Exploring the legal issues surrounding natural gas drilling in the East Coast's vast Marcellus Shale region.

Also in this issue:
- A second look at PA's recycling law
- Widener named a top green law school
- Professor May and students travel to DC for USSC climate change case

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Office of Alumni Relations & Development
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For a complete and up-to-date calendar, please visit law.widener.edu/aluminevents

Events Calendar

SEPTEMBER 2011
5-10 Delaware Supreme Court Bar Admission Trip
13 Widener Women’s Network Meeting (DE)
13 Regulatory Compliance Best Practices (DE)
15 Pennsylvania “Bridge the Gap” Program
16 District Meeting & Student Reception (DE)
16 Delaware Bar Association & Friends Golf Outing
16 Professional Development Day (HB & DE)
20 Widener Law Admissions Open House (HB & DE)
26 Widener Law Review Symposium: “Lessons from Tragedy”
30 Delaware County Alumni Chapter Luncheon

OCTOBER 2011
2 Delaware Supreme Court Bar Admission Trip
5 Widener Women’s Network Meeting (DE)
10 Delaware County Alumni Chapter Luncheon
14 Delaware State Bar Association (DE)
14 Delaware Supreme Court Bar Admission Trip
15 Delaware County Alumni Chapter Luncheon
21 Delaware State Bar Association (DE)
21 Delaware State Bar Association (DE)

NOVEMBER 2011
2 Delaware Supreme Court Bar Admission Trip
5 Widener Law Review Symposium: “Lessons from Tragedy”
9 Widener Women’s Network Meeting (DE)
9 Alumni Reception at the State Capitol
19 Delaware County Alumni Chapter Luncheon
21 Delaware State Bar Association (DE)
23 Ruby R. Vale Moot Court Competition
26 Delaware County Alumni Chapter Luncheon
28 Delaware State Bar Association (DE)
30 Delaware County Alumni Chapter Luncheon

DECEMBER 2011
5 Alumni Awards Ceremony & Receptions
7 Widener Women’s Network Meeting (DE)
16 Northeastern PA Alumni Gathering
30 Delaware Coastal Zone Act 40th Anniversary Conference (DE)

JANUARY 2012
2 Widener Women’s Network Meeting (DE)
4 Intensive Trial Advocacy Program (DE)
10 Delaware County Alumni Chapter Luncheon
18–25 Intensive Trial Advocacy Program (DE)
18 U.S. Supreme Court Bar Admission Trip

FEBRUARY 2012
1 Widener Women’s Network Meeting (DE)
3 Ruby R. Vale Moot Court Competition
10 Delaware County Alumni Chapter Luncheon
13 Delaware State Bar Association (DE)
13 Delaware County Alumni Chapter Luncheon
29 Delaware County Alumni Chapter Luncheon
29 Delaware County Alumni Chapter Luncheon
30 Delaware County Alumni Chapter Luncheon

MARCH 2012
2 Widener Women’s Network Meeting (DE)
10 Delaware County Alumni Chapter Luncheon
18 Delaware County Alumni Chapter Luncheon
21 Delaware County Alumni Chapter Luncheon
23 Delaware County Alumni Chapter Luncheon
23 Delaware County Alumni Chapter Luncheon

APRIL 2012
12 Delaware County Alumni Chapter Luncheon
15 Delaware County Alumni Chapter Luncheon
15 Delaware County Alumni Chapter Luncheon
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MAY 2012
2 Widener Women’s Network Meeting (DE)
3 Delaware County Alumni Chapter Luncheon
10 Delaware Women’s Network Meeting (DE)
15 Delaware County Alumni Chapter Luncheon
16–21 Delaware County Alumni Chapter Luncheon
16–21 Delaware County Alumni Chapter Luncheon
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JUNE 2012
1 Widener Women’s Network Meeting (DE)
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Frack, Baby, Frack
Natural gas drilling in the Marcellus Shale region: can there be economic boom without environmental blight? The jury is still out.

Blue, Gold, & Green
Widener Law heralded as one of the “greenest” law schools in the U.S. by National Jurist and preLaw magazines.

May Shines in April
April was a banner month for Professor James R. May. He delivered the H. Albert Young lecture on the Constitution and the environment, and travelled with students to D.C. to hear oral arguments in a landmark USSC climate change case.

Please Recycle this White Paper
Professor John C. Dernbach and students take a fresh look at Pennsylvania’s Act 101 and develop recycling recommendations for the next generation.
“Widener Law is once again being recognized as a leader. This time it is for our efforts beyond the classroom.”

A message from the dean

DEAR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS,

This fall’s Widener Law Magazine is devoted to the environment and law. As you are aware, Widener holds the distinction of having an environmental law center located across two states tackling legal environmental problems that affect the globe. Co-Directors John Dernbach and James May, along with Environmental and Natural Resources Law Clinic Director Ken Krozel and other renowned center faculty, have earned international reputations in their areas of expertise. In this issue you will get a sampling of some of the topics that are relevant not only to the Widener Environmental Law Center, but you will also learn how the academic intersects with governmental policies that affect us all.

Widener Law is also once again being recognized as a leader. This time it is for our efforts beyond the classroom. We have achieved national acclaim for our environment-friendly campuses.

While much of the magazine is focused on our environmental law contributions, we do have our regular features and I am sure you will enjoy learning why Health Law Institute Director Professor John Culhane is considered nationally to be a "professor to take before you die."

One of the joys of being in academia is welcoming the first-year class. Watching them arrive is always a source of energy for me. As this 2011-2012 school year gets under way, these new students and the more seasoned returning ones, who have entrusted their futures with us, remind me of our purpose and mission. I thank you for all your support in helping Widener Law provide the world with well-trained, ethical, legal professionals.

LINDA L. AMMONS, JD, ASSOCIATE PROVOST AND DEAN

“Widener Law is once again being recognized as a leader. This time it is for our efforts beyond the classroom.”

A message from the alumni board president

DEAR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS,

As Alumni Board President, I have the pleasure of greeting the first-year students at “Welcome to the Profession Day.” Even though it’s been some time since I was a first-year student, I still remember the array of emotions I felt, ranging from nerves, to excitement at the opportunity to attend law school, to just being overwhelmed. Twenty-four years later, I am still grateful for the opportunities I was given and about where my legal education at Widener has taken me.

After an on-campus interview, I spent the summer between my second and third years clerking at the Philadelphia City Solicitor’s Office, which ultimately led to full-time employment upon graduating. I remained at the City for about two years prior to joining Kogan, Tischon & Wertheimer, with whom I have practiced for almost 18 years. My legal education at Widener truly prepared me well for practice.

As for my commitment to Widener, it started the first year of law school when I was a student volunteer in the Office of Alumni Relations and Development. This was only the start of a long and rewarding relationship. After graduating in 1991, I joined the Alumni Board and about two years ago was elected Board President.

It has been most important to me to continue to grow my relationship with law school as I will never forget Widener for giving me the opportunity to fulfill my dream of becoming an attorney. It was they who had confidence in my ability and selected me to enroll in their school. For that, I will be forever grateful. Being involved as President of the Alumni Board has enabled me to have continued involvement in the future of our profession, to continue to grow my relationships with fellow alumni, to contribute in ways I never could have foreseen, and most importantly, to give back to the place I will always call “Home.”

I would love to hear from you about where Widener Law has taken you and how Widener continues to be a part of your life.

Sincerely,

RENAE B. AXELROD ‘91
PRESIDENT, ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Where has Widener Law taken you? We’d like to feature your story. Write us at law_alumni@mail.widener.edu.
Some say the answer is more—and more aggressive—extraction of natural gas trapped within shale formations throughout the United States. Proponents refer to this energy source as clean—you may have seen the phrase “This bus runs on clean natural gas” on newer buses being added to city transit systems across the country. But many environmentalists and residents in areas where natural gas development has intensified in recent years claim that the process for getting to and releasing the gas is anything but clean.

At the heart of the controversy is hydraulic fracturing or “fracking,” during which sand, chemicals, and water are pumped into the ground under high pressure to fracture the rock and free the gas.

Fracking has been going on for years in Colorado, New Mexico, Texas, and Wyoming. It’s recently moved into northern and central regions of Pennsylvania and surrounding areas thanks to the presence of the Marcellus Shale—a vast geological formation considered by geologists to be an enormous repository of potentially recoverable gas in the eastern United States.

In 2007, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection reported a total of 27 Marcellus Shale wells drilled in the state. In 2010, the number stood at 1,366. If the Marcellus Shale can produce to the expectations of some natural gas experts, Pennsylvania, Ohio, New York, and West Virginia could realize enormous economic advantages that may be sustainable for decades.

The Widener Law Center’s motto is “Law for Sustainability.” When it comes to America’s energy demands, the question is: how can the country sustain a ready supply of affordable energy that meets the country’s needs for economic growth, while minimizing environmental impact and over-reliance on foreign sourcing?
One of the people whose life has been altered is Josh Fox, a documentary film producer who created the Oscar-nominated Gasland about reported effects of natural gas extraction, particularly from fracking. Fox, who grew up and still lives in rural Pennsylvania, was prompted to create the film after receiving a letter offering him a generous sum for rights to drill on family land. The two-hour documentary chronicled Fox’s travels across the United States to visit people whose lives had been affected by natural gas drilling.

Josh Fox visited Widener Law in Harrisburg, where a special screening of Gasland was presented. Ken Kristi arranged the Gasland simulcast on the Delaware campus. "I could tell by the comments after the screening that the students were affected by the movie,” Kristi said. "It prompted much thoughtful discussion about the issues.”

Although delving into Marcellus Shale issues is currently the highest-profile work of the Clinic, it is by no means its only focus. "The Environmental and Natural Resources Law Clinic started on the Delaware campus in 1989,” Kristi said. “Professor Dave Hodas was the first director; Jim May took it over and was director from 1992 until 2004 when I took over. So there have been three directors. At the time of the Clinic’s twentieth anniversary, we estimated that there had been more than 200 cases involving 20 different federal courts, state courts, and administrative agencies, representing more than 20,000 hours of pro bono work.”

"Those numbers have increased since that time,” he continued. "We average about 3,500 to 4,000 hours of pro bono time per year. So we provide a lot of learning opportunities for students and do a lot of good out in the community. We’re representing people who would not have representation otherwise, we’re raising issues that would not have been raised, and we’ve had more than enough victories in which a judge agreed with the arguments we made. Those are things that would not have happened without the clinic. We have challenged regulators to do a better job, and we feel that it all has been beneficial to the environment.”

On the surface, Marcellus Shale extraction seems to be a classic case of economic versus environmental issues. But does it have to be a zero-sum game where one prevails at the expense of the other? According to George Bibikos, "One of the goals under state law is to efficiently and economically develop the natural resources in Pennsylvania and to do it within a system that regulates the way it’s done so as not to harm the environment or the health of the people.”

