PETER RUGER, JD ’69, was officially installed as an honorary initiate of the Order of the Coif at the law school’s Academic Excellence Reception on May 14, 2009.

Ruger, a longtime adjunct professor of law, teaches in the law school’s Intellectual Property & Nonprofit Organizations (IP/NO) Clinic, as well as teaches Nonprofit Organizations.

Ruger previously was of counsel at Tuite, Keeney, Cooper, Mohan & Jackstadt PC and was formerly general counsel for Washington University. Ruger has led and/or served on the boards of numerous nonprofit organizations.

He works closely with David Deal, IP/NO Clinic director and lecturer in law, on mentoring students and arranging for projects in the nonprofit sector. Under his direction, clinic students recently have developed articles of incorporation for several charter schools, successfully challenged the denial of a sales tax exemption, analyzed animal rights legislation, developed a whistleblower policy, and assisted a nonprofit that provides hospice care in Thailand.

The honorary initiate for the Order of the Coif is selected for contributions to the legal profession and the law school. The Academic Excellence Reception honors students from the top 15 percent of the graduating class. A number of these will go on to become members of the Order of the Coif, once final grades have been determined.

Associate Dean Pauline Kim and Professor John Drobak, right, congratulate Peter Ruger on his selection as the 2009 honorary initiate to the Order of the Coif.

TWO FORMER LAW SCHOOL CLASSMATES, Ian Forshner, BSBA ’01, JD ’06, and Michael A. Smith, JD ’06, are among the first attorneys to be certified as Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Accredited Professionals by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC). The LEED AP credential distinguishes these alumni as construction project team members qualified to manage the LEED Green Building Rating System™, due to their advanced depth of knowledge in green building practices and in the LEED certification program.

After graduating from law school, the two have followed similar career paths. Both are practicing in the greater New York metropolitan area as associates with large, nationally recognized law firms with a focus on real estate and construction-related transactions and disputes.

“LEED is firmly established as the primary mechanism through which government and corporate initiatives are transforming ‘green building’ practices from voluntary to mandatory,” says Smith, an associate at DrinkerBiddle. “Naturally, LEED is contributing important legal issues to the evolving landscape of the ‘green’ movement. Ian and I anticipate that, as LEED AP attorneys, we will be well suited to identify, and successfully handle, a wide variety of LEED-driven legal issues.”

Forshner notes that there are only approximately 700 attorneys nationwide who have earned the LEED AP credential. As attorneys, their certification is also noteworthy since the LEED exam is primarily geared toward architects and engineers—and has only a 34 percent pass rate. Indeed, the LEED exam is a rigorous endeavor, which requires candidates to understand and apply the technical standards embodied in the LEED certification program. “We are now focusing our efforts on helping to develop the emerging field of green building law,” says Forshner, an associate at Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP. “As young, motivated LEED AP attorneys, we have an excellent opportunity to make a real impact.”

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Ian Forshner   Michael A. Smith

Ruger Installed as Honorary Order of Coif Initiate