Chancellor
Jack M. Weiss

Coming Home to
Louisiana

GROWING A CLINICAL PROGRAM
Meet Robert Lancaster

LEAVING THE CAMPSITE BETTER
The Odyssey of Rick Richard

A MOST EXCELLENT LIFE
Attorney Michael H. Rubin
On the front of the 1936 LSU Law Building above the frieze are three sculpted life-sized figures: a laborer symbolizing the role of the masses in support of the legal order, a lawyer, and a soldier representing those who have fought to safeguard the rule of the law.
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As this edition of LSU Law goes to press, our faculty have just returned from a two-day offsite retreat. The goal of the retreat was to begin developing a long-range plan for the Law Center as part of our SEABA accreditation review in 2009-10. We have returned from the retreat excited about the Law Center’s future and committed to the hard work of planning for that future.

In preparing for the retreat, the faculty agreed on one basic ground rule. At the retreat, we would do our utmost to develop and agree upon a few statements of principle that were specific enough to be “action-able”—to guide the planning process—but not so detailed as to constitute steps of implementation better left to the later stages of the process. Conversely, we wanted to avoid using our valuable collective time simply to brainstorm or theoretize to no particular end. In other words, by the end of the weekend, we wanted to identify with some degree of specificity those aspects of the Law Center’s operations and culture that the faculty as a whole considers most worthy of detailed study and planning at this juncture in our history.

In my estimation, and I think that of virtually all of the faculty members present, the weekend was an unqualified success. As we had hoped, the retreat set the stage for further, in-depth examination of key issues by our faculty Long Range Planning Committee, chaired by Professor Ken Murchison, and its various sub-committees of faculty and staff. We also fully intend to obtain active input from students, alumni, and others who have a vital interest in the Law Center’s future. Here, for your information, but perhaps more important, for your rumination and consideration, are the issues identified by the faculty for priority consideration:

**Curriculum.** Among the issues to be considered are how our course offerings compare with those of peer schools; whether we afford students sufficient flexibility in choosing their courses of study here; and whether course scheduling and planning should reflect a multi-year time horizon.

**Faculty development.** Here we will develop not only a plan for attracting new scholars to the Law Center but also a framework for encouraging and assisting our faculty’s scholarly and other efforts that bring national and international recognition to the Law Center.

**Admissions and scholarships.** In the face of a shrinking pool of Louisiana law applicants, the Law Center has done a remarkable job in recent years of attracting top Louisiana and nonresident students. Our entering classes bring with them outstanding academic credentials as well as a wide variety of extraordinary personal accomplishments. Nevertheless, in a highly competitive law school “marketplace” for students, we must examine and plan for what, realistically, we can do to attract even more of the “best and the brightest” (especially Louisianas own) in the years to come.

In addition to these three areas of priority focus, we resoundingly reaffirmed that enhancing the diversity of our faculty, students, and staff is an overarching goal of all of our efforts. Each specific part of our long-range plan will address that goal. In just the past year, we have made great strides in attracting minority students. Minority enrollment in this year’s entering class increased from 20 to 33—an increase of some 65 percent over the prior year. African American enrollment in the 1L class more than doubled (from 7 to 16). On the faculty side, we offered three African American candidates tenure-track positions, though we were disappointed that all accepted other opportunities. But the faculty recognizes that we must redouble our efforts in coming years if we are to be successful.

In the weeks and months ahead, as our planning efforts unfold, we hope that many of you will give us the benefit of your experience and your thinking on the key issues that we will be examining. Other important areas, including our rapidly expanding clinical and externship programs and our international student programs, will also receive priority attention. Indeed, every aspect of the Law Center’s work will be thoroughly assessed with a view toward the future.

I am deeply encouraged by the collegial, constructive, and forward-looking approach our faculty members have taken as we begin the planning process. No one here at LSU Law advocates change for the sake of change. But we must be open to thoughtful and responsible change if we are to prosper and adapt to the needs of 21st century law students and the 21st century legal profession. It is truly a privilege for me to serve as Chancellor at a moment when so many creative—and, I dare say, open—minds are engaged in so important a common endeavor.
Prisoner confinement, interrogation, and trial.
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September 11, 2001 had profound consequences
mon understanding of the rule of law.
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Members of the LSU community gathered to
hear Law Center professors discuss the constitu-
tional duty of detention, interrogation techniques,
and trial of terrorism suspects.
The free symposium, titled Presidential Power and
Terrorism: Detention, Interrogation and Trial, featured Law Professors John Baker, Ed Richards, and John Devlin. The trio discussed the legal issues posed by detention, interrogation, and trial of ter-
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prisoner confinement, interrogation, and trial.

GLOBAL WORKPLACE CONFERENCE AT FOREFRONT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT LAW

International and comparative workplace law was the focus of a dynamic videoconference held in 2008 in collaboration with the LSU Law Center, Seton Hall University School of Law, and Thomas Jefferson School of Law. The event featured inter-
nationally recognized speakers on the topic of
Expanding Intellectual Borders with International
and Comparative Employment Law.

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Dean Rady Had of Thomas Jefferson School of
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Law Chancellour Jack Weiss provided opening
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Universities of Leuven, Belgium and Tilburg, the
Netherlands. Numerous panelists addressed topics
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SISTER HELEN PREJEAN SPEAKS ON DEATH PENALTY

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Sister Helen Prejean, internationally acclaimed author, spoke
to a standing room only audience in 2008 at the
LSU Law Center. Her talk, titled Actual Innocence
and the Death Penalty was “the most absorbing,
insightful presentation I’ve heard in many, many
years,” said Professor Lucy McGough, director of
the Thomas Jefferson Center for Law and Social
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with Cambridge University Press.

Sister Helen Prejean is author of the influential inter-
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Eyewitness Account of the Death Penalty in the
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languages. It served as the basis for the 1996 film
by director Tim Robbins, receiving four Oscar
nominations. Her latest book is titled The Death
of Innocents: An Eyewitness Account of Wrongful
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GENERAL COUNSEL FOR HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH SPEAKS AT LAW CENTER

Water boarding is a euphemism for torture,
according to Dihan PoKempner, General Counsel
for Human Rights Watch. The Law Center’s Inter-
national Law Society sponsored the symposium on
Human Rights that featured several panelists on
the topic of torture and the criminal justice system.
PoKempner served as the keynote speaker at the
The Human Rights Watch is the nation’s largest
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Chancellour Jack Weiss described PoKempner as
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CNN ANALYST AND BEST-SELLING AUTHOR JEFFREY TOOBIN IN CONVERSATION WITH CHANCELLOR AT LSU LAW CENTER

JEFFREY TOOBIN, CNN legal analyst and author, discussed the inner workings of the U.S. Supreme Court and the impact a new presidency will have on its future on May 2, 2008 at the LSU Law Center. Roe v. Wade, Bush v. Gore, Obama v. Clinton and Toobin v. Delay were just some of the topics addressed when Jeffrey Toobin sat down for a candid conversation with Law Center Chancellor Jack Weiss.

Toobin’s latest book, THE NINE - Inside the Secret World of the Supreme Court, was the focus for the question and answer session. His book offers insights into the most important and secret legal body in our country, the U.S. Supreme Court. Based on exclusive interviews with the justices themselves, The Nine tells the story of the Court through the personalities of the nine justices. His stories reveal the complex dynamic among the justices who decide the law of the land.

Toobin defines the 2008 presidential election as the moment of transition for the institution. He believes the Court now has a conservative majority and predicts that major changes are in store on such issues as abortion, civil rights, presidential power, and church-state relations, following the election.

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR LEE ANN WHEELIS LOCKRIDGE

Lee Ann Wheelis Lockridge, Associate Professor of Law, joined the Law Center faculty in 2005. She brings both outstanding academic credentials and experience to her teaching.

Her research and teaching interests are primarily in intellectual property and advertising law. She came to LSU from the University of Cincinnati College of Law, where she was a visiting assistant professor during the 2004-05 academic year. From 1999-2004, Professor Lockridge was an associate in the intellectual-property section of Thompson & Knight in Dallas, Texas. Before entering private practice, she served as a judicial clerk to the Honorable Eugene E. Siler, Jr., of the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit.

Professor Lockridge graduated summa cum laude from Southwestern University, earning a B.A. in chemistry. She earned her J.D. from Duke University School of Law, graduating magna cum laude in 1998. At Duke, she was an associate editor of Law and Contemporary Problems and the community service coordinator for the Duke Bar Association. She was admitted to the State Bar of Texas in 1998 and to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in 2001. Before leaving private practice for academia, Professor Lockridge was named one of the “Best Lawyers Under 40 in Dallas 2004” in a D Magazine poll.

She teaches Introduction to Intellectual Property, International Intellectual Property, Advertising Law, and Advanced Trademark & Unfair Competition Law, and has recently published articles on freedom of speech, the copyright fair use doctrine, and international jurisdictional issues related to European data rights.

Proposal for Concurrent Master of Mass Communication and J.D. Degrees Approved by Regents

The LSU Law Center and the LSU Manship School of Mass Communication have created a concurrent degree program through which students can receive a Juris Doctor (J.D.) and a Master of Mass Communication (M.M.C.) degree. The Louisiana Board of Regents recently reviewed and approved the program.

Students will be required to spend approximately four years in concurrent enrollment for J.D. and master’s level courses in the Manship School.

“With this program we will be able to provide interested students with the opportunity to focus on media law issues from more than one perspective,” said Professor Lee Ann Lockridge who is helping lead the effort for the Law Center. “Students with a mass communication background and those without can find value in the ability to combine the two degree programs. We think creating this environment for combined study will give students a valuable framework from which to work after graduation in either strictly mass communication or legal careers, or perhaps in careers combining both worlds.”

Lockridge hopes that interest in the program will come quickly, particularly in light of the relatively recent interest in issues such as reporter’s privilege laws and the effects of internet communication on various media-related fields, including defamation law.

“We are joining a number of other universities in combining strong programs in mass communication and law, including Columbia University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill,” according to Lockridge.
Chancellor Reflects on the Profession

Cordell Haymon, president of the Louisiana Law Institute, and Professor William Crawford ('55), director, welcomed colleagues and friends to the 70th anniversary celebration of the Louisiana Law Institute held on March 14, 2008. The two worked for several months to ensure that the annual dinner was one that paid tribute to the significant work of the Institute over the decades. Haymon and Crawford designed an evening that allowed participants to view artifacts and other historic photographs of the Institute’s meetings and activities.

Louisiana State Law Institute celebrates 70th Anniversary

The Law Institute was created by Acts of the Louisiana Legislature, with the purpose of “promoting and encouraging the clarification and simplification of the law of Louisiana and its adaptation to present social needs; securing the better administration of justice; and, carrying on scholarly legal research and scientific legal work,” according to the original acts from 1938.

LSU Law Chancelor Jack Weiss, who also serves as secretary of the Law Institute, addressed the membership on the occasion of its anniversary. “We at LSU have always had a particularly strong bond with the Law Institute. The original idea for the creation of the Institute came from members of our faculty,” said Weiss as he reflected on the contributions of the Institute to the Law Center and state.

“On April 7, 1938, at the dedication of the “new” Law School building at LSU, the president of LSU announced, “that the Board of Supervisors has approved the establishment, in connection with the [LSU Law] School, of a research organization to be known as the Louisiana State Law Institute,” said the chancellor. “I am sure I don’t need to remind you of the staggering list of the Institute’s accomplishments: revisions of virtually every significant section of the Civil Code; drafting and subsequent revisions of the Criminal Code; drafting and revision of the Code of Civil Procedure, the Trust Code, the Mineral Code, the Code of Evidence—even, Bill Crawford reminds me, thoughtful work on the Disposition of Pornographic Evidence.” Crawford, the James J. Bailey Professor of Law and 1955 graduate from the LSU Law Center, has served as director of the Institute since 1978.

