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Matthew Ryan Law & Public Policy Forum: 2011 (January)

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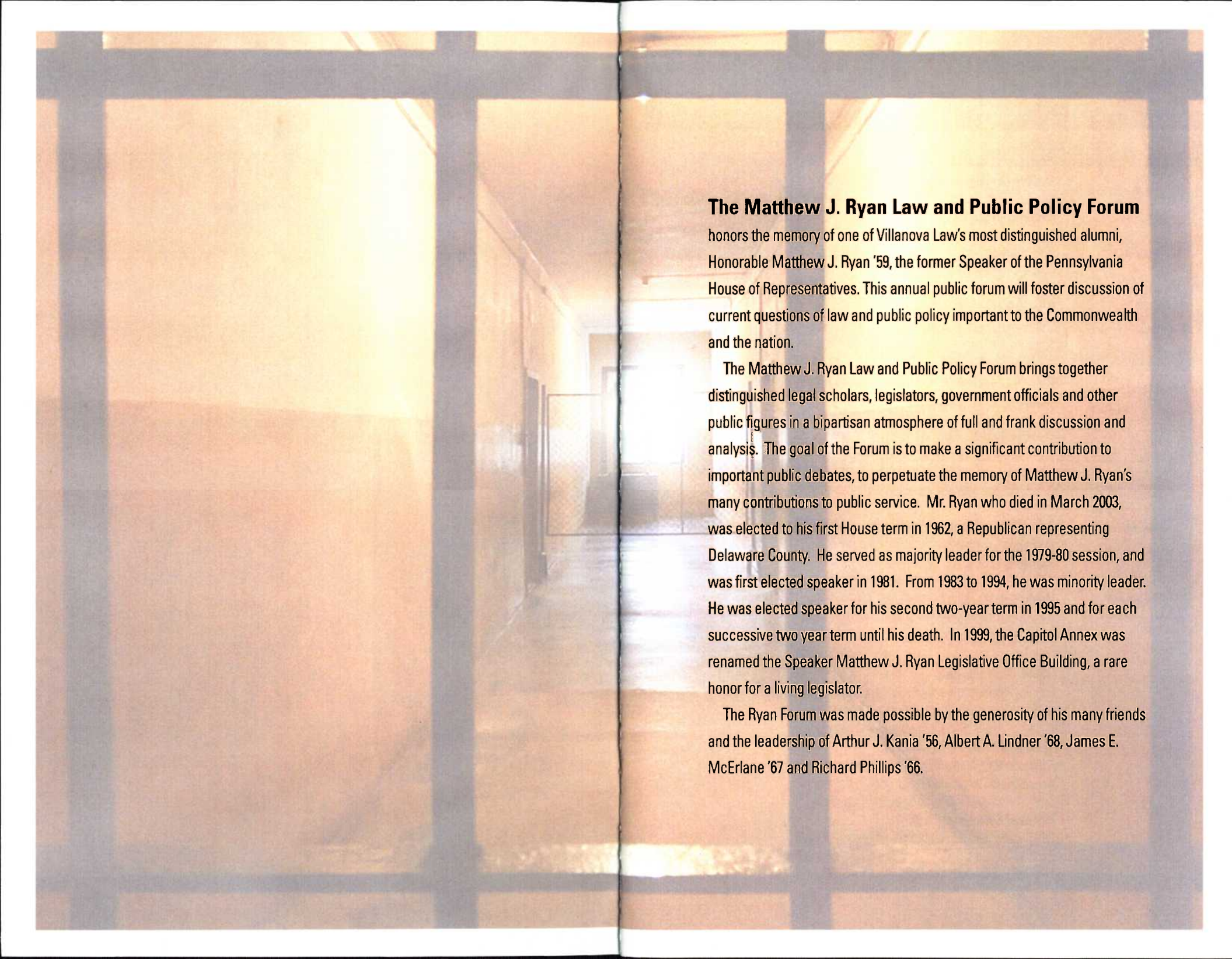
Villanova University School of Law

Matthew J. Ryan Law and Public Policy Forum

Co-sponsored by the Pennsylvania Innocence Project

Innocents Behind Bars: The Key to Exoneration

January 21, 2011



The Matthew J. Ryan Law and Public Policy Forum

honors the memory of one of Villanova Law's most distinguished alumni, Honorable Matthew J. Ryan '59, the former Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. This annual public forum will foster discussion of current questions of law and public policy important to the Commonwealth and the nation.

