

BENCHMARK COLUMN // JULY 2010

THOMAS M. COOLEY LAW SCHOOL ALUMNI PUBLICATION

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Charles Toy,
Associate Dean of Career
and Professional Development

TRAILBLAZING TLAIB ELECTED TO HISTORIC ROLE

Rashida Tlaib is the First Muslim Woman to Serve as a Michigan State Representative

Six years ago, Rashida Tlaib (Cross Class, 2004) was a newlywed, a full-time employee at an Arab community center, and a weekend student at Cooley’s Lansing campus. The last thing on her mind was becoming the first Muslim woman to serve in the Michigan House of Representatives.

Fast forward six years, and 12th District Representative Tlaib is just that. The 33-year-old Democrat and policymaker credits her amazing journey and success to her family, faith, and her top-notch Cooley education.

Born and raised in a diverse community in southwest Detroit, Tlaib is the eldest of 14 children born to Palestinian immigrants. Responsibility came in many forms, including serving as her mother’s translator, as Tlaib’s mother spoke very little English.

Tlaib also played a key role in helping her parents care for her siblings. She credits this experience, coupled with being raised in a diverse neighborhood where she had exposure to people and needs of all kinds, as her inspiration to help others.

Serving Others

“I know I’m not the only one who goes to law school thinking that I’m going to change the world,” Tlaib said. “But all my experiences, my family, background, and the culture I grew up in, instilled in me the importance of taking care of the people who need it the most.”

This passion for helping others eventually drove her to run for office and continues to influence her policy interests. Two of her driving passions are immigration reform and environmental issues. Tlaib pointed out that air quality was

especially important to her as her district is surrounded by oil refineries and is home to an international bridge with high truck traffic, affecting the nearly 100,000 residents in her district.

Until the time when Tlaib ran for the House seat, she leaned on her law degree as a social service advocate for thousands of southwest Detroit residents.

This included working for organizations such as Latin Americans for Social and Economic Development as well as the Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services where she advocated for increased human services, education, and civil rights.

Tlaib initially had no interest in running for the Michigan House seat until her mentor, former State Representative Steve Tobocman, approached her about entering the race. Tobocman, who was term-limited, identified Tlaib as the most qualified person for the job. He pointed out that representing the residents of southwest Michigan in Lansing was a position of service, which needed to be filled by a person who truly cared about the people in his/her community.

Once Tlaib decided to run for the seat, she poured all her energy into her campaign, including visiting every house in her district twice. It wasn't until her campaign was under way that she realized her candidacy as a Muslim woman could have historical implications. "When I first explored a state representative seat, I didn't know the historical significance of my ethnicity and faith," Tlaib recalls. "It was all about giving back to my community."

An Anchor of Faith

Tlaib's faith has been a life-long anchor in her personal and professional journeys. "Islam, in so many ways, is structured for a job like mine," she said, describing how the tradition of five daily prayers gives her specified time to stop, to give thanks, and to refocus on what is truly important. "I wouldn't be where I am without my faith," she said.

In addition to being a public servant, the freshman representative is a wife and mother. Tlaib has been married to her husband, Fayez, for 13 years with whom she has a 4-year-old son, Adam.

Tlaib makes the three-hour, round-trip commute to Lansing three to four times a week. The extensive travel keeps her focused on achieving a healthy work and family balance. Tlaib said she has learned the importance of saying no and being intentional with her time. "There are times – even in the car or running an errand – I won't put the radio on and I won't pick up my phone so I can talk with my family in the car," Tlaib said. "A working mom's struggle is saying, 'I'll spend time with my family tomorrow,' but you need to get in the habit of doing it today."

Tlaib sees a definite correlation between her Cooley experience and her legislative work.

"Anyone who studies in the legal field has an advantage when working on legislation and policies that impact people's lives," she said. "If it weren't for my Cooley education, I don't think I would be where I am. It has given me confidence."

A Place in History

Tlaib's place in history has not gone unnoticed. Tlaib recalled the first time a Muslim father brought his 12-year-old daughter to meet her after a public event. "You could see the pride in his eyes," Tlaib recalled. "He said, 'This is a state representative and she is a Muslim.'"

The encounter brought tears to Tlaib's eyes as she was able to discuss with the young girl how they both shared last names that were hard to pronounce, and how both had often felt different growing up. "It was an opportunity for me to tell her how, once people get to know you one-on-one, you can do whatever you want."

BOXING HER WAY TO A DEGREE

It was August 2003 when Valerie Smulders decided to move to Las Vegas from Portland, Oregon. Her husband-to-be, Steve Forbes, was already in Las Vegas where he was living and training as a professional boxer.

As Forbes trained in the city that is home to boxing's elite, Smulders began to search for what was next for her. In the three years since she had graduated from the University of Michigan with an anthropology degree, she had lived in Indonesia, Boston, Portland, and, now, Las Vegas. She had worked in jobs ranging from a department director at a fitness and wellness center to the director of a childcare facility. How was she to know that her husband's career would soon have an impact on her future career as well?

Forbes, a former International Boxing Federation super featherweight champion, was soon fielding offers for fights. And with the offers came contracts, documents that led Forbes to seek Smulders' advice.

"Boxing is known as being pretty corrupt," said Smulders. "The contracts that Steve was getting were pretty simple, only one or two pages long. I began to help him review them and handle the negotiations."

Soon, Smulders was handling all of Forbes' negotiations. It sparked a passion, one that ended up being her calling. Smulders was going to become a lawyer.

"I had thought about law when I graduated from Michigan," said Smulders. "The work with Steve renewed that passion."

Smulders decided to move back to her native Michigan, and sought law schools in southeast Michigan so that Forbes could train in another boxing hotbed – Detroit. She applied to Cooley, was accepted, and started at the Auburn Hills campus in 2006.

Her move to Michigan didn't slow down her "work" as an advisor for Forbes. As she was preparing to begin law school, Forbes was offered a spot on the second season of ESPN's *The Contender*, a reality show that combines welterweight boxing with behind-the-scenes views of the fighters' lives as they live together in Pasadena, California.

Instead of the one- or two-page boxing contracts that Smulders had been negotiating, Smulders was now reviewing a 130-page entertainment contract that would govern Forbes' professional activities for the next five years. There were several items in the contract that Smulders attempted to change, including clauses related to health insurance, frequency of fights, financial compensation, and medical screening costs.

"They flew Steve out to L.A. during the negotiation," said Smulders. "During the trip, they told him that the terms were non-negotiable and if he returned to Michigan without an agreement, that a role on *The Contender* wouldn't happen. But we just couldn't agree to such terms, so he flew back. A few days later, they called and agreed to meet our requests."

As part of the negotiations, Steve obtained health insurance for himself, was assured of a fight every four months, and had all the medical testing required by boxing organizations to be covered by *The Contender*.

After that, Smulders said she thought to herself, "I do have it in me. I can do this."

During the filming of *The Contender* in January and February 2006, Forbes wasn't allowed much communication with the outside world, including Smulders.

"They allow one 10-minute call every other day," said Smulders. "And everything was recorded, so we couldn't talk about his opponents or anything."

Forbes did well on *The Contender*, winning his first three bouts on the show (episodes 7, 8, and 11) and earning a spot in the season's championship bout at the Staples Center in Los Angeles against Grady "Bad Boy" Brewer. The winner would receive \$500,000 and a Toyota Tundra. But in the weeks leading up to the bout, a legal dispute began.

According to Smulders, *The Contender* moved the date of the weigh-in from the day of the fight to the day before the fight. The contract stated that the weigh-in would occur on the day of the fight. Smulders believed that the date change put Forbes at a disadvantage as boxers can typically gain 15-20 pounds in a day prior to a fight.

