

Winter 2006

Valpo Lawyer: Winter 2006

Valparaiso University School of Law

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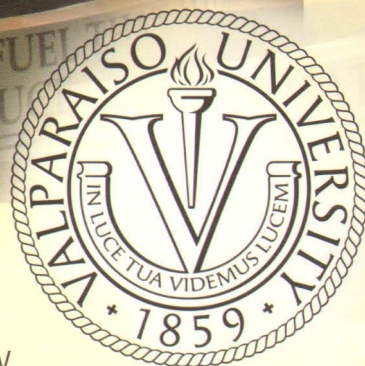
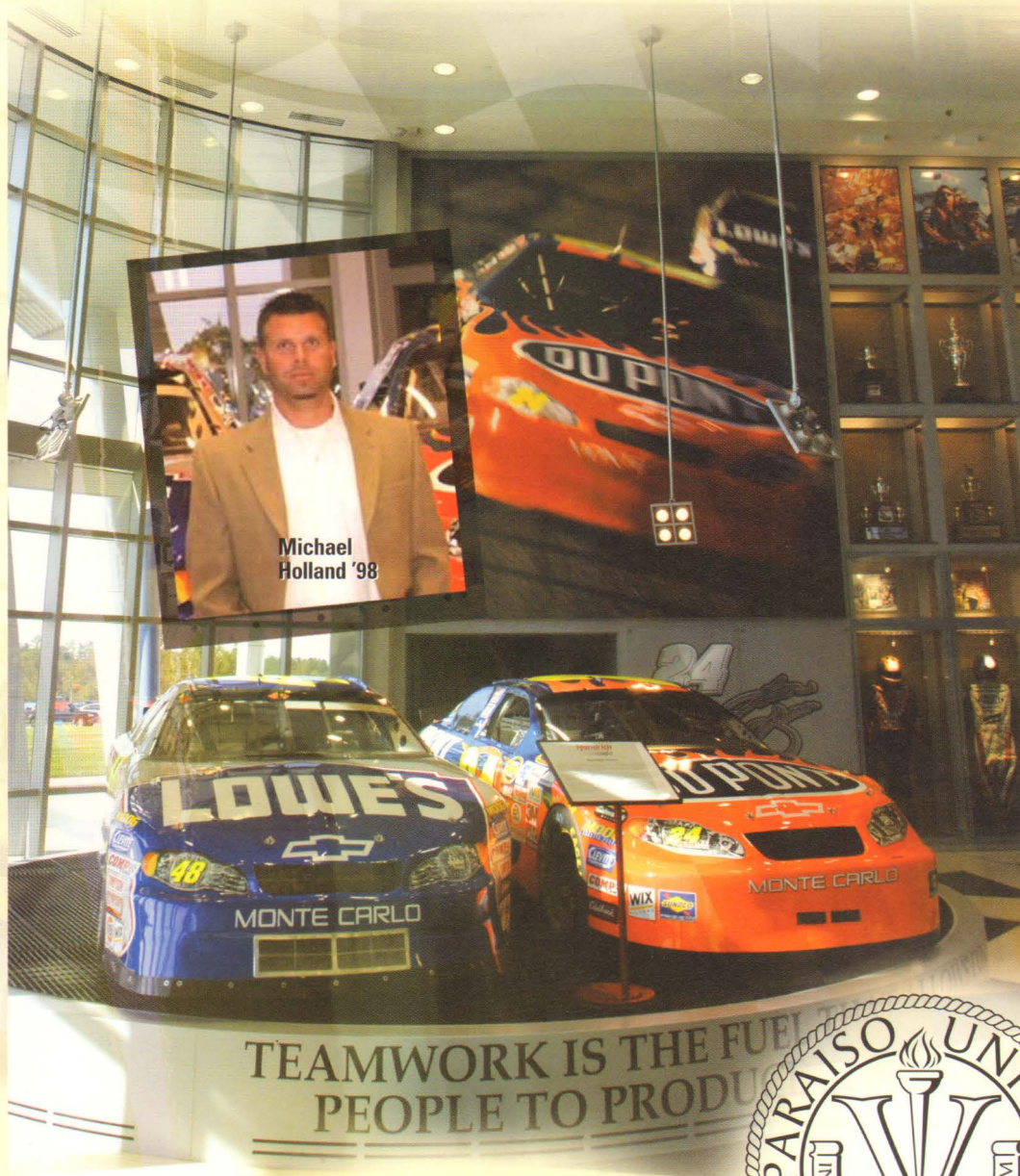
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VALPO LAWYER

WINTER 2006



Alumni News from Valparaiso University School of Law

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ROBBIN TROWBRIDGE-BENKO'S QUEST FOR JUSTICE

Opening | Statement

“While our office has had externs from many of the area law schools, some of our most memorable externs have been from Valparaiso University School of Law. Your extern program provides the necessary support to enable your students to excel during their externships with our office. We are very pleased with the way your program is handled, and look forward to continuing to welcome Valpo Law students to take part in our rewarding externship.”

John H. Gountanis

Assistant Chief Counsel and Externship Coordinator

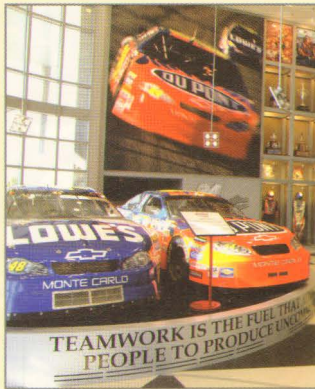
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

Office of the Chief Counsel

Chicago, Illinois

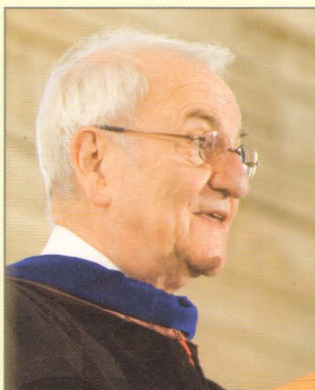
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MICHAEL HOLLAND'S LIFE IN NASCAR'S FAST LANE

On the way up to his office, Michael Holland '98 passes a floor-to-ceiling trophy case filled with trophies from the likes of the Brickyard 400 and the Daytona 500, millions of dollars of state-of-the-industry racing equipment, and the world famous No. 24 DuPont Chevrolet.

JOURNEY OF COURAGE: ROBBIN TROWBRIDGE-BENKO'S QUEST FOR JUSTICE

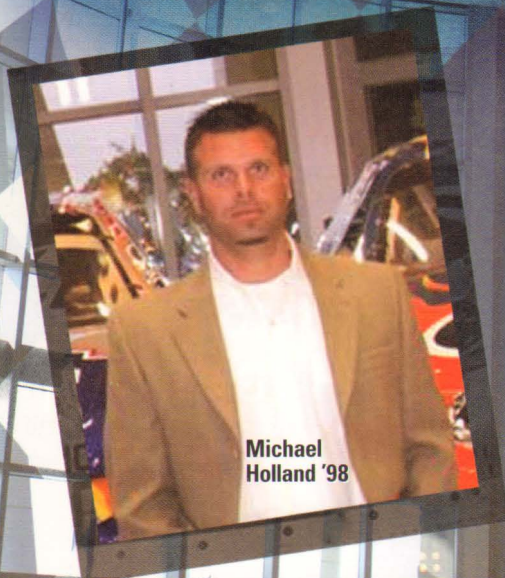
When Robbin Trowbridge-Benko '04 arrived at Valpo Law in the fall of 2001, she had no idea the community would become, quite literally, her saving grace.

LEE IACOCCA VALPO LAW'S 2006 COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

"I've given dozens of commencement addresses over the years. And I'm fully aware that one of the few things still standing in the way of your degree is me. And I am smart enough not to stand in the way very long, believe me. But I've got a duty here today and I have to do it."

Michael Holland's life in NASCAR's fast lane

By Kristin Jass Armstrong '86U



Michael
Holland '98

"THE PERSONALIZED NATURE OF VALPO HELPED ME LEARN TO THINK CREATIVELY, OUTSIDE THE BOX. THE PROFESSORS AT VALPO ENCOURAGED ME TO COME UP WITH IDEAS THAT OTHERS MAY NOT CONSIDER."



TEAMWORK IS THE KEY THAT ALLOWS



On the way up to his office, Michael Holland '98 passes a floor-to-ceiling trophy case filled with trophies from the likes of the Brickyard 400 and the Daytona 500, millions of dollars of state-of-the-industry racing equipment, and the world famous No. 24 DuPont Chevrolet.

Holland is Director of Business and Legal Affairs for Jeff Gordon, Inc. (JGI), the corporation that manages racing superstar Jeff Gordon's multi-million dollar interests. Holland is in the thick of things, with an office atop Gordon's elite racing shop and direct access to the four-time NASCAR champion. Like his famous boss, Holland values speed, endurance, and focus, and the fact that like NASCAR races, no two work days at JGI are the same.

THE ROAD TO JGI

Though Holland spends his days immersed in transactions related to auto racing, he was not a hardcore racing fan prior to moving to Charlotte. He grew up in Indiana where the day of the Indianapolis 500 race is akin to a sacred holiday, but beyond that, racing wasn't on his radar. In fact, Holland went to Valpo Law with the goal of working in the music industry in the intellectual property and copyrighting arena.

But after a fruitless year in Nashville post-graduation ("I found the music industry to be fairly closed. I just couldn't make the right contacts," he says of the experience) Holland moved back to Indy where he had a stronger professional network. He stumbled on an internship opportunity at CMG Worldwide, an international intellectual property rights management company representing the estates of deceased celebrities including Marilyn Monroe, James Dean, Babe Ruth, and hundreds of others.

Holland had impressed his bosses at CMG, but found himself in a peculiar position. "The CEO asked me if I would be interested in a position in their Los Angeles offices, as there was nothing available in Indianapolis. It was a great opportunity, but I really did not want to go, so I ended up declining," Holland says. That led to a move east – rather than west – to Charlotte, North Carolina, and the offices of Action Performance Companies, Inc. (currently doing business as Motorsports Authentics), the leader in officially licensed motor sports collectibles and memorabilia.

Though he didn't know it at the time, the move was the start of Holland's life in racing's fast lane. Action Performance holds license agreements with racing greats like the late Dale Earnhardt, Dale Earnhardt, Jr. and Jeff Gordon, and Charlotte is the "Mecca" of auto racing. And, as it turned out, Holland's supervisor was John Bickford, stepfather to Jeff Gordon.

LIFE ATOP THE RACING SHOP

After a few years with Action Performance, getting plenty of IP experience as well as a crucial "Racing 101" primer, Holland got an invitation. Gordon asked Bickford to come back to JGI, and Bickford asked Holland if he would make the move as well. Holland didn't hesitate. He accepted a newly created position for an in-house counsel at Jeff Gordon, Inc.

"There wasn't an interview or even a job description," Holland says with a laugh. "But that was definitely part of the appeal for me. I was creating a position, within a private company, from the ground up. This was a great opportunity to build a role around what I went to law school to do," he says.

