

The JURIST



HAVE YOU SEEN THE WEST CAMPUS LATELY?

Inside: Creating the Environmental Law and Sustainability Program
Fourth Annual James M. Nabrit Jr. Lecture Series

Plus: 2007 Degree Presentation and Hooding Ceremony

From the Dean

Dear Friends:

In this edition of *The Jurist*, you will read about physical improvements that have been and are being made to the Howard University School of Law (HUSL). The motivating idea behind this renovation work is the same one that guides our efforts with respect to the academic program: to build on, not rest on, the legacy of Howard's law school.

As part of the physical changes that are occurring, we have begun reframing and relocating class murals. Many of those murals have fallen into poor condition, and some of the class photographs are missing. We have relocated to the first floor of Houston Hall, those murals beginning with the Class of 1898 and ending with the Class of 1954. Obviously, we were trying to capture symbolically the transition from the era of *Plessy* to the era of *Brown*. Current students understand the meaning and symbolism of this display, and they seem to draw inspiration from what they see.

Reviewing the murals reminds us of the continuing support that HUSL graduates provide to the law school and to its students. Two examples are worth noting here. First, George E. C. Hayes, Class of 1918, returned to the law school as a professor. He taught, guided, and inspired students to achieve excellence as commercial lawyers, litigators, and appellate advocates. He was a man of strong convictions. As an outspoken critic of governmental excesses, he was one

of the unsung heroes in the struggle to end the nightmarish witch-hunting era of Senator Joseph McCarthy. A film clip of a dramatic moment in which Hayes courageously represents a government employee at a McCarthy hearing is highlighted in the 2006 motion picture about the career of journalist Edward R. Murrow, entitled *Good Night and Good Luck*.



A second alumnus who was a shining light of support to HUSL was James A. Cobb, Class of 1889. Like Hayes, he taught at the law school while engaging in other activities in the public and private sectors. His law firm was one of the preeminent centers of justice. It represented some of the most prominent members of the African American commu-

nity in the 20th century. Cobb became a judge, but before his public service, he amassed a fortune that he decided to use for the benefit of this institution. Many students do not know his story, but they do know that they received a Cobb Scholarship, which assisted them in obtaining a Howard education. Judge Cobb's gift remains the single largest donation ever made to HUSL by an individual.

All of us—students, faculty members, staff members, and alumni—are inspired by the murals of the graduating classes. I hope you will visit soon to see them for yourself and will draw from them strength to meet the challenges of tomorrow.

Kurt L. Schmoke

Dean, Howard University School of Law



The JURIST

2006-2007 Issue • Volume 16, Number 2

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On the cover: Historic Houston Hall at Howard University School of Law
Photo by Jean-Claude Rainey

Above: Murals from the Class of 1917, 1918, and 1920
Photo by James K. Pleasant

Dean: Kurt L. Schmoke • Publications Manager and Editor: Jacqueline C. Young, M.S. • Editorial Assistance: Marcee Campbell, Tina D. Greene, Barbara Hart, Ashley Young • Photography: Howard University School of Law Photo Archives, Marvin T. Jones & Associates, Jason Miccolo Johnson, James K. Pleasant, Jean-Claude Rainey. Some photos were provided as a courtesy. • Production and Design: Print Graphics, Inc.

The Jurist is published by the Howard University School of Law. It is distributed to alumni, staff, faculty, and friends of the University. Letters and items of interest are welcome. Please address all correspondence to: *The Jurist*, Howard University School of Law, 2900 Van Ness Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., 20008, (202) 806-8084, www.law.howard.edu.

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NEWS & INFORMATION

OLIVER W. HILL DIES

On August 5, 2007, Oliver W. Hill died in Richmond, Virginia. He was 100 years old. According to his family, he died peacefully at his home. "The Howard University School of Law family extends its sympathy to the family of Oliver W. Hill. He was among the greatest of a great generation of social engineers," said Law School Dean Kurt L. Schmoke. "Ours is a better country because of his tireless advocacy." Mr. Hill was a 1933 graduate of the law school. In April 2007, the law school held a celebration in honor of his 100th birthday. (See photo on page 11). A memorial service for Mr. Hill was held at the law school on September 7, 2007.



Professor Jones at the 2004 *Brown* Conference on Race and Rights.

PROFESSOR HENRY JONES RETIRES

The Howard University School of Law community acknowledged with great pride the tremendous contributions of Professor Henry H. Jones, who retired after 39 years of service. Professor Jones, a 1956 graduate of the law school, began teaching at the law school in 1968. He taught many courses, including Civil Procedure, Remedies, and Race Law. He also made other contributions to the law school and University, serving on numerous committees over the years. In May 2007, the law school held a reception to honor Professor Jones' tenure and retirement. In August, the National Bar Association presented him with the 2007 Outstanding Alumni Award.

1869-2009: 140 YEARS OF HOWARD LAW

In preparation for celebrating our 140th anniversary in 2009, the law school is putting together a pictorial history of the Howard University School of Law, to cover the period 1869 to 2009. We need your pictures and old photographs. Alumni, students, and others interested in contributing pictures to this important project should contact Law School Archivist Seth Kronemer at (202) 806-8304 or via email at skronemer@law.howard.edu.



ADOPTION AWARENESS DAY AT HOWARD



Law School Faculty Member Cynthia Mabry '83, displays a copy of *Adoption Law: Theory, Policy and Practice*, her new textbook on adoption law. In January, the law school organized Adoption Awareness Day to bring attention to the legal issues and concerns related to adoption and foster parenting. Representatives from adoption agencies in Washington, DC, Fairfax County, Virginia, and Prince Georges County, Maryland distributed information and answered questions. Attendees also watched a video which featured children available for adoption through the Wednesday's Child program. Pictured with Mabry are (l to r) Judges Ronna Beck, Kaye Christian, Jeanette Clark, and Arthur L. Burnett Sr., all judges on the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. The law school hosted a reception afterwards.



The *Howard Law Journal* will collaborate with the law firm of Vinson and Elkins to publish an annual symposium issue of the *Howard Law Journal*. The first issue is scheduled for fall 2007. Vinson & Elkins presented The *Journal* with a check for \$18,000, to support publication. Pictured are (l to r) Mark Laufman and Nebiat Baarez '03 from Vinson & Elkins, Dean Schmoke and Faculty Advisor Andrew Gavil.





LAW JOURNAL RECEPTION BRINGS OUT THE JUDGES

The Sixth Annual *Howard Law Journal* Judicial Reception was held on April 10. Judges from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, U.S. District Court, U.S. Court of Federal Claims, and the D.C. Superior Court attended. Pictured in the photo are (l to r) Judges Reggie B. Walton, Cheryl Long, Ronna Beck, Henry H. Kennedy, Eric T. Washington, Janice Rogers Brown, and Merrick B. Garland. April was the month for judges at the law school. On April 5, Associate Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg visited the law school (see photo on page 10).

Second Annual Law Alumni Weekend

Reminisce. Reconnect. Reunite.



Alumni from near and far gathered at last year's reception to reminisce, reconnect, and reunite with one another. The 2007 reunion will be held on October 19-20, at the law school. (Photos by Marvin T. Jones & Associate).

