dialogue
DePaul University
College of Law

DISTINCTIVE
DYNAMIC
DEDICATED

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During this year—my first year as dean of DePaul’s College of Law—I am taking this incredible opportunity to learn all about what makes DePaul distinctive, dynamic and dedicated. These three points of pride are found throughout the College of Law. For example, in the dynamic accomplishments of its faculty and alumni, the distinctive, nationally recognized specialty programs and the diverse clinical and experiential learning opportunities including our new JYP (Third Year in Practice). These opportunities not only provide invaluable hands-on training for our students in solving complex legal problems, but also embody our deep dedication to the Chicago community and the Vincentian mission to further social justice.

This issue of Dialogue brings you just a few of these distinctive, dynamic and dedicated aspects of the law school—up close and personal. In this issue you will meet some of our accomplished students who experienced impactful summer opportunities. Their experiences showcase the law school’s constant dedication to our students’ success: it provides them life-changing opportunities to deepen their understanding of law in emerging areas, such as IP and Health Law, and integrate this understanding into solving real client’s problems in the litigation and transactional contexts.

The experiences greatly enhance their marketability as well. One of our primary goals this year is to improve student career placement, and all of our efforts make a difference. You will see from the students’ own stories how they credit faculty, staff and alumni for the opportunities they have received.

In this issue you will get to know more about our dynamic legal writing program that expertly combines the talents of experienced legal writing (LARC) teachers and practitioners, to ensure that our students continue to strengthen their writing skills. We understand how important it is for lawyers to be effective communicators, to write and speak with impact and style.

I hope that my pride and commitment shine through in this column and in all of my work at the law school. I look forward to sharing my Demon pride with you throughout the year, and in working tirelessly to ensure that DePaul enhances its reputation at every opportunity and continues to be recognized for its excellence regionally as Chicago’s law school and throughout the country.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Rosato Perea
Dean
In B rief

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In B rief

4 th An nual 1L Se rvice D ay

College of Law first-year law students, faculty, staff and Dean Jennifer Rosato Perea participated in the fourth annual 1L Service Day on Friday, Aug. 21. The event provided incoming 1Ls an opportunity to get to know fellow classmates and DePaul faculty and staff while volunteering in the community. Among the stops this year were Marillac House and Kelly Hall YMCA.

(Photos DePaul University/Jeff Carrion)

I A LI hosts t op FAA off icials at pol icy disc ussion

Pictured, from left: I A LI Director Brian Havel, I A LI Executive Co-Chair Steven Rudolph, College of Law Dean Jennifer Rosato Perea, FAA Administrator Michael P. Huerta and FAA Deputy Administrator Michael G. Whitaker.

Federal Aviation Administrator Michael P. Huerta and Deputy Administrator Michael G. Whitaker visited the International Aviation Law Institute in September, and participated in a wide-ranging discussion of FAA regulatory policy moderated by Professor Brian F. Havel, the institute’s director.

Among the topics considered were the benefits and drawbacks of the FAA’s extensive rulemaking system, the agency’s expanding reliance on data collection and risk analysis, and the regulatory challenges posed by unmanned aircraft systems. The discussion also examined the FAA’s increasing use of voluntary initiatives and performance-based rules, the agency’s “staged” approach to regulatory issues, the conceptual problems presented by possible regulations that would disrupt the current status quo.

IPSC marks 15 years with return to DePaul

In August, the Center for Intellectual Property Law & Information Technology (CIPLUT) hosted the annual Intellectual Property Scholars Conference (IPSC) at DePaul. Scholars presented on a wide range of topics under the umbrella of intellectual property law. This year’s IPSC marked the 15th anniversary of the conference, and the first plenary session addressed the evolution of IP scholarship during the last 15 years. “Conference presentations highlighted a trend toward more internationally focused works as well as more interdisciplinary ones,” said CIPLUT Director Margit Livingston.

The annual conference is co-sponsored by the Berkeley Center for Law and Technology, UC Berkeley Boalt Hall School of Law; the Berkeley Property Law Program, Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law; the Center for Intellectual Property Law and Information Technology, DePaul University College of Law; and the Stanford Program in Law, Science and Technology, Stanford Law School.

FACULTY SCHOLARSHIP

Published and forthcoming work, 2014 to present

Michael Grybney


Brian F. Havel


Juliet Lawton


Unraveling the Legal Hybrid of Housing Cooperatives, 83 UMKC L. Rev. 117 (2015).

Bruce Otley


Andrew Gold


On Selling Civil Rights, 63 DePaul L. Rev. 485 (2014).

Patty Gerstenblith


Andrew Gold


Unraveling the Legal Hybrid of Housing Cooperatives, 83 UMKC L. Rev. 117 (2015).

