Wisconsin Legal Education + NYC Opportunities = Perfect Fit

Why practice in New York appeals to the Law School’s rising young generation.

INSIDE:

• Three Top NYC Prosecutors Reflect on UW Law School Start
• Professor Larry Church: Having Fun with Teaching
• In Foreign Supreme Courts
It was a magical moment with thousands of fans cheering you, hours of study behind you, the brightest of careers before you. Getting your first client and winning your first case seemed as simple as a cane toss over the goal post. Now, with a planned gift, you can guarantee the same magical moments for students at the University of Wisconsin Law School. You can designate your gift to benefit the Law School or another area of personal interest and make a real difference. You also can rely on the planned giving professionals at the UW Foundation to help you serve your clients with their planning needs.

Your legacy is the UW Law School’s future.

For additional information on how to plan for your future as well as the future of your University, contact the Office of Planned Giving, University of Wisconsin Foundation.
Why Gargoyle?

In 1963, when the existing Law School was demolished to make way for a new building, Law School Dean George Young found and rescued a sandstone gargoyle from the rubble. This figure and its departed twin had sat on the roof of the 1893 building for almost 70 years. While one of the pair had perished in its fall, the second had landed unscathed.

That rescued gargoyle, which is now permanently installed in the Law School’s atrium, gives its name to this magazine, representing the indomitable strength and spirit of our University of Wisconsin Law School and its many graduates.

For an illustrated history of the Law School’s gargoyle, see www.law.wisc.edu/about/lore/gargoyle.htm.

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Correction: The description (upper left) of the famous fall of the gargoyle includes a newly-corrected date. It was in 1963, not 1962, that the former Law School building was demolished. Thanks to George Whyte ’65, who brought this error to our attention.
These past few months as I traveled across the country and around the state meeting and talking with many of you, I heard a number of recurring messages about the Law School. One stood out. It came from alumni in all areas of the country, in every type of practice, and at all stages of professional life. “Don’t underestimate the importance to us of our school’s national stature and reputation,” you told me.

Along with the importance of teaching students the skills to be successful practicing lawyers and providing an excellent education at a reasonable cost, you emphasized the significance to you and your classmates of having graduated from one of the very best public law schools in the country — a highly-ranked school with a commitment to excellence. It was an important message at an important time, and your comments resonated with me.

For most of our history, the University of Wisconsin Law School has occupied a very special position within legal education. We are the only public law school in a state that has historically been strong economically; we are part of one of the world’s leading research universities; and we are one of only two or three law schools in the nation that helped shape the kind of interdisciplinary approach to legal scholarship that now represents the mainstream at law schools everywhere. As such, the Law School is fortunate to be the beneficiary of a rich legacy, a long-standing national reputation, and a first-tier listing in the national rankings. In an atmosphere of competition for national recognition, for top students, and for sought-after faculty, we can’t rest on our laurels or take anything for granted.

Nor can we forget that one of the things that differentiates us from other law schools is that we have Wisconsin at our heart. As our state’s only publicly-supported law school, we have a special place in the state’s educational system and a special responsibility to the citizens of Wisconsin. We have always produced a very high share of our state’s leaders in law and in fields outside law, most notably business and government, and we will continue to educate the professionals who will take leadership roles in Wisconsin. Our faculty are deeply committed to preserving what has made the UW Law School special, and they are thinking innovatively about its future direction. They are involved in finding ways to use their knowledge and expertise to gain national recognition for the Law School and to connect with the state of Wisconsin in a way that I hope will literally redefine what it means to be a law school that is both public and preeminent.

I’ve written before in this column about the increasingly competitive nature of law schools and the importance of reputation and rankings. The principal determinants of a law school’s reputation and its rankings in today’s marketplace — and the things that matter when
competing for the best faculty and students — are well known. They are: (1) the collective opinion about faculty scholarship and reputation (as judged by other law faculties) combined with a school’s reputation among lawyers and judges, particularly those in major population centers; (2) success in recruiting the most academically qualified students (both residents and nonresidents); and (3) placement success.

In the effort to enhance a school’s national stature and reputation, other factors, although not measured by those who rank law schools, also are influential, such as a well-designed curriculum; a diverse and dynamic student body; and superb teachers who successfully prepare students for the rigors of practice and give them the confidence to successfully compete on a national playing field if they so choose. In addition, one cannot underestimate the power of a school’s alumni — both their continuing involvement and support and their ability to secure positions with the most prominent firms, the top businesses, and the most interesting nonprofit organizations. These are things that have a direct impact on a school’s national reputation and ultimately on its success in recruiting the best teachers and students … and the circle continues.

What options do we have to more effectively enhance our national stature? Our alumni are in prominent positions and our new graduates are increasingly successful in competing for the most sought-after jobs across the country. A significant number of graduates work internationally and in major cities across the country, with a substantial concentration outside of Wisconsin in cities like Chicago, Washington, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Minneapolis, and, as this issue of the Gargoyle describes, New York — markets where those who influence our reputation live and work. Connecting with alumni is critical.

We can also make a difference through a renewed emphasis on recruiting, with a combination of innovative programs and an increased emphasis on merit scholarships that will enable us to recruit the best students — both by keeping top resident students in the state for law school and by enticing highly qualified nonresidents to Wisconsin. And, we can support our faculty in their efforts to increase the amount they publish and the importance and visibility of their scholarship so that our academic reputation, one of the largest influences in the national rankings, elevates us as we deserve.

As we move forward to redefine what it means to be both preeminent and public, I look forward to increasing alumni involvement and working with you to enhance the national prestige of a Wisconsin law degree. Your message to me about what you expect from your alma mater is an important one, and I share your enthusiasm for meeting the challenges of the future and enhancing the stature and reputation of this remarkable institution.
Troy Vosseller ’10

As a freshman in college, Troy and a friend had an idea for selling T-shirts celebrating the Wisconsin lifestyle. Sales boomed, Sconnie Nation became a trademarked company, and Troy had embarked on a career in entrepreneurship. He is working on his J.D. and M.B.A. degrees concurrently, and is about to launch a new entrepreneurial venture that has already won prizes in two business-plan competitions.

Hometown: Brown Deer, Wisconsin

Undergraduate Institution: University of Wisconsin-Madison

Undergraduate Majors: Political Science, Economics, History

Troy Vosseller completed his undergraduate degree in three years — with a triple major. Simultaneously, he found time to distinguish himself in quite a different sphere: as a freshman, he co-founded Sconnie Nation LLC, which started as a modest project to sell T-shirts celebrating Wisconsin pride and quickly grew into a booming business with a nationwide clientele.

“I think my desire for entrepreneurship came from my childhood,” Vosseller says. “My grandparents on both sides were entrepreneurs. On my dad’s side they were Iowa farmers, and my mom’s parents immigrated here from Italy and operated their own tailor shop in Racine. My dad started a small manufacturing business that made salt and sand spreaders for ice control, my mom owns her own business finding live-in caregivers for elderly family members, and even my older brother started his own business as a teenager, assembling computer hard drives. I guess starting a business isn’t seen as an unusual thing or an obstacle.”

Vosseller entered law school knowing that a legal background would be useful for whatever he chose to do. After two years of law school, he finds himself ready to delve into whatever legal issues arise for his company. After his first year, he decided to enter a joint degree program, in which he will earn his M.B.A. from the School of Business in 2009 and his Law School degree in 2010.

Vosseller, whose success with Sconnie brought him considerable media attention, was in the news again in spring 2008 when he and Keith Agoada, then a Business School senior, won first place in the G. Steven Burrill Business Plan Competition. They received $10,000 to invest in their project Sky Vegetables, a plan to operate soil-less hydroponic greenhouses on the rooftops of supermarkets and then sell the crop of fruits and vegetables to the stores below. The lack of necessary transportation, packaging, or storage costs would provide Sky Vegetables with a competitive advantage, the two young entrepreneurs wrote in their proposal.

“We received very positive feedback from the judges, many of whom are from the venture capital and investment world,” Vosseller says. “We’ve since incorporated and are working on pulling together various advisers and consultants to make this a reality.”

In June, Sky Vegetables went on to win second place in the 2008 Governor’s Business Plan Competition in the Business Services category.

Vosseller, working on his two graduate degrees, will leave managing Sky Vegetables to Agoada, but both are working on the start-up plans. “Our roadmap includes solidifying our Board of Advisers and contracting with various suppliers (roofing companies, construction firms, etc.). Simultaneously, we’re working to solidify letters of intent from prospective supermarket clients. With that in place, we’ll go forward and solicit funding from angel investors.”

This summer Vosseller was in San Diego as a legal intern with QUALCOMM, focusing on contracts and licensing. “As an intern with in-house counsel, I think it’s a great experience to see the intersection of business and law — the big picture,” he says.

Asked where he sees himself professionally in five years, Vosseller says, “I’d love to be working on a company I started or helped start, or if that’s not the case, I’d love to work for a start-up company in any and every capacity. I don’t see myself as strictly legal or strictly business. I think that a mentality of ‘do anything’ and ‘whatever it takes’ is very conducive to entrepreneurial settings.”
Science has been a part of KaSandra Rogiérs’ life since her childhood. “I used to play with bugs in our flowerbeds and make ‘potions’ using random chemicals from our garage,” she recalls. “My father was an engineer for NASA, and my mother is a huge museum buff, so as a family we spent a lot of time at the various Smithsonian Institutes and exhibits around D.C.”

Rogiérs attended a science- and-technology high school, and before she even entered college she had done years of research in biomedicine and published a paper in a medical journal. “By the time I went to college, I realized that I was also curious about the impact of health science on the population at-large,” Rogiérs says. “That led to my studies as a Mellon Fellow in anthropology.”

When Rogiérs graduated from college, she was planning to apply to doctoral programs in anthropology, but first she accepted a job with Pennsylvania State Senator Constance Williams, and the experience greatly influenced her career path.

“I was working for Senator Williams when I first thought about law school,” Rogiérs recalls. “Many of her platform initiatives involved health law and policy issues, and I wanted a career where I could be at the forefront of those issues. To me, it seemed like applied medical anthropology. Instead of taking field notes and writing a study, I was now engaged in a career that involved an action step.”

When her applications to both anthropology and public health graduate programs yielded several acceptances, she decided to pursue a Master of Public Health degree at Yale University. “This was definitely the right call for me,” Rogiérs says. “I was ready to try my hand at policy, and then ease my way into the law.”

After completing her M.P.H., Rogiérs worked for a year in a “truly awesome job” as a policy analyst in Washington, D.C., for the Government Accountability Office (GAO) in their Health Care Group, and then turned her attention to law school. She chose Wisconsin over several East Coast schools at the recommendation of a mentor and other UW law alumni she met during her decision-making process. “They were all so remarkable, dynamic, fun, and brilliant — and they were certain that Wisconsin was the best fit for me.”

Rogiérs’ law school work has both confirmed her interest in health law and amplified her concept of how she will practice it. “I wasn’t expecting to want to litigate, but I fell in love with the idea early on as a 1L. I have Professor Schwartz to thank for that. He taught our Civ. Pro. I class ‘law-in-action’ style. I got such a rush from it that litigation has been on my mind ever since.”

Another highlight for Rogiérs was her Health Law Externship with the General Counsel of the UW Hospital and Clinics. “I absolutely loved it. It was as if the precise reason why I came to law school had been satisfied. I got to practice health law, and I felt very much at home. It was incredibly encouraging to know that this field was everything I had hoped it would be.”

