculty Scholarship Award.

**TONYA M. EVANS** addressed the Maryland Writers' Association on current issues in copyright law, emphasizing problems related to new technology. Earlier in the semester she presented a lecture "Sampling, Looping and Mashing...Oh My! How Hip Hop is Scratching More Than the Surface of Copyright Law" at the 2010 Intellectual Property Scholars Roundtable held at Drake University Law School.

**JILL E. FAMILY** presented "Rethinking Immigration Adjudication Reform, Immigration Adjudications: Court Reform and Beyond," at Penn State-Dickinson School of Law. She also served as moderator of "What Every Lawyer Needs to Know about Corporate Immigration Issues,"

an ABA CLE Teleconference, and gave a presentation at Widener on "The Policy of Immigration Reform."

**ANDREW J. FICHTER** retired after a long, distinguished career that culminated in seven years of service to the law school (see p.14).

**ALAN E. GARFIELD** has continued writing his monthly "Bench Press" column for the Opinion pages of the *Wilmington News Journal*, and Alan continues to serve on the executive committee for the AALS Section on Mass Communication and on the board of directors for the ACLU of Delaware.

**JOHN L. GEDID** received the 2010 Bowman Award from the Administrative Law Section of the Pennsylvania Bar Association for his "commitment to leadership in the development and practical working of administrative law both substantive and procedural with reference to problems involving the administrative process in Pennsylvania." He was also reappointed chair of the PBA Statutory Law Committee and named vice chair of the Bowman American Inn of Court.

**ANNA P. HEMINGWAY** organized a CLE program sponsored by the law school's Legal Writing Program titled "Thurgood Marshall: A Persuasive Practitioner, a Solicitous Scholar, and a Just Jurist." Other faculty speakers at the event included **ANN E. FRUTH**, **JENNIFER M. LEAR**, and **STARLA J. WILLIAMS**.

**STEPHEN E. HENDERSON** commented on a paper at the 2010 Privacy Law Scholars Conference at The George Washington University Law School. He presented the draft ABA Criminal Justice Standards relating to government access to records to the Criminal Justice Standards Committee in June.

**DAVID R. HODAS** was recently appointed to the editorial committee of the IUCN Academy of Environmental Law eJournal, and has been working with Delaware government officials to develop the next round of sustainable energy policy for the state. He was also

a recipient of the 2010 Douglas E. Ray Excellence in Faculty Scholarship Award.

**LESLIE A. JOHNSON** was chosen to receive the Outstanding Faculty Award by the Delaware graduating class at the 2010 commencement ceremony.

**ALICIA BROKARS KELLY** is the current chair of the AALS Section of Family Law & Juvenile Law. She gave two presentations at the Family Law Scholars Conference at UMKC in June: "Inequality Among Intimate Partners and Law's Responsibility" and "Mainstreaming Gender Equality: a Reality Check." Professor Kelly was invited to be a guest blogger for *Concurring Opinions*, July 2010.

**SUSAN A. KING** gave a talk, "Why Is This Student Different from All Other Students: The Passover Seder as a Metaphor for Teaching to Different Learners" at the Delaware Valley Legal Writing Consortium conference at Villanova Law School in April.

**JENNIFER M. LEAR** received a scholarship grant from the Legal Writing Institute for her proposal, "Plain English for Legal Writing Professors: Creating Legal Writers Through Six-Trait Instruction and Assessment."

**G. RANDALL LEE** presented a variety of CLE programs throughout Pennsylvania on topics ranging from "Harry Potter and the Lawyer's Curse" to "Dropping the Ball and Double-Dribbling: Ethical Issues in the Representation and Non-Representation of Athletes." The latter was presented at the Wachovia Center immediately preceding a Philadelphia 76ers game. He also presented ethics programs to government attorneys for the various licensing boards of the Secretary of State's Office and to members and staff of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.

**JAMES R. MAY** filed an amicus brief in the 9th Circuit on behalf of law professors from around the country in *Kivalina v. ExxonMobil* (9th Cir. 2010). Professor May gave two presentations at the ALI-ABA Annual Environmental Law Course of Study in Washington, DC, addressing environmental citizen suits and water protection. In February, Professor

May was on a panel at a conference on “Environmental Protection in the Balance: Citizens, Courts, and the Constitution,” sponsored by Georgetown University Law Center, Berkeley Law, and the Environmental Law Institute. He opened the 21st Annual National Association of Environmental Law Societies Meeting in New Orleans on behalf of the ABA’s Section on Energy, Environment and Resources. He also presented “Law and Economics in Environmental Cases before the Supreme Court,” at Emory Law School.

**ROBYN L. MEADOWS** is a founding master of the Hon. William W. Lipsett American Inn of Court, sponsored by the Dauphin County Bar Association. Assistant Director of Career Development **KAREN DURKIN** also serves as a master in this new Inn of Court.

**NICHOLAS A. MIRKAY** participated in a nonprofit and philanthropy professors’ discussion panel hosted by the NYU School of Law at the ABA Tax Meeting in Washington, DC. He was invited to be a contributing editor to the Nonprofit Law Prof Blog, <http://lawprofessors.typepad.com/nonprofit/>.

**NICHOLAS A. MIRKAY, LESLIE A. JOHNSON,** and **THOMAS J. REED**, with law students and members of the Delaware Bar, hosted Wills for Heroes, which assists members of the law enforcement, fire, and emergency medical response communities to prepare planning documents on the Delaware Campus.

**JULIET M. MORINGIELLO** moderated the panel “How to Effectively Revise, Edit and Use Form Contracts in Practice” at the spring meeting of the ABA Business Law Section, and spoke at a symposium at Brooklyn Law School on “Warranting Data Security.” She served as the Robert M. Zinman Resident Scholar at the American Bankruptcy Institute in spring 2010 and participated in two sessions at the ABI annual spring meeting, at which she presented “Avoiding Powers” at the session “Bankruptcy Fundamentals: Nuts and Bolts for the Young and New Practitioner,”

and debated Adam Levitin of Georgetown University on the question “Resolved: Too Big to Fail – Federal Resolution Authority Should Replace Bankruptcy for Businesses that Pose ‘Systemic Risk.’”

**KATHARINE F. NELSON** spoke at the 2010 Dean’s Leadership Forum on Diversity, where she delivered “Diversity and Compliance: Comparing and Contrasting Federal and Central Pennsylvania Statutes, Regulations, and Judicial Responses.”

**WESLEY M. OLIVER** participated in a Federalist Society debate at Widener on the incorporation controversy concerning the Second Amendment. Professor Oliver is also the monthly guest-host of “In Session,” on PCN Television, the public affairs discussion show sponsored by the law school’s Law and Government Institute. Other guests on “In Session” have included faculty members **MICHAEL R.**

**DIMINO, JOHN L. GEDID** and **CHRISTOPHER J. ROBINETTE.**

**THOMAS J. REED** retired after nearly three decades of dedicated service to the law school, during which he was instrumental in its growth and success (see p.9).

**CHRISTOPHER J. ROBINETTE** presented at the annual meeting of the Association for the Study of Law, Culture, and the Humanities at Brown University. The panel was entitled “Pluralism in Tort Law and Litigation.”

**JEAN K. SBARGE, MARY ANN ROBINSON** and **ALISON DONAHUE KEHNER** won awards from the Legal Writing Institute and the Association of Legal Writing Directors Scholarship Grant to develop professionalism materials. Professor Sbarge recently presented “Taking the Lede from Journalism: Two Exercises to Hook Students’ Interest and Introduce Concepts” at the Tenth Annual Rocky Mountain Regional Legal Writing Conference at the University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law.

**AMANDA L. SMITH** received a scholarship grant from the Legal Writing

Institute. Her proposal was “Preparing for Practice from Behind the Bench.”

**SERENA M. WILLIAMS** served on a panel entitled “The Landscape of the Real Estate - Mortgage Fraud and the Current State of Real Estate Markets” in a symposium at the Syracuse College of Law.

**STARLA J. WILLIAMS** was keynote speaker for the Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Awards Luncheon, presenting “A Case Study in Leadership Lessons.” She also gave the presentation “Legal Counsel as Keepers of the Village: A Multidisciplinary Approach to Reduce Racial Disparities in Child Welfare” to the National Association of Black Social Workers Conference in Philadelphia. She addressed high school students on Minority Law Day on behalf of the Pennsylvania Bar Association, and was recently appointed chair of the Legal Writing Institute’s Diversity Initiatives Committee.

**STARLA J. WILLIAMS, DIONNE E. ANTHON,** and **AMANDA SMITH** hosted Wills for Heroes on the Harrisburg Campus, working with students and volunteer attorneys to assist members of the law enforcement, fire, and emergency medical response communities to prepare planning documents.

**MICAH J. YARBROUGH** facilitated “Rounds,” the opening exercise of the NY Academic Support Workshop hosted at the New York Law School.