Bruce Otley


Josh Sarnoff


Robert R. Kwall

Practicing lawyers in a leading role
For LARC III and Legal Drafting, DePaul Law takes advantage of the talents of Chicago lawyers in a wide variety of practice areas. Students can take a course in patent law drafting or matrimonial law, for example, and receive guidance from experienced and practicing attorneys.

“We are always looking to have a robust pool of available adjunct professors,” Thrower said. “We like for that pool to vary with respect to background, because we have a lot of disparate needs, both for LARC III and drafting. Martha also practiced in the city and we draw on the fantastic set of contacts she has.”

Pagliari, who was previously a partner at Cassidy Schade & Gloor in Chicago, has a background in civil litigation, concentrating in medical malpractice, products liability and employment law. From 2008 until 2014, Pagliari was appointed by the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts, an arm of the Illinois Supreme Court, as professor-reporter for its Illinois Judicial Conference Study Committee on Complex Litigation, which made recommendations to the Illinois Supreme Court with regard to successful practices for managing complex civil and criminal litigation.

The cache of adjuncts—sometimes up to 60—includes practicing lawyers from firms of all sizes, including sole practitioners and government lawyers. Recent hires include Shankar Ramamurthy, the assistant regional counselor for Healthcare and Social Services and Lisa Hupé (MA ’08), a director of the Cook County Forest Preserve. Thrower says this range of practice areas helps accommodate changes and trends in the marketplace. “We have many voices adding to the conversations on what young lawyers need when they go off to practice.”

The adjunct line-up showcases the strength of the DePaul College of Law community. Alumni, including personal injury lawyer Vincent Browne (JD ’97), Illinois Appellate Court Clerk Natalie Carlomango (JD ’98), and civil defense litigator Joe Comer (JD ’10) routinely teach the courses. The LARC experience emphasizes personal feedback. LARC instructors make a point to offer office hours at times when students are not in class. Instructors carry out evaluations of the entire section of students in the conferences. “This is something that comes over time. ‘The gratification comes from students as well as a swell of confidence. From what I can tell from my national colleagues, DePaul Law offers oodles more teacher access to students, both informally through office hours and through structured time in the conferences,” said Thrower. ‘It makes sense to me to let students practice while they’re still in school,’” she said.

For example, several years ago, Thrower introduced a short case study exercise for LARC I that gently removes the training wheels for students to realize their own progress and autonomy in writing and legal analysis. Through this exercise, she witnessed a positive response from students as well as a swell of confidence. Much of the gratification for her and other LARC teachers comes over time. “The gratification comes as students practice their skills in the classroom, gain confidence in themselves, and then are able to excel in hands-on experiences like externships and clinics. Students learn a bucket from us and their employers recognize it.”

Prepared (and confident) to enter the real world of practice
Thrower says students tend to realize the benefit of the program when they go out into the world. Many students find that firms are incorporating time-pressured writing projects as part of the interview, and they are ready for them because of their LARC experiences. Thrower believes they’re also more prepared for the performance piece of the bar exam (the Multi-choice Performance Test). “It makes sense to me to let students practice while they’re still in school,” she said.
The daughter of a Chicago nurse, second-year law student Samantha Grund-Wickramasekera (BA ’14) has always had the public interest at the back of her mind. As an undergrad at DePaul University, she double-majored in political science and women’s & gender studies, with a minor in LGBTQ studies. She also worked as a legal intern for Chicago’s Domestic Violence Legal Clinic. Although Grund-Wickramasekera enrolled in law school with a focus on public interest law, her work at Ohio Northern University’s Pre-Law Undergraduate Scholars Program indicated a natural grasp of intellectual property law (her exam scores were the highest in the class).

As someone with many interests, Grund-Wickramasekera spent her last two years of undergraduate school, as well as during her first year of law school working at real estate, business law and estate planning firm, Spencer & Rozwadowski. With three years of experience in real estate and nearly a year of legal coursework behind her, she decided to pinpoint her passion beyond the classroom. This past summer, Grund-Wickramasekera secured an internship at the Chicago Field Museum of Natural History’s Office of General Counsel and an externship as a law clerk at the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services. With a law degree, she has the opportunity to pursue a healthcare litigation-based career. "The law is constantly a learning profession—there were changes and updates that my supervisors were also learning," she commented. "If you have a grasp of the foundational principles, that’s good; but even then, those skills are put to the task in the summer. I’d say there’s still obviously a lot left to learn, but I am so excited to keep learning and following my passions in my field of choice at the same time."

As for her hectic summer schedule, she accepts it as the nature of the field. "When the agencies underneath the Department of Healthcare and Family Services make decisions, such as denying requests for additional funding for children with disabilities, the family has the opportunity to appeal the denial all the way up to our agency, where the agency reviews whether a lower agency made the proper determination in light of the evidence available," she explained. At the Department of Healthcare and Family Services, she worked under various hearing officers and administrative law judges who oversaw these hearings. She also wrote numerous final administrative decisions (FADs) and was able to further educate herself on the ACA, Medicare and Medicaid through lectures and attendance at the Chicago Bar Association events.

