

BENCHMARK COLUMN // SEPTEMBER 2012

THOMAS M. COOLEY LAW SCHOOL ALUMNI PUBLICATION

WELCOME TO THE BENCHMARK COLUMN

Cooley has always focused on providing the best legal education to the most diverse group of students possible. While we take pride in this focus, we are also proud of our successful and growing family of alumni, now numbering more than 15,000 worldwide, some of whom are featured in this *Benchmark Column* issue.

Because of the pride and respect that we have for our students and alumni, an insult to the school is an insult to every student and every graduate. As you may have heard, we are now taking action against those who would insult us unjustly with libelous statements. Cooley's board of directors recently made the difficult decision to file defamation lawsuits against a firm of New York City lawyers and four anonymous Internet bloggers who have been spreading lies about our school. While Cooley certainly believes that everyone has the right to express their opinion, we will not stand for those who cross both legal and ethical boundaries, making false statements in an effort to damage the school's reputation. I invite you to monitor these actions on our website at www.cooley.edu.

In response to publicity about the litigation, we have received from a number of you thoughtful and heartfelt concerns, comments, and support. We thank you for contacting us and for standing with us as we defend Cooley's good name.

Justice and fairness are two of the guiding principles that inspired many of our decisions to go to law school, myself included. Thus, and rather than dwell on the litigation, this issue of *Benchmark Column* showcases, as usual, the achievements of both our alumni and students who seek to further justice and fairness by working hard and diligently for their clients and their communities. I hope you enjoy learning more about them.

Sincerely,

James D. Robb,
Associate Dean of Development and Alumni Relations | robby@cooley.edu

ATTORNEY'S PATH CHARTED EARLY

After an uncertain start, this attorney is right where he always wanted to be.

Some people spend their whole lives trying to discover what they want to be when they "grow up." But, not José Chaidez (Boyles Class, 2005). He knew by age 10.

At the time, Chaidez's parents were both working in a tortilla factory in Tucson, Arizona. One day, his father was handling one of the machines when his hand got caught inside. Chaidez's father lost one of his fingers.

"The employer's insurance company didn't want to pay the claim. I remember how frustrating it was because no one seemed willing to get my father what he deserved," Chaidez explained. "That was when I knew I wanted to be a lawyer. I wanted to help people like my parents seek justice."

From there, Chaidez never looked back. He spent the next 20 years working toward his dream.

THE EARLY YEARS

After graduating from the University of Arizona in 2000, Chaidez applied to Thomas M. Cooley Law School in Lansing, Mich., A native of the desert, it was time for a change of climate. He was accepted to Cooley, so he packed his bags and drove across the country with a fellow classmate he found online.

During law school, Chaidez's curriculum concentration was business transactions. He tutored students in several courses, interned at Cooley's Sixty Plus, Inc., Elderlaw Clinic, and worked for the Michigan Attorney General's office in the liquor and licensing divisions. He also joined the Phi Alpha Delta fraternity and served as president.

"You want to create a path for yourself as soon as possible. How you do that is by practical experience. You have to be balanced." Chaidez said. "Cooley, through its curriculum, clinical programs and internship opportunities, provided a solid education and helped me develop legal skills that have translated well in my professional career."

During summers in law school, Chaidez interned with the Pima County Attorney's Office in Tucson. He did such a good job that upon graduation they offered him a job in the criminal division.

"I became a prosecutor with the county because I realized this was a great opportunity to gain training and experience." Chaidez explained. "I built skills that could translate into whatever other area I wanted to practice. The experience was very valuable."

HARD TIMES

After a year as a prosecutor, with more than 15 jury trials under his belt, Chaidez decided he was ready for the next step. He took a job with the law firm Russo, Russo & Slania PC in Tucson where his primary focus was municipal finance and business transactions.

"It was a small firm, but we dealt with several large law firms." Chaidez explained, as a smile spread across his face. "I was doing what I wanted to do as far as business transactions. I felt right at home with it."

Unfortunately, however, the economic climate forced Russo, Russo and Slania to downsize. After only a year of working there, Chaidez's position was eliminated.

He wasn't unemployed for long. He quickly landed a new job at Mann Bracken, the largest creditors' rights law firm in the country.

"I was fortunate to find this job," Chaidez said. "I was lead attorney for the Arizona office. It was a good opportunity to grow in another area of law and take on managerial responsibilities."

But it wasn't what it seemed. Five months in, the firm's servicing agent filed for bankruptcy. The servicing agent provided the support staff, leases, licenses, and more for Mann Bracken. Mann Bracken's attorneys became overwhelmed because the firm didn't have the support staff needed to handle the workload. This eventually led to Mann Bracken closing its doors.

"I tell you that was quite a shock to me." Chaidez recalled. "My morale was a little low. I wasn't too certain what was going to happen."

BACK IN THE SADDLE

After holding two jobs in two years, Chaidez realized it was time to reevaluate his career. He decided to give it a go on his own. But, to start his own practice, he needed clients. So, he turned to his social network.

Soon he was connected with another attorney who had his own practice specializing in loan modifications. He was based in Illinois with staff in Arizona. The attorney was trying to eliminate his Arizona office and Chaidez was more than willing to buy him out.

"That's what allowed me to hit the ground running with an established business plan. I took on his staff and his office." Chaidez said. "I guess it's true what they say; sometimes, you just have to be in the right place at the right time."

Chaidez has been practicing on his own for more than a year now, and he couldn't be happier. The majority of his practice is dedicated to loan modifications with clients in 43 states. He also works on business formation, estate planning, foreclosures, personal injury, and criminal law.

"Individuals come to me under distress. They want to pay their mortgages. They are frustrated, scared, concerned, and they aren't getting anywhere with the bank." Chaidez explained.

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“When you have an individual or family who is in danger of losing their home, you can sense the stress they are under. They don’t know what to do. It is wonderful to be able to ease their minds, and let them know they have an advocate.” Chaidez continued, “It goes back to how I felt when I was 10 years old. That is always in the back of my mind.”

Now he has the ability to help people to seek the justice they deserve.

Hometown: Tuscon, AZ

Age: 37

Education: University of Arizona, B.A., 2000 graduate / Thomas M. Cooley Law School, J.D., 2005 graduate

Employment: Member Manager and Principal of Chaidez Law Firm, PLLC www.chaidezlawfirm.com

Areas of Practice: Loan modification, business formation, estate planning, personal injury and criminal law.

Community Service: Member of Arizona’s Children Association’s Board of Directors / District Representative for Arizona Bar Association’s Young Lawyer’s Division.

SENATOR & LAWYER

Mark Grisanti, Cooley graduate, New York state senator, and attorney

Q. You are a third-generation lawyer and your family has owned the firm for 90 years. Explain the passion your family has had for the law and how it helped mold you into becoming an attorney.

A. My grandfather, Nicholas, started the firm in 1921; he was one of the first Italian lawyers in Buffalo. My father, Richard, is second-generation and has more than 50 years in practice; he is still practicing.

My grandfather and father have always been about taking care of people in need, whether they can afford it or not. They taught me to be a good person and to help people. It has been instilled in me to help make sure people are not taken advantage of.