Even the White House has weighed in on the subject. An official fact sheet titled "America’s Energy Security” released on March 30, 2011, called for responsible development practices for natural gas. It states: “The Administration is committed to the use of this important domestic resource, but we must ensure it is developed safely and responsibly. To that end the Administration is focused on increasing transparency about the use of fracking chemicals, working with state regulators to offer technical assistance, and launching a new initiative to tap experts in industry, the environmental community and states to develop recommendations for shale extraction practices that will ensure the protection of public health and the environment.”

Energy development that ensures the protection of public health and the environment— the very definition of sustainability. And law for sustainability is at the very foundation of Widener’s Environmental Law teaching, scholarship, and practice.

Access the Citizens’ Guide at q-cdn.WIDELAW/CitizensGuide
Blue, Gold, & Green

For decades, law schools have been ranked according to many measures, both qualitative and quantitative. The names are well known by administrators, faculty, and applicants alike. U.S. News & World Report. The Gourman Report. The Hytton and Leiter rankings. Now there is a new ranking system that rates law schools according to their “green” initiatives and curriculum. An Honor Roll devised by National Jurist and preLaw magazines cites 20 law schools across the nation as the greenest, based on factors such as environmental curriculum, externships, summer programs, and earth-friendly campus buildings and programs. Widener Law was awarded Magna Cum Laude distinction, one of only seven schools to merit that honor. The Honor Roll was segmented into four tiers: Summa Cum Laude, Magna Cum Laude, Cum Laude, and Honorable Mention. Schools were not ranked within each tier, but simply listed alphabetically.

“We have a great story to tell here about what we are doing for students, our community activities, our teaching, and our very active scholarship, and we are very happy that these magazines recognized that story,” said Distinguished Professor John C. Dernbach, director of the school’s Environmental Law Center.

The Center, an academic-civic initiative operating on both campuses since October 2009, is just part of that story. In addition to being a leader in Environmental Law curricula, Widener offers third-year students the opportunity to participate in actual cases through our Environmental and Natural Resources Law Clinic and is one of only five law schools in the nation to be accepted as a partner in the American Bar Association’s U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Law Office Climate Challenge. Part of the ABA challenge specifies that recycling of office paper be increased to at least 90 percent.

In addition, both campuses have reduced paper consumption by making double-sided printing the default setting for campus printers and by circulating interoffice memos electronically. In addition, all offices on both campuses have been outfitted with recycling containers and are actively recycling cans, glass, cardboard, and newspapers.

Widener Law nationally recognized for environmental scholarship and initiatives.

Professor James R. May is always busy, but April was an especially hectic month as he focused on two key areas of his recent work: a U.S. Supreme Court case centered on climate change and a lecture on the nexus of environmental and constitutional issues he’s been studying during his term as H. Albert Young Fellow in Constitutional Law.
American Electric Power Co., Inc. v. Connecticut, USSC Case No. 10-174

At issue: whether states and private parties can sue power companies under federal common law for contributing to global warming and compel them to limit greenhouse gas emissions. Professor May not only acted as Counsel of Record, coauthoring the Brief of Law Professors as Amici Curiae in Support of Respondents, he also served as a speaker at the Environmental Law Institute’s panel discussion of the case in Washington, D.C., on April 13.

The plaintiffs sued under federal common and state public nuisance law, asking the court for injunctive relief to “cap” defendants’ emissions on a percentage basis over time, assess and measure available alternative energy resources, domiciles’ emissions, develop a schedule for reducing nuisance law, asking the court for injunctive relief to “cap” defendants’ emissions on a percentage basis over time, assess and measure available alternative energy resources, and reconcile its relief with U.S. foreign and domestic policy.

The Supreme Court announced its ruling on June 20, siding with the positions Professor May and co-authors presented in the Amicus Brief. In a blog post written that day, May reported, “Regardless, AEP could be one of the most important decisions ever issued in the field of environmental law. AEP stands astride several junctures: public and private law; environmental, constitutional, and international law; injunctive and legal relief; state and federal action; and judicially, legislatively, and administratively fashioned responses. With its cornucopian issues extraordinary—separation of powers, federalism, standing, displacement, political question, tort, and prudence—it has something for nearly all legal tastes, temperaments, and talent. To complicate the picture, the 112th Congress has made blocking EPA action on climate change a priority, which informs the cases and actions above. If, for example, Congress suspends or upends EPA’s authority, then the displacement issue discussed above would seem once again to be on the table. Whatever the Court decides in AEP is sure to rock the foundation of climate law and policy for many years, perhaps generations, to come.”

In brief, the Court was unwilling to vest federal judges with the task of performing what it viewed to be primarily regulatory roles subject to democratic processes. Writing for an 8-0 majority of the Court (Justice Sotomayor recused herself), Justice Ginsburg reasoned: The judgments the plaintiffs would commit to federal judges, in suits that could be filed in any federal district, cannot be reconciled with the decision-making scheme Congress enacted. The Second Circuit erred, we hold, in ruling that federal judges may set limits on greenhouse gas emissions in face of a law empowering EPA to set the same limits, subject to judicial review only to ensure against action “arbitrary, capricious, or otherwise not in accordance with law.” Thus, the Court concluded that “[a]ny such claim would be displaced by the federal legislation authorizing EPA to regulate carbon dioxide emissions. So seven years on the case returns to the district court, and possibly to state court, to consider the plaintiffs’ state common law claims, and with them, preemption and a host of other constitutional and common law issues.”
That’s a statement by Dan DiMaria ’11, born in 1985 in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, and one of five students who took John Dernbach’s spring 2010 Harrisburg campus seminar on climate change law.

Dan hopes that recycling will become as ingrained in American culture as Bart, Homer, Marge, and Lisa. As part of that seminar, he and his classmates, who all learned to “reduce, reuse, recycle” in elementary school, worked along with Professor Dernbach on the project that would become the research report, “Next Generation Recycling and Waste Reduction: Building on the Success of Pennsylvania’s 1988 Legislation.”

The White Paper was released in April of this year by Widener’s Environmental Law Center. Its conclusion: The Commonwealth’s recycling program is “udderless and drifting.” Meaningful words from Dernbach, who spent his boyhood fishing with his dad in northern Wisconsin—the very thing that inspired his passion for protecting the environment.

In the late 1980s, while working as a lawyer for the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources, Dernbach helped draft Act 101, Pennsylvania’s Municipal Waste Planning, Recycling and Waste Reduction Act. The Act mandated recycling in Pennsylvania’s larger municipalities, required counties to develop municipal waste management plans, and provided for grants to offset expenses.

Today, Dernbach is Distinguished Professor of Law at Widener and director of its Environmental Law Center. “This was the first White Paper to come out of the Center,” Professor Dernbach said. “I had worked on drafting the original law for about three and a half years before it was passed. Now that it’s been in effect for more than 20 years, I wanted the class to revisit the statute and ask some questions about how well the law has worked, and how it can be made better.”

When originally passed, the goals of the Act were to reduce Pennsylvania’s municipal waste generation, recycle at least 25 percent of waste generated, procure and use recycled and recyclable materials in state governmental agencies, and educate the public as to the benefits of recycling and waste reduction. Those benefits include reduced pollution risks, conservation of natural resources, energy and landfill space, and reduced disposal costs.

Each student chose an aspect of the recycling law to research and write about. Once papers were graded, Professor Dernbach compiled the information in one document and spent several months editing and polishing. He then circulated the report to students, colleagues, and key people from various environmental, business, and government groups for feedback.

The result is a 46-page document that is part report card, part blueprint for the future of Pennsylvania recycling. It contains an ambitious set of recommendations to expand recycling and waste reduction in ways that would benefit Pennsylvania environmentally and economically—ideas that provide a platform for a serious conversation about the future of the state’s recycling program.

According to the report, Act 101 could be improved in significant ways to increase recycling and reduce waste, as well as foster economic development and job creation. The paper states that it is “for the next generation of Pennsylvanians who will learn about, and participate in, recycling and waste reduction because of Act 101. It is intended to strengthen the effectiveness of that Act and raise ‘next generation’ reasons to care about recycling and waste reduction—sustainability and climate change—that were not in clear focus when the Act was adopted in 1988.”
The report presents a broad range of reasons why stronger recycling measures would benefit Pennsylvania’s economy and environment. Those reasons include “a desire to move the economy in a greener and more job-creating direction, global economic competition, high and fluctuating oil prices, growing global demand for energy resources, the environmental effects of fossil fuels—an old issue made new by the BP Gulf of Mexico oil disaster—and, of greatest significance, climate change.”

The report concludes that its recommendations (see box at left) “would lead to a more dynamic and effective program—a program more capable of turning waste into economic opportunity and job creation” and “available to the next generation of Pennsylvanians, including children who are now in elementary school.”

When finished, the paper was posted online, and Professor Dernbach worked with Widener Law’s public relations and web professionals to help get the word out. “The staff worked very hard to make sure the report would be readily available to anyone who is interested,” Professor Dernbach remarked. “If you Google ‘PA Recycling Report,’ it’s the very first thing to appear in the search results.”

Dan DiMaria, the Simpsons fan and recycling advocate quoted in the opening paragraph, is optimistic that the report will have a far-reaching and lasting impact: “I would love to see recycling expanded to commercial enterprises,” Dan said. “Right now the Act just recommends recycling for businesses, even those as large as Walmart and McDonald’s. Yet private industry produces over half of the waste generated in the state. The ‘civilian’ market, so to speak, for recycling has a 25 to 30 percent diversion rate. In other words, 30 percent of the waste is taken out and recycled. How much more material could we get if these companies were not just strongly recommended, but compelled by law to recycle along with the municipalities in which they’re located? Right now, there’s absolutely no enforcement mechanism to make a commercial enterprise recycle, unless it’s a specific material like hazardous waste.”

Dan looks to those who were raised to look for the recycling arrows to reignite the momentum and push for a stronger, more encompassing version of Act 101. “It was surprising to me to realize there was a point where people considered recycling futile or didn’t think about it at all. Now, when someone of my generation is looking to recycle something and doesn’t see that blue or green can, we’re going to ask questions. We want to make sure that the next generations consider recycling second nature, just like we do.”
You might say Professor John Culhane was born into the law. His father was in law enforcement—a New York City cop who moved the family out of the city to the small Westchester County (NY) town of Pearl River when Culhane was in sixth grade. A philosophy major at The College of William and Mary, Culhane ultimately decided to pursue a law degree and graduated from Fordham University Law School in 1982. After a year clerking for a Federal District Court judge, he spent several years practicing corporate litigation for a Wall Street law firm.

At law school, Culhane never imagined he would end up teaching. It was a casual remark from the judge he clerked for that determined the course of his career: “Well, you’ll be in law teaching within five years.” Culhane’s been teaching the law at Widener since 1987, loving every minute of it. Witnessing the transformation of wide-eyed, first-year students into budding legal professionals. Enjoying the camaraderie and intellectual sharing of fellow Widener Law professors. Serving as director of Widener’s nationally recognized Health Law Institute. Exploring, teaching, and publishing on a wide range of legal topics.

