Unique Roads to Success
Alums create alternative paths with their JDs

Celebrating 20 Years of China Partnership

Alum Breaks Illinois Verdict Record

Animal Law Program Stronger Than Ever
Dean John E. Corkery joins retired United States Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens (left) as he is presented with the inaugural Gavel Award by Phi Delta Phi. Justice Stevens visited John Marshall at the invitation of the law school’s chapter of the honor society, which is named Stevens Inn in Justice Stevens’s honor.
Dear Friends,

The academic year is up and running. We just finished Reunion weekend, and the recent annual Student/Alumni Exchange had one of its largest turnouts. The events that bring our alums back to campus have a special feel. And we’re always glad to have you come back and participate in our vibrant campus life.

This issue of the magazine highlights some of our alumni who are seeing success in fields outside of the traditional legal careers. It’s exciting to see the results of a law degree infused with an entrepreneurial spirit. I know you will enjoy reading about what some of your fellow alumni are doing.

The recent events, and indeed the stories in this issue of BriefCase, remind me of how impressive our alumni are. From our recent grads through the ranks of our most distinguished alumni, your stories are impressive. I just heard from Sarah Hess (JD ’14), our first Skadden Arps Fellow, about the laudable work she is doing with children in public interest law. And earlier this month, we celebrated the newest members of our 50-Year Club, which honors alumni who graduated in 1964 or before. While the names and faces are different, the stories are similar: Your law school prepared you to succeed.

Through BriefCase, we do our best to give you some of the highlights of what is happening on campus, but I encourage you to check out our alumni website (http://alumni.jmls.edu). We’ve just updated the website with more John Marshall news and events information. Do you get our monthly alumni e-newsletter? If not, you can register for it on the stay connected pages of the site.

Many of you are lifetime members of the Stevens Inn chapter of Phi Delta Phi. As you know, this chapter was named in honor of Justice John Paul Stevens. On September 18, Phi Delta Phi invited Justice Stevens to campus to receive the inaugural Stevens Gavel Award. We were delighted that he attended and met with our students.

Meanwhile, our faculty continues to achieve noteworthy accomplishments. Faculty members Kathryn Kennedy and William B.T. Mock recently were named Fellows of the American Bar Association. Mark Wojcik (JD ’86) hosted the 9th Annual Global Legal Skills Conference in Italy. Board of Trustees President Leonard Amari (JD ’68) opened the conference and welcomed 180 participants from around the world. The 10th annual event will be at home in Chicago in 2015, and we’ll keep you posted.

As a member of our vast network of alumni, you inspire our students as you continue to define—and redefine—success. You are also a great resource for each other. The community of John Marshall is diverse, active and making a difference every day. We continue to look to you for ways to engage your fellow alumni and increase our value to you.

Please contact us with your ideas for new events, communication tools, or resources that you would find helpful or interesting.

I welcome your input.

John E. Corkery
Dean
The John Marshall Law School
Since her childhood days watching "Matlock" and "Perry Mason," Natosha Cuyler-Sherman knew she wanted to live a life pursuing justice.

"Ever since I was a kid, I always said I wanted to be a lawyer," she said. "I always said, 'I want to do the right thing to help people.' I always knew law was going to be the way to help people."

The 34-year-old Hyde Park resident set her sights on law school, and graduated from John Marshall in 2005. The journey there wasn’t always an easy one.

"You have those moments where you are ready to cry your eyes out and maybe you do cry your eyes out, but you don’t give up," she said.

As an undergraduate, her law school aspiration was met with criticism.

"I was told I have a double handicap, because I’m black and a woman, that I should re-think my role," she said. "Needless to say, it made me fight even harder to prove it could be done."

She is applying that determination to her new role as president of the John Marshall Alumni Association Board of Directors. She wants to energize the board to work as a team to maintain a strong presence in the alumni community.

"I love the school and will definitely do my best to represent it well," she said. "We can conquer so much, and that attracts more people."

Cuyler-Sherman moved up the ranks of the board, previously serving as secretary, assistant treasurer, third vice president, second vice president and first vice president.

She has spent nine years as an assistant state’s attorney in Cook County. She is a second chair in the felony trial division, handling everything from drug cases to attempted murders.

"I tell people that if I ever become numb to what I see or if I ever lose hope, then I need a new job," she said. "I haven’t gotten numb yet. I do have a love for what I do."

Cuyler-Sherman said that at the end of a trial for the murder of a 15-year-old boy killed at a block party, the victim’s mom hugged her tightly.

"I can’t bring her son back, but I gave her closure," she said. "The very next day, I went home to see my mom."

"Home" is Ohio. Raised in Cleveland, she graduated from Xavier University in Cincinnati in 2002.

When she graduated from John Marshall, she had the support of Florence Miner, who established a $20,000 renewable scholarship in memory of Miner’s cousin, David Sargis, a 1978 John Marshall graduate who died in 1995.

Cuyler-Sherman was the first recipient of the scholarship. She kept in touch with Miner, reporting her grades and updating her on other endeavors through the years.

"The day that I graduated, Miss Miner came," she said with pride.

People have asked her about a future on the bench or political aspirations.

"I don’t know yet," Cuyler-Sherman said. "I enjoy what I do. I hope to keep bettering myself with the State’s Attorney’s Office. We’ll see where it takes me."
John Marshall Celebrates 20 Years of Partnering with China


“We honor Dr. Gao for his outstanding contributions to international intellectual property law, his dedication to teaching, and to the pivotal role he continues to play in supporting cultural and educational exchanges between China and the United States,” said Doris Estelle Long, director of the Center for Intellectual Property, Information & Privacy Law.

The collaboration between John Marshall and SIPO began in 1993 with a reception honoring Dr. Gao, then the director of the Chinese Patent Office, and was formalized in 1994. Initially, the program was conceived as a way to provide training in patent law for SIPO staff.

The partnership has expanded over the last two decades to include visiting scholars to John Marshall who earn their IP LLMs. Since the start of the program, John Marshall has conferred 117 LLM degrees to Chinese students. John Marshall professors and students also visit, teach and lecture at the Chinese IP Training Center and various Chinese universities and bar associations.