## Douglas J. Steinhardt, '94

Public service is deeply entrenched in Widener Law's culture and programming, and for decades, alumni have carried this ideal forward to their professional lives. The bar is set high; our graduates lead in government, on the bench, in the nonprofit world, and through their pro bono activities. Even by these standards, Douglas J. Steinhardt stands out. Since his years at Widener, Mr. Steinhardt has embarked on an impressive career that successfully balances demanding roles as lawyer, public servant, and volunteer.

Following his graduation from Widener Law Harrisburg, Mr. Steinhardt served as a law clerk in the Superior Court of New Jersey before joining his father Joseph W. Steinhardt in their general practice law firm. For Mr. Steinhardt, his father was "the person I respected more than any other legal mind," but when his father began planning for retirement, Mr. Steinhardt chose to leave solo practice. In 2005 he joined and became a named partner in Florio Perrucci Steinhardt & Fader, L.L.C., a successful and quickly-expanding firm founded by former New Jersey Governor James J. Florio. Mr. Steinhardt practices in the areas of family law, land use, labor and employment, personal injury, and municipal law, serving clients in both New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

While his legal career is significant enough on its own, his achievements are all the more impressive because he has simultaneously succeeded in the demanding role of elected official. Elected mayor of Lopatcong, NJ at age 29, he is currently serving his fourth term. In addition, Mr. Steinhardt is active in the state Republican party, serving as the chairman of the Warren County Republican Committee, as the vice-chairman of the NJ State Republican County Chairmen's Association, and as a parliamentarian to the NJ State Republican Party. Mr. Steinhardt further serves his community as a member of the boards of directors for a variety of organizations, including the Warren County Regional Chamber of Commerce, the Central NJ Council of the Boy Scouts of America, and DARE, NJ. He is also a member of the legislative committee of the NJ League of Municipalities and has recently been appointed a trustee of the NJ State Bar Association.

As Mr. Steinhardt reflects on his time at Widener and the years since, he notes that the school has "grown exponentially in its reputation — it is well respected in the legal community, based on the strength and caliber of the people it accepts and the way it educates them. Widener sends its graduates out well-equipped and well-prepared for the legal world."



## Walking the Walk: John Wetzel's Lasting Legacy at Widener Law



*John Wetzel '75 (right) with Alexander V. Sarcione Sr. at the law school's 35th Anniversary Gala in Philadelphia.*

In the spring 2009 edition of this magazine, John Wetzel '75, a partner at Swartz Campbell practicing in the areas of bankruptcy, wills, trusts, and estate planning and administration, and an expert in planned giving, wrote about making charitable gifts from individual retirement accounts (IRAs). His column was one in a series that outlined options for and advantages—for both donor and recipient—of planned gifts.

Following his own advice, Mr. Wetzel recently made a commitment to Widener Law to establish the John E. Wetzel Endowed Scholarship Fund, which will be funded with a combination of cash gifts and a planned gift through his IRA. The scholarship is designed uniquely by Mr. Wetzel to benefit students who, like him, enter law school after following less traditional academic careers. A member of the law school's first class,

Mr. Wetzel began his studies after enlisting in the U.S. Army on his 17th birthday, completing his military service and general equivalency diploma (GED), and graduating from Temple University. Scholarship recipients must have earned a GED and/or completed military service prior to their law school enrollment.

By establishing an endowed scholarship, Mr. Wetzel has ensured that his contribution will benefit incoming students in perpetuity. By directly naming Widener as the beneficiary of his IRA, he has ensured that the proceeds are not includable in his estate and are exempt from taxes, including income tax, that would be due if a family member or other person was the beneficiary.

The establishment of his scholarship is a fitting way to cap a long, happy association. Mr. Wetzel is a longtime supporter of the law school, a member of its Board of Overseers, and the father of Ian Wetzel '08, who is currently working as a defense contractor in Guam. The independent nature that brought Mr. Wetzel to the law school in the early 1970s is no less evident among his two other children, Jonathon, who has recently started a cookie company in Colorado, and Kate, who as of this writing is thru-hiking the Appalachian Trail.

We thank Mr. Wetzel and salute his commitment to blazing one's own path.

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*As a way to provide critical support for your nonprofit of choice while decreasing long-term tax liability, planned giving is hard to beat. Moreover, planned gifts are a tax-wise and easy way to give back to Widener Law. For more detailed information on making a planned gift through a qualified retirement plan, please visit our planned giving website at [law.widener.edu/plannedgiving](http://law.widener.edu/plannedgiving).*

# Events

## Commencement 2010

### WIDENER LAW GRADUATES RECEIVE DEGREES

The 379 graduates who received degrees in two commencement ceremonies over May 15 and 16 were urged to follow their dreams and use their degrees to make society a better place.

Delaware Supreme Court Justice Henry duPont Ridgely advised Delaware Campus graduates to strive to be authentic professionals — people who practice with ethics and compassion, and abide by higher conduct than is required by code.

“Helping others in need is one of the greatest personal rewards of being a lawyer,” he said.

Secretary of the Commonwealth for Pennsylvania Pedro Cortés spoke at the Harrisburg commencement. He told graduates their law degrees were an investment in themselves and their futures — degrees that could lead them in many exciting directions beyond traditional courthouse opportunities. Cortés encouraged them to work as volunteers and become active in their communities.

“Go above and beyond in the scope of your prescribed responsibilities,” he said. “Earn your paycheck, but don’t stop there.”

The Delaware Campus commencement also featured remarks by valedictorian William Mark Alleman Jr. of Wilmington, DE. Law Dean Linda L. Ammons presented the Outstanding Faculty Award to Associate Professor Leslie Johnson. The dean presented the Douglas E. Ray Excellence in Faculty Scholarship Award to Professor David R. Hodas and Associate Professor Jules Epstein.

The Harrisburg Campus commencement featured remarks by co-valedictorians Nicole Santo of Plains, PA and Matthew Eyt of Tunkhannock, PA, and by the Secretary of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Pedro Cortés. Ammons gave the Outstanding Faculty Award to Professor James W. Diehm and the Douglas E. Ray Excellence in Faculty Scholarship Award to Associate Professor D. Benjamin Barros.



Kusha DeSai and family



Secretary of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Pedro Cortés shakes hands with Law Dean Linda L. Ammons after speaking at the Harrisburg commencement program.



## DELAWARE COMMENCEMENT



Retired Delaware Supreme Court Justice Joseph T. Walsh hands his granddaughter, Kellie E. Walsh, her diploma.



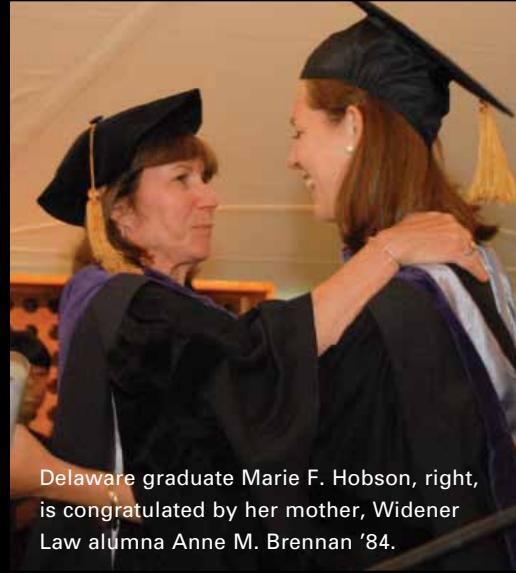
Nisha Mehta, left, and Jennifer Iacono



Graduates, from left, Lisa M. Bacot, Jennifer L. Bailey and Robert Bailey, Jr. listen to the national anthem at the Delaware graduation.



Delaware Supreme Court Justice Henry duPont Ridgely was the featured speaker for the Delaware Campus commencement.



Delaware graduate Marie F. Hobson, right, is congratulated by her mother, Widener Law alumna Anne M. Brennan '84.



## HARRISBURG COMMENCEMENT



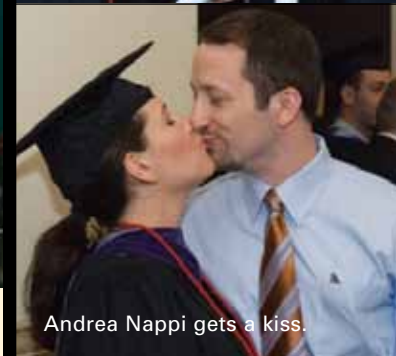
Fawn E. Smith



Harrisburg co-valedictorians Matthew T. Eyet and Nicole M. Santo



From left, Ashton M. Magaha, Shannon A. Sargent, and Reginald V. McCoy II



Andrea Nappi gets a kiss.



# Campus Events



## 22ND ANNUAL RUBY R. VALE MOOT COURT COMPETITION

The Delaware Campus hosted the 22nd annual Ruby R. Vale Interschool Corporate Moot Court Competition over four days in March. Widener Law's Moot Court Honor Society, under the direction of the society's executive board and competition chairperson Robert Bailey Jr., hosted the competition.

