



## YOUTH COURTS:

### *Can they interrupt the 'school-to-prison pipeline'?*

Before entering law school last fall, Alex Dutton taught former high school dropouts between the ages of 18 and 21 at Youthbuild, a Philadelphia charter school. Like most public schools that draw from impoverished and underserved communities, Youthbuild had its problems with discipline and attendance. Bad behavior in public school typically results in in-school detention or suspension—and eventually transfer or expulsion—and unruly students end up missing more and more classroom time, falling further and further behind.

Dutton remembers a creative administrator at Youthbuild who introduced discipline practices which succeeded in cutting suspensions in half. Instead of having a fixed punishment for an infraction, the school disciplinarian sought ways to help students acknowledge the harm done to the community and to themselves, and then seek to repair it.

When he came to Temple Law, Dutton looked forward to a new challenge, but he wasn't willing to leave the students and the classroom behind. Today, Dutton has joined with two fellow law students and volunteers from the U.S. Attorney's Office to build a youth court at Strawberry Mansion High School. They hope their court can provide at least one solution to reducing Philadelphia's high school dropout and incarceration rate, often referred to as the "school-to-prison pipeline."

#### **Courts offer alternative to 'zero tolerance' discipline**

Youth courts are conceived with the conviction that zero-tolerance policies in public schools can contribute to the "school to prison pipeline." The student-run courts don't suspend or expel students who come before them with low-level school-based infractions; instead they provide alternatives to the standard disciplinary options—ones that youth court advocates call "restorative."

"Philadelphia has one of the lowest academic performance rates for learning disabled students in America. I believe that this disturbing fact is largely due to Philadelphia schools' zero tolerance policies towards school-based offenses," says second-year law student Michelle Ashcroft, who teamed up with Dutton to establish a youth court. "When I saw this statistic, I decided to get involved in the Philadelphia schools and try to help these students have a voice, stay in school, and receive an adequate and equal



**STRAWBERRY MANSION HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH COURT**

education. Youth court seemed like the perfect opportunity to become involved."

Temple Law student Jonathon Lauri first heard about youth court when he was working for City Councilman Curtis Jones over the summer. Jones was holding hearings to promote the idea in the Philadelphia schools. Jones had learned of their success in the Chester, PA schools, where five youth courts were flourishing in a troubled school system. The former director of the legal services office in Chester, Gregg Volz, had worked tirelessly since 2009 to get courts up and running. His efforts were paying off and, in the 2010-2011 school year, more

than 400 cases were referred to the student-led courts.

In Chester, Lauri and Councilman Jones were both impressed and moved by what they observed. "I was astonished by the mature demeanor the students expressed in handling their peer's violations of the school code of conduct," says Lauri. "I had never thought before that a system where students got involved in the school's own disciplinary process would work, but from what I saw that day it made complete sense."

Once considered experimental, youth courts are today the most replicated diversionary justice model in the U.S. Some are school-based while many are community based. Advocates like Volz say that community-based youth courts not only lower the cost of meting out juvenile justice, "they can also provide 'an off-ramp' from the criminal justice system." In 1994, there were only 78 youth courts nationwide; now there are almost 1300. In Pennsylvania, however, the use of youth courts has been very limited.

Youth courts in Philadelphia received a huge boost when they were adopted by the U.S. Attorney's Office. "The U.S. Attorneys are undertaking a tremendous anti-violence initiative that includes broad work with the Strawberry Mansion community," says Dutton. The youth court at Strawberry Mansion High School grew out of that initiative.

#### **Facts, harm, fix it**

"Facts, harm, fix it" is the mantra of the youth court at Strawberry Mansion High School, a little more than two miles from the law school. Strawberry Mansion's students draw from one of the poorest zip codes in the state. The school

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## SHELLENBERGER EARNS GREAT TEACHER AWARD

*Beloved professor is 'one-in-a-million'*

**APRIL 25, 2013** A thirty-year member of the Temple Law faculty received the highest award Temple University has to offer an individual who has committed his or her life to teaching: the University Great Teacher Award. This honor was far from Professor James Shellenberger's first. Amazingly—despite a torrent of awards from admiring students and colleagues bestowed on him throughout his entire teaching career—humility is repeatedly cited as one of Shellenberger's strengths.

A student writes that Shellenberger was "the most natural and gifted teacher I encountered in law school."

A former Freedman Teaching Fellow recounts his collaboration with Shellenberger: "Simply stated, every conversation was a gold mine for an aspiring young professor like me."

A colleague sums it up: "Jim Shellenberger is not a great teacher. 'Great' does not begin to explain Jim or his teaching. Jim Shellenberger is an inspiring, passionate, generous, and caring teacher. Simply put, Jim is a one-in-a-million teacher."

Unlike some "born teachers," Shellenberger did not always aspire to be in the classroom. After graduating from Villanova Law School in 1972, where he worked on the law review and graduated *magna cum laude*, he spent five years in the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office and two years with Schnader, Harrison, Segal & Lewis' litigation department. In 1979 he moved to the criminal procedural rules committee of the State Supreme Court, where he served as secretary and chief staff counsel.

He joined the Temple Law faculty in 1983. And for the last 30 years, students have raved about his teaching skills and flocked to his classes. Shellenberger's courses are at the heart of the criminal law curriculum: criminal law, criminal procedure, and federal criminal law. In addition, he teaches litigation basics and, on occasion, an introduction to international criminal law.

Shellenberger's commitment to teaching extends beyond the traditional curriculum. He singlehandedly founded and runs the law school's Academic Core Enrichment (ACE) program, which provides support to first-year law students, particularly those struggling with the transition to law school. His expertise is sought well beyond the walls of the law school,

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## YOUTH COURTS

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is perched at the edge of Fairmount Park, at the corner of 31st Street and Ridge Avenue. It is a half empty neighborhood school with fewer than 500 students, 98 percent of whom are African-American, and 91 percent of whom qualify for subsidized lunch. Thirty percent of students are in some kind of special education program. Only 20 percent of students there test proficient in reading, and fewer than 10 percent test proficient in math. This year, Strawberry Mansion narrowly escaped a slated closure after parents and teachers successfully rallied to keep their neighborhood school alive.