The article, “23 Law Professors to Take Before You Die,” published in the March 2011 issue of *National Jurist* magazine, asks, “What if you could bring together some of the most entertaining, influential, and riveting professors in legal academia together under one roof?” Professor Culhane joined 21 other law professors and one dean on the list of law faculty who “entertain, inspire and intrigue.”

Culhane readily acknowledges the teachers who inspired his own teaching philosophy. There was a ninth-grade social studies teacher and a high school philosophy teacher at Pearl River High School. His advisor at William and Mary. A first-year Civil Procedure professor at Fordham. All had different styles and interests, but all shared a passion for their subjects and for engaging students’ minds and hearts inside the classroom.

One of comments Culhane most treasures is a student’s remark to another Widener Law professor. She said, “In other classes, we learn information. In Professor Culhane’s class, we have a conversation.” It is, of course, an informed conversation structured to cover the legal principles slated for a given day’s discussion. But it is a conversation in which students and professor come away with more and deeper insights, more knowledge, and more enthusiasm for analyzing and shaping arguments around the legal issues at hand.

“I use a lot of humor,” Culhane said. “I think students learn better when they’re having an enjoyable classroom experience. At the same time, I expect them to be rigorous in their thinking. I ask a lot of follow-up questions and try to get students to think about things in a different way—and also to get myself to think in a different way. If a class session goes by and I don’t learn something from my students, that’s not good either.”

“...In other classes, we learn information. In Professor Culhane’s class, we have a conversation.”

Culhane calls his scholarship “eclectic.” Since 9/11, he’s been exploring the issues surrounding compensation for victims of disasters. For example, he wondered why the government paid 9/11 victims so lavishly, while Hurricane Katrina victims received just enough to help them get back on their feet. His conclusion: In the 9/11 case, the government used a tort model of compensation, which is almost never done. His analysis led to several journal articles and an appearance in a documentary called *America Betrayed*.

He also contributes to the online magazine, Slate, and blogs at wordinedgewise.com. Currently, he’s working on a book on same-sex rights geared to the lay reader with the working title *Those Civil Union Things*, and he recently edited an article on marriage in the book *Reconsidering Law and Policy Debates: A Public Health Perspective*.

“I could not have found a better fit in terms of my skills and personality,” Professor Culhane says about his career in legal academia. “I’m not musical, I’m not artistic, I’m not mathematical. The two things I can do well are speak and write.” Not to mention engage, inspire, and provide a rigorous education for the Widener students lucky enough to participate in his classes.
LINDA L. AMMONS was interviewed about the Earl Bradley investigation on NPR’s “All Things Considered” in June. She spoke about “Influence, Power, and Strategic Communication in Negotiations, the Courtroom, the Office & Beyond” at the Pennsylvania Bar Institute’s Commission on Women in the Profession CLE and served as keynote speaker at Widener’s “State of Widener’s Network Harrisburg Chapter— one of many Widener Law alumni groups she addresses.” At their April luncheon. She was also the keynote speaker at the national meeting of Law School Diversity Professionals in Harrisburg, was a guest at the invitation-only 2011 Women’s Power Summit on Law & Leadership in Austin, Texas, and spoke to parents of African-American students at the Tower Hill School in Wilmington, where she discussed the values of a legal education, diversity in legal education and the legal profession, and her own path to becoming a law professor and dean.

DIIONNE E. ANTHON, ANN E. FRUTH, and AMANDA L. SMITH presented “Adding Collaborative and Formative Feedback Opportunities to Your Classes: How Grading and the Legal Profession, and her own path to becoming a law professor and dean.


JOHN G. CULHANE was honored with the 2011 Douglas E. Ray Excellence in Scholarship Award for his work on cutting-edge issues, and particularly for his book, Reconsidering Law and Policy Debate: A Public Health Perspective, which invites innovative approaches to public policy issues from a public health perspective. Professor Culhane continues to blog prolifically on a range of issues via several websites, including his own, wordedgewise.org.

ERIN DALY was named H. Albert Young Fellow in Constitutional Law for 2011-2013. A Board Member of Common Cause: Delaware, a nonpartisan watchdog group whose mission is to promote open, ethical, and accountable government at the local, state, and national levels by educating and mobilizing the citizens of Delaware, she was recently named to the nominating committee of the national Common Cause. She continues to work with Professor JAMES R. MAY on the constitutionalization of environmental rights around the world. In July, she stepped down as Associate Dean of Faculty Research and Development.

JOHN G. DERNBACH was a panelist at the Sustainability Ethics Conference at Penn State University and moderated the panel “An Essential Pathway to Sustainability: Energy Efficiency,” co-sponsored by the Environmental Law Institute and ABA Section on Environment, Energy, and Resources. He also spoke about “Theory of Regulation and Standard Setting” at Environmental Law Forum 2011. In addition, he co-chaired three teleconferences based on Agenda for a Sustainable America, co-sponsored by EJ1 and ABA.

MICHAEL R. DIMINO, SR., was honored with the Douglas E. Ray Excellence in Faculty Scholarship Award. He has been appointed to the executive committee of the Federalist Society’s Free Speech and Election Law Practice Group. He also testified at a hearing of the Pennsylvania Bar Association Constitutional Review Commission.

JEAN MACCHIAROLI EGEN was honored with the 2011 Douglas E. Ray Excellence in Scholarship Award for her sophisticated work, including her paradigm-shifting argument that punitive damages operate at the intersection of public law and private law (not criminal and civil law as is the conventional wisdom). She continues to work on her NextLaw blog (blogs.law.widener.edu/nextlaw), which has been gaining increased attention.

TONYA M. EVANS served as a PFI faculty member for the annual speaker’s training course “Presenting Excellence” in Philadelphia. She also conducted a session titled “Copyright for Writers in the 21st Century” at the Pennwriters Conference in Pittsburgh.

JILL E. FAMILIE gave the lecture “Immigration Law: A Primer” to the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs. She also spoke about “The Role of Immigration Enforcement in the Adjudication Crisis” at Rutgers University School of Law- Newark, and presented “Marky Immigration Law and the Challenges Facing Benefit Adjudication” at Widener Law. In addition, she received an ABA presidential appointment to serve on the Advisory Committee of the Commission on Immigration as well as a nomination to serve on the Council of the Administrative Law Section.

JOHN L. GEDID convened a hearing held at the Harrisburg campus of the Pennsylvania Bar Association Constitutional Review Commission on the topic of Legislative Reapportionment. He also organized and lectured at a symposium on the contributions of Commonwealth courts to Pennsylvania jurisprudence. All judges of that court attended. Other law school speakers at the symposium included Professors G. RANDALL LEE and JOHN C. DERNBACH.

MICHAEL J. GOLDBERG participated in a panel discussion at Swarthmore College on March 2 on the subject of card check and neutrality agreements, particularly as they pertain to Swarthmore’s proposed hotel project and the accompanying debate over unionization.

LAWRENCE A. HAMERMESH’s article, “Loyalty’s core demand: The defining role of good faith in corporate law,” co-written with Vice Chancellor LEO STRINE, R. FRANKLIN BALDOTTI, and JEFFREY M. GORIS, was selected one of the top ten corporate and securities articles published in 2010, by the Corporate Practice Commentator through a peer-selection process.

LOUISE L. HILL presented a Continuing Legal Education program on Confidentiality and Privilege in Wilmington, Delaware, as part of a half-day Lorman Seminar devoted to professionalism.

JENNIFER M. LEAR participated in a scholar’s forum at George Washington University Law School as part of the Capital Area Legal Writing Conference. She discussed her article “Plain English for Legal Writing Professors – Creating Legal Writers Through 6- Trait Instruction and Assessment,” for which she received a grant from the Legal Writing Institute, the Association of Legal Writing Directors, and Lexis- Nexis last summer. She also presented “Made Ya Look – Using Detail to Persuade” at the Southeast Legal Writing Conference at Mercer Law School.

G. RANDALL LEE presented an ethics program for the Pennsylvania Bar Institute before a Philadelphia 76ers game. The topic: whether NCAA regulations deny high school and college athletes their right to effective legal representation. He also co-chairs CLE programs at Fordham Law School and throughout Pennsylvania on “Bob Dylan and Art of Taking Legal Ethics Seriously.” In addition, he helped coordinate the Pennsylvania Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers Conference for the deans of students at Pennsylvania law schools.

JAMES R. MAY was counsel-of-record and coauthored the “Brief of Law Professors as Amici Curiae in Support of Respondents in American Electric Power v. Connecticut.” Professor May’s recent presentations include “Environmental Citizen Suit Update” at the American Law Institute/American Bar Association Annual Conference at New York Law School. He spoke at the Institute for Law Teaching and Learning Opportunities to Your Classes: How Grading and the Legal Profession, and her own path to becoming a law professor and dean.
WESLEY M. OLIVER interviewed former governor Edward G. Rendell on In-Session, the Law and Government Institute’s public affairs cable television show, about his changing perceptions on the criminal justice system as he went from district attorney to mayor of Philadelphia to governor of Pennsylvania and now to former governor. He also spoke at the National Judicial College meeting at the University of Mississippi and to the Harrisburg Inn of Court.

THADEOUS MASON POPE delivered the 12th annual Z. Stanley Sys Memorial Lecture for the Princeton University Medical Center, traveled to Denver as legal consultant to American Thoracic Society committees, drafting policy statements on medical futility and conscientious objection; and presented to the National Academy of Family Physicians.

ROBERT C. POWER lectured and served on panels of scholars and practitioners on first amendment issues before a delegation of visiting scholars and government officials from Kyrgyzstan. He stepped down as Associate Dean of Faculty Research and Development for the Harrisburg Campus in July.

CHRISTOPHER J. ROBINETTE received, by vote of the Harrisburg class of 2011, the Outstanding Faculty Award. He was named editor of the Widener Law Journal.

STELLA J. WILLIAMS directed the founding class of the JURIST Academy for the Harrisburg Campus.

JEAN K. SARGE and MARY ANN ROBINSON were among the presenters at the inaugural Capital Area Legal Writing Conference held on February 25–26, 2011, at George Washington School of Law Professors Sarge and Robinson spoke about “Teaching Professionalism in the Legal Writing Classroom and Beyond.”


CAPOWSKY, JOHN J., Clinical Uniform Precedents of Evidence of the People’s Court and the Convergence of Civil Law and Common Law, 18 EVIDENCE SCIENCE, No. 4, 589 (2010).


CULHANE, JOHN G., More Than the Victims. A Population-Based, Public Health Approach to Bullying of LGBT Youth. 38 Rutgers L. Rev. 1099-1061 (2010). See also Cullahome pdf.

DALLY ERIN & ROBERT J. LIPKIN. Dally, Erin & Robert J. Lipkin Memorial Issue. WIDENER L. REV. 1 (Special Issue 2010).