Competition winners from Southwestern University School of Law with judges, (from left in back) Court of Chancery Vice Chancellor J. Travis Laster, Delaware Supreme Court Justices Henry duPont Ridgely and Jack B. Jacobs, William T. Allen, the 2010 Ruby R. Vale distinguished scholar and former chancellor of the Delaware Court of Chancery, and Court of Chancery Vice Chancellor Donald F. Parsons, Jr.

## PAUL EDGER SWORN IN AS GOVERNOR OF THE ABA LAW STUDENT DIVISION, 3RD CIRCUIT

Harrisburg Campus student Paul Edger was sworn in March 20 as governor of the American Bar Association Law Student Division 3rd Circuit. The circuit includes all the law schools in Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey. Edger represents the interests of more than 5,000 law students as a voting member of the division's Board of Governors, which convenes several times a year. The board has primary responsibility over the law student division's operations, programs, and finances. Edger was elected by student leaders from the 14 law schools he represents. He will serve through March 2011.



## HELEN S. BALICK PORTRAIT INSTALLATION

On the evening of May 24th, 2010, Dean Linda L. Ammons hosted the installation of the Judge Helen S. Balick portrait, commissioned in her honor by the Bankruptcy Section of the Delaware State Bar Association. In recognition of Judge Balick's accomplishments and the law school's forthcoming bankruptcy chair, named in her honor, the portrait will hang in the Delaware Campus' Legal Information Center. Judge Balick and her husband, Judge Sidney Balick, were in attendance, as was the artist, David Larned.



## DELAWARE SUPREME COURT HEARS ORAL ARGUMENTS ON DELAWARE CAMPUS

The Delaware Supreme Court heard oral arguments in the Ruby R. Vale Moot Courtroom on Wednesday, April 7. It marked the fourth consecutive year the court has conducted its business on campus. The three cases of the day were all civil in nature. Alumna Mary Sherlock '83 argued for Harford Mutual in one case; alumnus Rick S. Miller '95 was part of the legal team representing the appellant in another.

From left, Justices Jack B. Jacobs, Carolyn Berger, and Henry duPont Ridgely

## NATIONAL JUDICIAL COLLEGE HOLDS SEMINAR ON DELAWARE CAMPUS

The National Judicial College (NJC) held its Administrative Law: Advanced Seminar on the Delaware Campus over four days in June. Taught by NJC faculty members, including Widener Law Dean Linda L. Ammons, the seminar convened experienced administrative law judges for sessions on the nature of the judicial process, prehearing practice, cultural diversity, evidence, the ethical role of judges, decision making, raising the quality of written decisions, alternate dispute resolution, constitutional law, judicial review, and personal security. Focused on providing practical skills and emerging best practices training to judges nationwide, the NJC is located on the University of Nevada's Reno campus. Widener Law Delaware serves as NJC's east coast campus. Dean Ammons has served as a member of the National Judicial College's faculty since 1993.

Pictured: Dean Linda L. Ammons and National Judicial College participants



## THE INTERSECTION OF FEDERAL BANKRUPTCY AND STATE CORPORATE LAW

On May 24, experts in state corporate law and federal bankruptcy law gathered on the Delaware Campus for a continuing legal education program entitled "The Intersection of Federal Bankruptcy and State Corporate Law." In addition to the many who joined the program on campus, more than 200 from around the country participated online, an option made possible by Corporation Service Company. Harvey R. Miller, Esq. (pictured) of Weil Gotshal & Manges LLP delivered the keynote address.

## RUSSIAN JUDICIAL DELEGATION VISITS

A five-judge delegation from Russia visited the Delaware Campus in December as part of a trip to the First State intended to boost their understanding of the American court system. The group joined about 60 officials with Delaware's Justice of the Peace Courts at a daylong training function on the Widener campus. The judges also heard remarks from Delaware Supreme Court Chief Justice Myron T. Steele. The event was coordinated by the staff of the Legal Education Institute.

From left, Judge Svetlana Aleksandrovna Mikheyeva of the Karelia region, Oksana Aleksandrovna Nosova of Roston-on-Don, who accompanied the group members as their facilitator, Judge Nikolay Ivanovich Antonov of the Karelia region, Delaware Chief Magistrate and Widener Law '99 alumnus Alan G. Davis, Delaware Chief Justice Myron T. Steele, Widener Assistant Dean and Legal Education Institute Director Eileen A. Grena, Judges Sergey Leonidovich Vinogradov, Valentina Anatolyevna Smirnova, and Oksana Aleksandrovna Chernomordova, all of the Leningrad region, and Nicole Ballenger, assistant director of the Legal Education Institute at the Widener Law Center





# Campus Events

## U.S. MAGISTRATE JUDGE RONALD J. HEDGES RECEIVES CCTI AWARD

The Corporate Counsel Technology Institute at Widener University School of Law gave its annual distinguished lecturer award to retired U.S. Magistrate Judge Ronald J. Hedges on January 4. Judge Hedges, who served in the U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey, received the honor before delivering the keynote address during a two-day, intensive course on Technology and the Law at the school's Delaware Campus.

Retired U.S. Magistrate Judge Ronald J. Hedges, left, and Richard K. Herrmann, visiting professor and co-director of the Corporate Counsel Technology Institute



## DEAN'S LEADERSHIP FORUM ON DIVERSITY ADDRESSES BENEFITS OF DIVERSITY

The Dean's Leadership Forum on Diversity returned to the Harrisburg Campus on March 22. Its subject: diversity as an indispensable practice in law and business, with a particular focus on central Pennsylvania. The daylong event, founded by Dean Linda L. Ammons and now in its fourth year, looked at ways diversity has grown from a legally prudent and socially rewarding idea to a critical component of commercial success. It was made possible with generous sponsorship support from Dilworth Paxson, Eckert Seamans, and Hershey Entertainment & Resorts Co.

From left, Law Dean Linda L. Ammons, Tom Sager, senior vice president and general counsel of DuPont, and Veryl V. Miles, dean of the Columbus School of Law of the Catholic University of America.

## STUDENTS SHINE IN NATIONAL COMPETITIONS

Students from both campuses again turned in outstanding performances in moot court competitions across the country during the spring 2010 term.

- Angelina Freind, Adrienne Robertson, and Nina Staggers won the best brief award and reached the final round of the inaugural National Cultural Heritage Law Moot Court Competition sponsored by DePaul University College of Law. Nina Staggers also won the best oralist award. Pictured (left to right): Nina Staggers, Associate Professor Leslie Johnson, Angelina Freind, and Adrienne Robertson
- Robert Bailey, Jack Spangler and John "Jack" Sweeney advanced to the semifinals of the Tulane University Law School Mardi Gras Invitational Sports Law Competition. Mr. Spangler was the runner up for the competition's best advocate award.
- Valerie Davis, Hillary Prutzman, Katelyn Cutinello, Kathryn Schweitzer, and Kristy Kirk reached the quarterfinal round in the Mid-Atlantic Super Regional Round of the Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition.
- Anthony Czuchnicki and Peri Flugger (pictured, left to right) advanced to the semifinals of the 26th Annual Cardozo/BMI Entertainment and Communications Law Moot Court Competition at the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law at Yeshiva University in New York City.
- Jim Hoppenjans and Alaina Schroeder competed at the 35th Annual Irving R. Kaufman Memorial Moot Court Competition held at Fordham University School of Law. They won the award for best petitioner's brief and achieved the competition's overall highest brief score.

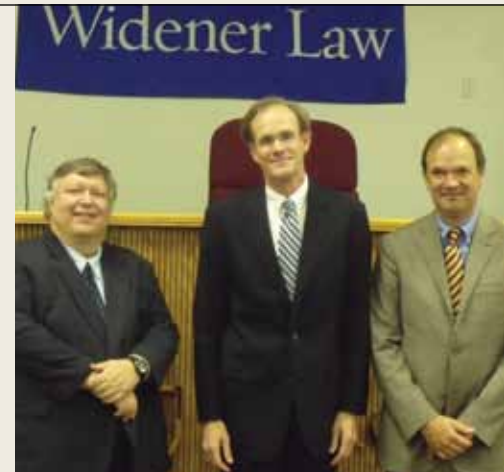




## ITAP PROGRAMS INCLUDE U.S. ATTORNEY (SC) WILLIAM NETTLES '92 AND DELAWARE SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE JOHN A. PARKINS JR.

William Nettles '92, U.S. Attorney for South Carolina, returned to the Harrisburg Campus for its 18th annual Intensive Trial Advocacy Program and delivered the 2010 E. John Wherry Jr. Distinguished Lecture in Trial Advocacy and Professionalism: "Trial Lawyers — Phantom Instruments of Change." A member of Harrisburg's first graduating class, he served as SBA President and was a member of the Moot Court Honor Society and Widener Law Review. In Delaware, the law school marked ITAP's 24th Delaware event by hosting Delaware Superior Court Judge John A. Parkins Jr. as its ITAP lecturer.

