

THE ADVOCATE

Atlanta's John Marshall Alumni Magazine | Fall/Winter 2011

AJMLS ALUMNI SWORN-IN TO U.S. SUPREME COURT

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A PLACE
TO MEET

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JUDGE G. ALAN

Blackburn

A TRIBUTE. A LEGACY. THE HONORABLE.


ATLANTA'S
JOHN MARSHALL
LAW SCHOOL

“There Are Jobs For John Marshall Lawyers.”



According to the Wall Street Journal and the New York Times, (1) there is no need for law schools because there are no jobs for lawyers, (2) law schools immorally charge tuition that causes students to incur unconscionably high federal loans which they cannot pay because there are no jobs for lawyers, and (3) law schools only teach people to be law professors, not practicing lawyers. As with other overblown public discourse, there is a grain of truth in those claims and reasons to be concerned about the future of legal education. Fortunately, our law school is different.

First, there are jobs for John Marshall lawyers. Consistently, 92-94% of our graduates have jobs within nine months of graduation. The placement rate is measured nine months after graduation to include those whose job offers were contingent on passing the bar, the results

of which may not be known for more than six months after graduation. Many of our students do not start work in law firms or hang out their shingle, although they will move into more traditional practice over time. Evenings students may keep the job they had in law school for awhile or move into a different position with the same employer after becoming a lawyer. Other graduates take jobs where their legal training is a definite plus. As just one example, a 2011 graduate who had a student externship in the Georgia Tech athletic department accepted a position in the athletic department at a university in North Carolina, a job heavy with legal and regulatory compliance.

Most of the publicity about lawyer unemployment featured the hiring cutbacks at major law firms. While more of them are beginning to consider recent John Marshall graduates, it will be a long time before they represent a major source of jobs for us. The small and medium sized firms which represent people, rather than Fortune 500 companies, continue to thrive, government jobs still exist, and a number of John Marshall lawyers do go solo or practice in small groups with classmates. America continues to grow and will need more lawyers, not fewer.

Second, while the average John Marshall student leaves law school with a large debt load that makes the first few years a struggle, a law degree remains a good investment. Financially, it offers a

good return, while equipping the student to succeed in other ways, including civic and political leadership. We counsel students not to borrow more than they absolutely need, but twenty-somethings have difficulty hearing that advice. Our tuition is less expensive than almost all private law schools. (Taxpayers — that’s you — subsidize public law schools.) And, ultimately, tuition is driven by the accreditation standards of the American Bar Association. Many John Marshall graduates paid only a few thousand dollars for their entire legal education in the years before ABA accreditation was mandated by the Georgia Supreme Court.

Finally, John Marshall graduates are trained to be lawyers. In addition to four required legal writing courses, a full range of other courses in legal skills and advocacy, and a huge externship program, our professors — whose practice experience before entering teaching far exceeds the national average — both talk about law practice and model what good lawyers do. There’s nothing wrong with learning legal theory. Our students learn theory, but they also learn how to apply that theory in practice. That’s part of our historic mission and always will be.

Thank you for your continuing encouragement and support. Come see our new facilities, especially if you missed the dedication of the Judge G. Alan Blackburn Conference Center. And, let me know if we can ever be of any assistance to you.

What is new? What is happening around John Marshall? “*Campus Life*” updates you on all the latest news and information.



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1422 West Peachtree St. NW
Atlanta, Georgia 30309

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The Alumni Office welcomes
letters, photos or any other
communication that highlights
our alumni.

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Judge Blackburn is the quintessential success story.

The Advocate sat down with the affable, outspoken judge to find out some lesser-known facts.

THE MAN BEHIND

THE NAME

His life is a model of perseverance and dedication, and his illustrious legal career has left a positive and monumental mark on our legal system.

Blackburn left home early and entered into the U.S. Air Force. While in the air force, his desire to learn and further his education grew and within a short time, Blackburn found himself enrolling in, and graduating from, college.

Following college, Blackburn's father encouraged him to enter into the steel business, a career path that Blackburn's father had successfully followed. But, as life often gets in the way of our goals and plans, Blackburn's father suffered a massive heart attack, leaving him to question his career path.

At that time, Blackburn, who was married and supporting young children, came upon an ad for Atlanta's John Marshall Law School (AJMLS). His path became clear, and he quickly enrolled in AJMLS. It would prove a propitious move. After working several years, spending days selling yellow page ads while nights learning the law, in 1968, Blackburn graduated from AJMLS, and entered into the legal profession.

Following graduation, Blackburn worked for several years in private practice. While in private practice, he developed a passion for the judiciary, and in 1992, began a 17-year stint on the Georgia Court of Appeals — including two years as Chief Judge. Last year, Blackburn opted not to pursue reelection to the Georgia Court of Appeals, but instead choose to retire.

Though his time on the bench has come to an end, Blackburn still practices law as of counsel at Balch &



Bingham, LLP in Atlanta. In his spare time, he enjoys writing, staining glass, participating in AJMLS activities, and spending time with his family. His daughter,

Jennifer, is an attorney at Troutman Sanders LLP, while his youngest daughter, Elizabeth, is following in her father's footsteps and is currently a 1L at AJMLS.

Q: What are you reading right now?

A: "The Law" by French economist Frederic Bastiat.

Q: What's the last movie you saw?

A: I very rarely see movies because they don't make 'em that are worth a damn.

Q: If you didn't practice law, what else would you do?

A: A psychiatrist or architect. I'm a repressed architect.

Q: What do you miss most about being on the bench?

A: Three law clerks I didn't have

to pay for.

Q: What do you enjoy most about being off the bench?

A: Everybody's not watching you.

Q: What do you think is the biggest challenge facing young lawyers today – outside of the job market?

A: Saving our form of government.

Q: Who's your favorite U.S. Supreme Court justice and why?

A: Antonia Scalia and Clarence Thomas because they stand by what they believe in.

Q: Do you think you'll ever really retire?

A: Basically, no, because that means you stop thinking and you stop doing.

BLACKBURN Conference Center

"Success is like a ladder... Regardless of how high you climb, you are responsible for making sure the rungs below you are available and accessible for others."

Atlanta's John Marshall Law School (AJMLS) significantly increased its footprint on Midtown Atlanta this fall with the opening of the Judge G. Alan Blackburn Conference Center. The 16,500 square-foot, state-of-the-art conference center is designed to bolster educational opportunities, facilitate legal industry interaction and support key community initiatives.

"The Blackburn Center will provide a convenient, modern meeting place for law school and student events and provide an additional option for businesses looking for a Midtown Atlanta location to host meetings, seminars, receptions and other special events," said Richardson Lynn, AJMLS Dean and Professor of Law.