This summer, Rogiérs was a summer associate with Pepper Hamilton LLP in Philadelphia, working with the Health Effects and Commercial Litigation practice groups. “The skills and substantive knowledge I am acquiring should be very relevant to a career in health law and litigation,” she says.

As Rogiérs contemplates her future, she envisions working on litigation related to pharmaceuticals, hospitals, and food-and-drug issues. “Whatever I end up doing,” she says, “I hope that I can always have the opportunity to keep ‘law in action.’”

KaSandra Rogiérs ’09

A graduate of a science-and-technology high school, KaSandra had published a research paper in a medical journal by the time she entered college. After growing interested in health law and policy when she worked for a Pennsylvania senator, she earned a degree in public health at Yale and worked as a policy analyst in Washington, then headed for the UW Law School. Her coursework and Health Law Externship with the General Counsel of UW Hospital and Clinics have confirmed that health law is the field for her.

Hometown: Upper Marlboro, Maryland

Undergraduate Institution: Bryn Mawr College

Undergraduate Major: Anthropology

Graduate Degree: Master of Public Health in Health Policy, Yale University
In every aspect of her life, Erica Christian takes the ball and runs with it.

Most recently and most literally, she does this as a wide receiver for the Wisconsin Wolves, a women's professional football team based in Middleton, now in its third year. "I'm a rookie," Christian says. "It's my first experience with team sports. I heard about the Wolves and I thought, 'I could never play football.' Then I thought, 'And why couldn't I?!' It's turned out to be outstanding."

But team practice, workouts, and out-of-state travel to compete against other teams in the Independent Women's Football League are only one part of Christian's life. She is active in such a wide range of projects that her schedule would seem to preclude adding football to the mix, even before one considers the thought-provoking sentence on the Wolves' Web site, "This is full contact tackle football and [players] come away with the same injuries as the men."

For her Gargoyle interview, Christian arrives not in football cleats but in high heels, straight from prosecuting her first jury trial, part of her Prosecution Project internship with the Dane County District Attorney's Office. "I know I want to litigate," she says of her future work. "Whether it's criminal or civil, I'll know more by the end of the summer."

At the Law School, Christian has taken every opportunity to acquire hands-on experience. She was a summer legal clerk with the Department of Corrections after her 1L year; worked with the Remington Center's Criminal Appeals Project and the Employment Appeals Clinic; was a Study Group Leader for contracts and civil procedure courses, Mock Trial team captain, and Children's Justice Project conference coordinator; took Lawyering Skills in her second year; and this fall will have a judicial internship in addition to her work at the D.A.'s Office. She has taken a minimum of 18 credits every semester, and plans to graduate a semester early this December, ready to join the working world as an attorney. "I can't wait to be out there," she says.

It's an impressive list, but the picture is not yet complete. Raised in a family with an extremely low income, Christian has worked since she was 14 years old. "Graduating from high school was a feat in my family," she says. "A professional degree was not a realistic goal."

Scholarships enabled her to attend college and law school. She worked 40 hours a week as an undergraduate and continues to work as a law student, with the nature of her job changing to reflect her growing experience. Currently, she has her own independent consulting business, doing marketing and strategic planning.

Despite her academic and extracurricular overload, Christian finds time to do a great deal of volunteer work. She is a Big Sister with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Dane County; gives animal foster care in her home; helped in Mississippi with Hurricane Katrina relief; coached the James Wright Middle School 2007 Mock Trial team (they won) — and the list goes on. When asked how she is able to do so many things, Christian says, "I've always done work, school, and extracurricular activities. From an early age I've been into time management. I want to do so much, and if you want to do things, you rank them in priority and stay focused."

Staying focused: good advice, whether one is in the courtroom, on the football field, or, like Erica Christian, tackling both at the same time.
Symposium Will Examine Securities Class Actions

Wisconsin Law Review to host national conference in October, co-sponsored by Institute for Law and Economic Policy

The Institute for Law and Economic Policy and the UW Law School are co-sponsors of the Wisconsin Law Review’s 2008 Symposium, “The Continuing Evolution of Securities Class Actions,” to be held Friday, October 17, at the Edgewater Hotel in Madison.

The conference will present four major panels featuring prominent speakers and commentators from law firms and scholarly institutions around the country. Panel topics are: “Basic: Twenty Years Later,” “Compensation and Deterrence,” “Third Party Accountability,” and “Trans-National Issues and Pleading after Tellabs.”

Chief Justice Shirley Abrahamson of the Supreme Court of Wisconsin will be the group’s luncheon speaker, discussing “Litigation: A View from the Bench.”

“This is an important event for the Law School, securities litigators and society at large,” says Keith L. Johnson, Program Director for the Wisconsin International Corporate Governance Initiative (WICGI) and a partner at Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren, S.C. “Corporate fraud has produced some of the largest and most controversial cases of our time. Enron and WorldCom come to mind, but there are dozens of securities fraud class actions filed every year.”

Johnson, who will be a commentator at the symposium, notes that the issues to be addressed are “central to the integrity and health of our financial markets.” He adds, “More than half of Americans have assets invested in the financial markets, often through retirement and college savings accounts. The law that governs these corporate fraud lawsuits can have life-changing ramifications, both for investors and for those who depend on the health of our corporations for employment. I’m excited to be a participant in these important discussions.”

The program has been approved for Continuing Legal Education (CLE) credits.

For more information on the speakers and schedule, and to register, contact symposium coordinators Erin Ehlke (eehlke@wisc.edu) or Brian Jenks (bmjenks@wisc.edu). Those interested in attending the luncheon (in addition to the full day of panels) should register by October 10.

Law School Wins Honors in Hong Kong and Vienna

UW Law School students placed with distinction in March 2008 at the two venues of the 15th Annual Willem C. Vis International Arbitration Moot Court Competitions. More than two hundred teams from fifty-two countries competed.

Members of the Wisconsin team were divided into two groups to compete in Hong Kong and Vienna. The Hong Kong team won first Runner-up for Best Brief, and the Vienna team advanced to the final elimination rounds.

Team members were Lara Aziz, Sophy Chhun, Lucas Divine, Maya Ganguly, Kate Bruce, Sina Javaherian, David Moore, and Maha Kahn. Coaches were students Leanne Holcomb, James Isaac, and Nicole Moody.

This is the third year that the Law School has entered teams at the Vis competitions.

On the third day of competing at the Willem C. Vis International Arbitration Moot Court Competition in Hong Kong in March, UW Law School team members Kate Bruce and Sina Javaherian, at left, paused for a photo with members of the team from the University of Otago (New Zealand), at right, and three arbitrators. More than two hundred teams from fifty-two countries competed.
Patrick J. Fitzgerald, U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois, devoted his Fairchild Lecture in April to reflections on the consequences of treating juries with respect or disrespect. He looked back to juries of several centuries ago and to juries he has witnessed himself in his high-profile career as a prosecutor.

“In the history of juries, some issues have been sorted out, but not all,” Fitzgerald told his audience of UW Law School students and alumni, faculty, and friends. “There is room for improvement in how judges treat jurors and how the public respects them afterwards.”

Fitzgerald decried the current phenomenon of a media probe after a jury verdict is returned, with people second-guessing a jury and criticizing the verdict. “When people besmirch juries cavalierly,” he said, “it is very dangerous.”

As U.S. Attorney in Chicago, Fitzgerald serves as the top federal law enforcement official for the 18-county Northern District of Illinois. He manages a staff of approximately 300 employees, including 145 Assistant U.S. Attorneys, who handle civil litigation and criminal investigations and prosecutions involving public corruption, narcotics trafficking, violent crime, white-collar fraud, and other federal crimes.

Before taking his current position in 2001, Fitzgerald served for thirteen years as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York. He was Chief of the Organized Crime/Terrorism Unit, and participated in the prosecution of numerous high-profile cases involving terrorism, receiving numerous high-level awards for distinguished service.

The Thomas E. Fairchild Lecture at the UW Law School was established in 1988 by the former clerks of Judge Fairchild as a tribute to their distinguished mentor. Fairchild, a graduate of the UW Law School Class of 1937, served in numerous capacities, including Wisconsin Attorney General, U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, Justice of the Wisconsin Supreme Court, and Chief Judge and Senior Circuit Judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit.

How Does the Legal System Treat Jurors?

U.S. Attorney Patrick Fitzgerald presents Twentieth Thomas E. Fairchild Lecture.
Law students (from left) Melanie Black, Zina Deldar, Derek Gilliam, and Scott Colom.

Two of Judge Fairchild’s former clerks reconnect with the judge’s daughters. From left, Jennifer Fairchild Lord, Attorney Matt Flynn ’75, Susan Fairchild Chase, and R. Nils Olsen, professor and former dean of the University at Buffalo Law School.

Judge Reena Raggi (center), who gave the Fairchild Lecture in 2003, is joined by (from left) Dean Ken Davis, attorney John Skilton ’69, Law School Director of Development Abby Sanford, and attorney William Conley ’82. Skilton, Raggi, and Conley were all clerks of Judge Thomas Fairchild.

Fairchild speaker Patrick Fitzgerald (left) in conversation with David Bonner 1L.
LEO Banquet Celebrates Diversifying the Legal Profession

The thirty-ninth annual banquet of the Law School’s Legal Education Opportunities program (LEO) brought approximately four hundred people to the Concourse Hotel in Madison in April 2008.

Keynote speaker was Judge William J. Haddad, the first Arab-American full Circuit Court judge in Chicago’s Cook County.

Hosting the evening were members of the newest LEO group, the Middle Eastern Law Students Association (MELSA).

Many out-of-town LEO alumni come to Madison for the event, to reconnect and celebrate the achievements of the organization whose mission is to recruit and support students of color on their way to becoming legal professionals.

Professor Peter Carstensen, Chair of the LEO Committee, noted with appreciation the growing number of firms who sponsor tables, thus contributing financially to the organization and showing support in attending the event. “I see this as a further step by firms in Wisconsin and adjacent states to support their commitment to have a diverse workforce,” Carstensen said.

The twelve law firms and other organizations sponsoring tables at the event were:

- Foley & Lardner LLP
- Godfrey & Kahn S.C.
- Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP
- Quarles & Brady LLP
- Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren S.C.
- Robins, Kaplan, Miller & Ciresi L.L.P.
- Smith Amundsen
- Stafford Rosenbaum LLP
- State Bar of Wisconsin
- UW Law School East Asian Legal Studies Center
- Whyte Hirschboeck Dudek S.C.
- Wisconsin Asian Bar Association

To learn more about the UW Law School’s nationally prominent LEO organization, visit law.wisc.edu/LegalEducationOpportunitiesLEO.htm or request a copy of the LEO newsletter, On the Rise, by sending an e-mail giving your mailing address to Susan Sawatske, sawatske@wisc.edu.
Elizabeth Mertz Wins Law & Society Book Prize

Professor Elizabeth E. Mertz was named one of two winners of the Herbert Jacob Prize for the best book of the year by the Law & Society Association at the association’s annual meeting in Montreal in May.

Mertz’s book, *The Language of Law School: Learning to “Think Like a Lawyer”* (Oxford University Press, 2007) has been featured prominently in the news because of its role as a key source of information for a report by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, which critiques legal education in the United States and Canada.

Mertz’s study is a unique empirical examination of the dynamics in first-year law school classrooms, based on transcripts of the first semester of Contracts classes in law schools across the country. The Carnegie Foundation report, “Educating Lawyers: Preparation for the Profession of Law,” uses Mertz’s research to reexamine the merits of traditional “Socratic method” teaching in law schools, questioning whether this method is optimal in helping students to “think like a lawyer.”

