

# *a·mi·cus*

*(syn) a friend of the court*

SUMMER 2010

*Michigan State University College of Law Magazine*

## **Street Law:** *Community Collaboration as a Bridge to Our Future*

*plus*

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Students Bring Home Honors  
Faculty Honors Announced  
Office of Advancement News



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Students at Lansing's Everett High School learn about law and the legal system through the new Street Law Program.

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## A Message from the Dean

**ONCE AGAIN**, this issue of *Amicus* provides some glimpses into the lively and impressive world of MSU Law. Looking through this issue, I was struck by the strong ties that make us a community. Collaboration plays such a key role in all our successes, and our work and accomplishments today connect deeply with our past and our future.

Our Street Law program extends our community, creating exciting new relationships with area high school students and teachers, and linking the Law College to the future. MSU Law students, guided and supported by their professors and teaching partners, deepen their own knowledge as they educate local high school students about law in everyday lives. The high school students gain a better appreciation for our democratic society and their place in it. For some, the program may be the spark that inspires them to join us one day in the legal profession.

Our interdependence is clear in so many other wonderful things happening at the Law College. Our numerous competition successes highlight what our talented students can achieve through teamwork and excellent coaching. Our new Faculty Honors pay tribute to key figures in our past, while recognizing outstanding current professors who will leave their own lasting impression on our students and the law everywhere through exceptional scholarship and teaching.

Our innovative partnership with inaugural Writer in Residence Sandra Seaton draws on and strengthens ties

with the wider University, while enriching us all with a deeper connection to the arts and a unique lens through which we will examine important themes of law and justice.

Our growing list of donors and new giving opportunities underscore the commitment that MSU Law alumni and friends have to providing promising future students access to a quality legal education. Several distinguished alumni featured in this issue—Dennis Archer, Michael Berry, and Mike Morganroth—exemplify our profound appreciation for our graduates and their dedication to leading the way for current and future students.

Sadly, our community suffered a terrible loss this spring with the passing of long-time professor Alvin Storrs. Al's passing brought the entire Law College family together to mourn and honor a respected colleague, wonderful teacher, and beloved friend.

I am very privileged and proud to lead this extraordinary community. Our individual contributions collectively form a whole that is far greater than the sum of its parts. Our history anchors us in difficult times, while our combined efforts propel us forward toward exciting new territory. Working together with respect for both yesterday and tomorrow, we can accomplish great things for ourselves, our Law College, and all of our communities. This lofty claim is proven by the achievements described in the following pages.

Best regards,

*Joan W. Howarth*  
Joan W. Howarth  
Dean, Michigan State University College of Law



Dean Joan W. Howarth

# Law College News

## MSU LAW COMMUNITY MOURNS THE PASSING OF PROFESSOR ALVIN STORRS



*In Memory of*  
Professor  
Alvin Leonard Storrs  
1950–2010

With great sorrow, the Michigan State University College of Law reflects on the passing of Professor Alvin Leonard Storrs, who died April 26, 2010, after a lengthy illness.

Professor Storrs had been a highly respected member of the MSU College of Law faculty since 1987. He was chair of the Taxation Law program and proudly served as faculty advisor to the Black Law Students Association. Professor Storrs taught Basic Income Taxation, Corporate Income Taxation, and Deferred and Executive Compensation at the Law College, teaching most recently in the fall 2009 semester.

A trusted and effective faculty leader, Professor Storrs served as chair of the Dean Search Committee in 2007–08 and chair of the Faculty Appointments Committee in 2008–09. In addition to his

countless former students, his legacy at the Law College includes the hundreds of low-income clients who have been served by the Law College's Tax Clinic, which was started with funding obtained by Professor Storrs.

Professor Storrs earned a B.A. from Mercy College in 1973; an M.B.A. from University of Detroit in 1981; a J.D. from University of Detroit School of Law in 1982; and an LL.M. in taxation from New York University in 1984. He practiced with the law firm of Hall, Andary, and Bilicki before assuming the role of tax manager at Ernst and Whinney in Detroit. Prior to joining the MSU Law faculty, he spent three years as an adjunct professor at the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law, where he taught courses in business planning and income taxation.

Professor Storrs is survived by his wife, Regina, and their two children, Alvin and Ashley; his oldest daughters, Verna Nevels and Heather Holloway; his granddaughter, Ashlyn; and his dear mother, Amye Davis. Those who wish to share fond memories or extend condolences to the family may send them to The Family of Professor Alvin Storrs, c/o Michigan State University College of Law, 368 Law College Building, East Lansing, MI 48824-1300.

## MSU Law *Board of Trustees* UPDATE

**The Michigan State University Board of Trustees appointed Stacy Erwin Oakes, '01, to the MSU College of Law Board of Trustees in February. Oakes is an assistant attorney general for the state of Michigan and lead developer of Erwin Properties, LLC.**



Stacy L. Erwin Oakes

Oakes, a former corrections officer, has also worked as a policy analyst for the Michigan House of Representatives and as a law clerk for the Michigan Department of Civil Rights. Her experience in academia includes teaching as an adjunct at Saginaw Valley State University and teaching social studies at Saginaw High School.

"Stacy Erwin Oakes is a Law College graduate who has earned a reputation as a dynamic leader and dedicated attorney. She is well respected for her accomplishments as a leader in both law and business," said Dean Joan Howarth. "We are honored to have her join the Board of Trustees."

# Revealing the Realities of Law School

From enduring fall semester exams as a 1L to preparing for the bar exam, MSU Law students tell it like it is. For real.



Thanks to our inaugural team of official student bloggers, prospective students and others can learn what it really is like to be a student at MSU College of Law. Ten students signed on to the “Spartan bLAWg” project in February, launching a steady flow of informative, entertaining, and thought-provoking commentaries on life at MSU Law.

The pioneer group of bloggers includes rising 2Ls Ebonie Byndon-Fields and Brett Manchel; rising 3Ls Michael Epstein, Bobby Ficklin, Zach Gasior, Jessica Kolongowski, Adrea Korthase, and Rob Stone; and Class of 2010 graduates Jason Blevins and Katherine Hegg. From tips on surviving the Socratic method (“usually you

get through it fine”) and reflections on summer employment (“it’s comforting knowing that I have been prepared to succeed in the real world”) to one student’s musings about arguing on behalf of a McDonald’s Shamrock Shake, the Spartan bLAWg has something for everyone.

The bloggers continue to post bimonthly entries through the summer as they prepare for and take the bar exam; participate in study abroad programs; and gain work experience at a southeast Michigan public defender’s office, the New York Attorney General’s Office, an Idaho Indian reservation, and more.

It’s easy to forget that in all of our actions, we are dealing with people. Not things like contracts, or even “plaintiffs” and “defendants,” but real people, with real names and real lives. It sheds a new light on freedom, and on character. It makes you look at yourself. You might see a defendant, charged with a simple crime. Something you might have done, if the circumstances required it. You never know. And there they are—facing the abrupt stripping of their freedoms. Call me weak, faint of heart, or other things that would be inappropriate to write here. I’m not those things, but I am definitely more aware. More aware of what it means to be a citizen, what the purpose of the law is, what it means to be free in a nation of man-made laws. But most of all, I am really thankful to be where I am today. To have had the benefits of a life that allowed me to not find myself in any situation subjecting me to the loss of my freedoms. And I think that experience will help me be not only a better lawyer, but a better person. Because everything in this world, especially nowadays, is personal.

— From “My Emotional Side” by Brett Manchel, June 3, 2010

For more from the Spartan bLAWg, go to [www.law.msu.edu/blogs/students](http://www.law.msu.edu/blogs/students).

## MSU LAW STUDENTS Bring Home Honors

MSU College of Law students brought home numerous honors this spring from regional, national, and even international competitions. The range of awards showcases our students’ arbitration, moot court, and writing skills, and highlights the breadth and depth of the MSU Law curriculum. The following exemplify just a few of the reasons MSU Law students made us proud so far this year:

- The MSU Law Commercial Arbitration Team was named national finalist in the American Bar Association Law Student Division’s 2009–10 National Arbitration Competition, held in January in Orange, California. Rising 3L **ERIC GRIGGS**, along with 2010 graduates **JUSTINIAN LANE**, **JANE MOON**, and **SARAH STEMPKY**, vied for the coveted national championship trophy after winning their regional round in November. This marked the third time in five years that MSU Law was represented in the final rounds of this competition.



Brian Davis (left) and Nicholas Passalacqua

- **BRIAN DAVIS**, ’10, and **NICK PASSALACQUA**, ’10, advanced to the final round of the Texas Young Lawyers Association Midwest regional competition, held in February at The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law. The pair made an impressive showing at the event, posting a 3-0 record in the preliminary rounds and beating the University of Cincinnati team in the semi-finals. A total of 28 teams from law schools across Kentucky, Michigan, and Ohio competed.
- **JASON HEGG**, ’10, and **NICK KIELLA**, ’10, won third place in the American Bar Association Law Student Division’s Region 6 Client Counseling Competition in February. The team was ranked second after a trio of preliminary rounds, successfully

advanced through the semi-finals, and ultimately finished third in the closing round. Students from law schools in Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, and Ontario honed their interviewing and client-counseling skills at the event as they participated in simulated law office consultations.

- A group of MSU Law students was named Best Preliminary Round Team at New York Law School’s 34th Annual Robert F. Wagner Labor and Employment Law Competition in March. The team comprised of 2010 graduates **JOSHUA PATRICK** (captain and oralist) and **PATRICK BURNS** (oralist), along with rising 3Ls **SHARA YOUNES** (brief writer), **MATTHEW MARTIN** (in-house counsel), and **JENNIFER LAMAY** (in-house counsel), advanced to the semi-finals after finishing first among 46 teams in the opening rounds.



From left: Patrick Burns (oralist), Jennifer LaMay (in-house counsel), Joshua Patrick (captain and oralist), Shara Youles (brief writer), Matthew Martin (in-house counsel)

- **SUSAN FYAN**, ’10, won the 2009 Intellectual Property Law Writing Competition for her paper highlighting a unique aspect of India’s patent laws that has major implications for that country’s pharmaceutical industry. The competition, co-sponsored by Altacit Global and *The Virginia Journal of Law and Technology*, was open to students from American and Indian law schools. Fyan’s award, which was announced in March, earned her a \$500 cash prize, a certificate, and consideration for publication in the sponsoring journal. Fyan completed the Intellectual Property & Communications Law Program at MSU Law after spending nearly 20 years as a chemist in the pharmaceutical sector.

*Congratulations to all of our talented and hard-working students!*



# Law College News



The Spring 2010 Distinguished Speaker Series brought an exciting list of scholars to the Law College to enrich and exchange ideas with MSU Law faculty. The invigorating and thought-provoking series was arranged by Professor Susan Bitensky, chair of the Programs Committee, along with Professors Kristi Bowman, Frank Ravitch, Glen Staszewski, and Mark Totten. This spring's speakers included:

- **Professor Marci Hamilton**  
*Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law*
- **Professor Gregory Mitchell**  
*University of Virginia School of Law*
- **Professor Deana Pollard Sacks**  
*Thurgood Marshall School of Law,  
Texas Southern University*
- **Professor Josh Bowers**  
*University of Virginia School of Law*
- **Professor Sanford Levinson**  
*The University of Texas School of Law*

## IS THERE A WAR ON TERROR? TORTURE, RENDITION, GUANTANAMO, AND OBAMA'S PREVENTIVE DETENTION

International law and human rights experts examined legal issues concerning Guantanamo prisoner detentions, torture, and their international implications in a *Journal of International Law* symposium held in February. Keynote speaker Michael P. Scharf, co-leader of a USAID-funded project that is working with the Ugandan government to create a special war crimes chamber and truth commission, was nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize in 2005 for his help with the prosecution of major war criminals such as Slobodan Milošević, Charles Taylor, and Saddam Hussein. Luncheon speaker Scott Horton, a lifelong human rights activist, has served as counsel to Andrei Sakharov, Elena Bonner, and other activists in the former Soviet Union; co-founded the American University in Central Asia; and led a series of New York City Bar Association studies on human rights abuses connected with the war on terror.

