



**Network *for* Success**

**Students Prepared  
*for* Achievement**

Alumni, Students  
Set Evidence Standard

**A Chicago Attorney  
Helps His Peers**

Freedom Award  
Luncheon May 4

# “I’m Ready”

## Showcasing Practice-Ready JD Students

Svetlana Gitman, *JD Candidate, 2012*

Outstanding students are profiled in the  
I’m Ready Campaign, see page 4-5

# Letter from the Dean

## Save the Date

**May 4, 2012**

**Freedom Award and Distinguished  
Service Awards Luncheon**

11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.

**May 16, 2012**

**South Suburban Alumni Reception**  
6–8 p.m.

**June 8, 2012**

**Annual Meeting of the Alumni  
Association of The John Marshall  
Law School, 5–7 p.m.**

The John Marshall Law School Alumni Association will conduct its annual meeting from 5 to 7 p.m., Friday, June 8, 2012, at the law school.

**Michael V. Favia** (JD '82) will take the oath of office as the president for the 2012–2013 term. Favia will be joined by the other officers and board members. The Alumni Association Scholarships also will be awarded, and special awards for outstanding efforts will be presented.

RSVP to the Department of Event Management at 312.987.1420 or [events@jmls.edu](mailto:events@jmls.edu).

**June 28, 2012**

**Law Review Alumni Reunion**  
5:30–7:30 p.m.

**July 24, 2012**

**Alumni Baseball Outing  
White Sox vs. Minnesota Twins**  
7:10 p.m.

**August 4, 2012**

**Alumni Reception at the ABA  
Annual Meeting** in Chicago.

Registration details on all of the above events can be found at [www.alumni.jmls.edu](http://www.alumni.jmls.edu).

Friends,

Welcome to a special edition of *Briefcase*. In addition to featuring alumni successes and special events, this issue gives you updates on a few programs we are quite proud of at the law school. It highlights the many ways we are preparing our students for the next chapter in their lives—their careers.

I'm particularly excited about the work of retired Illinois Appellate Court Justice Peg Frossard on the Illinois Supreme Court Justice Anne Burke Professionalism Series. Her commitment to helping prepare our graduates to succeed is receiving rave reviews from our students. The alumni mentoring program, which many of our local alumni support, is also highly praised by our students.

Our Career Services Office staff continues to reach out to local firms and businesses to find good jobs for our graduates. Thanks to those of you who are stepping up to provide those opportunities.

My appeal to you this year is simple: **Take a closer look at our programs and ask yourself how you can help.** We are always looking for graduates willing to mentor our students on a one-to-one basis or through an internship. Financially, offering even a small gift to one of our many scholarship funds can assist our diverse, top-notch students. Your gift or participation is greatly appreciated and I guarantee that *every gift of time or financial support matters*.

By the time you read this, John Marshall will have opened the doors to the new State Street Student Commons. This beautifully designed facility will allow our students to meet, collaborate and socialize in a comfortable and modern space they can be proud of. Our expansion plans also include a fall opening of new space for the Veterans Legal Support Center & Clinic.

In September, the new Justice Arthur Goldberg Memorial Courtroom will be dedicated. The state-of-the-art courtroom seats 100 people and the bench is designed to accommodate up to seven justices for future hearings by the Illinois Supreme Court, the U.S. Court of Appeals or national moot court and trial advocacy competitions. We continue to upgrade our law practice technology in both our courtrooms and classrooms.

In other news, John Marshall moved up in the *U.S. News & World Report Best Graduate Schools* rankings for the second year in a row. Our Legal Writing Program is ranked sixth and our Intellectual Property Law Program moved up in the ranking to 17th.

After 30 years of teaching at John Marshall, I am invigorated by the progress we are making. I hope you, as well, are proud of this fine institution. Chicago's law school is moving forward with your support. Please contact me any time. My door is always open.

All the best,



John E. Corkery  
Dean, The John Marshall Law School



# 10 Top Things Happening at John Marshall

**1 John Marshall moves up in law school rankings for the second year in a row.** The law school is ranked as a top law school by *U.S. News & World Report Best Graduate Schools*, which also ranked the **Legal Writing Program sixth** and the **Intellectual Property Program 17th** in the nation.

**2 John Marshall's \$16 million State Street renovation will be complete this fall.** The renovation, which will add a new **Student Commons** area and offices for the **Veterans Legal Support Center & Clinic**, reflects John Marshall's commitment to providing for the needs of the growing student body.



Students are enjoying the new first floor Student Commons.

**3 John Marshall Part of USPTO Patent Law School Clinic Certification Pilot Program.** John Marshall students enrolled in the program have the opportunity to practice intellectual property law before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO).

**4 Retired Justice Peg Frossard prepares John Marshall students for success.** As the director of Professionalism and Engagement, Frossard hosted the Illinois Supreme Court Justice Anne Burke Professionalism Series for the benefit of all students.



Guests at the first Justice Anne Burke Professionalism Series were (from left) Theresa Gronkiewicz, Judge Franklin Ulyses Valderrama, Jayne Reardon, Justice Anne Burke, Justice Margaret Frossard (ret.), and Gordon Nash.

**5 John Marshall celebrates nearly 20 years of collaboration with China's State Intellectual Property Office.** As a result of this collaboration, the Chinese IP Resource Center at John Marshall continues to grow, bridging the gap between U.S. and Chinese IP law.

**6 The Alumni Advantage Program is now open to all John Marshall alumni.** The program, which **cuts tuition costs for LLM degrees in half**, makes it easier for qualified alumni to advance their careers and expertise.

**7 John Marshall's interscholastic teams continue to excel in competitions across the nation.** At the national Albert R. Mugel Tax Moot Court Competition in March, the John Marshall team won **first place** and Margaret Mares won **Best Oralist**, while at the American Bar Association National Arbitration Competition the John Marshall team won **third place honors**.



**Top Photo:** Danielle Vicek, Drinald Bilcari, Sara Ross, Josh Rinker and Chase Gruszka proudly display their third place honors from the American Bar Association National Arbitration Competition.

**Bottom Photo:** Professor Art Acevedo coached Margaret Mares (center) and Siobhan Brannigan to a first place national win at the Mugel Tax Moot Court Competition.

**8 Fair Housing Legal Clinic continues HUD-sponsored internship program for college students in Chicago.** Through the internship program, undergraduate students learn fair housing issues and instilling awareness, all while serving the community.

**9 John Marshall faculty recognized as leaders in their fields.** **Barry Kozak**, director of the Elder Law Studies Program at John Marshall, lends his expertise by serving on Elder Law Committees for the American Bar Association, the Association of American Law Schools, and the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys. **Professor Kathryn Kennedy** shared her insights with the United States Senate Finance Committee at a roundtable discussion on tax reform. **Professor Anthony Niedwiecki** was named president-elect of the Association of Legal Writing Directors.



Professor Kathryn Kennedy joined Thomas Reeder, lead counsel to Sen. Charles Grassley, when she participated in a U.S. Senate Finance Committee academic roundtable.

**10 New Business Transactions Externship Program (BTEP) Offers Students Real-World Experience.** Under the direction of **Michael Schlesinger (JD '70)**, BTEP students represent not-for-profit organizations and small businesses gaining practical, real-world training in business and transactional law.

# “I’m Ready”

## Practice-Ready Students Showcased



“I’m Ready” say third-year students at John Marshall.

“The John Marshall Law School has helped me to hit the ground running,” says Lydia San.

“My experience at John Marshall has taught me to test the limits of my capabilities,” says Florence Pittman-Hardy.

“It’s a practical school that teaches me to be practice-ready from day one,” says James O’Shea.

These impressive students are telling stories of how The John Marshall Law School has prepared them for their legal careers. The “I’m Ready” public relations campaign was seen this spring in print, online and in outdoor advertising and can be accessed through the law school website at [www.jmls.edu/imready](http://www.jmls.edu/imready). It showcases eight bright third-year law school students who completed externships, participated in competitions, served in student organizations and have taken advantage of John Marshall’s nationally recognized clinics and programs, all while maintaining outstanding academic records.

“I’m Ready” also features students Svetlana Gitman, Gretchen Hafeman, Arturo Hernandez, Yanling “Sophie” Jiang and Thomas Bacon. These students exemplify the abilities John Marshall graduates take into the work world.

The campaign demonstrates the law practice experience and skills training all John Marshall students have access to, and how these skill sets go beyond the required classroom texts. Each story sums up a student’s unique experience in preparing

**I'm Ready!**

“The nationally ranked Intellectual Property program and my Moot Court experiences at John Marshall have prepared me to be **practice-ready from day one.**”

Learn Florence's story at [Jmls.edu/ImReady](http://Jmls.edu/ImReady)  
For more information call 312.987.2351

JOHN MARSHALL  
LAW SCHOOL  
PREPARE TO SUCCEED

Florence Pittman-Hardy  
JD Candidate, 2012



“John Marshall graduates are practice-ready from day one.”