BARRY SCHECK

C. CLYDE FERGUSON LECTURER

"I do believe that within our lifetimes, in the next 10, 15, or 20 years, we will end capital punishment in the United States," said Barry Scheck, co-director of the Innocence Project. Scheck spoke at the law school last fall about the state of capital punishment and about the work of the Innocence Project. His speech "Innocence, Race, and the Death Penalty," can be found in its entirety in the *Howard Law Journal*, Volume 50, Issue 2, and on the law school Web site.



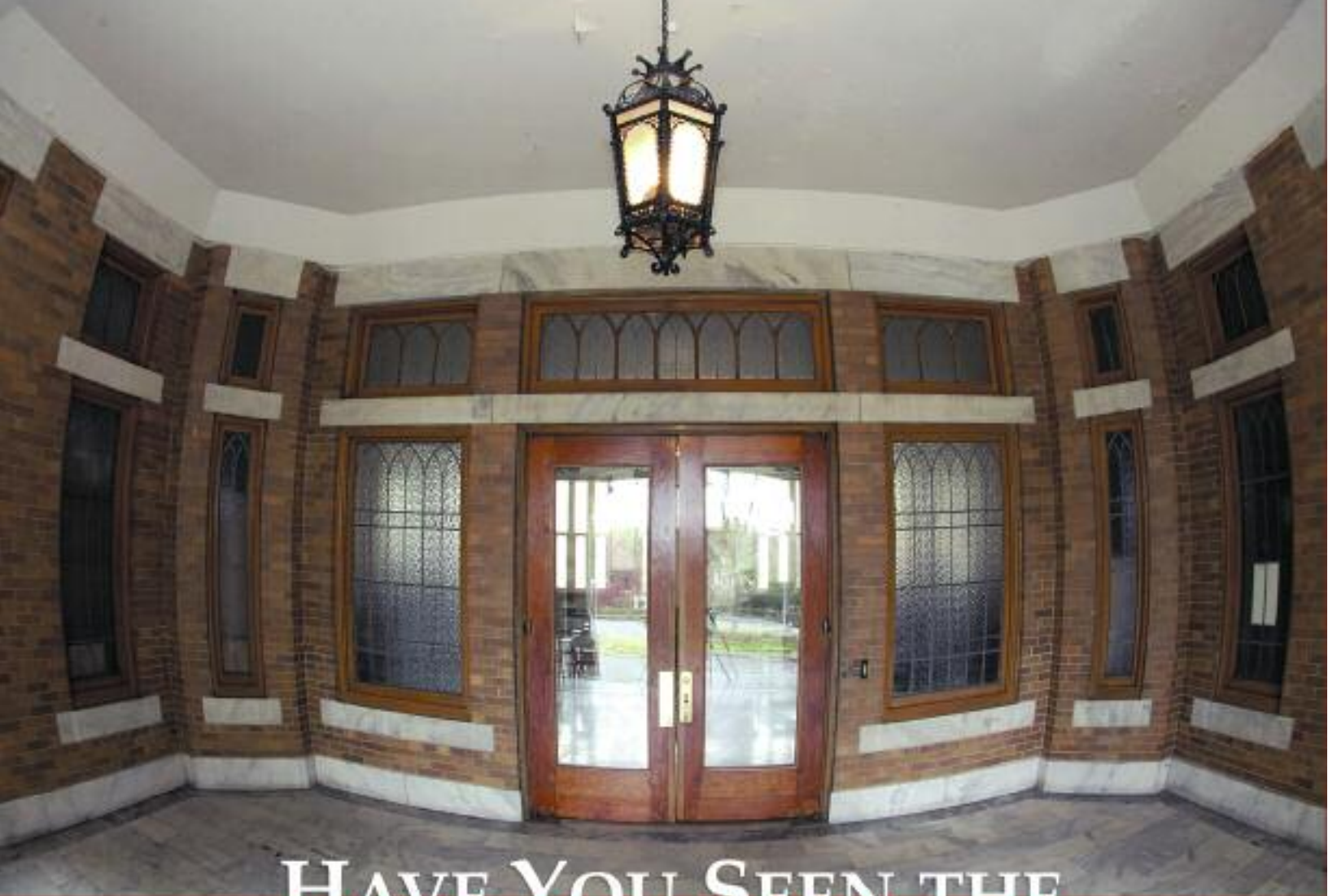
CHOKWE LUMUMBA CHARLES HAMILTON HOUSTON LECTURER



Chokwe Lumumba delivered the annual Charles Hamilton Houston lecture in February. Lumumba, chair of the New Afrikan People's Organization (N.A.P.O.), is also the co-founder of the Mississippi Disaster Relief Coalition (MS-DRC). The organization assisted in the distribution of tons of material and aid to Hurricane Katrina survivors. Lumumba organized the December 2005 From Outrage to Action Conference in Jackson, Mississippi, which was attended by nearly 600 Hurricane Katrina survivors and supporters. Lumumba's lecture was fittingly titled "21st Century New Afrikan (Black) Lawyers: Serving Our People in the Tradition of Charles Hamilton Houston."



Dean Schmoke and SBA President Rizwan Qureshi presented 3L Student Kara Beverly with an academic achievement award for her work with the SBA and the Charles Hamilton Houston Moot Court Team.



HAVE YOU SEEN THE WEST CAMPUS LATELY?

By Jo Ann Haynes Fax

Howard University School of Law has undergone some major renovations since the new library opened in 2001. The university, alumni, and students have all given funds toward the capital improvement projects, and the school has benefited from those changes. Because many of you have not returned to your alma mater in recent years, we thought it would be nice to share with you an illustrative view of the numerous physical facility enhancements to our West Campus.

Come Inside

The summer of 2004 brought a major project to the West Campus: construction of a plaza in front of Houston Hall. Previously a parking lot, this expanded area now adds visual appeal to what is

now the main entrance. The circular stone plaza brings a peaceful yet elegant view to all who enter the Howard University School of Law. The stone benches were a gift from the Class of 2004 .

The entrance doors to the bridge on the first floor connecting Holy Cross and Houston Hall were also replaced in 2004. The new doors preserved the architectural integrity of the buildings and bring more visual appeal to the first floor of Houston Hall, which houses the chapel and the dean's office. The exterior doors in the Holy Cross Foyer were also beautifully restored. The old wrought iron finish and tarnished brass doors were replaced with wooden doors with vertical glass panes, which add to the ambiance of the Holy Cross foyer and also provide a beautiful view of the exterior grounds facing Upton



Houston Hall door leading to the Holy Cross Foyer.



Upton Street exit doors.



Entrance to Houston Hall from the Holy Cross Foyer.

Street. This project was partially funded by alumni donations to the annual fund account.

The fall of 2003 signaled the start of enhancements to the law school and particularly in the student lounge or, as it is known, the "Rhatt." New furnishings, carpet, tile, and accessories made the student lounge very contemporary and user friendly to meet the needs of a new generation of students. Because this area is highly used, new computers were installed in 2004 and 2005. Students can now access the Internet and check their email. The major renovations and improvements were funded by the university, and alumni dollars and gifts paid for the computers.