Cheryl Weston Is Named Woman of Distinction

Professor Cheryl Rosen Weston ’71 has been named a recipient of the 2008 Women of Distinction Award from the Madison YWCA. The Women of Distinction Awards have been called “a Who’s Who in the movement for social justice.”

Weston is the tenth UW Law School graduate to be honored with this award. Most recently, Law School professors and alumnae Martha (Meg) Gaines ’83 and Marygold Shire Melli ’50 received the honor.

In addition to teaching at the Law School, Weston is a founding partner of Cullen, Weston, Pines & Bach, and CEO of The Douglas Stewart Company, the largest woman-owned business in Wisconsin.

Tuerkheimer Interviews Eichmann Prosecutor

An interview by Professor Frank Tuerkheimer of a prosecutor in the trial of Nazi war criminal Adolf Eichmann has been recorded in DVD format and is available online. Tuerkheimer interviewed Justice Gabriel Bach in 2006 about his role as senior prosecutor in the trial 45 years earlier.

Highlights of the interview, Tuerkheimer says, are an extensive discussion of the power Eichmann wielded, “contrary to the image of him as a low-level bureaucrat following orders”; insights into Eichmann’s psychology; and “incredible vignettes — stories about the one person who was locked in the gas chamber at Auschwitz-Birkenau who survived and amazing narratives of resistance to and subversion of the German occupiers.”

Funding for the interview, which took place in Jerusalem, was provided by the Mae Temkin Fund set up by UW Law School alumnus Victor Temkin ’60 with the purpose of supporting Holocaust Research. In preparation for the interview, Tuerkheimer read the entire trial manuscript of 3,000 pages, which took more than six weeks. “It made me somewhat of an expert on the trial,” he says. “It was an eye-opener.”

The DVD can be viewed online at www.eichmannprosecutorinterview.org.

Victoria Nourse’s Book Investigates American Eugenics

Professor Victoria Nourse’s new book, *In Reckless Hands: Skinner v. Oklahoma and the Near-Triumph of American Eugenics* (W.W. Norton, 2008) is a comprehensive study that “reads like a cliffhanger” (Kirkus Reviews) of the history of American eugenics, when thousands of men and women were sterilized in the 1920s and 1930s at asylums and prisons across the country.

Believing that criminality and mental illness were inherited, state legislatures passed laws calling for sterilization of “habitual criminals” and “the feebleminded.” The process was challenged in 1936, when inmates at an Oklahoma prison refused to cooperate. Inmate Jack Skinner was the first to come to trial, in a case that was taken all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court.
Among the many UW law students and recent alumni who set their sights on practice in New York City are, from left, Mark Noel, Janell Wise, Anwar Ragep, Amanda Croushore, Brian Jenks (partially obscured), and Erin Ehlke.
UW law students and recent graduates share thoughts on choosing to practice in NYC firms.

“I knew I wanted to practice law in New York City, so the only question was which firm to join,” says Marisa Shemi ’07 (Kirkland & Ellis). “I interviewed with a handful of top firms, but ultimately Kirkland & Ellis was the best fit.”

Shemi is part of a noticeable trend: new graduates and current students are choosing New York firms for cutting-edge work and the draw of the city itself.

“Our top students have a lot of opportunities to choose from, and many of them choose New York,” says Assistant Dean Jane Heymann, Director of the Law School’s Office of Career Services. “New York is the legal capital of the world, so it’s an obvious choice. Almost every big national law firm has an office in New York. The big banks are there, and most international organizations.”

Mark Bussey ’06 (Simpson Thacher & Bartlett) is among those who found New York to be the clear choice. “I worked abroad as a para-legal prior to law school, and coming out of that experience I knew that I wanted to practice corporate law,” he says. “New York seemed the perfect place to get a broad-based corporate experience. I was particularly interested in Simpson Thacher because of the strength of its mergers-and-acquisitions practice and private equity client base, and also because of its rotation system, which allows corporate associates to work for a period of months in the firm’s credit, securities and M&A/fund formation groups prior to settling into one practice area.”

Lisa Infield-Harm ’06 (King & Spalding), who is originally from the Northeast, combined the opportunity to be closer to home with significant professional advantages. “New York is a great place for international transactional work,” she says, adding, “I’ve been able to work in the Middle East/Islamic Finance practice, which is one of our firm’s key practices.”

For Sinan Kalayoglu ’07 (Weil Gotshal & Manges), the choice also began with the city. “I wanted to be in New York,” he says. “I had previously worked in the city the summer after my 2L year and enjoyed my New York experience. The firm I chose appealed to me because I liked...”
its people, reputation, and breadth of practice areas.”

The pull of New York was tied to a focus on litigation for Brian Jenks (Cravath, Swaine & Moore summer associate). “For litigators, New York is really one of the most exciting places to practice law,” Jenks says. “I wanted to be on the cutting edge of my profession, and that’s what I’m finding here.”

Amanda Croushore (Kaye Scholer summer associate) had the same motivation. “New York is where all of the highest profile, most ground-breaking legal disputes are litigated,” she says. “I wanted to see what it would be like to be a part of that! So far I have not been disappointed.”

Wisconsin-educated attorneys
When the Law School hosted a reception for New York area alumni in January, a Waldorf-Astoria banquet room was filled with Wisconsin-minted attorneys from a wide range of practice areas, public and private, who came to reconnect with each other and greet new arrivals.

“Because we have an increasingly large group of alumni in New York, it’s a welcoming place for graduates,” Heymann says. “In addition, a growing number of our students are interested in going to New York to work as summer associates. This year we have the biggest number of 2Ls so far who are choosing New York.”

Ready for the challenge
UW law graduates who choose to work in New York firms are prepared to roll up their sleeves and tackle long hours and challenging work. “I’ve definitely put in my time at work and then some,” says Chiann Bao ’07 (DLA Piper US), “but I entered into this market knowing the expectations. As long as I am working with good people and learning, I am okay with the hours.”

Adam Trigg ’07 (UBS Investment Bank), who may win the prize for most hours spent at work, has a similarly positive mindset. “My experience has been every bit the New York experience. I regularly work 100-plus hours a week. On average I arrive home between 2 and 3 in the morning and put in 10-to-12-hour days. While I work way more than I’d like to, I have had opportunities here in New York that I wouldn’t have had anywhere else. In my first year I have had the chance to travel several times to Argentina, Brazil, and Asia, as well as various domestic locations. I have been the lead on a $200 million transaction and worked on a $150 billion transaction.”

A wide range of UW Law School experiences helped prepare these young attorneys for their challenging work.

“I focused on courses that related to corporate law and, where possible, those that focused on building transactional skills,” says Mark Bussey of Simpson Thacher. Bussey cites his courses in business organizations, securities regulation, fundamentals of business transactions, and tax as providing him with a solid background.

Adam Trigg of UBS Investment Bank also says his course in fundamentals of business transactions was “absolutely invaluable for the transactional work I do every day.”

Erin Trigg ’07 (Seward and Kissel) comments, “I took almost every business class that the UW Law School offered.”

Lisa Infield-Harm of King & Spalding alludes to the UW Law School’s law-in-action teaching focus as helpful preparation: “I benefit from being trained not just in legal analysis but to think about non-legal factors when helping clients evaluate their options and make choices. That happens to fit in very well with the approach of the partners I work with.”

Others point to their hands-on training. “Clerking for Judge Barbara Crabb, participating in the yearlong Consumer Law Litigation Clinic, and taking Pre-Trial Advocacy all helped me to develop my research and writing skills and to gain experience with client interaction, motion practice, and the litigation process,” says Marisa Shemi of Kirkland.

Jessica McNamara (Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom summer associate) names her clinical work at the Remington Center as the best
preparation for her summer work. “I knew how to handle real work on my own, and had plenty of hands-on experience with legal writing.”

Emily Gold, the Law School’s second Skadden summer associate this year, credits clinical work with developing her client-interviewing and writing abilities. Gold adds, “The other experience that prepared me for my New York summer is having taken Professor Christians’ intro tax class my 2L year. That class changed a lot of my perceptions about what it might be like to practice tax law. When I got to Skadden this summer, I gave tax law a try. Tax ended up being my favorite practice area and will likely be what I pursue as a new associate.”

Anwar Ragep (Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft summer associate) also cites his clinical work. “The best preparation for the work I am doing now was the Wisconsin Innocence Project.”

One summer, two jobs
Three students this year took on the particular challenge of a “split summer.” Anwar Ragep followed his work at Cadwalader with an internship working for the chief counsel at the Internal Revenue Service’s regional office in New York. Jessica McNamara combined Skadden in New York and the Alaska Public Defender’s Office. John Cornelius ( Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton summer associate) split his time between the firm’s New York and London offices.

Ragep, whose chief focus is tax law, had planned to spend his entire summer at a large New York firm specializing in tax work, but when the IRS came to campus for interviews, he was intrigued and applied there as well. With offers from the IRS and New York firms, he thought he would have to forgo the IRS experience, but the Career Services Office had another idea: a split summer.

“I contacted people at the firms I was interested in, and they were all extremely accommodating,” Ragep says. “In fact, every time I contacted a firm, I was encouraged to do a split summer with a government agency. I thought this was an opportunity I shouldn’t miss.”

Jessica McNamara chose both Skadden and the Alaska Public Defender’s Office, pleased that both were willing to let her split her summer. New York was her home territory, while Alaska was a new adventure. “I’m really glad I chose to come here,” she e-mailed from Alaska in July. “People have been very welcoming, and from what I’ve seen so far it is a beautiful state.”

John Cornelius split his summer between two offices of Cleary Gottlieb. “The firm offered half the summer in London and half in New York, and I gladly accepted,” Corn- nelius says. “The primary challenge was that it takes a while to settle into one office, and when you arrive at the other office you have to start all over. The benefits were that I was able to see more of the firm and get experience in the European and Emerging Markets practices.”

New York pastimes
Newly-hired New York attorneys all have favorite ways of enjoying the city. Mark Bussey favors “running in Central Park and rami...
For Three Prominent Prosecutors, the Road to New York Began in Wisconsin

Bridget Brennan, Luke Rettler, and Deborah Landis, all members of the Law School’s Class of 1983, share memories of the Wisconsin experiences that led to their New York careers.

The Class of 1983’s trio of top New York prosecutors have become colleagues and friends in the course of the twenty-five years since they earned their law degrees and headed east. When the Gargoyle first called Luke Rettler at the New York County District Attorney’s Office, where he is Chief of Homicide Investigations, he happened to be on the phone with Bridget Brennan, New York’s Special Narcotics Prosecutor, discussing a case. Brennan and Deborah Landis, who shared a New York apartment for four years early in their careers, have recently been on the phone discussing plans to attend their twenty-fifth Law School reunion.

All three speak enthusiastically of their work as career prosecutors, describing the paths that took them from the UW Law School straight to our nation’s largest city.

Bridget G. Brennan ’83
Special Narcotics Prosecutor for the City of New York

Bridget Brennan is in charge of the only agency in the country dedicated exclusively to the investigation and prosecution of major narcotics offenses. The Office of the Special Narcotics Prosecutor (OSNP — often referred to as “Special Narcotics”) coordinates investigations into national and international narcotics trafficking and prosecutes approximately three thousand felony cases a year.

As Special Narcotics Prosecutor, Brennan was appointed by the District Attorneys of all five counties of New York, a procedure devised so
that no county jurisdiction problems impede the agency’s efficiency. Now in her tenth year as head of OSNP, Brennan focuses on high-level felony cases. Her long list of achievements includes establishing a Narcotics Gang Unit, developing innovative programs that stemmed the flow of drugs into the city, expanding investigations of money laundering, targeting Internet drug sales, and dismantling organizations that distribute narcotics throughout the country.

