2002–03 SPEAKERS SERIES ANNOUNCED

The School of Law’s 2002–03 Public Interest Law Speakers Series on “Access to Justice: The Social Responsibility for Lawyers” will feature the following:

September 18, 2002
Ko-Yung Tung, vice president and general counsel of the World Bank, on “The World Bank’s Efforts to Promote the Rule of Law”

October 9, 2002
Barry C. Scheck, professor and director of Clinical Legal Education at the Jacob Burns Center for the Study of Law and Ethics, Cardozo School of Law, Yeshiva University, on “Wrongful Convictions: Causes and Remedies”

Mary Becker, professor at DePaul College of Law, on “Law and the Emotions of Battered Women”

October 28, 2002
E. Norman Veasey, chief justice of the Supreme Court of Delaware, on “Reflections on Key Issues of the Professional Responsibilities of Corporate Lawyers in the 21st Century”

November 13, 2002
Charles W. Burson, executive vice president, general counsel, and secretary of Monsanto Company, and D. Bruce La Pierre, professor at Washington University School of Law, on “Campaign Finance Regulation: Money, Politics, and the First Amendment”

January 22, 2003
Dennis W. Archer, president-elect of the American Bar Association and chairman of Dickinson Wright PLLC, on “The Value of Diversity: What the Legal Profession Must Do to Stay Ahead of the Curve”

January 29, 2003
Scott Turow, author and partner of Sonnenschein, Nath & Rosenthal, on “Where Have You Gone, Perry Mason?”

Panel of Authors: Michael A. Kahn Marianne Wesson

February 12, 2003
Chai R. Feldblum, professor and director of the Federal Legislation Clinic at Georgetown University Law Center, on “Rectifying the Tilt: Equality Lessons from Religion, Disability, Sexual Orientation, and Transgender”

February 19, 2003
Thelton Henderson, senior judge of the United States District Court, Northern District of California, on “Social Change, Judicial Activism, and the Public Interest Lawyer”

March 14, 2003
Deborah L. Rhode, the Ernest W. McFarland Professor of Law and director of the Keck Center on Legal Ethics and the Legal Profession at Stanford University, on “Access to Justice: Ethical Responsibilities and Political Realities”

March 26, 2003
Angela P. Harris, professor of Law at the University of California at Berkeley on “Colonies, Culture, and Capitalism: The Social Responsibilities of Lawyers in a Neo-liberal Age”

For more information, visit the School of Law’s Web site at law.wustl.edu.

VEASEY TO DELIVER 2002 TYRRELL WILLIAMS LECTURE

Supreme Court of Delaware Justice E. Norman Veasey is scheduled to deliver his lecture on “Reflections on Key Issues of the Professional Responsibilities of Corporate Lawyers in the 21st Century” at 4 p.m. Monday, October 28, in Anheuser-Busch Hall. This Tyrrell Williams lecture is part of the School of Law’s fifth annual Public Interest Law Speakers Series on “Access to Justice: The Social Responsibility of Lawyers.”

Chief justice since April 7, 1992, Veasey previously had practiced law for more than 34 years, specializing in corporate transactions, litigation, and counseling. He is a former chief deputy attorney general of Delaware. Veasey is former president of the Delaware State Bar Association and former president of the Conference of Chief Justices. He now chairs the American Bar Association’s Special Commission on the Evaluation of the Rules of Professional Conduct (“Ethics 2000”).

SCHOOL OF LAW RISES IN THE RANKINGS

The School of Law had its most successful year in the U.S. News & World Report’s rankings of graduate and professional schools, tying for 25th in the most recent rankings. The School’s ranking has risen from 32nd in 1998 to 29th in 1999, 27th in 2000, and now 25th in 2001. This rise places the School of Law among the fastest-rising schools in the country.

The School also received several significant rankings in specialty areas. The clinical program ranked 6th in the nation. In addition, for the first time, the trial advocacy program ranked 12th and the international law program, 20th.

Exclusive Rankings

U.S. News & World Report

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RECOGNIZING PUBLIC SERVICE

The School of Law bestowed its inaugural public service awards on April 8, 2002. Rebecca R. García, who later graduated in May 2002 with joint degrees in law and social work, received the first Public Service Law Student of the Year award. Receiving the first Public Service Employer of the Year award was the Missouri State Public Defender System.

An "extraordinary commitment and dedication to serving those in need" led to García's award, according to Elizabeth Patton, the School's public service coordinator. García volunteered at the Missouri Coalition for Domestic Violence, interned with the United States Department of Justice's Immigration and Naturalization Service, and served in AmeriCorps with the Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Legal Advocacy Project.

In addition to the daily work of providing uncompromising advocacy for indigent citizens accused or convicted of crimes, the Missouri State Public Defender System was honored, Patton says, for "constant and extraordinary commitment to teaching our law students and giving them the best possible experience during their internships."

