Distinguished Alumni

Also in this issue:

2011 Commencement
Congratulations to our newest alumni.

Pils Silent Auction
Supporting student pro bono work.

John Marshall Alumni Working Together
Alumni join forces to do great things in the Atlanta legal community.
We just celebrated the Commencement exercises for the 134 members of the Class of 2011. It is always the second happiest event of the year. The happiest, of course, is the Swearing-In Ceremony in November, when the graduates return to campus after passing the bar exam to be admitted to practice before the courts in Georgia. Commencement was held at the Atlanta Civic Center where a huge crowd heard Justice Robert Benham deliver a humorous, but moving reflection on his life in the law and why our graduates can have similar success during their professional careers.

We also honored the two newest members of an exclusive club: John Marshall’s Distinguished Alumni: Thomas C. Chambers, III ('77) and Senator Ronald B. Ramsey, Sr. ('92). They have followed different career paths in different parts of Georgia, but each have had an out-sized impact on the legal profession and the lives of their fellow citizens. Go thou and do likewise!

The results for the February 2011 Georgia bar exam are in. John Marshall graduates taking the bar for the first time passed at 92.3% rate, exceeded only by Georgia State. Those studying for the July 2011 bar exam can draw a great deal of inspiration from that success.

Meanwhile, the law school is booming. We have increased our physical space by 65% with the addition of three floors in the building next door (to be connected by a two-story pedestrian bridge) and the former Patriot Museum building across the street, that now becomes the 16,000 square foot Judge G. Alan Blackburn Conference Center, including a 350-seat auditorium. We will display books and memorabilia from Judge Blackburn’s lengthy career with the Georgia Court of Appeals.

We expect more than 250 new first-year students in August, bringing the total student body to more than 700. We are growing faster and hiring more professors than any law school in the country.

We have added a distinctive new curriculum—the Honors Program in Criminal Justice—which will immerse law students who come intending to be prosecutors or defense lawyers in criminal law from the very first day of law school. There is, literally, nothing like this program among American law schools, and we will market it nationally, attracting highly-qualified students who would not otherwise consider John Marshall or Atlanta. Offering this program is possible because of the tremendous faculty strength we have in the criminal law field.

All of this and so much more is possible because of your continuing involvement and support, both in time and money. Thank you for all of your help. Please let me know if I can ever be of any assistance to you.

Richardson R. Lynn
Greetings Alumni!

I would first like to congratulate our recent graduates and welcome them to the John Marshall Law School Alumni Association. We look forward to staying in touch with each of you as you move forward in your promising careers. I would also like to congratulate Thomas C. Chambers, III ('77) and Senator Ronald B. Ramsey, Sr. ('92) for receiving this year’s Distinguished Alumni Awards. We are fortunate to have Mr. Chambers and Senator Ramsey as supporters and representatives of our school, and I wish them the very best as they continue to be leaders and role models throughout their communities.

The beginning of the year started with a bang. From the Public Interest Law Society’s Silent Auction to the Cobb County Alumni Luncheon, alumni are connecting with the school, and each other, more than ever before.

Many alumni are helping us connect with our graduates. Specifically, I would like to thank the Honorable James G. Bodiford ('79) who, along with Dean Lynn, hosted the 2011 Cobb County Alumni Luncheon. More than 45 alumni and guests enjoyed the opportunity to gather and network at the event, and we look forward to next year’s luncheon.

Another opportunity to connect with JMLS alumni is coming up soon, and is sure to be great fun. The Alumni Office will be hosting an alumni group at Gwinnett Braves’ Law & Order Day at Coolray Field on July 31, 2011. We expect a tremendous turnout, so for more information or to reserve your tickets, go to www.johnmarshall.edu/alumni and click on “RSVP for Alumni Event” or call the Alumni Office at 404-872-3593, ext 287. I hope to see you there.

Over the past year, it has been rewarding to see more and more alumni give to the Alumni Association’s scholarship funds. I encourage each of you to make a gift to one of the Alumni Association’s scholarship funds today. Even a few dollars can make a difference in the life of a student.

Thank you again for your continued support and participation. It has been exciting to witness our alumni community grow and become more engaged. I look forward to the positive role that alumni will play in the future of the Alumni Association and Atlanta’s John Marshall Law School.

Have a wonderful summer, and I hope to see you soon.

Sincerely,

Mike Moran ('97)
President, John Marshall Alumni Association
Chair, Alumni Board
ATLANTA’S JOHN MARSHALL LAW SCHOOL HONORS ALUMNI WITH “DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD”

Since 2008, Atlanta’s John Marshall Law School has presented two Distinguished Alumni Awards to deserving alumni at its yearly Commencement. This award is the highest honor JMLS bestows upon its graduates and is presented to accomplished alumni in recognition of their professional achievements, contributions to their communities, and uncompromising integrity.

At this year’s Commencement, both Thomas C. Chambers III (’77) and Senator Ronald B. Ramsey, Sr. (’92) received a Distinguished Alumni Award. During the ceremony, both honorees delivered uplifting and cheerful remarks to those graduating, encouraging them to move forward in their professional careers with integrity and honor. Mr. Chambers and Senator Ramsey, along with their predecessors, embody the ideals and qualities that the Distinguished Alumni Award represents, and we look forward to their continued leadership and support.

Former recipients of the Distinguished Alumni Award include leaders in the legal community, judges, prosecutors and solo practitioners. We congratulate all of our alumni who have been recognized with a Distinguished Alumni Award and would like to thank the many other alumni who bring prestige and recognition to Atlanta’s John Marshall Law School every day.

Pictures of our distinguished alumni are located on the 7th Floor of the JMLS 1422 Building.

