

NOVA

LAWYER

NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY

Published for the alumni and friends
of the Shepard Broad Law Center

All *in the* Family

An NSU Law Center Tradition



Verchows



Shereses



Muchnicks



Dutkos



Kesslers

2012-2013
A Year in Review

Shepard Broad Law Center

Mission Statement and Values

Our Mission

To ensure that students develop the knowledge, skills, and values that are at the heart of becoming trusted, highly adept, professional lawyers who are respected for serving clients, their communities, and justice.

Our Values

We believe and model

- respect for the law and the importance of lawyers in a free society
- equitable access to education
- diversity of background and viewpoint
- excellence in teaching that serves the students and their learning needs
- high standards of ethics and professionalism
- evolution of the competencies lawyers need in an ever-changing world
- support of successful entry and advancement in the bar and other professions
- assumption of leadership roles and service to the community

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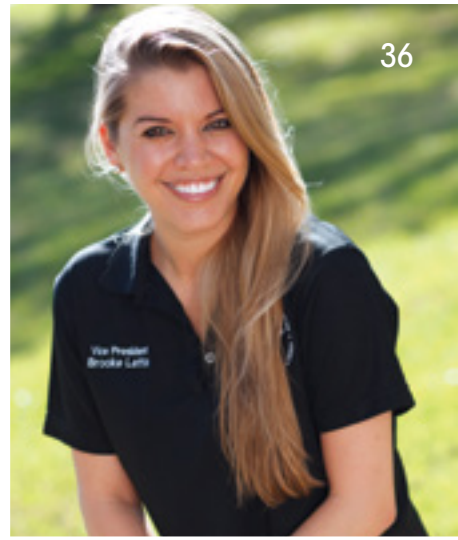
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MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Dear Alumni and Friends,

As Nova Southeastern University celebrates its 50th anniversary, the Shepard Broad Law Center of Nova Southeastern University will celebrate its 40th anniversary. For 39 years, the faculty and staff members of the Law Center have been preparing students to enter the legal profession and to become leaders in the communities where they live and work. The graduating class of 1977 was the first group of students to be educated here. We have since graduated more than 9,000 law students. Next year's issue of *Nova Lawyer* will highlight our 40th anniversary.

This issue of *Nova Lawyer* is about another interesting aspect of our history. Many of our faculty members have taught multiple generations of students. It was this very fact that led us to consider the generational relationships of the students and graduates who earned and are earning their law degrees at this institution. Thus, we asked faculty members to tell us about the alumni they know who are related to each other.

One can glean from the stories and list of connections at least three themes that lend support to a generational affinity of families to obtain their law degrees from NSU. First, the Law Center is viewed with respect for the education we provide and for the reverence and fondness our graduates have for faculty and staff members. Second, Law Center alumni have enjoyed an enormous measure of success in their careers. They have represented high-profile clients, litigated high-value cases, served in the judiciary, and taken their places in the offices of major law firms. Similar accomplishments abound for our many graduates who engage in solo and small-firm practice, as well as those who have dedicated themselves to public sector advocacy. Last, third-party validation of the Law Center's reputation for graduating excellent attorneys comes from the comments of employers and individuals who hire and observe the skill, determination, and professionalism of our graduates. These three factors will continue to lead to a future generational connection among our alumni.

This issue of *Nova Lawyer* also highlights the service of our students and faculty and staff members to the community. NSU is proud of its connection to, and engagement with, the community—one of the university's core values. Not only does the university have a Community Engagement classification from the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, but more recently, it was named to the 2013 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll by the Corporation for National and Community Service. This designation is the highest honor a college or university can receive for its commitment to volunteering, service learning, and civic engagement.

One of the Law Center's core values is to model the "assumption of leadership roles and service to the community." Faculty and staff members are engaged in an array of organizations and public interest issues locally, regionally, and nationally. Many of the organizations and issues are law related, such as litigating and advocating on matters with significant policy implications. Others involve nonlegal social and community endeavors. Each year, I extol the commitment of the graduating class to pro bono service. The May 2013 graduating class exceeded all graduating classes, volunteering 23,688 hours (equal to 470 50-hour workweeks or more than 9½ years) of pro bono service to public interest law organizations in South Florida.

I hope you find the information contained in this issue of *Nova Lawyer* interesting and rewarding. If you are an alumnus or alumna, please feel free to contact Elena Minicucci, director of alumni relations, and share your story.

Athornia Steele, J.D.
Dean and Professor of Law
Shepard Broad Law Center

We believe in and model ... support of successful entry and advancement in the bar and other professions and the assumption of leadership roles and service to the community.

—Shepard Broad Law Center Core Values

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI RELATIONS

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 11, 2013
Gun Control in American and Jewish Law

October 18, 2013
Bench and Bar Convention:
Broward County Bar Association

November 1, 2013
Managing Cognitive Decline
in the Chronically Ill: An
Interprofessional Approach

HOLIDAY PARTIES

December 3, 2013
NSU Law Center Alumni
Association: Tampa Bay Chapter

December 12, 2013
NSU Law Center Alumni
Association: Davie-Fort Lauderdale
at Grande Oaks Golf Club

December 19, 2013
NSU Law Center Alumni
Association: Palm Beach Chapter
in West Palm Beach

January 24-25, 2014
Visit from General William K.
Suter (former clerk of the U.S.
Supreme Court)

February 1, 2014
Mentoring Picnic

February 6 and 7, 2014
Energy, Climate Disruption, and Sea
Level Rise: New Directions in Law
and Policy

April 28, 29, and 30, 2014
Biennial trip to U.S. Supreme Court

For more information regarding these events, please contact Elena Minicucci at minicuccie@nsu.law.nova.edu.

“The value of your J.D. degree is determined, in part, by what you do with it, and there is no limit to what you can do.”

—Elena Rose Minicucci

Dear Alumni and Friends,

The word legacy has many different meanings. Generally, it is defined as a gift or something that is passed down to you by family, like a reputation. According to Billy Graham: “The legacy we leave is not just in our possessions, but in the quality of our lives.”

In this issue of *Nova Lawyer*, we are telling stories of some of our alumni who have created a legacy for themselves and their family members. As attorneys, our reputation in the community is important. We have the privilege of being able to help others solve their legal problems. As we strive to help our clients to the best of our ability, we hope we’ve served them well. We may wonder how many lives we’ve touched in our community during our career. Were we able to be a mentor to someone? Did we give our time, talent, and treasure to an organization that serves others?

Our law alumni have accomplished many wonderful things. Some have created law firms, represented the poor and wealthy alike, or became judges or professors. Others invented things, became CEO of a company, or worked tirelessly in public interest law. The value of your J.D. degree is determined, in part, by what you do with it, and there is no limit to what you can do.

What you accomplish during your lifetime, the lives you touch, and the reputation you establish is all part of your legacy. In 2014, we will celebrate our 40th anniversary as a law school and the many people who established legacies and helped the NSU Law Center become what it is today. I hope you will join us for some of the many events we have planned for the coming year when we celebrate you!

Best regards,



Elena Rose Minicucci, J.D. ('96)
Director of Alumni Relations
Shepard Broad Law Center





Therapeutic Jurisprudence and PTSD: Helping a Deserving Population

By Kathy Cerminara

I became a law professor because I like to help people, and this job allows me to help more people than I felt I helped in practice. As a professor, I help others most frequently by teaching and counseling students, speaking to the community about issues that matter to me, and writing articles that may help the law develop as I believe it should. Every once in a while, I also have the opportunity to help shed light on the legal aspects of a nationally important social issue, such as the controversy surrounding the treatment of Terri Schiavo (here in Florida in the early 2000s).

Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) among active-duty military personnel and veterans is another such nationally important social issue. Therefore, I was pleased when Professor Michael Dale asked me to join forces with Professor Olympia Duhart to organize a symposium about it. From the beginning, Olympia Duhart and I agreed that we wanted the symposium to be interdisciplinary. From my perspective, it made great sense to involve the entire diverse group of constituents—military personnel, lawyers, judges, psychologists, other health care providers, a philosopher, a social worker, and veterans themselves—in the same discussion. It was a natural outgrowth of my belief that the law can and should work hand in hand with other professions to assist in improving mental health. It is not exactly the traditional way to structure a symposium at a law school, but neither one of us is a traditional law professor.

I was, therefore, excited as we began planning the symposium 11 months before it was to take place, with the explicit goal of being interdisciplinary and inclusive. My experiences of planning and then taking part in the symposium fostered and deepened friendships and professional relationships with people all across the country who care deeply about PTSD. These experiences also drew me closer to Olympia Duhart, as I realized that we are kindred spirits in some senses. More substantively, these experiences inspired me to think about three important principles guiding the way society should deal with the challenges we face as a result of the prevalence of PTSD among active-duty military personnel and veterans: respectful recognition, therapeutic intervention, and cooperative representation.

“It was a natural outgrowth of my belief that the law can and should work hand in hand with other professions to assist in improving mental health.”

—Kathy Cerminara

Respectful Recognition

My dad is a marine. All children of marines learn to respect the flag, servicemen, servicewomen, and veterans. My dad was lucky; he returned from Korea unscathed and mentally intact to teach me that lesson. Yet, I know from personal experience with other soldiers and veterans that the respect military personnel and veterans deserve can easily disappear when they display symptoms of PTSD. This is especially true if their PTSD remains undiagnosed. A soldier or veteran may seem belligerent, out of control, or just plain scary when he or she is actually dealing with a great amount of suffering. A failure to recognize the cause of his or her condition can overshadow, or even wipe out, the respect he or she deserves.

As a child of a marine, I firmly believe that we owe PTSD sufferers who serve (or have served) our country the duty to recognize what ails them. We initially may fear those displaying symptoms of the disorder. But, our responsibility is to recognize that we should not fear these people; we should instead fear and seek to improve the state in which these people have been left because of the circumstances they endured when serving our country. Our responsibility is to respond positively, with respect and assistance, through the law, mental health, and medical resources. We owe them respectful recognition.

The morning sessions of our PTSD symposium were intended to help build respectful recognition. The first panel educated the audience about PTSD, its symptoms, its causes, the medical challenges associated with diagnosing it, and the social and cultural barriers standing in the way of diagnosis. The second panel brought together veterans, their family members, and experts to give the audience an up-close-and-personal look at life with PTSD. The morning closed with a powerful slideshow of Pulitzer Prize-winning photographs of a veteran with PTSD. I hope the morning's education helped our audience foster respectful recognition for those with PTSD.

Therapeutic Intervention

Learning about PTSD and listening to its victims is important, but, as a lawyer, I want to see the law help solve the problems PTSD creates. With an eye toward how the law can help improve mental health and well-being, our third panel discussed the legal problems military personnel and veterans with PTSD encounter. It was a therapeutic jurisprudence (TJ) panel, a nod to two of my mentors, Professor David Wexler from the University of Puerto Rico School of Law, and the late Professor Bruce Winick from the University of Miami School of Law.

TJ asks us to investigate how the law actually impacts people's lives, focusing on the law's influence on emotional life and psychological well-being. TJ urges that the law should value psychological health and should develop in a way that attempts to bring about therapeutic consequences (psychological healing and wellness) whenever possible.

TJ serves as the theoretical basis for problem-solving courts such as drug courts, mental health courts, and, relatively recently, veterans' courts. The latter courts swing into action once veterans struggling with PTSD encounter the legal system through criminal charges. Veterans' courts are pretrial diversion programs assisting veterans in obtaining therapeutic intervention rather than punishing them when they break the law—which may be because of their disorders. As part of our third panel, we welcomed NSU Law Center alumna and judge, Ginger Lerner-Wren ('83), creator of the nation's first mental health court here in Broward County about 10 years ago. This panel also included another alumnus, Kip Lassner ('93), who represents veterans; a nationally known TJ scholar, Professor Michael Perlin from New York Law School; and Edward Merrigan, judge of the Broward County Veterans' Court. Combined, the members of this panel illustrated the way that the law can encourage and facilitate therapeutic intervention for military personnel and veterans with PTSD.

Cooperative Representation

The law cannot provide all the answers, or even most of them. I firmly believe that, as lawyers, we can best use the law to help people if we think holistically and with interdisciplinarity. The final panel combined a variety of views on how to better deal with PTSD outside the legal system—militarily, medically, and philosophically. This approach reflected the interdisciplinary scope of the challenges posed by the disorder, and it illustrated what I hope will evolve into a cooperative representation approach to assisting veterans with legal problems.

For example, NSU Law Center recently hired the first staff attorney, Jayme Cassidy, for our new veterans clinic. The school did not establish that clinic specifically to help people with PTSD, but it is not hard to predict that many of the veterans the clinic will serve will suffer from PTSD. Ideally (from my perspective), that veterans clinic will develop into a medical-legal partnership—or more accurately, into an interprofessional health care-legal partnership—because my friends in NSU's Health Professions Division say that the future is in “interprofessionalism,” not “interdisciplinary practice.” Just think what an impact we can have on veterans' lives if we at the Law Center clinic can work with students and faculty members from NSU's Center for Psychological Studies and the various schools within NSU's Health Professions Division. I hope that we can cooperatively work toward resolving veterans' legal problems by combining the efforts of medical and psychological professionals with ours, holistically addressing the clients' needs. Just think of the impact we could have on the lives of these people who have done so much for our country.

We can help combat-related PTSD victims, who deserve our respectful recognition, improve their circumstances through therapeutic intervention and cooperative representation. I hope that I have played a small role in doing that through this symposium. What a privilege!



Social Justice Scholarship Advanced Through PTSD Symposium

By Olympia Duhart ('03)

“The practice of law brings with it unique social obligations to help others. As law professors, we can best model the way to honor our social obligations by ... exploring problems and possible solutions in our scholarship.”

—Olympia Duhart

One of my colleagues calls it “social justice scholarship.” That is his brilliant shorthand for describing legal scholarship that attempts to pursue remedies for society’s challenges through traditional academic writing. Too often, law professors are comfortable in the theoretical world, where the black-letter law is static, problems are hypothetical fact patterns, and people are just names on a page. For me, however, a journalist in law professor’s clothing, overlooking the opportunity to explore solutions for real problems that impact real people would be an abuse of the privilege of producing scholarship. Moreover, it ignores one key reality about law that I work very hard to impart to my students: The practice of law brings with it unique social obligations to help others. As law professors, we can best model the way to honor our social obligations by volunteering in civic organizations, highlighting issues in the classroom, supporting pro bono efforts, or exploring problems and possible solutions in our scholarship.

For almost five years, I attempted to honor my commitment to social justice scholarship through my work with those affected by Hurricane Katrina. My area of expertise is government accountability, and I have explored ways to enhance government accountability for historically marginalized groups of people. I was especially interested in examining how the law could repair some of the ills that people struggled with following disasters. Hurricane Katrina, as everyone now knows, was much more than a natural disaster. I looked at failures relating to evacuation, FEMA missteps, post-hurricane housing defects, and racist legislation surrounding relocation. But as I continued to explore the harmful consequences of government misconduct surrounding Katrina, I could not avoid reports about the emergence of a new, serious breakdown in government accountability.

Soldiers who had fought for this country in Iraq and Afghanistan were fighting desperately to battle depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and a host of other problems. Even worse, they were succumbing to suicide at record levels. Administrative red tape, endless bureaucracy, and society’s ignorance about the serious dangers of PTSD had converged to make the threat of PTSD among veterans and active-duty military personnel a monumental government failure. We had failed in the worst way; we were falling down on the job of taking care of the men and women who had literally risked their lives to protect our country. Suddenly, my attention turned from Hurricane Katrina to soldiers’ suicides. There was a new, more pressing national disaster. And this one carried with it deadly consequences if we failed to act.

As a law professor committed to social justice scholarship, I felt compelled to explore this problem and look for solutions. I wrote about the prevalence of soldier suicide. I detailed the contributors—longer and more frequent deployments, cultural ignorance about PTSD, and inefficient government response—that contributed to the rise in suicides among veterans and active-duty military personnel. I tracked the progress the government was trying to make—reducing red tape, reshaping the culture surrounding PTSD and its symptoms, streamlining service delivery, and thinking more expansively about solutions. I also explored how PTSD impacted women, who especially have been hit hard and often ignored in both their service and suffering. Finally, I pursued outside-the-box remedies that would offer some solutions beyond the law. It was clear that the law could remedy some of the problems with PTSD, but it was equally clear that the law could not do it all.

Like Kathy Cerminara, my interest in PTSD and the military also has a personal connection. My late uncle, who helped raise me, was very proud of his service in Vietnam. But unlike her father, who was fortunate to return from his service in Korea unscathed, my uncle returned from Vietnam with those “invisible wounds” we hear so much about. Uncle Johnny braved many battles on and off the field. He spoke to us about the special challenges of serving as a young, black man in the army. And his difficult efforts at reintegration—marked by isolation, nightmares, and drinking—did not get the benefit of the PTSD label. The term was not yet part of our vocabulary. We just knew that he was finished with the war, but the war was not yet finished with him. Still, he persisted in the best way possible. He held down a job, provided for his family, and, like many other veterans, was forced to self-medicate. As I read through the stacks of documents and reports on PTSD, I always thought about my uncle. And I always thought about the thousands of other uncles, aunts, fathers, mothers, daughters, sons, sisters, and brothers like him.

I was privileged enough to meet one of these people in my Lawyering Skills and Values class a few years ago. One of my former students, Michael Cubbage, was brave enough to share with me his own struggles with PTSD. He was even willing to take the stage at our symposium and share his story with the world. We are incredibly grateful for his willingness to help us truly see and hear from one of the veterans who gave so much for us, and, unfortunately, got so little in return. Cubbage, a first lieutenant in the United States Army, was joined on his panel by Carlo Galluccio and Paula Lawler Galluccio, a married couple who addressed the impact of PTSD on families; D. Nicole Johnson Starr, founder of the PTSD Retreat; Dan Reidenberg,

a suicide specialist; and Kate McGraw, Ph.D., of the Defense Centers of Excellence, who addressed the effects of PTSD on female warriors. Though Craig Walker, Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer, could not join us in person, he shared with us a slide show of Scott Ostrom, a veteran living with PTSD. The images were raw and disturbing. They also were unforgettable.

Kathy Cerminara and I are incredibly thankful for the many experts who shared their knowledge and work with us, but I was most moved by the stories shared by the men and women who live with PTSD every day. Their stories, like my uncle’s story, have kept me focused over the past three years on working toward a better response to PTSD. Social justice scholarship reminds us that the law can be a tool for change, not just in theory, but in practice. The PTSD Symposium was merely an extension of this effort. Through the symposium, we were able to give a platform to those with expertise and experience. We were all united by our pursuit—both within and beyond the legal system—of a better understanding of, and treatment for, PTSD.

The practice of law requires precision, advanced reasoning, consideration of public policy, and problem-solving abilities. The highest use of this specialized skill set occurs when lawyers, advocates, judges, law professors, students, and members of the community use these skills to help others. It allows us to work in a legal arena with dynamic law, real-life problems, and real people who can be helped by the work that we do. It was an honor to work with Kathy Cerminara to pursue these goals at NSU. The PTSD Symposium intersects with therapeutic jurisprudence and government accountability. It advances our scholarship. But, more importantly, it represents our small contribution to social justice.



Photographed at the symposium are, from left to right, Kathy Cerminara, professor of law; Lydia Harley, law student; Major Evan Seamone, chief of military justice, Fort Benning, Georgia; Olympia Duhart, professor of law; and Amanda Sejba ('13).

NSU Receives High Honors for Community Service, Research Activity

Nova Southeastern University (NSU) was named to the 2013 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS). This designation is the highest honor a college or university can receive for its commitment to volunteering, service learning, and civic engagement.

"We're honored to receive this prestigious award, and we owe much of it to the students themselves. They're the energy driving our commitment, and they're the ones who make it all happen," said George L. Hanbury II, president and CEO of NSU.

In addition to being named to the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll, NSU is also 1 of only 37 universities nationwide to be recognized both with the "High Research Activity" and the "Community Engagement" classifications by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. NSU goes beyond its primary mission of providing school and university curricula by reaching out to the community with diverse service and clinical programs, community-based research, and resources.

"At NSU, community is one of our eight core values, so it comes as no surprise that we are being recognized for our superior community engagement," said Hanbury.

"Congratulations to NSU, its faculty members, and students for their commitment to service, both in and out of the classroom," said Wendy Spencer, CEO of CNCS. "Through their work, institutions of higher education, such as NSU, are helping improve their local communities and creating a new generation of leaders by challenging students to go beyond the traditional college experience and solve local challenges."

Inspired by the thousands of college students who traveled across the country to support relief efforts along the Gulf Coast after Hurricane Katrina, CNCS has administered the award since 2006 and manages the program in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, as well as the American Council on Education and Campus Compact.



"We're honored to receive this prestigious award, and we owe much of it to the students themselves. They're the energy driving our commitment, and they're the ones who make it all happen."

—George L. Hanbury II

Technology Gives Student Courtrooms a Boost



Left: Athornia Steele, Law Center dean, is shown with Noreen Salah Burpee and George J. Taylor, her son, both of the Salah Foundation.

Above, right: Brooke Latta, a third-year law student, uses the document camera.

The NSU Law Center held a ribbon-cutting ceremony recently, showcasing technological upgrades to the school's courtrooms, jury room, and judge's chambers. The technology upgrades were made possible by a generous donation from the Salah Foundation, a private group that supports nonprofit organizations in the United States. The foundation supports education, medical research, community development, and self-sufficiency programs aimed at the economically disadvantaged, the young, the elderly, and the disabled. Athornia Steele, Law Center dean, acknowledged and thanked the foundation's executive director, Noreen Salah Burpee, and her son, foundation board member George J. Taylor ('12), for their generous support.

The technology upgrades will allow students to practice in an environment similar to that being utilized in courtrooms today. Additionally, faculty members can use the technology to enhance the teaching of complex materials, demonstrate drafting techniques, and bring current information directly to the classroom. The upgrades include the ability to operate the courtroom in one of three modes: classroom, courtroom with a judge (enabling the judge to approve what is visible to the jury and spectators), and courtroom without a judge (for use with CLE and other presentations). There is one camera in the front and one in the back of the courtroom. These enable students

and educators to record presentations for replay and evaluation. The center touch-screen control panel allows for easy control of all the technology in the courtroom. Presenters can easily connect laptops and other technology for presentations and information exchange.