Ultimately, she reached her own verdict. "I realized I loved government and healthcare-related work and decided this was the field I wanted to pursue," she said. "There is a huge human element to the practice of health law that makes it less abstract than other areas of law and makes me feel as if my work can still make a difference in someone’s life.”

She cites Mary and Michael Jaharis Health Law Institute Faculty Director Wendy Netter Epstein as a sounding board for jobs and direction in health law. Following Netter Epstein’s promotion of the Health Law Institute, Grund-Wickramasekera joined the institute as a Health Law Fellow. "The Health Law Institute really fuses together things I’ve learned from my undergrad—public policy issues, minority access to healthcare—but combines it in a way that brings together my first-year law courses, such as contracts, civil procedure and constitutional law, all classes which I excelled at during the first year.” Though offered a continuing externship position with the Department of Healthcare and Family Services throughout the fall, Grund-Wickramasekera is choosing to invest her time as a member of DePaul’s Journal of Health Care Law and the Appellate Moot Court Society. More recently, Grund-Wickramasekera secured a judicial externship position with the Honorable Sara L. Ellis, United States District Court Judge for the Northern District of Illinois. She aims to use the skills learned from these activities in pursuit of a healthcare litigation-based career.

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By Elizabeth Ramer

Samantha Grund-Wickramasekera
Field Museum of History and Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services

SECOND-YEAR STUDENT

*Dialogue* • Fall 2015
Ruben will be working in the patent law sector full time, an achievement he attributes to his DePaul education. Cincinnati, Ruben said he was attracted to the firm's experience. He began working his first summer in law school following an introduction from the Center for Intellectual Property Law & Information Technology's program at Cincinnati was a mandatory five years and included a total of six co-op placements in the field, so I had worked at BMW Manufacturing and Dow Chemical before entering law school," he explained. Ruben spent his first summer at the firm conducting a variety of research projects, document reviews and prior art searches and enjoyed the work so much that he continued on with the firm part time through his second year of law school. His responsibilities expanded as his knowledge and experience grew. "I was assigned more writing projects and had the opportunity to draft a couple of motions and prepare several design patents," he noted. Ruben remained with McAndrews through his second summer in Chicago and was given the opportunity to work on a state-of-the-art memo for a big client's in-house counsel. "It was incredibly rewarding to have my work make its way into the client's hands."

Ruben said that his time at DePaul Law, as well as his summer associate work, has been invaluable in preparing him for a successful career in law. Although he'll be continuing in a full-time position with McAndrews following graduation, he asserts that even if he hadn't stayed with that particular firm, his summer associate experience would prove beneficial. "Being able to speak the lingo of your specialty and gaining hands-on experience while still in school makes you so much more marketable as a new attorney," he observed. "Working on cases in a law firm introduces you to things that would never come up in the classroom, and you're exposed to much more material than you could ever cover in a semester."

"I chose to attend DePaul because it offers an IP specialty," Ruben noted. "The faculty is top-notch and the alumni network is tremendous. The school is well-known in the greater Chicago area, which is where I wanted to stay, and DePaul alumni have a reputation for being very supportive of one another and welcoming to recent graduates. From the first time I stepped onto campus, I really liked the culture I encountered, and that initial impression was borne out. I've had a great experience."

By Lori Ferguson

McAndrews is widely recognized in the intellectual property field and boasts one of the most highly regarded teams of IP attorneys, patent agents and technology specialists in the United States. Every attorney in the firm holds a degree in science or engineering and many have also worked in technology and IP-focused industries, a combination that dovetails nicely with Ruben's background and experience. "My engineering degree program at Cincinnati was a mandatory five years and included a total of six co-op placements in the field, so I had worked at BMW Manufacturing and Dow Chemical before entering law school," he explained. Ruben spent his first summer at the firm conducting a variety of research projects, document reviews and prior art searches and enjoyed the work so much that he continued on with the firm part time through his second year of law school. His responsibilities expanded as his knowledge and experience grew. "I was assigned more writing projects and had the opportunity to draft a couple of motions and prepare several design patents," he noted. Ruben remained with McAndrews through his second summer in Chicago and was given the opportunity to work on a state-of-the-art memo for a big client's in-house counsel. "It was incredibly rewarding to have my work make its way into the client's hands."