The Blackburn Center is the central part of a major expansion project at the AJMLS campus. Equipped with a 350-seat auditorium, commercial kitchen, meeting rooms, training facilities, and bright, open spaces for exhibits and receptions, the Blackburn Center is already booked into 2012 with seminars, special events, and CLE trainings by professional organizations such as the Atlanta Bar Association and the Georgia Trial Lawyers Association.



The Center was named after AJMLS alumnus Judge G. Alan Blackburn, a tireless supporter of its growth. "I cannot imagine what I can say to express my gratitude," Blackburn said at the October dedication ceremony. "This recognition is beyond what I ever expected to achieve in my life. I am so proud of how far the school has come."

Judge Blackburn recently retired from the Georgia Court of Appeals after 17 years of service. He is currently of counsel at the law firm of Balch and Bingham, LLP in Atlanta. During his address, he encouraged everyone within the AJMLS community to go out and conquer the world, but to always remember where their legal careers began.

"Success is like a ladder," Blackburn said. "Regardless of how high you climb, you are responsible for making sure the rungs below you are available and accessible for others. Never forget to reach back and lend a hand to those who are following you." ♦

WHAT'S NEW THE AJMLS PURCHASE.

Room to Grow.

If you haven't been on campus recently, you haven't seen the dramatically updated and expanded AJMLS.

Historically, AJMLS has worked hard to ensure that its students receive a first-rate educational experience, providing a continuously evolving learning environment to meet the growing needs of its diverse student body. For the 2011-2012 academic year, the school expanded its physical facility by 65 percent.

Recent transformations include the construction of additional classrooms, faculty offices and academic space on two floors in an adjacent building at 1430 W. Peachtree St. Access to these floors is a model of innovation and style with the design and creation of a beautiful sky bridge for pedestrian crossing on each floor. Thanks to the architects at Munro Architecture & Design in Buckhead, and the teams from Tower Construction Corp. and Choate Construction, the new space increases the school's enrollment capacity from 750 to 900 students in an academic year.

"As we continue to grow, we need to be creative and resourceful in our efforts to provide students and faculty with the space they need to learn and achieve," Assistant Dean of Administration Michelle Harris says. "In my 10 years with AJMLS, this is by

far the largest construction project we have undertaken. The results far-surpassed our expectations across the board...or across the street, as it were."

Also, included in the construction projects were long-awaited improvements to the 1422 building. To accommodate increased class size and create a more comfortable environment for studying and group meetings, massive improvements were made to the Chief Justice Robert Benham Student Lounge, including the addition of black leather couches and over-sized chairs, varying sizes of tables and chairs and a long café-style bar surrounding the perimeter of the room. Additionally, the 1422 building received renovated corridors and restrooms, outdoor banners, floor mats,



planters and classic landscaping along the 18th Street corridor.

Finally, technological updates have enhanced the speed and connectivity of AJMLS networking services. Students and staff utilize cloud-computing options to extend access to the classroom and faculty beyond the walls of AJMLS. Flat-screen monitors have been installed on every floor to maintain an up-to-date communication system for all events and activities going on at the law school.

"We are still improving," Harris says. "From new lockers to smart boards in the classrooms, we are continuing to look for systems and solutions that increase efficiency and enhance the learning environment we provide to our students." ♦



New Campus Expansion Bridges Additional Space and Enrollment Capacity.



JOHN MARSHALL EXPANSION
 In July 2011, the construction team got to work. The four-month project transformed the space to create new opportunities for learning and achievement.

Faculty Publications

Prof. Elizabeth M. Jaffe, ejaffe@johnmarshall.edu
Bullying in Public Schools: The Intersection Between the Student's Free Speech Rights and the School's Duty to Protect, 62 MERCER L. REV. 407 (2011). Coauthored with Prof. Robert D'Agostino.

Cyberbullies Beware: Reconsidering Vosburg v. Putney in the Internet Age, 5 CHARLESTON L. REV. 379 (2011).

Prof. Lisa D. Taylor, ltaylor@johnmarshall.edu
Untangling the Web Spun by Title VII's Referral and Deferral Scheme, 59 CATHOLIC U. L. REV. 427 (2010).

Prof. Robert D'Agostino, rdagostino@johnmarshall.edu
Bullying in Public Schools: The Intersection Between the Student's Free Speech Rights and the School's Duty to Protect, 62 MERCER L. REV. 407 (2011). Coauthored with Prof. Elizabeth M. Jaffe.

The Business Trust and Bankruptcy Remoteness, 20 J. Bankr. L and Prac. 3 (West 2011).

Paloian, the Indenture Trustee and Securitization: Much Smoke, No Fire, 20 J. Bankr. L. and Prac. 129 (West 2011).

Selman and Kitzmiller and The Imposition of Darwinian Orthodoxy, 2010 Brigham Young University Education and Law Journal 1 (2010).

Prof. Michael Mears, mmears@johnmarshall.edu
"Court Deals Mortal Blow to Privacy." The Atlanta-Journal Constitution, page A15, June 3, (2011).

Objections: A Guide to Preventing Errors in a Criminal Trial, John Marshall Press (2010).

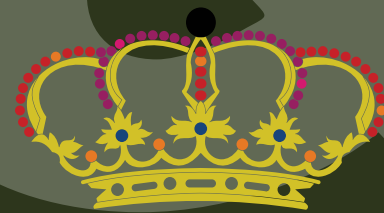
A Student's Brief History of the United States Federal Rules of Evidence, Bahcesehir University Law Faculty of Law, Law Journal, Volume 7, Number 81-82 (2011).

On the Brink of History: The Possibility of the Adoption of a New Code of Evidence in Georgia, (2011).



I try to always put myself in the shoes of my students and understand that there are different, valuable perspectives for any issue, and that it is not always possible to expect a single, unified answer.

A Jewel in our Crown



Take five with Associate Professor **Lucille Jewel** as she answers five questions we've been wanting to ask.

1 When did you first consider becoming a lawyer?
Jewel: When I was eight years old, I discovered that I loved to argue. And I loved a good story. As I was growing up, I saw how many people turned to my dad for advice and help. He is a general practitioner, and I always wanted to follow in his footsteps and play a positive role in my community. One of the most exciting aspects of being a lawyer is telling the client's story, making it come alive and persuading others with our words.

2 Did you ever ponder a different career path?
Jewel: There were a few years in college where I doubted whether I would become a lawyer and instead thought about entering the music industry. My dream job was to become an A&R Agent, serving as the liaison between artist and record label. Of course, these days the nature of the music industry is so different. I likely would have answered the call to law eventually.