"The technology in the rooms will enable our students to continue developing the skills important for advocacy at the trial and appellate court levels," said Steele. "Technology is not a replacement for the fundamental skills at the heart of becoming an effective advocate, but is a tool that augments and elevates advocacy in a world where technology has taken center stage."

During the ceremony, Alan S. Gold, J.D., a judge with the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida, spoke about technology in the courtroom and how it aids in the administration of justice, providing a greater opportunity for the judge and jury to better understand cases before them. Marlene Rodriguez, assistant U.S. attorney for the Southern District of Florida, gave an impressive closing statement touting the usefulness of technology in the courtroom. Brooke Latta, a third-year student, stated that her class has been encouraged by their teachers to learn and use the technology. She demonstrated the use of the document camera during the examination of a witness.

"The technology in the rooms will enable our students to continue developing the skills important for advocacy at the trial and appellate court levels."

—Athornia Steele

Competitions Bring Law Center Accolades

Winning Mock Court Competitions Far from Moot for NSU Team

Students Alex Annunziato and Alixandra Buckelew were the winners of the Robert Orseck Memorial Moot Court Competition, organized by the Young Lawyers Division in Orlando during the annual Florida Bar convention held June 20 and 21, 2012. The team members were students Alex Annunziato, Alixandra Buckelew, and Ryan Brenton (who wrote the brief, but did not argue). Professors P. Camille Lamar and Michael Richmond coached the team. Eleven Florida law schools participated, and only four teams advanced to the semifinal rounds. The NSU team defeated Florida Coastal School of Law in the finals. The Florida Supreme Court Justices scored the final round, chose the winning team, and selected the best oralist. Oral arguments are heard by Federal District judges, the Florida Supreme Court, members of the State District Courts of Appeal, Florida Circuit Court judges, Florida County Court judges, and members of the Bar.

Health Law Team Best of 16

The team of Matthew Horton, A. Shawn Murray, and Jennifer Palacio, all third-year students, placed first as the overall champion at The L. Edward Bryant, Jr., National Health Law Transactional Competition at Loyola University School of Law in Chicago, Illinois. The team also won Best Oral Presentation and received an Honorable Mention for third place for the Best Memorandum. Sixteen teams from around the country competed. The competition, held on March 22, 2013, was based on providing advice to a physician group regarding integration options in structuring their practice in the future. Co-coaches were professors Kathy Cerminara and Donna Litman.

Nova Trial Team Wins Second Place

The Nova Trial Association team of NSU Law Center students Jessica Bartell, Ryan Mosher, Andrew Sando, and John Tolley recently competed in the criminal justice section of the American Bar Association's Annual Criminal Justice Trial Advocacy Competition hosted by The John Marshall Law School in Chicago, Illinois. The top trial advocacy programs were invited to compete. This year's competition included Stetson University College of Law, Temple University, James E. Beasley School of Law, South Texas College of Law, Georgetown University Law Center, and Harvard Law School. The NSU Law Center defeated Harvard Law School in the semifinals. Then, the team went on to compete in the finals against Loyola University Chicago School of Law. They won second place.

NSU Takes Top Spot at Mock Madness

The Nova Trial Association hosted the fifth annual Closing Argument Mock Madness Competition at the Law Center on March 16, 2013. Forty students from Florida Coastal, St. Thomas University, and NSU competed in the tournament. Lawyers from the local bench and bar helped judge the competition.

Jason Abitbol and Jamie Adler advanced to the top 16 round. Adler advanced to the final round, where he defeated a law student from St. Thomas University in a 3-0 decision and was named the tournament champion—the first time for an NSU Law Center student.

Students Place Third at National Mock Trial Competition

NSU's Black Law Student Association (BLSA) team of Alberto Polimeni, Ashley Dixon-Rolston, Citra Registe, and Sharita Young recently won third place during BLSA's National Thurgood Marshall Mock Trial National Competition held in Atlanta, Georgia.

The national competition consisted of 19 teams from 6 regions across the country. The competition went from 19 teams to 4. The team went into their third preliminary round as the higher-seeded team and advanced out of the prelims into the semifinals with a 3-0 record, having defeated Wake Forest, Tulsa, and Duquesne. The team suffered 1 loss in 10 rounds of the tournament (to Michigan State University in the semifinals). They then went on to defeat Texas Southern University for third place.

Earlier in the month, the team won the Southeast region of the BLSA Regional Mock Trial Competition held in Nashville, Tennessee. They took first place with an undefeated record and advanced to the BLSA National Competition in Atlanta. The tournament consisted of 19 teams from around the Southeast. NSU's team defeated Emory, University of Miami, University of Florida, Wake Forest, and Florida State University. Tania Williams, Critical Skills Program instructor, and Florence Shu-Acquaye, professor, along with Nikeisha Williams ('11), helped coach the team.



Team Wins Best Draft

Jessica Williams, Brian Taft, and Erica Alberino were awarded Best Draft for the Seller at the 2013 Transactional Law Meet in Atlanta, Georgia, on Friday, February 15, for the Southeast Regional Rounds. This is the second year the Law Center has participated in this meet. Donna Litman, Law Center professor, served as the coach for the team.

The students represented the seller in a mergers and acquisitions setting and drafted an amendment to a stock purchase agreement. They met with three different teams of students who represented the buyer to negotiate the terms of the amendment.

Six students, Darlene Bedley Baron, Matthew Botkin, Jordan Greenberg, Jared Guberman, Kevin Koushel, and Jason Thomassy, represented the buyer in practice negotiations.

Trio Competes at National Appellate Advocacy Competition

Rachel Bausch, Vanessa Seblano, and Kit Van Pelt advanced to the fourth round of the New York Regional of the American Bar Association (ABA) National Appellate Advocacy Competition (NAAC). Thirty-nine schools competed. The NSU team defeated Seton Hall, Charlotte, and State University of New York—Buffalo. Additionally, the team received a Best Brief Award for achieving the third highest brief score.

Above: The Health Law Team, from left, A. Shawn Murray; Jennifer Palacio; Donna Litman, professor of law; and Matthew Horton (Photo provided by Brad Snyder)

Below: Mock Madness champion Jamie Adler



New Faculty and Staff Members



*Professor of Law
and Public Finance*

Tim Canova Joins NSU Law Center Faculty

Tim Canova, J.D., joins the faculty at NSU Law Center as a professor of law and public finance. He brings with him broad experience in teaching law, private practice, and public policy. Recently, he taught at the Chapman University School of Law in Orange County, California, where he served as associate dean for academic affairs and the Betty Hutton Williams Professor of International Economic Law. Canova was first granted tenure at the University of New Mexico School of Law and has taught as a visiting professor at the University of Arizona and the University of Miami.

Canova's work crosses the disciplines of law, public finance, and economics. His work has been published in more than 20 articles and book chapters internationally and within the United States, including in the *Harvard Law and Policy Review*, *American Journal of Economics and Sociology*, *Brooklyn Law Review*, *Georgetown Journal of Law and Public Policy*, and *UC Davis Law Review*. He was an early critic of financial deregulation and the Federal Reserve under Alan Greenspan. In the 1980s, he wrote critically of the federal bailout of Continental Illinois, the nation's seventh largest commercial bank. He also wrote about the collapse of the savings and loan industry.

In the 1990s, prior to the Asian currency contagion, Canova argued against the liberalization of capital accounts. Throughout the Bush administration, he warned of an impending crisis in the bubble economy. Since 2008, he has lectured and written widely on the causes and consequences of the present economic and financial crisis. In 2011, Canova was appointed by Senator Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) to serve on an advisory committee on Federal Reserve reform with leading economists, including Jeffrey Sachs, Robert Reich, James Galbraith, and Nobel Laureate Joseph Stiglitz.

Canova received his B.A. from Franklin & Marshall College and his J.D. degree cum laude from Georgetown University Law Center. He got his master's diploma in graduate legal studies from the University of Stockholm, where he was a Swedish Institute Visiting Scholar. He previously served as a legislative assistant to the late Senator Paul E. Tsongas and practiced law in New York City with Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher and Mudge Rose Guthrie Alexander & Ferdon.



*Staff Attorney of the
Veterans Law Clinic*

Jayme Cassidy Joins NSU's Veterans Law Clinic

Jayme Cassidy, J.D., joins the NSU Law Center as a staff attorney at the university's in-house Veterans Law Clinic, the only one of its kind in South Florida. This summer, Cassidy offered a series of workshops to address some of the most pressing legal needs that our veterans face. In the fall, the Veterans Clinic, in conjunction with the school's Children and Families Clinic, will begin case consultation and representation in limited areas of family law. Advocacy on behalf of veterans will expand to include various civil law areas in 2014. Cassidy most recently worked as the supervising attorney for Economic Advocacy and Community Health (EACH) and for Coast to Coast Legal Aid of South Florida, Inc., where she developed Veteran Advocates Legal Outreach and Representation (VALOR), a medical-legal partnership with the Department of Veterans Affairs.

As a practicing attorney for 19 years, Cassidy brings broad experience in complex civil and criminal litigation, and a solid background in state and federal practice. Previously, she served as chief assistant for the Broward County Public Defender, and as an assistant attorney general. Cassidy received her B.S. degree from Seton Hall University and her J.D. degree from Seton Hall University School of Law, where she was a member of the *Legislative Law Journal*. She is a former litigation counsel for Carnival Cruise Lines, and practiced law in New York and New Jersey with Garberini & Scher and Bower & Gardner.

Taking Care of Veterans at NSU Clinic

Military veterans are more at risk of homelessness, unemployment, and matrimonial and health issues, which often give rise to legal and other issues. A survey of nonprofit legal organizations in the region revealed that very few organizations are currently helping our nation's veterans with legal matters of any kind. Opening a clinic dedicated to these matters is a unique opportunity that will enable faculty members and students to give back to our nation's veterans and the community. With more than 100,000 active-duty military personnel in South Florida, and more than 1.6 million veterans in Florida—280,000 in South Florida—faculty members and administrators recognized that a large number of people are not currently being adequately served in their legal matters. The NSU Law Center Veterans Clinic will assist veterans with cases that will have the greatest impact on the stability and success of its clients. This will include landlord-tenant cases, consumer matters, domestic relations, and state/federal misdemeanors.



Law Library and Technology Center



The Law Library and Technology Center invites the Law Center community to come into our facilities and use our electronic and print resources. To search for library materials, visit the law library's catalog, NovaCat, at www.novacat.nova.edu. Librarians are available at the reference desk to assist with locating materials both online and in print. We offer access to WestlawPRO, which includes both federal and state materials. In addition, we have practice guides, forms, journals, and treatises. Also, the law library has an extensive Florida Bar CLE collection, with more than 75 titles on CD and DVD, with printed course materials. We supply the equipment to view or listen to the courses. Complimentary library materials, including CLEs, can be checked out. *Florida Law Weekly*, Shepard's Citations, BNA, AILALink, and HeinOnline are available for you to use as well.

For more information on our collection or library services, contact

Eric Young
Assistant Dean for Law Library
and Technology Services/Assistant
Professor of Law
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(954) 262-6211

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All *in the* Family

An NSU Law Center Tradition

For the first time, the NSU Law Center asked faculty and staff members and alumni for their help in identifying current and former students who are related to each other. When we started this list, we weren't certain how many connections existed. We were surprised at how many responses we received. From this list, we have selected five families to highlight in this issue of *Nova Lawyer*. The following stories demonstrate a generational affinity of families to obtain their law degree from NSU. Legacy family connections are an essential part of creating history here. Our alumni have helped build and continue our reputation for graduating excellent attorneys. We encourage you to help us continue this important tradition. We value the continued participation of alumni and their families in the life of the NSU Law Center.

Please be a part of our legacy family list and share your story.

We are proud of our legacies and invite you and your family to share the story about your special bond to the NSU Law Center. Please send us a note with your list of family members who are also graduates or current students. You can send your information to: nsulaw@nova.edu.

Families Who Made NSU's Law Center a Tradition

- John Banister** ('80)
Nicole Perna (2L)—niece
- Eunice Baros** ('80)
Cliff Tall ('79)—sibling
Grant Baros ('08)—nephew
Hope Baros ('13)—daughter
- Amy L. Bloom** ('12)
Suzanne Bloom (3L)—sibling
- Simeon D. Brier** ('01)
Jacob Brier (3L)—sibling
- Anna Walsh Burke** ('87)
Ann Spalding ('96)—daughter
- Charles Burton** ('84)
Staci Burton ('12)—daughter
- Robert A. Chaves** ('79)
Matthew Chaves ('13)—son
- Dan Cytryn** ('81)
Harrison Cytryn (2L)—son
- Leslie Benes D'Anna** ('82)
Nicole D'Anna (2L)—daughter
- Michael Scott Davis** ('81)
Zachary Davis (3L)—son
- Fatima Dias** ('01)
Victor Zabaleta (2L)—son
- Roy A. Diaz** ('88)
Adam Diaz ('12)—son
- Bernice Dillman** ('84)
Ashley Dillman ('08)—daughter
- Michael Dutko** ('84)
Ashley Dutko ('11)—daughter
- Catherine Eaton** ('91)
Cash Eaton ('13)—son
- Sandra Echevarria** ('04)
Ramon Dominguez ('13)—sibling
- Alan Elkins** ('79)
Erin Rosenthal ('06)—niece
Mark Kopelman ('07)—nephew
Michael Elkins ('13)—son
- Rana Epstein** ('77)
Lynn Epstein ('86)—sibling
Lauren Robinette ('08)—niece
Jennifer Lemberger ('12)—daughter
- Lawrence Feder** ('78)
Steven Feder ('08)—son
- Matthew Feluren** ('09)
Jill Feluren (2L)—sibling
- Norine Ferguson** ('12)
Patrick Ferguson (2L)—sibling
- Maria Fernandez-Valle** ('83)
Silvia Maria McLain ('83)—sibling
- Sean Fine** ('11)
Jason Fine (2L)—sibling
- Paul Finizio** ('83)
Jamie Finizio Bascombe ('93)—sibling
Santino Finizio (3L)—cousin
Mark Finizio (3L)—cousin
- Bradley Fischer** ('87)
Justen Fischer (2L)—son
- Brian Fischer** ('87)
Harrison Fischer (1L)—son
- Shirley Fischler** ('77)
Michael Fischler ('78)—son
- Rex Ford** ('84)
Rob Ford ('00)—nephew
- Jason Gad** ('96)
Jeffrey Gad ('99)—sibling
- Mark L. Gaeta** ('81)
Mark Gaeta (2L)—son
- Jose A. Garrido** ('77)
George Metcalfe ('12)—nephew
Justin Metcalfe ('12)—nephew
- Ronald Glantz** ('80)
Wendy Glantz ('82)—spouse
Lindsey Glantz ('11)—daughter
- Rachel Glasser** ('02)
Bern Glasser (1L)—cousin
- Adam Goldberg** ('95)
Hadlee Goldberg ('05)—sibling
- Renee Goldenberg** ('84)
Barbara Sonderling ('95)—cousin
Keith Sonderling ('08)—nephew
- Josh Goodman** ('12)
Zachary Goodman (3L)—sibling
- Amy Grable** ('98)
Matthew Grable (2L)—cousin
- Jared Greenberg** ('09)
Jordan Greenberg (3L)—sibling
- Wayne Hussey** ('03)
Alissa Hussey ('12)—cousin
- Anthony E. Jackson** ('91)
Jessika Jackson (2L)—daughter
- Kyle Jacobs** ('13)
Brittany Jacobs (2L)—sibling
- Michael Kadoch** ('04)
Benjamin Haim ('12)—cousin
- Paula Kessler** ('83)
Andrea Kessler ('84)—sibling
Edwina Kessler ('94)—sibling
- Neesa Kurland** ('84)
Elyssa Kurland ('85)—sibling
Jacqueline Kurland ('86)—sibling
- Aaron Lapin** ('10)
Cory Lapin (3L)—sibling
- Randi Lazarus** ('82)
David Lazarus ('83)—spouse
Lawrence Klayman ('94)—sibling
Ilana Lazarus ('13)—daughter
- Maria Rodriguez Lewis** ('81)
Caroline Anne Lewis ('13)—daughter
- Diamond Litty** ('82)
Jordan Walsh ('13)—nephew
- Kenneth Louie** ('10)
Lynn Taylor (2L)—sibling
- Michael Macairog-Presley** ('80)
Steven Presley ('11)—son
- Sandy Martin** ('02)
Matthew Martin ('09)—son
- Steven G. Mason** ('89)
John Tolley (3L)—nephew
- Ayley Maye** ('09)
Krystine Espina (3L)—cousin
- Brigette McGrath** ('06)
Katherine McGrath ('12)—sibling
- Ralph Lane McGrath** ('84)
Cameron McGrath (2L)—son
- Steven Michaelson** ('78)
Jeremy Michaelson ('12)—son
- Jeff Miller** ('80)
Sandy Miller ('13)—daughter
- Peter Mineo** ('81)
Peter Mineo, Jr. ('05)—son
- Jonathan Morris** ('06)
Jamie Morris ('08)—sibling
- Michael Muchnick** ('80)
Lesli Muchnick ('81)—spouse
Jeffrey Muchnick ('11)—son
Jessica Muchnick ('12)—daughter
- Lewis J. Niad** ('04)
Jacob Herzek (3L)—nephew
- Ramon Palacio** ('00)
Kristen Palacio (3L)—daughter
- Anthony Petrillo** ('90)
Nicole Loy ('10)—cousin
- Richard Pillinger** ('83)
Monique Pillinger ('12)—daughter
- Daniel Probst** ('91)
Mary Grecz (2L)—niece
- James Quick** ('96)
Jaime Quick ('01)—daughter
- Shayna Reitman** ('06)
Brent Reitman ('10)—sibling
- Christine Rodriguez** ('03)
Christopher Rodriguez (2L)—cousin
- Rachel Rogozinski** ('09)
Erin Rogozinski ('12)—sibling
- Rosa Romero** ('02)
Cristina Muniz (2L)—niece
- Karen E. Roselli** ('85)
Nicholas Roselli ('12)—son
- Rebecca Rosenthal** ('92)
Stacey Rosenthal ('02)—daughter
- Leslie Rothenberg** ('86)
Ryan Rothenberg ('97)—son
- William Saka** ('02)
Jacob Saka ('12)—sibling
- Gary Sheres** ('05)
Robert Sheres ('08)—sibling
Evan Sheres ('13)—cousin
- David Shiner** ('02)
Lara Shiner ('10)—sibling
- Joseph Singer** ('88)
Gary Singer ('98)—son
- Manminderjit Singh** ('85)
Jaitegh Singh ('09)—son
- Mindy Solomon** ('81)
Sam Solomon (2L)—son
- Jay Spechler** ('78)
Zack Spechler ('09)—son
David Spechler (3L)—nephew
- Cristina Spottswood** ('10)
Robert Spottswood (3L)—cousin
- Sean P. Sullivan** ('02)
Stephanie Berman (3L)—cousin
- Adam Swickle** ('95)
Marc Swickle ('98)—sibling
Steven Swickle ('00)—sibling
- Ivan Tarasuk** ('05)
Ian Tarasuk ('05)—cousin
- Jeffrey Verchow** (3L)
David Verchow (2L)—sibling
Tova Verchow (2L)—sibling
- Jorge Viera** ('00)
Teresita Feal (3L)—cousin
- Anthony Vitale** ('77)
Jessica Vitale ('12)—daughter
- Todd Weicholz** ('01)
Scott Weicholz (2L)—sibling
- Kaylea Weiler** ('11)
Daniel Weiler ('12)—sibling
- Justin Weisberg** ('97)
Pamela Weisberg ('07)—sibling
- Denise Welter** ('02)
Chris Welter ('11)—son
- Claudia Willis** ('91)
Rebecca Bratter ('03)—daughter
- Matthew Zukowsky** (3L)
Danielle Zukowsky (2L)—sibling

ALL IN THE FAMILY

Verchow Family



From left: David, Jeffrey, and Tova

“I was excited to have both my brother and sister join me on the amazing and rewarding journey of law school, and it’s even better with all of us being together at the NSU Law Center.”

—Jeffrey Verchow

Jeffrey (3L), David (2L), and Tova Verchow (2L) are siblings who are all still attending the NSU Law Center. They were born and raised in Paramus, New Jersey. The entire family (including their parents) made Hollywood, Florida, their permanent home almost two years ago.

When did you first gain an interest in law?

Jeffrey: I first gained an interest in law as a young child, back in middle school. The other day, I was looking through my old files, and I found a piece of paper from when I was nine years old describing what I wanted to do when I grew up. It had four things on the list: 1. live in Florida; 2. be a lawyer; 3. have a dog; 4. not have my brother bother me. I have accomplished all of these now except for number 4!

David: I have had an interest in law since I was about six years old. When I was around that age, I started watching a lot of lawyer television shows and movies. I very much enjoyed movies like *A Few Good Men*, *The Firm*, *Lincoln Lawyer*, and *A Time to Kill*.

Tova: I first gained an interest in law after graduating from Ramapo College of New Jersey in May 2011.

Why did you choose to go to law school?

Jeffrey: Prior to law school, I was in the real estate business. During that time, I earned my M.B.A. degree, but felt that something was still missing from my educational repertoire, especially since I was always passionate about becoming an attorney.

David: My sister and I had both completed undergraduate school and garnered some experience after college. We are very close, and we loved the thought of attending law school together and living in the same area. Plus, working in law was something I wanted to do as a child. I received an undergraduate degree in law and society.

Tova: I chose to go to law school because I wished to enter a profession that would enable me to help others and give back to society on a daily basis.

Why did you choose the NSU Law Center?

Jeffrey: Prior to making the decision of where I would attend law school, I visited many law schools. By far, NSU's Law Center won me over with its open-door policies; tight-knit, family-like environment; and world-class professors and resident scholars.

David: Our family had always talked about moving to Florida somewhere north of Miami Beach, which is where we vacationed as children. We love Florida weather, and my brother, Jeffrey, and I constantly talked about our future plans to move to Florida. However, my sister and I both chose to attend the NSU Law Center because our brother was living in Florida already and attending the law school. Our parents were already making the move to Hollywood. The NSU Law Center became an obvious choice after hearing so many wonderful commendations about the school's friendly students and staff members, as well as the school's reputation for having interactive classes. I knew I could receive a great education if I attended NSU.

Tova: I chose to attend the NSU Law Center based on several factors. While I was applying to law schools, my older brother, Jeffrey, was a first-year student and told me about the quality

of the faculty and the camaraderie of the student body. My interest in the school was also stimulated by my visit to NSU Law Center's Family and Friends Day in September of 2011. Further, my conversation with the center's associate director of admissions, Anneke Hercules, at the New York LSAC Forum in October 2011, and the information she shared with me regarding their Family Law program, reinforced my desire to study at the school.

