Right place, right time

New downtown center expands Law School connections with the Richmond community
Dean's letter

University of Richmond Downtown

Three years ago, when the Law School announced its strategic plan, we included a dream to open a downtown location. At the time, we did not know where that location might be, or what kinds of classes and programs might take place there. But we did know a few important things.

First, we knew that the City of Richmond offers a remarkable breadth of opportunity for our students to learn the legal profession from the inside. Few cities in the nation can match the number and variety of courts, government agencies, legal service organizations and private practice settings available to law students in Richmond. Second, we knew our students. They are committed not only to learning, but to giving back to their community. Third, we knew our rich history of variety and excellence in clinical education. It seemed only natural, then, to take the next step: to find a focal point for that learning and that service in the heart of our city.

In this issue of Richmond Law, we are pleased to share with you the reality of the new downtown center, and of the Law School’s central role in that exciting new project (see article, page 8). In January, in the downtown location at 7th and Broad, our new Jeanette Lipman Family Law Clinic will open its doors to children and families. In that interdisciplinary project, clients will find help not only from law students and members of our clinical law faculty, but also from Virginia Commonwealth University graduate students in social work and clinical psychology. The combination, we expect, not only will serve the broad needs of clients but will provide a unique opportunity for Richmond law students and VCU graduate students to learn together and to share their learning across professional disciplines. Down the hall from the Lipman Clinic will be the home of our Harry L. Carrico Center for Pro Bono Service. There law students and volunteer lawyers will meet to assist victims of domestic violence in obtaining protective orders, to draft wills for police and firefighters, to advise new immigrants on the road to citizenship, and to learn together in the process. In the classrooms and conference space that adjoin the clinic, our faculty and students will join with judges, lawyers, government and business leaders in luncheon CLEs, breakfast meetings or evening seminars on topics from criminal justice to global warming. And the programs and the possibilities of UR Downtown extend well beyond the Law School. Under the guidance of the University’s Center for Civic Engagement, faculty and students from all schools and all disciplines will develop community-based learning and service opportunities in the new space.

I invite you to read on for a broader picture of University of Richmond Downtown and its many possibilities. I do so with excitement about all that we have planned for that space and with gratitude to the generous donors who have made it possible.

John G. Douglass
Dean of the Law School
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Family law center draws praise and a full house

National experts applauded the Law School's National Center for Family Law in September for providing informational and educational opportunities in this increasingly important field of study and practice.

In just its second year, the center drew more than 200 professionals and students from law, mental health, and academia for an "Advanced Family Law and Mental Health Seminar: An Interdisciplinary Approach to Child Custody Determinations."

The full house at Jepson Alumni Center spent the day in sessions on assessments, custodial arrangements, court proceedings and strategies, focusing on what works and what doesn't.

Carol Schrier-Polak, a partner with the Arlington firm Bean Kinney & Korman who has earned honors for her work in the field of family law, joined in organizing the program. Schrier-Polak praised the center for providing "an invaluable contribution to the legal and mental health community."

The work being done on behalf of children and families along the Interstate 64 corridor from Charlottesville through Richmond to Hampton Roads is the most significant in the nation, said Dr. Robert P. Archer, professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Eastern Virginia Medical School in Norfolk. The increasingly collaborative efforts taking place along the corridor "are having a terrific and positive impact" on the challenging issues that increasingly are part of family law, Archer said.

The day's program ranged from clinical and technical presentations to an often touching session on "Attachment Research and Implications for Custodial Arrangements" by Dr. Robert Marvin, professor emeritus at the University of Virginia School of Medicine.

Dr. Marvin's work to develop an effective and consistent strategy to measure and repair attachment has become increasingly important in custody cases. Attachment will continue to be an important factor in resolving questions involving children despite rapid cultural and behavioral changes affecting families, he said.

Along with the family law center, the program was sponsored by the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, Virginia chapter; the Virginia Bar Association; the Virginia Trial Lawyers Association; the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Eastern Virginia Medical School; the Mary D. Ainsworth Child-Parent Attachment Clinic in Charlottesville, and the Richmond Academy of Clinical Psychologists.

Dr. Robert Marvin speaks on "attachment" issues in custody cases.
Eisen wins Fulbright to teach in China

Joel B. Eisen, a widely recognized leader in fields of environmental law and energy policy, will teach in Beijing, beginning in February through the Fulbright Scholar Program.

Eisen, a member of the Law School faculty since 2000, will teach at China University of Political Science and Law, one of China’s most prestigious law schools.

"I am honored and excited to have been chosen a Fulbright professor at CUPL," Eisen said. "CUPL is renowned throughout China as a center of legal academic excellence, and it is a focal point for studying how China can adapt to the considerable challenges of the 21st century."

As a Fulbright lecturer, Eisen will teach Chinese students courses in energy law and the law of global warming. China, Eisen said, "is at an early stage of developing its environmental protection and energy laws, and there is much that the U.S. and China can learn from each other."

In addition to teaching, Eisen will join other Fulbright professors in China to write and edit a book on American law for Chinese law students and scholars.

"The University of Richmond's international education program has been nationally recognized, and bringing an international dimension to life and education at Richmond has become a high priority" with the new Carole Weinstein International Center, Eisen said. "I hope the lessons I learn in China will enrich my teaching and scholarship, and allow Richmond law students to learn more about critical energy and environmental issues."

John G. Douglass, dean of the Law School, said, "Joel is the perfect choice to join with colleagues at an esteemed Chinese institution in exploring global solutions to serious international environmental and energy problems."

The Fulbright program was established in 1946. Sponsored by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. State Department, it is designed to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and other countries. Recipients of Fulbright awards are selected on the basis of academic achievement and leadership in their fields.

Rapid growth fuels changes in China.

Law dean to chair city commission

Dean John G. Douglass has been elected chair of the Richmond City Charter Review Commission. The commission is charged with reviewing the city charter and making recommendations to resolve conflicts and ambiguities that have arisen during the first term of Richmond’s popularly elected mayor.

City Council created the group last summer after a series of costly, well-publicized clashes between council and Mayor L. Douglas Wilder over control of the government. Many of the issues in conflict relate to the relative powers of the mayor and City Council.

The commission’s aim is to propose legislation to the 2010 General Assembly.

Douglass has years of experience in mediation, including several years’ work with The McCammon Group, a Richmond firm that specializes in mediation and alternative dispute resolution. He was elected chair by the eight-member commission, half of whom were appointed by City Council, and half by the mayor.

Douglass said he hopes to involve students from the Law School in support capacities with the commission.
University honors John Paul Jones

Veteran professor John Paul Jones, who has taught at the Law School for 25 years, was honored recently with a University Distinguished Educator Award for 2008. The award acknowledges Jones' consistent record of outstanding contributions to excellence in education.

A leading scholar in the field of maritime law and commerce, Jones has published numerous articles and prepared briefs for submission to the Supreme Court of the United States.

A popular teacher and mentor, Jones is known for maintaining connections with many former students as they progress through their careers.

University Provost Stephen Allred, in a citation honoring Jones, described the professor as "a pillar of the Law School" who has had "a profound impact on the success that the Law School and its students have enjoyed."

Jones preparation of teams for National Admiralty Moot Court Competitions has resulted in numerous awards, including a recent national championship. He created the Essay Contest Catalog, which opened doors for Richmond students to compete in national writing championships. He also created and maintains the Constitution Finder, the Internet's most extensive collection of constitutions from around the world.

Campaign finance system triggers vigorous debate

Days after the historic U.S. presidential election, the Law School hosted a debate over the campaign finance system, and whether that system demands more or less regulation.

Recent attempts to control election spending have been "a total and utter failure," said Reid Cox, legal director at the Center for Competitive Politics. They have not slowed campaign spending (President-elect Barack Obama shattered the record), nor have they reduced the time office holders take to raise money. Attempts to reign in campaign spending have, Reid argued, inhibited citizens’ ability to participate in the election process beyond the ballot box.

Campaign finance reform is all about creating an election process "that works more for ordinary citizens than for concentrated interests," said Laura MacCleery, of the Brennan Center for Justice at the New York University School of Law. She warned that individuals and groups with huge sums of money wield disproportionate influence on elections. For good reason, citizens have come to believe that "the aggregation of money distorts the notion of good government," MacCleery said.

The debate was sponsored by the Emanuel Emroch Lecture Series, an annual event established in honor of Emroch, R'28 and L'31, and Bertha, his wife. The Richmond Journal of Law and the Public Interest hosted the debate. John R. Pagan, University professor and former dean of the Law School, served as moderator.

Richmond Law magazine begins online publication

Beginning with this issue, Richmond Law magazine will be available online at law.richmond.edu/magazine.

In addition to the entire print version of the magazine, the online version will provide easy avenues for communication with the magazine and the Law School, including forms for submitting Class Notes, changing mailing addresses, and sending e-mail to the editor.

The Law School will continue to publish the print version of the magazine on the familiar summer-winter schedule.

Richmond courthouse named for Merhige

The new $102 million federal courthouse in downtown Richmond has been designated the Spottswood W. Robinson III

The designation was made official in September when President Bush signed a bill that had been approved earlier by the Senate with the backing of Sens. Jim Webb and John Warner of Virginia.

A New York native, Merhige, L'42 and H'76, served as U.S. District Court judge in Richmond for more than 30 years. He was involved in numerous high-profile cases including the desegregation of Virginia schools, and the admission of women to the University of Virginia. Merhige maintained close ties to the Law School during his career and in retirement. The Robert R. Merhige Center for Environmental Studies at the Law School is a nationally recognized center for research, instruction and public outreach on energy and environmental issues. It was created as a result of Merhige’s work, settling complex environmental litigation in the 1970s.

Robinson, a Richmond native, was an attorney for the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund who represented Virginia plaintiffs in the landmark Brown v. Board of Education case. In 1964, he became the first African-American judge appointed to the U.S. District Court in the District of Columbia.

The new courthouse is home to U.S. District and U.S. Bankruptcy courts for the Eastern District of Virginia.

Publications study ranks Richmond No. 4

The Law School’s faculty earned a lofty ranking among its peers in a recent study of publications.

Of law schools outside the U.S. News and World Report top 50, Richmond ranked fourth, according to TaxProf Blog, a member of the Law Professor Blogs Network. The Law School ranked 68th on the most recent list in U.S. News.