The Matthew J. Ryan Law and Public Policy Forum brings together distinguished legal scholars, legislators, government officials and other public figures in a bipartisan atmosphere of full and frank discussion and analysis. The goal of the Forum is to make a significant contribution to important public debates, to perpetuate the memory of Matthew J. Ryan's many contributions to public service. Mr. Ryan who died in March 2003, was elected to his first House term in 1962, a Republican representing Delaware County. He served as majority leader for the 1979-80 session, and was first elected speaker in 1981. From 1983 to 1994, he was minority leader. He was elected speaker for his second two-year term in 1995 and for each successive two year term until his death. In 1999, the Capitol Annex was renamed the Speaker Matthew J. Ryan Legislative Office Building, a rare honor for a living legislator.

The Ryan Forum was made possible by the generosity of his many friends and the leadership of Arthur J. Kania '56, Albert A. Lindner '68, James E. McErlane '67 and Richard Phillips '66.

Program

9:00 – 10:20 a.m. **Post-Conviction Investigation:
Finding the Missing Key**

Moderator: **Susan Burt-Collins, Esq.**

Panelists: **Kate Germond**
Centurion Ministries

Karl Schwartz, Esq.
Delaware Federal Defender Capital Habeas Unit

Leonard Sosnov, Esq.
Professor of Law
Widener University School of Law

Bradley Bridge, Esq.
Defender Association of Philadelphia

10:30 – 11:45 a.m. **Forensic Investigation: Problems with Contextual Bias**

Moderator: **Anne Bowen Poulin, Esq.**
Professor of Law
Villanova University School of Law

Panelists: **Jules Epstein, Esq.**
Associate Professor of Law
Widener University School of Law

Robert Dunham, Esq.
Capital Habeas Unit of the Federal Public Defender
Office for the Middle District of Pennsylvania

Heather Harris, M.F.S., J.D.
Forensic Chemistry Consultant
Arcadia University

Michael F. Rieders, Ph. D.
NMS Labs

11:45 – 12:15 p.m. **Lunch**

12:30 – 2:05 p.m. **False Confessions**

Moderator: **Thomas J. Innes III, Esq.**
Defender Association of Philadelphia

Panelists: **Richard Byington**
John E. Reid & Associates

Steven A. Drizin, Esq.
Director, Center on Wrongful Convictions; Associate Director,
Bluhm Legal Clinic, Northwestern University School of Law

Martin "Marty" Tankleff
Exoneree

2:20 – 3:35 p.m. **Policy Issues in Pennsylvania: The Pennsylvania
Advisory Committee to Investigate Wrongful Convictions**

Moderator: **Marissa Boyers Bluestine, Esq.**
Legal Director, Pennsylvania Innocence Project

Panelists: **Senator Stewart J. Greenleaf**
Pennsylvania 12th Senatorial District
Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee

John T. Rago, Esq.
Founding Executive Director, Cyril H. Wecht
Institute of Forensic Science and Law;
Founding Director, Post Conviction DNA Project
Duquesne University School of Law

The Honorable Sheila Woods-Skipper
Supervising Judge, Criminal Trial Division
Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas

David Rudovsky, Esq.
Senior Fellow
University of Pennsylvania School of Law



Speakers

Marissa Bluestine, Esq.

Marissa Boyers Bluestine is the Legal Director for the Pennsylvania Innocence Project. Ms. Bluestine has worked in both the private and public sectors—as a litigation associate at Duane Morris and as an Assistant Defender with the Defender Association of Philadelphia for over 10 years. At the Defender Association, Ms. Bluestine focused particularly on issues related to innocence reform and confrontational rights in the wake of *Crawford*. She also shepherded the Defender reaction to the NAS Report, *Strengthening Forensic Science in the United States: A Path Forward*. As the Legal Director of the Pennsylvania Innocence Project, Ms. Bluestine oversees all legal work undertaken by the Project, which works to exonerate those who were wrongfully convicted of crimes they did not commit. In addition, Ms. Bluestine works to coordinate the policy initiatives of the Pennsylvania Innocence Project geared toward reforming the criminal justice system to prevent wrongful convictions from occurring. As an adjunct professor at Temple University Beasley School of Law, Ms. Bluestine teaches a seminar in trial advocacy as well as a clinical program with the Pennsylvania Innocence Project. In April, 2010, the Legal Intelligencer included Ms. Bluestine in its biennial list of “Women of Distinction.”


Ms. Bluestine is a graduate of Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut (1989) and a cum laude graduate of Temple University School of Law (1995), where she served as Managing Editor of the *Temple Political & Civil Rights Law Review* and was a national quarterfinalist in the National Trial Competition.

Bradley S. Bridge, Esq.