I'm still a self-professed music snob. I buy vinyl LP records and get very excited about underground bands most people have never heard of. I am trying to learn to play guitar, but I am becoming frustrated by the sheer number of hours required to get to the aptitude level of Keith Richards or Jimi Hendrix.

3 What made you shift your career path from litigator to professor?
Jewel: When I started practicing law, I had no idea how to draft a complaint, argue a pre-trial motion or take a deposition. I learned these things in a trial by fire way; it was not always pretty. In law school, I learned vast amounts about the law and our legal system, but I always wished I could have learned more about the practical realities that lawyers face every day. I decided to try my hand at teaching with the goal of engaging students with how to apply substantive legal knowledge in real-life practice settings.

I try to always put myself in the shoes of my students and understand that there are different valuable perspectives for any issue, and that it is not always possible to expect a single, unified answer.

4 What positive changes have you seen in your seven years at AJMLS?
Jewel: This school has evolved exponentially every year I have been here. The diverse background of our student body is what ensures the dynamic level of engagement I see in my classes. Students are drastically more professional than their peers and continue to outperform students from other law schools. We are now at a place where we are consistently taking home awards in Moot Court and other advocacy competitions. When other schools hear that they are slated to compete against an AJMLS team, they shrink in fear because they know about our reputation for advocacy excellence. Additionally, the faculty of AJMLS

continues to publish quality legal writing in journals across the country. Overall, their profound commitment to scholarly legal writing and research not only creates a challenging learning environment for our students but also serves as tremendous motivation for me as a professor to learn, write and speak to and for audiences outside the legal profession. It is incredibly rewarding to work with such intelligent and giving legal scholars. As a result of these outward-facing accomplishments, the legal community has a much more positive opinion of AJMLS in 2011 than they did in 2004.

5 What is your impression of the challenges facing law school graduates today?
Jewel: The economy aside, it is concerning to me that there is not a healthy and accurate understanding of the risks involved in pursuing a J.D. From competition for admissions, to securing a position in either the public or private sector, anyone considering the legal profession should conduct their due diligence before undertaking this life-long commitment. The history of the legal profession has been one of prosperity and comfort — once you graduate, your career path is laid out for you, and you will continue to progress forward and be set for life. Today, the legal professional is much more entrepreneurial in nature, requiring creativity, collaboration and sacrifice. The road is long, but the paths you can take have never been more varied, and the reward is attainable and amazing. Embrace the challenge, and you will thrive. ♦

CAREER DEVELOPMENT HELD SUCCESSFUL PROSECUTORS' JOB FAIR

Students and recent graduates brought their passion for prosecution.

In an ongoing effort to provide services and resources to help students achieve their career goals, the Career Development Office held its annual Fall Prosecutors' Job Fair at the new Blackburn Conference Center in November. The fair brought together prominent district attorneys and solicitors in Georgia with highly qualified second-year and third-year law students as well as recent graduates. The job fair attracts students and recent graduates with a passion for prosecution and assists the prosecutors in identifying, recruiting and retaining those students.

During the fair, the participants interviewed for coveted positions in summer internships, apprenticeship programs and prosecutor positions. AJMLS believes that early career assessment and skills training are essential to successful job placement and career satisfaction.

Cobb County Solicitor General Barry Morgan (AJMLS '87) was one of the honored guests at the job fair. As Solicitor General for Cobb County, Solicitor Morgan prosecutes all traffic, misdemeanor and ordinance violations in Cobb County, GA. "We had some excellent teachers when I was there in the early to mid

'80s" Morgan said. "The foundation was being set at that time for the success the school is achieving now. I think you get the education equivalent to the effort you put into it. During my time at John Marshall, we had a good core of students who put that effort in."

"I believe the quality of the students has improved. They are driven, service-oriented and bright individuals who are eager to service the legal system. I actually have two John Marshall students on my staff now."

The annual Prosecutors' Job Fair is sponsored by the Career Development Office that is committed to ensuring job placement for AJMLS students and graduates. The department staff includes: Director Ivonne Betancourt; Associate Director Stephanie Philips; Assistant Director Monica Parker; and Employer Relations Manager Rachael Kirk. "I always look forward to working with District Attorneys and Solicitors during the job fair," Betancourt says. "I'm confident that they are impressed with our intellectually rich community of students and graduates who have a passion for prosecution and an exemplar work ethic."

Morgan expressed how impressed he has been with the Career Development Office saying, "My interactions with Ivonne have shown me that she is very engaging and upbeat. She's a great ambassador for the school and has a true passion for what she's doing." ♦

For more information or to notify the Career Development Office about employment opportunities for current students or graduates, please contact their office at (404) 872-3593, or email Ivonne at ibetancourt@johnmarshall.edu.

The AJMLS Pro Bono Program reinforces the mission of the law school – promoting the development of a student body and faculty with a strong social consciousness and dedication to improving the legal system and society.

PRO BONO OUTREACH & STUDENT SERVICE HIGHLIGHT

by Bridgett Ortega
Assistant Director of Pro Bono Outreach & Externships

The Magic Mirror

Oliver Wendell Holmes once likened the law to a magic mirror in which a properly trained eye could see all the triumphs and tragedies, struggles and routines of the human race. It is through the AJMLS Pro Bono Program that students get to see through the magic mirror and learn that every case involves the struggles and routines of real human beings. With the launch of the J.D. Honors in Criminal Justice Program, the AJMLS Office of Pro Bono Outreach and Externships (PBOE) offered first-year students an opportunity to get a glimpse of the beginning and end of the criminal justice process, while providing a vital service to the community. At the beginning of the Fall 2011 semester, first-year students had an opportunity to ride along with several Atlanta police officers as well as visit Arrendale state correctional facility in Alto, GA.

The police ride-along gave students a unique opportunity to learn about the daily challenges and risks that police officers face while protecting the community and an "inside" view of how officers serve the citizens of Atlanta. The students rode an entire eight-hour shift while interacting with uniformed police officers where they had the opportunity to ask

questions, discuss issues and voice concerns. One student summarized the experience as follows:

"Every John Marshall student should take advantage of the police ride-along program offered by PBOE," says AJMLS 1L Michelle Sandler. "Attorneys need to understand how law enforcement interacts with community. The police ride-along taught me more about police operations in eight hours than I could have learned in any formal educational setting. I have a deeper respect for what the community demands of its law enforcement officers and a better appreciation for the role police play in the community and the criminal justice system."

