COUNSEL FOR THE SITUATION

‘The times they were a’changing,’ says Green lecturer William T. Coleman Jr.

APRIL 4, 2011 As an American of color in the 1940s, Philadelphia native William T. Coleman Jr. faced daunting barriers. His academic record as an undergraduate at the University of Pennsylvania earned him a place at Harvard Law School. But despite graduating first in his class from Harvard and clerking for Supreme Court Justice Felix Frankfurter, Coleman was shut out of major East Coast law firms. If he managed to gain an interview based on his impressive resume, as soon as Coleman showed his face the interviewer would suddenly be called away on an emergency. But, as the Philadelphia native writes, “the times, they were a’changing.”

This year’s Honorable Clifford Scott Green Lecture featured a lively discussion of William T. Coleman Jr.’s memoir, Counsel for the Situation: Shaping the Law to Realize America’s Promise. Joining Coleman to explore the issues in the book was The Honorable Ann Claire Williams.

Coleman’s rich memoir places him as both an eyewitness and a participant in many of the pivotal historical moments of the past century. While Coleman’s book focuses to a large extent on the civil rights-related dimensions of his practice, he was, as his memoir’s title implies, a “counsel for the situation.” This term was adapted from “counsel to the situation,” first penned by Justice Louis Brandeis to describe the model lawyer—a generalist capable of handling a range of matters for a variety of clients, whether through litigation or less adversarial means.

In the course of his career, Coleman was a counsel—and a distinguished statesman—for many situations. In addition to litigating civil rights cases, he worked as a corporate lawyer for major law firms, served as a government lawyer, and advised six presidents. Coleman spent a lifetime opening doors and breaking down barriers.

An early story establishes his passion for justice—and his talent in the courtroom. Coleman was drafted into the Army air force. Although he wanted to be a fighter pilot, he was told his reaction time wasn’t fast enough. Finding himself in a staff job, he began to volunteer to defend air force personnel, winning all but one of his cases. When he was later assigned to the same base as the Tuskegee Airmen, he found that this heroic squadron was not allowed to use the regular officers’ club. They were instead assigned to a facility they called “Uncle Tom’s Cabin.” When the airmen protested and were court-martialed, Coleman took their case. In the course of litigation, Coleman discovered and produced a directive from President Wilson stating that all officers’ clubs were open to all officers. The defendants were acquitted. The surrounding publicity contributed to the pressure that eventually resulted in President Truman’s announcement that the armed forces would be fully, meaningfully, integrated.

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SUMMER FELLOWSHIPS AWARDED FOR ‘SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE’ POSITIONS

Previous fellows include 22 from Temple Law

APRIL 15, 2011 The Peggy Browning Fund announced that two Temple Law students, ANDREW KELSEY ’12 and JOHN J. MULHOLLAND JR. ’12 are among the select group to receive summer fellowships to work in positions “fighting for social and economic justice.” Nearly 60 other fellows were selected from this year’s group of 460 applicants from 125 participating law schools.

Every summer for the past 13 years, law students funded by the Peggy Browning Fund have competed for ten-week fellowships that place them in workers’ centers, unions, the National Labor Relations Board and union-side law firms. Since it was founded in 1997, the Fund has provided summer fellowships for a total of 369 law students. Many of these students have subsequently fashioned their careers around a commitment to workers’ rights. The two Temple Law students who have been selected this year to join the group of fellows have qualifications that clearly demonstrate their commitment to the Browning mission.

The Peggy Browning Fund was established in 1998 by Temple Law alumnus Joseph Lurie ’56 in memory of his wife, a union-side labor lawyer who practiced in Philadelphia. Lurie retired as a partner from Galtland Berger in 2009 and now volunteers as the president of the fund.

JOHN J. MULHOLLAND JR. ’12 entered law school already planning a career in union-side labor law. “As the son of a Teamster shop steward, the first ‘contract’ I ever heard about was a collective bargaining agreement,” remembers Mulholland. “If not for those contracts guaranteeing my father a wage suitable to support a family, my life would be radically different.

“Growing up, my father instilled in me the value of hard and honest work, but quickly pointed out that the honesty of work goes both ways.”

Mulholland has worked hard. As an undergraduate at Temple, he got a job as a cashier at Rite Aid, making him a member of United Food and Commercial Workers. Local 1776. Continuing at Rite Aid while in law school, Mulholland attends evening classes and has risen to the position of assistant store manager. In addition to working full-time, he volunteers for Jobs With Justice and the National Lawyers Guild Expungement Clinic, and has worked at the Mazzoni Center Legal Clinic.

Last fall, labor professor Marina Angel encouraged Mulholland to attend the National Law Students Workers’ Rights Conference organized each year by the Browning Fund. It was there that he was inspired to apply for a fellowship to deepen his growing knowledge of labor law. His application was successful, and this summer Mulholland is a Peggy Browning Fellow with the United Mine Workers in Triangle, VA.

When asked to explain his commitment to workers’ rights, Peggy Browning Fellow ANDREW KELSEY ’12 cites a book he read about his Sicilian heritage—Sicily: Three Thousand Years of Human History. “This passage about Sicilian sulfur miners in the 1950s sticks in my mind: ‘...a tunnel roof caved in, crushing (seventeen-year-old Michele Ficile). An occupational hazard, rued the men who went to help him but had to remove his remains. In their next pay packet those men found they had been docked for the hour during which they occupied themselves with Michele, and the boy’s survivors found that his pay had been calculated to the time of his death, because after all he had not worked the entire day.’

Before attending law school, Kelsey was an organizer for the National Lawyers Guild and worked in the legal department of the ACLU. Once in law school, classes in labor and employment law with Professors Marina Angel and Brishen Rogers whetted his interest, and during the spring 2011 semester, he gained experience as a law clerk at the union-side labor firm O’Donoghue & O’Donoghue. Kelsey will spend his Browning Fellow summer working in the labor and employment unit of Philadelphia Community Legal Services.

COUNSEL FOR SITUATION continued from page one

His career continued to be groundbreaking in many ways. After being the first person of color to serve as a clerk for the Supreme Court, he was also the first to join a major American law firm (Paul Weiss in New York City). In a career spanning nearly 70 years, Coleman worked with Thurgood Marshall and the NAACP Legal Defense Fund on Brown vs. Board of Education, served as senior counsel to the Warren Commission’s investigation of the Kennedy assassination and as Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation during the Ford administration. For his extraordinary career and accomplishments, Coleman has received many, many honors, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1995.

Judge Ann Claire Williams, who joined Coleman in the Green Lecture, has also had a rich and pioneering career in the law. In 1999, she became the first judge of color appointed to the Seventh Circuit and the third American woman of color to serve on any U.S. Court of Appeals. Prior to that appointment, she sat on the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois. Before becoming a judge, Williams built her career in the Chicago U.S. Attorney’s Office, where she headed the organized drug enforcement task force.

Coleman’s memoir was an apt choice for inspiring members of the law school community, especially students. In the book’s foreword, Justice Stephen G. Breyer writes, “Bill Coleman’s story is one that younger generations should mark and inwardly digest, lest they forget the pioneers who helped to make a better America possible.”

