Students Excel in Competitions

WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY LAW STUDENTS had a highly successful year in lawyering skills competitions, winning two world championships, taking high honors in several regional competitions, and advancing to national and international rounds. Students also received numerous Best Oralist, Best Advocate, and Best Brief recognitions.

The Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Team won the super-regional competition, beating out 23 teams in Chicago. Second-year law student Jessica Cusick also won Best Oralist. Cusick and team members Rebecca Feldmann, Erin Griebel, Shibani Shah, and Ashley Walker then advanced to the Shearman & Sterling International Rounds involving national and regional champions from nearly 100 countries. Walker placed in the top 10 out of nearly 300 oralists. This marks the second straight year that the law school’s team has advanced to the International Rounds, and the sixth time in 10 years (a record matched only by Harvard).

Third-year law students Andrew Nash and Samir Kaushik won the D.M. Harish Memorial International Law Moot Court Competition (DMH), held in Mumbai, India. Nash and Kaushik defeated teams from around the world en route to the championship, where they beat Cornell Law School’s team. Nash also was the second-best oralist.

The 26 schools competing in the DMH represented teams from India, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Spain, Greece, Australia, Mauritius, Sri Lanka, and the United States. The Government Law College in Mumbai, one of the top law schools in India, sponsors the DMH. This year’s competition involved oral and written arguments for a hypothetical dispute related to international treaty law, international human rights law, and the law concerning developing nations.

A team of four second-year students won first place in the Niagara International Law

Law School Hires Career Services Dean

MICHAEL SPIVEY has been named the new assistant dean for Career Services, Strategy, and Marketing. He is currently associate director for Admissions at Vanderbilt Law School. Spivey was named to the position at Washington University Law after a national search conducted by Janet Bolin, associate dean for Admissions and Student Services, and Charles Burson, visiting professor and National Council member.

“Dean Spivey is an enthusiastic manager who is highly motivated to achieve progress in career placement of our students,” says Kent Syverud, dean and the Ethan A.H. Shepley University Professor. “In his work in admissions at Vanderbilt, he has acquired a national reputation for knowing and recruiting students individually and effectively, and for marketing the school. We believe he will be an excellent new leader for the challenges and opportunities we face in career services. Dean Spivey also will assist us, as part of our student services team, in forming strategy and marketing efforts for all aspects of our operations.”

Spivey has served in the Vanderbilt University Law School administration since 2000, including as associate director of Admissions, coordinator of Admissions and Recruitment, and admissions counselor. Previously, he was co-chair for NCAA Athletic Department Accreditation at Vanderbilt. Spivey also has served as a lecturer in business ethics at the University of Alabama and has written and presented extensively on law school admissions topics.
Schweich to Serve as Ambassador-in-Residence

THOMAS A. SCHWEICH, the State Department’s Coordinator for Counternarcotics and Justice Reform in Afghanistan, will join the law school this summer as an Ambassador-in-Residence. He also serves as the government’s principal deputy assistant secretary (PDAS) for the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL).

As the PDAS, Schweich helps manage an annual budget of $2.5 billion and more than 4,000 people around the world. INL is responsible for international drug interdiction and eradication; police, judge, and prosecutor training; combating cyber-crime, money laundering, and international organized crime syndicates; and negotiating international crime conventions, among other activities.

Schweich will be the law school’s second Ambassador-in-Residence. The Ambassadors Program, administered by the Whitney R. Harris World Law Institute, brings foreign service professionals to the law school to share their experiences and knowledge with the law school and University community. The previous Ambassador-in-Residence was Ambassador Carla A. Hills, former United States Trade Representative, who also delivered the Tyrrell Williams Lecture.

“The purpose of the program is to bring the real-life experience of some of our top diplomats directly into the classroom experience of our students,” says Leila Nadya Sadat, the Henry H. Oberschelp Professor of Law and Harris Institute director. “Through the Harris Institute Ambassadors Program, our students are able to complement their training in international law with a practical foreign policy perspective, thereby enriching their knowledge and practice of both international law and foreign relations.”