What type of law do you practice?

Jeffrey: I am currently working for LHC Real Estate Development, a South Florida-based construction and real estate development company. Upon graduation, I look forward to using my knowledge and skills in the areas of real estate transactions, landlord-tenant issues, construction, homeowners' and condominium associations, and general business law to help give LHC the competitive edge needed in the ever-changing real estate market.

David: I'm currently working as an intern at Legal Aid in Broward County, helping struggling Floridians who are trying to stay in their homes.

Tova: In the future, I wish to practice family law. As an adoptee, I have always felt such gratitude to society for placing me in an adoptive home, which provided me with unconditional love and positive life experiences. Bringing families together through adoption, as well as helping to resolve a variety of family disputes, will enable me to have an even greater impact on society and satisfy my innate drive to express gratitude for my good fortune.

Are you involved with any organizations here at the law school?

Jeffrey: Yes—I'm a member of the Real, Property, Probate, and Trust Law Society and the Jewish Law Students Association.

David: I am a member of the Jewish Law Students Association.

Tova: Yes, I am currently a member of both the Family Law Society and the Jewish Law Students Association.

What were your thoughts when your relatives first expressed an interest in law?

Jeffrey: I was excited to have both my brother and sister join me on the amazing and rewarding journey of law school, and it's even better with all of us being together at the NSU Law Center.

David: I thought it was great! The law is something I've loved since childhood. I was astounded that my brother wanted to practice law and knew I would soon be joining him.

Tova: I was very proud of both my brothers when they pursued their desire to attend law school. I was also very excited about attending the same law school with them.

Did having a relative who was already attending the NSU Law Center help you at law school? If so, how?

David: It is great to be going to school with my siblings. We can talk about our issues with the classes, and complain about the workload just like every other law student that goes through it. I like being able to go home and bounce ideas off someone who is going to school with me, or has had experience with law school. On countless occasions, my sister and I would help each other out with tough legal notions. My brother would help both my sister and me deal with the pressure and talk about his experience with classes and finals.

Tova: My brother, Jeffrey, who is a year ahead of me in his studies, frequently reflected on his experience and gave me advice on studying and preparing for classes. It was especially helpful during my first year as a law student when everything was new, and I was just becoming accustomed to the law-school experience. My brother, David, and I will sometimes study together or ask one another questions when issues arise while studying.

Have you given, or did your relatives give you, any tips on specific professors? If so, which ones and what were they?

David: Absolutely! My brother would tell us all he knew about the professors,

their teaching styles, and what to expect from them. If he couldn't answer a question, he could point us toward his friends in school. That was probably the best part about my brother attending law school before my sister and me. He was able to introduce us to a lot more people who could guide us and give us some support when we were stressing about professors' exams or teaching styles.

Tova: Jeffrey recommended that I take Business Entities with Professor Tim Canova as well as Real Estate Transactions with Professor Ron Brown. I am currently enrolled for both those courses for fall 2013.

What has been your favorite class, and who has been your favorite professor?

Jeffrey: I really enjoyed Condominium Law with adjunct professor Ken S. Direktor. He specializes solely in the field of homeowners' and condominium associations, affording students a real-life application of the law outside the classroom setting. My favorite professors at the Law Center are Ronald Brown and Kenneth Direktor.

David: I loved so many of my classes. One of my favorites, so far, has been Contracts with Phyllis Coleman. She was extremely helpful, and always kept her office door open. I gained a great amount of enthusiasm for the subject matter. Now I am happily working at Legal Aid this summer reading mortgages, assignments, and various types of agreements. Another favorite professor is Joseph Hnylka. His class was just as difficult as it was for me to spell his name. (It was a bonus question on one of our many exams.) Students and staff members might remember the trail of poor, dispirited, first-year students waiting outside his door to review the structure of his students' rules paragraph. It was pure torture for us, but when the first year ended, everybody in our class appreciated having him as a professor. Writing was not my strong point, but he quickly taught me how to become a persuasive and confident legal writer and speaker. It's amazing what tough love and a genuine care for students can achieve.

Tova: So far, my favorite class was Torts. I found the cases and the course material to be very interesting. So far, my favorite professors at the Law Center are Debra Curtis and Amanda Foster.

What is the one piece of advice from a professor or relative that has helped you the most during law school?

Jeffrey: Stay on top of your reading, and keep up with the material. Law school is not like being an undergraduate. There is no such thing as cramming for exams in law school.

David: In September of 2012, Joseph Harbaugh, NSU Law Center professor and dean emeritus, said: "Law school is all about uncertainty. What you need to do is learn to embrace it. Embrace the uncertainty. Then you'll do fine." I really enjoyed that advice!

Tova: Never fall behind on your reading, because once you do, it is almost impossible to catch up. Go into every class prepared, because that will ensure you gain the most out of the lesson and gain a solid understanding of the material.

What is some advice you can give current students about law school and their career in law?

Jeffrey: Stay focused on the mission at hand, but do not lose sight of the ultimate goal.

David: This is a tough place. I never knew what real work was until I came to the NSU Law Center. If you love the legal field and have a passion to work in this field for the rest of your life, go to the Law Center and you will have an amazing experience.

Tova: Advice that I would give law students, particularly first-year law students, would be to stay positive and understand that law school is overwhelming and difficult for everybody. It often feels as if the time you put in preparing and studying is never enough, and that's OK. Time management is the key to making the most out of your study time.

"First-year law students should stay positive and understand that law school is overwhelming and difficult for everybody. It often feels as if the time you put in preparing and studying is never enough, and that's OK. Time management is the key to making the most out of your study time."

—Tova Verchow

ALL IN THE FAMILY

Kessler Family



From left: Edwina, Andrea, and Paula

Sisters Paula ('83), Andrea ('84), and Edwina Kessler ('94) were born in Miami, but the family moved to Fort Lauderdale when they were young. The trio works for Catri, Holton, Kessler, & Kessler, P.A., practicing primarily personal injury defense law. Andrea is also a Guardian Ad Litem, assisting in the settlement of minors' claims, and a Florida Supreme Court approved arbitrator and certified mediator. Edwina is also a certified Florida Supreme Court Mediator.

When did you first gain an interest in law?

Paula: My father, Charles Kessler, was a lawyer in Fort Lauderdale and came home with interesting stories about his various cases.

Andrea: I do not really remember when my interest started. It seems that I have always been interested in the stories about the people behind the lawsuits.

Edwina: As a young child, I recall sitting in the courtroom watching my father in trial and finding the process interesting. I also enjoyed hearing different stories regarding the cases he was working on.

Why did you choose to go to law school?

Paula: I went to the University of Florida, where I majored in psychology. Unfortunately, with psychology, you are not encouraged to give advice, and it can take many years for an individual to gain any benefit. Law was attractive in that it is essentially a problem-solving activity where you can resolve problems in a timely manner. Most of our cases now are resolved within a year. I liked the fact that in law, not everything is as it appears, and there is a requirement of curiosity and investigative skills.

Andrea: My father was a lawyer, and I grew up watching him practice. It seems that I always had an idea in my head that I would like to be a lawyer. I also liked to solve problems.

Edwina: In high school, I began having an interest in attending law school. My older sisters, Paula and Andrea, were attending the NSU Law Center at the time, and I would participate or watch mock trials for trial advocacy, which sparked a greater interest. Also, watching my father in trial throughout the years deepened my interest in attending law school.

Why did you choose the NSU Law Center?

Paula: I went to the University of Florida for my undergraduate degree, and my father wanted me home to go to law school. He felt that he could help me in law school, which he did. At that time, the NSU Law Center was just starting out. I also knew that once I graduated from law school, I wanted to practice in Broward County.

Andrea: I liked the atmosphere at the NSU Law Center. There was an open-door policy that you could gain access to your professors whenever you had a question. I also liked the proximity of the law school to the downtown Fort Lauderdale legal community. The location of the law school also allowed me to participate with the summer intern program at the Broward County State Attorney's office.

Edwina: My two older sisters both attended the NSU Law Center. When I was in high school, I would attend functions at the law school with them, so I had a familiarity with the school and a few of the professors. Also, I was interested in the more practical teaching approach that the center used. As a student, you were taught actual procedures and had the opportunity to have trial experience. I was able to do my internship at the Broward County State Attorney's office and tried several cases before graduating. Having the familiarity with what really occurs at a hearing and knowing my way around the courthouse was very helpful when I began to practice law. My father also wanted me to be home so he could assist me, and I could clerk at his office.

Were you involved with any organizations while in law school?

Paula: I was involved in the Nova Trial Association and traveled to several competitions in Memphis, Tennessee, and Oxford, Mississippi.

Andrea: I was a member of Delta Theta Phi. At the time, the center also had a student yearbook, and I was the editor for two years.

Edwina: I was a member and officer of the Student Bar Association.

What were your thoughts when your sibling(s) first expressed an interest in law?

Paula: I was very happy that my sister, Andrea, followed me to the NSU Law Center. It was nice having her a year behind me at school.

Andrea: I always wanted to go to law school. When my older sister, Paula, decided to go to law school, I was a little surprised, as she had not necessarily expressed an interest. However, I thought that it was a great idea, since we are close in age and would have the opportunity to attend law school, and then practice, together. When my younger sister, Edwina, decided to join in the family profession, it was even better! The opportunity to work with your family, particularly while my father was alive, has made our family much closer and stronger.

Do you have any other relatives practicing law?

Paula: My husband, Ken Cooper ('83), has his own practice, doing essentially the opposite of what I do, representing people in personal injury matters. He graduated from the Law Center the same year I did.

Edwina: I was fortunate enough to practice for three years with my father before he passed away.

Did having a relative who previously attended the NSU Law Center help during your law school days? If so, how?

Andrea: Paula and I are very close in age. We had also attended University of Florida during the same time period. Paula, having attended law school a year prior to me, helped pave the way. Watching her and talking to her about her experience as a first-year law student was incredibly valuable.

Edwina: I was in high school while my sisters were attending law school. During that time period, I attended many functions at the NSU Law Center, in addition to attending or participating in their mock trials. My sisters were helpful, especially during my first year, in providing advice on classes.

What was your favorite class, and who was your favorite professor?

Paula: My favorite class was Trial Advocacy with Professor Mark Dobson because it was a class that was closely mirrored to what I believed I would be doing once I graduated. That class allowed us to actually participate in trials as either a witness or the attorney. It was the most interesting class I took. I learned a great deal and that transferred to real life. My favorite professor was Mark Dobson, who ran the Trial Advocacy program. He gave us a lot of practical advice and allowed us to try new things in the program. Many of the things we tried actually failed, but I think in allowing us to do that, we learned valuable lessons about trial work.

Andrea: I think Torts with Professor Joel Berman was my favorite class. Discussing the different facts of the cases and the outcomes was more relevant to everyday life. Also, there were more interesting case scenarios. My favorite professor was Ron Brown, who was my first-year property professor. I found the class very difficult, but Professor Brown was always willing to spend time and help me muddle through the class. Also, the way he ran his class was very much like appearing in court. After having been called on to answer questions in that class, there was nothing that any member of the bench could do to ruffle my feathers.

Edwina: I was in the summer conditional program, and I had to take two classes, negotiable instruments and criminal procedure. Criminal procedure was taught by Professor Johnny Burriss and was my favorite because it was the first time I ever had really been challenged educationally. It was very important that I do well in that class. Also, it was a type of law that I had not been familiar with, as my father practiced civil litigation defense. I also enjoyed all the tort-related classes I had with Professor Mike Richmond. I knew that would be the type of law I would practice, and he had an entertaining way of presenting the cases.

What are the advantages to working with your relatives?

Paula: Having relatives in our law firm, I believe, keeps our family closer

together. We see each other almost every day and actually work on cases together. Litigation gives you many opportunities to talk about cases and various personalities.

Andrea: One thing about working with your sisters is that you always have someone that you can go vent to when you are having a bad day. Also, you know that your sisters will always be there for support and, if you get into a bind, will help you out. Working together has brought us all closer.

Edwina: There are many advantages in working together, especially when I first started practicing. I could ask them any question. If I was not working with family, I may not have asked another attorney. You always have someone who is close that knows what your day entails. Also, you can call them at the last minute to help out. I am fortunate to work this closely with my sisters.

What is the one piece of advice from a professor or relative that has helped you the most during law school and afterward in your career?

Paula: My father was the greatest influence in my career in law, and I was lucky enough to have him as a mentor for many years. I always felt that I could walk into his office and ask a question and did not have to worry about feeling dumb to my employer. The best advice he gave me was to be courteous and kind to everyone in the profession, and I have tried to do that. Also, he told me to always be honest—because your word is your reputation.

Andrea: I had the opportunity to try some cases with my father before he passed away. He advised me to always be prepared, calm, and courteous, but when objecting, yell.

What is some advice you can give current students about law school and their career in law?

Paula: My first year of law school was terrifying, I felt like I was failing every class. I felt like I was making a mistake with every decision I made. The next two years, there was a certain comfort level and practicing law was the same. After a few years, you are at a certain

confidence level. Law, and especially litigation, is constantly challenging. It is never boring. Sometimes it is even too challenging, but each case has some interesting facet to it, and you certainly learn a lot about human nature.

Andrea: I would advise them to participate in as many practical classes as possible. The clinical and externship programs give you experience in actually participating and practicing law and are invaluable once you go out and start practicing yourself. I do not think it is enough to just attend the classes; you need to actually get involved.

Edwina: I would advise current students to attempt to take as many practical classes as they can in the field that they believe they may want to practice. Also, take advantage of the mentorship program as well as interning or getting a law clerk position in the community. When studying for the Bar exam, do not get too caught up in all of the craziness that occurs, and try to keep a level-headed mind during the exam. Once out of law school, get involved with your local Bar Association. It will provide many useful services, including mentorships, and it is a good way to become familiar with the local legal community.

“My two older sisters both attended the NSU Law Center. When I was in high school, I would attend functions at the law school with them, so I had a familiarity with the school and a few of the professors. Also, I was interested in the more practical teaching approach that the center used. As a student, you were taught actual procedures and had the opportunity to have trial experience.”

—Edwina Kessler



Ashley and Michael

Michael Dutko ('84) is a partner at the law firm Bogenschutz, Dutko & Kroll, P.A., Fort Lauderdale, and member of NSU Law Center's Board of Governors. His daughter, Ashley ('11), does appellate and research/writing work for the firm.

“My father went to the NSU Law Center and had high praise for the professors and the school as a whole. One of the things that always stood out to me was that the Law Center has a focus on integrating its academic environment with the local legal community and expanding its alumni network. I had the best experience there.”

—Ashley Dutko

Where are you from originally?

Michael: I was born in Memphis, Tennessee; however, my parents moved to South Florida when I was very young. I grew up in Miami, in Opa-Locka.

Ashley: I was born in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and I grew up in Plantation and Davie.

When did you first gain an interest in law?

Michael: I was originally planning on taking the LSAT and going to law school after college, in 1976. However, that summer, on a whim, I began the application process for the Fort Lauderdale Police Department. I was hired as a policeman and started the academy in November 1976, so I did not take the LSAT as originally planned. Eventually, I was encouraged by some of the lawyers I had met while I was a police officer to apply to law school, and I did.

Ashley: It was not until my junior year of college at Florida State University (FSU) that I really became interested in law. I majored in psychology at FSU, and one of my favorite classes was Psychology and Law. A few of my professors at FSU encouraged me to take the LSAT and apply to law school.

Why did you choose to go to law school?

Michael: Initially, I wasn't certain that I wanted to practice law, but I knew that a law degree would help me even if I wanted to be a career law enforcement officer, such as a federal agent or police chief. While I was in law school, my interests began to shift, and I found that I liked litigation and trial work.

Ashley: I have always enjoyed school—I love reading, writing, researching, and being a student in general. I eventually want to be a professor or work in some way in an academic environment. Although I wasn't certain that I wanted

to practice law in the traditional sense, I realized that obtaining a law degree would provide a good foundation for many career paths.

Why did you choose the NSU Law Center?

Michael: At the time I was considering going to law school, I was married, to Bettie, and she owned a court-reporting agency in Fort Lauderdale. We also owned a house in Fort Lauderdale. The NSU Law Center presented the best option to suit our circumstances.

Ashley: I knew I wanted to go to law school somewhere in South Florida. My father went to the NSU Law Center and had high praise for the professors and the school as a whole. One of the things that always stood out to me was that the Law Center has a focus on integrating its academic environment with the local legal community and expanding its alumni network. I had the best experience there.

Were you involved with any organizations while at the NSU Law Center?

Michael: I worked most of the time that I was in law school and didn't have much time for extracurricular activities. However, I am honored to be currently serving on the Board of Governors for the school, as well as volunteering for several other charitable and civic organizations.

Ashley: During law school, I was a member of *Nova Law Review* and served on the executive board as the lead articles editor. I was also a teaching assistant for Professor Doug Donoho, for his Torts and Constitutional Law classes.

What were your thoughts when your daughter first expressed interest in law?

Michael: I was thrilled. I had encouraged Ashley to consider law school from the time she was young. She was a very good student and a tremendous writer. She seemed reluctant to consider my suggestions. Eventually, her reluctance subsided when she was similarly encouraged by some of her professors at Florida State University.

Do you have any other relatives practicing law?

Ashley: My father, my brother Michael, and my sister-in-law, Stephanie, all practice law. My brother and sister-in-law actually met while working together at the Palm Beach County State Attorney's Office a few years ago, and they got married last summer!

How did having your father previously attend the NSU Law Center help during your law school days?

Ashley: I think it helped me understand what to expect, and he helped me learn the importance of keeping a balanced lifestyle during law school.

Did you receive any tips on specific professors from your relatives?

Ashley: My father said Professor Phyllis Coleman was one of his favorite teachers, so I took her family law class, and loved her just as much! That was pretty neat for me because she told me that my father was one of her best students—he set the bar high!

What was your favorite class, and who was your favorite professor?

Michael: My favorite class was during my first semester and first year of law school. It was Property I with Professor Ron Brown. The subject matter was difficult and required a lot of reading and preparation for class. Ron Brown was very intimidating because he used the Socratic Method, but through that process, I worked hard and realized that I had the ability to think and analyze a problem like a lawyer. As to my favorite professor, it is hard to choose just one, so I have three: Ron Brown, Phyllis Coleman, and Bruce Rogow. I have been privileged to work with Bruce Rogow on several cases during the past 29 years. He is as good as the legend suggests!

Ashley: My favorite classes and professors were Constitutional Law with Doug Donoho and Medical Malpractice with Michael Flynn. Professor Doug Donoho taught my Torts and Constitutional Law classes during my first year of law school,

and, more than anything else, he taught me how to be a good law student. I then became his teaching assistant for both of those classes during my second year of law school.

What is the one piece of advice from a professor or relative that has helped you the most during law school and afterward in your career?

Michael: Go slow, don't cut corners, and do it right. In a hectic trial practice, that is not always easy. But, it is vitally important.

Ashley: My father has always stressed the importance of keeping a balanced life—with school, work, family, and living a healthy lifestyle.

Do you have a younger relative expressing interest in law? If so, and if he or she chooses to study law, what advice would you give him or her?

Michael: Who knows where this may lead, but, after bringing my four-year-old grandson, Taylor, to my office and the courthouse with me, he now asks, quite frequently, to come back so that he can "help people" too. At four years old, he has no idea what the word "attorney" means, yet he seems to understand the noblest aspect of our profession.

What is some advice you can give current students about law school and their career in law?

Michael: Don't be distracted by money or what appears to be the trappings of success. Work hard, stay focused, develop your skills, and find an area of the law that you enjoy and that provides you with personal satisfaction and the ability to lead a well-balanced life. Do that, and everything else will fall into place.

Ashley: Avoid the ruthless and cutthroat mentality that some may feel is necessary to succeed in law school. Enjoy the experience with your classmates and help each other along the way. Get to know your professors, and look to them for guidance. The people you meet in law school will become part of a network for the rest of your career.



ALL IN THE FAMILY

Muchnick Family

From left: Jeffrey, Lesli, Michael, and Jessica

Michael ('80), Lesli ('81), Jeffrey ('11), and Jessica Muchnick ('12) all grew up in South Florida. Michael and Lesli met in high school. They were married before they both attended the NSU Law Center. The couple and their two children all attended the University of Florida for their undergraduate degrees. All four family members work at the Muchnick Law Firm in Weston. The firm specializes in accidents, personal injury, divorce, family law, foreclosure defense, loan modifications, general contract drafting, and corporation and company formation. Michael's father was a lawyer; so the Muchnicks actually have three generations of lawyers.

Why did you choose to go to law school?

Michael: My father is a lawyer.

Lesli: At the time, I was married to Michael, and he was attending the NSU Law Center. Also, many of my close friends (about 20) from the University of Florida all decided to take the LSAT. I ended up doing well on the LSAT and thought I would join my husband.

Jeffrey: Growing up with my grandfather and both parents as lawyers, I had many opportunities to learn about what it really means to be a lawyer. In the summers off from school, I would work with my parents and help them in their firm. Also, with a law degree, there are many career opportunities.

Jessica: I was surrounded my whole life by my family, who were all attorneys, and listening to their conversations about practicing law sparked my interest to go to law school.

Why did you choose the NSU Law Center?

Michael: I transferred from Drake University Law School in Des Moines, Iowa, after my first year there. My wife and I enjoyed being in South Florida, having both grown up here. We missed South Florida, and we wanted to come back home to the warmer weather, family, and friends.

Lesli: When my husband was attending law school, I would often visit him there. The faculty and staff members seemed inviting and like a family.

Jeffrey: I wanted to go to the NSU Law Center because it has a good reputation, which I had heard about from my parents, parents' friends, people in the community, and potential employers. I had heard from many people that employers like to hire NSU law students because they graduate with practical skills. I did a clinic and had the opportunity to talk with lawyers and gain insights.

Jessica: Both of my parents, as well as my brother, attended the NSU Law Center. After receiving a tour of the school and visiting other law schools, I decided it was the best school for me. What I really liked about the Law Center was the fact that the faculty and staff members seemed very approachable.

What were your thoughts when your relatives first expressed interest in law?

Michael: I was very happy that my children would follow in the footsteps of their grandfather and father and continue the legacy of lawyers. Also, I envisioned being able to hood them at the commencement ceremony. I was able to do this, and it was a very proud moment for me.