Q. You did not enter law school directly after finishing your undergraduate work. What life-changing events helped you decide that you were ready to enter law school?

A. I was working construction making good money and then one day, I was talking to my mother, Angela, and she said you are the last of six children who can carry on the tradition your grandfather started. None of my siblings chose to go to law school. I did not want the legacy to end, so I decided to attend law school. My stepfather, Dave, who is now deceased, was also instrumental in my decision to go to law school.

Q. Your family’s firm has been a pillar in the Buffalo community. You have been the defense attorney in several high-profile cases. Tell us about some of the cases and what it means to you to be a defense attorney.

A. There have been so many cases; I have defended many that deal with murder, robberies, narcotics, etc. Some cases have led to laws being changed, and DNA has been used to prove some of my clients’ innocence. For me, being a defense attorney ensures that there is fair play. Some individuals can’t afford an attorney so we reduce our rates to help them and do pro bono work for some. Our law firm has been on the lower west side of Buffalo for 90 years. Sometimes we just have to put money aside and make sure our neighbors are being taken care of. Many attorneys are busy and have a lot of work. I do as well, but it is important to make sure our clients are treated with the respect they deserve.

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Q. Tell us about your family and how they have supported you through the years.

A. Maria, my wife, is my right arm. I believe in the old saying that “behind every man is a great woman.” She is not behind me; she is always next to me being supportive. I am not sure where I would be without her. My children, Ashlee, 26; John, 23; and Theresa, 23, are hard workers with great minds. They are strong individuals with compassionate hearts. You could not ask for better children.

When the election started in 2010, it was mainly family and friends who were the supporters. Now, being elected to the Senate, I do not see my family as often. It is difficult being away from the family. Albany is four hours away from home.

Q. How has being an attorney prepared you for life as a state senator? What made you decide to run for the Senate seat?

A. What Thomas M. Cooley Law School and practicing law have taught me is to stand up for what I believe in. The research and negotiating skills you get as an attorney, as well as fighting hard, are attributes I use in practicing law and you use them in the state Senate. I ran for the Senate because there was nothing being done in western New York by way of effective representation; upstate New York was being ignored. I think these last six months in the Senate have proven that we exist and that we will see better days for western New York State.

Q. You voted in favor of legalizing same sex marriage in New York State. Tell us about the decision you made, and how you believe it was the right thing for your constituents.

A. My vote was not going to be one of politics. My vote was not a trade-off, and no promises were made to me. I researched this issue for months. I struggled with it and, basically, came to the conclusion that I wasn’t elected just as a senator who is Catholic, but one who will look at the issues, no matter what they are, and make a sound decision.

After researching a lot of materials and meeting with people and groups on both sides of this particular issue, my conscience and background led me to believe that, legally, there was no basis for a taxpayer, worker or neighbor not to have the same rights I share with my wife.

The state Senate strengthened the religious exemptions in the bill by looking at the other states that legalized same sex marriage. Our law gives religious, not-for-profits, or benevolent organizations the right not to comply with the law and not to suffer legal ramifications by not performing same sex marriages. An inseverability clause was added, saying that if any part of the religious exemption fails legally in court, then the whole same sex marriage bill will fail. This is what helped me make my final decision.

For me, a person can be wiser today than yesterday, but you must do the research and work. If you don’t, you will not have any respect for yourself when making decisions.

Q. How is practicing law and being a state senator similar? How do they differ?

A. One of the main similarities is that you have to approach what is before you with a sense of compassion and treat each issue equitably and seriously.

As a lawyer, you are focused on one client at a time and their particular situation. As a senator you have to look at the big picture, perceive the issues and give equitable treatment across the board. I believe that being a senator is a privilege and not a right.

Q. Tell us how you are involved in the community and how community involvement has helped you in your legal profession and as a state senator.

A. I attend a lot of community events, and we have been getting the community involved by holding town hall teleconferences and listening sessions in my district. The key is to listen and to help my community the best I can. The community gives me great feedback. It is important that I am accessible and accountable to my community. I feel, in this short period of time that I have served in the state Senate, that my staff in the 60th district and I have been both accessible and accountable.

Q. Describe yourself in three words.

A. I need more than three words. How about this? I never seem to sweat the small stuff, and my feet are always on the ground.

Q. What do you do for fun/recreation?

A. I love hanging out with family and friends. I enjoy quiet time with my wife. We enjoy time with our two dogs, Kody and Frado. I like to golf, but don't have the time to play. We take pride in caring for our home's gardens.

Q. What is your fondest Cooley memory?

A. Being the entertainment director of the student bar. The student bar showed a profit for the first time. I also remember the great professors at Cooley.

My saddest moment at Cooley was at a Super Bowl Party, in January of 1991, when the Buffalo Bills lost when Scott Norwood missed the field goal wide right.

Q. Do you have any advice for new Cooley graduates?

A. Never give up. Follow your heart, do the work and focus on your goals. Don't always think of money; think of helping people and their struggles. And always uphold the laws and constitution of your state.

Position: Attorney and New York state Senator for the 60th District

Age: 46

Hometown: Buffalo

Year Graduated from Cooley: McGrath Class, 1992

Education: Attended Canisius, McKinley and Sweet Home high schools and received a bachelor's degree from Canisius College.

Community Engagement: Erie County Bar Association, the Delaware Club, the Italian-American Police Association, the Assigned Counsel Program, the Volunteer Lawyers Project, the New York State Troopers Association, the Buffalo Police Benevolent Association, and the Police Athletic League, Saint Rose of Lima church, the Saint Anthony of Padua church and the Canisius College Alumni Association.

TRAILBLAZER OF JUSTICE

Through Michigan's Foreclosure Crisis

Michigan's foreclosure crisis has been devastating to the hundreds, if not thousands, of families who have lost their homes and their pride.

For every home that is newly foreclosed, there are scores of others walking the tightrope of foreclosure.

Enter Florise Neville-Ewell, one of Michigan's tireless advocates for underserved populations on the brink of foreclosure, especially populations of color, by promoting financial and legal literacy. The former general counsel for the Detroit Housing Commission and Chief of Contracts for the City of Detroit Law Department has seen the devastation's toll, neighborhood by neighborhood. She has also seen the destruction foreclosures have taken while working at Honigman Miller, where she provided real estate counsel for multiple nonprofits, churches, private entities, and municipalities.

Neville-Ewell believes many foreclosures could be prevented – or at least suspended – if homeowners understood the basic principles and rights of real estate ownership, as well as ways to protect their homes from foreclosure and predatory lending practices. She understands that a home in foreclosure can breed untold fear and panic, causing homeowners to react in shortsighted ways that will forever change their credit ratings and ability to borrow funds, and ultimately, own property.

That is why she provides dozens of hours of pro bono service each year, educating the public about the basic principles of home buying and selling, the legalities of buy/sell property agreements and the tools and resources available to homeowners experiencing property challenges.