According to archival materials, the first annual meeting of the Institute was held at the law building on March 16, 1940, almost exactly 68 years to date from the March 14 anniversary celebration. Dean Paul M. Hebert, then acting president of the University, welcomed the participants to that first date from the March 14 anniversary celebration. Dean Paul M. Hebert, then acting president of the University, welcomed the participants to that first annual meeting, recalled the chancellor. “That first meeting set the tone for many years to come. An annual meeting program included a veritable panoply of activities: a regular meeting of the Institute on the evening of March 16, almost exactly 68 years later, a dinner on March 14. The first meeting set the tone for many years to come. An annual meeting program included a veritable panoply of activities: a regular meeting of the Institute on the evening of March 16, almost exactly 68 years later, a dinner on March 14, a banquet honoring the institute’s first president, Max Nathan, past president, and the first chancellor, Cordell Haymon, president of the Louisiana Law Institute.

The Louisiana Lawyers and Law Teachers of Louisiana’s law faculties: luminaries like Monte M. Lemann, John H. Tucker, Jr., Ben C. Dawkins; Charles E. Dunbar; Ben B. Taylor, Sr., R.E. Milling, Jr., Pike Hall, Sammet D. Marks, … the list goes on,” said the chancellor.

In his remarks, “Reflections on the Profession: Dark Clouds and Silver Linings,” Weiss encouraged audience members to contemplate their personal and professional responsibilities to the young people now entering the legal profession. He described, “a deeply troubling model” in place in many national law firms, where few are named partners; inordinately heavy workloads and billable hour expectations are commonplace; and young lawyers have little contact with live clients. All of which leaves little time for life outside work and high attrition. “But the single most commonly-cited factor leading to associate attrition in the last 10 years is a failure on the part of partners and senior lawyers to effectively train and manage associates.” To contrast what he fears is a far too common model, Weiss reflected on his early mentorship by Louisiana Law Institute colleague Judge John Minor Wisdom. Wisdom, who served on the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, would later receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom for his work as a jurist and civil rights icon. “He went out of his way to help others climb the ladder of professional success. Weiss described an apprenticeship model—which he thankfully says has prevailed in many Louisiana firms. It might be described as a “beneficent law firm, the kind of firm in which we would like our children to practice,” according to the chancellor. He outlined his suggestions for an “Announcer’s Bill of Rights …”

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF LAW

The Committee on Faculty Scholarship has invited five professors from top law schools throughout the country to begin the series. “All five have accepted, and we’re very excited about their visits,” commented Vice Chancellor Chris Pietruszkiewicz, a member of the committee. The committee, which includes Professors Andrea Carroll and Ron Scalise, hopes to have presentations on a monthly basis.

Pietruszkiewicz thinks that the program is unique because younger members of the profession are invited to share their work. “We think it will benefit them, in addition to providing us with an opportunity to approach and converse in particular legal fields.” Professors participating in the workshop series and their areas of expertise are:

- Richard Myers, University of North Carolina; Evidence and Criminal Law
- Montre’ Carodine – University of Alabama; graduate of Louisiana Tech University with a J.D from Tulane; Evidence, Race, Racism and the Law, Civil Procedure, and International Litigation
- Omari Simmons – Wake Forest University; Corporate Governance and International Law
- George Geis – University of Alabama (visiting at the University of Virginia); Agency and Partnership, Business Planning, Contracts, Mergers and Acquisitions
- Robert Chesney – Wake Forest University (visiting at the University of Texas); one of the country’s top emerging scholars in the area of national security law and topics relating to terrorism.

Law Center faculty will also post scholarly works to the Social Science Research Network (SSRN), an elibrary of over 190,000 documents that has a growing reputation as a primary source for legal scholarship.
Dorothy in LSU Law graduates. “But remember that, like Governor Bobby Jindal said in his address to 2008 GRADUATES, ‘THERE’S NO PLACE LIKE HOME’

Weiss, while Jerry E. Shea, Jr., chairman of the LSU Board of Supervisors, assisted in the confer-

mances held May 22, 2008 in the Pete Maravich Assembly Center. “Your dreams will take you anywhere,” he said, “but I ask you to give Louisiana a chance . . . You can dream big right here in Louisiana.”

“Dream big. Go where your dreams take you,” Governor Bobby Jindal said in his address to 2008 LSU Law graduates. “But remember that, like Dorothy in The Wizard of Oz, you’ll find there’s no place like home.” The governor delivered the commenscence at LSU Law Center ceremonies held May 22, 2008 in the Pete Maravich Assembly Center. “Your dreams will take you everywhere,” he said, “but I ask you to give Louisiana a chance . . . You can dream big right here in Louisiana.”

After congratulating the graduates on their accomplishments and thanking family members for their support, Jindal shared his vision and thoughts with the graduates. “The fear of failure is even worse than failure itself,” said the first-term governor. “You will not always succeed, but you will never succeed if you’re not willing to fail.” Jindal noted that we should embrace failure, reminding graduates and the audi-

ence that the heroes we admire struck out more times than they hit home runs, went bankrupt before finding success in businesses, and lost their first elections, but kept going until they achieved their goals and dreams.

He then spoke of the importance of pursuing your life’s passions. The governor encouraged gradu-

ates to find work and relationships that they enjoy, and not to simply do what they think is expected of them. “Sometimes you’re so afraid of failure, that you won’t take the chance you need to succeed. You don’t know until you try. I am telling you to believe in yourself, find something you love, work hard, and take a chance—there is no limit to what you can accomplish.”

He also spoke of loyalty, noting that, “everyone is your friend when you win, but the truly valued people are those who stand by you in the tough times as well.” “I think you’re going to do incredible things because the LSU Law Center has given you the tools to succeed. Whatever you accomplish, I hope you will keep a spirit of humility about you.” It’s needed, he said, as he humorously recalled the dis-

appointment of his three-year-old son when he realized his Dad didn’t have a “cool job” like being a fireman or policeman.

“We continue to focus on reforms to create a new Louisiana that is the best place in the world to get a high-paying job and to raise a family, and I am excited to share our reform agenda with today’s graduates and our state,” said Jindal.

NEW TRADITIONS HIGHLIGHT 2008 LSU LAW COMMENCEMENT

The Law Center awarded degrees to 190 stu-

dents at the commencement exercises. One hundred eighty-three students received the Juris Doctor (J.D.) and Bachelor in Civil Law (B.C.L.). Seven students—representing five countries, including France, Argentina, Canada and China—received the Master of Laws (LL.M.). The ceremo-
nies were presided over by Chancellor Jack Weiss, while Jerry E. Shea, Jr., chairman of the LSU Board of Supervisors, assisted in the conferring of degrees. John N. Gallaway spoke on behalf of the LSU Law Class of 1958, which celebrated its 50th reunion following commencement.

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http://www.law.lsu.edu

The ceremony also marked the first time that students were recognized for pro bono service. Those students who performed at least 50 hours of pro bono service received special recognition in the commencement program and wore special recogni-
tion cords. Fifteen students received the pro bono recognition.
OBERT E. LANCASTER is not afraid of a challenge. Right out of law school, Lancaster went to work representing death penalty clients at the public defender’s office in Indiana. “I was excited by the challenge and importance of the work,” Lancaster recalls. Lancaster worked on numerous cases, but one of his proudest moments came when a petition for certiorari filed for one of his clients, Coleman v. State, was granted by the United States Supreme Court, and the case was ultimately reversed and remanded to the Indiana Supreme Court. “However, it was not the type of work one could measure success based on court outcomes. It was hard work and work that taught perseverance.”

Lancaster is optimistic about the future of the new LSU Law Center Clinical Legal Education Program he was hired this year to lead. “What attracts me to LSU is that it offers tremendous opportunities for the development of a clinical program,” he explains, obviously excited about the next five years. “We can build a program supported by the LSU Law Center with the benefit of other law schools’ mistakes and successes in designing their clinical programs—using what has worked well in other institutions and taking the best practices from successful programs.”

But Lancaster, hired from a pool of nearly 40 candidates for the position of the clinical program’s inaugural Director and Professor of Professional Practice, is quick to credit the LSU faculty’s Clinical Legal Education Committee, chaired by Professor Lucy McGough, for its preparatory work in laying the foundation for the expanded clinical program.

Convened in August of 2007 to determine how LSU would proceed in structuring its clinical program, the committee included McGough, Chancellor Jack Weiss, Vice Chancellor Cherry Joseph, former Vice Chancellor for Business Affairs Glenn Morris, and Professors John Devlin, John Church, and Greg Smith. “The faculty committee did a tremendous amount of work, consulting nationally known experts in live-client clinical programs,” Lancaster volunteers. “They put together an impressive three-year master plan that has us starting with adjunct professors and expanding in-house by 2009. By the third year, the vision is to have enough experiential offerings to include half of all the law students at LSU.”

“That’s an ambitious and impressive plan,” Lancaster says, “and one that will benefit the students at LSU, giving them the opportunity to gain practical experience under the supervision of faculty and experienced practitioners in the legal community.”

Lancaster brings a wealth of clinical experience to his post. He views the mission of clinics foremost as that of educating law students in the fundamentals of both transactional and litigation practice; providing needed legal services to those in the community who could not otherwise afford legal assistance; and promoting social justice.

Lancaster was a clinical student his last year at Tulane Law School, and during his summers in law school, Lancaster volunteered as an intern at the Mississippi Capital Defense Resource Center and the Southern Center for Human Rights in Atlanta, Georgia. When he finished at Tulane, he went to work in Indiana’s public defender’s office because, he says, it offered immediate experience representing clients.

“I could give you a crime scene tour of Gary, Indiana,” he adds wryly, telling of his varied cases there, both directly representing inmates on Indiana’s death row and acting as appointed counsel for death row inmates in federal habeas corpus proceedings.

In 1997, Lancaster was selected to receive the Robert M. Cover Clinical Teaching Fellowship at Yale Law School, where he taught in as many clinical courses as he could, including a Housing and
Community Development Clinic, an Immigration Clinic, a Disabilities Clinic, and a Landlord/Tenant Clinic.

“In the Advocacy for People with Disabilities Clinic, we represented children in a juvenile detention facility in Connecticut, and advocated for individualized education plans for the kids before they left detention,” Lancaster says. “We found that many times those juveniles’ problems could be traced back to local school systems not providing them with individualized plans to meet their learning and behavioral needs.”

Lancaster and his Yale students also worked on prison litigation helping to require access to recreation, medical care, and basic accommodations for inmates using wheelchairs.

In the Yale clinic facilities, which occupied a three-floor wing of the Sterling Law building in New Haven, Lancaster tells how the Immigration Legal Services Clinic worked with asylum seekers from all over the world. Lancaster recalls the case of one Mauritanian national who witnessed the assassination of most of his family members before he escaped to the United States. “It was one of the most powerful client stories I have ever heard, and a story that had a tremendous impact on the students working on his behalf.”

In 2000, Lancaster was hired by American University in Washington, D.C., to teach a year-long course in human rights law, and in 2001, he began teaching on the faculty of Indiana University. Lancaster also has extensive experience teaching trial skills to prosecutors and law students in China. He was the U.S. Faculty Director of the China Trial Advocacy Institute in Beijing, China, prior to coming to LSU.

Combining his experience with the advice and input of the faculty committee, Lancaster lays out the three component parts of the LSU clinical program: Juvenile Representation, Family Mediation, and Domestic Violence.

Juvenile Representation Workshop

This workshop includes 12 students and is a continuation of the juvenile representation workshop that has been in place for four years. Under the leadership of clinical adjunct professor Stephen Dixon, LSU Law Center alumni and public defenders for juvenile court in East Baton Rouge Parish, these students handle live cases in the local juvenile courts.

Domestic Violence Clinic

Under the leadership of Director of Legal Services Ayn Stehr, eight students are working with victims of dating, spousal, and domestic abuse who are under protective orders. Students meet regularly in class sessions to learn the fundamentals of Louisiana family law, and are supervised while interviewing clients, negotiating protective orders, and appearing in court.