## SUCCESSFUL SYMPOSIA

### FAMILY PETS AND THE LAW

Top scholars explored the changing nature of pets in our society in a March *Journal of Animal Law* symposium, which focused on how the law affects household pets during legal proceedings. The event featured Amy Breyer, a Chicago attorney with one of the only practices in the country devoted to animal law issues; David Favre, the Nancy Heathcote Professor of Property and Animal Law at MSU Law and an international leader in the fast-growing field; Linda Kalof, professor of sociology at MSU and a fellow at the Oxford Centre for Animal Ethics; and Georgina M. Montgomery, assistant professor at MSU's Lyman Briggs College and the Department of History.

### RESPONDING TO THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE

Distinguished scholars from across the nation gathered at MSU Law in April to present reactions to Barry Friedman's *The Will of the People: How Public Opinion Has Influenced the Supreme Court and Shaped the Meaning of the Constitution*. Friedman, vice dean and professor at New York University School of Law, is a constitutional lawyer who has litigated cases involving abortion, the death penalty, and free speech. The *Michigan State Law Review* symposium brought together respected scholars of American constitutional history, law and politics, constitutional theory, and comparative constitutionalism to contribute essays and discuss their responses to Friedman's book.

## Arts&Humanitiescorner

### 1989: Austria and the End of the Cold War



From February 1 through March 15, the Law College hosted an Austrian Cultural Forum New York exhibit examining Austria's role in the end of the Cold War. 1989: *Austria and the End of the Cold War* documents the dramatic fall of the Iron Curtain in the "Year of Miracles," and the event's profound impact on Austria and a newly unified Europe.

### MSU LAW LAUNCHES

## Writer in Residence

PROGRAM

MSU Law launched an innovative arts-focused program this spring, partnering with playwright and librettist Sandra Seaton as its inaugural writer in residence. The Writer in Residence Program is intended to more deeply connect faculty, students, and alumni to the arts.



Sandra Seaton

The program is coordinated by University-wide Professor Nicholas Mercuro, who teaches Law and Economics and manages art-related projects at the Law College. The residency is an outgrowth of a series of art exhibitions Mercuro has helped acquire for display at MSU Law over the past nine years, all touching on themes involving law and justice.

During her time in residence, Seaton will write works dramatizing legal issues, including a play focusing on African American students at a Midwestern university during the civil rights movement of the 1960s. Her new play will be jointly sponsored by the MSU College of Law, James Madison College, and the MSU Department of Theatre. The Black Law Students Association and other student groups will help facilitate the production. A follow-up symposium, which will be open to the entire University community, will examine the treatment of moral and legal issues in Seaton's plays and other dramatic works.

"We are honored to have Sandra Seaton join Michigan State University College of Law as our first writer in residence," said Dean Joan Howarth. "Her presence and work will provide a wonderful opportunity for the entire MSU Law community to experience the arts and consider legal issues through a different medium."

MSU Law was awarded a \$15,000 grant from the Michigan Humanities Council to support Seaton's mid-November play and symposium. This marks the first time since 1978 that the Michigan Humanities Council has awarded a major grant to a law school.





## In & Around THE LAW COLLEGE...



Mary Ferguson

- ... In March 2010, the Lansing Black Lawyers Association presented its first-ever “Rising Star” Young Professional Award to MARY FERGUSON, '02, director of the Diversity Services Office. The award recognized Ferguson for her commitment to increasing minority enrollment within MSU Law, her dedication to student success, and her community service.
- ... Data from the February 2010 Michigan bar exam show that 94 percent of MSU Law first-time testers passed, placing the school second among Michigan law schools and well above the corresponding statewide rate of 88 percent. MSU Law was also one of only two in-state law schools to exceed the overall statewide pass rate, which includes repeat testers.
- ... The *Michigan State Law Review* continued its impressive ascent in the annual law journal rankings by Washington & Lee University School of Law, the leading source for data on legal periodicals. The publication now ranks 62nd out of 250 ranked flagship journals, marking an eight-point boost from last year and a 100-point rise in just five years. The *Law Review* also jumped 14 spots in the broader category of student-edited journals—which includes those covering specialty subjects—placing 95th in a field of 575.
- ... The Intellectual Property & Communications Law Program placed in the top 25 in the Mitchell Report on IP Curricula “overall points” category. MSU Law appeared in a seven-way tie at number 17 out of 198 American Bar Association–approved

law schools across the United States. The report ranks IP programs based on breadth of core course offerings.

- ... Our moot court successes were highlighted by another annual ranking that placed MSU Law 10th in the country among 124 appellate advocacy programs. The Law School Advocacy online rankings are based on performance in competitions during the 2009 calendar year. A team earns points for each “top finish” as a semifinalist, finalist, or winner at a competition, with points awarded based on the number of participating teams.

- ... MSU Law welcomed two new staff members to the Law College family in June 2010. CAROLINE KINGSTON, '05, associate director for student affairs and organizations, and MEGHAN SHORT, '04, co-director of the Academic Success Program, will each provide important services to help students successfully navigate through law school.

- ... KATHRYN E. FORT, '05, was promoted to acting associate director of the Indigenous Law & Policy Center through June 2011. “Law Enforcement and Cooperative Public Safety Agreements,” an article Fort coauthored with Professors Matthew Fletcher and Wenona Singel, appeared in the *Michigan Bar Journal* in February 2010. Fort also co-edited *Facing the Future: The Indian Child Welfare Act at 30* with Professors Fletcher and Singel, which was published in 2009 by Michigan State University Press.



Kathryn E. Fort

# Law College News

## Following IN THE Family Footsteps

For Adam Sabree, MSU College of Law was a natural choice. His father, Eric, graduated from the Law College in 1996. “I remember when dad was here, and everyone having so much pride in the school,” says Adam.

When his parents learned that he would follow in his father’s footsteps, their reaction was immediate. “I’ve never seen him so proud in my life,” Adam says, describing his father’s response. “He was very excited.” His mother, Badriyyah, initially focused more on the logistics. Adam recalls, “The first thing she said was, ‘You can live with Aliyah!’”

Adam wasn’t the only Sabree who had embraced his father’s loyalty to MSU Law. His sister, Aliyah, who is two years older, would be starting her second year at the Law College.

The two had been close growing up, but had spent little time together in the six years since Aliyah graduated from high school. With both playing college basketball—she at Youngstown State University in Ohio and he at Caldwell College in New Jersey—their visits home rarely overlapped.

While Adam didn’t immediately welcome the idea of living with his sister, he says, “Since Mom was helping with the bills, I had to agree.” Not surprisingly, mom did know best.

Aliyah, the more introverted of the two, says a rough 1L year had left her ready for a change. “I was lonely, I was by myself. Having Adam around helped. He’s very social, and he got me out of the house more.”

As for Adam, having the benefit of his sister’s experiences was “instrumental” in his adjustment to law school. “I know my weaknesses and her strengths. If I need help, I ask her,” he says. “She’s a valuable resource. She’s been through it first, so that helps.”

A little sibling rivalry also didn’t hurt when it came time to compare grades. “If I was by myself, I might not work as hard,” Adam says. “It helps to compete a bit. We push each other.”

According to Aliyah, their father’s pop quizzes also help keep them on their toes. “He calls Adam with random Con Law questions,” she laughs.

Having graduated in spring 2010, Aliyah has accepted a position as an assistant prosecutor for Wayne County. Her job will take her into the Detroit Public Schools, where she will discuss school violence and teach students how to report crimes and gang activity.

Aliyah’s new path seems shaped by both parents’ influences—her father’s love of the law and her mother’s commitment to education. Badriyyah spent more than 20 years as a Detroit teacher and administrator, and now works with the Michigan Department of Education.

Adam and Aliyah have yet another family member to thank for their dedication to service. Great-grandmother Daisy Elliott is a former state representative who co-sponsored Michigan’s historic Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act of 1976.

Adam says their time together at MSU Law has increased his respect for his sister. “It’s good to go through the same thing, and it will make it more fulfilling when I get my degree,” he says. Aliyah appreciates that the experience taught her to be more patient and outgoing.

Contemplating his 3L year without Aliyah, Adam says, “I see myself being busy. I think I’ll survive.” Aliyah—always the big sister—adds, “We shall see.”

– By Erika Marzorati



Aliyah Sabree, '10, and Adam Sabree were joined by their father, Eric Sabree, '96, mother Badriyyah Sabree (not pictured), and great-grandmother, Daisy Elliott, at the February 2010 “Linking to Our Past—Shaping Our Future” event.

# Law College News

## Faculty Honors ANNOUNCED

**THE MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF LAW FOUNDATION** through generous funding has enabled the Law College to create a number of faculty honors to pay tribute to important figures in our school’s history and to recognize tenured faculty for outstanding scholarship, teaching, and service. Recipients for three categories of awards—Chairs, Professorships, and Faculty Scholars—were identified through a nomination process and selected in consultation with deans of four other law schools that have top scholarly reputations.

### MSU COLLEGE OF LAW CHAIRS

MSU College of Law Chairs, which are awarded for a renewable five-year term, are conferred on faculty members with national and even international reputations in their fields. Chairs have notable records of significant scholarly achievement, along with a continuing dedication to exceptional teaching and meaningful service. MSU Law is pleased to present its first Chairs, Frank Ravitch and Kevin Saunders—two faculty members who embody the Law College’s commitment to excellence in the field of law.



**PROFESSOR FRANK S. RAVITCH, THE WALTER H. STOWERS CHAIR OF LAW AND RELIGION**

Professor Ravitch is a leading scholar in the area of law and religion. Since joining the MSU Law faculty in 2002, he has authored numerous articles, chapters, U.S. Supreme Court briefs, and books, including *Marketing Intelligent Design: Law and the Creationist Agenda*, which will be released late this year by Cambridge University Press. In addition to his principal subject matter, Ravitch has also contributed works on civil rights law and disability discrimination.

Professor Ravitch shares his passion about the law with his students. Recognizing the sensitive nature of some of his course

content, Ravitch strives to present a variety of perspectives and create a respectful environment in which students feel comfortable voicing their opinions.

This summer, Professor Ravitch launched a study abroad program in Kyoto, Japan, creating an exciting new opportunity for students and expanding the Law College’s international presence. The program is held at Doshisha Law School, where Ravitch was a Fulbright Scholar on the Faculty of Law in 2001.

Professor Ravitch’s professional achievements are complemented by his commitment to service. He chairs the Association of American Law Schools (AALS) Section on Law and Anthropology; serves as an expert reviewer for the Fulbright Senior Specialists program through the Council for the International Exchange of Scholars; and has made dozens of presentations explaining the law before school groups, community groups, and service clubs.

Walter H. Stowers, a member of the first senior class at Detroit College of Law in 1894, was a prominent African American attorney who took several cases to the Michigan Supreme Court. A dedicated political activist and civil rights pioneer, Stowers co-founded the *Plaindealer*, Detroit’s first successful black newspaper. Using the pen name “Sanda,” he co-wrote *Appointed: An American Novel*, which dealt with the controversial issues of mixed-race friendships, lynching, and segregation. Stowers died on August 21, 1932.

**PROFESSOR KEVIN SAUNDERS, THE CHARLES CLARK CHAIR OF LAW AND RELIGION**

Professor Saunders, a member of the faculty since 2001, is the nation’s leading expert advocating restrictions on youth access to violent media. The author of *Violence as Obscenity: Limiting the Media’s First Amendment Protection* and *Saving Our Children from the First Amendment*, he has also written more than thirty law review and journal articles, seven book chapters, and numerous commentaries in legal and popular periodicals.