**2011**
Thomas C. Chambers III (’77)  
Senator Ronald B. Ramsey, Sr. (’92)

**2010**
Neera Bahl (’00)  
Honorable James G. Bodiford (’79)

**2009**
Sonja N. Brown (’04)  
Honorable Alvin T. Wong (’76)

**2008**
Honorable G. Alan Blackburn (’68)  
Adam Malone (’99)

*To learn more about the honorees, please view their biographies online at: www.johnmarshall.edu/alumni.*
Tom Chambers, born in Columbus, GA, has practiced law in Homerville and Waycross, GA, for 34 years. After graduating from Georgia Tech with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Industrial Management, he entered the United States Air Force and rose to the rank of Captain before resigning his commission. He then worked as a construction and real estate development manager while attending Atlanta’s John Marshall Law School. Tom graduated in 1977 and moved to Homerville, the hometown of his wife, Carol, who has been the Mayor of Homerville since 1990.

Tom has been a leader in national, state, and local bar associations and is one of the most prominent John Marshall alumni in the Georgia Bar Association where he has been a member of the Board of Governors since February, 1989. He served two terms on the Executive Committee of the State Bar, two years on the State Bar Disciplinary Board, and has held numerous other positions on State Bar committees. He is a past president and secretary of the Alapaha Judicial Circuit. A member of many other professional organizations, Tom served as the Vice President of the Georgia Trial lawyers Association. He is a longtime member of the Board of Trustees for the Institute of Continuing Legal Education of Georgia and a member of the Board of Directors of Georgia Legal Services Corporation.

Tom is also active in community and civic organizations, including the Clinch County Lions Club where he is a past president. He has served on the Board of Directors of the Clinch County Chamber of Commerce. He has held numerous service positions with the Homerville United Methodist Church and serves as a Lay Leader with the Waycross District of the South Georgia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Tom and Carol have one daughter, Martha Carolyn Chambers, who is a solo practitioner in Savannah, GA.

Senator Ramsey was elected to the Georgia Senate in 2006, representing 177,000 citizens in DeKalb and Rockdale Counties. In 2010, he was named “Legislator of the Year” by several organizations, including the Georgia Federation of Teachers. From 2000-2007, he served as a Municipal Court Judge for the City of Stone Mountain, the first African-American to hold that office.

After receiving his Bachelor’s degree from North Carolina Central University, he worked as a Labor-Management Relations Examiner for the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB). In this role, he investigated unfair labor practice charges, including collective bargaining issues and arranged and presided over representation hearings and elections. While working full-time for the NLRB, he attended Atlanta’s John Marshall Law School, graduating in 1992. He practiced as an attorney for the NLRB for two years before moving to be Regional Counsel for the Laborers’ International Union of North America. As he moved into the private practice of law in 1997, he served as the Director of Labor Relations and Legal Affairs for the DeKalb County Sheriff’s Office for two years. Thereafter, he practiced in Lithonia as a lawyer, mediator and arbitrator until 2005 when he became the Director of Internal Affairs for the DeKalb County School District, his current position. He is responsible for all labor relations functions and advising the Superintendent on issues affecting the District’s 14,000 educators and support staff.

In the Georgia Senate, Senator Ramsey is a member of the Insurance and Labor Committee, the Judiciary and the Special Judiciary Committees, the State and Local Governmental Operations Committee, and is Chairman of the Urban Affairs Committee. He has passed legislation in every session since he took office in 2006.

Senator Ramsey has been married to Doris for 25 years and they are the proud parents of Ronald, Jr., a student at the University of Georgia, and Christyn, a student at the University of West Georgia.
STUDENTS SUPPORT RELIEF EFFORTS IN JAPAN

Shortly after the earthquake and tsunami devastated Japan in March, several students reached out to the Asian Law Student Association (ALSA) to seek assistance in organizing a relief effort for the people of Japan. Inspired by an ancient Japanese legend promising a granted wish to the folder of 1,000 Origami cranes, ALSA responded immediately. Together with the Latin American Law Students Association, Black Law Student Association, Georgia Trial Lawyer Association, and numerous volunteers, they folded 1,000 cranes in just five days. Donors contributed $1.00 for the opportunity to sign their name upon a crane. The cranes, complete with donor signatures, were presented to the Japanese Consulate. A donation in the amount of $1,027.50 was forwarded to the Real Medicine Foundation in support of the relief effort in Japan.

BLSA LECTURE SERIES HIGHLIGHTS AFRICAN-AMERICAN LEADERS

The Black Law Students Association (BLSA) is dedicated to the academic, social and professional development of its members and the entire student body. One of its goals is to promote scholarship and service throughout our community. This Spring, to highlight contributions made by African-American leaders within the legal community, BLSA hosted a two-part lecture series.

Part I of the series featured Fulton County District Attorney Paul Howard. Mr. Howard is a dynamic and well-known attorney who inspired many students to begin careers in prosecution. BLSA Vice President Karen Kenner, who is currently serving as a Legal Intern in the Fulton County District Attorney’s Office, stated, “Paul Howard has been invaluable in helping me understand what it means to be a prosecutor.”

Part II of the lecture series featured Judge Penny Brown Reynolds of the television series Family Court with Judge Penny. This lecture focused on religion and law. Thank you to part-time student Jennifer Neal-Clark for her efforts in bringing Judge Penny to the school. Judge Penny’s lecture was extremely motivational to students, alumni, and guests, and we were honored by her visit to Atlanta’s John Marshall Law School.
The mission of Atlanta’s John Marshall Law School is 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.