“We hope to expand this clinic into a general family law clinic offering. The legal needs of victims of domestic violence often go far beyond a protective order,” Lancaster explains. “Those needs often extend to representation for dissolution of the marriage, custody issues, property issues, housing issues, and assisting victims in gaining the economic means to escape domestic violence—all of that is important work and a great training ground for students.”

Family Mediation Clinic

This clinic includes eight students, under the leadership of Professor Lucy McGough and clinical adjunct professor Scott Gaspard, certified by the American Academy of Family Mediation. These students meet to learn the fundamentals of property dynamics and mediation strategies through lecture and simulation exercises. Together with those classes, each student has the opportunity to co-mediate—under the leadership of volunteers from among board-certified family law mediators such as the Veterans of the Bar Association—at least two custody disputes pending trial with representation by the Capital Area Legal Services Program.

Lancaster says, “We’re lucky to have extremely talented lawyers like Ayn, Stephen, and Scott assisting in our program. The participation of dedicated, effective members of the bar is crucial to our success.”

Currently, these three clinics are offering nearly 30 students the opportunity to take clinical courses. The plans call for at least 52 students to be enrolled in Spring 2009 when new clinics will be available. By Fall 2009, Lancaster expects at least 62 students to be enrolled in these hybrid clinics/externships, with at least 80 slots expected to be available by Spring 2010.

“We are not only teaching students substantive law, or transactional and litigation skills,” Lancaster explains. “Right alongside those important skills, we are teaching these students how to learn from experience—and that is a skill,” he insists. “Giving students a practice experience while they’re in law school is especially important because it’s a structured environment where we’re showing them exactly what it takes to learn through experience.”

And the real world “feels” of this new, growing clinical program does not stop there.

Housed in renovated space on the first floor of the Law Center’s 1936 building, the clinical program will have the look and feel of a small law firm within in the Law Center. “Everything is geared around student learning and the real-world clients they represent,” Lancaster says, as he sketches out what this new “law firm” will look like. “The architect’s sketch calls for this firm to include offices for faculty, work rooms, conference rooms that will accommodate small-group classes, and a reception area.”

Externships

Besides continuing the current externships already offered at the Law Center, Lancaster hopes to increase the number of externship programs offered through the state. Professor Todd Bruno, the former faculty/externship coordinator of the LSU Law Mort Court Program, will oversee the externship portion of the clinical program in his new position as Acting Associate Director of the Clinical Legal Education Externship Program.

Further, Lancaster wants to increase the availability for a student with a specific learning goal or career direction to consult with him about designing a specific placement opportunity.

“One very important goal of the clinical and externship program,” Lancaster points out, “is that it is available to all students. Some students find their niche in practice. It’s important that this program offers that opportunity to all students.”

It is a journey in which Lancaster sees himself as a facilitator and an implementer—helping to build what has been the dream of so many Louisiana lawyers who are anxious to provide the very best in training for the young lawyers who will soon be their colleagues.
Civilian Law is forever linked with the history and future of the LSU Law Center. It is true that the Law Center has always been the flagship law school of a state whose French and Spanish heritage has woven inseparably into Louisiana’s legal fabric, the texture of the civil law, with its codes and sets of rules from which jurisprudence then springs.

But it is also true that the new civilians are stepping into the prestigious and vital roles that have traditionally been filled by the familiar “lions” of the LSU Law Center. The names are the likes of Joseph Daunow, Saul Liretttoff, and Thanassi Yiannopoulos—legendary professors the mention of whose names at once strikes fear and admiration in the hearts of 1Ls from the 1960s through today.

“To the extent that things are changing, I believe that the younger civilian faculty share a very broad vision for what the civil law it today,” said Andrea Beauchamp Carroll who joined the LSU faculty in 2003, and teaches a Louisiana-focused Marital Regimes (Community Property) course. “Beyond maintaining the focus on improving the quality of Louisiana civil law, we are also committed to devoting more time to writing about and teaching broader civil and comparative topics.”

Andi Carroll is a 2000 graduate of the LSU Law Center, where she was a member of The Order of the Coif and the LSU Law Review, before clerking for the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, and working as an associate at the law firm of Baker Botts in Dallas, Texas.

In 2008, Carroll introduced a new seminar in Community Property that surveys not only the other eight community property regimes in the United States, but also European community property regimes.

Scalise says members of the Common Core project are extremely interested in Louisiana’s contributions to the development of modern civil law. Scalise’s contacts made in Europe, when coupled with the international faculty members already serving on the LSU Law Center faculty such as French-born Olivier Moretus (Director of the Center of Civil Law Studies) and Alain Levesque (Director of European Studies), complement the LSU Law Center’s Global Visitor’s Program. This program continues to bring in visiting faculty from around the world to teach LSU Law students a broader, more comparative perspective.

Melissa T. Lonegrass is one of the newest additions to the LSU Law Center’s civilian faculty. Graduating first in her Tulane University Law School class, Missy Lonegrass—along with Ron Scalise, Andi Carroll, and Vice Chancellor Chris Pietruszkiewicz—is part of the revival of the “Works-in-Progress Speaker Series” a workshop series where the LSU Law Center invites junior scholars from other law schools to come and present scholarly “works-in-progress,” encouraging feedback on their work from the LSU faculty. This, in turn, spurs new ideas and more research and publishing from the LSU faculty as well.

“I believe strongly in teaching students to appreciate different legal traditions,” Lonegrass urges. “I think the comparative view helps students to think more critically about the law in their own jurisdiction, and spurs them to become engaged in both the development and the reform of the law.”

Lonegrass is teaching Legal Traditions, Successions, Persons & Family, Obligations, Security Devices, and Sales & Lease.
As competition heats up for students, getting the right mix for the incoming class is certainly a challenge, and that makes the recent success in LSU’s numbers all the more remarkable.

As one would expect, spring is a time of great anxiety for applicants and admissions’ staff alike. Law schools increasingly compete for the best and brightest to enroll as first-year students. Faculty committees and admissions directors have the difficult job—and the honor—of determining which students will have the greatest likelihood of success at their respective institutions and best fit the school environment. The process also means fitting together a class with the best academic credentials possible to keep rankings high and climbing.

Today’s entering classes at the LSU Law Center are a testament to a dramatic change in the admissions process over the years. LSU Law no longer admits excessively large first-year classes, a practice that was common for many years. The total size of the student body is now 576 students, with 201 first-year candidates enrolled this fall. Students are now “pre-qualified” through the new admissions process—one that is far more selective than in earlier years. A nearly open enrollment in the past has turned into a highly selective admissions program.

As competition heats up for students, getting the right mix for the incoming class is certainly a challenge, and that makes the recent success in LSU’s numbers all the more remarkable. Since 2004, the 25th percentile on LSAT scores has increased from 151 to 153; the median from 154 to 157; and the 75th percentile from 158 to 159. At the same time, GPAs of incoming students held steady, with median GPA in 2007 at 3.38 and 75th percentile at 3.7. Eden says that of the 2007 entering class, 12 students had 4.0 GPAs; seven had 3.9; GPA; 18 were summa cum laude; 24 were magna cum laude; and 15 were cum laude graduates. Not bad.

“The biggest recruiting tool we have to go after these fantastic students is scholarship money,” said Eden. “But, putting a face on those numbers is even more exciting. Each year, we have interesting groups: paramedics, teachers, football players, nationally recognized dancers, AmeriCorps members, Peace Corps members, legislative and congressional interns, and students who speak multiple languages. LSU Law students are an incredibly talented group,” said Eden.

The competition for students has never been tougher. It has led the Law Center to create a much stronger outreach program to encourage applicants to consider the state’s premier public law school. “We’ve tried to sell that recruiting is as robust as it could be. On the front end, when we go to campuses, we go to the right places. We’ve been utilizing faculty, current students, and alumni in ways that are helping. These three groups are incredibly important in putting a face on the institution.”

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The biggest recruiting tool we have to go after these fantastic students is scholarship money. We’ve done a good job in recent years of using the available funds to land students.” Eden notes that law schools nationally and regionally are getting more sophisticated in deploying their dollars and that students now have manifold opportunities presented to them. “Other law schools are aggressively recruiting these same students. We have to put money on the table to land them. Scholarships are only one piece of the puzzle, but if they’re not in place, we don’t have the opportunity to make it [LSU Law] an option.” Over the last three to five years, the Law Center’s Scholarship Committee has increased the level of scholarship assistance in order to attract top-notch students. Chancellor Jack Weiss has proposed a new scholarship initiative that the administration feels...
will pay big dividends. The Louisiana Distinguished Public Service Scholars program is being designed to attract students with credentials at the 75th percentile, or a targeted LSAT score at or above 161. “This will be a new, highly selective scholarship program for the most qualified Louisiana resident students,” said Weiss in his memorandum to the LSU Board of Supervisors in March 2008. The student recipients will also need to demonstrate or have potential for, distinguished public service. Law Center officials plan to have scholars participate in challenging public service related internships and externships as second- and third-year students. The group will also meet regularly with the chancellor, faculty members, national, state, and local leaders, and their peers in a round-table format. “We hope that the exposure to public service during law school will encourage the state’s best and brightest to attend LSU Law and remain in Louisiana as future leaders,” said Weiss.

Eden’s work over the past four years has produced a wonderfully talented and increasing diverse student body at the Law Center. Unfortunately, the 2008-09 first-year class is the last to be admitted under his leadership. He announced in November that he will leave the Law Center in January 2009 to become director of admissions at the University of Arizona Law School where his wife, Susanna, is employed. “Arizona is the only law school that could ever lure me away from LSU. It’s been a real pleasure to live and work with the wonderful people at LSU.”

THE COMPETITIVE WORLD OF LAW SCHOOL ADMISSIONS
Barrister to Bard
LAW PROFESSOR’S PLAY CONTINUES TO EDUCATE

TO SUM UP PAUL BAIER, George M. Armstrong, Jr. Professor of Law, in 500 words

Inside his office, which Baier describes as more of a museum, are keepsakes and dusty tomes from a career that goes back four decades. Two things any visitor will invariably be shown stem from his labors of love: “Father Chief Justice” E.D. White and the Constitution—a play about former Supreme Court Chief Justice Edward Douglas White, Jr. and his relationship with fellow Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr. It is this five-act play for which Baier is best known. The work has earned him praise from many, including former Justices William J. Brennan, Jr. and Sandra Day O’Connor.

“An account of the play was published in the Supreme Court’s newsletter after the ‘world premiere,’” Baier said. “I happened to be at the Court then. The day before the play was ready, I went into the library to look for some biographies of E.D. White, and there were girls there dressed to the nines. I asked, ‘When are you bringing the play up here?’”

Wastepaper basket, extracted the newsletter, and asked, ‘Playwright are you?’ She took me over to visiting Justice O’Connor and she greeted me, saying, ‘Playwright are you?’ She took me over to visiting Justice O’Connor and she greeted me, saying, ‘Playwright are you?’ She took me over to visiting Justice O’Connor and she greeted me, saying, ‘Playwright are you?’ She took me over to visiting Justice O’Connor and she greeted me, saying, ‘Playwright are you?’ She took me over to visiting Justice O’Connor and she greeted me, saying, ‘Playwright are you?’ She took me over to visiting Justice O’Connor and she greeted me, saying, ‘Playwright are you?’

Baier has written the screenplay for the American Bar Association’s film Supreme Court, the first such work to be shot inside the Supreme Court, in 1976. But this was a completely different animal. Baier is an avid fan of theater dating back to his days in high school in Cincinnati, Ohio. On Saturday evenings he would put on a tuxedo and attend Shakespeare productions at Cincinnati’s Playhouse in the Park with his friends. It also didn’t hurt that there were gals there dressed to the nines.

Years later when former Louisiana Secretary of State Fox McKeithen appointed Baier to the E.D. White Board—which was designed to educate people on the chief justice and his father, the former governor—he decided to depart from the traditional ideas being tossed around and do something that would really attract people to the former chief justice.