Pictured from left, Associate Dean of Faculty Research and Development Robert C. Power, U.S. Attorney William Nettles, and Associate Professor J. Palmer Lockard, II, ITAP Director (Harrisburg).



## U.S. COURT OF APPEALS FOR VETERANS CLAIMS VISITS THE DELAWARE CAMPUS

A three-judge panel from the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims heard oral arguments in a pending case involving veterans law on March 16. The U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims hearing temporarily turned the Ruby R. Vale Moot Courtroom into a federal courtroom, with all the staff, protocol, and procedure that come with a formal courthouse proceeding. It marked the first time the Washington, D.C.-based court has heard oral arguments in Delaware. The judges spent about 30 minutes conducting an informal question and answer period with the crowd after the proceeding, then attended a luncheon in the Barristers' Club.

Standing from left, Law Dean Linda L. Ammons, Taishoff Professor of Law and Director of the Veterans Law Clinic Thomas J. Reed, Norman Herring, clerk/executive officer of the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, Judges Alan G. Lance Sr., Lawrence B. Hagel, and Mary J. Schoelen, and law student Damiano "Dom" Del Pino, president of the Military Law Society.



## SPORTS AND ENTERTAINMENT LAW ASSOCIATION HOLDS 5TH ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

Leading attorneys in sports and entertainment law gathered on the Delaware Campus February 24 for a daylong conference on hot topics in television, film, sports, music, and ethics. The conference, now in its fifth year, was presented by the law school and its Sports and Entertainment Law Association, which is under the direction of Widener Law Adjunct Professor Alexander Murphy.

The day's sports panel included from left, Assistant Professor Marc Edelman of Barry University's Dwayne O. Andreas School of Law, student Ryan Carlson, and attorneys Len Schiro and Brian Manetta of Mets, Schiro & McGovern LLP in Woodbridge, N.J.



## HARRISBURG TEAM WINS 21ST ANNUAL HUGH PEARCE COMPETITION

Harrisburg students Alberto Rivera and Amanda Brown won the 21st annual Hugh B. Pearce Trial Advocacy Competition on March 31. The final round was held on the Harrisburg Campus. Mr. Rivera and Ms. Brown took on the defense in the case, while their challengers Veronica M. McMahon and Melissa H. Paris of the Delaware Campus acted as prosecutors. U.S. Magistrate Judge for the Middle District of Pennsylvania Malachy E. Mannion presided.

# Campus Events

## THIRD ANNUAL JURIST ACADEMY

In June, more than 20 aspiring minority attorneys converged on the Delaware Campus for the law school's annual JURIST Academy. Launched by Dean Linda Ammons to encourage members of historically underrepresented groups to pursue education and careers in the law, the program is presented by the law school's Public Interest Resource Center (PIRC) and provides a tuition-free, two-week-long intensive preview of the law school experience. This year's program was funded in part by E.I. du Pont de Nemours & Company, Morris James, the Delaware State Bar Association Multicultural Judges and Lawyers Section, Richards Layton & Finger, Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom, Young, Conaway Stargatt & Taylor, Ballard Spahr, Widener Law Overseer Bernard Smalley, and the Honorable Joshua W. Martin III.

Pictured: JURIST Academy students with Dean Ammons, Chun Jang (middle left) of Fredericks Lathan, Ernest Tuckett (middle right) of DuPont, and Professors Sydney Howe-Barksdale (far left) and Iva Johnson Ferrell (far right)



## SYMPOSIUM TAKES ON END OF LIFE PLANNING

Better management of the legal decisions that accompany end-of-life planning was the focus of a daylong conference on the Delaware Campus on Friday, March 26. "Health Law and the Elderly: Managing Risk at the End of Life" was presented by the Widener Law Review and the university's School of Nursing.

Seated (left to right): Dr. Patricia M. Bomba of Blue Cross Blue Shield and Dr. John Goodill of Christiana Care; standing is Professor John G. Culhane, director of the law school's Health Law Institute and panel moderator at the event.

## GEDID LECTURE EXPLORES BANKRUPTCY LAW AND FINANCIAL CRISIS

On April 6, the law school welcomed one of the country's leading experts on bankruptcy and commercial law to its Harrisburg Campus for the fourth annual John L. Gedid Lecture. Melissa B. Jacoby, the George R. Ward Professor of Law at the University of North Carolina School of Law, delivered remarks titled, "Rethinking Bankruptcy Law in the Aftermath of a Financial Crisis." Launched in 2007, the John L. Gedid lecture series honors Professor Gedid, a leading figure on the Harrisburg Campus since its opening in 1989 and director of the campus's signature Law & Government Institute.

From left, Widener Law Associate Professor Wesley M. Oliver, Carol Gedid, her husband, Professor John L. Gedid, Melissa B. Jacoby, the George R. Ward Professor of Law at the University of North Carolina School of Law, and Widener Law Associate Professors Jill Family and Katherine Mason Jones





## CLEON CAULEY VISITS DELAWARE CAMPUS

Cleon Cauley, deputy legal counsel and economic development ombudsman for the state of Delaware, visited the Delaware Campus April 16 for an informal lunch talk. Mr. Cauley advises Governor Jack Markell on environmental and energy issues. His visit was arranged by Professor James R. May, associate director of the Environmental Law Center.



## STUDENT COMMENCEMENT AWARDS

Students were honored for their achievements at award ceremonies held on the Delaware Campus April 21 and the following day on the Harrisburg Campus. Widener University President James T. Harris III attended both programs, overseeing the presentation of dozens of awards, among them the prestigious dean's and president's awards.

At the Delaware ceremony, from left, President's Award winner David B. DiDonato, Widener University President James T. Harris III, Dean's Award winner Angela C. Whitesell, and Law Dean Linda L. Ammons



At the Harrisburg ceremony, from left, Law Dean Linda L. Ammons, Dean's Award winner Elizabeth Marx, President's Award winner Jacob Sulzer, and Widener University President James T. Harris III



## SYMPOSIUM ADDRESSES INTERNET EXPRESSION AND THE LAW

Leading academic and legal figures gathered February 22 on the Harrisburg Campus for a symposium devoted to examining the legal challenges presented by communication in an age of social media. The Widener Law Journal-sponsored event titled "Internet Expression in the 21st Century: Where Technology and Law Collide," featured four panels focusing on topics of privacy, criminal procedure, intellectual property, and ethics. Nearly 75 people attended. Conversation centered on ways new media, like Facebook and Twitter, have woven themselves into the fabric of our lives, and their potential to force changes in legal protections and individual constitutional freedoms.

From left, Professor Raymond Ku of Case Western Reserve University School of Law, Widener Law Professor Robert C. Power, associate dean of faculty research and development, and Dauphin County District Attorney Ed Marsico





# Alumni Events

## NEW JERSEY ALUMNI CHAPTER RECEPTION

In January, the New Jersey Alumni Chapter gathered in Mt. Laurel, NJ to network and to congratulate recently admitted members of the New Jersey Bar. Dean Linda Ammons and Jennifer Stonerod '05, who chairs the New Jersey Alumni Chapter, spoke.

Pictured (left to right): Wayne Partenheimer '78 and Timothy J. Mello '07



## LANCASTER NETWORKING SOCIAL

In April, alumnae Angela Rieck '05, Elizabeth Flaherty '07, and Sharon López '93, hosted an alumni networking reception in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Alumni were joined by law school faculty and administrators, including Dean Linda L. Ammons.

Pictured (left to right): Michelle Groleau '08, Trista Boyd '09, and Angela Rieck '05

## PENNSYLVANIA BAR ASSOCIATION WIDENER LAW ALUMNI MEETING RECEPTION

More than 50 alumni, faculty, and staff attended a Widener Law reception held at the annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Bar Association. They were joined by four Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justices.

From left, Pennsylvania Supreme Court Chief Justice Ronald D. Castille, Dean Linda L. Ammons, Justice Max Baer, and Widener Law Overseer and Jurist in Residence Justice Thomas G. Saylor



## WASHINGTON, D.C. ALUMNI RECEPTION

Alumni pose with Dean Ammons at the April 7 Alumni Networking Reception held in Washington, D.C. The event was hosted by National Advisory Council member Michael A. Brown '91.



## HARRISBURG ALUMNI RECEPTION

The annual Harrisburg Alumni Reception was held in March at Ceoltas Irish Pub in Harrisburg.

Pictured (left to right): Natalie Burston '05, Codi Tucker '07, Alan Ross '97, and Stephanie Shatzer '08

## WIDENER WOMEN'S NETWORK NEW JERSEY CHAPTER LUNCHEONS

Kimberley Kluchnick '99 sponsored two Widener Women's Network New Jersey Chapter networking luncheons at her law firm Mattleman, Weinroth & Miller's Cherry Hill office. At its February inaugural luncheon, the chapter welcomed Sara Canuso, an image and body language consultant and president of A Suitable Solution, as the guest speaker. In May, the chapter welcomed Cheryl Squadrito, a Widener University graduate, public relations consultant, and CEO of Media Friendly Public Relations, as its guest speaker.