LEADERSHIP LECTURE SERIES: GILLIAN SORENSON

On March 30, 2011, the Leadership Lecture Series hosted Ms. Gillian Sorensen, Senior Advisor to the UN Foundation. Ms. Sorensen addressed students and alumni regarding current trends in international law and diplomacy, and the role that attorneys play in the development of UN policy.

In the spirit of the Leadership Lecture Series, Ms. Sorensen discussed influential leaders with whom she has worked throughout her career at the United Nations. Such leaders include seven UN Secretary-Generals and numerous UN Ambassadors from around the world. Ms. Sorenson discussed the functions of the UN foundation in meeting some of the world’s most critical challenges, while encouraging students to pursue public service and engage themselves in world affairs.

Ms. Sorensen’s presentation marked the close of the Leadership Lecture Series’ inaugural year, which included appearances by former Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin and JMLS Alumnus Adam Malone ('99). The Series’ team is already hard at work securing next year’s speakers and looks forward to alumni attendance. The Leadership Lecture Series will continue on August 31, 2011, at 12:30 p.m., with a visit from Attorney General Sam Olens. Be sure to check the alumni Facebook group, and check the alumni website news and events page for more information.

The Leadership Lecture Series is presented by the Office of Student Services and Associate Dean of Students, Sheryl Harrison.

According to Dean Harrison, “What we do, as lawyers, is greater than ourselves; we serve our fellow man. Atlanta’s John Marshall Law School strives to instill a high level of responsibility in our students to uphold the values of our profession, beginning the first day of their legal education.”
JMLS STUDENTS RECEIVE AWARDS FROM THE GEORGIA ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN LAWYERS (GAWL)

On May 12, 2011, the Georgia Association for Women Lawyers (GAWL) recognized recent graduates Ashley Gholamhosseini (‘11) and Danielle Long (‘11), and 3L student Audrey Holliday at their annual awards banquet.

Ashley was one of only four female law students in the state to receive the GAWL Foundation Scholarship. The GAWL Foundation also honored Danielle by presenting her with the Outstanding Law Student Award. Audrey (‘12) was selected as a GAWL Foundation Scholarship Finalist.

Atlanta’s John Marshall Law School is proud to support women lawyers throughout the State of Georgia, and we congratulate Ashley, Danielle and Audrey for their accomplishments.

JMLS STUDENTS HONORED AT PEER MENTOR BANQUET

On Monday, May 9, 2011, Atlanta’s John Marshall Law School held its second annual Peer Mentor Banquet at Maggiano’s Little Italy in Buckhead. The banquet was held to honor 2L and 3L students who served as mentors to first-year students. Five of the eighty-five mentors were selected as 2011 Peer Mentors of the Year: Ginger Arnold, Manal Chehimi, Ashley Gholamhosseini, Jenn Gore and David Windecher.

Associate Dean of Students, Sheryl Harrison, implemented the Peer Mentor Program in 2009 to encourage the success of first-year law students by helping them adjust academically, emotionally and socially to law school.

JMLS STUDENTS RECEIVE BEST ORALIST AWARD TWO YEARS IN A ROW

For the second year in a row, a John Marshall student received the award for best oralist at the Georgia IntraState Moot Court Competition. This year, Rhonda Thomas won the award following in the footsteps of Carson Waldon. The entire JMLS team did an impressive job at the competition, which took place at the University of Georgia Law School in April, 2011. The Georgia IntraState Moot Court competition is an annual appellate advocacy competition between the five Georgia law schools.

PUBLIC INTEREST LAW AWARD PRESENTED TO PAM KRAIDLER

At the PILS auction, Pam Kraidler (’06) was awarded the 2011 Public Interest Law Award. This award recognizes Pam’s commitment to public interest work in general, and specifically with the Atlanta Legal Aid Society, Inc., where she delivers quality legal services to low-income persons. She embodies a dedication and passion for justice that is invaluable to those doing pro bono work.

Pam follows in the footsteps of the Honorable G. Alan Blackburn (’68) who received the inaugural award in 2010.
9TH ANNUAL BOBBY LEE COOK PRACTICAL LEGAL SYMPOSIUM

The annual Bobby Lee Cook Practical Legal Symposium brings together experienced lawyers and judges to advise students and alumni about the challenges and opportunities often encountered in the legal profession. Bobby Lee Cook, for whom the symposium is named, has been a friend of the law school for many years and has generously funded the Bobby Lee Cook Endowed Scholarship Fund.

The 9th Annual Symposium, moderated by JMLS alumnus Mike Moran ('97), was held on April 8, 2010, and included guest panelists Emmet Bondurant, Peggy Brockington, Buck Rogers and Paul Weathington. The panel discussions were extremely engaging and imparted experience and wisdom to everyone present.

We hope you will join us at next Spring’s Symposium. Look for more information about this and other alumni events in the monthly alumni e-newsletter. If you do not receive the monthly alumni email messages, please contact the Alumni Office.

ONLINE LL.M. PROGRAM WELCOMES NEW COHORT

Ten attorneys from around the country comprise the newest cohort in John Marshall’s innovative LL.M. in Employment Law program. They gathered in Atlanta April 29-30, 2011, for an orientation program to meet their fellow classmates and professors, and to receive a hands-on introduction to the Online Campus and its courses.

The twenty-four credit LL.M. program consists of five semesters, with all coursework conducted online, enabling attorneys to continue their careers while pursuing the degree. Students in the new LL.M. cohort hail from New York, Florida, Texas, Illinois, and Georgia. They earned their Juris Doctor degrees from Penn State, Widener, Georgetown, Texas Wesleyan, Texas Southern, Fordham, Atlanta Law School, and JMLS.