JOSEPH LURIE ’56, DIRECTOR OF THE PEGGY BROWNING FUND, WITH FELLOWS JOHN J. MULHOLLAND JR. ’12 (LEFT) AND ANDREW KELSEY ’12.

“ALUMS” INCLUDE MANY FROM TEMPLE LAW

Over the 13 years the Peggy Browning Fund has placed students in summer positions, 22 Temple Law students have benefited from this unique program. In the past two summers, they have worked with organizations ranging from Community Legal Services (JUSTINE ELLIOTT ’11) to the Philadelphia Solicitor’s Office of the U.S. Department of Labor (SYNGHAE GRACE LIM-AYRES ’11). Temple Law alumni who have received Browning Fellowships say the experience has shaped them. MATTHEW EPSTEIN ’08, a Philadelphia, logged some meaningful experience in labor law in a pre-law school job as a reporter for the Johnstown, PA Tribune Democrat. There, Epstein negotiated contracts and litigated grievances. These tasks endowed him with a passion for workers’ rights, so much so that he applied for and was awarded a Peggy Browning Fellowship in the solicitor’s office of the U.S. Department of Labor. After law school, Epstein clerked for a Labor Department administrative law judge. Most recently, the Labor Department needed new blood in the Mine Safety Office, and recruited Epstein and ten other lawyers, eight of whom are Temple Law alumni.

DAVE JALEVIC ’10 joined Epstein by landing one of these jobs. He welcomes the challenge: “It gives me a lot of independence and responsibility right off the bat. We got thrown 50 or so cases and they’re ours to handle from start to finish. This is good work in that it is meaningful and contributes to the overall safety of miners. It builds on the mission of The Peggy Browning Fund—we’re protecting workers and making sure the workers are getting everything they deserve.”

“So when I did The Peggy Browning Fund it reaffirmed what I wanted to do because I got to see behind the scenes of a large labor union, the Sheet Metal Workers. My fellowship there showed me the issues employees were facing with on a daily basis. I went to collective bargaining negotiations and processed grievances. It showed me what an attorney would do for a labor union and further reaffirmed my commitment to employees’ rights.”

The summer of 2009, TIM BECKEL ’11 worked as a Peggy Browning Fellow with Local 19 of the Sheet Metal Workers Union. “One of the main things I did was shadow union organizers and business agents and get a feel for their day-to-day activities. I observed contract verification votes and the most interesting part of my experience was attending collective bargaining negotiations. These were the most contentious the union had ever seen. One day they started at 9 a.m., didn’t leave until 1 a.m. and returned at noon. So I got a feel for what ‘crunch time’ means in negotiations. I did a lot of research on what the union is required to disclose and did research on union strategy.”

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REGULATION OF MIDWIFERY DISADVANTAGES WOMEN OF COLOR, SAYS STUDENT

Sarah Coburn ’11 wins national writing award for ‘Obstructed Birth’

MAY 6, 2011 In “Obstructed Birth: Racism in Midwifery Regulation, The Emergence of the Certified Professional Midwife and The Need For Movement Building,” Sarah Coburn ’11 argues that the regulation of midwifery in the U.S. disproportionately disadvantages communities of color. Coburn was awarded a 2011 Sarah Weddington Writing Prize for New Student Scholarship in Reproductive Rights for the paper. She was supervised by Professor Nancy J. Knaur.

The article, which placed third in the national contest, charts the history of midwifery and establishes that the regulation and professionalization of midwifery left poor communities of color underserved and without access to culturally competent maternity care. Coburn concludes that existing reproductive rights jurisprudence is not equipped to remedy the problem and details a proposal for a national licensure program.

The Sarah Weddington Writing Contest is sponsored by Law Students for Reproductive Justice (LSRJ) and the Center for Reproductive Rights. Temple Law has a three-year-old chapter of LSRJ, co-founded by Coburn and Abby Biberman ’10, that sponsors events including film screenings, clinic escort trainings and panels to raise awareness around reproductive justice issues.

INDEPENDENCE FELLOWSHIP GOES TO TEMPLE LAW STUDENT FOR TWELFTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR

Justine Elliot ’11 awarded fellowship to work on healthcare issues

Third-year law student Justine Elliott has been awarded an Independence Fellowship. With the support of that fellowship, Elliot will work on healthcare reform issues at Philadelphia Community Legal Services. “This makes twelve years in a row that an outstanding Temple student or graduate has been named an Independence Fellow,” says Professor Susan DeJarmatt, who has advised many of the Independence Fellows.

Elliott is a stand-out student in many ways. She entered the law school as a Rubin-Presser Scholar and was selected to receive a Peggy Browning Fund Fellowship to practice in the area of labor and employment law in summer 2010. Also in 2010, Elliott won the Ruth Bader Ginsburg award for an article, “Working Above the Law: Why a Legislative Solution to the Hoffman Plastic Corn-pounds Decision is Long Overdue.” DeJarmatt supervised Elliott on the award-winning article, which was subsequently published in the Fall 2010 issue of Philadelphia Lawyer.

At Legal Services, Elliott plans to work in the Public Benefits Unit where she will represent individuals and families facing eligibility issues with Medicaid. “I plan to address systemic issues that lead to inefficiency and unfair loss or denial of coverage of Medicaid, with the ultimate goal of creating a more streamlined, equitable system that is better prepared for a major expansion in 2014,” says Elliott. “Specifically, I will work to change outdated and ineffective DPW policies, support the passage of new legislation and, if necessary, bring litigation to ensure the proper effectuation of the law.”

FELLOWSHIP ENABLES JESSICA JONES ’11 TO CONTINUE WORK WITH REFUGEES

Jessica Jones ’11 has been awarded a highly-competitive Equal Justice Works Fellowship to work at the Women’s Refugee Commission/Detention and Asylum Program in Washington, DC. During her yearlong fellowship, Jones will work to increase protection of immigrant youth in the U.S. with a focus on compliance with domestic and international law, detention conditions and adequate screening for trafficking or other abuse.

Jones, who was a Peace Corps volunteer in Morocco, has interned at the Nationalities Services Center, Juvenile Law Center and Community Legal Services in Philadelphia, as well as the Detention and Asylum Project of the Women’s Refugee Commission. Jones’ book, “ABA’s Collateral Consequences of Juvenile Adjudications,” will be published this year. She has also co-written the Women’s Refugee Commission report on the adverse impact of immigration enforcement policy on parent rights and family unity.

FAMILY TRADITION CONTINUES—DESPITE TRAGIC SETBACK

MAY 19, 2011 Joseph Anthony (Tony) Foltz ’11 was following a family tradition when he entered Temple Law. His parents, Richard W. Foltz Jr., a partner at Pepper Hamilton, and mother Frances V. Ryan, a sole practitioner, graduated together in 1980. Their son was all set to earn his law degree in 2010 when his plans were derailed. Only a month before graduation, Tony Foltz was the victim of a hit-and-run accident that left him in critical condition.

With a severe head injury and multiple broken bones, Foltz was at first not expected to survive. After major surgeries and months in rehabilitation, Foltz returned to law school last fall and completed his degree this May. After one more surgery to improve his ability to move his right arm, Foltz is on to the next challenge: taking the bar exam.