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The opportunity to join the Thomas M. Cooley Law School faculty as an associate professor fulfills Neville-Ewell's quest to inspire future attorneys to carry the torch of justice on behalf of homeowners. In addition to teaching Contracts and Ethics at Cooley, Neville-Ewell serves as Cooley's faculty advisor for the Ten Commandments of Real Estate Law Society, a student organization dedicated to educating the public through outreach and articles published through 10CORE.comTM. As part of the group's efforts, Professor Neville-Ewell and Cooley students visit community centers, faith groups, senior citizen homes and other venues throughout southeast Michigan, educating audiences about their rights and responsibilities when it comes to property ownership. A recent event in Dearborn, which partnered with Cooley's Muslim Law Society, offered portions of the presentation in Arabic. Presentations to Hispanic communities are offered in Spanish.

Her work has also gained national attention. President Obama's Financial Fraud Enforcement Task Force recently selected Professor Neville-Ewell to serve as a panelist at a national Mortgage Fraud Summit.

A tireless, enthusiastic champion of the community, Professor Neville-Ewell is the recipient of numerous awards and acknowledgements for her work and *pro bono* projects. As a result of work with the Real Estate Law Society last year, Charles Toy, immediate past president of the Michigan State Bar, and United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan Barbara L. McQuade acknowledged her work and the student organization's significance. Specifically, U.S. Attorney McQuade stated, "[This] program ...will make a big difference not only in the lives of the citizens you educate, but in the lives of law students who will see the value of public service."

Her mission is simple: "I help people understand housing contracts so they know what they are signing and the rights and responsibilities this investment brings to them. Knowledge is power; I want to empower people to retain their homes and property as long as possible. It is the quintessential and American dream."

FOLLOWING IN HIS FATHER'S FOOTSTEPS

LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON

Ionia, Michigan native enjoys helping community

Born and raised in Ionia, Michigan just like his father, Daniel A. Balice (Whipple Class, 1985) never planned to pursue a law degree. But as the saying goes, "father knows best."

"My dad made me (go to law school)," said Balice. "It sounds funny when I say it that way, but I was working on getting a degree in criminal justice at Grand Valley State University (GVSU) and my goal was to be the director of the Michigan Department of Corrections.

"However, my father didn't think that was a great career choice for me," Balice continued. "He convinced me that with a law degree, I would be getting much more flexibility and more options. If I still wanted to go into corrections, I could. But if I didn't want to, I would have a law degree that would allow me to do something else."

After successfully earning degrees in both criminal justice and psychology from GVSU in 1982, Balice began clerking for the Michigan attorney general in Lansing. Cooley's downtown Lansing location made it a natural fit for Balice. He could continue his work in the attorney general's office and study for his J.D. at the same time.

STARTING OUT

For Balice, 1985 was life-changing. In May, he graduated from Cooley. Then he dove right back into the books to study for the bar exam, which he took in July. A month later, he married Janet Cook. Before the whirlwind year drew to a close, Balice joined an Ionia law firm that was known at the time as Welch, Nichols, Watt and McKaig.

"There were two large firms in Ionia at the time, and I thought Welch, Nichols, Watt and McKaig was the best fit for me," shared Balice. "I worked with some great people. And Larry McKaig is still my partner today."

Now known as McKaig and Balice, the firm is a general practice firm with a heavy emphasis on personal injury, workers' compensation, divorce, family law, real estate, probate and estate administration and planning, and criminal matters including drunken driving and driver's license restoration.

"I enjoy the diversity of a general practice," said Balice. "I like the fact that on any given day I might have to work with three or four different areas of the law. The benefit of a general practice is that you know something about virtually every area of the law. There is a lot of diversity, and you get to meet a lot of different people."

MAYOR BALICE

After obtaining his law degree, Balice's father continued to be a major influence on his son's career.

C. Anthony Balice, his father, was elected mayor of Ionia at the young age of 29 and served from 1949–1961 and 1965–1966.

"My parents were both big believers in public service, and I often heard them talk about the ability people had to make a major difference in their community and in other people's lives. So I decided to run for city council in 1988. I served two years on the city council and then was elected mayor in 1989. I have been mayor ever since. So my father did have a lot to do with that decision indirectly."

Balice has many accomplishments to be proud of since becoming mayor. The population of Ionia has greatly increased, property values have increased by more than \$100 million, a new wastewater treatment plant was built, a new public safety building was constructed, a new city charter was adopted, the geographic boundaries of Ionia were expanded and a city income tax was implemented. At the same time, property tax levies were reduced, new wells were built and a wellhead protection program was implemented, the drinking water was fluoridated, streets, sidewalks, water, and sewer infrastructures were rebuilt, the parks and recreation programs have greatly expanded, and a community center opened. The Ionia Theater was also renovated and re-opened to the delight of the more than 100,000 people who use the facility every year.

However, Balice notes that there is one accomplishment in particular that he is most proud of.

"Really, when you're mayor long enough, you can point to a lot of accomplishments," shared Balice. "But what really made all of those accomplishments possible was expanding the city limits to include the prisons and the area necessary to construct housing, and the implementation of a city income tax. It took a long time and there was a lot of discussion and a lot of meetings. But once the additional revenues from the expanded borders were a reality, it really gave us the financial footing to be able to do all of the other things that we have accomplished, such as constructing public buildings and replacing much of our infrastructure."

OUTSIDE OF WORK

When he's not practicing law or performing his duties as mayor of Ionia, Balice also emceed dozens of events and has developed a reputation as being very entertaining.

"It's something I started doing when I first became mayor," said Balice. "Mainly because I have the voice and I can keep things moving. I also think that I have enough life experience that I can give some interesting insight into things and I do it in a very humorous way. People really seem to enjoy it and I've had a blast doing it."

Balice also enjoys chairing the board of the Sparrow-Ionia Hospital.

"My dad was the mayor when the hospital was built," said Balice. "It was (and is) the only hospital in Ionia County. My father was very actively involved in the hospital, and, as soon as I became the mayor, I became very active on the hospital board. Between my father and me, we've had a presence on the board for more than 40 years. Last year, Sparrow Hospital of Lansing acquired Ionia County Memorial Hospital, and we are now Sparrow-Ionia Hospital, which has greatly improved the health care available to our community. It is a truly wonderful development, and I'm very excited about it."

Balice also enjoys spending as much time as he can with his family. His wife, Janet, works as a special education teacher for the Ionia County Intermediate School District. The couple has two children, a son, John (22), and a daughter, Leigh (19).

John just graduated from Central Michigan University (CMU) this year and will be taking the LSAT in October. Leigh just finished her freshman year at CMU and is working toward becoming a speech pathologist.

"Both of our kids are excellent students," shared Balice. "Janet and I have really been blessed. And my dad, as usual, was right. Going to law school turned out to be a good career path for me. It provided me with an opportunity to come back to my hometown and do the things that I love."

Education: Daniel A. Balice, graduated from Ionia High School in 1978, Grand Valley State University (magna cum laude) in 1982 with degrees in criminal justice and psychology and Cooley Law School in 1985 (cum laude).

Employment: Balice has operated a general law practice, McKaig and Balice in Ionia, Mich., since 1985.

Community Involvement: Balice serves on the boards of Sparrow-Ionia Hospital, Ionia Free Fair Association, Habitat for Humanity, Ionia Community Foundation and Ionia Area Hospice.