Bradley S. Bridge graduated from the University of Washington with a B.S. in Psychology in 1976 and from Harvard Law School with a J.D. in 1979. From 1979 to 1983 he worked in the Office of the State Appellate Defender in Chicago, Illinois representing indigent defendants in their appeals to the Illinois Appellate and Supreme Court and in federal habeas corpus cases in the Northern District of Illinois and the Seventh Circuit. From 1983 to the present he has worked with the Defender Association of Philadelphia. His responsibilities have included representation of indigent defendants in Municipal Court, the Court of Common Pleas (waivers and jury trials, homicide and non-homicide cases), Juvenile Court, Mental Health Court, Pennsylvania Superior Court and Supreme Court, in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania and in the Third Circuit. His current assignment is with the homicide and appeals units. Mr. Bridge is also responsible for the evaluation of whether certain cases should be reopened in light of police corruption. He was involved in litigating issues arising out of scandals involving the 39th District and the Bureau of Narcotics Investigations as well as others. This work has led to reopening and vacating convictions in over three hundred cases from 1995 to the present. Mr. Bridge’s other responsibilities have included filing multiple post-conviction petitions to reopen cases where a corrupt police chemist testified and filing multiple post-conviction petitions to reopen cases where police officers currently being investigated have testified.

Susan Burt-Collins, Esq.

Susan Burt-Collins has focused her legal career almost exclusively in the area of indigent criminal defense. Working as an Assistant Defender in Philadelphia and then in private practice, she has tried all types of criminal matters, including death penalty homicides. In 1996, after uncovering a police



payment to the only witness in a murder case, she succeeded in winning freedom for a man serving a life sentence for that murder. Recently, she pursued a post-conviction claim that resulted in freedom for a man who had served thirty-eight years on his life sentence. She is a member of the board of the Pennsylvania Innocence Project.

Richard Byington

Richard Byington, a graduate of Edinboro University of Pennsylvania, is a senior instructor for John E. Reid and Associates, the national leader in teaching interviewing and interrogation skills to law enforcement. The “Reid Method” is considered by many in law enforcement to be the leading and most successful method of interrogation and interviewing those suspected of crime. In addition to his position as a senior instructor, Mr. Byington has conducted more than 20,000 interviews and interrogations covering a wide variety of issues. He has presented programs for Reid and Associates to the Department of Homeland Security, Federal Air Marshals, and many police departments nationwide. Additionally, he has taught the Reid Method in Canada, Israel, Mexico and Singapore. Most recently, Mr. Byington worked with Peter Neufeld and Barry Scheck of The Innocence Project in New York to obtain the exoneration of Frank Sterling, who had been convicted of murder on the strength of his own false confession and had served seventeen years for a crime he did not commit.

Professor Steven A. Drizin, Esq.

Steven A. Drizin is a Clinical Professor at Northwestern University School of Law, where he has been on the faculty since 1991. He is also the Assistant Director of the Bluhm Legal Clinic, and since March 2005, has been serving as the Legal Director of the Clinic’s renowned Center on Wrongful Convictions, an organization that is dedicated to identifying and rectifying wrongful convictions and other serious miscarriages of justice and to promoting reforms designed to reduce the risk of wrongful convictions. In October 2009, Professor Drizin launched a new project – the Center on Wrongful Convictions of Youth (with Bernardine Dohrn and Joshua Tepfer) – to focus on juvenile wrongful convictions. At the Centers, Professor Drizin’s research interests involve the study of false confessions and his policy work focuses on supporting efforts around the country to require law enforcement agencies to electronically record custodial interrogations.

Prior to joining the Center on Wrongful Convictions, Professor Drizin was the Supervising Attorney at the Clinic’s Children and Family Justice Center where he built a reputation as a national expert on juvenile justice related issues. He was a leader in the successful effort to outlaw the juvenile death penalty and co-wrote an amicus brief in *Roper v. Simmons*, the United States Supreme Court’s decision holding that capital punishment could no longer be imposed on offenders who were under the age of 18 at the time they committed their crimes. With his students, Professor Drizin has also successfully litigated many cases in Illinois and around the country involving false and coerced confessions. In August 2005, Professor Drizin received the American Bar Association’s Livingston Hall Award for outstanding dedication and advocacy in the juvenile justice field.

Professor Drizin has written numerous law review articles, book chapters, and op-eds on these and other topics and his 2004 article, *The Problem of False Confessions in the Post-DNA World* (with Richard A. Leo) was recently cited by the United States Supreme Court in *Corley v. United States*



(2009). He also writes a blog on the subject of false confessions and police interrogations at http://blog.law.northwestern.edu/bluhm/false_confessions/index.html and has recently edited a book with Rob Warden of the Northwestern University School of Law Center on Wrongful Convictions, entitled *True Stories of False Confessions* (Northwestern University Press).

