



Seattle University School of Law

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Summer 2006

Seattle University School of Law names first Scholars for Justice

The first ever Scholars for Justice at Seattle University School of Law are committed to working for the good of the community, especially helping women, children and families.

Amy Pritchard and Persis Yu were selected from an outstanding crop of applicants as the first law students to receive the prestigious, full-tuition Scholars for Justice Awards.

"Amy and Persis represent the future of social justice in the legal profession," said Carol Cochran, assistant dean for admission. "Both have the integrity, compassion and commitment to bettering the community that make them well worthy of this distinction."

The Scholars for Justice Award is a three-year scholarship supporting students committed to public interest law, service and leadership, academic excellence, community and global awareness.

Pritchard has worked full-time in community health, and achieved Spanish fluency on the job, enabling her to reach out to those she served in the Latino community. She also volunteers as a Court Appointed Special Advocate, representing children in child dependency cases and making recommendations about their best interest, and spent a year in Americorps working on policy initiatives for the City of Seattle's Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention Office.

Persis Yu was a social worker for the past few years while earning her master's degree in social work from the University of Washington. She worked with Rep. Eric Pettigrew, helping to create legislation on children's issues including child care, foster care and Children and Family Services. She has done direct service work for Child Care Resources, working with families to find child care, specifically homeless families and those who were trying to get off public assistance.



From left, Amy Pritchard and Persis Yu, the first Scholars for Justice at the law school.

Yu is active in the Asian Pacific Islander and the LGBT communities, including helping to write "brown papers" Minority Executive Directors Coalition.

Both are grateful for the financial help the scholarship provides.

"It will give me an opportunity to commit to public service after graduation, rather than worrying about paying for school," Pritchard said.

Newly renovated library, office suite open at law school

Students will find a newly renovated and more efficient library awaiting them this fall.

The second floor of the Law Library was remodeled to expand library services and provide additional office space for the Law School's Center for Professional Development.

The changes improved library circulation, reference and document delivery services and enhanced access to library staff on the second floor of the library, the core operations area for patrons. The construction also created additional office space for the Center for Professional Development, the Access to Justice Institute and the Continuing Legal Education program.

"As part of our ongoing efforts to provide an outstanding educational experience, we are constantly evaluating our building's space and making improvements to meet the changing needs of our students, staff, faculty and programs," Dean Kellye Testy said.

Professor plays crucial role in national voting rights case

Professor Joaquin Avila assisted with the arguments before the U.S. Supreme Court in the Texas redistricting case, which the court ruled on June 28.



The Court rejected arguments that the 2003 congressional redistricting plan was an unconstitutional political gerrymander, but found that Congressional District 23, a congressional district encompassing a heavily concentrated Latina/o community, was modified to dilute the opportunity of the Latina/o community. Such a modification constituted a violation of Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act.

"This case has national ramifications," Avila said. "Basically, governmental entities in the redistricting of election districts cannot dismantle an election district where racial and ethnic minorities have an opportunity to elect a candidate of their choice in favor of a district that does not provide that opportunity."

Avila served as coach to attorney Nina Perales, who was arguing on behalf of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund that represented the American GI Forum. He was the second chair attorney for the oral argument before the court.

In other activities, Avila was summoned in mid-July to testify before the Senate Judiciary Committee in D.C. in support of reauthorization of the Voting Rights Act and was commissioned by the Leadership Conference for Civil Rights to prepare a report on voting discrimination in California.



Lt. Cmdr. Charles Swift '94. Photo by Chuck Kenny/KRT

Law school graduate Charles Swift to be honored for his fearless fight

The School of Law will award its first ever Distinguished Alumnus Award to Lt. Cmdr. Charles Swift '94, whose fearless defense of his client led to the historic U.S. Supreme Court ruling in June denying the president's power to try detainees held at Guantanamo Bay by military tribunals.

Swift took a huge risk when he was appointed to represent alleged "enemy combatants." Rather than work out a plea deal, he fought for the rights of his client and other detainees, eventually challenging the constitutionality of the military commissions President Bush intended to hold.

"Whether you agree politically with the decision or not, I think we can all agree that the international ramifications of the case, and the courage it took for Lt. Cmdr. Swift to bring it, deserve our kudos," Dean Kellye Testy said. "The justices' ruling validates the work of Charles Swift and his colleagues and is an example of the outstanding lawyering Seattle University School of Law teaches."