Twice a week the law students, Dutton, Ashcroft and Lauri, traverse North Philadelphia from Temple to the high school, where the youth court class starts at ten in the morning. There, they are joined by Volz and Robert Reed, a prosecutor from the U.S. Attorney's Office, whose office has adopted the court as a violence prevention project. The youth court convenes in a social studies class whose teacher has agreed that youth court would be a valuable civic experience for his students.

"The students are a genuine cross section of the student body. "We didn't cherry pick them," says Dutton. "And at first there's a lot of disruption in the class." He cites omnipresent cell phones, sleeping, and talking back. At the beginning of the year the class had at least 25 students. Now, on an average day in May, they are down to about 15. Students are never asked to withdraw from Youth Court; the diminished class size results from students transferring schools, opting to return to their regular social studies class, or dropping out of school altogether.

Ashcroft remembers: "The first day I went to Strawberry Mansion, there were two students out of twenty who listened to us. The rest were talking, yelling, or sleeping. It was obvious that we did not have the most disciplined or attentive students in the school. While the situation shocked me, it was not completely unfamiliar. In high school, I was the student in the back of the class sleeping. I was the student constantly in detention for skipping class. . . .

"I learned firsthand that once you are labeled as a troublemaker, teachers tend to give up on you. So, I decided to do what no one ever did to me. I decided to really encourage them to participate. I walked to the back of the classroom and introduced myself to every student who was not paying attention. I think they were all a little shocked."

Most of the students at Strawberry Mansion think they know a lot about the courtroom experience, sometimes from television, but most often from their own interaction with the system or that of a relative. But learning from law students and attorneys from the U.S. Attorney's Office about how to be a player in the legal system is a revelation to most of them. Starting in the fall, the class has learned how to conduct a hearing, practicing skills like interviewing the respondent, presenting a case, and making closing arguments. They understand how a judge instructs a jury. In one hearing, the students surprise the youth court volunteers by convening a sidebar. They haven't been taught about sidebars; it must be something they picked up on a visit to a real courtroom or on an episode of Law and Order.

In the spring, the youth court volunteers decided that the class was ready to conduct hearings. On a Tuesday in early April, the school's conflict resolution specialist, Vanessa Green-King, brings the files of two cases involving students with low-level infractions. Normally, Green-King would be responsible for deciding the appropriate punishment for unexcused absences, flaunting the uniform code, or disrespecting a member of the staff. Now that there is a youth court at Strawberry Mansion, she can offer that option if she thinks a student will benefit.

The youth court accepts a case Green-King hands them. The student—or respondent—refused to remove a hat in school, a dress code infraction at Strawberry Mansion. The respondent does not deny the facts of his

### Excerpt from an interview with a youth court volunteer

**"Honestly there have been a lot of 'moments' that have affected me. Most of those moments involved the students who gave us the most trouble in the beginning because they are now the leaders of the court. The most recent happened yesterday.**

**"James [not his real name] gave us a lot of trouble in the beginning. He had a lot of energy and struggled to stay focused. I had a feeling that he was so disruptive because he was insecure. So, I kept trying to get him to participate, get to know him on an individual level, and vouch for him among my colleagues. He eventually began to trust me and I've since trained him to be a youth advocate. Generally, I teach the youth advocates how to gather the appropriate information from their client, write an opening statement, make persuasive arguments, and speak respectfully.**

**"Since being trained as a youth advocate, James's behavior has completely transformed. He is a leader in the class now. He does not create any disruptions at all, but instead tells his peers to stop being disruptive. He is incredibly respectful towards me. He still struggles with confidence issues so I continue to give him positive reinforcement and I see improvement in his confidence every week. I think the administration has also noticed his change in behavior because the principal recently chose him to participate in an after-school program for trade school.**

**"Yesterday was a busy day for youth court. I told James beforehand to "do me proud" and show everyone that I'm teaching him something. After the hearing ended, he came right up to me with a big smile on his face and said, 'I was awesome'. Alex and Gregg later told me how well James did during the hearing. While that was wonderful to hear, the 'moment' for me was seeing how proud James was of himself. It's moments like that that make the chaos worthwhile."**

— Michelle Ashcroft '14

infraction, and the youth court is only charged with deciding what would constitute justice in this case. Their classroom discussions about restorative justice have taught them to think in terms of justice benefiting the entire community. In other words, they want the student to understand that he has harmed himself, and undermined the order of the community.

The kids in the class are a little annoyed with this particular case. They don't think a hat infraction is all that serious, and besides, when the respondent is asked if he respects the youth court process, he tells them "no." When they express scepticism about whether the respondent will benefit from Youth Court, Dutton asks them, "How would you feel if we had given up on you?" And I explained that, as youth court members, they have the opportunity to help their peers—to make a change in the way things work at the school and in the community."

The high school students begin their preparation for the Thursday hearing—only two days away. An advocate is assigned to get the facts from the respondent, and prepare a statement on his behalf. When the class meets again on Thursday there is the usual confusion resulting from the shifting attendance. The student bailiff convenes the courtroom and the student judge listens carefully before charging the jury.

During the proceeding some interesting information comes out when one of the jurors asks the respondent how things are at home. "I just moved out of my parents house." He doesn't say where he is living, but when pressed, he says he left "because of my stepmother." This answer satisfies the jury. When they ask the respondent straight out who was harmed by his behavior, he does not hesitate in answering: "I was."

A sympathy seems to be growing. A juror asks, "So, is this going to happen again?" "No." "Why not?" "Because I don't like in-school suspension and I don't like being in here with you'all."

With the respondent out of the room, the jurors' deliberations last about ten minutes, and they all seem affected by the young man's problematic homelife. The jurors recommend a disposition, or assignment. The respondent must identify someone at Strawberry Mansion High with whom he will talk about his problems. Everyone seems relieved when he agrees that he will do this, and Green-King, who has by now dropped into the classroom, says she will follow up to make sure this happens.