The new cohort began their LL.M. studies in May with LL.M. course 470, Cutting Edge Issues in Employment Law. The course is taught by Professor Lisa Taylor, who also taught it for the inaugural cohort in Fall 2010. The inaugural cohort entered their third of five semesters in May, with LL.M. course 474, Constitutional Issues in the Workplace, taught by Professor Daniel Piar. The inaugural cohort is also enrolled in Master’s Thesis I, a one-credit course designed to introduce students to academic legal research and writing. The students will complete a thesis during their final two semesters under the direction of individual thesis advisors.

For more information on the LL.M. in Employment Law, please contact LL.M. Director, Lisa Kaplan, at lkaplan@johnmarshall.edu, or at 404-872-3593, ext. 131.
SECOND ANNUAL PUBLIC INTEREST LAW SOCIETY SILENT AUCTION

On Friday, March 25, 2011, the Public Interest Law Society (PILS) held the second annual PILS Silent Auction. The auction was held at Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough, LLP, who generously donated their space to hold the event. Their hospitality coupled with the kindness of JMLS Board member Richard B. Herzog, Jr., not only provided PILS with one of the best venues in Atlanta, but delicious refreshments as well.

The auction was a tremendous success, raising more than $10,000 and drawing more than 200 alumni, faculty, students and guests. The money raised from this year’s auction, nearly triple the amount raised last year, will fund grants to be awarded to students who do pro bono work during their 2012 Summer break.

Many great items were donated to this year’s auction, including concert tickets, vacation getaways, jewelry, art and karaoke with professors. Donations came from across the state, from alumni, businesses, and friends of the school. Thank you to everyone who organized the auction, volunteered their time and helped secure these generous donations.

We hope that more alumni and friends are able to join us next year as we have fun, connect and bid, in support of public interest work in and around our communities.

This year, students Greg Gelpi and Terri Daugherty were awarded grants funded by the 2010 PILS auction. These grants will help support Greg and Terri as they do pro bono work this Summer.
The Public Interest Law Society ("PILS") is a resource for JMLS students interested in pro bono work and public interest law. PILS is dedicated to the development of public interest law awareness and opportunities within the legal profession. Each year, PILS provides grants to JMLS students interested in public interest careers. These grants provide students financial support while they pursue pro bono work during their summer break and are funded largely in part by the annual PILS Auction. Be sure to join us next Spring as we support deserving students interested in pro bono work.
On May 14, 2011, Atlanta’s John Marshall Law School held its 2011 Commencement at the Boisfeuillet Jones Atlanta Civic Center Auditorium. Approximately 3,000 proud relatives and friends watched as 134 graduates crossed the stage to receive their degrees.

This year’s Commencement address was given by the Honorable Robert Benham of the Georgia Supreme Court who inspires with wisdom, humor and grace. Both the Invocation and Benediction were delivered by alumnus Otis L. Weldon (’01). Mr. Thomas C. Chambers, III (’77) and Senator Ronald B. Ramsey, Sr. (’92) received the Distinguished Alumni Awards and each gave heartfelt speeches outlining their careers while expressing their dedication to the legal profession and Atlanta’s John Marshall Law School.

Mr. Jason Michael Martin, Valedictorian (Part-Time Division), and Kristi Lyn Barbre, Valedictorian (Full-Time Division), spoke fondly about their time at John Marshall with words of encouragement and excitement for the future.

The Alumni Office wishes all of our new alumni the very best as they move forward in their careers and encourages them to become active members of the JMLS alumni community.

Thank you to Justice Benham for an inspirational address, and to all the friends and family who celebrated with our graduates that special day.
WHERE ARE YOU FROM AND WHERE DID YOU GO TO SCHOOL?

I am originally from Philadelphia, but my father was in the U.S. Marine Corps, so we moved around from place to place. I received my undergraduate degree from Duke University, and I went to law school at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, graduating in 1981. Fourteen years after graduating, I decided I wanted to teach history, so I went to the University of Wisconsin Law School and obtained my LL.M. in American Legal History.

WHAT MADE YOU WANT TO GO TO LAW SCHOOL?

I didn’t have a choice. My father told me I had to go to law school. He was the last of the “because I said so” generation. He had two sons. The first and eldest son, my brother, went to medical school and the second son, me, went to law school. My father was a remarkable man. He always got his way, but his way was almost always right.

WHAT COURSES DO YOU CURRENTLY TEACH? WHY DID YOU BECOME A PROFESSOR?

Currently, I teach Criminal law and various legal history seminars. Without question, the draw for me in teaching is the opportunity to influence the world in a positive way, in even the smallest increment, through the students I teach and the writing I publish. My active goal is to redeem all the breaths I have taken and all the resources of the world I have consumed by ‘leaving the world a better place’ for having done so. I have termed it the 51% principal: living at least 1% for ‘other’ over ‘self’, if at all possible, as a calling in all aspects of my life, including my vocational work and calling. I owe the world that, and I do hope/mean/intend to pay that debt. Corny, yes, but for me it is true, and very difficult. The Universe will judge at the end and in the end, the extent of my success in this.

HOW MANY CHILDREN DO YOU HAVE? ARE ANY OF THEM IN THE LEGAL PROFESSION?

I have three really remarkable children, none of whom have adopted law as the place of their vocational energy... yet. My daughter, 28, lives and works in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, teaching Emirati children in a British International school. My son, 26, has completed his first year of study toward his Ph.D. in American History at Harvard, in Cambridge. He has lately mentioned adding a law degree to his work, to specialize in legal history as I have, but not because of me; he has always danced with his own muse, which pleases me greatly. My youngest son, 23, has just completed his undergraduate work at UNC-Chapel Hill in public policy, and is presently trying hard to get to the Middle East to perfect his command of Arabic language, learned in the culture. He has just completed the LSAT and does hope(expect to be in law school this time next year.