In recognition of his accomplishment, Foltz received the law school’s Crossen Award for students who “overcome adversity and show perseverance” in earning a law degree. Sharing the Crossen Award with Foltz was Brian Grubb ’11, who as a Temple undergraduate fell from a loft bed in his off-campus apartment, an accident that left him a quadriplegic.
LESBIAN ELDERS MORE LIKELY TO BE POOR, SAYS KNAUER

PROFESSOR NANCY J. KNAUER, author of Gay and Lesbian Elders: History, Law and Identity Politics in the United States (Ashgate Publishing, 2010), participated in a National Seniors Panel at the 19th annual Equality Forum. “Women earn less in general (76 cents to a man’s dollar), and older lesbians are 12 times more likely (than men) to live below the poverty line,” Knauer says.

—Philadelphia Inquirer, April 25, 2011

DURU ASKED TO COMMENT ON ROONEY RULE

“The (Rooney) rule, in place since 2003 for head coaches and expanded in 2009 to include general manager jobs and equivalent front-office positions, mandates that NFL teams interview at least one minority candidate for job openings. . . . Critics of the rule unfairly label it as the NFL’s affirmative action program. But there is no hiring requirement . . . there is no quota,” PROFESSOR N. JEREMI DURU said. “There’s no restriction on the number of people who can be interviewed. The only benefit that the interviewee who is of color gets is an opportunity to show that that person can do the job . . . It is a process-oriented rule,” Duru said. “But of course, we can’t get into the states of mind of the various decision-makers.”

—Washington Post, February 20, 2011

“Gordon Taylor, the head of England’s Professional Footballers’ Association decried the lack of diversity among managers of professional soccer clubs in England,” says Duru. “Starting with the Premier League and going down through England’s lower soccer divisions, black managers are astonishingly scarce. Only one of the 92 clubs has a black manager, and in the history of English soccer there have only been a handful of black managers. Taylor says this is a huge problem, and he believes the Rooney Rule may be the answer. ‘We have got to learn from other sports and other countries, and we saw how many top quality black gridiron players there were and how few black coaches... but they came in with that rule and it’s made a difference, and now it’s become assimilated into the culture of the NFL.’”

—Yahoo! Sports, April 3, 2011

DURU ON THE NFL LOCKOUT

PROFESSOR N. JEREMI DURU sees a learning opportunity in the looming NFL lockout. “Under league rules, the minimally paid NFL rookie makes $325,000 per year, a tidy sum by any reasonable standard. Everybody else makes more, and must make exponentially more. Still, according to a 2009 Sports Illustrated study, an astonishing 78 percent of former NFL players are bankrupt or otherwise financially distressed within two years of retirement . . . I don’t wish unemployment on anyone, but if there is a work stoppage, I do hope it hurts players just enough that they start to think about what will be required to save themselves from substantially greater pain several years down the line.”

—The Post Game, February 19, 2011

LAPTOPS ENHANCE LEARNING, MURRAY CLAIMS

PROFESSOR KRISTEN MURRAY concluded that laptops actually can enhance the educational experience—and suggests educators think twice about banning them. “They might not benefit all learners, or be appropriate at all times, but to ban them completely from a lecture hall is to deny students a powerful learning tool—one that many students already use to enhance their learning,” Murray wrote in Let Them Use Laptops: Debunking the Assumptions Underlying the Debate Over Laptops in the Classroom (forthcoming, Okla. City U. L. Rev.).


SINDEN WARNS OF PROBLEMS IN EPA’S COOLING WATER RULES

Environmentalists are concerned that the EPA’s upcoming cooling water rule will provide existing power plants and some manufacturing facilities with too much flexibility, allowing standards to be developed on a case-by-case basis instead of more consistent national requirements that apply to plants subject to the rule. PROFESSOR AMY SINDEN, a scholar at the Center for Progressive Reform, warned in a recent blog on the group’s website that statements hint at a “relatively toothless case-by-case permitting regime rather than simply mandating the more environmentally protective close-cycle cooling technology that some plants already use.”


DIPLOMATS FEAR BEING ‘POLITICAL FOOTBALLS’ SAYS SPIRO

A CIA agent who killed two men in Lahore is asserting diplomatic immunity. “This is a context in which the U.S. is very aggressively asserting international law, which is not the usual posture the U.S. finds itself in,” says PROFESSOR PETER J. SPIRO. And, he adds, “it’s pretty clear the U.S. is on the right side of the international law. Pakistan sees the case as anything but clear. Popular anger centers on a perception that the agent used excessive force in warding off two thieves, shooting them in their backs in January. There’s good reason for the rule,” says Spiro. “One of the premises of diplomatic immunity is that there will be cases where diplomats won’t get a fair trial and they will become political footballs. And this case clearly fits this trend.”

—Christian Science Monitor, March 1, 2011

JUDGMENT AGAINST CHEVRON MAY BE HARD TO COLLECT, ACCORDING TO HOLLIS

Armed with a $9 billion ruling against Chevron in Ecuador but little chance of collecting it there, representatives for Ecuadorian villagers said Tuesday that they were looking at waging legal battles against the company in more than a dozen countries where it operates, hoping to force Chevron to pay . . .

ASSOCIATE DEAN DUNCAN HOLLIS said it was logical for the plaintiffs to take their battle to other countries in the region because “there is some commonality in Latin American legal systems.” But, Mr. Hollis added, “there is no international law about how one court is supposed to enforce the judgments from another nation’s court.”


EPPS DOUBTS WIDESPREAD CHEATING IN SCHOOL RANKING PROCESS

“I think that those of us in legal education understand the implications of data that is entirely self-reported,” said DEAN JOANNE A. EPPS. “Everyone wants the outside evaluation to be as favorable as it can be.” But Epps said she doubted there was widespread cheating, and did not believe the ranking system had a built-in incentive to fudge the numbers. Still, she criticized rankings such as U.S. News for focusing on metrics that tell little about the real value of the educational experience at a given law school.

—Philadelphia Inquirer, February 9, 2011

HEALTHCARE COULD BE DECIDED BY COURT, SAYS RAHDERT

One of the great myths of American civics is that the U.S. Supreme Court is above the fray of partisan politics—but the fate of healthcare reform seems likely to be decided by a conservative court. “The court is quite conservative (and) when you get into unsettled territory, political leanings tend to be strong predictors of individual justices,” said PROFESSOR MARK RAHDERT. “That’s been established extensively by political science studies over generations of court decision making.”

—Philadelphia Tribune, February 6, 2011
EDWARD OHILBAUM ’76, TRIAL ADVOCACY PROFESSOR AND COACH HONORED

Lifetime Achievement Award Recognizes ‘Excellence in Advocacy’

MAY 27, 2011 Each year, during its annual Educating Advocates Conference, Stetson University College of Law awards a lifetime achievement award for excellence in advocacy to a deserving member of the legal community. This award recognizes excellence in all facets of advocacy, ranging from teaching to representing clients. The 2011 Robert Oliphant Lifetime Achievement Award goes to a Temple Law School legend: Professor Edward D. Ohilbaum, Director of Trial Advocacy and Clinical Legal Education. Ohilbaum is the longtime supervising coach of the championship National Trial Team.