“The initial vision of the program sought to establish an international program that could serve as a model of cooperation and friendship,” said former John Marshall Dean Robert Gilbert Johnston, who was instrumental in developing the partnership with SIPO. “This vision was achieved. Chinese and American students, professors, lawyers, judges, and government officials have formed wonderful, lasting friendships.”

Professor Long agrees. “This educational exchange continues to enrich both institutions and build bridges of cooperation and understanding between our respective countries. I look forward to continuing that proud tradition, and to celebrating our next 20-year anniversary in 2034.”

Dr. Lulin Gao leads the procession line after receiving his honorary diploma and a John Marshall medallion.

“The vision of the program sought to establish an international program that could serve as a model of cooperation and friendship.”
South Suburban Alumni Reunion

Circuit Court of Cook County Judges Jim Ryan (JD ’92) and Laurence Dunford (JD ’71)

Idara Essien (JD ’13), Assistant Dean Jodie Needham and Kevin Lahey (JD ’05)

Joseph Walczak (JD ’88), Paul Braun (JD ’80) and John Fotopoulo (JD ’00)

Don MacNeil (JD ’97), Danielle Vcek (JD ’13), Edward Wasilewski (JD ’14) and Director of Annual Giving Lauren Prihoda (JD ’10)

Freedom Award & Distinguished Service Awards Luncheon

Associate Judge Peggy Chiampas (JD ’89), Illinois Supreme Court Chief Justice Rita Garman and Brian Stephenson (JD ’88)

Natasha Cuyler-Sherman (JD ’05), Chief Justice Rita Garman and Director of the Office of Alumni Relations Sherri Dzik (JD ’99)

Illinois Supreme Court Justice Mary Jane Theis, Katherine A. O’Dell (JD ’00), Board of Trustees President Leonard Amari (JD ’68) and Illinois Supreme Court Justice Anne M. Burke

Leonard Defranco (JD ’78, LLM ’81) and Daniel Cotter (JD ’95)

Associate Dean Ralph Ruebner, Marvet Sweis (JD ’11), Professor Shahram Dana and Michael Favia (JD ’82)

Patrick Collins (JD ’14, LLM ’14), Mariyana Spyropolous (JD ’96), administrative assistant in Student Affairs Marilyn Criss, Ravinder Sahota (JD ’09), Jennifer Irmen (JD ’04) and Agnieska Malicka (JD ’11, LLM ’14)
Message from Bill Beach

Chief Development Officer, Campaign Director

Since its chartering in 1899, John Marshall has provided the opportunity to more than 21,000 people of every race, creed, gender and background to earn a legal education in the most exciting urban setting in the world. It was where your ambition and desire to study the law—and in most cases, to become a lawyer—became a reality. For most of you, it is where lifelong relationships were formed, and where so many possibilities took shape that allowed you to become architects of society.

The past few years have seen unprecedented changes at your law school, especially in our academic programs and clinics. John Marshall is the first school in the Midwest, and one of the few in the nation, to require clinical experience for graduation. These practical experiences have a profound effect on the student attorney as they deepen their understanding of the relationship between the law school doctrine and real-world client environments. Students learn in the clinics while becoming advocates in the community. In fact, our clinical programs provide an estimated $5.8 million in pro bono legal work to Chicago. Just as our students contribute back so much to our community, so should we contribute as much as possible to their success. These days, the primary reason a student chooses a law school is scholarship support. Yet the rising cost of law school makes it harder for our students, many of whom are already working full or part time, to continue their studies. To remain competitive and attract academically distinguished students, we need to increase the number and amount of our scholarship.

Approximately 85 percent of all John Marshall applicants have financial needs, and only 60 percent of our entering class is awarded scholarships. Borrowing to pay for law school limits our graduates’ career paths to those with sufficient salaries to pay off loans. In order for our students to realize their dreams without the constraints of loan repayment, we simply must provide more scholarships. This is where you can play a vital role to a student who was where you were: wanting to make his or her dream of becoming a lawyer a reality.

Please consider either making a gift in support of one of the school’s many scholarships, or establishing your own. Scholarship support enables you to have a direct and transformational impact on the lives of our students. Think back on your time at John Marshall and strengthen the link that you have—not only with those who have gone before, but also with those who follow.

Consider your own connection to John Marshall, and how the law school made a difference in your life. Then join with me and the hundreds of your fellow alumni who support our mission, and who recognize that, “But for John Marshall, I may not be where I am today.”

Your gift allows us to make a difference, for everyone. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Bill Beach
Chief Development Officer, Campaign Director

Annual Meeting of the Alumni Association

Natosha Cuyler-Sherman (JD ’05) (seated) has been appointed as the new President of the Alumni Association at its annual meeting. Dan Cotter (JD ’95) (seated) is First Vice President; (standing from left) Jennifer Irmen (JD ’04), 3rd Vice President; Christopher Cali (JD ’09), Assistant Treasurer; Karie J. Valentino (JD ’96), 2nd Vice President; and Katherine E. Linehan (JD ’05), Secretary; with outgoing President Hon. Regina Scannicchio (JD ’88). Not pictured is Donald Rubin (JD ’80), Treasurer.

New board members (left-right) James Borkman (JD ’10), Sandra Crawford (JD ’89), Jeremy Geller (JD ’02) and Michael Lodermeier (JD ’99) were sworn in at the annual meeting by Hon. Regina Scannicchio (JD ’88).

Second-year student Greta Berna (left) and Karie Valentino (JD ’96)

Hon. Russell Hartigan (JD ’75), Professor Cliff Scott-Rudnick, Joseph Marconi (JD ’76), Stephen Fiorentino (JD ’75) and Hon. James Fitzgerald-Smith (JD ’75)
Alums create alternative paths with their JDs

Ben Zion and Justin Platt

In the middle of gourmet popcorn shop Popcorn Asylum, owner Ben Zion (JD ‘11) stamps paper bags with the store’s name and logo. A sign on one wall lists the day’s flavors, among them Mexican Hot Chocolate and Strawberry Balsamic.

A woman props up a small child on the store’s counter and offers him a sample of the Birch, one of Popcorn Asylum’s most popular flavors. It takes like caramel corn. The boy giggles and chomps away.