The respondent, who otherwise might have been punished by being made to miss classes and have an infraction on his record, now has the opportunity to have his record wiped clean if he completes the disposition. The students in the class are not uniformly happy with the



ALEX DUTTON '15 AND MICHELLE ASHCROFT '14 WORKED TO ESTABLISH THE YOUTH COURT AT STRAWBERRY MANSION.

outcome, they are not sure if the respondent understands how this process helped him and some doubt he will complete the assignment.

The youth court volunteers, however, are in the back of the room beaming. For the most part, they have been able to sit quietly and watch the orderly proceedings unfold. They see that the students absorbed the process, and more importantly, the logical underpinnings of the process. Next week the court will hear another case or two. A much-disdained rule outlawing hoodies is starting to be enforced, and Dutton suspects the youth court will be busy hearing hoodie infractions.

"We all knew—collectively—that this was going to be a long, emotionally stressful process. Our patience paid off," says Dutton, looking back at the first year of Strawberry Mansion's youth court. The challenge now will be continuity: finding a class to house the court, getting new students and volunteer attorneys involved, and spreading the model to other schools. Currently, Temple Law students are helping to implement another youth court at Kensington High School, where they are partnering with Physicians for Social Responsibility.

Lauri believes the experience has been worthwhile for both him and for the high school students. "Youth court offers these students a unique educational opportunity to begin to develop skills and critical thinking abilities that they may not otherwise develop."

"It was a struggle every day. It still is a struggle," says Ashcroft, who nevertheless plans to continue with youth court throughout her law school career, and perhaps after. "For me it's a worthwhile struggle because we're reaching the students who are most vulnerable to ending up in the justice system."

## THIRTEENTH AMENDMENT HAS 'CONTEMPORARY RELEVANCE' SAYS PITT LAW DEAN CHIP CARTER



### Lt. Gov. James Cawley '94

MARCH 7, 2013 **Pennsylvania Lieutenant Governor James Cawley '94 spoke to Temple Law student leaders at the invitation of Dean JoAnne A. Epps to discuss his political career, the importance of networking, and the value of volunteer work.**



### Neil A. Stein '83

FEBRUARY 22, 2013 **Neil A. Stein '83, co-founder and principal of Kaplin, Stewart, Meloff, Reiter & Stein in Blue Bell, PA, was the featured speaker at a Dean's Forum. He spoke to students and faculty about the "Nuts and Bolts of a Land Use Practice."**

### Former IRS Commissioner Lawrence B. Gibbs

APRIL 1, 2013 **The guest speaker at this year's Fogel Lecture was Lawrence B. Gibbs, who served as Commissioner of the IRS from 1986 to 1989. Gibbs spoke about the changes in tax federal income tax law and policy over the last 50 years, reflecting on things such as the increased influence of economists, the use of the tax system to deliver social benefits, and the impact of globalization on the development of the tax law. Today, Gibbs is a member of the Washington, DC firm of Miller Chevalier.**

Right: Lawrence Gibbs with Tax Professor Alice Abreu

MARCH 25, 2013 Dean William M. "Chip" Carter Jr. returned to Philadelphia to deliver the 2013 Honorable Clifford Scott Green Lecture. Carter, a former professor at Temple Law, left Temple in 2012 when he was named Dean of the University of Pittsburgh School of Law.

"Chip Carter makes all that law professors do look easy," said Dean JoAnne A. Epps, in her introduction to the Green Lecture. "We had him for about a minute before Pittsburgh lured him away," she lamented. In fact, Carter was on the Temple Law faculty for five years, teaching popular courses in constitutional law, civil procedure, political and civil rights, and litigation.

In his lecture entitled "*The Promises of Freedom: The Contemporary Relevance of the Thirteenth Amendment*," Dean Carter explored how he believes the simple, two sentence constitutional amendment proscribes not only chattel slavery but also the legacies of the institution of slavery.

At the time the Thirteenth Amendment was being debated, the outcome of the Civil War was a foregone conclusion, Carter explained. Those debating the amendment in the legislature assumed that the war would end the legal institution of chattel slavery, so the discussion centered on what would follow slavery's abolition. Carter argued that the Thirteenth Amendment's framers envisioned the amendment as providing federal authority to eliminate the "badges and incidents of slavery." Carter, who has written extensively on the Thirteenth Amendment, explained the concept of "incidents," a technical legal term for the attributes attaching to a status, and "badges," a figurative phrase for political and social inferiority. The broadness of the "badges" phrase allows advocates to argue that the Thirteenth Amendment prohibits the continuing effects of slavery, such as economic inequality and discrimination.

A Cleveland native, Carter studied law at Case Western Reserve University School of Law. Following graduation in 1998, he joined Squire, Sanders & Dempsey and Ropes & Gray in Washington, DC, where he worked as a litigator. He returned to Case Western as a member of the law faculty in 2001, where he was named professor of the year three years in a row.

Carter is recognized as a legal scholar with a deep interest in social justice and community issues. He is a former board member of the Ohio Racial Fairness Report Project, has done *pro bono* work for Ugandan nongovernmental organizations, and has written and spoken on issues of civil rights, including racial profiling and affirmative action. Carter is also widely respected for his scholarship on issues of social justice. His published articles include: *Affirmative Action as Government Speech* (2011); *Toward a Thirteenth Amendment Exclusionary Rule as a Remedy for Racial Profiling* (2010); *Race, Rights, and the Thirteenth Amendment: Defining the Badges and Incidents of Slavery* (2007); and *A Thirteenth Amendment Framework for Combating Racial Profiling* (2004).

Previous presenters of the Clifford Scott Green Lecture are Hon. Anthony J. Scirica, William T. Coleman Jr., Phoebe A. Haddon, Robert J. Reinstein, Evelyn B. Higginbotham, Hon. Theodore A. McKee, Hon. Louis H. Pollak, Hon. Damon J. Keith, Hon. Nathaniel R. Jones, and Drew S. Days III.



WILLIAM M. CARTER JR.