The prison visit at Arrendale correctional facility offered yet another eye-opening experience for students. They learned about the rules and regulations concerning the daily activities of inmates; in this instance — women. The students observed

the work programs, treatment programs, educational programs and other inmate activities as we toured the barbed wire enclosed grounds. They also saw the inmates who stay in their cells all day. Many were shocked to see a woman on death row. One student stated:

"I feel like a voyeur or intruder invading their privacy."

During the tour, students also learned that visitation days, tour days and days when the prison is on lockdown are usually the only days on which the daily routine is altered. In addition to adding to the learning experience of students, visits to prisons help to preserve the physical and moral integrity of the incarcerated and lets the authorities know that people are watching to ensure the protection of those it takes into custody.

Community outreach programs such as these provide valuable real-world experiences that will serve students in their professional careers whether they choose to practice criminal law or not. When a person decides to become an attorney, one of the attractions is joining a profession, not just learning a job. These soon-to-be lawyers will become community leaders because they understand the legal and political system from a unique standpoint. They will see through the magic mirror and identify issues that will assist clients, families, friends, neighbors and communities in avoiding unpleasant experiences with those systems. ♦

Professor's Corner

Adjunct Professor Randall Kessler

AJMLS prides itself on its impressive roster of faculty and staff. Some of the brightest and most analytical minds teach at the school – training, advising and preparing students for success in the legal field.

With more than 20 years of experience in domestic relations matters, Adjunct Professor Randall Kessler boasts an impressive resume including experience in divorce, custody, paternity, prenuptial agreements and child support cases. As the founder of Kessler & Solomiany, Kessler handles varied family law cases and finds the time to teach a family law course each semester.

“Students who attend this school are some of the most socially conscious, forward-thinking and innovative individuals I have ever encountered,” Kessler says.



“With the right guidance from our wonderful full-time and adjunct faculty, there are no limits to what a John Marshall graduate can achieve.”

Profiled in Atlanta Magazine as a Top 100 Georgia Lawyer of 2011, Kessler is also a noted and respected author within the legal community. His most recent published work, *Family Law Forms*, is an anthology including 235 practice-oriented forms and sample letters from the library of Kessler’s firm. Kessler also currently serves as the Chair Elect of the American Bar Association’s Family Law Section. *For more about Adjunct Professor Randall Kessler, visit his website at ksfamilylaw.com.* ♦

Trivia with Professor Michael Mears



Question No. **16** Three of the seven members of the Georgia Supreme Court graduated from the University of Georgia School of Law. Who are they?

Question No. **17** The State of Georgia has two nicknames. One is , the Peach State because of its production of large crops of peaches each year. What is the other nickname for Georgia and why does it have that nickname?

Question No. **18** Pursuant to the Georgia Constitution of 1789, Georgia was divided into two judicial districts. What were those two judicial circuits?

The first individual to post the correct answer to these trivia questions on the Facebook group, titled The Official Alumni Group of Atlanta’s John Marshall Law School, will receive an alumni window decal and a signature AJMLS alumni pen. A new trivia question will be posted on Facebook on the first Tuesday of every month, so be sure to play!

KEVIN CIEPLY

BEGINS
AS **NEW**
ASSOCIATE DEAN
FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS



On June 1, 2011, Kevin Cieply stepped into the position as the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, following Professor Michael Mears, who has rejoined the faculty after serving three years in the position.

Dean Cieply previously served on the faculty as an Associate Professor in the skills program, teaching primarily Legal Writing and Trial Advocacy, as well as Criminal Law during the last three summer sessions. Cieply joined the AJMLS faculty in 2008, after retiring from the military as a JAG Corps Officer. His last military assignment was at NORAD/NORTHCOM as the Chief, Land Operations Law Division.

He grew up as an Air Force dependant, primarily living in the Dayton, Ohio area, where he met his high school sweetheart, and wife of more than 30 years, Kelli Lynch Cieply. They have three children and one grandchild.

Cieply earned his undergraduate degree from Northern Kentucky University where he attended on a full athletic scholarship for soccer. At NKU, he was a two-time athletic and academic All-American, the University’s Male Athlete of Distinction, the Commander of

ROTC Cadets, and the University’s Marshall Award Winner as the University’s Top ROTC Cadet. After graduation, Cieply received a Regular Army Commission in the Aviation Branch. He graduated number one in his flight school class and was selected for a transition into Cobra

a Senior Military Fellowship at the Fletcher School at Tufts University in 2007.

Most of his legal practice was as a prosecutor in both military and federal courts, and as legal advisor to senior military leadership. While in the military, Cieply held a Top Secret

Most of his legal practice was as a prosecutor in both military and federal courts, and as legal adviser to senior military leadership.

Attack Helicopters; he was also selected to attend the Maintenance Test Pilot Program.

After one tour as an Aviator, Maintenance Test Pilot, and Company Commander, Dean Cieply was selected for the Army’s Funded Legal Education Program (FLEP). Under that program, he attended the University of Notre Dame for Law School and graduated in 1993. In 1997, Dean Cieply was an honor graduate in the Army’s LL.M. degree program at The Judge Advocate General’s School with a specialization in Criminal Law. He later completed

Security Clearance and was awarded a Legion of Merit for his service upon retirement. He retired at the rank of Colonel.

As the Associate Dean of Academics, Dean Cieply will be responsible for all academic affairs, the Registrar’s Office, Career Services, the LL.M. program, and the Office of Academic Achievement. When not at work, Dean Cieply enjoys watching college football (especially Notre Dame football), watching movies, dining out, reading and exercising. ♦

BY THE NUMBERS

Admissions Update: A community of new leaders.

“Our students come for law school but find a community.” This mantra speaks directly to one of the main goals of the Office of Admissions — to recruit students from diverse and complex backgrounds who come together to create a community of future leaders.

The law school continues its mission to prepare highly competent and professional lawyers who possess a strong social conscience, continually demonstrate high ethical standards, and are committed to the improvement of the legal system and society.

Making the decision to apply to AJMLS is essential to the development of our alumni and current students in the areas of networking, job training, real-world experience and more. Our non-competitive nature, intimate class environment and community feel make AJMLS the premiere destination for those looking to begin or continue their legal education.