Mayor: Daniel A. Balice was first elected to the city of Ionia Council in 1988 and became the mayor of the city of Ionia in 1990. His father, C. Anthony Balice was the mayor from 1949-1961 and 1965-1966.

- Since becoming the mayor in 1990, the population of Ionia has doubled
 - Property values increased by over \$100,000,000
 - Expanded the geographic boundaries and implemented a City income tax
 - Reduced property tax levies, built new wells and implemented a wellhead protection program
 - Rebuilt street, sidewalk, water, sewer infrastructure
 - A major expansion to the Parks & Recreation programs
 - Renovated and re-opened the Ionia Theater with over 100,000 people utilizing annually
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COOLEY INTRODUCES NEW PROGRAM IN HOMELAND SECURITY

New program in homeland security law is designed to engage students in current legal topics

Thomas M. Cooley Law School is introducing a new homeland security law program on the 10th anniversary of the September 11 terrorist attacks on the United States. Cooley continually monitors the most current topics being discussed by attorneys around the country, and school leaders review and evaluate these topics as potential new course offerings. Cooley is seeking accreditation for a new Master of Laws (LL.M.) in homeland security. Other LL.M. programs at Cooley include: corporate law & finance, insurance law, intellectual property law and tax. Cooley also offers a self-directed LL.M., which provides students the ability to fashion an LL.M. degree, and pursue coursework and directed study in an area of law that is of interest to the student.

An elective course in homeland security is being offered during the fall term of 2011 at the four Cooley campuses in Michigan. The course focuses on the laws that define homeland security, including aviation, maritime, critical infrastructure, intelligence efforts, weapons of mass destruction and terror groups. Currently, 44 students, including three who are already working on master of laws degrees, are enrolled in the course. Other electives on homeland security will be offered beginning in January 2012.

“The enrollment numbers for the first elective are gratifying to see,” said Brigadier General Michael C.H. McDaniel, who recently joined Cooley as a professor in the Constitutional Law Department, and is finishing his work on developing the LL.M. in homeland security. “Our students recognize the importance of this field and for me, as a member of the United States military, I am honored to be able to offer the first course in the shadows of the 10th anniversary of the terror attacks on our country.”

McDaniel previously served as the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Homeland Defense Strategy, Prevention and Mission Assurance. His responsibilities included supervision of the Department of Defense Critical Infrastructure Protection Program and Global Anti-Terrorism/Force Protection Policy. He also served as the Department of Defense Homeland Defense liaison to the White House and Congress and was responsible for domestic counterterrorism and counternarcotics programs.

McDaniel believes that homeland security law is a growing field and that Cooley Law School is uniquely qualified to be a leader in developing and offering this program to its students. Cooley’s LL.M. program is one of the first in the country that focuses exclusively on homeland security.

“This program will continue to remain relevant,” said McDaniel. “Al-Qaeda has demonstrated to the extremists, of all types, that the United States is vulnerable to a well-planned, innovative terror attack.” McDaniel explained that an attack by a radicalized individual, or a yet-unknown terror group, would trigger further demands for protection that could lead to corresponding detriments to individual liberties.

“There will be new laws and the need for attorneys who understand the context,” he said, “And, Department of Homeland Security sub-agencies are cranking out regulations under current, but little-understood statutory authority, enacted since 9/11.”

NEWS BRIEFS

COOLEY TO OPEN NEW CAMPUS IN TAMPA BAY, FL

In addition to its large alumni base of more than 850 graduates throughout Florida, Cooley has had a growing presence in the Tampa Bay area through its Service to Soldiers: Legal Assistance Referral Program, which expanded to Florida in January. That presence will be growing even further now that the American Bar Association's (ABA) Council on Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar has accepted the recommendation of the Accreditation Committee to acquiesce in Cooley Law School's application to open a Tampa Bay-area campus in Riverview, Fla. The Tampa Bay campus has also been approved by the Higher Learning Commission and the Florida Department of Education, Commission for Independent Education.

Tampa Bay comprises a little more than 4 million residents, but is currently home to only one law school. In addition to having the largest alumni population outside Michigan, Florida also provides about 6 percent of Cooley's applicants and 5 percent of incoming students each year. Cooley also has an active externship program in the state. Professor Jeffrey L. Martlew, a former Michigan circuit court judge, has been designated as the associate dean for the Tampa Bay campus. When asked, "Why Riverview?" in an interview with the *Tampa Tribune*, Martlew said the school was looking for a new location in an area underserved by law schools. Currently, Tampa Bay's only law school is Stetson University College of Law.

Beginning in May 2012, Cooley's Tampa Bay campus will begin offering evening classes; followed by morning classes in September 2012, and afternoon classes in January 2013. The implementation will follow the same pattern as at the school's other campuses, rolling out the standard curriculum over a three-year period. All current Cooley students will be eligible to attend classes at the Tampa Bay campus.

Cooley has acquired a 130,000-square-foot facility in Riverview, which is comparable in size to its current campus in Auburn Hills, Michigan. Renovations and staffing details are expected to be finalized in the coming weeks. The facility will accommodate the approximately 700 students who are expected to attend.

DULY NOTED

Since their departure from Cooley, recent graduates Jessica A. Gonzalez and Alana Glass have achieved great success within the legal community.

One of just 24 lucky individuals chosen to participate, Jessica A. Gonzalez will take part in the 2011-2012 Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute (CHCI, www.chci.org). She is also one of only seven graduates throughout the country selected to participate in the CHCI's Graduate Fellowship Program. CHCI, located in Washington, D.C., was founded in 1978 by a small group of Hispanic members of Congress with the vision of bringing the promise of the American dream to the next generation of Latinos by developing their leadership skills. Requirements of the fellowship program include participating in weekly leadership sessions, writing a public policy paper, participating in group community service projects and developing and executing a policy summit.

Gonzales currently practices as an attorney at the law office of Domingo Garcia in her home state of Texas. Another recent Cooley graduate, Alana Glass, has been elected to the State Bar of Michigan (SBM) Representative Assembly, representing the 6th Circuit Court (Oakland County).

The SBM Representative Assembly was formed in 1971 with the purpose of improving the number of SBM members who actively participate in bar policymaking. To ensure that a reasonable ratio of regular SBM members to active SBM members was maintained, as the number of State Bar members increased, the Representative Assembly was structured to reflect the lawyer population from the state's judicial districts. The first assembly meeting was held in 1972. Since its initial meeting, the assembly has grown from 127 to 150 members.

Currently the coordinator of career and professional development at Cooley's Auburn Hills campus, Glass has also served as the chair of the Oakland County Bar Association's Diversity Committee.

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COOLEY 5K RACE FOR EDUCATION

Sunday, September 18, 2011 at 8:30 a.m.

Cooley Law School Stadium, 505 East Michigan Avenue, Lansing, Mich. The 12th Annual Cooley 5K Race for Education moves from a summer race to Sunday, September 18. The Cooley 5K will also join the Capital City River Run (CCRR) Half Marathon this year, making the CCRR Half Marathon/Cooley 5K one of Lansing's premiere downtown running events.

