Professional skills programs provide a competitive advantage
Dear Alumni and Friends,

Since arriving at SLU LAW from the University of Florida 11 years ago, I have carried with me a piece of chalk. It is a small, but powerful symbol of that place from where I have come, and of that place to which I wish to return — the classroom.

As you may have heard, I am stepping down from my position as Dean this summer. I will be in the classroom next academic year, teaching Evidence, Remedies and Conflict of Laws. Helping students grow from eager first-years to confident and accomplished graduates is the best experience a law professor can have. I look forward to many more years at SLU LAW, watching that transformation.

I made this decision to return to full-time teaching after months of careful consideration with my family. I am proud to have their support, along with that of the University administration and my colleagues as I venture into this next chapter of my life and watch the School of Law progress into the future.

I’m also pleased to announce Emerita Professor Sandra H. Johnson has been chosen as interim dean. During her more than 30-year career, Sandy’s scholarship has helped form the field of health law. You can read more about her on page 2. I know you will give her your customary support during this interim period. A national search for a new dean will commence this fall.

In closing, I offer my sincerest thanks for your crucial support of the School of Law during this period of unprecedented progress — you have made the difference!

I look forward to our continued association in the years ahead. Have a splendid summer!

Sincerely yours,

Jeffrey E. Lewis
Dean and Professor of Law
Beyond the Classroom

Extensive professional skills programs prepare SLU LAW graduates with a competitive advantage in a wide range of legal professions.

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SLU LAW’s Career Services Office helps students and alumni find — and succeed — in their careers

Professor Salsich

From scholarship on urban redevelopment to drafting state legislation on affordable housing, Professor Peter W. Salsich Jr., ’65, provides expert perspective on St. Louis’ redevelopment

Alumni Profile

Tune-in to meet NPR’s Joyce Slocum, ’81, General Counsel, Chief Ethics Officer and Corporate Secretary for NPR in Washington, D.C.

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Ronda F. Williams, ’02
Emerita Professor Sandra H. Johnson will serve as interim dean of the School of Law for the fiscal year, effective July 1.

Johnson succeeds Jeffrey E. Lewis, who announced his return to full-time teaching at the law school after serving as dean for 11 years.

Professor Johnson joined the School of Law faculty in 1978. She has served as interim dean of the law school once before and twice was the school’s associate dean for academic affairs. She was University provost from 1998-2002.

“Sandy is a proven leader who is dedicated to our Jesuit mission and committed to providing an outstanding education to our students,” says University President Lawrence Biondi, S.J. “Her long history with the law school is a tremendous asset during this time of transition, and she is sure to build upon an already strong foundation as we search for a new dean.”

Johnson explains that this is a very important time for the law school. “I’m honored to be a part of its exciting new future,” she offers.

One of the nation’s first and foremost health law scholars, Johnson was the founding director of the Center for Health Law Studies, the nation’s top-ranked program.

A prolific writer, Johnson is a co-author of the leading casebook in health law and co-wrote a health law treatise that the U.S. Supreme Court has cited several times.

Frequently sought for her expertise and knowledge, Johnson is an advisory board member of the Missouri Health Information Technology Project, an appointment made by Missouri Governor Jay Nixon. She also is vice chair of the board for Alexian Brothers Health System Senior Ministries.

Johnson has earned numerous honors during her career, including “Woman of the Year” awards from Saint Louis University and Missouri Lawyers Media. She also has been a fellow of the Hastings Center, a respected bioethics research institute, since 1995.

Johnson earned a bachelor’s degree from Saint Louis University in 1973 and her law degree from New York University School of Law in 1976 as well as an L.L.M. from Yale Law School.

A search committee will be formed in the coming months, and the University will conduct a national search to fill the dean position by summer 2011.

— Laura Garner

**Health Law Symposium Focuses on Pandemic Preparedness**

The Center for Health Law Studies and the *Journal of Health Law & Policy’s* 2010 symposium, “Pandemic Preparedness: Lessons Learned and Future Challenges,” attracted health law scholars and policy makers from around the country to the William H. Kniep Courtroom March 5. Following last year’s H1N1 outbreak, the symposium focused on preparedness for the next pandemic and weaknesses in our current system.

Noted legal and public-health experts presented on topics that ranged from the history of pandemic preparedness to cross-border legal preparedness, and from how to assess the legal environment underlying mental and behavioral health readiness in public-health emergencies to ramifications for pandemic planning.

Noted speakers included Daniel Stier, public health analyst with the Centers for Disease Control’s Public Health Law Program; Stewart Simonson, vice president of government affairs at SRA International, Inc. and former assistant secretary for Public Health Emergency Preparedness with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; and R. Gregory Evans, Ph.D., director of the Institute for Biosecurity in the SLU School of Public Health.

**Public Law Review Symposium Examines the Voting Rights Act**

The Voting Rights Act, passed 45 years ago by Congress, prohibited states from disallowing U.S. citizens to vote. The Public Law Review Symposium, held March 26 in the William H. Kniep Courtroom, explored the effects today and the future of anti-discrimination voting legislation.

Kristen Clarke, co-director of the Political Participation Group at the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc., offered the keynote address at the symposium. As a civil-rights attorney, Clarke gave testimony to Congress regarding election-reform matters and provided advocacy during the reauthorization of the expiring provisions of the Voting Rights Act in 2006. Her talk for the symposium was titled “The Central Role of Voting Rights in American Democracy.”

Watch videos of SLU LAW’s conferences and symposia at http://law.slu.edu/news_center/multimedia/index.html
The Sanford E. Sarasohn Memorial Conference Discusses Taxation

Hosted by the Center for International and Comparative Law and the Saint Louis University Law Journal, the Sanford E. Sarasohn Memorial Conference presented “Critical Issues in International and Comparative Taxation.” During the conference, tax scholars examined the distribution of tax burdens and how taxes affect the actions of wealthy individuals.