ARE YOU WORKING ON ANY BOOKS OR PUBLICATIONS?

I am working on lots of stuff. I am very interested in the jurisprudence of law and evil, and I am examining the interface of good and evil in the context of human slavery within a republic. We seldom appreciate that the very existence of ‘law’ in its broadest sense reflects clearly on the unique duality of ‘good’ and ‘evil’ in the heart of human beings. Law is designed to warn/urge/encourage us to remember what ‘good’ is (generally) and opt accordingly, and to create a system of punishments/coercions. Even more interesting, to me, are those places where law deliberately betrays its prophylactic purpose and itself reflects and creates ‘evil’ (e.g., American slavery; legal genocide in Nazi Germany). I am fascinated with these events and have spent my academic career exploring them.

“In my 30 years practicing law, I have never billed a dime.”
TWO JMLS PROFESSORS CITED IN U.S. SUPREME COURT OPINION

Two of John Marshall’s faculty members have achieved one of the “holy grails” among law school professors. Professors Joanna Apolinsky and Jeffrey A. Van Detta have been cited in an opinion of the U.S. Supreme Court.


In Bruesewitz, the Supreme Court decided the longstanding, unresolved question whether persons injured by vaccines could sue the pharmaceutical manufacturers for damages those persons claimed were caused by a defectively designed vaccine, as opposed to one defectively manufactured or marketed with inadequate warnings. The National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986 (NCVIA or Act) created a no-fault compensation program for injuries allegedly caused by vaccines. The NCVIA affords manufacturers significant protection from tort liability. In particular, the Act eliminates manufacturer liability for a vaccine’s unavoidable, adverse side effects.

In discussing the tensions between vaccine supply stability and the inefficiency of traditional tort litigation in resolving vaccine-injury claims, Justice Scalia’s majority opinion cites Professor Apolinsky and Van Detta’s article -- the only law review article cited in the majority opinion.

In their article, Professors Apolinsky and Van Detta discuss the thorny legal questions that have become more troublesome with continually changing, and potentially devastating, strains of pandemic flu and other viruses that threaten the public health and the very fabric of economic system and social order -- questions such as: When should there be liability for vaccine-related injuries? What kind of liability should there be? How should liability be allocated for vaccine-related injuries? And might that inquiry be made more meaningful by considering the liability-compensation question within a holistic framework of strategic planning and policy for vaccination as a cornerstone of societal stability and progress, rather than as an isolated pocket of tort or administrative law? Their consideration of these questions allowed them to construct an approach available to Congress to make reasoned, well-informed choices in this area -- and to aspire to more innovative approaches better adapted both to the unique context of vaccine injury and of the governmental compulsion behind many vaccines.

Few law professors ever see their scholarly writing cited by the U.S. Supreme Court. Now, Atlanta’s John Marshall Law School can boast that it has two faculty members who have realized this rare accomplishment.

TRIVIA WITH PROFESSOR MEARS

Which judicial circuit contains the smallest county, geographically, in Georgia?

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

www.facebook.com/AJMLS
The Honors Program in Criminal Justice is a cutting-edge program designed to prepare its graduates to excel in the practice of criminal law. Students are given a powerful foundation of knowledge in the field through the program’s three-year core curriculum. A problem-based teaching method is used to ensure that the students appreciate both how all the core courses fit together within criminal law and how they apply to its practice. This integrated and applied approach to teaching ensures our students receive a well-rounded and practical educational experience.

With an increasing demand from the criminal justice system for capable practitioners, and shrinking state budgets, new prosecutors and defenders are more likely than ever to be thrown into the criminal law arena with very little training beyond law school and even greater responsibility. Traditional legal education, however, does not prepare the young criminal lawyer to function effectively. Therefore, it is critical that a law school meet the need to ensure that criminal law practitioners are better equipped to live up to their professional and constitutional obligations as practitioners. The Honors Program in Criminal Justice at John Marshall meets this need.

Students begin the Honors Program during their first year of law school. The year-long Legal Writing, Research and Analysis course will be coordinated with Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure to help students appreciate the interplay between doctrine and application. This experience will be complemented with Introduction to Criminal Law in which students will engage with a variety of issues relevant to the practice of criminal law, and discuss the role prosecutors and defenders play in addressing these issues. During their second year, students will build on this foundation with courses in Advanced Criminal Procedure, Evidence, and Advanced Evidence. During the Spring semester of their second year, students will take Integrated Criminal Practice, a practical course that uses a simulated problem to tie all of the required courses together in the context of teaching pre-trial litigation and trial advocacy. This will prepare students for an intensive, third-year externship experience through which they will apply these lessons in a criminal law placement. The curriculum teaches skills that help students apply these lessons in the practice of criminal law, as well as strategies to help them address challenges they will confront as practicing attorneys.

Jonathan Rapping
Director of Honors Program in Criminal Justice and Associate Professor of Law

For more information about the Honors Program in Criminal Justice, please contact the Office of Admissions at cjhadmissions@johnmarshall.edu or (404) 872-3593 ext. 154.
Each year, hundreds of applicants are referred to JMLS by our alumni. Here are a few facts about JMLS to keep in mind when you find yourself in a conversation with a prospective student. Of course, sharing your personal experience is always a good start!

Did you know that all of our faculty members have extensive practical experience in their respective fields of expertise? Also, our 13-to-1 student to faculty ratio is one of the smallest in the country and allows for a supportive environment where professors are easily accessible to students both inside and outside of the classrooms.

