Veterans on a mission

Law School students find new ways to use military and legal skills
Celebrating our students and a Law School legend

On the day before Mother’s Day, we celebrated the graduation of 159 members of the Class of 2010 with an inspiring commencement address from Chief Judge James R. Spencer of the U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Virginia. We marked the impressive accomplishments of the graduating class: two national championships in advocacy competitions; the publication of four outstanding law journals; and, two dozen judicial clerkships across Virginia and the nation. Most of those graduates have already made substantial contributions to the community and to the profession through their work in our clinical programs and through opportunities offered by our Carrico Center for Pro Bono Service. Fifteen graduates were recognized for performing more than 120 hours of service. More than 75 percent of the Class of 2010 contributed to the Class Gift to the Law School, setting an all-time record for participation.

In part, the success and professional maturity of these graduates reflects the excellence of our academic programs and the breadth of opportunity available on our campus and across our community. That success reflects the depth and diversity of talent that each new class brings to campus. Each year, about half of our students come directly from college, all with impressive academic credentials. They join an equally impressive group of classmates who have pursued other paths before choosing the law.

In my years on the faculty, I have taught students with Ph.D.s in chemistry and physics, a retired heart surgeon, an aeronautical engineer (literally a rocket scientist), college professors and kindergarten teachers, a concert violinist and a gospel singer, a cowboy and a fashion model, a skydiving instructor, professional athletes, and more than a handful of business executives, accountants, and nurses.

In this issue of Richmond Law we highlight a group of our students whose accomplishments before law school include military service in Iraq, Afghanistan, and in other corners of the globe. Those veterans add a special measure of world experience to a law school learning environment already rich with diverse talents and interests.

As we celebrate those students, we also pass a special milestone with the person most responsible for bringing them here, year after remarkable year. This issue marks the 25th anniversary of service to the Law School for Michelle Rahman, our associate dean for admissions. A generation of our students carries the fond memory of that special telephone call from Michelle, informing them of admission to the Law School and setting a tone of personal attentiveness that is unmatched anywhere in legal education.

Congratulations to the Class of 2010. And thanks to Michelle for making it all possible.

John G. Douglass
Dean of the Law School
The 159 members of the Law School’s Class of 2010 marched to commencement in May, with family, friends, and faculty on hand for the celebration. In his address, Chief Judge James R. Spencer, of the U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Virginia, urged graduates to love what they do. (See story, page 2.)

Clockwise from top left are graduate Amber Ford and her fiance, Brad Pruett; and graduates Lindsay Neinast, Chip Howard, Robert Michaux (receiving his degree from Dean Douglass), Stephen Moncrieffe, and (from left) Jaime Wisegarver, Annie McCarthy, Katie Cure, and Laura Latta.
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‘Love what you do,’ judge advises graduates

Law school graduates need to remember only three simple things to succeed in life, Chief Judge James R. Spencer of the U.S. District Court for Eastern Virginia told 159 graduates.

First, “Love what you do, and do what you love, and success will naturally follow,” Spencer said. Then, “Do the right thing, regardless of the consequences,” he added, having a set of principles to guide you through the tough times. And, he concluded, even when a person has achieved the apex of his or her profession, “What really matters is the love of your family, the admiration and companionship of your friends, and the respect of your peers and colleagues.” A job is about how you make a living, not about how you make a life, he said.

Student speaker Jaime Wisegarver told her classmates that the song “With a Little Help from My Friends” reminded her of her Law School experience. “We have this incredible support network, not just with each other, but with the faculty, staff, family, and friends. It’s not every day that you meet the kind of folks that we have here at the University of Richmond.”

Corinna Barrett Lain, faculty speaker, advised graduates to not let people boss them around when it is not the right thing to do. “Your name, your honor, it’s all you’ve got...Your integrity is the integrity of this revered institution.”

Mary Hallerman of Richmond and Matt Farley of Hanover, Penn., received the T.C. Williams Law School Scholarship Award, presented for significant contributions to legal scholarship.

Britt Berlauck of Martinsville, Va., won the Nina R. Kestin Service Award, presented to the graduate who has contributed most significantly to the school, the community, and the legal profession.

The faculty selected Jaime Wisegarver of Chester, Va., as the winner of the Charles T. Norman Award as the best all-around graduating student, and Liz Stokes of Richmond as the winner of the Public Interest Law Association Pro Bono Award for her extraordinary commitment to public interest work.
Bankruptcy expert appointed Allen Chair

David Epstein, an expert in bankruptcy law and an award-winning teacher, has joined the faculty as the newly appointed George E. Allen Chair in Law. He will teach bankruptcy, creditors’ rights, contracts, and commercial law courses. He also will teach an undergraduate first-year seminar in the School of Arts & Sciences.

Epstein comes to Richmond Law from Dallas, where he taught at Southern Methodist University Dedman School of law and was of counsel to the Dallas-based law firm Haynes and Boone. Previously, he was a tenured law professor at the University of North Carolina Law School, the University of Texas Law School, and the University of Alabama Law School. Also, he was dean at the University of Arkansas Law School and at Emory University School of Law, and a visiting professor at 10 other law schools, including Harvard, Georgetown, New York University, and the University of Chicago. Epstein also spent almost 10 years as a partner at the Atlanta-based firm of King & Spalding.

“We’re thrilled that David Epstein has joined our faculty,” said Dean John G. Douglass. “David is one of the nation’s top experts in bankruptcy law with a long list of scholarly achievements. Equally important, David is an energetic and innovative teacher, a master at everything from the traditional lecture to international distance learning.”

Epstein regularly speaks on bankruptcy topics at continuing education programs for judges and practicing lawyers around the country. Additionally, most law school graduates prepare for their bar exams by listening to Epstein’s lectures on contracts. Epstein is a prolific writer, and his most recent publication is the third edition of a bankruptcy casebook, Bankruptcy Materials and Cases, co-authored with bankruptcy judges Bruce Markell and Elizabeth Perris and law professor Steve Nickles.

The George E. Allen Chair in Law was endowed by Allen’s family and friends to honor the 60-year career of service of George E. Allen Sr., a distinguished Virginia trial lawyer and founder of the highly regarded Richmond civil litigation firm of Allen, Allen, Allen & Allen.

“The Allen family and members of the law firm of Allen & Allen are committed to legal education and are proud to honor my grandfather’s legacy by supporting The Allen Chair in Law. In particular, at this time we are pleased to welcome David Epstein, a nationally recognized professor and expert in the law of contracts and bankruptcy, as the new George Allen Chair holder,” said partner George E. Allen III.

Green Award honors Judge Gregory

Judge Roger L. Gregory of the United States Circuit Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit was honored in March with the William Green Award for Professional Excellence. The Green Award is the Law School’s highest honor.

At the annual scholarship luncheon gathering at the Jepson Alumni Center, Gregory spoke movingly of the “luminous” people who have made a difference in his life. “In order to survive, you have to have a luminous spirit,” he said. He told the audience that the struggle is about right and wrong, and that power comes from within.

Dean John G. Douglass said, “Judge Gregory’s skill and professionalism across

For the Record

Kaine returns to Law School

Former Virginia Gov. Timothy M. Kaine will be back at the Law School this fall to teach “The Future of Equality in American Constitutional Law.”

John G. Douglass, dean of the Law School, said Kaine offers experience in government and politics “that will bring to life our students’ exploration of executive decision-making, legislative process, and public policy issues that shape the formation and interpretation of law.” Richmond Law, Douglass said, has a long tradition of educating lawyers for service in national, state and local government, in legislatures, in executive agencies, and in the judiciary.

A Harvard law graduate who also has served as Virginia’s lieutenant governor and Richmond’s mayor, Kaine is currently chair of the Democratic National Committee. Before seeking public office, he practiced law in Richmond for 17 years as a corporate litigator and specialized in representing people who had been denied housing opportunities because of their race or disability. He also taught legal ethics for six years in the Law School. Kaine’s appointment is part-time, without tenure. He taught a course in the spring at the University’s Jepson School of Leadership Studies.
For the Record

Bill signing honors professor emeritus

President Edward L. Ayers and Dean John G. Douglass presented the Green Award to Judge Roger L. Gregory at the annual scholarship luncheon.

Virginia Gov. Bob McDonnell held a ceremonial signing of Senate Bill 259 on May 17 in memory of Robert E. Shepherd Jr., professor emeritus at the University of Richmond School of Law. Shepherd devoted his career to championing the rights of juveniles. The bill creates a presumption that youth being tried as adults should remain in juvenile detention pending trial rather than in adult jails unless a court makes a finding that the youth is a threat to other youth or staff in the detention facility.

The Law School’s Juvenile Law and Policy Clinic, directed by Professor Melissa Goemann, worked closely with Charlottesville’s Legal Aid Justice Center’s Just Children Program on passage of the bill. The bill also was actively supported by the Virginia Bar Association and its Commission on the Needs of Children, chaired by Professor Margaret Ivey Bacigal.

Shepherd, who died Dec. 11, 2008, was a founder of the Law School’s highly regarded National Center for Family Law.

President Edward L. Ayers and Dean John G. Douglass presented the Green Award to Judge Roger L. Gregory at the annual scholarship luncheon.

24 are awarded judicial clerkships

Twenty-four members of the Class of 2010 have attained prestigious judicial clerkships for the 2010–11 term. Nationally, Richmond Law graduates have an enviable record of securing among the highest percentage of clerkships in the country. There are eight federal clerks and 16 state clerks.

Federal clerks are: Matt Farley, Judge Thomas Johnston, Southern District of West Virginia; Mary Hallerman, Judge Claude M. Hilton, Eastern District of Virginia; Matt Hull, Judge William Stone, U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Western District of Virginia; Alissa Hurley, Judge Thomas L. Ludington, Eastern District of Michigan; David Rivard, Judge Jerome Friedman, Eastern District of Virginia; Andi Shultz, Judge Henry E. Hudson, Eastern District of Virginia; Summer Speight, Magistrate Judge M. Hannah Lauck, Eastern District of Virginia; and Jaime Wisegarver, Judge Frederick P. Stamp, Northern District of West Virginia.