Saunders has testified about media effects on children before U.S. House and Senate committees, the Michigan State Senate, and the California State Assembly. He has been asked by public interest groups to file amicus briefs in several prominent cases, including *Schwarzenegger v. Entertainment Merchants Association*, which involves California’s attempt to prohibit the sale of violent video games to minors; the U.S. Supreme Court will hear the case during its 2010–11 session.

Prior to turning to the law, Saunders enjoyed a distinguished career as a mathematics educator and a period as a philosophy professor. His students benefit from his considerable experience as both a teacher and a scholar. In the classroom, Professor Saunders guides students through the decision-making process while explaining important constitutional issues. He welcomes the lively dialogue that occurs among students who provide unique insights from their own varied backgrounds.

Saunders has a proven record of service, both within the Law College and in the greater legal community. In addition to teaching a variety of courses and seminars on Constitutional Law topics, he directs the King Scholars Program. He chaired the AALS Section on Mass Communication Law and has been active on a national level in several other professional committees.

Professor Charles H. “Chuck” Clarke was a member of the Law College faculty for 40 years. Upon his retirement in 1998, Professor Clarke was described as an “icon” whose “contributions to the college will be part of the history that will live on for years to come.” He was widely known for his integrity and unique classroom presentation style. Clarke, who earned a doctor of laws degree (LL.D.) from MSU Law in 1995, taught Constitutional Law. He passed away on May 9, 2007.



### NAMED PROFESSORSHIPS AND FACULTY SCHOLARS

The following professors were honored with the first Named Professorships and Faculty Scholar titles conferred by Michigan State University College of Law. The fall issue of *Amicus* will feature these distinguished faculty members, along with the remarkable alumni and former professors for whom their honors are named.

Professor **CRAIG R. CALLEN** has been named the Judge **JOHN D. O’HAIR** Professor of Evidence and Procedure.

Professor **DAVID S. FAVRE** has been named the **NANCY HEATHCOTE** Professor of Property and Animal Law.

Professor **CYNTHIA LEE STARNES** has been named the **LIZZIE J. McSWEENEY** Professor of Family Law.

Professor **DANIEL D. BARNHIZER** has been named the **BRADFORD STONE** Faculty Scholar.

Professor **BRIAN C. KALT** has been named the **HAROLD NORRIS** Faculty Scholar.

Professor **NOGA MORAG-LEVINE** has been named the **GEORGE ROUMELL** Faculty Scholar.

Professor **GLEN STASZEWSKI** has been named the **A.J. THOMAS** Faculty Scholar.



# Street Law:

Community Collaboration as a Bridge to Our Future

*In a Financially Trying Time,  
Street Law Invests in Our Future*

BY JENNIFER ROSA

**D**ON'T LET THE NAME "STREET LAW" DECEIVE YOU; the latest addition to the Michigan State University College of Law selection of course offerings is not about the study of highways and infrastructure. Rather, it is part of a Law Related Education (LRE) program in which law students are trained to teach students in local public schools about the law and the legal system. The curriculum involves practical legal issues that are relevant to everyday life "on the street" and is presented using various methodologies in an interactive and hands-on manner.



MSU College of Law launched the Street Law pilot program in fall 2009 as a two-credit course for second- and third-year law students. Participating students attend a 100-minute seminar each week in which they develop small group exercises, role plays, and simulations of legal proceedings under the guidance of a Law College faculty member. The law students use these pedagogical practices when they teach Lansing high school students during the field component of the course. The themes that are taught include constitutional law, individual rights, criminal law, and the foundational principles of our legal system.

The Street Law class is directly aligned with the Law College's mission statement, in that the program "teaches and reinforces the ethical core of good lawyering, the values of professionalism and service, the art of client representation ... and the understanding of legal principles, private rights, and public policy." A successful framework for legal education unites legal analysis or formal knowledge; practical skill; and professional identity, including social responsibility.<sup>1</sup> The Street Law course incorporates all three aspects of this legal education framework, thus preparing future lawyers for practice.

#### KNOWLEDGE, SKILL, AND PROFESSIONAL IDENTITY

Law students develop the knowledge component of their education through in-depth investigation into the various areas of substantive law. They must gain a practical understanding of the law and public policy in order to convey the content to the high school students. According to one law student who participated in a



Washington, D.C., Street Law program in the mid-1970s, "Street Law gives law students an incredible opportunity to test their understanding and management of the law by presenting it to others."<sup>2</sup> In doing so, they must synthesize and apply the law so that the high school students can comprehend the material, thus demonstrating formal knowledge of the law as the first portion of the framework suggests.

The Street Law course also helps MSU Law students strengthen legal skills as they use critical-thinking, decision-making, and problem-solving skills to communicate course material to the high school students. The law students are responsible for



developing their own lesson plans, and they must use various pedagogical methods and maintain flexibility to alter those plans as needed to meet the high school students' different learning styles. Accordingly, the law students develop legal skills similar to those of lawyers who must successfully communicate with clients and jurors on a continuing basis.

Finally, the law students develop the professional identity component of their legal education as they demonstrate the social responsibility that is inherent in educating the high school students. Just as attorneys perform public service, the law students also begin giving back to their community. In one course, the three

**"Street law gives law students an incredible opportunity to test their understanding and management of the law by presenting it to others."**

facets of the students' legal education are developed. The law students synthesize complex legal ideas, learn to think on their feet, organize their thoughts, and communicate those thoughts to laypersons.

#### HISTORY OF STREET LAW

MSU Law is not the first law school to implement the Street Law program. The first Street Law course began in 1972 at Georgetown University. Edward O'Brien, a law student at the time, was given an assignment in a Public Interest Law course that required him to participate in a community project. He paired up with a local high school teacher and taught law to high school students. The course began in two public high schools in Washington, D.C., and soon became part of the curriculum at all D.C. high schools, as well as several local juvenile and adult correctional facilities and a community halfway house.<sup>3</sup> The program subsequently has been adopted in some capacity by over 70 U.S. law schools and 20 law schools outside the country.<sup>4</sup>

#### BRIDGE TO THE COMMUNITY

Both the law student participants and the community share the benefits of the Street Law program. For the law students, there is a sense of satisfaction that they receive from public service. When the students evaluated the course at the end of the semester, they recognized the preparation that is involved in teaching, but whole-heartedly endorsed the program as "a rewarding experience, both academically and personally." The self-satisfaction they experienced presumably reflects the belief that what they are doing influences the high school students' lives.



Sharifa Rahmany, '10, and Meghan Glines, a rising 3L, participated in the Street Law program during its first year at MSU Law.

Further, the collaboration with local school districts may instill public trust in the legal community and respect for the law, thereby improving the public's perception of lawyers. This is particularly important in light of "troubling declines in public esteem for the profession and attorneys' apparently growing dissatisfaction with their work."<sup>5</sup> Since the Law College's move to East Lansing is fairly recent, this course acts as a bridge between MSU Law and the greater Lansing community and has the added benefit of encouraging the law students' sense of public service and fulfillment.

Another significant benefit is that the MSU Law students act as role models and mentors for their high school students. Through this relationship, the course can guide high school students toward higher education, and particularly into the legal profession, which lags behind other fields in minority representation. Currently, only 9.7 percent of attorneys are minorities, as compared to 20.8 percent of accountants and 24.6 percent of physicians.<sup>6</sup>

The Law School Admissions Council developed an initiative to address the need for diversity within the law school applicant



## “Our high school students were essential to the Street Law experience—watching them learn and apply complex legal concepts was simply amazing.”

pool and the legal profession in general. The American Bar Association is also concerned with these statistics. As a result, the Board of Governors restructured its goals and included diversity within the profession as one of four priorities.<sup>7</sup> In addition, the Association recently released a presidential initiative outlining recommendations to increase diversity in the legal field and created a committee to support programs and services designed to improve diversity in the “pipeline” to the legal profession.<sup>8</sup> The “pipeline” focuses on grade school students and consummates with bar passage.

The Street Law course addresses these concerns since it is designed to make the legal field more accessible to students from high-risk populations and helps inspire them to pursue college degrees and careers in law. In fact, a post-survey conducted on participating Lansing high school students revealed that 77 percent of the students felt that taking the Street Law course increased their interest in pursuing a college degree. Further, 44 percent of the participating high school students felt that the Street Law course had at least a significant influence on their interest in pursuing a career in the legal field.

Finally, the course benefits the entire community, since the high school students become a more informed electorate as they become more competent in understanding the laws that affect their lives. According to Judith Zimmer, deputy director of Street

Law, the program helps the high school students understand public policy and the importance of laws in our society. Thus, they connect more with their environment and “are more likely to uphold the laws and be part of a community.”

### INVESTMENT IN THE FUTURE

In the present economy in which front-page headlines are anything but uplifting, the hope for our future is in our youth. For this generation to succeed, students must not only be educated and informed, but they must also have exemplary critical-thinking, decision-making, communication, and problem-solving skills to deal with a changing world. The “ideal of democratic education ... insists upon instituting a common standard compatible with diversity: children must be taught enough to participate intelligently as adults in the political processes that shape their society.”<sup>9</sup>

The Street Law course not only bridges the gap between the Law College and the Lansing community, it also unites our current legal field with our hopes for the profession in the future. The potential benefits of the course extend well beyond the law students’ experience; they include the sense of empowerment the high school students experience so that they may bring about greater justice, tolerance, and fairness as effective citizens. In short, “the education of the next generation of citizens is essential to the well-being of American constitutional democracy.”<sup>10</sup>

<sup>1</sup> WILLIAM M. SULLIVAN ET. AL., EDUCATING LAWYERS: PREPARATION FOR THE PROFESSION OF LAW 12–14 (Jossey-Bass/Wiley 2007).

<sup>2</sup> Edward L. O’Brien & Lee P. Arbetman, *A New Clinical Curriculum: Teaching Practical Law to High School Students and Inmates*, 29 J. LEGAL EDUC. 568, 574 n.22 (1977–1978).

<sup>3</sup> Kamina A. Pinder, *Street Law: Twenty-Five Years and Counting*, 27 J.L. & EDUC. 211, 211–12 (1998).

<sup>4</sup> Street Law, Inc., <http://www.streetlaw.org> (last visited July 19, 2010).

<sup>5</sup> SULLIVAN, *supra* at 136.

<sup>6</sup> Elizabeth Chambliss, ABA Comm’n on Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Profession, Executive Summary, *Miles to Go: Progress of Minorities in the Legal Profession* (2005), available at [http://www.abanet.org/abastore/products/books/abstracts/4520014\\_2005\\_execsumm.pdf](http://www.abanet.org/abastore/products/books/abstracts/4520014_2005_execsumm.pdf).

<sup>7</sup> ABA Mission and Goals (2008), available at <http://www.abanet.org/about/goals.html>.

<sup>8</sup> ABA Presidential Initiative Comm’n on Diversity, *Diversity in the Legal Profession, The Next Steps* (2010), available at [http://new.abanet.org/centers/diversity/PublicDocuments/Diversity\\_Summary\\_Report.pdf](http://new.abanet.org/centers/diversity/PublicDocuments/Diversity_Summary_Report.pdf).

<sup>9</sup> AMY GUTMANN, DEMOCRATIC EDUCATION, at xi (Princeton Univ. Press 1987).

<sup>10</sup> Michigan Department of Education, *High School Social Studies Content Standards and Expectations* 48 (2007), available at [http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/SS\\_HSCE\\_210739\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/SS_HSCE_210739_7.pdf).

### About the Author

Jennifer Rosa directs the Street Law program at MSU Law. As a prosecutor in Los Angeles, Rosa participated in a similar project, which showed that a delinquency cycle can be broken if students are empowered with an understanding of the laws affecting their daily lives.