For the safety and security of our students, faculty, staff members, and visitors, a new 42-camera, digital-taping security system was installed in the fall of 2004. The system monitors the hallways, offices, and entrances to the buildings. This system has enhanced the Campus Police's ability to canvas the surroundings and to observe potential problems. We also made major improvements to secure the outside of our facilities by adding speed bumps, stop signs, and pedestrian crossing lines in the driveway and



parking areas. These safety precautions have made drivers more observant of the pedestrians in the parking lot. The upgrades were funded through law school funds, and through gifts from alumni and friends.

Within the past five years, all three elevators at the law school have had major overhauls: in Houston Hall, in Holy Cross Hall, and in the spring of 2007, in Notre Dame Hall. Those elevators had deteriorated and were in great need of replacement. This project has brought immense relief to all parties at West Campus. In particular, the Notre Dame elevator restoration will be of great value to the recruiting firms and associations that come to the law school and to the student organizations and staff offices housed in that building.

The old cafeteria was transformed into the new dining hall. This major renovation saw the badly lit industrial space of the old cafeteria transformed into a bright, spacious, and cheery dining area with modern furniture, art, and lighting. The dining hall is also wired for computer use, and you can regularly see faculty members and students dining together. The dining hall can seat approximately 130 people and it now





hosts lunches and receptions for many law school events. Like the plaza renovation, the dining hall renovation was funded by the university.

Technology Advances Throughout

Technological advances have assisted with information dissemination throughout the law school and with teaching and learning in the classrooms. In 2004, two of the larger classrooms were hard-wired for laptops, making all four large classrooms in Houston Hall available for computer use by the students. Classrooms 2 and 3 are currently being upgraded to increase the smart technology in those rooms. Screens have been added to every classroom on the campus to facilitate the use of portable technology. Having this technology available and accessible to all faculty members continues to be challenging, given that the law school has no dedicated personnel for audiovisual assistance; we rely purely on library staff members and students to provide support.

Through funding by an anonymous private donor, a grant from Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and through alumni giving, smart technology and electronic communications have improved on West Campus. Classroom 4 is now a state-of-the-art classroom, with the capabilities for videotaping, smart technology, and distance education. The library classroom, Room LL101, has also been equipped for distance education through this initiative.

The contribution by the donor enabled us to add a major enhancement to our electronic communications: plasma screens for announcements, programs, and other special news and events throughout the law school. The installation of those 12 screens last December added a new dimension to our ability to keep everyone on campus fully informed. The feedback has been extremely positive about this new addition.

Through funding from the HUD Fair Housing grant, we upgraded the Clinical Law Center's computer lab and conference room. A new server and computers were added to the clinic lab for the clinic students' use, and new furniture was added to the conference room. The Clinical Law Center is planning to add more technological equipment to the conference room and offices.

Some smaller facility projects have been undertaken within the past few years. The busts of Thurgood Marshall and Charles Hamilton Houston received some minor restoration through the help of the Fine Arts Department. Fine Arts and the Health Science Library donated new pedestals for each bust.

The Houston Hall foyer in front of the new elevator was redecorated as well, as you can see from the photo. To further improve Houston Hall, the university funded the renovations to the male and female restrooms



in the summer of 2006.

Currently, law school administration has undertaken a project to restore and move class murals. All class murals through 1954 have been protectively reframed with archival backing and special archival plexi-glass, which should preserve them for a substantial number of years. These historic murals were moved to the first floor of Houston Hall and have added great physical ornamentation to that administrative floor. As funds become available, the other class murals will be hung throughout the Houston Hall and Holy Cross corridors. When the project is completed, there will be a directory in the subbasement of Houston Hall to help alumni identify the location of their class murals. Your alumni donations combined with law school funds are needed to help complete this project.

There's More to Do

Do not think that every law school need has been met. Several areas still need renovation or enhancements. For instance, the Moot Court Room, which is used to host all of our major events and competitions, needs new carpet, new chair upholstery, smart technology, and videotaping capabilities. The university has committed to renovating the student study area in the basement of Holy Cross. The Classes of 2006 and 2007 have donated funds to furnish the study rooms once they are restored. We also need much more technological equipment, software programs, and smart technology.

Your dollars help us in several ways to improve the environment for our current students. If you would like to support these types of projects and improvements to the school, you can specifically indicate that your donation should go to the Howard University School of Law (Care About Howard Law) account. You can send a check or donate online at www.howard.edu/advancement/donation/creditcard.asp.

We hope you will come to the West Campus soon so you can see all that we have done and all that we continue to do to make the law school better for everyone.

Jo Ann Haynes Fax is the executive director of administration and operations for Howard University School of Law.



BRICK PAVER ETCHING PROGRAM

The brick project has begun! Bricks are being laid and it is our strong desire to have all slots filled by donors. Through the Brick Paver Etching Program, you can leave your legacy at the School of Law. You can engrave your name and class year, the name of a loved one or someone special to you. Bricks can be purchased for either **\$1,000** (4"x8") or **\$5,000** (8"x8"). Both can be paid over a six-month period. The funds raised from the Brick Paver Etching Program will provide the Law Library with the means necessary to maintain technology upgrades, increase online research methods for students, and outfit classrooms and study rooms with the electronic equipment needed for distance learning. By purchasing a brick you, will support the Law Library and ensure that Howard law students will continue to have access to a top-notch unrivaled law library. If you would like to purchase a brick and are paying with a personal check you may contact the Office of Development and Alumni Relations at (202) 806-8177. If you prefer to make an online credit card payment, please visit www.howard.edu/advancement/donation/creditcard.asp and indicate that your gift should be allocated to the "Law Library Fund."

Honorable Charles B. Rangel Keynotes the Fourth Annual James M. Nabrit Jr. Lecture Series

Representative Charles B. Rangel (D-N.Y.) was the keynote speaker at the Fourth Annual James M. Nabrit Jr. Lecture Series, which was held on April 5, 2007.

The event-filled day began with remarks from Dean Kurt Schmoke, Howard University President H. Patrick Swygert, James M. Nabrit III, and Paul Sweeney, from Kirkpatrick & Lockhart Preston Gates Ellis, cosponsors of the event.

"You cannot dream unless you have some factual basis," Rangel said passionately, in speaking of the need for younger people, particularly those in the black community, to have role models. "No matter what good happens to us, we have a special responsibility to have lectures like this, which will bring in young people, so that we can substitute for the rape of our history by telling the stories of Thurgood Marshall and James Nabrit Jr.," Rangel said. "They must know that we are somebody."

Representative Rangel's lecture was followed by a speech by Associate Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who discussed being the only woman on the U.S. Supreme Court.

The day ended with a birthday celebration for law school alumnus and civil rights icon Oliver W. Hill, who turned 100 on May 1. Hill was honored by the entire law school community. (Photos by Marvin T. Jones & Associates)



The congressman signed a copy of his book "And I Haven't Had a Bad Day Since: From the Streets of Harlem to the Halls of Congress," for the Nabrits.



Representative Rangel with Willie Dennis and Paul Sweeney of K&L Gates, James Nabrit III, and Dean Schmoke.



Representative Rangel and President Swygert with Mrs. Thurgood Marshall (left) and Mrs. James Nabrit. Students presented the women with flowers on behalf of the law school.



Justice Ginsburg met with Dean Schmoke and student leaders Rizwan Qureshi (left) and Erin Johnson.