State clerks are: Faith Alejandro, Richmond City Circuit Court; Justin Corder,
Justice Donald Lemons, Supreme Court of Virginia; Katie Donoghue, Prince William County Circuit Court; Amber Ford, Henrico County Circuit Court; Hank Gates, Judge Michael Allen, Chesterfield Circuit Court; Erica Giovanni, Judge Harold W. Burgess Jr., Chesterfield Circuit Court; David Hartnett, 6th Judicial Circuit Court; Ben Hoover, Chesapeake Circuit Court; Laurel Huerkamp, Henrico County Circuit Court; Chor Lee, Richmond City Circuit Court; Dave McGill, Superior Court of Rhode Island; Kyle McLaughlin, Portsmouth Circuit Court; John McLaurn, Judges Waserstein and Crowell, Delaware State Family Court; Diana Pharao, Judge David S. Schell, Fairfax Circuit Court; Stephanie Regali, Hanover Circuit Court; and Kitty Smith, Arlington County Circuit Court.

Michelle Rahman, 25 years of making a difference

Not many people who meet Michelle Rahman would think she’s a dinosaur. But she recently referred to herself as such, in remarks delivered to the mid-year deans’ meeting in Orlando, Fla., hosted by the American Bar Association.

In her comments, she told the crowd that she has been involved in law school admissions for 25 years—all of them at Richmond.

Rahman came to Richmond Law in December 1985, working initially with Jean Tarpley, the legendary admissions director whom Rahman says was “the backbone and heart of this law school.”

Rahman became admissions director in 1990, when Tarpley retired, then was given the title of associate dean under former Dean Rodney Smolla, in recognition of how the job—and her duties—had changed. “When I started, I was registrar [for the Law School], certified bar applications, and supervised three dormitories, in addition to admissions,” she says. Now, Rahman runs the department, conducts orientation, oversees housing, and focuses more on admissions and prospective students.

The bottom line, Rahman says, is always the students. “I am passionate about our students and this school. I am so lucky to be able to open a door to give an opportunity to so many deserving students. Sometimes, you get to make a difference.”

Everett Gardner, L’10, said Rahman was one of the major reasons he came to Richmond. Richmond was his backup school, but after hearing Rahman speak and talking to her personally, Gardner knew he wouldn’t be just a number here. “Dean Rahman has an incredible gift for making people feel genuinely appreciated and loved—just talking to her makes you feel like family.”

Dean John G. Douglass says that while everyone knows Rahman for the personal tone she sets in the admissions office, “fewer folks know how accomplished she is at strategic thinking. Her experience and sound judgment are well recognized,” said Douglass, and recently resulted in her election to the Law School Admission Council Board of Trustees.

While Rahman’s job has changed greatly in the past 25 years, she says the Law School’s mission has not. “We care deeply about, and work hard for our students. They are a big part of who we are.”

That’s a philosophy that never goes out of style.

UPDATE

New Law School website launched

This spring, the Law School launched a new website that features vibrant photography, stories on law students, faculty and alumni, social media functionality, an updated events calendar and news feed, and improved search capabilities. Our new admissions video is featured prominently on the front page at law.richmond.edu.

Please share this link with your friends and colleagues.

These improvements will help the Law School tell its story with a creative approach, through articles about our community that will interest potential applicants, the media, policy makers, and supporters. Research tools allow us to monitor site usage so we know how many viewers are visiting and where they are clicking. The site also helps to integrate the Law School with the other schools on campus to share content and publicize events and interdisciplinary programs.

Admissions, career services, the library, the dean’s office, and faculty members, worked with the communications Web team for months to help design the navigation and functionality of the pages. For suggestions regarding news and features, please e-mail Roberta Oster Sachs, associate dean for external relations, at rsachs@richmond.edu.
The Constitution and war crimes

Can Spain prosecute a former American attorney general for war crimes, even if America and many other countries believe the alleged actions were entirely lawful?

Prominent constitutional and international legal scholars examined this and other questions of authority and jurisdiction in February at “A Collision of Authority: The U.S. Constitution and Universal Jurisdiction.” The symposium was sponsored by the Richmond Journal of Global Law and Business.

Participants were Erwin Chemerinsky, dean, University of California, Irvine School of Law; Mary Ellen O’Connell, Robert and Marion Short Professor of Law and Research Professor of International Dispute Resolution, University of Notre Dame School of Law; and Jeremy Rabkin, professor of law, George Mason University School of Law.

Moderator was Richmond Law Professor John Preis. “With the recent war on terror, the definition of a war crime has become harder to pin down,” said Preis.

Symposium participants discussed such issues as treaty law, domestic legislation, and potential international liability of U.S. officials.

‘Vision 2020’ tackles energy issues

Scholars, energy experts, and policymakers engaged in a wide-ranging discussion of climate change, energy demand and coal, oil, nuclear, and renewable sources at the annual Allen Chair Symposium presented April 1.

“Vision 2020: A View of Our Energy Future” attracted 200 people for sessions that included emerging issues in policy, nuclear power, and an address by former U.S. Senator and Virginia Gov. George Allen, chairman of the American Energy Freedom Center. Climate change is the greatest challenge of our time, Richmond Law Professor Joel B. Eisen said.

Several speakers promoted efficiency measures as one means to lower emissions and reduce the need to build more power plants.

“If every state in the U.S. used electricity as productively as the top 10 states, 60 percent of U.S. coal-fired electricity plants could be retired,” said Christopher Paine, director of the environmental group National Resources Defense Council.

W. Thomas Hudson, president of the Virginia Coal Association, said that the coal industry provides “real jobs.”

Luncheon speaker Aimee Christensen, chief executive of the consulting firm Christensen Global Strategies, compared the attractiveness of efficiency to collecting “$20 bills lying on the floor.” She says Wal-Mart, the global retailer with the slogan “Save Money. Live Better,” is devoting itself to sustainability measures and conserving resources. The resulting savings can be huge because of the scale of the company and can be shared with consumers through lower product prices.

“Vision 2020” was co-sponsored by the Merhige Center for Environmental Studies, the University of Richmond Law Review, and the Virginia State Bar.

Rick Klau involved in law search tool

When Rick Klau, L’96, first started at Google and heard whispers that a team of engineers was working to create a law search tool through Google Scholar, he wanted to get involved. By taking advantage of Google’s “20 percent time” philosophy, where employees are allowed to devote one day a week working on projects outside their job descriptions, he was able to do just that.

When Google Scholar launched its law search feature last November it
Clinic director
Kelley H. Bartges, 1958–2010

Kelley H. Bartges, clinical professor of law and director of the Juvenile Delinquency Clinic at the Law School, who was known as a tireless advocate for protecting the rights of children, died Jan. 21 after a four-year battle with cancer. She was 51.

As an educator, she touched the lives and professional careers of hundreds of students. “Kelley was a remarkable teacher,” said Adrienne E. Volenik, director of the Disability Law Clinic, whose office was next door to Bartges’. “She helped people stand in other people’s shoes.”

Bartges had a lasting impact on Noelle Shaw-Bell, L’96, a Virginia assistant attorney general for health, education, and social services. “I was a student of Kelley’s in 1995–1996 in the youth advocacy clinic at UR. She was always delighted to help when I called her after graduation with practical questions. I now represent social services and do child abuse appeals—largely because of my exposure to these issues in Kelley’s clinic.”

As director of the Juvenile Delinquency Clinic, Bartges taught legal principles in her classroom and then took her students into area courtrooms, working side-by-side with them as they represented teenage clients. Dean John G. Douglass said, “Kelley taught the craft of lawyering with skill and wisdom. Even more, she nurtured in her students the capacity to care for young clients as human beings and the will to challenge circumstances that could compromise that humanity.”

Bartges, L’85, joined the Richmond Law faculty in 1994. Before joining the Law School, where she also had directed the Advocacy Clinic, she served as a public defender in the Richmond Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court. She also held positions with Assisting Families of Inmates Inc., and the American Civil Liberties Union of Virginia.

She received many awards, including the Community Partnership award in 2009 from Assisting Families of Inmates. On April 30, Bartges was honored posthumously with the “Unsung Hero” Award at Oliver Hill Day, an event recognizing Law Week and civil rights attorney Oliver W. Hill Sr.

Panel debates high court and public opinion

Barry Friedman, one of the nation’s top constitutional theorists and author of the critically acclaimed 2009 book The Will of the People, presented the keynote address at “The Supreme Court vs. the Will of the People” symposium March 24.

Friedman, vice dean at New York University Law School, contends that for at least the past 60 years, the justices have made sure that their decisions do not stray too far from public opinion. Why does the court follow public opinion? “Because it has to,” said Friedman.

Larry Baum, political science professor at Ohio State University, and Neal Devins, director, Institute of Bill of Rights Law at William & Mary Law School, argued that the Supreme Court is more likely influenced by elite opinion than by public opinion. Baum and Devins are co-authors of Why the Supreme Court Cares about Elites, Not the American People (forthcoming 2010).

Professors Woody Holton, history department, University of Richmond, and Corinna Barrett Lain, Richmond Law, also provided commentary. Law Professor Jack Preis was moderator.
Veterans on a Mission

Law School students find new ways to use military and legal skills

By Chip Jones

Sam Bernier, J’ll, spent most of 2005 as an Army National Guard corporal at Baghdad International Airport. “For me, that was a bad year,” says Bernier. The airport was hit by mortar and rocket fire frequently, including one rocket that landed within 20 feet of his post atop a metal tower near the airport runway. “If it had blown up, I would have been severely injured.”

After his year in Iraq, Bernier was anxious to get on with his life. The first step was to complete his undergraduate degree at Hawaii Pacific University. But when he inquired about the tuition assistance that was part of his enlistment contract, and a reason for joining the Hawaii National Guard, he was stunned to learn that assistance could be withheld when a state runs out of funds. “I’ve never been so furious,” he says. “This was a deal: I had gone to Iraq for a year for this money.” Bernier was forced to spend most of the $20,000 he saved during his Guard service to get his degree in environmental studies.

When Bernier enrolled at the Law School in the summer of 2008, he didn’t forget the frustration he felt as a veteran trying to fight through the fine print and red tape to get an education. That was the defining experience that inspired Bernier to form Richmond’s Veterans and Friends of Veterans Legal Association (VFVLA). Since its inception last fall, the Law School group has worked to raise awareness of veterans’ issues on campus, and in the wider community, including combat veterans recovering at the McGuire VA Medical Center in Richmond.

“Veterans are always more comfortable being with other veterans, especially when we’re talking about more sensitive topics like health care and money,” says Bernier, 33, who also served four years in the U.S. Marine Corps, with deployments across the Pacific from Okinawa to Korea to Thailand.
“Veterans bring a mature, real-world experience to the law school classroom,” says Peter Swisher, faculty advisor to the VFVLA, and an Army veteran himself. The group provides legal assistance to veterans and their families prior to and after deployments. It also co-sponsored the first Veterans Day Commemoration at the Law School with the Richmond ROTC program and former law students and undergraduates serving in the armed forces.