To compile the rankings, faculty names were searched between Jan. 1,


Richmond came in behind San Diego, Cardozo, and Florida State on the list, and just ahead of Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, Chicago-Kent, and Missouri, among many others.

Law School hosts institute for clerks

The Law School's Institute for Federal Judicial Law Clerks drew a near-capacity crowd in September for the annual gathering from across the 4th U.S. Judicial Circuit.

More than 100 judicial clerks from the five-state region participated over two days in instructional sessions on topics ranging from court management and administration to ethics and rules of conduct. The institute also offers opportunities for clerks to interact with one another, and with judges, court administrators, and law professors who serve as teachers during the institute.

Among the highlights, U.S. District Judge Henry E. Hudson of the Eastern District of Virginia spoke on federal jurisdiction, and Rodney A. Smolla, dean of the Washington and Lee University School of Law and former dean of the Law School, discussed recent developments in the 4th Circuit, and U.S. Supreme Court.

Professors Henry L. Chambers Jr. and Corinna Barrett Lain from the Law School spoke on employment discrimination and federal criminal procedure.

INSTITUTE

Forensic science uses insects as evidence

Dr. Jason Byrd’s presentation this fall to a squirming audience highlighted the use of evidence provided by insects in civil and criminal investigations.

With a slideshow that featured the gruesome intersection of bugs and bodies, and a healthy sense of humor, Byrd offered a brief history of forensic entomology—a study he said has been around since the 13th century.

The past chair of the American Board of Forensic Entomology, Byrd said insect evidence can be valuable in many investigations, including cases where cause and time of death must be determined.

Insects like cyanide-producing milipedes, and yellow jackets and wasps have been used as murder weapons, he said.

Beyond the CSI investigations, forensic entomology also has been useful in cases involving contaminated food products, structural damage, auto and air crashes, and environmental terrorism.

The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals employs forensic entomology in animal cruelty cases, Byrd said.

The Law School and the Virginia Institute of Forensic Science and Medicine sponsored Byrd’s appearance.
DEBATE

Campaign advisers talk about energy

McCarrick and Holstein

Experts on energy and the environment representing the McCain and Obama presidential campaigns debated issues that will confront the next president before a full house at the Law School in October.

While there were numerous differences in approach, both agreed that meeting challenges in these fields is vital to the nation's environmental health, the economy, and national security.

The event lasted more than two hours as students, environmental activists, and supporters of the candidates lined up to engage the speakers.

John McCarrick, energy policy adviser to John McCain, and Elgie Holstein, senior adviser on energy and environmental issues to Barack Obama, represented the candidates.

The Law School's Merhige Center for Environmental Studies, and the Jepson School of Leadership Studies sponsored the event. Noah Sachs, the Merhige center's faculty director, was moderator.

McCarrick said that no matter which candidate won the November election, the nation would see a different approach to energy and environmental problems from that of the Bush administration. With energy prices up, and the economy in turmoil, energy and environment have moved near the top of the national agenda.

Law graduates excel on Virginia bar exam

Recent graduates of the University of Richmond School of Law passed the Virginia State Bar Exam last summer at a rate that exceeded statewide averages.

The Law School's pass rate for first-time test takers was almost 93 percent, compared with a statewide rate of 85 percent. The Law School's overall pass rate was 88 percent, compared with almost 80 percent statewide.

Students welcome library renovations

Students and visitors to the Law Library have quickly found a useful, collegial space in the new reading room, where there are nine study tables with new chairs and lamps.

Recent library surveys showed that while law students love their carrels, they wanted more spaces where they could study with their colleagues.

Working with the University's Facilities Department and the dean's office, library staff removed some stacks, and came up with funds to pay for tables, chairs and lamps. The room opened in time for the fall semester and has been a popular space since then.

Alumni associations elect new presidents

The Law School's alumni associations have elected new presidents to two-year terms that began in the fall.

Robert N. Baldwin, R'67 and L'70, has been elected president of the Law School Association, and Molly D. McEvoy, B'93 and L'00, is president of the Young Graduates Association.

Baldwin is well-known to lawyers throughout Virginia from his 30 years of service as state court administrator for the Supreme Court of Virginia. In that position, he was responsible for the administration of courts across the state. He also was active in local, state, and national bar and judicial organizations.

Upon his retirement from the court in 2005, Baldwin became executive vice president and general of the National Center for State Courts, a national nonprofit organization dedicated to improv-
ing the administration of justice in the United States.

While in law school, McEvoi was executive editor of the University of Richmond Law Review and a member of the Moot Court Board.

She works for Armstrong Bristow Farley & Schwarzschild in Richmond, assisting high net worth individuals and families with estate planning, charitable planning, and estate and trust administration. She also works with tax-exempt organizations.

Prior to joining Armstrong Bristow Farley & Schwarzschild, she was an associate in the tax section at Williams Mullen, and served as a planned giving and major gifts officer for Salisbury School in Connecticut.

Professor emeritus Robert E. Shepherd Jr., 1937–2008

Robert E. Shepherd Jr., professor emeritus at the University of Richmond School of Law, and an internationally recognized leader in fields affecting children and families, died Dec. 11 after a battle with cancer. He was 71.

Shepherd’s work was written into law in Virginia and around the country, and his influence extended to hundreds of students and families.

Law School Dean John G. Douglass said of Shepherd, “His teaching, writing and legislative advocacy have had a profound impact on the lives of children and youth throughout Virginia and the nation. His broadest and deepest legacy will remain the hundreds of students whom he mentored throughout his teaching career and with whom he shared equal measures of his inquisitive spirit, his sense of fair play, and his deep human compassion for those most in need.”

Shepherd joined the Law School faculty in 1978.

He retired in 2001 and was honored with the title “professor emeritus.” Winner of University Distinguished Educator awards in 1981 and 1986, Shepherd’s “retirement” did not change his lifestyle significantly. He continued teaching at the Law School, and working on behalf of children.

A founder and board member of the Law School’s highly regarded National Center for Family Law, Shepherd was a sought-after expert in courts, before legislative committees, and in legal forums around the nation on issues related to children’s rights. Over his 40-year career, he headed the American Bar Association’s Juvenile Justice Committee and the Virginia Bar Association’s Committee on the Needs of Children. He served as reporter on family law and contracts for the Virginia Court of Appeals.

In 1999, he was the first person inducted into the Virginia Juvenile Court Hall of Fame. In 2005, he received the ABA’s Livingston Hall Juvenile Justice Award for his contributions.

Speaking of his career, Shepherd said, “You throw a pebble in a pond and the ripples keep going.”

Contributions may be made to the Robert E. Shepherd Jr. Endowed Fellowship Fund at the University of Richmond School of Law, University of Richmond, Va. 23173.

COMPETITION

Writing contest honors Professor Murphy

The Richmond Journal of Global Law and Business is sponsoring the Daniel T. Murphy Student Writing Competition to foster knowledge and scholarly work by law students on the law of the World Trade Organization.

The competition is open to J.D. candidates at ABA accredited law schools.

The competition is named for Daniel T. Murphy, who joined the Law School faculty in 1976. The journal chose to name the competition in his honor to recognize years of extraordinary service to the school, students, and the journal.

The topic for this year’s competition is the “WTO Dispute Settlement System.” There is a $500 award for first place, $200 for second, and $100 for third.

The winning submission will be included in the first annual survey of the law of the WTO, which will be published this spring. The survey will feature work on different aspects of the World Trade Organization.

McGuireWoods is sponsoring the competition.
Right place, right time

New downtown center expands Law School connections with the Richmond community

By Chip Jones

This month’s opening of the University of Richmond Downtown will connect the Law School and the University with people in need while expanding educational opportunities for students and strengthening links to the community.

The $6 million restoration project at Seventh and East Broad streets will include the Law School’s Jeanette Lipman Family Law Clinic and Harry L. Carrico Center for Pro Bono Service, along with the Richmond Families Initiative. The effort represents “an educational exchange between the UR community and the greater Richmond community,” said Judy Mejia, program manager of the Richmond Families Initiative, a program of UR’s Bonner Center for Civic Engagement.

“UR Downtown embodies a lot of what I hope the University will continue to develop over the next decade: a presence in the city, a collaboration across schools, a partnership with other universities, and a meaningful way to contribute to Richmond,” said President Edward L. Ayers.

The center continues the Law School’s “long history of community engagement and clinical learning,” said Dean John G. Douglass.

“One of the strengths of this Law School is the fact that it is in a remarkably large, diverse legal community,” Douglass said. “This creates a rich opportunity for learning.” The central location makes the ambitious programs “more accessible to the bar, to potential clients, and to the many community partner organiza-

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zations with which we’ll be working.”

As home to the Law School’s first multidisciplinary clinic, UR Downtown provides a common ground for students and practitioners of family and pro bono law, as well as students, teachers, and professionals in social work and psychology from Virginia Commonwealth University.

The Family Law Clinic is an extension of the Law School’s highly regarded National Center for Family Law. The Carrico Pro Bono center pairs local attorneys with law students to provide low-income families with legal services such as divorces and protective orders.

Adding yet another element to the strong foundation of UR Downtown, faculty members and undergraduate students from the Bonner Center will conduct research and analyze programs to help local family-service agencies become more effective.

A visible location

At the renovated bank building in the city’s former retail core, sights and sounds of construction are common. UR Downtown is across Broad Street from the new $102 million Spottswood W. Robinson III and Robert R. Merhige Jr. U.S. Courthouse. It is within easy walking distance of the state Capitol, City Hall, the John Marshall Courts Building, the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, and the Library of Virginia. As a bonus, it is near the newly expanded Richmond CenterStage performing arts complex, and The National, a popular
Richmond youth and law students meet after school in the community for a variety of programs. Law students Matthew Kishman (bottom left) and Kristofer Cook (bottom right) lead students in a game about free speech in schools based on real cases.

The center also is on the main bus line and has convenient parking. “The location of University of Richmond Downtown is critical to the experience,” Mejia said. “As they say in real estate, location, location, location. We are so fortunate to be right at the seat of Richmond’s government, business, and cultural arts communities.”

The downtown site provides a very visible focus and location to many of the efforts we’ve already begun,” Douglass added. “Now we have a centralized and convenient place to do it.”

UR Downtown creates “an incentive and opportunity to get our students more regularly into the downtown environment,” Douglass said. “So hopefully it works both ways. It makes us more accessible for the people we’re working with, but also I think it will be a magnet to draw the students to the downtown legal community.”

