

BENCHMARK COLUMN // JANUARY 2012

THOMAS M. COOLEY LAW SCHOOL ALUMNI PUBLICATION

WELCOME TO THE BENCHMARK COLUMN

As we begin 2012, one of Cooley's New Year's resolutions is to stay in touch with you better. We start with this issue of *Benchmark Column* featuring Cooley students and alumni who go above and beyond their everyday responsibilities to make society a better place for all. Please join me in saluting their accomplishments.

We also proudly announce the establishment of our new blog, www.cooleylawschoolblog.com, where you will find postings and commentary about Cooley, its students, faculty, alumni, and the legal profession in general. I think you will find the reading informative and enlightening. I invite your comment.

Finally, we are pleased to report that the Cooley Group on LinkedIn has grown to nearly 2,000 members, a milestone. On our LinkedIn Group page, Cooley alumni refer matters to one another, share tips on law practice, and organize social events around the nation. Membership in the Cooley Group is limited to Cooley alumni, employees and students. If you already use LinkedIn, I urge you to join the Cooley Group. Scan the QR code on this issue's back page to do so. If you do not yet use LinkedIn, you should give it a try. E-mail my office at alumni@cooley.edu or call us at 1-800-243-ALUM if you need help establishing a LinkedIn account or joining the group.

Sincerely,

James D. Robb,
Associate Dean of Development
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NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

Cooley graduate uses both Juris Doctor and Medical Doctor degrees to create a thriving practice

To say that Neri (Nick) Martinez (Beacon Class, 1991) is an overachiever is an understatement. Not only does the 52 year-old hold both J.D. and M.D. degrees, but the physician-turned-lawyer is the co-founder of Martinez & Odom Law Group, one of Florida's most successful personal injury law firms. With 24 employees in three locations across the Sunshine State, Martinez has created a thriving practice.

The foundation for his success is deeply rooted in his childhood. While money was tight in his modest Tampa home, Martinez's work ethic took hold at an early age with odd jobs ranging from greyhound race dog walking to selling bibles door-to-door. When he was 14, his firefighter father lost his leg in a fire and became completely disabled. His mother juggled caregiving duties with raising the couple's three children. "It was tough, and we had to rely on each other," Martinez recalled.

These experiences taught him much about humility and sacrifice, and how in life "everyone helps everyone," he said.

INTERDEPENDENCE

An everyone-helps-everyone philosophy has also influenced the business model of his practice, which employs a full-time biomedical engineer, a nurse, a forensic scientist, an F14 Tomcat Navy pilot and other non-traditional professionals. "Interdependence is a cornerstone of our practice," he said. "We're not competitive with each other. We all help one another; we win cases as a team."

The Cooley graduate's collegial approach extends far beyond his work environment. Martinez, who speaks fluent Spanish, enjoys a deep network within the Tampa Bay Hispanic community. Many consider Martinez a mentor and an advocate in complex legal issues ranging from wrongful death and serious injury to representing migrant workers'

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most basic legal needs. “I have Hispanic clients who will drive 150 miles to see me because they know they can trust me,” he said.

A LONG AND WINDING ROAD

Martinez always knew that he wanted to be a lawyer, yet ended up achieving the goal in a way that was anything but orthodox. Encouraged by his grandmother to become a doctor, Martinez entered foreign medical school at Spartan Health Science University after receiving a degree in finance from the University of South Florida. While completing his externship at Chicago’s Franklin Community Hospital and Cook County’s Hospital System, Martinez became acquainted with an individual holding dual M.D. and J.D. degrees who represented several hospitals. As Martinez learned of the administrator’s expansive role, the young extern grew fascinated with the applications of law and medicine. Eager to learn more while helping to pay back his medical school bills, Martinez landed a part-time externship position working with hospital administrators who were responsible for maintaining the facility’s accreditation.

As he neared the successful completion of his externship, Martinez was at a professional crossroads. Instead of putting his newly minted M.D. to work in a traditional setting, Martinez opted to head back to the classroom, this time for a law degree with his new sights set on running a hospital.

That is when he learned that Cooley offered a rare, two-year J.D. program that would accelerate his new career goals. He was accepted into the program in 1989. The rigors of the program were trying, even for someone who had excelled in medical school.

He persevered and after graduating immediately landed a position at a Fort Myers, Fla., law firm that focused on personal injury litigation. It was there that Martinez discovered a passion eclipsing all others – trial advocacy. It became an immediate and ideal fit.

Two years later, Martinez was ready for a change of scenery and relocated back to Tampa Bay, taking a position with a general practice firm that had a small focus on personal injury cases. Within a year, Martinez had secured more than 100 personal injury cases. The time was right to strike out on his own.

He joined a small Brandon, Fla., law firm which had two employees in 1993. His medical knowledge and background was a huge advantage, and soon his workload was topping 1,000 cases. To keep up with the growth and to specialize his practice even more, Martinez brought on his current partner Gene Odom, a biomedical engineer. The new firm, Martinez–Odom Law Group, P.A., was born with the tagline, “The science behind the law.”

It’s a formula that has worked well. “It’s our holistic, interdependent approach,” Martinez said. “Associates aren’t just employees. Each person is an invaluable member of our team.”

ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY

Martinez and his team work extensively on wrongful death and serious injury cases, many of which involve Florida’s migrant population. “Many of these workers don’t speak English and have no knowledge of the rights and protections granted to them by the Constitution,” he said. “Many avoid lawyers, fearing deportation. These people need help,” he said.

Martinez said he views his practice as his way of advocating for people and holding others accountable for their actions. “It’s important to give back, but it has to be because you want to. You help people and they help you.”

Martinez feels blessed for the opportunities he has been given and tries to channel that positive energy toward various philanthropic pursuits, including *pro bono* work, sponsoring youth baseball teams and volunteering for community organizations.

A recent outreach made Martinez think about his father’s plight: his firm decided to cover the costs of a new prosthetic limb for a Honduran mother of two young children who lost her leg in an accident.

“You have to care,” he said. “If you don’t, it’s just work.”

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LOOKING FORWARD

At age 52, Nick Martinez is enjoying great personal and professional success. So what are his plans for the future?

“Fine-tune the model we have now,” he said. In addition to spending time with his 12-year-old daughter, Emily, Martinez hopes to explore possible mentoring and teaching roles.

“I’m very lucky. There’s no silver spoon here. I’m thankful, appreciative and wanting to give back.”

ON THE AIR WITH THE LAWYERS

Curt Benson, Co-Founder of The Lawyers Radio Show, and Cooley Law School Professor

Most attorneys are passionate about their profession; you can hear their interest in the law in the delivery of their oral arguments and see the respect for their work from a well-prepared case.

Then there is Cooley Law School Professor Curt Benson, who takes his fascination of the law to the airwaves each week, helping to advance the public’s understanding of all things legal.

Benson is one-half of The Lawyers, a syndicated, two-hour radio show that airs each Sunday morning on Grand Rapids’ WOOD radio, as well as on stations in Kalamazoo and Traverse City, Mich., (see bottom of story).

The live and lively format keeps Benson and his equally witty sidekick, longtime Cooley Adjunct Professor Mike Dunn, serving up weekly fodder on topical cases. The duo loves trading barbs and enjoy self-deprecating humor. But Benson makes it clear you won’t hear any lawyer jokes on their show.

“We want to honor the profession,” he said. “We do this show to inform and to entertain,” explained Benson.

“We want to show the practice of law and how it touches everyday life and issues.” Some guests or topics can immediately light up the switchboard with listeners’ call-in comments.

They will also address non-political aspects of legislation as well as attorneys and judges who may come under fire. On the flip side, Benson and Dunn know if their producer begins yawning, the conversation is becoming too technical. “We’ll go to commercial,” quipped Benson.

Benson credits local west Michigan radio legend Phil Tower with the vision for the 1991 debut show, then called Lawyers’ Brunch. “He wanted it to sound like a couple of lawyers sitting at a bar, sipping martinis and ruminating about the day’s events. The audience would be a guy sitting next to these lawyers, eavesdropping and getting the inside scoop on what was really going on behind the scenes.”

No topic is off limits, from drunken lawnmower driving to the sentencing of Conrad Murray, Michael Jackson’s personal physician found guilty of involuntary manslaughter in the pop star’s death.

The duo has been meeting over microphones weekly for the past 10 years. As listenership expanded into other markets, Cooley became a sponsor.

The Lawyers is considered to be the only show of its kind with a listener call-in format. Recent Arbitron reports for WOOD-AM 1300 list the show as third in the market. But Benson and Dunn didn’t make the decade-long radio show commitment for ratings.