Health Reform Symposium Sheds Light on Federal Act

During the Health Reform Symposium hosted by SLU LAW’s Health Law Association March 30 at the Busch Student Center, graduate and undergraduate students learned details about the federal health care reform package and discussed its potential implications.

Professor Sidney D. Watson presented a primer on the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, then opened up the symposium to the six other panelists, who discussed how the act may impact various professions and constituents and also answered questions from the audience.

In addition to Watson, panelists included expert community members from varied organizations: Johnetta M. Craig, MD, chief medical officer of Family Care Health Centers; James R. Kimmey, MD, president and CEO of the Missouri Foundation for Health; Susan Levy, MHA, chief advocacy officer at Ascension Health; Louise Meret-Henke, Ph.D., assistant professor, Department of Health Management and Policy, Division of Health Policy, School of Public Health; Timothy McBride, Ph.D., professor and associate dean for public health at Washington University; and Amy Smouha, health-care organizer for Missouri Jobs with Justice.

Legal Clinics Assist Veterans at Stand Down for Vets

Vietnam Veteran Waylon wants to get his life back on track, he explains to law student Kacey Proctor, ’11, as he hands over a tattered stack of 13 traffic tickets and warrants at the SLU LAW Legal Clinics Stand Down for Homeless Vets event April 23-24.

The rainy weekend didn’t deter dozens of law students, faculty alumni and volunteers from providing more than 100 homeless and disabled veterans free legal assistance at St. Louis Municipal Court. The program, directed by Professors Brendan Roediger (far right) and John Ammann, assists veterans with minor criminal matters, outstanding warrants, traffic violations and disability and benefits claims.

Bayonle Osundare, ’10, explains she volunteers for the event because it gives her the opportunity to serve the less fortunate. “Stand Down gives me the chance to apply the skills I’ve learned in Clinic,” says Osundare, who recently won the law school’s Volunteer of the Year Award for Community Service. “It also enhances my desire to use my law degree to advocate for the marginalized, especially homeless veterans who sacrificed so much.”

For volunteers, Stand Down for Vets is an eye-opening experience, Roediger explains. “Seeing first-hand the hundreds of veterans who reside in our city and go without shelter and basic needs really drives home our society’s failures,” he says. “Our students see the difference they can make as legal practitioners by alleviating some of the obstacles these people face daily.”

SLU LAW Reaches Quarter Finals in Frederick Douglass Moot Court

Law students Courtney Logan, ’12, and Nathaniel Mack ’11, advanced to the quarter-final round of the Frederick Douglass Moot Court Competition, held in Minneapolis Feb. 19. Logan and Mack competed against schools throughout the Midwest, falling only to the team that took first place in the competition.

“Moot Court gives students an opportunity to obtain some of the most practical and transferable skills they will gain from law school,” says Sheena Hamilton, ’10, Midwest Regional Director of the competition. “Further, it gives employers a sense of the student’s ability to not only strategize and perform in the courtroom but also the student’s ability to write.”

The National Black Law Students Association sponsors the Frederick Douglass Moot Court Competition, now in its 35th year. Each competition sets forth a problem that is then articulated by a team in the form of a legal brief and is later argued in front of a panel of judges.


“I thought the students did a nice job framing the issues and presenting their arguments professionally and persuasively in their briefs,” Ragab Hacking says. “This is great practice for the real world when clients come to you upset about a decision, and you have to decide the best way or ways to present their position to the higher court.”

— Alison Sieloff

...and many more stories can be found in the full issue of Saint Louis Brief.
Legal Technology: The Internet and Social Media for Legal Careers:
The informal presentation, question-and-answer session and discussion provided students with strategies for how to employ new technology in the launch of their legal careers March 2. Dennis Kennedy, a nationally known information-technology lawyer, shared ideas about what role the Internet can play in tough economic times.

The Catholic Moral Tradition: The Commonweal Speakers Program welcomed M. Cathleen Kaveny, the John P. Murphy Foundation Professor of Law and Theology at the University of Notre Dame, March 16 to speak about “The Catholic Moral Tradition” and “Law, Morality and the Culture Wars.” Kaveny has been published on the subjects of law, morality and religion in journals such as The Hastings Center Report and the Wake Forest Law Review.

Careers in the Health Care Industry: Sarah Campbell, ’91, lectured as the guest of the Health Law Association March 22. Campbell, director of policies and procedures management at Tenet Healthcare Corporation, discussed career paths in the compliance field and in the health-care industry.

Justice Reform in Russia: Professor Steve Thaman spoke about “Justice Reform in Russia: Hopes and Disappointments.” The Modern and Classical Languages Department presented the talk March 22.

ATLAS Week Keynote Speaker Covers Gender Equality
One of the few female lawyers practicing in northern Nigeria, Hauwa Ibrahim defends women and children in Islamic Sharia courts, and she successfully won an appeal for a woman who was sentenced to death by stoning for committing adultery. ATLAS Week keynote speaker and former SLU LAW visiting international professor, Ibrahim presented “Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women” March 24 at the Busch Student Center.

In conjunction with ATLAS Week, the Center for International and Comparative Law hosted “Gender Equality in Faith Traditions,” a panel discussion featuring Ibrahim March 25 in the William H. Knep Courtroom. Other panelists included SLU LAW Professors Amany Ragab Hacking and Jeff Redding along with SLU Theology Professor Mary Dunn and Rabbi Susan Talve. Panel topics ranged from how courts and legislatures have dealt with religious practices to how religious texts have been interpreted over time in relation to women.