It’s a far different scene than the one that led Zion to this Lincoln Park shop: the City of Chicago Law Department. Zion worked as a clerk in the department in 2011, prosecuting misdemeanors.

He would bring his homemade caramel popcorn to work as a treat for colleagues. It was a hit. Pretty soon, he found himself with more passion for the treats than prosecuting, and Zion left full-time law to open up shop with fellow John Marshall grad, Justin Platt (JD ’13).

“It gives you a good mindset for doing business,” Platt said. “Law school trains you to say, ‘What would happen if everything goes wrong?’”
Having JDs has helped the pair in myriad ways, including when they were signing the lease of their store. Platt negotiated the terms, saving the new business thousands in legal fees.

“Starting a business with a JD was a big benefit,” Zion said. “It makes us feel comfortable. We have enough knowledge to know we’re good. It’s sort of a release valve.”

That valve has come in handy when faced with real and potential legal pitfalls. When a customer was negligent in paying the shop for an order, Platt stepped in. As soon as he identified himself as Popcorn Asylum’s attorney, the duo quickly was paid, Zion said.

Their legal know-how quelled any worries, too, during a legal contest over the name of one of their flavors. The store had been selling its cheese and caramel blend under the name “Chicago Mix.” The two received a cease-and-desist letter from a Minnesota company that owns the rights to the name. Zion and Platt figure the trademark had been diluted over years of several other companies using it, Garrett Popcorn Shops included.

“We were never scared when we saw it,” Platt said of the letter and order. “The law helped us there.”

Despite believing they had the law on their side, they averted a court fight and changed the name to Asylum Mix. (Incidentally, Garrett more recently followed in their footsteps and solved the conundrum by calling their concoction Garrett Mix.)

Zion and Platt are looking to expand their bulk custom orders, including for weddings, as well as their partnerships with restaurants or hotels. The team recently paired with a brewery in Evanston to create an exclusive port beer popcorn flavor for them. As they look to grow, they say they’re more confident about the choices they make and some of the freedom that their JDs have afforded them.

“Our law degrees make all the difference,” Zion has said, noting the thousands the entrepreneurs have saved in start-up and administrative costs. “We could have never accomplished what we have without John Marshall.”

“I think the discipline, and thought process that it gives you, is beneficial in so many ways.”

Armond Dinverno  

Armond Dinverno is in the business of helping people live the lives they want. He does this from the offices of private wealth management firm Balasa Dinverno Foltz LLC, in Chicago and Itasca, Ill.

“We help people to make sound decisions to enjoy a full life,” said Dinverno, the firm’s President and Co-CEO. “That’s really key.”

After earning a bachelor of science in accounting from the University of Southern California, Dinverno enrolled at John Marshall and graduated with a JD in 1982.

He began working for what was then Pricewaterhouse, where he cut his teeth in the company’s small business tax department. In 1986, with partner Michael Foltz, he co-founded Dinverno & Foltz LLP, a law and wealth management firm.

The business flourished. Shortly into the 1990s, he decided to concentrate full time on wealth management. It wasn’t an easy decision to make.

“You feel like you should be a lawyer, right? Philosophically, probably psychologically, to leave that (was hard),” he said. “I just discovered in those years, I’m much more financial and numbers oriented than I am legally oriented.”

The firm merged in 2001 with another to form Balasa Dinverno Foltz LLC, which was listed this year by Forbes as one of the Top 50 Wealth Managers. As of summer 2014, the company manages more than $3 billion in assets, growing even as the economic market has struggled. The firm’s success helped earn Dinverno a spot in the Chicago Area Entrepreneurship Hall of Fame.

Dinverno’s law degree has given him a greater understanding in his financial management career, from the U.S. Securities & Exchange Commission regulations that oversee his industry, to the intricacies of his firm’s contracts.

“That background has been tremendously helpful, in the context of doing a merger, growing our business,” he said.

“I think the discipline, and thought process that it gives you, is beneficial in so many ways,” he added. “That diversification, that ability to have that skill set, can be helpful in other careers.”
Unique Roads to Success

Ann Liebschutz The political-minded science strategist

If she weren’t heading to an international government-initiated science and technology foundation, Ann Liebschutz might still be on a campaign trail somewhere. With her mother involved in local political party campaign management, it is where she was raised and began her political and legal expertise.

After years of successful political and policy work in Kentucky and on Capitol Hill, Liebschutz (JD ’00) serves as the Executive Director of the United States Israel Science & Technology Foundation (USISTF).

Armed with a physics degree from Lake Forest College, she specifically sought out John Marshall for its intellectual property program. She was on the Executive Editorial Board of what was then the *Journal of Computer & Information Law*, and focused part of her studies on information law and privacy.

“Law school was always something that was on the potential agenda for me,” Liebschutz said, “and once I learned more about the field of intellectual property law, I knew I would go.”

The Kentucky native worked for a small Chicago law firm before joining a gubernatorial team in 2004. As Legislative Assistant and Counsel in the United States Senate in the office of U.S. Sen. Jim Bunning. As a professional staff member in the U.S. Senate, she managed a diverse legislative portfolio including Commerce, Science & Technology and Homeland Security. She has been the lead executive of the USISTF since 2006.

As the executive director of the international science-based organization, she said, “I use the full range of my skills, from my scientific background to my campaign management back to my most important, my legal practitioner skills.”

She oversees strategic planning for the organization, the mission of which is to facilitate opportunities in science and technology cooperation beneficial to both the U.S. and Israel. She relies upon multitasking skills she nurtured as a law student. Every day, she must read industry trade press, scientific journals and recent updates in U.S. and Israeli government policy and laws.

Her legal background helps her navigate discussions involving research and development opportunities between the two nations, as well as assuring proper management.

In addition to her work, she continues to dedicate time to other interests. While becoming more involved in the American Bar Association in recent years, she is also a member of the Women’s Democracy Network Council, a group aimed at increasing women’s political participation and leadership in elected office. In this capacity, she has actively worked and trained young women to campaign successfully for public office as a school board member where her child attends school. It’s there and as a STEM volunteer at the Museum of Science & Industry, she professes that, “girls can excel in scientific careers, breaking out of traditional stereotypes,” and hopes to be a role model for young women.