### Navy JAG Nanette DeRenzi '86

APRIL 15, 2013 **Nanette DeRenzi '86, vice admiral and Judge Advocate General of the Navy, was this year's honoree at the annual gathering of the Temple Women's Law Caucus. President Obama nominated DeRenzi for the prestigious promotion, which made DeRenzi one of only 40 vice admirals in the Navy. As Judge Advocate General, she heads the JAG Corps, a global network of 2,300 attorneys, paralegals and support staff. DeRenzi, who served as Deputy Judge Advocate General from 2009 to 2012, has also served on three different ships.**





DEAN JOANNE A. EPPS, KATHY POLLAK, CRAIG GREEN, ANDREA MONROE

## CRAIG GREEN EXPLORES LEGAL HISTORY OF 'WAR ON TERROR'

**APRIL 22, 2013** Presidents during the War on Terror have stressed the unacceptability of racist detentions like those in World War II. However, says Temple Law Professor Craig Green, recent Supreme Court decisions raise a question that was crucial in earlier war-power litigation: How can judges ever second-guess a President's claim that extraordinary measures are justified by military need?

In the 2013 Friel-Scanlan Lecture entitled "*Korematsu and the War on Terror: A Legal History*," Green suggested that comparing old and new cases can yield important lessons about presidential detention, judicial role, and legal precedent itself.

Green is winner of the Friel-Scanlan Award, given each year to a Temple Law professor in recognition of excellence in a scholarly publication. The Friel-Scanlan Lecture is given in conjunction with the award.

Green earned a J.D. from Yale Law School, after which he clerked for Judge Louis Pollak of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania and Judge Garland of the DC Circuit. He later worked in the Solicitor General's Office as a Bristow Fellow, and as a trial attorney for Department of Justice's civil appellate staff.

In 2004, Green joined the Temple Law faculty and was awarded the Lindback Award for teaching in 2009. He teaches courses on federal courts, administrative law, civil procedure and constitutional law. Green has published articles concerning wartime detention, equal protection, the federal sentencing guidelines, customary international law, and Erie. He is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in History at Princeton University.

## LECTURE EXPLORES PROGRESS AND PROBLEMS IN SEX ABUSE CASES

*Thomas R. Kline represented Sandusky's victim #5*

**MARCH 19, 2013** In the 2013 Edward J. Ross Memorial Lecture in Litigation, "*Childhood Sexual Abuse: Out of the Shadows into the Courtroom*," renowned plaintiff's attorney Thomas R. Kline drew from his extensive experience representing young victims of sexual abuse, most notably in the infamous Sandusky prosecution.

"This is a really tough topic," said Dean JoAnne A. Epps in introducing Kline, "one that exists in our world but we wish weren't so." Epps called Kline "a quintessential trial attorney and a good friend of the law school. His firm has been successful at procuring justice for many individuals across the city and across the country."

Kline, who emerged as a national spokesperson for the victims of convicted child molester Jerry Sandusky while representing victim No. 5, opened his lecture with grim statistics. One in four girls and one in six boys are sexually abused before their sixteenth birthday, most often by someone they know. Kline believes it is critical that this phenomenon comes "out of the shadows" and faces the scrutiny of public discussion, both inside the courtroom and out.

Kline recognized Edward Ross, for whom the annual lecture is named, for his role as a pioneer in holding the Catholic Church accountable for their role in protecting abusers. Ross successfully represented plaintiffs against the Camden, NJ diocese, winning a settlement of \$880,000 for 23 victims of abuse that occurred from the 1960s to the 1980s.

"Plaintiff's lawyers played a heroic role in bringing this issue to the fore," said Kline. "Ed Ross was a pioneer in the field, standing alone and standing against the Catholic Church, an inconceivable concept in the 60s and 70s. When he won the case in Camden, the trail was blazed. Those who allowed the perpetration would be held accountable."

In addition to his lawsuit on behalf of Sandusky's victim No. 5, Kline discussed a civil suit he brought on behalf of a female client who was repeatedly sexually abused by an unlicensed therapist while she was in treatment for an eating disorder. Kline praised the young woman's bravery in coming forward publicly, another example of how moving the discussion "out of the shadows" has begun to transfer the shame of sexual abuse from the victim to the



THOMAS R. KLINE

perpetrator. The successful civil suit resulted not only in public validation for the client, but also in financial support to help her rebuild her life.

Kline, a founding partner of the Philadelphia law firm of Kline & Specter, PC, concentrates the bulk of his practice in the areas of catastrophic personal injury and mass tort litigation. "We attended the real James E. Beasley School of Law," he joked, meaning that he and Shanin Specter worked together at the Beasley Law Firm before opening their own firm in 1995.

He received a good education. During his three decade career, Kline has won scores of seven- and eight-figure jury verdicts and settlements for his clients. He was described by *The Wall Street Journal* as a "key player" in the \$4.85 billion national Vioxx litigation, and by the *Philadelphia Inquirer* as a "high-powered plaintiffs' attorney... who has won a number of eight-figure awards for clients injured or killed due to negligence or incompetence by businesses, government agencies, and nonprofit health-care providers."

Kline acknowledged that there is, sadly, a lot more work to be done in bringing sexual abuse to light and holding perpetrators accountable. But he is guardedly optimistic about how much has changed, and he believes that the discussion has changed in part because of widely publicized trials. Kline described how recently he was conducting *voir dire* in a case where the client had been seriously injured in a bus accident. He asked the potential juror if she had ever experienced post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). "Yes," the woman replied, loud and clear. "I am a sexual abuse survivor and I suffer from PTSD."



DUNCAN HOLLIS

## GUIDE TO TREATIES WINS TOP INT'L LAW AWARD

Professor Duncan Hollis's book, *The Oxford Guide to Treaties*, was awarded a 2013 Certificate of Merit by The American Society of International Law. The award is one of three book awards given annually to the best international law publications during the preceding year. Published by Oxford University Press in September 2012, *The Oxford Guide to Treaties* sheds light on the rules and practices surrounding the making, interpretation, and operation of international treaties. Hollis, who teaches courses on public international law, treaties, international environmental law, and property, was recently selected as an adviser on the American Law Institute's Fourth Restatement of Foreign Relations Law of the United States.