"Steve didn't have to resort to weight loss tactics to make the weight; he was fighting at his natural weight. His competitor had to lose weight, and the extra day allowed him to gain it back."

Smulders says that she repeatedly challenged *The Contender* executives in an attempt to have the weigh-in on the day of the fight as was detailed in the contract.

“They said that it needed to be moved to meet the media’s needs and build buzz for the fight,” said Smulders. “That was the one time that I wished that I was already an attorney. I felt that if I had been speaking from the position of an attorney instead of a wife, that my requests might have been viewed in a different light.”

Smulders and Forbes were unable to shift the date of the weigh-in and decided not to pull out of the fight. Grady won the 12-round bout in a split decision; two judges favored Brewer and one favored Forbes.

While the appearance on *The Contender* didn’t end in the victory that Forbes and Smulders had hoped for, it did lead to greater things.

Two years later, Forbes went on to fight top boxer Oscar De La Hoya in a 12-round match and earn a reported \$400,000. Smulders negotiated the contract for that fight as well.

Today, Forbes is winding down his career as a boxer. For 12 weeks earlier this year, he served as a sparring partner for boxing superstar Floyd Mayweather in preparation for a May 1 bout that Mayweather won against big-name opponent Shane Mosley.

At the same time, Smulders’ career is about to take off. She’ll take her final classes at Cooley this summer and start an externship in September. As for a career path, she says that she’d like to start practicing as an attorney who specializes in business transactions in her hometown of Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Asked if she sees representing boxers as a career path, Smulders is open to the possibility.

“Many of these guys come from nothing,” said Smulders. “They need someone on their side. I can see a scenario where I’m that person.”

Engaging Electives...

New, relevant electives put hot legal topics in the classroom, allow students to explore interests and specialize before graduating.

Law students graduate into a constantly evolving legal landscape, from the recent questioning and overturning of longstanding gun control laws to proposed legislation focusing on sustainability and energy independence.

One of the ways Cooley prepares students with the practical knowledge and skills to succeed in that ever-changing climate is to continuously add relevant and unique electives to the curriculum. Of the total 90 credit hours required to earn a juris doctor from Cooley, roughly one-third is comprised of electives.

Selecting electives with a particular focus allows students to gain expertise in a specific area of law before they graduate, making them more marketable, according to Ann Wood, Cooley’s associate dean of planning, programs and assessment.

New electives can stem from the suggestions of students, practitioners, and faculty. Ideas are submitted to the Faculty Curriculum Committee, which consists of department chairs, certain deans, and the registrar. The committee’s goal is to provide a balanced review of proposed electives before they are approved and implemented. Typically, five to ten new electives are approved each year. Some of the new or unique electives that Cooley offers include:

Gun Control...

Cooley is the only law school in Michigan to offer a course solely dedicated to gun control law.

The course offers an in-depth study of gun-related laws including federal and state constitutional provisions providing the right to own and bear arms, current federal and state gun control laws, and the consideration of whether or not local gun control ordinances are needed.

Renewed interest in gun regulation has been sparked by two recent U.S. Supreme Court cases that focused on the Second Amendment and the right to bear arms, said Devin Schindler, associate professor in the Constitutional Law department at Cooley. “Nothing had happened for about 70 years,” he said. “There were really no cases that made it

to the Supreme Court that really analyzed what the Second Amendment meant until last year, when the Supreme Court struck down a Washington, D.C. ban on most handguns.”

According to Schindler, the court accepted the idea that the right to bear arms rests with individuals and that the federal government may not impose on it. However, the Washington, D.C. case did not answer questions concerning state or city handgun regulation, an issue that is currently playing out in Chicago. The city of Chicago has what many consider to be one of the strictest gun control laws in the nation. The Supreme Court may announce its decision on that case later this year.

Sustainability...

Sustainability issues, like renewable energy portfolio standards and the impacts of offshore drilling for oil, are covered in the news daily. There are only a handful of law schools in the country that offer a course on the topic, and Cooley Law School is one of them.

“Sustainability is a holistic approach to operating a business that focuses on three main issues, including environmental, social, and economic impacts,” said Adjunct Professor Saulius K. Mikalonis, who teaches the course. “All three have to be carefully considered to truly be sustainable.”

The course differs from an environmental law class in that environmental law courses often focus on permits and what companies can or cannot legally do.

As more and more corporations begin to see sustainability as a goal and develop priorities of their own, they turn to attorneys as one of the expert sources to help them navigate through the related laws and regulations.

The elective focuses on the concept that communities, governments, and business can operate more efficiently, use fewer natural resources, and limit the impact that humans have on the environment. Throughout the course, students examine the laws that may affect corporations’ sustainability goals and practices, metrics for measuring the success of these practices, and incentives available to encourage companies to become more sustainable, like tax incentives.

Students walk away with a working knowledge of these laws and the ability to speak the language of sustainability with their future clients and employers. As corporations increasingly see sustainable business as a profitable proposition, these skills ultimately help Cooley graduates land jobs, Mikalonis said.

Defending Battered Women...

“Domestic violence is so engrained in our culture, we sometimes don’t even notice it,” said Cooley Associate Professor Tonya Krause-Phelan, who teaches the Defending Battered Women elective at Cooley’s Grand Rapids campus.

According to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, one in four women will experience domestic violence in her lifetime, becoming victim to one of the most chronically underreported crimes. It’s estimated that only one-quarter of all physical assaults, one-fifth of all rapes, and one-half of all stalkings perpetrated against females by their partners are reported to police.

Students in the Defending Battered Women elective begin by examining the culture of domestic violence and how it varies by race and religion, as well as current trends and even popular song lyrics to study how it is portrayed in pop culture. They examine the dynamics of abuse and focus on how women become involved with the criminal justice system. Students also learn the general dynamics of a criminal trial for women who defend themselves or retaliate against their abusers.

One of the more famous examples of an abused woman’s retaliation is the case made famous by Farrah Fawcett in the movie *The Burning Bed*. After living through years of abuse, the woman killed her husband by lighting their bed on fire after he passed out drunk.

Throughout the course, students work through each step of the process in defending a battered woman, like Fawcett in *The Burning Bed* example. They consider questions like: Should the woman be charged with murder? Or was she acting in self-defense although there was no immediate threat? Students also discuss how they would change and improve the laws that affect domestic violence cases.

2010 KICKS OFF ALUMNI GATHERINGS NATIONWIDE

With more than 14,000 graduates, Cooley alumni are never far from other graduates. In order to gather together, relive old times and make new acquaintances, Cooley alumni frequently host gatherings across the nation (and sometimes around the world). This year has already seen its fair share of Cooley events hosted by alumni in their cities of residence or work and by faculty members who are visiting Cooley students completing externships in these communities.