Because of his exceptional leadership in the legal profession and his commitment to the service of justice, the law school will confer the alumni award at a reception on Nov. 2. Details will be announced in coming weeks.

If you didn't read the story about Swift in the spring issue of the Lawyer, you can see it in the online version at www.law.seattleu.edu/alumni/lawyer/06spring/whitehouse.pdf.

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—Dean Kellye Testy

Around Sullivan Hall

Law school welcomes bankruptcy expert Rafael Pardo to faculty



The law school is pleased to welcome Associate Professor Rafael Pardo. He will teach bankruptcy, contracts and payment law.

He was an associate professor of law at Tulane Law School for three years. Pardo received his J.D. in 2001 from New York University School of Law, where he served as executive editor of the *New York University Law Review*. While at NYU, he received the Judge John J. Galgay Fellowship in bankruptcy. He clerked for the Honorable Prudence Carter Beatty of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York. After his clerkship, he worked as an associate in the business reorganization and restructuring group at Willkie Farr & Gallagher in New York, New York.

In recognition of his research interests in bankruptcy, Pardo was selected to attend the educational program of the Annual Meeting of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges in 2005 as an *American Bankruptcy Law Journal* Fellow. He earned his B.A. from Yale University in 1998.

Law clinic names new director, will host reception on October 12



Assistant Clinical Professor Paul Holland has been named director of the Ronald A. Peterson Law Clinic.

Holland, who joined the faculty in 2004, previously worked at the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia and was deputy director of the Juvenile Justice Clinic at Georgetown University. He was director of the Child Law Clinic at Loyola University Chicago and a clinical assistant professor in the Child Advocacy Law Clinic at the University of Michigan Law School. He has written and taught in the area of juvenile justice.

Holland earned his B.A. *cum laude* from Harvard University 1988 and his J.D. *magna cum laude* from New York University in

1991. He completed his LL.M. at Georgetown University 1996. His teaching and practice have addressed juvenile justice, child welfare, special education and other school-related matters. Washington Gov. Christine Gregoire appointed Holland to the Governor's Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee, and he was recently named vice-chair of the committee.

"We are extremely fortunate to have Paul with us, as he brings considerable teaching and trial experience," Dean Kellye Testy said.

Former Director Bryan Adamson will continue teaching his consumer-protection-focused course, now called the Predatory Lending Clinic.

The clinic will host a reception for alumni and friends of the clinic on Thursday, Oct. 12. More details will follow.

Access to Justice Institute earns national community service award



The Unemployment Insurance for Battered Women Project of the Access to Justice Institute received the 2006 Frances Perkins Public Service Award from the

American Bar Association Section of Labor and Employment Law. The award recognizes "those who have gone above and beyond what could be expected of diligent attorneys in making legal services available to low-income clients."

The program is headed by ATJI staff attorney Carrie Gargas, who spoke at the pro bono workshop and received the award at the ABA's national convention in Honolulu in early August.

"The national recognition for this groundbreaking program is well-deserved," School of Law Dean Kellye Testy said. "I congratulate Carrie, ATJI Director Sudha Shetty, the Access to Justice Institute and its community partners for their hard work in helping protect domestic violence victims and improve their lives."

The Unemployment Insurance for Battered Women Project is maintained by ATJI in conjunction with the *Unemployment Law Project*, a nonprofit legal services organization in downtown Seattle.

It was established to help ensure that victims of domestic violence or stalking are able to obtain unemployment insurance benefits in cases where they need to leave their jobs in order to protect themselves or an immediate family member. In these cases, unemployment insurance provides critical financial assistance to help victims escape further abuse.

Center for Professional Development has new director



To better prepare students for careers in the legal field and meet the needs of the legal community, Seattle University School of Law has revamped its career services division

and named a new director.

Now the Center Professional Development, the office will provide all students with the tools and coaching they need for success after graduation; increase opportunities for work-related experience as students; strengthen and expand relationships with alumni to increase networking opportunities; and enhance and create connections with employers in the local area, the state, and major domestic and international cities. Further, the center will feature expanded programming in such areas as leadership and business development to assist students in their growth as ethical leaders devoted to justice and the common good.

Shawn Lipton, who has served as interim director, was named director of the center after an extensive national search. He has hired two new associate directors as well.

Lipton will build on the impressive work he started as interim director as the law school accelerates an ambitious transformation of the department that will broaden the scope of services. He started the Continuing Legal Education program at the law school and was director of the program for four years before starting his own Chinese language, culture and business etiquette education company. He is a graduate of University of Connecticut School of Law.