We hope you will join us in spreading the news about all our law school has to offer. ♦

Profile of 2011 Entering Class

Entering Class Size.....	264
Part-Time Evening Class Size.....	53
Gender	
Female.....	141
Male.....	123
Residency	
Georgia Res.....	175 (66%)
Non-Georgia Res.....	89 (34%)
Minority Enrollment.....	108 (41%)
Median Age, FT.....	24
Median Age, PT.....	32

Solo Practitioners Training Day



The Alumni Office and Career Development Office recently co-sponsored the 2011 Solo Practitioner Boot Camp for alumni, students and other members of the Georgia legal community. The boot camp was a one-day seminar moderated by AJMLS Adjunct Professors Joseph Rosen and Marty Ellin. 4.0 CLE hours, including 2.0 professionalism hours,

were available upon request. Training topics included setting up and managing a law practice; client development; skill development; technology and communications; pro bono opportunities; and more. The program also included two solo practitioner panels and guest speaker, Spencer Aronfeld, author of “Make it your Own Law Firm.” After the program, guests networked at a reception with other solo practitioners, vendors, and panelists. If you were not able to attend this year, be sure to attend next fall! ♦

Visiting Professors: A Brilliant Mix

Standing firmly behind our mission to prepare highly competent lawyers who are committed to the improvement of the legal system and society, AJMLS is proud of recent additions to this growing institution. Nine visiting professors with a wide range of legal experience have joined the full-time faculty, furthering our dedication to marrying real-world experience with classroom academics.

The visiting professors include: Scott Boone, Beckett Cantley, Vickie Carlton-Sadler, Brandy Domengeaux, LaTisha Faulks, David Hricik, Allison Kort, Rose Anne Nespica and Lovita Tandy. “With the addition of these professors to our faculty, students receive a brilliant mix of expertise, and enable us to maintain our 13-to-1 student-faculty ratio,” Dean Lynn said. ♦

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

“Joining BLSA will be an invaluable experience for law students of any race.”



Black Law Students Association makes a difference

Since 1968, the Black Law Students Association (BLSA) has played an integral part in helping law students realize their passions. Chartered at AJMLS in 1971, BLSA has continued the national mission to promote the recruitment, retention and academic well-being of students; and to establish a medium for articulating the concerns of the African American community at law schools to affect the policies of that institution.

“Joining BLSA will be an invaluable experience for law students of any race,” BLSA President Dene Dunn says. “Becoming a member affords students the opportunity to develop lasting relationships as well as acquire study skills from other minority students.”

Catering to the minority population of AJMLS while ensuring students of every background feel included, BLSA enriches the campus through various programs and series including: BLSA Boot Camp; Female Empowerment Luncheons; BLSA Mentor Program; a Lecture Series; Book Bank; and more.

“We have a book bank which allows members to borrow books for free to help them study,” Dunn says. “The organization also has BLSA Boot Camp which encourages effective study habits and fosters a sense of community. BLSA is a great way to network with other students and legal professionals within our minority group as well as other nationalities.”

Dunn adds that BLSA created the Lecture Series to feature high-profile minority legal professionals, develop the leadership skills of its members, and to educate students on a world they soon will enter, while touching on all aspects of law relevant to the 21st century. During the fourth installment of BLSA’s Lecture Series, Judge Larry B. Mims, President of Council of State Court Judges, touched on three critical areas when addressing AJMLS students — service to your community, having a passion for the law, and remaining ethical at all costs.

Dedication to service and a high regard for the law are only some of the qualities you will find in BLSA members — many of whom are also active in other student organizations at the school.

“As a 1L, I wanted to join an organization that I could identify with, as well as one that would aid in my growth as a person and as a lawyer. BLSA was that organization,” Dunn says “Providing guidance and understanding to many of John Marshall’s first-year law students is a prime objective for the organization. At that time, BLSA had a mentor program that immediately attracted me. I could have a mentor in law school who looked like me and understood the issues that affected people like me.”

Dunn says that after researching the National BLSA website and noticing the organization’s objectives, activities and events on a national scale gave her a greater interest in BLSA. As the current president, she says she is happy with her decision to join such a progressive, community-conscious and dedicated organization. ♦

For more information on BLSA and its impact on a school as deeply rooted in history, tradition and values as AJMLS, visit the school’s website at www.johnmarshall.edu.



PROFESSOR
ROBERT
BROWN'S

SOUTH AFRICA

A VIEW INSIDE SOUTH AFRICA'S LEGAL EDUCATION, CULTURE

Captions: Professor Brown discusses his experience teaching law school.
Professor Brown describing an Income Statement and what lawyers should know about Financial Statements generally.
ISLP/BLA Commercial Law Programme Delegates in Cape Town 2011



Over this past summer, I traveled to South Africa to teach as part of the International Senior Lawyers' Project's (ISLP) and South Africa's Black Lawyers Association's (BLA) Commercial Law Programme. This joint effort brings American and South African practitioners, primarily from large law firms in both countries, and a couple of professors to teach Black — a term that encompasses Black, Indian and Coloured — South African lawyers aspects of commercial law.

The Commercial Law Programme exists, in part, to provide Black lawyers, who have not had the opportunity to practice in the large law firms, the skill set to practice in South Africa's burgeoning business economy. Broader than a typical continuing legal education course found in an American law practice, the Programme's eight-week curriculum covers both the substantive and practical aspects of business law and the practical drafting skills necessary to represent corporate clients.

To understand the need for the Programme, it is helpful to know about the history of South Africa's complicated racial mosaic. South Africa is a country of jarring cultural contrasts. In some parts of South Africa, one can be greeted "Sawubona," in the melodic click language isiZulu and wished a good day with the British "Cheers" in the same conversation. Expensive luxury cars travel on the same freeway as overcrowded taxis ferrying folks, overwhelmingly people of color, to the overgrown townships that dominate many of the outer ring suburbs of South

African cities. Unfortunately, South Africa's clustered wealth has its roots in a painful past dominated by Apartheid's racial ordering.

Apartheid was a set of South African Jim Crow-esque government and business policies where each of the races was separated from each other, enforced by rule of law. One representative example: during Apartheid, Blacks could not travel to White areas without a "dompas," a passport book that listed race and where the holder could travel and work. Any Black found by the police without it, or in an area that they were not allowed, was subject to imprisonment. To add insult to injury, "dompas" is an Afrikaans word translated literally to "dumb pass." The effect of Apartheid's complicated and repressive rubric of laws was that races were kept separate and Blacks were largely shut out of the economy.

However, since 1994 — the year when all races were allowed to vote — South Africa has grown a multi-racial democracy where, in wealthy enclaves in South Africa's largest cities, different racial groups intermingle seemingly with ease. For example, at dinner with a Black law firm partner and a college classmate working in private equity at a Johannesburg bistro in an area reminiscent of Atlanta's Virginia Highlands area, our South African guest spoke to us in English and, in mid-sentence, addressed the server in isiZulu. At an adjacent table, minutes later, this same scene was reversed. Those diners spoke to each other in Afrikaans, a language spoken by many White South Africans, and to the same server in English.