Pictured right: Alumnae at the inaugural Widener Women's Network New Jersey Chapter event



## CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA GOLF OUTING

The law school held its fourth annual Central Pennsylvania Golf Outing on April 24. The winning foursome, with a score of 61, was comprised of (left to right) student Grant Cannon, December '09 graduate Nicholas Fanelli, student Adam Zei, and George Bibikos '03. Proceeds from the outing benefited the Widener Law Scholarship Fund.

## CLASS GIFTS

Members of the Harrisburg Campus class of 2010 gift committee (pictured) raised funds for their class gift—sports equipment and a shed to house it. Front row (left to right): Co-Chair Alina Habba, Co-Chair Jorge Conforme, Amber Carmo; back row (left to right): Matthew McHugh, Ulysses Wilson (2L Representative), Josh Bovender (1L Representative), Dana Suter; not pictured: Mary Ann Andrews, Grant Cannon, and Nicole Santo

Delaware's classes of 2009 and 2010 pooled the results of their fundraising efforts to purchase a joint class gift—a gazebo for the west end of the campus lawn. A leadership gift by Reena Pushpangadan '10 was critical to this effort.





# Alumni Events

## SCRANTON ALUMNI NETWORKING SOCIAL

Alumni residing in northeastern Pennsylvania gathered for a networking social on June 24, 2010, at Trax Bar & Grille in Scranton, PA. The event was hosted by Professor Michael Cozzillio, Brian Nixon '95, Christopher Farrell '96, and Niti Trikha '07.



## WILMINGTON ALUMNI CHAPTER HAPPY HOUR

In April, a group of nearly 25 alumni gathered at Public House in Wilmington for a happy hour. The event provided an opportunity for all to have fun, reconnect, and network.

Pictured (left to right): Renae Axelrod '91 – president of the Alumni Association, Curtis Crowther '93, and Rae Campagnola '94

## DELAWARE COUNTY ALUMNI CHAPTER CLE LUNCHEON

The Delaware County Alumni Chapter, chaired by Jonathan Peri '99, hosted a CLE luncheon in March at D'Ignazio's Towne House in Media, PA. The CLE portion of the program was entitled "Email, Ethics, and Metadata." Daniel J. Siegel Esq. presented the CLE portion of the program, which 34 alumni attended.

Pictured (left to right): Jon Peri '99 and Daniel Siegel, Esq.



## NEW JERSEY BAR ASSOCIATION WIDENER LAW ALUMNI RECEPTION

In May the law school hosted an alumni reception in conjunction with the annual meeting of the New Jersey Bar Association. More than 40 alumni gathered in Atlantic City for a networking reception and an opportunity to hear law school updates from Dean Linda Ammons.

Pictured (left to right): Everette Scott '94, Dean Linda Ammons, Robert Adochio '78, and his wife Patricia Adochio







### KENT AND SUSSEX COUNTY ALUMNI RECEPTION

In March, Widener Law alumni gathered at the Dover home of Diane Andrews '99 and her husband, Dr. Joseph Andrews, to meet Dean Linda Ammons, to learn about current happenings at Widener Law, and to network.

(left to right) Joseph Andrews, Dean Linda L. Ammons, Diane Andrews '99, and John O'Brien '78

### 35TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

In April, more than 300 people filled the main exhibit room of the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts to celebrate the 35th anniversary of Widener Law's first graduating class. In addition to dinner, dancing, and reminiscing, the evening included distribution of alumni awards and special recognition awards. The Alumnus of the Year Award was presented to CAPT Robert P. Taishoff, JAGC, USN (ret.) '89, the Outstanding Service Award was presented to Damian S. Jackson, Esq., '96, and Corinne M. Foley Esq. '06 received the Outstanding Recent Alumna Award. The Lifetime Service Award was given to the late Judge Charles P. Mirarchi Jr., and four Widener Law Legacy Awards were given to A. Charles Peruto Sr., Esq, Alexander V. Sarcione Sr., Esq., the late Judge G. Fred DiBona, and the late Thomas S. Lodge, Esq.

Top (left to right): Alumni Association President Renae Axelrod '91, Alumnus of the Year Award recipient CAPT Robert P. Taishoff '89, and Dean Linda L. Ammons

Bottom: Michael G. DeFino, Esq. '75 and his wife Valerie DeFino



### WIDENER WOMEN'S NETWORK DELAWARE CHAPTER GATHERING

In April, Katherine Mayer '98 sponsored a networking luncheon for the Delaware Chapter of the Widener Women's Network at her firm, McCarter & English LLP's Wilmington office. Thirty-six women gathered to hear Delaware Superior Court Judge Jan R. Jurden lead a discussion about the challenges of being a female attorney in a profession long dominated by men. She shared tips about how women can build their client base and about balancing work and family.

# Class Notes

January 1 – June 15, 2010

## 1975

**Alan H. Polonsky** was a panelist on the legal television show “The American Law Journal,” which examined updates in the Social Security Disability application process.

## 1976

**Kenneth R. Gilberg**, a shareholder with Flaster Greenberg, received the Jewish Business Network 2010 Leadership Award in a ceremony at the Jewish Heritage Program’s annual event at the University of Pennsylvania, Hall of Flags. Mr. Gilberg serves as the co-chair of the firm’s automotive practice group, and is a member of the firm’s employment and labor law practice group.

**Charles P. Mirarchi III** recently became president of the Masters Program Student Association, a graduate assistant, and an academic tutor and mentor at LaSalle University, where he was also inducted into Psi Chi, the National Honor Society of Psychology. He currently serves as the Director of Genesis Gambling and Treatment Program.

## 1978



**Marc R. Abrams**, co-chair of Willkie Farr & Gallagher’s restructuring group and a founding member of Widener Law’s National Advisory Council, was named “Dealmaker of the Year” by *The American Lawyer* for his lead role in representing a sub-group of significant lenders (funds) in the complex restructuring of Delphi Corporation, spearheading one of the largest credit bids lodged in a bankruptcy auction.

**Wayne Partenheimer** married Deborah P. Denslow of Willingboro, NJ on March 13, 2010 at the Church of the Messiah, Gwynedd, PA. The wedding party included sons, daughters, and in-laws of both bride and groom. Mr. Partenheimer and his bride met when both attended the church as teenagers nearly 50 years ago. Mr. Partenheimer is of counsel to the Philadelphia firm of Bennett, Bricklin & Saltzburg, LLC.

## 1979

**Charles T. DeTulio** has been reelected chair of the Pennsylvania Bar Association Criminal Law Section, making him the last chair of the Criminal Law Section and the first chair of the Criminal Justice Section.

## 1980



**James M. Matour** has been appointed chair of the Philadelphia firm Hangley Aronchick Segal & Pudlin’s bankruptcy practice. Mr. Matour, who is also a member of the firm’s board of directors, has been a shareholder with the firm since 2000 and has been practicing bankruptcy law for 30 years. Mr. Matour’s practice is concentrated in the areas of corporate reorganization, bankruptcy, and commercial workouts.

**Christine Cattie Scioli**, co-owner of Zan Media, a film and video production company based in the San Francisco Bay area, has been tapped to write and produce TV ads for judicial, sheriff, assessor, supervisor, and state assembly races throughout Northern California during the upcoming election cycle.

## 1982



**Robert T. Szostak**, of the Lansdale law firm of Rubin, Glickman, Steinberg and Gifford, P.C. was named a 2010 Pennsylvania Super Lawyer for the third consecutive year. Mr. Szostak has been practicing catastrophic injury litigation for over 25 years. His practice includes medical malpractice, motor vehicle, landowner liability, construction accidents, product liability, and commercial matters.

## 1983

**Michael J. D’Aniello** was appointed to the Montgomery County Community College Board of Trustees for 2010. He has been a member of the board of trustees since 2001, and he has served as treasurer since 2004.

**Robert J. Krapf**, a director of Richards, Layton & Finger in Wilmington, Delaware, has been named a finalist in the fifth annual Lawdragon Leading Lawyers in America. Mr. Krapf focuses on a variety of transactional matters in the areas of real estate and land use law.

### ATTENTION REUNION CLASS YEARS

The year 2011 will mark milestone reunions for the classes of 1976, 1981, 1986, 1991, 1996, 2001, and 2006. If you are interested in helping plan a reunion celebration for your class, please contact the Alumni Office at 302.477.2191.



**Pamela J. Scott** has been named president of Habitat for Humanity of New Castle County (HFHNCC), Delaware. Ms. Scott, a partner in Saul Ewing's Real Estate Practice and a resident in the Wilmington, DE office, will serve a one-year term as president. She has served on the HFHNCC Board of Directors since August 2006, most recently as its vice president.