Before coming to Richmond to head the Family Law Clinic, Dale S. Margolin directed a similar program at St. John’s University School of Law in New York City, where she learned some of the hard facts of life for people living below the poverty line. “Most people who aren’t poor don’t understand that being poor is a full-time job,” she said. “When legal problems arise, it’s hard to go to court without losing one’s job; it’s also hard to find social services when one lacks a car or adequate child care.”

That’s why, she observed, “It’s important for us to be convenient to serve people.”

Meeting with nonprofit and community groups around Richmond, Margolin
found “there’s a lot of eagerness in the identification of gaps” in services, as well as excitement about the creation of the Family Law Clinic. Noting the partnership with two departments at VCU—the graduate schools in social work and psychology—Margolin said, “I love it that we’re partnering with a different university. That’s pretty unique.”

Tim L. Davey, associate dean for community engagement at VCU’s School of Social Work, agreed. “We haven’t had a project in which we partner up with UR or UR Law School, so we’re excited.” VCU’s graduate students will help with client intake and assessment issues, such as divorce and custody matters. “With our students’ training, they should be able to determine that, yes, there is a legal problem,” Davey said, “but also some of the issues won’t be resolved if the adult in the family doesn’t have a job,” or can’t gain custody of children, for example. The social work students can assist clients in finding employment, housing, or other resources—all issues that typically aggravate their legal problems.

“Often families come to lawyers first before they go to social workers because they see lawyers as being advocates for them, and sometimes they see social workers as someone who’s checking up on them,” Davey observed. “What I like about this is that it gives us an opportunity to partner with lawyers so [the clients] can see this as an opportunity for us to be their advocates.”

Tara Louise Casey, a faculty member who directs the Carrico Center for Pro Bono Service, said another distinctive feature of UR Downtown is the bridge it is building with the city’s legal community. For years, Casey said, there have been “some great pro bono titans” at a number of prominent Richmond firms. Today, “you’re seeing a larger commitment from the law firms and from individual practitioners” to fulfill the need to serve pro bono publico—for the public good.

Casey heads the Carrico Center after seven years as an assistant U.S. Attorney in Richmond and extensive work with the Richmond Bar in a number of legal services projects. “This is a great time for it because a lot of law firms are looking for that organized pro bono program within their own firms,” Casey said, such as a program at Williams Mullen on immigration law with the Hispanic community. “That’s something they already had going on that we’ve been able to tap into.”

The Carrico Center is starting with two main legal initiatives: The protective order project, and the no-fault divorce program.

In the first, Casey said, “We’re helping victims of domestic violence prepare their cases, and we’re providing them with representation at that final protective order hearing. Oftentimes part of the domestic violence situation is economic abuse,” and women who are victims don’t have access to any assets.

Because domestic violence usually involves issues of power and control, Casey said, by providing legal representation “not only are you assisting them legally, you’re assisting them with empowerment and moving forward with their lives.” Through the program, more than a dozen UR law students are receiving training to better understand the needs of victims of domestic violence.

The no-fault divorce program also responds to an immediate need, Casey said. “There’s a three-month wait list at the Central Virginia Legal Aid Society for clients needing an attorney to assist them to get a no-fault divorce.”

So whether it’s helping a client obtain a protective order or a no-fault divorce, the Carrico Center works on what Casey called an “intersection of the issues. Here are two needs in the city of Richmond affecting Richmond families. In domestic violence situations, you’re dealing with violence in the home and partner
violence, which has a devastating effect on families. Also in a no-fault situation, you have people who cannot move forward with their lives, who might want to remarry, who might want to leave the state, and the only reason they can't reach those goals is their inability to afford an attorney. We can help."

Working with the University's Richmond Families Initiative, the overarching goal is "to support the development of stable and healthy families" in the city, Mcjia said.

By meeting so many needs for citizens, law students, undergraduates, and professors, the potential of UR Downtown seems as limitless as the energy and imagination that went into its restoration and opening, Douglass said.

The dean also hopes the historic site becomes a meeting space for bar, alumni, students, and community organizations. "We hope to be a catalyst," he said. "One of the roles I think the University can play is to be a broker between elements of the bar and the legal community."

The mural: ‘Pleasant, not modernistic’

The mural that stretches along the wall at the downtown center has led a charmed life. Commissioned in 1956 by the original occupant and owner of the building—Franklin Federal Savings & Loan Association—the mural was created by Hans E. Gassman, a highly acclaimed German artist who restored murals and portraits for the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in the late 1940s.

For his Franklin Federal piece, Gassman employed a 16th century Italian art technique called sgraffito, or what he called "scratching on the wall," according to a 1956 article in The Richmond News

The German genius spent eight months on the drawings, which depicted the story of money, with biblical and classical figures mixed with homebuilding and carpentry. There are Virginia symbols as well, including the state tree (dogwood) and bird (cardinal), and folky scenes such as an organ grinder and girls playing in a park. The Richmond Times-Dispatch reported in 1955 that the mural marked the first use of sgraffito in America.

"Such a work of art is not added to a building," Gassman told a reporter. "It's part of the building."

The owners of Franklin Federal took loving care of the mural, taking pains to cover and protect it during a mid-1970s renovation.

"That was just a huge break that nobody tried to 'upgrade' that mural," observed Rich Johnson, president and CEO of The Wilton Cos., which donated work and space for UR Downtown. "If it had, it would have been devastating."

The mural provides a classic touch that steers clear of the societal changes that were shaking Richmond’s old foundation at the time of its creation. "I try to be pleasant," Gassman said at the time, "not modernistic."
Franklin Federal building on Broad. Wilton has owned the property since the 1990s and was restoring it to its “original, classic ’50s appearance,” Johnson explained.

Johnson already had leased some of the upper three floors to downtown contractors working on the nearby courts building and performing arts venues. But the bank’s ground floor—with its classic mural, an original safe and other historic features—stood vacant.

“I was at a dinner on campus, and in the course of the dinner a conversation came up to have the Bonner Center for Civic Engagement open a downtown center,” Johnson recalled. “I said, ‘Where are you all looking?’”

Johnson was told the right site had not been found. When he heard that UR was seeking a prominent location near the courts and the Capitol, with access to bus service, the proverbial light bulb went off over his head.

“I said, ‘Seventh and Broad doesn’t get much more prominent!’” Johnson laughed. “I said, ‘This thing is screaming to be made!’”

When Ayers became president and endorsed the concept, “that’s when we hit high gear on it, and took it to the next level,” Johnson said. “It was just a natural fit. And it kind of happened as a dinner conversation.”

The Wilton Cos. renovated the building, including carefully rehabilitating the 5,000 square feet for UR Downtown. That work alone represents about a $1 million contribution to the University along with use of the ground floor as a gift to UR.

Douglas observed: “We would have found a place, I’m sure, but it would not have been anywhere near this magnificent. Rich’s gift allowed it to be expanded and to be located in the perfect place.”

“Space matters a lot,” said Douglas Hicks, executive director of the Bonner Center. “Things that are abstract when you’re on campus become very real downtown where we’re at the hub of the arts and the edge of the government quadrant.” Around the corner is Jackson Ward, the center of the city’s rich heritage of African-American experience.

“We can look at the Civil Rights Memorial” on the Capitol grounds alongside monuments to leaders from state and national history, Hicks said.

“Going there,” he said, “and holding a seminar in a classroom three blocks from these historic sites gives the University a greater stake in that history.”

Downtown center blooms with LEED certification

The former bank building housing the downtown center may have Eisenhower-era roots, but it’s rebirth has turned it 21st century green.

“We’ve owned the building for some time, and we’re undertaking a complete and total renovation,” said Rich Johnson, R’73, president and CEO of The Wilton Cos., the firm providing the space for the downtown center. “We have undertaken renovating this as a ‘green building.”

The structure has received a top ranking of LEED Gold for environmental sustainability from the U.S. Green Building Council. (LEED stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design).

To achieve this distinction, Wilton’s team took a series of eco-friendly steps, including using heavy insulation, installing a highly efficient air-conditioning and heating system, using water-saving devices in toilets and sinks, and employing low-energy lighting.

Small things count, too, such as providing bike racks and parking spaces specified for energy-efficient cars.

Johnson also hopes the converted bank building will qualify for a historical designation. If that happens, he believes the converted S&L will be one of few buildings in Richmond that meet both environmental and historical standards.

There is one ecologically friendly touch Wilton decided to forego: a “green roof” using vegetation and soil to soak in the rain and sun. Johnson said, “We saw a lot of problems with maintenance issues.”
The Feedback Loop

The effect of human behavior on the law

By Jim Gibson

Picture a speed limit that starts at 55 miles per hour, but then varies based on the speed of the cars that pass by. If the average speed is 60, the speed limit slowly adjusts toward 60. If the average speed is 50, the speed limit eventually becomes 50.

This is an example of how real-world behavior might feed back into the law and help form a legal standard. Of course, speed limits don't really work this way (although enforcement of speed limits is another question). Yet this kind of "feedback loop" exists in a great many areas of the law. The law frequently derives its content from the everyday practices of those it seeks to regulate.

Consider contract law. When a court can't figure out the meaning of an ambiguous term in a contract, it will often look to "custom" and "usage of trade"—that is, the usual meaning of the term to those in the industry. The result is that people's typical use of a term informs its legal meaning. Or think about trademark law. Whether one trademark infringes on another depends on whether "ordinary" consumers using "ordinary" care are likely to confuse the two. So the judge does not tell consumers what trademark infringement is; instead, consumers tell the judge.

Perhaps the best example of this reliance on real-world practice, this feedback loop, is that familiar legal fiction, "reasonableness," which invites us to use everyday behavior as a guide for legal decision-making. Tort law declares us negligent if we fail to provide "reasonable care" and conform to the conduct of a "reasonable person." The Fourth Amendment protects us from "unreasonable searches and seizures," a standard that has birthed such offspring as "reasonable expectations of privacy" and "reasonable suspicion." Jurors must be "reasonable" both in the doubts on which they rely in acquitting a criminal defendant and in the verdicts they render in civil court.

Employers must make "reasonable accommodations" for their disabled employees. The list is endless.

These sorts of references to real-world practice make a lot of sense at a gut level. Who can object to a law that merely asks us to act ordinary? What could be more reasonable than a reasonable care standard?