“Professor Eddie Ohilbaum is the consummate role model for law professors,” said Stetson Law Professor Charles Rose, in presenting the award. “As a competitor, friend and peer he is without compare and our profession is blessed to have him in it.”

Known and beloved by a generation of trial attorneys in Philadelphia and across the country, Ohilbaum has helped coach the law school’s championship mock trial team to five national championships in the past seventeen years and multiple invitational and regional titles. He is the architect of Temple’s unique LL.M. in Trial Advocacy. His programs have won awards from the American College of Trial Lawyers and the Committee on Professionalism of the American Bar Association. The author of three books, Ohilbaum is a frequent speaker on evidence and advocacy at key international and domestic conferences.

Ohilbaum—who earned his J.D. at Temple Law—was a former senior trial lawyer with the Defender Association of Philadelphia before he joined the Temple Law School Faculty in 1985. He was the inaugural holder of Temple’s first chair in trial advocacy, the Jack E. Feinberg Professorship of Litigation and in 1997 was awarded the prestigious Richard S. Jacobson Award, given annually by the Roscoe Pound Foundation to one professor for “demonstrated excellence in teaching trial advocacy.”

Last year’s Lifetime Achievement Award recipient was University of New Mexico School of Law Professor Barbara Bergman, who is past president of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. In 2009, the award went to Trial Advocacy authors Professor Thomas Mauet and Justice Warren Wolfson. The 2007 inaugural award was presented to Terrence McCarthy, Executive Director of the Federal Defender Office for the northern district of Illinois.

NANCY J. KNAUER NAMED ONE OF 25 ‘BEST LAW TEACHERS’ IN U.S.

FEBRUARY 10, 2011 Professor Nancy J. Knauer was selected for inclusion in an upcoming book, What the Best Law Teachers Do. 25 law professors across the nation will be featured in the study to be published in 2012 or 2013 by Harvard University Press.

Professors were chosen from more than 250 nominees teaching at approximately 100 law schools. The nominations came from deans, associate deans, faculty colleagues, students, and alumni. To be considered as possible subjects of the study, nominees had to submit evidence that they produce extraordinary, long-term learning.

Knauer, who teaches courses in political and civil rights, property, sexuality and the law and taxation, has published widely on issues related to identity, sexuality, gender, and the law. Her accomplishments in the classroom have already garnered significant acclaim. Previous recognition for excellence in both teaching and scholarship includes a Dukeminier Award and a Stu Walter Prize from the Williams Institute in 2010 for her article: “LGBT Elder Law: Toward Equity in Aging,” in the Harvard Journal of Law & Gender; the Friel-Scanlan Award for Scholarship; the Temple University Great Teacher Award; and the George P. Williams Ill Memorial Award for Teaching. In addition, the graduating class at Temple Law has three times voted Knauer Outstanding Professor of the Year.

LAW PROFESSOR RECEIVES UNIVERSITY RESEARCH AWARD

Scott Burris is pioneer in public health law

APRIL 28, 2011 Public health law pioneer Professor Scott Burris was presented with the Paul W. Eberman Faculty Research Award at Temple University’s annual awards ceremony.

“This is the first time that a law faculty member has received this coveted research award from the university, and Scott is an outstanding choice,” says Associate Dean for Research and Professor of Law Gregory Mandel.

“Though I could go on about Scott’s scholarly accomplishments at length, suffice it to say that he has essentially created a new field of law and legal research studying the relationship of law and legal practices to public health.”

Burris was one of fourteen Temple University professors who were honored with 2011 faculty awards celebrating excellence in teaching, research and the creative arts. Honorees are selected based on an evaluation of nomination letters from faculty, students and alumni, student course evaluations, peer reviews, and related work.

Burris—who joined the Temple Law faculty in 1991—has been a prime scholar and activist in the legal response to HIV/AIDS. His scholarship has helped define a wide range of legal issues in HIV control, from using criminal laws to control risky behavior to harm reduction measures for drug users and sex workers. His work on HIV has also contributed to model state laws and revived public health law as a field of study at law schools.

In 2008, Burris’ expertise in public health law led to the establishment of Public Health Law Research, a program directed by Burris that was created at Temple Law by a $17 million grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to fund research in the field.
TOKYO LAW CLASSES CANCELLED FOR TWO WEEKS, RESUMED

On March 11—in what is now acknowledged as one of the most destructive natural disasters in recent history—an 8.9-magnitude earthquake and subsequent tsunami struck the northeast coast of the main Japanese island of Honshu. The quake’s epicenter was approximately 100 miles north of Temple University Japan (TUJ) in Tokyo. At the time, 11 law students from Temple and 28 from other law schools were in the ninth week of a semester of study in Japan.

Assistant Dean for International and Graduate Programs Louis Thompson stayed in close and constant contact with faculty, staff and administration in Japan. Thanks chiefly to the efforts of Interim Director Professor Finbar McCarthy and Deputy Director Min Lu, both of whom reside in Tokyo, Thompson was relieved to verify quickly the whereabouts and safety of every student, as well as the faculty and staff and their families. In the atmosphere of uncertainty and shock that followed the tragedy, TUJ’s Dean Starch decided to cancel classes on March 14. As a level of normalcy slowly returned in Tokyo, the law program resumed classes on March 28. Narita Airport is running a regular schedule, most public transportation is up and running, and communication is largely back to normal in Japan’s capital city.

“The news reports and images continue to be alarming and we mourn for the thousands of families and individuals suffering,” says Thompson. “But there is nothing to suggest Tokyo will be impacted directly in any significant way.” Every student and faculty member was given the option of completing their courses outside of Japan using remote technology. Most of the professors and more than a third of the students elected to finish up in Tokyo, and every student in the program was expected to complete all their coursework and exams as originally scheduled.

Temple has operated the only ABA-approved semester-long law program in Japan since 1995. Thompson says the crisis in Japan represents a huge challenge, and an opportunity: “Our continued presence in Japan indicates our commitment not only to international legal education, but to the Japanese people as we join with them to rebuild their country.”

‘YOUR VOICE AT THE IRS’ SPEAKS AT LAW SCHOOL

Nina Olson is ‘a pragmatist and an idealist’

MARCH 17, 2011 Nina Olson spoke to a packed house at Temple Law School about her position heading an office that bills itself as “your voice at the IRS.” Olson is the National Taxpayer Advocate, and she was invited to speak by tax professor Alice Abreu, who described Olson as “my hero . . . an inspiration and a role model.”

“She is both a pragmatist and an idealist—she understands the difficulty of administering a mammoth tax system like ours but also strives to push the system to do better,” says Abreu. “The Taxpayer Advocate Service, which Olson heads, has more than 2,000 employees and field offices throughout the country. Her staff intervenes on behalf of taxpayers who are having difficulty resolving disputes with the IRS and she takes that information, together with studies that her office undertakes and her vast knowledge of IRS operations, to make systemic recommendations for improvement.”