“It’s about making the law relevant to everyone,” said Benson. “Unlike some radio talk show hosts who seem to fear that any content that exceeds the educational level of a sixth grader will lose listeners, Mike and I present the law in all of its complexity and nuance. We’re not ideologues; we’re just working lawyers.”

Benson is not ready to quit his day job teaching civil procedure, evidence and insurance law at Cooley’s Grand Rapids campus. “I’m definitely an educator first, and a radio guy second.”

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NEVER GIVE UP

Disabled Army Veteran Zaneta Adams, Becomes a Law Student

Zaneta Adams has many titles. She is a wife, a mother, a disabled veteran and an advocate.

In the fall of 2011, Adams added another title to this impressive list. She is now a first-year student at Cooley Law School.

"I have always been interested in the enforcement of law," she said. "In high school, I was on the mock trial team and I loved it. But with my family, the military and my injuries, the dream of going to law school kind of disappeared."

In 1998, Adams joined the Army Reserves and actively served until 2004. In 2005, however, she was summoned for duty from the inactive reserve list.

Months later, while preparing for Operation Iraqi Freedom, she suffered a serious injury after falling 11 feet from the back of a truck. The incident paralyzed a nerve in her back and confined her to a wheelchair for one year.

"It was difficult," she said. "I couldn't take a shower or get out of bed by myself. I couldn't even pick up my children. I no longer felt like myself."

After two major surgeries, Adams was able to discard her wheelchair and use a cane. Though she had reclaimed most of her mobility, she still had to deal with the partial loss of sensation in her legs.

"A lot of it was mental," she said. "As a woman, you want to feel attractive, and I was unsure of myself with the cane. I can remember not even wanting to be in my sister's wedding because of it."

Her attendance at an athletic competition for wounded veterans changed all that.

"I saw people out there who were missing limbs and they were doing amazing things," she said. "I told myself, 'I may not have full use of my body, but I could probably do some of these things.' I started participating in athletic events and eventually was able to find the strength to walk on my own again."

With this newfound strength, Adams reached out to Challenge Aspen, an organization that provides recreational, educational and cultural experiences for individuals with disabilities.

"I began to recruit veterans for Challenge's retreats," she said. "The organization offers unique rehabilitation opportunities like skiing and snowboarding – the types of events that help people like me feel normal again."

Through Challenge Aspen came opportunities from Challenge America and the Department of Defense.

"I write a blog about my personal experiences as a wounded veteran for Challenge America and am now a spokesperson for the organization," she said. "My involvement with the Department of Defense is through its Peer Reviewed Orthopaedic Research Program. I review department proposals that would affect severely wounded service members and help determine if they should be applied to the military."

Adams' commitment to these programs and to her fellow veterans reignited the passion she had to attend law school. She feels one of the most proactive ways she can help those who served is to take her personal experience to the practice of law.

"There are lawyers who deal with veterans' rights and benefits and a lot of people want to help," she said. "But if they have not served or do not have first-hand knowledge, they don't truly know what we go through. I had to personally fight for my benefits and it was hard. When I earn my law degree and begin to practice, I want to be the lawyer veterans can look to for relief."

When it came to choosing a law school, Cooley was an obvious choice for Adams. The Muskegon, Mich., resident liked the short commute to the Grand Rapids campus, the diversity among its students and the feeling of community that the school offered.

"The dean and the staff here are outstanding," she said. "They are so personable and they don't make you feel like a number. You matter."

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Most importantly, however, Adams liked that Cooley is a part of the Yellow Ribbon GI Education Enhancement Program. The program, a provision of the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008, allows educational institutions to voluntarily enter into an agreement with the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs to fund tuition expenses that exceed the highest public in-state undergraduate tuition rate.

“Cooley is 100 percent veteran friendly,” Adams said. “They voluntarily chose to become a part of the Yellow Ribbon Program because they care and want to give military veterans every opportunity to study law.”

For this reason, Adams has already recommended Cooley to her fellow veterans who are interested in attending law school.

“Though I have only been at Cooley a short time, I am recommending it to anyone I know who wants to further their education in law – especially individuals with veteran status,” she said. “They have staff members who deal with students who were in the military and they helped make the transition back into school easy.”

Now in her second semester, Adams is adjusting well to her new title of law student. When asked what keeps her going, she had one response:

“I have so much to lose by not pushing forward and doing well,” she said. “I have my children looking at my success and my fellow veterans who are counting on me. I have the ability. I have to push forward.”

SERVING YOUR COUNTRY WITH A LAW DEGREE

John Wojcik ,General Counsel to the Michigan National Guard, and Cooley Law School Adjunct Professor

When 40-year-old Michigan National Guard Lt. Col. John Wojcik (Black Class, 1996) was deployed to Afghanistan in May 2010, the Judge Advocate General (JAG) officer had no formal training in legal matters regarding military detainees. He credits his Cooley education for helping him through his year-long mission with Task Force Peace Keeper, an interagency task force based out of Bagram Air Field in Afghanistan.

“When you graduate from Cooley, you have a well-rounded legal education,” said Wojcik. “Cooley is an academically challenging institution. Many Cooley grads become outstanding attorneys by applying everything they learned while earning their degrees.”

Wojcik grew up in small-town Ebensburg, Pennsylvania. While attending Indiana University of Pennsylvania where he majored in criminology, Wojcik enlisted in the Pennsylvania National Guard as an infantryman. During his sophomore year, he was accepted into the Army ROTC program, and after his 1993 graduation was commissioned an Army officer.

Wojcik continued his education at Cooley, also transferring to the Michigan National Guard.

Shortly after graduation, Wojcik worked as a private practice attorney for six years, specializing in insurance defense litigation. During that time, he served as a part-time JAG officer in various capacities in an infantry brigade in the Michigan Guard. After Sept. 11, 2001, Wojcik left private practice and took a position as the active duty deputy general counsel for the Michigan National Guard. He was appointed as the general counsel in April 2003. While serving as an active duty officer in the Michigan National Guard, Wojcik worked his way through the ranks and today serves as a Lieutenant Colonel.

A huge responsibility comes with the position of general counsel. The Michigan National Guard employs 11,000 individuals, including military, state civilian and federal civilian personnel. Wojcik’s job is to oversee all legal issues that may arise among all who work for the guard. Not only does he deal with the employment issues of the 7,000 part-time and 3,000 full-time employees, but he also has to deal with torts that may come up when overseeing an employee population that’s the size of a small city.

“The issues are different with each group of employees,” stated Wojcik. “If the issue results from the work of a state civilian employee, I work with the Michigan Attorney General; if it is a federal civilian employee I have to work with the Department of Justice. If a soldier has on-the-job legal issues, those are dealt with through military law. Every day I walk into work and don’t know what to expect.”

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Not everything in the Michigan National Guard's general counsel office deals with employees. JAG officers also oversee all contract and fiscal law for the agency, which awards nearly half a billion dollars in contracts each year. Wojcik is required to approve all contracts that are more than \$100,000. The Michigan National Guard operates air bases in Battle Creek, Alpena and Selfridge Air National Guard Base in southeast Michigan, in addition to Army posts in Grayling and Battle Creek, and 50 armories throughout Michigan.

"Any problems on bases -- ranging from noise pollution to asbestos -- all go through me," Wojcik said. "Any real estate work -- leases and license agreements from any of the Michigan National Guard properties -- must gain my approval."

Of course, being in the military also carries possibilities of being deployed overseas. Wojcik was first deployed in May 2010 and served one year at Bagram Air Field in Afghanistan. While in Afghanistan, he did not actively engage in combat, but the base was under rocket fire on several occasions.

While deployed, Wojcik's primary responsibility was providing legal supervision for the internment facilities for the Afghanistan Theater of Operations as part of "Task Force Peace Keeper." The JAG officers in Wojcik's unit also conducted inspections of field detention sites throughout Afghanistan to ensure that they were operated in keeping with agreements set forth in the Geneva Convention and the laws of the United States.

"Our detention facilities house Taliban, Al Qaeda, and people from the Haqqani network," explained Wojcik. "The Haqqanis are kind of like gangs that operate in the battlefield area. We also have to determine who the bad guys are; it's not like in other wars when the enemy was defined by the uniform he wore."

Wojcik returned to the mainland earlier last year. "Getting to come home from Afghanistan on Mother's Day 2011 was great; my wife said it was the best Mother's Day she ever had."