**William Powers**

*Associate Dean for Admission and Student Affairs*

to be practice-ready from day one and graduating with confidence to succeed in his or her law career.

“I’ve learned it’s not only important to do well in the classroom, it’s also important to get hands-on experience, and participate in student groups,” says Gitman, who has been a staff editor for *The John Marshall Law Review*, and was a judicial extern for Judge Stuart E. Palmer in the Circuit Court of Cook County.

“There are some things that you learn in the field that you could never learn in the classroom,” says Hernandez, who is vice president of the Latino Law Students Association, serves on the executive board of the Illinois Law Students Association, and is currently the student representative on the Public Interest Law Initiative Board of Trustees.

John Marshall involves students from client in-take to resolution of the issue through coursework offered by the Fair Housing Legal Clinic, Patent Law Clinic, the Veterans Legal Support Center & Clinic, the Pro Bono Program and the Business Transactions Externship Program. In each of these settings,



students work closely with clients on real-life law cases. The practical experience offers John Marshall students a high degree of independence and a strong sense of professionalism.

“The school provides enormous opportunities to become invested in your subjects and yourself, and to forge relationships with faculty members and outside attorneys,” says Bacon, chief justice of the Moot Court Executive Board.

Students participate in numerous national moot court and trial competitions each year. For example, in 2012 John Marshall students took first place at the Albert R. Mugel Tax Moot Court Championship, and in 2011 won first place honors for the fifth time at the Animal Law Advocacy Closing Argument Competition at Harvard Law School.

“At John Marshall, we stress to our students the value of a law school education supplemented with practical skills. Experience before graduation is important today,” says William Powers, associate dean for Admission and Student Affairs. “Not every law school in Chicago knows how to do that.”

# Network *for* Success

What's one of the most important tools to finding employment after law school?

**Networking**, according to career specialists in John Marshall's Career Services Office (CSO).

**CSO  
Helps  
Students  
Network**

"It's becoming increasingly important to get real-world experience before graduating," said Laurel Hajek, assistant dean for Career Services. "Those in the legal field want to bring in professionals who are academically skilled, yet can navigate a practice or a courtroom."

One of CSO's facets is the Mentoring Program, led by Stacia Goldstein, career planning specialist. Students are introduced to legal professionals working in a particular sector—either public or private, and they work with the professionals in a way that provides unique insight into how that particular sector functions.

"You can't really put the mentor program on your résumé," Goldstein says, "but you can springboard from your mentor to another person. That other attorney is more likely to pick up the phone."

She encourages first- and second-year students to connect with legal professionals in the same field—many of whom are John Marshall alumni—and to stay in touch throughout their academic careers.



Sheila Markin Nielsen (center), author and consultant, addressed students on Sept. 27, 2011, on how to land a great job in the legal profession. Markin Nielsen was one of more than 60 2011–2012 speakers welcomed to John Marshall by members of the Career Services Office staff (from left), former Employment Outreach Coordinator Meghan Riley (JD '06), Associate Director Sahar Dar, Assistant Dean and CSO Director Laurel Hajek, Career Planning Specialist Stacia Goldstein, and Associate Directors Chanté Spann and Cheryl Hudson-Wright.



Alumnus Antonio Romanucci (JD '85) (right) talks about his medical malpractice work with students (from left) Jesse Ryder, Harini Ganesh and Hana Kimmel at a "Practice Tracks" program on Feb. 16, 2012. Attorneys representing approximately 50 practice areas discussed their areas of expertise.

CSO offers work-study programs and externship resources for students to continue real-world experiences beyond a mentor relationship.

John Marshall is part of the Chicago Area Law Schools Consortium (CALSC), which organizes and hosts events throughout the year to connect students with employers and public service organizations.

"There are so many opportunities instilled by word of mouth," said Kim Isemann (JD '05), career planning specialist for CSO, who stresses the importance of being in touch with the legal community as a student, and as a graduate. "Conferences are a great way for them to get information from a variety of places."

CSO hosts approximately 60 events per year, including diversity and practice specific programs, mentoring receptions, and cover letter and résumé workshops.

Sahar Dar, associate director of CSO and head of programming, says CSO tries to do as many varied programs as possible. "Students take advantage of the school and its resources," Dar said.

Many CSO diversity events are co-hosted with the Office of Diversity Affairs. Chanté Spann, associate director of CSO, helps organize these events and speaks on behalf of CSO about career planning and job tips.

"I counsel students on issues in the workplace related to their diverse status," Spann said.

Judicial clerkships are offered to graduates seeking work with a judge. Tiffany Farber, associate director of CSO, helps students who are approaching graduation to apply for these clerkships across the country.

Farber said though there's no quick answer for what judges look for on clerkship résumés, the more experience a graduate has the better.

"A lot of students who come to me have done a judicial externship," Farber said. "That institutional knowledge of working in a court or working with a judge is helpful."

# Students Prepared *for* Achievement

## Change yields many challenges.

Students at The John Marshall Law School are meeting challenges as they transition to law school from college or a work environment. They find themselves adjusting to a new culture, new curriculum and new workload.

Fortunately, John Marshall has the Academic Achievement Program (AAP) to assist students as they work through the rigors of law school by helping them prepare for law school classes, exams, planning their course schedules, and preparing for the Bar Exam and the Multistate Professional Responsibility Exam.

When Professor Corinne Morrissey created AAP in 1990, she met with students on an individual basis. She extended the program in 1997, when she instituted the “Writing for the Practice of Law.” The course gives students a performance test each week. “We’re preparing them for the 90-minute performance test on the bar exam,” Morrissey notes.

The 14-week course covers objective memos, letters of opinion and argumentative memos. Lectures focus on Illinois Civil Procedure, which is used as the basis for the weekly practicum.

“In the last 20 years, virtually all over the country, law schools now have some form of instruction and the Association of American Law Schools has its own section on academic support,” she explained.

The work is never-ending for Morrissey, AAP director, and her co-workers Professor Jamie Kleppetsch (JD ’04), associate director, and new staff member Elena Marcheschi (JD ’91), assistant director.

As 1Ls, students can be very apprehensive about how to study and achieve good grades. The AAP addresses these anxieties by providing a pre-orientation program, “Early Bird Gets the Law,” taking students through the steps of a lawsuit. It offers the basics of Civil Procedure, which students don’t take their first year.

During their first semester, students are usually lost in the legalese and concepts. AAP offers “Insights I,” a 10-week program covering time management, how to brief cases, good note-taking and outlining. Later in the semester, students cover essay and multiple choice exams. In the second semester, “Insights II” students get another introduction to Civil Procedure and tips on exam taking.

Additionally, students are welcome at all stages of their law school career to meet individually with AAP faculty to improve their academic skills and plan their future courses.

The AAP also assists students with their preparation for the bar examination starting in the second year with the “Bar Exam Savvy Test” focusing on Torts, Contracts, Criminal Law and Property.

In the final year of law school the AAP has 19 programs that provide students with information on the bar exam and programs to help prepare students for the essay and multiple choice questions on the exam.



*Professor Corinne Morrissey, director of AAP, meeting with a student.*

In addition to the “Writing for the Practice of Law,” John Marshall has been offering the “Legal Fundamentals” course since 2007, which focuses on bar exam multiple-choice questions. To round out the bar exam course trilogy, a new fall 2012 course, “Bar Essay Writing,” will teach students how to write concise and intelligent answers to bar exam essay questions.

AAP programs proved to be a great foundation for Carla Sherieves (JD ’11).

“I felt that whatever insight I could get to help me prepare for the exam would be useful,” she said. “At first, I did not know anything about the exam itself, and the bar prep classes really helped to explain the details of the exam and how the test is administered, long before I even started the Kaplan review.”

Other AAP bar exam preparation programs use specially-designed drills, practice exams and workshops, and even play off March Madness with a program called Bar Madness, which is run as a tournament with students moving through the traditional NCAA brackets as they correctly answer multiple-choice questions.

The workshops were helpful “with such things as the subject areas that are commonly tested on the bar, and within those subjects what specific topics are the more frequently tested,” Sherieves noted.

“I believe the review programs gave me not only an organized schedule to follow but also a sense of camaraderie that I wasn’t alone through the process,” Lily Escorcía (JD ’11) said.

And Sherieves and Escorcía both say the program works because AAP faculty are, “willing and happy to help.”





More than 40 John Marshall alumni gathered on the steps of the United States Supreme Court before their official swearing in ceremony at the court on April 2, 2012. It was the second swearing in ceremony hosted by the Office of Alumni Relations.

## MANY LOOK TO THEIR ESTATE PLANS AS THE BLUE PRINT FOR CREATING THEIR LEGACY

**Legacies...** We all leave one. What will your Legacy be and how will you ensure your vision is realized? Many individuals look to their estate plans as the blue print for creating their Legacy.