Olson, a native Philadelphian, has served as the National Taxpayer Advocate since 2001. Congress established the Taxpayer Advocate Service in 1996 to give taxpayers a champion within the system. As a tax attorney and the only IRS employee authorized to make legislative proposals directly to Congress, Olson identifies the top problems taxpayers face and analyzes how the IRS, and Congress, can ameliorate those problems. She delivers two reports to Congress every year and is frequently called upon to testify to congressional committees.

Olson’s remarks centered on how she came to be the National Taxpayer Advocate and the importance of doing something you love. Prior to becoming a lawyer, Olson ran an accounting and bookkeeping business while pursuing fine arts projects and raising a son. She earned her J.D. from North Carolina Central University as an evening student, and commuted to get her LL.M. in Taxation at Georgetown University Law Center after that.

After moving to Richmond, Virginia, Olson started a low-income taxpayer clinic, the first in the country not associated with a law school. She testified before Congress in 1998 during the IRS hearings about the problems low-income taxpayers face. As a result of her testimony, Congress created a grant program for low-income taxpayer clinics to fund representation of low-income taxpayers and taxpayers who speak English as a second language. Today there are more than 160 such clinics around the country; at the time of her testimony there were only 14.

Olson offered strong career advice to the assembled J.D. and LL.M. in Taxation candidates who came to hear her speak. She warned students that “we often limit ourselves, and society is usually the worse for that.” Instead, she advised students not to be “constrained by the pathways that have been set before you and defined by others . . . you have only one skin to live in, and it’s yours. You have to feel like you’re doing what you want to do, so that you can look at yourself and say I’m a good person. For me to live in my skin, I had to do this.”

Note: To see a video of Olson’s remarks, go to Sights and Sounds on www.law.temple.edu.
HARVARD’S SARAH SEWALL LECTURES AT LAW SCHOOL

FEBRUARY 4, 2011  Sarah Sewall, a professor at Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government, addressed more than 100 members of the law school community on how the laws of war are increasingly detached from conflict on the ground. The talk, sponsored by Temple’s Institute for International Law and Public Policy, explored recent developments in international humanitarian law. Sewall argued that while recent conventions have focused on such issues as land mines and cluster munitions, Sewall stressed that much more basic protections—such as rules protecting civilians from indiscriminate killing—are being flouted in conflicts around the world.

“Sarah Sewall is a leading authority on international humanitarian law,” says Peter J. Spiro, who holds the Charles R. Weiner Professorship in International Law and co-directs the Institute. “She is a leading thinker on the new challenges facing defense policymakers,” says Spiro.

“Her experience at the highest levels of government gives her a fresh take on the conventional academic wisdom.”

Sewall was the first ever Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Peacekeeping and Humanitarian Assistance, appointed during the Clinton administration, and was Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell’s long-time top foreign policy aide. She is credited with innovating the concept of mass atrocity reconnaissance operations. She led President Obama’s Transitional National Security Agency Review process in 2008, responsible for recommending major personnel appointments and setting the Administration’s lead defense policies. A Rhodes Scholar at Oxford, Sewall now teaches international affairs at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, directs Harvard’s Program on National Security and Human Rights, and is the founder and faculty director of the Mass Atrocity Response Operations Project. She is also currently leading a study on civilian casualties, commissioned by General David Petraeus, the commander of U.S. forces in Afghanistan.

DEAN ATTENDS SHANGHAI REUNION

APRIL 27, 2011  Dean JoAnne Epps was the guest of honor at a reunion hosted by the Shanghai chapter of the Temple Law Alumni Association of China. Chapter members are graduates of Temple Law’s LL.M. degree program launched in 1997 to educate Chinese judges, prosecutors, government officials, law professors, and lawyers in U.S. and international legal principles. This 15-month program operates in collaboration with Tsinghua University School of Law in Beijing and is the first foreign law degree granting program approved by the Chinese Ministry of Education.

Attending the dinner at the Shanghai International Convention Center were (front row, from left): Shen Dongmei, LL.M. ‘07, Li Lan, LL.M. ‘05, Tang Xuan, LL.M. ‘04, Yang Tongdan, visiting scholar 2010, Associate Dean Robert Bartow, Dean JoAnne Epps, Assistant Dean Louis Thompson, China Program Co-Director and Associate Professor Melindah Bush, Director of Asian Programs John Smagula, Wang Fei, LL.M. ‘03, (back row, from left): Chai Chengxian, LL.M. ‘03, Jing Tao, LL.M. ‘07, Song Qing, LL.M. ‘06, Tang Shengxue, LL.M. ‘11, Lu Ye, LL.M. ‘03, Li Yongjia, LL.M. ‘10, Leng Yijia, LL.M. ‘01, Jiang Yan, LL.M. ‘03, Shu Ce, LL.M. ‘09, Lan Rongjie, LL.M. ‘07, S.J.D. ‘10, Jia Jingyuan, LL.M. ’09, Zhang Xiaoyin, LL.M. ‘10, Xu Qi, LL.M. ’09, Wang Zhengzhi, LL.M. ’03. Not pictured: China Program Co-Director and Professor Mo Zhang.

FOUNDING FATHER CAN TEACH US ABOUT THE INTERNET

APRIL 5, 2011  “Thomas Jefferson, His Moose, and the ‘Nature’ of Cyberspace” was the topic of the spring Friel Scanlan Lecture, delivered by Professor David Post. Post claims that the early American philosopher has a great deal to teach us about cyberspace and the laws that are developing to govern it. Post teaches intellectual property law and the law of cyberspace at Temple, and is also a fellow at the Center for Democracy and Technology and the Institute for Information Law and Policy at New York Law School. He is an adjunct scholar at the Cable Institute.
SPRING 2011 AT TEMPLE LAW

ALPHONSO DAVID ’00 PRESIDES AT TEMPLE LEAP’S 2011 HIGH SCHOOL MOCK TRIAL COMPETITION

ALPHONSO DAVID ’00 JUDGES HIGH SCHOOL MOCK TRIALS

MARCH 12, 2011 Alphonso B. David ’00 judged this year’s Philadelphia regional high school mock trial competition. David, formerly a staff attorney at Lambda Legal, is the special advisor to the Commissioner for New York State Division of Human Rights.

The high school mock trial competition is an annual event organized by Temple’s Legal Education and Participation (LEAP). The winning team at this year’s regional competition was St. Joseph’s Preparatory High School, coached by Assistant U.S. Attorney Tom Johnson. The team advanced to the state competition in Harrisburg, where it lost in a split decision to Wyoming Seminary Preparatory.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ATT’Y ADDRESSES LAW COMMUNITY

MARCH 29, 2011 Jonathan S. Caplan ’93 discussed his legal career as an intellectual property law litigator at a dean’s invitational forum. The forum was part of a series designed to expose members of the law school community—particularly students considering different practice areas—to an in-depth exploration of practice “on the ground.”

Caplan, a partner at the New York City firm of Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel, is also co-chair of the firm’s China practice. He is currently president of the New Jersey Intellectual Property Law Association, whose membership includes many of the world’s largest pharmaceutical companies headquartered in that state. At the forum, Caplan discussed recent litigation experience that includes multiple cases defending Sirius XM in patent infringement actions in Texas and California.