As many South Africans are quick to point out, the success of a few Black elite in South Africa's gleaming banking and financial centers can give a false picture of the country as a whole. Many live in extreme rural poverty or in South Africa's ubiquitous townships composed of endless miles of hand-built homes with corrugated tin roofs. In both settings, smoke from impromptu fires dominates the skyline. Indoor plumbing can be the exception rather than the rule. Amongst all groups, complaints about brutally violent crime are ubiquitous. For many, the promise of post-Apartheid South Africa has not been fully realized.

It is in this context that the Commercial Law Programme exists: to add to the number of Black South African practitioners capable of advising businesses on the intricacies of commercial transactions. Most of the Programme's attendees were full-time lawyers, working in small firms, frequently insurance defense firms, for government, e.g., municipalities or the federal Road Accident Fund, or for non-profit organizations. The attendees worked during the day and then came to class at night. In most cases, their prior practical legal experience had not included representing businesses.

I taught as I would teach in the United States; using the Socratic method to encourage participation. While the Socratic method is a mainstay in American legal education, most students in South Africa are lectured to by their law professors. However, the students were very receptive to engaging in a conversation about the law. Many commented that they appreciated the opportunity to participate and provide their own views. Along with my South African co-instructors, we covered the typical

provisions and negotiating points of agreements and the latest changes in South African corporate law. My co-instructors discussed South Africa's recently enacted Companies Act, which completely changed the landscape of South African corporate law, in impressive detail. For my part, I covered commercial loan agreements, leases, shareholder's agreements and accounting practices of business. I gave them as many practical tips as I could about how to draft, negotiate and advise clients about the risks each of these agreements posed. On the whole, the attendees were remarkably excited about the material and the ability to put it to immediate use.

Yet for me, I may have learned more from the students and co-instructors than they learned from me. Each co-instructor's hospitality and breadth of knowledge were humbling. My co-instructors showed me around Durban's Kwa-Zulu Natal province from Shakaland to the homes of Durban's Black elite, chaperoned me through the Indian Markets and Cape Town's Wine Country in the Western Cape province, and invited me into their homes. Each gave me an insight into South Africa that enriched my view of the world. For their part, the attendees invited me to their law firms and spent hours after class helping me to understand South Africa's history and cultural traditions. I left with a broader view of South Africa and a deeper insight on our own American Dream about education's importance in maximizing society's promise of equal opportunity. *Professor Brown is an Associate Professor at AJMLS.* ♦



AJMLS ALUMNI
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

2011: A Notable Year!

Greetings Alumni! 2011 has flown by, and we are about to begin a new year. The past year has been very exciting for both AJMLS and our Alumni Association, and we continue to take great strides into the future. AJMLS has been hard at work expanding its facilities and academic programs while maintaining both high educational standards and its mission of opportunity.

The Atlanta's John Marshall Law School Alumni Association has also had a great year. The Melissa Hamrick Scholarship Fund awarded its second scholarship to Koji Noguchi, a very deserving part-time AJMLS student. Tracie K. Henderson ('10), who established the Melissa Hamrick Scholarship Fund, presented Koji with the scholarship during the fall Alumni Board meeting. It was a great moment for Koji and for our Alumni Association.

I am also pleased to announce the establishment of the Andy Crawford Scholarship Fund. This fund was established by Andy's mom, Pat Crawford, to honor the memory of her son Andy Crawford, a 1L AJMLS student who passed away in 2010. Andy was an extremely generous individual, so I look forward to this fund honoring Andy's memory and generosity. A description of the Andy Crawford Scholarship can be found at www.johnmarshall.edu/alumni.

Thank you to everyone who made a gift to the Alumni Association this year. We do not charge our alumni dues to be a part of the Association, so our ability to award scholarships to deserving students depends entirely on your continued support. I encourage you to make a gift, of any amount, to support AJMLS, its students and each other in a very meaningful way. Even a few dollars can make a difference to a deserving student.

Lastly, I encourage you to continue to attend alumni events throughout the year and into 2012. I am happy to report that this fall's alumni events were very well-attended. The Alumni Office held two swearing-in ceremonies, the DeKalb County Alumni Gathering and the Solo Practitioner Boot Camp. These events were a lot of fun and provided our alumni valuable opportunities to connect in support of the school and each other. This spring, there will be additional opportunities to connect and network (PILS Auction, AJMLS Five-Year Reunion and more). More information about these events can be found on the alumni Facebook group, through the monthly alumni e-newsletter and on the school's website.

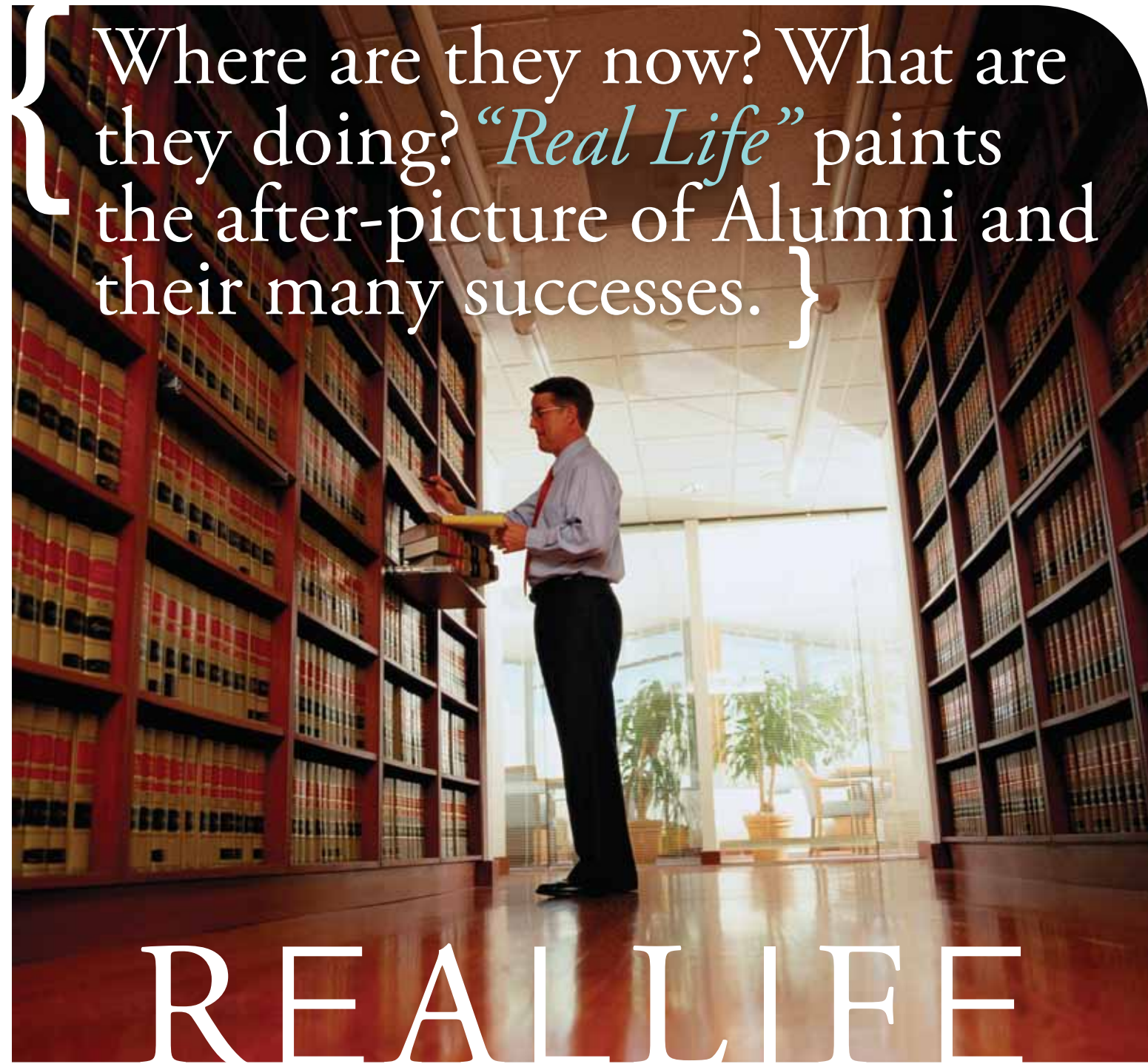
As always, thank you for staying connected to the AJMLS community. I hope you have a wonderful holiday season, and I look forward to a successful new year for the entire AJMLS community.