He would write a play based on historical accounts about White, the “Confederate Gray of Bayou Lafourche,” and Holmes, the “Union Blue Coat of Boston.” The dialogue would come from White’s correspondence, archival manuscripts, and the opinions of the Court. In addition, notable lawyers and judges with little or no acting experience, but with the necessary backgrounds to play their respective roles, would recite the dialogue.

In this way, Baier was, and still is, seeking to “rescue Thibodaux’s Confederate soldier boy from the obscurity of forgotten memory.”

Baier plays the role of Professor Richard Henry Jessee—a close friend of White’s and the first academic dean of Tulane University. As Jesse, he narrates the play and interjects with the characters onstage.

Eleven years later and the play—only the second to be written about the Court—continues to be performed here and there, with a recent performance in May 2008 at the Louisiana Supreme Court, whose front steps were the setting of the prologue. Performing the play at the historic venue was “a dream come true,” said Baier.

“You have struck a noble blow for White, C. J., not unlike that struck by Emmet Lavery for White’s buddy, Wendell Holmes,” wrote John S. Monagan, author of The Grand Panjandrum: The Mellow Years of Justice Holmes, of Baier’s play.

“It is also one which has been long wanting and in bringing a forth you have done a service for American legal history, for the Court, and for Louisiana.”

W I T H I N T H E C O L U M N S

It is important to note that this play—which made its world premiere on March 8, 1997, at the Theater of the Jean Lafitte National Historic Park in Thibodaux, Louisiana, the birthplace of White—was Baier’s first attempt at writing a play. He had written the screenplay for the American White was taken prisoner at Port Hudson. After the war, White would have a change of heart in regards to the leadership of his country, and this is reflected in his conversation with Holmes and former Justice Louis D. Brandeis in Act III of the play, “At Home.”

“I can recollect the day when to me Old Glory was but the emblem of darkness, of misery, of suffering, of despair and despotism,” White tells Holmes. “But ah! In the clarified vision in which it is now given me to see it, although the stars and bars have faded away forever, the fundamental aspirations which they symbolized find their imperishable existence in the stars and stripes!”

Blue and Gray, Holmes and White

Before White and Holmes were colleagues in the Supreme Court, they were enemies on the battlefield during the Civil War. Holmes fought for the Union and White for the Confederacy. Holmes was shot in the back of the neck at Antietam and White was taken prisoner at Port Hudson. After the war, White would have a change of heart in regards to the leadership of his country, and this is reflected in his conversation with Holmes and former Justice Louis D. Brandeis in Act III of the play, “At Home.”

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After becoming justices on the Supreme Court, the two, though they disagreed at times on court rulings and philosophies, would exchange roses each year on September 17—the anniversary of the Battle of Antietam and Constitution Day.

“The rose is a symbol of reunion, brotherhood and the blood shed in the Civil War,” said Baier, who positions a single long-stemmed red rose on a cypress pedestal, center rear, as the signature symbol of the play and a remembrance of loved ones.

Epilogue

The rose is just one of the visuals used throughout the play to help immerse the audience in the world of White and Holmes. Baier also uses National Archives film and audio recordings, allowing his protagonists to be seen and heard “live and in person” at times during the play. The archival materials come from different sources, some of which Baier stumbled across by accident. Others have been under his nose, so to speak, at LSU’s own Hill Memorial Library.

“Each semester I walk with my seminar students to Hill Memorial Library,” Baier said. “We request a manuscript file, I forget which. It holds a small scrap of paper, a hand-penciled note to the Supreme Court’s Reporter of Decisions apropos some little correction of page proof. I forget what it is. It signs, Yours E.D. White. We realize with Holmes: ‘He lived.’

And through Baier’s play, he will continue to do so.

Professor James D. Hardy, Jr. leads a discussion with students during an honors class as Professor Paul Baier looks on in the Tucker Room of the LSU Law Center.

Nancy Clark, dean of the Honors College. “They attend special events at the Law Center such as meeting with guest speakers and participating in Mock Court competitions.”

“Our students become highly motivated about the possibilities of a career in the law and especially interested in the Law Center. This is an example of the type of cross campus cooperation that can create wonderful opportunities for LSU students.”

Beginning in their first semester, students in the LEAP program attend information sessions hosted by Law Center professors and alumni who discuss both the law school experience and possible careers in the law. During the spring semester of their sophomore year, those who have participated in the LEAP program during their first two years in the Honors College, as well as other interested sophomores, are invited to apply for admission into the upper division of the program.

In their junior and senior years, students in the LEAP program attend information sessions hosted by Law Center professors and alumni who discuss both the law school experience and possible careers in the law. During the spring semester of their sophomore year, those who have participated in the LEAP program during their first two years in the Honors College, as well as other interested sophomores, are invited to apply for admission into the upper division of the program. In their junior and senior years, students in the program take Honors College classes designed for them and taught by LSU Law faculty. These students accepted into the upper division LEAP program are then granted conditional early admission to the Law Center, provided they meet the requirements.

Interested students can sign up for the LEAP program online by visiting www.honors.lsu.edu/LEAPhtml.

New Faculty Members Join Ranks

FOUR NEW, DISTINGUISHED FACULTY MEMBERS JOINED THE LSU LAW CENTER IN FALL 2008.

ROBERT E. LANCASTER

Robert E. Lancaster, who previously served as Clinical Professor of Law at Indiana University School of Law, has been named director of LSU Law’s Clinical Legal Education Program and Professor of Professional Practice.

Lancaster received his bachelor’s degree at Millsaps College in 1989 and his J.D. at Tulane Law School in 1993.

He was named a Robert M. Cover Clinical Teaching Fellow from 1997-2000 at Yale Law School. Lancaster was also the Washington College of Law’s American University Practitioner-in-Residence from 2000-01.

Lancaster has extensive experience in clinical programs, having taught the Judicial Externship Program for Federal District Courts, the Indiana Supreme Court Externship, Indiana Court of Appeals Externship, and the Superior Court Externship while at Indiana. He directed and co-directed the Indiana University Judicial Externship Program from 2002-06 and served as director of the Chinese Law Summer Program and faculty director of the China Trial Advocacy Institute in Beijing. He has also taught Civil Practice Clinic and Advanced Clinical Experience. Lancaster previously served as Associate Professor at Indiana from 2001-07. He was recognized as a Dean’s Fellow for 2004-05 and awarded the Trustees’ Teaching Award in 2006.

Lancaster serves on the Board of Governors for the Society of American Law Teachers (SALT) and is Chair of the Public Interest and Social Justice Retractees Committee and a member of the LGBT Issues in the Academy Committee.

MELISSA T. LONEGRASS

Melissa T. Lonegrass joins the Law Center faculty as an assistant professor of law. Lonegrass received her bachelor’s degree from Millsaps in 2001 and her J.D. from Tulane University Law School in 2005, finishing first in her class. She also held a board position on Tulane’s Law Review.

She previously worked for Irwin, Frischke, Urschakt, & Moore L.L.C. in New Orleans, and was engaged in general civil litigation, with a concentration on products liability and pharmaceutical and medical device litigation.

Her teaching and research interests include Louisiana Obligations, Property, Security Rights, Successions and Donations, Maritornal Regimes, Family Law, Civil Procedure, and Comparative Law. Her teaching assignments include Successions, Legal Traditions, and Sales.

CHRISTINA M. SAUTTER

Christina M. Sautter also joins the faculty as an assistant professor of law. Sautter received her bachelor’s degree from Florida State University in 1999, graduating summa cum laude. She also graduated summa cum laude—in the top 3 percent of her class—from Villanova University School of Law in 2002. Sautter was also named to membership in The Order of the Coif. She served as managing editor of the Villanova Law Review.

Before coming to LSU, she served as a law clerk for the Hon. H. Emory Widener, Jr. of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. After her clerkship, Sautter joined the New York City offices of Shearman & Sterling L.L.P. where she practiced for three years in the Mergers & Acquisitions Group.

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Professor Robert E. Lancaster

Professor Melissa Lonegrass

www.law.lsu.edu

LSU LAW 27
Raymond T. Diamond rounds out the incoming class of faculty members. Diamond comes to LSU Law from Tulane University as a visiting professor for Fall 2008. He is no stranger to LSU Law, however, having served as an associate law professor from 1984-90. Diamond received his bachelor’s degree from Yale College in 1973 and his J.D. from Yale Law School in 1977. He has been a member of the Tulane Law faculty since 1990.

He has held numerous leadership positions on faculty committees, including University Senate, Academic Affairs, and the Tulane Law School Library. Diamond has served as an antitrust attorney with the Federal Trade Commission and legislative counsel to U.S. Rep. Robert Livingston. He was also co-author of Brown v. Board of Education: Cause, Culture, and the Constitution—a book that earned him the 2003 David J. Langum, Sr. Prize by the Langum Knight Freedom Fund Award for work on the Second Amendment and right to bear arms. He was previously engaged in private practice at a New Orleans law firm from 1981-84. Diamond’s teaching areas include Criminal Law, Antitrust, Seminar in Legal History and Law Relations, Administrative Law, and Constitutional Law.

Raymond Diamond –
No Stranger to LSU Law

MORRIS REFLECTS ON 11 YEARS AS VICE CHANCELLOR

For a man who once held an exciting title such as ‘Vice Chancellor of Business/Financial Affairs’ after his name, Glenn Morris is surprisingly low-key. Aside from a laugh that reverberates around the room, he somehow manages to quietly slip through the corridors of the building.

Yet, one look at his track record over the last 11 years as vice chancellor and his achievements are unmistakable. His largest accomplishment—quite literally, in fact—was coordinating the renovation of the Law Center’s 1936 and 1969 buildings. The construction restored the 1936 building’s classic exterior, expanded student activities space, and created a legal writing program suite, new faculty offices, offices for visiting scholars, and a relocated Louisiana Law Institute and Law Review.

The renovations also included adding electrical outlets and Ethernet at every seat in every classroom. In hindsight, Morris joked, his colleagues were probably not happy about the latter since it meant students could surf the Internet to pass the time during lectures.

Another high-water mark for Morris was his work in managing a potential budget deficit in his first year as vice chancellor and completely turning it around with the leadership of former Law Center Chancellor John Costonis.

“Police called the office is,” Pietruszkiewicz joked. “Vice Chancellor Chris Pietruszkiewicz kept talking me into staying.”

Morris has gone back to his longtime love of teaching, which is how he began his career at LSU in 1983, after earning his J.D. from the University of Florida in 1980. While doing mergers and acquisitions work for the law firm now known as Smith, Hulsey & Buey in Jacksonville, Florida, he decided that he would like to try his hand at teaching. The combined common law/civil law system of Louisiana was intriguing to Morris and he traveled to Chicago for the Association of American Law Schools “meat-market.” There, candidates for teaching positions across the country were interviewed and Morris was hired to work at LSU.

“I remember about my first year) how young I was. I was 28 at the time,” Morris said. “I was younger than some of the students I was teaching. I went down to check the contracts board … and a student walked up to help me.

“Everything I expected came true. It completely energized me. I hope the students thought I was a good teacher.”

Morris teaches Contracts and Business Associations I and II, as well as Corporate Finance. He won’t be far removed from his old position, however, as incoming vice chancellor Chris Pietruszkiewicz plans on picking Morris’ brain from time to time.

“I suspect that he’ll hope that I forget where his office is,” Pietruszkiewicz joked. “Vice Chancellor Morris has been so effective for the last 11 years. It’s kind of like being the guy who follows Bear Bryant (at Alabama). You’d rather be the guy following the guy.”

There is something different about Chris Pietruszkiewicz. It’s not his new position as vice chancellor of business and financial affairs, so much as just his overall self. He’s from Scranton, Pennsylvania, but has never seen an episode of the wildly popular sitcom “The Office,” which is set in the very same city.