Like many of his peers, Bernier faces a heavy debt load—student loans totaling $70,000 for law school. He works three part-time jobs to put himself through school and to help support his wife and infant son.

“So my idea originally was, ‘Why isn’t there some kind of on-campus veterans organization that says, ‘OK, this is what you do to get your benefits’” and coordinates with the University’s financial aid office.

Though they represent a small fraction of the Law School student body—seven veterans out of 476 students—the VFVLA has been embraced by dozens of other students and professors in the Law School and around campus. Bernier, along with Jennifer S. Schoffstall (Air Force, L’12), Mike Giordano (Navy, L’11), and Sarah Warren Beverly (L’11), formed the VFVLA leadership team. Other veterans in the Law School include Isaac Mcbeth, L’11, John Weiland, L’12, and Craig Ellis, L’12, all Army veterans, and Meredith Adkins, Navy, L’12.

The VFVLA has taken on a variety of causes, including a push to increase the level of matching scholarships under the Yellow Ribbon Program of the Post 9/11 GI Bill. The program allows educational institutions to provide student veterans with a tuition waiver or grant that is matched by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

The University, with the support of Law School Dean John G. Douglass, chose to participate in the Yellow Ribbon Program in its first year of 2009–10. UR pledged to offer scholarships of $5,000 for up to 25 veterans.

Thus far, nine students enrolled at the University—including three Law School students—have received some level of Yellow Ribbon support this year, according to the University’s Office of Financial Aid.

The VFVLA also has spearheaded a continuing legal education program to assist incapacitated veterans at the McGuire VA Medical Center. And VFVLA members have worked at UR Downtown’s Jeanette S. Lipman Family Law Clinic and Harry L. Carrico Center for Pro Bono Service. Schoffstall says she’s excited to be working with Professor Tara Louise Casey, director of the pro bono center, to help write a primer for attorneys across the nation representing veterans as clients in the federal appeals process.

Law Professor John Paul Jones, a naval flight officer in the Vietnam War, says “There are vast numbers of pro bono opportunities” for law students to work on veterans’ issues. “I can imagine our students doing the grunt work that provides useful guides for matters of child custody, divorce, benefits, and scholarships—all in the family context.” Another potential area of practice, Jones says, is environmental law, which represents “an entirely discrete area of the law” that’s practiced whenever the Department of Defense closes a military base.

Other military veterans on the Law School faculty include Ron Bacigal, of the Navy Judge Advocate General’s Corps; Corinna Barrett Lain, an Army veteran; W. Wade Berryhill, professor of law, emeritus, a naval flight officer in Vietnam; and J. Rodney Johnson, professor of law, emeritus, Air Force.

Mike Giordano, L’11, VFVLA vice president, spent four years in the Navy as a surface warfare officer, including a tour of duty on the Navy destroyer USS Cole.

“Most veterans are not traditional students. Many of us are older than our classmates,” says Giordano, 28. “We tend to have families, and we share unique experiences that civilian students do not know much about. For most veterans, the transition to civilian life can be a little scary.”

The student association, explains Giordano, “provides a feeling of belonging that brings with it a sense of comfort that definitely makes the transition back to school easier on veterans and their families.”

Professor Jones, who has counseled a number of returning veterans, reflects, “Once you’ve been dramatically transformed into a soldier or a sailor or an airman, there’s some reorientation when you return to the civilian world. When you’ve spent your day worrying about

Veterans share unique experiences that civilian students do not know much about. For most veterans, the transition to civilian life can be a little scary.
being shot at and killed, you find it hard to understand how people can get excited about anything else—like making the Law Review, or getting to the bookstore before it closes. ... There’s a time when you can’t figure out why these people are sweating the small stuff. Maybe that’s a good thing, but it can leave you feeling alienated and can be a disadvantage because the small stuff can be the difference between success and failure in law school.”

The veterans are quick to note the positive aspects of their military service. Giordano says, “My experience in the Navy boosted my confidence and solidified my belief that I could succeed in law school. The Navy demanded the very best from me at all times.”

When Air Force veteran Jennifer Schoffstall was visiting prospective law schools, she felt an immediate bond when she met Bernier, who volunteers to give campus tours as a Law School Admissions Representative. “I chose to come here because of the warmth I felt at UR,” she says, noting this wasn’t true of other schools she visited. Schoffstall, 28, was a captain and spent six years on active duty in Qatar, Kyrgyzstan, and Japan, helping the communities around bases through Habitat for Humanity and other outreach programs for children and families.

Schoffstall leads a VFVLA team of first-year law students—Andrew Deel, Christine Coghill, and John Weiland—who have been compiling and analyzing funding levels for Yellow Ribbon programs at peer schools. Their goal is to secure larger scholarships for individual veterans.

Sarah Warren Beverly isn’t a military veteran, but counts herself among the “friends” in the VFVLA. Last fall, she was especially intrigued to hear about the need to provide court-appointed legal guardians—guardians ad litem—for incapacitated veterans at McGuire VA Medical Center. “We decided the best way we could serve those disabled veterans was to establish a continuing legal education program in order to educate those guardians ad litem on the specific needs for veterans.”

Beverly, whose father was in the Army, says the VFVLA offers a way to encourage everyone to give more opportunities to veterans.

One of the group’s first acts was to hold a Veterans Day event at the Law School last fall. “Our celebration enjoyed an outpouring of support from faculty and students alike,” says Giordano, the event organizer. The VFVLA collected eight large boxes of care package items to send to troops in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Most heartening, though, were the reactions of professors Swisher, Jones, and other faculty veterans who could remember another era—Vietnam—when no one on college campuses appreciated their service. “I think most Americans support our troops today in Iraq and Afghanistan and around the world, even if they question how we got there,” Swisher says.

At the Law School Veterans Day program, Schoffstall fought back tears as she listened to Jones speak of the military’s sacrifices throughout American history. For Giordano, “Just seeing the thankful look in Professor Jones’ eyes made the event worthwhile.”

Clockwise from left are John Weiland, L’12, staff sergeant, United States Army Special Forces, Al Anbar Province, Iraq, 2006; Jennifer Schoffstall, L’12, a captain in the Air Force, Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., 2003, in front of an F-15 Eagle; and, faculty advisor Peter Swisher, an Army first lieutenant, Cam Ranh Bay, Vietnam, 1969, with mascot Luv.

Chip Jones is a Richmond-based writer working on his third book of military history. He can be reached at www.redwhiteoryellow.com.
Professor envisions externship program to help nation move forward

By Bonnie V. Winston

Law Professor Jonathan K. Stubbs traces his interest in human rights law to the mid-1970s when he studied law at Oxford University in the United Kingdom.

Two of the big issues he focused on back then were the anti-apartheid movement in South Africa and the struggle for independence in Rhodesia.

Today, Stubbs works to stop the global human rights problem of genocide, including the mass killing that took place in Rwanda in 1994 after long and bitter fighting between the Hutus and the Tutsis.

Stubbs was invited to Rwanda in January for an international conference on human rights sponsored by UNESCO and the Rwanda National Human Rights Commission. About 90 people from 40 different nations heard from Rwandan government leaders and others about broader, more inclusive policies and plans in education, health care, and citizenship that officials hope will prevent such internal violence from recurring.

“If Rwanda can emerge from a genocide in which between 500,000 and a million people were brutally killed, and create a society in which those who were involved in the atrocities can live in the same communities as people whose lives were devastated, and find a way to live in peace, then what kind of example does that set for the rest of us?” asked Stubbs, who also is an associate minister at Bethel Baptist Church in Gloucester, Va.

“This kind of conference provides an opportunity for us to make a small, constructive contribution—to both lend a hand and to be lent a hand.”

Toward that end, Stubbs wants to establish an externship program in Rwanda that would give University of Richmond law students and undergraduates hands-on experience in that nation’s efforts to move forward. He envisions UR students promoting the transformation by working with Rwandan government and non-governmental organizations.

“Human rights work does a lot for people who are lacking access to education, or health care, or justice, or housing, or an opportunity to express themselves and have some say over what happens to them,” Stubbs said. “To open up opportunities for students to participate in activities related to those types of concerns is something I feel called to do.”

While plans for such a program are still taking shape, Stubbs has had meetings in the United States and Rwanda with chief officials from the Rwandan Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Education, and the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion. All are excited about the possibility of collaborating with UR.

“I am eager—and the other people in Rwanda are eager—to see the partnership bear fruit,” said Dr. Jeanne d’Arc Mujawamariya, Rwanda’s Minister of
Richmond Law

Gender and Family Promotion.

Mujawamariya said she was impressed with the University of Richmond and its leaders after a two-day visit in early March. With Stubbs as her host, she met with President Edward L. Ayers, Law School Dean John G. Douglass, faculty members, and law students.

“What is important is that [Stubbs’ proposal] has garnered support and interest from a number of other faculty members,” said Dr. Uliana Gabara, dean of UR’s Office of International Education, following Mujawamariya’s visit. “It’s a fascinating project and it’s a visible example and proof that the Richmond Promise, which focuses strongly on collaboration between the various schools of the University, is happening very organically.”

An informal group of roughly 15 faculty, staff, and students are interested in the Rwanda initiative and have been working with Stubbs to turn it into a reality.

While the University has programs in Botswana and Ghana, and summer internships in Cape Town, South Africa, it has no links to eastern Africa, Gabara said.

After traveling to the small, land-locked republic in January for the human rights conference held outside the capital of Kigali, Stubbs describes Rwanda as “a society still in the process of healing.”

He was struck by the number of orphans created by the genocide, many of them being raised by older siblings, other relatives, and unrelated survivors. Many of the adults raising the children wondered about resources in the United States.

“They asked, ‘What are things like in the United States for foreign students? Are there scholarships?’”

Leaders of several non-governmental organizations that help orphans expressed an interest in working with UR students, Stubbs said. There was similar enthusiasm for collaboration at government agencies.

Mujawamariya said through an externship program, Richmond Law students could assist her office with legal research and by aiding with the drafting of memoranda, instructions, and laws in areas of women’s rights, children’s rights, and family responsibility.

The Rwandan government has an initiative to provide universal primary education to students without charge, Stubbs said. Similarly, it also is working to ensure all Rwandans have access to health care. Education is key, he said, to avoiding another genocide in Rwanda.

Since coming to Richmond Law in 1989, Stubbs has taught human rights and international law. He said he is routinely peppered with questions from students interested in exploring career options in those fields.