& Joel A. Mintz, Environmental Laws and Sustainability: An Introduction, 5 SUSTAINABILITY 531 (March 2011).

& Joel A. Mintz, Issue Editors, Environmental Laws and Sustainability issue, 5 SUSTAINABILITY 530-561 (March 2011).


& the Child Writers, in The Future of Evidence: How Science and Technology Will Change the Practice of Law, Chapter 7 at 177 (Jules Epstein & Carol Henderson, eds. ABA Publishing 2011).

& Joel A. Mintz, Environmental Laws and Sustainability: An Introduction, 5 SUSTAINABILITY 531 (March 2011).

& Joel A. Mintz, Issue Editors, Environmental Laws and Sustainability issue, 5 SUSTAINABILITY 530-561 (March 2011).


& the Child Writers, in The Future of Evidence: How Science and Technology Will Change the Practice of Law, Chapter 7 at 177 (Jules Epstein & Carol Henderson, eds. ABA Publishing 2011).

& Joel A. Mintz, Environmental Laws and Sustainability: An Introduction, 5 SUSTAINABILITY 531 (March 2011).

& Joel A. Mintz, Issue Editors, Environmental Laws and Sustainability issue, 5 SUSTAINABILITY 530-561 (March 2011).


& the Child Writers, in The Future of Evidence: How Science and Technology Will Change the Practice of Law, Chapter 7 at 177 (Jules Epstein & Carol Henderson, eds. ABA Publishing 2011).

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& Joel A. Mintz, Issue Editors, Environmental Laws and Sustainability issue, 5 SUSTAINABILITY 530-561 (March 2011).

When Helen S. Balick stepped down from the federal bench in 1998, she left an indelible legacy; during her tenure, the U.S. Bankruptcy Court in the District of Delaware had become the nation’s preferred venue for business bankruptcy proceedings and its legal community a hub for practice in this fast-growing area of the law. Sohn, Widener Law will honor Judge Balick by endowing a range of programming in business bankruptcy law—research, publications, symposia, and coursework—for attorneys, jurists, students, and other stakeholders. Housed in the Widener Institute of Delaware Corporate and Business Law, the program will be headed by a new member of the faculty, Helen S. Balick Chair in Business Bankruptcy Law.

Leadership Contributors

Pachulski Stang Ziehl & Jones LLP
Young Conaway Stargatt Taylor LLP
Morris, Nichols, Arath & Tunnell LLP
Richards, Layton & Finger, PA.

The State of Delaware
While an intern with the Center for Missing and Exploited Children, J.D./Psy.D student Jennette von Bargen ‘13 searched for long-missing children. “We found two kids,” she said. “I’m still trying to find the others. I follow up in my spare time.” As an intern with Delaware Department of Justice’s Child Predator Unit she put her Psychology training to use providing police information about what kind of predators might be targeting children. As an undergraduate at Gettysburg College, she was trained by the domestic violence agency Survivors Inc. So, when she approached Professor Dana Harrington Conner ’92, Director of the Delaware Civil Law Clinic, about opportunities in domestic violence law, she was not going in blind. “I wanted to get involved in family court here,” she said.

Professor Harrington Conner wanted to involve her as well. She had for some time been looking for ways to help more victims of domestic violence, had ideas about how to do it better, but didn’t have the funds. “She let me know about the clinic and the program, she said, “It really kind of struck a chord.” “She let me know about the clinic and the program, the professor added, “We really do appreciate the gift. The support was invaluable in commencing the program. The gift is the reason we are able to provide services to survivors of intimate partner violence. Without it, victims of domestic violence would not have the enhanced services to survivors of intimate partner violence. Without it, victims of domestic violence would not have the guidance necessary to better understand their rights.”

The result was a generous gift from the Harriet S. and Charles L. Tabas Family Foundation, through which Ms. Tabas and her husband Richard established the Leslee Silverman Tabas and Richard S. Tabas COVEAR Community Awareness Project. Ms. Tabas said, “When this came on the radar, I said this is the perfect way to jump in. Domestic violence is a problem everywhere...in Pennsylvania, Delaware, Alaska...I said to my husband and the (foundation’s) trustees, ‘I’d like to help the students become involved in the court system in a hands on way—let’s do it.’ And we did. Family law is a passion for me...helping families and children. My commitment has always been to protect children.”

The gift endowed a student coordinator position to assist with the Delaware Civil Clinic’s domestic violence efforts. Professor Harrington Conner was thrilled and immediately began meeting with prospective student coordinators. It became very clear that Ms. von Bargen would be a strong contender. As it turns out, “She was the perfect candidate. She has a heart for service,” she said.

“She let me know about the clinic and the program, said Ms. von Bargen, “It really kind of struck a chord.” Transforming the program from idea to reality took work on Ms. von Bargen’s part. Professor Harrington Conner said, “She spent a tremendous amount of time in the first semester putting together and coordinating the program—really putting into practice what she’d learned here—so we could hit the ground running.”

The program sends student volunteers into the courts to educate battered individuals about their rights and to provide them support on the day of their protection hearing. It also provides valuable assistance to Delaware Volunteer Legal Services (DVLS), with which the Delaware Civil Law Clinic partners. “DVLS is able to provide representation, said Ms. von Bargen, but because of the limited number of (volunteer) attorneys, they’re unable to provide outreach to the victims. So we created a program where students would come in and provide the outreach...making sure survivors understand their rights...” As the student coordinator, Ms. von Bargen recruited student volunteers, created a manual to guide them, and oversaw their efforts throughout the academic year.

The students helped a number of domestic abuse victims and, in the process, learned how to serve. Ms. von Bargen notes, “It was helpful to have a rapport with children; we sometimes used Spiderman terminology... We also were able to have students advise clients about child custody matters... It’s students get a taste of it. It gave them insight into what clients understood, how to convey information.”

Ms. von Bargen is grateful. “This was one of the most rewarding experiences I’ve had,” she said, “I want to thank the donors. I wouldn’t have been able to take the position without the financial support.”

Professor Harrington Conner adds, “We really do appreciate the gift. The support was invaluable in commencing the program. The gift is the reason we are able to provide enhanced services to survivors of intimate partner violence. Without it, victims of domestic violence would not have the guidance necessary to better understand their rights.”

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“Without question the program has made an incredible impact in not only assisting victims but also creating a whole new generation of lawyers who want to provide access to justice. Jennette has done an absolutely fantastic job...she’s been a wonderful asset.”

“I had both students and clients come to me and say how much it helped.”

JENNETTE VON BARGEN
Only three years after graduating from Widener Law, Professor Leslie Johnson ’92 joined the faculty as an adjunct. She was quickly given a daunting task: stepping in for a student favorite, the late Professor Joseph DeFuria, when he became ill. Since then, she has herself become a favorite with Delaware campus students, receiving the Outstanding Faculty Award five times. She has also supported the law school in many ways, contributing financially every year since joining the faculty and receiving the Outstanding Alumna Award in 2007 for her efforts. She kindly answered a few questions before heading to Africa with the law school’s Nairobi program in June.

"Knowing what I know now that I am almost 20 years out, if I had to do it all over again, I would choose Widener.”
PROFESSOR LESLIE JOHNSON, ’92

Do you feel being an alumna has affected the way you teach here?

Yes, I do. My background is in education—I was a teacher before I went to law school—I think of myself as a teacher who teaches law. I think about problems I had as a law student and try to address them proactively when teaching. It’s been a great experience working with the colleagues I have because they were my teachers. It’s a great faculty—I can’t imagine working anywhere else.

Where do you see the law school in 5 years?

In 10?

Under the leadership of Linda Ammons we have come miles—literally and figuratively. I think we’ve come a long way toward establishing ourselves as one of the best law schools in the area. I believe we are poised to really take it to the next level.

You’ve been contributing consistently for 15 years. Why do you continue to give back?

Why wouldn’t I? This school has given me a fabulous education and a job that most people can only dream about in terms of happiness ratio. I owe them much more than I can ever repay. And that is the truth. If I ever win the lottery, Widener is going to have a whole new building.

Is there anything in particular you hope your support will accomplish?

For many years I’ve tried to balance my financial support between the Widener Law Fund and the Moot Court Honor Society. I’ve been the [honors society’s] faculty advisor for 11 years now. I’ve seen the society grow and grow and grow in terms of what it’s producing. I hope it will be part of my permanent legacy.

“Much More Than I Can Ever Repay”

From Alaska to Delaware to the 2011 Dean’s Award

Born to a military family, she was the first in her family to graduate from college, let alone law school. In the spring of 2008, she received her bachelor’s degree in criminal justice from the University of Alaska in Fairbanks. A few months later, she unpacked her bags in Delaware and started learning her way around the Widener Law campus.

Why Widener? In addition to its outstanding professors and legal curricula, the school had an additional draw: it allowed Ryann to be close to her family. (Her grandmother and parents were now living in Newark, Delaware.) Family togetherness was a good ideal in theory, but Ryann immersed herself so deeply in academics and community service that her mother, upon hearing of all of Ryann’s accomplishments during the commencement ceremony, remarked, “No wonder we never see you.”

It was those accomplishments that inspired Dean Linda Ammons to select Ryann as the 2011 Dean’s Award honoree. Not only did Ryann graduate magna cum laude and in the top five percent of her class, she also served as vice president of academics and community service for the Student Bar Association and as a board member and styles editor of the Delaware Journal of Corporate Law. And she still managed to log 395 hours of pro bono service over the course of her three years.

“I have a legal mind in that I like to be in court, I like to write, I like those aspects of legal education that you might not get if you go on to get an advanced degree in something besides law,” Ryann said. “I got really jaded about going to class when the professor was excited about the subject matter and worked hard to get the students engaged instead of just lecturing from the podium. One of the best things Widener has going for it is that it has really great professors, and they’re always willing to help you outside of class.”

Ryann is excited about beginning her career as a lawyer. She started her first job on August 15 as an associate at Wolf and Brown, LLC, a private law firm in Haddonfield, New Jersey. She represents clients seeking Social Security and Veterans’ disability benefits.
As a boy, Blaine Phillips must have taken the words of the American folksong “This Land is Your Land” to heart, because at a very young age, he set his sights on a career in conservation.

Phillips is now Vice President and Mid-Atlantic Regional Director of The Conservation Fund. The Fund operates in all 50 states and acts as a buyer of crucial properties that need to be protected — and usually properties that need to be protected quickly.

The job is a perfect fit for his back-ground and aspirations. “I swam upstream to find a job in the nonprofit conservation world,” Phillips said. “They’re difficult jobs to find, but I was committed to working in conservation so I stuck to it until I found a job in the nonprofit world. My first job after law school was at Southern Environmental Law Center in Charlottesville, Virginia, as a law fellow. I eventually became a staff attorney and later a senior attorney and worked there for about nine years. My focus was on public land management, which translates mostly into national forests and national parks. I worked throughout the southern Appalachians representing environmental interests concerned with how our public lands are managed.