If you have or would consider a charitable gift in your will, may we suggest you discuss with your lawyer the merits of creating a Statement of Intent?

**A Statement of Intent:**

- Allows you to clearly state how you want your charitable gifts utilized. This can be a very powerful document to ensure your wishes are fulfilled.
- Provides flexibility for changes by simply amending the Statement of Intent without the need to redraft your will.
- Ensures your Legacy will be realized through the acceptance and signed commitment from John Marshall.

To receive a sample copy of a Statement of Intent, please send a request to [foundation@jmls.edu](mailto:foundation@jmls.edu) and we will send you a copy. Or call 312.360.2663 to speak with a member of the Foundation staff.

A gift by will can be a wonderful way to create your Legacy and etch your name in the family history of The John Marshall Law School forever.

**Thank you!**

### Alumni Judges Reception



It was a fun evening for (from left) Stephen Hall (JD '09), Katherine Fehl (JD '09) and Joseph Cataldo (JD '92), who met at the Alumni Association's Judges Reception.



Proud graduates now serving in the Circuit Court of Cook County are (from left) Judge Geary Kull (JD '74), Judge Celia Gamrath (JD '94) and Judge Jesse Reyes (JD '82).

# Alumni, Students Set Evidence Standard

John Marshall's new Pro Bono Program had an outstanding victory when the Illinois Supreme Court agreed with a John Marshall team on a precedent-setting case that mandates police videotapes be made available as evidence.

The case overturned a nearly 40-year-old decision.

"People aren't talking about *People v. Schmidt* anymore. Now it's *People v. Kladis* that has precedent," said Katie Anderson (JD '10), coordinator and staff attorney of the Pro Bono Program who, with a John Marshall-assembled team worked on the appeal before the Illinois Supreme Court.

The decision came on the May 2008 driving under the influence (DUI) case against Marina Kladis who argued she was wrongly charged. She believed a Northlake police videotape of the stop would prove her correct.

Her attorney, Louis A. Berns (JD '84) notified the Cook County State's Attorney's Office on May 8, 2008, that he wanted to see the tape, but in court that June, Northlake police told Judge William Wise (JD '65) the tape was erased. The judge sanctioned the state for failure to preserve the tape, and dropped the charges against Kladis.

Despite the absence of the tape, Berns felt compelled to have Kladis testify.

"I had to put her on the stand for the *prima facie* case. I had to show there was no probable cause," Berns said.

The police never gave testimony of the stop, so when the Cook County State's Attorney appealed, arguing the tape was not discoverable, the only record for the court to review was Kladis' testimony.

In July 2011, the Illinois Appellate Court, First District, Fourth Division agreed with Judge Wise's decision. Videotaping was an available technology and the tape should be considered as evidence, just like police reports and photos.

When the state appealed to the Illinois Supreme Court, "I knew it was important to be involved because the Supreme Court takes so few cases," Berns said. He turned to his former evidence professor Ralph Ruebner, now serving as associate dean for Academic Affairs, who agreed to put a team together.

Ruebner saw it as a perfect case for the law school's new Pro Bono Program and brought on his former research assistants, Anderson and Rob Marcus (JD '10). Two students, Nikki G. Ashmore and Danielle L. Berns, Louis Berns' daughter, agreed to serve as research assistants.



The John Marshall Law School team of (front from left) Robert Marcus, Katie Anderson, Nikki Ashmore, Danielle Berns, Louis Berns (back, left) and Edward Maloney (right), helped prepare the *People v. Kladis* case which Maloney argued before the Illinois Supreme Court.

Edward Maloney (JD '89) argued the case before the high court. "I'd already argued one case *People v. McKown* on scientific evidence in DUI cases, so when Lou Berns approached me about this case I said I'd be willing to take it."

Maloney, Marcus and Anderson drafted the brief with assistance from Ruebner, Ashmore, and the Bernses. Marcus was familiar with the background of the case, but it was Ruebner's expertise that helped bring the case to life.

"This case really was won on a team effort," Marcus said. "Lou (Berns) laid the groundwork, Ed (Maloney) argued before the court and the students did the research."

Marcus said Wise has been "ecstatic" about the Supreme Court's decision and has introduced Berns in his courtroom as the person responsible for a groundbreaking decision.

"It's tremendous. The ramifications already are unreal," Marcus added.



Honored guests at the Judges Reception were (from left) Judge George Scully (JD '81) of the Circuit Court of Cook County, Justice Joseph Birkett (JD '81) of the Illinois Appellate Court, and Rep. James Durkin (R-La Grange) (JD '89).



Meeting up with Circuit Court of Cook County Judge Patrice Ball-Reed (JD '84) (right) are (from left) Melissa Taormina (JD '11), Vesna Marusic (JD '05) and Katherine O'Dell (JD '00).

# Donation Honors Warren Lupel

The generosity of one has benefitted dozens since the founding of the Warren Lupel Fund in 2004.

The fund, established and named as a kind of gift for Lupel (JD '68) by one of his satisfied clients, today does small miracles for those in the legal profession who for whatever reason find themselves in need of monetary support.

“The public thinks of lawyers as an elite group that needs no financial help,” said Lupel, who finds it difficult to sell the concept that lawyers can find themselves in need, often because of age, illness or misfortune.

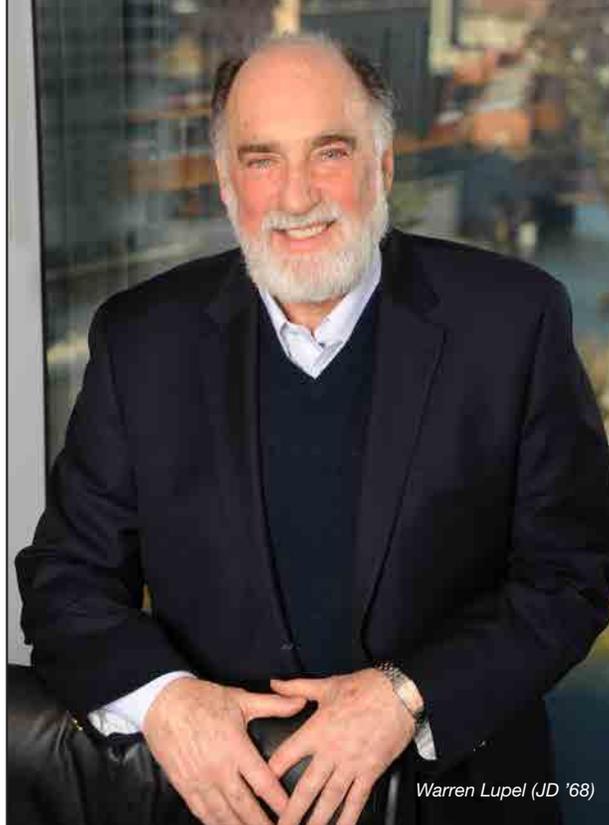
A special fund for attorney support was being organized by the Illinois Bar Foundation (IBF) of which Lupel was serving as president.

“At the same time this interest [in beginning the fund] arose, a client of mine was very pleased with the result that I got for him in a case, and he wanted to do something for me,” Lupel said. “He asked me what charity he could donate money to.” Lupel suggested the money go to the IBF, but with the intention that the money would help other attorneys.

“I gave him the name of the executive director, who at the time was Susan Pearson, and I backed off.” The client, Lupel remembered, was anxious to have Lupel’s name attached to it. Pearson decided since the client gave such a meaningful amount of money, that the fund would be named in honor of Lupel.

In its seven years of existence, Lupel says the fund has been enormously successful. “The amount of money given to lawyers in need has increased perhaps ten-fold.”

Lupel knows the need for funds like this is out there. “There



Warren Lupel (JD '68)

are a lot of stories that tug at your heartstrings.”

For example, he remembers at the last IBF fundraiser for the Warren Lupel Fund, a widow was named a beneficiary. Her husband, who was changing jobs from a government position to a private practice, died from a heart attack. She was left with two preschool-age children and no income.

“She spoke eloquently how the Lupel Fund provided her living expenses for a year, helping her to get back on her feet and keep her family whole.”

Since the beginning, the fund has raised enough money to support 35 attorneys as part of IBF’s Lawyers Care Fund.

Lupel acknowledged funds are sought “from lawyers because it’s difficult to ask non-lawyers to give to this purpose.” Oftentimes, Lupel will offer advice to peers via phone conversations, and won’t charge them. To show gratitude for his help, “I suggest they make a donation to the fund.”

## Student Alumni Exchange



From left, Hon. James Fitzgerald Smith (JD '75), Roy Carlson, Laura Wiley, and Hon. Patrice Ball-Reed (JD '84).