Here's a brief recap of 2010 events:

- On Jan. 25, Jeremy Goodman (Fitzgerald Class, 2006), Joel Newell (Fisher Class, 2007), and Cooley Director of Alumni and Donor Relations Pamela Heos hosted an event in downtown Phoenix for approximately 20 alumni at the Gust Rosenfeld Law Firm.
- On Feb. 4, Associate Dean of Career and Professional Development Charles Toy (Kavanagh Class, 1981) hosted an event at Disney World in Orlando, Fla. in conjunction with the American Bar Association's Winter Conference. Toy is the first Cooley alumnus to serve as president of the State Bar of Michigan.
- On Feb. 22, Associate Dean of Alumni and Development James Robb co-hosted an event in Washington, D.C. with Alumni Association Past President Carol Bambery. Approximately 50 alumni attended this event which coincided with the admission of several Cooley alumni to the U.S. Supreme Court Bar Association, including: David Brandwein (Steere Class, 1995), Cindy Faulkner (Durand Class, 1992), Ben & Kristine Gielow (Boyles Class, 1995), Jan Miner (Hooker Class, 1993) and B. Paul Woods (Ostrander Class, 1994).
- On Feb. 25 and 26, Associate Dean of Alumni and Development James Robb hosted alumni events in Palm Beach, Ft. Lauderdale, and Miami, Fla. Co-hosting these events were Lara Edelstein (Steere Class, 1995) and Cooley Director of Career and Professional Development Lisa Fadler.
- On March 19, Associate Professor Don Petersen hosted an event in Charleston, W.Va.
- On March 22, Professor Kathy Swedlow hosted an event in downtown Atlanta for approximately 40 Cooley alumni.
- On March 25, Director of Alumni and Donor Relations Pamela Heos hosted an event in Tampa, Fla. with co-host Sandi Milmed (Sharpe Class, 1998).
- On March 31, Associate Professor Evelyn Calogero (Lawrence Class, 1991) hosted an event in Philadelphia/Norristown, Pa.
- On April 22, Associate Dean of Alumni and Development James Robb joined Executive Assistant to the President and Assistant Legal Counsel Cherie Beck, (Flannigan Class, 1999) and Anthony O'Neill (Brickley Class, 2007) to co-host an event at the Union League Club in Chicago.
- On June 3, Associate Professor Victoria Vuletich co-hosted an event with Caitlin Oliphant (Riley Class, 2009) and Jared (J.D.) Bellum (Witherell Class, 2010) in Seattle. Caitlin and J.D. met at Cooley and are engaged to be married.
- On June 10, Professor Judith Frank hosted an event in Portland, Ore. at McMenamins' Kennedy School.

If you are interested in hosting an alumni event in your area, please contact The Office of Alumni Relations at (800) 243-ALUM or e-mail alumni@cooley.edu. Alumni Relations officials are happy to arrange an event for you, including sending invitations, and facilitating all of the details.

MAKING HIS OWN PATH

Like so many Cooley graduates, Wesley Lentz is using his law degree in

unconventional ways. Here's a brief recap of 2010 events:

Cooley Law School President and Dean Don LeDuc often says that a law degree is the best liberal arts degree that you can earn. According to him, "You can do anything with it."

Wesley Lentz (Krinock Class, 1991) agrees. In 1988, when Lentz graduated with an undergraduate degree in marketing from Western Michigan University, he didn't know what he wanted to do. He did know one thing though.

"I didn't want to go into sales like so many of my peers," said Lentz. "I saw a law degree as a way to separate myself from the pack. I saw it as a better alternative than an MBA."

A tough road

Lentz and his new bride, Robin, packed their bags and headed to Lansing in the fall of 1988. As Lentz puts it, they didn't have much, but they had fun.

For the next three years, Lentz would work the early shift at UPS, separating shipments from 3 a.m. until just before class started at around 9 a.m.

"Sometimes I would go to class in my uniform," said Lentz, laughing. "I stuck out a little bit."

After law school, Lentz went into a traditional law career. He first worked as general counsel for a land developer and then as an associate attorney at a small law firm.

An unconventional use

Today, like so many Cooley graduates, Lentz is using his law degree in unconventional ways. He hasn't been in the courtroom in years, but his law degree helps him every day.

"The critical thinking skills touch everything that I do," said Lentz.

Lentz is a partner at The Wiser Financial Group – a financial planning firm in Kalamazoo, Michigan that he joined as a compliance officer in 1998. He quickly moved into the financial side of the business.

"I enjoy the creation of wealth," said Lentz. "I really enjoy creating things in general. When I worked at the law firm, we didn't have an estate planning area. So I asked if I could build one. It was very rewarding."

Lentz says that the key to helping financial clients is to act like a lawyer.

"Lawyers see people in crisis," said Lentz. "Being a lawyer helped me learn to listen, to identify people's needs. I now meet people in the same way as I did in my legal positions. I see people who are concerned, only now it is about building the wealth needed to accomplish their goals. They need a trusted source for information and guidance."

Giving back

In addition to his work with clients, Lentz takes his passion to the classroom through his role with Junior Achievement.

He teaches courses to a fifth grade class in suburban Kalamazoo and to a high school class in the Kalamazoo school system. He also is a member of the Junior Achievement board of directors for the Kalamazoo area. "The only way to impact people's lives is to make sure that you're involved in them," said Lentz.

He finds satisfaction in teaching kids to be entrepreneurial and self-reliant. The lessons he teaches include basic business structures (sole proprietorships, partnerships, and corporations) and "the big idea."

A passion

Regardless of what he is doing, Lentz does it with a passion. To further maximize his skills, Lentz has even employed the services of a life coach. Once every three months, Lentz travels to Chicago to meet with his coach and 40 fellow students.

The coaching is all about achieving success and satisfaction in life, no matter what area.

According to Lentz, there are only three kinds of days:

- A focus day – the time when you do what you are best at doing
- A buffer day – the time when you do stuff you can't delegate, but don't like to do
- A free day – the time that you have to focus on your personal life and family

“I go through the calendar at the beginning of each year and mark off my free days,” said Lentz. “It has allowed me to become a much more rounded person.” He currently is focusing on 10 specific areas with the assistance of his life coach. The areas range from his health to his profession. Each area has three goals and he says that he is doing well in each area – with the possible exception of health.

“I have an hour blocked off for the gym every day,” said Lentz with a laugh. “Unfortunately, I don’t make it there much when my calendar says I will.”

Given Lentz’s track record, it seems certain that he will find a way to tackle his health head on and he will probably find an unconventional way of doing so.

PREPARING AND PRESENTING AN EFFECTIVE APPEAL

INSIGHT FROM FOUR U.S. COURT OF APPEALS JUDGES

Four judges from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit (Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, and Tennessee) visited Cooley Law School’s Lansing campus on April 13, highlighting how to prepare and present an effective appeal before the U.S. Court of Appeals.

The event, sponsored by the Western District of Michigan Chapter of the Federal Bar Association, featured Judge Raymond M. Kethledge, Judge David W. McKeague, Senior Judge Richard F. Suhrheinrich, and Judge Helene N. White.

The judges unanimously agreed that the attorney at the podium should know the file. “There is no excuse for you to be before the United States Court of Appeals and say ‘Judge, I don’t know this case very well because I am subbing for my partner.’ Be prepared,” Judge Suhrheinrich said.

The judges also agreed that briefs should be brief. “Good writing is short writing,” said Judge Kethledge.

“Your brief should be no more than 20 to 30 pages.”

“Don’t use the shotgun approach with 10 different issues. Find the strong issues,” Judge Suhrheinrich advised.

Judge McKeague said, “Tell us what the district court did, give all the facts, delete exaggerations, and use spell and grammar check. We do have page limits, but that does not mean that you need to use all of those pages.”

When asked about the effectiveness of the oral argument, the judges’ answers varied. Judge Suhrheinrich said, “Oral argument, for the most part, doesn’t change our opinions.” Judge McKeague agreed in general, but noted “there are certainly enough cases where we didn’t understand the issue and making your argument is worthwhile.”

Judge Kethledge admitted to changing his mind after oral argument, adding that “two or three cases a week, I will go in with one opinion and come out the other way.”

Judge Kethledge urged attorneys to answer the hard questions during oral argument. When a judge asks a question, an attorney needs to clearly lay out the rationale of what he or she has on his or her mind. “Your answer might be your last chance to convince me otherwise.”