A CONVERSATION ON WOMEN, LAW, AND LEADERSHIP

Two top women lawyers recommend embracing ‘the power of sisterhood’

MARCH 28, 2011 The Women’s Law Caucus, in partnership with Dean JoAnne Epps, filed Shusterman Hall for an afternoon of conversation with Roberta Liebenberg, a senior partner at Fine, Kaplan, and Black and chair of the ABA Commission on Women in the Profession, and Tina Tchen, Chief of Staff for Michelle Obama and Executive Director of the White House Council on Women and Children. (Prior to her White House position, Tchen spent 23 years at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher, & Flom, 16 of them as a partner.)

Dean Epps moderated the discussion, in which Liebenberg and Tchen spoke candidly about the subtle ways in which women can be excluded from positions of influence in law firms. They suggested ways in which women can gain access to such positions by asking to be placed on key committees or projects. Both described the substantial challenges of raising children at the same time that each was growing her practice. They also emphasized the importance of making connections and building relationships—both for personal support and for professional development.

But perhaps the most significant takeaway from the afternoon was the need for women lawyers to embrace words and concepts like “power” and “ambition” to the same extent that men have traditionally done. Both Liebenberg and Tchen acknowledged that some women undermine their own success by failing to assert themselves or ask for what they want. They encouraged the women present to be as strong in advocating for their own success as they are in advocating for their clients. And, they each hastened to add, women should never underestimate one of the greatest resources available to them—“the power,” they said, “of sisterhood.”

— Rebecca Schatschneider
1960s

Former State Senator ROBERT ROVERE ‘68, senior partner and founder of Rovere, Allen, Rovere, Zimmerman & Nash, has been appointed chair of the Pennsylvania Lawyers Fund for Client Security. The fund reimburses victims of attorney dishonesty and promotes public confidence in the legal system in Pennsylvania.

1970s

STEPHEN H. FRISBERG ‘71, a partner at the law firm of Drexel, Petranka, Blum & Murphy, has been elected president of the Golden Slipper Club and Charities of Philadelphia. Frisberg is also president of the Golden Slipper Senior Center. Golden Slipper Club & Charities is a multi-service agency comprised of three entities: a camp for deserving children in the Poconos; a short- and long-term rehabilitation and nursing care facility in Northeast Philadelphia; and a senior center in the Bala Cynwyd section of Philadelphia. In October 2010, Frisberg was elected vice chairman of the Wellness Community of Philadelphia’s board of directors, of which he has been a member since 1999.

CHARLES C. COYNE ‘73, an attorney at the Philadelphia firm Obermayer Rebmann Maxwell & Hippel, served as a judge at the second annual Transactional Law Meet held at the Earl Mack School of Law at Drexel University.

A Jacoby Donner shareholder, B. CHRISTOPHER LEE ‘76 has been elected president of the Charter High School for Architecture and Design (CHAD). Designing Futures Foundation, CHAD was founded in 2000 by the local chapter of the American Institute of Architects with support from the General Building Contractors Association. Lee is a 30-year veteran of construction law and commercial dispute resolution who now devotes a portion of his practice to serving as a mediator of complex construction disputes.

JUDGE COVETTE ROONEY ‘77 has been named chief administrative law judge for the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission, where she has been an administrative law judge since 1996. She first became an administrative law judge at the Social Security Administration in 1994. Before assuming that position, Rooney was responsible for the Mine Safety and Health Administration and Black Lung Benefits Program at the U.S. Department of Labor.

JOSEPH D. MANCANO ‘79 presented at the University of North Carolina Treasury Management Series in March. His presentation explored litigation issues raised by bank loan agreements in today’s challenging economy. Mancano is a partner in the Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers’ Compensation Section, led by former judge and author, and is a member of the Philadelphia Bar Association. Mancano is a partner in the law firm of Pietragallo Gordon Afonso Bosick & Raspanti, vice-chair of the firm’s white collar criminal defense group and a member of the firm’s commercial litigation group.

1980s

PHYLLIS HORN EPSTEIN, J.D. ’80, LL.M. ’84, a partner in the Philadelphia firm of Epstein, Shapiro & Epstein, is serving a one-year term as treasurer of the Pennsylvania Bar Association. Epstein is a past member of the PBA House of Delegates, a past co-chair of the PBA Commission on Women and has been a member of the PBA nominating committee and the quality of life balance committee. She is also the supervising editor of the PBA Commission on Women’s official publication, Voices and Views.

RIDGEWORTH Investments recently announced that it has hired JOSEPH M. O’DONNELL ‘66 as chief compliance officer for the RidgeWorth Funds. O’Donnell has more than 20 years of investment compliance experience, most recently with ING Funds where he was executive vice president and chief compliance officer for ING’s U.S.-based mutual fund platform.

In January, PHYLLIS E. BROSS ‘88 retired from a practice in real estate development and environmental law at Parker McKay in Marlton, NJ. She was co-chair of the firm’s real estate department and published and lectured regularly on brownfield redevelopment issues. Bross now lives in Land O’Lakes, FL with her husband.

ANGELI RASBURY ‘88 was one of four women recently honored with the Woman of Great Esteem Award, as well as a Congressional Citation from Congresswoman Yvette D. Clark. Rasbury, a writer, poet and Brooklyn, NY resident, recently published “My Grandfather Had One Coat,” in which she gathered work by children and teens as young as six into an illustrated collection of prose and poetry. Rasbury worked as a criminal defense lawyer in Brooklyn; currently, she works at the Brooklyn Public Library, where she launched Phat Phun Tuesdays, poetry writing workshops for young readers.

JEFFREY P. SCARPELLO ‘88 was one of three individuals honored at the 2011 Philadelphia Police Athletic League (PALS) dinner in May. Scarrello, executive director of the Pennsylvania, Delaware and New Jersey chapter of National Electrical Contractors’ Association, is a member of the PALS board and active in the organization.

DAVID J. STEERMAN ’89 participated in the Philadelphia Bar Institute’s annual Family Law Institute, where he was the moderator for a panel discussion “Government Intervention in Parenting Decisions.” Steerman is a member of Obermayer Rebmann Maxwell & Hippel’s litigation department.

1990s

In January, Oxford University Press published General Liability Insurance Coverage—Key Issues in Every State, an insurance coverage book co-authored (with Jeffrey Stempel) by RANDY MANILOFF ‘91. SARAH DAMIANI ‘10 was a research assistant on the book. Manilloff is a partner in the commercial litigation department of White and Williams.

GEORGE R. SMAWLEY ‘91, currently deployed in Iraq with the 25th Infantry Division, has been promoted to the rank of colonel.

RICK GELLER ‘92 is an adjunct professor teaching land use law in a Master of Planning in Civic Urbanism program at Rollins College in Winter Park, FL. The Florida State University College of Law’s Journal of Land Use and Environmental Law published an article by Geller, “The Legality of Form-Based Zoning Codes,” in the fall 2010 issue.

