MEET THE SHELlers

The couple behind the Center for Social Justice are committed to “changing lives.”

“You should know that we met in 1978 when I picked her up hitchhiking in a snowstorm,” says Stephen A. Sheller, one half of the extraordinary couple who head the Sheller Family Foundation. “We’ve been married 31 years now.” It has been 31 years filled with high-powered careers, extended family, and a commitment to community and social change that has only grown over the years.

Stephen Sheller is the founding partner of Sheller, P.C., a leading plaintiff’s personal injury, class action and whistleblower/qui tam law firm based in Philadelphia. Originally focusing his practice on representing clients like the Black Panthers, unions, and disenfranchised voters, he has since devoted most of his time to a variety of consumer protection issues.

The woman Steve found in the snowstorm, who eventually became his wife, is Sandra Sheller, a licensed art therapist and community mental health activist. At the time, Sandy was working as an art director at an advertising agency, where she represented leading resorts including Calloway Gardens, The Breakers, and The Greenbriar. She was good at her job and she went on to win an Addy Award—the equivalent of a Golden Globe—for a billboard campaign she did for Calloway Gardens.

Sandy became disillusioned with the advertising world when her agency sent a man to accept the award in her place. Later, when she learned that a much less experienced man was earning $10,000 a year more than she was, she decided that she’d had enough. She quit, and she sued.

By that time, she was married to Stephen, who jokes, “She had a really good lawyer.” He continues: “She was probably the first person in Pennsylvania to claim unemployment for sex discrimination.” Steve won Sandy’s case, and she was awarded back pay.

Steve entered law school as an activist and graduated as an activist-attorney. He traces his interest in social justice and the law to an experience he had as an undergraduate at Penn. Steve had come to Penn from Erasmus High in Brooklyn. His father had convinced him to give up musical ambitions to be a veterinarian, but a “C” in Organic Chemistry left Steve looking for a new vocation.

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MEET THE SHELLERS
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His path to law school began when the well-known professor of criminology Marvin Wolfgang drafted students—including Steve—to conduct a study of recidivism rates of ex-convicts who had clergy sponsors when they left prison, as opposed to entering the standard probation and parole system. The results were dramatic and had far-reaching impact: not one of the clergy-sponsored men was reincarcerated.

One of the individuals who monitored the recidivism project was then-dean of Penn Law, Jefferson Fordham. “Dean Fordham decided that I should go to law school apparently,” recalls Steve. “I didn’t apply anywhere else, I just applied to Penn Law. I saw how the faculty from Penn Law—at that time—were very much involved in the community.”

Steve ended up staying to practice law in Philadelphia, where he knew he would have ample opportunity to make a difference. “I was very friendly with Dr. John Honnold, who was a Quaker,” says Steve. “He was involved in having confession of judgment declared unconstitutional, which is now coming back in vogue in present day law . . . and he actually helped me co-counsel that case and we took it up through the courts and we had it declared unconstitutional.”

He went on to challenge laws requiring students to vote at their parents’ homes. “I wanted to get students the right to vote on campus so we took that to court. We litigated that successfully,” says Steve.

Steve began to get involved in the labor movement, which at the time worked closely with civil rights organizations. It was through that work that he first came to know Temple, when he represented the university’s union of maids and janitors. “I spent a lot of time on Temple’s campus because the CORE office was right up the street at the 2200 block [of N. Broad St.].” And the NAACP was involved and they were very supportive of labor unions at the time. He came to know several law school dean and university president Peter Liacouras, and worked closely with Temple Law graduate and civil rights leader Cecil B. Moore.

Steve began a long and fruitful career in mass torts litigation. “I represent people in mass torts where they’ve been basically victimized,” says Steve. “One of my major areas right now is false claims acts.”

In a career spanning more than four decades, Steve has represented a wide variety of clients who have been injured by defective drugs, including children harmed by antipsychotic drugs. He is also active in numerous class action and individual cases against the nation’s largest tobacco companies, including Philip Morris, R.J. Reynolds and Brown & Williamson, based on their marketing and sale of so-called “light” cigarettes; he helped to discover the “light” cigarette fraud and initiate the litigation strategy to remedy the deception. He has represented pharmaceutical whistleblowers and has recovered more than $4.2 billion for the U.S. government, including $520 million from AstraZeneca, $2.3 billion from Pfizer, and $1.4 billion from Eli Lilly. Typically, compensation for legal counsel in class action settlements is set by the court, based in part on the recovery of the class and in part on the time and expenses spent by counsel.

While Steve’s career has often earned him national attention, it was the 2000 Presidential election that gained him the most widespread acclaim. In November 2000, the Shellers received a call from Sandy’s mother in Boca Raton, Florida. Steve was in a frenzy because she was certain she had voted—by accident—for Patrick Buchanan, an independent whose votes were thought to detract from a Gore victory in Florida. Steve reported his mother-in-law’s concern to then-Democratic Chair Ed Rendell. Rendell sent Steve to South Florida, where he ended up as lead attorney in the Dade County “butterfly ballot” litigation. Steve argued that the ballots were unconstitutional, and successfully obtained a temporary restraining order preventing Katherine Harris from certifying the election results.