# TEMPLE-LEAP HOSTS HIGH SCHOOL COMPETITION

*Championship team is coached by former participant.*

The powerhouse team from Central High School (right) took the 2013 trophy, after winning in 2012 and placing second in 2010. The team from the North Philadelphia magnet school was coached by Julian Thompson, a 2003 graduate of Central High and a veteran of the school's mock trial team. Inspired by his experience at Central, Thompson attended Morehouse College and earned a place at Harvard Law before coming back to coach his high school team to victory.

Central was one of thirty-six teams that participated in this year's LEAP Mock Trial Competition, an annual event hosted by Temple Law Education and Participation (LEAP), which has been training high school students to compete in mock trial competitions since 1974.



LEAP supporters (from left): Marcia Holdren, Carole Green, and Alexis Moore Bruton.



Stephen Sheller (above), with LEAP Director Roberta West '89, acted as judge at this year's LEAP competition. Sheller is a seasoned trial attorney and the founder of the Philadelphia plaintiffs' firm of Sheller, PC. Sheller, along with his wife Sandra, is the benefactor of Temple Law's new Center for Social Justice.

## SOCIAL JUSTICE ADVOCATE EARNS INDEPENDENCE FELLOWSHIP

*Theresa Brabson '13 lived 'with only the necessities' for a year before law school.*

"I came to Temple because I wanted to learn how to use the law to promote social justice," says Theresa Brabson '13. A native of Media, PA, Brabson went on to earn a degree in political science at George Washington University.

Prior to enrolling in law school, Brabson took an unusual step to immerse herself in the community she hoped to serve as a lawyer. She joined the Jesuit Volunteer Corps, an organization that challenges its members to live in traditionally poor communities and practice simplicity by living with only the necessities.

"To be a more successful advocate for others, I immersed myself within the population to see social injustice firsthand," says Brabson. She lived at 18th and Girard in North Philadelphia while working at Philadelphia VIP, an organization that provides *pro bono* civil legal services to low-income Philadelphians.

"Although I'm from the region, this experience opened my eyes to the lack of access to justice within my own community. It's one thing to hear a client's story, but it is a very different, more powerful experience to live down the street from the client and see the condition of her home, school, and neighborhood every day."

During the summer after her first year at Temple Law, Brabson found a way to continue her commitment to community. She began working at the Legal Clinic for the Disabled (LCD) at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children and continued to work there throughout law school.

Now, Brabson has been awarded a prestigious Independence Foundation Fellowship that will enable her to continue her work at the LCD for the next two years. As an Independence Fellow, Brabson will work to expand



PhilaKids, LCD's medical-legal partnership with St. Christopher's Hospital for Children.

Medical-legal partnerships place a lawyer on-site at a hospital to address adverse conditions that may lead to poor health, stress, and a lower quality of life, but which are legal in nature and for which there may be legal remedies. As an attorney for the LCD, Brabson will advocate, negotiate, and litigate on behalf of patients struggling to obtain and maintain Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits.

St. Christopher's location in North Philadelphia places it in one of the poorest congressional districts in the country. In the context of such poverty, Brabson says, "the wrongful denial or termination of SSI benefits can create a domino effect that negatively impacts the health and well-being of both young patients and their families," adding that "the SSI benefit is often a critical determinant of a child's access to basic necessities like healthcare, food, clothing and shelter."

In addition to directly representing clients, Brabson will train healthcare providers on the procedural requirements related to medical record-keeping and plans of care. By working to ensure that healthcare providers know and understand how to best advocate for their patients in SSI cases, Brabson explains, she will be able to best serve her young clients.

"I see this fellowship as a starting point for my career," says Brabson, who plans to stay in the city post-fellowship. "I look forward to continuing to develop my career as an advocate for low-income Philadelphians."



LEAP relies on scores of law students, alumni and area attorneys who volunteer as coaches. The 2013 runnerup team from Girard College High School (above) was coached by Duane Morris attorneys Nolan Atkinson and Seth Goldberg '99, Mark Lipowicz '94, Edward G. Biester III and Catherine Cramer '13. A second team from Girard College was coached by Ronald Marrero '01 and Cindy Morgan '13.

# LAW SCHOOL'S RANKING CONTINUES TO RISE

## Temple Law Rankings At-a-Glance



- #56 overall
- #2 in Trial Advocacy
- #5 in Legal Research and Writing
- #12 in part-time programs
- #13 in International Programs

Temple Law's ranking—according to the annual *U.S. News and World Report's* system of rating undergraduate and professional schools—continued to rise in 2013. This year Temple holds the #56 position in the list of 194 ABA-accredited law schools. The ranking represents a steady ascent, from #58 in 2012 and #61 in 2011. The school's overall ranking rose to #56, and is the second highest ranking for a Pennsylvania law school behind Penn.

In addition, four Temple specialty programs were highly ranked, in recognition of the breadth and depth of the school's success. The award-winning trial advocacy program was awarded the #2 spot in the nation; legal research and writing is #5; the part-time programs are #12; and Temple's wide range of international programs secured the #13 position.

"What's striking to me as I look at this report is Temple's sustained record of excellence, particularly in skills-based programs, and our markedly lower tuition relative to similarly ranked schools. We're very conscious of the fact that law school is a considerable investment, and we work hard to ensure that every dollar our students spend on their education is worth it," says Dean JoAnne A. Epps. "I'm proud to see that commitment to our students reflected in these rankings."

In recent decades, *U.S. News* has forged a niche with its annual publication of school rankings, which have become a heavily used resource for students searching for the best fit for their education. The magazine continues to refine its method for creating the sometimes controversial hierarchy of schools. In response to recent scandals concerning schools' collection of post-graduation job data, *U.S. News'* website explains that their current methodology "puts added emphasis on the type of jobs students land after graduation." The current equation for rating law schools is based on a weighted average of peer assessment (.25); assessment by lawyers and judges (.15); admissions selectivity (.25); faculty resources (.15); and job placement (.20).