Jeffrey: I was very happy for my sister. I had enjoyed my time at the NSU Law Center and thought it would be a great advantage for her, since I was already there.

“Both of my parents, as well as my brother, attended the NSU Law Center ... What I really liked about the Law Center was the fact that the faculty and staff members seemed very approachable.”

—Jessica Muchnick

Did having relatives who previously attended the NSU Law Center help during your law school days? If so, how?

Lesli: Yes, my husband was a year ahead, so it helped having him around.

Jeffrey: Yes, actually my parents had many of the same professors: Ron Brown, Michael Richmond, and Marc Rohr.

Jessica: Yes, having my older brother attend law school shortly before I began helped because I got a sense of what to expect. He helped me with many things, such as which classes to take, tips on studying, best practices for outlines, and the whole process of law school.

Have you given, or did your relatives give you, any tips on specific professors? If so, which ones, and what were the tips?

Michael: I was the first, so I told my wife and children which professors I enjoyed while there. It is surprising that so many of the original professors are still there.

Lesli: Yes, my kids had many of my professors, which I think is unique that many of the professors have taught two generations of Muchnicks. It is humorous to me now, but at the time, I thought my professors were so much older than I was. Now, 30 years later, they are still there teaching. I guess they weren't so old after all.

Jeffrey: I gave my sister tips on how to survive her first-year classes, especially with Professor Ron Brown and Professor Michael Flynn. The professors all have different teaching techniques, and I gave her advice on how to navigate many of her classes.

Jessica: Yes, mostly what to expect from the teachers as far as their teaching and lecturing style, and what to expect from exams. My parents both had Civil Procedure with Michael Masinter, and my brother had my Torts teacher, Michael Flynn.

Who was your favorite professor, and what was your favorite class?

Michael: Administrative Law with Professor Marc Rohr. I thought he was hilariously funny and bright. I really enjoyed his class.

Lesli: By far my favorite classes were those related to taxes with Professor Gail Richmond. She made learning tax law so enjoyable that I think half of the students that took her classes with me went on to receive their LL.M. in Taxation.

Jeffrey: My favorite class and professor was Income Tax with Professor Jani Mauer. Her teaching in class was so thorough and enjoyable that I didn't really need to study, even though it was a very difficult class. I also enjoyed classes with Ron Brown.

Jessica: My favorite class was Constitutional Law with Professor Johnny Burriss. I really enjoyed his teaching style, and he helped me to be able to understand the concepts very well. He encouraged our class to do well and pay attention by offering the parking spot next to the dean to the person who booked (received the highest overall grade) his class. I was so happy when I was awarded the spot! Finding a parking spot, like at many universities, is a challenge. I also enjoyed my class with Professor Michael Flynn.

What is it like working with your family?

Michael: All four of us work in my firm and it is a lot of fun to work together and grow our business together.

Lesli: Working together in our family business, we have a common goal and loyalty to each other.

Jeffrey: I love working with my family. Each day I walk into the office, I look forward to it, and I am privileged to have two outstanding mentors, my parents. It is rewarding to be able to

share the successes of hard work with my family in the business we are all helping to grow together.

Jessica: Working with my parents and brother is great because we all know each other and communicate very well. Having my family around me makes it a more comfortable work environment for working and learning.

What is the one piece of advice from a professor or relative that has helped you the most during law school or what is some advice you would give?

Michael: My mother told me to not be intimidated. She used to tell me, “judges and jurors all wear underwear and put their pants on one leg at a time, just like everyone else.”

Lesli: My best advice is to not worry at first in law school, because you will get the big picture. For my first semester of law school, I was terrified, as I was an art major for my undergraduate degree. This was learning on a whole other level. But, one day, something clicked, and I got the big picture. I understood why professors were teaching the way they were and why classes and materials were structured in a certain way.

Jeffrey: If you want to do well in law school and afterward, learn to develop good issue-spotting skills. If you don't know what the problem or issue is from the beginning, it is hard to navigate a solution.

Jessica: The best advice I would give students is to take notes during lectures, and make outlines on your own. This will help when it gets to the end of the semester, and you won't be scrambling and cramming for exams. Also, it is important to apply for summer law clerk jobs. For me, it was very helpful as far as building up a resume to help your career when you graduate.

ALL IN THE FAMILY

Sheres Family



Brothers Gary ('05) and Robert ('08) Sheres and their cousin, Evan ('13), were all born in Montreal, Canada. The brothers moved to Boca Raton in 1992, and Evan moved to Fort Lauderdale for law school in 2010.

From left: Robert, Evan, and Gary

When did you first realize you wanted to practice law?

Gary: As far back as I can remember I wanted to be a trial lawyer.

Robert: In my third year of college, after two years as a premed major, I decided that I had learned more than I wanted to know about a molecule and was more interested in learning about business and law.

Evan: I first gained interest in law in high school, as a member of the debate team.

Why did you choose to go to law school?

Gary: I knew with a law degree my options would always be open.

Robert: A law degree has a lot of versatility and I wanted options in terms of a career.

Evan: It was something I had always planned to do. I wanted to be an attorney.

Why did you choose the NSU Law Center?

Gary: When I first visited the campus and spoke with the students and faculty members, I was impressed by how inviting the faculty was with the student body. Geographically, I knew I wanted to live and work in South Florida and be close to my family. I never thought I would be the first of a chain of Shereses to become lawyers.

Robert: My brother is an alumnus and the law school is in a top-notch geographic location where I planned to live. My decision to attend the NSU Law Center was also because of its reputation as an excellent, student-oriented institution.

Evan: I chose NSU because they had already trained two impeccable attorneys, my cousins, and I wanted the same training. Also, in 2007, I spent a week with my cousin, Rob, while he was a second-year law student at NSU, and I was very impressed.

What type of law do you practice?

Gary: I practice criminal defense in the homicide division of the Law Offices of the Public Defender for Broward County.

Robert: Complex Commercial Litigation at The DuBosar Law Group, with an emphasis on commercial real estate and partnership disputes.

Evan: I will be attending George Washington University for an LL.M. in Intellectual Property.

“I chose NSU because they had already trained two impeccable attorneys, my cousins, and I wanted the same training. Also, in 2007, I spent a week with my cousin, Rob, while he was a second-year law student at NSU, and I was very impressed.”

—Evan Sheres

What organizations were you involved in while in law school?

Gary: The NSU Law Center chapter of the Association of Trial Lawyers of America (ATLA) and Moot Court Society

Robert: *Nova Law Review* and Nova Trial Association

Evan: *Nova Law Review* and the Nova Intellectual Property Law Society

What were your thoughts when your relatives first expressed interest in law?

Gary: I was very excited for them. I was surprised, at first, that my brother, Robert, wanted to go to law school, based on his medical track, but I completely understood his change to law. Evan was not a big surprise because of his love to debate me on anything.

Robert: Based upon our debates growing up, I was not surprised that my brother, Gary, had decided to go to law school. To my knowledge, Evan first expressed an interest in law after visiting me in law school. Because I truly enjoyed what I was learning and knew that it would provide me with many options in the future, I thought it was an excellent idea for Evan as well.

Did having relatives who previously attended the NSU Law Center help during your law school days? If so, how?

Robert: Having my brother to speak to about law school definitely helped. It was a relief to know and talk to someone who had been down the same road.

Evan: Absolutely. My cousins were great resources, especially on which classes to take. Not to mention, help on an outline here and there.

What was your favorite class, and who was your favorite professor?

Gary: I really enjoyed Advanced Trial Advocacy because of the courtroom setting of the class. I have had too many great professors who continue to have a positive impact on me today to list a favorite. Looking back, I really liked having class with professors Mark Dobson, Michael Flynn, and Michael Dale, to name only a few.

Robert: I don't have just one favorite, as many professors had a positive impact on my law school experience. In particular, Mark Dobson, Debra Curtis, and Kathy Cerminara were all excellent professors and advisers that I conferred with and relied upon regularly.

Evan: A three-way tie between Copyrights and Trademarks with Professor Marc Rohr, Law of eCommerce with Professor James Levy, and Patent Law with Adjunct Professor Scott Smiley [’03]. All three dealt with various areas of intellectual property law, a field I fell in love with. Smiley also runs an intellectual property law firm, The Concept Law Group P.A., in Fort Lauderdale. He has been a great mentor and friend to me. He was always accessible outside the classroom and has helped me advance my career.

What is the one piece of advice from a professor or relative that has helped you the most during law school and afterward in your career?

Gary: Never be afraid to ask a question. It is better to know the answer at the beginning stage of a case than to worry about what the answer will be at the end of a case.

Robert: The answer to virtually every question starts with the phrase “It depends.” Also, always learn from your own and others’ mistakes.

Evan: I thank my father for always guiding me in the right direction.

What is some advice you can give current students about law school and their career in law?

Gary: You are an advocate, but you must always keep an open mind. As an attorney, you should be solving problems, not creating them.

Robert: Consider every issue from multiple perspectives and focus on your client’s ultimate goal.

Evan: I would advise students that, when it comes to excelling academically, they should embrace their individuality and do what works for them. They will have opinions about things they “must” do to excel coming from fellow students, faculty members, friends, parents, etc. In the end, they have to discover the method that works best for them individually and not be afraid to stick to it.

Community Engagement

*“We make a living by what we get,
but we make a life by what we give.”*

—Winston Churchill

It is no surprise that NSU was named to the 2013 President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS). This designation is the highest honor a college or university can receive for its commitment to volunteering, service learning, and civic engagement. Community engagement is one of NSU’s eight core values, and a core value of the NSU Law Center: “We believe and model the assumption of leadership roles and service to the community.”

This past year, 95 students from the class of 2013 qualified for pro bono honors recognition at graduation by performing at least 50 hours of pro bono service. In total, all the students who participated in the Pro Bono Honors Program volunteered 23,688 hours of pro bono legal work while in law school. This total number of pro bono service hours is the equivalent of more than 470 workweeks (at 50 hours per week) or more than 9½ years of service (at 50 workweeks per year). The number of students who participated, and the number of pro bono hours performed continues to grow each year. Throughout the school year, many NSU Law Center student organizations also raise funds, hold collections for donations, and volunteer their time for a variety of local and national charities.

Not only are NSU Law Center students involved in bettering the community and demonstrating that core value, but so are many faculty and staff members. Faculty and staff members at the NSU Law Center like to lead by example and show that they fully embody the mission to provide service to the community. Here are some of their stories.



From left: Brion Blackwelder, Joel Mintz, and Richard Grosso will spearhead a national conference in 2014 that will address issues concerning energy law and policy.

Brion Blackwelder, professor of law and director of the Children and Families Clinic, is involved in a variety of environmental policy and preservation organizations. For almost 30 years, Blackwelder has been an appointed member of the Broward County Water Resources Advisory Board, which addresses drinking water resources, storm water drainage, and water conservation of the entire county. His involvement in the Broward County Climate Change Task Force helped develop the Climate Change Action Plan. The task force was developed in response to an increasing sea level rise; variation in storms; and temperatures affecting the county now and in the decades ahead. Furthermore, his involvement in the Broward County Sierra Club Political Committee supports public interest aspects of health and natural resource conservation. When not advocating for the local environment, Blackwelder also volunteers his time as a member of the Legislative Delegation Elections Task Force of 2013. The task force was created by Florida State Senator Eleanor Sobel, and the delegation was created to evaluate voting problems—like long lines and uncounted ballots.

For Blackwelder, his involvement in these organizations helps “keep tabs on public policy and nudges it for environmental quality. The teamwork and cooperation built over years of attentiveness is paying off for our local community. Broward County now has extensive environmental monitoring, and it uses and promotes green buildings and construction. Additionally, the county is making strides in finding ways to increase energy savings in transportation, preserve the Everglades and area parks, and encourage wildlife conservation,” he said. The most gratifying aspect for him is, “knowing I am on the good side of things and that I support the people and organizations that care and make a difference.”

Joel Mintz, professor of law, is a champion for change and a member (since 2003) of The Center for Progressive Reform (CPR), a Washington, D.C.-based “green think tank.” He works with scholar members to promote reform of federal and state regulation of public health and safety, the environment, and the workplace. Its members include law professors, economists, and scientists from universities around the United States. The members volunteer their time by writing reports, books, and white paper documents, as well as testifying before Congressional committees and subcommittees. His work with CPR has helped “prevent the passage of some ill-advised, anti-environmental legislation” and was of assistance to the Environmental Protection Agency and Occupational Safety and Health Administration in their regulatory efforts.

Mintz is also a member of the American Law Institute (ALI), which consists of distinguished law professors, judges, and practicing attorneys who develop and discuss Restatements of the Law and other authoritative documents that are intended to reform selected areas of U.S. law. He has been a member since 2009, and during that time, has been part of the development of an environmental law project that has helped cast light on an important new area of focus for the organization.

Locally, Mintz has been on the board of directors and chaired the litigation screening committee of the Everglades Law Center since the 1990s. The center is a nonprofit, environmental public interest law firm that works to protect the Everglades and the Florida Keys through strategic, public interest lawsuits. His work with the organization has helped make significant contributions to Everglades protection and environmentally sensible growth and development in South Florida. “My involvement with each of these organizations has given me the opportunity to contribute to causes and projects that are important to me. It has also provided me with wonderful opportunities to meet, work with, and know many like-minded people with similar interests and goals,” Mintz said.

Richard Grosso, professor of law and director of the Environmental and Land Use Law Clinic, is also an advocate for environmental preservation. Along with his law students in the clinic, he helps provide legal and policy advice to environmental organizations, representing them in nonlitigation and litigation settings, helping to restore and protect the Everglades. He gives advice, counsel, and representation to environmental organizations frequently throughout the year as they advocate before various county, regional, state, and federal agencies.

He has also been involved with the Everglades Coalition for more than 20 years. The Everglades Coalition is an alliance of 57 local, state, and national conservation and environmental organizations dedicated to full restoration of the Greater Everglades Ecosystem—from the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes into Lake Okeechobee, through the “River of Grass,” out to Florida Bay and the Keys. The coalition works in the public arena to inform decision-makers on the collective view of the conservation community regarding the greater Everglades ecosystem.

Most recently, Grosso has been and will be working with Broward County staff members and officials concerning the significant initiative to respond to sea level rise in the community. Broward County is one of four counties in Southeast Florida to create a regional climate compact, which is now a national model for regional cooperation on what is today’s defining environmental issue—rising sea levels and the effects on coastal communities. He provides legal and policy advice, and he speaks at and moderates various forums conducted for municipal and county officials in Southeast Florida and around the country.

In 2014, Blackwelder, Mintz, and Grosso are taking their advocacy of environmental preservation to a national level. The professors are spearheading a national conference (“Energy, Climate Disruption, and Sea Level Rise: New Directions in Law and Policy”) aimed at addressing the many issues concerning energy law and policy. Public interest groups, practicing attorneys, scientists, scholars, policy makers, and those interested in myriad environmental issues will be present to brainstorm on a variety of topics such as sea level rise, “green” building, and alternatives to fossil fuels. The conference is of increasing significance to the local community because almost all of Florida is at, or very close to, sea level and there has been increasing flooding of developed areas, along with salt water intrusion into fresh water sources.

Michael J. Dale, professor of law, helps protect the rights of the most vulnerable members of our community: children. Dale is a founder, the first executive director, and currently a board member of the Youth Law Center in San Francisco, a public interest law firm he helped start in 1978. The firm works to protect children in the nation's foster care and justice systems from abuse and neglect.

He also currently serves as a board member of the Florida Association of Counsel for Children (FACC)—part of the National Association of Counsel for Children (NACC), a nonprofit child advocacy and professional membership association dedicated to providing high-quality legal representation for children. The Florida Association of Counsel for Children advocates “for every child who is a party to child welfare proceedings in the state of Florida to be represented by a competent attorney who has the time and training to effectively represent the child.”

Dale has been a longtime supporter of these organizations and regularly attends fund-raisers and other events to support these groups. In 2009, Dale received the Robert Oliphant Service award from the National Institute for Trial Advocacy for his exemplary service as a program director, teacher, and leader in the child advocacy programs.

Last spring, Dale organized a national symposium “Improving Outcomes for Children: The American Bar Association (ABA) Model Act Governing the Representation of Children in Abuse, Neglect, and Dependency Proceedings.” The ABA Model Act requires the appointment of a lawyer for every child and youth in abuse or neglect proceedings in which the state has removed the child from the home. The model act outlines a set of standards, duties, and mechanisms that states can put in place to ensure the provision of high-quality, effective lawyering for children. Leading children's rights advocates from Florida and across the country discussed designing strategies for implementing the ABA's model act on representing children in child welfare cases. Dale helped develop this symposium to help highlight the urgent need for lawyers to help protect

the rights of abused and neglected children in all court proceedings.

Michael Masinter, professor of law, has been a member of the American Civil Liberties Union of Florida (ACLUFL) since 1978, when he became a member of the NSU Law Center faculty. According to the organization's mission, it is “the guardian of liberty, working daily in courts, legislatures, and communities to defend and preserve the individual rights and liberties guaranteed to all people in this country by the Constitution and laws of the United States.”

Masinter currently serves on the board of directors executive committee and is chair of the legal panel with principal responsibility for reviewing and approving proposed ACLUFL litigation. Since he joined the organization, he has helped bring lawsuits as an ACLUFL cooperating attorney that have culminated in a class action consent decree ending racially discriminatory employment testing in the Palm Beach County Fire Rescue Service. Additionally, his involvement helped produce a precedent-setting decision from the U.S. Court of Appeals enforcing the prohibition against familial status discrimination in a Tamarac development.

In his role as a board member, he has assisted in the development of major ACLUFL litigation conducted by ACLUFL staff attorneys. This litigation within the past year has produced judgments prohibiting Florida from enforcing a statute requiring applicants for public assistance to undergo mandatory, suspicionless drug testing; prohibiting Rick Scott, Florida's governor, from requiring state employees to undergo mandatory, suspicionless drug testing; and requiring Florida to offer expanded early voting in the 2012 election.

Masinter believes that his work through the ACLUFL has made an impact on the community because thousands of Florida families who need temporary cash assistance will be able to get help without submitting to suspicionless drug testing. Additionally, many Floridians were able to vote because of expanded early voting hours during the 2012 election. Masinter feels that

by “volunteering for the ACLUFL, it fulfills my sense of duty to defend the Bill of Rights for those who most need its protection.”

Chad Moulder, Todd Hauser, and Karen Rose, Law Library and Technology Center staff members, founded a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing material support for public school educators to offset out-of-pocket expenses associated with teaching.

For many years, Moulder has been collecting school supplies and gift cards for public school teachers. Moulder states that, “if we are to rely on teachers to inspire and educate children, then we should really try, in any way we can, to help them do that.” Through his efforts, and with some help from his friends, last year he was able to collect enough materials and money to completely supply three entire classrooms (64 students) in a Title I girl's school for low-income students. This outpouring of generosity spurred Moulder to do more.

Moulder approached his NSU Law Center colleagues, Rose and Hauser, and asked them to help him research ways in which assistance to public school educators could be provided. During the research phase, they found that the average public school teacher will spend approximately \$1,000 out of pocket on items they need just to teach their class, and that public school teachers have a 46 percent washout rate within their first five years of teaching. The number one reason given for people exiting the profession was that classrooms were underfunded and there was a general lack of basic supplies.

Together, the trio founded the Abecedary Fund in January 2013. Their goal is that, with enough funding, educators would be able to realize their teaching goals without having to worry about taking on additional jobs. Currently, their fund-raising focus has been to attract young and socially active people into helping the cause with innovative fund-raising events like film festivals.

Jennifer Jarema, director of communications, publications, and special events at the NSU Law Center, has been a board member for the



Above (from left): Ronald L. Marmer, partner, Jenner and Block, and chair of the ABA Section of Litigation, Chicago; Catherine Krebs, attorney, and director of the ABA Section of Litigation Children’s Rights Litigation Committee, Washington, D.C.; and Michael J. Dale, professor of law, NSU Law Center.

Top right (clockwise): Karen Rose, Chad Moulder, and Todd Hauser, Law Library and Technology Center staff members, started a nonprofit organization.

Right: Jennifer Jarema, third from right, is shown with board members of the Miami/ Fort Lauderdale affiliate of Susan G. Komen.



Miami/Fort Lauderdale affiliate of Susan G. Komen since 2009. During the past four years, Jarema, along with her fellow board members, has helped raise more than \$12 million through such events as the annual Race for the Cure in downtown Miami.

The money raised has provided funding to more than 35 nonprofit organizations, public health agencies, and community groups in South Florida (Broward, Miami-Dade, and Monroe counties) dedicated to furthering the Komen mission to save lives and end breast cancer. Through these organizations, the money is used for projects that benefit a diverse group of individuals within the community including uninsured and underinsured, high-risk, LGBT, minorities, and low-

income individuals. Although all of the programs vary, each of the group’s missions is clear—to increase breast cancer awareness through education and to provide the community with access to the resources needed to help save lives.

Jarema’s motivation to get involved in this organization came from an unforgettable personal experience. Only four years old at the time, Jarema witnessed her grandmother’s battle with the disease that ultimately took her life. As the youngest member of the board of directors at the affiliate, Jarema feels it is her mission to educate and spread awareness to young women and men about knowing the risk factors, the importance of early detection and self-exams, and the steps one can take for overall breast health.

According to the National Cancer Institute, based on current breast cancer incidence rates, experts estimate that about one out of every eight women born today will be diagnosed with breast cancer at some time during her life. Jarema states that “having seen firsthand the battles that have been fought and lost with breast cancer, it was important to me to volunteer with this organization as a way to honor my grandmother, as well as all the women, men, and families that have been affected by this disease. It is extremely fulfilling to help so many and turn a tragedy into an opportunity to make a difference in people’s lives.”

Inspired Student Gives Back to Students Who Are Working Parents

By Rebecca Allen



“I learned from a young age the value and importance of giving back, and the importance of perseverance, loyalty, and most of all, integrity.”

—George Taylor

Behind every scholarship created at the NSU Law Center is a compelling story of an inspired donor with a reason for giving back. In 2011, George J. Taylor ('12), law student and board member of the Salah Foundation, created the first scholarship of its kind, the James and Beatrice Salah Scholarship, for evening law students who also are raising children. This is the story about how an inspired law student became an inspired donor.

Not unlike his classmates, Taylor was conflicted and overwhelmed when he decided to take on a rigorous graduate program. He was working a full-time job. He also was juggling his time between being a husband and a father of two young sons, while attending classes and keeping up with his studies. It had been more than seven years since he graduated from college, so he was naturally worried about how he would perform as a law-school student.