Happy Birthday Mr. Hill!

Oliver W. Hill, Class of 1933, turned 100 years old on May 1, 2007. On April 5, 2007 the entire law school community celebrated Hill's birthday.

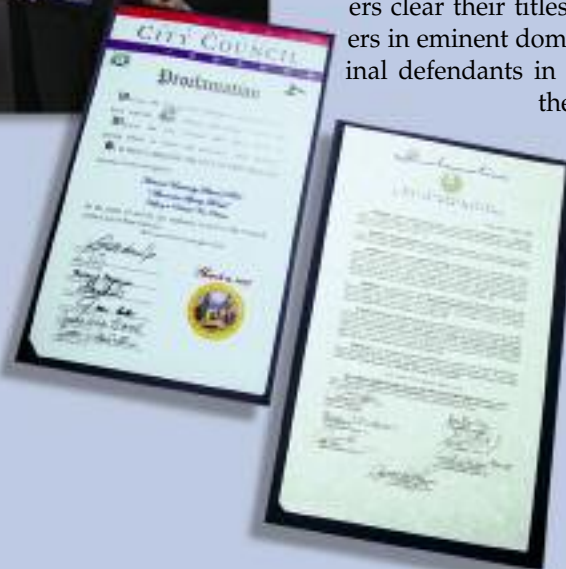


Dean Schmoke received the proclamations from the students during a law school assembly recognizing the students and faculty who participated in the Alternative Spring Break. "Your work was in the finest social engineering tradition of this law school. The positive impact of your activities will be felt by individuals known and not known to you for many years," said Dean Schmoke.

Rebuilding New Orleans One Spring Break At a Time

Nearly 60 Howard law students and faculty members volunteered to spend their spring break in New Orleans, Louisiana, providing legal and humanitarian services to those still desperately in need. Students worked in the New Orleans District Attorney's Office to help homeowners clear their titles; they represented property owners in eminent domain cases; they worked with criminal defendants in the Public Defenders Office; and they also worked with Habitat for Humanity to rebuild homes.

On March 15, 2007, the City Council of New Orleans presented the students with two proclamations in recognition of their dedication and commitment. This was the second year in a row that Howard law students spent their spring break rebuilding New Orleans.





Creating the Environmental Law and Sustainability Program At Howard University School of Law

Great strides have been made in improving environmental conditions across the United States, thanks in large part to the environmental laws of the 1970s and 1980s. However, a growing body of evidence shows that people of color and low-income residents shoulder a disproportionate share of our nation's environmental burden.

Addressing this environmental disparity and building the capacity of communities to improve their environmental health and vitality is the goal of environmental justice. Environmental justice stands for the proposition that all people have a basic right to clean air, clean land, and clean water, and that all people should have a meaningful say in how environmental decisions are made.

It's an issue that's catching on in communities, in the courts and state legislatures, in the federal government, and in business and industry.

Roughly 39 states have environmental justice laws, policies, or programs, according to a recent American Bar Association report.

THREE COMMITTED ATTORNEYS

Quentin Pair, Nicholas Targ, and Benjamin Wilson are the adjunct law professors who helped establish Howard's Environmental Law and Sustainability Program in partnership with the American Bar Association and the District of Columbia Bar Association. They argue that environmental law and diversity in the bar are key to achieving environmental justice. They are also quick to add that environmental law makes for a great career.



Nicholas Targ

The three attorneys, who have been joined in the program by lawyers Leslie Fields of the Natural Resources Defense Council and Steve Wolfson of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), have a commitment to achieve environmental justice and to seeing that the environmental bar achieves greater diversity. Although they sometimes represent different



Benjamin Wilson

and potentially adverse parties, the adjunct professors are friends and share a commitment to the environmental bar, to social justice, and to Howard University School of Law.

“The environmental bar doesn’t look like America, and that’s a problem for communities, government, and corporate clients,” says Targ, who is also senior counsel with Holland & Knight. “It’s a problem that we can do something about, and Howard has a special role to play.”

Wilson, a senior partner and environmental litigator with Beveridge & Diamond, concurs: “Diversity and cultural understanding can be essential to understanding and winning your case, and to making sure that all voices are heard. It’s that fundamental,” he said.

A FISHY TALE

Relating an example that blends the need for diversity and the achievement of environmental justice, Pair, a trial attorney with the Department of Justice’s Environmental Enforcement Section, describes a case that was brought by his colleagues. The case involved the release of hazardous waste into a bay estuary. Thus, it was essential for liability and damages purposes to identify whether people were fishing for and eating a particular type of fish that had been contaminated by environmental pollution.

Most of the people who catch and eat that type of fish are low-income immigrants from

Mexico and other developing countries. And many of them may be in the United States without required documentation, making them legally and politically vulnerable.

The attorneys representing the environmental defendant, however, failed to recognize the sensitivities involved with developing the facts of the case. Their actions included sending out a boat with men holding binoculars to investigate whether the local fishermen were catching the contaminated species of fish.

“Perhaps understandably,” says Pair, “the Mexican anglers did not cooperate with the boatload of consultants and attorneys. Indeed, as soon as the consultants and attorneys got on the water and started investigating, the anglers immediately stopped what they were doing, packed their bags, and left.”

“Because they were unable to secure accurate data, opposing counsel missed one of the critical issues of the case—the fishermen were, in fact, catching, selling, and eating the contaminated fish.”

Pair added: “The Department of Justice attorneys did their homework, had the appropriate cultural diversity on the team, and worked with a nonprofit organization that had the trust of the community. Information that the government secured was accurate and supportable. It helped to win the case. And most important, it helped the community maintain its health. That’s what I call good lawyering, and that’s environmental justice.”

PREPARATION IN THE CLASSROOM

Diversity in the bar starts with preparation in the classroom. But only three of the eight historically black colleges and universities with law schools teach environmental law. “If law students do not have exposure to land use and environmental law in school, they are less like-



Quentin Pair

ly to practice environmental law when they graduate,” explains Wilson. Recognition of this need was the genesis of the program.

Before joining Holland & Knight, Targ served in leadership positions with the EPA. The EPA has a highly competitive clerkship program that attracts talented students from across the country. One summer, Targ noticed that his clerk, a student from Howard Law School, was not performing at her potential. “She was highly intelligent, a good writer, and efficient, and she had a strong work ethic. However, she simply did not have the background of the other clerks in the program because Howard had not offered environmental law for two years,” explained Targ. “We got her involved in a white-collar environmental crimes matter, an area where she had experience, and she excelled. She was graduated magna cum laude a few years back, and her career is taking off.”

To address the issue, Wilson, Pair, and Targ, along with Targ’s clerk, met with Dean Kurt Schmoke to discuss the establishment of an environmental law program at Howard. The dean, the former mayor of Baltimore, immediately embraced the idea. He announced the

program’s formation at an awards ceremony with District of Columbia Bar President John Cruden. (Cruden serves as the Department of Justice’s top career environmental lawyer).

Sponsored by the American Bar Association and the D.C. Bar Association, the program titled “Partners for Diversity and Leadership,” is now in its third year. It is run on a pro bono basis and is achieving results:

- More than 150 Howard law students have taken environmental law courses taught on a pro bono basis.
- Fifteen students have clerked for firms, agencies, and nongovernmental organizations addressing environmental law issues.
 - Twenty-five students wrote papers of publishable quality on international environmental law topics.
 - Twenty students have written their third year papers on environmental law issues.