Human-Rights Activist Represents Ecuadorians in Civil Action
The Environmental Law Society hosted a lecture by human-rights activist and lawyer Steven Donziger March 2. Donziger and other lawyers represent 30,000 Ecuadorians in a $28 billion environmental lawsuit against Chevron/Texaco that alleges oil drilling by the company that contaminated the Amazon basin.

The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal and other news outlets have covered the case. Donziger talked about the 17-year-old lawsuit — considered the largest civil action in the world today — discussed what it means for the future of the oil industry and reflected upon why people should care about this case.

Health Law Practitioner-in-Residence Shares Expertise
SLU LAW alumni John T. Boese, ’72, (left) is a nationally recognized expert on the civil False Claims Act and has represented defendants in several False Claims Act cases. He also authored the book Civil False Claims and Qui Tam Actions, which is commonly cited as authority on this subject by courts, practitioners and academics.

For more than 30 years, Boese has assisted corporations, academic and other nonprofit institutions, individuals and state and local government entities in a wide variety of federal white-collar criminal and civil investigations and proceedings.


Employment Law Speaker Discusses Discrimination Cases
Barbara Seely, a 30-year veteran attorney of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, served as the Wefel Center for Employment Law spring speaker.

Seely, the regional attorney for the St. Louis District of the EEOC, shed light on recent employment discrimination cases and administrative developments at the EEOC under the Obama administration.
Health Law Distinguished Speaker Touches on Ethical Issues

For its Distinguished Speaker Series, the Center for Health Law Studies hosted lectures by two professors in the William H. Kniep Courtroom this spring. Professor Robin Fretwell Wilson teaches health law, bioethics and family law at Washington and Lee University School of Law. She presented “The Death of Jesse Gelsinger: Money, Prestige and Conflicts of Interest in Human Subjects Research” Feb. 1. Karen H. Rothenberg (left), the Marjorie Cook Professor of Law at the University of Maryland School of Law, hosted a roundtable and gave a lecture, titled “From Eugenics to the ‘New’ Genetics: The Play’s the Thing,” March 25. Rothenberg is the founding director of the Law & Health Care Program and served as the dean of the University of Maryland School of Law from 1999 to 2009.

Food for Thought Speaker Series Features SLU LAW Alumni

Sponsored by the Alumni Relations Office, the Food for Thought Speaker Series brought two SLU LAW alumni to campus this spring to share their knowledge and experience with law students. John C. Maxwell, ’80, serves as the president of the St. Charles County Bar Association. A sole practitioner, Maxwell discussed his practice’s focus on estate planning, probate and bankruptcy Feb. 24. Jeremy Johnson, ’02, (above) gave details about his judicial clerkships, for both the Missouri Court of Appeals and the Federal District Court, and he offered insights about working for large- and medium-size firms March 17.

And Michael Barnes, ’96, a sports marketing agent based in St. Louis, discussed sports law and management April 7.

Women’s Justice Awards Recognize SLU LAW Alumni, Students and Faculty

Each year, Missouri Lawyers Media presents the Women’s Justice Awards, honoring women for excellence in several categories. Previously focusing only on women in the St. Louis area, the 2010 awards sought out luminaries throughout Missouri.

Sheena Hamilton and Portia Kayser two students in the 2010 SLU LAW graduating class, were named Leaders of Tomorrow at the April 22 awards ceremony, a distinction that speaks to each woman’s vision and drive to succeed.

“When I was nominated and awarded the Leader of Tomorrow award, I was somewhat overwhelmed that my professors thought so highly of me,” Kayser says. “After attending the award ceremony, however, I am unequivocally humbled. What an amazing group of women making a difference every day. I am extremely honored to be considered in their ranks, and I am inspired by all that they do, and I’m driven to continue trying every day to make a difference.”

After graduation, Kayser says she would like to handle litigation and/or appellate work for a firm in St. Louis or southern Illinois. Hamilton will begin a two-year clerkship with the Hon. Catherine D. Perry, Chief Judge of the Federal District Court in St. Louis, after which she will work as an associate at Armstrong Teasdale LLP in St. Louis.

Several SLU LAW alumni and faculty, past and present, also received Women’s Justice Awards: Maureen McGlynn-Welby, ’92, and Chris Miller, ’84, were recognized as Trial Practitioners; Ronda F. Williams, ’02, was honored as a Business Practitioner; Bridget Hoy, ’01, and Erica Nuyen (Haberl), ’05, received Rising Star awards; the Hon. Kathianne Knaup Crane, ’71, received recognition as a Public Official; Rashda Buttars, ’96, was named in the Enterprise category.

And SLU LAW Professor Sidney D. Watson was awarded the Legal Scholar honoree.

Professor Samuel P. Jordan Honored with Teaching Awards

Graduating SLU LAW students chose Professor Samuel P. Jordan as the 2010 Faculty Member of the Year. The University’s Student Government Association (SGA) also honored Jordan with the 2010 Faculty Excellence Award, which is given to professors who have greatly impacted students’ academic and professional lives. Only 10 educators out of 130 nominated by students throughout all of the University’s undergraduate and graduate schools received the Faculty Excellence Award.

Professor Jordan graduated from the University of Chicago in 2004 with degrees from the Law School and the Harris School of Public Policy Studies. He went on to clerk for the Honorable Milton I. Shadur, Senior U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois and teach at Harvard Law School as a Climenko Fellow and Lecturer on Law. Professor Jordan joined the SLU LAW faculty in 2007 and focuses on civil procedure, remedies and judicial practice.