Additionally, our impressive 90.4% placement rate means that even in this economy, our students are getting jobs. In fact, JMLS’s Career Development Office offers individualized, professional advice to students and alumni that is tailored specifically to each individual’s goals.

Moreover, JMLS is centrally located in Atlanta, which is often considered the social, cultural and economic hub of the South. Indeed, the school is close to Atlanta’s largest law firms, as well as government offices, both state and federal courts, and non-profit legal organizations.

We offer the most flexible legal program in the Southeast. Students can complete their legal education in a full-time, part-time day, or part-time evening format.

**ENTERING CLASS OF 2010**

**265** STUDENTS

**209** FULL-TIME

**56** PART-TIME

**26** STATES

**143** MALE

**122** FEMALE

**37.7%** MINORITY POPULATION

**21.5%** AFRICAN-AMERICAN

**8.3%** HISPANIC

**7.5%** ASIAN

**KNOW A POTENTIAL LAWYER?**

Atlanta’s John Marshall Law School has a proud history of producing great lawyers. Our alumni understand what it takes for an individual to be successful in our law programs; therefore, we highly value our alumni referrals. If you know someone who would be a great addition to our law school community, please provide them with this referral card, and we will gladly waive their $50.00 application fee.

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**APPLICANT’S NAME**

_____________________________

**ALUMNUS NAME**

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**CLASS YEAR**

_____________________________

**ALUMNUS ADDRESS:**

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*Applicants must include this card with their application.*
Schuyler Hoynes ('09) and Lesia Schnur ('10) catch up over lunch at the 2011 Cobb County Alumni Luncheon.

Laura Anderson ('09) and Jennifer Johnson ('09) visit at the 2011 Cobb County Alumni Luncheon.

Judge G. Alan Blackburn ('68) enjoys talking to Courtney Martin ('10) and Jim Martin ('76).

Roger Rozen ('79) and Neera Bahl ('01) take a minute to catch up at the 2011 Cobb County Alumni Luncheon.

Phyllis Layman ('00) and Sonya George ('06) enjoy conversation over lunch at the 2011 Cobb County Alumni Luncheon.

Judith Alembik ('71) introduces her husband Aaron to Dean Lynn at the 2011 Reunion Dinner.

Alpa Amin ('10), Nell Brimmer ('10) and current student Melody M. Toddy at the PILS Silent Auction.

Alumni mingle at 2011 Alumni Reunion Dinner.

Alumni at the 2011 Alumni Reunion Dinner.

Ernest Bennett ('56) enjoys himself at the 2011 Alumni Reunion Dinner.

Larry Feldman ('06) and his wife Kathy with Dean Lynn at the 2011 Reunion Dinner.
If you are a fan of baseball, now is your chance to network with fellow alumni and legal professionals while having a lot of fun. Bring your friends and family, and join us for Gwinnett Braves Law and Order Day at Coolray Field on July 31, 2011. Cheer on the Gwinnett Braves as they take on the Indianapolis Indians. The game starts at 2:05 P.M. JMLS has purchased a block of tickets for the game, so contact the Alumni Office today at 404-872-3593 to reserve your seats. Tickets are $15.00 each.
FIRST ANNUAL FIVE-YEAR CLASS REUNION

In March, JMLS hosted its first five-year class reunion dinner honoring alumni from the Classes of 2006, 2001, 1996, 1991, etc. As with the PILS Silent Auction, the beautiful venue was generously donated by Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough, LLP. After a lovely meal, the alumni were treated to breathtaking views of Atlanta and after-dinner entertainment at the PILS auction.

Among those alumni who attended were Alumni Board members Ms. Judith Alembik (’71), Mr. Otis Weldon (’01) and Mr. Dylan Littlejohn (’06). The most experienced alumnus present was Mr. Ernest Bennett from the Class of 1956. Mr. Bennett represented his class well, with great stories and conversation. Retired Judge Duncan Wheale (’76) traveled the greatest distance, coming from his home in Charleston, South Carolina.

The Alumni Office would like to thank everyone who attended the five-year reunion dinner and looks forward to many successful reunions in the years to come. Next year, the five-year reunion dinner will honor those alumni from the Classes of 2007, 2002, 1997, 1992, etc. If you graduated from one of those classes, we’ll see you then!

ALUMNI NEWS & EVENTS

COBB COUNTY ALUMNI LUNCHEON

On May 4, 2011, Dean Richardson Lynn and Cobb County Superior Court Judge James G. Bodiford hosted the 2011 Cobb County Alumni Luncheon. This luncheon was organized to provide a networking opportunity for JMLS alumni who live and work in Cobb County. Thanks in large part to the efforts of Judge Bodiford, over 45 alumni gathered for food and conversation.

Alumni enjoyed the opportunity to chat about old times and good times over lunch, and many did not realize JMLS has such a large and impressive presence in Cobb County. In fact, the most often heard comment was, “I didn’t know you were a John Marshall graduate!” During lunch, Dean Lynn spoke briefly about the school’s growth, successes, and aspirations and discussed future plans for the law school. It was great to see our alumni learn about the school and connect with each other.