Building on this success, the law school hosted the largest nongovernmental environmental justice conference in more than a decade on March 29–31, 2007. Sponsored by the Department of Energy, the American Bar Association, and many others, the event



(l to r) Nicholas Targ, Benjamin Wilson, Okianer Christian Dark, John Cruden, Emily Hetch, Charles R. Lowery Jr., and Quentin Pair at the law school last year.

Achievements of the Environmental Law and Sustainability Program

- Howard fielded an environmental moot court team for the first time and won a best oralist prize at the Pace National Environmental Law Moot Court Competition.
- Students have won prestigious environmental fellowships with the American Bar Association and United Nations.
- Distinguished environmental law scholars and ranking governmental officials have spoken at Howard.
- Participated in the 2005 Anacostia River Clean-up with the EPA, ABA, and the Earth Conservation Corps.

brought together nearly 500 people from communities, academia, industry, and government to discuss strategies and to formulate solutions. Responding to the success of the first conference, the sponsors anticipate making it an annual event.

Although the program is starting to have a national reach, the law school's Environmental Law and Sustainability Program is fundamentally about the student body—creating a curriculum for success and fostering leadership, according to the professors.

"This coming year, it is our intention that one of our professors will teach the environmental law survey course," said Associate Dean Okianer Christian Dark. "We will continue to offer a course on sustainable development taught by Professor Harold McDougall. Professor McDougall's course adds new energy to our environmental law course offerings." Associate Dean Dark noted. Dean Schmoke shares this enthusiasm and sees a bright future for the program as well. He also sees the program as one that keeps with Howard's tradition of excellence, social justice, and legacy. He recently wrote:

In fulfilling Howard University's congressional mandate to educate its students to develop their highest capabilities and skills; engage as an institution in the active pursuit of solutions to domestic and international legal, social, eco-

nomie problems that are of particular concern to minority groups; and imbue its students with dedication to excellence and commitment to the solutions to those problems, the Environmental Law Partnership is Exhibit A.

Dean Schmoke added:

We would like to add a full-time environmental law professor to our faculty, create a national environmental law and sustainability institute, and expand our clinical program to include land use, environmental justice, and sustainability issues. We are exploring funding opportunities. And, I expect that our alumni and friends may hear more about that in the coming months.

Howard University School of Law holds a unique place among American law schools. Its commitment and contribution to civil rights, voting rights, and constitutional law are beyond question. Now add environmental law and environmental justice to this legacy.

To learn more about the program or to email the professors, go to the Law School's Web site and click on "Environmental Law and Sustainability."

The Jurist thanks Nicholas Targ for his contributions to this article.

Surviving Law School: Models for Success

By Norwood Holland
Class of 1978

For most lawyers, law school conjures up memories of all-nighters, study group guf-faws, and eccentric professors invoking fear with their Socratic method. Facing an uncertain future, today's law student may not realize that law school is a time to relish. In years to come, the experience will fade to fond recollections. Sharing this outlook, a couple of my classmates took time from their busy schedules to discuss with me their career paths after their Howard law experience. Gregory Meeks represents New York's 6th Congressional District, and Leslie Rogers serves as regional administrator of the Federal Transit Administration's Region IX in San Francisco. Members of the Class of 1978, both Meeks and Rogers distinguish themselves in public service.

GREGORY W. MEEKS

Representative Gregory Meeks (D-N.Y.) assumed his Congressional office on February 3, 1998. He started out as an assistant district attorney in Queens and from there moved to the Office of Special Narcotics Prosecutor. He served as counsel to the State Investigation Commission, which investigates official misconduct and organized crime. He became a judge and later became the supervising judge of the Workers' Compensation System of New York. Then he moved into elected politics. What prompted him to run for Congress?

"Just prior to going to Congress, I did five years as a member of the New York State Assembly, and it was an extension of my



doing what I did in the assembly," Meeks explained. When he came out of law school, he said, it was not his goal to go into elected politics. "I wanted to be a good lawyer *and* be involved in politics, but I always thought it would be behind the scenes. So I supported candidates. I practiced election law to help people. I started a political club and supported community groups as a lawyer. One thing led to another, and when the Rev. Floyd Flake retired from Congress, it just seemed to me to be a natural extension to move on to Congress. I could continue the same public service, if you will, and thereby affect more things, more policies, but on a higher level."

Being a Big Player

Meeks serves on the International Relations Committee and has a real interest in the development of small economies. He calls it good business and aspires to use trade and international relations as tools of both diplomacy and development.

"I intend to be a big player on foreign policy issues," he said. "It is a big concern for me—the very idea of the main committee setting up and asking questions, the ability to bring witnesses in, and the possibility of subchairing a committee." Meeks believes that his ideas will have a much greater influence with his party being in the majority and working in conjunction with members of the Senate to bring bills to the president.

Meeks's road to Congress was never mapped out. Moving from a politically active local prosecutor to an elected official of national



"I intend to be a big player on foreign policy issues."

Representative Gregory Meeks

prominence may be a common route, but few law school students will follow this vocational path. Most will prefer to labor in the vineyards—private, solo, or corporate practice, or even government service. Some may opt-out of a legal career all together.

LESLIE ROGERS

Leslie Rogers grew up in Montgomery, Alabama, and vividly remembers that he was just beginning his formal education during the Montgomery bus boycott. His first foray into transportation began between his second and third year of law school. He was working as a summer intern with the U.S. Railway Association. After law school, he joined the Urban Mass Transportation Administration. He started out in the chief counsel's office in Washington, D.C., and became the regional counsel in Denver for a very short period. He next moved to New York where he served for 11 years as the regional counsel. In 1993, changing to the management side, he was selected as the deputy regional administrator of San Francisco; in 1996, he became the regional administrator.

Rogers has received numerous awards and commendations. In 2000, he was selected to join the Senior Executive Service (SES). Members of the SES serve in the key positions just below the top presidential appointees. SES leaders possess well-honed executive skills and share a broad perspective of government and a public service commitment that is grounded in the Constitution. Some of Rogers's recent achievements include co-leading a trade mission to countries in South and Central America, namely Colombia, Ecuador and El Salvador. He spoke of being particularly satisfied with having spent time in Mississippi, where he engaged in efforts to respond to the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina.

Safe and efficient transportation systems are essential to the economic vitality of the United States and to the nation's ability to compete in a

global economy. Most important, such systems improve the quality of life of all Americans. Local and state governments subsidize the operations of most public transit services. Those governments provide matching funds to receive a capital grant of up to 80 percent from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), an agency of the U.S. Department of Transportation. The FTA administers programs that provide funding and support services to state and local agencies that, in turn, operate a wide range of public transportation services.

Charged with carrying out this mission, Rogers explained some of the challenges of a regional administrator:

"When I deal with community transit agencies, a persistent problem is having them prioritize projects. Obviously, there are needs in every community and proposed solutions or responses to address those problems, but there is a finite degree of funding. Communities will try to

have three or four competing priorities, and we have found over time that competition can be problematic. That's an external problem," he said.