### TEMPLE ESQ.

Published by the Temple University Beasley School of Law for alumni and friends.

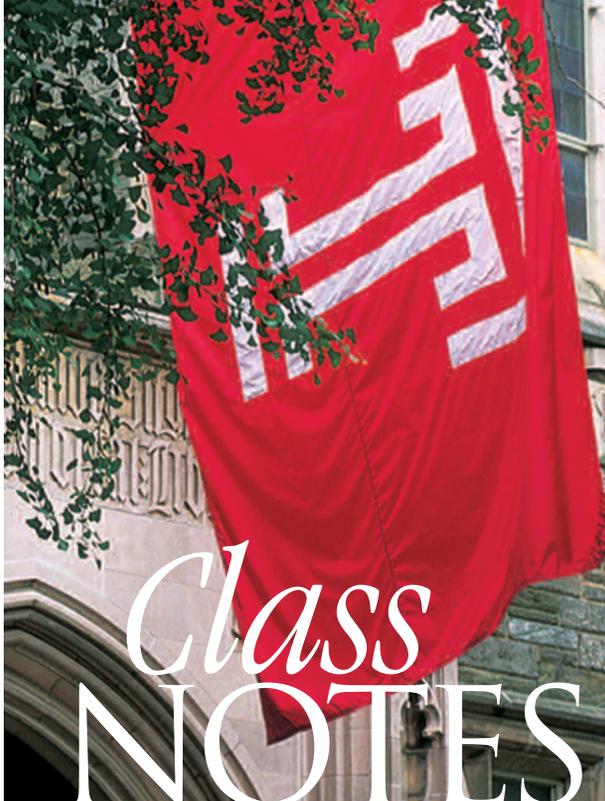
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## 1950s

**SAMUEL M. SNIPES '53** has been named a Paul Harris Fellow by the Morrisville-Yardley Area Rotary Club. In 1957, Snipes, a proponent of civil rights and interracial housing in Bucks County, represented the Myers family and held off a mob who opposed the first African-American family to move to Levittown. In 1960, he was appointed solicitor of Falls Township. Since then he has traveled the world, opposing religious persecution in Russia, apartheid in South Africa and poverty and racism at home in the US.

## 1970s

In April 2013, **GABRIEL L.I. BEVILACQUA '73** began a term as chair of the disciplinary board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. Bevilacqua is general counsel to The American Board of Surgery and to The American Board of Plastic Surgery, and of counsel to Saul Ewing.



**KENNETH M. JARIN '75**, who leads Ballard Spahr's government relations, regulatory affairs and contracting group, was named chairman emeritus of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) by its board of governors. During Jarin's tenure as chair, the board hired five university presidents and became one of the first public university systems in the nation to participate in the voluntary system of accountability, a program designed to increase transparency. Jarin, who served on the PASSHE board from 2005 to 2011, is also chief labor negotiator for the City of Philadelphia.



**GARY BORGER '76** and his law partner Bruce P. Matez are featured in an article in the April issue of *South Jersey Magazine* entitled "Divorce Without Disaster: South Jersey Collaborative Law Group offers Less Painful and more Cost-Effective Alternative to Divorce." The article describes how the group of family law attorneys, including Borger and Matez, assists families with the collaborative divorce option.



## 1980s

In March 2013, The Center for Autism named **DAVID M. MAOLA '83** chief executive officer. Maola was previously president and chief executive of the Pathway School, a nonprofit private school for children with disabilities in Norristown, PA. At the Center for Autism in Philadelphia, Maola will oversee the organization's 160 employees and programs that serve more than 1,000 people annually at two locations in the city.

**PHYLLIS HORN EPSTEIN, JD '80, LLM '84**, has been elected fellow of the American College of Tax Counsel. Epstein is a shareholder in the Philadelphia firm of Epstein, Shapiro & Epstein and treasurer of the Pennsylvania Bar Association.



The New Jersey Builders Association (NJBA) recently announced that **CAROL ANN SHORT '83** has been named acting chief executive after serving for the last four years as chief operating officer. Short was hired by NJBA more than 25 years ago as the executive director of the Institute of Multi-Family Housing. She subsequently served as the association's director of legal and legislative affairs and was later promoted to vice president of government affairs.



**DANIEL J. SIEGEL '84** is author of *Android Apps in One Hour for Lawyers*, published by the ABA Law Practice Management Section. Siegel is in private practice in Havertown, PA and is founder and president of Integrated Technology Services, a consulting firm serving law offices.

In April 2013, **KENNETH H. RYESKY '86** testified at an IRS rulemaking hearing regarding proposed healthcare coverage regulations under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. Ryesky is an adjunct assistant professor at Queens College of the City University of New York, where he teaches courses in business and taxation law.

Pepper Hamilton partner **GINA MAISTO SMITH '87** spoke as part of a CLE program at the annual Nonprofit Institute hosted by the Pennsylvania Bar Institute in May 2013. Smith spoke on "Responding to Sexual Misconduct Cases in the Institutional Setting: Reporting Obligations, Title IX, Clery and Other Considerations."

**ERIC PRITCHARD '89**, a partner in the business and finance department at Kleinbard Bell & Brecker, has been elected vice chair of the board of directors of the Montgomery County Industrial Development Authority.



Lehigh Valley Business has named **NANCY CONRAD '89** a 2013 Woman of Influence. Conrad is chair of the labor and employment and education groups at the Philadelphia law firm of White and Williams.

## 1990s

**KEVIN L. HAND '91** recently served as a legal educator for the Pennsylvania State Police, lecturing on the preparation and presentation of criminal cases in municipal court. Hand is a partner in the Bucks County, PA firm of Williams & Hand and a former Falls Township police officer and deputy solicitor for the Pennsylvania State Police.