“By chance I met Patrick Noonan, the founder of The Conservation Fund. We clicked and, before I knew it, I was moving back to my home state of Delaware to open an office for the Fund. If you’re in the conservation business, there’s no better place to practice than where you grew up. That’s where it means the most to you personally and that’s where the changes that occur are most obvious to you.”

The Fund functions as a bank that provides funds to buy properties for permanent protection. For example, Delaware’s Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge might call Phillips with the news that an adjacent property is going to be sold for development and, as part of the federal government, they can’t move quickly enough and don’t have the funds to protect it.

In operation since 1985, The Conservation Fund has protected approximately seven million acres across the country, including areas of Brandywine Battlefield, Gettysburg National Historic Park, and the Flight 93 9/11 crash site in Shanksville, all in Pennsylvania; Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge, Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge, and the Reiden State Forest in Delaware; and the Fair Hill Natural Resources Management Area on the border of Maryland and Pennsylvania.

“It’s a wonderful job, and I feel very fortunate to work in conservation,” Phillips said. “My professors at Widener Law, including Jim May and David Hodas, were great mentors and instrumental in supporting my aspirations.

“What’s gratifying is taking your kids out to one of these places, watching them enjoy it, and realizing that someday they’ll know I had a part of that. My sons Witt, 8, and Jack, 6, love to be outdoors, love to get muddy, and love to help Dad look at potential properties. I’ve been lucky to find something that is rewarding, fulfilling, and interesting.”

“If you’re in the conservation business, there’s no better place to practice than where you grew up.”

Blaine Phillips enjoys the outdoors with his wife, Eliza, and sons Witt and Jack (right).
Outstanding Faculty Awards—decided by vote of the graduating class—to Professors Nicholas Mirkay in Delaware and Christopher Robinette in Harrisburg. Distinguished Professor Jean Eggen and Professor John Culhane in Delaware received Douglas E. Ray Excellence in Faculty Scholarship awards, as did Associate Professor Michael Dimino in Harrisburg.

Dean Ammons commended the classes’ public service—Delaware campus graduates donated 11,952 pro bono hours of service during law school, and Harrisburg campus graduates donated 4,585. “Lawyers have the awesome capacity to change lives and affect history,” she said.

Widener University President James T. Harris III told graduates that, in a world where people are quick to judge and to criticize, character counts. “Never lose your moral compass,” Harris said. “Words are inspiring, but deeds really matter.”
Innocence Symposium Features Former Death Row Inmate

An April 15 symposium – “Innocence, Conviction Integrity, and Reliability” – attracted hundreds of participants to the Delaware campus on April 15. The event featured keynote speaker Kirk Bloodsworth, the nation’s first death row inmate exonerated by DNA evidence, and presentations by the co-founder of the Vidocq Society—an exclusive crime-solving organization—and a member of the Vidocq Society. The event featured keynote speaker Kirk Bloodsworth, the nation’s first death row inmate exonerated by DNA evidence, and presentations by the co-founder of the Vidocq Society—an exclusive crime-solving organization—and a member of the Vidocq Society.

Kirk Bloodsworth speaks in the Ruby R. Vale Moot Courtroom.

Health Law Institute Partners with AstraZeneca to Hold Compliance Training

The Health Law Institute presented the AstraZeneca Regulatory Compliance & Analysis Program for the Pharmaceutical Industry the week of March 7 on the Delaware campus. Geared specifically to the corporate compliance officer, the four-day program simulated the experience of encountering legal and ethical problems in the pharmaceutical industry and provided guidance in formulating response strategies, preparing for audits, and ultimately developing a comprehensive compliance program. An AstraZeneca educational grant made the program possible.

Eugene D. McGurk Jr. ’78 (left), chairman of the Board of Overseers, taught during the compliance program, which was organized by Senior Adjunct Professor and Acting Director of the Institute of Delaware Corporate and Business Law Paul Regan, and Edward Michaelis ’97, Senior Adviser for Compliance & Regulatory Affairs at AstraZeneca.

Events

Delaware Legislators Visit

The Delaware campus hosted members of the Delaware General Assembly in February for the law school’s first Legislators Day. The senators and representatives met with student, administration, and faculty leaders, toured the campus, and enjoyed a luncheon in the Barristers Club.

Dean Linda L. Ammons speaks to the group in the Alfred Avins Special Collections Library.

Delaware State Bar Association and Delaware General Assembly; 2010 and 2011 Delaware Legislators Visit

BLSA holds “Pioneers and Trailblazers” Awards Banquet

The Delaware Campus Black Law Students Association celebrated Black History Month with the “Pioneers and Trailblazers” dinner honoring some of the law school’s first African-American graduates. BLSA President Amuamah Akam addressed the group, saying, “We’re happy and humbled to have you here and sincerely thank you for allowing us the opportunity to show you our appreciation for blazing the trail so that we may have the opportunity to attend this fine institution.”

Served from left: Pamela Crawford ’79, Dean Linda L. Ammons, Vivienne Crawford ’77, and her mother Mary Crawford. Standing from left: students Nadege Fanehi, Merson Furdism, Brandon Everett, Amuamah Akam, Brandon Richardson, and Ashley Taylor.

Kirk Bloodsworth speaks in the Ruby R. Vale Moot Courtroom.

Priest-Penitent Privilege Program

The Delaware campus Christian Legal Society presented “Priest-Penitent Privilege: Balancing Confession with Justice” on March 31. The panel discussion explored questions of how and when spiritual leaders should be compelled to testify.

The Rev. John Grimm, a Catholic priest who is also a 1993 graduate of Widener Law, spoke at the event. Grimm is an Assistant Professor of Moral Theology in the School of Theology at Seton Hall University.

All-Star Lineup Convenes for Delaware Journal of Corporate Law Symposium

The Delaware Journal of Corporate Law gathered a powerhouse of corporate and business law practitioners, judges, and academics on April 16 for a symposium addressing conflicts that arise in corporate takeovers. The event, “Irreconcilable Differences: Director, Manager, and Shareholder Conflicts in Takeover Transactions,” featured nearly three dozen speakers on topics including current case law on takeover conflicts, appropriate standards to regulate them, and related research. Speakers and panelists included, among others, Chancellor William B. Chandler III of the Delaware Court of Chancery, New York Times “Dealbook” columnist and event organizer Steven Davidoff, Morgan Stanley Vice Chairman of Investment Banking Robert Koolstra, Ray R. Vale visiting scholar of Corporate and Business Law Caroline M. Gentile, Delaware Court of Chancery Vice Chancellor Leo E. Strine, co-head of North American M&A for J.P. Morgan Chase James Woolery, Harvard Professor Lucian Bebchuk; and a number of top-Delaware corporate attorneys, including Francis G.X. Pileggi ’86, Kevin Ready ’82, Mark Morton, and law school Overseer Edward Michaelis ’97.

The Delaware campus Legislator’s Day takes place in Dover. Delaware legislators, including (from left), Dawn L. Jones, valedictorian Kirsten Kutler, and Dean’s Award winner Ryann M. Buckman, while Ashley S. Harron received the President’s Award. In Harrisburg, the Dean’s award went to Ryan M. Buckman, while Ashley S. Harron received the President’s Award. In Harrisburg, the Dean’s award went to Ryan M. Buckman, while Ashley S. Harron received the President’s Award.

Annual Student Awards Ceremonies Celebrate High Achievement

Both campuses celebrated student achievement with annual awards ceremonies held in April. The Dean’s Award and President’s Award are two of the most prestigious honors. In Delaware, the Dean’s award went to Ryan M. Buckman, while Ashley S. Harron received the President’s Award. In Harrisburg, the Dean’s Award went to Peri Fluger, Esq., and Stevens Jones received the President’s Award.

Harrisburg campus President’s Award winner Peri Fluger, Esq., with President Harris and Dean Ammons.

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All-Star Lineup Convenes for Delaware Journal of Corporate Law Symposium

The Delaware Journal of Corporate Law gathered a powerhouse of corporate and business law practitioners, judges, and academics on April 16 for a symposium addressing conflicts that arise in corporate takeovers. The event, “Irreconcilable Differences: Director, Manager, and Shareholder Conflicts in Takeover Transactions,” featured nearly three dozen speakers on topics including current case law on takeover conflicts, appropriate standards to regulate them, and related research. Speakers and panelists included, among others, Chancellor William B. Chandler III of the Delaware Court of Chancery, New York Times “Dealbook”columnist and event organizer Steven Davidoff, Morgan Stanley Vice Chairman of Investment Banking Robert Koolstra, Ray R. Vale visiting scholar of Corporate and Business Law Caroline M. Gentile, Delaware Court of Chancery Vice Chancellor Leo E. Strine, co-head of North American M&A for J.P. Morgan Chase James Woolery, Harvard Professor Lucian Bebchuk; and a number of top-Delaware corporate attorneys, including Francis G.X. Pileggi ’86, Kevin Ready ’82, Mark Morton, and law school Overseer Edward Michaelis ’97.

The Delaware campus Christian Legal Society presented “Priest-Penitent Privilege: Balancing Confession with Justice” on March 31. The panel discussion explored questions of how and when spiritual leaders should be compelled to testify.

The Rev. John Grimm, a Catholic priest who is also a 1993 graduate of Widener Law, spoke at the event. Grimm is an Assistant Professor of Moral Theology in the School of Theology at Seton Hall University.

Health Law Institute Partners with AstraZeneca to Hold Compliance Training

The Health Law Institute presented the AstraZeneca Regulatory Compliance & Analysis Program for the Pharmaceutical Industry the week of March 7 on the Delaware campus. Geared specifically to the corporate compliance officer, the four-day program simulated the experience of encountering legal and ethical problems in the pharmaceutical industry and provided guidance in formulating response strategies, preparing for audits, and ultimately developing a comprehensive compliance program. An AstraZeneca educational grant made the program possible.

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23rd Annual Ruby R. Vale Interschool Corporate Moot Court Competition

The Moot Court Honor Society hosted the 23rd annual Ruby R. Vale Interschool Corporate Moot Court Competition over four days in March. The University of Miami School of Law’s team emerged as the winner, defeating the University of Nevada Las Vegas—William S. Boyd School of Law in the final round. William Bratton, professor and co-director of the Institute for Law and Economics at the University of Pennsylvania Law School, delivered the Distinguished Scholar Lecture.

Court of Federal Claims Hears Oral Arguments on the Delaware Campus

U.S. Court of Federal Claims Judge Loren A. Smith, a member of the law school’s faculty from 1976 to 1984, returned to the Delaware campus on February 25. Judge Smith heard oral arguments in a case involving Veterans Law clinic client and Widener Law student Michael Urban. The event marked the first time the court, which often travels to hear cases, had done so at a law school. “It’s a great school, and it’s become even greater since I left,” Smith said.