Judge Helene White suggested that, “In preparing for oral argument, go over your brief the way we go over it. Read it with the decision maker’s hat. Determine what is not clear. Remember, you only have 15 minutes. You have to understand that you might not be able to make your argument. And that’s okay.”

The judges gave the attending lawyers and law students a reading list. *Making Your Case: The Art of Persuading Judges*, by Antonin Scalia and Bryan A. Gardner is a great short read on how to write a brief and make an oral argument, said Judge McKeague.

Judge Kethledge suggested, *The Elements of Legal Style*, by Bryan A. Gardner, and *The Elements of Style*, by William Strunk and E.B. White.

NEWS BRIEFS

COOLEY OPENS FIRST PHASE OF \$6 MILLION LIBRARY EXPANSION IN LANSING

Cooley Law School opened the first phase of the \$6 million expansion of its Lansing library on May 25. The newly opened expansion includes a study hall accessible to students 24 hours a day, and a 43-seat student lounge. When completed, the expansion will fill the former Lansing Town Center building, a two-story structure between the Cooley Center and the Thomas E. Brennan Law Library.

“This expansion will serve as the Lansing campus’ hub for individual study, small group meetings, and informal gatherings that enrich the educational experience at Cooley,” said Don LeDuc, president and dean.

The new library addition, called the Center for Research and Study, is connected to the existing Thomas E. Brennan Law Library, 330 S. Washington Square, located immediately to the east.

The second phase of the project will complete renovation of the first floor with a space for additional legal texts and will renovate much of the second floor with seating for approximately 429 students, including two 38-seat classrooms and many private study rooms. The project will be funded, in part, by \$3 million in donations from Cooley alumni and friends. It is the first-ever capital campaign in the school’s history. Cooley is matching each donation.

“The expansion of the Thomas E. Brennan Law Library with the Center for Research and Study will form a crown jewel in downtown Lansing to be noted by legal libraries around the country,” said LeDuc. “We’re pleased that Cooley alumni and friends are stepping up so quickly to support this growth.”

Nearly 400 become alumni at Cooley graduation

Nearly 400 students became alumni of Cooley Law School on Saturday, May 22 at the school’s James Witherell Class graduation ceremony. Graduates, consisting of students from all four Cooley Law School campuses, came to Cooley from 45 states and five foreign nations. Michigan Supreme Court Chief Justice Marilyn Kelly provided the commencement address to graduates.

Cooley professor awarded 2010 Rotary World Peace Fellowship

Professor Nancy Wonch has been awarded a 2010 Rotary World Peace Fellowship. As part of the fellowship, Wonch will study peer mediation and conflict resolution programs at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, Thailand this summer. She is one of only six people from the United States to be selected for this three-month program.

Wonch estimates that she has taught peer mediation skills to more than 2,000 Lansing School District and Cooley students in a volunteer capacity since she first began teaching conflict resolution in 1994.

“One of Rotary International’s central missions is to promote world peace, which Nancy does through her work teaching conflict resolution skills to Lansing School District students,” said Mark Henne (Copeland Class, 1989), a member of the East Lansing Rotary Club and Assistant Governor for the Lansing area, who nominated Wonch for the fellowship. “I know Nancy will contribute much to the program in Thailand and help in creating mediation programs across the U.S. and the world.”

The fellowship will fund Wonch’s participation in a 90-day professional development certification program at the university, which costs approximately \$10,000. She will study youth conflict resolution programs offered in other countries and write a comparison of the programs and detail their success.

Lugnuts host first game at Cooley Law School Stadium

President and Dean Don LeDuc ceremonially opened the 2010 home season for the Lansing Lugnuts on April 14 by throwing out the first pitch at the team’s home opener. The Lugnuts, the Class A affiliate of the Toronto Blue Jays, lost 7-3 to the Lake County Captains. Cooley signed an 11-year, \$1.485 million sponsorship agreement in February to secure naming rights for the downtown Lansing stadium that is home to the Lugnuts.

FACULTY BRIEFS

Tammy Asher, Assistant Professor

Accepted, for publication, “Unprecedented Antitrust Investigation into the Lyme Disease Treatment Guidelines Development Process,” in the *Gonzaga Law Review* in December 2010.

Gary Bauer, Professor

Presented, to Ingham County Bar Association, regarding pro bono services provided by the Sixty Plus Clinic available to residents of Lansing, Mich., and the surrounding area. **Attended**, “Medicaid Boot Camp,” sponsored by Elder Law of Michigan. **Moderator/Speaker**, for ABA Law Student Division (6th Circuit), Career Development seminar.

Evelyn Calogero, Professor

Promoted, to Full Professor with Tenure in February 2010. **Presented**, “Persuasion in the Digital Age” at the Rocky Mountain Legal Writing Conference, in Tucson, Ariz., in March 2010. **Presented**, “In Re Rood: Reasonable Efforts to Prevent Removal and Facilitate Timely Reunification of Children and their Parents,” at the State Court Administrative Office’s Child Welfare Services Division’s 6th Annual Issues Conference: Removal Prevention and Timely Reunification, in East Lansing, Mich., in April 2010. **Accepted**, for publication, in March 2010, “Reasonable Efforts to Reunite Families in Child Abuse and Neglect Proceedings: They Aren’t Just For Funding Anymore, In re Rood, 763 N.W.2d 587 (Mich. 2009)” by the *Thomas M. Cooley Law School Journal of Practical and Clinical Law*. **Appointed**, in January 2010, to chair the planning committee and to moderate sessions in the Appeals in Child Welfare Cases Track, Michigan Appellate Bench Bar Conference, held June 10-11, in Plymouth, Mich.

Karen Chadwick, Professor

Appointed, to the Legal Aid and Defender Association, Inc. Board of Directors.

Julie Clement, Associate Professor

Spoke, at the Seventh Biennial Conference of the Plain Language Association International, in Sydney, Australia, as part of an international roundtable discussion on the state of plain language around the world. **Judged**, the ClearMark Awards for the Center for Plain Language, in Washington, D.C. **Edited**, issues 60, 61, and 62 of *Clarity*, the journal for the international association for plain legal language.

Mark Cooney, Associate Professor

Published, the “Medical Malpractice” chapter in a new treatise, “Principles and Practices of Addictions in Law & Medicine.” Published by Elsevier. **Spoke**, at the ICLE Litigation Boot Camp, on “Effective Written Advocacy I: Shaping the Facts,” Jan. 21, 2010, in Plymouth, Mich. **Spoke**, at the ICLE Litigation Boot Camp, on “Effective Written Advocacy II: Marshalling Persuasive Legal Arguments,” Feb. 18, 2010, in Plymouth, Mich. **Quoted**, on the State Bar of Michigan website under Practice Management “Tips of the Week” (using tips previously included in ICLE’s 2009 Desk Calendar). **Appointed**, Associate Editor, *The Scribes Journal of Legal Writing*. **Published**, in the *Yale Anglers’ Journal*, an undergraduate publication of Yale University, a non-legal essay “God Save the Smiths’ Ponds.”