While managing his own challenges, Taylor discovered the demands of other evening students. Moved by their tenacious spirit, he was determined to help. He wanted to give back and somehow lighten the load for students who already had endured so much, yet still managed to attend law school. He knew that financial concerns were burdensome for many, and that a scholarship specifically designated to assist evening students did not exist. When asked how his personal experiences impacted his motivation and decision to find a way to help, he explained: “I knew firsthand how difficult it was to work, attend law school, and find the time to raise a family.” Taylor spoke about how he admired his fellow students as he watched them courageously face “tremendous obstacles and unimaginable adversity.” He went on to say that it was “truly humbling to see an individual stare down adversity and say, ‘I know the odds are against me, but I will not let them defeat me.’”

Taylor was taught to take nothing for granted. He was a hardworking family man and law student. He also was a board member of his family’s philanthropic organization. Wanting to give back to the law school that was giving him so much, and inspired by the stories of other students, Taylor met with the board of the family foundation, shared what he had learned, and told the foundation how it could help evening students and their families. Taylor’s proposal resonated with the foundation, and it was in line with their mission to support education and families. A humble man, Taylor requested that the NSU Law Center establish a scholarship on the condition that neither his involvement nor his identity be revealed. The Law Center agreed, and the Salah Foundation created the James and Beatrice Salah Scholarship, named in honor of Taylor’s great-uncle and great-aunt. This became the NSU Law Center’s very first scholarship dedicated to providing much-needed financial assistance exclusively to evening students raising children.

Taylor’s inspiration honored a legacy of giving. When questioned about the evolution of his inspiration, he said: “I learned from a young age the value and importance of giving back, and the importance of perseverance, loyalty, and most of all, integrity. I was taught to work hard, and most importantly, to give back to the community. It is a great honor and a privilege to be part of a family and a family foundation whose focus is on giving back in ways that strengthen individuals, families, and communities to become productive and responsible citizens.”



Noreen Salah Burpee, Taylor’s mother, executive director of the Salah Foundation, and a 2013 recipient of the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, has devoted much of her life to helping others and continuing the traditions of her family. When asked about the Salah Foundation and its mission, Burpee explains, “Our family foundation remains true to the memories and traditions rooted in the spirit and heart of our ancestors. Our family shares a passionate commitment to the organizations we support. I believe that one cannot take from this world without giving back.” The importance of family unity and support is a priority for Burpee and her son, but so is their deep concern for all families. It is clear that the impact this family has on the lives of others and the quality of life in our community is the effect of intergenerational influences and family strengths.

As a young man, Taylor understood the meaning of giving back. “I was an eighth grader at St. Elizabeth’s Catholic School, and I recall volunteering to serve lunch and coffee to residents of an adjacent nursing home, not something a typical eighth grader chooses to do,” he said. “I admit that I seized the opportunity to miss class and began offering to take the place of my fellow students who, unlike me, would rather attend class. Then, one day, I noticed how happy the residents were to see me. At that same time, I also realized that I was just as happy to see them. Giving back is a two-way street, and I was getting back just as much, if not more, than I was giving.”

Back row from left: Jennifer Matthews Valiyi (holding Sara), Kashy Valiyi, and Ray Chamy.

Front row from left: Michael J. Carroll, Sr.; Whitney Carroll (with son, Michael, Jr.); George J. Taylor; Yuna E. Scott (with daughter, Ariana Rose Salem); Melissa Leonard; Mike Leonard; and their twins, Justin and Brandon Leonard.

Taylor graduated fourth in his class from NSU’s Law Center in December of 2012. Until recently, his identity and involvement with creating the scholarship had remained a secret. Taylor continues to serve on the board of the Salah Foundation and is also a board member of the Broward Health Foundation. When asked about his plans for the future, he said: “As I begin my career as an attorney, the combination of my legal education, 15 years of real-world business experience, and service to the community through my role as a board member for two philanthropic foundations, will be invaluable.”

Learn about five recipients of the James and Beatrice Salah Scholarship on the next page.

The James and Beatrice Salah Scholarship gives its recipients peace of mind and relief from financial stress.

George J. Taylor ('12), board member of the Salah Foundation, created a scholarship to support the educational aspirations of NSU Law Center evening students. Five recipients of the James and Beatrice Salah Scholarship shared their personal thoughts and life experiences, and expressed their gratitude to Taylor and the Salah Foundation for the generosity and interest in their education, families, and children. Here are their inspirational stories.

Whitney Carroll ('13), mother of two, knew that attending law school would not be easy, but her family had weathered greater adversity. There is a noticeable strength in her voice as Carroll makes it clear that deciding to attend law school was not her decision; it was a family decision.

“The decision to attend law school came about because of the encouragement and support of my family. I was diagnosed, at age 30, with a rare form of cancer,” she said. “This was a trying time for our family, but we made it through, stronger, and I just celebrated five years cancer free. Although we knew that my going to law school was likely to be one of our toughest challenges, we committed as a family to see it through.”

The James and Beatrice Salah Scholarship contributed to her personal growth in unexpected ways, Carroll said. “I wanted to be a professional, but I also wanted to be with my kids. This internal struggle gave me a deeper respect and admiration for my mother, who raised three kids by herself.”

The scholarship lessened financial pressures for Carroll. “Child-care costs and the cost to commute are two expenses that I was able to cover with the assistance provided by this scholarship. I was able to enjoy my law-school experience more, and the extra money gave my family immeasurable peace of mind. I am honored to have had the opportunity to be one of the recipients of this great scholarship,” she said.

Carroll received hands-on experience while working as an intern at Ciklin, Lubitz, Martens, and O’Connell in West Palm Beach, where she will be working full time as an associate. She lives in Wellington, Florida, with her husband, Mike; their 13-year-old daughter, Mikayla; and 5-year-old son, Michael.

Ray Chamy ('13) was eager to begin his academic career as a law student, but his decision was bittersweet. “As a father of a young daughter, I knew that being an evening law student and working full time would present many challenges. I left my daughter and family in Central Florida and moved to Fort Lauderdale,” he said. “The separation and distance between us was the most difficult for me.”

The only job available required Chamy to work two weeknights for four-hour shifts (10:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m.), and to put in an additional 32 hours on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. “I still thought I would be able to visit my family more often, but between school and full-time work, it was simply not feasible,” he said. “Usually, I only saw my family once a month. I began to understand what it must be like for members of our military who are separated from their families by vast oceans.”

According to Chamy, “the scholarship afforded me the blessing of reducing the financial stress of law school, allowing me to focus on the study of law instead of worrying about finances. I thank the Salah foundation for their support, which has allowed me to achieve more than I could have imagined. I have been so inspired by this honor and opportunity, and I hope, someday soon, to be able to pay it forward.”

Chamy resides in Mount Dora, Florida, with his wife, Tamie, and 10-year-old daughter, Sydni. He earned his M.B.A. and Pharm.D. in 2002 at NSU as a dual-degree student. He plans to open a private law practice with an NSU Law Center classmate. He is especially interested in health care law and legislation. He currently works as a staff pharmacist for Omnicare of South Florida in Weston.

Harry M. (Mike) Leonard is currently a fourth-year, evening law student. As a scholarship recipient, Leonard said, “The James and Beatrice Salah Scholarship has greatly contributed to my success as a student by reducing the stress and uncertainty of financial pressures. My family and I are grateful to the Salah Foundation for creating this scholarship and for their caring concern for evening students. It is an honor to be a recipient of their generous support.”

Sharing his thoughts about attending law school, in general, and describing his successes as he approaches his last year at the NSU Law Center, Leonard said, “I knew I would be challenged by time and uncertainty, but I aspired to have a career as a lawyer because it would allow me to contribute to society in meaningful ways.” This father of twins also said, “I worried about depriving my children of the experience of having their dad present, especially during their formative years. I still worry about being accessible to my children, and I make sure the time I spend with them is meaningful, quality time.”

Participating in extracurricular activities was important to Leonard, so he had to have the proper balance, since this requires more time away from his family. “I have been very active in Moot Court and was the chief justice last year. I was also a junior staff member of *Nova Law Review*, winning several Red Pen awards for editing performance. I am a senior staff member this year,” he said.

Leonard will graduate in 2014. He resides in Lake Worth with his wife, Melissa, and their 10-year-old sons, Justin and Brandon.

“The James and Beatrice Salah Scholarship has greatly contributed to my success as a student by reducing the stress and uncertainty of financial pressures. My family and I are grateful to the Salah Foundation for creating this scholarship and for their caring concern for evening students. It is an honor to be a recipient of their generous support.”

—Harry M. (Mike) Leonard

Yuna E. Scott ('13) shares her story without hesitation and with a great sense of pride. “I dreamed of being a lawyer for as long as I can remember. I grew up in Cuba, a place where dreams were just that: dreams. I remember playing with other kids from *el barrio* and pretending to be a lawyer. Since arriving in the United States, I have been working toward making my dream come true,” she said.

“After college, while I was studying for the LSAT, I found out I was pregnant. I had seen the scenario play out too many times to think that I would be different: girl gets pregnant, drops out of school, and gives up on her dreams. Something inside me told me to keep trying, so with my newborn baby girl in my arms, I resumed studying for the LSAT,” she said. “I remember crying when I received the letter from the NSU Law Center. I knew going to law school with a newborn would be both financially difficult and extremely time consuming, but, I also knew that to achieve a great goal, I had to make a sacrifice. I managed to balance working, taking care of my daughter, studying, and volunteering with several pro bono organizations assisting immigrants. Volunteering gave me significant experience and personal satisfaction, but limited the number of hours I could work. It was the James and Beatrice Salah Scholarship that made it possible for me to continue working with pro bono organizations without worrying about financial stress. I am truly grateful for this generous support. I hope to one day have the ability and honor to help others as the Salah Foundation has helped me.”

Scott resides in Cooper City with her three-year-old daughter, Ariana Rose Salem. She is currently working at the Miami-based firm that hosted her internship, Kurzban Kurzban Weinger Tetzeli and Pratt P.A.

Jennifer Matthews Valiyi, a fourth-year Law Center student, was a second-year evening law student when her daughter, Sara, was born. She describes her experience as a law student and finding time for all of her responsibilities as a “persistent challenge” that leaves her in a state of “perpetual exhaustion.” Her spirited personality and contagious attitude leave little doubt that she faces any challenge head on.

Valiyi recalled the big plans she and her husband had when they relocated to Florida from Indiana, and credits her husband with motivating her to succeed and fueling her determination and perseverance. “I learned invaluable lessons on how others managed juggling work, family, and law school. They were important lessons, because I come from a working-class family. My parents only have a high school education, and very few of my extended family members hold undergraduate degrees. I will be the first in my family to obtain a first-professional degree.”

Valiyi looked to her future and said, “My goal of being the first person in my family to obtain a first-professional degree in a challenging, but rewarding, profession and living my life as an example for my daughter is all the motivation I need. Obtaining my degree will serve as a ‘thank you’ to my husband for supporting me through the years.”

When she started law school, Valiyi knew that she was taking on a tremendous amount of work. She had not planned for the additional difficulties that soon followed. She and her husband were told that their unborn daughter had health problems. They learned that the baby had a malformation on one of her lungs that required surgical intervention *in utero*. Their daughter was five weeks old when she underwent a second surgery to remove the malformation that had consumed the top left lobe of her lung. After a very stressful year, Valiyi and her husband are happy their daughter has no pending health issues.

The fourth-year law student expressed her appreciation for the James and Beatrice Salah Scholarship and for the support of the Salah Foundation. “From our experiences this past year, we have learned that we are not in control of all the events that will come our way, but we know we have to always keep a positive attitude! This scholarship was a blessing that we will forever remember as a positive contribution to the beginning of our new chapter. Thank you. I will be forever grateful.”

Valiyi lives in Miami with her husband, Kashy, and Sara, who is now a one-year-old. She currently works as a paralegal at Hoffman & Hoffman, P.A., in Miami, where she has been employed since 2006.



STUDENT PROFILE

Shining the Spotlight on NSU's Student of the Year

Brooke Latta

If Brooke Latta looks familiar, it might be because she is one of the student faces of Nova Southeastern University's new television advertising campaign. In the TV commercial, Latta is in the NSU Law Center's courtroom presenting her case to "Judge" Michael Dale, professor of law. She also appears in the university's print ad campaign, in an ad that has appeared in *Florida Trend* and other magazines. In the future, one might just see her on a billboard on Interstate 95. One might also recognize Latta because she is featured on NSU's main Web site as the Student Life Achievement Awards (Stueys) 2013 NSU Student of the Year. Latta was chosen by the NSU community for her contribution in building a greater sense of community throughout the NSU campus. She was 1 of 14 nominees for the Overall Student of the Year title.

Latta always has liked being in the spotlight. At the University of Central Florida, she was the president of her sorority, Zeta Tau Alpha, and was a senator in the Student Government Association. Latta graduated with a degree in political science, with the hope of ultimately becoming a news anchor and TV personality. The courtroom trial experience, being in front of people, and the ability to talk to others always have been interesting to her. Latta knew at an early age that she wanted to be a lawyer, more specifically, a prosecutor. "I wanted to become either a legal correspondent on Fox News, or the *Today Show*, or work on a large network, and I still do. I'm doing all the things I love at the same time: being a prosecutor, talking to people, and educating others about their rights and the law." Latta's career role models include former prosecutors turned news anchors/correspondents Megyn Kelly (Fox News), Savannah Guthrie (*NBC News* and the *Today Show*), and Kimberly Gyllfoyle (Fox News).

When the time came for Latta to decide where she wanted to go to law school, her decision was an easy one. Growing up in South Florida and having a brother-in-law, Omar Giraldo ('11), enrolled at the NSU Law Center at the time, Latta knew exactly where she wanted to begin building her dream of becoming a prosecutor and the first lawyer in her immediate family. "I chose NSU for law school because of the community. The first day I came here, I instantly felt a part of it. The professors knew every single student's name, and it seemed as if the students were all one big family. I noticed that office hours don't apply because all professors have an open-door policy. Also, growing up in South

Achievements, Honors, and Awards

Student Bar Association (2010–2011), first-year representative

BARBRI Bar Preparation (2010–2013), representative

Student Bar Association (2011–2012), vice president

Student Bar Association (2012–2013), president

Nova Trial Association (2012–2013), vice president of teams

2013 NSU Law Center Pro Bono Honors (300+ hours of community service)

Graduated cum laude

Moot Court Society—Feinrider First-Year Competition (2010–2011), runner-up

Buffalo Niagara National Mock Trial Competition Advocate (2012–2013), quarter-finalist

Best Opening Statement Award, Buffalo Niagara National Mock Trial Competition (2012–2013), winner

Dean's Award for Service and Commitment (2012–2013), winner

2012–2013 Student Life Achievement Awards (Stueys), NSU Law Center Student of the Year

2012–2013 Stueys, NSU Overall Student of the Year

Accolades and Activities

Moot Court Society (2010–2013), member

Nova Trial Association (2011–2012), student liaison

Torts, Professor Mike Flynn (2011–2012), teaching assistant

“I’ve always had this innate trait in wanting to be the voice of others, and those around me, advocating for or defending their positions. Knowledge is power. Being in a position to know what we can and cannot do in society and sharing that with others is both powerful and rewarding.”

—Brooke Latta

Florida, I knew that if one planned on practicing law in Fort Lauderdale or Miami, there was no better network than the NSU Law Center. Now, three years later, everything about that initial perception has stood true.”

Latta was admitted to the Law Center’s Alternative Admissions Model Program for Legal Education (AAMPLE®). “My favorite memory of the NSU Law Center is the day I was accepted into the AAMPLE® program. Being admitted with my fellow classmates and some of my best friends was a complete blessing in disguise. Over six weeks during the summer, all of the students worked their hardest to pass the program, which determined our admittance into law school. The moment my fellow classmates and I were able to share the feeling of knowing we had successfully completed the program and that we were going to embark on a three-year journey at the Law Center was an unbelievably rewarding moment. I will forever be grateful to the center for giving me the opportunity to realize my dream of becoming a lawyer.”

While a student at NSU, Latta knew early on in her law school career that she wanted to be a trial attorney. “I’ve always had this innate trait in wanting to be the voice of others, and those around me, advocating for or defending their positions. Knowledge is power. Being in a position to know what we can and cannot do in society and sharing that with others is both powerful and rewarding.” Latta immediately became involved with student organizations that helped her hone her public speaking skills, allowing her to challenge herself and build connections with people. One of Latta’s favorite connections was with Michael Flynn. “He is my favorite professor. He has an amazing ability to captivate students with his law stories while, at the same time, making one of the most complex subjects easy to understand. He expects great things from his students, doesn’t tolerate anything less than a student’s best efforts, and is admired and respected by those that are fortunate to have him as a professor.”

This fall, after taking the Florida Bar Exam, Latta will begin her position as an assistant state attorney at the Broward State Attorney’s Office, practicing criminal law. She is looking forward to being a representative of the state of Florida and the judicial system. Lights, camera, action. Stay tuned to see where Latta will end up next!



STUDENT PROFILE

Cuban American's Milestones Include Many Firsts

Raul Valero

Achievements, Honors, and Awards

Nova Law Review, editor in chief (2012–2013)

Merit Law Scholar

Dean's List (every semester)

Graduated summa cum laude

Nova Law Review Honor Society

Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Honor Society

Book Award for Excellence in the Study of Lawyering Skills and Values II and Florida Land Development, winner

Nova Law Review Red Pen Award, nine-time winner

Stephanie Aleong Impact Award 2011–2012, nominee

Stephanie Aleong Impact Award 2012–2013, winner

Accolades and Activities

Philip C. Jessup 2012 International Law Moot Court Competition, advocate (average score was better than 90 percent with a high score of 96 percent)

Sports and Entertainment Law Society, member

Tort Law Society, member

Publications

Law School Examinations and Grading: A Critical Study of How Accommodations Affect the Student Body (publication pending)



Raul Valero has experienced many firsts during his time at the NSU Law Center. He was the first Hispanic editor in chief of the *Nova Law Review*. Valero was the first second-year student to be nominated for the school's Stephanie Aleong Impact Award in 2011–2012. He won the award in 2012–2013. This past May, Valero was the first member of his family to earn his J.D. degree. However, he was not the first member to receive his degree from NSU; both his parents are alumni.

A Cuban American and Miami native, Valero attended Miami Springs Senior High School, where he earned All-Dade Honors in football. While in high school, he already had obtained his second-degree black belt in tae kwon do, achieved recognition as a two-time national champion Junior Olympic Gold Medalist in Heavyweight Division Fighting, and was a five-time state champion Gold Medalist in Heavyweight Division Fighting. It is no surprise that Valero was offered a full-ride scholarship to Florida Atlantic University, where he played football under Coach Howard Schnellenberger. Not only does Valero excel at football, but he was invited to try out for the New York Mets and the Washington Nationals professional baseball teams.



During his time playing sports, Valero met many sports agents and high-profile, professional athletes. Many of them would give him advice about his future, including Andres Galarraga, a retired Major League Baseball (MLB) first baseman. A sports-agent friend convinced Valero that his path would be “more secure” if he went to law school. With a law degree, he could make more of an impact. “I saw the potential and opportunities that a law degree could give me,” said Valero. “You can do anything with a law degree; it opens doors.”

Last summer, Valero interned with SFX Baseball, located outside of Chicago, Illinois. There, he assisted agents and corporate attorneys representing SFX Baseball’s clients, which included MLB players such as Miguel Cabrera, Mariano Rivera, David Ortiz, and Justin Verlander. Valero helped research and draft an arbitration brief for Gerardo Parra, an MLB left-fielder for the Arizona

Diamondbacks. He received real-world experience with drafting, editing, and reviewing marketing contracts, including a State Farm Insurance television commercial contract for Kerry Wood, a former MLB pitcher.

During law school, Valero served as a legal research and teaching assistant for Professor Joe Hnylka. He researched case law regarding co-participant sport injuries in California and analyzed various aspects of the law regarding primary assumption of risk in sport injury litigation. Valero credits Hnylka with being a mentor to him throughout law school. When asked what his favorite memories of the NSU Law Center are, Valero said: “Looking back, it was the experiences (collectively) that taught me to better myself.” This fall, he will begin his new position at Greenspoon Marder, working along with 25 fellow alumni, including the founder, Gerald Greenspoon (’79).

“I saw the potential and opportunities that a law degree could give me. You can do anything with a law degree; it opens doors.”

—Raul Valero



Florida Bar Annual Convention

In conjunction with The Florida Bar Annual Convention, the Law Alumni Association hosted a networking event for local alumni and friends at the Gaylord Palms Resort and Convention Center. More than 150 alumni, friends, faculty members, and staff members reconnected at this event.



Tampa Bay Holds Meet and Greet

The recently formed Tampa Bay Chapter of the Law Alumni Association held a meet and greet featuring Nick Nazaretian ('88) left, Hillsborough Circuit Judge. The chapter's president, Dominic Fariello ('02) right, also welcomed alumni.

Fall CLE Seminars

A CLE seminar on domestic violence was held at the NSU Law Center. Alumni Marta Estevez ('04); G. Yasmin Jacob ('96); Michael Kaplan ('84), Broward Circuit Judge; and Bridget Schneiderman, victim advocate for the Miramar Police Department, were all presenters. A reception followed the event.

A CLE seminar, "Law Practice 2.0," was held at the NSU Law Center. The seminar explored using social media, the Internet, and technology to market your law practice and be more efficient. Alumni Ethan Wall ('07), Alexander Brown ('04), and Richard Sierra ('02) presented. Eric Young, assistant dean and director of the Law Library and Technology Center, produced a hands-on segment that allowed participants to learn about various online legal research tools and helpful Web sites. Librarians Alison Rosenberg, Becka Rich, and Rob Beharriell ('11) presented. A reception was held after the seminar.

An interactive skills CLE involving alumni, community members, and students was held in the Law Center atrium. Robert Kelly, Dale Carnegie training vice president, presented "Building Professional Relationships for Business and Career Development." Lawyers, judges, professors, and students met each other and participated in a speed-networking segment to learn better communication skills. A networking reception followed.

A CLE seminar on eFiling in Broward Circuit Court (Civil) was presented by Christin Gallardo of the 17th Judicial Circuit.