While Steve also convinced a federal judge to order a recount, to this day he is convinced that if a proper analysis had been conducted, it would have been proven that Gore won the election by several thousand votes. When Gore, who had been slow to get involved, finally stepped in, the case was transferred to a different legal team in Tallahassee. “As time went on I felt that was the worst loss I ever suffered,” says Steve. “Because we ended up in the Iraq war and that wouldn’t have happened.”

Meanwhile, following her break with the advertising world, Sandy found that her interests took her to graduate school in art therapy at Drew, where she saw an opportunity to blend her art background with an interest in mental health. She went on to work as a mental health treatment specialist at the Red Shield Family Residence, a family homeless shelter that is part of the Salvation Army.

Sandy was asked to serve as an expert witness on trauma for SAMHSA, a government organization addressing mental health and substance abuse issues, and to join a panel looking at homelessness. Sandy’s work introduced her to communities struggling with issues of poverty and powerlessness; Steve’s work had always been about confronting power and making change.

In 2006, they decided to take it to the next level and formed the Shelter Family Foundation. A foundation would give them a vehicle to not only support but also initiate programs that could effect significant, structural social change.

Sandy explains how she and Steve conceived of their jointly run foundation. “I was working right down the street [at the Salvation Army] with families experiencing homelessness, and I could work really hard and do a lot of good work but on a one-to-one level there’s only so much I could do in a week. I saw that if I stepped back and worked with the paraprofessional staff to impact change, that was a greater level.”

But there were systemic problems that seemed intractable. “I saw a lot of these people had really lost their voice. We talk a lot about freedoms that Americans have, and a lot of times, if you’re combating such poverty and chaos and oppression, you can’t really partake of those freedoms. So the whole idea is, on a higher level, advocate for those people who don’t have a voice, and maybe even empower them to advocate for themselves.”

Steve agrees. “We say ‘liberty and justice’ a lot, and I think we forget justice a little bit. Liberty seems to be overtaxed, between gun rights and the Supreme Court’s ridiculous—in my view—version of free speech, meaning you can spend as much money as you want if you’re wealthy and take advantage of poor people. And diminish their rights to be respected and their right to vote.”

Today, the mission of the foundation is “to improve lives” by funding higher education and community and advocacy groups. They say they are doing it for future generations. Together, the Shellers have two daughters and four grandchildren, and Steve has two daughters from a previous marriage. Two are attorneys, one teaches elementary school and another is a university professor. “Right now they’re busy establishing themselves,” says Steve proudly. Sandy adds, “We’re just hoping that the Shelter Family Foundation will be a legacy for them to walk in at some future point.”

Steve and Sandy Sheller insist that they do not think of what they do as “giving back.” Their philanthropy is just part of who they are.

“I don’t call it giving back and I don’t call it pro bono,” says Steve. “There’s something about pro bono that has turned me a little against that word. ‘You gotta do pro bono work, your law firm has to get their pro bono credits.’ I find that very disquieting.”

“First you’ve got to believe in it, it’s got to be from within. I love what I do, I wouldn’t call it giving back, I’m getting . . . I’m getting rewarded.”

CENTER FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE
continued from page one

Today, the Stephen and Sandra Sheller Center for Social Justice is taking shape. The dean outlines a three-pronged approach to carrying out the Center’s work. Students and lawyers at the Center will partner with the community organizations directly engaged in gaining access to public resources for those who need them. When the solution calls for changes to policy, the Center will work to encourage those changes through white papers, education, legislative proposals and lobbying. And when litigation is required, the Center will pursue that option.

While Temple has always offered students a wide range of on- and off-campus clinical courses, the programs launched at the new center “will be unlike a lot of other experiential opportunities in that they won’t be subject matter static,” says Epps. “The Center won’t just do environmental law, it won’t just do family law, it won’t just help people with disabilities. It will do all of those things because it will be cause-driven.”

The Center opens this spring in a spacious second-floor office in the modern Howard Gittis Student Center on main campus, a block from Klein Hall. The inaugural projects will be identified and, starting in 2014, students will earn credit for participating in Social Justice Center projects.

Dean Epps and the Shellers express hopes that, ten years from now, the Shelter Center for Social Justice will be not only a centerpiece to Temple Law but a beacon to other law schools. Steve Sheller says he looks to the new Center to inspire and educate a new generation of leaders by pulling them into the world of meaningful studies, policy campaigns, and litigation, much in the way his undergraduate and law professors did for him.

The Shellers plan to work closely with the Center as members of the board. “The projects that we are most proud of are projects we initiate,” says Sandy. “We don’t just give money, we are very involved in the creation, the implementation and the ongoing stewardship of the project.”

“I would hope that we would be a model for how an institution can contribute both to the education of their students and make meaningful change in the community,” says Epps. “And I’d like us to be a role model for what an institution can do with generous support from people like the Shellers.”
EDWARD OILBAUM EXPLAINS WHY CRIMINALS GO FREE IF “CONSTABLE HAS BLUNDERED”

In the first organized effort to overturn convictions obtained by a controversial police narcotics team, dozens of convicted drug dealers are seeking new trials, contending that their cases were tainted by apparent perjury of police officers.