Articulating a Vision

"It is a challenge to any leader to continue to articulate a vision, to remain positive, and to remain focused on the daily challenges," Rogers said. "On any given day, and particularly in a region like mine, there are crises in many different communities. The challenge is to stay focused and to devote the proper attention to trying to address all the competing interests."

Rogers has devoted a 30-year career to transportation issues. When asked what, if any, reflections he had on those 30 years, he responded:

"I think it's been time well spent, and I've had a great experience. My service has afforded me an opportunity to live in four major cities, Washington, D.C., Denver, New York, and now San Francisco. But I've also had the opportunity to respond to the needs of moderate and small



"The breadth of my experience has been fairly far reaching, and I'd like to believe that I am making a difference."

Leslie Rogers

communities and rural areas—even tribal governments. The breadth of my experience has been fairly far reaching, and I'd like to believe that I am making a difference. Transportation is one of few industries where we actually build things and so at the end of the day, you can actually see the product of your handiwork. But more important, it's the notion that you are engaged in activities and initiatives that are shaping the communities of the future and that will have a lasting value for generations to come," he said.

Networking and the Howard Experience

During his Howard days, Rogers took on numerous extracurricular activities. He knew everyone and penetrated every social circle. Known for his gregarious personality and outspoken candor, he was a class representative to the Student Bar Association, a student representative on the Faculty Curriculum Committee, and an instructor in the Legal Writing Clinic. Even then, he possessed a seriousness of purpose; in our recent discussion, he showed a remarkable knowledge of many subjects. On a transportation issue that plagues Representative Meeks's district, which is ranked as the nation's worst for commuters—the average travel time to work is 48 minutes, I asked Rogers whether he was aware of Meeks's proposal for a light rail system from JFK airport into Manhattan. He was fully aware of the issue and then some:

"New York has had the longest commute time in the country. This is not within my region, but I understand that former Governor George Pataki had a notion to build heavy rail as opposed to light rail, with a direct connection from lower Manhattan to JFK. Again it's not in my region, and I'm not certain whether the current Governor Eliot Spitzer has it among his priorities." He went on to describe an agreement the Federal Transit Administration signed with the Metropolitan Transit Authority in New York for east side access to bring the Long Island Railroad into

Grand Central at a cost of \$6 billion. Next on the drawing board in New York is the Second Avenue subway, at a cost of \$16 billion. "I think, if anything, it may be heavy rail," he speculated, although he did not think the project was part of the MTA's near-term plans. "Maybe the congressman, through his leadership, can bring about that approach," he mused.

The two have never consulted on the issue, but Rogers' expertise may lead to a hookup in the future. Both Rogers and Meeks spoke of the relationships and networks they still rely on, the foundations of which were laid at Howard.

For several generations, Howard University School of Law has occupied a unique place in higher education and African American society. Students are often reminded that the Civil Rights Movement began at Howard, not Harvard. And as Greg Meeks explains, "The relationships and responsibilities that Howard taught me also instilled my desire to be a good lawyer with a broader and greater responsibility to the general community. This I still believe and live by today." Leslie Rogers recalls that every day was an experience from which he took away something. He advises today's law students to always come to class prepared and to always challenge themselves.

Law students must endure both the highs and lows of a legal education. Often the good marks will outweigh the bad. Struggling to stay financially afloat will have its challenges. The work is rigorous, the laughs are plenty, and the hardships arise, but the study of law is a wonderful and noble pursuit. Law school is not easy; however, proper preparation can provide a firm foundation for success.

*Norwood Holland is an airport security analyst with the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority and a freelance writer. His novel *Sleepless Nights*, about a renegade trial attorney, will debut in the spring of 2008 under Dorchester Publishing's *Hard Crime* imprint.*

Howard University School of Law
Class of 2007 Degree Presentation and
Hooding Ceremony

Keynote Speaker

Anna Blackburne-Rigsby

Judge, District of Columbia Court of Appeals

Judge Blackburne-Rigsby delivered an inspirational speech to the 146 graduates of the class of 2007 at their Degree Presentation and Hooding Ceremony in May. The judge is a 1987 alumna of the law school. Following is an excerpt from her speech.



I remember very clearly my law school graduation day 20 years ago. We held our ceremony outside on the grounds of the law school. It was about 100 degrees with 200 percent humidity, and there was no shade!

But I loved law school. Many of my friends at other schools thought it was a strange thing to say. But I loved law school because I was at Howard. I enjoyed the classes, the professors, the students, and even the smell of the law books in the library. I was excited and proud that I was preparing to be a lawyer. I like to think that attitude shows my intellectual side, but some might say that I am revealing my inner, nerdy side—because I actually liked to study!

Now lest you think that my class was all work, rest assured that my classmates and I perfected the art of the "study break"—an instant party from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m., a few times a semester. During those two hours, we would transform the basement of the law school, what we used to call the "Rathskeller," into the hottest dance spot in town, complete with a DJ. On Thursday evenings at 8:00 p.m., some of us took a short break from studying and watched *The Cosby Show* together in the Rathskeller, and I am not referring to the reruns!

I share these stories to show that the friendships I made in law school became lifelong friendships and that those friendships also became an important part of my professional network. Look around you. Your fellow graduates may one day be your co-counsel, the corporate counsel who hires your law firm, your opposing counsel, the prosecutor of your client, the trial judge you appear before, or one of the appellate judges before whom you argue your client's appeal.

Remember that throughout your legal career you will be

building or maintaining your professional reputation, so act with integrity in each thing that you do. It only takes one slick move or attempt to fake your preparedness—or one time when you are less than candid with opposing counsel or the court—to ruin your professional reputation (which, by the way, is not separate from your personal reputation). Guard your reputation—it is vital to your success in both your professional life and your personal life.

The law is hard and it requires you to work hard. Do not be lulled by what I have come to refer to as the "duck syndrome." Have you ever watched a duck gliding seemingly effortlessly across a serene pond, so graceful, so easy? Well, you might miss the very important lesson taking place just beneath the surface—the duck is paddling ferociously in order to stay on top. Show me a successful lawyer who makes the practice of law look easy and I guarantee you that lawyer has been confronted with and has overcome some challenges and obstacles.

You, too, will face challenges and obstacles or "defining moments." But do not let the challenges or obstacles limit you or define you. Use the challenges to make you stronger. If you make a mistake, own up to it, and do your best to learn from it and to correct it. If you fall down, get up. If you do not know it, learn it. You should not expect anyone to give you anything. Howard has given you the legal knowledge, discipline, and training to make your own way. But remember that you are not alone—none of us makes it alone. Draw on the support of your family, friends, and colleagues; your church and your professional and community groups.

You will need faith, family, and fortitude to get you through.

The complete text of Judge Blackburne-Rigsby's speech can be found at www.law.howard.edu.

DEGREE PRESENTATION AND HOODING CEREMONY

MAY 12, 2007



HOWARD UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW CONGRATULATES THE CLASS OF 2007!