Pietruszkiewicz once spent 15 minutes during a concession call to opposing counsel arguing why the government was wrong, and he was representing the government as a trial attorney for the U.S. Department of Justice.

To top it off, there is that last name, which in case you’re wondering, is a chore. Don’t think he doesn’t know that, hence his alias of “Chris Petro.” He is the triple-word score of LSU Law Center professors. In Little League, he was the kid whose name arched from one sleeve to another across the back of his jersey.

Still, no one said different had to be a bad thing.
I think my role is really to work with the faculty and the chancellor to accomplish all of the things that we want to accomplish.

Chris Pietruszkiewicz

Pietruszkiewicz, the J.Y. Sanders Professor of Law, brings an impressive resume to his new position as V.C. – a position vacated by Glenn Morris after 11 years of service. Morris stepped down from the position of vice chancellor in the summer of 2008 to resume his full-time teaching career.

“I think my role (as V.C.) is really to work with the faculty and the chancellor (Jack M. Weiss) to accomplish all of the things that we want to accomplish,” Pietruszkiewicz said. “We have to look at what we have done and access our long-range planning goals over the next year and a half.”

Pietruszkiewicz earned his J.D. from Loyola University in New Orleans and his LL.M. from Georgetown Law Center. After law school, he served as attorney/advisor to the U.S. Department of Education’s chief administrative law judge and was instrumental in the design and implementation of the first agency-wide Informal Dispute Resolution Centers.

He then moved to the Department of Justice, where he said he truly enjoyed the responsibility of liaising on behalf of the United States.

“The Department of Justice was wonderful. I still stay in touch with my former colleagues there and look forward to seeing them every time I get back to Washington,” Pietruszkiewicz said. “It was rewarding to be able to try and reach the right answer (while working there).” If the IRS were wrong, we would try to fix it. I recognized that I was representing not only the government, but all taxpayers.”

At the same time, he was teaching a course on corporate taxation at the George Mason School of Law as an adjunct faculty member. Pietruszkiewicz became interested in becoming a full-time faculty member and was soon recruited by LSU Law Professor Lucy McGough and former faculty member John White through the Association of American Law Schools registry. He officially joined the LSU Law faculty in 2001.

Pietruszkiewicz said he enjoys his home of the last seven years in Louisiana, yet it’s hard to imagine anyone being as loyal as his neighbors back in Pennsylvania.

“I remember when I got my security clearance (while working for the government),” and the FBI walked around my neighborhood in Scranton,” Pietruszkiewicz said. “I went home a few months later and and my neighbor, 85 years old at the time, runs up and says ‘the FBI was here.’ Then she says don’t worry, I didn’t say anything.”

From “80-KATIE” TO “58-SPAHT,” PROFESSOR ENDS LONG CAREER AT LSU LAW CENTER

It was onstage during the LSU Law Center’s Spring 2008 Commencement that reality set in for Katherine Spaht. For 39 of the last 40 years, she spent her life at the Law Center, either as a student or professor, and the end was fast approaching. Like a wave, the gravity of the moment hit her during a part of Gov. Bobby Jindal’s keynote speech about graduates coming home to Louisiana.

“I found myself tearing up … I thought okay, this is really it,” said Spaht, who admires she would be open to coming back to the Law Center after a year on a part-time basis should there be a need for her.

“I haven’t had time to think about (retirement) really. You know, what’s this going to mean? All these big and ponderable questions.”

While she may be retiring from the Law Center, Spaht will hardly be idle, spending her time traveling and continuing her work with the Louisiana Law Institute to update Book 3 of the Louisiana Civil Code by 2010.

In addition, Spaht continues to work and serve as a consultant on the Covenant Marriage Law, which is in effect in Louisiana—the first state to adopt the law in 1997, thanks in large part to Spaht—Arkansas and Arizona. A number of other states have introduced similar legislation but none have made it legal.

Covenant Marriage

Indirectly, it was one lady—not even a real one actually—that helped begin Spaht’s work with covenant marriage. Had Murphy Brown, a popular character portrayed by Candice Bergen from 1988-1998, not chosen to bear and raise her child alone, then former Vice President Dan Quayle would not have delivered his speech criticizing her for doing so. If that doesn’t happen, then Barbara Dafne Whitehead doesn’t write an article in The Atlantic Monthly saying he was right. And if that doesn’t happen, then perhaps Spaht doesn’t come to the conclusion that the country’s high divorce rates and unwed child bearing are two things having a very negative effect on children.

Not long after, a friend introduced her to a new state legislator named Tony Perkins, now president of the Family Research Council. Perkins asked Spaht to research the problem of divorce and come up with four solutions he could take to the legislature. He chose covenant marriage and in the first regular session of 1997, it passed.

“The day it passed, I was in Atlanta on my way to Ireland … to trace my family roots,” Spaht said. “(In Ireland) the cover of the International Herald Tribune said ‘Christian Right Movement Wins in Louisiana.’ The Covenant Marriage Law helped spawn the National Marriage Movement.”

80 Katie and 58 Spaht

Had her father had his way, Spaht would have gone to an all-girls college for her undergraduate work. With steady resolve, she resisted, requiring two things those types of institutions did not offer—guys and football. She won and enrolled at the University of Mississippi, graduating in 1968 with a bachelor of arts degree.

“(Ole Miss) was not quite the same. Everyone came from small towns and it was just the friendliest campus,” Spaht said. “I had never seen such beautiful girls, all so beautifully dressed. Coming to LSU was like a culture shock.”

When Spaht graduated from LSU Law in 1971, she was one of three women out of the 93 total graduates, and the second woman to finish first in her class since Frances Landry in 1926. When she started work as a professor in August 1972, she became the only second female law professor at the Law Center—who was not a librarian—since Harriet “M. Doggett. For these reasons, Spaht is generally considered to be somewhat of a pioneer at the Law Center.

She, however, is quick to point out that her mother was more of a pioneer, graduating in 1940 and the first and only woman at the time, to work on the Louisiana Law Review.

Still, Spaht was entering rare territory and acknowledged that male students did not expect female professors to be as tough as their male counterparts. Being tough, though, was important for their training Spaht felt, and taught accordingly.

“In 1974, I became a different teacher,” said Spaht. “Until then, I had been known as 80 (B+) Katie. Then I became known as 58 Spaht, which was a low D. Growing up, I wanted to be well-liked. But once I came to a professional school and was working, I wanted to be respected. I always thought it was more important to be respected than well-liked.”

While Spaht students remember—and some probably have bolder recollections of others—she has vivid memories of grading 304 Family Law exam papers. In her first year of teaching that stand out for her, Louisiana District Attorney Doug Moreau and James Carroll, political pundit and former advisor to President Bill Clinton.

As she prepares for the new life of traveling and finishing work started long ago, perhaps Spaht Family Law exams at Christmas in her first year, the worst experience of her life she said. There were also a couple of students in the second semester of her first year of teaching that stand out for her, Louisiana District Attorney Doug Moreau and James Carroll, political pundit and former advisor to President Bill Clinton.

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Come What May ... PROFESSOR WARREN MENGIS RETIRES FROM LSU LAW CENTER

On his final day of work, after nearly 30 years as a full-time professor at the Paul M. Hebert Law Center, Warren Mengis is sitting at his desk munching on a blueberry muffin. No big plans to celebrate the final day, just a couple hours wait until his wife comes by to pick him up. A quiet final day for a man every bit as low-key.

“I was going to go into agriculture when I came back (to LSU) but the line was too long, so I went into commerce law instead.”

When he graduated in 1950 with a bachelor of science from LSU and an LL.B. from the LSU law school, Mengis hoped his father—the president of the state board of health at the time—would give him a job. He did not, so Mengis, not wanting another commission in the Marines, joined the Air Force as a First Lieutenant in the JAG department.

“It was the damnedest thing. I got my commission and was gone,” Mengis said. “Two of my colleagues got their commission and never got called.” He spent two years in the Air Force, part of that time in Korea outside of Pusan, before returning in 1952 and practicing law with Luther Cole for the next 22 years. Cole would go on to become a judge at the district court level, the appellate court level, and finally, the Louisiana Supreme Court.

In 1977, Mengis was appointed an adjunct professor at the Law Center and until August 1982, taught a course in legal protection. For him it was a great arrangement; for his colleagues, not so much.

“I was one of the few practicing lawyers then at LSU and an LL.B. from the LSU law school, Mengis moved around frequently as a child before settling back in Monmee and graduating from Ouachita Parish High School in 1944. He then attempted to enroll at LSU but the line was too long, so I went into commerce law instead.”

“In talking to Mengis, one gets often humble, a quiet final day for a man every bit as low-key. But in his words taken from his annual faculty report, which rarely, if ever, changed, he becomes a sharp and comedic storyteller, leaving you wondering if what you've heard was true or not but surely entertaining.

Published in 1944.

Professor Litvinoff announced his Spring 2008 retirement from the Law Center at a special ceremony held Nov. 14, 2008. Litvinoff will be honored at the annual Chancellor’s Council dinner on March 20, 2009.

HONORING SAÚL LITVINOFF

On April 3, 2008, the LSU Law Center faculty, friends, former colleagues, and distinguished alumni gathered in the Tucker Room to commemorate the publication of a volume of Essays in Honor of Saúl Litvinoff. The essays honor the Boyd Professor of Law and world famous comparativist and civilian. Professor Litvinoff also holds the Oliver P. Stockwell Professorship.

Litvinoff has taught at the Law Center since 1965. He earned his undergraduate degree from the Buenos Aires National College, an L.L.B. S.J.D. and S.C.I.D. from the University of Buenos Aires; and, an L.L.M. from Yale University.

He has taught generations of LSU Law students Obligations, Contracts, Sales, Common Law Methodology, and International Contracts.

Professor-Sylvia S. Benien, Russell Long Chair and Director of the Center of Civil Law Studies, presented the volume—some 860 pages, consisting of 46 contributions by jurists from 12 different nations. The book includes testimonials reflecting how Professor Litvinoff contributed to the development of the law through his legal practice, teaching, written textbooks and treatises, and drafting of legislation.

The book honoring the professor was published by Chaitor’s in Baton Rouge and is also available from the Center of Civil Law Studies at the Law Center. Professor Litvinoff announced his Spring 2009 retirement from the Law Center at a special ceremony held Nov. 14, 2008. Litvinoff will be honored at the annual Chancellor’s Council dinner on March 20, 2009.
LSU Law Center Professor Named to International Continental Law Council

Alain A. Levasseur, the Hermann Moyse Sr. Professor of Law, is the only appointee from the United States. He is also the director of the Law Center’s European Studies Program, the associate director for the Center for Commercial and Business Law, and professor of law and economics. Levasseur, a member of the Scientific Council of the Foundation for Continental Law, was recently appointed as one of 12 foreign members—each one coming from a different civil law jurisdiction—to the Scientific Council of the Foundation pour le droit Continental, or Foundation for Continental Law.

The Council—also made up of 10 French members who include professors, notaries, judges, bankers, and corporate officers—is the “brain” of the Foundation, serving as a breeding ground for future programs, projects, publications and initiatives in the fields of research and education in the domains of law and economics.

When voters passed the three constitutional amendments concerning eminent domain in 2006, they more than likely had no idea of the implications of such an act.

When voters passed the three constitutional amendments concerning eminent domain in 2006, they more than likely had no idea of the implications of such an act. Indeed, not even all legislators can agree on what the amendments actually mean. Nevertheless, those same laws were at the core of a case in which the Louisiana Supreme Court had to decide the outcome of state eminent domain law.