But recently, Wojcik was ordered to deploy to the African nation of Liberia where, he explained, "There are quite a few terrorist training camps designed to export terrorism throughout the African continent. If we can be there building these African nations, it may deter the bad guys from building their forces. Also, Liberia just ended an extended civil war and is building a military under the democratic government."

While in Liberia, Wojcik will be teaching courses to members of the new Liberian military, including two courses in military operational law and one in detention operations law.

Before leaving for Liberia, Wojcik said, "I am excited to go to Liberia. There is no war going on and it is our opportunity to get in there and build something from the ground up. Essentially, we get to go in and help build a new country; the birth of a nation is pretty exciting stuff. I get to help them build their military legal system."

Besides being active in the military, Wojcik also teaches courses in military law at Cooley once a year, and he is very active in Cooley's Service to Soldiers program. But most of all, Wojcik enjoys the time he spends with his family.

Married for 17 years, Wojcik's wife, Sandie, heads up the Michigan National Guard's Yellow Ribbon Program, which does reintegration work for soldiers coming home. The couple has a 7-year-old son, Maxwell, with whom Wojcik enjoys fishing and kayaking on the Grand River near their home in Grand Ledge, Mich.

FOSTERING HER LOVE OF FAMILY LAW

Jodi J. Doak, Attorney, Senior Partner at Jodi J. Doak, PC Boyne City, Michigan

While her general practice firm in Boyne City and Gaylord, Mich., touches on everything from business to estate law, it is Jodi Doak's (Blair Class, 2011) work in family law that has influenced her life and career. That is because the 36-year-old is also a foster mother for two girls.

Doak has always had a place in her heart for children, and after being a court-appointed lawyer-guardian ad litem for more than eight years, she was ready to do something far more lasting.

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"I love children and it was something my husband and I thought God wanted us to do," she said. Doak and her husband, Orian Karl Doak, also have a 9 year-old son, Orion. Talking about foster care, she stated: "It's something we had wanted to do for a long time. You're given the opportunity to contribute to the life of another human being, to make an immeasurable difference."

GAINS & LOSSES

Having seen the role of foster care firsthand through her work, Doak had a thorough understanding of the role and responsibilities of a foster parent. She is also realistic about the loss that comes when a foster child's placement ends. "You know you're going to give, going to gain, and eventually going to lose with this experience. Some people don't realize they will have to deal with the loss."

Doak knows those days are coming soon as the sisters, who are two and almost four years old and have been with the Doak family for 18 months, will be returned to their biological family. It's a transition that needs time and healing, said Doak.

She credits her mother's compassionate nature for Doak's love of children. And she credits her stepfather, Boyne City retired attorney Peter Vellenga, with her love of law and her understanding of how the law can be used to help others. "He would help families in the mediation process rather than just trying to make money. I saw him doing more than making a living as a lawyer. The law was a way to lead a fulfilling life." Vellenga saw a gifted student in Doak and encouraged her to pursue a career in law.

HEAD OF THE CLASS

When accepted into Cooley in 1999, she was prepared to take on her greatest academic challenge. She lived with third-year students. "I had no idea what law school was going to be like," she said. "All I knew was that it was going to be hard. There are many talented students who can't make it in law school."

Doak graduated *summa cum laude* and received the James E. Burns award for the highest GPA in her class. Returning to her hometown following graduation, Doak opted to open her own practice, a move she attributes to the entrepreneurial spirit of her father, Robert Taylor, of Petoskey, owner of Tailored Enterprises of Petoskey, Michigan. He is a successful car dealer and business man as well as her mentor. To jump-start her practice, she brought her stepfather out of retirement to work with her for the first year. She said she is fortunate for all of the support she has had in her life.

"The essence of who we are is composed of all the people we meet and surround ourselves with as well as the things we do along the way," she explained.

Today, Doak's practice has grown to include business and commercial litigation, criminal defense, family law, and personal injury, as well as estate and probate law. She maintains offices in Boyne City and Gaylord, Michigan. She also has one associate attorney and two secretaries that work for her law practice.

Family law comprises about half of her cases. She has used her legal tenacity and firsthand knowledge to prepare legislation that would help the foster care system. Described by her friends and family as compassionate, zealous and authentic, it's no surprise that Doak is using her training as an attorney to influence the existing system that has become such an important part of both her personal and professional life.

NEWS BRIEFS

LIBERTY BELL AWARD

Heather Spielmaker, director of Thomas M. Cooley Law School's Center for Ethics, Service and Professionalism, received the Ingham County Bar Association's (ICBA) Liberty Bell Award. Spielmaker founded and continues to oversee Cooley's Service to Soldiers: Legal Assistance Referral Program.

The Liberty Bell Award represents the ICBA's highest honor for a non-lawyer and recognizes those who have given outstanding service by giving their time and energy to strengthen the effectiveness of the American system of freedom under law, in keeping with the spirit of our Constitution.

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Cooley's Service to Soldiers program has become nationally recognized. It offers legal assistance to deploying, deployed and returning troop members. According to Spielmaker, more than 5,000 troops have been briefed on legal rights and offered the opportunity to prepare wills and power of attorney documents in addition to being offered free legal representation (based on rank and level of pay) through the program if they needed it. Volunteer attorneys have prepared more than 3,300 wills and power of attorney documents, and have assisted on a *pro bono* basis 350 service members who returned with civilian legal problems.

COOLEY'S AUBURN HILLS TEAM ADVANCES TO THE NATIONAL ABA NEGOTIATION COMPETITION

Cooley Auburn Hills students Amanda Demitrish and Shannon DeWall finished second in the Region 6 ABA Negotiation Competition in Ottawa, Canada on November 12-13, 2011 by winning their last negotiation session in the regional's final round. Ohio State University finished first, with a slightly higher total score. Ohio State received the automatic bid to participate in the national finals, and Demitrish and DeWall have been selected by the ABA for an at-large berth. The two Auburn Hills students will participate in the nationals in New Orleans on February 3-4, 2012.

COOLEY PRESENTS DISTINGUISHED STUDENT AWARDS

The Thomas M. Cooley Alumni Association recently presented its Distinguished Student Award to two students who demonstrated outstanding academic performance and service to Cooley. Elias Jeries Fanous of Grand Blanc, Mich., received the award at the Lansing campus on November 11. Richard Dwayne Jackson, of Tomkinsville, Ky., was presented the award at the Ann Arbor campus on November 18. Fanous and Jackson graduate in January 2012 (Hilligan Class). The award is presented to third-year students who are nominated by their peers and faculty and then interviewed and selected by the Alumni Association's Executive Committee.

ANTHONY JENKINS JOINS COOLEY'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Anthony Jenkins, immediate past president of the State Bar of Michigan (SBM), has been elected to the board of directors of the Thomas M. Cooley Law School. He joins current board members Thomas Cranmer and Edward Pappas who are also former SBM presidents.

Jenkins is a member and chief diversity officer at Dickinson Wright PLLC in the firm's Detroit office and practices in the areas of acquisitions and dispositions, corporate, development and land use, leasing, minority business enterprises, municipal law and finance, real estate, and real estate finance. He is a nationally recognized expert in the certification of companies as minority-owned businesses.

Named to Best Lawyers in America (Corporate), Crain's Detroit's Best Lawyers, and Michigan Super Lawyers (Real Estate), Jenkins has received the *Michigan Chronicle's* Men of Excellence Award, *Corp. Magazine's* Diversity Leadership Award, a Service Award as chair of the ABA Committee on Group and Pre-Paid Legal Services, a Service Award for the ABA Commission on Multi-Jurisdictional Practice, and the Detroit City Council's Spirit of Detroit Award. He received a Martindale Hubbell AV Peer Review Rating. In June 2011, Jenkins was recognized by the D. Augustus Straker Bar Association with the Trailblazers Award for Years of Excellent Service to Bar and Bench.

He has served on the city of Detroit's board of police commissioners, the Detroit Institute of Arts board of directors and the Detroit Medical Center's board of trustees, in addition to serving as co-chair of the capital campaign for Loyola High School. Jenkins presently serves as a member of the ABA Federal Judiciary Committee and is a past member of the ABA Board of Governors and ABA House of Delegates.

He earned his bachelor of arts degree from Harvard, his M.P.A. from Princeton, and his J.D. from New York University Law School.