MASTER OF LAWS

Serah Asat Dohvoma Fongang
Patience Arrey Ebini
Saroj Natarajan Iyer
Olukunle Folayemi Komolafe
Vincent Nyeko
Sung-Hyun Park
Wondimu Hordoffa Wollege

JURIS DOCTOR/MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Riza C. Jenkins

JURIS DOCTOR

Angela Adams
Azizah Yasmin Ahmad
Shabnam Naznin Ahmed
Kimberly Laura Alderman
Erik Wayne Armstrong
Ijeoma Udoamaka Arungwa
Issac L. Avant
Shakara Monique Barnes
Victoria M. Beatty
Kara Darlene Beverly
LaMon D. Bland
Danielle Shani Blount
Michael Warren Blow
Meki Bracken
Zakiyah Imani Bradford
Roland Derrick Brooks
Jeremy Doran Broussard
Jamaal Rashad Brown
Louis Adolph Brown, Jr.
Nathaniel Brown
Quenten Mikita Brown
Dedan K. Bruner
Kimberly A. Burdge
Jonathan Brent Campbell
Tito Castro
Patience Brandyn Chambliss
Tarica Chambliss
Robin Kumar Chand
Adam Lane Chaudry
Regine Chevalier
Chieko M. Clarke
Candice Danielle Cooks
Mackenzie B. Coy
Dionne Cutting
Kasara E. Davidson

Erica C. Davis
Tai Dixon
Aarati Doddanna
Chikadibie Eberenna Duru
Kelechi Beverly Ebi
Keri Alison Fiore
Shirlethia Vantrese Franklin
Akilah T. Gibson
Charvin E. Graham
Briana Christa Green
Alene Grossman
Natalie Nicole Gunn
Amber Nicole Haggins
Yamileth G. HandUber
Yaa-Asantewa Akua A.
Hargrove
Wendell M.N. Harp
Eddie L. Harrell, Jr.
Josephine Nelson Harriott
Donald Edwin Harris
Stephanie Nicole Harris
Fareed Nassor Hayat
Patrice Rhonda Hayslett
Kimberly Michelle Henry
Kristopher John Howard
Brooke Washington Howell
Clarion E. Johnson
Erin Preston Johnson
Tiffany Nicole Johnson
Veronica Justina Joice
Brandon Allen Jones
Detric Linell Kemp
Jessica Kirsten Kent
Lyndsey J. Kuykendall
Tia Lenee Lance
Natalie Patrice Lawson
Richard S. Lecky
Abdul-Rahman Lediju
Angela Leigh Lipscomb
Marcel Anthony Logan
April Nicole Love
Shridevi Madhure
Anne Ngozika Maduforo
Natalie Nicole Mark
Kea Amy Matory
Randy Evan McDonald
Stacy Frances McDonald
Jocelyn Patricia McKenzie
Ajua Akilah McNeil
Quincy Gerone McRae
Karim Merchant
Dana Renee Mitchell
Ibrahim Moiz
D. Paul Monteiro

William Winter Nesbitt IV
Ekwutozia Uchechukwu Nwabuzor
Nene Otum
Kapesh Vithal Patel
Denaka Lorraine Perry
Jaaye Person-Lynn
Rosmatine M. Pondexter
David Edger Potter
Clifton Ashley Prince
Melissa Alésia Pryce
Rizwan Ahmad Qureshi
Carleen Regnier
Craig Lamard Ricard
Sabrina Cuthrie Richardson
Shayna René Richardson
Ayana Monique Robertson
Johnna Michelle Rowe
Valentina V. Rucker
Lauren Olivia Ruffin
Adrian P. Showells
Justin Ross Silvey
Duane L. Smith
Jasper Brian Smith
Terique Moshelle Smith
Michael-Sean Spence
Nesibneh St. Hill
Brandi R. Stewart
Brittania C. Stewart
Stacy Raphael Stewart
Dana Moneé Stith
Alexis Nicole Sykes
Natiya Danielle Tapper
Christina Marie Thomas
Shauna Thompson
Monica Saroj Ullagaddi
Lekecia D. Underwood
Tyrone Valdivia
Diana Vanessa Vilmenay
Symphonie Latisha VonRippon
SaMonna Lata- Watts
Robyn Nicole Webb
Crystal Wesco
Akara Chinoye Whiten
Tania Wignarajah
Shana J. Wilcher
Kenyetta Marie Wilkerson
George A. Williams
Charles J. Willoughby, Jr.
Michelle M. Yost
Marian Zapata-Rossa

CLASSNOTES

1970s

In November 2006, **ISIAH LEGGETT '74**, was elected to a four-year term as county executive of Montgomery County, Maryland. He is the first African American to hold the position of county executive in Montgomery County.

1980s

CYNTHIA R. MABRY '83 published "*Adoption Law: Theory, Policy and Practice*," in December 2006. The text-book includes a comprehensive breakdown of the adoption laws across the country.

ANNA BLACKBURNE-RIGSBY '87, was appointed as a judge on the District of Columbia Court of Appeals. Blackburne-Rigsby was the guest speaker at the law school's 2007 degree presentation ceremony.

1990s

REV. WYNDELL O. BANKS '90 has been named director of legal programs for the Neighborhood Legal

Services Program, Inc. (NLSPI), of Washington, DC. Rev. Banks will manage four offices, including a staff of 40 attorneys and over 100 volunteers.

ADRIAN M. FENTY '94, was sworn in as mayor of Washington, D.C., on January 2, 2007.

GERRON S. LEVI '94, was elected to the Maryland House of Delegates. She was sworn in on January 10, 2007. Levi represents District 23A in Prince Georges County, Maryland.

JAMES M. MCNEEL '94 is an associate with Oppenheimer, Blend, Harrison and Tate, Inc., in San Antonio, Texas. McNeel practices in the area of wills, trusts, and estates.

The March 2007 issue of Black Enterprise featured alumnus **CHARLES KING '96**, as one of the "Top 50 Hollywood Power Brokers." King is senior vice president for the William Morris Agency and a motion picture agent. King is the first African American to work his way

through the ranks in the motion picture arm of the prestigious agency.

TANYA L. WALLER '97, wed Dr. Gregory L. Primus, in March 2007, in Puerto Rico. The couple will reside in Chicago, Illinois.

2000s

AISHA N. BRAVEBOY '00, was elected to the Maryland House of Delegates. She was sworn in on January 10, 2007. Braveboy represents District 25 in Prince Georges County, Maryland.

CHARLES COLEMAN JR. '04, is an assistant district attorney in the Brooklyn, New York, district attorney's office. In February 2007, Coleman was called a hero for saving the life of a man who had suffered a seizure.

DAVID A. COLLINS '04, is an attorney with Lau & Choi, P.C., an immigration law firm located in Denver, Colorado.

KHALIAH WRENN '05, is an associate in the law firm

Williams Mullens, located in Tysons Corner, Virginia. Her practice focuses on general commercial litigation and white collar crime. At Howard, Wrenn was an articles editor for the *Howard Law Journal*.