Featuring a scenic course that showcases downtown Lansing, the Cooley 5K Race for Education starts at Cooley Law School Stadium and features downtown attractions, including a loop around the State Capitol building. Since its inception in 2000, the Cooley 5K Race for Education has grown bigger and better each year. All Cooley 5K Race registrants have a chance to earn a cash prize for their favorite educational institutions. When registering, entrants nominate a school by filling in the name of their favorite school. All schools nominated are eligible to be picked as "Proceeds Winners" in a post-race random drawing. In addition, the top three schools or educational institutions nominated will each win a school competition prize: \$1,000 for first, \$750 for second, and \$500 for third.

For more information on the Cooley 5K Race for Education or to register, please visit www.ccriverrun.org.

STAGES OF THE LAW

Stages of the Law, a partnership between Cooley Law School and local theaters, has announced its shows for the upcoming sixth season. On select Saturdays or "Cooley Nights," each show will feature a "Talk Back" session with a Cooley professor, explaining areas of the law that are featured during each play. Theater performances on the nights of "Talk Back" performances also feature discounted pricing (buy one ticket, get another ticket free).

"Talk Back" sessions are scheduled for:

- 8 p.m., Saturday, October 22 at Riverwalk Theater for Conspiracy
- 8 p.m., Saturday, November 5 at Lansing Community College's Dart Auditorium for The Shrike
- 8 p.m., Saturday, November 12 at Stormfield Theater for Race
- 7 p.m., Saturday, December 10 at Mid-Michigan Family Theater for The Goblins & the Gravedigger
- 8 p.m., Saturday, January 28 at the Wharton Center for The Exonerated

For more information on tickets or performances, please visit www.cooley.edu.

ARTPRIZE

September 29 – October 9, 2011

Cooley Law School will be sponsoring the ArtPrize shuttle in Grand Rapids from September 21 through October 9. The shuttle takes visitors to and from each of ArtPrize's exhibition centers. It is estimated that last year nearly 400,000 people visited Grand Rapids during the 20-day competition for the world's largest prize for art. ArtPrize is a radically open competition. It awards 10 prizes, decided by totaling public vote, equaling \$449,000. It is a first-of-its-kind art competition allowing any artist to enter as long as the artist finds a venue within a three-square-mile district in downtown Grand Rapids.

For more information, visit www.artprize.org.

FACULTY BRIEFS

Tammy Asher, Associate Professor

Appointed, Vice Chair of the Law Related Education Committee of the Oakland County Bar Association. **Taught**, a legal writing course for the Council of Legal Education Opportunity (CLEO). Every summer, CLEO offers intensive academic programs to low-income, minority, and other disadvantaged college students who aspire to become members of the legal profession.

(continues)

Gary Bauer, Professor

Presented, “New Lawyer Advertising and Law Office Management,” for the Ingham County Bar Association, Young Lawyers’ Section, as part of a day-long training program for new attorneys on Feb. 5, 2011, in Lansing, Mich. **Attended**, a Student Bar Association Entrepreneurial Law Student event to explore ways to succeed and expand practice opportunities in solo practice. It was hosted by Sutton Advisors, PLC, Lansing, Mich., on May 31, 2011. **Attended**, the Institute of Continuing Legal Education’s Probate and Estate Planning Institute, in Plymouth, Mich., on June 17, 2011. **Hosted**, a Student Bar Association Entrepreneurial Law Student presentation by Dan Hartman, solo entrepreneur, “Going Solo and Succeeding in Business,” on June 23, 2011, in Lansing, Mich.

Kathleen Butler, Professor

Co-authored, with Charles A. Palmer and Mark R. Dotson, a case book, *Torts: Principles and Practice*, coming out in Fall 2011 from Aspen.

Calogero, Evelyn, Professor

Created, and presented “The Nuts and Bolts of Appellate Advocacy in Child Welfare Appeals,” at the State Court Administrative Office-sponsored (SCAO) training in appellate advocacy for child welfare lawyers. This training is part of the SCAO initiative to improve appellate advocacy in child welfare cases. **Created**, and presented “How to Read a Court Opinion” and “How to IRAC” to high-school participants in the Michigan Supreme Court Learning Center’s Exploring Careers in the Law. **Attended**, and critiqued a Child Representation Training beta presented by the University of Michigan’s Child Welfare Clinic. This was a run-through of a training that the university’s professors have been chosen to do as a Quality Improvement Center to train lawyers in the best practices of representing children in child welfare cases. Participants were invited to the training and then expected to provide feedback to the trainers about the effectiveness of the training. **Created**, and taught new courses at Cooley in Advanced Appellate Practice: Appeals in Child Welfare Cases.

James L. Carey, Associate Professor

Presented, seminars on the workings of the Federal Reserve Board, to the Cooley Lansing Federalist Society on June 15, 2011, and the Auburn Hills Federalist Society on July 6, 2011. **Presented**, as part of a panel with professors E. Christopher Johnson and Brian Babbish, to the Young Lawyers Section of the Ingham County Bar Association, “Learn How to Expand Your Practice Seminar” on July 31, 2011. **Mentioned**, in the *Detroit News*, *Detroit Free Press*, *Oakland County Press*, and other local papers, in regard to his representation of a local business owner in a *pro bono* land dispute.

Mark Cooney, Associate Professor

Published, an article, titled “The Mismatch,” in the June 2011 issue of the *Michigan Bar Journal*. **Presented**, “Legal Reasoning and Case Analysis” to Detroit high school students for the Just the Beginning Foundation’s 2011 Detroit Summer Legal Institute, July 12, 2011.

Patrick Corbett, Professor

Presented, on June 15, 2011, “Cyber Crimes, Security and Teens,” to the National Association of Attorneys General/National Center for Justice and the Rule of Law, University of Mississippi Law School, in Oxford, Miss. **Presented**, on April 27, 2011, “A Review of Michigan Cyber Crime Laws – Cyberbullying & Other High Tech Crimes Involving Michigan Kids,” to the Personal Health and Sexuality Education Advisory Board, Okemos Public Schools, in Okemos, Mich. **Presented**, on April 26, 2011, “Cyber Law and You,” Stop/Think/Connect – Cyber Security in the 21st Century, to the Eastern Michigan University/National Cyber Security Awareness Campaign: Stop. Think. Connect (Department of Homeland Security), in Ypsilanti, Mich. **Presented**, on April 20, 2011, “A Review of Michigan Cyber Crime Laws – Cyberbullying & Other High Tech Crimes Involving Michigan Kids,” to the Women’s Resource Center, Michigan State University, in East Lansing, Mich. **Presented**, on April 18, 2011, “Cyberspace Minefields,” at the Oakland County Bar Association, Youth Law Conference, in Troy, Mich. **Presented**, on March 18 and April 1, 2011, “Cyberbullying and Other High Tech Crimes Involving Michigan Teens,” to Michigan Youth in Government, in Lansing, Mich. **Presented**, on March 16, 2011, on cyberbullying videos, to the Michigan Association of Non-Public Schools Public Policy Day, in Okemos, Mich. **Presented**, on March 11, 2011, “The Future of the Fourth Amendment in the Digital Evidence Context – Where Will the Supreme Court Draw the Electronic Line?” to the National Center for Justice & the Rule of Law, in Oxford, Miss. **Presented**, on January 19, 2011, “Cyberbullying and Other High Tech Crimes Involving Michigan Teens,” at Kinawa Middle School, in Okemos, Mich.