TWO COOLEY FACULTY MEMBERS CHOSEN TO PARTICIPATE IN "BEST LAW FACULTY" IN THE COUNTRY STUDY

Thomas M. Cooley Law School has the distinction of being the only law school in the country with two faculty members chosen to participate in a law professor-focused study seeking the "best law faculty" in the country. Nelson Miller, professor and associate dean of Cooley's Grand Rapids campus, and Phil Prygoski, professor at Cooley's Lansing campus, both have been chosen to be part of the study, which is designed to identify the best law faculty and to publish their best teaching practices in the book, *What the Best Law Teachers Do* (Harvard Press 2012).

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The book's author, Michael Hunter Schwartz, is the co-director for the Institute of Law Teaching and Learning and professor of law, associate dean for faculty and academic development at Washburn University. As part of his research, Schwartz visited Miller and Prygoski to study and observe their classroom techniques.

TWO MICHIGAN JUDGES HONORED AS OUTSTANDING COOLEY ADJUNCT PROFESSORS

Thomas M. Cooley Law School has announced that the Hon. Colleen A. O'Brien, judge of the Oakland County Circuit Court, and the Hon. Rosemarie E. Aquilina, judge of the Ingham County Circuit Court, are the recipients of this year's Frederick J. Griffith III Adjunct Faculty Award. The award recognizes adjunct faculty members who best display dedication to the law school, excellence in teaching, passion for persuasive advocacy, compassion for law students and optimism about life and the future of legal education. Cooley Professor Emeritus Otto Stockmeyer presented the award to Judge Aquilina on Dec. 6 at Cooley's Lansing campus. Judge O'Brien was unable to attend the award ceremony.

COOLEY'S ANN ARBOR CAMPUS OPENS IMMIGRANT RIGHTS AND CIVIL ADVOCACY CLINIC

Recently approved by Cooley's Curriculum Committee, the pro bono immigrant rights and civil advocacy clinic opened this month at the Ann Arbor campus. This is Cooley's eighth clinic, all of which provides students with needed practical instruction. Cooley has operated the Washtenaw County Public Defender's Clinic for 17 years, but this will be the first in-house clinic at the Ann Arbor campus at 3475 Plymouth Road.

Under the supervision of Associate Professor Jason Eyster, Cooley students will meet with clients who are immigrants in need of help with civil or immigration issues. Eyster recently moved back to Michigan after working for Ave Maria School of Law in Naples, Fla., where he supervised that school's immigrant rights clinic. Before working for Ave Maria, Eyster specialized in immigration law in Ann Arbor.

STAGES OF THE LAW

The final production of this season's annual Stages of the Law theater series sponsored by Cooley Law School wraps up Saturday, January 28 at Michigan State University's Wharton Center for Performing Arts with "The Exonerated." This is the first season that a performance in the series is taking place at the Wharton Center. Following both the Friday, January 27 and the Saturday, January 28 performances, Cooley's Innocence Project Professors Marla Mitchell-Cichon, Donna McKneelan, and Bill Fleener will hold a "talk-back session" to discuss the legal and ethical themes of the play. Tickets for "The Exonerated" are available at the Wharton Center box office, online at whartoncenter.com and by calling (517) 432-2000. Special Stages of the Law discounted pricing (buy one ticket, get another free) is available for the Saturday, January 28 Stages of the Law performance, along with a reception following the play.

Other productions that were featured during this season included: "Conspiracy," "The Shrike," and "The Goblins & the Gravedigger."

For more information on Stages of the Law, please visit www.cooley.edu.

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FACULTY BRIEFS

Tammy Asher, Associate Professor

Attended, the Central States Legal Research & Writing conference, "Practice-Ready -- Preparing Students & Accessing Progress," which was held in Chicago from Sept. 16-18, 2011.

Gary Bauer, Professor

Appointed, Chair of the Legal Educator Committee, American Bar Association, General Practice, Solo & Small Firm Division. **Presented**, "Estate Planning Considerations for Seniors," Experimental Air Craft Association, Chapter 55, Mason, Michigan, November 12th. **Presented**, Family Dynamics - Choosing Agents for Your Will, Trust, or Powers of Attorney, in conjunction with Sparrow Hospital and Greenstone FCS, December 5th, DeWitt Conference Center. **Attended**, the Institute of Continuing Legal Education and State Bar of Michigan, Annual Solo and Small Firm Institute in Dearborn, Michigan in September.

Ronald Bretz, Professor

Lectured, on Criminal Law Update and Medical Marijuana Issues, to the Michigan Judges Association on Mackinac Island on Aug. 23, 2011. **Lectured**, on the Confrontation Clause and Confession Law Update, to the Genesee County Bar Association, in Flint, Mich., on Sept. 9, 2011. **Served**, on a panel at Lansing Community College for Constitution Day, on Sept. 20, 2011. **Lectured**, on Miranda and the Right to Counsel, Michigan Appellate Assigned Counsel System, at the Grand Rapids campus on Oct. 6, in Lansing on Oct. 13, and at the Auburn Hills campus on Oct. 20. **Lectured**, with Prof. Jim Peden, on a Criminal Law Update, Wayne County Criminal Advocacy Program, in Detroit, Mich., on Dec. 2, 2011.

Evelyn Calogero, Professor

Trained, child welfare lawyers in appellate advocacy, including reviewing the lawyers' briefs on appeal and evaluating their oral arguments, in December 2011. **Helping**, two families adopt state wards, June 2011 to present. Both cases have the potential to clarify Michigan law and instruct lawyers and judges on the proper procedures to be followed to avoid violating constitutional due process rights when child-placing agencies place state wards in adoptive homes.

Julie Clement, Associate Professor

Attended, the Plain Language Association InterNational (PLAIN) conference in Stockholm in June, 2011 where she moderated sessions on achieving plain language in the public sector. Clement is on the PLAIN board of directors. **Elected**, to the Center for Plain Language board of directors. The center is a Washington, D.C.-based organization that advocates and provides training for plain language in business and government. Clement serves as board treasurer. **Published**, issues 64, 65, and 66 of the *Clarity* journal. *Clarity* is the international organization promoting plain legal language. Clement has served as editor-in-chief of the *Clarity* journal for seven years.

Patrick Corbett, Professor

Published, an article, "Cyberbullying, Sexting and Other High Tech Offenses Involving Michigan Residents – Are We Victims or Criminals?" in 88 *Univ. Detroit Mercy L. Rev.* 237, in 2010. **Spoke**, on "Searches and Seizures – How Limiting is the Fourth Amendment?" at Friendship House in East Lansing, Mich., Dec. 12, 2011. **Spoke**, on "Cyber Law and You," at Eastern Michigan University, Early College Alliance, in Ypsilanti, Mich., on Oct. 21, 2011. **Spoke**, on "A Review of Michigan Cyber Crime Laws – Cyberbullying, Sexting and Other High Tech Crimes," to the Constitutional Rights of Public School Students Class, at Cooley Law School's Ann Arbor, Mich., campus on Oct. 18, 2011. **Spoke**, on "The Future of the Fourth Amendment in the Digital Evidence Context – Where Would the Supreme Court Draw the Electronic Line?" at the SUMIT_2011 Annual Conference, University of Michigan, in Ann Arbor, Mich., on Oct. 18, 2011. **Spoke**, on "A Review of Michigan Cyber Crime Laws – Cyberbullying, Sexting and Other High Tech Crimes," Michigan Bullying Prevention Summit, Michigan Elementary and Middle School Principals Association, East Lansing, Mich., on Sept. 30, 2011. **Spoke**, on "The Future of the Fourth Amendment in the Digital Evidence Context – Where Would the Supreme Court Draw the Electronic Line?" Michigan High Tech Crime Investigations Association, Troy Police Department, Troy, Mich., on Sept. 21, 2011. **Spoke**, on "GPS Technology and the Fourth Amendment," at the 2011 Great Lakes InfraGard Fall Conference, Eastern Michigan University, in Ypsilanti, Mich., on Sept. 13, 2011. (continues)

Spoke, on “Cyber Crimes Involving Michigan Teens,” to the Principals Advisory Cabinet, Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, Michigan District, Concordia College, Ann Arbor, Mich., on Sept. 16, 2011.

Mary Phelan D’Isa, Professor

Published, “Trial Counsel Deficiently Advises Defendant to Reject a Plea Bargain, and After a Fair Trial, Defendant Is Convicted and Receives a Longer Sentence: A Wrong Without an Appropriate Sixth Amendment Remedy?” in *Preview of United States Supreme Court Cases*, ABA, Vol. 39, Issue 2, p. 52, Oct. 31, 2011.