Street Law is an awesome program. I had the opportunity to be part of it my final two semesters at MSU College of Law, while my teaching partner, Meghan Glines, was involved during her second year. We first took Street Law as a class and then continued teaching through an independent study. It was a very rewarding experience, and many factors contributed to it also being a successful one. Our supervising professors, Jennifer Rosa and Laura McNeal, were always available, encouraging, and willing to help. The high school teachers we worked with were supportive and helped to ensure that our teaching experience was a success. Last but definitely not least, our high school students were essential to the Street Law experience—watching them learn and apply complex legal concepts was simply amazing.

The dedication that Professors Rosa and McNeal have to the Street Law program and their students was the key to our success in the program. They went above and beyond what was expected. They were always

The Street Law program provides high school students with knowledge of the law and their rights. Through our teaching, they gained a greater understanding of how the legal system works, their rights under it, how to protect those rights, and what avenues of relief are available if those rights are infringed. The content resonated on a personal level with many students who sought to apply their deeper understanding of the law to real-life situations involving family members, friends, or acquaintances who were involved in the legal system.

Our students demonstrated what they learned in many ways. Through role-play exercises, they learned how important it is to understand both sides of a situation in order to better advocate for their own positions. As their final Street Law project, the students conducted two mock trials in the MSU Law moot court room, which gave them an opportunity to apply their learning in a more realistic environment. The students effectively elicited the facts needed to prove their cases, gave compelling opening statements and closing arguments,

# STREET TALK

A STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

accessible via e-mail, had open-door policies, and were willing to help in any way they could. Their constructive feedback on our draft lesson plans and in-class teaching allowed our high school students to receive better instruction and to gain greater knowledge of the law and the legal system.

Teaching Street Law requires a lot of preparation time and hard work. Meghan and I met regularly to discuss and prepare lesson plans. We would determine what we were going to teach and then divide the work. We completed much of the work individually and then combined our efforts to create the final lesson plans from which we would teach. As most law school students know, it can get pretty hectic at times with papers, midterms, finals, and other unexpected events. Being able to rely on your teaching partner to carry you through the busy times is an essential and important aspect of team teaching. We could not have asked for better teaching partners. We worked well together and were able to build from each other’s knowledge and skills, which translated into our students’ successful grasp of the material.

acted as witnesses, ruled on objections and admissions of evidence, and participated in jury deliberation. It was rewarding to watch them successfully apply the concepts they learned through the semester. We had an awesome group of students and are very proud of them.

Street Law is a great program and we are glad to have been part of it. Professors Rosa and McNeal worked hard to launch this program and did a wonderful job making it a success. The support Meghan and I received from the Law College, our professors, and the high school teachers allowed us to walk into the classroom equipped with the knowledge and resources needed to effectively teach our students, which was our foremost objective. Knowledge of one’s own rights and the protections provided for those rights is the best way to facilitate a true understanding of and respect for the criminal justice system. That is exactly what is achieved through the Street Law program.

*By Sharifa Rahmany, ’10, with contributions by Meghan Glines, a rising 3L*



# Faculty Highlights

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Bruce W. Bean

Professor **BRUCE W. BEAN** was one of four academic experts who participated in a March 2010 Georgetown Law symposium in Washington, D.C. The symposium, titled “Combating Global Terrorism,” featured 12 speakers from leading law schools, private law firms, the United Nations, and the World Bank who presented papers on cutting-edge anti-corruption issues. Representatives of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission and the U.S. Departments of State, Justice, and Commerce also explained new policy initiatives of the Obama administration. Professor Bean’s article, “Hyperbole, Hypocrisy, and Hubris in the Corruption–Foreign Aid Dialog,” will be featured in a forthcoming symposium issue of the *Georgetown Journal of International Law*.

In April 2010, Professor Bean participated in a roundtable on International White Collar Crime at the American Bar Association Section of International Law’s spring meeting in New York City. A former chair and current senior advisor to the Section’s Russia/Eurasia Committee, Professor Bean presented “An Introduction to the Panoply of Yukos Litigation.” The talk focused on the Kremlin’s 2010 trial of two leaders of the former Yukos Oil Company, who are charged with stealing 25 million tons of oil. The two are nearing the end of an eight-year term for evading taxes on profits that the company made off the same oil.



Susan H. Bitensky

Professor **SUSAN H. BITENSKY**’s “The Poverty of Precedent for School Corporal Punishment’s Constitutionality Under the Eighth Amendment,” 77 U. Cin. L. Rev. 1327 (2009), was selected for inclusion in the *University of La Verne Law Review*’s “Selective Bibliographic Index of Juvenile Law Publications (2008–2009),” available at [law.laverne.edu/academics/lawreview/publications](http://law.laverne.edu/academics/lawreview/publications).

In March 2010, Professor Bitensky was an invited speaker at the 33rd Annual Law Review Symposium held by the Claude W. Pettit College of Law at Ohio Northern University. Professor Bitensky’s presentation was titled “The Mother of All Human Rights: The Child’s Right to Be Free of Corporal Punishment as Hard International Law.” A fully footnoted version of the presentation will appear in a forthcoming issue of the *Ohio Northern University Law Review*.

Professor Bitensky also spoke in March 2010 at the Thirteenth Annual Conference for the Association of the Study of Law, Culture and the Humanities, held at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island. She presented as a member of a panel devoted to the topic of how legalized violence against children may transform them over time into violent adults.

Professor Bitensky had a letter to the editor published in the *New York Times* on March 20, 2010.

The letter discusses the need for the U.S. Supreme Court to recognize a fundamental positive constitutional right to excellent elementary and secondary education so as to enable the prompt effectuation of a national curriculum which, in turn, would further assure the excellent quality of schooling at these levels.

Professor **KRISTI L. BOWMAN** presented “Rebuilding Schools, Rebuilding Communities: The Civic Role of Public Schools After Hurricane Katrina” at the January 2010 Association of American Law Schools (AALS) Annual Meeting, where she was also elected chairperson of the AALS Education Law Section.

Professor Bowman’s “Pursuing Educational Opportunities for Latino and Latina Students” was published in the March 2010 issue of the *North Carolina Law Review*. The article was presented at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill’s April 2009 conference titled “Looking to the Future: Legal and Policy Options for Racially Integrated Education in the South and the Nation.”

In May 2010, she presented “Breaking Down Anti-Discrimination: Anti-subordination, Anti-classification, and Education in the United States and Israel” at Hebrew University’s Conference on Toleration, Equality, and Segregation in the Name of Culture.

Professor Bowman also completed an MSU Lilly Teaching Fellowship and in May 2010 presented preliminary findings in her study titled “Investigating Law Students’ Development of Lawyering Skills Through the Use of Problem Solving Activities.”

Professor **HANNAH BRENNER** presented at Ms. J.D.’s Third Annual Conference, “Avenues to Advancement,” which was held in Chicago in November 2009. The conference was geared toward the many career options available to those with a juris doctor degree. Professor Brenner facilitated a workshop titled “Essential Skills for Women Lawyers: What You Need to Know to Achieve Success and Satisfaction in Your Career” and presented on the “Avenues to Public Interest” panel.

Professor Brenner also presented on a panel about gender and the law at the Minority Corporate Counsel Association’s 10th annual Pathways to Diversity Conference in New York City in November 2009.

Professor **ADAM CANDEUB** and Intellectual Property Fellow Daniel John McCartney maintained a voice in the debate over the future of the open Internet with comments submitted to the Federal Communications Commission in January 2010. The filing emphasized a need for

complete, consistent, and real-time disclosure of both internal traffic management practices and external interconnection agreements to prevent network owners from blocking traffic and impeding Internet access. Without such requirements, the two argued, the FCC cannot respond effectively to network discrimination.

Clinical Professor **NICOLE DANDRIDGE** co-presented two sessions at the AALS Annual Conference on Clinical Legal Education in Baltimore in May 2010. She co-presented both “Uncovering: When and How to Incorporate Our Personal Critical Perspectives and Experiences in Clinical Teaching Across a Range of Critical Theory” and a poster titled “Implementing Backward Design in Creating Curricular Change.”

She also spoke at the American Bar Association/National Legal Aid & Defender Association’s Equal Justice Conference in May 2010 in Phoenix, Arizona. Professor Dandridge co-presented “Identifying & Addressing Tax Issues Resounding in Multiple Legal Contexts” and “How to Start a Transactional Pro Bono Program.”

Professor **DAVID S. FAVRE** was the principal drafter of the “Model Act Governing Standards for the Care and Disposition of Disaster Animals,” which was adopted by

the American Bar Association in February 2010. The Model Act was the culmination of several years of work by Professor Favre and other members of the ABA Tort Trial and Insurance Practice Section (TIPS) Select Legal Panel on Emergency Management Regarding Animals. The Model Act provides states and territories with guidelines regarding the reunification or adoption of companion animals following federal disasters and emergencies.

In June, Professor Favre was named the 2010 recipient of the ABA TIPS Excellence in the Advancement of Animal Law Award. The award recognizes a TIPS Animal Law Committee member who has advanced the humane treatment of animals through the law.

Professor **MATTHEW L.M. FLETCHER** presented the University of South Dakota School of Law’s Dillon Lecture, “Rebooting Indian Law in the Supreme Court,” in February 2010. The lecture was presented in conjunction with the school’s biennial Native American Law Students Association Indian Law Symposium and the annual *South Dakota Law Review* scholarly symposium.

In February 2010, Professor Fletcher also spoke at UCLA School of Law’s Critical Race Studies Program about his book project tentatively titled *Consent and Resistance: American*



Adam Candeub



Nicole Dandridge



David S. Favre



Matthew L.M. Fletcher



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Catherine M. Grosso

*Indians and Consent Theory.* The UCLA Law program invites leading scholars to present on issues involving racial justice scholarship and practice.

Professor Fletcher spoke on “The Supreme Court and the Economics of Tribal Resistance” at the Idaho Native American Law Conference, which was held in March 2010 at the University of Idaho College of Law.

Professor Fletcher was invited to present the Saginaw Valley State University Barstow Lecture on Indian Law in April 2010, in which he explained the history of Indian land law and discussed how a 2007 decree ended a 170-year-old dispute over Michigan Indians’ land rights.

Also in April 2010, Professor Fletcher spoke about tribal courts and economic diversification at the University of Michigan Native American Law Students Association’s Indian Law Day.

In May 2010, Professor Fletcher gave the keynote address at the Minnesota American Indian Bar Association’s Annual Continuing Legal Education program at Leech Lake, Minnesota. He also participated in a panel discussion on “Anishinabe Treaty Rights in Today’s World” at the event.

A leading expert on Supreme Court Indian Law jurisprudence, Professor Fletcher was interviewed and quoted by numerous media outlets in the first half of

2010, including *Indian Country Today*, Interlochen Public Radio, the *San Diego Union-Tribune*, the *National Law Journal*, and *Native America Calling*.

Finally, the “Turtle Talk” blog for the MSU Law Indigenous Law and Policy Center, which Professor Fletcher directs, has surpassed 663,000 hits as of July 1. With approximately 1,000 hits a day, “Turtle Talk” is one of the most-followed law blogs in the country.

Professors **CATHERINE M. GROSSO** and **BARBARA O’BRIEN** continue work on a major study in response to North Carolina’s Racial Justice Act, which was signed in August 2009. The study will examine approximately 1,500 murder cases dating back to 1990 to determine whether racial bias played a part in prosecutors’ decisions to pursue the death penalty, jurors’ decisions to impose a death penalty, or either party’s decision to exercise peremptory strikes. Professors Grosso and O’Brien presented preliminary findings from the study at the Law and Society Association Annual Meeting in Chicago in May 2010. They will team up with the *Michigan State Law Review* to host a spring 2011 symposium on the effect of race in capital punishment cases.

Professor **MELANIE B. JACOBS’** article “More Parents,

More Money: Reflections on the Financial Implications of Multiple Parentage” was published in the *Cardozo Journal of Law & Gender* in winter 2010. Building on previous works in which she advocates that a child may have more than two legal parents, this piece suggests ways in which child support and other financial responsibilities may be allocated among those legal parents.