Temple University law professor Edward D. Oilbaum said convicts routinely are freed from prison when they can prove they did not receive fair trials. He cited Supreme Court Justice Benjamin N. Cardozo’s lament that “the criminal is to go free because the constable has blundered.”

Oilbaum said that as judges hear the new court filings or appeals, some may call for prosecutors to explain why convictions should be maintained despite the large-scale dismissals of the officers’ cases after Dec. 3.

—Philadelphia Inquirer, February 8, 2013

JONATHAN LIPSON SAYS UNREGULATED MARKETPLACE LEADS TO ‘SHADOW BANKRUPTCY SYSTEM’

Balance sheets these days are like 3-D chessboards built on multiple classes of debt and other securities. Lenders like JPMorgan Chase or Citigroup dilute their interest in the company almost immediately by making loans, then selling them in pieces to other investors who, in turn, slice and dice them again to create new derivative securities that eventually find their own markets.

When a company runs into trouble, these widely fragmented claims begin to churn. Worried investors sell, driving down the price of a company’s securities. Soon the deflation attracts distressed-debt investors with a specialized understanding of how to profitably play the bankruptcy game.

This leads to what Jonathan Lipson of the Temple University law school calls a “shadow bankruptcy system,” a largely unregulated marketplace where private funds trade claims behind closed doors, building positions they hedge with derivatives and other financial instruments. —Chicago Tribune, January 13, 2013

ASSAULT WEAPON BANS NOT ENOUGH, ASSERTS DAVID KAIRYS

“The Newtown elementary school massacre has finally sparked a discussion about what to do about the 80 gun deaths in America each day, seven of which are children [writes Temple Law Professor David Kairys]. To reduce gun violence, we need a sweeping reform of the way guns are bought and sold. . . .

“Gun crimes are usually discussed as if the transactions and guns involved are illegal, but the truth is that most guns that end up being used in crimes are obtained legally. The problem is not illegal guns, but the essentially unregulated market in devices designed to kill.” —American Prospect, Salon.com, January 9, 2013

JAN TING SUPPORTS HAGEL: THE ‘TAXPAYER’S SECRETARY OF DEFENSE’

Having lofted Chuck Hagel’s trial balloon for Secretary of Defense, and having taken political fire for it, President Obama needs to make it a key test for his administration to get Chuck Hagel confirmed by the U.S. Senate [writes Temple Law Professor Jan Ting]. . . . Having failed thus far to achieve any sort of grand bargain on the budget deficit, and with the prospects for gun control he promised after the Sandy Hook massacre uncertain at best, the president needs to take a stand on something that he should and can win. . . .

Many of Hagel’s fellow Republicans have never forgiven his criticism of the Bush administration’s war in Iraq. They charge him now with being soft on Iran or insufficiently supportive of Israel. He is neither. But, by experience he is skeptical of the kind of provocative, interventionist military action that got us into Vietnam and Iraq.

Hagel also doesn’t regard the Defense Department as a sacred cow. He has publicly described it as “bloat” and suggested it could be “ pared down.” Sounds like the taxpayer’s Secretary of Defense to me. —Baxter Bulletin, January 9, 2013

PETER SPIRO WEIGHS IN ON DEFINITION OF ‘NATURAL BORN CITIZEN’

Pundits and scholars are trying to clarify whether rising-star Republican Ted Cruz meets the presidential eligibility of “natural born citizen.” Temple University law professor Peter Spiro said Cruz has a “very strong argument” that he is indeed natural born. While the 14th Amendment to the Constitution grants citizenship to anyone born inside the U.S., children born to American citizens outside the country attain citizenship through a law passed by Congress, according to Spiro. —Politico.com, January 7, 2013

FIGHT AGAINST PIRACY Brought ADDED TRAGEDY, SAYS MARITIME LAW EXPERT DUNCAN HOLLIS

A recent case highlights how the $1.8 billion armed response to Somali piracy, while successful in slashing hijackings, has also brought some of its own violence and death to the high seas. “There was certainly a tragedy here,” says Duncan Hollis, a law professor at Temple who has worked on maritime jurisdiction cases. The challenge is that fighting piracy doesn’t fall under the rules of true armed conflict, nor of traditional law enforcement, he says. “How do you get troops to modulate use of force?” —Bloomberg, November 28, 2012

ELIMINATING ELECTORAL COLLEGE HAS PROBLEMS, WRITES MARINA ANGEL

There is a major problem with eliminating the Electoral College that is getting little discussion [writes Temple Law Professor Marina Angel in a letter to the editor]. If the presidential election were decided by popular vote or a system tied to the popular vote, we could be recounting votes for months if not years in close elections. We could never be sure of an accurate count. —New York Times, November 23, 2012

HAMAS POWERLESS TO END BLOCKADE, WRITES NOURA ERKAT

If you mention the blockade to the average reasonably well-informed American or Israeli, you’ll likely get a reply such as: Well, if the Gazans don’t like economic strangulation, Hamas should quit firing missiles at Israel; or Hamas should recognize the state of Israel; or Hamas should do something else Israel wants it to do.