Law Students Honored with David Grant Award

Both Constantino Ochoa (far left) and Portia Kayser (second from left) received the 2010 David Grant Clinic Award. The annual award honors Grant, a African-American lawyer and civil rights leader, and recognizes a third-year law student who demonstrates an interest in civil rights and serving indigent clients. Other Legal Clinic student nominees included (from right) Catherine Liza Kohn, Susan Musser, Ryan Kaiser and Ryan Bruning (not pictured.)

Professor Barbara Gilchrist, Ph.D., also presented Dean Jeffrey E. Lewis with an honorary award to recognize the expansion of the Legal Clinics under his tenure as dean.
Court Week Allows Students to Experience the Law in Action

Court Week — an inaugural program designed to allow students to experience the law in action — featured a week-long series of events to expose students to the courts from multiple perspectives. Students listened to the Missouri Court of Appeals hear cases in the William H. Kneip Courtroom, attended lectures and discussions by Missouri Supreme Court Justices and watched the SLU LAW Moot Court Competition March 15-19.

Classmates also shared details about their experiences in the Legal Clinics, trial attorneys described a typical day and Brad Fink, ’08, spoke about his judicial clerkship for the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims. In addition, the program included a talk about “What They Don’t Tell You in Law School about Judges” by the Honorable Mary R. Russell, Missouri Supreme Court Judge.

Judge Russell also served as the SLU LAW Adler Rosecan Jurist-in-Residence. She was appointed to the Missouri Supreme Court in 2004 and subsequently retained in the 2006 general election for a 12-year term. Before her appointment to the Supreme Court, she served as a judge from 1995-2004 on the Missouri Court of Appeals Eastern District — and held the position as chief judge from 1999 to 2000.

U.S. News & World Report Ranks SLU LAW Health Law Program No. 1 for Seventh Straight Year

Once again, health law scholars ranked Saint Louis University’s Health Law Program as the best in the nation, according to U.S. News & World Report. The top ranking appears in the magazine’s “Best Graduate Schools 2011” issue. This year marks the seventh straight year the program has held the top spot.

Law Faculty Receive Thompson Coburn Excellence in Writing Honors

Winners of the Thompson Coburn Faculty Award for Exceptional Legal Scholarship received recognition April 29 at a ceremony and luncheon. The award honored articles published in 2008 and books published in 2007 and 2008.


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A Tribute to Dean Jeffrey E. Lewis
Dean and Professor of Law, Saint Louis University School of Law

A fter 11 years of serving as Dean of Saint Louis University School of Law, Dean Jeffrey E. Lewis announced he is stepping down as dean to return to teaching full time at the School of Law. Although, Dean Lewis prefers to say he’s stepping up into the classroom.

During his deanship, the School of Law embarked on a vastly expanded effort to increase the size of the tenure-track faculty and dramatically increased resources for faculty scholarship. Since his tenure began in 1999, the number of full-time faculty more than doubled — increasing from 35 to 68 in 2010. The unprecedented growth of SLU LAW’s nationally renowned faculty has improved the student-to-faculty ratio from 23:1 to 17:1, and is expected to hit 15.5:1 this upcoming academic year. The law school also hired its first Supreme Court law clerks as faculty and significantly increased the number of chaired professorships.

Scholarship for students always remained a primary focus for Dean Lewis. This past academic year, 49 percent of full-time students received scholarship assistance. In addition, Dean Lewis created the 1843 Scholarship program, which awards 10 full-tuition scholarships to deserving students.

“The law school is not the same as it was when Jeff arrived in St. Louis, and yet he preserved our core identity as he grew the school,” explains incoming interim dean Sandra H. Johnson. “One of his great accomplishments was expanding the resources available for our Legal Clinics, which are so important for preparation for the practice of law, both in terms of skills and in moral and personal development.”

In fact, under Dean Lewis’ leadership, the size of the Legal Clinics was tripled, by devoting resources to fund a state-of-the-art building expansion and adding more full-time clinical faculty to offer more students practical experience. Now, the Legal Clinics provide more than 100 students per semester invaluable legal training while providing valuable services to the community.

Also under his deanship, the law school created the first-year small section program, launched a summer program in Madrid, began fundraising for a needed building project and raised the bar passage by nearly 15 percent.

“Although Jeff Lewis will long be remembered for his tremendous accomplishments in strengthening the law school in so many ways — enlarging the faculty, expanding the Legal Clinics, developing the infrastructure of the school, bringing in more outstanding students — what stands out most for me is his humility,” says Professor Roger L. Goldman. “Jeff always deflected compliments by crediting others even though he deserved the recognition. He was truly a dean for others.”

Professor Joel K. Goldstein adds that Dean Lewis “reminded others of the law school’s commitment to teaching by assigning himself two heavy courses, Evidence and Remedies, an extraordinary teaching burden for a dean.”

School of Law students describe Dean Lewis as “an amazing law teacher who has a deep love of teaching the law.”

“It’s clear after only one lecture how much time Dean Lewis devotes to his courses,” says recent graduate Ben Wilson, ’10. “Each lecture is carefully prepared and the reading assignment tunes into exactly what’s covered in class. Every last detail shows how he deeply cares about us as students and as future attorneys.”

As an Evidence professor, Dean Lewis is able to take what is arguably one of the most confusing and complicated areas of law and break it down into a format that’s easy to digest and understand, explains former student Jay Piatt, ’11. “Dean Lewis always makes it apparent with his enthusiasm and demeanor in the classroom that he truly loves to teach.”

This upcoming academic year, Professor Lewis will teach Remedies, Evidence and Conflict of Laws.