On May 10, 2005, Joseph Burgess, who is now deceased, had a long list of citations in the city’s code enforcement office. Three health violations, 10 citations for high grass, and years of unpaid real estate taxes were among the offenses. Habitat for Humanity wanted to buy the Burgess family’s two vacant lots and put Habitat houses on them. Enter the New Orleans Redevelopment Authority, which filed a court petition in 2005 to take ownership of the property and transfer it to Habitat for Humanity. An attorney for the Burgess family contested the move and argued that it was contrary to the constitutional amendments, primarily the one stating that government had to offer seized property back to the original owner or his/her heirs before trying to sell it on the open market. The end result was that the judge in the case, Judge Madeline Landrieu, ruled in favor of the New Orleans Redevelopment Authority. While an appeal is pending, the final ruling on the case could have a large impact on the state’s constitutional amendments regarding eminent domain and future disputes or issues involving hurricane-blighted property, of which there is still much in New Orleans. Should the city be able to condemn such property and transfer it to a redeveloper, or should the property remain with the former owner or, at most, remain in public ownership if the city seize it? Ultimately, the answer must await a ruling from the Louisiana Supreme Court.

The Court’s interpretation of the constitutional amendments will help mould those undefined amendments, perhaps with results that may surprise their original authors.

For instance, the words—“for” it turns out, carried with it an enormous amount of weight. “For” could refer to the purpose of a taking or to its result,” wrote Costonis. “If ‘for’ means purpose, then a transfer to a private entity is not barred . . . as long as the private benefits associated with the transfer are incidental to its public advantages. But the transfer will violate the public purpose requirement if ‘for’ ignores intervening benefits associated with the transfer, and focuses only on the taking’s result—the property’s ultimate use or ownership by a private entity. And if that seems confusing to you, refer back to the first sentence of this story and imagine yourself a member of the Louisiana Supreme Court.

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In the 2005 case of Keo v. City of New London, the U.S. Supreme Court’s majority decision favored government’s ability to employ its eminent domain power to advance economic development. Justice Sandra Day O’Connor dissented, saying that government may not expropriate property and transfer it to a private entity solely for that purpose. The government could, however, take and transfer property that posed an “affirmative harm,” in order to remove the property’s threat to community health and safety.

When the Louisiana Legislature decided to narrow the parameters of the Louisiana Constitution’s definition of “public purpose” in regard to eminent domain, it looked to O’Connor’s sentiments as a benchmark. In a set of 2006 constitutional amendments, the Legislature tried to define those parameters, addressing transfer of expropriated property from former owners to other private entities.

Several areas remained gray though. For instance, what constitutes “economic development” or “affirmative harm?” And the simplest of words—“for” it turns out, carried with it an enormous amount of weight.

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In 1948, the Times-Picayune was the only newspaper people read every morning on Soniat Street where Jack Weiss lived. For that matter, it was certainly the morning paper of choice just steps away in the solarium of the 40-year-old mansion at 5120 St. Charles Avenue that had once been home to silent-screen star Marguerite Clark, and just that year had been donated to the city of New Orleans to become the “Latter Library.”

BY JULIE BAXTER

PHOTO BY MARIE CONSTANTIN

Chancellor Jack M. Weiss

Coming Home to Louisiana

BY JULIE BAXTER

In 1948, the Times-Picayune was the only newspaper people read every morning on Soniat Street where Jack Weiss lived. For that matter, it was certainly the morning paper of choice just steps away in the solarium of the 40-year-old mansion at 5120 St. Charles Avenue that had once been home to silent-screen star Marguerite Clark, and just that year had been donated to the city of New Orleans to become the “Latter Library.”
It was the era of Brown v. Board of Education, and as the public debate raged over desegregating the New Orleans school system, Weiss remembers a group of New Orleans businessmen that included his father and other names like Moon Landrieu—later Mayor of New Orleans, and Adrian Duplantier, who would one day be appointed a federal judge in New Orleans. "They thought it was very important that we comply with the constitution on that issue.

The tide of the civil rights movement, and all of its forces, would prove to be a heavy influence on Weiss’ path into the law.

When I went to Yale in 1964,” Weiss recalls, “I was very much influenced by the era of JFK.” The 35th President of the United States had just been assassinated in November of Weiss’ senior year in high school. In the aftermath of that so-called Camelot Era, Weiss enrolled in Yale to major in a special department called “Politics & Economics,” planning to train for a career in public service, and perhaps even to be a candidate himself one day. But two young English professors at Weiss’ residential college persuaded him that he was missing out by not majoring in English literature. It was a sophomore English class and John Milton’s “Paradise Lost,” that sparked Weiss’ passionate interest in English literary criticism. Along that road, in a tutorial program in writing fiction, Weiss found a mentor in an author who was not only America’s first poet-laureate, but whose name would forever, too, be linked with Louisiana: Robert Penn Warren, author of All the King’s Men.

In the summer of 1968, when Robert Kennedy and Martin Luther King were both assassinated, Weiss was selected for the Yale internship in Urban Affairs, and worked in the office of the progressive Boston Mayor Kevin White, incorporating academic ideals on urban planning, and working alongside colleagues in the nearby MIT and Harvard University communities.

“We had a group of 12 to 15 students and recent Yale graduates who were fanned out all across city government in Boston, working during the day, meeting to discuss models of urban politics and planning in the evenings, directed by a couple of really superb Yale professors in urban studies.” That internship is one of the models that Weiss hopes to emulate at the LSU Law Center. Anticipating a 2009 start, Weiss often sketches his vision out loud, that—on any given fall afternoon—as many as 52 LSU Law students will be out working in a diverse array of positions around the Baton Rouge area, gaining experience and carrying the LSU Law Center flag in all of those offices, as he terms it. Weiss would like to see a Distinguished Public Service scholarship program created at LSU along the lines of the Chapel Hill Morehead-Cain Scholarship model: a student receives a full-tuition scholarship and a guarantee of prestigious internships and/or externships, combined with a colloquium for two years of mentorship that are scholars sharing and enriching one another while gaining real-world professional experience.

Back in New Orleans, Weiss confides his hopes for continuing to attract more bright young students with the kind of dreams he had that summer—not only from around the country, but from within Louisiana. “I think we have not yet begun to fulfill our potential in attracting as many of the best and brightest of Louisiana to the law school.” And Weiss certainly knows the hopes of those “best and brightest.” By the fall of 1968, Weiss put aside his dreams of becoming a novelist or literary critic, and chose public service by enrolling in Harvard Law School. He modestly tells how one of his favorite freshman courses was a fascinating study about the power and effectiveness of courts and their relationship to other branches of government, taught that semester by a young professor named Steve Breyer.

In the summer of 1969, Weiss married the girl he says "picked him up" on their 8th grade hayride—Ann Robinson, who had attended Newnan High School with him, and had graduated from Tulane. On her honeymoon in Spain, Weiss remembers the moment he opened the large envelope from the Harvard Law Review, telling him he was invited to join the Law Review. “That was a moment I will never forget,” he says. Weiss’ time on the Harvard Law Review would set him on a path that led to a clerkship with Judge John Minor Wisdom, on the Fifth Circuit United States Court of Appeals in New Orleans, and in 1973, a position as senior law clerk for the Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court, Warren Burger. It was the year Roe v. Wade was decided, and, that same year, the Watergate scandal would send Weiss, at 26 years old, into the White House with Chief Justice Burger, President Richard Nixon, and Spiro Agnew, for the swearing in of the newest Attorney General, Elliott Richardson.

After two years working as a legislative assistant in the Washington office of United States Senator J Bennett Johnston, Weiss would return to Louisiana to work with Stone Pigman.

Even then, Weiss was cultivating relationships with Louisiana lawyers that would help inspire his commitment now as chancellor to expand the LSU Law Center’s role as the flagship law school of his birth state.

Seeking to incorporate more input from the hundreds of talented LSU Law alumni serving throughout Louisiana and this country, Weiss talks with anticipation about his vision for the Young Alumni Leadership Council he created in 2007. The council includes a diverse membership of two representative graduates from each of the previous 11 years’ graduating law classes. The group gathers twice a year to provide policy input and direction for the Law Center.

As a complement to the Law Center’s Board of Trustees, Weiss is working to create a Board of Visitors to include input from the LSU Law Center’s incredibly accomplished alumni who are practicing and working around the nation, the globe, and in Louisiana. He is enthusiastic about bringing together not only Law Center alumni and current law students, but to connect current law students to the main campus as a whole, and to raise the national profile of the law school. Weiss believes the law school is facing a particularly bright and prestigious future. “I am interested in providing exciting programming that causes under-graduates on the LSU campus to attend our programs,” Weiss believes.

I really see the concept of the LSU Law Center as an outward-looking community…”

Jack Weiss

www.law.lsu.edu

I am interested in providing exciting programming that causes under-graduates on the LSU campus to attend our programs.” Weiss believes...
A hand-painted wooden nameplate, given to Weiss by his children, marks the chancellor’s office.

the law school is facing a particularly bright and prestigious future. As Weiss explains his interest in creating more interdisciplinary campus activities at the Law Center, he relates how he has worked with Dean Jack Hamilton of the LSU Manship School of Mass Communication to create a dual degree program that will allow a student to earn a Juris Doctor and a Master in Mass Communication in four years, similar to the J.D./M.B.A program already in place at the law school. “I think our students would benefit greatly from those kinds of activities.”

That early connection with the journalism school is not surprising in view of Weiss’ long-standing connection to the business of media and media representation. It was in 1990, while still an associate at Stone Pigman, that Weiss was offered the opportunity to join the Phelps Dunbar law firm in New Orleans as an “understudy” in representing Pigman, that Weiss was offered the opportunity to stand up as lead counsel for ABC News in the Louisiana defamation, privacy and newsgathering tort action arising from the Prime Time Live expose of Russian baby adoptions.

Weiss’ experience in the courtroom as a litigator and practicing lawyer not only confirms his realization that LSU must prepare its students for an international practice of law—he is proud to share—how the International Law Society created in his first year at the law school opened to a standing room only crowd—but also drives what is perhaps his overriding initiative in these early years as chancellor: the establishment of a strong clinical program at the LSU Law Center, providing students on the front lines in live client experience and real courtrooms as part of their law school curriculum. Utilizing the leadership of the Clinical Legal Education Faculty Committee chaired by Professor Lucy McGough, Weiss spearheaded the Fall 2008 introduction of a live-client clinical program, which includes opportunities for students to work and earn academic credits—not only in the continuing Juvenile Representation Clinic that Professor McGough has taught for the last several years, but also in a Domestic Violence Clinic and a Family Mediation Clinic. Further, students will be offered externship opportunities around the Baton Rouge metropolitan area, including positions in the areas of tax and criminal justice law, along with plans to begin a Judicial Externship sending students to the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, the Louisiana Supreme Court and the First Circuit Court of Appeal.

“Without this new phase at our Law Center,” Weiss says, “we would be missing a golden opportunity to do two things: to provide extraordinarily important kinds of educational experiences to the students here, and, secondly, to connect the law school with the broader Baton Rouge and Louisiana communities.”

Having successfully secured $471,600 in state funding for the new clinical program in the 2008 regular session of the Louisiana Legislature, Weiss also points with gratitude to the generosity of LSU Law Center alumnus Rich Richard and his wife, Donna, who donated $250,000 to the new clinical program.

“We could not be more pleased with the Richards’ generosity and the potential 40 percent Board of Regents match to a generous $120,000 gift from the Judge Earl Veon family, we are well on our way to beginning a clinical program that both students and alumni will be proud to be a part of,” explained Weiss. The new program will also place the LSU Law Center on par with its peer institutions around the country, while helping it not only meet American Bar Association site requirements, but move up in the national rankings of law schools.

Weiss hired Clinical Professor of Law at the Indiana University School of Law, Robert E. Lancaster, to serve as the first director of the LSU Law Center’s Clinical Legal Education Program, and Professor of Professional Practice. A longtime public defender with years of experience in death penalty cases, Lancaster brings with him clinical teaching experience from Yale, University of Texas, and the China Trial Advocacy Institute in Beijing, China. “We are immensely excited about introducing Professor Lancaster to our students and to the Louisiana legal community,” Weiss says. “I believe that Professor Lancaster has the vision, energy, and experience to build a model clinical program here at our Law Center.”