Yet within this familiar concept lurks a phenomenon that can lead the law astray. Consider again tort's "reasonable care" standard. Suppose a doctor is examining a swollen lymph node. After conducting a physical exam and taking X-rays, she is
nearly certain that the node is merely infected and that the patient should simply take some antibiotics.

But the doctor is concerned about malpractice liability and the inherent uncertainty of the tort system. She knows that there is a chance, however small, that the swelling is cancerous—and if it is, a jury might find her liable for a faulty diagnosis even though she rightfully believes that she is exercising reasonable care and that she has done everything that her peers would do. She therefore over-complies. She does more than the law demands. She orders an ultrasound, despite reliable medical evidence that the procedure is unnecessary and wasteful.

As an isolated incident, this overcompliance would not be particularly troubling. But if most doctors react the same way to the specter of liability, wasteful practice will become common practice. And once it does, it will eventually cease to constitute more-than-reasonable care, because reasonable care draws its definition from the typical conduct of those it regulates. The ultrasound’s ubiquity will accordingly make it part of the reasonable care standard, and doctors who fail to order an ultrasound will be judged negligent. In this way, overcautious practices feed back into doctrine, making negligence law more demanding and requiring doctors to use a medically unnecessary and wasteful diagnostic tool.

This feedback loop can then repeat itself. Now that the ultrasound represents mere compliance, rather than overcompliance, it no longer represents more care than the law demands. So the next time our overcautious doctor wants to give liability a wide berth, she may order not only an ultrasound, but a biopsy as well. And if her fellow doctors do the same, reasonable care ratchets upward once again, incorporating the use of a biopsy into the negligence standard. It’s as if we have a self-adjusting speed limit, and no matter what it’s set at, everyone exceeds it—so it keeps going up, and up, and up.

Unfortunately, this is not mere theory. There is considerable evidence that malpractice pressures force doctors to practice “defensive medicine”—order more procedures, perform more tests, make more referrals, and so forth. This over-compliance eventually works its way back into the malpractice standard.

Nor is evidence of the feedback effect limited to medical malpractice. The feedback loop in other areas of tort law may be harder to see, but inconspicuous does not mean immaterial. For example, feedback may be responsible for the increasingly fatuous warnings displayed on consumer goods, as manufacturers seek to avoid products liability by staying one step more conservative than the norm. Why else would one see this label on a box of nails: “CAUTION! Do NOT swallow nails! May cause irritation!” (I wish I were making that up.)

We may also find feedback loops outside of tort law. Perhaps “reasonable accommodations” for disabled employees become progressively more accommodating, as risk-averse employers give federal disability law a wide berth. Or consider “reasonable expectations of privacy,” the touchstone for determining whether a search is constitutional. Police operating in the shadow of this vague standard may consistently undercomply—that is, conduct illegal searches—knowing that the upside is great (the discovery of incriminatory evidence) and the downside unlikely (the exclusion of that evidence). If so, then the public might eventually grow accustomed to such intrusions, which means that our reasonable expectations of privacy would diminish, and our constitutional rights would dutifully follow. Law enforcement would then have even more license to intrude on our privacy, and the cycle would begin anew.

So what might we do about these feedback loops? It would be impossible to get rid of all those legal standards that derive from real-world practice. Nor would we want to, even if we could. When the law incorporates what people actually do, it grounds itself in the friendly and familiar territory of shared experience, of conventional wisdom, of consensus. It’s inherently democratic. Running away from reasonableness is no answer.

In the end, the best we can hope for is that policymakers temper their reliance on real-world practice when there’s reason to believe that it departs from optimal behavior. In medical malpractice, for example, courts should make more use of evidence from randomized clinical trials and defer less to the practice in a given field. Reference to real-world practice may seem both sensible and defensible, but the real world is never as simple as theory would lead us to believe. We must recognize instead that the very doctrines that derive from practice can also distort it.

Jim Gibson is associate professor of law and director of the Law School’s Intellectual Property Institute. This article was adapted from his recent publications “Doctrinal Feedback and (Un)Reasonable Care,” 94 Va. L. Rev. 1641 (2008).
Jeff McMahan is one of five Richmond law graduates clerking in federal appellate courts this year. After graduating from the Law School at the top of his class last year, Jeff McMahan Jr. was presented a variety of opportunities. Instead of jumping into a well-paid job at a top firm in some fashionable city, McMahan accepted a clerkship in Lincoln, Neb.

Working with Judge C. Arlen Beam of the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, McMahan plays a behind-the-scenes role in judicial decision-making at a level just below the Supreme Court of the United States.

The experience "helps you as an attorney anticipate what the other side is going to argue and it helps you see flaws in your own argument. I think that translates into everyday litigation," says McMahan, who will join McGuireWoods' business and securities group when his clerkship ends in September.

McMahan is one of five recent University of Richmond law graduates who are clerking in federal appellate courts this year. The others are: Wade T. Anderson, L'02, and Brandon Bailey, L'07, both with Judge G. Steven Agee of the Richmond-based 4th U.S. Circuit Court; Joseph R. Pope, L'05, with 11th Circuit Judge Gerald Bard Tjoflat in Atlanta; and Elizabeth Wilson, L'07, with 4th Circuit Judge Robert Bruce King. Another '07 graduate, Michael Clements, is staff attorney for the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Philadelphia.

"This is really terrific for the Law School," says Denise Carl, director and associate dean of the Law School's Office of Career Services. The Law School ranks among the top 20 in the nation in terms of alumni in prestigious clerkships.

Richmond law professor Carl Tobias says federal appellate clerkships lend "the kind of cache" to a résumé "that makes people sit up and take notice because they're so hard to get. They open lots of doors.
for students. It's an excellent job reference, and they end up having a judge as their friend for life, and that's a good thing."

Richmond's current crop of federal appellate clerks have a lot in common, including graduating in the top 10 percent of their classes, being members of the Law School's McNeill Law Society, publishing in law reviews, and holding previous clerkships.

Once on the job, they work in the background but their accomplishments are noticed, Tobias says. "It's good for the school. It helps with recruiting" both students and faculty. And it may lead to even more federal appellate clerks from Richmond, as current clerks often help review and recommend candidates for the next year's openings.

As to why so many Richmond law graduates have earned these positions, Denise Carl says there is no simple formula. It is increasingly rare for students like McMahan to enter an appellate clerkship immediately following graduation. In the 11th Circuit, Pope says, "out of the five clerks in our chambers, there's only one that came straight out of law school. And in the group that's coming in the next year, I don't believe any are coming straight out of law school."

More often, judges are hiring clerks who have work experience, including prior clerkships in other courts. Before attending law school, Bailey worked in CarMax's corporate office, and he took a brief sabbatical during school to work as legislative aide to state Sen. Walter Stosch, then the Virginia Senate Majority Leader. He was clerking for Agee in the Virginia Supreme Court when Agee was appointed to the 4th Circuit and moved down the street with him.

Wilson clerked for Judge Joseph R. Goodwin in U.S. District Court for the Southern District of West Virginia prior to landing her clerkship. "If you're not from Yale or Harvard or Duke or wherever and you want a [federal] circuit court clerkship, that's a good way to get one," she says.

Anderson clerked for Agee in the Virginia Supreme Court, as well as the Virginia Court of Appeals. "I've run the trifecta, I guess," he jokes. He left his job with the Roanoke firm Frith, Anderson & Peake to clerk in the 4th Circuit because, he says, "the opportunity was a once-in-a-lifetime deal." He's hoping to practice appellate law eventually, and believes clerking in the appeals court will make him a better attorney. "One of the various benefits to clerking is the behind-the-scenes knowledge of the court you develop," he says. "The appellate practice is getting more and more specialized. The rules are fairly complex. For practitioners who might handle one or two appeals in their career, there are a lot of pitfalls.

"The ability to navigate the labyrinth that appeals have to go through certainly is a benefit to law firms," Anderson says. Clerks also gain insight into the thinking of particular judges, which is also valuable.

Pope is proof of Anderson's contention: Williams Mullen has hired him as an appellate litigation attorney following this clerkship, his fourth judicial clerking job since graduating in 2005.

Aside from the obvious career enhancements an appellate clerkship brings, the work itself is stimulating. "I don't want to say it's more intellectual, but the issues here are very challenging," McMahan says.

As Tobias points out, "Because the Supreme Court hears so few cases, it means the appellate courts are the courts of last resort in 99 percent of cases. It has inordinate power across however many states are within the circuit."

Many cases argued in federal appeals courts receive national media attention. The 4th Circuit, for example, has heard significant cases related to the "war on terror," Tobias notes. "Anything that's major that doesn't go to the U.S. Supreme Court is going to be decided by an appeals court." Appellate clerks spend the majority of their time crafting opinions and concurrences and doing research, Pope says. "Primarily what I do is this intense research and writing, helping the judge get ready [for cases]. Some days I spend the entire day in the judge's office, talking about different legal issues, which is really valuable experience."

Of all the clerkships outside of the U.S. Supreme Court, these may be the most writing intensive, Tobias says. The federal appellate courts hear arguments once a month and then they go home to write opinions. "It's about appellate briefs and opinions, and so the clerks naturally do a lot of writing." Clerks for district judges are in the courtroom more frequently, sometimes for lengthy trials, or they are involved in settling cases, or looking at evidentiary issues rather than writing a lot of opinions.

Says McMahon: "I would certainly encourage any law student, whether or not you're going to get into litigation or transactional law, to pursue a [federal appellate] clerkship because how much you grow in just a short period of time is simply astonishing.

"I think you learn more about how to be a lawyer in a single year of clerking than in three years of law school."
Reaching out

Minority students enrich the school and profession

By Rob Walker
Several evenings this fall, students, faculty, and administrators from the Law School gathered to talk with undergraduates in Atlanta about law school and careers in the law.

The exchanges, which featured lively question and answer sessions, took place via videoconferences. They are part of a new initiative aimed at bringing more minority students to the Law School and the profession. The undergraduates are from Morehouse and Spelman colleges, two historic schools founded to serve African-Americans.

“We hope we can give those who might be interested in the law something to think about,” says Jonathan K. Stubb, a professor at the Law School who developed the initiative. “We want to provide information to promising, talented people who might otherwise not have ready access to that information. Obviously we hope some of them will look seriously at Richmond.”

The Stubb initiative expands the Law School’s outreach to students from varied backgrounds. Over the past several years, those efforts have shown unusual success. Today almost 20 percent of the Law School’s student body is classified as “minority.”