“There is a lot of student idealism when folks come into law school,” said Stubbs. “They want to have careers or live lives that help people who may be the more vulnerable persons in society. Students often ask what type of work is out there for persons with this interest who want to make it a career. It occurred to me that maybe more could be done. As a teacher, I felt that I should lend a hand to address this student interest.”

By setting up an externship program, Stubbs said, “We would probably learn much more from this experience than the other way around.”

Bonnie V. Winston is a Williamsburg-based writer and editor.
Earlier this decade, some of America’s best-known life insurance companies quietly settled multimillion-dollar civil rights lawsuits challenging race-based life insurance rates and benefits. As a result, those companies closed a chapter of American economic history that began after the Civil War with the door-to-door marketing of small individual life insurance policies to poor workers, including former slaves, and their families. The closing of this chapter in history also marked the end of a form of Jim Crow race discrimination largely invisible to the American public.

Although the settlements provided partial recompense to black Americans harmed by the continuing effects of discriminatory policies sold during the Jim Crow era, the litigation itself did not accomplish a broader shift in commercial practice. The industry’s biggest companies eliminated race-based practices for most new policies issued after the beginning of the modern civil rights era. By the early 1960s, industry professional organizations had developed and approved race-integrated mortality tables as an industry-wide standard. Thus, by the time the civil rights movement had achieved landmark legal and legislative changes in education, public accommodations, employment, housing, and voting rights, the biggest players in the life insurance industry had already
“voluntarily” discontinued their most visible race-based practices for all newly issued policies. How did that transformation happen?

My recent research traces the evolution of explicit race-based insurance practices over a century as the life insurance industry responded to changes in the social, economic, and legal status of black Americans. The role of law in that story, from the Civil War to the beginning of this century, illustrates the complex interaction between civil rights reform and private commercial markets. Despite early laws prohibiting race-based life insurance rates, they persisted in various forms for more than a century due to the strength of the underlying racial ideologies, the rhetorical power of actuarial language, and the structure and regulation of insurance markets. I argue that life insurance companies reinforced prevailing American assumptions about race by adopting explicit race-based pricing categories after Reconstruction, and later, by abandoning them for new policies sold after World War II and during the second Reconstruction. Civil rights law thus served primarily as prologue, by provoking company adaptation, and as epilogue, by providing retrospective relief, to the central story of that transformation.

Like Jim Crow state-sanctioned race segregation, which according to *Plessy v. Ferguson* prevented “an enforced co-mingling of the two races,” the insurance industry justified Jim Crow race-based practices by reference to racial “difference.” After Reconstruction, life insurance companies began insuring emancipated slaves at two-thirds the benefits provided to white policyholders. Although the values echoed slavery era racial hierarchies, the companies explained the change by reference to the “excessive mortality” and “innate” racial traits of former slaves as a “dying” race. Race-categorized mortality differentials quantified those differences and classified policyholders as “standard” and “substandard” risks. Race-based pricing structures thus underscored the then-dominant ideological assumptions about “biological” racial superiority and inferiority.

Beginning in the 1880s, several Northern states passed laws prohibiting differentials in life insurance premiums or benefits solely on the basis of race. Some companies responded by adopting other types of less visible discriminatory practices. Others pulled their business from those states or thereafter declined to solicit black business anywhere. The resulting market segmentation led to racial segregation of insurance markets and the development of black-owned insurance companies, mirroring patterns of race separation, subordination, and segregation found more generally in America during the Jim Crow era.

When Jim Crow segregation came under attack in the second Reconstruction following World War II, the underlying Justifications for race-based pricing were finally discredited. By the mid-20th century,
the assumptions of scientific racism and the eugenics movement, which had been under attack by public intellectuals in America and Great Britain since the 1930s and 1940s, were finally disavowed. The repudiation of scientific racism after the defeat of the Nazi regime led to a fundamental rethinking of race. Cultural and environmental understandings replaced “natural” and “biological” explanations of race.

After the civil rights movement successfully attacked Jim Crow for its role in creating and maintaining unequal social and environmental conditions, the insurance industry could no longer sustain higher rates or coverage restrictions for black Americans based on “substandard” mortality categorized by race. Beginning in the late 1940s, under increasing pressure from civil rights groups, the big companies began equalizing rates for newly issued policies despite continuing race-correlated mortality differentials. Later, the industry achieved a form of collective action in the early 1960s, with the development of race-integrated tables by industry professional groups, approved for state regulatory purposes by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners.

As history shows, given the structure and state regulation of life insurance markets, lasting reform could not be accomplished state-by-state or market-by-market. Oliver Wendell Holmes observed in “The Path of the Law,” published shortly after the United States Supreme Court decided Plessy v. Ferguson, “We do not realize how large a part of our law is open to reconsideration upon a slight change in the habit of the public mind.” The same could be said of commercial practice. Prospective change in life insurance industry race-based practices followed only after a fundamental rethinking of race.


Richmond played important role in reform

During my research, I discovered that Richmond played an important role in the development of black insurance enterprises during the Jim Crow era. As the race-based policies of white insurance companies in the late 19th century evolved, black fraternal and benevolent societies added insurance features to their benefit programs. One of the largest and most successful black benevolent organizations, the Grand Fountain, United Order of the True Reformers, was formed in 1881, and headquartered in Richmond. The True Reformers, described by Booker T. Washington as “one of the first large secret orders formed by Negroes,” and by W.E.B. Du Bois as “probably the most remarkable Negro organization in the country,” established an extensive insurance program.

Under the leadership of a former slave named William Washington Browne, and his successor, W.L. Taylor, the True Reformers grew into a national organization with membership found in 20 states. The organization established its own bank, the True Reformers’ Savings Bank of Richmond, the first black-owned, black-operated bank to be chartered in the United States. It also operated its own newspaper, The Reformer, retail stores, an old folks home, and a 150-room hotel.

Recognizing the difficulties blacks encountered with white insurance companies, Browne sought to provide insurance coverage to members. Utilizing mainstream financial practices in insurance and other businesses, he initiated several important innovations.

The True Reformers became the first black benevolent society to disburse insurance benefits through a national office. It also, in 1885, instituted a sliding scale for insurance policies dependent upon the age and premium paid by the policyholder.

The legacy of the True Reformers survived through the influence of many of its former employees, including Maggie Walker, who founded businesses and insurance enterprises in Richmond, and John Merrick and A.M. Moore, who went on to found North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company, one of the oldest and most successful black-owned life insurance companies.
Even in her position as Virginia’s secretary of public safety, Marla Decker, L’83, still finds time to serve at the Tuckahoe Volunteer Rescue Squad.
Driven to serve

High-profile alumni continue Law School tradition of commitment to the community

By Marilyn J. Shaw

In that stressful time between taking the bar exam and waiting to see if she passed, Marla Graff Decker, L'83, put her free time to good use. She enrolled in an emergency medical technician course and joined the Tuckahoe Volunteer Rescue Squad.

The choice was a natural extension of the kind of community and cultural involvement she enjoyed during Law School at the University of Richmond. That EMT work provided hands-on experience that serves Decker well in her position as Virginia's secretary of public safety. She is one of two graduates of the Law School to sit on Gov. Bob McDonnell's Cabinet. The other is Eric Finkbeiner, L'99.

Decker oversees 14 departments with an estimated 22,000 employees. They include the Virginia State Police and the departments of corrections, emergency management, and fire programs.

For someone who likes to be in the middle of the action and work in public service, Decker says her new government role "is pretty much as good as it gets."

“It's a wide range of responsibilities for which the buck stops with me,” she says. Within the first six weeks of the administration, states of emergency were declared three times because of snow and once after the slaying of eight people in Appomattox.

Decker's new role connects her skills and family history. Her father and grandfather were members of the New York City Police Department, and her mother was an emergency room nurse. The secretary still pulls occasional shifts at Tuckahoe Volunteer Rescue, where she is a lifetime member. Her husband, Chip Decker, is chief executive of the Richmond Ambulance Authority.

“There's not a room in our house without a police or rescue squad scanner,” she says.

Until January, Decker spent her entire career in the Virginia attorney general's office. Attorney General Judith Jagdmann, L'84, promoted her to deputy attorney general of the public safety and enforcement division, where Decker interacted with the agencies for which she is now responsible. As attorney general, McDonnell reappointed her in 2006.

Decker's heavy workload in the new position may limit her ability to continue teaching classes in appellate advocacy at the Law School and at the University's School of Continuing Studies, as she has for the past decade, but Decker hopes to advance student learning by starting an internship in her office.

The desire to make a difference in the world seems to drive many alumni who choose careers in public service. A number hold high-profile positions in state government, leading statewide departments, assisting agency directors or providing counsel to the governor.

Decker's colleague in the 15-member Cabinet is Eric Finkbeiner. McDonnell appointed him senior advisor for policy.

Finkbeiner's previous state government experience, during the administrations of L. Douglas Wilder and George Allen, predates his law degree. After gradua-
Eric Finkbeiner, L’99, serves as Gov. Bob McDonnell’s senior advisor for policy and liaison to Virginia’s legislature.

During his first stint as commissioner, Holcomb says, the Department of Motor Vehicles became the first one in the nation to renew driver’s licenses on the Internet. Now most transactions handled in service centers can be done online.

This time around, Holcomb will be looking for ways to run the department as cost effectively and as efficiently as possible, in light of current budget challenges. Again, he says he will employ the keystone of his law education: researching questions, analyzing issues from every perspective, and articulating conclusions orally and in writing.

Holcomb was chief of staff for U.S. Rep. French Slaughter and worked for George Allen when the then-Virginia delegate won a special election in 1991 to succeed Slaughter. As governor-elect, Allen tapped Holcomb to head DMV.

When McDonnell was looking for leaders in his administration, Allen says he told the governor-elect, “There’s no one better on this planet to lead DMV” than Holcomb. “I think Governor McDonnell made a wise choice.”

McDonnell invited several people he worked with as attorney general into his administration, including Stephanie Hamlett, deputy counsel in the governor’s office. During her seven years in the attorney general’s office, she oversaw the opinions process and worked on Virginia debt issues and other financial matters.

Hamlett, L’86, has had a career that has spanned private practice, legislative staff counsel, and regional economic development roles. As deputy counsel, she reviews executive orders and inmates’ medical pardon requests. She also helps determine where to allocate federal stimulus money to spur economic development.

Knowing that she wanted to practice law in Virginia, Hamlett, whose father and daughter graduated from the University, chose the Law School because, “It prepares you best on Virginia law and its students pass the state bar at a high rate.”

Another recruit from the attorney general’s office is Maureen Matsen, L’89, the new deputy secretary of natural resources and senior advisor on energy. She developed expertise in energy-related issues during her 15 years in the attorney general’s office. The governor campaigned on a goal to make Virginia the energy capital of the East Coast by expanding and diversifying energy-related industries.