She credits her law degree with helping her marry her passions. “I will always be a scientist at heart,” she said proudly. “As a legal professional, I’m always working at the forefront of innovation.”

Rathna Koka A scientist wanting to protect her patents

More than a decade into her career as a scientist, Rathna Koka was becoming increasingly involved in patent challenges and litigation matters.

Koka, an Associate Technology Principal at Kraft Foods in Glenview, Ill., was fascinated by the legal implications of her scientific endeavors when called into the legal process to discuss her inventions. She said, “I was excited to be engaged at the convergence of science with law, this sparked my interest in patent law.”

Koka, already armed with a PhD from Utah State University, decided to head to law school. Impressed by its patent and intellectual property program, Koka applied only to John Marshall and began as an evening student in 2009.

While a student, Koka transitioned into Kraft’s Intellectual Property strategy group. While on assignment with corporate legal, she worked on patent prosecution and litigation matters. “It greatly helped me in that role,” she said of her legal education.

She earned her JD in January 2014, graduating *cum laude*, and has since focused her career solely on patent portfolio management and strategy. Many companies don’t know the breadth of their patent portfolios, Koka said, so she began instituting a comprehensive process for portfolio valuation, a hefty undertaking.

“That type of reasoning wouldn’t have come solely out of my scientist side of my experience,” she said.

Koka says her legal education and experience as *Law Review* staff editor have enabled her work tremendously, especially in negotiating and multitasking myriad demands.

“It makes me much more versatile,” she said. “I work with various corporate functions. My legal training has greatly helped tailor meaningful conversations for varied audiences.”

Her law degree and trial advocacy experience also have given her the confidence to campaign successfully for public office as a school board member where her child attends school. It’s there and as a STEM volunteer at the Museum of Science & Industry, she professes that, “girls can excel in scientific careers, breaking out of traditional stereotypes,” and hopes to be a role model for young women.

She credits her law degree with helping her marry her passions. “I will always be a scientist at heart,” she said proudly. “As a legal professional, I’m always working at the forefront of innovation.”

“Law school was always something that was on the potential agenda for me. Once I learned more about the field of intellectual property law, I knew I would go.”
Mark Pedowitz  Hollywood leader known for critical thinking

Mark Pedowitz’s days in Hollywood can vary. Some are spent analyzing how viewers watch TV shows on their tablets, others on how to maintain the ratings of “The Vampire Diaries.”

Were it not for his law degree, Pedowitz—President of The CW Television Network—says he might not be making such high-level Tinseltown decisions.

“Having gone to law school enabled me to at least have credibility to enter into this industry in some form,” he said. “Had I not had that, it would’ve been much harder.”

Pedowitz is the rare network president with a law degree. Few of the current presidents of Hollywood shops have JDs, with many coming from business. Though he and some of his counterparts may have different backgrounds, trying to figure out how to entice the enviable 18–34 and 18–49 demographic categories.

No matter the role his JD played in leading him to TV leadership, Pedowitz believes reputation and success are greatly guided by hard work and earned respect.

“You may be stronger in the business transactional sense, but you have to understand creativity and creative people,” he said.

Pedowitz graduated from Rockford College in 1974 and John Marshall in 1978. Soon after, he took his JD to Hollywood and began work as a lawyer for MCA Inc. He went on to counsel and business affairs positions at a series of other shops, including MGM/UA Television Production Group. He spent more than 10 years in leadership at ABC and served as president of ABC Studios for seven years before being named president of the CW Network in 2011.

Hollywood industry trades note that he has earned a reputation as a gifted negotiator, and that he is methodical in reviewing the intricacies of various contracts.

“It helps in ways in ordering your thought process,” he said of his law degree. “It allows you to process information, sort it out, and lets you come to some logical solutions.”

It has helped him learn to analyze quickly and, when needed, to move on. “You have to understand, 80 to 85 percent of what the industry does fails,” he said. That resilience and gift for analysis can be a big help when you’re trying to figure out how to entice the enviable 18–34 and 18–49 demographic categories.

Today, Terlato serves as vice chairman of Terlato Wine Group and Terlato Wines. He is involved in TWG’s winery and vineyard investments in California. He also helped the company venture into the Burgundy business, adding iconic wines from Burgundy to the company portfolio. He is now also launching an online artisanal food company, Terlato Kitchen.com, a company that will offer best-in-class, small-batch, hand-crafted specialty foods.

John Terlato  Family business man crafting his own niche

Joining the family trade wasn’t always part of John Terlato’s career plans.

He graduated from Loyola University with a bachelor of business administration and went on to earn his JD in 1986. He then went into commercial real estate, working as a retail broker in a Fortune 500-owned firm.

Soon enough, Terlato realized his destiny was, in part, paved by his relatives. “As time went on, it became more and more obvious to me that I was missing an opportunity,” Terlato said. “I felt as if I were missing the opportunity to be involved in a vibrant, growing, innovative family business alongside my brother and father.”

In 1989, he began working at Pacific Wine Company, TWG’s wholesale premium wine distributor. He wanted to contribute something fresh to his family’s success, and his law degree afforded him unique help in doing that. “My legal background wound up being an important asset,” he said. “With it, I felt I was in a position to analyze business situations and assess opportunities for growth.”

In 1995, at the age of 35, he was named president of Pacific Wine Company and he enrolled in Harvard Business School in 1998.

“I wanted to continue to bring value through my participation in the family business,” he said. “I felt after a number of years working side-by-side with my brother and father, there were additional tools that could be helpful to me. For me, business school was an opportunity to add additional tools to the toolbox.”

Terlato credits some of his success to his ability to understand business opportunities three dimensionally—skills he gleaned while earning his law degree. “The things that one learns around the legal discipline can be invaluable in business,” he said.

Today, Terlato serves as vice chairman of Terlato Wine Group and Terlato Wines. He is involved in TWG’s winery and vineyard investments in California. He also helped the company venture into the Burgundy business, adding iconic wines from Burgundy to the company portfolio. He is now also launching an online artisanal food company, Terlato Kitchen.com, a company that will offer best-in-class, small-batch, hand-crafted specialty foods.

continued on page 19
Reunion Weekend 2014

Alumni from across the country came together for Reunion Weekend in September 2014. This year’s reunion honored the classes of 2004, 1989, 1974 and 1964. The Office of Alumni Relations planned several events for the two-day affair, including a luncheon to celebrate the 50-year class reunion attendees, as well as a free CLE program focusing on United States Supreme Court cases over the last year.