Heather Garretson, Associate Professor

Presented, “The Greeks Go Back to Law School: A Guide to Integrating Student Writing and Collaborative Learning throughout the Legal Curriculum,” with Dr. Kelly Kinney from SUNY-Binghamton at the Summer Conference of the Institute for Law Teaching and Learning at New York Law School. The presentation was noted in the publication *The Law Teacher* issue, (vol. 17, no. 2) <http://lawteaching.org/lawteacher/> and a link to the presentation materials can be found at <http://lawteaching.org/conferences/2011/workshops/session7.php>. **Published**, a review of two books

on the legal blog Concurring Opinions. The review, "Age Is More Than a Number: Viewing Our Students Through Generational Research," reviews both Jean Twenge's *Generation Me* and Twenge and Keith Campbell's *The Narcissism Epidemic*, at <http://www.concurringopinions.com/?s=garretson>

Joseph Kimble, Professor

Received, a prestigious Burton Award for Reform in Law for his work in completely redrafting the Federal Rules of Evidence. The award was presented at a ceremony at the Library of Congress. This was Professor Kimble's second Burton Award. He received the first one for his work in redrafting the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

Presented, a plenary address at the 8th International Conference of the Plain Language Association International, in Stockholm. Professor Kimble also participated in a panel discussion on defining plain language. **Agreed**, to speak at a fall seminar on the new Federal Rules of Evidence, at William and Mary School of Law. **Attended**, the annual luncheon of Scribes - the American Society of Legal Writers, in Toronto.

Don LeDuc, President and Dean

Published, the 2011 Cumulative Supplement to *Michigan Administrative Law* (West Group). This is the 10th annual supplement since the 2001 publication of the Revised Edition of the Text, first published in 1993.

Nelson Miller, Associate Dean and Professor

Published, as co-author with Professor Victoria Vuletich, the 600-page casebook *The Law, Principles, and Practice of Legal Ethics*, by Vandepas Publishing, for teaching Personal and Professional Responsibility.

John Nussbaumer, Associate Dean and Professor

Presented, the comments of the ABA Council on Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Educational Pipeline on proposed Interpretation 301-6 to the ABA Standards Review Committee in Chicago, Ill. **Led**, the Eastern District of the Michigan Federal Bar Association "Ask a Lawyer" program on Law Day, which recruited 30 volunteer attorneys who provided 80 pro se litigants with free half-hour consultations about their pending federal court cases. **Spoke**, as a panelist on law-school *pro bono* resources at the State Bar of Michigan's May 25, 2011 *Pro Bono* Workshop. **Wrote**, wills and powers of attorney for deploying National Guard troops at Cooley's May 17, 2011 Service-to-Soldiers Camp Grayling Deployment Readiness Event. **Spoke**, as a panelist on law-related education at the State Bar of Michigan's June 10, 2011 Bar Leadership Forum on Mackinac Island, Mich. **Nominated**, by the State Bar of Michigan and appointed by Gov. Rick Snyder to a four-year term on the Michigan Appellate Defender Commission, and was elected by the Commission to serve a four-year term as chair. **Re-elected**, to the Board of Directors of the Straker Bar Association. **Re-elected**, to the Executive Board of the Federal Bar Association for the Eastern District of Michigan. **Named**, Wolverine Bar Association Member of the Year, along with Cooley Professor Chris Johnson.

James D. Robb, Associate Dean

Drafting, a revision to the procedural rules governing the city of Birmingham, Mich.'s Board of Ethics, of which he presently serves as chairperson. **Attended**, a meeting of the Detroit Metropolitan Bar Association Foundation Board of Directors at which he agreed to serve as a member of the Dennis Archer Award Committee and act as liaison to Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder's office. **Attended**, the State Bar of Michigan Real Property Law Section's Summer Conference at which he introduced recent Cooley graduate Helen Mills as the recipient of the inaugural Real Property Law Section Student Scholarship Prize.

John Rooney, Professor

Attended, the 13th International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Law, which was held at the University of Pittsburgh from June 6 through 10.

Chris Shafer, Professor

Published, in *Planning and Zoning News* in July 2011, "A Great Flip Flop By The Michigan Supreme Court: Revisiting the Anglers of the *AuSable* and the *Preserve the Dunes* case".

Gina M. Torielli, Professor and Director, Graduate Tax Program

Completing, her year as chairperson of the State Bar of Michigan's Taxation Section in September 2011. She is the first full-time academic to hold this position, as the section is practitioner oriented. **Edited**, the book, *Real Property Taxes in Michigan*, which won an award from the Association for Continuing Legal Education.

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William Wagner, Professor

Published, a book: *Jurisprudential Considerations – The Impact of Worldview on American Constitutional Law* (2011 edition). **Contributing author**, of *Vaccine Epidemic*, which was ranked first in its category on Amazon's Best Seller Book Listings. **Presented**, "Critical Thinking and Writing Persuasively," to the Christian Legal Society in July 2011. **Presented**, "National Security, the War Powers Act, and the American Constitution," to the Military Veterans Law Student Association in July 2011. **Provided**, non-partisan testimony on the constitutionality of the "Partial Birth Abortion Act" before the Michigan House of Representatives, Committee on Families, Children, and Seniors, in June 2011. **Presented**, "The Constitutional Status of a Parent's Fundamental Right to Direct and Control the Upbringing of their Children," at the Florida Parent Educators Association state convention, in May 2011. **Presented**, "Professionalism and Ethics in the Practice of Law in Canada," at the Christian Legal Institute's 2011 national conference of Canadian law students, in May 2011. **Presented**, "Jurisprudential Origins of Law and Liberty," at the Christian Legal Institute's 2011 national conference of Canadian law students, in May 2011. **Presented**, the "Keynote Address on Unalienable Rights," at the Maine State Capitol, in May 2011. **Presented**, with Lt. General (Ret.) William Boykin, "Homeland Security, Governance and Constitutional Law," at the Michigan State Capitol, in March 2011. **Presented**, "The American Constitution, International Treaties, and State Governance," at the Iowa State Capitol in March 2011. **Presented**, "Constitutional Legal Developments Impacting State Governance and Primary and Secondary Education," at the Iowa State Capitol, in March 2001. **Moderated** a national debate, "To Bear or Not to Bear: Guns in Educational Institutions," at Cooley Law School, in February, 2011.

William Weiner, Associate Dean and Professor

Presented, Cooley's LL.M. in U.S. Legal Studies for Foreign Attorneys at LL.M. Fair Europe, run by the University of Münster in Münster, Germany. While there he finalized an agreement with their law school for a student exchange program. This will offer Cooley students an opportunity to spend a semester at a German law school while taking classes in English.

CLASS NOTES

1977 Graves Class

Morris, Donna, retired Midland, Mich., probate judge, has won the McArdle Award, presented annually by the Thomas More Society. She is the 25th recipient of the award, which recognizes a lawyer or judge from the Saginaw (Mich.).