This was also an opportunity to perform cutting edge legal work in the high-powered, big money world of professional racing. Gordon is one

of only a handful of professional stock car drivers with in-house counsel. "I'm definitely on the forefront of this trend at JGI," Holland says. "Traditionally in racing, a lot of agreements were handshake deals. But now that some of the largest global corporations are involved in the business, it has become much more demanding. Jeff Gordon needs more than a handshake and a promise to represent his best interests."

Holland's work at JGI is tremendously diverse, including oversight of Gordon's personal endorsements, negotiations with his racing sponsors (which range from Tag Heuer to TimeWarner), contract review for everything from upcoming races to Jeff Gordon souvenirs, and the charitable work done through the Jeff Gordon Foundation.

"It's fair to say that I fly by the seat of my pants quite a bit, and my window sill is full of open file folders, but I like it that way," Holland says. "No two days are the same."

Holland frequently interacts with Gordon – when he can pin him down between races, appearances, and trips. "When Jeff

"IT'S FAIR TO SAY THAT I FLY BY THE SEAT OF MY PANTS QUITE A BIT, AND MY WINDOW SILL IS FULL OF OPEN FILE FOLDERS, BUT I LIKE IT THAT WAY," HOLLAND SAYS. "NO TWO DAYS ARE THE SAME."



and the team race on the east coast, I grab all the time I can. I usually have a stack of contracts a foot deep to go through with him," Holland says. "Jeff is definitely involved in all of his

business interests, and wants to know what's happening in each arena. I generally sit down with him and we work through the details together."

Perks of the job? Working on Hendrick Motorsports' 67-acre "campus," atop the celebrated racing shop, for starters. "Calling it a 'garage' would be insulting. It's absolutely immaculate," he says of the space in which

Gordon's famous No. 24 Chevys are built from the ground up. Though Holland has the opportunity to attend races, he confesses that he doesn't often hit the track. "To be honest, I really don't have the time to travel," he says. And with a wife and two young children (son - Luke and daughter - Taylor) at home, Holland's weekends are filled with 'racing' of another sort!

"...RAPID, CREATIVE PROBLEM-SOLVING IS SOMETHING I DEAL WITH DAILY," HOLLAND SAYS. "AND, THANKS TO MY VALPO TRAINING, THE ABILITY TO SUCCESSFULLY DO THIS IS ONE OF MY STRONGEST ATTRIBUTES."

THE VALPO LAW FACTOR

Trips to the track aside, Holland feels as though he is leading the pack. "I view my job essentially as providing entertainment. I give NASCAR fans the greatest entertainment package that I can – and I try not to take it too seriously," he says.

Though Holland built a strong resume after law school, he says Valpo Law created the critical foundation for his success. "The personalized nature of Valpo helped me learn to think creatively, outside the box. The professors at Valpo encouraged me to come up with ideas that others may not consider."

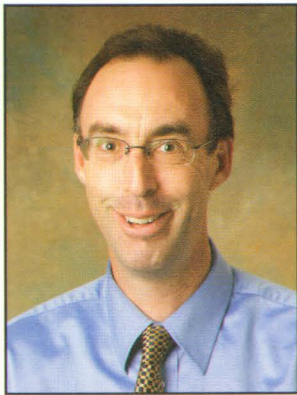
Holland vividly recalls an exercise in Professor Blomquist's Torts class in which students were given a legal problem then asked to argue a position on the spot. "That type of rapid, creative problem-solving is something I deal with daily," Holland says. "And, thanks to my Valpo training, the ability to successfully do this is one of my strongest attributes"

Indeed, Holland has become something of a pit boss in the JGI offices, doing everything from negotiating multi-million dollar contracts to giving visitors tours of the racing shop. He says he is looking forward to upcoming projects for the Jeff Gordon Foundation, including the December 2006 opening of the Jeff Gordon Children's Hospital at NorthEast Medical Center in Concord, North Carolina.

"When I tell people what I do for a living – the variety that's part of my daily routine – it's often quite different than what they expect. But I enjoy my job and working for Jeff," Holland says. "I am blessed to do something I really like."



FROM ONE VALPARAISO TO ANOTHER - VALPARAISO, CHILE, THAT IS.



The School of Law has been developing cooperative programs with universities and faculty members in South America, principally Chile and Argentina. Commencing in June 2007 our summer program in Chile and Argentina will emphasize International Human Rights.

The five-week program will begin in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and then move to Santiago and Valparaiso, Chile. Elizabeth Bruch will teach a course in International Human Rights, which will include guest lectures by professors from Universidad Austral (Buenos Aires), Universidad del Salvador (Buenos Aires), Universidad de los Andes (Santiago), and Universidad de Valparaiso. Mark Adams will direct the program and teach a course in International Labor Law.

Our program will examine issues in International Human Rights, with particular focus on the law, history, and cultures of Chile and Argentina in relationship to these issues. Both countries present important perspectives regarding human rights issues, efforts towards legal reform, and steps towards reconciliation. Students will take two courses: a three-credit

course entitled International Human Rights; and a two-credit course entitled International Labor Law. Students will also visit important legal and government institutions, historical sites, meet with officials from human rights organizations, and participate in cultural activities.

In addition, the program will provide an overview of the legal systems in Chile and Argentina and examine the recent changes to the legal systems designed to address past human rights abuses. The courses will examine human rights and labor issues from a comparative perspective by discussing the applicable law, historical events, the United Nations, and other organizations.

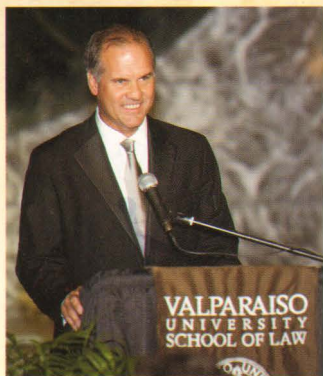
We are also developing an international externship program for our students in Santiago. The externships will be supervised by Professor Maria Sara Rodriguez Pinto, a Professor of Civil Law at the Universidad de los Andes. Professor Rodriguez will also come here to lecture, conduct programs for students, and lead workshops for our faculty in spring 2007.



**View from the Universidad de los Andes campus looking
towards downtown Santiago**



Building Connections *Celebration*

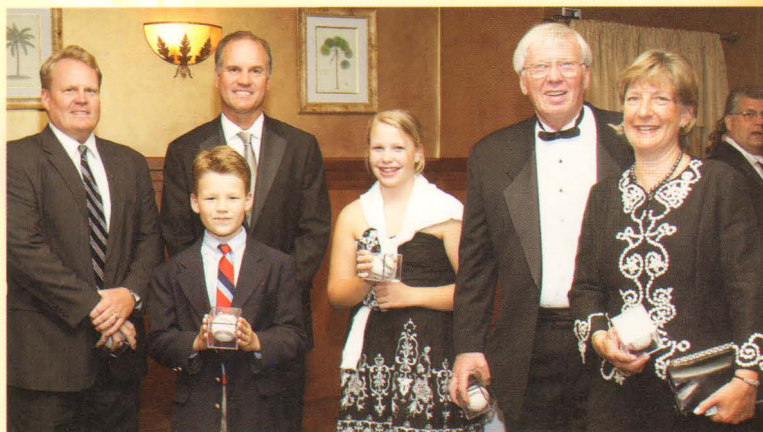


"I DIDN'T PLAY THE GAME
RIGHT TO VALIDATE MY
CAREER – I PLAYED IT RIGHT
BECAUSE THAT IS WHAT YOU
ARE SUPPOSED TO DO."

-Ryne Sandberg

On May 13, members of the Valpo Law community – alumni, friends, faculty, staff, and students – gathered to celebrate our many successes in recent years, including the success of the \$10 million Building Connections campaign.

"Celebrate . . . Building Connections" was a festive evening, following in the tradition of the 125th Anniversary Gala. The evening featured good food, conviviality, an engaging speaker, music and dancing. Former Chicago Cub and member of baseball's Hall of Fame Ryne Sandberg was the key note speaker. Glenn Vician '78 was the master of ceremonies.



Stride Family: Chris '91, Jack, Julie, Herb '57 and Donna



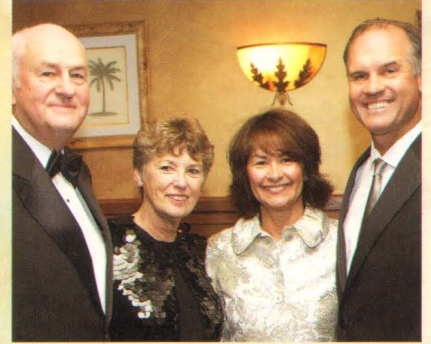
Glenn '78, Jessica, Dawn '79U,
and Nick Vician



Jill & Martin '74 Baumgaertner and Betty '56U & Bill '58 Wagner



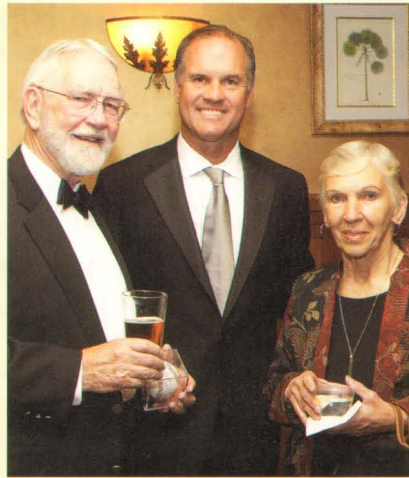
Randy '85 & Linda '85U Dessau



Don Fites '56U, Connie Ashline '56U, Margaret & Ryne Sandberg



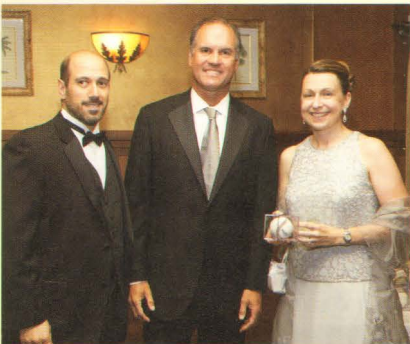
Debra and Bill '88 Ciesar



Norm '50 and Marilyn Cobb



Curt Cichowski '81 and Kathy Wehling '83



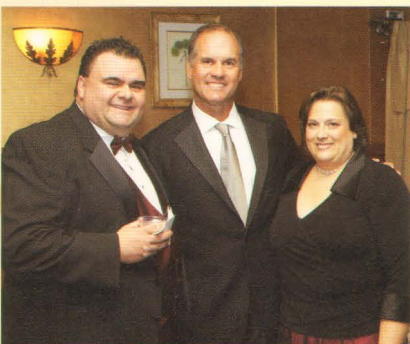
Dominic Polizzotto '90 and Beth Henning Polizzotto '89



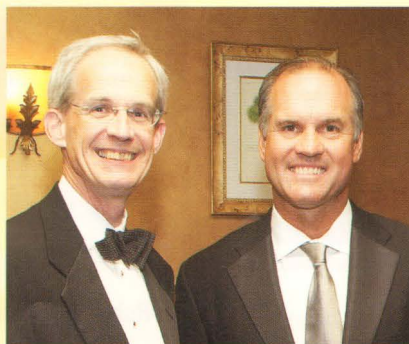
Linda '75G and Bruce '67 Berner



Elaine and Steve '69 Lewis



Joe Just and Katherine Tabor '90



Justice Frank Sullivan '01H



Ivan Bodensteiner, Dave Myers, Linda Whitton '86, and Larry '62 & Laura Evans

Faculty | & Staff Briefs

MARK ADAMS

Professor Mark Adams' article, "The Quest for Tenure: Job Security and Academic Freedom," will be published in a forthcoming issue of the *Catholic University Law Review*.