Robert Dunham, Esq.

Robert Dunham is a Defender with the Capital Habeas Unit of the Federal Public Defender Office for the Middle District of Pennsylvania in Harrisburg. Mr. Dunham has represented death-row inmates in all of Pennsylvania's state and federal appeal and post-conviction courts, from arguing stays of execution to arguing in the United States Supreme Court. Before moving to the Middle District, Mr. Dunham served as Director of Training in the Philadelphia Federal Defender's Capital Habeas Unit and, before that, spent five years as Executive Director of the former Pennsylvania Capital Case Resource Center. Mr. Dunham is also an adjunct professor of death penalty law at Villanova Law School, a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation, and a member of the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania Innocence Project. He has recently completed five years on the Steering Committee of the American Bar Association's Death Penalty Representation Project and 12 years as a member of the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. He also served on the Board of Directors of Northwest Victim Services, including two years as its Board President, and on the board of the INTERAC community mental health/mental retardation and senior center. Mr. Dunham has provided death penalty training for PBI, the state and federal courts, and a variety of local, state, and national bar associations and defense organizations for more than fifteen years. He is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, where he was a University Scholar in Philosophy, and received his law degree from the Georgetown University Law Center. His honors include the Andrew Hamilton Award from the Philadelphia Bar Association's Public Interest Section; PACDL's Liberty and Alan Jay Josel Advocacy Awards; the Gideon Award from the Public Defender Association of Pennsylvania; the Bill of Rights Award from the Federal Bar Association for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania; and Georgetown University's Jeffrey Crandall Award for commitment to public interest law.

Professor Jules Epstein, Esq.

Jules Epstein is an Associate Professor of Law at Widener University School of Law, where he teaches Evidence, Criminal Procedure and Criminal Law. In addition, Professor Epstein continues to handle appeals, particularly in capital cases, through Kairys, Rudovsky, Messing & Feinberg, LLP in Philadelphia, where he was formerly a partner. He has published extensively regarding the death penalty, eyewitness identification and evidence. He serves as a faculty member for the National Judicial College, teaching Evidence and Capital Case courses.

In the area of forensics, Professor Epstein has participated in two DNA workgroups and in capital case trainings for the National Institute of Justice. He currently serves on a working group on latent print issues for the National Institute for Standards and Technology. He has lectured on forensics to judges and attorneys. Professor Epstein also serves on the Pennsylvania commission investigating issues regarding wrongful convictions.



Kate Hill Germond

Kate Hill Germond is the Director, and an investigator & advocate, at Centurion Ministries. She joined Centurion Ministries in January of 1987. Kate co-manages Centurion Ministries with founder, James C. McCloskey. She plays an integral role in developing cases as well as selecting, managing, and investigating those cases that Centurion Ministries decides to take. She has a natural gift for this work and considers it to be her calling.

Senator Stewart J. Greenleaf

State Senator Stewart J. Greenleaf, R-Montgomery/Bucks, has represented the 12th Senatorial District in the Pennsylvania Senate since 1978. He was a member of the House of Representatives from 1977 to 1978, serving on the House Labor Relations and Judiciary Committees as well as the Subcommittee on Crime and Corrections. He also served as an Upper Moreland Township Commissioner, as an Assistant District Attorney and Chief of the Appeals Division for the Montgomery County District Attorney's Office and as an Assistant Public Defender in Bucks County. He is a member of the Bar Associations of Pennsylvania and Montgomery County. He is chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee and a member of the Senate committees on Appropriations, Banking and Insurance, and Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure. In addition, he has served on the Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing, the Task Force on Death Penalty Litigation in Pennsylvania, and the Statewide Steering Committee on Court Automation. He currently serves as chairman of the Joint State Government Commission's Task Forces on Real Property Law; Decedents' Estates Laws; Domestic Relations Law; Adoption Law; and Geriatric and Seriously Ill Inmates. As a member of the Commission on Judicial Reform, he participated in the development of recommendations to improve the process of judicial selection and was prime sponsor of constitutional amendment legislation to revise the state's system of judicial discipline. He serves on the State/Federal Assembly of the Law and Justice Committee of the National Conference of State Legislatures and the Criminal Justice Task Force of the American Legislative Exchange Council.

A native of Montgomery County, Senator Greenleaf is a lifelong resident of Upper Moreland Township. He is married to Cecelia "Kelly" Greenleaf. A graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, he received his law degree from the University of Toledo Law School.