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By Lori Ferguson

In today's consumer marketplace, many people pay as much attention to how an object looks as they do to its purpose or function. While some might see this trend as strange, even frustrating, third-year student Phil Ruben sees opportunity. For the past two summers, Ruben has worked as a summer associate at the Chicago-based intellectual property law firm McAndrews Held & Malloy. His special area of interest: design patents. "This is a rapidly growing area of patent law, with companies specializing in everything from technology to furniture seeking to protect their designs," Ruben explained. "It's a fascinating space to be in, and one that's filled with opportunity." Following graduation, Ruben will be working in the patent law sector full time, an achievement he attributes to his DePaul education and his experiences as a summer associate. A mechanical engineering major at the University of Cincinnati, Ruben said he was attracted to the firm because of its highly technical bent and depth of experience. He began working his first summer in law school following an introduction from the Center for Intellectual Property Law & Information Technology's (CIPLIT) Executive Director Ellen Guttiotovt. Simunek said. She was honored with a Child and Family Law Fellowship and an International Human Rights Law Fellowship, both of which fully sponsored her work in India this summer.

Simunek said she identified and chose IJM for their anti-human trafficking mission as well as their distinctive Justice System Transformation Model. "Essentially, they aim to work themselves out of a job so that the local government will adopt the process," she explained. "And they're seeing that happen in communities such as Cambodia."

Training began at IJM's Washington, D.C., home office the first week of June. Simunek, who knows some Hindi, braved a heat index of 130 degrees her first week in India. At the IJM office, she provided direct support to the head of legal and staff attorneys in researching and supporting trial briefs as well as assisting with training programs for field workers in relieving victims of sex trafficking and bringing perpetrators to justice. Simunek said she was struck by the differences in the legal systems of the United States and India and how injustice manifests itself in both countries, yet in opposite ways. "Often the United States is quick to prosecute and hand out long prison sentences for smaller offenses. In India, it was often very difficult to get convictions. Convictions could take up to 10 to 15 years and, even then, those convicted may apply for bail at any time, she explained. She explained that her experience in India allowed her to view U.S. current events through a new lens. "My work overseas gave me a perspective on legal issues here in the U.S. I came back from India at the end of the summer inspired to face legal issues here and to aim to enact policy changes and system reform in my home country."

Simunek plans to pursue criminal law and juvenile defense litigation or public interest clinical work, working with clients who cannot afford representation and continuing her focus on anti-human trafficking. "One of the things I like about DePaul is that a lot of my professors are adjuncts," she said. She cites Cook County Public Defender Richard Hutt and Jay Readey, executive director at Chicago Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, as examples. "They’re working in the places I’m interested in. They have really valuable real-world experience that they bring to class." For the time being, Simunek is bolstering her commitment to justice on a local level with an internship at the Chicago Legal Clinic’s Pilsen office, providing community-based legal services to the underserved and disadvantaged in the Chicago area.

By Elizabeth Ramer
Firsthand experience never hurts, especially when it comes to crafting your legal career.

Just ask second-year student Tobin Klusty. Fresh from an American Medical Association Ethics Department Scholar position this past summer, the promising second-year student is embracing the intersection of health care and civil rights.

A graduate of Michigan State University, Klusty came to DePaul University College of Law for its location and deep alumni network. “Chicago is full of practicing attorneys, and has a very large professional network. DePaul’s large group of alumni enhances my ability to make important connections, which will aid my career search,” he said.

Klusty credits Legal Writing Instructor Allison Ortlieb, Executive Director Katherine Schostok and JHLI Faculty Director Wendy Netter Epstein with guiding his journey at DePaul. His specific academic journey focuses on litigation, but he is also interested in pursuing policy and connections, which will aid my career search,” he said.

Among the projects Klusty contributed to as an AMA Ethics Department Scholar include researching legal implications of the AMA’s Code of Medical Ethics; drafting the Reference Committee on Amendments to Constitution and Bylaws Report during the AMA’s annual policy meeting; coproducing the Council on Ethical and Judicial Affairs Report in conjunction with Ethics Policy staff; preparing detailed summaries about the legal and ethical issues of “responsible physician prescribing, the relationship between pregnancy and advance directives, and informed consent regarding medical research”; and authoring and coauthoring several articles on pivotal cases in health law and topics at the intersection of health law, medicine and bioethics for the AMA Journal of Ethics.

Klusty’s time spent with the AMA helped him develop his ability to write for a publication under a short deadline while focusing on conducting thorough research. He also was able to observe the judicial function of the AMA’s Office of General Counsel and the Council of Ethical and Judicial Affairs. This experience helped refine his career vision, giving him a much clearer understanding of what he wants his career path to be and how he will achieve his professional goals with the support of DePaul Law’s faculty, staff and alumni along the way.

By Mary M. Flury

“Professor Ortlieb has been an outstanding role model, being a reliable source of professional advice and helping me craft my legal writing skills. Professor Schostok has guided me through my quest as a fellow of the Jaharis Health Law Institute, and recommended me for the (American Medical Association) Ethics Scholar position. Lastly, but certainly not least,” he continued, “Professor Epstein has been an exceptional mentor, and has expanded my knowledge of the U.S. health care system through my research assistant position for her upcoming literature-review manuscript on health care compensation models.”