Gerald Fisher, Professor

Elected, chairperson of the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission. Completing work as contributing co-editor of *Prospective Attorneys Reference Book, Michigan Municipal Law*; published by the Institute of Continuing Legal Education. **Lectured**, extensively on the subject of the Michigan Medical Marijuana Act, including a four-city seminar program in November 2011 with a team assembled by Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette. He also appeared on televised panel discussions on “Due Process,” and on a televised forum on CMN TV with Oakland Press Livestream. He also lectured in an ICLE webcast program, and at seminars at workshops for the State Bar Public Corporation Section, the Michigan Association of Municipal Attorneys, the Michigan Association of Planning, State Bar Health Care Law Section, Michigan Police Chiefs Association, Washtenaw County Bar Association, and the Michigan Preservation Association. **Assisted**, on legislation governing zoning regulations relating to mining. Having served as lead counsel on behalf of Kasson Township in *Kyser v Kasson Township*, 486 Mich. 514 (2010), that reversed case law precedent involving zoning and gravel mining, Mr. Fisher assisted the Michigan Townships Association and Michigan Municipal League in responding to proposed legislation intended to provide a legislative response to the Kyser decision. Testified before the Michigan Senate Natural Resources Committee on proposed amendments to zoning enabling act relative to mining rights. **Interviewed**, by the *Michigan Lawyers Weekly*, *Michigan Messenger*, *Michigan Planning and Zoning News*, *Oakland Press*, *Associated Press*, *Flint Journal*, and *Traverse City Record Eagle* on various municipal law topics. **Attended**, meetings as board or council member of the State Bar Public Corporation Section, Oakland County Bar Foundation, Oakland County Parks Foundation, Quality of Life Committee of the Oakland County Business Roundtable, Michigan Association of Municipal Attorneys Professionalism and Education Committee, and the Land Information Access Association (LIAA). **Testified**, before the Michigan Senate Judiciary Committee regarding proposed amendments to the Michigan Medical Marijuana Act. **Presented**, on local government wetland regulation, at a seminar sponsored by MDNRE Annual Wetland Conference in Traverse City. **Selected**, to plan, moderate, and speak at a forth-coming ICLE seminar on ‘Hot Topics in Municipal Law.’

Dustin Foster, Associate Professor

Co-authored, with Emily Horvath, a two-volume practice manual, *Michigan Estate Planning, Will Drafting and Estate Administration*, published in August 2011 by LexisNexis. **Presented**, “Dealing with the Aging Client,” at the 2011 ICLE Solo & Small Firm Institute, September 15, 2011. **Attended**, Elder Summit: Building a Comprehensive Response Protocol, October 25, 2011.

Alan Gershel, Associate Professor

Appointed, by the Director of the FBI to the Advisory Policy Board which advises the FBI on policy issues as it concerns the several computer data bases managed by the FBI. His appointment is to represent prosecutors. In that capacity, he gave a presentation in Albuquerque, N.M., regarding the consequences when law enforcement arrests an individual based upon an invalid warrant. He is also a member of the Warrant Task Force.

Christopher G. Hastings, Professor

Appointed, Vice President of the Legal Assistance Center (LAC). The LAC is a nonprofit provider of legal resources to persons who cannot afford legal representation in court, and serves as the gateway into Cooley’s “Access to Justice” clinic. **Appointed**, Chair of the Girl Scouts of Michigan Shore to Shore’s 100th Anniversary Committee. **Reappointed**, Chair of the State Bar of Michigan’s Standing Committee on the Unauthorized Practice of Law by incoming State Bar President Julie Fershtman.

Joseph Kimble, Professor

Spoke, at a symposium on the redrafted Federal Rules of Evidence sponsored by the *William & Mary Law Review*. The new evidence rules took effect on Dec., 1. Professor Kimble was the principal drafter. **Spoke**, at the Central States Conference on Legal Writing, held at the John Marshall Law School. **Agreed**, to speak at the fifth international conference sponsored by Clarity — the international association promoting plain legal language. The conference will be held at the National Press Club in Washington.

Daniel W. Matthews, Associate Professor

Published, his textbook, *Taxation of Intellectual Property*, from Vandepas Publishing, in its first edition. The textbook is used in the Taxation of Intellectual Property course offered in Cooley’s graduate program.

(continues)

Michael McDaniel, Associate Professor

Moderated, a panel of cyber-security experts in law enforcement at the 2011 Michigan Cyber Summit, on Oct. 7, hosted by Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder to mark the national launch of the October 2011 National Cyber Security Awareness Month. Featuring DHS Secretary Napolitano and speakers from the White House, McDaniel's panel included a state and federal prosecutor and a state (MSP) and federal law enforcement (FBI) officers and discussed the use of the Internet Crime Complaint Center and other tools to assist prosecutions for cyber crimes. McDaniel had served on the committee drafting the Michigan Cyber Security Strategy, which was unveiled at the Oct. 7, conference. **Served**, on Nov. 4, as the keynote speaker at the fall meeting and luncheon of the Michigan Homeland Security Consortium, an association of Michigan businesses and industries focused on homeland security and defense work. McDaniel spoke on the "Top Ten Homeland Security Issues facing the United States, post-al Qaeda."

Nelson Miller, Associate Dean and Professor

Published, the book *The Faithful Lawyer — Flourishing From Law Study To Practice*. (Bridge Publishing Group 2011). **Published**, an article, "Using a Faculty Inquiry Process to Examine Student Responsibility for Learning," in 61 *J. LEGAL EDUC.* 280 (2011). Co-authored with Tonya Krause-Phelan, Derek Witte, Joni Larson, Kim O'Leary, and Vickie Eggers. **Recognized**, as one of 20 professors studied for "What the Best Law Professors Do" (forthcoming, Harvard University Press 2012).

Michael Molitor, Professor

Published, his textbook, *Business Organizations: Statutes, Problems, and Cases*, by Vandeplass Publishing.

Martha Moore, Assistant Dean and Professor

Appointed, by the Michigan Supreme Court in October 2011, to serve a one-year appointment as chairperson of the Attorney Grievance Commission.

Nora J. Pasman-Green, Professor

Published, the article "Off the Roads & Out of the Courts: Enter a Technology Fix for Drunk Driving," in Vol. 24, Issue 2, of the *Cleveland-Marshall College of Law Journal of Law and Health*.

Norm Plate, Professor

Published, an article, "Do As I Say, Not as I Do: A Report Card on Plain Language in the United States Supreme Court," in volume 13 of the *Thomas M. Cooley Journal of Practical & Clinical Law*.

Amy Timmer, Associate Dean and Professor

Spoke, to the National Council of Bar Admissions Administrators at their annual conference in Providence, R.I., about Cooley Law School's professionalism program, on Nov. 4, 2011.

William Wagner, Professor

Published, "Suicide Killing of Human Life as a Human Right -- The Continuing Devolution of Assisted Suicide Law in the United Kingdom," in the *Liberty University Law Review* (2011). **Presented**, non-partisan expert comments on the Interim Final Rules on Preventive Services to the United States Department of Health and Human Services (2011). **Presented**, "The Christmas Message, the Supreme Court, and the Constitution," made at the Christian Legal Society program in Lansing, Mich. **Presented**, "The Character and Worldview of Abraham Lincoln," made at the American Library Association program on the Constitution and the Civil War. **Presented**, "A Commentary on the 14th Amendment," made at the Federalist Society's program on the 14th Amendment. **Presented**, "Jurisprudential Worldviews Colliding" made at the Federalist Society program on the Constitution (2011). **Presented**, "Navigating to the City on the Hill," made at the First State Patriots' program on Constitutional governance in Delaware. **Presented**, "International Law, the American Constitution, and the Supreme Court," made at the Founder's Values of Delaware program on Parents and the Constitution. **Presented**, "Standing on the Shoulders of Giants – the Character and Worldview of Our Nation's Founders," made at the Cooley Law School program honoring Constitution Day. **Moderated**, "Revolution in the Arab World" sponsored by the Military Veterans Law Student Association, the Cooley Muslim Law Society, and Amnesty International (June 29, 2011).

William Weiner, Associate Dean and Professor

Attended, the annual meeting of the Fulbright Association in Washington, DC. In 2004 he participated in a Fulbright exchange for U.S. administrators in international education, visiting Berlin, Rostock, Mannheim and Stuttgart.