Weiss overall focus promises to facilitate better communication among students, faculty, alumni, and the local community, and better promotion of the story of the LSU Law Center, broadcasting the great strides being taken now and into the future at this true wellspring of legal talent. It’s a daunting task that Chancellor Weiss clearly relishes. After 32 years—“a good run,” he calls it—in the practice of law, he counts his new home at the LSU Law Center as one of his greatest blessings, among which he quickly includes his mother, who still lives in New Orleans, his wife Candy, his sons David and Eli, and his daughter, Annie.

Besides that, it has to feel somewhat comforting being back home where he can wake up each morning to a cup of Community Coffee® and a copy of The Times-Picayune again.

Chancellor Weiss, his wife, Ann “Candy” Weiss, and children, David, Annie, and Eli.
HEN OLIVER “RICK” RICHARD was a kid in high school he received the Madison Avenue Journal—which most high school students probably subscribe to—and set as his goal a job as an account executive on Madison Avenue making $100,000 a year.

It might be disappointing then to learn that the 1977 LSU Law Center graduate never realized that dream. Instead, he settled for becoming the chief executive officer and president of a $7 billion energy company and being friends with Warren Buffett. Not a bad Plan B.

Leaving the Campsite Better
The Odyssey of Rick Richard

BY JOSHUA DUPLECHAIN

WHEN OLIVER “RICK” RICHARD was a kid in high school he received the Madison Avenue Journal—which most high school students probably subscribe to—and set as his goal a job as an account executive on Madison Avenue making $100,000 a year.

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Oliver “Rick” Richard presents
Rick Richard, Ginger Roberts,
newspaper,
and Clay Latimer.

1977 staff of the student
time, The Civilian.

Rick Richard, Ginger Roberts,
and Clay Latimer.

″With Chancellor Jack Weiss coming on board
the Law Center, I wanted to help him get the
in Diversity, Media & Public Affairs within the
Manship School. The other half went toward help-
support the Law Center’s Clinical Legal Educa-
tion Program.

″All minorities are underrepresented in the
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Sally Richardson

When Sally Richardson found out that she was going to be part of Ms. JD, her first thought was similar to what most people would probably be thinking—“what is this?” and, “I am not wearing a bikini.”

In actuality, Ms. JD is a non-profit, non-partisan organization coordinated by law students for women in all arenas of the legal profession. It provides a space for various conversations about the complex issues that women face and the possible solutions. It also explores the work of female attorneys and networking opportunities, critical analysis of relevant news, and thoughtful discussions for women about their chosen fields of law.

While much progress has been made regarding women in the law profession, Ms. JD’s mission statement says there is still work to be done.

“I don’t think there are the same barriers today as there were 40–50 years ago,” said Richardson, who was asked by Law Center Chancellor Jack Weiss to participate in Ms. JD. “A lot of firms are working with women … there has been a change in the mega-firm culture. If you lose an associate after five years, that’s a huge loss because you’ve sunk a lot of money into her.”

Richardson, who was ranked first in her class of 197 this past year, is a Baton Rouge native and earned her bachelor’s degree in political economy with a minor in Spanish from Georgetown University. At the same time, she began working with Sen. Mary Landrieu. In nearly five years, she would serve as a legislative staff assistant and intern; legislative correspondent for health, education, welfare, women and children; and finally; deputy communications coordinator.

“I knew I wanted to do something with government, so I went to (Washington), D.C. There’s no better place to work than ‘The Hill,’” Richardson said. “Working with Sen. Landrieu was great because in a way, I got to remain close to Louisiana. I got to see behind the scenes of how the government works and got to help … make things better.”

“I was with her before Hurricane Katrina and the 10 days after. It was a devastating experience and at the same time inspiring.” Richardson hopes to get involved with energy law in the future, primarily by working with the firm of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom, which was recognized by Chambers and Partners as the top energy regulatory practice group in 2007, receiving a Band One designation, the highest ranking a firm can receive.

Richardson will graduate in May 2009 and clerk for the Hon. W. Eugene Davis in the Fifth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals next summer.

CHANCELLOR FORMS STUDENT ADVISORY BOARD; ENCOURAGES STUDENT INVOLVEMENT

“We’re all about students,” said Chancellor Jack Weiss as he addressed the first meeting of the newly formed Student Advisory Board. “It’s why we’re here.”

Weiss formed the group in 2008 with the express purpose of encouraging a more in-depth and candid exchange of ideas and views between the students and the Chancellor’s Office. An open invitation was sent to the student body asking for applications from those interested in serving on the advisory group and students enthusiastically volunteered, according to the chancellor.

Students serving on the Student Advisory Board in FY 2008-2009 are:

1Ls:

2Ls:
Charlotte Youngblood, Robert Savage, Sarah Cable, Scott M. Levy, Irina Fox, Ashley Tufts, Scott Sternberg, Melissa A. Shaw-Brown, Christopher Olmert, Victoria Viator.

3Ls:
Lynette Robertson, Kristen Lundin, Catherine Jenkins, Tabashir Olivard, Drew Smith, Damon Rowe, Bradley Aldenich, Michelle Shambino, Janet C. Weil, LaToya Jordan, Jeff Correll, Waukesha Jackson.

The advisory board identified and studied a variety of issues, ranging from scheduling to keeping up with peer schools. The 2008-09 board will work on individual issues during monthly meetings with the chancellor.

In addition to the board, the chancellor encouraged students to meet with him during office hours, attend informal lunches, and participate in “town hall” meetings held each semester. “We want to foster a law school community that has an openness to change, is imaginative, forward-looking, and has a culture of scholarship and service,” said Weiss.

P. J.s & ANGEL TREES

If you can balance public service and school, you can do it once you’re in practice,” said John Beffel, a rising 2L, and former Peace Corps member who served in Benin, West Africa. Beffel has helped to organize the Public Interest Law Society’s (PILS) community service activities during the past academic year.

Under the leadership of Kristen Landrin, past president, along with Missy Shaw-Brown and Caroline Johnson, Beffel has helped to organize the Public Interest Law Society’s (PILS) community service activities—both legal and community service oriented. The 1,000 Hours Challenge Project encouraged students to get engaged. “We exceeded our expectations,” he said.

Among the service programs were a tutoring initiative, the Reading Friends Program; MLK Day school clean ups; church group volunteer projects; BR Bar Association social security appeals program; and Thrust for Justice, the free legal clinic in South Baton Rouge.

In addition, students conducted a “PJ drive” to collect pajamas for needy children and sponsored an angel tree for Christmas gifts. The PILS website also encouraged students to, “Take out your aggression on a 2’x4’ and some nails.” Students participated in more than 10 Habitat for Humanity builds.
Two national titles highlighted a successful season for the LSU Law Center’s Moot Court and Trial Advocacy teams, which placed in 11 of its 21 competitions during the 2007-08 academic year. Students Erin Bray, David Conachen, and Adam Savoie won first place at the National Tax Moot Court Competition in St. Petersburg, Florida, marking their second first-place finish and fourth top-three finish in the last four years at the competition.

In addition, Waukeshia Jackson and Jamal Suleiman won first place in the Best Brief Category at the National Black Law Students’ Association Frederick Douglass Moot Court Competition. The team of Lauren DiLeo, Delon Lewis, and Leila Parvizian also won first place for authoring the Best Brief in the International Criminal Court Competition. The brief was published in the Pace International Law Review. This was the third year that Pace Law School hosted this competition and LSU has advanced to the Final Round each year—the only law school in the world to have done that.

“Overall, I’d say on a scale of one to ten, this past year was an eight,” said Todd Bruno, faculty coordinator of the Law Center’s moot court and mock trial programs. “We did have three national championships, a state and a regional championship in competition ... it was a great season. But our goal is to receive recognition at every event whether that is in an individual or team category. We are always looking to improve.”

It was also a season that saw Moot Court teams, which totals 75 students, travel to New York; Vienna, Austria; and San Juan, Puerto Rico. In fact, LSU was one of eight universities to participate in the University of Puerto Rico’s first Trial Advocacy Competition, reaching the semifinals and earning a first place in Best Cross Examination. At the Willem C. Vis International Arbitration Competition, which it won in 2006. Richard won Best Oral Advocate in the first preliminary round and Donohue won the same honor in the third preliminary round.

This was a season that was generally considered the most prestigious of all court competitions in the world,” Bruno said. “Advancing out of the preliminary rounds is an absolutely amazing accomplishment; and to think that these students did it in just LSU’s second year at the competition makes it even more impressive.”

In other competitions, the team of Savoie, Derek Forester, and Jonathan Ringo advanced to the final rounds of the 59th Annual Moot Court Competition—the oldest and largest in the nation—in New York City. It was the second time in three years that the LSU Law team qualified for the final rounds by winning first place in its regional competition. LSU was one of only 28 teams out of 189 to advance to the final rounds, placing it in the top 5 percent of all law schools who entered the competition.

New Challenges Ahead for Bruno

It was in 2003, while LSU was hosting a regional round of the National Moot Court Competition, that Todd Bruno, who had been an assistant professor of legal research and writing at the LSU Law Center since 2001, volunteered to coordinate the competition. As the LSU Moot Court and Mock Trial program developed and more students joined, former Chancellor John Costinow wanted someone to take it over in a more professional capacity and asked Bruno to helm the burgeoning program.

Since then, the program has reached new heights, winning various regional and national championships, as well as numerous individual honors at virtually every tournament it has entered.

While Bruno will remain as faculty coordinator of the program, his new role as acting director of clinical legal education for externships will allow him to help build another important part of the Law Center—the new Clinical Legal Education program.

In that position, Bruno will help develop placements for students with lawyers and judges to work with real clients and gain real-world law experience. Currently, the plan is to create externship opportunities in three primary areas—a judicial externship, a local and state government externship where students are placed with an organization such as the State Attorney General’s office, and a public interest externship where students are placed within the Public Defenders Office, for example.

Bruno will continue working throughout the latter part of 2008 to develop those placements by contacting judges and various state agencies to arrange student opportunities.
Irina Fox

No Time to Stop and Smell the Roses . . . Yet

Irina Fox, a second-year law student at the LSU Law Center, is a self-described nerd. She will admit this, several times, over the course of a conversation, confessing to even reading all of the terms and conditions that come with a new credit card.

Fox is also second in her class, a mother of two, a former senior airman in the U.S. Air Force, an immigrant from Russia and yes, a certified optician. The last time she said came when a meatpacking company would be time well spent, as Fox credits the overall experience for helping her learn to manage her time—something she has to excel in these days with a family, a clerkship, and law school.

During those three years at Scott Air Force Base in Illinois, she worked as a clinical laboratory technician in the base hospital and went to school at night at the Community College of the Air Force, earning an associate of applied science in medical laboratory technology.

Fox also met her husband, Brent, at the base post office when he spotted her reading Reader's Digest and began speaking Russian to her. They married and had their first child, Kamiolah. After earning her master's degree in international relations from Webster University in St. Louis and having a second child, Elijah, she and Brent moved to Baton Rouge, Brent's hometown.

Fox had not forgotten about law school and was particularly attracted to LSU's Law Center because it offered education in both the common law and civil law, which was practiced in Russia. When it came to getting in, however, the post office would once again play a key role.

"The first break I got was in December. I didn't have a fax, so I put the babies in the car and ran to the phone ... so I could hear the sound of meat being grinded," Fox said. "I called Health Services to come and do something about it. They came to our door and they already had a bag of meat in their hand, so we knew that nothing was going to happen." Fox, being "feared" and 21, moved to America, working odd jobs in Minnesota and then Chicago, where she was offered a job as an optician after shopping for frames one day. After two years in the Windy City, she began to consider law school but found it was too expensive for her. So Fox considered the next logical step—the U.S. Air Force.

"I thought law school was the thing in America," said Fox. "The law was everywhere and I thought I needed to know the law . . . I might as well go to law school. It was too expensive so I visited an Air Force recruiter, thinking it was a long-term plan. I wasn't a U.S. citizen so I didn't think I could join right away."