ROBERT BLOMQUIST

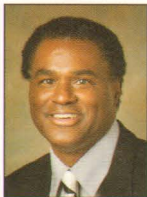
Professor Robert Blomquist's article, "Globoecopragmatism: How To Think (And How Not To Think) About Trade and the Environment," will be published in a forthcoming issue of the *Kansas Law Review* and his article, "Managing the Global Problem of Labor Migration," will be published in a forthcoming issue of the *University of Memphis Law Review*.

IVAN BODENSTEINER

Professor Ivan Bodensteiner's article, "The Demise of the First Amendment as a Guarantor of Religious Freedom" will appear in a forthcoming issue of the *Whittier Law Review*.

DERRICK CARTER

Professor Derrick Carter addressed 300 Indiana judges at the Indiana Judicial Conference, discussing "Criminal Procedure Cases decided by the U.S. Supreme Court and the Indiana Supreme Court." Two articles based on the presentation will be published in law reviews.



Derrick Carter

ALEX GEISINGER

Associate Dean Alex Geisinger and his co-author, Michael Stein, presented their paper: "A Theory of Expressive International Law" at the University of Connecticut School of Law. The paper will be published in the *Vanderbilt Law Review*.



Alex Geisinger

REBECCA HUSS

Professor Rebecca Huss' article, "Rescue Me: Legislating Cooperation Between Animal Control Authorities and Rescue Organizations," will be published in a forthcoming issue of the *Connecticut Law Review*.

NATALIE KIJURNA

A submission by **Natalie Kijurna**, Assistant Director of Career Services, in the ABA's Ross Essay Competition was printed in the ABA Journal eReport in June. The Ross Essay competition invites short articles on the question of "how practicing law has changed you as a person—for better or worse."



Tammi Jackson

TAMMI JACKSON

Tammi Jackson has been promoted to Executive Director of Financial Planning and Human Resources.

SY MOSKOWITZ

Professor Sy Moskowitz will publish his article, "Discovering Discovery," in a forthcoming issue of the *University of Colorado Law Review*.

CLARE NUECHTERLEIN

Professor Clare Nuechterlein moderated a panel discussion on Mary Wollstonecraft Shelly's gothic novel "Frankenstein" as part of the "Valpo Reads" gathering at Christ College on the undergraduate campus. The discussion focused on ethical issues raised by the novel. Professor Nuechterlein was invited to moderate based on her public service as the chair of the Indiana State Ethics Commission.

SUSAN STUART

Professor Susan Stuart published an article on state law privacy issues in "A Local Distinction: State Education Privacy Laws for Public Schoolchildren," in the *West Virginia Law Review*. Prof. Stuart's article, "Lex-Praxis of Education Informational Privacy for Public Schoolchildren" has been published at 84 Neb. L.R. 1158 (2006).



Susan Stuart

RUTH VANCE, SUSAN STUART,
AND CLARE NUECHTERLEIN

Professors Ruth Vance, Susan Stuart, and Clare Nuechterlein attended the biennial Legal Writing Institute Conference in Atlanta held at the Georgia State University College of Law. There were 550 legal writing professors, representing more than 150 law schools, in attendance for the 98 varied sessions held during the conference. The Legal Writing Institute is a professional collaborative organization of professors and other law professionals who conduct scholarly research, write, and consult on a myriad of topics involving legal writing and reasoning.



Ruth Vance

LINDA WHITTON

Professor Linda Whitton's article, "Durable Powers of Attorney as an Alternative to Guardianship," will be published in a forthcoming issue of the *Stetson Law Review*. The article builds on work Professor Whitton has done as Reporter for the Committee that drafted the Uniform Power of Attorney Act.

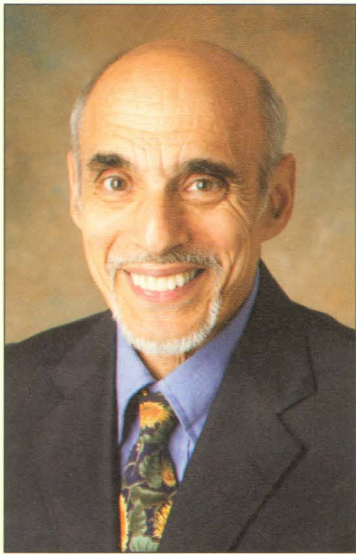


Linda Whitton

2006 FACULTY ANNIVERSARIES

Bruce Berner	35 years	Derrick Carter	15 years
Sally Holterhoff	25 years	JoEllen Lind	15 years
John Potts	25 years	Linda Whitton	15 years
Robert Blomquist	20 years	Alex Geisinger	10 years
Barbara Schmidt	20 years		

Faculty | Awards

SY MOSKOWITZ RECOGNIZED AS AN EXCEPTIONAL
TEACHER, SCHOLAR AND ROLE MODEL

SY MOSKOWITZ

Professor Seymour Moskowitz is the recipient of the **Jack Hiller Distinguished Faculty Award** for 2006. Dean Jay Conison remarked, "Sy embodies the exceptional standards of rigorous yet caring teaching, and unstinting commitment to students, that have been hallmarks of the Valparaiso University School of Law since its inception. Sy was a founding member of our clinics and has been a constant supporter of clinical and skills education over the years. He is a prolific scholar and an important voice in national debate over important issues such as elder abuse. Through his constant presence in the building, mentorship, and contribution to daily community life, he makes the School of Law a stronger and more vibrant institution, day in and day out."

Professor Moskowitz, a nationally recognized scholar on elder abuse and related issues, joined the VU School of Law faculty in 1969 as a founding director of Valparaiso's Law Clinic, which provides free legal representation to people who otherwise could not afford it. He has had numerous articles published in professional journals and has served on the Board of Directors of the National Council for the Prevention of Elder Abuse and Neglect. He has received VU's Kretzmann Research Award to study state laws concerning elder abuse which affects up to 2 million people in the United States each year.

Professor Moskowitz received his BA from Columbia University and his JD from Harvard Law School. He can be reached at sy.moskowitz@valpo.edu

MICHAEL AND DIANNE SWYGERT FELLOWS



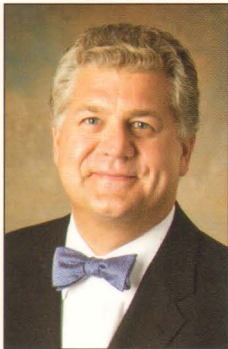
JOELLEN LIND

ROBERT
BLOMQUIST

One of the ways in which the School of Law recognizes the work of its faculty is through the Swygert Fellows Program. Two faculty members are recognized, respectively, for excellence in teaching and excellence for research and scholarship. The appointment is made by a committee of the National Council, and is for a two-year term. **JoEllen Lind** was selected as the Swygert Teaching Fellow for 2006-08. JoEllen was recognized for her exceptional abilities in the classroom and her commitment to teaching and counseling students beyond the classroom. **Robert Blomquist** was selected as the Swygert Research Fellow. Bob is a highly prolific scholar. Over his career, he has published 69 articles and two books (and is completing two other books); has lectured and taught around the world; and has engaged in extensive law reform activities.

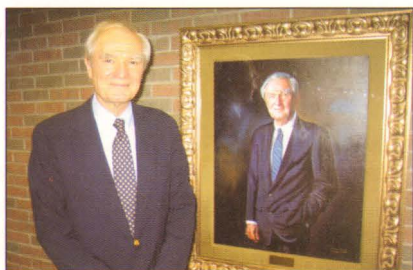
VALPO LAW FACULTY PROFILE

Aran Kessler

**Name:** Curt Cichowski**Your current and past teaching subjects:** Copyright & Emerging Technology Seminar; Intellectual Property; Trademark & Unfair Competition; and International Intellectual Property**Pets:** pair of cats: Beasley & Cody, pair of yellow labs: Clara & KC**Birthplace:** Oak Park, IL**Education:** College: Carroll College, Waukesha, WI. Law: Valpo.**Most marked characteristic:** Dunno.**Favorite memory:** Any memory that makes me smile. I have a collection.**Favorite film:** The Unforgiven**Last book read:** Telegraph Days, by Larry McMurtry**Favorite dish:** My homemade chicken noodle soup**Greatest fear:** Snakes. I hate snakes.**Greatest extravagance:** My new Honda lawnmower with infinitely variable smart drive and twin blade QuadraCut System (it's a beaut!)**Idea of perfect happiness:** The comfort of home.**Historical figure you identify with most:** The Native American**Most ironic defective product:** A "rabbit" style corkscrew that kept losing its screw. Need a drink now?!**Biggest coup:** I drove a high mileage 1972 Pontiac Luxury Lemans in law school. That was a good size coupe.**What do you consider the most overrated virtue:** Any virtue employed as an excuse.**Comment on Valparaiso University School of Law:** Anyone who knows legal education, and who knows what educational quality really is, knows that no one offers a better education that we do.**Why you teach:** To learn, and because of the addiction to the incredible high of sparking an "Ah Ha!" moment in another.

VALPO LAW CONTINUES TO HONOR ITS HERITAGE BY HONORING THE DEANS WHO WERE COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE IN LEGAL EDUCATION AND SCHOLARSHIP.

The Law School has commissioned an artist to create portraits of each Dean. In 2005 we celebrated with Dean Louis Bartelt and Dean Al Meyer as their portraits were hung in the Duesenberg Commons. This year we were privileged to have Dean Charles Ehren visit the law school for the unveiling of his portrait. Charles Ehren graduated from Columbia University Law School in 1956. He was professor at Valpo Law from 1977 to 1995 and he served as Dean from 1977 to 1982.



GUIDES CITES VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW FOR EXCELLENCE

THE BEST 170 LAW SCHOOLS

The VU School of Law has been cited for academic excellence in the 2007 edition of The Best 170 Law Schools published by Princeton Review.

In The Best 170 Law Schools, Valpo ranked high in academic quality, externship and clerkship opportunities, research resources and quality of student life. The guide also noted Valpo's law professors are dedicated to teaching and make themselves readily available to students.

"A 'truly personal manner of teaching' is what distinguishes a Valparaiso education," write the authors of the profile. "Students call their professors 'true scholars' as well as great teachers and describe classes as 'thorough, difficult, rewarding and fair'."