A CLE seminar on "Dispute Resolution: Various Ways to Resolve a Dispute in American Jewish Law" was presented at the NSU Law Center by the South Florida Center for Jewish Ethics. Attorney Peter L. Wechsler, a member of the Law Center Board of Governors, and Rabbi Dovid Schoen presented.

Law Center Hosts "Meet Your Judicial Candidates"

The Law Center hosted "Meet Your Judicial Candidates," presented by the Broward Coalition of Voluntary Bar Associations. Judicial candidates running for Broward Circuit Court and Broward County Court participated in a public forum held at the Law Center. At the forum, the public learned about the judicial candidates whose names appeared on the August 2012 ballot. Michael Richmond, Law Center professor, served as moderator. A meet-and-greet session with the candidates followed the forum.



Alumni Networking Event Held at Tap 42

The Law Alumni Engagement Committee and Student Engagement Committee hosted a social event at Tap 42 in Fort Lauderdale for law students and alumni to meet in a casual, social setting. More than 60 people attended the mixer.

Palm Beach Chapter Holds Book-Signing Event

The Palm Beach Chapter held a book-signing meet and greet for alumna Denise Marie Nieman ('86), author of *Rock the World Rehab*, a funny, serious self-help book about detoxifying your mind, body, and spirit.



Palm Beach Law Alumni Gather for the Holidays

The Palm Beach Chapter of the Law Alumni Association celebrated the holidays at Gunster Law Firm in West Palm Beach. Donna Greenspan Solomon ('95), the chapter's president, welcomed alumni and friends. Cynthia Spall ('99), generously donated space and valet parking at Gunster, while Catherine S. Eaton ('91), and Solomon Mediation helped cosponsor the event. Eunice Baros ('80), arranged for alumni book donations to the Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County.

Alumni Association Celebrates the Holidays

NSU Law Center faculty and staff members, friends, and alumni gathered at the Don Taft University Center on November 29, 2012, to celebrate the holidays. More than 150 people took the time to catch up with each other over food in a festive setting, enjoying a night of live music and dancing.



Tampa Bay Alumni Attend Holiday Party

The Tampa Bay Chapter of the Law Alumni Association held a holiday party at space donated by chapter president, Dominic Fariello ('02), at his law firm. More than 50 Tampa Bay-area alumni and friends attended the event.

NSU LAW CENTER EVENTS

Free Lunch for Graduates Taking the Bar Exam

To support new graduates sitting for the Florida Bar Exam, the dean and senior administrators traveled to Tampa to offer encouragement and nourishment. Lunch was offered to students on both days of the exam. Additionally, arrangements were made with area hotels to offer a significant discount to graduates taking the exam who needed overnight lodging.

Cruise with the Dean

The dean, along with faculty and staff members, welcomed the NSU Law Center's 2012 incoming class as part of the new student orientation. Students mingled with faculty and staff members with the sights and sounds of Fort Lauderdale as a backdrop.

Fatal Promises Documentary on Campus Tour

The Inter-American Center for Human Rights brought more than 200 students, faculty and staff members, and members of the local community together as it spread awareness on human-trafficking issues. The audience had a unique opportunity to get insight into the world of human trafficking because the NSU Law Center was the first stop on a campus tour of the screening of the documentary *Fatal Promises* by Kat Roher.

Through personal stories of victims' interviews with politicians, *Fatal Promises* provides a comprehensive look at the realities of human trafficking versus the rhetoric of political pundits who claim to be making significant strides in combating this horrific crime against humanity.



Swearing-In Ceremony Overflows

The NSU Law Center held a swearing-in ceremony to honor recent graduates for accomplishing their goals: becoming attorneys and successfully completing law school; passing a stringent character fitness evaluation by the bar; and passing the Bar Exam. Judges Robert Diaz ('84), Melanie May ('81), Thomas Lynch ('77), Mindy Solomon ('81), Jane Fishman, and Michael Robinson presided over the ceremony. There were so many proud family members and guests (more than 600 people) that the ceremony was moved from the Law Center to the Don Taft University Center.

LSV Program Hosts "Preparing Practice-Ready Students"

The NSU Law Center was honored to have been selected by the Legal Writing Institute (LWI) to serve as a host school for an LWI One-Day Workshop. These workshops are held across the country to allow legal writing professors, law librarians, attorneys, and people interested in entering the field of legal writing to work together to develop better ways to help prepare today's law students. The Law Center's Lawyering Skills and Values (LSV) Program hosted "Preparing Practice-Ready Students," a timely program theme that also reflects the Law Center's mission to help students develop "the knowledge, skills, and values that are at the heart of becoming trusted, highly adept, professional lawyers who are respected for serving clients, their communities, and justice."

More than 40 people from around the country attended the successful workshop in December 2012. Topics included incorporating billing techniques into a first-year curriculum, constructing courses that mirror practice, and helping students become better self-editors. These are important topics for an enhanced law school curriculum and are consistent with one of the Law Center's core values—modeling "the evolution of competencies lawyers need in an ever-changing world."

CNN Visits the Law Center

CNN visited the NSU Law Center during elections to film students from the Democratic Law Student Council helping fellow students register to vote. Footage of our students appeared on Wolf Blitzer's show, *The Situation Room*.

Caribbean Law Program Fosters Discussion

The Caribbean Law Program at the NSU Law Center and the H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship invited the community to a discussion with Peter Bunting, minister of national security and member of parliament for Jamaica, on “Business Venture Development in Jamaica, the Role of Economic Prosperity in National Security Policy.”



Mentoring Picnic Hosts Minority Law Students

Minority student organizations attended the ninth annual Kozyak Minority Mentoring Picnic in Miami at Amelia Earhart Park. The picnic provided minority law students from all over Florida with an opportunity to network with other minority students, as well as with judges and lawyers. There were approximately 3,000 attendees at the event.

NITA Florida Deposition Skills Program Held at Center

The NSU Law Center hosted the National Institute for Trial Advocacy (NITA) Florida Deposition Skills Program on October 18–20, 2012. This is the 23rd year that the center has been designated as the Florida site for this prestigious NITA skills-training program. NITA, headquartered in Boulder, Colorado, is nationally and internationally renowned for providing skills-training programs for lawyers. NITA invented the learning by doing skills instruction methodology, which has been adopted by many law schools, law firms, and government agencies for teaching lawyering skills. Michael Dale, NSU Law Center professor, is the program director.



Winter Graduation Ceremony

On December 16, 2012, the NSU Law Center graduated 46 students who earned their J.D. degrees and 49 students with their Master of Science degrees in Education, Employment, or Health Law. The winter graduation ceremony allows each graduate receiving a J.D. to choose to be “hooded” by a family or faculty member who significantly influenced his or her academic career. Elena Langan, professor of law, and law student Cynthia Pyfrom, spoke during the winter commencement. The ceremony was followed by a reception at the Law Center.



Mentoring Picnic

More than 75 people, including members of the Broward County Bar Association, students, faculty members, and administrators from the NSU Law Center, attended a mentoring picnic on February 2, 2013. More than 40 alumni, attorneys, and judges also attended the event. The picnic gave students an opportunity to network with lawyers and judges. The opportunity to work with students and help guide them as they transition from student to attorney is rewarding for the mentor. Law Center alumni are especially encouraged to become mentors. The picnic was co-hosted by the Law Alumni Association and the Law Center's Office of Career and Professional Development.



Student Organization Appreciation Day

On Student Organization Appreciation Day, more than 40 student organizations—including law fraternities; ethnic, political, cultural, and religious groups; and law societies—focused on different areas of law. These organizations have been established by our students and play an important role in their professional development.

NSU Law Center Among Most Diverse

The National Jurist named the NSU Law Center as one of the top 25 Most Diverse Law Schools in the United States. This ranking is reflective of the school's varied student body, which provides students with more opportunities, a better education, and classes more reflective of the world.

Public Interest Law Day Attracts More Than 200 Students

Since 1993, organizations and individuals have come together on Public Interest Law Day to share information with our students about the public interest community and how they might get involved. On February 12, 2013, more than 200 students came out to get information from more than 30 South Florida public interest and government organizations. The goal of the event is to educate students about how they might contribute, through summer internships and other volunteer opportunities, to the legal needs of those individuals who are traditionally underserved or underrepresented in the community. Participating organizations looking for interns on campus included Legal Aid; the Public Defender; the State Attorney; and other federal, state, and local government agencies.

Charity Auction Raises More Than \$15,000

On March 15, 2013, the Public Interest Law Society raised more than \$15,000 at a charity auction held at the NSU Law Center. The money raised is used to fund fellowships for students who work in public interest law during the summer. Among the items auctioned, favorites included opportunities to dine and play golf with professors, the chance to become dean and associate dean for a day, and a coveted parking spot in the faculty lot.

Swearing-In Ceremony

On April 16, 2013, NSU Law Center graduates were sworn in to The Florida Bar at a special ceremony at NSU. Judges Robert Diaz ('84) and Melanie May ('81) presided over the ceremony. Family, friends, faculty members, and administrators were present to help the new inductees celebrate.



2013 Commencement Ceremony

Eugene K. Pettis, J.D., was the keynote speaker for the 2013 NSU Law Center Commencement Ceremony. At the ceremony, Pettis received an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree, which was presented by Athornia Steele, Law Center dean. Michael Flynn, Law Center professor, and Andrew Sando, law student, also spoke at the May 11 ceremony. “We are honored to have Eugene Pettis give the commencement address to our 2013 class of graduates,” said Steele. “Our students are active in justice issues and have logged more than 23,000 hours of pro bono legal work during their education at the NSU Law Center. I am proud of what our 2013 graduates have already accomplished.” Pettis focuses his practice on the areas of medical malpractice, personal injury, commercial litigation, and employment law. He has earned Martindale-Hubbell’s top AV rating for his high professional and ethical standards. He attended the University of Florida in Gainesville, where he received a bachelor’s degree in political science in 1982 and graduated from the University of Florida’s Levin College of Law in 1985. He co-founded Haliczer Pettis in 1996 with James S. Haliczer, adding Richard B. Schwamm as partner in 1999.

Pettis, who was sworn in as president of The Florida Bar in June 2013, is the first African American in The Florida Bar’s history to serve in this position. He will lead the country’s second-largest bar at a time when its membership will exceed 95,000. He was elected by his peers in 2005 to The Florida Bar’s Board of Governors and currently serves on its executive committee. He has chaired the Judicial Independence Committee for the past three years. Just six years after graduating law school, he was appointed by then-Florida Governor Lawton Chiles to the South Florida Water Management District’s governing board (1991–1999), where he was the first African American in the post, eventually serving as vice chairman. Pettis has served on the University of Florida Foundation’s Board of Directors for eight years and is currently on the board of trustees at the University of Florida’s Levin College of Law.

Throughout his career, Pettis has earned numerous legal awards and accolades, including being selected by his peers for inclusion in the 2010–2011 editions of *Best Lawyers in America* in the specialties of medical malpractice and personal injury litigation. He also was named to the list of Florida Super Lawyers from 2006 to 2010, as selected by *Law & Politics Magazine*; to the *South Florida Legal Guide* Top Lawyers list for 2008, 2009, and 2010; and to *Florida Trend*’s peer-voted “Legal Elite” 2008, 2009, and 2010 lists. He was a 2007 inductee into the exclusive American College of Trial Lawyers and was elected by his peers to the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA). In 2009, he was named a finalist in the Law: Litigation category of the *South Florida Business Journal*’s Key Partners awards. That year, he also was recognized among South Florida’s 100 Most Accomplished Blacks in Health Care and Law by Identify Connect Activate the Black Accomplished (ICABA).

Pettis has been a member of The Florida Bar since 1985. He is admitted to practice in all District Courts in Florida.

STAFF AND FACULTY MEMBER ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Professor Olympia Duhart to Serve as Copresident of SALT

Olympia Duhart ('03), professor of law and director of the Lawyering Skills and Values (LSV) Program at the NSU Law Center, was recently named copresident elect of the Society of American Law Teachers (SALT). She will begin her two-year term in January 2014. She will serve with Ruben Garcia, University of Nevada—Las Vegas, professor.

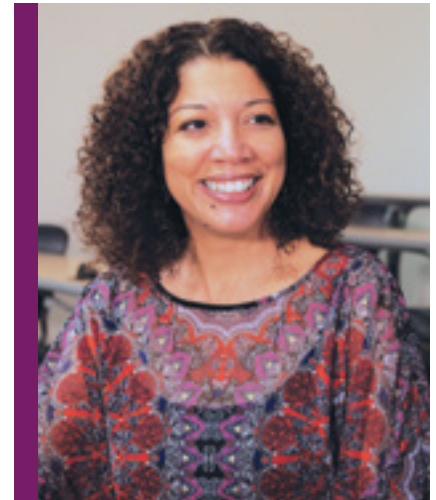
Founded in 1972, SALT is a dynamic organization of engaged members that includes teachers, deans, administrators, and librarians from around the country. The organization is dedicated to teaching excellence, social justice, and diversity. SALT also hosts law teaching conferences every two years. Last year's SALT teaching conference, "Teaching Social Justice, Expanding Access to Justice: The Role of Legal Education and The Legal Profession," was held in Baltimore, Maryland.

Duhart teaches LSV I and LSV II, Constitutional Law I, Constitutional Law II, and Women and the Law. She has been active with SALT since 2006 and was elected to the Board of Governors in 2009. Her work with the organization includes serving as chair of the Membership Committee, cochair of the Issues in Legal Education

Committee, chair of the *SALT* blog and an organizer for the Breaking in Programs. She has monitored the American Bar Association on behalf of SALT and contributed to Amicus Briefs that SALT submitted to the Supreme Court of the United States. Duhart also served as a member of the editorial board for *Vulnerable Populations and Transformative Teaching: A Critical Reader*. She is currently one of the authors of *Choosing to Attend the Right Law School: A Guide for Social Justice-Minded Law Students*, a SALT project scheduled for completion in late 2013.

In addition to her service with SALT, Duhart also serves on the Board of Advisors for the Institute for Law Teaching and Learning and on the LexisNexis Publications Advisory Board. She is a member of the Legal Writing Institute and of the Association of Legal Writing Directors as well. She has coached for the Moot Court Society and for the Black Law Student Association. Recently, Duhart was appointed to serve as a member of the Grievance Committee for 17th Circuit "D" for The Florida Bar.

Duhart's scholarship focuses on government accountability. She has written and done presentations concerning the expansion of services



for historically marginalized groups of people. She also is a frequent speaker and contributor in the area of learning theory and law teaching.

Recognized as NSU's recipient for the Association of American Law Schools Award for Teaching in 2009 and 2013, Duhart was named Professor of the Year in 2012 by the NSU Student Bar Association. She graduated magna cum laude from the NSU Law Center, where she was a Goodwin Scholar. She earned her B.A. in English, cum laude, from the University of Miami. Duhart grew up in Liberty City, Florida.



Professor and Dean Emeritus Named to ABA Task Force

Joseph Harbaugh, professor and dean emeritus, has been named to an American Bar Association Task Force. The task force was established to review and make recommendations on the state of legal education and its responsiveness to the needs and opportunities of the legal market. The Task Force on the Future of Legal Education, which will be chaired by Randall T. Shepard, retired Indiana Supreme Court Chief Justice, consists of representatives from the judiciary, organized bar, legal education, and legal practice.

William T. (Bill) Robinson III, ABA president, cited several factors, including growing public attention to the cost of a law school education, uncertain job prospects for law school graduates, and a changing market for delivery of legal services, as reasons for creating the task force. "Legal education must be evaluated in the context of the marketplace and the nation's and world's unprecedented challenges in an ever-more-complex global economy," said Robinson.

The task force is expected to continue its work during the next two ABA presidential terms and conclude in 2014.

STAFF AND FACULTY MEMBER ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS



Dean Begins Role as LSAC Leader

Athornia Steele, dean of NSU Law Center, began his duties as chair of the Law School Admission Council (LSAC). LSAC is responsible for the production and administration of the Law School Admission Test (LSAT), which is used by all ABA accredited law schools in the admissions process. However, LSAC provides a number of other supportive services to member law schools ranging from transcript analysis, recruitment forums, technology support, and a candidate referral service. Steele appointed the chairs to six LSAC standing committees—Audit, Diversity, Finance and Legal, Investment, Services and Programs, and Test Development and Research. For the next two years, Steele, working with the full board of trustees and the LSAC staff, will help the organization develop and implement programs that assist law schools and applicants to law school. As law schools are experiencing challenging times, so it is with LSAC. The council partners with the ABA, National Association for Law Placement (NALP), the Association of American Law Schools, and the National Conference of Bar Examiners.

Heather Perry Baxter ('00) published the article, "Too Little Time: How States are Forcing Public Defenders to Violate Their Ethical Obligations," in the December 2012 edition of *The Federal Sentencing Reporter* as a follow-up to her article, "Gideon's Ghost: Providing the Sixth Amendment Right to Counsel in Times of Budgetary Crisis," *Michigan State Law Review* Vol. 2010, p. 341. She recently presented "Legal Writing Analysis—Rule-Based and Analogical Reasoning Techniques" at the Florida Trial Court Staff Attorney's Association (FTCSAA) Annual Conference. The FTCSAA asked her, for the second year in a row, to moderate a discussion among staff attorneys from different circuits. Baxter is also very active on the NSU Law Center Alumni Board of Directors, where she chairs the Student Engagement Committee.

Ron Brown's publications have been cited by the Supreme Court of Kentucky and the New York Court of Appeals. His book, *Statutory Interpretation: The Search for Legislative Intent*, has been assigned as reading material at schools such as the University of Minnesota Law School, University of California Hastings College of the Law, and Duke

University School of Law. Brown, along with colleague Joe Grohman, completed their CALI Fellowship in Negotiable Instruments by publishing seven new lessons. He also advises student organizations Toastmasters and the Moot Court Society.

Timothy Canova was appointed by Bernie Sanders, senator (I-Vt.), to serve on an Advisory Committee on Federal Reserve Reform. In February, he spoke on central banking and the interaction between monetary and fiscal policy at a seminar on "Modern Money and Public Purpose," held at Columbia University Law School.

Kathy Cerminara published the 2014 supplement of *The Right to Die: The Law of End-of-Life Decisionmaking*, the nationally known treatise on the end-of-life law. She was invited to present a one week mini-course from June 11–15, 2012, on *The Law of End-of-Life Decisionmaking* at the University of Puerto Rico School of Law. Cerminara's media appearances include public television's newsmagazine, *Issues* on WPBT2 on July 6, 2012, regarding health-care reform.

Phyllis Coleman published the book *Florida Family Law: Text and Commentary*. Her article, "eHarmony and Homosexuals: A Match Not Made in Heaven," was published in *30 Quinnipiac University Law Review* 727 (2012). Coleman is also involved with animal advocacy campaigns to stop states from opening or reopening horse slaughter houses.

Debra Curtis' coauthored book, *Reforming Legal Education: Law Schools at the Crossroads* (Information Age Publishing 2012), has been listed as a Social Science Research Network (SSRN) Top 10 downloaded book. She was a featured speaker at the Pre-Law Boot Camp (fall 2012) and Law Day Program (spring 2012) for the Pre-Law Institute at John Jay City University of New York. Curtis also chaired the subcommittee on legal publications for The Florida Bar's Law-Related Education Committee.

Michael Dale published the 22nd annual survey of Florida Juvenile Law in the *Nova Law Review*. He also coauthored an article, "Establishing the Constitutional Right to Counsel in Child Welfare Matters and Assuring

STAFF AND FACULTY MEMBER ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

a Meaningful Right to Counsel in Delinquency Matters” in the *Harvard Civil Rights—Civil Liberties Review*. Dale served as a lead teacher for the National Institute for Trial Advocacy children’s law trial skills program at Barry University Law School and Hofstra University Law School and for training in Illinois and Connecticut. He was sought by the media and quoted in *The Christian Science Monitor*, *The San Diego Union Tribune*, the *Minnesota Post*, and on Miami’s NBC/Channel 6.

Mark Dobson, professor of law, won the Cocurricular Adviser of the Year Award at the 14th Annual Student Life Achievement Awards (Stueys) on April 16, 2013, at the Rose and Alfred Miniaci Performing Arts Center. Dobson was recognized for his contribution to building a greater sense of community and campus life.

Douglas L. Donoho has published an electronic format course book in *International Business Transactions Problems, Readings & Materials Relating to Trade in Goods and Services* (Carolina Academic Press 2012). He also authored an essay, “Some Critical Thinking About a Human Right to Water,” in the *ILSA Journal of International and Comparative Law*, Fall 2012. Donoho co-presented “Interpretation of the Second Amendment” with Ray Diamond, professor of law, Louisiana State University. The panel was sponsored by the Federalist Society.

Michael Flynn served as director of the National Association of Government Agencies’ award-winning Consumer Protection Clinical Program. He was the student-elected 2013 commencement speaker.

Amanda Foster copresented at the Southeast Regional Legal Writing Conference held at Savannah Law School in Savannah, Georgia. The presentation, titled “A View from Both Sides: Addressing Student Inability, or Reluctance, to Transfer Skills from LRW Classes to Doctrinal Classes and Vice Versa,” focused on the exposure to, and introduction of, skills in their doctrinal courses and the feedback they gathered from students—regarding how, if at all, the students believed they were using skills learned in LSV in their doctrinal courses.

Pearl Goldman chaired the Contract Renewal, Promotion, and Tenure Committee. She served on the Executive Committee and the Writing Award Subcommittee of *The Florida Bar Journal and News* Editorial Board, and was appointed to serve as vice chair of the board for the 2012–2013 term. Additionally, Goldman published “Criminal Law: 2010–2012 Survey of Florida Law,” 37 *Nova Law Review* 1 (2012).

Joseph Harbaugh presented his 29th annual “Practicing Law Institute’s Negotiation Workshop for Lawyers” to more than 150 attorneys from 24 states participating in the national CLE program held in New York City. The participants’ overall evaluation of 4.5 (out of 5) placed Harbaugh’s workshop among the top 10 percent of the 400 seminars and programs presented annually. Harbaugh also presented a two-day “Arts and Science of Effective Negotiation” workshop to approximately 100 attorneys and business people in Saudi Arabia and Paris, France.

Joseph Hnylka was recently appointed to serve on the American Legal Writing Directors (ALWD) By-Laws Committee and the ALWD

Scholarship and Grant Committee. He presented “Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Relax: Breathing New Life into Old Assignments” at the 2013 Rocky Mountain Legal Writing Conference held at the University of Colorado. Hnylka also serves on the Law Center’s Lawyering Skills and Values Strategic Planning Committee, coaches the Jessup International Moot Court Competition Team, and serves as the faculty adviser to the *International Citor and Research Guide: The Greenbook*. His article, “California Drops the Ball: The Lack of a Clear Approach to Recklessness in Sport Injury Litigation,” was published in the *Virginia Sports and Entertainment Law Journal* (fall 2011).