Schweich, who graduated from Yale University and Harvard Law School, also will serve as a visiting professor. Other visiting law professors this fall include Peter Acheson, Charles Burson, Adele Morrison, Camille Nelson, Michael Siebecker, and David Stras. In addition to his work at the University, Schweich will be of counsel at Bryan Cave LLP.

Moot Teams Win

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Moot Court Competition, sponsored by the Canada–U.S. Law Institute and held in Washington, D.C. Sumeet Jain was named Best Oralist, and Andrew Lucas won second place. Jain and Lucas also won the award for Best Respondent Argument (for combined oral and written presentations), and Jain won an ABA Book Award for Best Respondent Oralist. In the overall competition, team members—Jain, Lucas, Sally Conroy, and Robert McDonald—prevailed over law students from across the United States and Canada.

The Niagara Competition is a simulation of oral and written practice before the International Court of Justice and concerns hypothetical disputes involving Canadian–American relations.

“These are the latest in a long string of successes for our international moot court program, and are a real tribute to the high quality of our program and the dedication and hard work of our students and their coaches,” says Leila Nadya Sadat, the Henry H. Oberschelp Professor of Law, director of the law school’s Whitney R. Harris World Law Institute, and faculty advisor to the international law moot court teams.

In other team wins, law students won the regional round of the ABA National Appellate Advocacy Competition, and the Environmental Law Moot Court Team were semifinalists at the national competition. Intellectual Property Law team members won the National Trial Competition. Additionally, the Trial Team advanced through the regional rounds of the National Trial Competition and competed in the national round.

“This has been a remarkable year for our students,” notes Michael Koby, director of the Trial & Advocacy Program. “In areas as diverse as U.S. constitutional and administrative law, intellectual property, and international law, our moot court and trial teams have experienced extraordinary success.”
Norwood Develops Law Mentoring Program for St. Louis Youths

Kim Norwood, professor of law, has developed a collaboration with Washington University Law students and Mound City Bar Association lawyers to encourage students at Soldan High School in St. Louis to consider legal careers.

During the fall 2007 semester, law students in Norwood’s “Race, Education & the Legal Profession” course participated in the new program, which Norwood called Law Exposure And Professionalism Strategies (LEAPS). Many of the law students will continue as volunteer mentors to the 18 high school students, including offering workshops on getting into college, the importance of and how to access resources to prepare for SAT and ACT exams, résumé writing, and interview skills.

“It was a wonderful experience. I was so proud to be involved, and the kids were so proud of themselves,” says second-year law student Kalila Jackson. “The students were really energized about the law and legal profession. It was great to be able to share what I have learned in law school at a time when the high school students will be making important choices in their lives. I would love to continue to work with these kids.”

The law students spent the first half of the fall semester studying, researching, and writing papers on the state of public education in America and its impact on minority races, ethnicities, cultures, and economically depressed populations. They then began working with Mound City lawyers to mentor the Soldan students. The lawyers started by talking to the Soldan students about corporate culture, professionalism, and life in a law firm. The law students discussed getting into law school and law school life, as well as their public education research projects.

The law students next worked with the Mound City lawyers to teach case strategy and theory to the Soldan students, who were “hired into law firms.” Drawing upon what they had learned from their research projects, the law students helped the high school students tackle a case, which was modeled on a hypothetical problem developed by Georgetown University School of Law. The case centered on an illiterate high school senior suing his school and school district for the failure to educate him.

“The law students helped the Soldan students analyze whether a tort of educational malpractice should be recognized, whether public education should be equal throughout a state, and what responsibilities to get an education lie with the students themselves and their parents or guardians,” Norwood says.

After rigorous preparation by the law students and lawyers, LEAPS culminated with the high school students touring the St. Louis City Circuit Court, listening to powerful speeches by Judge Michael Calvin and Judge Jimmie Edwards, and arguing their hypothetical case before Judge David Mason, JD ’83.

“Soldan teacher Steve Lorenz notes: “The kids were really pumped up on the way back to school. It is something they will remember as a highlight of their high school years and springboard to future learning. I am really grateful to Professor Norwood, her students, and the Mound City lawyers for this experience.”

Norwood observes that the high school students seemed to really identify with their role models, further emphasizing that a legal career could be attainable to them, and the law students experienced the joys and responsibilities of mentoring and being mentored.