The senator is the author of Pennsylvania's Megan's Law, the Grandparent Custody Law, the Rails to Trails Act, the School Pesticide Law, the Health Club Consumer Protection Act, the Puppy Lemon Law, the "No Means No" Rape Law, the Amusement Ride Inspection Act, the Missing Children Act, the Divorce Code Reform Act and the Divorce and Custody Mediation Act. He was also prime sponsor of a law that extends the period of legal recourse for abused children, the constitutional amendment allowing for the option of electronic testimony for child victims and witnesses, the law requiring tougher penalties for cruelty to domestic animals, and the law allowing extended sentences when baseball bats are used in violent criminal acts.

As chairman of the Judiciary Committee, the senator conducted hearings on the corrections system in Pennsylvania and achieved passage of legislation to reduce overcrowding in state prisons and county jails through intermediate punishment programs. He is also sponsor of state sentencing reform legislation and of a law that provides for addiction treatment for eligible offenders. He also



conducted hearings on the state's system of probation and parole, resulting in the enactment of public safety reforms in the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole and in the Interstate Compact, which deals with interstate parole arrangements.

In addition to his interest in criminal justice and judicial issues, Senator Greenleaf has sponsored numerous consumer protection initiatives relating to telemarketing controls, octane level testing, the travel industry and the expansion of the Lemon Law to leased vehicles.

The recipient of a number of honors, Senator Greenleaf has been presented the 2005 Leadership Award of the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape; the 2002 Montgomery County Bar Foundation Milton O. Moss Award; the 2002 Clean Water Fund Leadership Award; the Pennsylvania Legal Services Ambassador for Justice Award, the Pennsylvania Credit Union League Keystone Award, the Montgomery County Bar Association Outstanding Service Award; the Vince Fitzpatrick Humanitarian Award, the Pennsylvania Legal Services Outstanding Leadership Award; the Fraternal Order of Police Award; the Matty Muir Award from the Victim Services Center of Montgomery County; the Montgomery County Association for Retarded Citizens President's Award; the Conservation Legislator of the Year Award by the Pennsylvania Wildlife Federation; the National Federation of Independent Business Guardian of Small Business Award and the Humane Society of the United States Mid-Atlantic Region Humanitarian Award. He was selected Man of The Year by the Willow Grove Chamber of Commerce and the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center. He was chosen for the Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers Association 1992 Annual Award in recognition of his "efforts and resolve in protecting the rights of Pennsylvanians under civil law."

Senator Greenleaf has most recently been presented with the William E. Zeiter Award from the Statutory Law Committee of the Pennsylvania Bar Institute for his efforts to update and consolidate Pennsylvania's statutory law. In 2008, he was presented the Distinguished Alumnus of the Year Award from the University of Toledo College of Law, in recognition of his lifetime of legislative accomplishments.

Heather Harris, M.F.S., J.D.

Heather L. Harris, M.F.S., J.D., is owner and operator of Functional Group Forensics, an independent firm specializing in forensic science instruction, consulting and expert witnessing. She is also an adjunct professor at Arcadia University and West Chester University where she teaches courses in law for forensic scientists, forensic chemistry, trace evidence, and general criminalistics. Ms. Harris actively participates in professional organizations, such as the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, the Northeastern Association of Forensic Scientists, and the American Board of Criminalistics. Ms. Harris is a member of the Pennsylvania bar.

Ms. Harris holds a Master of Forensic Science degree from The George Washington University where she concentrated in the areas of forensic chemistry and toxicology. She began her career as a forensic scientist at the Bexar County Criminal Investigation Laboratory in San Antonio TX where she worked primarily in drug analysis and clandestine lab analysis. Upon relocation to Philadelphia, Ms. Harris worked at NMS Labs as a forensic chemist and attended Temple University's Beasley School of Law in the part-time evening program.



Thomas J. Innes III, Esq.

Tom Innes is a graduate of Villanova University School of Law and is a career criminal defense attorney with the Defender Association of Philadelphia. Tom is an instructor at the Temple University School of Law LL.M. in Trial Advocacy Program and a long time instructor for the National Institute for Trial Advocacy. Tom was one of the founders of the Pennsylvania Innocence Project, a member of its Board of Directors and is Chair of the Continuing Education/Training Subcommittee of the Project. He is also Co-chair of the Policy Committee of the Pennsylvania Prison Society and a member of the Boards of Director of Roots to Reentry, a prison to horticulture jobs reentry program, and New Directions for Women in Philadelphia, a step-down program for female offenders.

Professor Anne Bowen Poulin, Esq.