Derek Witte, Professor

Presented, a seminar at the NADONA/LTC Annual Convocation & Expo (for Health Care & Long Term Care Providers) entitled "Social Networking & Implications for Long-term Care Employers/Employees," on Nov. 9, 2011. **Representing**, a client in a *pro bono* unemployment appeal pending before Kent County Circuit Court at the request of West Michigan Legal Aid, in Fall 2011. **Presented**, a webcast for CommA (a national organization of community foundation employees) entitled "How to Get Fired in 140 characters or Less: Social Media & The Data We Share," on Oct. 12, 2011. (continues)

Served, as moderator, for the Thomas M. Cooley Law Review Symposium on Data Mining, on Sept. 21, 2011. **Provided**, expert commentary for CNN Newsroom and WZZM Channel 13 relating to 2nd Amendment lawsuit against Walgreen's Pharmacy, on Sept. 9 and Sept. 12, 2011. **Provided**, expert commentary for the *ABA Journal* as panelist for podcast and transcript entitled: "How Can Attorneys Use Google+ to Generate Business?" (Sept. 12, 2011).

CLASS NOTES

1976 Campbell Class

Dosson, the Hon. Douglas C., Roscommon County (Michigan) Probate and Family Court Judge, captained members of the State Bar of Michigan to a 15-9 victory over the Ohio Bar in the annual Masi Cup golf tournament Sept. 29-Oct. 1 at the Tullymore/St. Ives complex in Stanwood, Mich.

Jordan, Stephen H., was selected for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America 2012* for labor and employment law.

1977 Felch Class

Porteous, David L., of Reed City, Mich., attorney and principal with the law firm of McCurdy, Wotila, & Porteous, P.C., was appointed by the Michigan Supreme Court as vice chairperson of the Attorney Grievance Commission for a term ending Oct. 1, 2012.

1977 Graves Class

Freidell, Debra, was married to Steve Worth, on May 28, 2011 at the Wacousta United Methodist Church in Wacousta, Mich.

1978 Marston Class

Hoort, the Hon. David, 8th Circuit Judicial Court, Michigan was elected secretary of the Criminal Law Section for the State Bar of Michigan. He is also co-chair of the Bar's Criminal Jurisprudence & Practice Committee. Judge Hoort was also recently selected to serve on the Michigan Race Equity Coalition, co-chaired by Justice Mary Beth Kelly and Lynn Jondahl.

1978 Kelly Class

Pretty, Keith A., president and CEO of Northwood University, received the Distinguished Alumni Award from the Western Michigan University Alumni Association.

Reynolds, Frank H., of Foster, Swift, Collins & Smith, P.C., was included in *The Best Lawyers in America 2012* in 'white collar' criminal defense, 'non-white collar' criminal defense, and family law.

1979 Butzel Class

Manis, Paula K., of Wroman, Dixon & Manis, P.L.C., is included in the 2011 edition of the *Best Lawyers in America* for Oil and Gas Law and Alternative Dispute Resolution. This is the fourth year she has received the award for oil and gas law and the third year for alternative dispute resolution. Paula practices in the firm's Lansing, Mich., office. She was also selected by Best Lawyers as the Lawyer of the Year for 2012 for Arbitration in the Lansing, Mich., area.

Smith, L'Mell, was named by Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder to the newly formed Michigan Compensation Appellate Commission. The nine-member commission merges the authorities and responsibilities of the Workers' Compensation Appellate Commission and the Employment Security Board of Review. She has served as a member of the Workers' Compensation Appeal Board and the Workers' Compensation Board of Magistrates.

1979 Wiest Class

Basha, the Hon. Steven, was elected by the Yolo Superior Court in California as the court's assistant presiding judge for a two year term beginning Jan. 1. He was appointed to the bench in 2006.

Hertzberg, Robert S., was named to the 2012 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America* in the category of bankruptcy and creditor-debtor rights. He is a partner with Pepper Hamilton in Detroit, Mich., and is co-chair of the firm's Corporate Restructuring and Bankruptcy Practice Group.

(continues)

1980 Bushnell Class

Dobrich, the Hon. Susan, a probate and family court judge in Cass County, Mich., was appointed by Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder to the Michigan Women's Commission.

1981 Long Class

Goalsby, Garry, was named by Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder to the newly formed Michigan Compensation Appellate Commission. The nine-member commission merges the authorities and responsibilities of the Workers' Compensation Appellate Commission and the Employment Security Board of Review. Garry is a member of the Michigan Employment Security Board of Review.

Riggs, Richmond M., has joined the Michigan Attorney General's office as a prosecutor. He works in the Attorney General's Office Criminal Division in Detroit, investigating gaming fraud and white-collar crime. He was most recently an assistant prosecutor with the Genesee County (Michigan) Prosecutor's Office for 26 years.

1982 Goodwin Class

Collison, Jeffrey C., along with Joseph T. Collison (Goodwin Class, 1982), and Charles C. Collison Jr. (Krinock Class, 1991), brothers and partners in Collison & Collison, were admitted to the U.S. Supreme Court on Wednesday, Nov. 9, in Washington, D.C. The firm, in Saginaw, Mich., also holds admissions to the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, the U.S. District Court, and all courts in Michigan.

Collison, Joseph T., along with Jeffrey C. Collison (Goodwin Class, 1982), and Charles C. Collison Jr. (Krinock Class, 1991), brothers and partners in Collison & Collison, were admitted to the U.S. Supreme Court on Wednesday, Nov. 9, in Washington, D.C. The firm, in Saginaw, Mich., also holds admissions to the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, the U.S. District Court, and all courts in Michigan.

1982 Brook Class

Stein, Sherry A., of Foster Swift Collins & Smith, P.C., was included in *The Best Lawyers in America 2012* in employee benefits law.

1984 Manning Class

Colovos, Bill, was elected councilman of the city of Southgate, Mich. He has maintained his private practice, the Law Firm of Bill Colovos, for the past 26 years. His practice includes work in personal injury, criminal defense, and family law. Phone: (734) 282-2900; e-mail: bcolovos@sbcglobal.net.

Wilensky, Scott, has been named senior vice president and general counsel for Xcel Energy in Minneapolis, Minn. He was previously vice president, Regulatory and Resource Planning, for all Xcel Energy operating companies.

1985 Talbot Smith Class

Crim, Douglas W., was named by *Best Lawyers* as the Lansing Best Lawyers Environmental Law Lawyer of the Year for 2012. He is a principal at Miller, Canfield, Paddock & Stone.

Lowney, Stephen J., a shareholder at Foster Swift Collins & Smith, is included in both *The Best Lawyers in America 2012* and *Michigan Super Lawyers*. He is recognized in the field of employee benefits/ERISA law.

1985 Morell Class

Gage, Janet, an attorney and referee with Friend of the Court in Jackson, Mich., was recently honored with an award from the Michigan Family Support Council.

1986 Mundy Class

Attalla, Tim, Of Counsel to Miller Canfield in the firm's Detroit, Mich., office, received the 2011 Distinguished Award for Philanthropy from the Institute for Social Policy and Understanding. He is fluent in Arabic, has more than 20 years experience providing expertise on Middle Eastern cultures, and was recently appointed as a council member to the International Law Section of the State Bar of Michigan. At Miller Canfield, he assists family-owned businesses and privately held companies resolve business disputes.

Missad, Matthew, was named CEO of Universal Products, Inc. He previously worked in the company's compliance department, then served as its general counsel.

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1986 Miles Class

Bauman, Mary, a member of Miller Johnson, was named Chair of the Hope College Board of Trustees. She is the first woman in the college's 145-year history to serve in this position. In her practice, she focuses on employee benefits and executive compensation, with her primary concentration being on health and welfare benefits.

Ludovici, Joseph L., of Aronson, Fineman & Davis Co., L.P.A., was elected to a three year term as a District 13 representative on the board of governors of the Ohio State Bar Association. He focuses his law practice in the areas of personal injury and criminal law.

1987 Champlin Class

Davis, Mark A., president and CEO of Howard & Howard, was named to Michigan Super Lawyers in real estate. Only 5 percent of lawyers in Michigan are named to this list. He was also named to the inaugural list of Super Lawyers – Business Edition 2011, in the field of real estate.

1987 Morse Class

Tobin, Jeffrey E., was named as an Associate Judge for the Seventh Judicial Circuit Court in Springfield, Ill. He was most recently an arbitrator with the Illinois Workers Compensation Commission for seven years.

1988 Pratt Class

Loeffler, Cheryl, has rejoined the volunteer board of directors for Frankenmuth (Michigan) Credit Union. She oversees premium collections for Frankenmuth Insurance since 1996.

1989 Copeland Class

Goodenough, Brian G., of Foster, Swift, Collins & Smith, P.C., has been included in *The Best Lawyers in America 2012* in municipal litigation, real estate litigation, and workers' compensation law.