Twenty-five years ago, law student Bridget Brennan would have found these facts difficult to believe. Raised in the Milwaukee suburb of Brookfield, she had come to law school from a career in journalism. Her intention was to return to journalism with expertise in legal issues to enhance her reporting.

This whole plan was derailed, however, on the day when Brennan gave her closing argument in Professor Frank Tuerkheimer’s Trial Advocacy course.

Tuerkheimer, now a Professor of Law Emeritus, remembers it vividly. “It was phenomenal. I’ve seen a lot of closing arguments. This was better than 90 percent of practicing lawyers could have done.”

A few weeks earlier, Tuerkheimer had been in New York, having lunch with Manhattan District Attorney Robert Morgenthau, as he usually does when he is in New York. (Tuerkheimer had been an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York when Morgenthau was U.S. Attorney.) Over lunch, Morgenthau had said, “If you see anybody good, send ’em my way.”

After Brennan’s outstanding argument, Tuerkheimer remembered Morgenthau’s request. He left a message for Brennan to come to his office. Brennan, like Tuerkheimer, recalls the events of that day well. “I had never gone to his office to see him,” she says. “He asked me, ‘Have you ever thought of working in the Manhattan District Attorney’s Office?’ I said, ‘No, because I’ve never even been to Manhattan.’”

Although the idea had come out of the blue, Brennan thought it over and decided to give it a try. She went to New York for a set of three interviews, the final one with Morgenthau. He offered her the job, and she accepted on the spot.

Brennan at first feared that she would have to leave behind all her favorite outdoor activities in a city of concrete. She learned differently, and now shares her enthusiasm for tennis and bike-riding in New York.

In the midst of talking with the Gargoyle about a bike path on the New Jersey shore she is interrupted by an assistant. “Can I call you back?” she asks. “Something has come up.” Fifteen minutes later she is back on the phone. “I had to do a TV interview,” she explains. “We seized four hundred pounds of cocaine in a very sophisticated concealed compartment — everything about this operation looks like an international organization — and I had to describe the compartment so people would recognize the high-level planning that went into this operation.”

Brennan was initially assigned to trial work and became a homicide
Luke H. Rettler ’83
Chief, Homicide Investigation Unit
New York County District Attorney’s Office

Rettler has been Chief of the New York County D.A.’s Office since 2003. Previously, his positions included Chief of the Asian Gang Unit and Senior Trial Counsel in the Homicide Investigation Unit. In his twenty-five-year career, he has prosecuted numerous major cases involving drug-gang murders, racketeering, and narcotics conspiracy.

It is a very different world from that of Rettler’s youth.

“I grew up on a dairy farm near Hartford, Wisconsin,” Rettler says. “Most of my family is still involved in farming.” He attended UW-Oshkosh and, at the advice of a professor there, he majored in criminal justice and went on to law school.

Rettler’s goal on entering the Law School was to be an FBI agent. This was before he met Professor Herman Goldstein, the Law School’s preeminent authority on the police function, who hired Rettler as his research assistant. Rettler recalls, “Herman said, ‘You should be a prosecutor — and if you want the real experience, go to New York.’”

Rettler’s first view of New York was from inside police cars, when he spent a week “riding with cops” and writing up a field report for his Washington, D.C.-based internship with the Police Executive Research Forum after his first year of law school. His next trip there was to interview for a job with the Manhattan D.A.’s Office.

Rettler was hired directly following his law school graduation, and has been with the D.A.’s Office in various capacities for virtually his entire career as a prosecutor. The exception is a two-year period in the mid-1990s when he worked for the U.S. Attorney’s Office of the Southern District of New York, investigating and prosecuting two major racketeering cases.

“I’ve had an unbelievable career here,” Rettler says. “I love coming to work. There is so much to learn, as a lawyer and as a person.”

Deborah E. Landis ’83
Senior Litigation Counsel
U.S. Attorney’s Office
Southern District of New York

This year Deborah Landis is marking her twentieth year as a prosecutor with the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of New York. In these two full decades she has conducted and supervised a wide range of complex investigations and prosecuted criminal cases from narcotics distribution to perjury by public officials. Since 1992 she has focused almost exclusively on white-collar crime.

In the late 1990s Landis led one particularly high-profile investigation into a scheme to defraud the
U.S. government of tens of millions of dollars in grants, loans and subsidies (including education grants, housing and business loans, and old-age benefits), which took five years and involved a task force of agents from the FBI, HUD, IRS, Social Security Administration, Department of Education, Small Business Administration, and Postal Inspection Service. It resulted in convictions of all defendants following an eleven-week trial, and brought Landis the Attorney General’s John Marshall Award for Trial Litigation, presented to her by Attorney General Janet Reno.

For six months beginning in 2000, on temporary detail from her New York position, Landis worked in Washington as both an Associate Deputy Attorney General and DOJ Special Counsel for Health Care Fraud. “That experience gave me perspective from the very top of the Justice Department, which was especially interesting in an election year,” she says.

For the past three years, Landis has been the lead prosecutor in a widely-publicized case involving tax shelters sold by the accounting firm of Ernst & Young.

“Being a prosecutor is a great job,” Landis comments. “I’m not accountable to any client other than the public good. I get paid to use my judgment to do justice.”

Landis attributes her career path to her experiences at the UW Law School, both in the classroom and in practical learning experiences. She points to two classes with Professor Frank Tuerkheimer as essential to her current work. “I had Frank Tuerkheimer for Evidence, and because he had been a prosecutor, he had a very practical orientation to evidence. I use what I learned in that class every day.”

Her second class with Tuerkheimer was Trial Advocacy. “I was terrified to take Trial Advocacy,” Landis says. “I was kind of shy; public speaking had never come easily to me. I knew this would be the most difficult thing for me to overcome. But Frank was very encouraging. He taught it in a way that was very accessible to me and gave me confidence. I came out of that class feeling ‘I can do this.’ It was a real turning point.”

By the time Landis completed her law degree, she knew she wanted to become a federal prosecutor. “I knew that because I had done a clinical at the U.S. Attorney’s Office, and I was a student clerk for Judge Barbara Crabb.”

Landis, who had grown up in the New York City suburbs, chose New York as her professional base. To prepare herself for her goal of becoming an Assistant U.S. Attorney, she was a judicial clerk for two years with U.S. District Judge William Conner of the Southern District of New York, and next worked in white-collar criminal defense at the firm of Lankler Siffert & Wohl, whose partners were three former prosecutors. “I told them up front that I wanted to be an Assistant U.S. Attorney,” Landis says, “and when we all agreed that I was ready, they wrote letters of recommendation for me to the prosecutors in this very office.”

Landis has come full circle from the time when she was terrified to take Trial Advocacy: for the last ten years she has taught that very course at Harvard Law School. “One week every January I teach basic trial advocacy,” she says. “I love it.”

Late this summer Landis was offered a voluntary early-retirement package that was “too good to turn down,” and thus her twentieth anniversary at her current job will mark her last year there. “People in my position don’t typically stay here twenty years,” she says. “I stayed because I loved it so much.”

Landis plans to take some time off and then set out on the adventure of seeking a new job. “I can’t imagine that I’ll find anything I will enjoy as much as I’ve enjoyed this job,” she says.

Like her classmates and friends Luke Rettler and Bridget Brennan, Landis considers herself extremely fortunate to be a career prosecutor. “Of all the lawyers I know,” she says, “the ones who are happiest with their jobs are prosecutors.”

Law School alumna Bridget Brennan, Special Narcotics Prosecutor for the City of New York, inspects a load of more than 1,000 pounds of cocaine seized in a New Jersey warehouse in 2006. Brennan’s office worked with other agencies to close in on the six individuals responsible for the drug operation, then indicted all six on the felony charge of Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the first degree.
This year, Larry Church is marking his fortieth year on the UW Law School faculty. Church is one of the most lauded professors the school has ever had, widely acknowledged as a highly effective and original teacher whose focus is on developing his students’ capacity for analysis and logical thought.

Given that Church never set out to be either a lawyer or a teacher, the question arises: How did he get here? And further, what is distinctive about a teaching style that keeps Church’s students, in the words of one colleague, “anchored to their chairs”?

Learning and sports
Church was born and raised in Milwaukee in a family with a tradition of teaching. His father was a science teacher in Milwaukee for more than fifty years, and his father’s father had been headmaster at St. Albans School in Washington, D.C. His mother came from a “political and lawyerly” family in New Jersey, he says, noting that the message she handed down was to be sure to steer clear of politics. “It was never a temptation,” he adds, in the understated manner known to his more than ten thousand former law students.

Sports, rather than careers, were on Church’s mind when he was ready to go to college. In high school at the Milwaukee Country Day School, he had played football, hockey, and tennis, and his choice of Amherst College in Massachusetts...
had a lot to do with the athletic opportunities it offered. He played hockey throughout college, and soccer and tennis for a couple of years.

Church graduated cum laude with a split major in German and philosophy and a thesis on Friedrich Nietzsche. He then headed back to Wisconsin and the UW Law School. “This was in part because law seemed to be challenging and interesting as a subject of study and in part just to postpone choosing a permanent career,” he comments.

Law study turned out to be even more challenging than Church had anticipated. “Going into law school, I didn’t appreciate the fact that legal education is also intellectual education: it teaches one how to think rationally and objectively and how to express thoughts to others,” he says. “Law represents the junction of concrete rules and standards and social, economic, and political policy, and law school gave me a whole new perspective on both theoretical analysis and practical reality — especially because of the Wisconsin Idea approach of this law school and because of the extraordinary quality of its teaching faculty.”

On the list of his own outstanding UW law professors, Church includes Willard Hurst, Stewart Macaulay, Marygold Melli, Nate Feinsinger, Richard Effland, Orrin Helstad, Gordon Baldwin, Frank Remington, Sam Mermin, John Conway, Jake Beuscher (who was instrumental in Church’s joining the faculty), and Eleanore Jones Roe, one of the earliest female graduates of the Law School, who was also the aunt of Church’s future wife, Fredericka Paff.

“My three years of study here gave me a much better grasp of how the world actually works than my previous liberal arts study had provided,” Church says.

Church graduated from the Law School summa cum laude in 1963. He was Note Editor of the Wisconsin Law Review, Order of the Coif, and a co-recipient of the Salmon Dalberg Award, which recognizes an outstanding student in the graduating class.

Travels with a law degree
The new graduate considered applying to the Air Force JAG Corps for a stint in Alaska, but the mandatory four-year commitment seemed too long. Instead, he signed on for a two-year placement with the newly-created United States Peace Corps, which at that time had a specific lawyers’ program involving about twenty-five young law graduates placed in several African countries.

The decision was a fateful one. “I thought carefully about what country I wanted to go to and decided on Ethiopia. As it happened, Peace Corps lawyer volunteers in Ethiopia were assigned to teach in a brand new law school. This was a time of great optimism, legal and otherwise. The Ethiopian students were eager and enthusiastic. Teaching there was a lot of fun,
and because it was so enjoyable and stimulating, it was one of the reasons I later came back to teach here.”

When Church returned from Ethiopia, he accepted a position at what is now Foley & Lardner in Milwaukee. “I was much impressed with the quality of the firm’s lawyers and enjoyed the rigors and challenges of law practice,” he says. “But in the end, the lure of teaching and the academic life proved irresistible, and when the opportunity came to join the Madison faculty, I took it.”