This year’s first-year class of 160 includes almost 22 percent minority enrollment, the greatest percentage since 1998. For the previous two years, minority enrollment has been 18 and 20 percent.

African-Americans make up the largest share of minority enrollment, but the Law School includes students from 17 nations, as well as U.S. students of Asian, Hispanic, and Native American heritages.

The Law School’s minority enrollment reflects increasing diversity in the U.S. population, and the Law School’s growing profile internationally, says Michelle Rahman, associate dean for admissions.

The admissions office also has continued to build its outreach programs to attract qualified minority students, Rahman says. “We look at each candidate’s credentials carefully. We are after the best students who we believe will be successful here. We know that students learn from interacting with people from diverse backgrounds. Whatever broadens their understanding of different people makes them better professionals.”

Stubb agrees, “This is part of our professional obligation.” He points out that students from different backgrounds bring ideas, perspectives, and opinions to the school that enrich the learning environment and the profession. They also shatter stereotypes and clarify questions that persist.

“People think that because you look a certain way, that means you think a certain way,” says Kristen McNeal, 2L, president of the Black Law Student Association (BLSA). “That is not necessarily true.”

Within the Law School’s student body, there is general agreement on what makes Richmond special: its friendly culture, which starts with the admissions office; accessible professors and administrators; proximity to courts, government, clinics, and top firms; and the location near Washington in a capital city that is large but not overwhelming.

Alex Chiranand, 2L, who holds dual U.S. and Thai citizenship, says he was attracted by the opportunity to interact with top legal minds like Judge Robert Bork and former Chief Justice Harry L. Carrico.

The Law School and University also offer numerous support groups for minority students, and many of those groups are active in a variety of community and educational activities.

BLSA “has had excellent leaders over the years and they’ve maintained a focus on public service that is attractive to students across the board,” Stubb says.

McNeal, the BLSA president, has gone on recruiting trips to Howard University in Washington, D.C., her undergraduate school. She says admissions and the dean’s office come to her organization for advice on improving minority recruitment and campus interaction.

McNeal also has been involved in establishing a Sustained Dialogue group at the Law School, which is one of the first in the nation at a graduate school, to promote dialogue among students from different

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Despite first impressions, I’ve found Richmond to be a real melting pot. It’s a place that welcomes people from different points of view.

— Vinicius Portugal
Professor Jonathan Stubbs and students discuss law school life and work with students from Morehouse and Spelman colleges via videoconference. (Right) Shaniqua Clark and (top), Jesse Roche offer perspectives for undergraduates.

There's a larger community of individuals in a similar situation," Chiranand says. International student organizations help but that could be improved, he says.

"There could be more outreach to attract Latin students," Portugal says, "but people from the dean’s office and admissions] actually come to students asking for suggestions."

"It's getting better," McNeal says. Rahman says word of mouth by students and alumni has been a key to the Law School’s success in attracting minority students. She is pleased to draw on Law School graduates from varied backgrounds who are willing to spread the word about Richmond.

"There are a lot of students who are interested in Hispanic culture through travel and studies. Jeff Hanna, past president of HCLLA, whose wife has family in Uruguay, came to the organization to assist “this underserved segment of the community, which has faced disenfranchisement” recently through “homeland security” initiatives and movements that target illegal immigrants.

Minority students are generally outspoken ambassadors for the Law School, but they do raise some concerns.

"For foreign students, there's a palpable sense of being a stranger in a strange land, of not being easily understood because of their accents, of not feeling there's a larger community of individuals in a similar situation," Chiranand says. International student organizations help but that could be improved, he says.

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Don'été LaMont Bugg, L’06, who works for The Lewis Law Firm in Washington, D.C., says he came to the Law School as a minority student “with some apprehension about how the day-to-day life of that school would be.”

"I feel that the professors and students respect everyone for their mind and what they bring to the classroom," Bugg says. They “work with each student so that they will get the most out of law school and achieve all they can.”

Bugg, who was elected by his classmates to speak at their commencement ceremony, chose Richmond over Howard University, "and I can honestly say I've never regretted it one bit."
Margaret Bacigal and John Paul Jones were quoted in a November article in Virginia Lawyers Weekly dealing with competitions among law school teams, and what the article described as a “bowl system” for legal scholars. Teams from the Law School have done well in these competitions, contributing to “Top 20” rankings. (See page 23.) Bacigal and Jones have worked with Trial Advocacy, Moot Court, Admiralty, and other Law School teams.

Henry L. Chambers presented “Slavery and Citizenship: Rights and Belonging” at the Working Group on Slavery and the Law at the Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition at Yale University in September. He spoke on recent developments in employment discrimination law at the Judicial Law Clerks Institute at the Law School in September.

Chambers provided entries on “Plessy v. Ferguson” and “The Civil Rights Act of 1964” for Milestone Documents in American History: A Reference Guide for Students (Schlager Group 2008). He also presented “Citizenship, Rights and Belonging” at the Maryland Constitutionalism Discussion Group at the University of Maryland School of Law in March.

Timothy L. Coggins, associate dean for library and information services and professor of law, and Gail F. Zwirner, head of access services, contributed to the 2008 edition of A Guide to Legal Research in Virginia, published by the Virginia CLE Foundation. Coggins authored the chapter about “Legal Periodicals, Indexes, and Information Sources.”

In addition to authoring the chapter on “Fastcase” (an online legal research system that the Virginia State Bar provides to its members), Zwirner served as one of the two editors of the new edition. Coggins recently published “Virginia Law: It’s Online, But Should You Use It?” in the June/July 2008 issue of the Virginia Lawyer, the official publication of the Virginia State Bar.

Suzanne B. Corriell was promoted to head of reference and research services in the law library. Prior to her promotion, Corriell served as reference and research services librarian. She joined the Richmond Law Library in August 2007. Prior to her appointment at Richmond, she was the circulation and reference librarian at the University of Iowa College of Law Library, where she received both her law and library degrees. She served as the senior managing editor of the Iowa Law Review during her third year of law school.

Bill Fisher contributed the “Significant Caselaw Developments” section to the American Bar Association’s Annual Review of Federal Securities Regulation. The annual review was published in 63 The Business Lawyer. This was the eighth year in which Fisher prepared the case-law developments for the ABA.

James Gibson published “Google’s New Monopoly?” on the op-ed page of the Washington Post, Nov. 3, 2008. He served as a panelist in an undergraduate forum on the Internet Piracy Act at the University. The program was sponsored by Gray Hall. On Sept. 23, he spoke to UK music majors on what they need to know about copyright.

Melissa C. Goemann called on lawmakers facing budget shortfalls to maintain funding for programs that support children and families in an op-ed piece in the Nov. 18 Richmond Times-Dispatch. Goemann is director of the Juvenile Law and Policy Clinic, and co-director of the Mid-Atlantic Juvenile Defense Center at the Law School.


Goemann also published “A Better Way To Handle Juvenile Offenders” on the op-ed page of the Newport News, Va., Daily Press, on Dec. 3. She was co-author with Dr. Jeffrey Aaron.

Ann Hodges published “The Electronic Workplace,” Employee Rights and Employment Policy Journal, with L Camille Hebert. The article is the introduction to a symposium issue of the journal for which Hodges and Hebert are editors. In November, Hodges spoke on “Employment Issues of Cancer Patients” at a seminar sponsored by LINC, Massey Cancer Center, and the Financial Planning Association. She also spoke this fall at a statewide conference on cancer on “Joining the Race to Conquer Cancer.” The conference was sponsored by the Virginia Cancer Plan Action Coalition. Her topic was “The Cancer Crisis: It’s Not Only Medical.” Hodges was interviewed for the June 2008 issue of Insight, published by Commerce Clearing House about the case Penn Plaza v. Pyett, which is pending before the U.S. Supreme Court.

Melanie C. Holloway was a panelist at the SEALs Conference in August, speaking on “Is There, Or Should There Be a Law of Cyberspace?”

Joyce Manna Janto, L’89, deputy director of the Law Library, has been elected vice president and president-elect of the American Association of Law Libraries, a professional association with more than 5,000 members. Janto has chaired many AALL committees and served a three-year term as its treasurer.

Corinna Barrett Lain presented “Cutting Edge Criminal Procedure” in July at the National Association of Appellate Court Attorneys annual conference in Portland, Ore. In August, she presented her work-in-progress “Death Is Different (But Not Really)” at the annual SEALs Conference. In September, she presented “Death Is Different (But Not Really)” to the faculty at Emory Law School, and to the faculty at the Marshall-Wythe School of Law at The College of William and Mary. In September, Lain gave the annual criminal procedure update for the Virginia Trial Lawyers Association at four locations around the state. She also presented on “Cutting Edge Criminal Procedure” at the Institute for Federal Judicial Clerks at the Law School.


Emmy Reeves presented on "Bar Exam Preparation Programs" at the Academic Assistance Training Workshop in Los Angeles in September.

Noah Sachs spoke at a conference at Duke University Law School in October called "The Environmental Agenda for the Next President." He outlined an energy efficiency agenda for the next president. In December, Sachs presented a paper "Jumping the Pond: Transnational Law and the Future of Chemical Regulation" at an environmental law workshop hosted by Tel Aviv University.

Jonathan K. Stubbs published "Why America Still Needs Affirmative Action" in the October issue of Virginia Lawyer magazine. In the article, Stubbs discusses what constitutes affirmative action; offers a history of affirmative action; evaluates various affirmative action programs, and explains why these programs are still necessary; and he provides some thoughts on when affirmative action should end. Stubbs also published "America's Enduring Legacy: Segregated Housing and Segregated Schools" in the American Bar Association's Minority Trial Lawyer magazine, winter 2008.

Peter N. Swisher recently completed the 2008-2009 edition of Virginia Tort and Personal Injury Law treatise for the Thomson/West Virginia Practice series. Co-authors are Robert Drain, L’79, and David Hudgins, L’80. Swisher attended the Asia Pacific Risk and Insurance Association annual meeting last summer in Sydney, Australia. He is court reporter for civil cases for the Virginia Court of Appeals, reviewing cases in areas of family law, workers compensation law, and administrative law.


What citizenship means
Henry L. Chambers Jr.

Henry L. "Hank" Chambers Jr. spent the historic Election Day 2008 as an official observer for the Democratic Party at the polling place in Henrico County where he could practice his passion for voting rights issues.