"But those recruiters were very good. When I walked out of there, I called my mom and said 'I think I just joined the Air Force.' Apparently, you don't need to be a citizen to join the Air Force."

Her three-plus years in the Air Force proved to be time well spent, as Fox credits the overall experience for helping her learn to manage her time—something she has to excel in these days with a family, a clerkship, and law school.

At a party for her section during that same semester, she met a classmate with a similar background and both decided that there was a strong need at the Law Center for an international law society. They started with five students, including themselves, and membership grew to nearly 100 in less than a year.

"Thus far, the society has brought to campus speakers on a variety of topics, notably Dinah PoKempner, the general counsel for Human Rights Watch who spoke on torture. Fox hopes to see the society grow in membership, with elections for officers to be held at some point. There are also plans for movie nights, which would screen international movies dealing with topical issues; the development of a co-curriculum with other law schools abroad; and greater cooperation with international students outside the Law Center on the main LSU campus.

"It sounds like Fox is burning the candle at both ends, it's because she is. Leisure time is a phrase she would have to look up in the Webster's Dictionary she keeps handy. And she isn't the only one going to school. Her children go to Baton Rouge International School, where they are learning to speak Spanish and French. Kamiolah also takes Chinese twice a week and at home, Fox speaks Russian to both children.

"I hear my classmates say 'what should I do with the afternoon?' or the phrase 'I'm bored.' I don't remember the last time I said 'I'm bored.' It would be nice to be bored.

"I don't remember the last time I said 'I'm bored.' It would be nice to be bored."

"The first break I got was in December. I didn't have anything to do. I just sat on the couch all day long. But I think if I didn't have kids, I wouldn't do as well in school. They keep me focused . . . it's a paradox."
developed a passion for assisting victims of domestic violence,” said Lundin, a 3L. She views the summer fellowship as an important learning experience since she hopes to continue this line of work upon graduation.

Thomas Mallory who will graduate in December 2008, worked in San Antonio during the summer to establish a “pro se” divorce program, another effort to assist abused women and those facing divorce proceedings. “The program helps women to adequately represent themselves and their children during proceedings, with no costs to the individual,” said Mallory.

Lynn Austin, 2L, is intent on saving the Pisgah National Forest in North Carolina, along with a few mussels and warblers. As a summer legal intern at Wild South, a non-profit organization based in Asheville, she participated in three projects aimed at protecting and restoring native ecosystems of the Southeast. Her interest in environmental law led to the summer program where she conducted legal research on projects to protect the endangered mussels in Indian Creek, add the Cerulean Warbler to the nation’s list of threatened species, and save over 25,000 acres of Pisgah National Forest through designation as a National Scenic Area.

Charles Bukowski, American short-story writer, poet, and novelist gave us that famous quote, “You begin saving the world by saving one person at a time.” He’d be pleased to know that seven LSU Law students did just that … but also managed to save a forest and a few of the world’s smallest creatures, as well.
Alvin Rubin to the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, where his rulings would include ending Louisiana’s exemption of women from juries; applying the Voting Rights Act to Louisiana’s local elections; and upholding the rights of government employees to criticize their supervisors and organize unions.

Judge Alvin Rubin served as an adjunct professor for more than four decades at his alma mater, the LSU Law Center, teaching almost every course in law school, Mike Rubin remembers. “My brother and I made a conscious decision that if we stayed here, we knew we would be known as Alvin Rubin’s sons, which had advantages and disadvantages. But my father never pressured us.”

Indeed, Mike Rubin almost became a full-time musician, which some of his closest friends would point out may have been a loss to the music industry. While he was studying English at Amherst College in Massachusetts, where he would graduate as an honors student, Rubin worked four nights a week playing jazz, “which was not very popular in the ’60s,” he remembers. His band performed from 8 p.m. till midnight at “the hotel school on top of the hill” on the University of Massachusetts Amherst campus. “The girl who would warm up the audience was Natalie Cole,” Rubin smiles. “You see what happened, where she ended up and where I am.”

Rubin’s office is decorated with an eclectic, mostly modern, mix of art. There are pieces from the visit he and his wife, Ayan, made to the spectacular Louisiana Museum that sits in an old park in Denmark, looking across the famous Oresund Bridge to Sweden. There is a plate from an art show in St. Louis; two pieces from Tucson, Arizona; and a dollar bill cartoon clipping from a newspaper he bought in London, England. (Rubin himself is a cartoonist, often signing cards or notes he sends friends with an original cartoon.)

But Mike Rubin (’75) is that lawyer. He is equally at home expounding on real estate law, or lecturing on legal ethics to national conference audiences, as he is preparing an appellate argument in his office in the McGlinchey Stafford firm in Baton Rouge, or teaching mortgage and finance law to third-year LSU Law students at 7:30 in the morning... or even scoring string quartet wedding music. (He’s composed more than 40 copyrighted songs.)

When I met with Rubin one wintry morning in his 13th floor office, he quickly offered me a cup of tea, and we sat down to talk where his clients would normally sit, next to a bookshelf scattered with several pictures, some of them wedding photos, of his grown daughters, Bethany and Gillian.

It is hard to talk about Mike Rubin’s accomplishments without mentioning his heritage. Born in Baton Rouge, the son of Alvin B. Rubin and Janice Ginsberg Rubin, Mike Rubin attended the University Lab School from the first through the eleventh grades. When his father was appointed by President Lyndon B. Johnson to the Federal District Court in New Orleans in 1966, the family moved to New Orleans, and Mike Rubin split his senior year in high school into a half a year in London as a foreign exchange student, and the last half of the year at Country Day School in Metairie, from which he would graduate.

Rubin admits that he and his brother David knew that setting up their law practices in Baton Rouge would mean dating to live their professional lives within the legacy of their father. By 1977, President Jimmy Carter had appointed Judge Alvin Rubin to the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, where his rulings would include ending Louisiana’s exemption of women from juries; applying the Voting Rights Act to Louisiana’s local elections; and upholding the rights of government employees to criticize their supervisors and organize unions.

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Distinguished Alumnus Mike Rubin; Janice Rubin; Ayan Rubin; David and Robin Rubin; Bethany Rubin Henderson and Daniel Henderson.

At 58 years of age, Rubin tells how he and Ayan have maintained an extraordinarily devoted relationship. “It turned out to be the same volunteer that they had each seen only one piece separately scouring the gallery for about half an hour, but the other side misperceived your bottom line?” Rubin says. “And very similar tastes.” Rubin tells the story of how, on their six-week honeymoon in 1976, he and Ayan ducked into a small art gallery one rainy afternoon. After

Rubin is the immediate past-president of the LSU Law Center’s American Bar Association (ABA) Committee and he also heads McGlinchey’s appellate practice.

In fact, Rubin has argued major cases before numerous state and federal appellate courts, including the U.S. Fifth and Seventh Circuit Courts of Appeal and the Louisiana Supreme Court, in cases involving constitutional law, labor law, legal ethics, local governmental zoning affecting private interests, property rights, and tax issues. Rubin has handled trial work in groundbreaking cases involving Louisiana finance and secured lending, as well as major multimillion dollar commercial cases involving contract disputes, construction issues, environmental law, and federal voting rights disputes.

And it is clear that this highly competitive player loves the game. “At the appellate level, the facts are set,” he says. “Now you have to talk about which principles of law should have been applied. The law that you choose makes all the difference.” Then he turns to discussing the Supreme Court. “At the Supreme Court, you’re really talking philosophy.” He is teaching now. “Not merely in this case, but addressing the Supreme Court. “At the Supreme Court, you’re really talking

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YOUNG ALUMNI LEADERSHIP COUNCIL: Law Ambassadors

In 1985, she received her bachelor’s degree in chemistry from Princeton University and subsequently joined the U.S. Air Force, reaching the rank of captain and serving in the first Gulf War. At LSU, she was a member of the Moot Court Board, a finalist in the Tullis Moot Court Competition, and vice president of the Black Law Students Association.

Norma Bennett, a 2000 graduate of the LSU Law Center, was named chair of the Law Center’s Young Alumni Leadership Council by Chancellor Jack M. Weiss in early 2008. Bennett is “an integral part of the Law Center,” Weiss said. “Her legal career, service in the Gulf War, and leadership role while at LSU make her an excellent choice to chair this impressive group of young LSU Law alums. I’m looking forward to the positive engagement of the Council in the substantive issues of the Law Center.”

Bennett is a director of the Houston Intellectual Property Law Association, a Houston Young Lawyers Foundation Fellow, and the southern regional director of the American Intellectual Property Law Association’s Giles Sutherland Rich Moot Court Competition. She is a member of the State Bar of Texas, the American Bar Association, American Intellectual Property Law Association, and the Houston Bar Association. She is admitted to practice before the U.S. District Courts for the Southern District of Texas and the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.
The award is given annually to an alumnus who exemplifies the highest quality and ethical standards of the legal profession. It also recognizes the contributions of those who have done the most for the LSU Law Center. The award is named in honor of Judge Alvin B. Rubin, Sen. Russell Long, J. Bennett Johnston, Patrick A. Juneau, and Michael Abramson, a representative of the American Bar Association’s Young Lawyer Division and FEMA, who was displaced herself, to set up the hotline.

"I saw this as a type of clinical project that could involve giving law students practical experience while helping hurricane victims at the same time," Neuner said. Another project we initiated, with the help of Mike Rubin and the Disaster Task Force, which he chaired, was offering grants for attorneys in need. The $500 grants were awarded to attorneys who expressed intent to continue practicing in Louisiana.

"While the amount may not seem like much," added Neuner, "for someone in need, it was a real blessing." A call center was also established within the Law Center, and Neuner worked with Beth Abramson, a representative of the American Bar Association’s Young Lawyer Division and FEMA, who was displaced herself, to set up the hotline.

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CLASS OF 1967 ENDS $60,000 SCHOLARSHIP; ENCOURAGES OTHER CLASSES TO GIVE

Members of the Class of 1967 established an endowed scholarship to make a meaningful and permanent contribution to LSU Law. The gift will provide an annual scholarship to one or more LSU Law students. Organizers of the class gift campaign sought to create a gift that reflected their genuine appreciation for all they had received from their legal education. They also hoped that their gift would encourage future reunion classes to match or exceed their scholarship gift.

On behalf of the class, the committee stated, “In a nation as wealthy as ours, we must reach or exceed their scholarship gift. We look forward to helping the Law Center achieve its goal.”


FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN REACHES MILESTONE

A Tradition of Excellence: The Campaign for LSU Law has reached an important milestone . . . the campaign is one-third of the way toward the campaign goal of $28 million! As of June 30, 2008, $9.5 million has been raised with the help of a committed campaign team and many generous alumni and friends. The campaign, part of Forever LSU, goes through 2010. The Law Center retains only what it raises in the campaign.

Regional campaign steering committees and team members include:

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- Bill Owens, (chair)
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- Allen Smith
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Imagine LSU Law with a total enrollment of fewer than 100 students. You receive lots of very, very personal attention from Daggett, Malone, Hebert, McMahon—professors you describe as "giants in the profession." Dean Hebert negotiates with the Dean of Women for relief of the midnight curfew for women in residence—because the party is just getting good. You graduate and are sworn into practice before the Supreme Court of Louisiana. You go to war and return, and mourn for classmates who don't. You build a practice and build a family; sometimes you build a practice with your family of LSU lawyers. You look up, and it's been more than half a century.

These are just a few of the memories Les Avocats, graduates of LSU Law of 51 years or better, shared with each other on May 23, 2008, when more than 70 gathered together for the first time ever. They met Chancellor Jack Weiss, who spoke briefly about the clinical program and the challenges of an environment where we compete for the best students in Louisiana and elsewhere. But mostly, they used their time together to reconnect with each other and to recall with fondness the institution that helped make possible some remarkable careers and legacies of service.

The next annual Les Avocats luncheon will be Friday, May 29, 2009.