So, over the past couple of days, I tried to find out exactly what actions on the part of Hamas would suffice to end the blockade. And, after contacting various experts by email, I discovered that the answer is: nothing would suffice. At least, nothing we know of. Apparently Israel hasn’t articulated clear conditions under which the blockade would end.

As law professor Noura Erakat has written in a journal article: “Despite claims of self-defense, Israel has not defined a definitive purpose for the blockade, the achievement of which would indicate its end. Official Israeli goals have ranged from limiting Hamas’s access to weapons, to seeking retribution for the pain caused to Israeli civilians, and to compelling the Palestinian population to overthrow the Hamas government . . . .” —The Atlantic, November 19, 2012
LL.M. student receives human rights award

NOVEMBER 2012 Assamen Tessemna LL.M. ’13, a candidate in Temple Law’s LL.M. program for international students, was recently honored for “Outstanding Achievement in International Law or Human Rights.” The award was given to Ethiopian-born Tessemna by the Philadelphia Bar Association’s international law committee at an annual reception hosted for international students from Temple and Penn at Pepper Hamilton’s Philadelphia office.

Tessemna, the son of an Ethiopian judge, developed a passion for human rights when, as an undergraduate law student, he was arrested and beaten for engaging in protests against Ethiopia’s ruling regime. After becoming a law professor, he was reprimanded and threatened for teaching human rights principles to his students, and the government shut down a radio show he produced. Tessemna eventually fled, and successfully sought political asylum status in the U.S.

State Rep taps Temple Law student to head staff

NOVEMBER 20, 2012 An already busy year for third-year law student Mason Lane ’13 turned into a political whirlwind when he was tapped to be chief of staff for newly-elected Pennsylvania State Representative Brian Sims. As chief of staff, Lane had a front row seat for an historic moment: In January 2013, Brian Sims was sworn into office as the first openly gay elected representative in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

When Sims defeated long-time incumbent Babette Josephs in a heavily Democratic center city district in the spring 2012 primary, Lane was quickly drafted to head the transition team. Following a November victory in the general election, Sims asked Lane to join him in Harrisburg as chief of staff. This was not the first foray into Pennsylvania politics for Lane. He is an alumnus of the Center for Progressive Leadership and had also worked as a field organizer and policy coordinator for Equality Pennsylvania, an LGBT political advocacy organization.

Students are finalists in intellectual property meet

NOVEMBER 12, 2012 Ramana Rameswaran ’13, Jason Lamb ’13, and Brian Auerbach ’13 were national finalists in the National Intellectual Property Law Meet hosted by Earl Mack School of Law at Drexel University. The Temple team, coached by Woodcock Washburn attorneys Michael Dunnam and Hal Fulkner ’96, Professor David Post, and Assistant Dean Shyam Nair ’97, also earned the Best Draft award for the agreement they wrote on behalf of their client.

The competition included teams from twelve law schools including American University, Drexel University, New York Law School, Northwestern University, Santa Clara University, South Texas College of Law, Suffolk University, University of Missouri-Kansas City, University of Pennsylvania, Widener University and William and Mary College of Law.

Toy drive shows ‘strength of Temple Law family’

DECEMBER 2012 When Kim Washington ’09 set out to bring some holiday cheer to children in struggling families in Philadelphia, she knew where to turn. She enlisted her alma mater for the Moment of Thanks Toy Drive. Washington works for CORA, a nonprofit organization that provides services to children and families experiencing educational, emotional, academic, and social challenges.

The Temple Law community came through. In an effort spearheaded by Dean JoAnne A. Epps and Associate Dean Marylouise Esten, students, faculty and staff came together to collect 675 toys, far exceeding the challenge of 500 toys issued by Dean Epps. The toys were distributed to families in lower Northeast Philadelphia, which includes Frankford, Juniata, Bridesburg, and Norwood. “This is yet another example of the strength of the Temple Law family,” says Epps. “You can be sure that you (contributors) have put smiles on the faces of lots of children in our community.”

Author of paper on ‘Convenience Casinos’ nets award

NOVEMBER 29, 2012 Steven Silver ’13 was selected to receive the Shannon Bybee Scholarship Award from the International Association of Gaming Advisors for his paper, “The Curious Case of Convenience Casinos.” Silver, who worked before law school as a reporter for the Las Vegas Sun, wrote the article to examine how courts and legislatures in various states have addressed the hidden industry of Internet sweepstakes cafes, which operate in a gray area between unlawful gambling and legitimate business promotions. In the paper, which was published in the John Marshall Journal of Computer and Information Law, Silver proposes a free market approach to legalizing and regulating the highly profitable industry.
EPPS MODERATES PANEL:
Gideon v. Wainwright

JANUARY 18, 2013 Temple Law Dean JoAnne A. Epps moderated a program commemorating the 50th anniversary of the landmark U.S. Supreme Court decision, Gideon v. Wainwright. The program, featuring testimony from Texas death row exoneratee Anthony Graves, was presented by the American Bar Association section of litigation. Joining Epps in the discussion were Bruce Jacob, dean emeritus and professor of law at Stetson, and Carlos J. Martinez, a public defender in Miami, Florida. In the landmark Gideon decision, the court overturned Clarence Earl Gideon’s conviction and unanimously ruled that the 14th Amendment to the Constitution requires states to provide counsel to defendants in felony criminal cases if they are unable to hire an attorney. A half-century after the decision, the legal experts and former death row prisoner identified the hurdles that remain. For the poor, they agreed, those challenges continue to include finding competent counsel; for attorneys, they are inadequate resources and overwhelming caseloads.