**RICHARD S. CANCELLO '94** is now a shareholder at Poerio & Walter in Pittsburgh, where he has a practice in civil litigation. He was recently invited by several insurance companies and third-party administrators to lecture about the new Medicare Compliance Rules set forth in the SMART Act, which take full effect in the summer of 2013.

**CHRISTINA D. FRANGIOSA '97** recently joined the Huntingdon Valley, PA business law firm of Semanoff Ormsby Greenberg & Torchia. Frangiosa concentrates her practice on intellectual property and technology law. She is chair of the trademark legislation committee of the American Bar Association's intellectual property law section and co-chairs its joint taskforce on online piracy and counterfeiting; she also co-chairs the intellectual property law committee of the Philadelphia Bar Association.



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TEMPLE ESQ. welcomes news and photos of our alumni/ae. Please include: Full name, class, degree, and a way to reach you if we need to confirm information.

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In February 2013, **MICHAEL P. FLOWERS '98** was appointed New York City's first chief analytics officer, tasked with overseeing and enabling data analytics for operations, infrastructure, civil and criminal enforcement, disaster response and preparedness, human services and economic development.

**JESSICA A. PRITCHARD '99**, a family lawyer at the Bucks County, PA firm of Williams & Hand, was panelist on the Pennsylvania Bar Institute program "Your First Support Case."

## 2000s

**CARRIE CHELKO '00** recently joined Lincoln Financial Group as a vice president and chief counsel, supporting the company's distribution organization. Chelko joined Lincoln Financial from Janney Montgomery Scott, where she was deputy general counsel.

**PETER ISAJIW '02**, a partner at Cadwalader, is being recognized in June at the *New York Law Journal's* Rising Stars cocktail reception. Isajiw concentrates his practice on complex securities and commercial litigation, as well as criminal and regulatory investigations.

Galfand Berger recently announced that **MICHAEL P. MALVEY '02** has become an equity partner. Malvey has worked at the Philadelphia personal injury firm since graduation.



**AMY KIRKHAM '03** has been named partner in the Pittsburgh law firm of Robb Leonard Mulvihill, where she concentrates her practice in complex insurance coverage and extra-contractual insurance litigation.

**KEITH J. COYLE '05**, former attorney in the U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, joined the firm of Frank, Gale, Bails, Murcko & Pocrass in their energy and natural resources group, where he focuses on matters affecting the oil and natural gas pipeline industries. Most recently, Coyle was legislative counsel for U.S. Rep. Kevin Brady, a Republican from Texas and the vice chairman of the joint economic committee.

**MICHAEL DROSSNER '05** was recently appointed by the Whitemarsh Township Board of Supervisors to the ethical standards advisory board. As principal of Drossner Law, Drossner represents individuals and business under government investigation in state and federal court.

**HENRY YAMPOLSKY '05**, a senior associate at Galfand Berger, was a course planner and speaker for PBI's seminar, "The Impact of Criminal Charges and Convictions on Employment Law."



In February 2013, **ELIZABETH J. FINEMAN '09** participated in the Bucks County Bar Association's Family Law Tax Law Updates program. Fineman is a partner in the family law firm of Williams & Hand.



**ANN CONOLLY HUGHEY '56 WAS JOINED BY GRAND-DAUGHTER HELEN FEIBUSCH AT THE 2010 COMMENCEMENT.**

## Ann Conolly Hughey '56 1923~2013

Art expert and longtime friend of Temple Law School, Ann Conolly Hughey died March 18 in Bethesda, MD. Hughey worked for a naval intelligence unit in Washington during World War II before entering law school. She graduated at the top of her law school class but never practiced law, and eventually became an authority on the French-born artist and illustrator Edmund Dulac. Hughey traveled to China with a Temple Law delegation in 2009.

### IN MEMORIAM

<b>Arthur H. James</b>	<b>Class of 1975</b>
<b>Peter J. Proko</b>	<b>Class of 1981</b>
<b>Michalisa Marshall Pugh</b>	<b>Class of 1981</b>

## TEMPLE TO HOUSE TRIAL LAWYERS HALL OF FAME

*James E. Beasley and Judge Sandra Mazer Moss '75  
inducted in 2013*

Temple Law School, long a bastion of excellence in the teaching of trial advocacy, will be the new home of the Trial Lawyers Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame, to be housed in Klein Hall, will be formally installed in time for the open of the fall 2013 semester.

The Hall of Fame, sponsored by the national publication, *The Trial Lawyer*, was founded in 2009 to "honor the finest and best trial attorneys who have improved our communities, influenced our laws, and enhanced our society by fighting for justice."

Temple University's James E. Beasley School of Law is an apt location to house the national Trial Lawyers Hall of Fame. In the last fifteen years, the trial teams have won more national championships than any other law school. Nationally recognized scholars teach the trial advocacy program at Temple, spearheaded by longtime trial team coach, Professor Edward Ohlbaum. Temple's LL.M. in Trial Advocacy program is a well-known path to success in the courtroom. Not surprisingly, the list of Temple Law alumni who have distinguished themselves as trial attorneys, locally and nationally, is a long one.

Now there is another compelling reason to make the Hall of Fame a centerpiece at Temple: The esteemed trial

## SHELLENBERGER

*continued from page one*

as he accepts requests to teach leading practitioners, including federal judges and bar examiners, the nuances of the law.

The awards acknowledging Shellenberger's gift for teaching began to accumulate soon after he joined the faculty. In only his third year of teaching, the graduating class selected Shellenberger to receive the George P. Williams Award, presented to the member of the law school faculty "who has made the most significant contribution to their Law School career." He went on to earn the Williams award a record five times. Under law school rules, a faculty member can win the Williams award only once every four years. Otherwise, colleagues speculate, he would have won the award even more often.

Shellenberger has also been recognized by Temple University at large with the Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching in 1995 and the Outstanding Faculty Service Award in 2011. He was named the James E. Beasley Chair in Law in 2007. And finally in 2012, the law school alumni chimed in, selecting Shellenberger as the inaugural recipient of the Murray Shusterman Award.