Professor Poulin is a Professor at Villanova University School of Law. She writes and teaches in the areas of criminal procedure, evidence and juvenile justice. Professor Poulin is a member of the board of the Pennsylvania Innocence Project. She also serves as Co-Reporter for the Committee on Model Criminal Jury Instructions for the Third Circuit. She Chaired the ABA Death Penalty Moratorium Project for Pennsylvania. In addition, she co-authored Pennsylvania Evidence (3d ed. 2007) (with Leonard Packel). Professor Poulin has also authored numerous articles in her areas of interest.

Before she started teaching, Professor Poulin served as an Assistant United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois in Chicago, where she was the Deputy Chief of Criminal Receiving and Appellate Division. Before joining the faculty of Villanova Law School, Professor Poulin was an Assistant Professor at Illinois Institute of Technology/Chicago-Kent College of Law. Professor Poulin is a member of the bars of Maine, Illinois and Pennsylvania.

Professor John T. Rago, Esq.

Professor John T. Rago is an Associate Professor of Law at Duquesne University School of Law, where he teaches criminal law and procedure to first-year law students and is the founding director of the Law School's Post Conviction DNA Project. Professor Rago is also the founding and former Executive Director of the Cyril H. Wecht Institute of Forensic Science and Law at Duquesne University.

Professor Rago currently serves as Chairperson for the initiative commissioned by PA Senate Resolution 381 to Study Wrongful Convictions in Pennsylvania. The Committee's report and recommendations will be issued in the very near future. He is a Member of the (Cardozo Law School) Innocence Project's Northeast Public Policy Committee and also serves as a Member of the Governor's Advisory Board on Probation.

Professor Rago has joint faculty appointments to the Duquesne University Bayer School for Natural and Environmental Sciences where he teaches courses on constitutional criminal procedure, wrongful convictions, and Law, Science and Philosophy. Professor Rago served the law school as assistant dean from 1993 through 1996 and as the associate dean for administration from 1996 through 2003.

Professor Rago is admitted to the Bar of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. He holds degrees from the Duquesne University College of Arts & Sciences and the Duquesne University School of Law.



Michael F. Rieders, Ph.D.

Dr. Rieders is a laboratory director and forensic toxicologist at an internationally accredited private, independent forensic laboratory that performs DNA, serology, toxicology, drug chemistry analysis, and expert testimony. He served on Pennsylvania's Advisory Committee on Wrongful Convictions where he worked with the Forensic Science Subcommittee on recommendations to improve the forensic science investigation system. Dr. Rieders has qualified as an Expert in Forensic Toxicology and testified in numerous criminal, civil and arbitration proceedings.

Dr. Rieders is a Fellow of The American Academy of Forensic Sciences, a member of The Society of Forensic Toxicologists, the International Association of Forensic Toxicologists, and affiliate member of The National Association of Medical Examiners where he serves on their Foundation Board. He is also a Trustee at Arcadia University where he is a faculty member and instructor in their nationally accredited Masters of Forensic Science Program. He serves on the Advisory Board for The Cyril H. Wecht Institute of Forensic Science and Law at Duquesne University School of Law; he is a Board Member at The Henry C. Lee Institute of Forensic Science at New Haven University in West Haven, Connecticut, and Chief Scientific Officer for The Forensics Mentors Institute in Willow Grove, PA. He is a member of the Vidocq Society, who meet monthly to examine cold cases and assist law enforcement agencies in identifying leads.

Dr. Rieders was an editor of the Pennsylvania Academy of Sciences publication *Science Technology and National Security*, wrote a chapter in *Forensic Aspects of Chemical and Biological Terrorism by Lawyers and Judges* Publishing Company and has presented numerous seminars such as "Toxic Terrorism: Detecting and Pre-empting Chemical Mass Murder" at the Institute of Forensic Science and Law at Duquesne University.

Dr. Rieders earned a doctoral degree in Pharmacology/Toxicology from Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia and an undergraduate degree in Chemistry from Beaver College, now Arcadia University in Glenside, PA.

David Rudovsky, Esq.

David Rudovsky was a founding partner of Kairys, Rudovsky, Messing & Feinberg. He has devoted his practice to civil rights and criminal defense litigation for over forty years. During this time, he has been involved in some of the most important litigation in Philadelphia and the nation concerning police and governmental misconduct, prisoners' rights, first amendment freedoms, and racial discrimination. His far-reaching cases have established landmark decisions furthering the civil liberties and civil rights of persons who seek redress from the government and of criminal suspects and defendants.