“As the time my wife (Patricia, ’78) and I first met Jeff Lewis, we were impressed with his vision for the law school,” says Howard L. Adelman, ’77, partner of Adelman & Gettleman in Chicago. “As alumni, we found his energy contagious but his decision to return to the classroom as a full-time professor is what truly solidifies his legacy.”

photo by Jay Fram

“Dean Lewis is one of the most genuine professors at SLU. He always takes the time to stop and offer a smile and a kind word. And only Dean Lewis could make a class like Remedies enjoyable!”

— Lindsey Phoenix, ’10

“Dean Lewis has an outward and contagious love for the law and leaves the ultimate legacy of a leader: an institution that will continue to rise above its peers after his departure because of his selfless efforts.”

— William M. Boster, ’98, member at Lewis, Rice & Fingersh

“In his own classic, selfless and quietly determined style Dean Lewis continued and strengthened SLU LAW’s tradition of a genuinely Jesuit legal education; one that cares for and educates the entire person and which culminates in men and women for others.”

— Annie Harkins, ’09

“Dean Lewis is a challenging and engaging teacher. It’s incredible to have a dean who’s so connected to the student body and excited about teaching the law.”

— Jennifer Shoulberg, ’11

“Sometimes institutions, states or countries are blessed by having exactly the right leader appear at the time he is most needed — the law school received this blessing in Dean Lewis and he will continue to be a gift to our law school.”

— Doreen D. Dodson, ’74, partner, the Stolar Partnership

“Dean Lewis expanded exponentially the School of Law’s scholarly footprint while preserving, indeed fostering, its historic commitments to teaching and service.”

— Professor Joel K. Goldstein

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The Class of 2010
School of Law Hooding Ceremony
From legal theory to professional skills training to lifelong friendships, the experiences of law school stay with graduates throughout their lives. But many may not realize they have another tool at their disposal as they navigate life outside of SLU LAW. **The Career Services Office provides current students with career development guidance and resources, while serving alumni as they look to transition within the legal profession or identify new opportunities to use their law degree beyond traditional employment.**
helps students & alumni find — and succeed — in their careers.

“It’s never too early — or too late — to visit our office,” says Mary Pat McInnis, ’87. “Our team is dedicated to assisting our current and former students in their career planning and job search from the time they enter SLU LAW and well after graduation.”

As assistant dean for Career Development, McInnis leads a team of four that brings more than 40 years of career and counseling experience to the scores of students and alumni they serve each year.

“Law school is a different animal than most other graduate or professional programs. You have to actually live it to understand it,” McInnis says. “We have a nice blend here of professional staff. Three of us are lawyers and alums and one is a licensed professional counselor.”

With their experience at firms both large and small and in the public and private sectors, the team develops a personalized action plan for students and alumni — taking into consideration an individual’s aspirations and providing assistance with networking, interview preparation and resume and cover letter writing.

Career Services also offers weekly programs on multiple topics and makes those programs available on DVDs for added student and alumni convenience. They’re also developing several Continuing Legal Education programs for graduates so they can continue to refine their career management skills.

“From scheduling an appointment after-hours or on a weekend, to helping make networking connections, to just listening, we are dedicated to helping our students and alumni succeed,” McInnis says.

And while current economic conditions continue to be challenging, Career Services’ job placement rate remains steady with recent years. In fact, over the last five years, an average of 92 percent of SLU LAW alumni have been employed within six months following graduation — exceeding the national average.

“These strong numbers are really a testament to the great work the Career Services team does day after day, year after year to help our student body and alumni family find the right employment match,” says Dean Jeffrey E. Lewis.

Throughout his tenure as the hiring chair at Husch Blackwell Sanders in St. Louis, partner S. Christian Mullgardt Jr. explains that the Career Services Office’s unwavering devotion to advocating for School of Law students results in successful career placement for SLU LAW graduates year after year.

“I’ve been continually impressed with Mary Pat and the Career Services Office’s proactive approach to establishing and maintaining relationships with firms like ours,” says Mullgardt. “The entire Career Services Office tirelessly advocates for SLU’s law students.”

The Competitive Candidate

While one might be intimidated to begin the career planning process or change jobs, the environment in Career Services is informal and welcoming. Students are often first greeted by associate Colleen Murphy, who’s ready to dispense a smile, motherly advice or candy — whatever it takes to make people feel more at ease.

“The most recent graduating class was the first group I saw through all three years of law school,” Murphy says. “I needed a box of tissues at hooding because I was watching all my children graduate at one time.”

Recent graduate Michael Jente, ’10, worked with Career Services throughout his time at SLU LAW — and he believes those years helped him land his dream job. Following graduation, Jente will be clerking for the Honorable David D. Noce, United States Magistrate Judge, U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Missouri.

“At first, I didn’t know what I needed to do to set myself apart, and make myself a competitive candidate. But, I made Career Services my second home and they were instrumental in helping me get started,” says Jente, who participated in an externship and several networking opportunities, in addition to having the Career Services team review his job search materials.

Recent grad Cecilia Carroll, ’09, also knows the importance of making connections. After winning a lunch with the Honorable Nannette Baker, ’94, of the Missouri Court of Appeals at a Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis reception, Baker later hired her as a clerk. And Carroll is making the most of this temporary opportunity by building relationships and gaining practical experience.

“You have to make an effort to stay in touch [with Career Services] and let them know you’re looking,” she says. “They can’t help you if you’re not asking for it.”

By the Numbers

92
average percent of alumni employed within six months of graduation over the past five years

2,100+
interviews conducted last academic year

75
corporations and government agencies conducted interviews at SLU LAW in 2008-2009

Carroll continues to work closely with Career Services as she pursues the path of practicing at a small- to medium-size firm in St. Louis. She is actively networking, tweaking her résumé and refining her cover letters with guidance from the team.