Soldan student Brid-gette Mahone wrote in an e-mail to Norwood: “Thank you so much for allowing us the chance to collaborate with Washington University School of Law. Because of this experience I have decided to attend law school.”

St. Louis attorney Kathryn L. Pierce observes: “It is such a unique opportunity to see the magic that happens when law students and high school students combine forces. The best case scenario is we get some inspired lawyers out of the project, and the worst case scenario is we have youth who are better educated about the legal system, have better critical thinking skills, better reading and writing skills, and more self esteem. Either way, the results are powerful.”
The colloquium commemorated the 40th anniversaries of the Fair Housing Act and of Jones v. Mayer, 392 U.S. 409, and the 60th anniversary of Shelley v. Kraemer, 334 U.S. 1, as well as celebrated the 35th anniversary of the law school’s Clinical Education Program.

Open-Source and Proprietary Models of Innovation: Beyond Ideology

The law school’s Center for Research on Innovation and Entrepreneurship hosted 20 scholars from various disciplines nationally who presented papers on the two models of innovation.

Roundtable on Public International Law and Theory

The law school’s Whitney R. Harris World Law Institute hosted 16 scholars from around the United States and Canada who presented papers on “Norms in International Criminal Law.”
From left: John Baugh, Washington University (African & African American Studies); Steven Gunn, Washington University Law; Martha Rodriguez, Valley Park community activist; attorney Margaret Bush Wilson; Sam Liberman, founding director, Washington University Law’s Clinical Education Program; and Karen Tokarz, director, Washington University Law’s Clinical Education and ADR Programs.

From left: Joel West, San Jose State University (Business); Charles McManis, Washington University Law; and Dawn Dziuba, Intellectual Property Law LLM student.

(left) Russell Miller, formerly University of Idaho, now Washington & Lee

(right) Jenia Turner, Southern Methodist University

(above) Darryl Robinson, University of Toronto, left, and Kit Wellman, Washington University (Philosophy)

(above) Peggy McGuinness, University of Missouri
Students Publish, Present Scholarship Nationally

A NUMBER OF Washington University Law students have published papers, presented their scholarship, and participated in conferences during the past year. Several of these papers were written for seminars. Their accomplishments include:

- Second-year law student Robert Friedman was selected to publish his article on “Religious Discrimination in the Workplace: The Persistent Polarized Struggle” in the inaugural volume of the Midwest Black Law Students Association Law Journal.

- Third-year law student Bryan D. Lammon and second-year law student Elizabeth E. McDonald were selected to present papers at Saint Louis University's Student Legal Writers' Association Symposium. McDonald's paper also won the 2008 Hofstra Law/AFCC family law writing competition. In addition to a monetary award, the paper was selected for publication in the Family Court Review.


- Third-year law student Brett Rowan was selected to present his paper on “The Price of ‘European’ Identity: The Negative Social and Economic Impact of Slovenian Migration Law” at the Yale Journal of International Law’s Sixth Annual Young Scholars’ Conference. Rowan was one of only eight students nationwide and one of just four non-Yale students to participate in the conference presentations.

- Washington University Law and George Washington University School of Law recently co-sponsored a two-day training and networking conference on prison and jail litigation for 190 lawyers and paralegals. Washington University Law Professor Margo Schlanger and law students Deirdre Aaron, Carly Graham, and Erin Rust were among the organizers for “Prison Litigation: A Workshop for Plaintiffs’ Attorneys,” held at George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

- Third-year law student Arjun Sarkar assisted C.J. Larkin, senior lecturer in law and administrative director of the law school’s ADR Program, with research for her panel discussion presentation following a screening of the film, “A Dream in Doubt,” about a Sikh man killed in Phoenix right after 9/11. The screening and discussion were part of the Community Cinema Series, which is sponsored by the Missouri Historical Society and Channel 9. Sarkar, who conducted supervised research for Larkin on international and intercultural ADR issues during the spring semester, also answered questions and made comments during the panel discussion.

- CERL director Andrew Martin, professor of law and of political science, and Christina Boyd, CERL graduate student associate, co-presented a paper on “Untangling the Causal Effects of Sex on Judging” during the conference on Empirical Legal Studies at New York University School of Law. Boyd also gave a poster presentation on “She’ll Settle It: Judges, Their Sex, and the Disposition of Personal Injury Cases in Federal District Courts.”