The guide also cites the quality of the law school's extensive legal writing and research program and its clinical program.

Listings are compiled based on institutional data and student surveys of academics, quality of student life, selectivity and career placement.



Journey of courage:

ROBBIN TROWBRIDGE-BENKO'S QUEST FOR JUSTICE

By Kristin Jass Armstrong '86U

When Robbin Trowbridge-Benko, '04, arrived at Valpo Law in the fall of 2001, she had no idea the community would become, quite literally, her saving grace. Like many non-traditional students, she came to school focused – with a plan for her professional future. She also came with a pile of trepidation. Could a mother of three growing boys, juggling a household, school schedules, and a marriage, successfully meet the demands of law school, too?

Six weeks into her first semester, Trowbridge-Benko was feeling good. She was enjoying the work and thinking she would be able to pull it all off. Then the bottom fell out.

Photos courtesy of Aran Kessler

Trowbridge-Benko remembers exactly where she was when she heard the news. Outside Wesemann Hall near the Clinic, after class, she saw her husband and father. "I thought, 'they're going to take me to lunch – how wonderful,'" Trowbridge-Benko says. Instead, they gripped her shoulders and told her that her oldest son, John, had been brutally murdered in Las Vegas – at a friend's home the prior evening.

Later, they told her that her screams quickly cleared the front lawn. "I still have no memory of that," she says, "but the next two weeks were a numbing whirlwind of activity around the funeral and John's death." They were also the beginning of the Valpo Law community's embrace of Trowbridge-Benko.

News of Trowbridge-Benko's shocking loss spread quickly through Wesemann Hall. The following day, she received a phone call from Rosalie Levinson who was then Associate Dean. "Prof. Levinson said if I chose to defer for a year, Valpo Law would welcome me back with open arms. She said this was not the time to be worrying about school and she wanted me to know that. I was very, very grateful for those words and her concern," Trowbridge-Benko says.

"I really didn't know what I was going to do. I spent two weeks in a haze after John's death. I even began having panic attacks," she says. "Then one day I decided I had to go back – to see if I could do it without having an attack, and what it would feel like."

Trowbridge-Benko didn't call anyone at the school, she just drove herself over to Wesemann Hall on a Friday afternoon. She parked on Greenwich

Street, "and by the time I reached the front stairs, they were lined with classmates and professors. It took me an hour to get inside – it was amazing," she says, tearing up recalling the spontaneous "reception line." "It took another hour to get down the student hallway because everyone came out of the classrooms to greet me. I knew right then and there that I had to come back."

ANOTHER START

Though she was heartened by her classmates' encouragement, Trowbridge-Benko didn't know if she could handle the daily pressures of law school. Her son's murder case was unfolding 1,800 miles away in Las Vegas, she had two other sons and a husband to care for, and she was still dangerously close to the end of her emotional rope. Trowbridge-Benko told her professors she wanted to return, but with the understanding that if she couldn't handle the environment, she would be free to leave. Everyone agreed.

Trowbridge-Benko resumed classes, using the demanding academic work as a distraction. But she quickly realized she couldn't do it alone this time around. "Some days I would walk into school in a haze. I would find myself in the lobby not knowing where I was supposed to be going," Trowbridge-Benko says with a rueful smile. But the community continued its pattern of intervention, finding ways to help her stay on track.

Students in each of Trowbridge-Benko's classes got her schedule so they could point her in the right direction if she lost focus. "If I missed a class I always had five or six sets of notes. I never asked – people would simply find me and give me their set," she says. The same was true of study groups. Trowbridge-Benko says every group invited her to attend "whenever I could. No strings attached – I was always welcome."

“SOME DAYS I WOULD WALK INTO SCHOOL IN A HAZE. I WOULD FIND MYSELF IN THE LOBBY NOT KNOWING WHERE I WAS SUPPOSED TO BE GOING”



And then there was the mail. For the next six months after John's death, Trowbridge says not a day went by without something in her locker. "The first day I got back my locker was literally overflowing with cards and notes. They spilled out when I opened it. But it didn't stop. Every day a card or letter, a note taped to the front – always something to let me know that I was in someone's thoughts," she says.

"The community support was just phenomenal. Everyone was there to guide and protect me. I really wanted for nothing."

Trowbridge-Benko struggled through the remainder of her 1L year, but in spite of the outpouring of support from classmates and professors, Trowbridge-Benko found herself stretched to the breaking point. From the start of her son's murder case, she let the detectives and prosecution team know that she was not a typical "mother of the victim." She was an attorney in training and she could not stand idly by as the case took on a life of its own.



LEARNING ON THE JOB

John Trowbridge was murdered six weeks into Trowbridge-Benko's 1L year. Three days later she contacted the Las Vegas detectives working the case, peppering them with questions. That was the beginning of her 5-year quest. Perhaps if she had known then what would be required of her along the way, she would have kept her distance. But that is not Trowbridge-Benko's style.

"I wanted to know everything," she says, simply. "Once the prosecution team realized I had some legal training, I became part of the process." But she was dancing as fast as she could to keep up, and as weeks turned into months and the case became more complex, Trowbridge-Benko realized she was in an unofficial "externship" training herself as an expert in aspects of Nevada state law.

Her son's murderer, Michael Kane, was arrested immediately following the crime, without question of his involvement. But things took a turn for the bizarre when Kane's lawyer indicated they would attempt to attribute his behavior to an LSD high during the crime. With help from Valpo Law adjunct Professor Gwenn Rinkenberger, Trowbridge-Benko tracked down a national expert on the drug and its affects on behavior. The expert said he didn't believe an LSD high would trigger a violent stabbing attack and would be happy to testify for the prosecution.

When news of this potential homerun reached the defense, Kane's plea was changed to "not guilty by reason of insanity," thus beginning a groundbreaking courtroom drama.

At that time, the law in Nevada regarding "mental responsibility" was in a state of turmoil. Several years earlier, the Nevada Legislature had eliminated the insanity defense, substituting a plea of "guilty but mentally ill." Just before John's murder, however, the

Nevada Supreme Court declared the legislative repeal of the insanity defense unconstitutional. That decision invalidated the "guilty but mentally ill" law and also prescribed a new legal test for insanity. Kane's plea forced a test of the new standard. "Professor (Derrick) Carter spent hours with me, teaching me how to do research and also preparing my husband and I for the realities of a murder trial," Trowbridge-Benko says. "I wanted to know everything about every law that pertained to the case, so it forced me to "grow up" as an attorney more quickly than others. In hindsight I realize all that research broadened my ability to reason and analyze as an attorney."

Ultimately, the jury returned a "not guilty by reason of insanity" verdict and Kane was sent to a state-run institution rather than prison. The defense publicly stated that Kane would never be released from the facility in his lifetime. But a scant eight months later, doctors at the institution declared him "fit" and Trowbridge-Benko and her family had to face the possibility that John's murderer would go free less than a year after the trial.

ROUND II

"I was devastated," she says, "but I knew my only choice was redoubling my efforts. I said to the Prosecutor, 'how do I make sure this never happens to another family?' and I dug in again."

The drama was unfolding against the backdrop of Trowbridge-Benko's 3L year. She had made it this far – with both law school and the case – and she was not giving up now.

Trowbridge-Benko began researching anew. She knew she could not bring her son back, but she was determined to come up with a model mental responsibility statute she could take to Nevada's legislature as a replacement for what she saw as the State's current flawed legislation. Trowbridge-Benko spent hundreds of hours on the internet, combing legislation from other states.

Ultimately she focused on legislation from Texas, California, and Arizona as the basis for her model, and she crafted a statute

she believed adequately addressed mental responsibility issues. Now she just had to get someone in Nevada to listen to her.

Trowbridge-Benko went at the daunting task with the tools that had worked for her thus far: her deep love for her first-born son and her tenacious desire to be heard both as a mother and an attorney. After multiple rounds of phone calls (“I went on-line and got phone numbers for every legislator in the State of Nevada and just kept calling and calling them.”), and media coverage that included interviews on the network morning shows, Trowbridge-Benko found the champion she needed. Barbara Buckley, Nevada’s powerful Assembly Majority Leader – who also happens to be an attorney and a mother – got behind Trowbridge-Benko’s push to change the State’s law.

Last July, Trowbridge-Benko was included as a speaker on the agenda at the first meeting of the Nevada Legislature’s “Subcommittee to Study Sentencing and Pardons, Parole and Probation.” Her important testimony included detailed recommendations for legislation she had crafted – recommendations that will go before the full legislature in February 2007 and, she has been told, stand a good chance of becoming new law in Nevada.

“Sometimes I sit back in amazement. If this passes it will change state law,” Trowbridge-Benko says with a broad smile. “I’m just ‘Robbin from Chesterton’. But I think this shows that one person can make a difference – even in an arena as large as the law.”

FINDING CLOSURE

If the legislation passes it will be known as the “John Trowbridge Statute,” which Trowbridge-Benko believes would be a fitting tribute to her son. “I needed for something good to come of all this,” she says, “and truthfully, quite a bit has.” Trowbridge-Benko points to the incredible opportunities she had to learn the law in a real-life situation (“how many law students get to talk daily with a professional prosecutor or help shape a prosecution strategy?”), to the impact she may ultimately have on Nevada state law, and to the uncountable friends she made during the past five years.

And, Trowbridge-Benko says, she learned how much the Valpo Law community was capable of. “When I went back to Wesemann Hall after John’s death, I didn’t have a few friends, I had an entire community,” she says. “The concern, the respect, the support lasted three full years. I don’t know how everyone did what they did or how they instinctively knew what I needed, but I will never forget it,” Trowbridge-Benko says, wiping away tears.

One of her favorite stories about the Valpo Law community involves buttons she made – bearing John’s picture – to

commemorate the first anniversary of his death. She brought 50 buttons to class thinking she would share a few with her closest friends, but all were gone in a matter of minutes. In fact, students and faculty asked Trowbridge-Benko to bring more buttons so everyone could have one. “What is truly amazing to me is that people wore those buttons all three years when I was at Valpo on John’s birthday and the anniversary of his death. It was incredibly touching for me.”

“ IN ONE OF THE LAST CONVERSATIONS I HAD WITH JOHN, HE SAID HE WAS TELLING HIS NEW FRIENDS IN LAS VEGAS THAT HIS MOTHER WAS AN ATTORNEY. ”



Trowbridge-Benko remains in touch with numerous classmates and professors, keeping them updated on the progression of her legal work in Nevada and her unfolding professional career. She had put the bar on hold after graduation, but now she’s ready for the challenge. “Ultimately I want to be in the courtroom,” she says. “I always knew that I wanted to be a lawyer and I’m almost there.” In fact, Trowbridge-Benko has a standing job offer with the Las Vegas Prosecutor’s office.

“In one of the last conversations I had with John, he said he was telling his new friends in Las Vegas that his mother was an attorney. I said, John, I’m barely into my first semester at law school!” But it struck me that he was proud of the path I was taking and I’ve always remembered that.”