As deputy attorney general for civil litigation, Matsen managed more than 50 lawyers and staff, and contributed to negotiations leading to Virginia’s re-
regulation of electricity in 2007. She also oversaw the settlement of 46 of 48 potential cases stemming from the Virginia Tech massacre.

“Government and policy work was never in my long-range plan,” Matsen says of the shift away from trial and appellate work. “But this particular governor and this particular job offer, focusing on energy, appealed to me.”

Matsen enjoys encountering other Richmond Law alumni at work and says she was happy to serve with three other UR graduates on the board of governors of the Virginia Bar Association.

Many Law School alumni also worked in the administration of former Gov. Timothy M. Kaine, who has rejoined the Law School and the University faculty part-time after a 17-year absence.


Kaine, whose term as governor ended in January, has been back on campus since spring semester, when he taught 13 undergraduates about “Leadership Breakthroughs in American Life” at the Jepson School of Leadership Studies. This fall, Kaine, whose own legal career focused largely on corporate litigation and housing discrimination cases, will teach the “Future of Equality,” an advanced constitutional law seminar on civil rights, at the Law School.

“When I was in law school, I never thought about political office as a future career. I hoped to use my law degree to help others, but envisioned that work being primarily in the civil rights area,” he says. “But when I decided to run for office in 1994, I found that my legal training was enormously valuable. … The study and practice of law involves key skills—problem-solving, collaboration, trying to see things from another’s point of view—that are often in short supply in politics. I hope my teaching might convince my students, whatever their political views, that politics isn’t just for others, but that it can be an exciting path at some point in their professional lives.”

For Nicole “Nikki” Rovner, L’94, deputy secretary of natural resources in the Kaine administration, going to Richmond Law led directly to her career path. “Tim Kaine was my ethics teacher,” she says. “He was incredibly impressive. … I continued to pay attention to what he was doing [after he entered politics], and whenever I would run into him, I always reminded him he was my ethics teacher.”

When the Kaine administration was forming, she mentioned to insiders that she was not really looking for a job but felt she could contribute. “I ended up interviewing and being hired. It was a good fit for me,” says Rovner. She returned to The Nature Conservancy in Virginia early this year as director of state government relations, where she lobbies the General Assembly in efforts to protect natural landscape that is the habitat for plants and animals.

“It will always be a function of law schools to prepare lawyers for private practice,” Rovner says, “but there are lots of other ways lawyers can be beneficial. I have equally enjoyed my time in the nonprofit and government sectors.”

A tremendous benefit of Richmond Law and its location in the state capital are the “numerous opportunities to interact with those committed to public service,” says Hamlett, who was inspired to enter public service after a law school internship at the attorney general’s office. “An example is the annual environmental conference [co-sponsored by the Law School, Law Review, the Merhige Center for Environmental Studies, and the Virginia State Bar] with guests from the public [and private] sector on hand to demonstrate the opportunities.”

Marilyn J. Shaw is a Richmond-based writer and editor with a specialty in business communications.
Paul Birch, computer services librarian, was a panelist at the Law School Admissions Council’s 2010 ESCon (Law School Electronic Services) conference held in April in Las Vegas, where he discussed “Creating/Maintaining an Online Presence.”

Hamilton Bryson recently edited Robert Paynell’s King’s Bench Reports (1625–1627) with the Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Texts and Studies.

Tara Louise Casey was appointed to the Association of American Law Schools Section on Pro Bono and Public Interest Opportunities. She joined the board of directors for Drive-to-Work, a nonprofit legal services organization that assists qualifying low-income and previously incarcerated persons to restore driving privileges so they can drive to work and hold a job.


Timothy L. Coggins, associate dean for library and information services, and his coauthor, Sally Holterhoff of Valparaiso University School of Law, completed “Authenticating Government Information,” a chapter in The International Handbook of Government Information Management. The book will be published by Ashgate Publishing LTD this summer.

Suzanne B. Corriell, head of reference and research services, had the article “Your Retirement To-Do List: Enjoy Each Day” published in the April issue of Virginia Lawyer magazine. In April at the Southeastern Chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries annual meeting, she and Gail Zwirner discussed how librarians can help law faculty with empirical research projects and demonstrated STATA, a statistical package that is used to analyze data.

Joel B. Eisen spoke on renewable energy at conferences at the law schools at William and Mary (January) and Washington and Lee (April). He co-authored the third edition of the popular energy law course book, Energy, Economics and the Environment, which was published in June. Eisen’s article “China’s Renewable Energy Law,” drawing on his experience as a Fulbright Scholar in China, will be published in a late summer issue of the William and Mary Environmental Law and Policy Review. His article “Can Urban Solar Become a “Disruptive” Technology? The Case For Solar Utilities,” was published in the June issue of the Notre Dame Journal of Law, Ethics & Public Policy. Also in April, Eisen was a panelist at the Law School’s “Vision 2020” energy conference.

Jessica Erickson recently received a grant from the American Bar Association’s Section on Litigation to fund her empirical research project regarding shareholder litigation in the federal courts. Her article “Corporate Governance in the Courtroom: An Empirical Analysis” was published in the April William & Mary Law Review.

David Frisch spoke on recent bankruptcy developments at the annual meeting of the Tidewater Bankruptcy Bar Association.

Jim Gibson and Chris Cotropia coauthored “The Upside of Intellectual Property’s Downside” in the April UCLA Law Review. In April, Gibson spoke at the Copyright@300 Conference at UC Berkeley. His topic was “Copyright Formalities: Then, Now, Later.”

Mary L. Heen participated in a discussion about academic freedom cases at the First Amendment Scholars Conference convened by the Thomas Jefferson Center for the Protection of Free Expression at the University of Virginia on April 17, in conjunction with the Abraham lecture deliv-
ered by Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia. She was elected to serve as an at-large member of the Executive Committee of the Virginia Conference of the American Association of University Professors.

**Ann Hodges** published “Fallout from 14 Penn Plaza v. Pyett: Fractured Arbitration Systems in the Unionized Workplace” in the *Journal of Dispute Resolution* in May. In April, she was interviewed and quoted in a story on MSNBC on sexting and workplace privacy issues in a case before the Supreme Court.

**Melanie C. Holloway** was named a Rising Star in intellectual property law by *Super Lawyers Magazine*, which recognizes the top up-and-coming attorneys who are 40 years old or younger. She also received that honor in 2007.

**Joyce Manna Janto**, L’89, deputy director of the law library, became president of the American Association of Law Libraries at its annual meeting in Denver, Colo.

**Corinna Barrett Lain**’s article “Lessons Learned from the Evolution of ‘Evolving Standards’” will be published in *Charleston Law Review* 101(2010). She presented the article at the Annual Law and Society Symposium hosted by the Charleston Law Review and the Riley Institute in Charleston, S.C., in February. On March 8, she presented “Our [Not So] Countermajoritarian Supreme Court” at the University of Houston Law Center as part of its “Criminal Law at the Cutting Edge—Leading Voices Lecture Series.” On March 24 at Richmond, she was part of the “Supreme Court Versus the Will of the People” symposium, where she commented on Professor Barry Friedman’s newly released book, “The Will of the People.” She was interviewed on NBC12, WWBT Richmond on March 22 on the death penalty bill that came out of the Virginia General Assembly, and on local National Public Radio on March 25 about Supreme Court decision making. She presented “The Doctrinal Side of Majority Rule” at a Michigan State Symposium on April 9.

**Dale Margolin** presented “The American with Disabilities Act and Mental Health: Exploring Public Benefits and Child Welfare Law” to the Urban Justice Center in New York on April 8, and “Becoming a Clinical Law Professor” at Skadden Arps, also in NYC, on April 9. Her article “Empowerment, Innovation, and Service: Law School Programs Provide Access to Justice and Instill a Commitment to Serve,” was accepted for publication in *Fam. Ct. Rev.* In April, she was elected to the Board of Directors, FACES of Virginia.

**Shari Motro** presented “Preglimony” at the Critical Tax Theory Conference and at a law faculty workshop at Washington University in April. The 9th edition of *The Income Tax Map, A Bird’s-Eye View of Federal Income*...

**Faculty Profile**

**‘No clerk and tell’**

**Kevin Walsh**

Don’t expect to see a Supreme Court tell-all listed among Assistant Professor Kevin Walsh’s publications any time soon—or ever. Walsh, who clerked for Justice Antonin Scalia during the Court’s 2003–04 term, frowns upon the “clerk and tell” approach found in a book like *Closed Chambers*, one clerk’s account of the intricacies of the court.

“I think some accounts overinflated the role the clerks play,” Walsh says. And, in any event, “It’s really the clerks’ obligation to protect the secrecy of the court’s deliberations and processes.”

Walsh, who holds degrees from Dartmouth (A.B., philosophy) and Notre Dame (M.A., theological studies) in addition to a J.D. from Harvard, also clerked for Judge Paul V. Niemeyer on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. He was told clerking would be “a great experience, very challenging and a good way to start [my] career.” He wasn’t disappointed. “I tried to watch every minute of argument and to follow all the cases from beginning to end. I learned lessons about the law that I could not get from any book.”

Following his clerkships, Walsh worked at Hunton & Williams in Richmond and was a visiting professor at Villanova before joining the Law School faculty in 2009. He teaches constitutional law, federal courts, and complex litigation, among other topics.

During Walsh’s Supreme Court clerkship, cases decided by the court included a high-profile campaign finance decision—*McConnell v. Federal Election Commission*—and a trio of enemy combatant cases: *Hamdi v. Rumsfeld*, *Rumsfeld v. Padilla*, and *Rasul v. Bush*. Regardless of the case, Walsh says clerking always means working under pressure on difficult issues with the opportunity to confer with talented lawyers.

“My experience gave me a perspective I never would have been able to get otherwise,” he says, noting that clerking fed his love of learning about the law. “It’s good to be able to see the law from the other side, and clerking is a unique job that is hard to go back to later in your career.”

—Paula Peters Chambers
**Faculty Briefs**

**Taxation for Law Students**, co-authored with Deborah H. Schenk, will be published by West this summer. Her op-ed “In Praise of Open Windows” was published April 10 in *The Wall Street Journal*.

**Michelle L. Rahman** was the only admissions professional asked to speak at the American Bar Association’s midyear deans meeting and she put together a panel to discuss scholarship aid in difficult times, rankings, and technology.