“Health law is a very interesting and expanding field that has a high demand for competent young attorneys,” Klusty said. “The application of health law also has strong influence on civil rights, namely the opportunity for minority groups to access affordable and adequate health care.” Klusty added that his dream job would be a litigator for the Office of General Counsel for the Department of Health and Human Services, and he seems to have found his footing along the right path.

As the AMA’s Ethics Department Scholar this past summer, Klusty said he was able to see how a self-regulating organization conducts itself in practice and he learned the importance of wording when it comes to policy. As such, Klusty developed a strong interest in working with policy.

A very important member of the DePaul community passed away on September 22. Judge Richard Cudahy (LLD ’95) of the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals served as chairman of DePaul’s International Human Rights Law Institute (IHRLI) advisory board (1990-95) and was a long-time supporter of public interest programs at the College of Law.

“He was generous both with his time and his resources,” said Emeritus Professor of Law and Founding Director of the Center for Public Interest Law (CPL) Len Cavise. After Cudahy’s tenure at IHRLI, he turned his support to the Chiapas Human Rights Practicum that Cavise founded and directed.

“Judge Cudahy and I had a strong relationship and he felt that the Chiapas program was something he should support through the Cudahy foundation—and he did.”

When the university took over funding of the Chiapas program, Judge Cudahy, then president of the Patrick and Anna Cudahy Fund, turned his and the foundation’s attention to the Center of Public Interest Law. Judge Cudahy and his foundation transferred between $25,000 and $35,000 to fund annual summer public interest scholarships to date through the Cudahy Fellowship. The Cudahy family has asked that CPL’s scholarship program be listed for those interested in making donations in his honor.

Judge Cudahy joined the Seventh Circuit in 1979, appointed by former President Jimmy Carter, and served for 15 years as an active duty judge. Prior to that, he worked in private practice and served as chairman of the Democratic state party and the Wisconsin Public Service Commission. He was a noted mentor to the generations of young lawyers who worked with him.

“He was just the most public interest-minded judge I have ever met,” said Cavise. “He didn’t have any pretenses, he didn’t have any time for posturing. He wanted to know what work you were doing, what good you were accomplishing and how this was helping students to become public interest lawyers.”

An extended feature on Judge Cudahy’s work with DePaul and his legacy of the Cudahy Fellows will appear in the next issue of Dialogue.
Tom Fahey (JD ‘80) is a well-known figure in the Chicago health law arena and something of a star among DePaul’s health law students.

As managing partner of Nixon Peabody Chicago, Fahey currently advises hospitals, health systems and financial institutions on complex health care-related finance, strategy and compliance issues. His 35 years of direct involvement in health care law make him one of the most practiced attorneys in his field.

Fahey insists on attributing some of his career success to the specialty he adopted early and still thrives on challenges in his field.

As a third-year student at DePaul Law he was hired by Hinshaw & Culbertson Partner William R. Kucera (JD ‘68), now recognized as a pioneer in the Chicago health care field. Fahey joined the Chicago headquarters at a time when, he says, health law was barely a specialty. He took a split assignment between Hinshaw’s litigation group and the firm’s newly formed health care group.

A few months into his position, he recalls, the health care boom hit. Fahey signed on to the firm’s health care group full time along with three other lawyers. Just four years later, the group had grown to 20 attorneys.

“I was fortunate that the specialty started evolving. Prior to that time, corporate attorneys did the health care work,” said Fahey. “As the unique needs of the industry resulted in significant regulation, the specialty was born.”

Fahey started the health law practice at Ungaretti & Harris in 1989, and was the firm’s managing partner from 1997 until this year. In February 2015, the innovative, full-service firm merged with national firm Nixon Peabody. Fahey also joined the Nixon Peabody management committee. The 700-lawyer firm creates a national footprint for his work with Ungaretti & Harris and includes offices in Hong Kong, Shanghai and London. The firm recently was named the national Law Firm of the Year in Health Care Law by U.S. News and World Report.

“I've had the fortune of being involved in many of the health system affiliation and consolidation activities that have occurred throughout Chicago,” he said. “We've been involved in a number of the transactions that have created the health systems that currently exist. We maintain a very active practice in the financing of those health systems as well. So, I take pride in having been at the table as a number of those transactions have occurred and continue to occur.”

Fahey said he is inspired and excited by the challenges he faces on a daily basis and the constantly evolving nature of his field.

“The field of health law really requires practitioners to be lifelong learners in terms of keeping up with it all. It’s a very challenging and exciting area to practice in because you are combining corporate skills with the understanding of health care entities’ regulatory framework that impact the transactional work.”

Fahey also shares his knowledge through regular presentations and panels, including the Illinois Association of Health Law Attorneys’ 32nd Annual Health Law Symposium and Crain’s Chicago Business’ Fourth Annual Governance Forum.