The beginning of Church’s UW Law School teaching career resembles a first-year teacher’s nightmare. “The campus was beginning its descent into turmoil over the Viet Nam war. Meanwhile, when I got here to teach in the fall — it was a more casual era then: I just showed up and asked what courses I should prepare in the next couple of weeks — Dean George Young said I would be teaching antitrust. I had never taken economics or antitrust, so I asked if I could teach something else. I wonder now if the Dean was merely setting a trap. He said, ‘Well, then, you can teach debtor-creditor law.’ I also knew nothing about that subject, but I’d exhausted my defenses, so I had to do it.”

Church remembers being just one day ahead of the students in that course. “But I also taught contracts, criminal law, and property, which I did know something about, and I started to really enjoy teaching pretty quickly.”

The art of teaching
Church uses what he calls a “semi-Socratic method” in nearly all his courses. (The exception is when he is teaching international students, who overwhelmingly prefer that he lecture.) “Lecturing is much easier,” Church comments. “The teacher controls the whole course. But it’s just fun.”

Church explains the “semi” in “semi-Socratic” as follows: “I try to make the students address the policy issues behind all cases by asking them to indicate what arguments they think are persuasive (on both sides), and why this is so. If they run out of possibilities, I add some suggestions of my own.”

He adds, “I’m always delighted when there are questions. I did a lot of participating when I was a student, and I appreciate all manner of questions now — the more difficult, the better.”

Church finds teaching first-year students to be particularly enjoyable.
“For quite a few of the students, it’s a revelation of how to think and how to argue. The basic thing I try to teach them is that although whatever substantive knowledge they may get from any course is likely to turn out to be ephemeral, developing the capacity for rational analysis and policy debate, all in aid of thoroughly pragmatic representation of clients, is truly exciting.”

He finds it interesting that in the whole period he has been teaching, he has observed little difference in the personality or ability of students at the Law School. “For forty years they have consistently been steady, capable, and generally decent, showing an enthusiasm and a maturity that makes them a pleasure to teach.”

Church creates all his own course materials, preferring to choose and edit cases himself for class coverage. “Several years ago, I co-authored (in part with Fredericka) a standard law school cases-and-materials book: Legislative and Administrative Processes. I learned that you can’t just make the book what you would like for your class, but what many other teachers would like for their classes. You have to put in every detail, every case, every note; you can’t leave any part out, lest you limit the usefulness of the book to others. But I like to edit cases down much further than many other teachers want to, and I like to concentrate on only a limited number of cases and issues in class, usually just one per day, so that some of the depth of possible argument can be appreciated. Thus, commercial casebooks are far too extensive and detailed for my purposes.”

Creating his own class materials has other advantages, too, Church notes. “Constitutional law and property are fields that are changing rapidly, and casebooks can’t keep up with them. In contrast, I can choose current cases to keep my own class materials up-to-date. And last, but not least, I can deliver materials that

A Look Inside Professor Church’s Classroom

By Kenneth E. McNeil ’81

The greatest skill of a trial lawyer is to be succinct and to the point.

When I first walked into Professor Church’s property law class almost thirty years ago, it was the last place I thought I would learn that skill. Nothing seemed more complex — and boring — than property law.

I sat mid-way back in the class with that bracing mindset of just “enduring” this course. Then the bell rang.

And I began to watch in awe as the man at the teaching desk started with a crisp, fast-clipped, almost monotone style unlike any other in the law school. With a machine-gun-like relentlessness, he gave a laser-sharp analysis of case after case. There was not an unneeded word spoken. In just minutes he transformed cases as confusing as mush into clear-as-a-bell balancing of conflicting legal policies.

No dancing, no antics, no joking with students. Just the facts. Then the law. Then a balance of competing policies underlying the decision.

He never varied from that formula — week after week. I couldn’t figure out the reason for this teaching style. It was so different. Why was he doing this?

Here I am, over twenty-five years later, no longer in the world of the courtroom. I am juggling cases in a world of large, complex securities, antitrust, patent, energy, and accounting fraud litigation. But from Day One, the pattern is exactly the same: either the story is a mess or it is clear.

Professor Church understood that. He also understood the world of the courtroom — flooded with paper, distracting antics, and deliberate distraction. In that world, you have only seconds to get to the essence of your case.

So his style was to become a “model lawyer” in his classroom, focused only on the essential, completely avoiding distraction. He knew students cannot learn this skill from books. They must see it in action.

His recipe — first the cryptic facts, then the law, then the balancing of conflicting policies — is all about essence. And he gave us a crystal-clear example of why today’s legal situations are not really a morass. The “morass” is only the perception we have as lawyers when we have not figured out the essence of our own case.

Tell the next first-year law student entering Professor Church’s class this secret of his forty-year teaching style. But keep reminding the rest of us to emulate his sterling example as well.

Trial lawyer Ken McNeil ’81, a twenty-year partner with Susman Godfrey LLP in Houston, has played a key role in numerous nationally-significant commercial litigation cases throughout his career. He has served as Chair of the Antitrust & Business Litigation Section of the State Bar of Texas and President of the Wisconsin Law Alumni Association.
are produced at the Law School at much less expense than that of commercial casebooks. The total savings to students over the years may be approaching a million dollars.”

Church has taught more than fifteen different courses in his forty-year career, including legal methods, legislation, administrative law, business organizations, agency, the common law (to Mullahs in Afghanistan), environmental law, constitutional environmental law, law and population, Zambian law, contracts, criminal law, criminal procedure, and various seminars.

“I enjoyed them all, but you can’t teach them all in the same year,” he says. In recent years he has focused on teaching the American Legal System (for foreign students), Property, and Constitutional Law, which encompasses the structure of government (Con Law I) and individual and civil rights (Con Law II).

He enjoys one-on-one work with students as well. “For a long time I have supervised the work of from five to eight foreign graduate law students every year, which is a source of great pleasure (and often very educational for me).”

**A distinctive teaching style**

Professor Chuck Irish met Church in 1972 in Zambia, when Irish arrived in Lusaka to begin work as a legal advisor to the Zambia Ministry of Finance. Church, then a lecturer at the University of Zambia Law School, came to the airport to welcome the new member of the expatriate community. They have been close ever since, and it was this connection that brought Irish to join the Law School faculty two years later.

Both Irish and Church regularly taught in the Law School’s summer U.S. Legal Institutions program for international lawyers, and Church has accompanied Irish on several trips to teach in Asia. (Irish is founder and director of the Law School’s East Asian Legal Studies Center.)

Irish notes, “Larry’s teaching style establishes that students do in fact listen. He doesn’t use any technology in class. He has a very laid-back demeanor: he’s quiet, he doesn’t speak very loudly; he sits, he doesn’t stand or walk around. His casual style gives the sense that it is a fireside chat. But this is not the case: he has prepared very carefully. He spends a lot of time thinking about the presentation of the material, and his preparation is an important component in his success as a teacher.”

Irish adds, “He is exceptionally creative. His ideas are sometimes wacky, sometimes prescient. Students are hanging on his words; he may say what is going to be the norm in two weeks or a year.”

Associate Dean Walter Dickey ’71 remembers Church’s teaching from a different vantage point. “I was a student of Larry’s in his first semester of teaching, in contracts,” Dickey says. “He was a strong teacher from the start, much liked by his students. He showed the promise of the excellent teacher he would become.”

Dickey particularly mentions Church’s instrumental role in helping him to get a job in West Africa through the Ford Foundation after his third year of law school. “It profoundly affected my life and I very much appreciate the interest Larry took in me over thirty years ago,” Dickey says.

Another graduate who reports Church’s strong influence on him as a student is Houston trial attorney Ken McNeil ’81, who was inspired by a query on Church’s teaching style to recreate his first and subsequent impressions of Church for *Gargoyle* readers (see page 23).

Chuck Irish, summing up his friend’s career achievement, notes, “Over the years I’ve seen Larry in many different settings and he is uniformly well regarded. In his forty years at the UW Law School he has consistently been recognized as the most excellent teacher in the school — from when he was the youngest professor to now, when he is a senior faculty member. His continued success makes it clear that it’s what passes from him to the students that’s key. The students feel that they are getting something very valuable.”

For more than twenty years, Larry Church and four close colleagues taught together in the Law School’s summer program for students from abroad on U.S. Legal Institutions. From left, professors Zig Zile, Chuck Irish, Larry Church, John Kidwell, and Ken Davis.
Teaming Up To Teach
Larry Church and Fredericka Paff are long-time co-teachers as well as husband and wife.

For more years than either of them can remember, Larry Church and Fredericka Paff, his wife, have co-taught one class each semester at the Law School. In the fall, they teach Constitutional Law I or II (“whichever one the Law School needs us to teach”), and in the spring, a seminar on the U.S. Supreme Court.

When they teach what is familiarly known as “con law,” Paff and Church lead the discussion on alternate cases. “Taking turns doing the cases makes it a lot of fun for us, and the students seem to like it too,” Paff says.

The origin of the Supreme Court seminar can be attributed to Paff’s personal interest in the Court: at the beginning of her career she was a clerk for Chief Justice William Rehnquist. Before he was appointed to the Court, Rehnquist was head of the Office of Legal Counsel at the U.S. Department of Justice. Paff, who had recently graduated from Stanford Law School and clerked on the Ninth Circuit, joined his staff. After Rehnquist was named to the Court, he hired Paff to clerk for him.

Throughout their professional careers, Paff followed Rehnquist’s work closely. “He was on the Court until only three years ago,” she says. “It made following the Court much more interesting.” She adds, “Chief Justice Rehnquist was an extraordinary person. He was very good at getting the most out of staff and making them feel that they were of considerable value.”

For their Supreme Court seminar at the Law School, Church and Paff start by having students choose partners. Each team then chooses a case on the current Court docket. Then, every week during the semester, a team presents its case, one student arguing the petitioner’s side for the same half hour usually granted advocates before the U.S. Supreme Court, with the other student getting a half hour in turn as respondent.

“Our experience is that the students do a really good job of preparing and arguing, playing it straight, as if they were before the real Court,” Paff says.

In addition, each student acts as one of the nine current Supreme Court Justices throughout the semester, posing questions as that Justice might be expected to do and even predicting how that Justice will vote in the case at hand.

“Inevitably, of course, the students (and the professors) ask their own questions of the advocates,” Church notes, “and each week the class takes its own vote on which side should prevail in the case under discussion, often disagreeing with the anticipated actual resolution of the case.”

Church and Paff limit the Supreme Court seminar enrollment to about twenty students. “If you get more than two students arguing a case before the class, or if you have too many students playing the part of one Justice at the same time, it gets a bit unwieldy,” Paff says. “If multiple Justice Scalias see the case quite differently from one another, it can sound as if his alter egos are having it out.”

Church comments, “For the students, the seminar offers a realistic introduction to appellate advocacy — which nearly always makes it both challenging and enjoyable for them as well as for us.”
Time to Commence

UW Law School alumnus Tom Barrett ’80, the fortieth mayor of the City of Milwaukee, was the keynote speaker for the Law School’s May 2008 graduation celebration at Monona Terrace. Professor Howard Erlanger was elected faculty speaker, with the honor of giving the students the last lecture they would receive as law students.

Student speakers were Jon Beidelschies, Emily Long, Nan Wang, and Ifeyinwa “Ify” Offor, all elected by their classmates.

The Law School ceremony was followed by the university’s graduation for the professional schools at the Kohl Center, where 259 students received J.D. degrees and 37 received the graduate degrees of Doctor of Juridical Science (S.J.D.), Master of Laws (LL.M.) and Master of Legal Institutions (M.L.I.).