**Mary E. Sherlock** presented an oral argument in the case of *Clariant v. Harford Mutual* before the Delaware Supreme Court when it heard oral arguments on the Widener Law campus on April 7. Ms. Sherlock represented Harford Mutual in a case involving an appeal and cross appeal from a Superior Court decision over insurance coverage for injuries allegedly sustained by an employee of a commercial tenant.

## 1984



**Richard Ambro** was confirmed by the New York

State Senate as a judge of the Suffolk County Court on May 4, 2010 in Albany. Judge Ambro previously served as the principal law clerk to the Honorable C. Randall Hinrichs, justice of the New York State Supreme Court. Judge Ambro will be running in November for a full ten-year term.

**Dominic S. Liberi** has joined Obermayer Rebmann Maxwell & Hippel LLP as a partner. He currently works in the firm's Business and Finance Department.

**Jill S. Ojserkis** has joined the New Jersey-based firm Cooper Levenson as chair of the firm's Healthcare Law Practice Group. Ms. Ojserkis maintains a general healthcare practice on behalf of institutional clients such as hospitals, health systems, medical staffs, and ancillary providers. Ms. Ojserkis also represents individual licensed providers and practice groups.

## 1985

**Kevin J. Barnes** and his wife, Nadine Barnes, of Ocean City, NJ, welcomed their first child, Kendall June, on December 24, 2009.

**Norman D. Namey** has joined Thomas Thomas & Hafer as a partner in the firm's Bethlehem office. He focuses his practice on the defense of general liability matters.

**Christopher J. Pippett** has joined Fox Rothschild as a partner in the firm's Corporate Department, in its Exton, PA office. Mr. Pippett focuses his practice in the areas of banking, finance, corporate, and real estate law.

## 1986

**Marc D. Weiner**, faculty fellow and associate director of the Bloustein Center for Survey Research, has been appointed to the research faculty of the Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers University.

## 1987



**Ann D. Duke** of the West Chester, PA firm Gawthrop

Greenwood has been named co-chair of the Private Equity Group, a subgroup of the Greater Philadelphia Senior Executive Group (GPSEG). GPSEG is a non-profit professional association of senior-level executives with more than one thousand members across the Delaware Valley. Ms. Duke has been a member of both the GPSEG and the Private Equity Group since 2006.

**Gary B. Eidelman** has been named a "Maryland Super Lawyer" by *Law & Politics* magazine. Mr. Eidelman is a partner in Saul Ewing's Business and Finance Department, where he practices management labor and employment law.

**Joanne Phillips**, former director of the Bureau of Real Estate for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, has rejoined Ballard Spahr's Real Estate Department as a partner in the Philadelphia office.

## ATTENTION, ALUMNI

Class Notes invites alumni to write to the Development/Alumni Office with news of interest. If your name has not appeared recently in Class Notes, take a moment to share some news about yourself for an upcoming issue. If you wish, include a photograph with your information (digital 300 dpi or hard copy). The deadline for the spring issue is December 31, 2010.

Send your Class Note to:  
Alumni Office  
Widener University School of Law  
P.O. Box 7474  
Wilmington, DE 19803-0474

Or use our handy online form at  
[law.widener.edu/alumninotes](http://law.widener.edu/alumninotes)



# Class Notes

Ms. Phillips expects to broaden her traditional real estate practice to encompass government relations and public-private projects. She returns as a member of the firm's Real Estate Development, Zoning and Land Use, Government Relations and Regulatory Affairs, and P3/Infrastructure Groups.

**Brian P. Tierney** served as the distinguished guest speaker at a naturalization ceremony for immigrants on April 8 in the Ceremonial Courtroom of the U.S. Courthouse in Philadelphia.

## 1989

**Michael G. Sabo** has been elected a partner at Rawle & Henderson. He concentrates his practice in the areas of medical malpractice, health care law, general casualty, and premises liability, and has been engaged in the general practice of defense litigation for 20 years.

**Robert P. Taishoff** received the Alumnus of the Year Award at Widener Law's 35th Anniversary Gala in April. The award recognizes CAPT Taishoff's service to his community, profession, and the law school.

## 1990

**Joseph A. Carita**, counsel in the bankruptcy and creditors' rights section of Buchanan Ingersoll &

Rooney's Princeton, NJ office, was elected chairman of the board of directors of the Burlington County Chamber of Commerce.



**Domenick C. DiCicco Jr.** was elected to represent the 4th Legislative District in the State of New Jersey. Mr. DiCicco is the first Republican elected to the district in over ten years. He currently serves on the Economic Development Committee as well as the Consumer Affairs Committee.

**Peter L. Frattarelli**, a partner with Archer & Greiner, P.C., in Haddonfield, NJ, has been appointed Solicitor for the Board of Commissioners of the Deptford Township, NJ, Fire District.

**Leif R. Sigmond** skippered the United States team to victory in the 2010 Patent Cup sailing regatta held June 3-6 off the island of Marstrand in Sweden. In five races, the U.S. team earned four first place finishes, a second place finish, and the round-the-island race. Mr. Sigmond is a partner at McDonnell Boehnen Hulbert & Berghoff LLP and a member of Widener Law's National Advisory Council.

## BENJAMIN STRAUSS '90

Benjamin Strauss '90 concluded his service as president of the Delaware State Bar Association on June 9, 2010 at the Bench and Bar Conference at Wilmington's Chase Center on the Riverfront. Mr. Strauss is a Widener Law overseer and a partner in the Commercial Department of Pepper Hamilton LLP's Wilmington office. He concentrates his practice on counseling private and publicly held companies on mergers, acquisitions, and general corporate law, securities, and business law matters, and he heads the firm's Delaware corporate and Israeli practices.



(left to right) Delaware Supreme Court Chief Justice Myron T. Steele, Dean Linda L. Ammons, outgoing DSBA President Benjamin Strauss '90, and Delaware State Representative Melanie George

## 1991

**Michael T. Hamilton** received a Patriot Employer Award from the National Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) Committee for his direct work and support of National Guard and Reserve members. Mr. Hamilton's firm, Marks, O'Neill, O'Brien & Courtney, P.C. was also awarded the 2009 Secretary of Defense Employer Support "Freedom Award" from the ESGR Committee.

## 1992

**Jeffrey M. Carbino** has joined Thorp Reed & Armstrong LLP as a partner in the firm's Philadelphia office. He will be practicing in the firm's Bankruptcy and Financial Restructuring Practice Group.

**Eileen M. Coggins** has joined OberKaler as a principal in the firm's health law practice.

**Joshua L. Cohen**, a shareholder of RatnerPrestia, was honored with the Farrington

Award for outstanding commitment to student entrepreneurship at Lehigh University on February 19, 2010. Mr. Cohen is an active member of the Lehigh Entrepreneurs Network, which provides mentors and role models to students of entrepreneurship at Lehigh University.

**Jeffrey L. Dashevsky** has been elected for a two-year term to the executive committee of the Louis D. Brandeis Law Society, a Jewish law society dedicated to advancing and enriching the personal and professional interests of members of the bench and bar.

**Martin T. Durkin Jr.**, has returned to the firm of Pietragallo Gordon Alfano Bosick & Raspanti as a partner in the firm's Pittsburgh office. He concentrates his practice in the areas of health care law, corporate law, and commercial transactions.

**Risa Vetri Ferman** was appointed chairwoman of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania Criminal

Procedural Rules Committee by the PA Supreme Court. The committee is an advisory arm to the high court, assisting the court in prescribing general rules governing criminal practice and procedure throughout PA. Ms. Ferman is also the newest member of Widener Law's Board of Overseers.

**Gabriel H. Holdsmann** was recently named vice president/general counsel for BTG International, an international specialty pharmaceutical company.

**Gregory J. Kelley** was elected a shareholder of Marshall Dennehey Warner Coleman & Goggin at the firm's annual shareholders meeting in December 2009. He is a member of the professional liability practice group working in the firm's King of Prussia, PA and Cherry Hill, NJ offices.

**Frank A. Mazzeo** has formed a new intellectual property law firm, Ryder Lu Mazzeo & Konieczny. The firm has offices in Doylestown and Plymouth Meeting, PA.

**Robert E. McCann**, a founding partner of McCann, Schaible & Wall LLC, has been named a super lawyer by *Philadelphia Magazine* and *Law & Politics Magazine* for the fourth consecutive year. Mr. McCann focuses his practice in personal injury litigation including motor vehicle accidents, work-related accidents, and professional negligence.

## 1993

**Claudio J. DiPaolo** has been elected a partner at Rawle & Henderson. He is chair of Rawle & Henderson's workers' compensation section and has been engaged in defense litigation with a concentration in workers' compensation matters for 15 years.

**William N. Nettles** was confirmed by the U.S. Senate as South Carolina's U.S. Attorney on April 22, 2010.

**MaryKay Rauenzahn** received the Widener Law Adjunct Faculty Distinguished Service Award at the 2010 Harrisburg adjunct faculty dinner on May 6. Ms. Rauenzahn is director of the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry's Workers' Compensation Office of Adjudication and has taught workers' compensation law on the Harrisburg Campus since 2000.