In a letter to the editor published in the *New York Times* on February 1, 2010, Professor Jacobs similarly asserts that parentage laws conferring rights and responsibilities in more than two adults may—in some cases—best serve the interests of both the child and potential parents.

In May 2010, Professor Jacobs gave the keynote address, titled “Jaycee has a Sperm Donor, an Egg Donor, a Gestational Surrogate but no Parents: How ART is Redefining Legal Parentage,” at the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology Junior Fellow Research Day in East Lansing.

Professor **BRIAN C. KALT** was interviewed by several Michigan media outlets—including WJR, WLNS, and the *Detroit Free Press*—regarding the spring 2010 retirement of Justice John Paul Stevens and nomination of Elena Kagan as his replacement.

Professor **RENEE KNAKE’s** article titled “The Supreme Court’s Increased Attention to the Law of Lawyering: Mere Coincidence or Something More?” examines the body of cases touching on the role of attorneys and the practice of law that dominated the 2009–10 U.S. Supreme Court docket. The first to present a comprehensive overview of the Supreme Court’s newest lawyering cases, Professor Knake’s work will help scholars and practitioners alike understand the meaning of the Court’s increased attention to lawyering matters. The article will appear in a forthcoming issue of *American University Law Review*.

Professor Knake was invited to participate in a June 2010 panel on “Social Websites and Legal Ethics” at the American Bar Association’s National Conference on Professional Responsibility, which was held in Seattle. Her presentation centered on First Amendment concerns related to legal ethics rules that are implicated when lawyers use social networking tools.

In July 2010, Professor Knake presented two papers at the International Legal Ethics Conference at Stanford Law School. The first presentation addressed her research on the Supreme Court’s recent focus on the law of lawyering. The second presentation provided an overview of “The First Amendment and Attorney Advice,” a work in progress that she also spoke about at

the May 2010 Law and Society Annual Meeting in Chicago.

Professors **MAE KUYKENDALL** and **ADAM CANDEUB** launched The Legal E-Marriage Project, a clearinghouse for legislative proposals on “e-marriage,” a concept aimed at modernizing marriage. The project garnered significant coverage in the blogosphere and traditional media, including Professor Kuykendall’s interviews with *Detroit Legal News*, Michigan Talk Network, and WJR; Kevin Lavery’s interview of Professor Candeub on NPR’s Morning Edition; and a joint interview on North Carolina’s WPFT.

Professors Kuykendall and Candeub spoke on a March 2010 panel on “Modernizing Marriage” at the Association for the Study of Law, Culture and the Humanities conference at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island. They also presented “E-Marriage: Breaking the Marriage Monopoly” at the American Law and Economics Association’s Annual Meeting at Princeton University in May 2010.

Gordon Smith posted Professor Kuykendall’s review of Bert Westbrook’s *Out of Crisis: Rethinking Our Financial Markets* on “The Conglomerate” in January. As a result, she was invited to be a guest blogger at the site for the month of April. “The Conglomerate” had

more than 87,000 page views during that month—the highest number since June 2009.

Professor **MICHAEL ANTHONY LAWRENCE** was cited in a petitioner’s brief filed in the U.S. Supreme Court in *McDonald v. Chicago*, which was argued in February 2010. Two of Professor Lawrence’s articles were cited: “Rescuing the Privileges or Immunities Clause: How ‘Attrition of Parliamentary Processes’ Begat Accidental Ambiguity; How Ambiguity Begat Slaughter-House” (*William & Mary Bill of Rights Journal*, 2009) and “Second Amendment Incorporation Through the Fourteenth Amendment Privileges or Immunities and Due Process Clauses” (*Missouri Law Review*, 2007). The latter article was also cited in several amicus briefs, including one filed by 57 U.S. senators and 250 members of the House of Representatives. Professor Lawrence joined seven law professors from leading law schools across the country in an amicus brief filed in the same case.

Professor Lawrence’s new book, *Radicals in Their Own Time: Four Hundred Years of Struggle Toward Liberty and Equal Justice in America*, is set to be released by Cambridge Press in late 2010.

Professors **MICHAEL ANTHONY LAWRENCE, FRANK S. RAVITCH**, and **KEVIN W.**



Renee Knake



Mae Kuykendall



Michael Anthony Lawrence



Frank S. Ravitch



# Faculty Highlights

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Kevin W. Saunders



Anne Lawton



Amy C. McCormick



Robert A. McCormick

**SAUNDERS** presented at the first International Association of Law Schools Conference on Constitutional Law in September 2009. Hosted by American University Washington College of Law and Georgetown University Law Center in Washington, D.C., the conference brought together internationally renowned constitutional law experts. Lawrence's "Reconciling Liberty and Progressive Government," Ravitch's "Marketing Creation: The Law and Human Origins," and Saunders' "Comparative Law as a Source of U.S. Constitutional Definition" were included in discussions of constitutional law in an international context.

Professor **ANNE LAWTON** was interviewed by *Michigan Lawyers Weekly* in April 2010 regarding a U.S. Bankruptcy Court decision allowing a law firm to keep fees obtained by garnishing a judgment debtor's account, despite its knowledge of the debtor's impending bankruptcy.

Professors **AMY C. MCCORMICK** and **ROBERT A. MCCORMICK** participated in Florida Coastal School of Law's Sports Law Panel titled "Exploitation of the Student-Athlete? Evaluating *Bloom*, *Oliver*, *O'Bannon*, and *Keller*." The event was held in April 2010 in Jacksonville, Florida. The professors' article "A Trail of Tears: The Exploitation of

the College Athlete," which documents their research in sports law, will be published in a forthcoming edition of the *Florida Coastal Law Review*.

Professor **NICHOLAS MERCURO** will administer a \$15,000 grant that MSU Law received from the Michigan Humanities Council to support inaugural Writer in Residence Sandra Seaton's mid-November play and a related symposium arranged by Seaton and Gabriel Dotto, director of Michigan State University Press.

In May, Professor Mercurio was invited to join the Michigan State University Sustainability Visioning Group. The group is comprised of leaders in government, academia, business, and the community who can identify, analyze, and propose solutions to sustainability challenges confronting MSU in the next ten years.

In May 2010, Professor **NOGA MORAG-LEVINE** presented her paper titled "Common Legalism: On the Common Law Origins of American Legal Culture" as part of the Yigal Arnon Law & History Workshop of the Buchmann Faculty of Law at Tel Aviv University. She also presented "Common Law, Civil Law and Precautionary Regulation: Lessons from the Long History of the Alkali Act" in May at the Law and Society

Annual Meeting in Chicago, and in June at the biennial Policy History Conference in Columbus, Ohio.

Professor **FRANK S. RAVITCH** spoke on the January 2010 AALS Section on Law and Anthropology panel in New Orleans; he also took over as section chair at the close of the panel. Professor Ravitch presented in March 2010 at a university-wide program on law and religion at Wake Forest University. In May 2010, he spoke at Petre Andrei University School of Law in Iasi, Romania, where he gave a full day of lectures on U.S. law and religion and constitutional interpretation.

Professor Ravitch's book, *Marketing Intelligent Design: Law and the Creationist Agenda*, is expected to be released in late 2010 by Cambridge University Press.

Professor **KEVIN W. SAUNDERS**, the nation's leading expert advocating restrictions on youth access to violent media, will co-author an amicus brief supporting California's upcoming appeal before the U.S. Supreme Court in *Schwarzenegger v. Entertainment Merchants Association*. The case involves a California statute prohibiting the sale of violent video games to anyone under the age of 18; industry groups challenged the law as a violation of the Free Speech Clause of

the First Amendment. Saunders argues that parents—not retailers—should control youth access to violent media.

Professor **CYNTHIA LEE STARNES'** letter to the editor was published in the *New York Times* on June 21, 2010. Professor Starnes explains in her letter that divorce legislation pending in New York would not, as the *Times* stated, make New York the last state to adopt no-fault divorce; the state already allows it, but only with mutual consent and a one-year separation period. The proposed legislation is more generous. Starnes also points out that passage of a fast-track, unilateral no-fault divorce law doesn't always remove fault from the divorce equation. About half the states make fault relevant to property distribution and/or alimony.

Dean **GLEN STASZEWSKI** helped organize and contributed to a *Michigan State Law Review* symposium titled "Responding to *The Will of the People*." The April 2010 symposium brought together distinguished scholars of American constitutional history, law and politics, constitutional theory, and comparative constitutionalism to contribute essays and discuss their reactions to Barry Friedman's *The Will of the People: How Public Opinion Has Influenced the Supreme Court and Shaped the Meaning of the Constitution*.



Nicholas Mercurio



Noga Morag-Levine



Cynthia Lee Starnes



Glen Staszewski

## MSU College of Law WELCOMES NEW FACULTY



The following faculty will join the MSU College of Law in fall 2010.

**JENNIFER CARTER-JOHNSON** joins MSU Law as an assistant tenure-track professor teaching Patent Law. Professor Carter-Johnson received a J.D. with honors from the University of Michigan, and a Ph.D. in microbiology from the University of Virginia.

**DAVID THRONSON**, who earned his J.D. at Harvard Law School, joins us as a tenured professor; he will teach Immigration Law and Constitutional Law. He and **VERONICA THRONSON**, an associate clinical professor with a J.D. from City University of New York School of Law, will start the new Immigration Law Clinic at MSU Law this fall.

**BRIAN GILMORE** joins the MSU Law Housing Clinic this fall as an associate clinical professor. Professor Gilmore earned his J.D. from Clarke School of Law.



THE OFFICE OF ADVANCEMENT

# Helping Alumni Reconnect

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



**IF YOU RECEIVE A CALL** from the MSU College of Law Office of Advancement, which manages fundraising and alumni relations activities, know that our call is not just to request philanthropic support. One of our primary goals is to reconnect and deepen relationships with more of our alumni throughout Michigan and across the country. Toward this end, we have many programs underway to increase opportunities for current students, boost the reputation of the Law College, and increase the value of your degree.

We strive to help alumni connect through a variety of outreach initiatives at the school, at social events, and in the workplace. MSU Law graduates are encouraged, for example, to participate in the Alumni Association Mentor Program. Through this program, alumni guide and support current students as they navigate law school and begin to map out potential career paths.

The annual Law Firm Challenge encourages a little friendly competition among firms with three or more alumni. Whether your schedule only allows for your financial participation, or whether you are able to cheer on your fellow

alumni as a team captain, your role is an important one in this effort.

Annual donor recognition events and newly implemented “Past, Present, and Future” reunions bring alumni together to share memories and network with fellow graduates. Both events are led by alumni who serve as host committee members.

Alumni can also help connect students with important internship, externship, and employment positions. The MSU Law Career Services Office can work with you to arrange work experience opportunities for students who wish to follow your footsteps into the legal profession.

While philanthropic support is vital to the continued success of the Law College, alumni input is invaluable in so many ways. We truly value all levels of support and participation, especially in this challenging economic environment. However you choose to support your alma mater, your involvement will make a difference as we work together to ensure a bright future for MSU College of Law.

If you are interested in supporting MSU Law financially or through any of our many outreach programs, please contact me at 517-432-6842 or [casoli@law.msu.edu](mailto:casoli@law.msu.edu).

Warm regards,

Tina Kashat Casoli  
Director of the Office of Advancement

# Alumni Notes

**Send us your notes!** We encourage all alumni to contribute information on accomplishments and special recognition in the legal profession and other fields. To submit your notes, please e-mail [alumni@law.msu.edu](mailto:alumni@law.msu.edu) or go to [www.law.msu.edu/amicus](http://www.law.msu.edu/amicus).



James R. Geroux



Martin L. Rogalski



John E. Nemazi



Steven L. Oberholtzer



Hon. Colleen A. O'Brien

## 1950s

**DAVID JERRY WATTERS, '57**, a partner at Plunkett Cooney's Bloomfield Hills office, was listed in the 2010 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America* for his work in medical malpractice defense and personal injury litigation. This is Watters' 10th year on the *Best Lawyers* list.