From left, Michael Dudek (JD '07), Phil Groben (JD '09), John O'Connor (JD '10), John Hiltz (JD '06), John Ochoa (JD '10), and Myriah Conaughty (JD '11).

# Foundation Meets \$100,000 Challenge

## Thank you!

The generosity of more than 200 John Marshall alumni and friends helped the law school surpass its \$100,000 goal for the Veterans Legal Support Center & Clinic (VLSC). In 16 weeks, donations totaled more than \$120,000 and were matched with a gift from a Chicagoland foundation. The funding is helping cover a portion of the costs of the new VLSC offices as the law school converts space at 19 W. Jackson, a building John Marshall purchased in 2010.

“Your support of those who have served our country and your continued support of the law school are greatly appreciated,” said John R. Lee, president of The John Marshall Law School Foundation.

The work continues as the law school accepted a second challenge grant from an anonymous donor and is raising \$20,000 in matching funds. The money also will support the VLSC. Help us meet this challenge by pledging at [www.jmls.edu/give](http://www.jmls.edu/give).



### A Great Example

Dean John E. Corkery (left) and John R. Lee (right), president of The John Marshall Law School Foundation, applaud Brian P. Liston (JD '91) (second, from left) who recently hired two 2011 graduates at his firm Liston & Tsantilis. Liston said from the first day Carson Griffis (JD '11) (third from left) and Anthony Ochs (JD '11) (fourth from left) came to the firm, he has been impressed by how prepared they have been for the practice of law. George Banakis (JD '12) (fifth from left) is clerking at the firm and has accepted an offer. Liston encourages others to follow Liston & Tsantilis's hiring practices as a way to support the law school and its outstanding new graduates who are facing a tough job market.

## NewsNotes

Students raised more than \$2,600 at the 1L Charity Event for Ronald McDonald House Charities of Chicagoland and NW Indiana.



Rachel Ryan

3L Rachel Ryan has been accepted into the Presidential Management Fellows Program, a prestigious two-year paid government fellowship sponsored by the Office of Personnel Management.

AT&T awarded \$2,500 scholarships to Rebecca Erde (JD '12) in the fall 2011 semester and James Gentile in the spring 2012 semester for their internship work at the Center for Disability and Elder Law (CDEL) in Chicago.

3L Colleen McMahon spent the fall 2011 semester interning for the counsel to Vice President Joseph Biden conducting legal research on constitutional and international issues.



Colleen McMahon

The Association of Media and Entertainment Counsel honored Rafal Tracz (JD '12) for his winning article “From Feudalism to Capitalism: Delineating Hollywood’s Linear Thought.”

Professor Susan Brody was honored by the Association of American Law Schools, for her “significant lifetime contribution to the field of legal writing, reasoning and research.” She laid the foundation for the law school’s nationally-ranked Lawyering Skills Program.

Tahani Afaneh (JD '08) was selected from 2,000 attorneys for the Rising Star Award from the Department of Homeland Security’s Office of General Counsel. She is an attorney for the Office of the Assistant Chief Counsel, Customs and Border Protection in Detroit, Mich.



From left, Ivan Fong, general counsel for the Department of Homeland Security, presents the Rising Star Award to Tahani Afaneh (JD '08).

2L John Antia will extern with the Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago this summer. This externship is a PILI-funded position.



John Antia

At the January 2012 commencement, Professor Ardath Hamann and Professor William B.T. Mock were presented Leadership and Dedicated Service Awards; Clinical Professor F. Willis Caruso received the Leadership and Dedicated Pro Bono Service Award; and Professor Steven Schwinn was given the Scholarly Achievement Award.

The 10th Annual Employee Benefits Symposium, “The Past, Present, and Future of Supreme Court Jurisprudence on ERISA” was hosted by the Center for Tax Law and Employee Benefits.





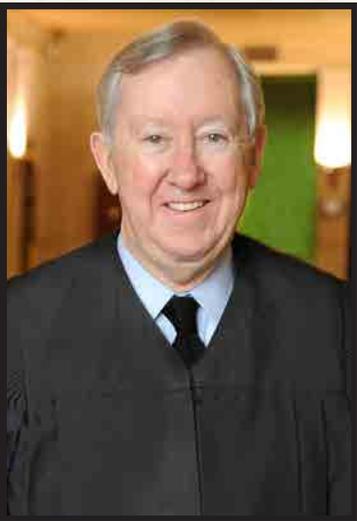
## Alumni Association

*presents*

# Freedom Award To Judge Paul Biebel, DSA Honors to Four Alumni

The John Marshall Law School Alumni Association will present the 2012 Freedom Award to Judge Paul P. Biebel Jr., honoring him for his outstanding career as a lawyer and judge.

The award will be presented at the annual Freedom Award and Distinguished Service Awards Luncheon at noon on May 4, at the Palmer House Hilton Hotel.



Hon. Paul Biebel

Alumni receiving the Distinguished Service Award (DSA) are Kevin M. Hull (JD '00), principal at Hull Partners, Ltd.; Barry Kozak (JD '00/LLM '00), director of Elder Law Studies at The John Marshall Law School; Ricardo Meza (JD '90), executive inspector general for Agencies of the Illinois Governor; and Nicholas C. Zagotta (JD '94), partner at Roberts McGivney Zagotta LLC.

"We are excited to share our special annual event with such a distinguished group of honorees," said Justice James Fitzgerald Smith (JD '75), president of the Alumni Association. "It is a pleasure to know that we will be in the company of these outstanding alumni who have done wonderful things in the legal profession."

Freedom Award honoree Paul Biebel, a Chicago native, has been the presiding judge of the Criminal Division, Circuit Court of Cook County, since 2001. He oversees the operation of the Criminal Courts Building, the largest and busiest criminal courthouse in America.

Biebel began his legal career as an assistant state's attorney in the Cook County State's Attorney's Office from 1969 to 1981, the first assistant attorney general in the Illinois Attorney General's Office from 1981 to 1985, and public defender of Cook County from 1986 to 1988. He was in private practice as a partner at Winston & Strawn, 1985 to 1994, and at Altheimer & Gray from 1994 to 1996.

In 1996, Biebel was appointed a judge in the Circuit Court of Cook County, and he was elected to that position in 1998. He also has served at the Juvenile Court, Child Protection Division and as a chancellor in the Chancery Division.

The recipient of a Chick Evans Scholarship to attend Marquette University, Biebel received a BA in 1964. He earned his JD in 1967 from Georgetown University Law Center, where he received a Bellarmine Scholarship.

Throughout his career, Biebel has received numerous awards and honors, including being named Catholic Lawyer of the Year and Celtic Lawyer of the Year. He received the Illinois American Legion Award of Excellence, the Commitment to Justice Award by the Chicago Council of Lawyers, the John Howard Association Award for the Development of Innovative Mental Health and Drug Courts, and the Outstanding Judicial Leadership Award from the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless for the creation of WINGS, a Circuit Court of Cook County project aimed at rehabilitating prostitutes.

# Disting



## Kevin M. Hull '00

Kevin M. Hull founded Hull Partners, Ltd., to address the needs of non-profit organizations and government agencies in legislative advocacy and fundraising. He is focusing on helping ensure access to benefits and health care for returning wounded service members and their families. He chairs the advisory board for the John Marshall Veterans Legal Support Center & Clinic; chairs the military affairs at the Union League Club of Chicago; and serves on several veterans advisory councils, among other leadership commitments in the community.

While a law student, Hull served as the executive justice of the Moot Court Honors Program and was accepted into the trial advocacy and arbitration program at the Honorable Society of King's Inns of Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland. After receiving the JD in 2000, he served as assistant counsel to the Speaker of the Illinois House of Representatives, handling issues such as the decennial legislative redistricting process, the state's anti-terrorism response following 9/11, and the Illinois Commission on Capital Punishment report. He earned his undergraduate degree from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio.

Hull has been an adjunct professor of Legislative Drafting at The John Marshall Law School since 2007. Hull and his 2011 class were recognized by the Center for Disability & Elder Law with its Impact Award for his work on property tax notifications for seniors. *Chicago Daily Law Bulletin* included him in its 2010 class of "40 Illinois Attorneys Under Forty to Watch," and The John Marshall Law School Alumni Association presented its President's Award to him in 2008 for his work with the law school.

# Wished Service Awards



## Barry Kozak '00/00

Barry Kozak is the director of the Elder Law Studies Program and the associate director of the Graduate Employee Benefits Programs at The John Marshall Law School, where he teaches courses in elder law, employee benefits, income tax, compensation law, workplace privacy and sexual orientation law.

After graduating with a BS from University of Albany, State University of New York, Kozak worked as a pension plan consultant and was employed by various actuarial consulting firms. He became an enrolled actuary and then earned his chartered financial consultant (ChFC) and registered investment advisor (Series 7 and 63) professional designations. He left New York to attend The John Marshall Law School, receiving a joint JD/LLM in Employee Benefits in 2000. Kozak began teaching as an adjunct professor and held positions in law firms and actuarial firms. Kozak joined the John Marshall staff full time in 2005. He earned a MPP from the University of Chicago's Harris School of Public Policy Studies in 2009, specializing in public finance.