William Bates Jr. (JD ’89), Hon. Geary Kull (JD ’74) and Joseph Walczak (JD ’88)

Ralph Schindler (JD ’74), Janet Doody and Hon. John T. Doody Jr. (ret.)(JD ’74)

Michael Hennessy (JD ’64), Edward Roger Horsky (JD ’64), Jerrold Ezgur (JD ’64), Harry Weber (JD ’59), Hon. Richard Lucas (JD ’64), Hon. Morton Zwick (JD ’64) and Ronald Fellheimer (JD ’64)

Michael Hennessy (JD ’64), Stephen Patt (JD ’64), Jerome Cihak (JD ’64) and Hon. Morton Zwick (JD ’64)

Professor Mary Nagel (JD ’88), Professor Jamie Kleppetsch (JD ’04) and Jean Warner (JD ’04)

The class of 1989 enjoyed the Gala Dinner with Dean John E. Corkery
Message from Sherri J. Dzik

Director of Alumni Relations

Friends,

Merriam-Webster defines a network as “a group of people or organizations that are closely connected and that work with each other.”

Many of the alums who I work with say that one of the reasons they are involved is because of our alumni network. John Marshall alumni are active in the legal community and bar associations, and our alumni can really capitalize on our network in a number of ways. We provide leads and referrals to each other, help each other rise in the leadership of bar associations and turn to each other for counsel on challenging legal questions.

The Office of Alumni Relations hosts receptions around greater Chicagoland and across the country. We hope that attendees take advantage of these opportunities to expand their own networks. We are currently assessing the success of our receptions and want to make sure that we are doing all that we can to make these valuable to you. We know you are busy with work, family and community involvement, and while we want to have the opportunity to keep you informed of what is happening at the law school, we also want to ensure that you see our programs as a “not to be missed” event on your calendar.

Our office will be conducting an alumni survey this year and I hope to get many responses! In the meantime, if there is something that you would like us to be doing, please call or email me. I am open to all suggestions. I want to make sure that we are providing what you want in terms of alumni services.

We continue assessing our success even as we hit some important goals in Alumni Relations & Development in our last fiscal year. Our talented team raised over $2.5 million and we helped the school award $950,000 in donor-funded scholarships. So thank you to every one of you who made a donation of any size that contributed to that. But for your generosity, some of those students would not be able to pursue their dreams and all would have a much larger financial burden to carry with them when they leave here.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to and engagement with your alma mater. Together, we are doing great things!

Warm Regards,

Sherri J. Dzik ’99
Director of Alumni Relations

Alumni Website Gets a Makeover

In August, John Marshall’s Office of Alumni Relations & Development launched a new website to better serve the alumni community.

“John Marshall has a history of being ahead of the curve when it comes to technology, and the alumni website was lacking in that area,” said Sherri Dzik, Director of Alumni Relations. “We wanted our website to match the commitment our law school has to technology.”

Many of the changes that were made focused on improving the user’s experience. For example, links to alumni social media pages and events calendars are now more prominently placed and easier to access than in the past. “One of our main goals was to make it much easier for alumni to go to our website and find out what is happening at the law school and what events and opportunities there are for them to take advantage of,” Dzik added.

The Alumni office also expects to debut a new online alumni directory this school year. By spring 2015, the new online alumni directory should be up and running, giving users a more efficient way to stay in touch with classmates and connect with other alums for networking opportunities. “It is our hope that the new directory, paired with the new website, will really give users a much better online experience,” Dzik said.

Make sure to check out the new website and see the improvements for yourself by visiting http://alumni.jmls.edu/.

Do you have news or a story that you think should be included in BriefCase? If so, please send it to news@jmls.edu.
John Marshall’s Commitment to Animal Law Stronger Than Ever

This year marks a decade since John Marshall’s Animal Law Society became a student chapter of the Animal Legal Defense Fund, a national organization that aims to protect the lives and advance the interests of animals through the legal system.

The formation of the Animal Law Society arose from one student’s personal lawsuit. Heather Neaveill-Kramer (JD ’06), now an adjunct professor at John Marshall, filed suit against a major pet supply store after her dog was injured in the store’s grooming facility.

“This event really opened my eyes to ways in which the law can be used to not only protect humans but animals, too,” Neaveill-Kramer said. “I consulted with my fellow classmates and determined that there was a need for such a group, so we created one.”

Since its formation, the society has expanded in a number of ways. In 2006, a course on Animal Law was developed and is regularly offered under the instruction of Clinical Professor Susann “Sunny” Maclachlan (JD ’94). In addition, students and alums have worked on important animal protection legislation including Chicago’s 2014 ban on puppy mill sales at pet stores.

John Marshall Trial Advocacy teams also have made a name for themselves at the National Animal Law Competition (NALC). The animal law teams have made it to the final rounds of the national competition in 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2013, and 2014. The most recent competition featured law student and Illinois State Sen. Toi Hutchinson, who won first place in the Legislative Drafting and Lobbying portion of the competition.

Says Neaveill-Kramer, “I am amazed at the growth and involvement of the Animal Law Society and proud of the success John Marshall has had and continues to have in the competition.”
Roger Zamparo Jr. was elected to The John Marshall Law School Board of Trustees. Zamparo's firm, Zamparo Law Group, P.C., is in Rolling Meadows, Ill., and focuses on consumer rights.

1979
Rockney L. Weber joined LeFevre Oldfield Myers Apke & Payne Law Group in Effingham, Ill., as Of Counsel. Weber focuses his practice on estate planning, business planning, real estate and estate administration.

1980
Jeffrey D. Smith joined Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn, LLP, in Ann Arbor, Mich., as Partner. Smith focuses his practice on complex litigation cases.

Donald G. Weiland is now the broker and owner of Barrister Real Estate Service in Plainfield, Ill.

1981
Valée L. Salone received the Presidential Award from the Cook County Bar Association. Salone’s firm, The Law Office of Valée L. Salone, focuses on estates and trusts, real estate and adoption.