Clockwise from top right: Keynote speaker, Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett ’80; Faculty speaker, Professor Howard Erlanger; graduates (from left) Rebecca Miller, Nicole Hamilton, and Julie Vaughn; graduates (from left) Heather Wiggins, Carena Crowell, and Jennifer Clark.
Student speakers (four photos at left above clockwise): Jon Beidelschies, Emily Long, Ifeyinwa “Ify” Offor, and Nan Wang.

At top right, Dean Ken Davis; at left, graduates (from left) Valerie Zisman, James Fash, Julia Kornilova, and Mark Johnson.
A Time for Recognition

On the evening of May 15 at Memorial Union Theater, the Law School’s Honors and Awards Ceremony recognized outstanding students for academic excellence and service to the community. Family and friends, faculty, and donors of the awards joined to celebrate the students’ achievements.

American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers Award
Amber Hahn
For dedication to Family Law and exhibiting the qualities that the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers wishes to promote in the practice of Family Law

American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers Leonard Loeb Award
Rachel Abhold
For excellence in the study of Family Law and dedication to community service

Andre Saltoun Prize
Andy Declercq, Noel Spencer, Rebecca Kennedy Hamrin, Wendy Richards
For scholarship and service to the Wisconsin Law Review

Association For Women Lawyers Scholarship
Kelly Anderson, Rachel Abhold
For academic excellence and outstanding service to the Law School and general community

Barbara B. Crabb Award
Elisabeth Stockbridge
For promoting the ideals of honesty, fairness, and equality

Bercovici Prize
Bobak Razavi
For excellence in the study of jurisprudence and legal philosophy

Bernard Berk Memorial Award
Megan Beaman
For outstanding contributions to the economically disadvantaged

Bruce F. Beilfuss Memorial Award
Charles Doughty, Christopher Smithka, Elizabeth Soltis, Gretchen Cleveland, Jon Beidelschies, Paul Manrique, Sara Vanden Brook
For outstanding service to the Law School

Catherine Manning Memorial Award
Katie Holtz
For outstanding contributions to the Legal Assistance to Institutionalized Persons Program

Children’s Justice Project Fellowship Award
Jenny Zimmermann, Sara Kelton
For outstanding contributions and commitments to children’s law

Daniel H. Grady Award
Eric J. Weiss
To the top ranking student in the graduating class

Davis Constitutional Law Award
Joseph Franklin Kirgues
For excellence in the study of constitutional law

Gordon B. Baldwin Scholarship Award
Sarah Erlinder
For excellence in the study of criminal justice

Gwynette E. Smalley Law Review Prize
Eric Weiss, Gretchen Cleveland
For scholarship and service to the Wisconsin Law Review

Joseph Davies Award
Brad Kopetsky
For outstanding service to the Wisconsin Law Review by a second-year student

Julie Strasser Scholarship
Sarah Erlinder
For demonstrated concern for the needy and work to benefit society

Katherine Held Memorial Award
Emily Long, Travis Weller
For outstanding contributions to the Wisconsin Journal of Law, Gender and Society
Leon Feingold Memorial Award
Christina Fok
For outstanding contributions to the economically disadvantaged

Mary Kelly Quackenbush Memorial Award
Maureen Atwell
For the outstanding student article in the Wisconsin Journal of Law, Gender and Society

Mathys Memorial Appellate Advocacy Award
Brandon Flugaur, Luke Kohlala, Benjamin Prinsen
To outstanding orals in Moot Court competition

Mathys Memorial Award For Appellate Advocacy: Service to the Moot Court Board
Eric J. Weiss, Katherine Roberts
For outstanding service to the Moot Court Board

Melvin J. Friedman Memorial Scholarship
Andrew Becher
For exemplary work in the Wisconsin Innocence Project

Mental Health Legal Advocacy Network 2008 Student Service Award
Charlie Doughty, Elena Connors, Elisabeth Stockbridge, Maria Selser
In recognition of students who increased awareness about mental health issues and their intersection with law

Pro Bono Partnership Award
Alison Volk, Bryn Heimann, Emily Gold, Gretchen Cleveland, Paul Burant, Sara Vanden Brook
For service to the Law School and community by efforts to establish a Pro Bono program that will increase civil legal services to those otherwise unable to access the justice system

Public Interest Scholar Award
Sarah Erlinder
In recognition of students who demonstrated academic excellence, consistent service, and dedication to a public interest career

Ray and Ethel Brown Award
Paul Burant, Vic Yanz
For character, leadership, and service by first-or second-year students

Salmon Dalberg Award
Barbara McCarty Conley
To an outstanding member of the graduating class

Sonnent Schmidt Edmonds Award
Rachel Lanesen
For excellence in energy law

State Bar of Wisconsin Environmental Essay Award
William Bettenberg
For the best student essay on environmental law

Wisconsin Association of Workers’ Compensation Scholarship
Andrea Sumpter, Renee Medved
For character, leadership, and service by first-or second-year students

Wisconsin Law Review Alumni Association Award
Britta Lindberg, Laura Schwartz
For contributions to the Wisconsin Law Review

Wisconsin Lawyers Mutual Insurance Company Award
Scott Jes
To the top-ranking student in Professional Responsibilities

Wisconsin Public Interest Law Foundation’s Jackie Macaulay Award
Megan Beaman
For demonstrating exceptional commitment to Public Interest Law

Dean’s Academic Achievement Award
Rebecca L. Abelsohn
Rachel E. Abhold
Jacob J. Abrams
Michael Edward Ahrens
William Nathaniel Barton
Sara Kay Beachy
Brett Paul Belden
Katherine Lynn Bender
Ambrea J. Bigley
Kathryn Boland Botham
Katherine Kos Bruce
Dylan John Cyrus Buffum
Graham Mark Catlin
Kenneth Bo-Chii Chang
Barbara McCarty Conley
Peter Conrad
Kyle Stephen Conway
Adam Erich Crawford
Jessica P. Culotri
Claire Patrice Dalle Molle
Gabor Danko
Andy Neill DeClercq
Sarah K. Deutsch
Michael Edward Duchek
Robert H. Ellis
Erin R. Fay
Collin Paul Fisher
Sarah Lynn Fowles
Kyle Loren Garl
John David Gentry
Kurt Thomas Gerlach
Haben Goitom
Eric Goldman
Rachel Anne Graham
Ryan Paul Haas
Joseph John Hable
Jonathan W. Hackbarth
Mia Pring Haessly
Rebecca Kennedy Hamrin
Leanne Louise Holcomb
Kathryn Anne Holtz
Craig Guiles Hubbell
Eric Norman Huston
Annie Jay
Mark T. Johnson
Adam A. Kiel
Joseph Franklin Kirgues
Fern Freedlander Knep
Julia Kornilova
Richelle Ann Ladwig
Catherine S. Lindemann
Adam James Loomans
Michael H. Margolis
Douglas John Marsch
Brenda Rae Mayrack
Elisabeth Yandell McNeil
Deborah Carol Meiners
Aaron Arthur Mitchell
Caitlin E. Moore
David J. Moore
Michael Ryan O’Callaghan
Chijioko Ekenedilichukwu Offor
Jonathan D. Parker
Krista R. Pleviak
Holly C. Pomraning
Sarrie Lynn Pozolinski
James M. Reeves
Wendy Rhiianne Richards
Julia B. Ruff
Lucas Neal Roe
Derek A. Ring
William J. Roberts
Monica SantaMarie
Somohano
Mark Darren Schuman
Nicholas Jon Schwalbach
Laura Rose Schwartz
Sheila P. Smith
Kathryn Lily Sims
Kimberly K. Smith
Katherine D. Sorensen
Noel Whitemarsh Spencer
Benjamin Paul Sykes
William James Symes
Christopher R. Thompson
Andrea Marie Toldt
Justin Wallace
Eric John Weiss
Travis J. Weller
Aaron David Werner
Amy Elizabeth Wesner
Chad J. Zimmerman
Valerie A. Zisman

www.law.wisc.edu/alumni GARGOYLE 29
In Foreign Supreme Courts

It is rare for Americans to have the opportunity to work as clerks or interns on the Supreme Courts of other nations, but two recent UW law graduates did just that, in India and Germany.

Neil Bjorkman ’07 spent the year after he graduated as a clerk on the Supreme Court of India. James Isaac ’08 was an intern on Germany’s Federal Constitutional Court in his third year of law school.

Both Bjorkman and Isaac made the most of the rare opportunity to work on the highest court of another nation. They recently took time to give the Gargoyle a glimpse into their experiences.

Thinking globally
By the time Neil Bjorkman, a native of Minnesota, entered the Law School in fall 2004, he had two international work experiences under his belt. He had taught for a year in Guatemala, and worked in an orphanage in India.

As a law student, he set his sights on finding a judicial clerkship in India. He looks back in amusement at his first steps toward this goal:

“A contact on the Supreme Court of India told me to get in touch with Professor Galanter, one of the big names in Indian legal scholarship. Thinking that Professor Galanter was right upstairs. Marc Galanter, the Law School’s Emeritus of Law and South Asian Studies, turned out to be an important mentor for Bjorkman.

“From Day One, Professor Galanter was very enthusiastic about my interest in India,” Bjorkman says. “He suggested that I apply for a clerkship with Justice Dalveer Bhandari of the Supreme Court.”

Galanter knew Bhandari personally, having taught him in a summer school course for Indian graduate students. Galanter also hired Bjorkman to work on a research project involving India’s Supreme Court.

Bjorkman was accepted for the clerkship with Bhandari. His year-long Supreme Court experience in Delhi began in fall 2007.

A typical day
When asked what a typical day as a clerk for the Supreme Court of India might bring, Bjorkman replies with a vivid picture. “I wake up, have tea, go for a run and try to make it back before my Hindi teacher arrives. Hindi class lasts an hour. Then I call my co-clerk to see if he’s ready. If he is, then we share an auto-rickshaw.

“We get to work by nine, on a good day. Once in the office, it’s like any other clerkship, for the most part. Read the file, look up the law, write it up, discuss with Sir [Justice Bhandari]. If the case I’m working on is in Court, I’ll attend the hearing. But for the most part, we work out of Sir’s residential office. We usually leave by eight or nine. Half the time, we eat dinner in the compound.”

The clerkship has been a lot more work than Bjorkman had imagined. “It is usually a seven-day work week. It’s been difficult to maintain this schedule, but the work is consuming so it’s hard not to come in; plus, this is the last time I’ll get to work on these issues in this capacity. The upside to the long days is that I took three weeks off
over Christmas and a month over the summer recess. My wife and I attended a wedding in Nepal, and I joined her in Thailand at the end of her backpacking trip.”

(Bjorkman married Teresa Abraham from India when he was a 2L. Abraham completed her Ph.D. in cellular and molecular biology at UW-Madison in 2008.)

Clinics were best preparation
One time when Bjorkman was at the Court, he had a sudden realization. “It hit me that this is the highest court of the world’s largest democracy. This probably should have scared me to death. But I never thought, ‘What am I doing here?’ The best thing I did in law school was to participate in clinics — the Neighborhood Law Project and Consumer Law Clinic. I worked on real cases where a lot was on the line for our clients, so when I joined the Court I wasn’t scared to pick up a real case and run with it.”