Kozak's current leadership roles include service with three sections of the American Bar Association, the Chicago Bar Association, the Association of American Law Schools, and the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys. He also provides *pro bono* services to the community at-large.

Kozak's service to The John Marshall Law School started while he was a student, and his current activities include serving as the coach for the student teams competing at the annual Mugel National Tax Law Moot Court Competition. At the dean's request, he developed the full curriculum for John Marshall's JD Certificate in Elder Law.

In addition to numerous academic articles, Kozak's publications include the textbook *Employee Benefits Plans* and the tax management portfolio *Employee Benefits and Issues for Small Employers*.



## Ricardo Meza '90

Since 2000, Ricardo Meza has served as executive inspector general for the Agencies of the Illinois Governor, an independent/non-partisan state agency. He manages a staff of almost 70, and a budget of more than \$7 million, investigating complaints involving fraud, waste, abuse and misconduct at more than 40 state agencies, nine state universities and 300 state boards and commissions, as well as the employees of and appointees to the Regional Transit Boards.

Previously, Meza was counsel in the Midwest Regional Office for the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund. He led the office's litigation and public policy matters in 10 Midwestern states, focusing on education, employment, immigrants' rights and political access rights issues for Latinos.

Meza served as an assistant U.S. attorney for more than 10 years and his courtroom experience includes more than 30 federal criminal trials. Meza began his legal career as a judicial law clerk to the late Wendell C. Radford, U.S. magistrate judge for the Eastern District of Texas. He also served as an assistant attorney general for the state of Texas, working on tax-related matters.

Meza received a BA from Illinois State University and the JD degree from The John Marshall Law School, where he was a published author, member of the *Software Law Journal*, and president of the Hispanic Law Students Association.

Meza is a 2007 Fellow of the Leadership Greater Chicago Program and is a member of the Illinois State University Attorney Advisory Council. His many awards include the 2010 Chicago Bar Association's Vanguard Award and the 2008 Cook County State's Attorney *El Humanitario* Award.



## Nicholas C. Zagotta '94

Nicholas C. Zagotta is a principal of Roberts McGivney Zagotta LLC. His practice includes the representation of municipalities, construction firms, physical fitness centers, chemical, manufacturing and distribution companies, real estate developers, professional athletes, hospitals, individuals, religious orders, commodities firms, securities firms, individual traders and other various entities extensively in corporate matters, as well as in litigation. He was the lead attorney for the plaintiff in *Homeyer v. Stanley Tulchin and Associates* (91 F.3d 959 (1996)), a seminal case in determining who is disabled as defined within the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Prior to practicing law, he was the principal of Zagotta Grain, a commodity trading firm. He served as a guest lecturer at the Coceral Grain Conference in Bruges, Belgium, and at the Futures Research Symposium in Rome, Italy. He has been an expert witness in many commodity and futures cases.

Zagotta received a BBA degree from the University of Notre Dame and his JD from The John Marshall Law School. He serves on The John Marshall Law School Board of Trustees and has served on various community and corporate boards, including the Chicago Board of Trade and the Chicago Transit Authority.

# Romance

## Is Always in the Air

### Can one find love at The John Marshall Law School?

We hear stories from time to time about special relationships developed during law school.

This Valentine's Day, Erin Dunne, administrative assistant in the Office of Alumni Relations, wondered about those special stories, so she initiated an online question about meeting your spouse at law school.

Here are the winners:

#### **First Place**

**Bryan and Teresa (Tallarita) Campbell (both JD '03)**



At orientation, the incoming class was given a limited time to meet their classmates and remember their names. Teresa won, receiving a red fleece John Marshall blanket.

She also met Bryan who had promised his mother he'd stay locked in the law library away from the temptations of women and parties. Within a week's time, Bryan had asked Teresa for a date. "I was hesitant to get involved with a classmate," says Teresa, "but was persuaded otherwise by Bryan who, I now realize must have been practicing his negotiation skills," using the line "You could be missing the best thing that ever happened to you."

The Campbells were married 10 months to the day of their first date. It's 10 years later and the couple is happily married living in Seattle, with their five-year-old son and three-year-old twin daughters.

#### **Second Place**

**Nicholaus and Renee(Germaine) Carmody (both JD '05)**



Did Professor Kevin Hopkins intentionally bring Nick and Renee together in his Torts class? Probably not, but Renee remembers being called on to discuss *Harris v. Jones*, a case instructing on intentional infliction of emotional distress. Nick, who'd found a seat in front of her that class, rose to assist Renee in her response to a question the professor posed.

Shortly afterward the two started talking and Nick sat in that seat the rest of the semester. "It was love at first sight," Renee says. "We spent the rest of that year flirting and dating, and by our second year we were engaged to be married," in March 2006. Today the couple lives in Conifer, Colo., with their two-year-old daughter, Jade Rosemary.

#### **Third Place**

**Jessica Swaysland (JD '09) and Kevin Egan (JD '10)**



Hired separately, Kevin and Jessica interned at the Chicago Board of Education in summer 2008. Kevin arrived for work the first day in a three-piece suit—he hadn't gotten the memo that it was a casual environment. He caught Jessica's eye.

"I looked him up and down. There he was, very, very over-dressed and looking incredibly nervous—it was his first law school job. He looked like he would be the sweetest, most caring guy and I immediately thought to myself I'd like to marry someone like him—no joke."

They worked in different offices, but Jessica made a point to make small talk whenever Kevin was around. At the end of summer, she and a group of friends went to Wellington's in Lakeview and there was Kevin with his buddies. By the end of the evening, they had exchanged phone numbers, and shortly after began dating. That fall they were in the same Professional Responsibility class spending "countless hours together at John Marshall in the lounge, in classes and in the library studying (and instant messaging)." The couple will be married Sept. 8, 2012.



# Message from Sherri J. Berendt

Director of Alumni Relations

Friends:

I had a wonderful time meeting 41 interesting alumni this month when they gathered in Washington for the Alumni Association's second group swearing in at the Supreme Court of the United States. We had alumni from throughout the United States. One alum came in from Anchorage, Alaska! It was a really great experience to see them sworn in. I consider it an honor to be part of that program. And, it was fantastic for me to make so many new acquaintances. When we gathered with our Washington, DC, area alumni, we had more than 100 people at our dinner party.



While we were at the Court, several decisions were announced. The decision in *Florence v. Board of Chosen Freeholders of County of Burlington et. al* was rather controversial. That afternoon and in the days following, I saw discussions about the decision on Facebook and in the media, and I talked about it with friends and family.

After hearing Justice Kennedy read the summary, I couldn't wait to look up the case and read the full decision. My interest had nothing to do with my job; I certainly don't prosecute or defend criminal cases. In fact, I have chosen a career path that is not the practice of law. But my interest in the law was cultivated during my time at John Marshall and I am always grateful that I was given the opportunity to attend this school and learn the law.

Mine was definitely an opportunity. I was admitted to John Marshall through the Conditional Program; I was offered the chance to come in and prove myself to be then admitted unconditionally. I will be forever grateful that this program existed and that I was admitted to it. I am proud of this school, the mission that it has been committed to, the people that I work with and of the students that I have met. Our students, who have the same dreams and aspirations that we all did, are facing a difficult and changing job market and high debt levels. Complicating the equation is a lower salary for the jobs that are available, much lower than in the past.

The dean's letter is asking you to think about what you can give and I am reiterating that request. Every effort of outreach is so important. Please read the stories and the profiles in this issue and be proud of the John Marshall of today. Use the envelope included in this issue to make your first gift or your next gift to the law school. Many people have told me that they are waiting until they can make a significant gift; don't wait — we need your support now!

Warmly,

Sherri J. Berendt (JD '99)

Director of Alumni Relations and Annual Fund Programming

## Cy Pres Ambassadors Raise Awareness

As The John Marshall Law School works to expand the *Cy Pres* Program it is asking alumni to consider naming the law school as a recipient of these outstanding monetary awards.

"We are looking for practitioners in the securities class action field, in the bankruptcy field, or in the consumer fraud field to serve as ambassadors on John Marshall's behalf," said John R. Lee, president of The John Marshall Law School Foundation. "We ask that you reach out to judges and your peers to make them aware of why the law school should qualify for *Cy Pres* funds. As an ambassador for this program, we will provide you with informational packets to help support our request."

*Cy Pres* awards are residual funds in class action cases, and occasionally in other types of proceedings, like bankruptcy and probate matters. These funds are unclaimed monies that cannot be distributed to those in class actions or those intended beneficiaries in probate matters.