**Noah Sachs** attended the United Nations climate change summit in Copenhagen in December and was interviewed live by Jack Rice on “Air America” about the prospects for a climate change treaty. He moderated a panel at Richmond Law’s April 1 energy symposium, “Vision 2020.” He is coauthoring a casebook, *Regulation and Toxic Substances and Hazardous Waste*, to be published by Foundation Press in December.

**Peter Swisher** completed a 2010 revision of his *Virginia Family Law: Theory and Practice* with co-authors Lawrence Diehl and James Cottrell; and a 2010 revision of his *Virginia Tort & Personal Injury Law* treatise with coauthors Robert Draim and David Hudgins. Both are published by Thomson West.

**Carl W. Tobias** published an article on federal judicial selection in the *Chicago Tribune, Baltimore Sun, National Law Journal, Roanoke Times, Richmond Times-Dispatch, Des Moines Register, San Antonio News-Express, Nashville Tennessean, Salt Lake Tribune, McClatchy Newspapers, Roll Call, Jurist, and FindLaw*. He was a widely quoted contributor to the debates over judicial selection, the Obama administration, terrorism, and other topics, for such outlets as National Public Radio, Voice of America, and Bloomberg News. He also was quoted in numerous newspapers, including *The New York Times*, the *Los Angeles Times*, and *The Wall Street Journal*.

**Kevin Walsh** appeared on NBC12, WWBT Richmond on April 21 to discuss the process of selecting a Supreme Court nominee to replace Justice Stevens, and on May 10 to discuss the nomination of Elena Kagan to the high court.

**Sally Wambold**, technical services librarian, received the 2010 Service to SEAALL Award, which is awarded annually to a Southeastern Chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries member who has made special, significant, and sustained contributions to the chapter.

**Gail Zwirner**, head of access services, and Suzanne B. Corriell discussed how librarians can help law faculty with empirical research projects and demonstrated STATA, a statistical package that is used to analyze data, at the April annual meeting of SEAALL.

**New professor**

Kimberly Jenkins Robinson, an authority in the field of education law, has joined the law faculty as a tenured professor. Prior to her appointment, Robinson was an associate professor at Emory University School of Law for six years.

She has extensive experience from her work for the Office of the General Counsel of the U.S. Department of Education, and from Hogan & Hartson LLP in Washington, D.C.

Robinson graduated cum laude from Harvard Law School and was an articles editor for the *Harvard Law Review*. She served as a judicial clerk on the Ninth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals, and holds a B.A. in foreign affairs from the University of Virginia.

**Faculty news**

The University of Richmond Board of Trustees voted in February to promote **Jessica Erickson** and **Jack Preis** to associate professors of law. Professor **Carl Tobias** was reappointed to the Williams Chair.

**Mark Rubin** will join the Law School as the A.L. Philpott Adjunct Chair in Law for the fall and spring semesters. Rubin has practiced law in Richmond for many years, and most recently served as senior advisor to former Virginia Gov. Tim Kaine.

**Graham Strong**, **Marci Kelly**, **Maurizio del Conte**, and **Sam Vermont** will be visiting professors of law this fall.
Richmond Law again wins ‘Food Frenzy’

Richmond Law, for the second year in a row, collected more food than any other Virginia law school in the fourth annual “Legal Food Frenzy” sponsored by the Attorney General’s Office in cooperation with the Virginia Bar Association.

Overall, the drive generated more than 1.7 million pounds of food for the state’s food banks, 36 tons more than in 2009.

The Law School brought in 96,326 pounds of food, or 215 pounds per person, more than doubling last year’s totals. SuperValu again dramatically aided the Law School effort, donating more than 75,000 pounds of food on behalf of the students.

Student recognition

The University of Richmond Law team of Isaac Mcbeth, L’11, and Jennifer Schoffstall, L’12, won the 2010 National Merhige Environmental Negotiation Competition, held at Richmond. Thirty-two teams competed.

Class of 2012 students Qasim Rashid and Frank McFadden were selected for the Washington Metropolitan Area Corporate Counsel Association (WMACCA) Summer Corporate Scholars Program. The program places rising 2L and 3L students in the corporate legal departments of some of the most prestigious companies in America.

Garrett Hooe, L’12, David Welch, L’11, and Tim Dustan, L’12, received Steiger awards for paid summer fellowships in the anti-trust and consumer protection divisions of U.S. attorneys general offices.

Lindsay Neinast, L’10, was a finalist in the 2010 Entertainment Law Initiative Writing Competition sponsored by the GRAMMY Foundation and the Entertainment Law Initiative. Her piece was titled “Recorded Music Is an Incredibly Tough Business in China—But, It Should Be Incredible.” She received a trip to the 52nd Annual GRAMMY awards in Los Angeles and a scholarship check.

Fifteen Class of 2010 students were recipients of the 2010 Pro Bono Certificate presented by the Harry L. Carrico Center for Pro Bono Service. They are: Kathryn Amirpashaie; Brittany J. Berlauk; Rachael Deane; Erica Giovanni; Aaron Houchens; Eric Huszar; Bethany Iten; Anne Jenkins; Hilary Merica; Carla Pool; Trent Powell; Urooj Shaikh; Liz Stokes; Janica Woodley; and, Alejandra Zapatero. The certificate was created to encourage and recognize law students who devote significant time to pro bono service and public interest work. Each recipient performed at least 120 hours of service.

A team representing the Law School’s Trial Advocacy Board was a finalist at the American Association for Justice competition in Pittsburgh in February. David Vyborny, L’11 (team captain), Isaac Mcbeth, L’11, Summer Speight, L’10, and Temple Roach, L’11, made it to the final round after defeating Pennsylvania, Villanova, and Duquesne.

Richmond Law’s team of Class of 2010 students Erica Giovanni, Dave McGill, and Jason Seiden finished as finalists in the National Trial Competition at Regent University in February.

Nisha Patel and Becca Imholt,
both L’11, were winners of the Alternative Dispute Resolution Society’s 2010 Mediation Competition.

Runners wins ‘Dash for Cash’

Jessica Smith, L’12, was the first runner to cross the finish line in the 2010 Ukrop’s Monument Avenue 10k. Smith, 25, was chosen at random from the more than 35,000 people who were registered for the race to run for the $2,500 “AT&T Dash for the Cash.” Based on her past race results, she was given a 2.64-mile head start, and finished ahead of the elite runners by almost two-and-a-half minutes.

Pro bono service award

Ryan Shannon, L’11, has been selected by LAWNY (Legal Assistance of Western New York) as the 2010 recipient of the President’s Law Student Pro Bono Service Award. This prestigious award recognizes one student each year who has made an outstanding contribution in providing access to justice to the poor in New York State.

LeClairRyan awards Hill scholarship

Qasim Rashid, L’12, is the recipient of the second annual LeClairRyan-Oliver W. Hill Scholarship of $5,000.

The LeClairRyan—Oliver W. Hill scholarship was established to recognize a student of color at a Virginia or Washington, D.C., law school who most exemplifies the late Oliver W. Hill’s qualities of legal excellence and selfless dedication to the fight for justice. LeClairRyan plans to offer the scholarship again in 2011. For information on the scholarship criteria and an application, go to www.leclairryan.com.

Moot court competitions

Richmond Law’s Black Law Students Association made a strong showing at the 2010 Regional Frederick Douglass Moot Court and Thurgood Marshall Mock Trial Competitions sponsored by the National Black Law Students Association (NBLSA). Richmond’s Frederick Douglass Moot Court team—Class of 2011 students Erin Bender and Sue Chan—was awarded best brief and finished in third place. The Thurgood Marshall Mock Trial team, composed of Kristen McNeal, L’10, and Dave McGill, L’10, along with Class of 2011 students Kate Sturdivant and Providence Okoye, defeated past regional and national champions, garnering a second-place finish.

Richmond competitors in the 2010 William B. Spong Invitational Moot Court Competition returned with four awards. Andi Shultz, L’10, and Tricia Dunlap, L’11, were the overall runners-up in the 17-school competition, and also received best brief award. Schultz received the best-oralist award and Dunlap, the runner-up best oralist.

Kyle McLaughlin and Ben Hoover, both L’10, reached the semifinal round at the 2010 Judge John R. Brown Admiralty Moot Court Competition. Hoover was chosen best oral advocate. The brief submitted by Laurel Huerkamp, Tony Bessette, and Matt Hull, all L’10, won the award from the Maritime Law Association of the United States as the best in the competition. Twenty-six teams competed, from 15 law schools.

The University of Richmond Juvenile Law and Policy Clinic visited Rep. Bobby Scott (D-Va.) on Capitol Hill in February, and attended a hearing on sexual abuse in juvenile facilities. With Scott and Professor Melissa Goemann (second from right) are Anne McCarthy, Jillian Malizio, Greg Engle, and Claire Willis. Scott is chair of the House subcommittee on crime, terrorism, and homeland security.
Finding community

Lucia Anna “Pia” Trigiani, L’83, doesn’t buy the old saying, “You can’t go home again.”

“Everybody needs to go home again,” she says. “It keeps you real.”

Home for Trigiani and her six siblings is the small Southwest Virginia town of Big Stone Gap.

“I feel fortunate to have grown up there,” she says. “We were influenced by people with great common sense, people who are real and who taught us to talk to anybody. That’s been a connection to my practice. You have to walk in a room, size up what’s going on and conduct yourself accordingly.”

Trigiani specializes in common interest ownership community association law. In 2007, she and fellow Richmond Law alumnus David S. Mercer, L’73, formed MercerTrigiani, which has offices in Alexandria and Richmond. She works on all aspects of the legal needs of common interest community associations in Virginia, including development, education, governance, and litigation.

Her expertise led to her appointment by then-Gov. Timothy M. Kaine to the Virginia Community Interest Board and her subsequent election in September 2008 as its first chair. She serves as president-elect of the Virginia Bar Association (VBA), placing her in line to serve as president in 2011 and making her the third woman to serve in that position.

Trigiani applied to the Law School at the suggestion of Carl E. McAfee, L’54, a lawyer in Southwest Virginia. She decided to enroll after she met Jean Morris Tarpley, the school’s director of admissions at the time.

“She’s the reason I went to Richmond,” Trigiani says. “She was warm and engaging. She humanized the admission process.”

At Richmond, Trigiani made lasting friendships. And she has maintained contact, serving two terms on the board of the Law School Association.

Dubbed “the peacemaker” of her family, Trigiani sometimes plays a similar role in her work with community associations. “I find a way to get people to see the other side and to get along,” she says.