Patrick Corbett, Professor

Spoke, on “Cybercrimes and Cyberbullying,” at Chippewa Middle School, Okemos, Mich., on April 27, 2010 **Spoke**, on “High Tech Crimes Involving Teens and Others,” at Sigma Kappa Sorority, Michigan State University, on Feb. 28, 2010

Gerald Fisher, Professor

Updated, online version of book (co-author) *Michigan Zoning, Planning and Land Use*, published by the Institute of Continuing Legal Education. **Spoke**, on “Exclusionary Zoning in Michigan” at the Oakland County Bar Association Municipal Law Committee, on Jan. 27, 2010, in Bloomfield, Mich. **Spoke**, on the Michigan Supreme Court Rule on Gravel Mining, at the State Bar of Michigan Public Corporation Law Section Winter Seminar, on Feb. 5, 2010, in Plymouth, Mich. **Assisted**, with the creation of a nonprofit corporation and with the appropriate governmental filings for a group intending to support a millage renewal for Oakland County (Michigan) Parks and Recreation. **Attended**, meetings of the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commissioners, State Bar Public Corporation Law Section Council, Oakland County Bar Foundation Board of Trustees, Michigan Municipal League Professionalism and Education Committee of the Michigan Association of Municipal Attorneys, North Oakland Headwaters Land Conservancy, Oakland County Bar Foundation Fellows, and the Michigan Supreme Court Historical Society. Wrote, and filed brief amicus curiae in the Michigan Supreme Court on behalf of the Michigan Municipal League, Michigan Townships Association, and State Bar Public Corporation Law Section in support of the city of Taylor in *Gadigian v City of Taylor*. The subject of the appeal was the interpretation and application of the statute governing governmental immunity for municipalities in connection with the maintenance of sidewalks.

Heather Garretson, Associate Professor

Appointed, trustee, Loutit District Library, in Grand Haven, Mich. Serving, as faculty mentor, to the newly formed Grand Rapids campus Cooley Veterans Corps.

Alan Gershel, Associate Professor

Appointed, by the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to sit as the prosecution representative on an executive board that advises the FBI on policy matters related to its Criminal Justice Information Services Division (CJIS). CJIS maintains all the National Crime Information Center criminal history files, fingerprint programs, uniform crime reporting, firearms check program and related areas. **Published**, an article "A Review of the Law in Jurisdictions Requiring Electronic Recording Of Custodial Confessions," in the *Journal of Law and Technology*, University of Richmond School of Law. He also presented the paper at a symposium sponsored by the law school. **Appointed**, by the Chief U.S. District Judge, Eastern District of Michigan, to chair the Merit Selection Committee for the reappointment of Magistrate Judge Steven Whalen.

Joseph Kimble, Professor

Attended, the meeting at which the newly redrafted Federal Rules of Evidence were approved for transmission to the Standing Committee on Federal Rules. The new rules are scheduled to take effect on December 1, 2011. Professor Kimble was the principal drafter. **Cited**, several times in the first committee note to the new evidence rules. **Published**, an article called "Lessons in Drafting from the New Federal Rules of Civil Procedure" in volume 12 of *The Scribes Journal of Legal Writing*. **Published**, an article called "Please Vote on Two Citation Formats" in the May issue of the *Michigan Bar Journal*. The follow-up article will appear in the July issue. **Agreed**, to speak at the Fourth Biennial conference of Clarity, an international association supporting plain legal language. The conference will be held in Lisbon, Portugal. Professor Kimble is a past president of Clarity.

Dorean Marguerite Koenig, Emeritus Professor

Included, in a formal resolution of thanks from the Steering Committee of the Crimes Against Humanity Initiative of the Whitney R. Harris World Law Institute, following its third meeting in Washington, D.C. at the Brookings Institution on March 11-12, 2010. The resolution recognized the effort and expertise that Professor Koenig provided to the initiative by reviewing and commenting on the Draft Convention on Crimes Against Humanity. The meeting resulted in a Declaration on the Need for a Comprehensive Convention on Crimes Against Humanity.

Joni Larson, Professor

Presented, with a panel, on the topic of income in respect of a decedent at the Grand Rapids Art Museum, in Grand Rapids, Mich. **Published**, a textbook, *Partnership Taxation: An Application Approach* (Carolina Press).

Nelson P. Miller, Associate Dean and Professor

Published, the book, *Teaching Law: A Framework for Instructional Mastery* (Bridge Pub. 2010). **Published**, the book, *The Practice of Tort Law* (Vandeplas Pub. Co. 2010). **Published**, the article "The Role of Law Schools in Shaping Culturally Competent Lawyers," 89/1 *Michigan Bar Journal* 16 (2010) (co-author).

Marla Mitchell-Cichon, Professor

Participated, in a writers and artists research delegation to Cuba, January 3-11, 2010. **Presented**, on the topic of "Wrongful Convictions" at the Bloomfield Hills Library, Rochester Hills Library and Royal Oak Library as part of their 'Everybody Reads' series. **Spoke**, on the causes of wrongful convictions and the need for compensation for exonerated individuals at the Wrongful Imprisonment forum sponsored by the Michigan Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Committee on March 21 at the Birmingham Unitarian Church. **Presented**, at the annual Innocence Network Conference held in Atlanta, Ga., on April 16-19, 2010, on the topics of "Screening and Case Evaluation" and "Investigative Tools." **Attended**, the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers' training on "Litigating Non-DNA Post-Conviction Innocence Cases in Atlanta, Ga., on April 15.

John Rooney, Emeritus Professor

Appointed, to the Homeland Security Committee of the Science & Technology Section of the American Bar Association.

Marjorie Russell, Professor

Taught, the Trial Skills practice session at the Criminal Defense Attorneys of Michigan Spring Conference in Novi, Mich., on identifying and using 'Rules of the Road' for expert witness examinations. **Taught**, at the Trial Lawyers College Seminar on Psychodramatic Techniques for Lawyers, in Dubois, Wyo., June 3-6, 2010. **Presented**, on New Ways to Voir Dire in a Drug Case, for the NORML Legal Committee Criminal Defense seminar, June 10-12, 2010.

Devin Schindler, Associate Professor

Co-authored, an Amicus Brief filed in the Supreme Court on behalf of the Michigan Shoreline Caucus in the case *State of Wisconsin v. State of Illinois*. The Shoreline Caucus is made up of state representatives who represent districts abutting the Great Lakes. The case involved efforts by the state of Michigan and others to prevent the migration of Asian Carp, an invasive species, into the Great Lakes.

Chris Shafer, Professor

Published, an article entitled “Emerging Issues in the Great Lakes Such as the Public Trust Doctrine, Subterranean Rights And Municipal Regulatory Arrangements,” in the *Canada-United States Law Journal*, Case Western Reserve University School of Law, Vol. 34, No. 2 (Spring, 2010).

Otto Stockmeyer, Emeritus Professor

Published, an article, “America’s First Merit-Selection Judge,” in the Winter 2010 issue of *The Scrivener*, the quarterly newsletter of Scribes, the American Society of Legal Writers. **Spoke**, on *Sherwood v. Walker*, Michigan’s celebrated barren-cow case, at the Spring International Conference on Contracts, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Feb. 27, 2010. **Presented**, the Scribes Law-Review Award, at the 50th annual National Conference of Law Reviews, Texas Wesleyan School of Law, Fort Worth, Texas, March 18, 2010.

Amy Timmer, Associate Dean and Professor

Presented, and moderated a panel at the Mentoring II conference at the Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough Center on Professionalism in Columbia, S.C., on April 9, 2010. **Selected**, as a fellow to attend the fall workshop of the National Institute for Teaching Ethics and Professionalism near Atlanta, Ga., Nov. 6-9, 2009. **Co-authored**, with John Berry, an article, “The ABA’s Excellent and Inevitable Journey to Incorporating Professionalism in Law School Accreditation Standards,” published in *The Professional Lawyer*, Vol. 20, No. 1, a publication of the American Bar Association Center for Professional Responsibility, Standing Committee on Professionalism (2010).

Christopher R. Trudeau, Associate Professor

Awarded, a 2010 research grant by the Legal Writing Institute, the Association of Legal Writing Directors, and Lexis. The grant will allow Prof. Trudeau to complete his proposed study, *Plain English From A Client’s Perspective: An Empirical Study of Client Preferences in Legal Writing*, during the next year.