HENRY RICHARDSON
HONORED

Int’l law professor receives award for ‘public service, teaching and scholarship.’

JANUARY 13, 2013 Professor Henry J. Richardson III was honored with the Clyde Ferguson Award by the Minority Groups Section of the Association of American Law Schools. The award is the highest honor bestowed by the members of the section, and recognizes “an outstanding law teacher who, in the course of his or her career, has achieved excellence in the areas of public service, teaching and scholarship.” The award was named in honor of the second tenured African American on the Harvard Law School faculty, and is particularly intended for professors “who have provided support, encouragement, and mentoring to colleagues, students, and aspiring legal educators.” Richardson, who first joined the Temple Law faculty in 1981, teaches courses on international law, constitutional law and foreign policy, international human rights and international organizations. He earned an LL.B. from Yale Law School and an LL.M. from UCLA. He has published widely on international law and development questions in Africa, legal questions arising from the anti-apartheid movement relative to South Africa, international protection of human rights, self-determination, international law and African-Americans, and the interpretation of international law through critical race theory.

DUNCAN HOLLIS CELEBRATES
BOOK PUBLICATION

Int’t treaty expert is editor of The Oxford Guide to Treaties.

From trade relations to greenhouse gasses, from shipwrecks to cybercrime, treaties structure the rights and obligations of states, international organizations, and individuals. For centuries, treaties have regulated relations among nation states. Today, they are the dominant source of international law. Duncan B. Hollis, James E. Beasley Professor of Law and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, has distinguished himself as an expert in the changing world of treaty law. Today he is the editor of The Oxford Guide to Treaties, which brings together the world’s leading experts to explain what these instruments are and how they work. Hollis contributed the book’s first chapter, “Defining Treaties,” and compiled a 100-page survey of existing variations in treaty clauses. Published by Oxford University Press in September 2012, the hefty volume is a comprehensive guide to treaties, shedding light on the rules and practices surrounding the making, interpretation, and operation of these instruments. Hollis’s scholarship focuses on treaties and other forms of international agreement, examining the formation, interpretation, and application of treaties and political commitments in international, comparative and constitutional contexts. He previously co-edited and co-authored National Treaty Law & Practice (2005) and his writings have appeared in journals such as the Harvard International Law Journal, Texas Law Review, and the Virginia Journal of International Law.

Prior to joining the Temple faculty, Hollis served from 1998 to 2004 in the Office of the Legal Adviser at the U.S. Department of State, where he worked for several years as the attorney-adviser for treaty affairs, addressing legal and constitutional issues associated with U.S. treaties.

DANDRIDGE ’78 ELECTED
PHILADELPHIA BAR VICE CHANCELLOR

DECEMBER 4, 2012 Albert S. Dandridge III ’78, a partner with Schnader Harrison Segal & Lewis, was elected vice chancellor of the Philadelphia Bar Association. Dandridge, who will serve as vice chancellor in 2013, then chancellor-elect in 2014, will automatically become chancellor in 2015. Dandridge is chair of Schnader’s securities practice group as well as the firm’s chief diversity officer. Before joining Schnader, he worked for the Securities and Exchange Commission as associate director of small business and international corporate finance in the SEC’s Division of Corporation Finance, and as special counsel in the Division of Corporation Finance.

1970s


Bruce M. Sattin ’75 has been named partner in the firm of Szaferman, Lakind, Blumstein & Blader in Lawrenceville, NJ, where he has been of counsel since 2002. Sattin, whose practice focuses on commercial and residential real estate, zoning and land use, bank financing, general business and corporate law, and bankruptcy, recently completed a six-year term as a trustee of the real estate section of the Mercer County Bar Association.

He also volunteers as counsel to Better Community Housing of Trenton, working to provide opportunities for low income housing.

2016s
Blank Rome partner and public finance attorney JOAN N. STERN ’77 has been elected to the board of trustees of the American Associates of the Royal Academy Trust. The Royal Academy Trust’s mission is to raise visibility and financial support for the Royal Academy of Arts in London. Stern is also active in the Philadelphia community, serving on the boards of the Police Athletic League, the Urban Tree Connection, the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia, the Thomas Skelton Harrison Foundation, and The Franklin Institute. She is vice chair of the board of trustees of Moore College of Art and Design.

BARBARA ADAMS ’78, general counsel of the Philadelphia Housing Authority, received the 2012 Dwight Evan Living Legacy Award. Before joining the Housing Authority in 2011, Adams was general counsel for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania under Governor Rendell.