1982
Hon. Joy V. Cunningham received the Chicago Bar Association Earl Burrus Dickerson Award in February 2014 at a luncheon at The Standard Club. Justice Cunningham is an Illinois Appellate Court Judge in the First District.

Umberto Davi was installed as President-Elect of the Illinois State Bar Association and will become President in June 2015. Davi, P.C., focuses its practice on corporate law, family law, residential real estate and commercial real estate.

Michael V. Favia was elected to the Board of Directors of the Institute of Medicine of Chicago. Favia’s firm, The Law Firm of Michael V. Favia & Associates, is a general civil practice firm.

1985
Hon. Iain D. Johnston was appointed to the Rockford University Board of Trustees in Rockford, Ill. Judge Johnston serves as U.S. Magistrate Judge for the Northern District of Illinois, Western Division. Judge Johnston is also an Adjunct Professor at The John Marshall Law School.

Michael T. Raymond was named a 2014 Leader in the Law by Michigan Law Weekly. Raymond is Practice Department Manager at Dickinson Wright PLLC in Ann Arbor, Mich.

Antonio M. Romanucci received the Accipiter Award from the Fenwick Bar Association. Romanucci is a Principal and Partner at Romanucci & Blandin, LLC, in Chicago.

Hon. Timothy J. Steadman was appointed to Resident Circuit Judge of Macon County in the Sixth Judicial Circuit. Judge Steadman has been an Associate Judge in the Sixth Circuit since February 1995.

1986
Daniel J. Biederman Sr. joined Momkus McCluskey, LLC, in Lisle, Ill., as Partner. Biederman focuses his practice on environmental law.

Mark R. Gray was recognized by the firm Whitfield & Eddy P.L.C. in Ankeny, Iowa, for 20 years of service. Gray focuses his practice on corporate law, estates, wills and trusts and real estate.

Thomas A. Lipinski (LLM) was named Dean of the School of Information Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Lipinski began his new duties Oct. 1, 2014.

Robert S. Medansky joined Franks & Rechenberg, P.C., in Lake in the Hills, Ill., as an attorney. Medansky focuses his practice on divorce and family law and estate and probate/estate administration.

Prof. Mark E. Wojcik received the Illinois State Bar Association’s Community Leadership Award for his work to eliminate discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity through individual example and education.

Kevin J. Young joined Thompson Coburn LLP in Chicago as Partner. Young focuses his practice on transactional and governance matters for corporate clients and financial institutions.

1988

Philip Coughlin was appointed President of Global Geographies and Operations of Expeditors International of Washington, Inc., in Boston.

1989
Mary F. Petruchius received the 2014 Board of Governors Award from the Illinois State Bar Association. The Law Office of Mary F. Petruchius is a general practice law firm in Sycamore, Ill.

1990
Leigh Rawson joined the Village Board of Lakewood, Ill., as the Chief of Police.

1992
Karen M. Enright was elected Secretary of the Illinois State Bar Association. Enright is a Partner at McNabola Law Group in Chicago.

Eric E. Lynch joined Polsinelli in Phoenix. Lynch focuses his practice on commercial litigation.

Philip Storm joined Littler Mendelson P.C. in Chicago. Storm focuses his practice on corporate compliance and ethics, international employment law and whistleblowing and retaliation practice groups.
**1993**

Franco A. Coladipietro was elected Mayor of Bloomingdale, Ill., last spring. Coladipietro is also a Partner at Amari & Locallo in their Bloomingdale office.


**1994**

Mary M. Squyres, a Trademark Attorney and Shareholder at Brinks Gilson & Lione in Chicago, was a featured speaker at the 40th Annual Intellectual Property Law Summer Institute. Squyres presented “Around the World of Digital Brands in 60 Minutes.”

**1995**

Lenny M. Asaro was honored by the Black Law Students Association (BLSA) for his outstanding legacy as a John Marshall graduate. Asaro is with Neal & Leroy, LLC, in Chicago. Asaro focuses his practice on eminent domain, land use and zoning.

Charles M. Baum joined Ginsberg Jacobs, LLC, in Chicago. Baum focuses his practice on commercial and business litigation, real estate and construction litigation, financial services litigation, intellectual property and franchise litigation, post-judgment asset recovery and supplier and distributor agreements and disputes.

Kim Buzan (Milford) joined the Research and Education Networking Information Sharing and Analysis Center (REN-ISAC) in Bloomington, Ind., as Executive Director.

Edgar N. Romano was named one of the nation’s Top 100 Injured Workers’ Attorneys for 2014 by the Workers’ Injury Law & Advocacy Group. Romano is a Senior Partner at Pasternack Tilker Ziegler Walsh Stanton & Romano LLP in New York. Romano focuses his practice on workers’ compensation cases, including claims involving occupational exposure, asbestos and industrial irritants.

**1996**

Eric C. Scheiner was promoted to Office Managing Partner at Sedgwick, LLP, in Chicago. Scheiner focuses his practice on insurance and reinsurance coverage.


Eugena Whitson-Owen was named President of the Women’s Bar Association of Illinois. Whitson-Owen is a trial attorney specializing in complex litigation, product liability, medical device, construction and toxic tort at the Law Office of Kurt E. Olsen in Chicago.

**1997**

William D. Cherny joined Nyberg & Cassioppi, LLC, in Naperville, Ill. as Counsel. Cherny focuses his practice on individual and business bankruptcy, bankruptcy litigation and general civil litigation.

Capt. Thomas F. Jasper Jr. was selected by the Younger Lawyers Division of the Federal Bar Association as a recipient of the Younger Federal Lawyers Award. Capt. Jasper is a Senior Defense Counsel for LSSS Echo.

Jason G. Wehrle was appointed a Trustee of the Seneca Valley Foundation. Wehrle is a Member of the Grogan Graffam, P.C., litigation practice group in Pittsburgh.

**1998**

Anita M. DeCarlo is serving as President of the Justinian Society of Lawyers for the 2014–2015 term. DeCarlo is a workers’ compensation attorney at Vasilatos Injury Law in Chicago.

Douglas M. Eveleigh was appointed General Counsel and Secretary for Encyclopedia Britannica, Inc. Eveleigh is part of the executive management team, responsible for all legal affairs for the 246-year-old digital-education and media company worldwide.