Trigiani’s practice represents more than 500 communities in Virginia and Washington, D.C. One of her largest clients, the community association of the 7,600-home Lake Ridge community, is more than twice the size of her hometown. When Trigiani first meets with association board members she often fields more questions about her famous sister, Adriana, a best-selling author of the Big Stone Gap trilogy, than her practice.

“They always ask me, ‘Do you know Adriana Trigiani? Are you related to her?’” Trigiani says with a grin. “We, her family members, are all card-carrying members of her fan club. She has treated the people of Big Stone Gap with great reverence,” like neighbors everywhere should.

—Joan Tupponce
Richmond Law magazine is looking for alumni news to publish in Class Notes. Staying in touch is easy through the online version of the magazine at law.richmond.edu/magazine. Go to the “Submit a Class Note” link to send your news. Or contact us by mail at Law Alumni, University of Richmond School of Law, University of Richmond, VA 23173, or at (804) 289-8028.

**Class Notes**

Class news, alumni profiles, and events

In May 2009, Robert L. Flax, L’77, was appointed a special justice for mental health cases in Henrico County, Va. He published an article about general practice in the December 2009 issue of Virginia Lawyer.

Grant S. Grayson, L’77, has joined the corporate team at LeClair Ryan in Richmond. Included on this team is John C. Selbach, L’07.

Ronald E. Kuykendall, L’78, is general counsel and secretary of Sandy Spring Bancorp Inc. He was elected secretary of the board of governors of the Corporate Council Section of the Virginia State Bar at its annual meeting in June 2009. His daughter, Laura Anne Kuykendall, rising 3L, competed as a finalist in the Carrico Moot Court Competition last October.

Gordon M. Cooley, L’78, is regional president for PNC Bank’s western Maryland region, which is composed of Frederick, Washington, and Allegany counties. He was accepted into the Leadership Maryland Class of 2010.

Michael A. Glasser, L’78, an attorney and member of Glasser and Glasser, is on the boards of Old Point National Bank and Old Point Financial Corp. He also serves as chair of the Norfolk regional board of the bank.

Beth Kaufman, L’78, of Schoeman, Updike & Kaufman, has been named to the list of the Top 50 Women New York Metro Super Lawyers.

The governor of Maryland has appointed The Hon. Walter C. Martz II, L’78, as chief judge of the Maryland Tax Court.

Brian E. Moran, L’78, a partner in the Stamford, Conn., office of Robinson & Cole, has been included in the 2010 Super Lawyers corporate council edition, as a Super Lawyer in the category of business litigation.

Bruce E. Arkema, L’79, is an attorney with DurretteBradshaw.

Tom J. Bondurant Jr., L’79, has joined the white-collar criminal defense team at Gentry Locke Rakes & Moore.

Craig L. Rascoe, B’76 and L’79, is chief operating officer of Williams Mullen in Richmond. He oversees operations of the firm throughout Virginia, North Carolina, the District of Columbia, and London.

Robert Lee Samuel Jr., L’79, is in his ninth year as chairman of the Chesapeake Redevelopment and Housing Authority. He was appointed by the Chesapeake City Council. He was included in The Best Lawyers in America for personal injury for the fourth consecutive year.

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1960s

Roderick B. Matthews, L’66, is a member of the boards of directors of the Virginia Holocaust Museum, the Virginia Law Foundation, and the Children’s Hospital Foundation.

1970s

Olin R. Melchionna Jr., L’74, has been named to the list of the 2009 “Legal Elite” by Virginia Business magazine. He is a member at the Roanoke, Va., office of Spilman Thomas & Battle, where he practices in the areas of estate planning, estate administration, and corporate taxation.

David E. Boone, L’75, of the Richmond firm Boone Beale, has been named a Super Lawyer in criminal defense for 2009 by Virginia Super Lawyers & Rising Stars magazine.

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Lindsay Jefferies and Jordan Fanney celebrate their graduation on May 8.
1980s

Stephen D. Busch, L’80, is president of the Virginia Bar Association. He is a partner in the toxic tort and environmental litigation department at McGuireWoods in Richmond and is a member of the firm’s executive committee and board of partners.

John Y. Richardson, L’80, has been featured in articles about the Virginia State Bar’s diversity initiative for his work organizing a program to recognize diversity in the legal field. He also was featured in a separate article about how his disability affects his practice of law. Diagnosed with young-onset Parkinson’s disease, he continues to work through his disease and recently completed a term as chair of the Virginia State Bar’s Conference of Local Bar Associations and as a member of the State Bar Council’s executive committee.

Stephen E. Baril, L’80, was named to Virginia Gov. Bob McDonnell’s Economic Development and Jobs Creation Commission. Baril is a partner at Williams Mullen in Richmond.

Paul N. Janoff, L’81, has been promoted to chief of Legal Services Center West for the U.S. Coast Guard in Alameda, Calif, where he supervises a staff of 10 attorneys and paralegals and specializes in employment law and government ethics.

Michael HuYoung, L’82, an attorney and shareholder at Barnes and Diehl in Richmond, has been inducted as a fellow in the Virginia Law Foundation for 2010. The foundation was established to serve as the nonprofit vehicle for Virginia lawyers seeking to improve the administration of justice and promote the rule of law. He also was named again this year to The Best Lawyers in America in criminal law, as a Virginia Super Lawyer in criminal law, and as a “Legal Elite” by Virginia Business magazine. He coaches the Trial Advocacy Board competition teams for the Law School.

David W. Clarke, L’83, is an attorney at Eckert Seamans Cherin and Mellott in Richmond, where he handles telecommunications, insurance, and real estate issues.

Marla Graff Decker, L’83, is Virginia’s secretary of public safety. Prior to her appointment in December 2009, she served as deputy attorney general of the public safety and enforcement division of the office of the attorney general in Virginia.

Lucia Anna “Pia” Trigiani, L’83, is president-elect of the Virginia Bar Association. A founding partner of MercerTrigiani in Alexandria, Va., she has served as chair of the board of governors and the Real Estate Section of the VBA and has been a member of the VBA’s Administrative Law Section Council. Also, Trigiani joined the 2010 Board of Commonwealth Human Services Foundation of Commonwealth Catholic Charities (CCC) based in Richmond.

Kevin B. Rack, L’84, a principal at The Rack Law Firm in Virginia Beach, Va., focuses his practice on estate planning, probate and trust administration, elder law, fiduciary and tax litigation, and representation of tax-exempt entities and small businesses.

Paul M. Black, L’85, was named to Virginia Business magazine’s “Legal Elite” and was named a 2010 Super Lawyer by Virginia Super Lawyers. A shareholder in the Roanoke, Va. office of Spilman Thomas & Battle, his practice focuses on commercial litigation, bankruptcy, and creditors’ rights. He and his wife, Bobbie, have three daughters: Elizabeth, 19, Anna, 17, and Gracie, 14.

Pamela S. Bellemann, B’83 and L’86, has been selected by CREW (Commercial Real Estate Women) Richmond as one of the area’s top 20 women in real estate law. She is chair of Troutman Sanders’ women’s forum and diversity committee in its Richmond office, and also serves as a member of the board of directors of Sabot at Stony Point, and on the advisory board of theYWCA.

Paul D. Georgiadis, L’86, is president of the Lewis F. Powell Jr. American Inn of Court.

Mary Burkey Owens, L’86, has been selected as one of Virginia’s 2009 “Legal Elite” by Virginia Business magazine for her work in the family/domestic relations category.

Fritz Kling, L’87, president of Richmond-based Kling Philanthropy Group, is the author of The Meeting of the Waters: 7 Global Currents That Will Propel the Future Church, published by David C. Cook. Kling led the Development Department at the University from 1988–2000.

Margaret A. Nelson, L’87, was inducted as a fellow of the Virginia Law Foundation last January. She serves as an at-large member of the Bar Council and as chair of the Special Committee on Access to Legal Services for the Virginia State Bar. She is a board member of Legal Service Corp. of Virginia, a member of the steering committee of the Women’s Leadership Council of Central Virginia, and is chair of the youth and prevention services board by appointment of the Lynchburg, Va., city council.

Michael G. Phelan, L’87, has opened The Law Offices of Michael G. Phelan in Richmond. His practice focuses on civil litigation with an emphasis on personal injury and commercial disputes.

For the third year in a row, C. Stephen Setliff, L’87, has been selected by his peers for inclusion on the 2010 Best Lawyers in America list in the field of transportation law. He is an attorney at Setliff & Holland, which he opened in 2006 with Gregory F. Holland, L’80. The firm has offices in Richmond, Baltimore, and Huntington, W.Va.

Joni F. Mason, L’89, is senior vice president, employment practices liability product manager, at Chartis Insurance in New York.

Annette Miller, L’88, has been an attorney in the Virginia Beach, Va., public defender’s office since 1995. She handles or assists in cases involving defendants with mental health issues. Miller had the article “The Post-Ajudication ‘Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity’ Process in the State of Virginia” pub-
Save the date!
On Oct. 1 and 2, the Law School will host its annual Law Weekend. This is the reunion year for the classes ending in “0” and “5.” Join us!

1990s

David L. Cole, L’90, an attorney with Ober|Kaler, was selected for the Maryland Super Lawyers 2010 issue in construction/surety.

In 2009, the Hon. R. Michael McKenney, L’90, was named judge for Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court for the 15th Judicial District of Virginia.

John R. Teare Jr., L’90, is an attorney in the Charleston, W.Va., office of Spilman Thomas & Battle, where he practices litigation defense.


Alexander Francuzenko, L’93, is an attorney at Cook Kitts & Francuzenko in Fairfax, Va. He continues his litigation practice in the state and federal courts of Virginia, Maryland, and the District of Columbia.

Richard E. Garriott Jr., R’91 and L’96, a partner at Clarke, Dolph, Rapaport, Hull, Brunick & Garriott in Norfolk, Va., earned the peer review rating of “AV® Preeminent™” by Martindale-Hubbell’s online International Law Directory. In addition to community service with Seton Youth Shelters and the Mission of the Holy Spirit, he serves on the Virginia Beach Board of Zoning Appeals and is a member of the VBA’s Domestic Relations Council and the Virginia State Bar’s Family Law Section Board of Governors. He also works with the Virginia Family Law Coalition.

1990s

John M. Ramey III, L’96, established Ramey|Michael Business Law Group in Richmond. The firm focuses on the needs of small and midsized businesses and their owners.

Douglas Ramseur, L’96, is capital defender for the office of the capital defender for southeastern Virginia. Based in Norfolk, he is responsible for representing indigent persons charged with death penalty offenses throughout the Hampton Roads area.