1991 Turner Class

Rubin, Allan S., a partner at Jackson Lewis L.L.P., in Detroit, Mich., was named a 2011 Michigan Super Lawyer. He is a trial and appellate attorney whose nationwide practice focuses on wage and hour, class action, and employment litigation.

1991 Krinock Class

Collison, Charles C., along with Joseph T. Collison (Goodwin Class, 1982), and Jeffrey C. Collison Jr. (Goodwin Class, 1982), brothers and partners in Collison & Collison, were admitted to the U.S. Supreme Court on Wednesday, Nov. 9, in Washington, D.C. The firm, in Saginaw, Mich., also holds admissions to the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, the U.S. District Court, and all courts in Michigan.

1993 Hooker Class

Halm, Patricia, was named by Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder to the newly formed Michigan Compensation Appellate Commission. The nine-member commission merges the authorities and responsibilities of the Workers' Compensation Appellate Commission and the Employment Security Board of Review. Patricia has been a member of the Michigan Tax Tribunal since 2003.

Kelly, Deanna, announces the opening of the firm KBMV Law, at 4036 Telegraph Road, Suite 205, Bloomfield Hills, Mich. Phone: (248) 343-0328.

1993 Moore Class

Chernich, Scott, of Foster, Swift, Collins & Smith, P.C., has been included in *The Best Lawyers in America 2012* in banking and finance law, bankruptcy and creditor-debtor rights law.

Thacker, Connie R., an equity shareholder with Rhoades McKee, was elected Chair of the State Bar of Michigan's Family Law Council. She concentrates her practice in the areas of family law matters, including business valuations, custody, and parenting time, as well as estate planning.

1994 Ostrander Class

Young, Lance C., joined the Southfield, Mich.-based Sommers Schwartz P.C., as a shareholder in the firm's Business Litigation Department. He focuses his practice on class action litigation, including antitrust, consumer protection, securities/GAAP compliance, ERISA, and corporate duties/derivative suits.

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1995 Bird Class

Gobbo, Stephen J., was sworn in as the chair of the State Bar of Michigan Representative Assembly for 2011-2012. The 150-member assembly is the final policy making body of the State Bar. He is director of the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs' Bureau of Commercial Services legal affairs division.

1995 Steere Class

Campau, Robert, of East Lansing, Mich., was named by Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder to the newly created Talent Investment Board. The board focuses on job creation, as well as developing and connecting the state's talent. Robert is vice president of public policy and legal affairs for the Michigan Association of Realtors. On the board he will represent businesses in Michigan.

Miner, Arden, was elected to the Illinois Land Title Association for a three-year term. She is a senior manager for underwriting and escrow for Attorneys' Title Guaranty Fund, Inc.

1995 Kuhn Class

Przybylo, Greg, was named by Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder to the newly formed Michigan Compensation Appellate Commission. The nine-member commission merges the authorities and responsibilities of the Workers' Compensation Appellate Commission and the Employment Security Board of Review. Greg is the current chair of the Workers' Compensation Appellate Commission.

1997 Paul Adams Class

Roragen, Kevin J., was recognized in the 2012 edition of *Best Lawyers in America*, as a Best Lawyer in municipal law.

1997 Fellows Class

Brey, Ingrid, Of Counsel with Nemeth Burwell, P.C., was named a Super Lawyer in her specialty area of immigration. She was also included on the Top 50 Women Lawyers in Michigan section of the list.

Foster, Audra M., was elected president of the Cooley Law School Alumni Association. She is director of the law school's Auburn Hills, Mich., campus.

1998 Sharpe Class

Sysol, Brad, a principal with Miller Canfield, was appointed Public Service Vice Chair for the American Bar Association Superfund and Natural Resource Damages Litigation Committee for 2011-2012. In his practice, he focuses on complex commercial and environmental litigation.

1998 Snow Class

Atkins, E. Jason, was named a partner by Hemmer DeFrank P.L.L.C., in Ft. Mitchell, Ky., where he is a member of the firm's litigation and employment group. He represents companies and individuals in a variety of complex litigation matters, including business, commercial, construction, and employment disputes. He is admitted to practice in the state courts of Ohio and Kentucky, as well as the federal courts for the Eastern District of Kentucky.

2000 Cushing Class

Haessly, Helen M., was elected vice president of the Cooley Alumni Association.

2001 Blair Jr. Class

Breed, Carol, was named director of the Risk Management and Insurance Center at Olivet College. She has primary responsibility for the leadership and administration of the undergraduate and graduate insurance programs at Olivet.

Leach, Graham, has been named Chief Assistant Prosecuting Attorney for Shiawassee County, Mich. He joined the office in 2002 as an assistant.

2002 Thomas Johnson Class

Chartier, Mary, and her business partner, Natalie Alane (Chase Class, 2002) announce the relocation of their firm to the historic Jenison House at 403 Seymour Ave., Lansing, Mich. 48933. Mary practices criminal defense and appellate law. Phone: (517) 482-2000; e-mail: mary@alanechartier.com.

2002 Paterson Class

Willis, Shaun Patrick, of Willis Law, was recognized by Michigan Super Lawyers as a Rising Star. Only 2.5 percent of all lawyers in Michigan are listed as Rising Stars by Super Lawyers. Willis Law is a business law firm headquartered in Kalamazoo, Mich., with offices in Grand Haven, Grand Rapids, and Paw Paw, Mich.

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2002 Chase Class

Alane, Natalie, and her business partner, Mary Chartier (Thomas Johnson Class, 2002), announce the relocation of their firm to the historic Jenison House at 403 Seymour Ave., Lansing, Mich. 48933. Natalie practices family law and appellate law. Phone: (517) 482-2000; e-mail: natalie@alanechartier.com.

2003 O. Smith Class

Bennington, Dianna, was elected judge for the Muncie, Ind., City Court, officially taking office January 1, 2012.

2003 Toy Class

Johnson, Denise, was married on July 16, 2011 to Christian Hamlett. She is a solo practitioner in DeWitt, Mich.

Johnson, Lindsey R., has joined Maddin, Hauser, Wartell, Roth & Heller, P.C., in Southfield, Mich., as an associate attorney in the firm's Real Property and Mortgage Dispute Resolution practice group.

2004 Cross Class

Gorman, S. Tutt, along with fellow attorney Jeff Winters, have opened Winters Gorman P.L.L.C., 310 W. Main St., Ionia, Mich. Gorman concentrates his practice on employment law, contracts, commercial litigation, criminal defense, workers compensation, collections, landlord/tenant, estate administration, and medication. He previously was with Duff Chadwick & Associates in Portland and Ionia, Mich., and was an employment and health care attorney in Kentucky for five years.

2004 Needham Class

Stephens, Monica, has joined the Jackson County (Michigan) Prosecutor's Office as an assistant prosecutor.

2005 McAllister Class

Miller, Mark C., and Matthew Shepherd (Boyles Class, 2005) have opened a law office at 108 Mears Ave., Whitehall, Mich. Phone: (231) 894-0900.

2005 Boyles Class

Raqueno, Marietta, has opened the Law Office of Marietta E. Raqueno, at 9891 Irvine Center Drive, Suite 200, Irvine, Calif. 92618. She concentrates her practice in the areas of divorce and family law, enforcement proceedings, and domestic violence. Phone: (949) 398-8215; e-mail: mraqueno@raquenofamilylaw.com.

Shepherd, Matthew, and Mark C. Miller (McAllister Class, 2005) have opened a law office at 108 Mears Ave., Whitehall, Mich. Phone: (231) 894-0900.

2005 Starr Class

Edwards, Prentice Jr., was appointed by Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder to the bench in the 36th District Court in Detroit. Edwards was previously an assistant prosecuting attorney for the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office. He will stand for re-election in 2012 for a full term.

2006 Fitzgerald Class

Glass, Alana, was elected to the State Bar of Michigan Representative Assembly, representing Oakland County Circuit Court. She is coordinator of career and professional development at Cooley Law School's Auburn Hills campus. She has served as the chair of the Oakland County Bar Association Diversity Committee.

McIntyre, Janene, was elected as the 2011-2012 president of the Lansing Black Lawyers Association. She is a principal public finance attorney with the law firm of Foster Swift Collins and Smith, P.C.

Pollard, Christopher, is an associate at the Law Office of Jay Bhatt in Jersey City, N.J. He practices municipal, criminal, bankruptcy, real estate, and personal injury law, and also recently finished writing a book about religion and atheism.