In his keynote address, Moses W. Harrison, JD '58, chief justice of the Illinois Supreme Court, spoke of the importance of public service law: "The weak and powerless are shunned in our society, even despised. They are the ghosts of our society's failings, past and present. They are the casualties of an economic system that is as relentlessly inequitable as it is wealth-producing. They are awkward reminders that the American dream remains unfulfilled. And they are not liked. ...

"For those in the struggle, events like this awards ceremony provide important affirmation that the work they are doing is respected and appreciated. For the community at large, awards like tonight's are a powerful reminder of the work that still needs to be done and an incentive to others to come and join with us. ...

"The prospect of recognition had nothing to do with the contributions made by those who are being honored tonight. ... They did what they did simply because something inside them said it was the right thing to do. They could not have acted otherwise. They had the fire. They had the ability. They had the vision. And they just wanted to help people. ... Through their deeds, they have honored all of us who call ourselves lawyers."

The School of Law established these awards to celebrate the contributions made by students and alumni in the area of public service law and to recognize the students in the Public Interest Summer Stipend Program and the Public Service Project.

Providing stipends to law students who choose to work in public interest law, the summer program is designed to introduce students to this diverse field of law and to its importance to the legal profession and the community. In 2002, 136 students applied for summer stipends.

Established in September 2000, the Public Service Project was created to enhance the School of Law's long-standing commitment to public service by encouraging and facilitating schoolwide participation in general public service projects and volunteerism. During the 2001–02 academic year, law students in this project performed more than 1,500 hours of public service.
Chief Judge James R. Dowd; Judge William H. Crandall, Jr., JD ’63; Judge Kathianne Knaup Crane; and Judge Richard Teitelman, JD ’73, presided over a special session of the Missouri Court of Appeals Eastern District on February 20, 2002, in the Bryan Cave Moot Courtroom of Anheuser-Busch Hall.

The judges heard oral arguments for five cases ranging from a convicted murderer seeking a new trial to an appeal of a wrongful death/medical malpractice decision. After the special session, the judges answered general procedural questions from the audience.

McCarthy Building Company/Interface Construction Corporation v. City of St. Louis involved a dispute between contractors and the city over terms of an approximately $50-million contract to construct portions of the east terminal at Lambert-St. Louis International Airport.

In Economy Fire & Casualty Company v. Erckmann, owners of several properties in the city of St. Louis were sued by neighbors who claimed that their property values were reduced as a result of the defendants’ failure to adequately maintain their properties. The defendants’ liability insurers then filed suit claiming the dispute did not fall under their insurance policy.

In State v. Thigpen, the defendant, who was convicted of first-degree murder, first-degree assault, and two counts of armed criminal action, was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole. On appeal, the defendant raised issues related to the suppression of evidence, jury selection, and the cross-examination of a witness.

In Harvey v. Taylor, et al., three physicians appealed a $1.2-million jury verdict against them for medical malpractice and wrongful death.

In Letendre v. Missouri State High School Activities Association, a high school student was disqualified from trying out for her school’s swim team because she violated a bylaw of the Missouri State High School Activities Association by practicing with the Parkway Swim Club team. The student argued that her disqualification violated her rights under the First and Fourteenth Amendments.
School of Law students took high honors in advanced rounds of five lawyering skills competitions in 2001–02.

In the National Trial competition, Brooke Browning, JD ’02, and Michael Nolan, JD ’02, won the regionals and advanced to the nationals in Austin, Texas (for more on Browning and Nolan, see “The Class of 2002” beginning on page 11). Christopher H. Switt, JD ’02, and Cheryl Schuetze, JD ’02, made it to the final round of regional competition.

The law school has one of the strongest records in the country in the competition. Teams have placed first or second in the regionals and advanced to the nationals 18 of the past 21 years, advanced to the quarterfinals and beyond in the nationals 10 times, and captured first place in the country twice. David C. Mason, JD ’83, St. Louis circuit judge and adjunct professor, and Mark Rudder, JD ’91, a St. Louis attorney and adjunct professor, advise the team.

Jill Witkowski, JD ’02, and Matt Briesacher, JD ’02, represented the law school at the National Environment Moot Court competition at Pace Law School in New York. During the competition, they progressed through three preliminary rounds, advancing to the quarterfinals. Michael Koby, senior lecturer in law, serves as the team’s adviser.

Cory Christman, JD ’02; David Guard, JD ’02; and David Orwick, JD ’02, placed second overall in the Saul Lefkowitz Regional Trademark Moot Court Competition in Chicago, continuing the School’s tradition of winning recognition each time it competes in an intellectual property moot court competition. Charles R. McManis, professor of law, advises the team.

The Philip C. Jessup International Moot Court team placed third among national teams and 10th overall out of 75 schools in the international rounds of the competition in Washington, D.C. The team previously won the Midwest Regional Competition for the fourth consecutive year. Members also took first place for their memorials at the regional competition held in Norman, Oklahoma. In the high oralist portion of this competition, Jeremy Caddel, JD ’02, took second place and Theresa Clark, JD ’03, sixth place. The other team members were Rebecca Guminber, JD ’03, and Joel Richardson, JD ’02. This team is coached by adjunct professor and St. Louis attorney Gilbert Sison, JD ’00, and advised by Leila Nadya Sadat, professor of law.