But, Carroll knows this is only a part of the equation to finding a great job and building a successful, fulfilling career. Having a solid sense of self and being able to articulate your desired plan for the future is critical for achieving career satisfaction.
And no one understands that better than McInnis. After practicing law for 14 years, she wanted to further utilize her degrees in social work and law to have a more direct impact on individual’s lives. Through extensive networking and connections, she learned about the opportunity to lead SLU LAW’s Career Services team, a position she’s now held for nine years.

She’s able to bring that perspective to her interactions with students and alumni. “I tell everyone who comes here for help to have faith in themselves, first and foremost,” McInnis says. “We try to help them identify their skill sets and flush out what they’re really after in their careers.”

To aid in that process, many students also turn to Anne Hensley, a licensed professional counselor in Missouri and career counselor in Career Services for 19 years. Hensley conducts assessments to help students and alumni take an introspective look at their professional goals and personal desires. This is an often overlooked, but important first step in the career process. Assessments include the Strong Interest Inventory and Myers Briggs Type Indicator, which explain how personality types influence a choice in profession or interaction between co-workers.

“Most people already realize the importance of networking, creating a flawless and professional résumé and rehearsing the interview questions,” says Hensley. “However, few of them give any thought to what really will make them satisfied in the workplace.”

The assessments are also a basic way to yield new perspectives and opportunities within the framework of what many people see when they think of a traditional legal career. And, they aren’t just for new law students. They can be helpful tools when students or alums want to change practice areas or use their law degrees in a completely new field.

This process of self-examination actually fits well with the skill sets many lawyers already possess — the ability to think critically, analyze complex issues and take creative approaches to problem solving, according to Jocelyn Brennan-Witzel, ’02, assistant director of Career Services.

“We conduct an on-campus interview program and advertise open positions, but I think we add the most value by digging deep to work with students and alumni one-on-one to determine their interests, help them develop their own networks of attorneys and job leads and use our contacts in the legal community to generate job leads on an individual basis,” says Brennan-Witzel.

And current students should not forget one of the most valuable resources they have — alumni.

“The entire Career Services Office tirelessly advocates for SLU’s law students.”

— S. Christian Mullgardt

hiring chair, Husch Blackwell Sanders

“I’m continually impressed with how willing our alumni are to help our students,” says Tina Murphy Godar, ’93, career counselor. “They give freely of their time to speak to the students about their line of work and the people they know. While alumni may not know of a specific job opening, their insight and experience is valuable information from which our students can greatly benefit.”

Murphy Godar is especially close to the alumni’s point of view as she was recently hired to serve as a dedicated resource to meet their specific needs.

Prior to joining Career Services, Murphy Godar worked at the Missouri Attorney General’s Office and for her father, Stephen J. Murphy, a solo practitioner. She also stayed at home with her children doing grant writing for their school.

Because of this, she understands the special challenges this group may face in their job search as their personal and professional lives evolve and change over time.

“The core elements of a job search for alumni are the same as that of law students,” says Murphy Godar. “Networking, having a good résumé and strong cover letter are important. It differs a bit in that, after being out of school and having some real-world experience, alums have a good grasp of their specific skill sets and what they’d like for the next phase of their career.”

John Fischesser, ’02, practiced law in New Orleans for several years before deciding to return to St. Louis, where, at the suggestion of a friend, he enlisted the help of Career Services to get re-acclimated to the St. Louis legal community.

“A good word from [Career Services] goes a long way, and working with them really sped up the process by helping me focus my search,” says Fischesser, now an attorney at Eckenrode Maupin in St. Louis. “They knew the best people to contact and were extremely helpful. It could have taken me much longer to find a job.”

Although the volatility of the job market can be daunting, Brennan-Witzel encourages students and alumni to remember the passion and drive that brought them to law school in the first place.

“Lawyers are used to fighting hard battles and persevering against all odds,” says Brennan-Witzel. “They tend to take charge more and have the confidence to succeed.”

And when SLU LAW alumni and students land great opportunities, everyone shares in the victory.

Career Services
Morrissey Hall, Suite 113
Saint Louis University
School of Law
3700 Lindell Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63108
314-977-7100
Hours: Monday-Friday
8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

On Tuesdays and Thursdays during the Fall and Spring semesters, the office is open until 8 p.m. Individual appointments can be scheduled when the office is not open.

LAW.SLU.EDU/CAREERS
From the beginning of law school Sherin Joharifard, ’10, knew she wanted to be a litigator. And by her second year of law school she enrolled in as many professional skills courses as possible.

“I wanted to gain confidence speaking in front of others, learn the technicalities of writing and arguing briefs and how to be a real lawyer,” she explains. “I took as many professional skills classes as I possibly could.”

Extensive clinical and professional skills experience — combined with the depth of course offerings and strength of the nationally recognized faculty — allows SLU LAW students a unique opportunity to experience the law in action. Students at the School of Law receive an exceptional legal education, through rigorous academic training and practical experience in a supportive environment.

Decades of working relationships with lawyers, judges, politicians and key community leaders result in ample opportunities for practical experience and professional skills training, which has long served as a cornerstone of a SLU LAW legal education.

The School of Law’s professional skills programs actively engage students in the practice of law while grounding them with a deep theoretical understanding of legal principles and theories through intense academic study.

The result is legal practitioners who are armed with the foundational and practical skills to immediately excel as young attorneys.

The School of Law provides students with ongoing opportunities to hone the skills necessary for success beyond the classroom. For this reason, simulated programs like Moot Court and Trial Advocacy, along with the opportunity to handle actual cases in the Legal Clinics, are essential in preparing students for the real-world practice of law.

From the recently expanded Trial Advocacy and Moot Court programs to the 13-plus in-house Legal Clinics, the School of Law provides students extensive practical experience and a distinct competitive advantage when entering the work force.