Rawle & Henderson announced that SCOTT F. GRIFFITH ‘93 was elected to the firm’s partnership effective in January. Griffith’s practice areas include products liability, toxic torts, commercial litigation and white collar criminal defense.
PAUL MCCONNELL '96
SERVES IN AFGHANISTAN

MAY 2011 Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Connecticut PAUL MCCONNELL ’96 is a Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve. He recently returned from a six-month tour of duty in Afghanistan where he served as an operations officer focusing on building and creating capacity in an area that includes Helmand Province, site of some of the fiercest fighting in the country.

JUDGE REED RESIGNS

HON. LOWELL A. REED JR. ’58 recently resigned after 23 years on the bench of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. Reed has been a federal judge since 1988, when he was appointed by President Ronald Reagan to fill a seat vacated by Anthony J. Scirica. Born in West Chester, PA in 1930, Reed grew up near Pleasant Prairie, WI, where he attended a one-room school. He went on to earn an undergraduate degree from University of Wisconsin and attended Wisconsin Law School before completing a J.D. at Temple Law in 1958. He was a Lieutenant Commander in the Navy, working in intelligence from 1953 to 1957.

Immediately following law school, Reed clerked for Philadelphia Common Pleas Court Judge Ethan Allen Doty. He then went to work as a trial attorney for PMA Insurance Group in Philadelphia, followed by private practice from 1963 to 1988.

Reed has always maintained a close connection to Temple Law. For 15 years—from 1966 to 1981—he lectured at the law school, and served on the faculty advisory board for the Academy of Advocacy from 1989 to the present. He was the Founder’s Day honoree in 2001, and this year’s Law Day honoree.

STEVENS & Lee shareholder CHARLES M. SUHR ’94 was a presenter at a continuing education workshop conducted by the American Planning Association’s Pennsylvania chapter. In the workshop, he outlined significant recent appellate land use decisions. Suhr concentrates his practice in real estate with an emphasis on land development.

Gov. Tom Corbett named JOANNA CRUZ ’95 to the 16-member Delaware River Port Authority board. Cruz is an associate with the Upper Gwynedd law firm of Kerns, Pearlstine, Onorato & Hladik. She also works part-time as an assistant county solicitor with Montgomery County’s Office of Children and Youth.

John Grisham’s hit novel, The Firm, is about to be an NBC TV series, executive-produced and written by LUKAS REITER ’95. Reiter has written for The Practice and has been an executive producer for other legal-themed shows including Law and Order and Outlaw. Production on The Firm is expected to begin in Canada in July.

KATHRYN DOYLE ’96 withdrew from the partnership at Drinker Biddle & Reath and launched her own law firm in November 2010. The firm, Riverside Law, is located in West Conshohocken, PA and specializes in all aspects of intellectual property law, with an emphasis on life sciences.

KELBY BRICK ’97 received a proclamation from Maryland Governor Martin O’Malley honoring his work in civil rights. The inaugural Kelby Brick Community Leadership Award will be given annually in his name. Brick is the vice president of regulatory and strategy policy at Purple Communications.

DAVID L. MARCUS ’97 has been promoted to vice president, deputy general counsel and chief patent counsel of Comcast Communications. Marcus, who joined Comcast in 2007, was a lieutenant and submarine warfare officer in the U.S. Navy before attending law school.

LISA PARISI ’97 was recently named Head of Public Services and Foreign and International Law Librarian at Touro College Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center. Parisi, who earned a Masters of Information Science from Florida State University, practiced as an attorney in the areas of probate, elder law and guardianship. Prior to joining Touro, she was a reference librarian at Florida Coastal School of Law in Jacksonville, FL.

MICHAEL ADLER ’98 was a panelist at the New Partner and In-House Counsel Conference hosted by the American Bar Association in February in Philadelphia. Adler practices in the areas of commercial law and litigation and nursing home and long-term care liability in the Philadelphia office of Weber Gallagher Simpson Stapleton Fires & Newby.

In February, VERNessa T. POLLARD ’99 participated in a live webcast produced by the Knowledge Congress entitled “Communications for Medical Devices.” Pollard is a partner in Arnold & Porter’s FDA and healthcare practice group in Washington, DC. She spent six years as an associate chief counsel for enforcement in the Office of Chief Counsel at the FDA.

JUDY YOUNG ’99 was recently a guest lecturer at Ohio State University Moritz College of Law’s seminar on trends and challenges in the business of law. Young is principal owner of the Law Offices of Judy M. Young, where she operates a practice focused on wine and hospitality law.

2000s

At the April meeting of the Pennsylvania Bar Institute’s Family Law Institute, MICHAEL E. BERTIN ’00 presented the plenary session: “Introduction to Pennsylvania’s New Child Custody Law and Parenting Plans.” Bertin practices in Obermayer Rebmann Maxwell & Hippel’s litigation department, and is the treasurer of the family law section and co-chair of the custody committee of the Philadelphia Bar Association.

In April, SARAH L. GITCHELL ’00 was promoted to vice president, general counsel and chief counsel of content acquisition of Comcast Cable Communications. Gitchell has been with Comcast since 2005.

JASON HERRON ’00 has been elected to partnership at the law firm of Wiser Pearltine where he is a member of the firm’s business practice group. Before joining Wiser Pearltine, Herron was a staff attorney in the Pennsylvania Governor’s Office of General Counsel, where he represented the Department of Community and Economic Development and the Pennsylvania Industrial Development Authority. He was also recently elected chairman of the Planning Commission of East Vincent Township, Chester County, PA.

Greenberg Traurig has named KELLY DOBES BUNTING ’01 a shareholder in the firm. Bunting, a member of the firm’s labor and employment and litigation practice groups, was co-chair of the labor and employment committee of the Philadelphia Bar Association in 2009 and 2010.

SEMNANOFF ORMSBY GREENBERG & Torchia recently announced the hiring of JACQUELINE B. PENROD ’02, who will concentrate her practice on all aspects of health law. Penrod practiced at Duane Morris from 2002 until 2004 and at Reed Smith from 2006 through 2010.

DONNA JOHNSON BULLOCK ’03 joined the staff of Philadelphia City Councilman Darrell Clarke, where she focuses on community and economic development. Bullock remains of counsel to Laura Solomon Esq. & Associates.

MORGEN CHESHER ’03 has joined the firm of Laura Solomon Esq. & Associates in Wynnewood, PA. Previously, Chesher was a partner and co-chair of the nonprofit organizations practice group at Schnader Harrison Segal & Lewis.

SEND US YOUR NEWS!

TEMPLE ESQ. welcomes news and photos of our alumni/ae. Please include: full name, class, degree, and a way to reach you if we need to confirm information.

Send to: Janet Goldwater
Temple Esq.
Temple University
Beasley School of Law
1719 North Broad Street
Philadelphia, PA 19122

Email: janet.goldwater@temple.edu
NATALIE HRUBOS ’09 HONORED FOR WORK WITH LOW-INCOME TRANSGENDER INDIVIDUALS

MARCH 21, 2011 Natalie Hrubos ’09 received the Craig M. Perry Service Award from the Philadelphia Bar Association for her pro bono work representing low-income transgender individuals. Hrubos is an associate attorney at Greenberg Traurig where she represents and counsels management clients facing employee and labor relations challenges. In 2010, as a first-year associate, she engaged in significant pro bono work representing low-income transgender individuals seeking legal name changes and corrections to their identity documents. Hrubos is an active member of the Planning Committee for the Philadelphia Trans-Health Conference, a three-day event that promotes health and wellness within the transgender community through workshops and other educational opportunities. She planned the conference’s first-ever CLE program and walk-in legal clinic. Hrubos serves on the Legal Advisory Board for the Legal Services Department at the Mazzoni Center, the only agency in Philadelphia providing direct legal services to low-income LGBT individuals facing legal obstacles related to sexual orientation and/or gender identity.