Bob Jarvis published pieces in the *American Journal of Legal History*, *Florida Bar Journal*, *Journal of Southern Legal History*, and *Preview of U.S. Supreme Court Cases*. The media quoted him as an expert in five television programs, two radio stories, and 50 newspaper articles. He also served as a moderator and panelist at two gambling law conferences.

Shahabudeen Khan (’03) served as a panelist for the “Legal Writing Institute (LWI) One-Day Workshop” held at the NSU Law Center in December 2012. He also served as a panelist for the Society of American Law Teachers (SALT) B.A.-to-J.D. Pipeline Program, on “How Diverse Students Succeed” (March 2013), held at Santa Clara University School of Law in Santa Clara, California. Khan was a speaker at the Lilly Conference on College and University Teaching, on “Writing Professional Emails for Today’s Employers” (May 2013), in Bethesda, Maryland, as well.

Jani Maurer was honored at the 25th anniversary celebration of the Craig S.

STAFF AND FACULTY MEMBER ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Barnard Chapter of American Inns of Court. She was honored for her 25 years of service and dedication to the mission of the Inns of Court.

Joel Mintz presented for top leaders of the United States Environmental Protection Agency in Washington, D.C., at an invitation-only conference where outside experts were asked for advice on cost-effective ways in which the agency's enforcement program could be improved. His book, *Enforcement at the EPA: High Stakes and Hard Choices* (revised edition), was described by James Strock, a former assistant administrator for enforcement at the EPA, as "an indispensable guide to the mechanics of how enforcement works and what its real world possibilities and limitations are." Sean Nolan, a law professor at Valparaiso Law School, wrote that Mintz's book is "an enjoyable and informative volume that follows in the tradition of great qualitative research." Four of Mintz's publications, including three articles and a book chapter, were listed on various top 10 lists of SSRN, an electronic research distribution network.

Frank Orlando, former judge and director of the Center for Study of Youth Policy is celebrating 50 years as a member of The Florida Bar. He was honored by the NSU Law Center with a plaque at a reception during The Florida Bar Annual Convention.

Gail Richmond served as supervising editor of the ABA Tax Section's *NewsQuarterly*. She also served on the ABA site team for Lincoln Memorial University Duncan School of Law and as the sole ABA site evaluator for the University of Missouri—Kansas City/Southern Illinois University summer program in Ireland and Wales. Richmond was elected a Fellow of the American College of Tax Counsel.

Bruce Rogow was the keynote speaker at the University of Florida's Professionalism Conference in April 2013. Rogow won two high-profile cases in the Supreme Court of Florida: *Pino v. Bank of New York Mellon*, on behalf of the bank, and *Del Monico v. Traynor*, on behalf of Del Monico.

Marc Rohr's article, "Can the City Council Praise the Lord? Some Ruminations About Prayers at Local Government Meetings," was published in the summer 2012 issue of the *Nova Law Review*. Rohr presented to the Broward Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union on the topic of prayers at city council meetings. He also delivered a presentation as part of the university's Faculty Forum series on the separation of church and state in America.

Florence Shu-Acquaye's article, "Youths and HIV/AIDS in Africa: The Role of Education," was published in *The Gender Section Newsletter of the Commonwealth Magistrates and Judges' Association*, Issue Number 2, Volume 1.

Other published pieces include the "Dodd-Frank Whistleblower Program: Whistleblower Prevention Strategies, Criticisms and Future Implications," in the *John Marshal Law School Global Markets Law Journal*, Issue Number 1, Volume 1, and "Human Trafficking: Trends in Africa," in *Gonzaga Journal of International Law* (2012).

Michele Struffolino was appointed to the Teaching Resources Committee of the Legal Writing Institute (LWI). She was the site chair for the LWI One-Day Workshop, "Preparing Practice-Ready Students," at the NSU Law Center, where more than 40 legal-writing professors, law librarians, and others interested in the legal-writing field gathered to collaborate and find ways to help prepare better law students. Struffolino also copresented "A View from Both Sides: Addressing Student Inability, or Reluctance, to Transfer Skills from LRW Classes to Doctrinal Classes and Vice Versa" at the Southeast Regional Legal Writing Conference at the Savannah Law School in Savannah, Georgia.

Steve Wisotsky's book, *Professional Judgment on Appeal*, was named in the March 6, 2013, issue of *Appellate Practice* as a book that "every young appellate lawyer should own." Wisotsky is also the author of *Speaking with Power and Style: A Guide for Lawyers and Law Students*.

Want to know what your favorite NSU Law Center professor has been up to? Go to the NSU Law Center's Web site at www.nsulaw.nova.edu/news and click the Faculty tab for all the latest and greatest information.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS



Bar Gift Awards

Rebecca Rodriguez, Jennifer Palacio, and Alexander Annunziato were this year's recipients of the Bar Gift Award. Funded through generous contributions of alumni and faculty-member donors, the Bar Gift Award provides monetary assistance to graduates during their 10 weeks of preparation for the Florida Bar Examination. The award enables recipients to concentrate fully on their studies. Eligible graduates must have a qualifying grade point average, demonstrate need, agree to forgo employment between graduation and the Bar exam, and commit to supporting the Bar Gift fund in the future.

Glantz Law Professionalism Award

The Glantz Law Professionalism Award has been established to recognize NSU law students who demonstrate the highest standards of professional conduct in and out of the classroom. Ronald Glantz ('80, member of the Law Center's Board of Governors), Wendy Newman Glantz ('82), and their daughter Lindsey Glantz ('11), recognized the first recipient, **Ayelet Faerman**, at a ceremony held at the firm's office in December 2012. **Ryan Tyre** was honored as the second recipient of the award at a ceremony in May 2013.

The Glantzes are committed to professionalism in their law practice and personal lives and want to promote their values in the legal community, recognizing that they can have the most impact by beginning with law students. The award is gifted to graduating students as they transition from student to practitioner. Faerman shares their view: "I see how the behavior exhibited by my fellow students, professors, and professionals is a reflection of who they are, and I strive to be like many who are exemplars of outstanding professionalism."



"Wendy and I look for meaningful projects to support. We believe that it is an obligation of all lawyers to work toward improving the public's negative perception of attorneys," said Ronald Glantz. "We are doing our part in sponsoring the professionalism award, which recognizes young professionals who the public can see as role models for us all. We are confident that our efforts at the NSU Law Center will lead to an appreciation for the good that those young professionals, and the legal community as a whole, contribute every day."

Athornia Steele, Law Center dean, added, "It is important that there be full partnership of the bench, the bar, and the Law Center to raise the bar of professionalism in the legal field. The Glantzes' commitment is a great example of that partnership. The Standing Committee on Professionalism of The Florida Bar and the Florida Supreme Court Commission on Professionalism is strongly committed to increasing professionalism among law students, lawyers, and judges. The faculty and staff members of the Law Center are fully committed to this effort."

NSU Student First to Get Local ABOTA Scholarship

David Fry is the first student to receive a scholarship award from the Fort Lauderdale Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA). Diana Santa Maria, president of the chapter, presented the award at ABOTA's Annual Judge's Night Installation dinner on January 18, 2013, at B Ocean Hotel. Also in attendance were Beverly Vesel ('79), a member of NSU Law Center's Board of Governors and Law Alumni Association, and Mitchell Chester ('79), ABOTA treasurer.

Fry was selected for his essay, "A Reflection on the Independent Judiciary." A native of New Jersey, Fry has taught history and U.S. government at a Miami high school for three years. He now looks forward to a career in law. "After nearly two years of law classes, I recognize how fortunate I am to have the opportunity to become a member of a community of professionals. The decision to switch careers was the best choice for me and my family," said Fry.

Dedication and Passion Make Student NEXT Fellow

The Next EXecutive Team (NEXT) announced that **Angela Fernandez** is a 2013 Summer Fellowship Program recipient. She will work at Legal Aid Service of Broward County (LAS) and Coast to Coast Legal Aid of South Florida (CCLA).

"We are fortunate to offer fellowships to very deserving and extremely well-qualified women. Angela Fernandez has demonstrated incredible dedication and passion for pro bono work and assisting the community," said Larry Marin, NEXT president. "We are honored and excited to name Angela as a NEXT 2013 Fellow!"

As a NEXT Fellow, Fernandez will have the opportunity to work directly with LAS and CCLA clients' attorneys, assisting on issues affecting children, immigrants, disabled individuals, and the elderly, as well as low-income individuals. NEXT is a joint project between LAS and CCLA. Composed of Broward County "young-ish" legal and business professionals, NEXT exists to better inform and educate the Broward County legal and professional community about the two agencies through a spirit of fun and congeniality.



Amanda Sejba
Awarded Equal
Justice Works
Fellowship

Amanda Sejba has been selected as a 2013 Equal Justice Works Fellow. Founded by law students in 1986, Equal Justice Works (EJW) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing equal access to justice and quality legal representation for the poorest and most vulnerable among us. To achieve this, EJW offers a continuum of opportunities for the next generation of law students that provide the training and skills that enable them to provide effective representation to underserved communities and causes.

This fall, Sejba will be one of 57 outstanding lawyers launching projects across the country that address some of our nation's most pressing social issues. Her host organization is Coast to Coast Legal Aid of South Florida; her project is being sponsored by The Florida Bar Foundation and Greenberg and Traurig LLP. Sejba will work as an attorney on the Veteran Advocates Legal Outreach and Representation (VALOR) Project at Coast to Coast. VALOR is a medical-legal partnership (MLP) with the Sunrise Veterans Affairs (VA) Outpatient Clinic that provides direct legal representation to low-income veterans. Sejba will facilitate the MLP focus on providing legal representation that will assist veterans with economic stability. She will advocate on behalf of veterans, helping them to get access to public benefits such as Social Security and VA benefits. She also will provide outreach education on legal issues to Broward County veterans.

Sejba is a 12-year Army veteran and is a current Army reservist. She was recently accepted into the Judge Advocate General program for the Army Reserves.

The EJW class of 2013 includes participants from 36 law schools. Beginning in the fall, the group's work will include 51 nonprofit organizations in 11 states and the District of Columbia.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Rising Star Scholarship

The Broward County Women Lawyers' Association (BCWLA) presented the 2013 Rising Star Scholarship Award to **Jennifer Aguila**. Expecting to graduate in May 2014, she has balanced her time between being a wife and mother and working full time for the U.S. Attorney's office as a legal assistant in the Public Integrity, National Security, and Civil Rights Section. As a granddaughter of Cuban immigrants, Aguila credits her grandfather for her determination to succeed. Not only will she be the first law school graduate in her family, she was the first in her family to graduate from high school and from college.

A Dean's List recipient for the 2011–2012 winter semesters, she is a member of the Nova Trial Association, and is a senior staff member of the *International Citator and Research Guide*. In addition to her extracurricular activities at NSU, she also makes time to give back to her community by volunteering for Big Brothers Big Sisters. She participates in two community improvement programs through the U.S. Attorney's Office (Hispanic Heritage Committee and the Outreach Program). Aguila's ultimate goal is to continue with the U.S. Attorney's



Office and be assigned to the unit devoted to combat child exploitation and victimization.

The BCWLA also gave an honorable mention to fellow third-year student, **Sylvia Cano**. Moving from Peru with her parents when she was 11 years old, Cano observed her parents' struggle to become U.S. citizens. That inspired her desire to become an attorney. Volunteering hundreds of hours with Legal Aid in their Immigration Unit, Cano has been involved in programs such as the Naturalization Outreach,

the Dream Act Outreach, the Citizenship Day Clinic, and the Deferred Action Childhood Arrivals Clinic.

In addition to her pro bono work, Cano also is the bilingual editor for the *ILSA Journal of International and Comparative Law*. Among her accomplishments, she has been the recipient of The Florida Bar Foundation Fellowship and the NSU Juvenile Mediation Program Fellowship. She also has received a scholarship to attend the American Immigration Lawyers Association's South Florida Conference.



Kaye Bender Rembaum Scholarship

Michelle DeLong is the recipient of the 2012–2013 Kaye Bender Rembaum Scholarship, sponsored by the South Florida law firm Kaye Bender Rembaum. "Michelle's insightful essay made her stand out from the many noteworthy scholarship applications we received this year," said Robert Kaye, managing member of Kaye Bender Rembaum.

To be eligible for the annual scholarship, applicants must be second- or third-year, full-time students or fourth-year evening students at the Law Center and must be in good standing with a grade point average above a 3.3. They must also demonstrate community involvement and have prepared an essay suggesting improvements to Florida statutes to assist community associations in their operation and management.

Law Student Coauthors Book

Matthew Botkin coauthored the book *Achieve Financial Freedom—Big Time*. Botkin is a CPA and a CFP candidate, has an M.S.F.P. (Master of Science in Financial Planning), and became a master tax preparer for H&R Block. He was an intern for the IRS and the FDIC. He also worked as a tax staff accountant for prestigious accounting firms in Maryland. Botkin is an investment adviser representative of HD Vest Financial Services.

Student Publishes Article in Magazine

Lisa Boswell recently coauthored an article about equine sport veterinarians that was published in *The Equine Veterinarian* magazine. The article examines some of the provisions and exemptions of the Veterinary Medical Practice Act and related rules that pertain to licensure in the state of Florida.

Article Highlights Plight of Florida Key Deer

Yanae Barroso recently had her article about the Florida Key deer published in The Florida Bar's Animal Law Committee newsletter. In an effort to educate residents and visitors about the endangered species, the article brings attention to the current concerns and efforts to help protect the Key deer. The article also discusses the human behavior factors, such as illegal feeding associated with traffic collisions, which still put the Key deer at risk.



Students Donate More Than 7,000 Cans of Food

The Public Interest Law Society and Phi Alpha Delta collected and donated more than 7,000 cans of food to Feeding South Florida. The cans were collected during the “Canned Immunity” food drive held in November. As part of the food drive, law students donate cans in their classes to receive immunity. “Canned Immunity” is a Law Center tradition where students may be entitled to pass if called on in class by their professor. The students’ primary motivation, however, was to reach out to those less fortunate. Competition played a role in the donations process. Classes competed to have the highest number of donations and Michael Flynn’s Torts class got that honor with 2,443 cans.



Students Raise More Than \$1,000 for Hurricane Sandy Victims

Students from the *Nova Law Review*, The Italian American Law Society, and the Student Bar Association recently raised more than \$1,000 for the American Red Cross. The money, which was raised during a three-day fund-raiser “Apples for the Big Apple,” went to the victims of Hurricane Sandy. One hundred chocolate- and caramel-covered apples were given to law students who, in turn, made a donation.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Health Law Students Assist Local Community

Members of the Health Law Students Society, PULSE!, participated in the Boomers and Beyond health fair organized by NSU's Health Professions Division. The group assisted attendees in learning about the legal tools available to memorialize end-of-life wishes. The group also discussed the importance of communicating those wishes to health care practitioners and loved ones before the need for documentation of those wishes would arise. The group provided links to resources available on the NSU Law Center Web site.

The students offered the state of Florida's living will and health care surrogate designation forms in English, Spanish, and Creole. Two NSU Law Center students, **Lydia Charles** and **Martavis Clarke** ('12), were instrumental in getting the Creole version of the documents created. The duo worked with the state's Agency for Health Care Administration to make the translations available.

Students Team Up with Miami Dolphins

The NSU Law Center student organization, Beyond the Game, recently teamed up with the Miami Dolphins to help educate high school students about new and emerging legal issues facing teens and young adults. A current or former Miami Dolphins player spoke to high school students about how to avoid off-the-field legal situations that specifically affect high school students. This unique program is the first of its kind in the United States.

Students Performed More Than 23,500 Hours of Legal Work

From the class of 2013 Pro Bono Honors Program, 95 students qualified for recognition by performing at least 50 hours of pro bono service at qualifying public interest government agencies. The total number of hours is the equivalent of more than 470 workweeks (at 50 hours per week) or more than 9½ years of service (at 50 workweeks per year). The three levels of recognition were Bronze (50–124 hours) with 19 students, Silver (125–299 hours) with 43 students, and Gold (300+ hours) with 33 students. In addition, 18 graduates received summer and/or academic year fellowships for a total of 3,300 volunteer hours.

The graduating class of 2013 participated in the Pro Bono Honors Program and volunteered 23,688 hours of pro bono legal work total while in law school, an all-time NSU record. This is an impressive volunteer effort; its impact on the community is immeasurable.

Inter-American Center for Human Rights Files Petition

The Inter-American Center for Human Rights (IACHR) at the NSU Law Center filed a petition with the Inter-American Organization of American States (OAS) regarding Jamaica's sodomy laws. That petition is now at its second step, having been forwarded by the Inter-American Commission of the OAS to the Jamaican government. Jamaica will now have to respond to the petition. The IACHR views this work as part of its core mission, which is to involve students in human rights work that has a meaningful impact on the world. The IACHR at the Law Center involves students in human rights work and is one way students can use the law to effect actual change in the world.

Alumnus Wins First Supreme Court Case

When NSU Law Center alumnus, **Angel L. Arias** ('04) joined his fellow alumni in April 2012 to be sworn in to practice before the Supreme Court of the United States, his timing could not have been better. On October 10, 2012, he sat second chair during oral argument before the U.S. Supreme Court. His client, Adrian Moncrieffe, is a legal immigrant originally from Jamaica. Moncrieffe faced deportation after being convicted under Georgia law for possession of 1.3 grams of marijuana with intent to distribute. On April 23, 2013, the Supreme Court of the United States decided the case of *Moncrieffe v. Holder*, in favor of Arias' client when it reversed and remanded the case back to the Fifth Circuit. Justice Sonia Sotomayor wrote the majority opinion. The Court's holding: "If a noncitizen's conviction for a marijuana distribution offense fails to establish that the offense involved either remuneration or more than a small amount of marijuana, it is not an aggravated felony under the [Immigration and Nationality Act] INA." Justices Clarence Thomas and Samuel Alito wrote dissenting opinions.

Alumnus Wins High-Profile Case for Bob Marley's Family

Fort Lauderdale attorney **Michael I. Santucci** ('96) recently helped family members of Bob Marley settle a federal lawsuit regarding intellectual property rights relating to the reggae music legend, his mother Cedella Marley Booker, and Miami's Nine Mile Music Festival.

Santucci, who practices with the law firm of Santucci Priore, P.L., represents Bob Marley's brother Richard Booker; Bob Marley Movement of Jah People, originally a Bob Marley and The Wailers fan club; and the Bob Marley Heritage Foundation—which helps needy and hungry families. He recently responded to a telephone inquiry from the media at www.nutricompany.com, which specializes in celebrity-endorsed nutritional products.

"This was a sensitive case that involved historic facts and many moving parts. The legacy of a great man and a great family were at stake. Fortunately, we were able to come up with a settlement that was amenable to the family members involved," said Santucci. "From what I learned about Bob Marley and his intentions, he would be happy with our recent achievements, especially the peace brought to the family," said Santucci.

Booker was close to his brother and several of his children. The two shared the same mother, Cedella Marley Booker, well-known reggae artist and restaurateur. After Marley's death in 1981, and then their mother's death in 2008, Booker inherited control of the Movement of Jah People. Since then, he has operated the annual Nine Mile Music Festival in Miami, Mama Marley restaurants in Jamaica, and Nine Mile (a tourist destination in the parish of Saint Anne in Jamaica, near Ocho Rios, where Marley and their mother were born).

While this was a well-publicized case, Santucci is no stranger to high-profile litigation. He previously served on the litigation team of the 2002 landmark *All Pro Sports Camps, Inc. vs. Walt Disney Company*, in which he helped secure a record \$240-million verdict for his clients with legendary attorneys Johnnie Cochran and Willie Gary. The August 2012 settlement was a decade-long litigation between electronic music giants Ultra Music Festival and Ultra Records. Santucci and one other attorney for Ultra Music Festival sat in a conference room from 6:00 p.m. until 7:30 a.m. the next morning, after a two-week trial in New York City, and forged a strategic alliance between the two companies before the jury was scheduled to begin deliberations. Regarding the settlement, Santucci simply said: "The work day ends when the job is done."

Alumnus Named GM for Sacramento Basketball Team

Pete D'Alessandro ('94) has been named by the NBA's Sacramento Kings as the team's new general manager. D'Alessandro previously served the Denver Nuggets as adviser to the executive vice president of basketball operations.

While in Denver, D'Alessandro assisted in the development of all basketball operation strategies, as well as the management of day-to-day basketball activities with a focus on trade and free agent negotiations, salary cap management, and collective bargaining agreement rules and regulations. Prior to joining the Nuggets, D'Alessandro spent five seasons with Oakland, California's Golden State Warriors. He spent his last two years with the Warriors as assistant general manager, after serving the previous three seasons as the team's director of basketball operations.

D'Alessandro began his career in basketball in 1986 when, as a student at St. John's University, he served as video coordinator for the men's basketball team under Hall of Fame coach Lou Carnesecca. A member of the New York State Bar, D'Alessandro graduated from the NSU Law Center in 1994. That year, he briefly entered the political arena, ultimately serving as the campaign manager for New York State Representative Rick Lazio's successful 1996 reelection bid to the House of Representatives. After his stint in politics, D'Alessandro returned to the sports world in 1997, joining Professional Management Associates (PMA), a sports agency based in Washington, D.C. As vice president at PMA for seven years, he represented both NBA and international basketball players before being hired in 2004 by Chris Mullin, Hall of Fame inductee, who was the Warriors' executive vice president of basketball operations.

D'Alessandro was featured in the 2010–2011 *Nova Lawyer*.

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Groundbreaking Verdict Brings \$38.5-Million Award

Jurors in Broward County awarded \$38.5 million to a client of **Robert Kelley** ('81), a member of NSU Law Center's Board of Governors, and **Bonnie Navin** ('97) of Kelley/Uustal. The client suffered severe brain injuries because of malpractice. The jury found "clear and convincing evidence" to assess "strikes" to the anesthesiologist involved in the case. The attorneys state that this is the first verdict of its kind since voters passed Amendment 8 in 2004—also known as the "three-strikes" amendment, which specifies that, if found guilty of three medical malpractices, doctors could lose their medical licenses. The jury rendered its verdict in two phases under a procedure established by the trial judge, Carlos A. Rodriguez.