As an observer, Chambers was on hand to assist if any challenges arose against a voter's eligibility. Despite a handful of press accounts of alleged voting irregularities, Chambers says most of the problems he saw were typical, such as voters showing up in the wrong polling place.

Chambers teaches classes on employment discrimination, white-collar crime, criminal law, and evidence. His research also has focused on constitutional law, voting rights, race and citizenship. Last year, the Chicago-Kent Law Review published his article, "Dred Scott: Tiered Citizenship and Tiered Personhood."

Chambers continues to study and write about legal issues related to citizenship, as well as citizenship's philosophical and moral implications. The central question he asks is, "what we ought to expect from citizens, and what citizens ought to expect from their country."

For the past three years, Chambers has chaired the Law School's curriculum review committee. The result of the review, he says, "is not a complete overhaul of our curriculum," but adjustments such as adding more instruction in administrative and transactional law.

A native of the Washington, D.C., area, Chambers majored in economics and history at the University of Virginia where he earned his law degree in 1991. He worked for the D.C. firm of Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson before teaching for 10 years at the University of Missouri-Columbia. He came to Richmond in 2004.

By Richard Foster
TAB competitions showcase teams

A team representing the Law School's Trial Advocacy Board was runner-up in the San Diego Defense Lawyers Association Mock Trial Competition this fall.

Erica Giovanni (captain), Stephen Taylor, Jaime Wisegarver, and Dave McGill made it to the final round before losing to a team from American University School of Law. Along the way, they competed successfully against teams from Southern Methodist and Duke law schools, and defeated the team from UC Berkeley Boalt Hall School of Law in the semifinals.

The Law School also was represented at the competition by a team that included Neisha Gray, Brittany Scott, Lauren Wegemer, and Jon Haley.

Two TAB teams qualified for the finals in the American Bar Association's regional labor and employment competition, which took place in November in Washington, D.C.

A team made up of Jeannine Panzera, Scott Jones, Kristen Wright, and Hank Gates won the regional competition, while another that included Neisha Gray, Brittany Scott, Stephen Taylor, and Lauren Wegemer was runner up. Both teams advance to the national competition in Chicago.

Lindsay Builder, and Nathaniel Sizemore, won the Moran Brown Trial Advocacy Competition at the Law School in November. Runners-up were Shlawna Sikochi and

Summer Speight

For the first time, TAB presented the Rob Slimak Award for Outstanding Trial Advocacy. This award, established in memory of Slimak, a member of the class of 2008, was given to Nathaniel Sizemore in recognition of his individual performance. The award was presented by Holly Slimak, Rob Slimak's wife.

The Trial Advocacy Board ranked 16th in the nation, according to TaxProf Blog, an online publication of the Law Professor Blogs Network.

The ranking, which is tallied and posted on the blog Law School Advocacy, noted the TAB's recent success in competitions.

Journal to publish law student's paper

Third-year law student Katherine Kohm has had a paper accepted for publication by the UCLA Journal of Environmental Law and Policy. The paper "Shortcomings of the Cartagena Protocol: Resolving the Liability Loophole at an International Level" is scheduled for publication in early 2009.

Kohm focuses on the potential damage genetically modified organisms may cause, and evaluates the Cartagena Protocol's efforts to create an international liability regime to address these injuries.

Students provide 'Wills for Seniors'

Eight students from the University of Richmond School of Law joined volunteer attorneys Sept. 10 to provide free legal services to seniors at a life planning clinic.

The ongoing program called "Wills for Seniors" is sponsored by the Law School, the Senior Connections program of the Capital Area Agency on Aging.
the Virginia Bar Association, and the Williams Mullen firm in Richmond. Through the program, students and attorneys provide low-income seniors with legal services including drafting wills, powers of attorney, durable powers of attorney, and advanced medical directives.

**Competition draws 48 students**

The 2008 Harry L. Carrico Moot Court Competition attracted submissions from 48 second-year law students who participated in events over a two-week period. For the competition, which was held in September and October, students wrote briefs and then argued before local attorneys and judges. The top 16 were named members of the Moot Court Board.

On Oct. 23, the top four finalists argued before former Chief Justice Harry L. Carrico of the Supreme Court of Virginia, Justice W. Allan Sharrett, L’77, of the Greensville Circuit Court, and Judge Ashley K. Turner, L’95, of the Richmond Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court.

Sarah Calihan was recognized as the overall best advocate. The other three finalists were Shaniqua Clark, Mary Hallerman, and Meagan Mihalko. Rachael Deane was recognized for having the top score in the brief-writing portion of the competition.

**SBA launches new blog**

The Student Bar Association expanded its presence online this fall by launching a blog to keep students, faculty, staff, and alumni up to date on developments in student life at the Law School. The blog will be updated regularly to include recent announcements, minutes of meetings, postings of office hours, and reports from SBA representatives and committees.

The blog also will be used to highlight the accomplishments of students, faculty and staff. And it will link to many Law School publications, and the official SBA Google calendar.

Take a look at http://richmondlawsba.wordpress.com

**3L posts preview on Supreme Court blog**

Jon Goodrich, 3L, posted an entry in September on a leading blog for the Supreme Court of the United States.

Goodrich’s post previews the case of Carceri v. Kempthorne, which deals with a conflict in Rhode Island over claims by the Narragansett Indian Tribe that dates to 1880. Read it at http://www.scotusblog.com/wp/scotuswiki-preview-carceri-v-kempthorne/.

(From left) Shaniqua Clark, Meagan Mihalko, Rachael Deane, Sarah Calihan, and Mary Hallerman.

Farhad Aghdami, of Williams Mullen, works with law student Dustin Davis in assisting Hattie Jones with her will preparation.
From Oprah to Gorby, Schroder dances with stars

Kirk Schroder may not be a fan of Dancing with the Stars but he was in Los Angeles recently, watching rehearsals for the hit show. Schroder's client, Oscar-and-Emmy-award winning actress Cloris Leachman, was competing.

The Richmond-based lawyer had negotiated the publication of Leachman's autobiography and Schroder was in town on business. Schroder's unlikely link with the entertainment industry stretches from the Old Dominion into the country's glamorous capitals, and Leachman, a popular star for decades, is just one of his celebrity clients.

While entertainment law is a field Schroder finds incredibly interesting, he says, "It's not that Hollywood vision people like to portray. Most clients don't hire you to share the world of glitz and glamour; they want someone they can trust and rely on for legal advice."

He considers himself "just a good old UR boy" whose practice covers a broad range of subjects. That's one reason why he was surprised when he was tapped recently as chair-elect of the American Bar Association's Entertainment and Sports Law Section.

"It's a position that is normally held by New York or Los Angeles attorneys," he says.

Schroder was an unusual student in his undergraduate years at UR. He earned degrees from the business school and from Richmond College at the same time.

When he was studying at the Law School, Schroder thought he would become a litigator. After two years of working as a sole practitioner, he noticed no one in Richmond seemed to practice in the entertainment field. So in 1990, he began learning the business.

Since then, he has had a hand in deals involving Bill Cosby, Mikhail Gorbachev, Margaret Thatcher, and Oprah Winfrey. One of his most recent ventures was working for singer Dave Matthews' film company. He also has a longstanding relationship with Universal Pictures.

Schroder got his big break in the field in 1994. He was pursuing work in the entertainment field at LeClairRyan, when a French producer came to him with some problems that arose during the filming in Virginia of Foreign Student. That consultation resulted in a long relationship with Carthago Films.

Next, Schroder made contact with Universal Studios when it filmed Major Payne, starring Damon Wayans, in Richmond.

In 2003, he and Bennett Fidlow opened the firm Schroder Fidlow, and built a diverse entertainment practice that includes film, music, and publishing. He represents independent record labels in Nashville, and in the hip-hop industry along the East Coast.

In addition to his work, Schroder has a passion for education. He serves as president of the Charlottesville-Albemarle Public Education Fund and is former president of the Virginia Board of Education.

For lawyers with high-profile clients, Schroder says, the first rule is be discreet. "The last thing they want in their lawyers is someone who is star struck," he says. "It hinders your ability to be effective."

By 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.

1960s

S.D. Roberts Moore, L'61, has been named to the Best Lawyers in America. He was listed in the field of personal injury litigation.

Roderick B. Mathews, L'66, is president of the American Bar Endowment.

Henry R. Pollard IV, L'67, was elected chairman of the Values Institute of America.

Ralph L. “Bill” Axselle Jr., L'68, has been named a Virginia Super Lawyer by Virginia Super Lawyers & Rising Stars magazine. He is an attorney in the land use-zoning section of Williams Mullen in Richmond. He also was "top ranked" in the 2008 edition of Chambers USA, America’s Leading Lawyers for Business.

1970s

John S. Barr, L'70, has been appointed to the Virginia State Bar’s Disciplinary Board.

Charles L. Williams, L'70, has been named to the Best Lawyers in America in the field of environmental law.

Sandy Tucker, R'67 and L'70, has been named a Virginia Super Lawyer by Virginia Super Lawyers & Rising Stars magazine. He is an attorney in the franchise/dealership section of Williams Mullen in Richmond.

Edward D. Barnes, L'72, has been selected by Best Lawyers as Richmond’s “Family Lawyer of the Year.” The honor is based on a high level of recognition from fellow attorneys in their specialty.

James W. Hopper, L'72, has been named secretary of the Henrico County, Va., Bar Association. He is with the Virginia Attorney General’s office.

Charles F. Witthoefft, L'72, an attorney with Hirschler Fleischer, was named a Virginia Super Lawyer.

David S. Mercer, L'73, has been named to the Best Lawyers in America for real estate. Mercer is a principal in the law firm of Mercer Trigiani.

William D. Bayliss, L'74, has been named a Virginia Super Lawyer by Virginia Super Lawyers & Rising Stars magazine. He is a partner with Williams Mullen in Richmond. He also was "top ranked" in Chambers USA, America’s Leading Lawyers for Business.

K. Marshall Cook, R'71 and L'74, an attorney with Hirschler Fleischer, was named a Virginia Super Lawyer.

Benjamin R. Lacy IV, L'75, a shareholder and chair of the government relations and lobbying team at Sands Anderson Marks & Miller, received the inaugural Volunteer of the Year Award from the Greater Richmond Bar Foundation.

Bruce C. Stockburger, L'76, has been named to the Best Lawyers in America. He was listed in the field of leveraged buyouts and private equity law, tax law, trusts and estates.