Under Illinois law, courts can distribute these residual funds to appropriate charitable causes. The John Marshall Law School has benefitted from these funds in the past, and it is hoped that future *Cy Pres* awards will help underwrite the programs of the



### Alumni Honor Veterans through VLSC Scholarship

John Marshall alumni and partners at Grotefeld, Hoffmann, Schleiter, Gordon and Ochoa established a scholarship to benefit students working in the Veterans Legal Support Center & Clinic (VLSC). Pictured with John Lee (seated, left), president of The John Marshall Law School Foundation, and Dean John E. Corkery (seated, right), are alumni Mark S. Grotefeld (JD '81) (center), William J. Hoffmann (JD '93) (standing, on right), and Brad M. Gordon (standing, on left). Grotefeld, Hoffmann and Gordon, with partners John Schleiter (JD '96) and Maura Walsh Ochoa, created the scholarship to honor heroic sacrifices made by members of the United States armed forces during the Global War on Terror, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

Veterans Legal Support Center & Clinic and the Fair Housing Legal Support Center and Fair Housing Legal Clinic.

To learn more about the *Cy Pres* doctrine and how it can help students at John Marshall, visit [www.jmls.edu/foundation/CyPres.shtml](http://www.jmls.edu/foundation/CyPres.shtml). For questions on the program or on becoming a *Cy Pres* ambassador, contact Geoff Hammond, director of Annual Giving, at 312.386.2871.

## 1968

**Hon. Thomas R. Fitzgerald (ret.)** has been honored with the “Bill of Rights in Action” award from The Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago. Fitzgerald is the retired chief justice of the Illinois Supreme Court.



Thomas Fitzgerald

## 1974

**Charles F. MacKelvie** has joined Krieg DeVault in Chicago, Illinois, as a partner. MacKelvie concentrates his practice on health care matters.



Charles MacKelvie

## 1975

**Hon. Dennis J. Burke (ret.)** has joined JAMS Chicago Resolution Center in Chicago, Illinois. Burke will serve as an arbitrator, mediator and special master for disputes in business/commercial, construction, employment and personal injury/torts matters.

## 1976

**Richard E. Aleksy** has been appointed by Gov. Patrick Quinn to serve on the Workers’ Compensation Advisory Board. Aleksy is a partner with Corti, Aleksy and Castaneda in Chicago, Illinois, and concentrates his practice on workers’ compensation matters.



Richard Aleksy

## 1978

**Larry D. Cohen (LLM ’84)** has been honored with 2011 “Ray Hartstein Award for Outstanding Professional Excellence in Teaching” by Oakton Community College. Cohen is an instructor of accounting at Oakton Community College in Des Plaines, Illinois.

**Steven C. Kyriazes (LLM ’89)** has been elected to the Board of Governors for the Northwest Suburban Bar Association. Kyriazes is a private practitioner in Arlington Heights, Illinois.

**Richard W. Strawbridge** has joined Sneckenberg, Thompson & Brody LLP in Chicago, Illinois, as senior counsel. Strawbridge concentrates his practice on subrogation and general liability defense.



Richard Strawbridge

**Hon. John N. Walters** has been appointed to a circuit judgeship serving in the Traffic and Misdemeanor Division of the 16th Judicial Circuit for Kane, Kendall and DeKalb counties.

## 1979

**Paula Hudson Holderman** has been appointed by the Illinois Supreme Court to the Illinois MCLE Board. Holderman is chief attorney development officer at Winston & Strawn LLP in Chicago, Illinois.



Paula Holderman

**John L. Rogers** has been appointed Adjunct Professor for Global Initiatives in Management at Northwestern’s Kellogg School of Management. Rogers led a delegation of Kellogg students to China in March 2012. He is the faculty advisor to Kellogg’s Greater China Business Conference in May 2012.



John Rogers

## 1980

**Hon. Robert B. Spence** has been named chief judge of the 16th Judicial Circuit Court in Illinois. Spence has been a circuit court judge since 2004 in the Family, Criminal and Law divisions. The 16th Judicial Circuit includes Kane, Kendall and DeKalb counties.

**Donald G. Weiland** has been named a broker associate at Prospect Equities® in Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois.



Donald Weiland

## 1981

**Hon. James E. Padish (ret.)** has been appointed to the Judicial Appointments Advisory Board in Scottsdale, Arizona. Padish is a partner with Caldwell, Padish & Wells, PLLC in Scottsdale and concentrates his practice on general litigation.



James Padish

## 1982

**Umberto S. Davi** has been elected third vice president of the Illinois State Bar Association. Davi is a principal with Davi and Associates in Western Springs, Illinois, and concentrates his practice on family law and real estate. Davi also serves on The John Marshall Law School Board of Trustees.

**Jose W. Jimenez** has joined Larkin Hoffman Daly & Lindgren, Ltd. in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Jimenez concentrates his practice on intellectual property law.



Jose Jimenez

**Michael A. Meschino** has been installed as first vice president of the Northwest Suburban Bar Association. Meschino is a private practitioner in Palatine, Illinois.

**Michael R. Puhl** has been named by *Texas Super Lawyers* magazine as one of the top attorneys in Texas for 2011. Puhl is with Puhl, Garza & Hewett in Dallas, Texas, and concentrates his practice on family law.



Michael Puhl

## 1983

**James M. Rochford** has been nominated by delegates at the Illinois-Eastern Iowa District of Kiwanis Convention to be a candidate for Kiwanis International Trustee. Rochford will run at the International Convention in summer 2012. Rochford is a private practitioner in Peoria, Illinois.

## 1985

**Hon. Rosemary G. Higgins** has been honored by the Law Project of the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless for her groundbreaking work to create Cook County’s WINGS (Women in Need of Gender Specific Services) Court.

**Antonio M. Romanucci** has been appointed to the Illinois Supreme Court Rules Committee. Romanucci is a partner with Romanucci & Blandin, LLC in Chicago, Illinois.



Antonio Romanucci

## 1986

**Roslyn T. Tobe** has joined the Department of the Navy Civil Engineers Officers School in Port Hueneme, California, as the deputy counsel and environmental law course director.

## 1987

**David C. Mineo** has been reappointed to the Board of Trustees for the Erie County Supreme Court Library at Buffalo. Mineo is the claims center manager for Chicago Title Insurance Company in New York, New York.

**David Shestokas** has joined the Law Offices of J. Patrick Buckley, III in Fort Myers, Florida, as a senior associate.

## 1988

**Gilbert R. Jimenez** has been named president of Insight Investigation and Law, LLC in Chicago, Illinois.

**Kevin W. Lamborn** has been appointed by Gov. Patrick Quinn to the Illinois Workers’ Compensation Commission. Lamborn is currently with the Cook County State’s Attorney’s Office in Chicago, Illinois.

## 1991

**Dean S. Dussias** has been honored with the “Professional Achievement Award” from the Hellenic Bar Association of Illinois. Dussias operates The Law Offices of Dean S. Dussias in Chicago, Illinois.

**Allen C. Schlinsog Jr.** has been named president-elect of the Eastern District of the Wisconsin Bar Association. Schlinsog is a shareholder with Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren, SC in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in the firm’s litigation practice.



Allen Schlinsog

## 1992

**Matthew B. Tropper** has joined Scully, Scott, Murphy & Presser, PC in Garden City, New York. Tropper concentrates his practice on preparing and prosecuting patent applications.



Matthew Tropper

## 1994

**Donald J. Cosley** has been installed as president of the Northwest Suburban Bar Association. Cosley is a private practitioner in Rolling Meadows, Illinois.

**Michael L. Korniczky (LLM)** has been appointed vice president, general counsel and corporate secretary of Glatfelter in York, Pennsylvania.

## 1995

**Edgar N. Romano** has been included in the 2011 “Top 100 Trial Lawyers in New York” by the National Trial Lawyers organization. Romano is a senior partner with Pasternack Tilker Ziegler Walsh Stanton & Romano LLP in New York, New York.



Edgar Romano

## 1996

**Sen. Michael J. Noland (D-Elgin)** has been appointed to Gov. Patrick Quinn’s pension reform panel.

## 1997

**Aram D. Hermiz** has been appointed the director of Legal Services for Intellectual Property, New Initiatives and Accenture Software with Accenture, LLP in Chicago, Illinois.

**Jeffrey J. Makeever** has been named a judge advocate for the Mid-States Federation of Cosmopolitan International. Makeever is a shareholder with Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren, PC in Rockford, Illinois.



Jeffrey Makeever

**Eric W. Moch** has been promoted to shareholder with Johnson & Bell, Ltd. in Chicago, Illinois. Moch concentrates his practice on insurance law.



Eric Moch

## 1998

**Brett D. Atlas** has developed a smartphone application that uses GPS technology to locate and preserve a loved one’s final resting place. RestingSpot is developed and maintained in Omaha, Nebraska.