IN MEMORIAM

OLIVER W. HILL
Class of 1933
August 2007 in
Richmond, Virginia

LT. COL. RUFUS W. JOHNSON
Class of 1939
July 2007 in
Kerrville, Texas

AARON O. RICHMAN
Class of 1964
November 2004 in
Washington, DC

C. EVANS LEVERIDGE
Class of 1975
February 2007 in
Washington, DC

ARTHUR D. WRIGHT III
Class of 1983
May 2005 in Maryland

PAUL E. TREUSCH
Taught at Howard
Law School
May 2006 in Greenfield,
Massachusetts

★★★ CLASS OF 1982 ★★★

In recognition of its 25th anniversary, the Class of 1982 proposes the establishment of a fund that will support current law school students. The class has set a goal of raising \$25,000 or greater, \$1,000 for each year represented by the reunion. So far, 27 members of the class have agreed to serve on the supporting committee. Gifts or pledges should be made by Homecoming 2007, which is October 19-20. The class asks that members inquire about their employer's education matching gift program. "Your contribution to this initiative reflects your belief in

Howard's mission," said Teresa Mason, support committee chairperson. "This is the legacy that we were taught and our charge to society, one that many of us have lived over the last 25 years." Checks should be made payable to Howard University School of Law and should reference the Class of 1982 Fund. Checks should be sent to the Office of Development and Alumni Relations, c/o Class of 1982 Fund, Howard University School of Law, 2900 Van Ness Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20008. Ms. Mason may be reached at Teresa.Mason9@Verizon.net.

T H E L A S T W O R D

*By Dione Traci Duckett
Class of 1995*

On August 10, 1992, I attended my first day of orientation at Howard University School of Law (HUSL). Who would have known that 15 years later I would be appointed as the associate dean for student affairs? Much at the School of Law has changed over the years, and much has remained the same. For me, attending Howard as a law student was a very empowering experience that substantially contributed to my growth as a person and as a professional. I was surrounded by many intelligent, diverse, and successful faculty members and students who looked like me. For the first time, I had role models (outside of my family) who looked like me. I had mentors—faculty members, administrators, and students—who had a very apparent interest and stake in my success. Faculty members believed in the students, and the students believed in each other. The synergism created by this dynamic made HUSL the best place that I could have attended for law school. Those characteristics continue to exist at the School of Law today.

The School of Law is still a familial environment. Members of the faculty still eat lunch with the students. The second- and third-year students still mentor the first-year students. Faculty members, administrators, and alumni continue to promote the students outside the school. Alumni, whom I had the pleasure of serving when I was senior director of development and alumni relations for the law school, serve as bar support mentors and continue to recruit students for employment.

A few years after my graduation, HUSL instituted the annual pinning ceremony for

first-year students. First-year students are officially inducted into the HUSL family, and each first-year student is pinned by an alumnus, a faculty member, or an upper-class student.

There have been other positive changes at the law school since my time. Now, as I approach Houston Hall, instead of walking through the dean's parking lot to enter the building, I walk through a beautiful courtyard with benches, where students gather between classes. When I enter the building, there is a glass atrium with marble floors, and the elevators now announce the floors as I approach my office. I no longer eat in the cafeteria; instead, I dine in the dining hall, which has a very bright and open feeling, with its modern décor. For breakfast, there is an omelet station, a waffle station, a fruit bar, and hot food selections. Every Thursday is "Soul Food Thursday" for lunch; and when I am short on cash, I can use my debit or credit card to purchase meals.

Instead of checking the "wall" for grades, students now check their grades online. Students also "drop" their resumes online for interviews during the recruiting seasons. If I want a change of scenery, I can take my laptop and access the Internet and my e-mail account wirelessly from almost anywhere on campus.

And the new law library is amazing. The four-story building is bright and open with monstrous windows that provide a great view of the campus and the surrounding neighborhood. The new library is dramatically different from the windowless Mercer Daniel Law Library in which I studied as a student.



We are a small, friendly, and confidential office, but our influence on the lives of students is enormous.

MY ROLE AS ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR STUDENT AFFAIRS

The Office of Student Affairs (OSA) encompasses student affairs, records, and financial aid. The OSA is the primary advocate and administrative liaison for HUSL students. The goal of the OSA is to enhance the quality of student life through academic, financial, and personal support and counseling. In addition to working with individual students, the OSA provides support for student organizations of the School of Law.

We are a small, friendly, and confidential office, but our influence on the lives of students is enormous. Some areas in which the OSA provides assistance or guidance include accommodations for students with disabilities, certificates for state bars, counseling referrals, assistance with ethical issues, family emergencies and personal problems, leaves of absence, withdrawal and readmission, certificates of enrollment and letters of good standing, class rank and honors designations, study abroad programs, and transfer and visiting student status. Additionally, the office manages financial aid, scholarships, and loans.

During my first few months in my new role as associate dean, I have had the opportunity to interact with, talk to, and work one-on-one with student leaders and a large percentage of the student body. I have found that students often hesitate to approach the correct people about their issues and that this reluctance, in turn, leads to misinformation among students.

My first goal as the newly appointed associate dean is to improve the level and the quality of communications between the administration and the students. To that end, the OSA plans to increase student awareness of its services through systematic programming and communications. New programs will be developed to educate students about the resources available to them through the OSA, the university, and external organizations. Additionally, my office will continue to work with the student leaders. We will bring back the "Chat in the Rhatt." During these month-

ly sessions, I will be available in the student lounge to converse with the students in a more casual setting. I hope students will take advantage of such opportunities to discuss their concerns and to ask questions.

The technological advancements and the increased level of programming have resulted in a substantial increase in the pace of the activities at the School of Law. More communication is conducted by email and electronic monitors, rather than face-to-face. These



Associate Dean Duckett leading the Class of 2010 at the August pinning ceremony.

advances have improved our ability to communicate more quickly and on a larger scale; however, the decrease in face-to-face communication may very well be contributing to the students' feelings of disconnectedness and to some of the miscommunications.

I believe that improved communications will lead to increased understanding among the students and administrators, thereby enabling us to better serve our students' needs. Better service will, in turn, lead to a better overall student experience at HUSL. I view my primary role as that of an advocate for the students, and I am committed to ensuring that the student affairs, financial aid, and records offices provide effective, efficient, quality service to the students.

Now that I have come home to Howard, I hope to be able to contribute to the School of Law's continued growth and advancement. I am very honored to have been selected to succeed Denise Spriggs (formerly Purdie) as the associate dean.

NBA Update:

The City of Atlanta, Georgia, provided a warm welcome for the 82nd Annual National Bar Association Convention and the Annual Alumni Meeting and Breakfast hosted by the Howard University School of Law National Alumni Association. The breakfast was held on Wednesday, August 1, 2007, and was attended by over 100 alumni from across the country, representing classes from the 1950s to the 2000s. Dean Schmoke shared the latest developments at the law school and retired HUSL Professor Henry "Hank" Jones '56, was presented with the 2007 Outstanding Alumni Award for his 39 years of service to the law school. Many thanks go to alumnus T.J. Cunningham '57, for his inspiring call-to-action and to all of our alumni who answered his call with enthusiasm. There was an outpouring of support, with gifts and pledges totaling \$33,946, exceeding fundraising totals from previous years. The funds raised will support the Dean's Discretionary Fund, a primary resource for scholarships, student services, and operational needs. Funds will also be used to support the new law library. The breakfast was coordinated under the leadership of Tara Peterson Hammons, Esq. '02, president of the HUSL National Alumni Association.

We thank all the alumni who attended the breakfast and the officers of the HUSL National Alumni Association for a great time of networking with old and new friends!



Howard University School of Law
2900 Van Ness Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20008

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