Diocese who has displayed legal excellence and made significant contributions to society. She was a probate court judge in Midland for 21 years. She has served as a faculty member of the Michigan Judicial Institute, and as a member of the Cooley Law School Board of Directors.

1980 Bushnell Class

Downing, Daniel D., has been named the first Chief of Interpretation, Education and Operations for the new River Raisin National Battlefield Park in Michigan. Downing, a state department official and lawyer with a military background, most recently served in Iraq as the Muthanna Provincial Reconstruction Team Rule of Law senior advisor. He is a former Navy judge advocate, civil affairs officer, former general counsel/senior assistant prosecutor in Calhoun county, Mich., former Battle Creek city commissioner, and former park ranger at Grand Haven State Park. He was also formerly a partner in a Battle Creek civil law practice, and served as general civil counsel for Calhoun County.

1981 Dethmers Class

Hartig, Patricia, of Trenton, Mich., has been appointed by Lutheran Social Services of Michigan as director of Advocacy and Public Policy. She is a former mayor of Trenton, Mich., and has served as an assistant attorney general for the state of Michigan, and was a district director for U.S. Rep. John Conyers.

Markey, the Hon. Jane, a Michigan Court of Appeals judge since 1995, has been re-elected to the Thomas M. Cooley Law School Board of Directors. Judge Markey was first elected to the bench in 1990, serving with the 61st District Court in Grand Rapids before joining the Court of Appeals. She has served on the Cooley Board of Directors since 1995.

Sutton, Linda, participated in the Cambridge Women Advisors Forum in Chicago, Ill., in July.

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1981 T. Kavanagh Class

Bowling, Kevin J., was elected the 27th president of the National Association for Court Management (NACM) at the organization's annual conference in Las Vegas, Nev. He is Court Administrator and Attorney Referee for the 20th Circuit Court and Ottawa County Probate Court, in Michigan. Mr. Bowling is a charter member of NACM and has served on the board since 2005. He has worked in the judicial system for 30 years, with service as court manager, attorney, judicial educator, and court consultant. He spent 20 years with the Michigan Supreme Court, including appointments as State Judicial Educator and Regional Court Administrator. He also worked on a Rule of Law Project in Nigeria. Mr. Bowling is a certified mediator and a board member of Mediation Services in Holland, Mich.

Long Class

Menzies, Robert, a partner in Roetzel & Andress LPA's Naples, Fla., office, has been selected for inclusion in Super Lawyers magazine as one of Florida's Super Lawyers.

1986 Mundy Class

Blazs, Kevin, a judge in Jacksonville, Fla., was appointed by Florida Gov. Rick Scott to the state's Fourth Judicial Circuit Court. He also received his Master of Studies degree in the study of Jewish-Christian Relations, from the University of Cambridge in Cambridge, England. Judge Blazs has served on the Duval County Court since 2006. Before he was a judge, Blazs practiced with the firm of Gobelman, Love, Gavin, Blazs and Wasilenko, from 1990-2006. He was also trial counsel for the U.S. Army Reserve (1992-2001), a law professor at universities in China (1989-90), and an assistant state attorney for Duval County State Attorney's Office (1987-89). He was also an adjunct professor at Cooley and a legislative aide in the Michigan Senate (1983-86).

Missad, Matthew J., was appointed chief executive officer of Universal Forest Products, Inc. He was formerly the firm's executive vice president and general counsel, and has been with Universal for 26 years.

1990 E. Wilson Class

Ward, Phillip E., with GrayRobinson in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., was recognized as one of Florida Trend's Legal Elite. This distinction honors attorneys in Florida who have been voted by their peers as being the state's legal leaders. Mr. Ward's area of practice is Intellectual Property Rights.

1991 Lawrence Class

Blocher, Jeff, has been appointed as the new vice president of sales - Wix Filters, by Affinia Group. He previously served as marketing brand manager for Wix Filters. Blocher began his career with Wix in 1996 as a district sales manager in Nashville. He served in various sales and marketing roles for the company, including as Wix regional manager and Carquest Filters brand manager.

Conway, Michael J., was elected treasurer of the Lake County (Illinois) Bar Association. He was also re-elected to a second term as a school board member for Lake Villa School District 41 where he serves as vice president. Mr. Conway has been an adjunct faculty member at the College of Lake County, teaching Introduction to Criminal Justice, Criminology, and Principles of Juvenile Delinquency. He operates a law practice in Waukegan, Ill., practicing in the areas of criminal defense, juvenile law, family law, and administrative appeals. Phone: (847) 599-1969; e-mail: mjconwaylaw@ameritech.net.

1992 Montgomery Class

Neuhoff, Elizabeth, was appointed as a Federal Administrative Law Judge to the Nashville, Tenn., Office of Disability Adjudication and Review (ODAR) with the Social Security Administration. Previously, she was a Senior Attorney adjudicator for the Evansville, Ind., ODAR office.

1993 Moore Class

Smith, Jon R., of Yuma, Ariz., serves as the Yuma County Attorney.

1994 Ostrander Class

Young, Lance C., joined the Southfield, Mich.-based firm of Sommers Schwartz, PC, as a shareholder in the firm's business litigation department. He focuses his practice on class-action litigation, including anti-trust, consumer protection, securities/GAAP compliance, ERISA, and corporate duties/derivative suits.

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Ostrander Class

Croy, Lorrain (Chafin), was reappointed in 2010 as Magistrate in the Ottawa County Court of Common Pleas in Port Clinton, Ohio. She presides over all domestic and dissolution filings and all post-divorce actions. She is also a Magistrate for the court's Juvenile Division. Phone: (419) 734-6818; e-mail: mrsroy@yahoo.com.

1995 Steere Class

White, Eric, is an attorney with White & Hotchkiss, PLLC, in Jackson, Mich. He focuses primarily in the areas of municipal, financial, and family law.

1997 Brickley Class

Ross, Ken, has joined Citizens Republic Bancorp, in Flint, Mich., as assistant general counsel and director of government relations. He previously served as commissioner of the Michigan Office of Financial and Insurance Regulation.

1998 Sharpe Class

Sysol, Brad H., an attorney with Miller Canfield in Kalamazoo, Mich., gave a presentation on Environmental Law and Climate Change to junior high school students at the Battle Creek Area Math + Science Center. Phone: (269) 383-5878; e-mail: sysol@millercanfield.com.

2000 Rutledge Class

Kable, Charles W., serves as general counsel of Cardon Healthcare Network, LLC, located in The Woodlands, Texas. Phone: (281) 296-1771, ext. 10017; e-mail: ckable@cardonhealthcare.com.

Marsh, Kristina L., was named a partner in the national law firm of Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP. Based in the firm's Tampa, Fla., office, she represents insurers throughout Florida in first- and third-party insurance coverage matters. Much of her practice focuses on defending first-party property coverage claims and defending insurers in sinkhole matters.

VanDenBerg, Sally Babbitt, has joined Chalgian & Tripp Law Office in East Lansing, Mich. She previously served as vice president and senior relationship manager of PNC Bank's NA Wealth Management Department. She practices in the areas of estate planning and long-term care planning.