This year’s Cobb County luncheon was a perfect model to follow when engaging other groups of alumni in counties across Georgia and, hopefully, one day across the nation. If you would like to suggest a similar alumni gathering in your area, please contact the Alumni Office. We are always happy to help our alumni connect!
Over the past 30 years, Robert “Rob” H. Rosenbloom ('76) has served the public of the State of Georgia in both the Department of Corrections, where he worked for 18 years, and the Department of Juvenile Justice, where he has helped shape Georgia’s policies effecting Georgia’s juvenile justice system. Mr. Rosenbloom is currently the Deputy Commissioner of Community Services and Intake for the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice, and has been with the Department of Juvenile Justice for 12 years. Mr. Rosenbloom continues to lead a remarkable career serving the bests interests of the citizens and youth of Georgia. To honor his commitment to public service, he was recently nominated to receive the 2011 Public Interest Award, an award that is presented annually by the JMLS Public Interest Law Society to an alumnus who has devoted their life to the service of others. Take a moment to get to know this remarkable alumnus.

What brought you to John Marshall Law School?

I am originally from New Jersey, but I ended up in Kent, Ohio, where I obtained my bachelors degree from Kent State University. Upon my graduation, I decided to pursue a career in law and applied to John Marshall Law School. I was accepted in 1974, so my wife and I packed up our things and drove to Georgia so that I could become an attorney. We have lived in Georgia ever since, for nearly 38 years, and we are happy to call Georgia our home.

What have you done since graduating from John Marshall?

After I graduated from law school in 1976, I entered into private practice. As I practiced law, over the course of five years, I became interested in counseling offenders. That interest led me to the Department of Corrections, where I worked for approximately eighteen years. While at the Department of Corrections, I held the positions of probation officer, counselor, center director, and assistant regional director. I began working for the Department of Juvenile Justice in 1999, and I currently serve as the as Deputy Commissioner of Community Services and Intake.

What are your responsibilities as the Deputy Commissioner of Community Services and Intake at the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice?

As Deputy Commissioner of Community Services and Intake, I oversee, and am responsible for, 20 Regional Youth Detention Centers throughout Georgia. I am also responsible for various services offered to youth in the community.

What do you like most about working for the Department of Juvenile Justice?

It has been rewarding to see the positive changes that happen in the lives of individuals as they are set on a better path, and I take pride in playing a role in helping Georgia’s youth find success in their personal lives. It is also gratifying to play a part in implementing positive changes to Georgia’s juvenile justice system that better protect the rights of youth as well as victims, and I am proud to advocate on a state-wide level for these changes.

What are some of your interests and hobbies?

I enjoy my twenty nieces and nephews and spending time with my wife of 37 years. My hobbies include golf and sailing, and my wife and I enjoy spending time together near the water.
FROM STUDY GROUP TO PARTNERS: DIONA POTTER (’08) SPEAKS ABOUT HER PRACTICE WITH PAUL SIEG (’08)

“Paul and I first met in law school and quickly became good friends. It was in the crucible of law school that we both came to realize that not only did our personalities mesh, but that we had complimentary skill sets as well.

After graduation we went in different directions – Paul went to work for himself, and I went to work for a small firm that specialized in business litigation. After a year, I realized I missed the camaraderie I had enjoyed with my study group while in law school. I told Paul, and we began talking about working together.

As we reflected on our successes together in law school and how well we had worked together before, it began to make more and more sense to both of us that we should be working together now. And so, we took a leap of faith and started our own firm. We’ve been working together now for about 1 ½ years. We do our best to have fun while working hard.

Trying to grow a business has been challenging at times, but it’s also very rewarding. We are fortunate enough to (finally!) be in a place where we take the cases we want to take, and we get to help people. It’s a pretty good feeling. And, on top of that, I get to work with one of my best friends and a fellow alumnus!”

-Diona Potter

ALUMNI PARTICIPATE IN NATIONAL TRIAL ACADEMY

Congratulations to Tiffany M. Simmons Rufus (’09) and Corey Martin (’09) who were chosen to take part in the 2011 TIPS/ABOTA National Judicial College in Reno, NV. This training program is sponsored by the Tort Trial & Insurance Practice Section of the American Bar Association and has been named the country’s “Top Boot Camp for Lawyers” by the ABA Journal. A limited number of students from around the country were chosen to participate in this unique, interactive and diverse program, which utilizes today’s latest technology. Experienced defense and plaintiffs’ attorneys, judges, professors, and technical engineers acted as teachers and mentors to the group. Congratulations to Tiffany and Corey!

CAREER SERVICES

The Career Development Office is committed to providing services to help our students and alumni achieve their career goals. Early career assessment and skills training are essential to a successful job search and career satisfaction. Whether you are looking for a part-time clerkship, that first post-graduate position, a lateral move, or a complete career change, we are here to support your efforts. The programs developed by the Career Development Office help our students and alumni meet the challenges they face while searching for employment opportunities. For more information, or to let us know of employment opportunities that might benefit other graduates, visit www.johnmarshall.edu/career, or call the Career Development Office at 404-872-3593 Ext. 113.
TAVIS KNIGHTEN ('06) AND ALLISON MCDONALD ('06) BUILD REWARDING CONNECTION

Tavis L. Knighten ('06) and Allison M. McDonald ('06) work together at the Law Offices of Tavis L. Knighten, P.C. Tavis and Allison were both students in John Marshall's evening program and began classes together in Fall of 2002. While at John Marshall, Tavis and Allison often studied together, and over the course of law school, became good friends.

Tavis graduated from John Marshall in December of 2005 and after passing the bar exam, opened his own firm, The Law Offices of Tavis L. Knighten, P.C. Allison graduated in May 2006 and opened an office as a solo practitioner in September 2007. After working separately for some time, Allison and Tavis reconnected and in 2009, Allison joined The Law Offices of Tavis L. Knighten, P.C. as an associate.

Both Tavis and Allison have worked successfully together for over two years, and continue to build upon their connection as friends, colleagues and alumni. Allison, Tavis, and their firm, The Law Office of Tavis L. Knighten, P.C., are great supporters of our school, and Tavis is a valued member of the Alumni Board.