## 1960s

**RICHARD D. REED, '61**, of Lewis Reed & Allen, was named a 2009 Michigan Super Lawyer for his work in government and municipal law.

**EDWARD D. GOLD, '64**, a shareholder at Butzel Long, was listed in the 2010 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America* for his work in matrimonial law.

**DAVID W. SOMMERFELD, '67**, a shareholder at Butzel Long, was listed in the 2010 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America* for his work in trusts and estates.

**H. WILLIAM REISING, '68**, a partner at Plunkett Cooney's Flint office, was named a 2010 Michigan Super Lawyer for his work in civil litigation defense.

**JAMES A. REITER, '68**, of Charfoos Reiter Hébert, was named a 2009 Michigan Super Lawyer for his work in worker's compensation law.

**LAWRENCE R. DONALDSON, '69**, a partner at Plunkett Cooney's Mount Clemens office, was named a 2010 Michigan Super Lawyer for his work in alternative dispute resolution.

## 1970s

**JAMES R. GEROUX, '70**, a partner at Plunkett Cooney's Detroit office, was listed in the 2010 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America* for his work in workers' compensation defense. He was also recently named to the MSU College of Law Alumni Association Board of Directors.

**CARL E. CHIOINI, '71**, was named a 2009 Michigan Super

Lawyer for his work in family law and estate planning.

**STEVEN L. BARNEY, '72**, a partner at Plunkett Cooney's Petoskey office, was named a 2010 Michigan Super Lawyer for his work in professional liability defense.

**DAVID W. CHRISTENSEN, '72**, a member at Charfoos & Christensen, was named a 2009 Michigan Super Lawyer for his work in personal injury law.

**STANLEY C. MOORE III, '73**, a partner at Plunkett Cooney's Bloomfield Hills office, was named a 2010 Michigan Super Lawyer for his work in employment and labor law.



# Alumni Notes



William G. Abbott



Maurice A. Borden



Mark W. Peyser



Linda M. Garbarino



Rebecca G. Simkins



Roderick J. Fracassi



Kelly (Schadel) Arnold



Lisa C. Hagan



Barbra E. Homier



Dr. Fernando Alberdi

**CARL RASHID JR., '74**, of Butzel Long, was recently appointed to the Oakwood Healthcare System Board of Directors. He was also honored as a Diversity Business Leader by *Corp! Magazine*, and was listed in the 2010 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America* for his work in real estate law and tax law.

**JAMES C. THOMAS, '74**, of counsel attorney at Plunkett Cooney's Detroit office, was named a 2010 Michigan Super Lawyer for his work in white-collar criminal defense.

**HARVEY R. HELLER, '76**, a partner at Maddin Hauser Wartell Roth & Heller, was named a 2010 Michigan Super Lawyer for his work in professional liability defense and insurance coverage.

**EDWARD C. DAWDA, '77**, a founding member of Dawda, Mann, Mulcahy & Sadler, was

listed in the 2010 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America* for his work in business and corporate, estate planning and probate, and real estate law.

**ERNEST R. BAZZANA, '78**, a partner at Plunkett Cooney's Detroit office, was named a 2010 Michigan Super Lawyer for his appellate work.

**GREGORY V. MURRAY, '78**, a founder and director of Vercruysse Murray & Calzone, was included on the 2010 Super Lawyer list for his work in labor and employment law.

**LORETTA M. AMES, '79**, a partner at Plunkett Cooney's Detroit office, was named a 2010 Michigan Super Lawyer for her general personal injury defense work.

**JACK H. FINN, '79**, was recently elected president of the Mid-

Michigan Labor & Employment Relations Association. He was also elected vice-president and incoming 2011 president of the national Interstate Labor Standards Association.

**THERESA SMITH LLOYD, '79**, a partner at Plunkett Cooney's Bloomfield Hills office, was named a 2010 Michigan Super Lawyer for her work in employment and labor law.

**MARTIN L. ROGALSKI, '79**, currently serves on the board for Legal Aid of Western Michigan, the Debtors Bar Association, and the Jenison AMBUCS.

## 1980s

**JEROME A. GALANTE, '81**, a partner at Plunkett Cooney's Bloomfield Hills office, was listed in the 2010 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America* for his work in personal injury litigation.

**JOHN E. NEMAZI, '81**, shareholder and head of the patent prosecution group at Brooks Kushman, was named a 2009 Michigan Super Lawyer for his work in intellectual property law.

**STEVEN L. OBERHOLTZER, '81**, shareholder and managing partner at Brinks Hofer Gilson & Lione, was named a 2009 Michigan Super Lawyer for his work in intellectual property law.

**HON. COLLEEN A. O'BRIEN, '81**, has served as an Oakland County Circuit Court judge since 1998. She was appointed to the Michigan Judges Association Executive Board in 2008, and currently serves as chairperson of the MJA Corrections Committee.

**WILLIAM G. ABBATT, '82**, shareholder at Brooks Kushman, was named to the 2009 Super

Lawyers list for his work in intellectual property law.

**DOUGLAS C. BERNSTEIN, '82**, a partner at Plunkett Cooney's Bloomfield Hills office, was named a 2010 Michigan Super Lawyer for his work in bankruptcy and creditor/debtor rights.

**MAURICE A. BORDEN, '82**, was elected member of Sondee, Racine & Doren, PLC. Maurice's practice is concentrated on litigation, with a specialization in insurance coverage and appeals.

**MARK W. PEYSER, '83**, of Howard & Howard Attorneys, was named a 2009 Michigan Super Lawyer for his work in civil litigation defense.

**DR. HOWARD R. BELKIN, '84**, a psychiatrist in private practice in Birmingham, MI, was recently interviewed by

the *Detroit Free Press*, C and G Newspapers, and WNIC Radio on the topic of seasonal depression and anxiety, and was quoted in a January 2010 ABCnews.com article on the tragedy in Haiti.

**DENNIS G. COWAN, '84**, a partner at Plunkett Cooney's Bloomfield Hills office, was named a 2010 Michigan Super Lawyer for his work in land use and zoning.

**LINDA M. GARBARINO, '85**, recently announced the formation of Tanoury, Nauts, McKinney & Garbarino, PLLC. The firm will handle all aspects of litigation, with an emphasis on defending hospitals and physicians in medical malpractice claims.

**DOROTHY H. BASMAJI, '86**, a shareholder at Vercruysse Murray & Calzone, was included on the 2010 Super Lawyer list for her work in immigration law.

**ROBERT L. KAYE, '86**, is a partner with Kaye & Bender in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. He currently serves on the Florida Bar's Grievance Committee and its Committee on the Unlicensed Practice of Law.

**SCOTT W. ROONEY, '88**, a partner at Nemes, Rooney & McKindles, was named a Michigan Super Lawyer for the third year in a row, and as one of metro Detroit's top lawyers by *DBusiness/Hour Magazine*.

**REBECCA G. SIMKINS, '88**, of Barris, Sott, Denn & Driker, PLLC, was honored by the federal court judges of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan for her pro bono efforts.

## 1990s

**MICHAEL D. WEAVER, '90**, a partner at Plunkett Cooney's Bloomfield Hills office, was named

a 2010 Michigan Super Lawyer for his work in products-related personal injury defense.

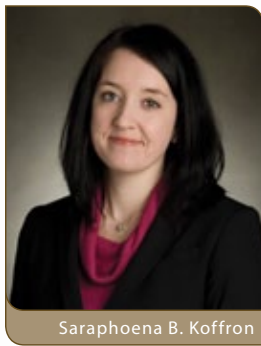
**DAVID E. HART, '91**, a shareholder at Maddin Hauser Wartell Roth & Heller, was named a 2009 Michigan Super Lawyer.

**MICHAEL P. ASHCRAFT JR., '92**, a partner at Plunkett Cooney's Bloomfield Hills office, was named a 2010 Michigan Super Lawyer for his work in professional liability defense.

**RICHARD E. VOLLBACH JR., '92**, was appointed by Governor Granholm on December 21, 2009, to serve as Arenac County Probate judge. He also presides over the Arenac District and Family Courts in his position. Prior to his appointment, Richard served as chief assistant prosecutor for 12 years, while contemporaneously maintaining a general civil practice in Standish, Michigan.



# Alumni Notes



Saraphoena B. Koffron

**RODERICK J. FRACASSI, '94**, was promoted to chief counsel and assistant secretary for Con-Way Freight.

**JOHN REED, '94**, was hired by Jaffe Associates in October 2009 as senior vice president of marketing consulting and business and product development.

**TAMI F. JOHANSON, '96**, accepted the position of general counsel of Service Solutions Americas at SPX Corporation.

**KENDRA S. KLEBER, '96**, was named a federal administrative law judge with the Social Security Administration. She is currently stationed in Cleveland.

**KELLY (SCHADEL) ARNOLD, '97**, was named general counsel and corporate secretary of Dow Kokam, a joint venture between The Dow Chemical Company, TK Advanced Battery, and Groupe Industriel Marcel Dassault. Dow Kokam, headquartered in Midland, specializes in the manufacture and sale of lithium ion battery cells and packs. Arnold joined Dow's Legal Department in 2002.

**ELLA M. BULLY CUMMINGS, '97**, is serving as a member of Harvard's Kennedy School of Government Executive Session on Policing and Public Safety.

**CHRISTOPHER M. BROWN, '99**, of Miller Johnson, was named a 2009 "40 Under Forty Business Leader" by *Grand Rapids Business Journal*.

**ABIGAIL M. BUTLER, '00**, was elected partner of Baker & Daniels. Butler practices in product liability.

**JAMES W. LOW, '01**, of Sullivan, Ward, Asher & Patton, was named one of 20 "Up & Coming Lawyers" for 2009 by *Michigan Lawyers Weekly*.

**LISA C. HAGAN, '02**, of Miller Canfield, was elected to a two-year term on the State Bar of Michigan Young Lawyers Section Executive Council. Hagan represents all Michigan counties except Wayne, Oakland, and Macomb.

**BARBRA E. HOMIER, '03**, was elected to the partnership at Varnum. Homier focuses her practice on family law.

**DR. FERNANDO ALBERDI, '04**, was hired by Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn as an attorney in the Intellectual Property and Technology Practice Group.

**SARAPHOENA B. KOFFRON, '04**, recently joined Miller Johnson's family law practice.

**MATISS D. KUKAINIS, '04**, earned an LL.M. in International and European Union Law at the Riga Graduate School of Law in Riga, Latvia, in 2007. Kukainis passed the Latvian Bar and has started his own firm in Latvia.

**TAMAR H. SCHILLER, '05**, recently joined Fidelity National Title Group as claims counsel in the company's Omaha, Nebraska, office.

**CAPTAIN ERIC W. IRWIN, '07**, is currently serving as a judge advocate in the U.S. Army at Fort Hood, Texas, and is presently in Iraq as Trial Counsel for the 1st Medical Brigade. He has practiced in the area of international and operational law since July 2008.

**SANJUM PUNIA, '09**, moved to Washington, D.C., after graduation and is now an attorney for the Board of Veterans' Appeals.

**SCOTT LACHMAN, '10**, will begin a clerkship with the Nevada Supreme Court in August 2010.

## THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION 2200 100

By Patrick Winters, '03, president of the MSU College of Law Alumni Association

The second decade of the new millennium has only just begun. However, like the Law College itself, the Alumni Association continues to look to the future, developing new benefits for Association members, fostering its relationships with the students, and working with the Law College to increase the stature and reputation of the Michigan State University College of Law. In addition to building on programs currently in place, the Alumni Association is looking forward to new and exciting programs and events in the years to come.

This year, the Alumni Association funded a scholarship that will provide financial assistance to one or more students beginning in 2011. The Association worked diligently toward funding this scholarship with proceeds from the annual Alumni Association Golf Outing and, without stopping to rest on its laurels, is already working on increasing the scholarship to benefit the 1L students of 2012. The 2009 golf outing raised over \$12,000 for the scholarship fund, and this year's event will help us further expand our support for future MSU Law students.