The biotechnology company, Prothera Corporation, has named Temple law alumnus and adjunct faculty member RICHARD T. COLLIER ’79 to its board of directors. Collier, who has been senior vice president and general counsel for three publicly-traded global pharmaceutical companies, has taught at Temple since 2004.

HON. MARTIN J. SILVERSTEIN ’70, senior counsel in Greenberg Traurig’s global corporate and securities practices, has been named a trustee of the University of Pennsylvania. Silverstein, who served as U.S. ambassador to Uruguay from 2001 to 2005, is also a trustee of the Pennsylvania Public School Employees Retirement System and a member of Temple’s Law board of visitors.

Following the termination of the Superior Court mediation program which he directed, DOUGLAS SISK ’79 is now an arbitrator and mediator at ADR Options, Inc., in Philadelphia. In addition to a general ADR practice, Sisk specializes in state and federal appeals.

MARY KENNARD ’80 was recently honored for her service to higher education with the Corporate Counsel Career Achievement Award given by the Washington Metropolitan Area Corporate Counsel Association (WMACCA). As a long-time board member for WMACCA, Kennard was instrumental in creating a student internship to support law students interested in corporate counsel work. Kennard is the vice president, general counsel, and secretary of American University’s board of trustees. She also teaches as an adjunct at the Washington College of Law, where she is enrolled in the Doctor of Juridical Science program.

Berks County Judge LINDA K. M. LUDGATE ’90 retired from criminal court to become a senior judge in November 2012. Ludgate has served on the bench for 23 years, and was recently awarded the Justice William Strong Award from the Berks County Bar Association.

Immigration law attorney NEIL S. DORNBAUM ’81 has just completed a decade of service as a member of the ABAs’s commission on immigration. He has also served as national chair of the ABAs’s immigration committee under the general practice section, and chaired the New Jersey State Bar’s immigration section and the American Immigration Lawyers Association New Jersey Chapter. Dornbaum is a partner at the Newark, NJ firm of Dornbaum & Perogy, a boutique firm whose practice is limited to immigration and nationality matters with a special emphasis on employment based immigration.

Shenandoah Telecommunications Company, based in Edinburg, VA, recently announced that RAYMOND B. OSTROSKI ’93 has joined the company as general counsel and vice president for legal affairs. Other communication companies where Ostroksi has previously worked include One Communications Corp, Commonwealth Telephone Enterprises, Inc., C-TEC Corporation, and RCR Corporation. In November 2012, NEIL ANDREW STEIN ’93 acted as a judge for the American Bar Association’s client counseling competition held at Temple Law. The national competition, for first and second year law school students, simulates a law office consultation in which the students are presented with a hypothetical client matter for consultation and analysis. Stein is a co-founder shareholder and a member of the land use department of Kaplin, Stewart, Meloff, Reiter & Stein.

RONALD KRAVITZ ’86, a senior partner in the San Francisco office of Liner Grode Stein, recently joined attorneys from Jamaica and the Cayman Islands to speak about the implications of the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act at the 2012 Annual Jamaican Bar Association Annual Continuing Legal Education Conference.

Personal injury litigator MARION MUNLEY-CARTWRIGHT ’86 joined her husband, Matt Cartwright, on the campaign trail in 2012, as he fought for a seat in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. Cartwright won the seat and was elected Democratic freshman congressman by his fellow Democrats. Munley-Cartwright and her husband are both members of the Scranton, PA-based firm, Munley Law.

BRIAN J. LYNCH ’87 recently relocated to Drinker Biddle & Reath as a corporate partner from the Philadelphia office of Washington, DC-based Hogan Lovells. Lynch focuses his practice on mergers and acquisitions and capital markets transactions.

In October 2012, ANDREW S. ABRAMSON ’88, of Abramson Employment Law, received the Kelly Anne Dolan Memorial Fund President’s Award. The award recognized Abramson’s five years of service to the Dolan Fund of Ambler, PA, which provides advocacy, education, information and financial assistance for the uninsured needs of families caring for terminally, critically and chronically ill, seriously disabled or severely injured children.

 CRAIG SNYDER ’89 is the new president and chief executive officer of The World Affairs Council of Philadelphia. A former political consultant and founder and managing partner of ION Public Affairs, Snyder will lead the organization where he previously worked twice earlier in his career. From 1983 to 1989, he was program director for the organization. In 1991, he was vice president of programming.

AMY R. STERN ’89, who has practiced family law at the Lansdale, PA firm of Rubin, Glickman, Steinberg and Gifford since 1995, was recently elected to the board of directors of the Women’s Center of Montgomery County. The Women’s Center is a volunteer community organization focusing on domestic violence and abuse.

1980s

N. ALEXANDER ERLAM ’82 has been elected to the Association of Corporate Counsel’s board of directors. He is also past president and current board member of the Delaware Valley Corporate Counsel Association, the Philadelphia-area chapter of ACC. Erlam is in-house general counsel to Vertical Screen, a provider of applicant screening services.

ELIZABETH ANN JOHNSON ’84 was recently elected to membership in the Louisville, KY firm of Sites & Harbison, where she practices in the health care service group. Prior to joining Sites & Harbison, Johnson was the Medicaid commissioner for the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Reed Smith attorney PAUL J. JASKOT ’95 has been elected to a three-year term on the firm’s executive committee. Jaskot is a partner in Reed Smith’s Philadelphia office, and chair of the corporate and securities practice group.