He pinpoints what he has found to be a greater challenge. “The hardest part has been learning how to distinguish what’s legally sound from what’s both sound and palatable to Sir and his Brother Justices. (At the moment there are no ‘Sister Justices.’) In law school, I didn’t think about consensus-building and compromise as things to consider when you analyze an issue. Now I ask myself, ‘Okay, is this idea technically correct?’ If it is, then the more difficult question is whether others would make their decision on that basis. And if they wouldn’t go in that direction, I ask myself if I should still make the argument — betting on a loser because in your heart you think it’s the right conclusion.”

And what does Bjorkman consider to be the greatest reward of this difficult, consuming work? “The most satisfying part of the job is handing in really tight work. It takes a long time to get to that point.”

A Wisconsin connection in Germany
James Isaac, who graduated in May 2008, worked in the fall of 2007 as an intern with Germany’s highest court, the Bundesverfassungsgericht, or Federal Constitutional Court. Germany has the equivalent of two supreme courts, Isaac notes:

Language skills, legal training
As Bryde’s intern, Isaac focused on providing the important services of a translator. Isaac, who majored in German and international relations at UW-Madison, is fluent in German. He studied in Freiburg on an exchange program as an undergraduate, and returned to Germany as a Fulbright Teaching Assistant in Dresden for three years before entering law school.

“My main task was to translate opinions of the court from German to English,” Isaac says. “Because there is a significant interest in German high court opinions, especially in the EU, they publish many of their opinions in different languages. The Court has an official translator, but she regularly seeks out help due to the large amount of work.”

Isaac recalls that sometimes Bryde would say about a certain opinion, “James, this is something the world would be interested in.”

His work brought him great satisfaction, Isaac says. “It’s always gratifying to sit down with something and eventually see it online or in print. Even though my name is not on it, a good number of people will read it and rely on this translation of a decision of the Federal Constitutional Court.”

A welcoming community
As Bryde’s intern, Isaac worked alongside the Justice’s five law clerks and had a chance to develop friendships with them. “At lunch time I would get together with our clerks and other clerks and we would talk shop. I learned a lot about how the Court operates during those hours.”

Isaac participated in “inter-Court” athletic leagues, often playing soccer, basketball, and tennis. “It was a good opportunity to get to know people. I still e-mail with some of them.”

Together with his work for Bryde, the personal relationships that grew out of the experience were quite memorable for Isaac. “I will remember just how open they were, how welcoming they were, and how they were always sure to make me feel like a part of the family.”

James Isaac ’08, center, with four law clerks at the Federal Constitutional Court of Germany

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Thirty members of the law faculty and administration joined Dean Ken Davis in hosting Milwaukee-area alumni from a wide range of professional settings at the Law School’s second annual Milwaukee Law Day on May 1, 2008.

Approximately 150 people converged at Pier Wisconsin in downtown Milwaukee for a high-energy gathering of legal professionals with the UW Law School in common.

Several alumni commented on the welcome opportunity to touch base with faculty — their own professors from law school days and other faculty whose substantive fields are currently coinciding with their own.

“The setting was lovely, the food was great, and the energy was high,” noted one alum. “A lot of good communicating was going on.”

Alumni and faculty at Milwaukee Law Day are (clockwise from top left): Lois and Dean Cady; Professor Stewart Macaulay and George Whyte (who brought a vintage photo of the old Law School building to donate to the School); recent alumnae (from left) Jini Rabas, Bridget Domaszek, Notsong Srisopark Thompson, Amanda Gibbs, and Eileen Huie; and Emeritus Director of Alumni Relations Ed Reisner (left) sharing a laugh with Kim Kodousek.
Clockwise from top left: Barb Ulichny (left) and Christy Brooks; Thomas and Bette Drought and daughter Ellen Drought, who represents the fourth generation of Droughts to graduate from the Law School; (from left) Krista Buchholz, Meredith Wilkerson, and Joy Graf; (from left) Jeff Altenberg, Joe Ziebert, Mario Gonzales, and Mark Bensen; and Professor Ralph Cagle (center) with Mary Scholle and Calvin Malone.
Sheldon Lubar ’53 and Marianne Lubar Receive the Distinguished Alumni Award

UW Law School graduate Sheldon B. Lubar ’53 and his wife Marianne Lubar have received the highest honor conferred by the Wisconsin Alumni Association, the Distinguished Alumni Award.

The name of “Lubar” is known to many law students, present and past, through his funding of Lubar Commons, the Law School’s seventh-floor faculty library and reception venue overlooking Bascom Hill.

A member of the Law School’s Benchers Society, Lubar is also a 1951 graduate of UW-Madison’s School of Commerce, founder of the Milwaukee investment firm Lubar & Co., and a former assistant secretary for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. He is a past president of the UW System’s Board of Regents.

Marianne Lubar has held prominent roles with several Milwaukee public institutions.

The couple endowed UW-Milwaukee’s Lubar School of Business and UW-Madison’s Lubar Institute for the Study of Abrahamic Religions. In 2007, they were contributors to the $85 million Wisconsin Naming Partnership at the Wisconsin School of Business.

The Distinguished Alumni Award celebrates outstanding UW-Madison graduates for their professional achievements, contributions to society, and support of the university.

The Lubars and five other recipients of the award were honored at a public gathering in the Wisconsin Union Theater in May.

Abby Sanford Hired as Director of Development

Abby Sanford, most recently the Marketing Operations Manager for the UW-Madison Department of Executive Education, has joined the Law School as Director of Development, based at the UW Foundation.

Sanford earned a bachelor of science degree summa cum laude from The George Washington University in Washington, D.C., majoring in economics. She went on to earn a master of arts in economics at the University of Michigan, and returned to Washington to work in numerous capacities as an analyst and consultant.

Sanford began her new position in April, succeeding Ann Flynn, who accepted a position with a private foundation.

“I am truly excited to be joining the Law School community,” Sanford told the law faculty when she was introduced by Dean Davis. “I look forward to meeting with alumni who are thinking about giving back to the school that was the foundation of their careers.”
Seattle and Portland Alumni Welcome Law School Delegation

UW Law School alumni in Seattle and Portland welcomed Dean Ken Davis and other representatives of the school to their cities on two successive evenings this April.

The Seattle gathering on April 23 took place at the Fairmont Olympic Hotel, in the heart of the city. Ben Porter ’66 of Porter, Kohli & LeMaster in Seattle, one of the attendees, later commented, “It was energizing and wonderful to have the Dean come out and do the West Coast swing. It was also fun to get together with a lot of people I see around town who are Wisconsin alumni.”

Porter added, “It’s always fun, particularly when you live so far away from Madison, to have someone come and talk about what is happening in Madison, and particularly at the Law School.”

The Portland reception was hosted at the Heathman Hotel, a downtown landmark, on April 22. One participant, Wayne Landsverk ’72, of Newcomb, Savin, Schwartz & Landsverk LLP in Portland, commented, “I enjoyed seeing a lot of old friends and also some recent grads, and seeing Ken; it was a very good event. We had a nice combination of people: some who have been out of school a while, like me, and some younger people.”

Landsverk added, “Whenever they want to do it again, we’ll order nice weather for them.”

Amanda Rockman Receives WAA’s “Forward under Forty” Award

Amanda Rockman ’05, an associate trial judge of the Ho Chunk nation in Black River Falls, Wisconsin, has been named a recipient of the “Forward under Forty” Award by the Wisconsin Alumni Association (WAA).

The new award was created to recognize outstanding young graduates of the University of Wisconsin—all under the age of forty—who are making an impact on the world.

Rockman, who was named to the Ho Chunk judiciary in 2006, is one of the youngest judges in America. In addition to presiding over her own courtroom, she works with Native judges across Wisconsin and the U.S. to create intertribal legal networks and revive American Indian legal systems.

At the UW Law School, Rockman was active with the Indigenous Law Students Association (ILSA) in addition to balancing academic work and family obligations. As a UW-Madison undergraduate, she completed a triple major in anthropology, French, and American Indian studies, and she returned to campus to attend the UW Law School, inspired by the university’s community atmosphere and seeking to find the most effective way to assist the Ho Chunk people.

For more information about Rockman and other winners of the Forward under 40 Award, see www.forwardunder40.com.
You might call Madison native David Feige an accidental tourist in show business.

Feige, 42, whose new TV series, “Raising the Bar,” premieres Sept. 1 on TNT, had been working as a public defender in New York City for several years before he began an online diary about it for Slate.

Feige’s writing ability and the gritty subject matter — alternately harrowing and hilarious — caught the eye of a rising literary agent, Tina Bennett, who asked Feige to lunch.

“Lunch?” Feige was recalling this week. “We didn’t really do lunch.”

By “we,” Feige was referring to the staff of the Bronx Defenders, an office of thirty public defenders in a New York borough that was not short on indigent defendants.

Feige, a 1983 Madison Memorial graduate who got his law degree at UW-Madison, met Bennett, the agent, at the Four Seasons, a restaurant not targeted at those on a public defender’s salary.

Feige looked at the menu and blanched.

Bennett said, “David, this is how it works. I’m the agent. Lunch is on me.”

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Feige ordered a $28 lobster salad sandwich. He recalled, “It remains the most expensive sandwich I have ever eaten.”

The big-time lunch at the Four Seasons had an unusual conclusion, however — especially for someone who has a new TV series debuting on Labor Day.

The lunch ended with Feige saying thanks, but no thanks.

when Bennett — who would help shepherd Seabiscuit and The Tipping Point to best-seller land — suggested he write a book about being a public defender in the Bronx.

“I don’t think I’m capable,” Feige said. “Besides, I’m a public defender.”

Feige wasn’t being coy — he loved being a public defender.

“Whatever else I do,” he told me, “I will never again have a job that great. A job so unbelievably rewarding, difficult, and righteous.”

Even though he is now a professor of law at Seton Hall in New Jersey — as well as a TV writer and producer — Feige in conversation sometimes slips and speaks as if he is still a public defender.

“Our clients become our clients,” he said, “after every other aspect of the system has failed them.”

Feige’s father, Ed Feige, is an emeritus professor of economics at UW-Madison and still lives in the house on the West Side that David grew up in. David got his undergrad degree at the University of Chicago, then came back to Madison for law school. When he returns today, like everyone who has been away, he shakes his head at the growth, especially on the Far West Side.

A few years after that Four Seasons lunch, Feige decided he might be ready to write a book after all. He had written well-received magazine pieces, including one for The New York Times Magazine titled “How to Defend Someone You Know is Guilty.”

Feige got back in touch with Bennett, and after an advance that allowed him to take a year off work, the result was 2006’s Indefensible: One Lawyer’s Journey Into the Inferno of American Justice, published by Little, Brown.

“Every day was a battle,” Feige wrote early in Indefensible, and while
the book was well-reviewed, the court battles didn’t all end with publication. Feige had named names, and some in the New York criminal justice system were not happy.

“I got sued,” Feige said. “Utterly frivolous lawsuits. All were dismissed.”

A Hollywood star had expressed interest in the book, but Feige thought he knew the one guy in show business who could get the story right: Steven Bochco, whose daunting pedigree includes classic shows like “Hill Street Blues,” “L.A. Law” and “NYPD Blue.”

“He's the only person in Hollywood I sent the book to,” Feige said.

Some might compare sending a book to someone of Bochco’s stature to putting a note in a bottle and throwing it into the ocean, but Feige’s luck held, at least in part. Bochco liked the book very much; he just wasn’t sure there was a TV series in it. They talked, and then they talked some more. The producer couldn't help but be impressed with the younger man’s passion.

In the end, Bochco and Feige agreed to work together, and came up with the idea for a series set in an urban courthouse that focuses on both public defenders and prosecutors — friends and adversaries battling inside a flawed system.