**1999**

Brian J. Gill joined Stinson Leonard Street L.P.’s Intellectual Property and Technology Division as a Partner in the firm’s St. Louis office. Gill helps clients acquire patents and register trademarks and copyrights. He also renders patent opinions and prepares licensing agreements.

J. Patrick Nelson, along with four other partners, opened McDonough, Casey, Nelson, Holman & Sullivan, LLP, in Wheaton, Ill. The law firm’s areas of practice are family law and criminal defense, workers’ compensation, injury, bankruptcy and eviction services.

Alex Olsansky Jr. joined Diamond Resorts International in Las Vegas as Corporate Counsel.

Shanna F. Purcell joined Kamerlink, Stark & Powers, LLC, in Chicago as Associate Attorney. Purcell focuses her practice on family law.

Michael N. Spink was named to Intellectual Asset Management (IAM) Strategy 300 – the World’s Leading IP Strategists. Spink is a Shareholder at Brinks Gilson & Lione in Ann Arbor, Mich.

**2000**

John S. Fotopoulos was named one of the Top 10 Personal Injury Attorneys Under 40 in Illinois by the National Academy of Personal Injury Attorneys. The Law Office of John S. Fotopoulos, P.C., in Orland Park, Ill., focuses on personal injury and wrongful death, traffic violation, drunk driving, criminal law and family law.

Amy Walsh Kern joined WATCH in Minneapolis as Executive Director. WATCH is a non-profit that places volunteers in Hennepin County courtrooms to monitor treatment of women and children in cases of domestic abuse and sex trafficking.

David Austin (JD ’01) and Mark Wojcik (JD ’87) married in Honolulu on Aug. 14, 2014. Wojcik is a Professor at John Marshall, and Austin is a Professor at California Western School of Law in San Diego.
2001

Brian D. Day joined the Town of Normal, Ill., as Corporation Counsel.

Christopher J. Mourad (LLM ’01) joined Stefanini in Southfield, Mich., as In-House Counsel.

Amy Kloempken Mugherini joined State Street Corporation in Boston as Managing Counsel and Vice President.

2002

Aaron T. Abelson joined Berkadia Commercial Mortgage, LLC, in Chicago as Senior Vice President.

William G. Andreozzi joined CohnReznick LLP, in Woodland Hills, Calif., as Partner. Andreozzi focuses his practice on federal, state and international tax areas.

Lucille A. Blackburn received the Presidential Award from the Cook County Bar Association. Blackburn works for Chicago Public Schools.

David W. French joined First Data Corporation in Omaha, Neb., as Counsel.

Erin M. Murphy joined Arnstein & Lehr LLP, in Chicago as Special Counsel. Murphy focuses her practice on litigation law.

2003

Amil Alkass was promoted to Partner at Lavelle Law, Ltd., in Palatine, Ill. Alkass focuses his practice on family law.

Jeffrey M. Drake was elected Principal at Miller Canfield, P.L.C., in Chicago. Drake focuses his practice on intellectual property, litigation and dispute resolution.

Michael G. Kreibich was promoted to Principal at Kovitz Shifrin Nesbit in Buffalo Grove, Ill. Kreibich focuses his practice on litigation law.

Trevor Orsinger joined CME Group in Chicago as Enforcement Counsel. Orsinger currently serves as Staff Judge Advocate at the Illinois Air National Guard.

2004

Jennifer P. Irmen started a new firm, Blair Caravelli Irmen Law, with Deanna R. Blair and Alia M. Caravelli in Chicago. The firm is focused on family law, personal injury, employment discrimination and bankruptcy.

2005

Andrew H. Abele joined the Law Offices of Jeffrey M. Leving, Ltd., in Chicago. Abele focuses his practice on family law and fathers’ rights.

Alum Breaks Illinois Verdict Record

An alumnus who spent 18 years as an iron worker leans on that experience to spot holes in his opposition’s claims.

In November 2012, his know-how helped land a client a $64 million judgment, the largest personal injury individual verdict in Illinois history.

Jay Luchsinger, a trial lawyer at Horwitz Horwitz & Associates, Ltd., and a former member of the Iron Workers Local 1, graduated from John Marshall in 1989. Raised in Chicago’s Beverly neighborhood on the South Side, Luchsinger came from an extended family of iron workers.

Iron work is a good job but it is extremely dangerous, he said.

Amid bone and muscle aches while working the trade, Luchsinger’s underlying interest in law surfaced. He took classes at night while working during the day, often arriving to class in dirty Carhartt work clothes after leaving a site just blocks from school.

That exposure to the craft serves as a valuable asset in his current cases involving labor incidents. In most depositions, aside from the supervisor and the injured person, Luchsinger is the only one in the room who understands construction sites, he said.

“Having that background has been incredibly beneficial,” he said.

It helped build the record-setting case against general contractor Panduit Corp.

Luchsinger’s client, Ron Bayer, was working for the company in an aerial lift. He got out, tripped on a stud and fell, rendering him a quadriplegic, according to the suit.

“I know that you don’t do iron work from an aerial lift,” Luchsinger said.

After five years litigating that point – which involved showing videotaped construction sites in court – Luchsinger convinced a Cook County jury.

Luchsinger said he was thinking about his client, not the record-setting amount, when the verdict was announced.

“Ron is severely injured,” he said, “and he needed this justice.”

For more alumni news, visit news.jmls.edu
Brian K. Jones was honored at the Chicago Bar Association and Chicago Bar Foundation Pro Bono & Public Service Awards Luncheon with the Maurice Weigle Exceptional Young Lawyer Award. Jones is a Partner and Co-Chair of Harrison & Held, LLP, in Chicago. Jones focuses his practice on estate planning and administration, business entities, tax and retirement planning.

Faye Kuo was appointed by Texas Gov. Rick Perry to the Governor’s Committee on People with Disabilities. Kuo is the Vice President of Legal and Compliance for Communication Service for the Deaf, Inc., in Austin, Texas.

Kellie J. Reynolds became the Director of Ethics Requirements for the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) in St. Paul, Minn. ARRT, the world’s largest credentialing imaging, interventional procedure and world’s largest credentialing in St. Paul, Minn. ARRT, the Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) for the American Registry of Shaw LLP in Chicago.