At DePaul, Fahey says he received all of the training he could hope for in becoming a studied corporate student. He remembers his time on the editorial board of the DePaul Law Review as particularly formative—and a place where he made lifelong friends.

Fahey maintains his connection to the law school as a member of the Mary and Michael Jaharis Health Law Institute advisory board. He has served on the board since its inception.

“I’ve evidenced some great support from the deans, administration and some great hands-on work from the institute leadership,” Fahey said. “Particularly in the last few years, I have seen it really find its niche. The institute has gained tremendous credibility and, as a board member, I’m very proud of the strides it has made in terms of what it offers its students and the community.”

He also continues to invest in DePaul’s promising health law students.

“Nixon Peabody has been pleased with the clerks we’ve hired from DePaul’s health law program. We’ve also hired DePaul graduates to become associates here. We’ve been very pleased with the training those students have received at DePaul in the health law specialty.”

Alumni Edward Grossman honored with Justice John Paul Stevens Award

Chicago Legal Clinic Co-Founder and Director Edward Grossman (JD ’71) was honored at the annual John Paul Stevens Awards luncheon at the Standard Club, Chicago, on October 13. The award recognizes attorneys who share Justice Stevens’ standards of the highest personal integrity and devotion to public service.


Congratulations to our alumni honorees!

- Jeffrey S. Becker (JD ’04), Swanson, Martin & Bell
- Andrew M. Engle (JD ’03), Davis | Friedman
- Sarah F. King (JD ’11), Clifford Law Offices
- Matthew A. Passen (JD ’06), Passen Law Group

Rocio Alcantar (JD ’10) was selected by the Chicago Bar Foundation to receive a prestigious 2015 Sun-Times Public Interest Law Fellowship. There are five fellowships awarded annually to attorneys who have dedicated their careers to public interest. Alcantar is the supervising attorney for the Immigrant Children’s Protection Project at the National Immigrant Justice Center.

Karina Ayala-Bermejo (JD ’98) and Michelle M. Jochner (JD ’90) were honored with the 2015 Top Women Lawyers in Leadership award by the Women’s Bar Association of Illinois. The two alumnae were among five other award recipients at the Hotel Allegro in November. Jochner is partner at Schiller DuCanto & Fleck. Ayala-Bermejo is general counsel and executive vice president of Metropolitan Family Services and executive director of the Legal Aid Society.
During my time as chief judge of the U.S. Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals for 16 years, I have often mentored junior faculty in getting their scholarly works placed in law reviews and other outlets.

**Q. What role do our centers play in enhancing the legal education of students?**

Our centers and institutes allow us to create areas of excellence within the law school. They bring together faculty and students who are interested in a particular area of law, such as law and taxation, cultural heritage, intellectual property and family law. Faculty affiliated with a center or institute develop curricular offerings, promote scholarship and research, build connections with the local bar, and assist us in identifying law students who plan careers in a particular field. Some of our centers, such as aviation and cultural heritage, are virtually unique to the legal academy and the legal field.

**Q. You were recently appointed Vincent de Paul Professor of Law. Congratulations! What does this honor mean to you?**

It is a profound privilege to have been elected to the Society of Vincent de Paul Professors. The society, composed of 32 professors from across the university who have demonstrated outstanding teaching in core courses, have engaged with a significant body of scholarship, and have provided excellent service to their academic unit and to the university. Except for some visits at other schools, I have not had the opportunity to personally interact with any of my fellow professors and I am honored to have my achievements recognized in this way. St. Vincent de Paul was noted, of course, for his commitment to the poor and disadvantaged, and I am deeply gratifying to be linked to his name.

**Q. Among your many roles at the College, you serve as associate dean for research and faculty professional development. What does this position entail?**

As associate dean for research and faculty professional development, I wear a number of hats. I ensure that the candidates for tenure and promotion submit their application materials in a timely manner and are evaluated by a faculty committee. I also work with the dean and the director of communications to promote faculty research and scholarship to the legal academic community and the public. In addition, together with the faculty programs committee, I attempt to foster the intellectual environment at the College of Law by bringing in faculty members from other law schools to speak to our faculty on cutting-edge legal topics. Also, I assist junior faculty in getting their scholarly works placed in law reviews and other outlets.

**Q. In what ways are our professors affecting students, the DePaul community and the legal field beyond the walls of the classroom?**

My faculty colleagues have a significant impact on our students, the DePaul community and the legal field in general beyond our classroom teaching. They produce scholarly writings cited by courts and referenced by Congress, thus having an impact on law reform. Several colleagues have coauthored amicus briefs in conjunction with appeals to the United States Supreme Court and the U.S. Courts of Appeals. Others serve in the public intellectual, publishing essays and op-ed pieces with the New York Times, the Huffington Post, and other media. One faculty colleague, legal writing instructor and CIPLIT member Tony Volini, collaborated with a recent graduate, Nicholas Appeal, having an impact on law reform. Several colleagues have mentored students in the role of public intellectual, such as aviation and cultural heritage, are virtually unique to the legal academy and the legal field. Their work is important not only to the legal community and our alumni but also to our mission to provide our students with a unique educational experience.