Part of Trowbridge-Benko’s long, winding path may come to an end next winter if the Nevada Legislature enacts the John Trowbridge Statute. But regardless of that outcome, Trowbridge-Benko can say that she wrestled a tragedy into a positive outcome, and discovered the deeper meaning of community along the way.

Photos courtesy of Aran Kessler



LEE IACOCCA

VALPO LAW'S 2006 COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

Commencement Speech Excerpts

"I've given dozens of commencement addresses over the years. And I'm fully aware that one of the few things still standing in the way of your degree is me. And I am smart enough not to stand in the way very long, believe me. But I've got a duty here today and I have to do it. So I'll be brief.

"There are two special people who connect me to Valpo and give extra meaning to my speaking here today. The first person is Ken Anderson. Ken is a graduate of your School of Law, and he has been my chief financial advisor for the past 13 years. He is also my very good friend, and he is why I'm here today.



Ken Anderson
'79

"The other person is Mrs. Joan Rosselot of Kokomo, Indiana. Last month Joan wrote me a letter thanking me again for playing such an important part in her family's life. And I have the letter right here. The reason I say she thanked me again, because this is the second time Joan wrote me a letter. She wrote her first letter to me in 1979. At the time, I was Chairman of Chrysler, and the company was on the verge of financial collapse. If Chrysler went down, 600,000 employees were going to lose their jobs.

Well, as most of you know, I helped engineer Chrysler's turnaround with a \$1.2 billion loan from the federal government... and I want to add that we borrowed that money the old fashioned way: WE PAID IT BACK – 7 years early.

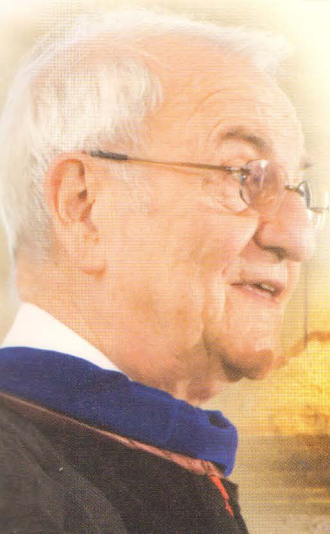
"And within a couple of years, Chrysler was operating at a profit... and 600,000 hard-working people were able to keep their jobs. And one of those hard-working people was Joan's husband, Clarence Rosselot. And when Joan first wrote me back in 1979, she thanked me on behalf of her family and the citizens of Kokomo for saving their jobs and giving them hope for the future.

"And though Clarence has sadly passed, Joan is actually here with us today. And, she is here to celebrate with one of the members of your graduating class. And that member of your class is her granddaughter, Tiffany!

"Joan and Tiffany, it is a real pleasure to meet both of you. You are both living proof that it really is a small world. Congratulations to both of you."



Tiffany '06 and Joan Rosselot with Lee Iacocca



"The world is very different today compared to when I graduated from Princeton in 1946. That was exactly 60 years ago. We had lots of problems like every generation. But in spite of the all the problems we remained optimistic...and that's the key. Against all odds, we believed in the future. We believed that anything was possible.

"We truly believed we were capable of making a difference in the world. And you know what? We did make a difference!

"But it is no different today. In fact with huge advances in technology you have unlimited potential to shape our world. Anything is possible.

"You have been given the opportunity to be whatever you want to be. And you can accomplish whatever you want to. If you want it bad enough...and if you are willing to work for it.

"You are our country's new leaders. You can lead us with optimism and create a future of unlimited potential for yourselves and generations to follow. And if there is one piece of advice I can leave you with today...It's

"Don't just be part of the problems that confront us. Be part of the solution."



Lee Iacocca speaking in the VU Chapel



David Hessler '68, Lee Iacocca, and Dean Jay Conison

THE 2006 COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER FOR THE VU SCHOOL OF LAW WAS A BUSINESS LEADER WHO HEADED BOTH CHRYSLER CORPORATION AND FORD MOTOR COMPANY.

- Lee Iacocca was chief executive officer and chairman of the Board of Chrysler Corporation until his retirement in 1992. Prior to joining Chrysler in 1978, Iacocca spent 32 years with Ford, rising from management trainee to president and chief operating officer.
- Following his retirement as CEO, Iacocca served another year on Chrysler's Board of Directors and was a consultant to the company until 1994.
- He currently is chairman of the Iacocca Foundation, a philanthropic organization he established in 1984 that is dedicated to educational projects and to the advancement of diabetes research.
- Iacocca is chairman of the Committee for Corporate Support of Joslin Diabetes Foundation and chairman emeritus of The Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation. He also is chair of the Advisory Board of Nourish The Children Foundation, a non-profit organization that feeds children throughout the world facing starvation.
- Author of a nationally syndicated newspaper column for seven years, Iacocca wrote two best-selling books, *Iacocca* and *Talking Straight*.

Alumni | Events

GOLDEN GAVEL SOCIETY AND GROMLEY SOCIETY CELEBRATION

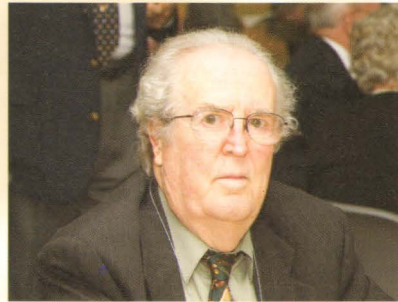
The Golden Gavel Society Dinner and the fifth annual Gromley Society Dinner took place on Saturday, September 30, 2006, in the Duesenberg Commons in Wesemann Hall. Combining these two events created a special evening; but what made the night even more festive was announcing and honoring three of our six Alumni Award recipients.

Golden Gavel Society members — 297 Valpo Law alumni who graduated 40 or more years ago — were invited to join their classmates for an evening of great company, touching memories, and a fabulous Strongbow turkey dinner.

Gromley Society members, consisting of alumni and friends, commit to making annual gifts of at least \$1,000 in support of Valparaiso University School of Law. The society is named in honor of Professor Charles Gromley who taught at the law school from 1960 to 1992. Membership in this society reflects a high level of commitment to the school, and a shared vision for ensuring excellence in legal education.



Bruce Yungman '69



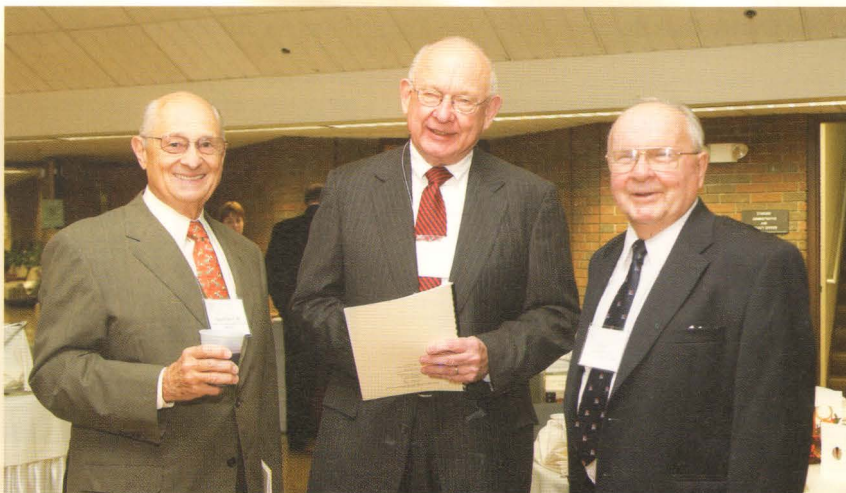
Bill Thorne '49



Herb Stride '57 and Al Meyer '50



Don Gray '56 and Peter Krentz '56



Left to right: Glenn Tabor '58, John Tagge '57, and Art Keppen '52

Photos courtesy of Aran Kessler

ALUMNI | AWARDS

The Valparaiso University School of Law Alumni Board conferred Alumni Awards to six members of the Valpo Law community.

Four of the recipients received their awards at two events this fall. Mark Bremer, Glenn Tabor, and Gertrude Swygert received their awards on Saturday, September 30, at the annual dinner for the Golden Gavel Society members and the Gromley Society members. Carl Brizzi received his award on Friday, October 6, at the Valpo Law reception held in conjunction with the Indiana State Bar Association meeting.

Bryan Bullock and Ivan Bodensteiner will receive their awards in the near future.

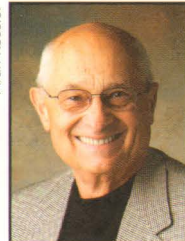
The Alumni Board recognized the following individuals for their various contributions to the profession and the law school:

Mark Bremer '75, recipient of the Alumni Achievement Award, which is given to an alumnus for outstanding achievement in his or her professional life. Mark was recognized for his many years of contribution to helping bring about and implement the county-wide school desegregation program in St. Louis.

Glenn Tabor '58 and Bryan Bullock '98, recipients of the Alumni Service Award, which recognizes outstanding service to the law school. Glenn has been a substantial benefactor and volunteer for nearly 50 years, among other things conceiving and endowing the Tabor Institute on Legal Ethics. Bryan, since his graduation, has worked tirelessly raising funds for the Black Law Student Association Scholarship and cultivating friends for the law school's diversity efforts.



Camille Lively, Cory Bremer, Cindy Lively, Lori Lont, Mark Bremer '75, Ingrid Bremer, Lisa Bremer, Chris Bremer



Glenn Tabor



Bryan Bullock

Ivan Bodensteiner and Gertrude Swygert, recognized as Honorary Alumni of the School of Law. Ivan has served as an outstanding faculty member, Dean, lawyer, and provider of public service. Mrs. Swygert created and endowed the Swygert Moot Court Competition and has encouraged many distinguished federal judges to become friends of the law school.

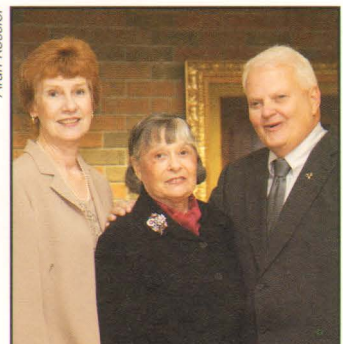
Carl Brizzi '93, recipient of the Outstanding Young Alumnus Award, which is given to an alumnus under 40 for his or her enhancement of the prestige of the law school by virtue of character, integrity, and accomplishment. Carl has served admirably as Prosecutor for Marion County, Indiana since 2002.



Carl and Melanie Brizzi



Ivan Bodensteiner



Dianne Swygert, Gertrude Swygert, Mike Swygert '67

THE VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW WILL HONOR GRADUATES & FRIENDS WHO
HAVE MADE NOTABLE CONTRIBUTIONS TO SOCIETY AND TO THE LAW SCHOOL.

NOMINATION FORM

Perhaps the greatest assets of the Law School are its alumni and friends, who simultaneously represent and support the high quality of a Valparaiso University School of Law education. We wish to recognize those people who have distinguished themselves with their commitment to ethical leadership and service.