Joan P. Vestrand, Associate Dean and Professor

Presented, on “Personal Ethics: Avoiding the Slippery Slope,” at the annual Ethics Forum held at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, in New London, Conn., on March 26, 2010. **Presented**, on “The Keys to Successful Financial Management” at the State Bar of Michigan’s seminar on How to Build and Strengthen Your Law Practice on March 19, 2010. **Served**, as State Bar counsel in a character and fitness matter before the State Bar Character and Fitness Standing Committee, on March 10, 2010. **Served**, as a hearing panelist in a character and fitness matter before the State Bar Character and Fitness Standing Committee, on May 21, 2010. **Served**, as a hearing panelist in an attorney disciplinary matter before the State of Michigan Attorney Discipline Board, on June 8, 2010.

William Wagner, Professor

Edited and Co-Authored, a law school textbook: *The Freedom of Religious Conscience – Jurisprudential Worldviews Collide* (2010). **Authored**, “The European Union Equal Treatment Directive,” white paper (2009). **Authored**, “The United Kingdom Coroners and Justice Bill,” white paper (2009). **Co-Authored**, “Home Education,” written evidence presented to the government of the United Kingdom on education-related issues (2009). **Presented**, “Religion and the American Constitution,” a keynote presentation at the Family Research Council in Washington, D.C. (2010). **Presented**, “High Calling,” at Patrick Henry College in Virginia (2010). **Presented**, “Built on a Firm Foundation,” at an Angel House Chapel Dedication (2010). **Presented**, “Government Regulation of Religious Expression – Weapon of Cultural Genocide,” at the United States Capitol, on the occasion of the International Legal Conference on Freedom of Speech and Religion, in Washington, D.C. (2009). **Presented**, “God, Man and Unalienable Rights,” at the United States Capitol, on the occasion of the International Legal Conference on Freedom of Speech and Religion in Washington D.C. (2009). **Presented**, “The Status of the Freedom of Religious Conscience in United States” to CARE international public policy students in Europe (2009). **Presented**, “Preserving Liberty in Such a Time as This,” to students at Exeter University in England (2009). **Presented**, “The Legal and Moral Inequalities of Equality Bill,” to the Equality and Human Rights Commission of the United Kingdom (2009). **Presented**, “Good Citizenship,” to students at Thames Christian College (2009). **Presented**, “Creating a Culture of Death with Grave Implications,” to the churches of the United Kingdom, in London, England (2009). **Presented**, “The Christian Heritage Underlying Good Governance under the Rule of Law in Canada,” to the Christian Legal Institute in Canada (2009). **Presented**, “Love, Truth, and the Law,” at the Angel House USA annual national benefit (2009).

William Weiner, Associate Dean and Professor

Attended, the annual meeting of the American Society of International Law, in Washington, D.C., in March.

Derek Witte, Assistant Professor

Taught, a "2010 E-Discovery" course for the Michigan Institute for Continuing Legal Education (ICLE), in Ann Arbor, Mich., on Feb. 18, 2010). **Authored**, 2010 E-Discovery Update for Michigan ICLE, published on February 18, 2010, on the topic of Facebook and e-discovery. **Accepted**, for publication, an article entitled "Your Opponent Does Not Need a Friend Request To See Your Page: Social Networking Sites And Electronic Discovery," in *The McGeorge Law Review* (University of the Pacific) for Spring 2010. **Accepted**, for publication, an article entitled "The Bear That Is Crushing Debt-Burdened Americans: Why Over-Zealous Regulation of the Debt Settlement Industry Ultimately Harms Consumers," in the *University of Texas Review of Law & Policy* for Spring 2010. **Provided**, pro bono e-discovery legal support in U.S. Anti-Doping Administration, AAA arbitration in Indianapolis, Ind., on April 16, 2010.

CLASS NOTES

1977 Christianity Class

Stertz, H. William Jr., of Stertz & Weaver, P.C., in Saginaw, Mich., was honored with membership in the Federation of Defense & Corporate Counsel, an international organization founded in 1936 to further the principles of knowledge, justice, and fellowship in connection with professionals involved with the defense of civil litigation.

1980 Potter Class

Casey, Nan, has been named to the Olivet College Board of Trustees for a four-year term.

McFadden, Doug, continues as the Chief Assistant Prosecutor in Montcalm County, Mich., a post he has held for four years. He previously served in private practice for more than 25 years.

1980 Bushnell Class

Wimsatt, Thomas C., has become a named member of the law firm of Mahlberg, Brandt, Gilbert, Thompson & Wimsatt in The Lawyers Building, 715 Court St., Saginaw, Mich. His practice areas include employment law, insurance defense, professional negligence, and Social Security disability.

1980 North Class

Krause, Andrew J., was elected to the board of directors of Avow Hospice. He is a partner in the Naples, Fla., office of Hahn Loeser & Parks L.L.P. He focuses his law practice on family wealth transactions, including tax and estate planning, estate settlement, and estate and trust administration. He is board certified by the Florida bar in wills, trusts, and estates, and was named a Five Star: Best in Client Satisfaction Wealth Manager in 2007-2010. He is listed in the 2006-2009 editions of *Florida Super Lawyers* and the 2003-2010 editions of *The Best Lawyers in America*.

1981 Dethmers Class

Gibson, Edward, has joined PricewaterhouseCoopers' U.S. Forensic Technology Solutions practice. He previously served as Chief Cyber Security Advisor for Microsoft Ltd., in the United Kingdom. Based in McLean, Va., he focuses on helping organizations with issues involving the investigation of economic espionage, complex money laundering, cyber fraud schemes, and intellectual property theft. He formerly served as a Special Agent in the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). He is a frequent speaker on the topic of cyber crime and IT risk management.

1981 Kavanagh Class

Hoffman, Wesley W., has joined the management team of Wisert, Inc., in Menominee, Mich. He serves as general counsel and vice president of business services.

1982 Wing Class

Kennedy, Dermot, was appointed by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court as a member of the Pennsylvania Board of Law Examiners for a term expiring April 1, 2013. He operates the Law Offices of Dermot F. Kennedy in Quakertown, Penn.

1984 McAlvay Class

Skinner, the Hon. Michael, 58, died Sunday, Feb. 21, 2010 following a 10-year battle with cancer. He was a probate and family court judge in Eaton County, Mich. He was formerly in private practice, and also served as assistant general counsel for Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Michigan.

1985 T. Smith Class

Mittleman, David, was named one of the Top 100 Trial Lawyers in Michigan by the American Trial Lawyers Association. He is an attorney with Church Wyble, P.C., in Lansing, Mich.

1985 Morell Class

Dietz, Diane, has been named Chief Communications Officer for the Big 10 Conference. She is responsible for all conference communications efforts, including press releases, branding, and promotions efforts. She previously was Chief Marketing and Community Relations Officer for Cranbrook Educational Community, Senior Vice President and Senior Director of Public Affairs for the Comcast Foundation, and Vice President of Corporate Affairs for Comcast Corp.'s Midwest division office.

1986 Mundy Class

Cunningham, Janice, has again been selected as a Michigan Super Lawyer in the area of family law by *Law & Politics* magazine on a merit-based system. She was first honored by this publication in 2006, when she was the first family law attorney recognized in Michigan. She has been recognized each year since that time.