Mr. Rudovsky has argued two significant civil rights cases in the United States Supreme Court: *Mitchell v. Forsyth* (1985) (immunity of Attorney General for illegal electronic surveillance) and *City of Canton v. Harris* (1989) (liability of municipalities for civil rights violations by police). He has also prepared numerous amicus briefs in civil rights cases in the Supreme Court and has argued scores of significant civil rights and criminal law cases in the federal and state courts.

Since 1987, Mr. Rudovsky has been a Senior Fellow at the University of Pennsylvania Law School where he teaches courses in Constitutional Criminal Procedure, Criminal Law, and Evidence. At the Law School, he has received the best teacher award on three occasions and is the recipient of the University's Lindback Award for Excellence in Teaching.



Mr. Rudovsky has written a number of important books for lawyers who litigate civil rights and criminal cases. These include *Police Misconduct: Law & Litigation*, *Pennsylvania Criminal Law*, and *The Law of Arrest, Search and Seizure in Pennsylvania*. In addition, Mr. Rudovsky has written a number of scholarly articles in law reviews on civil rights and the criminal justice system. He is a frequent lecturer in legal seminars and CLE's, and has been active in the training of lawyers and judges.

Mr. Rudovsky is President of the Board of Directors of the Defender Association of Philadelphia and has served as President of the Board of the Pennsylvania Institutional Law Project. From 1983-1987, he was First Assistant Defender at the Defender Association.

In 1986, Mr. Rudovsky was a recipient of the MacArthur Foundation Fellowship for his work in Criminal Justice. He has also been honored by the Philadelphia Bar Foundation with the Judge Gerald F. Flood Award for Public Interest Accomplishments, the ACLU Civil Liberties Award, and the Philadelphia Bar Association Cesare Beccaria Award for Criminal Justice.

Karl Schwartz, Esq.

Karl Schwartz joined the Delaware Federal Defender Office as an assistant federal defender in its Capital Habeas Corpus Unit in May 2010. From 1983 until 2010, he was an attorney with the Defender Association of Philadelphia. He was assigned to the Association's Homicide Trial Unit from 1993 on, and served as trial counsel in numerous capital and noncapital homicide cases. He has lectured and presented at capital defense training programs sponsored by the National Legal Aid and Defender Association, the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, the National Institute of Trial Advocacy, Temple University, California Attorneys for Criminal Justice, the American Bar Association ("ABA") Rule of Law Committee, the ABA Juvenile Justice Center, the Federal Habeas Assistance and Training Project, and the United States Department of Justice - Bureau of Justice Assistance. He is an adjunct professor of law in the Beasley School of Law at Temple University.

Professor Leonard N. Sosnov, Esq.

Leonard N. Sosnov is Professor of Law at Widener University's Delaware campus. Professor Sosnov received a B.A. from Temple University in 1967, and a J.D. from Harvard University Law School in 1971. Following graduation from law school, Professor Sosnov clerked for the Honorable Judge Joseph S. Lord, III, of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, in Philadelphia. He was a Staff Attorney at the Defender Association of Philadelphia, from 1972 to 1990, serving as the Chief of the Association's Law Reform Unit.

Professor Sosnov joined the faculty at Widener University School of Law in 1990. Professor Sosnov teaches and writes in the areas of Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure, and Evidence.

Professor Sosnov has had extensive litigation experience, including briefing and arguing two cases before the United States Supreme Court. He has also represented individuals on behalf of Centurion Ministries, a non-profit organization dedicated to freeing innocent individuals sentenced to life imprisonment or death.



Martin "Marty" Tankleff

Marty Tankleff had just turned 17 years old when he was arrested for the murder of his parents in their Long Island home. After hours of aggressive interrogation by a detective with a questionable background, a dubious and unsigned "confession" led to Marty's conviction. He was sentenced to 50 years to life in prison, with the possibility of parole in 2040. "Wrongful convictions are an epidemic in our justice system, and people need to become educated on the rampant corruption that is a threat to all of us," says Marty.

After more than 17 years in prison, Marty's conviction was vacated by the New York State Appellate Division in December of 2007. On July 22, 2008, a judge signed off on a motion by Attorney General Andrew Cuomo to dismiss all charges against Marty. Cuomo announced he would not retry Marty, noting that there was insufficient evidence to prove his guilt. A State Supreme Court Justice dismissed all charges against Marty Tankleff in the murder of his parents. Marty is the innocent victim of a justice system that found him guilty against mounting evidence that indicated otherwise. At the time of his conviction, evidence pointed to another suspect: his father's estranged business partner, who had violently threatened the Tankleffs just days before the crime. One week after the Tankleff murders had taken place, the suspect faked his own death and fled across the country.