Law school's Academic Resource Center receives award for diversity



David Boerner



Paula Lustbader

The Washington State Bar Association will award the 2006 Excellence in Diversity to Seattle University School of Law's programs and professors who work toward creating a more diverse legal community.

The award will go to Professors David Boerner, Paula Lustbader and the School of Law's Alternative Admission Program and Academic Resource Center. This award is given to a lawyer, law firm or law-related group that has made a significant contribution to diversity in the legal profession's employment of ethnic minorities, women and persons with disabilities. It will be presented at the WSBA Annual Awards Dinner Sept. 14.

The only law school program of its kind in the state, the Alternative Admission Program allows a number of promising students who don't meet traditional admission requirements to be admitted to the law school. They attend an intensive seven-week summer program that integrates a traditional Criminal Law course with legal writing and study skills.

Students admitted through the alternative program are supported throughout law school by the Academic Resource Center. ARC's primary purpose is to help diverse and non-traditional students adjust, succeed and excel in law school. It also contributes to a more diverse legal profession. In the fall, ARC students have access to resources to keep them on track. The center also helps non-ARC law students referred by professors for support.

"This program is helping create a more diverse legal field, and I couldn't be prouder of the work done by Professors Boerner and Lustbader to ensure that these bright and talented students become ethical lawyers working in the service of justice," Dean Kellye Testy said.

Read more about the program at www.law.seattleu.edu/alumni/lawyer/06spring/voice.pdf and view the segment on the program that aired on TVW's "The Docket" at <http://media.law.seattleu.edu/public/events/events.htm>.



Holdych retires

Professor Emeritus Tom Holdych was honored last spring at a reception marking his retirement after 34 years with the law school. Here he poses with, from left, Professors Bill Oltman, John Weaver, Shelly Frankel, Holdych, former Dean Don Cohen, former Professor John LaFond and Professor John Strait. (Photo courtesy Steve Enquist.)

CCLS holds major fall symposia

The Center on Corporations, Law & Society will bring nationally recognized scholars to the law school to discuss important and current topics of interest this fall:

Law and Economics: Toward Social Justice, Sept. 29, will feature nationally recognized scholars who will present scholarship that explores assumptions of law and economics, the implications of behavioralism, flaws in law and economic-based corporate theory, and gender, class and racial consequences of the dominant economic paradigm. The papers presented will be published in a volume of the Elsevier book series Research in Law and Economics.

Corporations & the First Amendment: Examining the Health of Democracy, Oct. 20, will examine the role corporations play in American democracy. Understanding how corporate law and structure intersects with First Amendment jurisprudence that governs fundamental aspects of democracy – including access to information and a functioning political process – is critical to assessing the health of our civil society and developing strategies to protect it. Professor David Skover, noted First Amendment scholar, and other nationally known attorneys, policymakers and activists will participate.

Who "Owns" Nature? BioProspecting, BioTechnology and Indigenous Peoples' Rights, Oct. 27, will examine the impact of biotechnology on the world's indigenous peoples. This event is a unique opportunity for Seattle's life sciences leaders and attorneys to engage with indigenous leaders in a constructive dialogue with the goal of truly understanding the perspective of this critical stakeholder group.

For more information, visit www.law.seattleu.edu/ccls.

Students track their public interest law experiences online

Nearly 25 law students spent their summers doing public interest work, thanks to grants from the Public Interest Law Foundation.

Students found placements as far away as the Alaska Public Defender in Ketchikan and SeniorLAW in Philadelphia. They worked for agencies as varied as the Mexican Capital Legal Assistance Project, the ACLU Drug Law Reform Project and Uplift International, a nongovernmental organization focused on Seattle/Indonesia health care rights.

Students learned the ropes of public interest work, working with clients and other attorneys. And they kept journals of their experiences.

"It has been fascinating to gain exposure to both policy work and litigation, seeing singular instances of injustice as both problems in and of themselves, and as representations of systemic failure," wrote 2L Jessica Levin, who worked for the Government Accountability Project representing Hanford whistleblowers.

Read all the journals from this summer at www.law.seattleu.edu/pilfsummer.

Get Connected!

One of the most enjoyable parts of traveling around the country and the state this year to introduce Dean Testy to law school alumni has been watching alumni connect with each other at our events. It is clear that alumni enjoy meeting other attorneys and professionals who graduated from Seattle University School of Law.