In October 2012, Mayor Michael Nutter named JEFF FRIEDMAN ’87, co-director of the newly created Mayor’s Office of New Urban Mechanics. The office will serve as an in-house incubator to connect city departments with outside partners to address civic challenges. Friedman has been with the Nutter Administration since 2008, previously serving as the Philly311 project manager, chief of staff to the chief technology officer, and manager of civic innovation and participation in the Mayor’s Office.

DENISE M. BOWMAN ’88 has been named counsel to the Lower Bucks County Chamber of Commerce board of directors. Bowman is also a member of the Chamber’s executive committee. Bowman is an attorney in the Yardley, PA office of Hill Wallack, where she is a member of the litigation division and business and commercial practice group.

QUEENS ADA IS ‘PROSECUTOR OF THE YEAR’

DECEMBER 6, 2012 Jonathan D. Scharf ’05, an assistant district attorney in Queens County, NY since graduation, was named ‘Prosecutor of the Year’ by the NY Metro Chapter of the American Association of Financial Crimes Investigators for his role as lead attorney on a long term investigation with the NYPD Financial Crimes Task Force. The 18-month investigation—Operation Swiper—exposed an organized identity theft and credit card fraud ring operating in the U.S. and abroad. Scharf says that the investigation, which ultimately netted over 100 defendants, was “the largest identity theft takedown in U.S. history.”
ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

KATHLEEN KANE ’93
Pennsylvania’s first female Attorney General

Kane—also the first Democrat to hold the office—will be Temple Law’s 2013 commencement speaker.

History was made when Kathleen Kane ’93 sailed to victory in an historic bid to become not only the first woman, but also the first member of the Democratic Party, to be elected attorney general in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Ever since the Attorney General became an elected post in 1980, Republicans have held the state’s highest legal office. In the November 2012 general election, Kane, a former Lackawanna County prosecutor, defeated Cumberland County District Attorney David Freed with a commanding lead. Kane had earlier won a hotly contested primary race against former U.S. Rep. Patrick Murphy from Bucks County.

Kane built her career as a prosecutor in Northeast Pennsylvania, where she was born and raised. She attended elementary and high school in Scranton, PA, and earned a bachelor’s degree from the University of Scranton. She moved to Philadelphia to attend law school at Temple, and remained in the city to work at the firm of Post & Schell, handling civil cases.

In 1995, Kane returned home to accept a position as assistant district attorney of Lackawanna County. It was in this role that she established her specialties in the courtroom, prosecuting over 3,000 cases related to child sexual assault, elder abuse, and public corruption. She left her the District Attorney’s office in 2007 to coordinate Hillary Rodham Clinton’s Presidential primary campaign efforts in Northeast Pennsylvania, helping Clinton carry the state in the primary. Although Obama eventually won the Democratic nomination, Kane’s successful work in Pennsylvania earned her President Clinton’s endorsement in her own campaign.

In May 2013, Attorney General of Pennsylvania Kathleen Kane will address the graduating law school class as the featured commencement speaker.

SHAVON L. JONES, J.D., ’98, LL.M., ’01
recently co-founded and is editor-in-chief of www.fortylorso.com, an online community for professional women over 35. Jones is a part-time attorney in Miami Beach, FLA, serving clients in the real estate and affordable housing industries. The Miami Herald interviewed Jones about her new website, which features topics like “How to Care for Aging Parents and Young Children” and “Fun Ideas for a Girls Vacation.”

LISA DEEM, D.M.D., J.D., ’99, Associate Dean for Admissions, Diversity and Student Services at Temple’s Kornberg School of Dentistry, was elected chairperson of the State Board of Dentistry in January 2012.

2000s

In November 2012, Obermayer Rebmann Maxwell & Hippel attorney MICHAEL E. BERTIN ’00 was named chair of the Philadelphia Bar Association’s family law section. Bertin is a member of Obermayer’s family law group and a partner in the litigation department. He also chairs the family law section of the Philadelphia Bar Association and was a co-editor of the 2012 edition of Pennsylvania Child Custody: Law, Practice and Procedure.

TODD M. SAILER ’00, a partner with the Langhofer, PA firm of Begley, Carlin & Mando, recently addressed business leaders at the Levittown-Fairless Hills and Langhorne Rotary Clubs on important aspects of auto insurance coverage. Sailer concentrates his practice in the representation of people who have been injured or harmed by others.

HOWARD L. LEVY ’01 has been promoted to counsel at the intellectual property firm of Cantor Colburn. Levy is counsel in the firm’s Washington, DC office, where he practices in the areas of patent prosecution, appeals and patent strategy, counseling clients in all mechanical, electrical and computer science fields.

SCOTT P. SIGMAN ’01 recently received the 2012 Pro Bono Publico Award from the Criminal Division Judges of the First Judicial District of Pennsylvania for Municipal Court. Sigman is in private practice at Sigman & Zimolong, where he focuses on criminal defense, white-collar criminal defense, and representing companies and individuals on government regulatory investigations.