1986 Miles Class

Sharp, Daniel S., 57, died Feb. 13, 2010, at the Kaplan House, Hospice of the North Shore, Danvers, Mass., of a brain tumor. He practiced law in Marblehead, Mass. with his wife, Elaine Whitfield Sharp. He served as publisher of *Michigan Lawyers Weekly*, and as an aide to Michigan State Rep. Perry Bullard, authoring such legislation as the Michigan Open Meetings Act, the Michigan Freedom of Information Act, and the Employee Right-to-Know Act. He was a military veteran, serving in Wiesbaden, Germany during the Vietnam era as a supervisor of the Intelligence Communications Center.

1986 Sherwood Class

Zucker, Craig E., a partner in the Southfield, Mich.-based firm of Erman, Teicher, Miller, Zucker & Freedman, P.C., has been selected for inclusion in the 15th edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*. He was selected in the field of bankruptcy and creditor-debtor rights law. Zucker focuses his practice on insolvency-related matters, representation of debtors and secured and unsecured creditors, and non-bankruptcy matters involving commercial litigation. He is also known for his work in alternative dispute resolutions.

1987 Champlin Class

Davis, Mark A., was recognized in the May/June 2010 issue of *Super Lawyers – Corporate Counsel Edition* in the area of real estate. He is president and CEO of Howard & Howard Attorneys, P.L.L.C., practicing out of the firm's Royal Oak, Mich., office.

1987 Champlin Class

Shaver, Robert C., was elected for a second three-year term as president and chairman of the board of directors of Rhoades McKee, P.C., in Grand Rapids, Mich.

1987 Morse Class

McBain, the Hon. John, was named by the Michigan Supreme Court as Chief Judge of the 4th Circuit Court in Jackson County. Chief Judges serve as their court's representatives in dealing with the public, news media, legal community, and other government agencies. They are also responsible for court operations, finances, and human resources. He was elected to the bench in 1992. Previously, he served as the Jackson County Prosecuting Attorney.

1990 Bacon Class

Girdwood, Daniel, was named a 2010 Thought Leader in Law by *Business Review West Michigan*. He is a partner with Price Heneveld, Cooper, DeWitt & Litton, in Grand Rapids, Mich., where he works with investors and innovators to protect their inventions and intellectual property. His specialty areas are patent prosecution, trademark, copyright, licensing, and intellectual property.

Menezes, the Hon. Marco, was named judge of the probate and family court in Mecosta and Osceola counties by Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm. He has been practicing law for 21 years and has worked in the Wexford County Prosecutor's Office, the Mecosta-Osceola Area Rehabilitation Center, the Hope Network, and in private practice.

1990 Wilson Class

Gannaway, Charles Patrick, received the 2009 Frederick J. Griffith Adjunct Faculty Award. He is an associate attorney with Rapaport Pollok Farrell & Waldron, P.C., in Lansing, Mich. He specializes in workers' compensation and Social Security disability law, and teaches a trial skills course at Cooley.

1991 Turner Class

Kearns, Philip, has opened Kearns Legal Solutions in Lexington, N.C., an attorney placement and consultation firm serving clients nationwide. Phone: (336) 972-2814; e-mail: info@klegalsolutions.com.

1991 Lawrence Class

Harrington, William J., was named partner at Rusin Maciorowski & Friedman, Ltd., in the firm's Civil Litigation Department in Chicago, Ill. His practice includes all areas of insurance defense, with specific emphasis on defense of employers in construction cases.

Ward, Lynette, is a court administrator for 50th District Court in Pontiac, Mich. She previously served as the 68th District Court Administrator in Flint, Mich., and in private practice.

1994 Ostrander Class

Klida, the Hon. Dawn, was named judge in the 4th District Court in Bay County, Mich., by Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm. She formerly was a partner in the law firm of Lambert, Leser, Isackson, Cook & Giunta, P.C., and served as a Bay County commissioner.

1994 Williams Class

Biggs, Deborah, has been named associate dean of administration and finance for the College of Medicine at Central Michigan University (CMU). She most recently served as the assistant dean for academic affairs at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. At CMU, she participates in the development and operation of an accredited undergraduate medical education program, and directs the administrative and financial affairs of the College of Medicine.

1994 Person Class

Croy, Lorrain (Chafin), was reappointed Magistrate in the Ottawa County Court of Common Pleas, Port Clinton, Ohio. She was first appointed in February 2009. She presides over all domestic and dissolution filings and all post-divorce actions. She was also appointed as a Magistrate for Ottawa County Court of Common Pleas, Juvenile Division. Previously, she served as a prosecutor for 14 years.

1995 Bird Class

Rizzuto, Donna, has joined Howard & Howard Attorneys P.L.L.C., practicing out of the firm's Chicago, Ill., office. She concentrates her practice in the areas of civil, commercial, banking and business litigation, as well as construction law and insurance defense.

1995 Kuhn Class

Pohl, Lisa M., has joined the law firm of Miller Canfield in Grand Rapids, Mich., as a senior attorney in the Litigation and Trial Group. She specializes in state and local taxation. Previously, she was employed by the accounting firm Crowe Horwath, L.L.P.

1996 Stone Class

Rosell, Timothy, has been named to Corning Community College Regional Board of Trustees. He is an attorney with Pulos & Rosell in Hornell, N.Y. 1996 Moody Jr. Class Beloff, the Hon. Adam M., was elected judge of the Court of Common Pleas of the First Judicial District of Pennsylvania, in Philadelphia County.

Rentfrow, the Hon. Stacey, was elected 4th District Court Judge in Cass County, Mich.

Tripp, Amy R., of Chalgian and Tripp Law Offices, P.L.L.C., authored a chapter on special needs trusts and special needs planning that was published in *Advising the Older Client or Client with a Disability*, 4th Edition.

1997 Voelker Class

Huey, Jeanne, was named Sole Practitioner of the Year for 2009 by the Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program for her work on contested parental terminations. She continues to practice family law in Dallas, Texas, and surrounding counties. Phone: (214) 336-7364; e-mail: hueylaw@verizon.net.

1999 Fead Class

Cronk, Peter D., Jr., was named a shareholder of Plunkett Cooney. He is an attorney in the firm's East Lansing, Mich., office. He is a member of the firm's Banking, Bankruptcy and Creditor's Rights Practice Group. Cronk primarily represents financial institutions. He concentrates his practice on real estate and commercial loan workouts for several Fortune 500 lenders, while also representing many other clients in the areas of real property acquisition, commercial litigation, and corporate law matters.

Cruz, Jeffrey A., an assistant prosecuting attorney in Ingham County since 2002, received the 2009 Ingham County Humanitarian Award on March 11, 2010 for his work in animal abuse/neglect cases. He received the award for his work on an animal abuse case involving the seizure of 69 Australian Aussies. This is the second consecutive Humanitarian Service Award earned by Cruz; he received one in 2008 for his work on a felony dog fighting case. Both cases went to jury and resulted in guilty verdicts.

O'Berry, Pam, was named Business Person of the Year by the Grand Ledge, Mich., Chamber of Commerce. She's an attorney in Grand Ledge and spends her spare time working with youth in the 4-H program.

Soe Myint, Zahnie L., was named an Equity Partner at the firm of Koeller, Nebeker, Carlson & Haluck, L.L.P., a multi-state law firm with offices in Arizona, California, and Nevada. He focuses his practice in construction law, representing builders, developers, and general contractors in construction-related matters, including construction defect litigation.

1999 Weadock Class

Hubbell, Brad F., was elected a shareholder in the firm of Cooper & Walinski, in Toledo, Ohio. He practices primarily in the area of white collar criminal defense. In 2007, he was listed in *Ohio Super Lawyers* as a rising star in the area of white collar criminal defense. In addition to handling criminal matters in both state and federal courts, he also practices business, tort, civil rights, and other civil litigation.