Marty's 6,338 day fight for freedom caught the attention of the entire country. For nearly two decades, his case was followed by millions of Americans that supported his appeals to freedom. Marty's now infamous case has proven one thing to all of us: our own system can betray us. Marty is out to prove that unless things change, what happened to him can happen to anybody.

Marty received his undergraduate degree at Hofstra University on Long Island, where his crusade to help the innocent has become a lifelong battle. While attending Hofstra, he had tremendous opportunities to speak about his wrongful conviction and the failures of the criminal justice system. He has spoken at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, twice at Williams College (in Professor Saul Kassins' classes), and to Vicki Metz's class at C.W. Post. He testified before the New York State Senate Democratic Task Force on Preventing Wrongful Convictions (June 30, 2008); participated in a panel discussion on "False Confessions" at the Nassau Academy of Law on behalf of the Nassau County Bar Association; was the keynote speaker at the New York State Defenders Association's summer meeting (July 21, 2008); and spoke after a showing of *The Exonerated* on behalf of New Yorkers Against the Death Penalty on September 25, 2008. Marty gave two presentations at Nassau Community College on November 12, 2008 to several hundred people. In 2008, he spoke at the North Shore Hebrew Academy and spent the day with the students at the Tolerance Center in New York City. He has spoken at the Innocence Project Clinical Program at the Innocence Project in New York City several times, and he also spoke to a class at the Vanguard High School in New York City. In February of 2009, Marty participated in a panel discussion that was videotaped for the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, and in 2009 he took part in a panel discussion at Touro Law School. Most recently, he was interviewed by Long Island Business News.

Now 39 years old and exonerated, Marty attends law school at Touro Law Center in Central Islip, New York. Additionally, he works as a paralegal at Quadrino Schwartz of Garden City, New York, where he assists the firm's attorneys in defending clients in civil and criminal matters, including



wrongful conviction cases. Knowing the ins and outs of the legal system and prison life, Marty brings a unique perspective to his work defending others. His goal in life is to change the system from the inside out and become an advocate for the wrongfully accused and convicted

The Honorable Sheila Woods-Skipper

Appointed by the former Governor Tom Ridge and unanimously confirmed by the Pennsylvania State Senate in December, 1998 and elected to her second ten-year term, the Honorable Sheila Woods-Skipper currently sits on the Court of Common Pleas, First Judicial District of Pennsylvania where she brings honesty, commitment and fairness to the Bench. Judge Woods-Skipper has been instrumental in creating and overseeing innovative programs in the Criminal Division of the Court of Common Pleas that have reduced prison population and increased efficiency in the processing of criminal cases. She currently presides over the newly created First Judicial District Mental Health Court. She was appointed Supervising Judge for the Criminal Division of the First Judicial District in November, 2008. She was formerly assigned to the Homicide Division and Coordinating Judge for the Waiver Program. She also serves as a member of the Judicial Education Committee, where she serves as Chair of the FYI Committee. She was appointed by Governor Rendell to the State Council for Interstate Compact for Adult Offenders and appointed by former Justice Cappy to the Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing and re-appointed by Justice Castille. She was also selected to serve on the Mental Health Advisory Commission [MHAC] of the PA Commission on Crime & Delinquency [PCCD].

Judge Sheila Woods-Skipper is a native Philadelphian who attended Philadelphia High School for Girls, the University of Pennsylvania, and Temple University School of Law. Judge Woods-Skipper was a Judicial Law Clerk to the late Honorable Charles Wright, Court of Common Pleas and then served as an Assistant District Attorney for Philadelphia County for 11 years. She is married and the proud mother of three sons. Judge Woods-Skipper supports her community and church by active membership in the Enon Tabernacle Baptist Church, New Life Inspirational Choir, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Rho Theta Omega Chapter, The Ivy Legacy Foundation (President, Board of Directors), Third Vice-President of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc., Pennsylvania Chapter, Advancing Civics Education [ACE] Program Participant, and Girls, Inc. Discovery Leadership Mentoring Program.

Judge Woods-Skipper participates in numerous professional activities including the American Judges Association (Board of Governors), National Association of Women Judges, Chair-Elect, Clifford Scott Green Chapter (Chair), National Bar Association Judicial Council, Philadelphia Bar Association, National Bar Association Women's Lawyer Division, Barristers Association, and the University of Pennsylvania American Inn of Court. She has participated as a panelist for professional organizations such as the Philadelphia Bar Association, Meet the Judges Forums, and the like. She has organized and participated in forums about the criminal justice process, and served as a mentor to high school, college and law school students.