Nicole L. Wagner, L’97, an attorney in the Roanoke, Va., office of Spilman Thomas & Battle, was named a 2009 Rising Star in the business/corporate and employment and labor practice areas by Virginia Super Lawyers & Rising Stars magazine.

Eric J. Finkbeiner, L’99, is Virginia Gov. Bob McDonnell’s senior advisor for policy, a cabinet-level position in the governor’s administration. He previously served under Governors Doug Wilder and George Allen.

Jeffrey L. Harvey, L’99, is a partner at Hunton & Williams. He is a member of the firm’s global technology, outsourcing, and privacy team. Harvey was named a Chambers USA “2009 Associate to Watch for Outsourcing,” and a Virginia Rising Star for 2009 by Virginia Super Lawyers & Rising Stars magazine.

Lauren Ebersole Hutcheson, L’99, and her husband, Ken, welcomed twin boys, Mercer Randolph and Harrison Montgomery, on Sept. 14, 2009.

Gregory R. Sheldon, L’99, an attorney at Bain Sheldon, was named a 2009 Rising Star in the area of criminal defense by Virginia Super Lawyers & Rising Stars magazine.

Neil S. Talegaonkar, L’99, an attorney at ThompsonMcMullan, was named a 2009 Rising Star for business litigation by Virginia Super Lawyers & Rising Stars magazine. He also was selected for Virginia Business magazine’s 2009 “Legal Elite” in business law.

2000s

Courtney Moates Paulk, L’00, is a shareholder at Hirschler Fleischer in Richmond. She was named a Virginia Rising Star for 2009 by Virginia Super Lawyers & Rising Stars magazine.

Julie A. Childress, L’01, and Charles K. Seyfarth, L’99, were married in Richmond on Sept. 12, 2009.

Jayne A. Pemberton, L’01, a lawyer in the risk management practice at Sands Anderson Marks & Miller, is president of the board of Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Central Virginia.

Dave DePippo and Courtney Mueller, both L’02, were married last summer. Jusolyn LaKiscia Mabry, L’02, was matron of honor and Gazala Ashraf and Liza Kirchoffer, both L’02, were bridesmaids. Wade Anderson, L’02, was a groomsman. Eric Gregory, R’96 and L’02, and Lee Westnedge, L’02, were readers. The officiate was Phil Strunk, L’02.

Suzi Graham Grigg, L’02, is a partner at Nexsen|Pruet in Columbia, S.C. A member of the South Carolina Bankruptcy Law Association, she practices with the firm’s bankruptcy and creditor-debtor rights group.
Buddy Omohundro, L’02, is one of only 20 participants selected to attend Harvard Law School’s “Leadership in Corporate Counsel” executive education program for 2010. He is senior vice president and general counsel at Apex Systems Inc. in Glen Allen, Va.

James “Matt” Vines, L’02, is partner and vice president for the healthcare division of RSource, a group focused on providing legal and consulting services to hospitals across the United States.

Kevin J. Funk, L’03, has joined the law firm of DurretteBradshaw.

Joe Young, L’03, of Joe Young Law Inc., in Whittier, Calif., has six attorneys working at his firm. They specialize in criminal defense.

Ryan W. Boggs, L’04, is senior counsel in the law department at Dominion Resources Services Inc.

Joshua N. Cook, L’04, and his wife, Melinda, have a daughter, Alenka Grace, born Nov. 11, 2009.

Michael C. Cooper, L’04, has opened his own firm, Michael Cooper PC, in Richmond. He practices immigration law, real estate, corporate and business law, and estate planning.

Andy J. Cornick, L’04, is a partner at Spencer, Mayoras, Henderson & Koch in the firm’s Fredericksburg, Va., office. His practice focuses on criminal trials and appeals in state and federal courts throughout Virginia.

Patrick McRae, L’04, opened the Law Offices of Patrick S. McRae, a litigation law practice in Los Angeles. The firm handles general litigation, construction litigation, business law, contracts, real property disputes, tort and insurance litigation, and litigation consultations for other attorneys.

Joseph R. Pope, L’05, is an associate in the litigation practice at Williams Mullen in Richmond. Prior to joining the firm, he served as a law clerk to the Hon. Gerald B. Tjoflat, U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit.

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ALUMNI PROFILE

Lending a hand in East Africa

Janice R. Moore, L’81

During the past year, Janice Moore has been sharing her expertise in the power industry and capital markets with the Eastern Africa Power Pool in “one of the most rewarding experiences of my life.”

In November 2009, she traveled to Ethiopia, where she organized and helped present a multi-day conference in Addis Ababa, sponsored by the United Nations, the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Union Commission, and the EAPP. Economists, electrical engineers, attorneys, and regulators were among the delegates sent by Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, and Sudan, all member nations of the EAPP. The ultimate goal: To improve economic development and the quality of life in East Africa by developing the East African electric transmission grid and exchanges of power among the member nations.

Moore said that while individual nations have their own generating systems, “They haven’t delegated the authority to an organization like a regional transmission organization, such as we have in the United States, to run the system and operate the transmission wires and generation resources in a way that benefits everyone who puts power in and takes power out.” The delegates’ reward came when the EAPP’s director “told us how very grateful he was that the delegates had spent so many hours talking with us and with each other and had made so much progress on the issues that need to be resolved to make the power pool work.”

Moore provided information on power purchase and sale agreements. The conference was such a success that the U.N. has asked her to replicate it for the Central Africa Power Pool.

Moore is a partner in the Washington office of Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal, a Chicago-based firm with more than 700 lawyers and other professionals in 13 offices in the United States and Europe. Prior to joining Sonnenschein in April 2008, she was a partner with McGuireWoods in the Washington office.

Her work life has been diverse. After graduating from Goucher College in 1968, she was in banking before entering law school. Moore began her legal career as an associate with Richmond-based Hunton & Williams before entering the corporate world. She held positions with Mobil Corp. and Enron Corp.

Despite a heavy work load and pro bono commitments for the Energy Bar Association and the D.C. Bar, Moore said she always has time for her alma mater. In May 2004, she was elected to the University’s Board of Trustees. She expressed excitement about “The Richmond Promise,” the University’s strategic plan. “I think The Richmond Promise is inspirational and it will be transforming, not just for the students and faculty, but for the University and for American higher education.”

--Bonnie V. Winston
Stay in touch online!
Update your contact information, including e-mail address, online at law.richmond.edu/magazine and go to Change Address. It’s the best way to stay connected!

Emily M. Scott, L’05, is an attorney in the commercial litigation team at Hancock, Daniel, Johnson & Nagle in the firm’s Glen Allen, Va., office. Her practice focuses on commercial disputes involving healthcare providers, as well as insurance coverage litigation and counseling.

Aaron J. Christoff and Susan L. Piascik, both L’06, were married Nov. 7, 2009, in Williamsburg, Va. The couple lives in Alexandria, Va., and both work in Washington, D.C. Jill M. Barnett, Dontae L. Bugg, and Denis P. Riva Jr., all L’06, were members of the wedding party.

Heather Lyons, L’06, has joined Roeder, Cochran, Parrott, Chandler & Kinsel in McLean, Va. Her practice focuses on regulatory law and business litigation.

Rebecca Signer Roche, L’06, and her husband, Sean P. Roche, L’05, have a son, James Brien, born March 20, 2010.

Jennifer Becker, L’07, an attorney at Hirschler Fleischer in Richmond, received the Krista Latshaw Pro Bono Award from LINC, the Legal Information Network for Cancer.

Capt. Patrick A. Crocker, L’07, planned to deploy in May to Afghanistan with the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) as an operational and international law attorney.

Justin R. Fulton, L’07, and his wife, Laura, welcomed twin daughters, Reagan and Makenna.

John C. Selbach, L’07, has joined the corporate team at LeClairRyan in Richmond. Included on this team is Grant S. Grayson, L’77.

Robin McVoy, L’07, an attorney at Sands Anderson in Richmond and a founding member of the firm’s animal law team, is the 2010 recipient of the Virginia Federation of Humane Societies’ Bravo Award.

Timothy Litzenburg and his wife, Katherine Brookeman, both L’08, welcomed a son, Tristan Mackay Litzenburg, on Feb. 1, 2010.

Patrick J. Regan, R’05, and his wife, Timothy Litzenburg, Jr., welcomed a son, Tristan Mackay Litzenburg, on Feb. 1, 2010.

Jeffrey D. Chadwick, L’09, has joined the Richmond office of Williams Mullen, where his practice focuses on the income taxation of businesses and their owners.

Matthew C. Connors, R’03 and L’09, is an attorney in the corporate practice group at Hancock, Daniel, Johnson & Nagle in the firm’s Glen Allen, Va., office. His practice focuses on risk management, regulatory compliance, and other matters relating to day-to-day healthcare operations.

William F. Demarest III, L’09, is an associate in the Richmond office of Goodman Allen & Filetti. His practice concentrates primarily on the defense of healthcare providers in medical malpractice claims, and on product liability matters and commercial litigation.

David J. Esposito, R’06, GB’09 and L’09, is a litigation associate at Schettine & Nguyen in Richmond. His practice focuses on business litigation and creditor’s rights.

Michael R. Hipps, L’09, joined the Norfolk office of Williams Mullen, where he focuses on international trade matters.

Kenneth Matthew Long, L’09, is an associate at Ayers & Stolte in Richmond.


Katie Wallmeyer Payne, L’09, focuses on general governmental affairs as an attorney in the Richmond office of Williams Mullen.

Lindsay Pickral, L’09, an attorney at Troutman Sanders in Richmond, received the Allison Held Volunteer Award from LINC, the Legal Information Network for Cancer.

In Memoriam

Gordon P. Williams, L’50
Feb. 22, 2010

Nicholas A. Spinella, L’50
Nov. 20, 2009

Walter E. Beverly, L’50
Nov. 17, 2009

H. Clyde Pearson, L’52
March 26, 2010

Leslie W. Given, L’53
Aug. 23, 2006

Milton E. Maddox, L’58
Dec. 14, 2009

Nicholas Daniels, L’63
Feb. 26, 2010

Edward A. Natt, L’70
Dec. 29, 2009

William R. Brown, L’78
Jan. 28, 2010

Bruce M. Marshall, L’78
Feb. 4, 2010

James E. Anderson, L’81
April 4, 2010

Nathaniel E. Clement II, L’82
March 21, 2010

Kelly Combs Necessary, L’94
Feb. 14, 2010

Former Virginia Gov. Timothy M. Kaine offers career advice to Justice Elizabeth B. Lacy’s class of John Marshall Scholars. (See article on Kaine’s return to the Law School, Page 3.)