**Q. You are director of the Center for Intellectual Property Law and Information Technology (CIPLIT). What are some of CIPLIT’s proudest achievements?**

CIPLIT was started over 15 years ago by Professor Roberta Kwali, who had the foresight to understand the growing importance of intellectual property law. She created a center that serves our students, faculty and the wider community by fostering research and scholarship in IP, featuring nationally renowned speakers on IP topics, providing faculty and attorney mentors for our students, and forging connections between our students and alumni. This summer we hosted the acclaimed Intellectual Property Scholars Conference in partnership with Berkeley, Cardozo and Stanford. Over 180 IP scholars from across the country presented papers on the latest developments in copyright, trademark, patent, cyberlaw and international IP. The exchange of ideas at the conference, we hope, will foster further research and scholarly development in IP.

**Q. What role do our centers play in enhancing the reputation of the law school and enriching the community?**

Our centers and institutes allow us to create areas of excellence within the law school. They bring together faculty and students who are interested in a particular area of law, such as law and taxation, cultural heritage, intellectual property and family law. Faculty affiliated with a center or institute develop curricular offerings, promote scholarship and research, build connections with the local bar, and assist us in identifying law students who plan careers in a particular field. Some of our centers, such as aviation and cultural heritage, are virtually unique to the legal academy and the legal field. Their work is important not only to the legal community and our alumni but also to our mission to provide our students with a unique educational experience.

**Q. You recently introduced a faculty advising program. How does this support the College of Law’s emphasis on mentoring?**

The College of Law is committed to connecting with our students in as many ways and through as many avenues as possible to help them meet their goals. Each first-year student is assigned a faculty advisor who can guide that student through some of the challenges of law school and advise him or her about bar selection, externship opportunities, networking and career building. This program is part of our personalized attention to our law students, and it is one way that our students are successful in law school and beyond.

**Q. DePaul recently introduced a faculty advising program. How does this support the College of Law’s emphasis on mentoring?**

It is a profound privilege to have been elected to the Society of Vincent de Paul Professors. The society, composed of 32 professors from across the university who have demonstrated outstanding teaching in core courses, have engaged with a significant body of scholarship, and have provided excellent service to their academic unit and to the university. Except for some visits at other schools, I have not had the opportunity to personally interact with any of my fellow professors and I am honored to have my achievements recognized in this way. St. Vincent de Paul was noted, of course, for his commitment to the poor and disadvantaged, and I am deeply gratifying to be linked to his name.
Michael E. Nieskes was promoted from prosecutor to deputy district attorney for St. Croix County. His practice focuses on regulatory and patient care issues.

Scott B. Gibson, an attorney with Gibson & Associates, was accepted as a member of the Society of Trial Lawyers.

Catherine L. Steege was named to the Illinois Supreme Court Committee on Equality, which will promote equality and fairness in all aspects of the administration of justice in Illinois courts. She focuses on private practice, corporate counsel work, public interest law, legal education and the judiciary. Steege is a partner at Jenner & Block.

Jennifer Rice DeSena, a broker with Coldwell Banker in the Cape Elizabeth, Maine, office, was named broker of the month. She focuses on regulatory and patient care issues.

William B. Sullivan will be a Cook County Circuit Judge in the 11th Judicial Circuit effective July 1, filling the vacancy left by the retirement of Judge Susan Zwick.

Angela M. Washelesky (CMN ’88) is the first Chicago attorney to join Corboy & Demetrio in Chicago. She specializes in divorce and family law.

Deborah A. Carver opened the Carver Law Firm, a divorce and family law practice in Naperville, Ill. She was named a 2016 Best Lawyer in America by the peer-reviewed Journal Best Lawyers.

Michael J. Isip was named to the board of directors for Public Radio International. He is chief content officer at Classical FM in Atlanta.

Kathryn A. Adams Krongquist joined Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney as a shareholder in the firm’s Washington, D.C., office, where she will focus her practice on commercial finance, commercial real estate, financial regulatory and bankruptcy matters.

Michael S. Burns is a recipient of the 2015-16 Spirit of DePaul Award. The honor will be conferred at DePaul’s fall academic convocation.

Allison L. Wood is a certified Minimum Continuing Legal Education provider for the Illinois Supreme Court. She is an attorney with Davis, Saffold & Davis in Chicago.

Bruce J. Lederman was named senior vice president and chief operating officer at Charles E. Smith Life Communities in Rockville, Md.

Marc D. Ginsberg (LLM ’92) was named director of the Center for Advocacy and Dispute Resolution at The John Marshall Law School in Chicago, where he has been an associate professor since 2009. He is a member of the American Medical Association and was named the 2016-17 Top 10 Family Law Attorneys’ list of Top 10 Family Law Attorneys in Illinois.