Gary C. Hancock, L'77, is vice chairman of the State Board for Community Colleges.

Sara Redding Wilson, L'77, has been awarded the 2008 National Association of State Personnel Executives Eugene H. Rooney Jr. Leadership Award. She is
director of human resource management for the Commonwealth of Virginia.

John T. Midgett, L'78, founder of Midgett & Preti PC in Virginia Beach, has been listed in Best Lawyers in America. Midgett practices in areas including estate planning and taxation, estate administration, estate litigation, and small business planning. He has received a high rating in Martindale-Hubbell recognizing his qualifications and ethical standards. Midgett also is chair of the trusts and estates section of the Virginia State Bar.

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Thamer E. Temple III, L'78, is vice president of the Richmond Bar Association.

William Reilly Marchant, L'79, is president of the Richmond Bar Association.

James V. Meath, L'79, has been named a Virginia Super Lawyer by Virginia Super Lawyers & Rising Stars magazine. He is vice chairman of the board of directors at Williams Mullen in Richmond. He also was "top ranked" in the 2008 edition of Chambers USA, America's Leading Lawyers for Business.

1980s

Gregory F. Holland, L'80, is president-elect of the Richmond Bar Association.

Lewis D. Morris Jr., L'80, has been inducted into the Cambridge Who's Who Executive, Professional, and Entrepreneurial Registry. A trial attorney for State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company, he was recognized for excellence in all aspects of law.

John Y. Richardson, L'80, has been appointed to a three-year term on the Virginia State Bar's professionalism course faculty. He also was appointed to the Virginia State Bar's professionalism committee.

Patrick C. Devine Jr., L'81, has been named a Virginia Super Lawyer by Virginia Super Lawyers & Rising Stars magazine. He is in the health care section of Williams Mullen in Norfolk.

J. Philip Hart, L'81, is vice president and investments counsel in the legal department at Genworth Financial in Richmond.

Scott A. Milburn, L'81, has joined the software company QL2 as vice president for operations and general counsel. Milburn lives in Seattle with his wife, Melissa, and their six-year-old son.

Beverly Warner Snukals, L'81, has been named honorary vice president of the Richmond Bar Association.

Lynn F. Jacob, L'82, has been named a Virginia Super Lawyer by Virginia Super Lawyers & Rising Stars magazine. He is an attorney in the employment and labor section of Williams Mullen in Richmond.

Steven E. Farrar, L'82, has been re-elected to a one-year term as vice president of the Federation of Defense and Corporate Counsel. He is a trial lawyer in the Greenville, S.C., office of Smith Moore Leatherwood.

Edward L. "Ned" Davis, L'83, a 15-year assistant bar counsel, was endorsed for the position of bar counsel. The bar counsel supervises the VSB Department of Professional Regulation, which investigates and prosecutes lawyers in professional misconduct matters and oversees regulation of legal ethics, lawyer advertising and solicitation, and unauthorized practice of law. He also is a colonel, judge advocate, in the U.S. Army reserve.

Lucia Anna (Pia) Trigiani, L'83, has been named to the 2009 edition of Best Lawyers in America for estate law. She is a principal in the firm MercerTrigiani, a real estate firm with offices in Alexandria and Richmond.

Donna DiServio Lange, L'84, is vice president of the Henrico County, Va., Bar Association. She is with Minnesota Lawyers Mutual Insurance Company.

Douglas M. Nabhan, GB'82 and L'84, has been named a Virginia Super Lawyer by Virginia Super Lawyers & Rising Stars magazine. He is in the employment and labor section of Williams Mullen in Richmond.
Robert E. Spicer Jr., L’84, has been named a Virginia Super Lawyer by Virginia Super Lawyers & Rising Stars magazine. He is in the securities and corporate finance section of Williams Mullen in Richmond.

Paul M. Black, L’85, a member of Spilman Thomas & Battle in Roanoke, Va., was named to the 2008 list of "The Best Lawyers in America for Virginia." The list is a compilation of lawyers across the United States who have been nominated by their peers. He was named in the area of bankruptcy and creditor/debtor rights law.

Michele A.W. McKinnon, L’85, an attorney with McGuireWoods, is a trustee for the Richmond Memorial Health Foundation.

John W. Steele, L’85, an attorney with Hirschler Fleischer, was named a Virginia Super Lawyer.

Stefan M. Calos, L’87, was presented the Heritage Award by the Historical Hopewell, Va., Foundation. He is with Sands Anderson Marks & Miller.

Eric S. Jensen, L’87, is an attorney at Jensen & Associates in Richmond.

Teri Craig Miles, L’87, has been elected section chair for corporate counsel with the Richmond Bar Association.

R. Webb Moore, L’87, an attorney with Hirschler Fleischer, was named a Virginia Super Lawyer.

Charles H. Rothenberg, L’87, is an attorney with Hirschler Fleischer.

Carl R. Schwertz, L’87, has been named a director of the Henrico County, Va., Bar Association. He is with Duane, Hauck & Gnapp.

Stanley P. Wellman, L’87, a partner with Harman, Claytor, Corrigan & Wellman, has been named president-elect of the Henrico County, Va., Bar Association.


ALUMNI PROFILE

Speaking of wine

Terri Cofer Beirne, L’00

Terri Cofer Beirne may not be able to discern the profile of a particular wine, but she's an expert on legal issues facing the wine industry. That's why The Wine Institute in San Francisco tapped her as the organization's Eastern counsel. In her position, Beirne monitors legislative activity in nine Mid-Atlantic states.

"California wines set policy around the world," she explains. About 85 percent of the wine consumed in this country comes from California, she says. Virginia wineries produce about 4 percent of the wine consumed by Virginians.

In her job with the wine institute, Beirne will work with lobbyists, including some in Virginia, she says.

Beirne was introduced to the wine industry during her tenure with McCandlish Holton where she was in the firm's government relations practice, which included work as counsel and lobbyist for the Virginia Wineries Association.

"I also had individual wineries as clients," she says. "I was involved in every public policy change affecting the wine industry in Virginia."

In 2003, Beirne directed a successful grassroots and legislative effort to maintain the right of Virginia wineries to ship directly to Virginia consumers.

In 2007, she worked with Virginia wineries during the General Assembly session to help create and license the Virginia Winery Distribution Company.

Beirne also has become active in education. Gov. Tim Kaine appointed her to the Board of Visitors of George Mason University. She serves as an adjunct professor at the University of Virginia and Piedmont Virginia Community College, where she teaches a class on Virginia wine law.

In her position with the wine institute, Beirne will travel around the country to attend conferences and trade association meetings. It will be a new adventure, she says. "I'm looking forward to some on-the-job training."

Her work in the wine industry has helped develop Beirne's appreciation for wine, but she says, "I still need to hone my wine-tasting skills."

One of her new tasks will be building relationships with legislators and top bureaucrats in each state. That means entertaining on a regular basis.

"I have a wine allowance that I'm supposed to spend with legislators and elected officials to promote California wines," she says. "I'll be making sure that everybody has the opportunity to taste."

By Joan Tupponce
by Samuel D. Price. This never-before-published manuscript by a regimental officer covers the unit's service in the Shenandoah Valley and elsewhere.

Kimberly A. Pinchbeck, B'85 and L'88, serves as commissioner of accounts for the City of Richmond, Manchester Division. She chairs United Methodist Family Services, a non-profit organization that serves children and families.

D. Gregory Carr, L'89, has been named secretary of the Greater Richmond Bar Foundation.

Mark R. Graham, L'89, is executive assistant to the president of Emory & Henry College.

John. L. Walker III, L'89, has been named a Virginia Super Lawyer by Virginia Super Lawyers & Rising Stars magazine. He is in the business litigation section of Williams Mullen in Richmond.

1990s

Chris Browder, L'90, is vice president of legal affairs for the Orlando Utilities Commission.

Charles A. Gavin, L'90, practices law at Cawthorn, Picard & Rowe in Richmond.

Craig L. Mytelka, L'90, has been named a Virginia Super Lawyer by Virginia Super Lawyers & Rising Stars magazine. He is an attorney in the intellectual property section of Williams Mullen in Virginia Beach. He also was "top ranked" in the 2008 edition of Chambers USA, America's Leading Lawyers for Business.

Niall A. Paul, L'90, a member of Spilman Thomas & Battle in Charleston, W.Va., has been elected a fellow of the Litigation Counsel of America. He also was named a West Virginia Super Lawyer by the West Virginia Super Lawyers & Rising Stars magazine.

David C. Burton, L'91, has been named a Virginia Super Lawyer by Virginia Super Lawyers & Rising Stars magazine. He is an attorney in the employment and labor section of Williams Mullen in Virginia Beach.

Steven A. Witmer, L'91, is a senior assistant attorney general for Virginia. He is assigned to the capital litigation unit, which handles appeals and post-conviction litigation filings by Virginia death row inmates. He also is the attorney general's representative to the Virginia Commission on the Prevention of Human Trafficking.

Anne Derby McDougall, L'93, has been named vice president for the Greater Richmond Bar Foundation.

Jonathan A. Frank, L'95, has been named a Virginia Rising Star by Virginia Super Lawyers & Rising Stars magazine. He is an attorney in the real estate section of Williams Mullen in Richmond.

Sheryl L. Herndon, L'96, has been named a director of the Henrico County, Va., Bar Association. She works for the University's School of Continuing Studies.

Harris Lee Kay, L'96, has joined Henderson & Lyman in the firm's Chicago office.

Michele S. Vigilance, L'96, was awarded an LL.M. in law and government by American University and was honored with the school's Outstanding Research and Writing Award. She is an attorney with the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency in Miami.

Andrea W. Wortzel, L'96, has been promoted to counsel at Hunton & Williams. She is a member of the firm's administrative law practice in Richmond. She organized Mission HS2O, a stakeholder group tracking water supply planning developments in Virginia.

Judy Lin Bristow, L'97 and G'98, has been named a Virginia Rising Star by Virginia Super Lawyers & Rising Stars magazine. She is an attorney with Williams Mullen in Richmond.

Robert W. Shinn, L'97, is chairman of the State Board for Community Colleges. He is a partner at Capital Results, a public affairs and business consulting company in Richmond.

Nicole L. Wagner, L'97, is a senior attorney at Spilman Thomas & Battle in Roanoke, Va. Her practice focuses on business, labor and employment law.