Now in its fourth year, our Alumni Mentor Program has been a monumental success for alumni, students, and the Law College. Alumni continue to volunteer to be paired with students to offer support, advice, a listening ear, and encouragement as students do the hard work of learning the law while facing the challenges of seeking employment. The program has already become an asset to the Law College, and it is becoming a nationally respected benefit offered to MSU Law students.

The Alumni Association has come a long way in the past decade and is looking forward to the years to come. The alumni board is now a national board and has members in five different states, which help serve the many students who are interested in MSU Law and the many alumni who reside in all 50 states and abroad. Our connection to and support of both alumni and students is stronger than ever, and membership is becoming more and more valuable. If you are interested in joining the alumni board, or in volunteering to help with the many programs and projects that the board sponsors, please visit [www.law.msu.edu/alumni](http://www.law.msu.edu/alumni).

and BEYOND





Complex challenges continue to motivate Mayer (Mike) Morganroth, '54, when many his age have retired.

His legal career began auspiciously in January 1955. As a newly minted lawyer who had just graduated from Detroit College of Law and passed the bar exam, Morganroth was one of the few attorneys in southeastern Michigan who handled appellate cases.

Having worked as an intern doing appellate cases at a local law firm, he launched his own firm to continue with that focus. At that time, appeals were only handled at the U.S. Supreme Court level. Based on his growing expertise,

Morganroth was called on to be second chair when defendants in appellate cases went to trial. He would tell lead attorneys at the counsel table what to say in their client's defense. Being well-prepared and strategic about his cases, especially in court, earned him the trial part of the business as well.

Complicated matters are the hallmark of Morganroth's career, which spans more than five decades and is still going strong. He holds a B.A. in both psychology and history from Michigan State University, which he earned along with his J.D. in less than four years combined thanks to an accelerated program for students with top grades. He is the founding

partner of Morganroth and Morganroth, PLLC, a Birmingham-based firm that he now manages with his son, Jeffrey B. Morganroth, and daughter, Cherie Morganroth. The firm's nine attorneys handle appellate law and eight other specialty areas, including criminal law, commercial law, and white collar crime.

From Motown composers to Teamsters officials, from assisted suicide enabler Jack Kervorkian to the late automotive pioneer John DeLorean, and from the late Detroit Mayor Coleman Young to former Detroit Mayoral Aide Christine Beatty, Morganroth has represented clients whose cases depend on steadfast research, strategic legal maneuvers, and sound legal advice. His

added advantage is his ability to get to know his clients as individuals and treat them with respect.

Rolland McMaster was one of Morganroth's most notorious clients. Intimidating in stature (6'6") and demeanor (he personified a "union goon"), he was the Teamsters' chief organizer in the 1950s and top aide to former Teamsters President Jimmy Hoffa before they parted ways. Federal agents repeatedly dug up McMaster's Michigan farms (he raised thoroughbred horses) on tips that Hoffa was buried there. Morganroth successfully defended McMaster against numerous charges. When McMaster died at age 93 in 2007, Morganroth delivered his eulogy.

In representing DeLorean—a former GM auto executive and entrepreneur—Morganroth and his team handled 43 cases and won them all. The flashy owner of DeLorean Motor Co. faced several extraditions and was charged with tax fraud, cocaine trafficking, and money laundering. Morganroth says, "We were successful all the way down the line. We also got back all the assets (close to \$67 million) that the trustee took from him."

Morganroth proudly represented the late Detroit Mayor Coleman Young for 20 years, handling cases ranging from charges of bribery to improper use of campaign funds. He recalls conversations at the Manoogian Mansion, when federal agents were listening on wiretaps. Morganroth says, "We would turn up the

TV until Coleman started swearing, then we would turn it down low." As a result, all the feds could clearly hear was the mayor's staccato of explicit swear words.

Mayor Young was upset by constant government surveillance and asked Morganroth to file a Bivens Action, which allows for damages due to constitutional violations committed by federal agents. The next day, Morganroth had lunch with former Judge Sam Gardner and said that he was planning on filing the case. Word was passed on, and the next day, both Judge Gardner and Morganroth got a letter from the federal government saying Coleman Young was not under investigation. "That's all he wanted anyway," Morganroth says. "He died with just his pension. His remaining campaign funds were used to build the African American Museum in Detroit."

Morganroth and fellow alumnus Geoffrey Fieger, '79, defended Kervorkian in the Miller Wantz trial, which ended in acquittal. Morganroth came into the trial after the jury went out. Kervorkian later chose to defend himself and ended up serving a prison term.

As friends and colleagues, Morganroth represented Fieger in his successful defense against federal charges of illegal campaign contributions in the 2008 presidential election. Many colleagues have called on him over the years for advice on trials and proceedings, and he's happy to share his strategy when there's no conflict of interest.

When asked how he can represent defendants who all but have "guilty" stamped on their foreheads, Morganroth replies, "Everyone is entitled to be defended. I can represent anybody—with some limitations based on principle—if I feel that I can believe in the client and sense that the jury will see that I like my client."

One of his rules in these "tough-to-defend" cases is that the client cannot lie on the stand. "There is always some way to defend the client ... if the client tells his or her lawyer the truth. Generally speaking, most of my clients have been honest with me," he says. "It never helps the client to fool the lawyer."

Readers can gain further insight into this legendary lawyer by watching HBO's Kervorkian biopic, *You Don't Know Jack*, in which Morganroth is played by actor Mike Ingram. He also will be portrayed in a movie about DeLorean and serves as executive producer and consultant for the film.

In his personal life, Morganroth has been happily married for 51 years to Sheila. They have three children and five grandchildren. He enjoys golf, travel (Las Vegas is a favorite), and is an avid Detroit Lions fan—pretty amazing for a lawyer who doesn't like to lose.

*Liz Cezat is a writer and marketing consultant with Cezat Creative Resources, Inc., in Canton, Michigan.*



## At 90 years young, Michael Berry Makes Things Happen

BY LIZ CEZAT

Michael Berry is at a point in his life at which he could simply look back and feel contentment and pride. Except this 90-year-old dynamo is going top-speed on multiple fronts. Chief among his interests are his large family, his legal practice, and his work as a philanthropist who advocates for better education and raises funds for many groups and causes.

Born in Highland Park, Michigan, and growing up with four brothers and four sisters, Berry liked to study and was eager to start working and get on with his life. His rock-solid values of integrity, education, fairness, and equality were among those ingrained in him by his hard-working parents, Mariam and Charles Berry. The family attempted to return to their homeland of Lebanon with their family in 1930, but the depression there was worse than in the United States, so they returned and settled in Dearborn. Michael is grateful for all the opportunities he has had in America.



A good student who graduated from Fordson Junior College and Wayne College, Berry originally wanted to become a doctor. The wait for medical school seemed too long, though, so he applied to Detroit College of Law (DCL). There he became friends with two others students, Arman Simone (now deceased) and David Ambender. These three, who always studied and socialized together, were dubbed “The Three Musketeers.” Due to a glitch in his class schedule, Berry passed the bar exam and tried his first case in 1949, one month before he graduated.

Upon graduation in 1950, he and his associates formed the law practice of Berry, Hopson & Francis in Dearborn. As the first Muslim of Arab descent to practice law in the state of Michigan, Berry had to overcome a great deal of adversity.

Initially taking on every case, Berry later focused on municipal law. In 1967, he was approached to serve on the Wayne County Road Commission. He won the election and quickly put his mark on the agency by righting a skewed bidding system. In one instance, using his science education and lab training, he questioned the composition of fertilizer being purchased and was able to “right” the formula used, opening up the bidding and saving vast amounts of taxpayer dollars. His sharp business acumen earned him the position of chairman, which he held for 10 of his nearly 16 years of service.

While he was chairman of the Commission, Berry’s tenacious involvement in Detroit Metro Airport expansion, tight oversight of the bidding process, and execution of contracts earned him great respect. When a separate terminal for international travel was built, it was named in his honor.

His reputation for high ethics, tireless work on behalf of many causes, and an ability to “get big things done” brought him fame not only in Michigan, but also nationally and internationally.

Berry was active in the Democratic Party, chairing the 16th Congressional Democratic District for four terms beginning in the 1960s, and holding other powerful posts. He became friends with several of the Kennedys, and was encouraged to run for higher office himself.

His professional life is anchored by a bountiful home life. His marriage to Vivian produced four daughters and a happy, prosperous, and healthy family—a life that was tested when Vivian was killed in 1972.

Together, the family found the strength to continue moving forward. Berry’s daughter Laura Harris, ’87, ran a successful divorce practice at her father’s firm and worked as city attorney for Dearborn Heights. Berry also has two teenage sons and is now married to Cindy, a government relations professional.

Berry has endowed a scholarship at MSU Law and has given generously to support the University of Michigan-Dearborn, Davenport University, Henry Ford Community College, hospitals locally and in Lebanon, and many other causes. The Michael Berry Career Center at Dearborn Public Schools is named in his honor.

A 1983 Distinguished Alumnus (at DCL), his advice to MSU Law students who plan to start their own practice is, “Get out early and establish yourself. Work from sunrise to sunset, like I did. Let people know who you are. Get to know people—that’s the secret.”

To learn more about the fascinating life and accomplishments of Michael Berry, read *Michael Berry*, a biography by Susan Griffin, also of Dearborn.

Liz Cezat is a writer and marketing consultant with Cezat Creative Resources, Inc., in Canton, Michigan.

## LINKING TO OUR PAST—*Shaping Our Future*

MSU Law alumni, students, and friends gathered on Thursday, February 11, for an evening with the Honorable Dennis W. Archer, ’70. The reception was hosted by the MSU College of Law Black Law Students Association (BLSA).

Archer was appointed associate justice of the Michigan Supreme Court in 1985 and elected to an eight-year term the following year. In his final year on the bench, he was named the state’s most respected judge by *Michigan Lawyers Weekly*. Serving as mayor of Detroit from 1994 to 2001, Archer earned national and international respect for his success in changing the city’s image and direction. In 2003, he became the first African American elected to lead the American Bar Association.

Archer spoke about the evolving legal profession, highlighting improved access for minority and women lawyers over the past several decades and emphasizing the need to continue diversifying the field. Addressing law school students, Archer encouraged tomorrow’s practitioners to maintain a high standard of professionalism, ethics, and service to others.

BLSA leaders at the event announced a new MSU Law giving opportunity aimed at maximizing the resources and opportunities available to minority law students and the Law College community as a whole. Donations may now be directed toward BLSA scholarships, lectures and other special events, or student study aids.

A fundraising committee is being created to support this effort; former BLSA and Wolverine Student Bar Association members are encouraged to participate. For more information, contact Tina Kashat Casoli, director of the Office of Advancement, at 517-432-6842 or [casoli@law.msu.edu](mailto:casoli@law.msu.edu).



ABOVE: Dennis Archer, '70, and Dean Joan Howarth  
BELOW LEFT (left to right): Aliyah Sabree, '10, Badriyyah Sabree, Professor Tiffani Darden, and Professor Catherine Grosso  
BELOW RIGHT (left to right): Class President Brian Davis, '10, Jerome Crawford, rising 2L, Quinton Spencer, rising 2L, and Professor Brian Kalt





## MSU Law: Past, Present, & Future



Alumni celebrated 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, and 60 years or more since graduating from Detroit College of Law (DCL) and MSU College of Law at Comerica Park's Tiger Club—the former site of DCL—on Friday, November 20, 2009. Nearly 250 alumni who attended the Past, Present, and Future Celebration shared cherished Law College memories as they gathered for a walk down memory lane.