Today, the winner of the University Great Teacher Award continues to develop new courses and expand his expertise. As the co-director of Temple's summer programs, Shellenberger has taught in Japan and, since 2004, has traveled to Rome, Italy to supervise and teach in the program there. He collaborates with Freedman Teaching Fellows, many of whom cite him as a singular mentor in their scholarly careers. Former students are spread across the country and the world, where they serve as judges, prosecutors, defense lawyers, public servants, and in private firms.

The nomination for the University Great Teacher Award concludes: "The very best teachers are not only able to convey information and skills, but to transform and inspire. Professor James Shellenberger falls into this select class of educators."



**JAMES E. BEASLEY  
(1926-2004)**



**SANDRA MAZER MOSS '75**

attorney for whom the James E. Beasley School of Law was renamed in 1999 and who died in 2004 has been inducted posthumously into the Hall of Fame.

James E. Beasley founded the Philadelphia Beasley Law Firm in 1959. He gained national attention for the large jury verdicts he won on behalf of his clients in complex court cases over the next four decades. Beasley died in 2004. His generous gift to the law school—one of the largest ever made to any law school—established the Beasley Scholarships, which have funded 107 full-tuition scholarships to date, as well as three endowed faculty chairs.

On April 11, 2013, Dean JoAnne A. Epps represented Beasley at the Hall of Fame induction. Also inducted this year was Temple alumna Judge Sandra Mazer Moss '75, who supervises mass tort litigation for the First Judicial District of Philadelphia. In addition to Beasley and Judge Moss, trial attorneys Eldon Fallon, James Montgomery, and Craig Spangenberg were also inducted.

# SPIN GEARS UP FOR SUMMER

*with auction and concert*



CAROLINE POWER '14

**MARCH 21, 2013** Spring is the season when the Temple Law community rallies around SPIN, the Student Public Interest Network, the organization that for two decades has supported students holding summer public interest positions. The organization's signature event—the popular SPIN Auction—netted more than \$21,000 at a festive event hosted by Duane Morris. Students, faculty, alums and individuals who just love a good auction gathered to bid on items including a weekend trip to Miami, Phillies Dugout Diamond tickets, a signed Robin Roberts Phillies jersey, and a signed Broad Street Bullies Flyers jersey. The auctioneer leading the spirited bidding was Philadelphia Police Lt. D.F. Pace '06.

impactful—if the show was bigger than just me, and more about the law school community. A musical fundraiser for SPIN seemed like the ideal opportunity.”

Radus booked a show at World Café Live, and his March 10th performance was packed with Temple students, faculty, and staff, netting more than \$500 for SPIN.

It's not easy to describe the captivating, high energy, and eclectic style of guitarist and vocalist Radus in concert. Perhaps his online bio captures it best: “The music of Philadelphia-based singer/songwriter Alex Radus is difficult to describe in conventional genre terms. Coming from the songwriting school that versatility is a good thing, his newest release, *Love Me Like You Hate Me*, spans the gulf from Americana TrashCan Blues, to Post-Folk, Acoustic Singer-Songwriter, and Country Noir. Fans have added their two cents over the years with “Jeff Buckley meets Ryan Adams,” and “Chet Baker meets Tom Waits over a cup of coffee with Martin Sexton.” Radus is currently working on a new album slated for release in 2013.

The concert gave Radus something that he had been looking for throughout his law school career: the chance to give back. “I haven't been able to give back the way many of my classmates have—through clubs, or working as a teaching assistant (due to his long commute),” Alex says. “It was important to me to join their efforts.”

After studying for the bar exam, Radus plans to resume his concert schedule. In his spare time, he'll be clerking for the Honorable Franklin S. Van Antwerpen of the Third Circuit Court of Appeals before joining Fox Rothschild as an associate.



ALEX RADUS '13

## Singer-lawyer wows SPIN supporters

**MARCH 10, 2010** Not everyone's donation is ideal for the SPIN auction, which prompts some members of the community to get creative. Alex Radus '13, an established singer-songwriter who graduated in May, found a way to combine his commitment to public interest law with his passion—and talent—for music.

“I've been promising my law school friends that I'd do a show in Philly since my 1L year. I live pretty far north of Philly and most of my performances are up here, so they're usually hard for people to attend,” says Alex, who lives in Riegelsville, PA. “But I thought it would be a lot more fun for everyone—and more

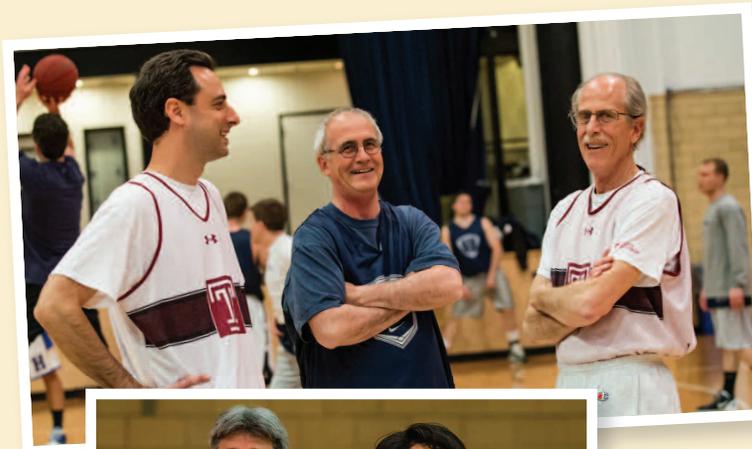
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## TEMPLE PLAYS VILLANOVA IN 3RD ANNUAL DEAN'S CUP



**APRIL 12, 2013** The defending champions from Temple Law had to hand over the Dean's Cup in this year's basketball matchup with Villanova Law. Temple was defeated the first year but were victorious at the second meeting of the lively competition. The annual Dean's Cup Competition was hosted this year by Cozen O'Connor and played at the Villanova fieldhouse.

Above: Temple's “big men” Professors Greg Mandel (left) and Jim Shellenberger (right), with Villanova Prof. Michael Campbell.  
Left: Dean JoAnne Epps and Villanova Dean John Gotanda.

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