Turner A. Broughton, L'98, has been named a Virginia Rising Star by Virginia Super Lawyers & Rising Stars magazine. He is an attorney with Williams Mullen in Richmond.

Douglas E. Lamb, L'98, has been promoted to counsel at Hunton & Williams.

David D. Addison, L'99, has been named a Virginia Super Lawyer by
Virginia Super Lawyers & Rising Stars magazine. He is an attorney in the estate planning and probate section of Williams Mullen in Richmond.

Gregory R. Bishop, L'99, has been named a Virginia Rising Star by Virginia Super Lawyers & Rising Stars magazine. He is an attorney in the mergers and acquisitions section of Williams Mullen in Richmond.

Robert H. Burger, L'99, has been named a Virginia Rising Star by Virginia Super Lawyers & Rising Stars magazine. He is an attorney with Williams Mullen in Virginia Beach.

Tara-Beth Coleman, L'99, is with Woodbridge, Ventura and Coleman in Fredericksburg, Va.

Michael James Rothermel, L'99, a shareholder and director at Spotts Fain in Richmond, has been named treasurer of the Henrico County, Va., Bar Association.

Henry I. Willett, L'99, was named a Virginia Rising Star in civil litigation defense by Virginia Super Lawyers & Rising Stars magazine. He is a partner at Christian & Barton in Richmond.

Kerry Robert Wortzel, L'99, an assistant commonwealth's attorney with the County of Henrico, Va., has been named a director of the Henrico County Bar Association.

2000s

Rick Dzubin, R'96 and L'00, and Shannon Kroeger, L'oo, formed Rich Rosenthal Manitta Dzubin & Kroeger, a full-service law firm located in Old Town Alexandria, Va.

Carla Jean-McNeil Jackson, L'00, is a contributor to Those Preaching Women: A Multicultural Collection, published by Judson Press. The book is a collection of sermons by ethnically diverse preachers.

Courtney Moates Faulk, L'00, an attorney with Hirschler Fleischer, was named a Virginia Super Lawyer.

Webb King, L'01, lives in Roanoke, Va., with his wife, Allegra Black King, W'97, and their son, Benjamin, 2. King is an associate with Woods Rogers and his wife is an assistant public defender for the Western District of Virginia.

Jonnell Patrice Lilly, B'98 and L'01, has joined Harrell & Blumboss as an associate in the firm's education and employment section.

Jennifer McLain McLemore, L'01, was named a Virginia Rising Star in bankruptcy and creditor/debtor rights by Virginia Super Lawyers & Rising Stars magazine. She is an attorney at Christian & Barton.

David Brown, L'02, and his wife, Rebecca Britton Brown, L'03, welcomed their daughter, Abigail Arlette, on March 3, 2008. Dave is counsel of GE Corporate Treasury in Stamford, Conn. Rebecca is an associate at Shipman & Goodwin in Stamford.

Thomas J. McKee Jr., L'02, was named a Virginia Rising Star by Virginia Super Lawyers & Rising Stars magazine. He is with Williams Mullen in McLean, Va.

W. Benjamin Pace, L'02, has been named a Virginia Super Lawyer by Virginia Super Lawyers & Rising Stars magazine. He is with Williams Mullen in Richmond.

Catherine E. Pascucci Haaas, L'02, is a law clerk for Judge Robert P. Frank in the Virginia Court of Appeals.

Robert Warren Teller III, L'02, has formed 1776 Real Estate Group and serves as the firm's principal broker.

Tarek Azhari, L'03 and GB'04, joined the legal department of Lenovo Inc. in Raleigh, N.C.

Joel W. Morgan, L'03, is an associate at Brenner, Evans & Millman.

Charles R. Samuels, L'03, was elected in November to Richmond City Council. Samuels is managing member of Charles R. Samuels, Attorney-at-Law, PLLC.

Ben Barlow, L'04, was elected to the general board of the Church of the Brethren at the denomination's annual conference in July. The general board is the primary ministry arm of the Church of the Brethren Annual Conference, the denomination's highest elected authority.

Margaret N. Boyle, L'04, is an associate in the litigation services group at the Pittsburgh firm Babst, Calland, Clements and Zomnir.

Jacqueline C. Hedblom, L'04, is a member of the new catastrophic injury group at Hirschler Fleischer.

Eugene L. Kastelberg Jr., L'04, has been selected to participate in the 2008/09 class of the Medical Society of Virginia Foundation's Claude Moore Physician Leadership Institute. The program helps physicians strengthen their leadership abilities and gain the skills necessary to improve health care in Virginia.

Kastelberg is the medical director of the Capital Area Health Network, a health center in the Richmond area. He is a member of the Virginia Healthy Pathways Medical Committee.

Rebecca Beverley Randolph, L'04, has been elected section chair for environmental law with the Richmond Bar Association.

Brent M. Timberlake, L'04, and his wife, Carole, W'90, welcomed a daughter, Sarah Grace, on Sept. 29, 2008. She joins a big brother. Timberlake is an associate with Troutman Sanders in its liability practice group in Richmond.
Thomas Woodward Ashton, L'05, and Lindsay Jean Kinyon were married on June 21, 2008, in Roanoke, Va. Ashton is an attorney with Hart & Associates in Richmond.

Cassie Ritter Craze, L'05, has opened Craze Law, a Virginia virtual law office that she owns and operates. She provides estate planning, adoption services, special education, and other legal services.

Jay Khosla, L'05, is health policy advisor to Sen. John McCain. Previously, Khosla served as health counsel for the U.S. Senate Budget Committee, focusing on health care issues including Medicare, the uninsured, private market insurance reform, and health information technology.

Josh Laws, R'02 and L'05, married Joanna Taraba, W'05. The couple lives in Richmond, where Josh practices employment law and Joanna is a researcher for the Virginia Criminal Sentencing Commission.

Christina A. Macisaac, L'05, is an associate at Bowman and Brooke in Richmond.

Joseph Ray Pope, L’05, is law clerk to the Hon. Harvey E. Schlesinger of the U.S. District Court, Middle District of Florida.

James P. Sharp, L'05, practices law with the firm of Moore & Rutt in Georgetown, Del.

Jennie E. Cowan, L’06, is an attorney with the Court of Appeals of Virginia.

Barrett Kingsriter, L’06, is vice president, corporate finance and investment banking with Commerce Street Capital.

Kathryn Elizabeth Kransdorf, L’06, has been named to the board of directors for the Legal Information Network for Cancer. She is an attorney at Hancock, Daniel, Johnson & Nagle in Richmond.


Shehzad Niazi, L’06, an attorney at Hogan & Hartson in McLean, Va., married Silvana Flinn in ceremonies that took place in Richmond, Nicaragua, and Pakistan. Attending various stages of the wedding were Gauhar Naseem, L’05, Faisal Qureshi, L’00, and Brooke Alexander, Steven Buckingham, Kristi Cahoon, Alex Case, Scott Hulgan, Martha Hulley, Jeremy McLean, and Jack Robb, all L’06.

R. Kennon Poteat III, L’06, is an associate with the law firm of Williams & Connolly in Washington, D.C. His practice focuses on civil and criminal trial litigation.

Rebecca Signer Roche, L’06, is an associate in the labor and employment practice of McGuireWoods in McLean, Va.

Edward Everett Bagnell Jr., L’07, is an associate in the litigation section at Spotts Fain in Richmond. His practice primarily focuses on business litigation and products liability.

Michael J. Clements, L’07, is staff attorney for the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Philadelphia.

In Memoriam

William I. Moncure, L'36
June 15, 2008

L.J. “Jack” Hammack Jr., L'48
June 24, 2008

Otis W. Nuckols, L'51
July 21, 2008

William M. Harris, L'52
May 23, 2008

Beverly B. Bowers, L'53
July 5, 2008

Herndon P. Jeffreys Jr., R'42
and L'53
July 21, 2008

James C. McIvor, L'61
April 15, 2008

Claude E. Setliff, L'65
June 9, 2008

E. Baxter Lemmond, L'76
September 30, 2008

Virginia Straley Duvall, L'82
May 30, 2008

Gary Charles Leedes, professor emeritus
November 4, 2008

Robert E. Shepherd Jr., professor emeritus
December 11, 2008

Jenny Lynn Hobgood, L'07, and Matthew Christopher Conners, L'09, were married on Aug. 9, 2008. The couple resides in Richmond.


John Anderson Merrick, L'07, has joined Harrell & Chambliss as an associate. His practice focuses on civil litigation.

James B. Olmsted, L'07, is an associate with Spotts Fain in the creditors' rights section in the Richmond office.

Margaret Sander, L'07, has joined Harrell & Chambliss as an associate in the firm's education and employment section.

Lauran Glassman Stimac, '04 and L'07, lives in Richmond where she is a civil litigator at the law firm of Hancock, Daniel, Johnson & Nagle, P.C.

Sara Herndon, L'08, is with the firm Christian & Barton in Richmond. She works in health law and corporate law.

Christopher P. Keir, L'08, is with Williams Mullen in Virginia Beach.


George B. Tracey, L’08, is an associate at Duane, Hauck & Gnapp.
Hundreds of alumni participated in Law Alumni Weekend activities in October including a golf outing, open houses sponsored by the Law School's centers, institutes, and clinics, and class reunions around town.

Mark your calendars: Alumni weekend next year is Oct. 16 and 17. Classes from years ending in 4s and 9s will be honored.

Members of the Class of '63, along with Dean John Douglass (on right) and his wife Cindy, enjoy their reunion at the home of Don and Linda Kent. (From left to right) Sally Creekmore, Fred Creekmore, Don Kent, Linda Kent, Janet Early, Ed Early, Suzanne Thomas, Bill Thomas, Mike Soffin, Betty Anne Soffin, John Douglass, and Cindy Douglass.

(Top, from left) David Shreve, R'74 and L'77, of Altavista, Va., was named Alumnus of the Year. L'93 graduates, Margee Smither, Melissa Taylor, and Jennifer Hollar. (Bottom, from left) Bruce Belleman, Janice Moore, L'81, Pam Belleman, L'86, Sarah Warren Beverly, L'11; Jackie Kraeutler, L'83, and Marla Decker, L'83.
Homage to Merhige

A soaring atrium marks the Broad Street entrance to the new Spottswood W. Robinson III and Robert R. Merhige Jr. U.S. Courthouse in Richmond. Read more about this tribute to Merhige, a distinguished graduate of the Law School, on page 5.