## 1994

**John Flounlacker** has been named partner in the firm of Thomas Thomas & Hafer. He concentrates his practice in general civil litigation, with an emphasis on the defense of governmental entities in torts and civil rights cases. He also handles matters involving claims arising in general litigation, premises liability, and motor vehicle accidents.

**Russell A. Patton** has been promoted to vice president of information security at Bar Harbor Bank & Trust in Bar Harbor, ME. His responsibilities at the bank include monitoring network security, coordinating disaster recover plans, vendor and risk management, and associated compliance.

**Anthony Russo** has been appointed assistant vice president/loan workout officer in the credit administration department of Lakeland Bank in Oak Ridge, NJ.

## 1995

**Tammy Eisenberg's** article, "Developing Effective Compliance Training for Registered Investment Advisers," was published in the *Journal of Securities Law, Regulation & Compliance*.

**Thomas D. Houghton** is a freshman member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, representing the 13th Legislative District Chester County. He also maintains a private practice in West Grove, PA.

**William M. Kelleher** has joined Gordon, Fournaris & Mammarella in Wilmington, Delaware as a director. His practice is focused on fiduciary litigation.

**Wayne D. Kimmel**, managing partner of SeventySix Capital, joined in representing the firm on the inaugural Global Road Show. Supported by the U.S. Department of Commerce,

the program features interactive presentations and one-on-one meetings with foreign institutional investors in Sydney, Hong Kong, Singapore, Abu Dhabi, and London, as well as meetings with the Israeli technology and investor community.

**Rick S. Miller** presented an oral argument in the case of *McCall, et al. v. Anderson, et al.* before the Delaware Supreme Court when it heard oral arguments on the Widener Law campus on April 7. Mr. Miller represents McCall in a case involving an objectors' appeal from the Court of Chancery's final approval of a settlement of PNC's purchase of National City Corp.

**Thomas C. Zipfel**, received the 2010 Distinguished Advocate Award from the Support Center for Child Advocates in Philadelphia.

## 1996



**Debra Aisenstein**, vice president of Client Development at James DeCrescenzo Reporting, LLC, Trial Technologies, Inc., and Digital Reporting Service, LLC presented a continuing legal education program for the Philadelphia Association of Defense Counsel on

# Class Notes

"More Effective Use of Technology in Pre-Trial Litigation." The program reviewed cutting-edge technologies including the latest deposition technologies, working with computer generated exhibits, and conducting mock juries with perception analyzers.

**Charles A. Bruder** addressed leaders of nonprofit organizations on fundraising tax issues at a seminar entitled "Business Perspectives in Non-Profit Management: The Next Generation" at Raritan Valley Community College. Mr. Bruder is a member of the Bridgewater, NJ-based law firm Norris McLaughlin & Marcus, P.A., where he concentrates his practice in the areas of employee benefits and executive compensation.

**Jeffrey P. Fritz** of Soloff & Zervanos has been named 2010 president of the National Crime Victim Bar Association, a national association of attorneys and professionals devoted to obtaining civil justice for the victims of crime.



**John B. Zonarich**, a partner in the Harrisburg law firm of Skarlatos & Zonarich LLP, has been named to the 2010 Pennsylvania "Rising Stars" list published by *Pennsylvania Super Lawyers* magazine. Mr. Zonarich handles personal injury and civil litigation.

## 1997

**Justin B. Wineburgh** sat on the "Mediation in the Entertainment and Sports Industries" panel at the 3rd annual Nova Southeastern University Sports and Entertainment Law Symposium at Shepard Broad Law Center in Davie, FL. Mr. Wineburgh also participated on a panel at the Susan G. Komen for the Cure P.I.N. Stripes event in Philadelphia, and spoke to Temple undergraduates at the School of Communications and Theater about entertainment law.

## 1998

**Christopher J. Dervishian** spoke at the Chester County Bar Association's annual "Spring Bench Bar Conference" in West Chester, PA. His presentation, entitled "IP Fundamentals for the Business Lawyer," addressed patent, trademark, trade secret, and copyright issues.

**Megan T. Mantzavinos** received a Patriot Employer Award from the National Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) Committee for her direct work and support of National Guard and Reserve members.

**Rachel A. Wingerter** has been elected to the board of Curbing Hunger, a community-based program that provides food for hungry people during the summer. She has also been elected chairwoman of the board of directors for the Somerset Valley YMCA and will serve a three-year term starting in March 2010. Ms. Wingerter is an associate at the Bridgewater, NJ firm Norris McLaughlin & Marcus.

**L. Jason Cornell**, of Fox Rothschild LLP's Wilmington, DE office, was elected partner in the firm. Mr. Cornell represents clients in bankruptcy matters and focuses on commercial litigation in the Delaware state and federal courts.

**David A. Haenel**, of Finebloom & Haenel, was recently highlighted in the *Sarasota Herald Tribune* about the marketing success of his law firm and has been quoted in articles on AOL Autos/CNN.com regarding traffic matters. Mr. Haenel recently published a book that is one of the most detailed guides to DUI law in the state of Florida.

**Kao H. Lu** has formed a new intellectual property law firm, Ryder Lu Mazzeo & Konieczny. The firm has offices in Doylestown and Plymouth Meeting, PA.

**Heather Mayer** recently completed her MBA with a specialization in project management from Aspen University in Denver, CO.

**Jennifer E. Will** was elected a member of Harrisburg-based McNees Wallace & Nurick. Ms. Will practices with the labor and employment group and is chairwoman of the summer associate committee.

## THERE ARE CONVENIENT NEW WAYS TO MAKE YOUR GIFT TO WIDENER LAW

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## 1999

**Jason Banonis** was elected a shareholder of Marshall Dennehey Warner Coleman & Goggin at the firm's annual shareholders meeting in December 2009. He is a member of the firm's casualty practice group in the Bethlehem, PA office.

## 2000

**Robert J. Fitzgerald** was elected a shareholder of Marshall Dennehey Warner



Coleman & Goggin at the firm's annual shareholders meeting in December 2009. He is a member of the firm's workers' compensation practice group working in the Cherry Hill, NJ office.

**Michael F. Kernoschak** has been named a 2010 Rising Star by *Pennsylvania Super Lawyer* magazine. Mr. Kernoschak has been an associate attorney with Yost & Tretta, LLP, a civil litigation defense firm in Center City Philadelphia, since 2001. He resides in Sicklerville, New Jersey, and practices in Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

**Ryan L. Leonard** has joined Obermayer Rebmann Maxwell & Hippel LLP as an associate. He currently works in the litigation department.



**J. Todd W. Terhune**, of Mountain Lakes, NJ, was recently promoted to counsel in the environmental practice of Wolff & Samson PC. Mr. Terhune advises on environmental due diligence, ISRA compliance, and other environmental regulatory compliance issues, and provides representation in commercial real estate transactions, including Brownfield redevelopment projects, and in remediation and permitting matters.

## 2001

**Robin S. Ballard** was featured in *NJ Super Lawyers* magazine for her work with school districts in cases involving children with special needs. She is counsel at Schwartz Simon Edelstein Celso & Zitomer in Morristown, NJ.

**Patrick J. Callahan**, a co-founder of the fast-growing digital marketing agency The Archer Group, has written *Engage Your Brand: How Smart Companies Are Using Social Marketing to Drive Their Businesses Forward*, a guide for business marketers on how to make the most of the social media phenomenon without falling prey to its pitfalls.

**Richard J. Hollawell** has become a partner of Richard P. Console, P.C. He has been with the firm since 2007 representing plaintiffs in personal injury matters. The firm is now known as Console & Hollawell.

## 2003



Nancy Lewis '03 poses with actor Sean Penn during relief efforts in Haiti.

**Nancy J. Lewis**, a U.S. Army JAG Officer, was deployed to Haiti as part of Operation Unified Response

## ALUMNI SWORN IN AS MEMBERS OF THE SUPREME COURT BAR

In December 2009, a group of lawyers from the York County Bar Association traveled to the Supreme Court of the United States to be sworn in as members of the bar of our High Court. Participating Widener Law alumni included (left to right) Glenn J. Smith '00, Amanda Snoke Dubbs '05, Anthony T. Bowser '06, Sarah (Massimore) Buhite '05, Jeffrey R. Bellomo '03, and Nicole Ehrhart '05.



to support humanitarian assistance and disaster relief efforts. She provides contracting/legal support to U.S. forces.

## 2004

**Michael P. Mineo** was elected president of the board of directors of the Milton and Hattie Kutz Home Inc., a 90-bed skilled nursing care facility in Wilmington, DE.

## 2005

**Joseph A. Conlan** has joined Martin Banks Pond Lehocky & Wilson in Philadelphia as an associate in its workers' compensation practice.