“By the time they graduate, School of Law students can hit the ground running,” explains Daniel O’Keefe, ’96, a partner at Bryan Cave who has served on several hiring committees over the years. “Whether it's Moot Court, Trial Advocacy or the Legal Clinics, SLU LAW graduates are known for their great work ethic and strong professional skills and that gives them an edge in any job market.”

The hiring chair at Husch Blackwell Sanders, partner Josef Glynias, agrees. “Professional Skills and the stories behind those experiences definitely make an impression and help set applicants apart,” he says. “We need practicing lawyers and so do our clients. Trial Advocacy, Moot Court — and especially the Legal Clinics because they’re handling actual cases with real clients — those practical exercises let the firm know a candidate is ready to practice law. And those young attorneys start the first day of work at the firm with an advantage.”

The Career Services Office also urges students to take advantage of the extensive professional skills experiences offered at the School of Law. “I always tell students that professional skills experience matters on your résumé,” says Mary Pat McInnis, Assistant Dean for Career Development. “It’s a huge added benefit and Moot Court and Trial Advocacy, in combination with the Legal Clinics, make our students very marketable and more competitive in today’s job market.”
Saint Louis Brief   Spring 2010

Saturday. When these students graduate law school, over his Trial Advocacy class’ mock trial on a spring Civil Courthouse downtown, where he is presiding students “the first one is on us,” he says from the of the courtroom after your first jury trial.”

Although only a glimpse,” Hunsaker explains. “It is a student shot to death on a Halloween night.

Writers, of the teenage Middle Eastern exchange tell a compelling story, with the skill of gifted death case for the culmination of the course at attorney Jaclyn Brown, ‘10, in a mock wrongful argues for the defense against student plaintiff sophisticated levels of trial advocacy skills.”

T rial Advocacy program, they’ve been exposed to are competent and comfortable in the courtroom by the time our students leave the are productive associates who are competent and comfortable in the courtroom from day one. By the time our students leave the Trial Advocacy program, they’ve been exposed to sophisticated levels of trial advocacy skills.”

As trial advocacy student Scott Hunsaker, ’10, argues for the defense against student plaintiff attorney Jaclyn Brown, ’10, in a mock wrongful death case for the culmination of the course at the St. Louis Civil Courthouse, both students masterfully present their arguments. Both students tell a compelling story, with the skill of gifted writers, of the teenage Middle Eastern exchange student shot to death on a Halloween night.

“The Trial Advocacy program provides a firsthand experience into the life of a trial attorney, although only a glimpse,” Hunsaker explains. “It is a great feeling, after hours of preparation, to walk out of the courtroom after your first jury trial.”

Professor Stewart likes to explain to his students “the first one is on us,” he says from the Civil Courthouse downtown, where he is presiding over his Trial Advocacy class’ mock trial on a spring Saturday. When these students graduate law school, they will have the experience of actually trying a case in a courtroom to 12 real jurors.”

Trial Advocacy students leave law school with an underlying understanding of trial work. “There are numerous techniques and approaches to trial and every attorney has his or her prospective, but this program provides a core understanding of trial work,” he adds.

Trial Advocacy brought the law to life for St. Louis City Drug Court Commissioner the Hon. Michael W. Noble, ’04. “Trial Advocacy taught me how to look at a case three dimensionally,” says Noble, who has also served as an assistant public defender for the Missouri Public Defender System in St. Louis. “It taught me how to tell my client’s story while strategizing the defense’s plan of attack and how critical it is to ask the right questions. I also realized I could make an impact in the criminal justice system.”

Trial Advocacy students receive the benefit of learning the art of trial advocacy from Professor Stewart, who has more than 23 years of trial experience in private practice. Before joining the faculty as an assistant professor of law, Stewart spent 12 years as an adjunct professor at SLU LAW teaching Trial Advocacy and Evidence.

He’s served as a past president of the Missouri Association of Trial Attorneys and as a mediator in more than 100 cases in state and federal court. He’s also received the Lon O. Hocker Award for Excellence in Trial Advocacy from the Missouri Bar Foundation.

In addition to Stewart, the Trial Advocacy program is taught by an impressive line-up of adjunct professors, who are some of the top trial attorneys in the city, including John Simon, ’86, Matt Padberg, Brad Kessler, Hardy Menees, along with renowned judges the Hon. Barbara Wallace of St. Louis County Circuit Court and the Hon. George W. Draper of the Missouri Court of Appeals.

“We very much believe trial advocacy is not a theoretical exercise and that attorneys can’t teach trial advocacy if they haven’t been in the trenches trying cases,” says Stewart, who only hires adjunct professors with significant trial experience.

Every student should take Trial Advocacy, advises SLU LAW adjunct professor Judge George Draper from his chambers at the Missouri Court of Appeals. “Even if they have no intention of working as a trial attorney, the skills learned in Trial Advocacy — the ability to break down issues and negotiate your position — will help students become stronger attorneys and better advocates for their clients,” he says. “It also helps students develop professional judgment in a real-world setting. The ability to stand up and argue your position in a concise, compelling manner produces a confidence that will help younger lawyers succeed in all areas of the law.”

In addition to bringing leading trial attorneys to SLU LAW, Stewart has also established the first American Inns of Court Chapter in St. Louis — the Theodore McMillian American Inns of Court. The court consists of judges, lawyers, law professors and law students who hold programs and discussions on ethics, legal skills and professionalism. The court also assists lawyers to become more effective advocates and counselors with a keener ethical awareness. Members learn side-by-side with the most experienced judges and attorneys in the community.