Smithbolden, Marylayne, is an adjunct faculty member teaching critical thinking at Axia College of University of Phoenix, and is also working on her Ph.D. in business administration. She has also established the Smithbolden Group, a consulting firm offering research, writing, and editing products and services to businesses, including grant proposals, training manuals, reports, and legal briefs. Phone: (602) 430-8613.

Wilson, Michelle, has been named legal studies program director for the Richmond, Va., campus of Bryan & Stratton College. She joined the college in 2005 as an adjunct instructor of paralegal studies.

2000 Jay Class

Redick, Ronald M., a member of the law firm of Mika Meyers Beckett & Jones, P.L.C., was selected as a member of the *Michigan Lawyers Weekly's* 2009 Up and Coming Lawyers program. He practices primarily in the areas of municipal, appellate and administrative law, with a focus on zoning litigation, land use and riparian rights litigation. He also practices general civil litigation.

2000 Rutledge Class

Harrison, Scott R., co-presented "Human Resources: Conscience of the Employment Culture" for the Michigan State University graduate student chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management. He also served as an adjunct instructor at the Lansing campus of Davenport University, teaching an undergraduate course in professional and business ethics. He is the Human Resources Director at Cooley Law School.

2001 Iredell Class

Hengeveld, Sian, an assistant prosecutor in Macomb County, Mich., now serves as Chief of the Consumer Fraud Division.

2002 Paterson Class

DeBoer, Cheryl, was named one of *Business Review West Michigan's* Top Women in Finance. She is CEO of First Community Federal Credit Union in Parchment, Mich. She has worked in finance for more than 25 years, serves as the board chairperson of Central Corporate Credit Union, and is a Michigan Credit Union employees' pension trustee and a Michigan Credit Union League PAC trustee.

Willis, Shaun P., of Willis & Willis, P.L.C., notes that his firm was selected as one of this year's "101 Best and Brightest Companies to Work for in West Michigan" by the Michigan Business and Professional Association. Phone: (269) 492-1040; e-mail: spwillis@wwplc.com

2002 Chase Class

Klockow, Dawn, has been appointed as the Corporation Counsel for Calumet County, Wis. She previously served as an Assistant Corporation Counsel for Dodge County, Wis. Phone: (920) 849-1443; e-mail: klockow.dawn@co.calumet.wi.us.

2003 Swainson Class

Roggenbuck, Amanda, has graduated from the Michigan Political Leadership Program at Michigan State University. She was one of 24 people from around Michigan who spent 10 weekends in activities designed to hone participants' skills in leadership, public policy, and good governance.

2003 O. Smith Class

Puthoff, Mark A., was named Troy Ohio's Young Man of the Year. The award recognizes the recipient for outstanding professional, civic, and community contributions. Puthoff operates his own law firm, serves as a hearing officer for the Child Support Enforcement Agency and as a guardian ad litem, has served as president of the Troy Main Street Board of Directors, and sat on the Mayor's Round Table. He was also the driving force in creating the "Taste of Troy."

2005 McAllister Class

Fivas, Joseph, has been hired as the new town manager of Indian Trail, N.C. Previously, he was the city manager for Owosso, Mich.

LaLonde, Christopher J., was elected to a second term on the Western Michigan University Alumni Association Board of Directors. He is a principal with Veritas Law Group. He focuses his practice in the areas of estate planning, probate and trust administration, business and corporate law, and the representation of high-net worth individuals.

2006 Edwards Class

Wagner, Beau L., has joined the law firm of Arnstein & Lehr L.L.P. as an associate in the firm's law office. He is a member of Arnstein & Lehr's Condominium and Community Associations Practice Group. Phone: (312) 876-7120; e-mail: blwagner@arstein.com.

2006 Fitzgerald Class

Duke, Robert Jr., has joined the firm of White & Associates, P.C., in Richmond, Va., as an associate attorney. His main areas of practice are in bankruptcy and family law.

McIntyre, Janene, has joined the Lansing, Mich., office of Foster, Swift, Collins & Smith, P.C., as an associate in the firm's Business and Corporate Practice Group. She practices in the public finance area. Previously, she was a bond lawyer with Lewis & Munday, P.C., in Lansing, Mich.

2007 Boston Class

Altieri, Timothy J., is an associate attorney at Cohen & Lombardo. He focuses his practice in criminal defense, civil litigation, and real estate, and has been admitted to the Florida State Bar.

Lichterman, Michael, has become a member of Wealth Counsel, a national association of top estate planning attorneys.

Seigel, Jonas K., received the Service to the Community Award from the Young Lawyers Division of the New Jersey State Bar Association. The award is given to individuals who have displayed outstanding service to their communities. Seigel, a member of the four-attorney Seigel Law Firm in Ridgewood, N.J., started the Seigel Law Firm Charity Fund, a nonprofit organization. The personal injury law firm donates \$100 to the fund from every case it successfully resolves. In its first year, the fund was expected to donate \$15,000-\$20,000 to local charities affecting as many of the firm's clients as possible.

2007 Brickley Class

Behrmann, Peter, has joined the new Livonia, Mich., office of the Phoenix Law Firm. He focuses on bankruptcy and business issues. Phone: (734) 259-2947.

Dany, Samuel, married Marjorie Hock on Dec. 14, 2009. The couple lives in Pembroke Pines, Fla.

Rivers, Gregory Allan, married Julie Ann Schramski on Oct. 17, 2009. He is employed by Deloitte and Touche. The couple lives in Minneapolis, Minn.

2008 E. Sharpe Class

Bitzer, Jason, married Lindsay Ann Maharg on Dec. 31, 2009. Jason is a lawyer and partner at Biddinger & Bitzer, P.L.L.C., in Cass City, Mich.

2008 C.J. Adams Class

Johnson, Tyler Hunt, married Meghan Paige Slough (Coleman Class) on Nov. 14, 2009.

Symko, Benjamin, has been named one of 10 Outstanding Young Americans by the U.S. Junior Chamber of Commerce. He is an attorney with Jensen & Dehaan, in Grand Rapids, Mich., focusing on criminal defense, personal injury law, and Social Security disability appeals.

2009 Coleman Class

Molitierno, Diane, has joined the Fayette, Ohio, law office of her father-in-law Tom Molitierno. Slough, Meghan Paige, married Tyler Hunt Johnson (C.J. Adams Class, 2008) on Nov. 14, 2009.

2009 Comstock Riley Class

Dafoe, Travis I., has joined the law firm of Mahlberg, Brandt, Gilbert, Thompson & Wimsatt, in The Lawyers Building, 715 Court St., Saginaw, Mich. He practices in the areas of employment law, estate planning, probate, and civil litigation.

Dinsmore, Mark William II, married Laura Beth Kitzmiller on Sept. 26, 2009. He is an attorney with Reeg Lawyers in Clayton, Mo.

Folts, Robin, has joined the law firm of Lacy Katzen L.L.P., in Rochester, N.Y., as an attorney in the firm's estate and trust department, as well as the creditors' rights department. She focuses on elder care matters, and lender recovery of both commercial and consumer obligations. She previously worked at the firm as a legal secretary, then paralegal.

Scott, Patricia J., has joined the law firm of Foster, Swift, Collins & Smith, P.C., as an associate in the firm's Lansing, Mich., location. She practices in the Banking, Finance & Real Estate Group.

Stem, Robert William, serves as an associate attorney with the law firm of Murray Watson Jr., and Associates in Waco, Texas.

Cooley encourages all graduates to contribute information to the Class Notes. We encourage information about your law practice and other accomplishments in the legal profession. E-mail: communications@cooley.edu