Delaware Supreme Court Hears Oral Arguments on the Delaware Campus

For the fifth consecutive year, the Ruby R. Vale Courtroom served as the backdrop for the Delaware Supreme Court, which heard oral arguments in three cases there on April 20. Justices Randy J. Holland, Jack B. Jacobs, and Henry duPont Ridgely heard arguments from, among others. Santino Covacci ’06 and Abby Adams ’97. It marked the fifth consecutive year the court has visited the law school.

John L. Gedid Lecture Investigates Bias

The fifth annual John L. Gedid Lecture focused on bias and how to use law to prevent biased decisions by jurors, judges, physicians, and scientists. The lecture was given April 5 on the Harrisburg campus by Christopher Robertson, Associate Professor of Law at the University of Arizona’s James E. Rogers College of Law.

Harrisburg Symposium Explores Commonwealth Court’s Impact

The ‘Widener Law Journal and the Law & Government Institute jointly hosted the symposium, “The Contribution of the Commonwealth Court to Pennsylvania Jurisprudence Since 1970,” at the school’s Harrisburg campus on February 17. The event focused on several fields of administrative law impacted by the Commonwealth Court and featured a number of distinguished speakers.

Gasland Creator Visits Harrisburg Campus

Josh Fox, writer and director of the documentary Gasland, a 2011 Academy Award nominee for Best Documentary Feature, visited the Harrisburg campus on April 18 for a screening of the film followed by a question-and-answer session. The Student Bar Association, the Environmental and Natural Resources Law Clinic, and the Environmental Law and Policy Society sponsored the event.

James May Presents Young Fellowship Lecture

The intersection of environmental and constitutional law was the subject of the 2011 H. Albert Young Lecture, a biannual event that is a highlight at Widener Law. Delaware campus Professor James R. May, the H. Albert Young Fellow in Constitutional Law through June 30, delivered the lecture in the Gold Ballroom of the Hotel duPont on Wednesday, April 6 before a crowd of about 80 people. Professor Erin Daly has succeeded May in the fellowship.

Gasland Creator Josh Fox talks about his documentary Gasland after a screening of the film.
Justice Saylor Delivers Second Annual Lecture

Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice Thomas G. Saylor gave his second lecture in his role as the school’s distinguished jurist in residence. Saylor’s remarks, “Power and Prerogative: Reflections on Judicial Suspension of Laws,” were delivered to law students, professors, and members of the Pennsylvania legal community on Tuesday, March 22, on the Harrisburg campus. From left, Eileen Grena-Piretti, executive director of institutes, Law Dean Linda L. Ammons, and Rebecca Walker ’04.

Delaware Campus Student Named Skadden Rothschild Fellow

Daniel C. W. Lang ’11 was named a 2011 Skadden Rothschild Fellow. The prestigious Skadden Fellowship Program was designed to make it financially possible for graduating law students to begin careers providing legal services to the poor, elderly, homeless, and disabled, as well as those deprived of civil or human rights. Lang is working at the Community Legal Aid Society Inc. in Wilmington. Delaware representing children involved in the juvenile justice system. A special fund, established in memory of the late Steven J. Rothschild by law firms in Wilmington, underwrites the fellowship.

Harrisburg Campus Hosts Law School Diversity Professionals Conference

In April, the Harrisburg campus welcomed law school diversity professionals from around the country for the fifth annual Law School Diversity Professionals meeting. It featured several panel discussions on topics exploring law school diversity and the economy, women pioneers in the legal field, and religious diversity. Eric M. Knisikern, director of Harrisburg campus admissions, coordinated the event. Dean Linda Ammons delivered the keynote address.

Delaware State Representative Rebecca Walker ’04 Visits Campus

Delaware State Representative Rebecca Walker ’04 joined Dean Linda L. Ammons and administrative staff for lunch and discussion of current events in the state and at the law school.

Lancaster Alumni Reception

In February, area alumni gathered at the Red Rose in Lancaster, Pennsylvania to network and socialize, the fifth such annual event. Pennsylvania Bar Association President-Elect Matthew J. Creme, Jr. addressed the attendees, noting the importance of networking with fellow Pennsylvania attorneys and highlighting some of the special practice area groups offered by the state’s bar association. Elizabeth Flaherty ’97, Sharon Lopez ’93, and Angela Rieck ’05 hosted and helped plan the reception.

Central Pennsylvania Alumni & Friends Golf Outing Reaches Five-Year Milestone

Braving colder than anticipated temperatures, 16 foursomes comprised of alumni, friends, and students competed in the fifth annual Central Pennsylvania Alumni & Friends Golf Outing at Manada Golf Course in Granville, Pennsylvania. Winning by just one stroke, with a score of 60, were George Bibikos ’03, Joshua Feldman ’04, Adam Zet ’10, and guest Zach Prewant. Bibikos and Zet were also members of the 2010 winning foursome.

Graduates Gather in Washington, DC

In May, Washington-area alumni joined Dean Linda L. Ammons for a networking social at the Phoenix Park Hotel. Event attendees: Catherine “Candy” Wilborn ’94 had the special honor of being joined at the reception by her daughter, Nichole Wilson ’11. Dean Ammons congratulated both Nichole and Mark Wieder, also class of 2010, on their May graduation. She also shared campus news from both Delaware and Harrisburg before opening the floor for questions from alumni.

Harrisburg Alumni at the River

The Susquehanna River served as the backdrop for the June 2 alumni gathering at Duke’s Bar & Grill in Wormleysburg, Pennsylvania. The Harrisburg area alumni event attracted 40 guests who enjoyed the warm sun while catching up with fellow grads and faculty.

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Dean Linda L. Ammons joined alumni at Rhoads & Sinon LLP in Harrisburg for a luncheon on April 13. Widener Law graduates at the firm were invited to meet with the Dean to learn about recent law school news and to take part in a question-and-answer session. The group enjoyed a lively conversation about enrollment, diversity, capital projects, reputation, and alumni giving among other topics.

Left to right: Karen Salvemini ’09, Benjamin Ried ’09, Todd Shill ’93, Cory Iannacone ’05, Vincent Champion ’01, Alicia Duke ’08, Dean Linda L. Ammons, Michael Winfield ’94, Jillian Petrosky ’07, Peri Fluger ’10.

NYC Alumni Event

On May 9, Alumni in New York City gathered at the offices of Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP to network and hear Dean Ammons speak about recent developments at the law school. Willkie Farr & Gallagher partner Mark Abrams ’88 hosted the event.

New Jersey Alumni Gather in Mt. Laurel

In February, the New Jersey Alumni Chapter gathered at the Doubletree Guest Suites in Mt. Laurel to congratulate alumni recently admitted to the New Jersey Bar. The reception provided an opportunity for accepted applicants and first year students to meet and network with law school staff, alumni, and judges. Dean Linda Ammons welcomed the group and provided law school updates. Jennifer Stormer ’94, Chair of the New Jersey Alumni Chapter, spoke about future New Jersey events and encouraged the alumni and students to take advantage of the networking opportunities the school offers.

Left to right: Ashley Gottron, Rosemary R. Pall, Director of Development, Jonathan Koltash ’07, Alaina Koltash ’10, Michael Krimmel ’95.

Class of 2011 Gifts Focus on Campus Improvement

The Harrisburg class of 2011, led by Class Gift Committee Chairwoman Valerie Sykes ’11 and volunteers, raised funds for two Harrisburg campus amenities: a statue of the ancient Greek Titan Themis as well as a bird and butterfly garden. Meaning “good counsel,” Themis is among the mythological figures often referred to as “Lady Justice.” The Delaware class of 2011 raised funds for the purchase of picnic tables and a bench for Shipley Field. SBA president Damiano Del Pass (Delaware) and Devyn Zachary (Harrisburg) presented the class gifts to Dean Ammons at the 2011 commencement exercises. We extend our appreciation to the class of 2011 and thank them for their generous donations to the class gift fund.

Happy Hour in Wilmington

Alumni convened for a happy hour at Kelly’s Logan House in Wilmington on April 14. The event provided an opportunity for alumni to relax after a long day, reconnect, and network while enjoying great food, drinks, and conversation.

Left to right: Stephen Wenger ’03 and Jennifer Stromer ’94, New Jersey Alumni Chapter Chair.

New Jersey Alumni Luncheon

The New Jersey Chapter of the Widener Women’s Network held a networking luncheon in Cherry Hill, New Jersey, on April 4. The luncheon featured Tasha Delaney, a business coach who spoke about assisting women in defining and achieving their professional goals.

Videner Women’s Network New Jersey attendees.

Annual Philadelphia Alumni Reception

More than 200 alumni, judges, students, faculty, and staff gathered in March to reunite, reconnect, and network. Hosted by the Alumni Association’s Board of Directors, the Annual Philadelphia Alumni Reception was held, for the first time, in the Ballroom of the Benjamin Franklin House in Philadelphia and was preceded by a reception for alumni judges.

“What a wonderful event…all who attended seemed to have had a fantastic time” said Renae Axelrod, President of the Widener University School of Law Alumni Association. “It was great seeing so many alumni come out to our annual event!”

Left to right: Stephen Wenger ’03 and Jennifer Stromer ’94, New Jersey Alumni Chapter Chair.

Harrisburg Alumni Dinner

In March, Dean Linda L. Ammons hosted a dinner for alumni and faculty at Zia’s Trattoria at Red Door in downtown Harrisburg. Attendees networked and mingled prior to setting down with their classmates and former professors for a fine Italian dinner. After the meal, Dean Ammons shared remarks during which she acknowledged Jonathan Koltsb ’07 as the Harrisburg campus recipient of the Outstanding Young Alumnus Award.

Left to right: Student Ashley Gottron, Rosemary R. Pall, Director of Development, Jonathan Koltash ’07, Alaina Koltash ’10, Michael Krimmel ’95.

Widener Women’s Network New Jersey Chapter Luncheon

The New Jersey Chapter of the Widener Women’s Network held a networking luncheon in Cherry Hill, New Jersey, on April 4. Sponsored by Kimberley Khachnic ’91 at the offices of Martleyne, Weinroth & Miller, where she is a partner, the luncheon featured Tasha Delaney, a business coach who spoke about assisting women in defining and achieving their professional goals.

Widener Women’s Network New Jersey attendees.

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Widener Women’s Network New Jersey attendees.
Delaware County Alumni Chapter Luncheon and CLE Program

In March, the Delaware County Alumni Chapter hosted a luncheon and CLE program at D’Ignazio’s Townhouse Restaurant in Media. The CLE program, entitled “Animal Law: The Basics and Beyond,” was presented by the law school’s Assistant Dean for Business and Administration, Verne R. Smith, Esq. Mr. Smith teaches Animal Law at Widener, is a faculty advisor for Widener’s Student Animal Legal Defense Fund, is the Vice Chair of the Animal Law Committee of the Pennsylvania Bar Association, and also serves on the Executive Board of the Animal Law Section of the Association of American Law Schools.

Left to right: Assistant Dean for Business and Administration, Professor Verne Smith and Delaware County Alumni Chapter Chair Jonathan Peri ’99.