Lisa M. Hetrick-Martens joined the Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton Dem-Mar office in San Diego, where she is a partner in the intellectual property group. She previously served as a trademark and copyright principal for Fish & Richardson.

Kareh T. Safavi participated on a panel at LHP Hospital Group Inc. in Plano, Texas, where he will be responsible for coordinating corporate development activities, overseeing strategic transactions and managing growth initiatives. Safavi is a former attorney with LHP from JP Morgan Securities, where he served as executive director.

Lisa J. Acevedo joined Coppersmith Brookes, a law firm in Phoenix, where she focuses on the issues of the world’s leading patent practitioners, practitioners and law firms.

In Memoriam

Arthur Casden (JD ’33)
Robert Coleman (BUS ’66, JD ’69)
Richard Cudahy (LLD ’97)
William Devine (JD ’63)
Raymond Dreyer (JD ’49)
Charles Elkind (LAS ’51, JD ’54)
Thomas Fillmore (JD ’33)
Allan Fishman (JD ’74)
Edward Guskovich (JD ’53)
Irving Herman (JD ’33)
T. Ronald Jasiński Herbert (LAS ’60, JD ’63)
John Jurisch (JD ’50)
Sally Kopke (JD ’86)
Jack Marcus (JD ’60)
Lary Kristen McNutt (JD ’84)
Joseph Mikrut (JD ’54, MED ’66)
Donna Morris (JD ’78)
Thomas Murphy Jr. (JD ’35)
James Postula (JD ’49)
William Rehling (LAS ’74, JD ’77)
Samuel Strong (JD ’31)
Sam Toll (JD ’48)

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2002
Michael G. Bergmann was named chair of the American Bar Association Judicial Division. He is the first attorney to hold the position. Bergmann is executive director of Public Interest Law Initiative.

2003
Todd A. Krueckeberg was sworn in as director of the Miami County Board of Elections in Ohio. Krueckeberg previously worked on a variety of political campaigns and on Capitol Hill. Most recently, he worked as a freelance research and communications agent.

2004
Kristin N. Barnette was sworn in as second vice president of the Women’s Bar Association of Illinois. Barnette has held the position of Director of Internal Litigation until the current position. She is a trial attorney with Kravovetz, Jambois & Schwartz in Chicago.

2005
Tanya E. Brady was appointed senior vice president and general counsel for Phillips Edison & Co., which purchases under-performing grocery-anchored properties and maximizes their value. Brady will serve as the key legal advisor to all major business transactions, lead corporate strategic and tactical initiatives, provide guidance for the leadership team on strategy and more.

2006
Matthew A. Passen was inducted as chair of the Chicago Bar Association Young Lawyers Section for 2015-16. Passen also received a $10,000 jury verdict on behalf of a man who was burned in a household explosion while applying a concrete sealer to his basement floor. Passen is partner at Passen Law Group in Chicago, which represents plaintiffs in serious personal injury, medical malpractice and product liability actions.

2007
Chantelle A. Porter was elected to the board of directors of the Illinois Bar Foundation, the charitable arm of the Illinois State Bar Association. Porter is an associate attorney at A. Traub and Associates.

2009
Christopher W. Niro was elected to the established board of directors of the Illinois Bar Foundation as the young lawyers division liaison. He is a junior associate at Niro, Haller and Niro in Chicago.

2010
John C. Lillig (MA ’96) authored a chapter titled “The Athletic Experience at Historically Black Colleges and Universities,” published by Rowman & Littlefield in August 2015. His chapter focuses on men’s basketball contracts, scheduling strategies and the financing of athletics at the colleges and universities. Lillig is an associate at Hoogendorn and Talbot.

2011
Kathleen Hoffman joined Swanson, Martin and Bell as an associate where he will focus his practice on medical negligence and health care construction litigation, and product liability. He joins the firm from Bolinger Connolly Krause, where he also served as an associate.

2012
John T. Donovan was nominated for the Edgar Fellows Program, a University of Illinois Institute of Government and Public Affairs Public Affairs initiative that develops leadership and governing capacity in Illinois. Fellows have demonstrated the ability to make a positive difference in their communities. Donovan is assistant counsel to Speaker of the Illinois House of Representatives Michael J. Madigan. He has previously served as the lead legislative attorney on seven house committees, including those for the budget, finance, mass transit, transportation; vehicles & safety, and transportation: regulation, roads, & bridges.

2014
Sarah L. Moore opened her own law firm, Addo Law, in Gurnee, Ill. Moore helps clients with estate planning, real estate closings, contracts, corporate and nonprofit formation, and mediation. Retraction notice: In the last issue Dialogue incorrectly listed Moira Murphy (JD ’08) as deceased.