2001 Iredell Class

Ito, Kimberly, has been appointed executive director of the Texas School of Business Friendswood campus. She previously was the director of education at the school's north campus, and as department chair for criminal justice at the Friendswood campus.

2003 Swainson Class

Roggenbuck, Amanda, a probate court judge for Tuscola County in Michigan, has renewed her probate certificate through the Institute of Continuing Legal Education.

O. Smith Class

Henninger, Kristen S., and her husband, Matthew Holland, announce the birth of their son, Benjamin Matthew, born on Oct. 8, 2010. Kristen is a staff attorney for Ocean-Monmouth Legal Services, Inc., in Toms River, N.J. Phone: (732) 341-2727; e-mail: khenninger@lsnj.org.

Toy Class

Galco, James S., works for U.S. Bank's Private Client Reserve in a dual role as a Wealth Planning Strategist and Business Operations Analyst.

2004 Cross Class

Tlaib, Rashida, has been named a Legislator of the Year by the Hemophilia Foundation of Michigan.

2004 Needham Class

Stephens, Monica, has joined the Jackson County (Michigan) Prosecutor's Office as an assistant prosecuting attorney.

2006 Reid Class

Mysliwiec, Melisa Werkema, has joined Fraser Trebilcock as an associate attorney in the firm's Grand Rapids and Lansing, Mich., offices. She practices in the areas of estate planning, estate and trust administration, guardianships, and conservatorships, as well as elder law and Medicaid planning.

2006 Edwards Class

Brush, Michael, has joined Freund, Freeze & Arnold, with offices in Ohio and Kentucky, as an associate attorney. He previously worked in the Montgomery County (Ohio) Prosecutor's Office. His practice areas include personal injury, criminal defense, employment law, intentional torts, insurance coverage, bad faith defense, and premises liability.

2007 Fisher Class

Bower, Ross K. II, an associate attorney with the Okemos, Mich., law firm of Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes PLC, has been selected for inclusion in the 2011 Michigan Rising Stars list.

2008 T. Kavanagh Class

Laga, Kelly, has joined the Law Offices of Kenneth Hiller as an associate attorney. She supervises the firm's Greece Office in Rochester, N.Y. Previously, she was a deputy public administrator in San Diego and an adjunct professor at the University of San Diego.

2009 Coleman Class

Brooks, Leah J., joined the Lansing, Mich., law firm of Loomis, Ewert, Parsley, Davis & Gotting, PC, as an associate attorney. She specializes in oil & gas law, energy and natural resources law, and business, corporate, and real estate law.

Riley Class

Smith, Phillip J., has joined the Dallas, Texas law firm of Godwin Ronquillo, PC. He is part of the trial team representing Halliburton in litigation arising from the BP oil spill. Phone: (214) 939-4423; e-mail: pjsmith@godwinronquillo.com.

Rodenhouse, Andy, opened the law firm of Rodenhouse Kuipers, PC, in Grand Rapids, Mich., with fellow Cooley graduate Jessica Kuipers (Souris Class, 2009). The firm practices primarily in the area of criminal defense, but also environmental law, as well as collision repair cases, and litigation for contract, property, and child custody disputes.

Fusner, Analiese, was named Compliance Program Director and Corporate Responsibility Officer for Genesys Health System in Grand Blanc, Mich. (810) 730-3951.

Souris Class

Gross, Matthew B., has joined Quarnstrom & Doering, PA, in Marshall, Minn., as an associate attorney. He will handle criminal prosecution for the city of Marshall as an assistant city attorney, and will also practice in the area of family law.

Kuipers, Jessica, opened the law firm of Rodenhouse Kuipers, PC, in Grand Rapids, Mich., with fellow Cooley graduate Andy Rodenhouse, (Riley Class, 2009). The firm practices primarily in the area of criminal defense, but also do environmental law, as well as collision repair cases, and litigation for contract, property, and child custody disputes.

Stevenson, Blair, has joined the staff of the Bay Area Law Clinic, in Saginaw Township, Mich., as an associate attorney. He practices in the areas of bankruptcy, estate planning, and Social Security.

2010 Witherell Class

Colak, N. Banu, has joined the Hubbard Law Firm, PC, in Lansing, Mich., as an associate attorney. She provides legal services in the areas of business, corporate, and municipal law.

Glover, Melanie, has joined the Dallas, Texas, immigration law firm, Davis & Associates, as an associate attorney. Phone: (214) 628-9888; e-mail: mglover@gldlaw.com.

Woodbridge Class

Gonzalez, Jessica, is one of 24 people chosen to participate in the 2011-12 Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute, and one of only seven to be selected into its Graduate Fellowship Program. She practices with the law office of Doming Garcia in Texas.

Payne, Erica N., has joined Kendricks, Bordeau, Adamini, Chilman & Greenlee, P.C., with offices in Marquette and Houghton, Mich., as an associate attorney. She has a general practice with a diverse background that includes estate planning and probate work, as well as criminal, divorce, and domestic violence matters. She is also trained as a general civil mediator and domestic relations mediator.

2011 Sibley Class

Babjak, Michael R., has joined the Canfield, Ohio firm of Lane & Rusu Attorneys-at-Law as an associate attorney.

Bogard, David M., has opened The Law Offices of David M. Bogard, PC, at 2675 W. Jefferson Ave., Suite 100, Trenton, Mich., 48183. He practices in the areas of criminal misdemeanor defense, family and elder law. Phone: (734) 676-6200; e-mail: dave@bogardlaw.com.

Wagnitz, Daniel M., was promoted at Howard & Howard Attorneys, PLLC, from Intellectual Property intern to associate with the firm. He practices at the firm's Royal Oak, Mich., office. He concentrates his practice in intellectual property law, with a focus on patent preparation/prosecution and opinion work, primarily in mechanical arts.

IN MEMORY

1983 O'Hara Class

Tumanis, Richard Andrew (Rick), 54, of East Lansing, Mich., died July 29, 2011. He was employed at Discount Signs in Lansing as a computer graphics artist.

1987 Champlin Class

Fox, Mark R., 57, of Okemos, Mich., died unexpectedly June 22, 2011. He was a partner and immediate past president of Fraser Trebilcock Davis and Dunlap in Lansing, Mich., where he began his career 25 years ago.

Morse Class

Fanning, Michael Shawn, 50, of Chesapeake, Va., (formerly of DeWitt, Mich.) died unexpectedly on July 22, 2011, at his home. He practiced law in the Lansing area.

1991 Turner Class

Allen, Charlotte Louise, 58, of Midland, Mich., died June 2, 2011 at the University of Michigan Hospital in Ann Arbor after a brief illness. She was in private practice as a family law attorney in Midland. Previously, she worked as Friend of the Court at 23rd Circuit Court in Tawas, Mich. From 1991-1995, she served as an attorney with Legal Services of Eastern Michigan, representing victims of domestic violence.

2002 Paterson Class

Singleton, Judith, 65, of Kentwood, Mich., died March 5, 2011.

Cooley encourages all graduates to contribute information to the Class Notes. We encourage information about your law practice and other accomplishments in the legal profession.

E-mail: communications@cooley.edu