John Marshall is grateful for the friendship between Tavis and Allison and encourages other alumni to follow their lead and foster their own professional connections within the JMLS alumni community. These connections are extremely rewarding and very easy to make.

CONGRATULATIONS ALUMNI

Tommy Duck ('05), was recently named one of Southwest Georgia’s 40 Under Forty by the Albany Herald. We are proud of Tommy’s accomplishments and to have him represent our school in South Georgia.

Congratulations to Adam Malone ('99), Judge Jason Fincher ('00) and Mazi Mazloom ('97) for each being named one of 20 Rising Stars Under 40 in 2011 by the Marietta Daily Journal – Cobb Life. We look forward to your continued success.

ALUMNI WORKING TOGETHER

More and more of our alumni are joining forces to do great things in the legal community. By working together, these alumni have tapped into one of the most valuable resources they have, each other.

To let us know how you are connected to other alumni, please contact the Alumni Office at 404-872-3593, ext. 287, or by email to cdillard@johnmarshall.edu.
ALUMNI WEBPAGE
Be sure to visit our alumni web page! The JMLS alumni web page contains up-to-date alumni news and detailed information about upcoming alumni events. You can access an assortment of alumni benefits and services without ever leaving your home or office. You can obtain a JMLS email account, request a transcript, and even view past issues of *The Advocate* - all online.

ALUMNI EVENTS AND NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES
The Alumni Office organizes events throughout the year to help you stay connected to the school and to each other. This past year, we held networking events in Washington, D.C., Tifton, Georgia, Cobb County and Atlanta, Georgia. If you are interested in helping organize a JMLS alumni event in your area, please contact Assistant Alumni Director, Chad Dillard at 404-872-3593 ext. 287. Be on the lookout for more alumni events coming your way!

MONTHLY ALUMNI E-NEWSLETTER
Each month, we send out an email newsletter to alumni, which highlights important alumni news and keeps you informed about upcoming alumni events. If you do not receive the alumni E-Newsletter, please go to www.johnmarshall.edu/alumni and update your contact information online. After your information is updated, your email will be automatically added to the database and you will receive the E-Newsletter. It only takes a few minutes to stay connected.

YOUR JMLS LIBRARY
The JMLS library is an invaluable tool to not only our students, but also our alumni. The library is three floors of up-to-date journals, periodicals, and other law-related publications. Not only that, the library has a Westlaw access terminal that is exclusively for alumni use. If you have any questions or comments, or if you want to learn more about how the JMLS library can help you or your practice, please contact the library at 404-872-3593 ext. 103.

THE JMLS LAW REVIEW
The *John Marshall Law Journal* is a bi-annual legal periodical published at the conclusion of the fall and spring semesters. The Journal is staffed by second and third year full-time law students and third and fourth year part-time law students. The mission of the *John Marshall Law Journal* is to serve as an informative resource to the legal community by focusing each issue of the Journal on areas of the law that are currently impacting the nation and Georgia.

Each spring, the *John Marshall Law Journal* hosts the Dean Robert J. D’Agostino Symposium to raise awareness of its forthcoming issue. The symposium provides panel discussions on the area of law on which the forthcoming Journal will focus. These discussions address the issues specifically raised in the Journal articles. Panelists include the authors contributing to the forthcoming Journal, as well as other law professors, legislators, and practitioners with expertise on the subject at hand.

If you would like to purchase a subscription to the Journal or if you have any questions regarding the Symposium, please email: lawjournal@johnmarshall.edu.

The Alumni Office serves as a resource to all JMLS Alumni and friends of the school. If you have any questions about services, events or volunteer opportunities, please contact Chad Dillard, Assistant Director of Alumni, at 404-872-3593 ext. 287.
GIVING BACK

GIFTS THAT HELP BUILD CONNECTIONS

The Annual Fund serves as the foundation for our Alumni Association by helping foster connections between JMLS, and its alumni and students.

The Association’s Annual Fund is the main operating fund for the John Marshall Law School Alumni Association and is essential to helping our alumni stay connected. Throughout the year, the Annual Fund subsidizes special alumni projects and events, such as The Advocate, local alumni gatherings and the JMLS alumni reception at the State Bar Annual Meeting.

This year, the Alumni Office held more alumni events and gatherings than ever before, and next year, there will be even more opportunities for our alumni to gather. The Alumni Office’s ability to host these gatherings throughout the year is more important than ever and is directly dependent upon the generosity of our alumni. We encourage you to help support alumni events and communications by giving to the Annual Fund.

Your gift will support the alumni community and the bonds that form within it.

We look forward to seeing you at an alumni event soon!

The Alumni Office
(404) 872-3593

Barbara Chelikowsky, Alumni Director
ext. 150

Chad Dillard, Assistant Alumni Director
ext. 287

Your gift makes a difference. Please donate today.

THE ANNUAL FUND

ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP FUND

BOBBY LEE COOK SCHOLARSHIP FUND

MELISSA HAMRICK SCHOLARSHIP FUND

JOHN E. RYAN ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP FUND

To learn more about the JMLS Alumni Association funds and how you can help students pursue their dreams, please go to www.johnmarshall.edu/alumni.
Show your JMLS pride...be one of the first to receive an alumni decal for your car!

Update your information today to automatically receive one by mail.

Congrats new alumni!
More photos at facebook/AJMLS

www.johnmarshall.edu

Stay in contact with fellow Alumni...

Are you getting the e-newsletter?

SAVE THE DATE
Gwinnett Braves Law and Order Day 7.31.11