On April 13, the Delaware Chapter of the Widener Women’s Network held a luncheon at McCarter and English in Wilmington. Sponsored by Katherine Mayer ’98 and Donna Harris ’98, the luncheon allowed 28 attendees to network and listen to a panel of four women—Dana Harrington Conner, Adria B. Martinelli, Christine S. Azar, and Kimberly A. Harrison—discuss the topic: “Work/Life Balance in the Practice of Law in Delaware.”

Left to right: Christine Azar, Adria Martenelli, Dana Harrington Conner ’92, Kim Harrison ’96, Laura Beth Taylor ’00, Deborah Galonsky ’02.

Widener Law at the Opera

On May 1, Widener Law alumni and their guests joined Dean Linda Ammons for a delicious brunch at XIX, followed by an afternoon at the opera to see Giacomo Puccini’s Tosca at the Academy of Music in Philadelphia. Following the performance, the group was treated to a personal backstage tour and had the opportunity to meet cast members Adina Nitescu (Tosca), Thiago Arancam (Cavaradossi), and Boris Statsenko (Scarpia).

Dean Linda Ammons, alumni, and friends at the opera performance of Tosca.

Widener Women’s Network Delaware Chapter Luncheon

Crystal Balling Electronic Discovery.

By Richard Herrmann

Electronic Discovery has been on most litigators’ minds during the last several years. It began with the series of Zululake cases from the Federal District Court for the Southern District of New York beginning in 2003 and evolved into a significant amendment to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure in December of 2006. In less than a decade, an entire new legal industry has been created. Hundreds of vendors have built products and services around it; thousands of hours of CLE credits have been issued on the subject; and millions of dollars have been earned in fees as a result of it. Why?

The short answer is fear of sanctions. The law firm of K&L Gates maintains the most popular of the Electronic Discovery Blogs on the Internet. Of the more than 1,500 electronic discovery opinions it has summarized, greater than 25% of them relate in some way to sanctions. In many cases the sanctions have been most severe, such as dismissal or default judgement. In others, adverse inferences have been issued; and, yes, lawyers have been criticized, chastised, and sent to disciplinary counsel as a result of sanctions.

This fear of sanctions has increased the stakes in litigation significantly. The threat of sanctions and increased cost of electronic discovery has been used as a club to extract settlements early in litigation. When the cost of discovery and attorneys’ fees exceed the value of the lawsuit, it makes business sense to avoid the litigation at all cost.

Lawyers and judges know the system is broken and have been struggling with what to do about it. The obvious answer is to limit the volume and the cost of electronic discovery. This conclusion is deceptively obvious. Rule 1 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure calls for their administration to secure the “speedy, and inexpensive determination of every action and proceeding.” Indeed, Rule 26 provides the Court with the authority and the tools to limit discovery by applying a standard that has become known as the proportionality test; keeping the cost and burden of discovery proportional to what is at stake in the litigation.
It is quite clear that the next few years will result in efforts by the bench and bar to tame this eDiscovery Hydra. Limits will be placed on the discovery permitted. The parties will be required not only to meet and confer about the scope of discovery, but will have to reach agreement about how to limit the scope of discovery. Discovery limits will be based on time and the number of witnesses (custodians) from whom documents must be collected. Litigation holds (the requirement to freeze standard records management procedures) will be redefined to permit businesses to continue operating in an efficient and more risk-friendly environment.

We are beginning to see these efforts take shape through the creation of new court rules, guidelines, and default standards. It will take time, but the tide will indeed turn. I know there is a jurist out there who sees this as an opportunity to become the next Judge Shira Scheindlin (of Zululake fame) of this decade. As I gaze into my crystal, I see this judge will issue a series of two opinions and a standing order. Together they will bring a sense of efficiency, order, and certainty to the field of electronic discovery. To many of us it will be like a new world order, and I welcome it.
the railroad workplace and personal injury, medical malpractice, and other civil litigation issues.

ROBERT T. SZOSTAK of Robin, Glickman, Steinberg & Gifford, P.C., in Lansdale was named a “Pennsylvania Super Lawyer” for the fourth consecutive year by Pennsylvania Super Lawyers. Mr. Szostak practices catastrophic injury litigation.

MICHAEAL J. D’ANIELLO of Norristown was elected on the 2011 slate of officers by The Board of Trustees of Montgomery County Community College. Mr. D’Aniello will serve as chairman.

EDWARD J. STOLARSKI has been named partner of Post & Post. Mr. Stolarski focuses his practice on medical malpractice defense litigation and general liability matters.

ROBERT W. WEIDNER, JOHN J. HUBBERT, HARRY MCNUNIGAL, and BARRY J. TOMLINSON teamed up to take on the field of entrants in ascrabble golf tournament. The outing, held at the Town & Country Golf Links in Woodstown, New Jersey, was for the benefit of the Greater Swedesboro Business Association. The classmates were guests of event sponsor Mattison, Ltd., the Philadelphia/Swedesboro law firm in which Bob is a principal attorney. Despite a slow start, the team came on to finish the tournament one stroke off the lead. Jack and Barry were no worse for wear at the end of a very hot day, especially considering that they carried Bob and Harry for most of the 18 holes. The group, which gelled together often during law school, played together for the first time in 28 years.

CATHY A. WILSON of West Chester, Pennsylvania, is a Wealth Management Consultant and Private Banker for First National Bank of Chester County. She currently serves on the boards of the West Chester Public Library, Planned Parenthood Southeastern Pennsylvania, and the Kennett Symphony.

MARK T. GALLagher, founding member of Weber Gallagher Simpson Stapleton Fires & Newby, was appointed to the Allergist College Board of Trustees. Mark currently focuses his practice on defending workers’ compensation and liability matters.

ANNE COVEY, a lawyer in Upper Makefield Township, won the Republican primary for Commonwealth Court judge.

RAYMOND M. THOMAS is running for judge on the Cumberland County Court of Common Pleas in Pennsylvania.

JOHN D. BALAGUER has been named a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers.

CAROLYN T. CARLUCCIO of Wharton has been installed as the head of the Montgomery County (Pennsylvania) Bar Association. Carolyn will be the first sitting judge to serve as the association’s president.

THOMAS M. NORTH was renominated as the judge for the Westwicke National Park Joint Municipal Court. Mr. North currently manages his own firm in Woodbury.

JOHN E. SAVOTH of Saltz Mongeluzzi Barrett & Bendesky will serve as the 2011 Chancellor-Elect of the Philadelphia Bar Association. Mr. Savoth was Vice Chancellor in 2010 and will serve as Chancellor in 2012.

FRANCIS G.X. Pileggi joined Eckert Seamans as Member-in-Charge of the Wilmington office. Mr. Pileggi was the founding partner of Fox Rothschild’s Wilmington office and focuses his practice in the areas of corporate and commercial litigation.

JOHN F. SACCHETTA and Bruce H. MacKnight ’84 of Saccocetti & Baldino in Media, Pennsylvania, secured a $12 million verdict for their client, an accident victim hit by a stolen vehicle.

PETER E. WARSHAW, First Assistant Monmouth County Prosecutor, was confirmed by the Senate to head the office. Mr. Warshaw has been an assistant prosecutor in Monmouth since graduating from Widener Law.

JAMES D. FATTORINI, a criminal defense attorney in New Jersey, was elected as a member of the Burlington County Bridge Commission by the Burlington County Board of Freeholders.

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negotiation and administration of collective bargaining agreements, labor relations, pension and benefits programs, training, and policy development and implementation.

HARRY P. MCGRATH was appointed co-chairman of the judicial nomination advisory panels for Pennsylvania’s Middle District by Senator Bob Casey.

DONALD J. DETWEILER joined Pepper Hamilton as a partner in the Corporate Restructuring and Bankruptcy Practice Group. Donald focuses his practice on bankruptcy, corporate restructuring, insolvency, creditor’s rights and post-confirmation litigation trusts and litigation.

RISA VETRI FERMAN, Montgomery County District Attorney and nationally known anti-child abuse advocate, wrote a book titled The Man Who Wasn’t Falling Alone. Her book is meant to bring awareness to children and parents about the dangers of browsing the web. All proceeds from the book will be given to Mission Kids, a nonprofit that provides numerous support services to children who are victims of abuse.

JOSEPH J. MCHALE of Stradley Ronon Stevens & Young was named to the Board of Directors for the Central and South-eastern Pennsylvania and Southern New Jersey regions of the American Diabetes Association.

REGINA FOLEY TATLONGHARI was elected Chair of the Philadelphia Bar Association’s Board of Governors.

MICHAEL P. BONNER, a partner at Stradley Ronon, has been appointed to the Board of Directors of the Philadelphia chapter of the Commercial Finance Association.

MARY H. BURCHIK of Buagnon Davis Law Offices in Lebanon, Pennsylvania, has been named a “Pennsylvania Super Lawyer” for the sixth time.

RAFAEL K. ZAHRAALADDI ARAVENA was the moderator and chair of the Business Bankruptcy Committees Chapter 11 Luncheon in April. Topics included jurisdiction, distressed-asset sales, tax refunds and new operating loss allocation disputes, intercompany claims, and the treatment of creditors.

RICHARD Q. HARK of Hark & Hark in Philadelphia coauthored “Sexting: Criminal Prosecution, Juvenile Adjudication and Megan’s Law” for the Legal Intelligencer, discussing how the era of Smartphones has created complex parent- ing and legal issues and also altered the social and workplace dynamic.

MEGHAN A. ADAMS joined Proctor Heyman in Wilmington, Delaware. Ms. Adams focuses her practice on corporate and commercial litigation in the Delaware Court of Chancery.

TRACY L. DOAK, former Director of the Pennsylvania Department of State’s Bureau of Charitable Organizations, has joined Perlman and Perlman in New York City.

JASON A. COPLEY has been named Managing Partner at Cohen Seglias Pallas Greenhall & Furman in Philadelphia. Mr. Copley will direct the day-to-day management of the firm and its eight offices.

CHRISTINE C. FIZZANO-CANNON has announced her candidacy for one of five open seats on the Court of Common Pleas of Delaware County.

GINA R. FURIA RUBEL, president and CEO of Furia Rubel Communications, has been elected to serve a three-year term on the Board of Governors for the Philadelphia Bar Association. Furia Rubel Communications was recently honored with three awards at the 2011 Corporate Philanthropy Summit.

MARK J. KOGAN, a partner of Weinstein, Schleifer & Kupersmith P.C., was one of the founding members of the Latino Hispanic American Community Center in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

JENNIFER L. MILLER, partner at Ballard Spahr, edited How to Start and Grow a Life Sciences Company: Practical Advice for Start-up Companies or Inhouse, a collection of writings by CEOs of start-ups, accountants, venture capital and angel investors, and others who have experience working with entrepreneurs. Ms. Miller helps lead the firm’s Life Sciences/Technology Group.