In the ABA Negotiation Competition, Khara Coleman, JD ’03, and Jermal Seward, JD ’03, were regional finalists and national competitors. The team is advised by Ann Shields, senior lecturer in law.
The School of Law is planning special celebratory events to mark the 150th anniversary of the founding of Washington University.

Among the plans are exhibits highlighting significant moments in the School’s history and its current achievements that will be displayed in Anheuser-Busch Hall. Law students will participate in special sessions of moot court and oral argument presentations that will be open to the public. Conferences and lectures addressing cutting-edge legal topics are also being planned.

For more information on the School of Law’s special events and projects in celebration of this University milestone, visit law.wustl.edu. Additional information on University-wide events and projects is provided at 150.wustl.edu.

Thanks to the generosity of Margaret Dagen (center), civil rights pioneer and co-founder with her late husband, Irvin Dagen, of the St. Louis Committee of Racial Equality, four law students pursued international law opportunities during the summer of 2002. As the inaugural Stephen H. Legomsky fellow, Theresa Clark (second from the left) studied at the Academy of Public International Law at The Hague. The inaugural Dagen externs—Misty Allen (left), Susanna Clark (second from the right), and Claire Workman—worked with international humanitarian organizations.

A SURVEY OF STUDENT SATISFACTION

The School of Law surveyed 366 students in its second annual student satisfaction survey. This year 81 percent of students expressed a positive overall satisfaction with the School of Law, 16 percent were neutral, and 3 percent were negative. These statistics reflect a positive trend, up from last year’s 76 percent positive, 19 percent neutral, and 5 percent negative.

Students cited overall effectiveness of teaching, the level of civility and mutual respect between faculty and students, and accessibility of full-time faculty as strengths of the School. Each of these categories received positive responses from more than 75 percent of the students. Students also described their experience, including comments that “It is a friendly, cooperative, and intellectual atmosphere,” and “The faculty is committed, engaging, approachable, and knowledgeable.” The Admissions Office and the Registrar’s Office also received encouraging responses with 79 percent positive for both.

New smaller sections for first-year students received an 80 percent positive review. In their written comments, several students noted, “Small sections are very helpful socially and academically.” Others referenced the sense of community that results from more personal interaction in the first year.

Many students felt the modern facilities of Anheuser-Busch Hall contributed to their positive experience at the School of Law. Similarly, the abundant resources and comfortable studying environment of the library resulted in a 77 percent positive response from students surveyed.

Survey results also indicated some areas for improvement, including academic advising and the Legal Research and Writing Program. Students asked for “more forums to decide what classes and professors to take.” In addition, one student suggested restructuring the Legal Research and Writing Program to make research more interactive.

As another student noted, “The most obvious strength is the administration’s openness to change and willingness to listen to students’ needs.” As a forum for student expression, this survey will help administrators and faculty improve the School of Law for future students.
Peter H. Raven, the Engelmann Professor of Botany in Arts & Sciences and director of the Missouri Botanical Garden, delivered the keynote address on “Biodiversity and the Human Prospect” for the “Sustainable Agriculture: Food for the Future” conference held March 15–16, 2002, at the School of Law. The student-run conference focused on issues specific to the National Association of Environmental Law Societies (NAELS). The goal of NAELS is to engage students, practitioners, academics, and policymakers in discussion and debate regarding the key issues that the world will face in ensuring that everyone has access to sustainable sources of food in the future. At the conference, nationally renowned scholars and local experts gave presentations on nonpoint source pollution, biotechnology, concentrated animal feeding operations, and aquaculture. The Washington University Journal of Law & Policy is publishing papers from the conference.

SCHOOL OF LAW SEES RECORD GROWTH IN APPLICATIONS

The School of Law experienced record growth in JD applications for fall 2002, topping the 3,000 mark, with more than 3,135 applications for a class size of about 220 students. The applications represent a 29 percent increase over fall 2001. In fall 2001, also a record-setting year with 2,430 applications, the School saw a 32 percent increase in applications from the previous year.

The growing number of students applying to the School appears to reflect the law school’s ongoing student-centered initiatives, including first-year small sections, a three-year commitment to scholarship aid, a revamped legal research and writing program, and the launching of the loan repayment assistance program.

“We are thrilled by the major increase in applications for the second year in a row and by the excellent qualifications of the applicant pool,” says Janet Bolin, associate dean for admissions and financial aid. “Our surveys demonstrate that applicants are impressed with our student-centered focus and many new initiatives.”

In addition to the record numbers, the School is admitting a diverse and talented class. In 2001-02, the median LSAT increased to 162 (in 2000-01, only 23 schools had an LSAT median of 162 or higher). In 2002, the LSAT median for admitted students is expected to increase to 163. The grade-point average of 3.5 also continued.

At the same time, the LLM programs in intellectual property and technology law, taxation, and United States law for international students are seeing steady increases in applications. The programs have grown from 173 total applicants in 2000, to 249 in 2001, to 257 in 2002.