**Nathan Benditzson** has joined City Winery in Chicago, Illinois, as the director of Marketing and Sales.

**Dean J. Tatoes** has joined Levin, Ginsberg in Chicago, Illinois. Tatoes concentrates his practice on commercial litigation and banking.

## 1999

**Lawrence G. Almeda (LLM)** has been named a 2011 “Michigan Super Lawyer.” Almeda is with Brinks Hofer Gilson & Lione in Ann Arbor, Michigan. He is a member of the firm’s nanotechnology practice group.

**Tomer Laks** has joined KPMG Somekh Chaikin in Tel Aviv, Israel, as the Head of Business Performance Services.

**Christopher M. Scherer** has been named a director for the Autism Society of Southeastern Wisconsin. Scherer is a partner with Andrus Law Firm in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He concentrates his practice on domestic and international patent prosecution.



Christopher M. Scherer

**Michael N. Spink** has been named a member of the Intellectual Property Owners Association Corporate IP Management Committee for 2012–2013. Spink is with Brinks Hofer Gilson & Lione in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and concentrates his practice on intellectual property law.

**John B. Viverito** has joined the State of Colorado Office of the Attorney General as an assistant attorney general in the Business & Licensing Section.

## 2000

**Zol D. Rainey** has been inducted into Beta Nu Boulé of Sigma Pi Phi professional fraternity. Rainey is a special assistant with the Department of Homeland Security in Washington, DC.



Zol Rainey

**Heidi E. Ruckman** has been named partner with Heyl, Royster, Voelker & Allen in Rockford, Illinois. Ruckman concentrates her practice on professional liability, tort litigation, business and commercial litigation.



Heidi Ruckman

## 2001

**Kerri J. Holloway (LLM)** has joined Zarem Golde ORT Technical Institute in Skokie, Illinois, as the dean of Academic Services.

## 2002

**Craig M. Derrig** has been promoted to partner with Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman & Dicker LLP in Chicago, Illinois. Derrig is a member of the General Liability and Casualty, Product Liability and Commercial Litigation practices.



Craig Derrig

**Douglas A. Pessefall** has been promoted to shareholder with the law firm of Whyte Hirschboeck Dudek, SC in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Pessefall concentrates his practice on corporate law.

**Eileen E. (Madda) Sethna** has joined Chuhak & Tecson, PC in Chicago, Illinois, as a principal. Sethna concentrates her practice on commercial litigation and bankruptcy matters.



Eileen Sethna

## 2003

**Zachary A. Hotle** has joined Neuro Brands, LLC as a division marketing manager.

**Ann M. Melichar (LLM '05)** has been promoted to supervising case manager, Mortgage Foreclosures for the Circuit Court of Cook County Office of the Chief Judge.

**Michael T. Roth** is director of development for The Community House, a non-profit group that provides social services and recreation opportunities to Hinsdale, Illinois, and surrounding suburbs.

2004

**Christian T. Dalton** has been promoted to eDiscovery practice leader within Hudson Legal in Charlotte, North Carolina.

**Jennifer P. Irmen** has joined Anesi, Ozmon, Rodin, Novak & Kohen, Ltd. in Chicago, Illinois, as an associate attorney. Irmen concentrates her practice on construction negligence, products liability, medical malpractice, premises liability, and auto liability matters.



Jennifer Irmen

**Elias D. Mossos (LLM '06)** has joined McGuire Woods Consulting LLC in Chicago, Illinois, as a vice president of State Government Relations.



Elias Mossos

**Rebecca J. (Maxey) Rigo** has joined Berg, Hill, Greenleaf & Ruscitti, LLP in Boulder, Colorado, as an associate attorney. Rigo concentrates her practice on business and real estate law.



Rebecca Rigo

2005

**Daniel M. Lechleiter** has been named to the *Indianapolis Business Journal* Forty Under 40 Class of 2012. Lechleiter is with Faegre Baker Daniels LLP in Indianapolis, Indiana, and concentrates his practice on patent litigation.



Daniel Lechleiter

**Vijay R. Sharma** has joined Peru State College in Peru, Nebraska, as an assistant professor of Criminal Justice.

**Mario A. Sullivan** will serve as the 2012-13 chair of the ABA Young Lawyers Division for the Chicago Bar Association. Sullivan is with the Law Office of Peter A. Johnson, PC in Chicago, Illinois, where he concentrates his practice on real estate, bankruptcy, employment and contract law.



Mario Sullivan

2006

**Sara J. (Boyd) Brundage** has joined Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn, LLP in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Brundage concentrates her practice on complex commercial and civil litigation.



Sara Brundage

**Robert C. Gates** has joined Federal Companies in East Peoria, Illinois, as general counsel and vice president of Human Resources.

**Anna Gonis** married Bryan O'Connor on June 25, 2011, in Chicago, Illinois. Gonis O'Connor is with Segal McCambridge Singer & Mahoney in Chicago, Illinois.



Anna Gonis Wedding

**Brian K. Jones** has merged his practice of Jones & Quinlisk, LLC with Harrison & Held, LLP in Chicago, Illinois. Jones serves as a partner and co-chair of the firm's family practice.

**William D. Nagel** has joined Dahl & Bonadies, LLC in Chicago, Illinois. Nagel concentrates his practice on general commercial litigation.

2007

**Benjamin S. Bassett** along with his rock band Vintage Blue, has released the album *Strike the Mics*. Bassett is with Elaine K.B. Sigel & Associates PC in Chicago, Illinois, and concentrates his practice on discrimination, education and school law.

**Julia Bikbova** has joined Sverdlhoff Bikbova Law Group, PC in Glenview, Illinois, as a principal attorney. Bikbova concentrates her practice on criminal defense, immigration and family law.

**Alison K. Hayden** has joined United Airlines as an attorney for corporate environmental affairs.

**Agata M. Musial (LLM '09)** has joined Lucas & Associates in Woodstock, Illinois, as an associate attorney.

**Timothy J. Rechten** has been elected as a shareholder with Banner & Witcoff, Ltd. in Chicago, Illinois. Rechten concentrates his practice on intellectual property law.



Timothy Rechten

**Julia Sverdlhoff** has joined Sverdlhoff Bikbova Law Group, PC in Glenview, Illinois, as a principal attorney. Sverdlhoff concentrates her practice on criminal defense, immigration and family law.



Dean John E. Corkery (third from left) joined Adjunct Professor Kevin Hull (JD '00) (right) and the Legislative Drafting class represented by students Louis Raymond (left) and Heather Daniel (second from left) when The Center for Disability and Elder Law (CDEL) presented the class with its Impact Award for work on a proposed bill that would require special notices be sent to senior citizens to remind them when their tax bills are due.

2008

**Michael M. Curry (LLM)** has joined Hanson & Donahue, LLC in Downers Grove, Illinois. Curry concentrates his practice on real estate, information technology and construction law.

**John J. Hansen** has opened the J. Hansen Law Firm in Chicago, Illinois. Hansen concentrates his practice on personal injury, medical malpractice and general civil litigation.

**Jorie K. Johnson** has opened the Law Office of Jorie K. Johnson in Aurora, Illinois. Johnson concentrates her practice on criminal law.



Jorie Johnson

**Meghan M. Lynch** has joined Deloitte Tax LLP in Houston, Texas, as a senior tax consultant.



Meghan Lynch

In Memoriam

- Murad Agenlian, JD '64
- Hon. Frederic S. Carr, JD '87
- Vito D. DeCarlo, JD '60
- Daniel L. Dreiser, JD '84
- Daniel M. Franklin, JD '84
- James L. Frazin, JD '80
- Catherine L. Gemrich, LLM '09
- Richard B. Gould, JD '74
- Eleanor J. Grainy, JD '86
- John V. Hickey, JD '92
- Gerald D. Jutila, JD '75
- William J. Maheras, JD '99
- Elbert H. Mason, LLB '38

- John K. McCormick, JD '83
- Roger T. McNellis, JD '56
- Hon. Stephen H. Peters, JD '74
- Carl E. Rydin, JD '79
- Ronald S. Samuels, JD '69
- Donald L. Stephens, JD '72
- Hon. Paul Stralka, JD '76
- Peter A. Tomaras, JD '81
- Julia A. Tyde, JD '91
- Edward P. Wisowaty, LLB '50
- Robert B. Young, JD '78
- Andrew R. Zickgraf, JD '12
- Douglas L. Ziech, JD '73

**Corey L. (Leatherman) Minnihan** has joined Thomas Cohen Law Firm LLC in Atlanta, Georgia. Minnihan concentrates her practice on estate planning, probate, estate/trust litigation, guardianships, taxation and business/corporate law.

**Lauren L. Tobiason** has joined Goldstein & McClintock LLC – The Restructuring Shop in Chicago, Illinois. Tobiason concentrates her practice on matters of restructuring and bankruptcy.