The Office of Alumni Relations is committed to making that happen, and this fall will focus on connecting alumni with current students.

Alumni Relations and the newly formed Center for Professional Development are jointly sponsoring receptions in Seattle, Everett and Tacoma. Students love to meet alumni and hear their stories and words of wisdom. They hold alumni in high esteem – and so do we. We hope alumni will come to these receptions to talk to the dean and other faculty, as well as to alumni and students about ways in which you can share your talents and lend your expertise. Watch for details, but save these dates: Sept. 21, at the Rainier Club in Seattle; Oct. 19 in Tacoma and Nov. 15 in Everett.

Watch your mail and e-mail for information on other upcoming events, including the first Distinguished Alumni Award Dinner honoring Charles Swift '94 on Nov. 2, as well as receptions, CLEs, breakfasts and other cohort gatherings.

Keep in touch!

Do you have a new job? A new address? A new spouse? A new child?

Please be sure to keep us updated on your whereabouts, career, family and interests so the law school can keep in touch with you and share your news with your classmates. If you have an item you'd like listed in the upcoming issue of Class Notes, please email lawalumni@seattleu.edu. You can easily update the information we have on file online at www.law.seattleu.edu/alumni/keepcurrent.

Upcoming Events, Fall 2006

Sept. 21	Rainier Club Student/Alumni Reception
Sept. 22	CLE: Anti-Oppression Training
Sept. 29	CLE: Pride and Prejudice: The Journey Through a Woman's Legal Career CCLS: Law & Economics: Toward Social Justice
Oct. 3	Washington Women Lawyers, Bar Young Lawyers Division and student reception
Oct. 6	CLE: Advocating for Immigrant Victims
Oct. 12	Ronald A. Peterson Law Clinic reception
Oct. 13	CLE: Basics and Beyond: Improving Your Writing
Oct. 19	Tacoma Student/Alumni Reception
Oct. 20	CLE and CCLS: Corporations & the First Amendment: Examining the Health of Democracy
Oct. 27	CLE and CCLS: Who "Owns" Nature: BioProspecting, BioTechnology and Indigenous Peoples' Rights
Nov. 2	Distinguished Alumnus Award Banquet Honoring Charles Swift '94
Nov. 5-10	CLE: 3rd Annual Legal Spanish and the Culture of Law in Mexico
Nov. 15	Everett Student/Alumni Reception
Dec. 1	CLE: Equal Access to Courts for Persons with Disabilities
Dec. 2	CLE: Planning for Special Needs Adults
Dec. 8	CLE: 4th Annual Hope for the Profession and the Practitioner
Dec. 16	Fall Commencement

For more information and registration for any of the CLE sessions, go to www.law.seattleu.edu/cle/events. For more information on the Center for Corporations, Law & Society, www.law.seattleu.edu/ccls. The staff from the Office of Admission is heading out on the road and invites alumni to attend events. Find the recruitment travel calendar at www.law.seattleu.edu/admission/recruiting.

Law school enjoys growing support from alumni and friends

Alumni, friends, faculty and staff contributed generously in fiscal year 2005-06 (July 1, 2005–June 30, 2006), raising \$147,000 in gifts to the School of Law Annual Fund for Excellence, a 73 percent increase over last year and more than a 300 percent increase over two years ago. Total gifts, including restricted funds for special purposes, exceeded \$1.8 million, a 39 percent increase over last year.

"We thank all of those who give so generously to support the important work being done by the School of Law," said Susan Ahearn, assistant dean for development.

Particular highlights include:

- A 24 percent increase over last year in the number of alumni and friends who contributed to the School of Law;
- 17 percent of the Class of 2006 contributed to a class gift to the annual fund;
- Gifts from more than 35 foundations, law firms and businesses;
- A 34 percent increase in the number of alumni and friends contributing at the President's Club level (\$1,000 or more).

"Our progress is demonstrable," said Dean Kellye Testy. "We are clearly achieving greater success in the overall number of donors contributing to the School of Law. That said, we still have much progress to make on the annual fund. We currently have an approximate participation percentage from our alums of about 6 percent, whereas the average for most law schools is about 15 percent."

Private support helps underwrite scholarships, faculty, the library, student organizations and competitions, core programs and initiatives, each of which is critical as the School of Law educates lawyers who distinguish themselves through their outstanding legal skills and dedication to law in the service of justice.

More details on giving in 2005–06 will appear in the annual report, to be included in the fall issue of the *Lawyer*.