Taxation. Touzalin is Counsel at Seyfarth the American Bar Association Section of Contribution Plans Subcommittee of named co-vice chair of the Defined retirement planning.

focuses his practice on estate planning and family law, and business services, including corporate formation and commercial real estate.

Jay J. Rutherford is now Manager of Member Support at Federal Home Loan Bank of Chicago.

Ramsey Senno joined Abear Law Offices, a new office that has opened in Wheaton, Ill. The firm’s area of practice is personal services, including estate planning and family law, and business services, including corporate formation and commercial real estate.

Carolina Y. Sales was made partner at Bauch & Michaels, LLC, in Chicago. Sales focuses her practice on commercial litigation.

2006

Sarah J. Touzalin (LLM ’07) has been named co-vice chair of the Defined Contribution Plans Subcommittee of the American Bar Association Section of Taxation. Touzalin is Counsel at Seyfarth Shaw LLP in Chicago.

2007

Nicole Bashor was named one of the 2014 “40 Under 40” by the National LGBT Bar Association. Bashor is an Attorney in the Intellectual Property Group at Quarles & Brady LLP in Chicago.

Matthew W. Horn was made Partner at SmithAmundsen, LLC, in Chicago. Horn focuses his practice on commercial litigation, corporate and construction law.

Alison Hayden Kehrer received the Alta May Hulett Award from the Chicago Bar Association Alliance for Women. Kehrer works in Corporate Environmental Affairs at United Airlines.

Graciela Mata was appointed to the Assembly Governance Committee and reappointed to the Standing Committee on Judicial Evaluations Outside Cook County. Mata is an attorney at Howard & Howard in Peoria, Ill.

2008

Robert M. Campobasso joined Segal McCambridge Singer & Mahoney, Ltd., in Chicago as an Associate Attorney. Campobasso focuses his practice on the defense of toxic tort matters.

Angelina M. Filippo (LLM ’10) is the Principal Attorney at her firm, Angelina M. Filippo, Attorney at Law, in South Elgin, Ill. The firm’s areas of practice are personal services, including estate planning and family law, and business services, including corporate formation and commercial real estate.

Jay J. Rutherford is now Manager of Member Support at Federal Home Loan Bank of Chicago.

Ramsey Senno joined Abear Law Offices, a new office that has opened in Wheaton, Ill. The firm’s area of practice is personal services, including estate planning and family law, and business services, including corporate formation and commercial real estate.

2009


Melinda Usalis married Joseph Fuller on Feb. 22, 2014, in Schaumburg, Ill. The groom works at Caterpillar, Inc., and the bride is with State Farm Mutual Insurance Company in Bloomington, Ill.

Mark A. Lara joined Parikh Law Group, LLP, in Chicago.

2010

Stanley M. Hendricks III joined Quandel Enterprises, Inc., in Harrisburg, Penn., as the Chief Operating Officer of Corporate Preconstruction & Estimating.

2011

Rhandi Anderson received the Presidential Award by the Cook County Bar Association. Anderson is an Attorney at the Circuit Court of Cook County in Chicago.

Carol C. Conrie became an Assistant Public Defender for the Enotah Judicial Circuit in Georgia.

Jonathan M. Feinstein joined Zukowski, Rogers, Flood & McArdle in Crystal Lake, Ill., as an Attorney. Feinstein focuses his practice on business and transactional, civil litigation, construction, local government and personal injury.

Calvin A. Townsend II joined the Chicago Transit Authority as an Associate Attorney. Townsend defends the CTA against tort claims.

Christopher R. Walker joined Whyte Hirschboeck Dudek, S.C., in Milwaukee as an Attorney. Walker focuses his practice on commercial loan transactions.

Ryan P. Wangler joined McCrea & Buck, LLC, in Denver as Associate Attorney. Wangler focuses his practice on the defense of workers’ compensation claims.

David G. Weldon joined Franczek Radelet P.C. in Chicago. Weldon focuses his practice on labor and employment law in the private and public sector.
2012


Mary E. Rosenberg joined Access Living in Chicago as a Staff Attorney.

Zoe Rosney (LLM ’13) joined the Peace Corps and is preparing to serve in Malawi for 27 months beginning in November 2014.


Mallory A. Yontz joined Swanson, Martin & Bell, LLP, in Chicago. Yontz focuses her practice on the defense of physicians, hospitals and health care professionals in medical negligence actions.

2013

Kevin C. Cruz joined John Marshall’s Fair Housing Legal Support Center & Clinic as Supervising Attorney.

Ryanne Bush Dent joined Ice Miller LLP, in Lisle, Ill. Dent focuses her practice on litigation and intellectual property.

Pooja Dosi joined Agruss Law Firm, LLC, in Chicago.


Florence E. Hardy opened the Law Office of Florence E. Hardy in Chicago. Hardy’s law firm offers services in business matters, liquor license and cultural matters.


Grace E. Mangieri joined Segal McCambridge Singer & Mahoney, Ltd., in Chicago. Mangieri focuses her practice on toxic tort matters.

Khurram Naik joined Polsnelli in Chicago as Associate. Naik focuses his practice on intellectual property litigation.

Iveliz Orellano joined Dvorak Law Offices, LLC, in Chicago. Orellano focuses her practice on civil rights and criminal defense cases.

2014

Natalie Laczek joined Seven Generations Ahead in Oak Park, Ill. Laczek works in research and program development. Laczek is also a Contract Attorney for the Livingston Law Firm.

Jordan D. Rosenberg joined Beermann Pritikin Mirabelli Swerdlove LLP in Chicago. Rosenberg focuses his practice on family law.

Victoria Yan joined Dovenmuehle Mortgage, Inc., in Lake Zurich, Ill., as Attorney Oversight.

Unique Roads to Success
John Terlato

continued from page 11

such as Terlato’s family tomato sauces, strawberry preserves made with Napa Valley strawberries and more.

Along the way, he’s been guided by analytical and strategic skills he attributes in part to his law degree. “My degree, and the rigor of analysis that we go through in law school, are absolutely, positively applicable to business,” he said.
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