- CERL graduate student associate Ryan Black and CERL-affiliated faculty member James Spriggs, professor of political science, delivered a poster presentation on “Empirical Study of the Length of U.S. Supreme Court Majority Opinions.”

- Additionally, Boyd and Martin received the Pi Sigma Alpha award for the best paper presented at the 2007 Midwest Political Science Association meeting. The paper, “Untangling the Causal Effects of Sex on Judging,” was selected from over 3,000 papers presented.
Appellate Clinic Students Win Case Before Eighth Circuit

In Spring 2008 eight students in Washington University Law’s Appellate Clinic won a criminal sentencing case in the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit, which will keep a 31-year-old Fort Dodge, Iowa man from having to return to prison.

In Patrick J. McMannus v. United States (06-2447), the Eighth Circuit upheld a district court judge’s discretion to vary from an advisory sentencing-guidelines range of 57–71 months in a drug dealing case and to impose a 24-month sentence. The district court called the clinic’s client, Patrick McMannus, a “model citizen” and a “poster person for success in federal criminal justice sentencing.” McMannus had completed his original 24-month sentence when the government twice sought to overturn this sentence and to compel the district court to send him back to prison to serve a longer term.

After a panel of the Court of Appeals reversed the district court’s second judgment against McMannus, the Court appointed the Appellate Clinic to represent McMannus on a petition for rehearing en banc. Six law students initially worked on the case: Richard E. Finneran, Scott K. Koelker, Lam K. Nguyen, Vidhya K. Reddy, Adam M. Topel, and Kevin M. Whiteley. The clinic students also worked with McMannus’ attorney in Iowa, J.P. Greer.

Under the supervision of Professor D. Bruce La Pierre and K. Lee Marshall, JD ’99, a partner at Bryan Cave, the students filed a petition addressing intracircuit and intercircuit conflicts on the question of whether district courts can consider post-sentencing rehabilitation at a resentencing proceeding. While the petition was pending, and after the Court of Appeals had ordered the United States to respond, the Supreme Court decided Gall v. United States and Kimbrough v. United States, which upheld district courts’ sentencing discretion.

Two other students, Katherine H. Purdy and Matthew J. Mailloux, then argued that the Court of Appeals could uphold the already completed 24-month sentence under Gall. The panel, in a rare order, vacated its judgment disapproving the 24-month sentence and granted the clinic’s motion for panel rehearing on January 30. Just eight days later, without further briefing, the panel affirmed the 24-month sentence.

La Pierre notes that “all of the students did a very good job, and all members of the clinic are very happy that their client will be able to continue with his college studies instead of going back to prison.”

Greenfield Named ACCFSL Regent

Michael M. Greenfield, the Walter D. Coles Professor of Law, has been elected to a four-year term as a Regent of the American College of Consumer Financial Services Lawyers (ACCFSL). The college promotes public understanding of consumer financial services law through education, seeks to advance the quality of consumer financial services law and its practice, and enhances the professional development of its members.

A renowned expert in contracts, commercial law, and consumer law, Greenfield has worked closely on National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws (NCCUSL) projects, including service as Reporter for the Uniform Debt-Management Services Act. He also worked on the Uniform Consumer Leasing Act and revisions to the Uniform Commercial Code Articles 2, 3, 4, and 9.


Electronic Newsletter Launched

Washington University Law has launched a bimonthly electronic newsletter to update alumni on important news. Visit http://law.wustl.edu/alumni/index.asp to view the first two issues of Washington University Law Alumni Enews. To update your e-mail address in order to receive the newsletter, send an e-mail to: alumni_enews@wulaw.wustl.edu.
Washington University Law saluted its graduates and their families at Commencement Ceremonies on May 16, 2008. Kent D. Syverud, dean and the Ethan A.H. Shepley University Professor, welcomed attendees and delivered remarks to the graduates; University Trustee and National Council Member David W. Detjen, JD ’73, offered the Welcome to the Legal Profession; and JD candidate Todd Richheimer was the Voice of the Class.