Lauren Tobiason

## 2009

**Jodi L. Goldman** married **Jordan M. Rifkin** on May 29, 2011, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Goldman is with Mordini & Schwartz in Chicago, Illinois. Rifkin is with Nielson, Zehe & Antas PC in Chicago.

**Graham M. Liccardi** has joined Blitt & Gaines, PC in Chicago, Illinois, as an associate attorney. Liccardi concentrates his practice on bankruptcy, collections and mortgage foreclosures.

**Ryan D. Moore** married **Lindsey P. Kane** on February 11, 2012. Moore is currently with Vedder Price, PC in Chicago, Illinois.

**Michael J. Ruffu** has joined the Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office in Mays Landing, New Jersey.

**Matthew S. Sims** has joined Cassidy Schade, LLP in Chicago, Illinois. Sims concentrates his practice on construction defense and medical negligence matters.



Matthew Sims

## 2010

**Griffin D. Daleiden** has joined Cole Sadkin, LLC in Chicago, Illinois, as an associate attorney. Daleiden concentrates his practice on general practice civil litigation.



Griffin Daleiden

**Philip J. Davidson** has joined Hilffman & Martin, PC in Chicago, Illinois. Davidson concentrates his practice on medical negligence, product liability and construction matters.

**Aimee E. Deverall** has joined the Law Office of Robert D. Ahlgren & Associates in Chicago, Illinois. Deverall concentrates her practice on immigration law.



Aimee Deverall

**Jeffrey J. Hulbert (LLM '11)** has joined the Chicago Transit Authority as a project consultant of Business Development.

**Karen I. Jeffreys** has joined Schwartz & Kanyock, LLC in Chicago, Illinois.

**John R. O'Connor** has joined Sugar, Felsenthal, Grais & Hammer LLP in Chicago, Illinois. O'Connor concentrates his practice on bankruptcy and creditor's rights.

**Lindsey M. Shapiro** has been sworn in as a Cook County assistant state's attorney.

**Brendon Stark** has been sworn in as a Cook County assistant state's attorney.

**Brittany Flaherty Theis** has joined Whitt Law LLC in Aurora, Illinois. Theis concentrates her practice on education law and taxation.

## 2011

**Kimberly J. Batcha** has joined Potestivo & Associates, PC in Chicago, Illinois, as an associate attorney in the firm's Litigation Department.

**Wasim K. Bleibel** has joined Levenfeld Pearlstein, LLC in Chicago, Illinois.

**Daniel T. Calandriello** has been sworn in as a Cook County assistant state's attorney.

**Carol C. Comrie** has joined Legal Aid of North Carolina as a testing coordinator.

**Myriah F. Conaughty** has joined Cassidy Schade LLP in Chicago, Illinois, as an associate attorney.

**Liliana P. Escorcía** has joined Garofalo, Schreiber, Hart & Storm. Escorcía concentrates her practice on workers' compensation and civil defense.

**Michelle C. Fitzpatrick** has joined Sneckenberg, Thompson & Brody LLP in Chicago, Illinois, as an associate attorney. Fitzpatrick concentrates her practice on insurance investigation, subrogation, insurance defense and civil litigation.

**Ron Galant, PhD** has joined Polsinelli, Shughart in Chicago, Illinois, as an associate attorney. Galant concentrates his practice on life science and patent matters.



John O'Connor



Lindsey Shapiro



Brendon Stark



Brittany Flaherty Theis



Daniel Calandriello



Myriah Conaughty



Michelle Fitzpatrick



Ron Galant

**Erika M. Hamer** has been sworn in as a Cook County assistant state's attorney.

**Bridget E. Hayes** has joined Pintas & Mullins Law Firm in Chicago, Illinois, as an associate attorney. Hayes concentrates her practice on personal injury and wrongful death matters.

**Jordan S. (Phillips) Huttenlocker** has joined HeplerBroom LLC in Chicago, Illinois. Huttenlocker concentrates her practice on complex litigation matters.

**Desiree L. Lauricella** has been promoted to associate attorney with Belongia, Shapiro & Franklin LLP in Chicago, Illinois. Lauricella concentrates her practice on commercial and residential real estate litigation.

**Michael L. Reeve** has been named president of the board of trustees for the Peace Corner Youth Center in Chicago, Illinois. Reeve is currently the chief of staff for Rep. Ann M. Williams (D-Chicago).

**Ronald J. Ricchio** has joined The Chicago Board of Education Office of the Inspector General as an investigator.

**Tanya K. Sinclair** has joined Goldstein Bender & Romanoff in Chicago, Illinois. Sinclair concentrates her practice on personal injury, workers' compensation and tenant's rights.

**Ryan P. Wangler** has joined Staver & Gainsberg, PC in Chicago, Illinois. Wangler concentrates his practice on personal injury, insurance claims, workers' compensation and bankruptcy matters.

**Brian P. Welch** has joined Arnstein Lehr, LLP in Chicago, Illinois. Welch concentrates his practice on bankruptcy and creditors' rights.

**Daniel M. Yukich** has been sworn in as a Cook County assistant state's attorney.

**Jordan F. Yurchich** has joined Special Counsel in Chicago, Illinois, as a contract attorney.



Erika M. Hamer



Jordan Huttenlocker



Desiree Lauricella



Brian Welch



Daniel Yukich



THE JOHN MARSHALL LAW SCHOOL®

# BriefCase

is published by The John Marshall Law School

315 S. Plymouth Court, Chicago, Illinois 60604  
Spring 2012, Volume 11, Issue 1

**Sherri J. Berendt (JD '99)**  
*Director of Alumni Relations*

**Lauren N. Prihoda (JD '10)**  
*Assistant Director*

**Erin Dunne**  
*Administrative Assistant*

**Marilyn Thomas and Ciara Shook**  
*BriefCase Editors*

**Bruce Swart**  
*BriefCase Design/Production*

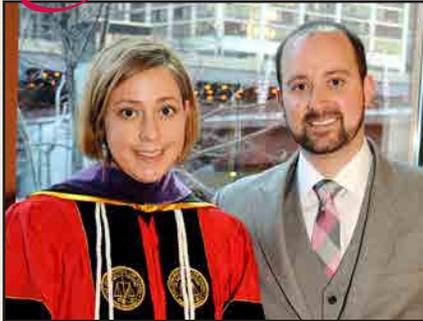
**Ralf-Finn Hestoft, Mike Kelly and Colin Thomas**  
*Principal Photography*

**312.427.2737 • Fax: 312.427.0438**

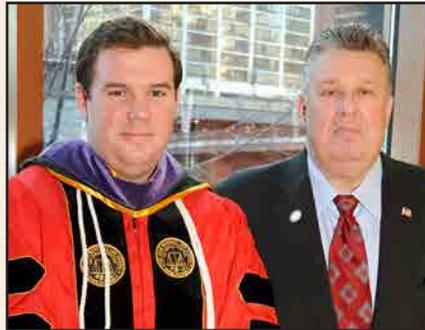
Non-Profit Org.  
US Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit 3038  
Chicago, IL

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## Legacy of JOHN MARSHALL



Carmen Forte (JD '09) congratulates his wife, Ashley Hayes Forte (JD '10), who received an LLM in Tax Law.



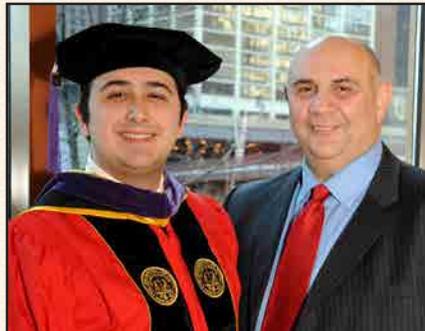
Joseph F.B. Duffy (left) who received an LLM in Information Technology and Privacy Law, is congratulated by his dad, Mark Duffy (JD '81, LLM '83).



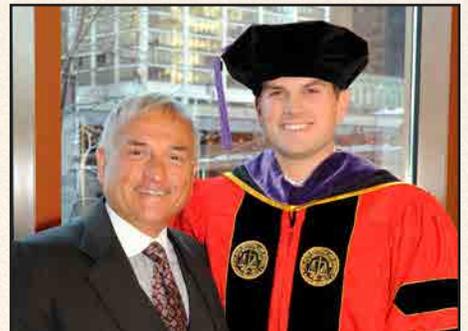
Peter Follenweider follows in his mother Kathleen's footsteps. She is a 1986 graduate.



Adjunct Professor Michael Erde now has two daughters who are John Marshall alumni. Rebecca Erde (left) graduated with her JD, and Lisa Santos graduated in 1999.



Theodore Bacoyanis (JD '85) is the proud father of graduate Spelios Bacoyanis.



Rory Weiler (JD '79) congratulates his son, Timothy Weiler, on graduation day.