All Valpo Law alumni are eligible to nominate candidates for these awards.

NOMINATIONS REQUIRE:

- A brief statement indicating why the nominee should be selected for this award
- A copy of each nominee's current resume or curriculum vitae, as well as any other pertinent biographical information

VALPO LAW ALUMNI AWARDS NOMINATIONS

Distinguished Alumnus/Alumna Award is the highest distinction the Alumni Board can bestow. This award honors alumni who have enhanced the prestige of the law school by virtue of their character, integrity, and nationally recognized personal accomplishments or outstanding career achievement. Service to the law school is not a prerequisite for this award; however, it may be helpful to the selection committee if the details of any service are included.

Nominee Name: _____ Class Year: _____
Phone: _____ E-mail: _____
Employer Name: _____
Employer Address: _____

Alumni Achievement Award honors alumni who have demonstrated outstanding achievement in their chosen career or area of professional life. Service to the law school is not a prerequisite for this award; however, it may be helpful to the selection committee if the details of any service are included.

Nominee Name: _____ Class Year: _____
Phone: _____ E-mail: _____
Employer Name: _____
Employer Address: _____

Outstanding Young Alumnus/Alumna Award honors alumni, under the age of 40, who have enhanced the prestige of the law school by virtue of their character, integrity, and personal accomplishments. Service to the law school is not a prerequisite for this award; however, it may be helpful to the selection committee if the details of any service are included.

Nominee Name: _____ Class Year: _____
Phone: _____ E-mail: _____
Employer Name: _____
Employer Address: _____

Alumni Service Award is designed to honor alumni who have rendered outstanding service to the School of Law. (University employees are not eligible for this award.)

Nominee Name: _____ Class Year: _____
Phone: _____ E-mail: _____
Employer Name: _____
Employer Address: _____

Honorary Alumni Membership is granted to persons who are not alumni, but who exemplify the ideals of achievement and service in their association with the law school.

Nominee Name: _____ Class Year: _____
Phone: _____ E-mail: _____
Employer Name: _____
Employer Address: _____

Nominee Name: _____ Class Year: _____
Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Return this form and accompanying documents to:

Francie Thomas *Assistant Director of Advancement*

Phone: 219.465.7849 • Toll-free: 888.825.7652 • Fax: 219.465.7808 • E-mail: Francie.thomas@valpo.edu
Wesemann Hall • 656 S. Greenwich Street • Valparaiso, IN 46383

Alumni | Events

YOUNG ALUMNI WEEKEND

As Valpo Law enjoys a distinguished history of over 125 years of serving the legal community, we seek to hold onto traditions of the past, while making traditions for the future. During the first 50 years of the law school, it was tradition for the graduating law students to receive a cane as a reward for their previous three years of studies. Days before graduation, the students held a "cane walk" to the courthouse where they were welcomed into the profession by members of the local bar community and alumnus of the law school.

The Class of 2006 held their cane walk on Friday, April 28th. Alumni and current students participated in a golf scramble the next day at Aberdeen Golf Course. Several contests were held including closest to the pin and longest drive. A reception of cocktails and hors d'oeuvres followed.

Young Alumni Weekend 2007 will be held at Aberdeen Golf Course on Saturday, April 21. Invitations will be mailed in February 2007. If you have questions about the event, please e-mail the 3L Steering Committee at vusl2007@gmail.com.



2006 Class Cane Walk



Matt Olson '06, Brian Custy '06, Stephen Hulst '06, and Jeremy Watson '06



Tony Credit, Brandon Sanchez '07, Joe Jammal '07, and Adam Davis '04



Michael Gant, Donn Starkey, Tyler Starkey '06, and Mark Schmulde



Aaron Beck '07 and Tom Grossman '07



Brad Koeppen '83, Bryan Truitt '98, Mick Story '02, and Matt Warring '03



Chris Ruhman '07, Hal Price '06, Al Morrisson '62, and Mike Zaradich '06

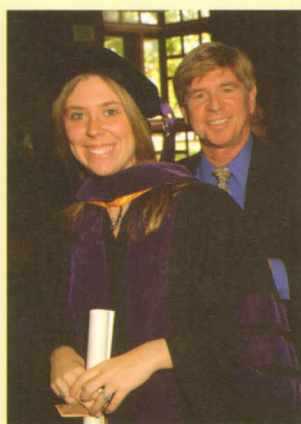


Bob Wright, Mike Wright '06, Adam Decker '94, and Don Decker

Alumni | Events

2006 LEGACIES – SPECIAL ALUMNI HOODING

Legacy students in the photos below are just a few of the increasing number of alumni offspring graduating from the law school. At the May 20 Commencement ceremony, several 2006 graduates were hooded by family members who are alumni of Valpo Law. Not included in the photos are two 2006 graduates whose fathers are Valpo Law alumni – Heather Glick's father is Peter Glick '69 and Whitney Todd's father is Stephan Todd '70.



Lauren Schafer with father,
Fran Schafer '77



Anne Eisele with father,
Tom Eisele '83



Tara Tauber with father,
Rhett Tauber '71



Theresa Ure with grandfather,
William Schroeder '49

IT'S ALL RELATIVE...ARE YOU A LEGACY?

We are in the process of collecting the names of our graduates whose family members have also graduated from Valparaiso University School of Law. You qualify if your parent, grandparent, sibling, child, or spouse graduated from Valpo Law. *Please submit your information to lawalumni@valpo.edu.*

Be sure to include:

- Names of all individuals
- Years of graduation for all individuals

In addition, tell us what each individual is doing now:

- Area of practice
- Location of practice
- Hobbies, etc.



We will proudly list you in an upcoming issue of the Valpo Lawyer magazine as someone who has decided to boldly go where a relative has gone before.

Class | Actions

1968

Ray Nimmer is the dean at University of Houston Law Center. In between dean duties, he remains active in his specialty area of intellectual property law. Nimmer returned from China, where he was the first foreign law expert to testify before a court that is reviewing one of the country's first antitrust and unfair competition issues (a lawsuit against a major U.S. corporation).

David L. Petersen has been selected as Florida Super Lawyers by Law & Politics. Mr. Petersen specializes in real estate law, with an emphasis on real estate development, residential and commercial condominiums, real estate acquisitions, general urban and commercial real estate, representation of borrowers and lenders, mortgage loan financing, and commercial leasing. He is also a long-standing member of the American College of Real Estate Lawyers.



1971

Pete Jeffer has a private practice in the Midland Park, New Jersey area. He has been a volunteer firefighter for the past 32 years and enjoys many hobbies. Pete has 3 children; Jonathan is a contract manager with Coke; Jordan is a detective for the Union County Prosecutors Office, and Susan is a cardiac care nurse.

John Lestock is Assistant City Attorney in Paris, Texas.

1973

Glenn Hagen practices in Highlands Ranch, Colorado. He has been elected to serve as Chairman of the Highlands Ranch Chamber of Commerce and Corporate Secretary for the Douglas County Community Foundation. He also serves as the Chairman for the 18th Judicial District for Colorado. Glenn is a sole practitioner with an emphasis in corporate and construction law.

1974

George Riemer is a deputy city attorney for Surprise, Arizona. He worked for the Oregon State Bar for 25 years before moving to Surprise. His most recent position with the Oregon Bar was that of deputy executive

director and general counsel. Riemer helped manage regulatory and member service programs and provided legal and policy advice to the bar's governing board and staff. Riemer has extensive experience in association management and professional regulation.

1975

Porter Circuit Judge Mary Harper was awarded the 2006 Robert J. Kinsey Award for Outstanding Judicial Service and Support to the Children and Youth of Indiana. The award was presented at the 23rd annual Juvenile Judges Symposium. She is immediate past chair of the Indiana Juvenile Justice Improvement Committee and serves on the board of directors of the Indiana Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. She also serves on the State Board of Law Examiners Committee on Character and Fitness.

1978

Detroit Mayor Kwame M. Kilpatrick appointed **John E. Johnson, Jr.** as Corporation Counsel for the city of Detroit. Johnson brings more than 25 years of legal expertise to the Kilpatrick Administration along with a career that has truly exemplified legal advocacy on behalf of the public. Having spent most of his legal career representing the indigent and middle class, Johnson is perfectly qualified to protect and represent the best interests of the citizens of Detroit. Serving as both corporation counsel and director of the law department, Johnson will be responsible for helping manage the city's legal matters, while working to reduce its case loads. John's background in the legal arena and both civic and community affairs has also uniquely qualified him for his role as a part of Mayor Kilpatrick's cabinet team. From running one of the nation's largest legal aid programs to serving as past president of both the Michigan Coalition for Human Rights and the Wolverine Bar Association, Johnson is a well-respected legal mind and civic activist in the city of Detroit.



1981

Beth Ditzler Hazen retired as the Associate Division Counsel of the Federal Bureau of Investigation - Detroit Division in June.

1982

The Illinois Supreme Court appointed **Ronald M. Jacobson** to a resident circuit judgeship in Lee County, Illinois. Previously he was an assistant state's attorney in the county which is located halfway between Rockford and the Quad Cities. Jacobson's appointment is scheduled to expire on Dec. 1, 2008.

1983

Stephen J. Krigbaum has rejoined Carlton Fields in the West Palm Beach, Florida office. Krigbaum returns to Carlton Fields as a shareholder after serving the Altria group of companies including Philip Morris, Kraft Foods, and most recently, Altria Group, Inc., as Vice President and Associate General Counsel. He handled a variety of complex litigation against Philip Morris and played an important role in finalizing and implementing the landmark "Master Settlement Agreement" between the domestic tobacco industry and the state attorneys general. He also served as Vice President and Chief Legal Counsel to Kraft's Asia-Pacific region where he managed the regional law department and all legal and regulatory issues for Kraft affiliates throughout Asia. More recently, Krigbaum's responsibilities included counseling Altria Group's senior executives and managing a broad range of corporate legal, regulatory, litigation, and compliance issues as well as oversight of significant legal issues arising from the global affiliates and investments of Altria Group, Inc. Krigbaum began his legal career in 1983 in a trial and litigation practice in Chicago, Illinois before joining the law department of The Dow Chemical Company in 1986 where he was responsible for handling complex litigation and regulatory matters. He originally joined Carlton Fields in 1993, and quickly built a strong litigation practice in state and federal courts while becoming the lead local attorney for Philip Morris in litigation involving the Florida Attorney General.



Laurie Pangle Watrol was recently elected president of the Board of Trustees of the Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, Inc., and Legal Aid of Western Ohio Inc. Laurie is currently an attorney with the firm of Spengler Nathanson PLL in Toledo, OH.

Class | Actions

1986

Robert J. Dignam has joined the law firm of Hoepfner Wagner & Evans LLP as a partner in the Merrillville office. Dignam will practice with the firm's trial, labor and employment segments, handling commercial, labor, employment and health-care disputes.