TERESA M. RODRIGUEZ ’04 has joined Haggerty, Goldberg, Schleifer & Kupersmith as personal injury attorney. Prior to joining the firm, Rodriguez was a staff attorney with Friends of Farmworkers, where she represented immigrant, migrant and seasonal farm workers in labor and employment cases.

2010s

ABBY J. BIBERMAN ’10 and DAVID M. JAKLEVIC ’10 were married in November 2012. A New York Times announcement stated the couple “met at a public-defender law clinic while in their final semester of law school.” They live in New York City, where Biberman is a staff lawyer at the New York Legal Assistance Group, where she represents low-wage immigrant workers and their families and Jaklevic is a trial lawyer in Manhattan for the federal Labor Department Office of the Solicitor.

Democratic State Senator Daylin Leach has appointed ZACHARY HOOVER ’10 to serve as minority executive director for the Senate Judiciary Committee. Leach chairs the committee. Hoover has worked with Leach for more than ten years, and has been chief of staff for nearly eight years.

MEREDITH LAMBERT ’10, a securities litigation specialist at Kessler Topaz Mataraz & Check in Radnor, PA, was featured in a January 2013 Philadelphia Inquirer profile. “Balancing running and a busy law career” details how Lambert, a former high school and college track star, won the first marathon she entered in 2007 in Eugene, OR. Her winning time of 2:44:39 qualified her to compete for the 2008 Olympics. While she did not win a spot on the three-person team, Lambert continues to compete. Her current goal is to qualify for the 2016 Olympic trials.

FLORI SIMONIS, J.D., ’10, LL.M., ’11, has joined First Citizens Community Bank as trust and estate planning officer after clerking for Judge Marjorie O. Rendell of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit in Philadelphia, and for Judge Sallie Updyke Munyc of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania in Wellsboro.

SOPHIA DUFFY ’12 has been named an assistant professor of employee benefits at The American College, a non-profit educational institution devoted to financial services. Duffy, who in addition to being an attorney is a certified public accountant, was previously a senior auditor for several Philadelphia healthcare, food service and educational institutions.

JACK E. FEINBERG 1929—2013

Litigator and committed Temple Law alumnus Jack E. Feinberg ’57 died on February 3, 2013. A trial litigator and partner at Feinberg & Silva, a firm he co-founded in 1971, Feinberg worked solely on medical malpractice cases.

A proud graduate of the Class of 1957, Feinberg donated the funds to renovate the Klein Hall mock trial rooms. He was one of the first alumni to endow a professorship at the law school, a chair in litigation that is currently held by David Sonenshein. Over the years Feinberg also provided a series of scholarships to students with particularly high levels of need.

IN MEMORIAM

Herbert K. Fisher; Class of 1953
Terence K. Heaney; Class of 1967
H. Craig Lewis; Class of 1971
John Louis Krajza, LL.M.; Class of 1979
Dan Allanoff; Class of 1986
Elizabeth A. Lloyd; Class of 1988
William R. Kane; Class of 1990
BULLYING—IT’S MORE THAN HORSEPLAY, SAY EXPERTS

Symposium explores bullying “from kindergarten to elder care.”

FEBRUARY 23, 2013 Leading scholars and advocates gathered at Temple Law School to explore the hot-button topic of bullying in a symposium that brought more than 100 participants to Temple Law School. Once viewed as an inevitable part of public life, bullying has come under increasing scrutiny and is no longer dismissed as “horseplay” or harmless “teasing.” For lawyers and policy makers, this redefinition raises a host of questions. Judges and legislatures have redrawn boundaries between acceptable and unacceptable behavior, rethought questions of responsibility and liability, and recognized a category of harm that has recalibrated our understanding of injury and causality.

The one-day symposium, Bullying: Redefining Boundaries, Responsibility, and Harm, delved into the phenomenon of bullying as it exists across the life course, from kindergarten through elder care. Emily Bazelon, a senior editor at Slate, delivered the keynote speech. Bazelon has used Slate as a platform to write widely about bullying and related topics, and this year will release a book, Sticks and Stones: Defeating the Culture of Bullying and Rediscovering the Power of Character and Empathy.

The group of more than twenty high-profile speakers included Shannon Minter, Legal Director for the National Center for Lesbian Rights; David Yamada, Professor at Suffolk University Law School in Boston; Rue Landau ’98, Chair of the Philadelphia Human Relations Commission; Robin Maril, Human Rights Campaign legislative counsel; Aaron Tax, federal policy director at SAGE; and Shawn Gaylord, federal policy director at the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network.

The symposium was organized by Nancy J. Knauer, I. Herman Stern Professor of Law and Director of D.C. Programs, and sponsored by the Temple Political & Civil Rights Law Review, which will publish a special symposium issue later this year.

Go to www.law.temple.edu/bullying for symposium podcasts and updates.

Symposium Panelists Included (from left) Rue Landau, Philadelphia Human Relations Commission; Larry Felzer, Senior Law Center; Len Reiser, Penn Law; Nancy Knauer, Temple Law; Aaron Tax, SAGE; and Shannon Minter, NCLR.