Guest speakers included alumni from each of the celebrated class years, including the Honorable Matthew Sabaugh, '99, the Honorable Karen Fort Hood, '89, John Goldpaugh, '79, Michael Legg, '79, Thomas Lindahl, '79, the Honorable Edward Plawecki, '79, S. Gary Spicer, '69, and Mayer Morganroth, '54. Class of 2010 graduate Megan Hard and Professor Clark C. Johnson also spoke at the event.

This year's event will be held on November 12. Graduates from the classes of 1950 and earlier, 1960, 1970, 1980, 1990, and 2000 are invited to serve as host committee members. For more information, please contact Tina Kashat Casoli, director of the Office of Advancement, at 517-432-6842 or [casoli@law.msu.edu](mailto:casoli@law.msu.edu).



ABOVE LEFT (left to right): Paul Koczur, '79, Michelle Grala-Koczur, and Lawrence Donaldson, '69  
FAR LEFT: The Honorable Gene Schnelz, '57, and Betty Schnelz  
LEFT: The Tigers welcome MSU Law and DCL alumni.

## LAW REVIEW LAUNCHES *Scholarship* at Annual Alumni Reception

The *Michigan State Law Review* held its annual alumni reception at The Townsend Hotel in Birmingham on Thursday, February 18. Special guest Ross Hammersley, '06, spoke to attendees about the benefits and responsibilities of representing the journal and school as a *Law Review* member. Hammersley, who served as 2005–06 editor-in-chief of the journal, is an associate at Olson, Bzdok & Howard in Traverse City.

Seven journal members were recognized at the event for the selection of their articles for publication in the *Michigan State Law Review*, *Akron Intellectual Property Journal*, and the *Virginia Sports & Entertainment Law Journal*. Those honored included George Howell, Elisa Lintemuth, Michelle Quigley, Lauren Russo, Alessa Thomas, Rob Harmer, and Aaron Lloyd.

This year's reception also celebrated the Law Review's continued rise in annual flagship journal rankings. Dean Howarth announced the new Michigan State Law Review Scholarship, initiated by 2009–10 Editor-in-Chief Megan Hard to build on and sustain the journal's success. The scholarship will provide support for editorial board leadership and team-building training, expanded marketing efforts, larger symposia, and scholarships or stipends for board members and student authors.

A steering committee consisting of Kathy Ossian, '84, Don Nystrom, '00, Dan Bliss, '87, and others will work with the Office of Advancement to help raise support for the fund. For more details about the Michigan State Law Review Scholarship or steering committee, please contact Tina Kashat Casoli at 517-432-6842 or [casoli@law.msu.edu](mailto:casoli@law.msu.edu).



TOP (left to right): Rob Harmer (notes editor), '10, Zachary Hansmann, Leigh Hansmann, '09, and Dan Artaev (senior notes editor), '10

ABOVE LEFT (left to right): Mahfouz Ackall (former editor in chief), '09, and Megan Hard (editor in chief), '10

ABOVE RIGHT (left to right): Susan Asam, '10, and Alessa Thomas, '10

## Jewish Legal Society *Networking Night*

Current and former members of MSU Law's Jewish Legal Society (JLS), along with other alumni and friends, participated in the group's 2nd Annual Networking Night on Tuesday, March 2. The evening, hosted at Miller Canfield's Detroit office, gave current students the opportunity to meet and mingle with MSU Law alumni and former JLS members. Special guest Mayer Morganroth, '54, was awarded the Jewish Legal Society's Alumni Achievement Award for his ongoing contributions to the legal community. See the related article about Morganroth on page 30.



Jason Weiner, '10, and Michael Serling, '70





## LAW FIRM CHALLENGE

MSU College of Law launched the first annual Law Firm Challenge this year, sparking a bit of friendly competition among firms and businesses while giving alumni a unique opportunity to support their alma mater.

Organizations and firms with three or more alumni were invited to participate. Each was led by a team captain who asked fellow alumni to contribute toward the goal of 100 percent participation. A total of 20 firms participated, raising more than \$40,000. Six firms achieved 100 percent participation: Ackerman Ackerman & Dynkowski; Center Management Services; Fieger, Fieger, Kenney, Johnson & Giroux; Langton Law; Miller Johnson; and Orlans.

### ***Creates Friendly Competition Among Firms, Raises Awareness and Funding for Programs***

“The continued success of MSU Law depends on our ability to build and maintain relationships with more of our graduates,” said Laurie Schaibly, ’00, director of alumni engagement. “The Law Firm Challenge gives the Law College another way to reconnect with alumni, and we are thrilled that so many of our graduates are interested in supporting their alma mater.”

“It’s the right thing to do for our firm to participate in this effort,” said Robert Giroux, Jr., ’93, a partner at Fieger, Fieger, Kenney, Johnson & Giroux. “We have seven graduates working at Fieger Law, and we all appreciate what the Law College provided us—a great start to the success many of us have enjoyed. Now, it’s our turn to give back.”

Participants were able to designate their gifts toward a variety of MSU Law programs, including the Dean’s Fund for Excellence, clinical programs, the Alumni Association scholarship, the *Michigan State Law Review*, and the Black Law Students Association. Each participant received an MSU Law T-shirt.

Firms were divided into three categories for the competition: those with 3 to 10 alumni, those with 11 to 20 alumni, and those with 21 or more alumni. Dean Joan Howarth will host a celebration luncheon for firms with the highest participation rates.

For more information, or to be a part of next year’s challenge, visit [www.law.msu.edu/alumni/challenge](http://www.law.msu.edu/alumni/challenge) or contact Laurie Schaibly at 517-432-6845 or [schaib20@law.msu.edu](mailto:schaib20@law.msu.edu).

## Participating Firms & Team Captains

### **GROUP I (3 TO 10 ALUMNI)**

Ackerman Ackerman & Dynkowski	Alan T. Ackerman
Bliss McGlynn	Daniel H. Bliss, ’87
Center Management Services	Thomas Guastello, ’70
Fieger, Fieger, Kenney, Johnson & Giroux	Robert M. Giroux, Jr., ’93
Langton Law	Charles E. Langton ’87, MSU Law Trustee
New Jersey Legal	James Cortopassi, ’08
Maddin Hauser	David E. Hart, ’91
Miller Johnson	Christopher M. Brown, ’99
Rhoades McKee	Frederick D. Dilley, ’76, MSU Law Trustee
Smith Haughey Rice & Roegge	Kristen A. Campbell, ’00

### **GROUP II (11 TO 20 ALUMNI)**

Dickinson Wright	Peter J. Kulick, ’01
Foster, Swift, Collins & Smith	John Inhulsen, ’05
Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn	Kenneth T. Brooks, ’82
Howard & Howard	Andrew J. Munro, ’79
Kitch Drutchas Wagner Valitutti & Sherbrook	Ronald E. Wagner, ’75
	Ralph F. Valitutti, Jr., ’76
Orlans	Linda M. Orlans, ’87
Varnum, Riddering, Schmidt & Howlett	Linsey (Gleason) Aten, ’08

### **GROUP III (21 OR MORE ALUMNI)**

Clark Hill	Charles A. Lawler, ’04
Miller, Canfield, Paddock and Stone	Kathryn L. Ossian, ’84
Plunkett Cooney	Joseph F. Babiarz, Jr., ’86
	James R. Geroux, ’70
	James J. Murray, ’87
	H. William Reising, ’68
	Patrick E. Winters, ’03



The Class of 2010 left a meaningful mark at MSU Law this spring when it launched the inaugural 3L Gift and Pledge Campaign. Spearheaded by this year's class officers, the campaign began an annual tradition aimed at fostering a spirit of giving among students.

Tuition at MSU Law covers only a portion of the actual costs of attendance. Alumni, faculty, staff, and others give back each year so that MSU Law students have access to a high-quality legal education. The new campaign encouraged 3Ls to "pay it forward" to help provide the same opportunities for those who follow in their footsteps.

"This is an exciting initiative by the graduating Class of 2010," said Dean Joan Howarth. "By recognizing early on that each and every gift matters, our students will help build better opportunities

# 3L GIFT CAMPAIGN Launches

and additional scholarships for future students."

"We know that the Law College faculty and staff care about us as students," said Brian Davis, 2010 class president. "We see the importance of giving back through their example, and we hope to create a culture of giving in our class and in future classes."

Students had the option to either make an immediate gift or a pledge for a future gift to be paid in May 2011 or later. The response was very encouraging, with nearly 40 percent of graduating 3L students participating—a very competitive number among other law colleges with similar programs.

Donors to the program were included in a prize drawing for gift certificates for bar study materials from Aspen Publishing, diploma framing, tickets to the Alumni Association homecoming football game and tailgate, and tickets to the Alumni Association Annual Golf Outing. The grand prize winner's bar dues were paid for one year. For more information and to see a list of donors and prize winners, visit [www.law.msu.edu/students/3L-gift](http://www.law.msu.edu/students/3L-gift).

## In Memoriam

J. OTTO ORTWEIN, '36, on December 10, 2009  
CHARLES SNIDER, '38, on June 9, 2009  
COURTNEY A. EVANS, '40, on December 11, 2009  
ELMO J. TIBALDI, '40, on October 11, 2009  
JACK NEWCOMBE, '42, on July 19, 2009  
HON. DALE A. RIKER, '49, on July 2, 2009  
CARL M. WEIDEMAN JR., '50, on September 9, 2009  
STANLEY ZIMOSTRAD, '56, on August 24, 2009  
SAM DuBOIS, '57, on March 9, 2010  
MANUEL L. PAPISTA, '58, on January 23, 2010  
IRVING R. BLUM, '59, on January 3, 2009  
JOSEPH M. ROZEK, '60, on June 9, 2009  
GEORGE A. ALDERTON III, '61, on November 17, 2009  
CHARLES C. CHEATHAM, '62, on September 18, 2009  
DONALD M. BLATY, '73, on September 9, 2009  
DR. HOWARD S. JACKSON, '74, on August 19, 2009  
KENNETH H. EMBREE, '77, on November 5, 2009  
FREDERICK W. MELAMED, '80, on November 22, 2009  
VICTORIA M. DESMARAIS, '81, on October 17, 2009  
TAMMY J. REISS, '88, on May 29, 2006  
DENNIS A. MARTIN, '89, on April 23, 2009  
DR. LAWRENCE E. SPORER, '03, on November 24, 2009



Scott Lachman (vice president), Jason Blevins (secretary), Tabbetha McLain (treasurer), Brian Davis (president)

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Spring Commencement

Michigan Supreme Court Justice Diane Hathaway, '87, addressed the Class of 2010 at the Michigan State University auditorium on Friday, May 14. Justice Hathaway, who was elected to the state's highest court in 2008, also received the Honorable



George N. Bashara, Jr., Distinguished Alumni Award at the ceremony. Faculty speaker Bruce W. Bean and student speaker Katherine A. Hegg, '10, delivered moving and memorable speeches to the 322 spring graduates and their guests.



*"You have worked hard. You can be proud of what you have accomplished. If you continue to work hard, if you are better prepared than the other side—in whatever field you use your legal training—you will prevail! And you will make yourself, your family, and all of us proud to know you as fellow Spartans."*

— Professor Bruce W. Bean, faculty speaker



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Join your fellow alumni and friends for the following events.

Visit [www.law.msu.edu/alumni/alumni-events.html](http://www.law.msu.edu/alumni/alumni-events.html) for more information and to reserve a spot.

## September

- 12** *Family Picnic*  
MSU Law, East Lansing
- 30** *State Bar Reception*  
Amway Grand Plaza Hotel, Grand Rapids

## October

- 7** *Circle of Friends Donor Recognition Dinner*  
Invitation Only
- 15** *5- and 10-year Reunions, King Scholar Reunion, GLBT/Triangle Bar Reunion*  
East Lansing Marriott at University Place
- 16** *Homecoming Tailgate*  
MSU Law, East Lansing

## November

- 12** *MSU Law: Past, Present, and Future Reunion and Outreach Event*  
Tiger Club, Detroit