Mark Rutherford joined Thrasher Buschmann Griffith & Voelkel of Indianapolis as Of Counsel. He was formerly with the law firm of Laudig George Rutherford & Sipes. He practices in the areas of administrative, regulatory, business, and criminal law for businesses, owners, and their families. Mark is a member of the Indianapolis Bar Association, Indiana State Bar Association, National Association of criminal Defense Lawyers, Libertarian Party of Indiana (Chair), and Libertarian National committee. Mark is also a member of Valpo Law's National Council.

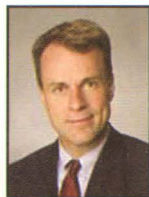
Lance Ryskamp, an attorney in Lake County, IN, has written a book entitled *Political Season*. In *Political Season* the ultimate prize is the Presidency of the United States. The book tells of secret deals, scandal and betrayal intertwined in American politics, as a war for power begins by a ruthless political consultant. The fight revolves around three men: the incumbent president; his political ally; and a disloyal vice president and political enemy.

1988

Cynthia Rockwell is pleased to announce she has started a private firm in the Fort Wayne, IN area. The Law Offices of Rockwell & Jansen will concentrate in the areas of employment law and civil rights.

1989

Dean Jeffrey Kinsler, Dean and Professor of Law at Appalachian School of Law, has been selected as one of the 2006 "Leaders in the Law" by the Virginia Lawyers Weekly. This is a new program



designed to recognize and honor the lawyers "who are setting the standard for other lawyers." The award was based on individual accomplishments and included: Outstanding contributions to the practice of law; significant achievements through the practice of law; leadership in improving the justice system; important contributions to the legal community

or the community at large; and, important contributions to the judiciary. This is the inaugural year for the "Leaders in the Law" award and Dean Kinsler is among a group of 15 attorneys and judges who have been selected from across the Commonwealth of Virginia to receive this honor.

1993

Monica Conrad was one of three attorneys who presented a one day seminar on "New Developments in Special Education Law" in South Bend, IN. Monica presented sessions titled "Due Process Procedures" and "Due Process Hearing Case Law Update." She earned her masters degree in special education in 1994 from Indiana State University. Monica practices in the area of school law, including special education, student matters, labor matters and board representation with the firm of Bose McKinney & Evans in Indianapolis, IN.



1994

Robertson, Freilich, Bruno + Cohen, LLC announced that **Lynda A. Bennett**, formerly a member of the law firm of Lowenstein Sandler, PC, in Roseland, N.J., has joined the firm as a partner. Before joining Lowenstein Sandler, PC Lynda was associated with Anderson Kill Olick & Oshinsky, New York City, and later Dickstein Shapiro Morin & Oshinsky, Washington, D.C and New York City.



In 2004, she was recognized by the New Jersey Law Journal's "40 under 40" as one of the young attorneys in New Jersey "worth watching, not only for what they have achieved so far in their careers but more so for the potential they show to be among the leaders of the New Jersey Bar in the not-so-distant future." Lynda is a frequent lecturer and author on insurance topics including obtaining coverage for environmental, toxic tort, construction, employment, and directors'/officers' liabilities.

Jeffrey S. Wrage has become the only Valparaiso attorney, and only one of seven Indiana attorneys, to earn the dual distinction of certification as a Civil Trial Advocate by the National Board of Trial Advocacy (NBTA) and



membership in the Million Dollar Advocates Forum. Wrage is affiliated with Blachly, Tabor, Bozik & Hartman in downtown Valparaiso. NBTA certification is awarded to attorneys who meet a rigorous set of litigation and examination criteria. The NBTA is accredited by the American Bar Association to assist consumers in finding experienced and highly qualified trial lawyers. Membership in the Million Dollar Advocates Forum is limited to attorneys who have won million and multi-million dollar verdicts and settlements. Licensed to practice in the state and federal courts of Indiana and Illinois, Wrage's litigation experience includes cases involving birth, spinal and traumatic brain injuries, product liability claims against General Motors and Firestone, and business and commercial disputes. Formerly an insurance defense attorney, Wrage joined the local firm as a plaintiff's advocate in 2000.

1995

Margaret R. Martin has joined Boyd Collar Knight LLC, an Atlanta-based law firm specializing in domestic relations and family law.

Christopher Spanos is a partner with the firm of Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP in Peoria, Illinois. Chris has successfully tried jury and bench trials involving automobile liability, premises liability and insurance coverage matters. He has prepared numerous coverage opinions on liability and property issues, including mold and toxic tort claims. He also has been actively involved in the defense of professional liability, product liability, sexual discrimination, infringement, contract and other commercial litigation matters.

Kevin S. Sprecher is a partner with the firm of Frost Brown Todd LLC and practices in the firm's Intellectual Property Department. He also serves on the Executive Board of Purdue Musical Organizations. He is an alumnus of the Purdue University Varsity Glee Club. **Christina M. (Gackenhimer) Sprecher** is also a partner with the law firm of Frost Brown Todd LLC and practices in the firm's Commercial Transactions/Real Estate Department. In addition, she serves on the Executive Committee of the Cincinnati Ballet as BRAVO! President. BRAVO! is the volunteer organization of the Cincinnati Ballet and produces the Ballet's fundraising events including the Nutcracker Ball and the Children's Nutcracker Luncheon. The Sprechers have a two-year old daughter named Charlotte.

Class | Actions

1996

James Patrick "J.P." Hanlon, former Assistant U.S. Attorney, has joined Baker & Daniels LLP where he will focus his practice in the areas of white collar criminal defense, government investigations and internal corporate investigations. Hanlon, a partner, will be based in the firm's downtown Indianapolis office. Before joining Baker & Daniels, Hanlon served almost five years as an Assistant U.S. Attorney with the U.S. Attorney's Office in Indianapolis. As a federal prosecutor, he investigated and prosecuted violations of federal criminal laws, including fraud, embezzlement, identity theft, tax crimes, criminal monetary transactions, firearms possession and trafficking, and violent crime. Hanlon also represented federal agencies and officials in civil lawsuits. Having tried 15 cases to verdict in U.S. District Court and argued multiple cases before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, Hanlon brings in-depth courtroom experience to Baker & Daniels. He previously practiced in the Chicago office of national law firm Seyfarth Shaw and served as a law clerk to the Honorable Robert L. Miller, Jr., U.S. District Judge, Northern District of Indiana.

1997

Julie Dykstra and husband Dirk celebrated the arrival of their second child, Katherine Elizabeth Dykstra on March 27, 2006. Their first child, Daniel Robert Dykstra, was born on February 12, 2003. Julie is corporate legal counsel for Alticor Inc., the parent company for Amway and Quixtar. She is responsible for Alticor's nutrition products working with Federal and State legislators, the Drug Enforcement Agency, U.S. Customs, the Food and Drug Administration, and the Federal Trade Commission to make sure their dietary supplements, over the counter drugs, and food products are safe, effective and compliant with all rules and regulations.

1998

Susan Cullen became engaged to Carlton Dunbar in Paris, France. They will be getting married on March 10, 2007, in Charleston, S.C. Susan is currently the Legislative Counsel for Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security in Washington, D.C., and Carlton is a Marketing Specialist for IBM.

Jeffrey Graham is a member of the Business Restructuring, Bankruptcy and Creditors' Rights Group at Sommer Barnard in Indianapolis. He concentrates his practice on business workouts and creditors' rights and commercial litigation. Previously, Jeffrey served as a Judicial Law Clerk to the Honorable S. Hugh Dillin, United States District Court from 1998-2001.



Adrienne Rans and her husband Zach welcomed their second child on July 26, 2006. Tristan Andrew Rans weighed 9lbs, 1 oz and was 21.5 inches long. Tristan joins older brother Griffin.

Tracey Wetzstein has joined the law offices of Blachly, Tabor, Bozik & Hartman. She will focus her practice in the areas of plaintiffs' personal injury litigation and Social Security disability benefits law. Previously Tracey was an associate attorney with Kenneth J. Allen and Associates in Valpo and Ruman, Clements and Holub in Hammond. She has spent her legal career advocating for the injured, successfully litigating semi-truck, automobile and construction accidents.

VALPO LAW GRADS ASSISTING
MEXICAN GOVERNMENT

“Thanks to the tremendous work that you do, we have the opportunity to better the programs offered to the community by the Protection Department of the Consulate.”



Donald Kempster '76 and Adam Stern '94

The Mexican Government's mechanism of working with attorneys from the United States in the area of protection has become more sophisticated and it is being applied in other countries, stated the Consul General of Mexico in Chicago, Carlos Manuel Sada. On April 25, 2006, two Valpo

Law graduates were authorized by the Secretary of Exterior Relations (SRE), to act as consulting attorneys with the Consulate. Included in this ceremony of recognition were Donald Kempster '76 and Adam Stern '94.

The Consul of Protection, Rita Vargas, stated: "Thanks to the tremendous work that you do, we have the opportunity to better the programs offered to the community by the Protection Department of the Consulate."

Class | Actions

1999

Susan Oliver was one of three attorneys to speak on "Advanced Issues in Indiana Employment Law" in Indianapolis. Susan is an associate of the Labor and Employment Group of Bose McKinney & Evans in Indianapolis. She represents and advises employers in a broad range of labor and employment issues, including those involving Title VII, ADEA, ADA, FMLA, FLSA, affirmative actions plans, state wage and hour issues, and unemployment compensation matters.



2000

Christopher J. Lukaart is an Associate with Krieg DeVault LLP in Indianapolis. He is a member of the Firm's Real Estate Practice Group.



Carrie and Keith O'Donnell welcome their son Conner James, born on November 29, 2005. Keith concentrates in the areas of landlord/tenant law and juvenile and criminal defense with Polacheck and Harris in Milwaukee, WI.

Gail G. Peshel of South Bend joined the Board of Governors of the Indiana State Bar Association (ISBA) on Friday, Oct. 6, 2006 at the ISBA's annual meeting. Peshel represents District 3 of Indiana, which includes South Bend. Her term will expire in October of 2008. She is assistant dean for students at Notre Dame Law School. She joined the law school in 2000 and served as director of career services until she was named assistant dean in 2004. Prior to joining the Notre Dame Law School, Peshel was assistant dean for career services with Valpo Law for 19 years. She is a past president of the Association for Legal Career Professionals for the National Association for Law Placement (NALP), and was NALP's liaison to the ABA section on Legal Education and Admission to the Bar, the ABA Law Practice Management Section, and the Association of American Law Schools.



Michael E. Tolbert of Merrillville joined the Board of Governors of the Indiana State Bar Association (ISBA) on Friday, Oct. 6, 2006 at the ISBA's annual meeting. Tolbert represents District 2 of Indiana, which includes Merrillville. His term



will expire in October of 2008. He is an associate with Hoeppner Wagner & Evans where he focuses his practice primarily in the areas of labor and employment, insurance defense, advanced personal injury, wrongful death, commercial litigation and appeals matters. Tolbert's legal memberships include the Lake County, Porter County, Indiana State (council member, Young Lawyers Section) and American Bar Associations. He also serves as secretary for the Indiana Supreme Court Commission for Continuing Legal Education.