Sincerely,

Mike Moran ('97)
President, AJMLS Alumni Association/AJMLS Alumni Board

AJMLS has been hard at work expanding its facilities and academic programs while maintaining both high educational standards and its mission of opportunity.

Where are they now? What are they doing? *“Real Life”* paints the after-picture of Alumni and their many successes.



REAL LIFE

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Alumni Spotlight

Q&A with Fariba Bayani.

Fariba Bayani graduated from AJMLS in 2004. She is a member of the AJMLS Alumni Board and is active within AJMLS and wider legal communities. She exemplifies the mission of the law school and is dedicated to the advancement of the school and the Alumni Association.



Why did you choose AJMLS?

Answer: I selected John Marshall Law School because in addition to ethnic diversity, it offered me the age and experience diversity in the classroom which enriched the academic environment. Additionally, the small class sizes and very capable professors offered me a superb education.

Where do you practice, and what areas of law do you specialize in?

Answer: After several years of prosecuting for Fulton County, I started my own law firm in Sandy Springs, GA. I practice in the areas of personal injury, criminal law, in particular DUI, family law and wills.

What are your plans for the future?

Answer: Currently, I have two wonderful assistants from Atlanta's John Marshall Law School, Mande Gayre Moyer and Jennifer Gore Cuthbert. I plan to continue expanding my law practice, working with Mande and Jenn as attorneys and hopefully other John Marshall law student interns in the

future. Additionally, I plan to focus my practice more toward personal injury and criminal law.

What do you like most about AJMLS?

Answer: I like John Marshall Law School for many reasons, but mostly because of the close-knit community among the students and the faculty. It was a caring academic environment that helped me develop intellectually and practically, both of which were invaluable in preparing me to enter the noble profession of law.

What advice would you offer to other solo practitioners?

Answer: First, and foremost, treat your clients with care and respect. Try to remember that their case, however small to you, is probably the most important issue in their lives at that time. Second, get involved and volunteer in your community and your local bar association. You will gain trust and respect and reap many benefits. I have been on the Board of Sandy Springs Bar Association for several years and this year serve as president. ♦

SAVE THE DATE

> Dec. 8, 2011

AJMLS Alumni Association CLE – "Highlights of Essential Practice Areas for the Small Firm and Solo Practitioner" – The Judge G. Alan Blackburn Conference Center

> Jan. 16, 2012

AJMLS Law Journal Alumni Launch of Fall Issue

> March 30, 2012

AJMLS Alumni Five-Year Reunion – Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough - Atlanta, GA

> March 30, 2012 2012

Public Interest Law Society Auction – Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough - Atlanta, GA

From the Alumni Board WELCOME

Atlanta's John Marshall Law School and the AJMLS Alumni Association would like to welcome eight new members to the AJMLS Alumni Board:

Fariba Bayani Teimori ('04); Keith Leshine ('00); Marsha Lake ('94);

Roger Rozen ('79); Thomas Chambers ('77); Edward Gadrix ('72);