**Devera B. Scott** coauthored "The Assault on Judicial Independence and the Uniquely Delaware Response," published in the *Penn State Law Review*, Vol. 14, No.1, 2009.

**Eric J. Stark** was admitted as a member of the Lancaster Bar Association. He currently practices at Devine Law Offices.

## 2006

**Keith J. Feigenbaum** coauthored "The Assault on Judicial Independence and the Uniquely Delaware Response," published in the *Penn State Law Review*, Vol. 14, No.1, 2009.

**Evan Y. Liu M.D.**, of the Philadelphia personal injury law firm Feldman, Shepherd, Wohlgerlenter, Tanner, Weinstock & Dodig, was a planner for the health law/health care panel discussion at the Pennsylvania Bar Association's annual Minority Attorney Conference. Dr. Liu, who practiced emergency medicine for 15 years prior to his legal career, also serves as co-chair of the community outreach committee of the Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Pennsylvania.

**Chad Piotrowski** has formed his own law practice, the Law Offices of Chad Piotrowski in Coral Gables, FL. His practice focuses on criminal defense, contracts, and social media.

# Class Notes

## 2007

**Gabriela N. Arce de Smith** was recognized by the First Judicial District's 2009 Pro Bono Roll of Honor for pro bono services in Philadelphia in 2009.

**Kelley M. Huff** coauthored "The Assault on Judicial Independence and the Uniquely Delaware Response," published in the *Penn State Law Review*, Vol. 14, No.1, 2009.

**Kevin J. Rogers** was named executive director of the North Carolina Social Justice Project (NCSJP), a progressive policy and advocacy organization based in Raleigh, NC. He is responsible for continuing the work of NCSJP statewide. The organization aims to lessen inequality among traditionally underrepresented groups in North Carolina.

**Andrea G. Weiss** has joined Obermayer Rebmann Maxwell & Hippel LLP as an associate. She works in the litigation department in the firm's New Jersey office.

## 2008

**James R. Pruden** was named in the April 5, 2010 Metro Business section of the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* as a "Person on the Move." He is currently an associate at the law firm of Midkiff, Muncie & Ross.

## 2009

**Michael L. Bileci** has joined Capehart Scatchard's Workers' Compensation Department in its Mt. Laurel, NJ office, representing insurance carriers and employers in the defense of workers' compensation claims at all stages of litigation.

**Amy S. Bucher** was admitted as a member of the Lancaster Bar Association. She currently practices at the Law Office of Jon C. Lyons.

**Diana C. Esposito** was admitted as a member of the Lancaster Bar Association. She is currently a clerk for Lancaster County Judge Dennis E. Reinaker.

**Thomas L. Kearney** has joined the York County District Attorney's Office as a deputy prosecutor. As a trial deputy, he handles preliminary hearings and assists a senior deputy prosecutor.

**Jonathan A. McDonald** was honored by the Philadelphia Trial Lawyers Association for his outstanding trial advocacy skills.

**Jennifer Prisco** was admitted as a member of the Lancaster Bar Association.

## In Memoriam

Brian P. Ballard '85  
Virginia A. Coombs '84  
Lawrence M. Davies III '85  
Deborah H. Feldman '96  
Gerald E. Fusella '76  
Kenneth R. Grove '97

## WIDENER LAW *at the* OPERA

*Dean Linda Ammons invites you to join her for brunch and the opera.*

The Opera Company of Philadelphia presents Puccini's TOSCA Sunday, May 1, 2011

**BRUNCH – 12:30 PM**  
XIX Nineteen Restaurant  
Park Hyatt Philadelphia at the Bellevue, 19th Floor  
Broad and Walnut Streets

**OPERA – 2:30 PM**  
Academy of Music  
Broad and Locust Streets

For more information, contact Nancy Ravert Ward at 302.477.2191 or [nmravertward@widener.edu](mailto:nmravertward@widener.edu)



## WATCH FOR US

Beginning in September and running monthly in fall 2010 and spring 2011, Widener Law presents "Under the Dome with the Widener Law & Government Institute" on the Pennsylvania Cable Network (PCN).

Produced and moderated by Widener Law Harrisburg faculty, the monthly program will tackle a range of federal and state issues: energy policy, free speech, immigration, and more.

Stay tuned for more details.

*If you or your firm are interested in sponsoring one or more of this program's episodes, please contact us at 302.477.2172.*



Your gift to the Widener Law Fund helps our students achieve their goals. Please give today to help them realize their dreams.



### *Suzanne Lufadeju '11*

My experience here at Widener has been amazing. I was fortunate to become a staff member and managing editor of the nationally ranked *Delaware Journal of Corporate Law*, as well as serve as a Wolcott Clerk to the Honorable Randy J. Holland of the Delaware Supreme Court. I look forward to my future because of the valuable experience I have obtained while at Widener.



### *Kyle Applegate '10*

My experience at Widener University School of Law has been great. I chose to apply to Widener because of the small classes, experienced professors, and opportunities in our state capital, and I have not been disappointed. After I was accepted to Widener, I was offered a substantial scholarship. I immediately chose to go to Widener because this was such a great opportunity and an honor. My scholarship has been very important to me because, in these tough economic times, I have been able to focus solely on what I want to do in my career.



### *Jorge Conformance '10*

Without the financial aid I received, attending law school would not have been possible. I received an excellent legal education that will open doors for me in the future. It prepared me as a professional and further demonstrated to me the importance of service and why attorneys are necessary. It allowed me to sharpen my legal skills both in trial and appellate advocacy and learn from great legal scholars who were always accessible. As I begin my legal career in immigration law, I remain grateful to all who made my legal education possible through their contributions and to all those who will afford the same opportunity to many more.

#### **GIVE BY MAIL:**

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#### **OR CONTACT:**

Walter Derricotte,  
Assistant Director,  
Widener Law Fund  
302-477-2754





# Calendar

## SEPTEMBER 2010

- 16 New Jersey Alumni Happy Hour
- 21 CLE: E.I. du Pont/Widener Law Intellectual Property Seminar
- 24 Harrisburg Alumni Happy Hour
- 27 National Advisory Council Meeting
- 27 Class of 1990 Reunion

## OCTOBER 2010

- 4 Overseers Meeting
- 4 Overseer/Delaware Campus Student Reception
- 7 CLE: White Collar Crime: Brady Discovery (DE)
- 8 Francis G. Pileggi Lecture in Corporate Law (DE)
- 8 SBA CLE Program and Golf Outing
- 9 Volunteer Day at Wildwood Park (HBG)
- 9 CLE: Pennsylvania "Bridge the Gap" Program (DE)
- 9 Admissions Information Session & Open House (DE & HBG)
- 14 "Delaware Beaches" Alumni Event
- 22 ABA Delaware Law Forum (DE)
- 27 Professionalism Day (DE & HBG)
- 28 Delaware Pre-Admission Conference (DE)

## NOVEMBER 2010

- 3 Delaware County Alumni Chapter Event
- 8 Model State Administrative Procedure Act Symposium (HBG)
- 9 Environmental Law Center Speaker Series (HBG)
- 11 Widener Women's Network Philadelphia Chapter Luncheon
- 12 Delaware Tax Institute
- 15 United States Supreme Court Bar Admission Trip
- 16 Pennsylvania Bar Passers Ceremony (HBG)
- 17 Pennsylvania Bar Passers Ceremony (DE)
- 19 Sports & Entertainment Symposium
- 22 Delaware State Bar Passers Reception

## DECEMBER 2010

- 8 Alumni Awards Ceremony and Reception (DE)
- 14 Widener Women's Network, Harrisburg Chapter Luncheon

## JANUARY 2011

- 5 AALS California Alumni Reception
- 8 Admissions Information Session & Open House (DE & HBG)
- 17 Widener Law Journal Symposium (HBG)
- 27 New Jersey Alumni Chapter Reception
- 31 Overseers Meeting

## MARCH 2011

- 16 Environmental Law Center Speaker Series (DE)
- 23 Environmental Law Center Speaker Series (HBG)
- 24 Annual Harrisburg Alumni Reception
- 28 Delaware County Alumni Chapter Event
- 31 Philadelphia Alumni Reception

## APRIL 2011

- 11 Overseers Meeting
- 11 Overseer/Harrisburg Campus Student Reception
- 13-14 Diversity Professionals Conference (HBG)
- 14 Dean's Diversity Forum (HBG)
- 14 Wilmington Alumni Chapter Happy Hour
- 30 Fifth Annual Central Pennsylvania Regional Golf Outing

## MAY 2011

- 1 Alumni Opera Trip
- 18 Intensive Trial Advocacy Program (DE & HBG)
- 21 Delaware Campus Commencement
- 22 Harrisburg Campus Commencement

## JUNE 2011

- 1 Widener Women's Network Philadelphia Chapter Luncheon

## TBA

- Widener Law Review Symposium
- Corporate Law Institute Distinguished Scholar Lecture
- CLE: Pennsylvania "Bridge the Gap" Program (HBG)