2001

Deanne Benjamin Volheim and her husband had their first child, Everett Phelps Volheim, on April 1, 2006.

2002

Cherrie Baysinger Wells and husband Jeremy welcomed their first child, Jonah Christopher, on August 5. Jonah was 9 lbs. 12 oz. and 22.5 inches long.

Victor N. King is a partner at Speckman Law Group PLLC in Seattle, WA.

Jill and Mick Story live in Fort Wayne, Ind., with their daughter Micaela. Jill has her own business, Contract Legal Services, that provides assistance to solo practitioners and small law firms throughout Indiana on a contractual basis. Jill regularly works with clients to prepare matters for trial, research and draft motions and appeals, and assist at trial. Mick is an Associate with Beckman Lawson LLP in their Business Services Practice Group and regularly counsels small to medium sized, closely held businesses. Daughter Micaela was born in February.



Michelle Ross and **David Wendlinger** married; they live in Chicago. Michelle is with Lewis & Gellen LLP.

Tim Rushenberg, a member of the Air Force Judge Advocate General's Corps, has been appointed to serve as the Area Defense Counsel (ADC) at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota. There are 4,500 Airmen (officer and enlisted) at Minot AFB. Tim is the only ADC on the installation. His role as the ADC is to represent individual Airmen and oppose the government of the United States at courts-martial, administrative proceedings, and in other disciplinary matters. As the ADC, he ensures the proper and fair operation of the military justice system at Minot AFB.

Mick Vande Griend is Assistant General Counsel with Wells Fargo Financial in Des Moines, IA.

2003

Curtis J. Martin II and Mary P. Johnson wed on Kaanapali Beach in Maui, HI. Curtis practices in Atlanta. Mary is a graduate of the University of Minnesota. She is a training and implementation manager for an Internet technology company.

Heather Stahlberg and Jeremy Smith were married on June 10, 2006 in Springfield, Illinois. She is employed as a trust adviser for J.P. Morgan. After a honeymoon in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, the couple resides in Springfield.

2004

Chris Boudi recently joined the Law Offices of Thomas J. Scully III in Munster, IN.

Joanne Kagler has joined the Highland, IN, law firm of Levy & Dubovich as an associate.

2005

Rebecca L. Brettin has joined the firm of Beasley and Gilkison LLP, in Muncie, Indiana, as an associate.

LaToya Dixon is legal counsel for the President of the Illinois State Senate Emil Jones. She specializes in investments, pensions, and insurance issues.

Brad Keefner has joined the staff of Barash and Everett LLC, in Galesburg, Illinois. Keefner started at the Kewanee office of Barash and Everett in August 2005 and was admitted to the Illinois Bar in November 2005. Keefner's areas of practice include family and custody, bankruptcy and personal injury.

Laura O'Donnell finished JAG training in Charlottesville, VA then spent time in Hawaii preparing for deployment and reading international law. She will practice international law in Iraq for six to seven months.

2006

The law firm of Krieg DeVault LLP is pleased to announce that **Steven P. Lammers** has joined the firm as an Associate. Mr. Lammers' practice encompasses a wide variety of litigation matters. He resides in Crown Point, Indiana.



IN MEMORIAM

The dean, faculty, staff, students and alumni of Valparaiso University School of Law honor the following alumni and friends who have passed away. We are grateful for their participation in the development of the Law School, and we extend our condolences to their family members and friends.

1927

Leslie Young, New York City, New York,
July 31, 2006

1950

Wesley W. Ratliff, Jr., Bloomington, Indiana,
August 30, 2006

Maxwell P. Smith, Fort Wayne, Indiana,
April 6, 2006.

1953

Paul G. Miller, Middletown, New York,
February 21, 2006.

1959

Karl F. Meyer, Affton, Missouri,
April 9, 2006.

1960

Ronald L. Hildebrand, Huntley, IL,
May 20, 2006

1975

Larry D. Beale, Portsmouth, Virginia,
March 1, 2006.

1978

Michael Kurtis, Washington, DC,
April 2006

VALPO LAW GRAD INDUCTED
AS NEW STATE BAR PRESIDENT

**Dean Jay Conison and Rich Eynon
at the ISBA Meeting in October.**

Richard S. Eynon '69 of Columbus assumed his role as president of the Indiana State Bar Association (ISBA) on Friday, Oct. 6, 2006, at the ISBA's annual meeting. Eynon will be president of the ISBA until October 2007. His duties as president will include representing the more than 11,000 members of the ISBA, the largest professional legal organization in Indiana. He will preside over 10 Board of

Governors meetings and two meetings of the Association. He will also represent the Association on a national level at two meetings sponsored by the American Bar Association.

He is a founding member of the Columbus law firm Eynon Law Group, P.C., where his practice includes civil litigation, consisting primarily of personal injury, wrongful death and corporate litigation. He is also a registered civil and domestic mediator.

Eynon's legal memberships include the Bartholomew County, Indiana State and American Bar Associations. He is also a member of the Indiana Trial Lawyers, Association of Trial Lawyers of America, American Judicature Society and Trial Lawyers for Public Justice, as well as a life master fellow of the Indiana Bar Foundation and a fellow of the American Bar Foundation.

ALUMNI—KEEP IN TOUCH

We are eager to hear from you and share your news and accomplishments with your fellow alumni and friends. Keeping us informed maintains an important link you have to the School of Law. Please send news to:

Marilyn Otis
Valparaiso University
School of Law
Wesemann Hall
Valparaiso, IN 46383
E-mail: Marilyn.Otis@valpo.edu
Toll-free: 888.825.7652
Fax: 219.465.7808

NATIONAL BUSINESS INSTITUTE PRESENTERS

Many Valpo Law alumni contribute their expertise to the continuing education seminars organized by the National Business Institute. Presenters and their topics included **David Hooper '01**, an attorney in the Business, Tax & Real Estate Department of Barnes & Thornburg LLP where he concentrates his practice in general corporate law, mergers & acquisitions, banking, securities, tax and employee benefits.

Matthew Macaluso '01 is a member of the Business Services group at Bose, McKinney & Evans, LLP. He advises all types of businesses, including banks, emerging growth companies and those in the health and life sciences industries, with regulatory and transactional matters. He is the author of "Referral fees for Securities Activities of Bank Employees: Proposed Changes," *Hoosier Banker*, 2004 and "More on Corporate Governance – Does Sarbanes-Oxley Apply to Nonpublic Banks?" *Hoosier Banker*, July 2003.

Bruce Berner '67 presented the update on criminal procedure for the Indiana Law Update 2005 ICLEF continuing legal education program.

Rodney Nordstrom '90 presented "Inside and Outside the Jury Box: Effective Trial Strategies." Rodney is Founder and Executive Director of Litigation Simulation Services located in Peoria, IL. His experience as a trial lawyer combined with his extensive training in psychology enables him to quickly and effectively focus on the critical issues that impact the outcome of a case, and his firm is devoted to the study and advancement of psychology and law and to helping trial attorneys prepare and present their significant cases.

Timothy Kuiper '02 was a presenter on the topic "Complying with Indiana Land Use Laws and Regulations." Tim is an attorney in the law firm of Austgen, Decker & Phillips, P.C. where he focuses his practice in the areas of municipal/local government (including utilities), land use, planning/zoning, and commercial transactions.

Alison Emery '03 was a presenter on the topic "Indiana Nonprofits: Tax and Business Answers". Alison has represented a variety of tax-exempt organizations, including private foundations, public charities, colleges and universities, private schools and churches, with respect to formation, applying for tax exemption and governance issues, and has advised such organizations on issues such as conflicts of interest, intermediate sanctions and the unrelated business income tax.

In November 2005, four alumni presented "Aligning Your Practice with the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005." **David Brooks '85** is a partner at the law office of Lyons, Sullivan & Brooks. David has more than 20 years of experience practicing law in the areas of bankruptcy and Social Security disability benefits.

Paul Chael '81 was appointed in February 1987 as Standing Chapter 13 Trustee for the Northern District of Indiana, Hammond Division at Gary, and was appointed in 1986 as Chapter 12 Trustee for the Northern District of Indiana. Paul has participated as a faculty member in approximately 85 seminars throughout the country. Paul is an adjunct professor at Valpo Law; he teaches a course of debtor/creditor law and bankruptcy.

Catherine Molnar-Boncela '81 is an attorney with the Merrillville law firm of Gouveia & Associates where her primary responsibilities include representing consumer and business debtors in federal court. She is a past adjunct professor at Valpo Law where she taught debtor-creditor and bankruptcy reorganizations.

Kevin Schmidt '87 is a sole practitioner in Merrillville where he practices in the area of bankruptcy. Kevin is a member of the National Association of Consumer Bankruptcy Attorneys (NACBA) and the Indiana State Bar Association.

Closing | Statement

“Law is a very challenging profession. It can be stressful, technical, and sometimes tedious. But even when representing corporations, it can be a humanly experience. Valpo taught me to pay attention to the details of law. To analyze and organize. And through it all - to see the people behind the process.”

Theresa Silver '00

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Duncan Wainwright '79
Jayme Walker Holcomb '89
Xiao-Hua Zhao '92

January 15, 2007

MLK, Jr. Day

January 18, 2007

Chicago-Downtown Council Meeting

January 19, 2007

Chicago-West Council Meeting

February 5-9, 2007

Law Week

February 8, 2007 (4 PM)**Seegers Lecture**

Professor Philip Allott, LL.D., FBA
Prof. Emeritus of International Public Law
Cambridge University - Trinity College

February 10, 2007

Barrister's Ball; Merrillville

February 22, 2007

Law Review Symposium

March 2, 2007**Law Clinic Benefit**

*"How to Succeed in Business
Without Really Trying"*

Dinner followed by the musical:

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: VUCA Lobby & Theatre

March 28, 2007

Jewish Scholarship Reception; NW Indiana

March 29, 2007 (4 PM)**Monsanto Lecture**

John C. P. Goldberg
Associate Dean for Research
Professor of Law
Vanderbilt University

**April 12, 2007
(2:30 CLE & 4 PM)****Tabor Lecture**

Stephen Gillers
Emily Kempin Professor of Law
New York University School of Law

April 20, 2007

Cane Walk

April 21, 2007

Young Alumni Weekend

April 28, 2007

National Council Meeting

May 3, 2007

Fort Wayne Council Meeting
Kalamazoo, MI Alumni Luncheon

May 4, 2007

Grand Rapids Council Meeting
St. Joseph, MI Alumni Luncheon

May 10, 2007

Indianapolis Council Meeting

May 11, 2007

St. Louis Council Meeting

May 18, 2007

Champagne Reception for 2007 Grads

May 19, 2007

Commencement; Chapel of the Resurrection

May 24, 2007

DC Council Meeting
DC Alumni Reception

June 1, 2007

Southwest Council Meeting (Phoenix)

June 8, 2007

Twin Cities Council Meeting

For information on these
and other programs, please
check our website at:
<http://www.valpo.edu/law/>



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