2007 Fisher Class

Frank, Rick A., is a deputy prosecutor in the Narcotics Division of the Marion County Prosecutor's Office in Indianapolis, Ind. He was recently appointed as director of the multi-agency Metro Drug Task Force, which focuses on high-weight drug dealers and repeat offenders in central Indiana. E-mail: rick.frank@indy.gov.

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2007 Boston Class

Evans, Nicole, has been named deputy court administrator with 54-B District Court in East Lansing, Mich. She previously served as city clerk for East Lansing.

Hoover, Jeffrey A., of Howard & Howard, was named a Michigan Rising Star in Mergers and Acquisitions. He practices in the firm's Royal Oak, Mich., office. Only 2.5 percent of attorneys in Michigan are named to this list. Perrine, Chad, is an associate at Marcoux Allen in Jackson, Mich.

Young, Kimberly S. (Royster), has joined the McPhillips Law Office, Hastings, Mich.

2007 Brickley Class

Kavalhuna, Russell A., with the U.S. Attorney's Office, Western District, has been named one of *Michigan Lawyers Weekly's* 2011 Up & Coming Lawyers.

2008 C. Adams Class

Brown, Danielle, was named by Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder to the newly formed Michigan Compensation Appellate Commission. The nine-member commission merges the authorities and responsibilities of the Workers' Compensation Appellate Commission and the Employment Security Board of Review. Danielle has been an administrative law judge in the Michigan Administrative Hearing System since 2009.

Castleberry, Burke, was appointed Prosecuting Attorney for Lenawee County, Mich., effective Jan. 7, 2012. He previously served the office as an intern, and then as an assistant prosecutor.

Garlinghouse, Laura J., was appointed by the Office of the U.S. Trustee, a component of the U.S. Department of Justice, to serve as a panel Chapter 7 bankruptcy trustee for the Western District of Michigan. She practices bankruptcy and municipal law in the Grand Rapids, Mich., office of Foster, Swift, Collins & Smith. Phone: (616) 726-2238; e-mail: lgarlinghouse@fosterswift.com.

2008 Kavanagh Class

Bahhur, Jihan (Jiji), has been named to the compliance team of NAFCU. She helps credit unions with compliance issues, writes articles for the trade group's publications and compliance blog, and participates in NAFCU's compliance schools and seminars.

Davidson, Syeda Farhana, with the Law Offices of Lee & Correll, was named a co-recipient of the Oakland County (Michigan) Bar Association's Distinguished Service Award. Totoraitis, Bret A., joined Dykema Gossett, P.L.L.C., in the firm's Government Policy and Practice Group in Lansing, Mich. He previously served as an assistant attorney general for the public service division of the Michigan Department of the Attorney General. He was also the interim director of legislative affairs for the Michigan Office of Legislative Affairs. Bret focuses his practice in the areas of government policy, regulatory and legislative affairs.

2009 Coleman Class

Gross, Matthew B., joined Quarnstrom & Doering, P.A., as an associate attorney. He handles criminal prosecution as an assistant Marshall City attorney, and also practices in the areas of family law, business, and general litigation. Springette, Joss, was awarded the 2010 Horizon Award by the University of the Virgin Islands Alumni Association. She is in private practice in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands.

Yancho, Paul J., joined the law firm of Beck, Bowser, Chalmers, Shinar & VanWagoner, P.L.L.C., a full-service law firm in Kalamazoo, Mich., as an associate attorney. He was most recently a clerk for the Hon. Gary C. Giguere Jr., of the 9th Circuit Court in Kalamazoo County, Mich. Phone: (269) 382-8767; e-mail pyancho@beckvanwagonerlaw.com.

2010 Woodward Class

Askren, Daniel, practices in the O'Connor & Askren Law Office, 121 W. Main St., Attica, Ind. The office handles criminal defense, family law, estate planning, probate, and business law, and represents several local government entities. He is also active with pro bono work, and as a Rotarian and junior high school football coach. Phone: (765) 762-6741.

Dawe, Chris, has joined the law firm of Duff, Chadwick & Associates, with offices in Ionia and Portland, Mich.

Youngblood, Tianta C., joined the Brian Lee Law Firm, P.L.L.C., in Saratoga Springs, N.Y.

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2010 Witherell Class

Brennan, Patrick, was accepted by the U.S. Sports Academy and received the Robert Campbell Scholarship and an annual stipend to pursue his doctorate. He received one of the academy's five doctoral teaching assistant positions. Previously, he worked as a bankruptcy attorney with Trott & Trott, P.C.

Fetkenhier, Kate, of the Gallagher Law Firm, P.L.C., Lansing, Mich., attended the week-long Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation oil and gas seminar in Colorado. Her practice areas include oil and gas, real estate, business, and banking law. Phone: (517) 853-1500; e-mail: kff@thegallagherlawfirm.com

Morgan, Todd, opened the Law Office of Todd M. Morgan, at 227 N. Winter St, Ste 305, in Adrian, Mich. He specializes in family law and bankruptcy. Phone: (855) 263-3200.

2011 Sibley Class

Barber, Kelly, accepted a position as an administrative law specialist with the Michigan Tax Tribunal.

Girod, Robert J., is the CEO of Robert J. Girod Consulting, L.L.C., an investigative, litigation support and law firm. He is also a detective supervisor with the Ft. Wayne (Indiana) Police Department. Phone: (877) 859-2726; e-mail: info@rgirodllc.com.

Larson, Eric M., has joined the Midland, Mich., law firm of Cline Close Dyer as an associate attorney. He focuses his practice on family law, landlord/tenant relations, and general civil litigation. He previously worked with the Michigan Department of Corrections as a probation agent in the Midland County Circuit Court.

Malott, Scott W., has joined the law firm of Frank, Haron, Winder, P.L.C., as an associate. He focuses his practice in the areas of business and health care law, and False Claims Act/Qui Tam litigation.

O'Leary-Holder, Brenda, has joined Fausone Bohn, L.L.P., in Northville, Mich., as an associate attorney. She practices in the areas of municipal, criminal, and family law, and estate planning, and was sworn in as an assistant city attorney for the cities of Wayne and Westland, Mich. Phone: (248) 380-0000, ext. 3221; e-mail boleary@fb-firm.com.

Rusk, Zach, has joined the office of Lisznyai & Associates, in Jonesville, Mich., as an associate. He practices in the areas of divorce and family law, municipal law, estate planning, criminal law, and personal injury. Phone: (517) 849-9901.

Smulders, Valerie, has joined Stariha Law Office, in Fremont, Mich. Her practice areas include business transactions, estate planning, divorce, landlord/tenant issues, and other legal services.

Steffens, Kelly N., has joined Freedom House, a non-profit organization providing comprehensive services to asylum-seekers, as a staff attorney.

2011 Chipman Class

Holland, Adam, has joined the Gallagher Law Firm with offices in Lansing, Detroit, Grand Rapids and Mt. Pleasant, Mich. He focuses his practice on creditors' rights, real estate, and banking law.

Moncion, Amy, has joined Collins, Einhorn, Farrell & Ulanoff, P.C., in Southfield, Mich., in the firm's Asbestos and Toxic Tort Practice Group. She practices with the firm's mass-tort defense group, focusing particularly on defending asbestos claims filed in 31 states.

2011 Wilkins Class

Otto, Chelsea, was promoted to banking office manager at Independent Bank's East Lansing, Mich., office. She was most recently the assistant banking office manager, and has been with Independent Bank for more than nine years.

NOTICES

1977 Christiancy Class

Reinoehl, John H., 91, of Kalamazoo, Mich., died July 12, 2011.

1977 Graves Class

Hachman, Larry, 60, died June 28, 2011. He was a longtime Montcalm County, Mich., prosecutor. He was hired as Chief Assistant Prosecutor for Montcalm County in 1978, left for private practice in 1980, and returned as Chief Assistant Prosecutor in 1983. He was elected Montcalm County Prosecutor in 1992, serving until 1998. He then worked as a bailiff for the 8th Judicial Circuit court until 2010.

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1978 **Ransom Class**

St. Amant, Stephen J., 59, of Dansville, Mich., died Dec. 13, 2011. He was the owner of St. Amant Law Firm and past president of Ingham East Habitat for Humanity.

1982 **Wing Class**

Rolph, Richard Clayton, 59, died Oct. 25, 2011, at his home in Northridge, Calif.

1984 **McAlvay Class**

Blum, Murray, 62, died, on July 31, 2011.

1988 **Green Class**

Brundage, Matthew J., 51, of Laingsburg, Mich., died Nov. 3, 2011. He was the chief probation officer for 54-B District Court in East Lansing, Mich. He also worked as a process server for Boone & Associates.

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.

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