RENEE C. VIDAL, LL.M. ’03 was honored by the Burlington County Advisory Council on Women at the organization’s annual Outstanding Women of the Year ceremony in March. Vidal is a shareholder in the Cherry Hill, NJ firm of FlasterGreenberg, where she practices in the areas of estate and tax planning, estate administration, business and corporate services and elder law. She is past chairperson of the Burlington County Chamber of Commerce, a founding member of the Burlington County Advisory Council on Women and past chairperson of its predecessor, the Burlington County Advisory Committee on Women.

MARK M. LEE ’04 recently accepted a position at the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the District of Delaware as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the criminal division.

A. BENNETTE HARRISON ’07 was recently appointed to the position of Assistant City Solicitor in the City of Philadelphia Law Department, where she will work in the child welfare unit. Harrison was previously an Assistant District Attorney for Philadelphia and a law clerk to Judge Leon W. Tucker of the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas.

Begley Carlin & Mandigo announced that MICHAEL P. ALFORD ’08 has joined the Langhorne, PA firm. Alford, a former law clerk to Judge Albert J. Cepparulo in the Bucks County Court of Common Pleas, will practice in the areas of appellate and school law.

JENNIFER J. RILEY ’01 is presenting two sessions for the Spring-Ford Area School District, “Economics Of Divorce,” and “The Psychology and Law of Divorce.” Riley has been a member of the Lansdale, PA firm of Rubin, Glickman, Steinberg and Gorfoid since 2009.

2010s

Fish & Richardson recently announced the continued expansion of its life sciences practice in its Delaware office with the addition of SANTOSH V. COUTINHO ’10 as an associate in the intellectual property litigation group. Coutinho joined Fish & Richardson from Novo Nordisk, where he was a senior medical liaison. He has also worked as a scientist and medical science liaison at Johnson & Johnson.

KEN SIBANDA LL.M. ’11 announces the release of a science fiction novel, Return to Gibraltar. Sibanda is a South African born writer and film director whose last publication was a book of poetry, Songs of Soweto.

ARLEN SPECTER ADDRESSES GRADUATING CLASS

MAY 19, 2011 Longtime U.S. Senator Arlen Specter delivered the commencement address to the law school’s class of 2011. Specter, who was first elected to represent Pennsylvania in 1980, is the longest-serving senator in the commonwealth’s history. A former Philadelphia District Attorney and attorney at Dechert, Price & Rhoads, Specter earned a reputation for excellence as a prosecutor. He was invited to join the Warren Commission and played a leading role in the investigation of the assassination of President Kennedy.

Beginning in 1980 as a member of the U.S. Senate, Specter was known as a moderate stalwart of the Republican Party. As a member of the Judiciary Committee, and its chair for two years, he played a major role in often controversial U.S. Supreme Court confirmation hearings.

After four terms, Senator Specter switched parties to run as a Democrat in 2009 and was defeated. He later said that “he did not leave the Republican party, the party left (him),” Today, Specter lives with his wife Joan in Philadelphia where he practices and teaches law.

TEMPLE LAW CONTINUES TO EXCEL—AND RISE—IN U.S. NEWS RANKING

MARCH 22, 2011 Once again, Temple Law’s programs in Trial Advocacy, Legal Research and Writing, and International Law have been recognized by U.S. News & World Report as among the nation’s best. The Trial Advocacy and Legal Research and Writing programs are ranked second and seventh respectively, while the International Law program has risen to the number eleven spot. Temple’s part-time program is now ranked tenth in the nation. Temple Law’s overall rank has also risen to 61, up 11 points from its 2010 position.
APRIL 25, 2011 The National College Athletic Association (NCAA) has delivered a notice of allegations of violations in Ohio State’s football program. In that notice, ten-year coach Jim Tressel was charged with failure to report possible infractions when he learned his players were selling autographs, championship rings and other memorabilia to the owner of a tattoo parlor in Columbus, Ohio.

Sitting on the NCAA committee that will hear those allegations is Professor Eleanor Myers, who has been a member of the NCAA’s Division I Committee on Infractions since late 2009. Called the “Supreme Court of college sports,” the COI hears cases where the stakes can be high, both for the institutions and the individuals involved. Recent high profile cases in which Myers participated have resulted in serious penalties against the men’s athletic programs at University of Southern California (football and basketball), University of Connecticut (basketball) and University of Michigan (football).

Per NCAA guidelines, the Committee on Infractions consists of 10 members, at least two of whom must be women and a maximum of three who are “public” representatives, usually attorneys or former judges unaffiliated with a school or conference. The three public members, currently all lawyers, include Roscoe Howard Jr., a former U.S. Attorney. Others joining Myers on the committee are Dennis Thomas, Commissioner of the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference; Britton Banowsky, Commissioner of Conference USA; Gregory Sankey, Associate Commissioner, Southeastern Conference; Melissa (Missy) Conboy, Notre Dame; attorney John S. Black; and James O’Fallon, a law professor at University of Oregon.

Myers, who specializes in professional responsibility and previously worked in Temple’s University Counsel office, has also served as Temple’s faculty athletics representative since 2006. The faculty athletics representative is responsible for representing the university and its faculty in the institution’s relationships with the NCAA and its athletic conferences. Myers succeeded Dean JoAnne A. Epps, who had served 12 years in that position.

Myers brings a depth of legal experience as well as a deep appreciation for athletics to this work. “This work is both a challenge and a pleasure for me,” she says. “It combines my interests in sports and ethics. It is hard work, but the results are meaningful. My hope is that we contribute to keeping intercollegiate sports true to its mission to provide opportunities for students athletes to fulfill their ambitions of receiving a college education while participating in amateur sports at the highest levels of competition.”

“It is an honor to now be involved in enforcing the ‘ethics’ of college sports. As a professor of legal ethics, I am immersed in thinking about values and ethics. This position has provided a thrilling opportunity to consider issues of ‘fairness’ and ‘compliance’ with real-world consequences.”

According to press reports, when the NCAA committee reviews the Ohio State case in Indianapolis in August, they could accept Ohio State’s suggested sanctions—a five-game suspension and a fine—or could levy much more severe penalties. Since the NCAA changes allege that Tressel knowingly used ineligible players, it is possible that the 2010 Ohio State football regular season would be vacated—ending the Buckeyes’ run of Big Ten titles at six in a row. The NCAA could also come down hard on Tressel, compelling Ohio State to add to Tressel’s suspension or issue sanctions leading to the school firing him.

Editor’s note: On May 30, 2011, as this issue went to print, Coach Tressel submitted his resignation to Ohio State University.