Feige wrote the pilot — which will air Sept. 1 — as well as three others of the ten episodes that make up season one. The series stars Mark-Paul Gosselaar as an idealistic public defender and UW-Madison grad Jane Kaczmarek as an imperious judge.

Feige, back teaching the fall semester at Seton Hall, will watch with the rest of the country, and then he will check the ratings. If they’re good, maybe he’ll drive into the city and celebrate with a lobster salad sandwich. ■

1950s

Herbert H. Fisher ’52 of Herbert H. Fisher Law Office, P.C., in Chicago, this year celebrated his 57th anniversary as a practicing lawyer, all but 14 years as a sole practitioner. His practice has included bankruptcy, litigation, real estate, and the creation and representation of housing cooperatives.

1960s

Jeffrey B. Bartell ’68, a partner with Quarles & Brady who opened the firm’s Madison office in 1983, received the Charles L. Goldberg Distinguished Service Award at the Wisconsin State Bar Convention in May 2008.

1970s

Bruce Kerr ’72 has been promoted to Assistant General Counsel of Sun Microsystems in Santa Clara, California.

Fran Ulmer ’72 has been named Chancellor of the University of Alaska-Anchorage (UAA). She had been serving as interim Chancellor for the past year, and previously was head of UAA’s Institute of Social and Economic Research.


Jim Seiler ’73, Chief Administrative Law Judge, Office of Adjudication-Social Security, in Creve Coeur, Missouri, placed second in the 200-meter and third in the 100-meter race at the 2007 Masters National Track and Field Championships.

William K. Fahey ’77 has announced the new firm of Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes PLC in the mid-Michigan area. The firm focuses on private and public sector clientele centered on the use of green technology.

James D. Babbitt ’79 has been elected judge of the newly-created Barron County Circuit Court, Branch 3. After 27 years as a prosecutor, Babbitt took the bench August 1.
1980s

Kimberlé Crenshaw, LL.M. ’85, is one of four scholars nationwide (two from the UW Law School) to receive a 2008 Fletcher Fellowship, recognizing work to improve racial equality. Crenshaw is a Professor of Law at UCLA and Columbia Law Schools.

Scott C. Beightol ’88, a partner in the Labor and Employment Relations Group at Michael Best & Friedrich LLP, has been elected Chair of the firm’s Management Committee.

Ann Marie Hanrahan ’88, Assistant General Counsel at 3M in St. Paul, Minnesota, has been elected to the American Law Institute.

Joel P. Leonard ’88 has joined Elliott, Ostrander & Preston, P.C., in Portland, Oregon, as a shareholder. Leonard focuses his practice on health law and business litigation.

1990s

Ave M. Bie ’90, a partner with the Madison office of Quarles & Brady LLP, has been appointed to the Wisconsin Attorney General’s Crime Victims Council.

Timothy F. Nixon ’90, a shareholder and team leader of the Business Finance and Restructuring Practice Group at Godfrey & Kahn, S.C. in Green Bay, has co-authored The Increase in Prepackaged Chapter 11s (Aspatore Books, Boston).


Steven J. Kemps ’91 has been promoted to Executive Vice President, General Counsel, and Corporate Secretary of Dean Foods Company.

Eric S. Jackson ’93 has joined Jenner & Block as a partner in the firm’s Washington, D.C., office, with a focus on litigating intellectual property, commercial, and employment cases. Jackson is Co-Director of the Law School’s LEO Enrichment Fund.

Claire Ann Resop ’93 has joined von Briesen & Roper, S.C. in Milwaukee as a shareholder. Resop concentrates her practice on bankruptcy, real estate, and commercial, collection, and claim litigation.

Julie Short ’93, of Cullen Weston Pines & Bach, was recognized by the State Bar of Wisconsin for her pro bono service over the past year.

Ben Weinberger ’93 has been named Chief Information Officer for Lathrop & Gage L.C. in Kansas City. His previous positions include Director of Information Technology for the Los Angeles City Attorney’s Office.

Peter J. Manghera ’94 has joined the Intellectual Property Group at DeWitt Ross & Stevens in its Madison office. Manghera holds a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering.

Nancy Noel ’94 has been named an Assistant Attorney General by the Wisconsin Department of Justice. For the past six years Noel has been an Assistant District Attorney with the Milwaukee County District Attorney’s Office.

Jonathan T. Levy ’95, a partner with Rosenthal, Levy & Simon, P.A., in West Palm Beach, Florida, has been elected Treasurer of the Board of Directors of the Palm Beach County Justice Association.

Stephanie A. Lyons ’95 has joined the Restructuring Practice Group at Godfrey & Kahn in its Madison office. Manghera has joined the Intellectual Property Practice Group at DeWitt Ross & Stevens in its Madison office.

Jennifer Kopp-Wagner ’96 has been named Senior Vice President and General Counsel of Milwaukee-based Assurant Health. Most recently Kopp-Wagner was the company’s Vice President for the legal department.

Terry Moen ’96 received the Wisconsin Safety Council’s Lifetime Achievement Award in April 2008. Moen is Industrial Hygiene Supervisor at the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene.

Joshua A. Blakely ’98 and Karin J. Wagner ’98 have formed the Brookfield, Wisconsin, firm of Blakely & Wagner, S.C. Wagner and Blakely focus their practice on estate planning, probate and trust administration, and corporate law.

David W. Maas ’98, has been named an Assistant Attorney General by the Wisconsin Department of Justice. Previously Maas was a prosecutor with the Milwaukee County District Attorney’s Office for nine years.

Wendy D. Calvert ’99 is President Elect of the Nonresident Lawyers Division (NRLD) of the Wisconsin State Bar. She will begin her term as President of the NRLD in July 2009.

Sheldon L. Wolfe ’99, a member of the Intellectual Property Practice Group at Michael Best & Friedrich LLP in Milwaukee, has been elected to partnership with the firm.

2000s

Joseph Ganzer ’00 has been named an Assistant Attorney General for the State of Wisconsin, working in the Civil Litigation unit. Previously he was in private practice with Hodan, Doster & Ganzer in Milwaukee.

Jonathon Klem ’00 has joined Country Club Bank as a Vice President and Financial Center Manager for two bank locations in Kansas City.

Stacy L. Leeds, LL.M. ’00, is one of four scholars nationwide (two from the UW Law School) to receive a 2008 Fletcher Fellowship, recognizing work to improve racial equality. Leeds is a Professor at the University of Kansas School of Law and a Justice of the Cherokee Nation Supreme Court.

Steven P. Lipowski ’00 has been promoted to shareholder at Ruder Ware, L.L.S.C. in Wausau, Wisconsin. Lipowski focuses his practice on complex business transactions.

Edward J. Pardon ’00, M.D., has been elected to partnership with Michael Best & Friedrich LLP in Milwaukee. He is a member of the firm’s Litigation and Health Care Practice Groups.

Monica Riederer ’01, a member of the Litigation Practice Group at Michael Best & Friedrich LLP in Milwaukee, has been elected a partner of the firm.
Lee M. Seese ’01, a member of the Michael Best & Friedrich Litigation Practice Group in Milwaukee, has been elected to partnership with the firm.

Wendy M. Seffrood ’01 has been elected a partner of Michael Best & Friedrich LLP in Milwaukee. She is a member of the firm’s Intellectual Property Practice Group.

Megan A. Senatori ’01 has been named a partner at the Madison office of DeWitt Ross & Stevens, S.C. Senatori concentrates her practice on complex civil litigation and appeals.

Ted A. Wisnesfski ’01, a trial lawyer and member of the Litigation Practice Group at Michael Best & Friedrich LLP, has been elected a partner with the firm.

John J. Emanuele ’02 has joined the Indianapolis-based firm of Bose McKinney & Evans LLP. Emanuele, who holds a Ph.D. in biochemistry and biophysics, will be of counsel with the firm.

Lee M. Seese ’01, a member of the Michael Best & Friedrich Litigation Practice Group in Milwaukee, has been elected to partnership with the firm.

Michelle D. (Wehnes) Johnson ’03 has been promoted to shareholder at Simpson & Deardoff, S.C. in Milwaukee. Johnson specializes in insurance defense litigation.

Gottlieb John Marmet ’04 has joined von Briesen & Roper, S.C., in Milwaukee, as a member of the Litigation and Risk Management Practice Group.

Rachel C. Steiner ’04 has been appointed law clerk to the Hon. Elaine Bucklo, U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois, in Chicago.

Daniel J. Noonan ’06 has joined von Briesen & Roper, S.C., in Milwaukee, as a member of the firm’s Litigation and Risk Management Practice Group.

Douglas A. Dallmann ’07 has joined Klarquist Sparkman, LLP, in the firm’s Portland, Oregon, office. Dallmann holds bachelor’s and master’s degrees in electrical engineering.

Amanda E. Pritzman ’07 has joined Messerli & Kramer P.A. in Minneapolis, working in the firm’s Collections Group.

Michael E. Ahrens ’08 has joined Ruder Ware, L.L.S.C., in the firm’s Trusts, Estates & Family Business Planning Practice Group.

Please stay in touch! Send your news to Jini Rabas, Director of Alumni Relations, at jmrabas@wisc.edu.

Law School Remembers Professor August Eckhardt

August Gottlieb Eckhardt ’46, an alum who taught at the Law School from 1954 to 1972, died in April in Tucson. A native of Sylvan, Wisconsin, Eckhardt returned to Wisconsin after service in the U.S. Navy in World War II. He practiced law and taught in Wisconsin for 18 years, then accepted a position at the University of Arizona College of Law in Tucson, where he taught until his retirement in 1989.

Eckhardt was the author of Eckhardt’s Workbook for Wisconsin Estate Planners in 1961 and A Model for Continuing Legal Education: Structure, Methods, and Curriculum in 1980. His passion in later years was World Peace Through Law, for which he strived both personally and professionally.

For the last several years, Eckhardt and his wife of 65 years, Catherine, were residents of Amber Lights Retirement Community in Tucson. Preceded in death by his wife, Eckhardt is survived by children, James and Patricia Eckhardt.
Designated Pitcher

At the annual Cane Toss in Fall 1974, law students display their flair for creative thinking and team problem-solving. Whether all participants in the group effort won their first case is not known. The photograph was taken for the *Wisconsin State Journal* by L. Rodger Turner.
Law School friendships
— too valuable to lose. Make sure you stay in touch.

Use the Alumni Directory at www.uwalumni.com to find “lost” classmates and make sure they can find you.

Just a few minutes on the Web to update your contact information will ensure that you keep receiving the Gargoyle and our newsletter, Law in Action.

Remember to include your e-mail address for valuable UW-Madison information throughout the year.
Save the Date

- **2008 Kastenmeier Lecture: “Economic Injustice”**
  Speaker: The Hon. David Obey
  Monday, October 13, 2008
  Godfrey & Kahn Hall (Room 2260)
  Contact: brianberg@wisc.edu

  Friday, October 17, 2008
  Edgewater Hotel, Madison
  Contact: eehike@wisc.edu

- **Interdisciplinary Conference: “The Weimar Moment”**
  October 24-26, 2008
  Pyle Center, UW-Madison
  Contact: pshollen@wisc.edu

- **Board of Visitors Meeting**
  November 6-7, 2008
  Lubar Commons (Room 7200)
  Contact: jmrabas@wisc.edu

- **Benchers Society Annual Dinner**
  Friday, November 7, 2008
  Quarles & Brady Reading Room
  Contact: LFThomp1@wisc.edu