DOUGLAS J. STEINHARDT of Florio, Perrucci, Steinhardt & Fader, in Phillipsburg, New Jersey, was nominated to the New Jersey Hall of Fame Advisory Commission by Governor Chris Christie and approved unanimously by the state senate. The Advisory Commission oversees the selection process of individuals for admission to the Hall of Fame, as well as the creation and operation of the Hall itself.

TERRY M. HENRY has joined Blank Rome in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, as Vice–Chair of the Life Sciences industry team and Partner in the Product Liability, Mass Torts, Insurance group.

GREGORY P. LAMONACA, founding member of the Law Office of Gregory P. LaMonaca P.C., was named to Suburban Main Line Life’s “Awesome Attorney” edition under the category of family law.

CHRISTOPHER D. MCEDEMS, owner of MCD Law Partners, and MatchStack Partners, was appointed Director of VENTURESeries, a track for entrepreneurs in Lehigh University’s MBA program, and as Professor of Practice, Entrepreneurship.


JASON L. BRODSKY secured a $5 million award for his client—the superintendent for the general contractor of a Philadelphia construction site—who was injured falling through an unmarked hole.

STEVEN L. CAPONI of Blank Rome’s Wilmington, Delaware, office, coauthored “A Dispatch from the ‘State of the Union’ for Corporate Lawyers” in the April 29 issue of the Legal Intelligencer.

PATRICK C. BARRY of Monowitz & Barry, Ltd., completed his one-year term as President of the Rhode Island Association for Justice. Mr. Barry was honored with an AV rating by the national lawyer review publication Martindale-Hubbell and was selected to be a part of the 2010 New England Super Lawyers list.

JENNIFER LEVY-TATUM was named partner of Binder & Canno, a law firm in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania.

EDWARD B. MICHELETTI, a partner at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom in Wilmington, Delaware, was named a “Rising Star” by Law360. In addition, he authored an article, which was featured in The News Journal, about his experience at Widener Law and the first-rate education, experience, and services that students, faculty and community members receive there.

LISA A. PUGLISI has been named Assistant Counsel in Governor Christie’s Appointment Office. Ms. Puglisi will be responsible for judicial and prosecutorial appointments.

JUSTIN B. WINEBURGH, the head of media, entertainment, and sports law practice at Cozen O’Connor, was named one of the “Tacos of the New Philly” by Philadelphia Magazine. Mr. Wineburgh was noted for his representation of film and TV projects throughout Philadelphia.

KRISTINE BUTLER of Volpe and Koenig, P.C. was promoted from Barrister level to the highest Masters of the Bench level at John C. LiFan American Inn of Court. Such a promotion is reserved solely for judges, experienced lawyers, and law professors.

JOHN C. BROWN, a veteran, is a member of the New Jersey Legislative District. Mr. Brown is a Common Pleas judge. Ms. Rogers practices family law and civil litigation at her own practice in Kingston, Pennsylvania.

NANCY J. KIPPENHAN, an Assistant Professor of Law at Liberty University, published “Seeking Truth on the Other Side of the Wall: Greenleaf’s Evangelists Meet the Federal Rules, Naturalism, and Jihad.” Mr. Kippenhans presented her paper at the 2010 Annual Conference for the Study of the Association of Law, Culture and the Humanities.

KELLY HOOVER THOMPSON and her husband Desmond Thompson welcomed their second child, Victoria Grace Thompson, in April 2011.

NANCY J. KIPPENHAN


J. WESLEY KOCSIS of Kocsis Law Office in Athens, Pennsylvania, has been named a “Super Lawyers Rising Star” by Pennsylvania Super Lawyers magazine and Philadelphia Magazine. Mr. Kocsis focuses his practice on injury law and family law.

BRIAN L. NAGLE has been named President of the Chester County Pennsylvania Bar Foundation. Mr. Nagle will also head the charitable division for the organization. His duties will include maintaining funding for schools and individual students as well as keeping up with school programs.

KRISTINA BUTLER


DELIA A. DOUGHERTY has joined Rawle & Henderson’s Marlton, New Jersey office as an associate.

COREY FIELD of Ballard Spahr was highlighted in a Philadelphia Inquirer article about Philadelphia firms expanding to Los Angeles and into entertainment law. Mr. Field specializes in copyright and intellectual property issues.

GEORGE N. MARROS has joined Hoffmeyer & Semmelman in York, Pennsylvania. Prior to joining Hoffmeyer & Semmelman, Mr. Marros was Senior Deputy Prosecutor for the York County District Attorney’s Office and a former Prosecutor for the Dauphin County District Attorney’s Office. Mr. Marros focuses his practice in all areas of criminal defense and family law.
PATRICK M. MCKENNA was for the third time named a “Rising Star” in the Land Use/Zoning category by Super Lawyers magazine. Mr. McKenna, of Gawthrop Greenwood in West Chester, Pennsylvania, focuses his practice on municipal law, land use, zoning, real estate, tax assessment appeals, and business litigation.

MARK A. SHIAVO was named partner of Dilworth Paxson in Cherry Hill, New Jersey. Mr. Shavoo concentrates his practice on complex commercial litigation in the state and federal courts of Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

RICHARD L. ALLOWAY, State Senator for Pennsylvania’s 39th District, was elected to the Senate Judiciary Committee for the 2011-12 legislative sessions. Senator Alloway was also reappointed Chairman of the Senate Game and Fisheries Committee for the 2011-12 legislative sessions.

JANAKI R. CATANZARITE has joined Northern Trust, a provider of financial services for institutions and affluent individuals, as vice president and wealth strategist in the Delaware office. Ms. Catanzario’s expertise is in new business development throughout the Northeast Region.

JONATHON H. LOMURRO, a senior associate in Lomurro Davidson’s Litigation Department, has been named Young Lawyer of the Year by the New Jersey State Bar Association Young Lawyers Division.

BRUCE N. MACKNIGHT and Thomas F. Sacchetta ’86, of Sacchetta & Baldino in Media, Pennsylvania, secured a $12 million verdict for their client, an accident victim hit by a stolen vehicle.

VERNON T. ANASTASIO of The Anastasio Law Firm in Philadelphia will be opening a satellite office in Port Richmond.


CHRISTOPHER J. CABOTT, entertainment lawyer and sports agent with Zone Management Inc. in Philadelphia, appeared on Fox News to discuss the legality of the NFL lockout.

ADAM J. NOAH has joined the American Insurance Association (AIA) as vice president of federal affairs. Most recently, Mr. Noah served in the office of Senator Saxby Chambliss (R-GA) as a legislative assistant.

ERIC M. BROWN of Siana, Bellware & McAndrew in Chester County, Pennsylvania, presented seminars about successful risk management strategies for police chiefs and administrators of municipal police departments to the Adams County Association of Township Officials in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, in May.

MAUREEN M. FARRELL chaired and is editor of the Philadelphia Bar Association’s new “Women in the Profession Newsletter.” The inaugural issue, published in July 2011, featured writings by a number of regionally prominent women in the law.

RYAN W. GALLAGHER is a candidate for Newtown Township, Pennsylvania, Supervisor.

SEAN P. NEWELL reports that, after living the litigation lifestyle for more than three years, he decided to put his degree to a different use, get out of the office, and start pounding the Manhattan pavement as a real estate broker with Bond New York. He notes that, aside from his three years in Delaware for law school, he has lived in New York all his life and knows the area well.

GREG M. SCHULTZ joined the Lehigh Valley firm Gross McGinley as a member of the Litigation Practice Group. Mr. Schultz’s practice focuses on civil litigation, including commercial litigation, medical malpractice defense, and personal injury.

TRAVIS W. BLISS, an associate in Porter Anderson’s intellectual property practice, was honored with the 2010 David B. Brown Pro Bono Award. Mr. Bliss was recognized for his far-reaching and outstanding service in child custody cases.

JOHN D. CIRRINICONE is a candidate for Newtown Township, Pennsylvania, Supervisor.


DAVID S. KELLER, an incumbent Franklin County, Pennsylvania, Commissioner, will seek reelection in November 2011.

ROBERT T. MCClintock, an associate with Lamb McErlane’s municipal group, co-wrote the article, “What Does the Public Have a Right to Know About Gaming Applicants?” The article was published in the Legal Intelligencer in March 2011.

STEPHEN W. RIES and his wife welcomed their baby boy, Anthony Steven, on May 21, 2011.

THEODORE Y. CHOI has joined the Law Office of Faye Riva Cohen. He focuses his practice on employment, disability, and civil rights.

SARA L. MGCEOER is a board member of and volunteer for Mission Kids, a nonprofit organization dedicated to child abuse investigation and intervention, as well as the protection of children from duplicative interviews through a multidisciplinary team approach. In 2010, Ms. McGeeor launched Young Friends of Mission Kids, a group of fundraisers, ages 35 and below, dedicated to the vision of Mission Kids. She chairs “Young Friends of Mission Kids” board.

CHRISTINA M. FISHER has opened her own practice, Fisher Law Office, in the Harrisburg area. She will focus her practice on professional license defense, labor law, and wills and estates.

RENEA L. KLUG KIEHL is the new assistant corporate secretary for Capital BlueCross. As an officer of the company, Ms. Kiehl supports the corporate secretary and the Board of Directors and is also responsible for corporate governance issues regarding the company and its subsidiaries.

TRACY WARGA was appointed and sworn in as a Kent County, Delaware, Justice of the Peace by Governor Jack Markell.
Alumni Land Corbett Administration Posts

When assembling his new administration, Pennsylvania Governor Tom Corbett included Michael F. Consedine ’94, who was appointed the commonwealth’s Insurance Commissioner, and Annmarie Kaiser ’93, who will serve as Secretary of Legislative Affairs. Prior to his appointment, Mr. Consedine, who was confirmed by the Pennsylvania Senate in April, served as partner and vice chairman of Saul Ewing’s insurance practice group. Ms. Kaiser served as Acting Chief of Staff in the Pennsylvania Attorney General’s Office. Prior to joining the Attorney General’s Office, Ms. Kaiser was the Executive Director of the Pennsylvania District Attorney’s Association.

Ms. Kaiser and Mr. Consedine join a large contingent of Widener Law graduates in Pennsylvania’s government. If you have a role in the Corbett administration—or anywhere in government—we’d like to know. Please send us your news at law_alumni@mail.widener.edu.

Widener Law Alumni Dominate “Main Line Area’s Best”

Eight of the 15 attorneys named the “Main Line Area’s Best” in their specialties by Main Line Today magazine are Widener Law alumni. Congratulations!

Michael J. Malloy ’76
Criminal Defense

Timothy F. Rayne ’95
Personal Injury

Gregory P. LaMonaca ’95
Divorce

Scott R. Reidenbach ’97
Real Estate Law

Duke Schneider ’90
Elder Law

James B. Urie ’00
Tax Law

Mark Blank Jr. ’75
Personal Bankruptcy

David R. Cherry ’95
Workers’ Compensation

The magazine also named Lindsey J. Conan ’07 and David Concannon ’91 among “The Main Line Area’s Best Attorneys.”