Bernadette Olmos ('00); and Boris Milter ('11). We are very excited

about the positive impact that each of these new members will have on

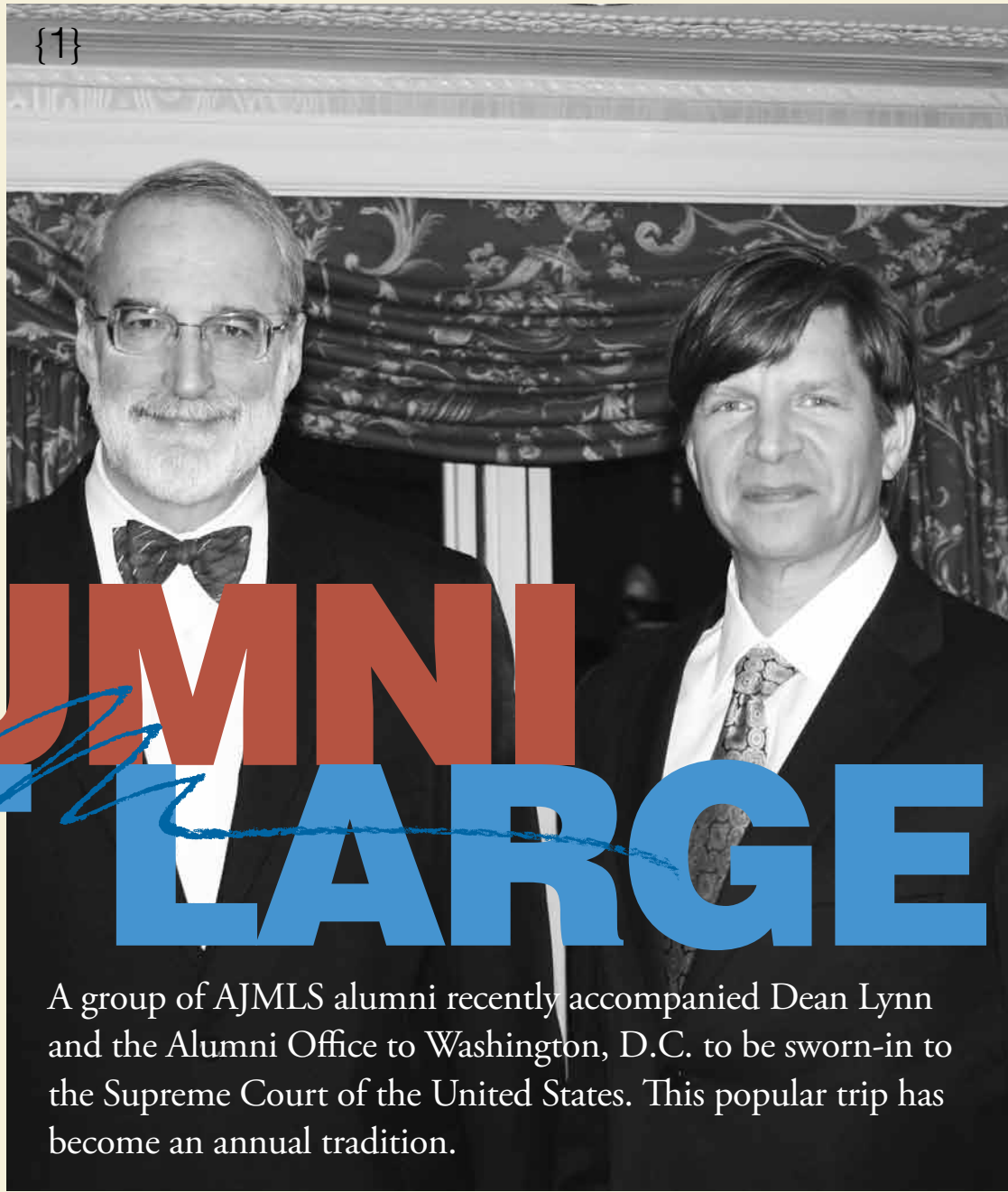
the AJMLS Alumni Board, and we look forward to their continued support

and leadership. For more information about the AJMLS Alumni Board,

please visit www.johnmarshall.edu/alumni or contact Chad Dillard at

cdillard@johnmarshall.edu or 404-872-3593, ext. 287.





ALUMNI AT LARGE

1. Blue Spruell '06 and Dean Lynn at U.S. Supreme Court Swearing in Ceremony. 2. Barabra Cole and her husband, Dr. Michael C. Caruso. 3. Brenda Rogers and her husband, Phil, at the Alumni Reception at the Willard in Washington D.C. prior to being sworn into the U.S. Supreme Court. 4. Group Swearing in Photo. 5. Judy Alembik at Willard Reception. 6. Lisa Sowers. 7. James Lane and his wife, Sharon, and daughter, Sheila at the Alumni Reception at the Willard in Washington D.C. prior to being sworn into the U.S. Supreme Court. 8. Scott Cohen and Kathleen Simonet. 9. Blue Spruell '06 and his wife, Mitsuko, and mother, Shelby Outlaw, at the U.S. Supreme Court Swearing in Ceremony.

A group of AJMLS alumni recently accompanied Dean Lynn and the Alumni Office to Washington, D.C. to be sworn-in to the Supreme Court of the United States. This popular trip has become an annual tradition.



On Sunday, Nov. 6, 2011, alumni along with their families and guests joined Dean Lynn for a reception at the historic Willard Intercontinental Hotel in Washington, D.C. The next morning, the Dean moved for the admission of the following alumni into the Supreme Court of the United States: Judith Alembik ('71); Scott Cohen ('07); Barbara Cole ('99); Cary King ('83); James Lane ('98); Brenda Rogers ('02); Lisa Sowers ('99); and Blue Spruell ('06).

11.6.11



 **Congratulations to these alumni who were admitted!** AJMLS is proud of their accomplishments and looks forward to their continued success. If you are interested in joining Dean Lynn and the Alumni Office on next year's trip to the Supreme Court, contact Chad Dillard, Assistant Director of Alumni, at cdillard@johnmarshall.edu.

www.johnmarshall.edu

by Dean Lynn

THE FUTURE IS NOW:

Making the Case for Endowed Scholarships

The truth is not many things we do outlive us. A few of us may be mentioned in history one day if we are lucky (or unlucky) enough to be part of an historic event. Otherwise, no distinct memories of us will last, even in our own families, more than 100 years or so. But, when you help build a self-perpetuating institution, you create something valuable to future generations and leave your own personal stamp on time. Who would know anything about John Harvard, but for the fact that the college to which he gave £780 and 400 books is now 375 years old? Who would know anything about an obscure British scientist, James Smithson, but for a contingent bequest in his will to fund what became the Smithsonian Institution?



Even small gifts, by modern standards, can have far-reaching consequences. Larger gifts have both immediate and far-reaching consequences. When Dean D'Agostino was keeping John Marshall alive with

few resources and a lot of ingenuity, alumni came through with key gifts as well as public and political support. Those challenges are behind us now, but the high tuition necessary for ABA accreditation puts huge pressure on students to borrow money. Those who have benefited from a John Marshall education are the ones best-positioned to reduce that pressure in two ways: giving regular, affordable amounts to the Alumni Fund and making larger gifts to one of the endowed funds.



Annual giving is important and reflects your support for the mission of the school, as does volunteer work with moot court teams, the Career Development Office, and engaging with our students in other ways. Giving to an endowed fund, on the other hand, is a gift that lasts. Only income from the invested endowment is distributed as scholarships. The principal is never diminished although it may increase depending on investment results. No income from endowment funds supports the operation of the law school. You can

add to the endowed scholarship funds established in honor of Dean John E. Ryan or Bobby Lee Cook, or the general Endowed Scholarship Fund. Better yet, establish an endowment to honor a member of your family, your legal hero, or — don't be shy — yourself.



We continue to be grateful to Mr. Cook whose contribution was the largest in law school history and to generous alumni, including Adam Malone and Mike Moran. We are grateful to everyone who makes annual contributions of any size. At John Marshall, we keep our eye on the prize: substantial endowed scholarship funds that generate meaningful scholarships for our exceptional students who will soon be exceptional lawyers. In the words of the old hymn, "Mercy drops round us are falling, but for the showers we plead."

Thank you for all you do to help John Marshall law students. ♦