In 2008, the client underwent a manipulation under anesthesia and never woke up. During cross-examination, the anesthesiologist involved admitted that he should not have performed the procedure on the client. The jury assessed strikes to the anesthesiologist. Kelley called the verdict a victory for patient safety and plans to immediately present the jury's findings to the Florida Board of Medicine.

Alumni Win Big

Alexander Brown ('04) and **Peter Herman** ('82), intellectual property attorneys and directors at Tripp Scott in Fort Lauderdale, were featured recently in an article in the *Daily Business Review* for obtaining two multimillion-dollar verdicts for their clients. They earned the title, "Most Effective Lawyer" from the *Daily Business Review*. The Herman-Brown team is gaining a national reputation for successfully representing David against Goliath, first by winning *Powell v. Home Depot* in 2010, which resulted in a more than \$24-million verdict against Home Depot for willful infringement. The case was affirmed on appeal in 2012. Then, only 18 months later, the Herman-Brown team obtained a \$26-million verdict in Binghamton, New York, against Security Mutual Life Insurance Company, involving fraudulent use of software belonging to Tripp Scott's client, Member Services, Inc.

Scott D. Smiley ('03) is a registered patent attorney and founder of The Concept Law Group, P.A., an intellectual law firm in Fort Lauderdale. Smiley, along with attorneys Gregory Mayback, Peter Herman ('82), and Alexander Brown ('04), won a more than \$24-million verdict against Home Depot in a willful infringement case. At the time, Smiley was a patent attorney with Mayback and Hoffman in Fort Lauderdale. Smiley has been an adjunct professor of law at the NSU Law Center since 2008, where he teaches patent law.

1977

Ronald Houchins is the president of Homeowner's Education and Defense Coalition, Inc., a nonprofit organization based in Woodstock, Georgia, that assists homeowners in defending their homes against wrongful foreclosure and predatory lending practices.

1979

Merrilee Ehrlich has been a circuit judge in the 17th Judicial Circuit for Broward County since 2009 and presides over juvenile delinquency cases. She was an assistant state attorney in Broward County before opening her own criminal defense practice prior to taking the bench. She is known for her unorthodox approach to handling juvenile cases, such as requiring the juveniles to write and read poetry in order to have their (community-service hours) sentences reduced. She was featured in an

article in the *Daily Business Review* on November 19, 2012.

1980

Michele K. Cummings is a shareholder in Gray Robinson's Fort Lauderdale office. She is board certified in marital and family law and was recently recognized as a Top Lawyer in the 2013 *South Florida Legal Guide* for her high level of ability, professionalism, and integrity. Cummings' practice area is focused on complex family law litigation, and she is a certified family law mediator.

Susan H. Maurer, of Panza, Maurer & Maynard in Fort Lauderdale, was elected chair of the Florida Commission on Ethics. As the firm's managing partner, she is a litigator in health care and academic law.

Christopher Pole was appointed by Florida Governor Rick Scott as a county

court judge in the 17th Judicial Circuit for Broward County and was robed on January 18, 2013. He presides over criminal cases. He is also an adjunct professor of law at NSU. Pole is board certified in criminal law and practiced in the areas of criminal defense, personal injury, and civil commitment defense prior to taking the bench.

1981

Robert W. (Bob) Kelley, a partner at Kelley/Uustal in Fort Lauderdale and a member of NSU Law Center's Board of Governors, received a certificate of appreciation from Diveheart for the Putting Something Back—Scuba Style program. Kelley is the founder of The Dive Bar—an Underwater Bar Association that includes scuba-certified attorneys and other people dedicated to preserving our coral reefs and marine environment in the Florida Keys and Bahamas.

1982

Jeffrey Colbath, a Palm Beach County circuit judge since 2002, has been elected chief judge of the 15th Judicial Circuit in Palm Beach effective July 1, 2013. Colbath most recently presided over high-profile criminal trials, such as the murder solicitation trial of Boynton Beach newlywed Dalia Dippolito and the DUI manslaughter case of John Goodman, the Wellington, Florida, Polo Club founder.

1984

Michael Kaplan, a circuit judge in the Broward County 17th Judicial Circuit, lectured at a Florida Bar-approved Continuing Legal Education (CLE) course, “Domestic Violence: Impacts and Implications,” presented at the NSU Law Center on August 24, 2012. He presides over domestic violence court. Kaplan presented a view from the bench and discussed a new amendment to Chapter 784—Florida Statutes: Injunction for Protection Against Stalking.

Christopher Nielson, of the Law Offices of Christopher Mark Nielson, PA, in Hollywood, was recently named president of Second Chance Society, a nonprofit organization in Fort Lauderdale that helps homeless and struggling individuals regain self-sufficiency. Nielson is the past president of the Broward County Bar Association and his law practice includes civil litigation, personal injury, criminal defense, and family law.

1986

Matthew Weissing, a partner at Farmer, Jaffe, Weissing, Edwards, Fistos & Lehrman, P.L. in Fort Lauderdale, was recently selected for inclusion in *Best Lawyers in America 2013*. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps before becoming

an attorney. His practice areas include personal injury and wrongful death.

1987

Sheri Polster Chappell was unanimously confirmed by the United States Senate as a U.S. district judge for Florida’s Middle District. The ABA Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary gave her a unanimous “qualified” rating. The district covers Fort Myers to Jacksonville and includes Tampa and Orlando. It ranked 18/94 for the number of cases filed between September 2011 and September 2012.

Michael R. Whitt is the vice chair of the business litigation practice group for Becker & Poliakoff in Fort Myers, Florida. His practice areas include eminent domain, business, and real estate disputes. He has extensive trial experience handling complex litigation representing developers. He also handles zoning and land use matters, among other areas of real estate law.

1990

Daniel Santaniello, managing partner of Luks, Santaniello, Petrillo, & Jones, was named president for 2012–2013 of the Florida Defense Lawyers Association (FDLA). He is a board-certified civil trial lawyer who handles high-profile wrongful death, products liability, toxic tort, construction, and general liability cases.

1991

Robin Sobo Moselle presented “What’s Supp? An Introduction to Proceedings Supplementary and How to Collect the Uncollectible Judgment” in Fort Lauderdale to the National Association of Credit Managers. She is a partner at Jacobson Sobo & Moselle in

Plantation. Her firm handles collections for a variety of clients throughout Florida. Moselle is also a member of the Board of Governors for the NSU Law Center.

Robert Rivas, a board-certified appellate attorney and principal in the Tallahassee office of Sachs Sax & Caplan, gave the keynote address to the annual meeting of the Hemlock Society of San Diego on “Legal Developments Nationwide in the Right to Die Movement.”

Frank Terzo is an attorney with Gray Robinson in Fort Lauderdale. He is the chair of the firm’s Bankruptcy and Creditors’ Rights Practice Group. He was recognized as a Top Lawyer by the 2013 *South Florida Legal Guide* for his high level of ability, professionalism, and integrity. His practice includes complex bankruptcy litigation.

1992

Andrea R. Gundersen, owner of the Law Offices of Andrea R. Gundersen, PA, in Davie, was selected as one of the Florida Legal Elite for 2013. She will be featured in the July 2013 issue of *Florida Trend Magazine*. Her practice is devoted to family law litigation, and she is a certified family mediator.

Jamie Dell White, of Parkland, Florida, wrote a fictional story, “Defense of the Heart,” about a lawyer’s struggle to handle an explosive case that reunites her with a lost love and threatens to destroy her best friend.

1993

Laurie Briggs is the new village attorney for the Village of Wellington, Florida. She formerly served on the Village Council for Wellington from 2003–2008. She has extensive civil litigation experience in many areas, including complex business and

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commercial litigation, real estate, government law, and appellate law. She is also a Florida Supreme Court Certified Mediator.

Daniel F. Tordella has become certified by the Florida Supreme Court as a family law mediator. He owns the law office of Daniel F. Tordella in Fort Lauderdale, where his practice is concentrated in the area of family law.

1994

Kathleen McHugh became a county judge in the 17th Judicial Circuit for Broward County and was robed on January 18, 2013. She presides over domestic violence cases. Prior to taking the bench, she was a public defender in Broward County and also had a civil and commercial litigation practice.

Andrew Winston is a partner at Lawlor, Winston, White & Murphy in Fort Lauderdale. He recently spoke at the Florida Justice Association's Automobile Insurance Seminar in Fort Lauderdale on "Practical Implications in Representing Plaintiffs in Auto Liability Cases Under the New Florida PIP Law."

1995

Elizabeth E. Andrews, of Andrews & Manno in Tampa, presented "Adjuster's Survival Guide to a Deposition" at the FIFEC conference in Orlando. She has an insurance defense litigation practice.

Laurie Stilwell Cohen just opened her own law practice, Laurie Cohen, PA, in Wellington, Florida. She is an experienced civil litigation attorney who focuses on business, commercial litigation, and land use/government law. She also handles property disputes, consumer law, construction, and community association law.

Adam Scott Goldberg, LL.M., of Krause & Goldberg, PA, in Weston, presented an update on recent case law and election-related issues for the Planned Giving Council of Broward on September 19, 2012. His practice areas include estate planning, tax, wills, probate, and charitable organizations work. He is also an adjunct professor of law at the NSU Law Center.

Ari A. Porth became a circuit judge in the 17th Judicial Circuit for Broward County and was robed on January 18, 2013. He presides over the mental health/drug court. He is also an adjunct professor of law at NSU. He was previously a prosecutor with the Broward State Attorney's Office and a member of the Florida House of Representatives representing Coral Springs.

Israel U. Reyes was appointed to the Supreme Court Judicial Nominating Committee. He was a circuit judge in the 11th Judicial Circuit Miami-Dade County for seven years. He opened The Reyes Law Firm, PA, in Miami in 2012. His practice includes civil and criminal litigation. He is also a special magistrate and mediator.

Donna Greenspan Solomon is president of the NSU Law Alumni Association's Palm Beach chapter. She is board certified in appellate practice and business litigation. She owns Solomon Mediation and Arbitration in West Palm Beach.

1996

David Bazerman, of Legal Aid Service of Broward County, was recently honored for his work with the Tracey McPharlin Pro Bono Dependency project.

G. Yasmin Jacob lectured at a Florida Bar-approved CLE, "Domestic Violence: Impacts and Implications"

presented at the NSU Law Center on August 24, 2012. She practices immigration law with Legal Aid Services of Broward County and is also an adjunct professor of law at the NSU Law Center.

Nellie L. King, of Nellie L. King, PA, in West Palm Beach, was sworn in as a member of the board of directors of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (NACDL) on July 28, 2012, in San Francisco. King is immediate past president of the Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (FACDL). She practices exclusively in the area of criminal defense at the state and federal level and devotes substantial time to pro bono work.

1997

T.J. Heinemann joined The Karp Law Firm, PA, in Boynton Beach, Florida. His practice includes estate planning, elder law, tax planning, business succession planning, probate, and trust administration.

1998

Glenn M. Cooper a shareholder in the Miami and Fort Lauderdale offices of Gray Robinson, PA, was recently appointed to chair the Florida Chamber of Commerce's Florida Brazil Partnership. At the partnership, he will lead efforts to promote the free flow of trade and investment between Florida and Brazil. Cooper's practice areas include employment and labor, immigration, international law, and international business (including assisting companies in corporate business and contract matters, securing immigration visas, and advising on immigration compliance for foreign businesses and workers). He currently serves on the board of directors for the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce, where he is chair of public policy for the government affairs group. He also

was recently appointed to chair the Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance's International Action Team—a joint effort between the organization and the Broward County Office of Economic and Small Business Development to promote direct foreign investment and international trade in the local area.

Tammy Knight, an equity partner with Holland & Knight in Fort Lauderdale, was elected to the law firm's directors committee, which is composed of 24 partners from across the firm. She will serve a three-year term. A graduate of the Rising Star program sponsored by Holland & Knight's Women's Initiative, Knight now serves as chair of the initiative, as well as sitting on the firm's diversity council. She practices in the areas of corporate, securities, and franchise law and is recognized in the latest edition of *Best Lawyers in America*. In 2012, she was named one of South Florida's Most Influential Business Women by the *South Florida Business Journal*.

1999

Steven W. Marcus, a shareholder with Fowler White Boggs, PA, in Fort Lauderdale, received The Florida Bar President's Pro Bono Service Award (17th Judicial Circuit—Broward County) for his work on behalf of Holocaust survivors. He represents survivors in connection with obtaining monthly pensions from the German government as part of the German reparations program for Holocaust survivors. Marcus also mentors other attorneys in obtaining the same relief for their clients. Additionally, he was recently elected to the Board of Directors of the Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce. His law practice includes intellectual property law, banking, and real estate.

2000

Philip M. DiComo was interviewed by *The Palm Beach Post* about his successful transition from broadcasting to law. The article appeared September 9, 2012, on *The Palm Beach Post* Web site. He practices with Haile Shaw & Pfaffenberger, PA, in North Palm Beach. He practices corporate, business, and employment law.

Michael I. Rothschild became a circuit judge in the 17th Judicial Circuit for Broward County and was robed on January 18, 2013. He presides over criminal cases. Prior to taking the bench, Rothschild was a criminal defense attorney and handled a variety of civil litigation matters.

2001

Denise Jensen, of Gladstone & Weissman in Fort Lauderdale, was named a *Super Lawyers Magazine* Rising Star in 2012. She is Florida Bar Board Certified in marital and family law (since 2011) and practices in family law and matrimonial law.

2002

Dominic Fariello, of Tampa, Florida, is the president of the newly formed NSU Law Alumni Tampa Bay Chapter. His practice, Dominic O. Fariello, PA, is located in Tampa's Hyde Park and includes criminal defense and personal injury law. He has a radio program, *Ask the Dom*, on 98 Rock (Tampa) and WJRR (Orlando) and appears on Fox TV's *Ask a Lawyer* (Tampa) on the first Thursday of each month (from 7:00 to 9:00 a.m.).

John Riordan is a partner with Kelley Kronenberg and heads the firm's criminal defense division in the Palm

Beach office. In 2012, he was named a Rising Star by *Super Lawyers Magazine*.

Richard Sierra lectured at the NSU Law Center on September 7, 2012, at a Florida Bar-approved CLE seminar, "Law Practice 2.0: Using the Internet and Social Media to Increase Productivity and Manage Your Law Practice." His law firm, Richard Sierra & Associates, is located in Coral Springs, where his practice includes corporate and business litigation and transactional work.

Francesco Soto joined the Law Offices of David B. Haber, PA, in Miami as a senior associate in commercial litigation, securities and international litigation, and arbitration.

2004

Bruce Epperson, of Hollywood, published *Peddling Bicycles to America*. The book details the history of the American bicycle industry from before World War I. He is one of America's leading authorities on the history of cycling, and he has participated in conferences around the world.

Marta Estevez lectured at a Florida Bar-approved CLE, "Domestic Violence: Impacts and Implications," presented at the NSU Law Center on August 24, 2012. Her lecture covered practicing in domestic violence court and handling cases for special groups, such as the LGBT community and the elderly. She practices law at Coast to Coast Legal Aid of South Florida.

Heidi S. Mohammed joined Greenspoon Marder in Fort Lauderdale, where she practices in the firm's residential foreclosure department.

ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENTS

2005

Jennifer Erdelyi of Colodny, Fass, Talenfeld, Karlinsky & Abate, Fort Lauderdale, cowrote an article entitled, “State Taxation of Non-U.S. Risk Premium—An Unintended Consequence of the Nonadmitted and Reinsurance Reform Act.” This article was featured in the summer 2012 edition of *Wholesale Insurance News*.

Leanne M. Innet opened the law office of Leanne M. Innet in North Charleston, South Carolina, where her practice includes handling national security clearance issues.

Robert Sparks was made partner at Givens Divorce Law Group in Tampa, Florida. The firm is now known as Givens Givens Sparks. His practice areas include family law, personal injury, and malpractice.

2006

Heather Apicella, of Gladstone & Weissman in Fort Lauderdale, received the Section Chair of the Year award from the Broward County Bar Association (BCBA) for her work on behalf of the family law section of BCBA. Apicella practices in the area of family law and matrimonial law and was named by *Super Lawyers Magazine* as a Rising Star in 2012.

Valerie Barton Barnhart was elected to The Florida Bar Board of Governors Young Lawyers Division for a two-year term beginning June 28, 2013, representing the 17th Judicial Circuit. She is an attorney with Kelley Kronenberg, PA, in Fort Lauderdale, where she practices commercial litigation.

Jason B. Blank left the Broward Public Defender’s Office after seven years to become a founding partner at Haber, Stief & Blank, LLP, in Fort Lauderdale.

He was recently nominated for the NSU Law Student Bar Association’s Larry Kalevitch Service Award for his service to NSU and the local law community. His practice includes criminal defense and civil trial work. The firm also handles appellate litigation.

Lauren Fallick is an associate with Leopold Law in Palm Beach Gardens. She was recently selected to participate in Class II of Connect Florida’s Statewide Leadership Institute. This program assists young leaders in making a positive impact on Florida by engaging them in programs to develop skills on a regional and statewide basis. Fallick practices in the areas of commercial, business, product liability, and construction litigation.

Leland E. Garvin joined his father Jeff Garvin to form the Garvin Law Firm in Fort Lauderdale and Fort Myers, Florida. Leland was named one of the Top Young Lawyers by *Super Lawyers Magazine* in 2010. His practice includes personal injury, wrongful death, and criminal defense.

Julia Ingle was named partner at Lubell & Rosen in Fort Lauderdale. She has a litigation practice where she represents physicians in medical malpractice defense, Department of Health/Board of Medicine investigations, and Medicare/Medicaid audits.

2007

Anabella Barboza, of Phelan Hallinan in Fort Lauderdale, was named to the Board of Directors of the Broward County Hispanic Bar Association.

Frederick D. Segal is an associate with Broad & Cassel in Miami. He received his LL.M. in Health Law from Widener University School of Law in 2008, and he provides a broad spectrum of legal representation to health care providers and organizations. He spoke

to an audience of aspiring doctors and other health care professionals at NSU’s College of Osteopathic Medicine about employment agreements.

Ethan Wall, secretary/treasurer of the NSU Law Alumni Association, is an associate with Richman Greer in Coral Gables, where he practices intellectual property law and litigates matters including those involving the use of social media and the Internet. He spoke on “Emerging Technologies and eDiscovery” and ethics at the Center for Professional Development’s eDiscovery and Information Governance National Institute at Stetson University. Wall lectured at a Florida Bar-approved CLE, “Law Practice 2.0: Using the Internet and Social Media to Increase Productivity and Manage Your Law Practice” on September 7, 2012, at NSU’s Law Center. He recently was elected president of the Dade County Bar Association’s Young Lawyers Section (YLS).

2008

Chad J. Robinson joined Greenspoon Marder in Fort Lauderdale’s complex litigation group.

Payal Salsburg is an intellectual property litigation attorney with Proskauer Rose, LLP. She handles cases involving patent infringement, contract disputes, and general business litigation.

2009

Meaghan Edelstein is a social media consultant who develops campaigns for businesses, lectures, and writes articles on social media and business. She was featured in a *South Florida Sun Sentinel* article, published on February 3, 2013, about winning her battle with cancer. She won the 2009 Cancer Fighter Award for the southern region.

ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENTS, CORRECTION, AND IN MEMORIAM

Daniel Hurtes joined Greenspoon Marder in Fort Lauderdale as an associate in the firm's residential foreclosure department. He also practices commercial litigation.

2010

Jason Duggar joined Greenspoon Marder in Fort Lauderdale as an associate in the firm's residential foreclosure department. Prior to joining the firm, he worked for a solo practitioner in the areas of criminal defense and immigration.

Andrew Fuxa joined Greenspoon Marder in Fort Lauderdale, where his practice includes representing consumers in property loss claims.

Jamaal Jones published an article, "The Impact of ACOs on our Health Care System," in the *South Florida Legal Guide*. Jones practices with the Coral Gables firm of Zumpano, Patricios & Winker, PA, in health law.

Renette Louissaint is an attorney adviser at the United States Department of Health and Human Services in Miami.

Elizabeth Mabry is an associate with Katz Barron Squitiero Faust in Fort Lauderdale, where her practice areas include commercial transactions and intellectual property (trademark and licensing).

Jeremy Tyler practices with Greenspoon Marder's First-Party Property Insurance Law Group in Fort Lauderdale, representing policy holders with claims against insurance companies. In addition to Florida, he is admitted to practice in Colorado, California, and Alabama.

2011

Pamela D'Alo Balaguera joined the Balaguera Law Firm in West Palm Beach in October 2012. Her practice includes immigration, family law, debt defense, personal injury, criminal law, and DUI.

Sandy Jones is an associate at Moffa & Bonacquisti in Plantation. She practices in the area of bankruptcy.

London Ott has been the law clerk for Melanie G. May, chief judge of the Fourth District Court of Appeal in West Palm Beach, since graduating from the NSU Law Center. This summer, Ott became the law clerk for William Matthewman, federal magistrate judge, of the U.S. District Court, Southern District of Florida, at the West Palm Beach location.

Justin Seekamp is the president of the newly formed Central Florida chapter of the Law Alumni Association. The group has many activities planned for the year. He practices civil litigation with Kramer Law firm in Altamonte Springs, Florida.

2012

Adam Diaz is an associate with Grumer & Macaluso, PA, in Fort Lauderdale. The firm handles real estate, corporate, and civil litigation matters.

Brent Trapana, who was editor in chief of the *Nova Law Review*, recently joined the law firm of Brinkley Morgan in Fort Lauderdale as an associate. He wrote a two-part article, "Airport X-Ray Scanners: Do Benefits Outweigh the Risks?" that was published in *Travel Law Quarterly*.

Jessica S. Vitale is an assistant state attorney with the 12th Judicial Circuit (Sarasota, Manatee, and DeSoto counties) in Florida.

Ayla Walker published an article, "More Than Just Man's Best Friend: Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability of Persons with Service Animals," in *Travel Law Quarterly*.

Christine Walker published an article, "Cruise Ships: The Next Terrorism Target?" in *Travel Law Quarterly*. Walker currently attends Tulane University Law School and is studying for her LL.M. in Admiralty Law.

CORRECTION

Elizabeth Daugherty, class of 1994, incorrectly appeared under the year 2003 in *Class Actions* in the 2011–2012 issue of *Nova Lawyer*.


IN MEMORIAM

David Carroll ('12)

Nancy E. Crown ('92)

Kathleen Pellegrino ('93)

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