The Theodore McMillian American Inns of Court focuses on issues surrounding civil and criminal litigation practice. “The court, coupled with the expanded Trial Advocacy program, demonstrates the law school’s commitment to growing professional skills and trial advocacy,” Stewart says. “There is such an overwhelming student demand, and the program is expanding to such a high level, there’s a strong foundation for establishing SLU LAW as a Center for Trial Excellence for the practicing bar in St. Louis.”
**Genevieve Nichols, ‘99**

Partner, Coffey & Nichols

Acting actually paved the way for trial attorney Genevieve Nichols’ impressive litigation career.

In law school, her classmate Rebecca Walker Embry asked her to play a witness, a mental health-care provider, for a Trial Advocacy case. “I had a blast,” she says. “And it was the first time I felt the excitement of a jury trial and what it was like to be a trial attorney — and I saw how mastering the tricks of the trade impacted the verdict of a jury trial.”

Soon after, she immersed herself in Trial Advocacy courses. “I was learning the really basic core skills I still use today: how to ask leading questions and make objections and how to mark and enter evidence. It was my first exposure to the courtroom and to a trial. My experience in Trial Advocacy gave me the confidence to believe I could be a trial attorney; I felt like a rock star.”

As a partner at Coffey & Nichols in St. Louis, she’s spent the past seven years first-chairing medical malpractice, product liability and other personal injury cases as well as arguing cases before the Eastern District Court of Appeals and the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Nichols received the Lon O. Hocker Award for Excellence in Trial Advocacy in 2008, was named President of the Women Lawyers’ Association of St. Louis and recognized as a Rising Star by Missouri-Kansas Super Lawyers. But one of the proudest moments in her career was when Professor Stewart asked her to be an adjunct professor in the Trial Advocacy program two years ago.

“I was incredibly flattered Professor Stewart chose me from all of my classmates to serve as an adjunct professor in the Trial Advocacy program,” she says. “It’s been a huge boost to my career as a young lawyer and it has opened numerous networking opportunities and client referrals.”

Nichols embodies the “giving back” spirit so definitive of the School of Law. “I truly believe in helping and training young lawyers,” she says. “The best advice I offer students to be yourself — don’t try to imitate someone else. Juries smell fake from a mile away; fake equals lying, which equals you lose.”

“And take every Trial Advocacy class possible because it offers a real-world application of the law and teaches the skills young attorneys need to become a successful trial attorney,” she adds.

For Nichols, teaching continues to hone her trial abilities — and reinforces the excitement of the courtroom. “It forces me to go back to the basics and examine the way I handle cases,” she says. “Students bring a fresh energy and perspective to trial work, and that can’t help but rub off on you — it reinforces how much I enjoy being a trial attorney.”

**Rebecca Walker Embry, ’99**

Member, Landman Corsi Ballaine & Ford

Once she took Trial Advocacy with Professor Tom Stewart, Rebecca Walker Embry instantly knew she wanted to be a trial attorney. “I thought ‘wow’ this is what I want to do — go to trial,” she explains. “There’s just something about all the different legal matters and challenges from beginning a case and taking it through to a verdict that combines the best of a lawyer’s skills.”

Now as a member of Landman Corsi Ballaine & Ford in New York City, Embry represents corporations, employers and professionals in a variety of civil litigation matters in New York state and federal courts. Her practice encompasses all phases of civil litigation, including trials, administrative proceedings and appeals.

Embry’s areas of practice include professional liability, employment discrimination, toxic tort and commercial disputes. She also writes and speaks on topics in connection with client training programs.

Embry entered law school as a nontraditional student. She practiced as a counselor for six years before deciding she wanted a career change. “My psychology background helps me relate to all different types of people, from plaintiffs to defense witnesses,” she says. “The people skills, coupled with the foundational skills I learned in Trial Advocacy, have made a difference across the board, from interviewing clients to taking depositions to dealing with court clerks and judges.”

She adds that she learned the core skills of how to effectively talk to everyone from jurors to witnesses in the Trial Advocacy program. “Tom Stewart taught us to understand our audience and not talk legalese,” she says. “The foundational skills emphasized in Trial Advocacy — how to persuade a jury, positioning your case in a concise and compelling manner, breaking down complicated issues, constantly negotiating with the other side while advancing your defense strategy — still transcend into my legal practice every day.”

Embry adds that her experience in the Trial Advocacy program was the highlight of her legal education: “It was the first hands-on experience I had in law school — and the first time I felt like I was really practicing law.”

**Patrick L. Mickey, ’02**

Associate, Brown & James

Patrick Mickey knew he wanted to be a lawyer, and his love of arguing and affinity for Perry Mason confirmed his desire to become an attorney by the time he was eight.

“By the time I started law school, I wanted to be a prosecutor because it seemed a great way to effect change and make a difference in the judicial system,” Mickey explains from his office at Brown & James in St. Louis, where he is an associate specializing in construction litigation, insurance defense and other commercial litigation.

When Mickey took Trial Advocacy it all came together. “It was the first time everything clicked,” says Mickey, who also serves as a SLU LAW Trial Advocacy adjunct professor. “All the black letter law was not just an academic exercise, it finally had real-world application.”

In law school, Mickey received the school’s Academic Excellence Award for his work in Trial Advocacy and worked as a volunteer law clerk in the St. Louis City and County Trial Divisions and Eastern Capital Litigation Division of the Missouri State Public Defender System. The Lawyers Association of St. Louis also honored him with the Milton F. Napier Award for Excellence in Trial Advocacy in 2002.

From public speaking to thinking on your feet to how to best tell the story that decides a client’s fate, Trial Advocacy taught Mickey how to best advocate for his clients. “When I’m in a courtroom no one cares about the rule against perpetuity,” he explains. “It’s how do I tell my story in the most compelling manner, breaking down complicated issues, constantly negotiating with the other side while advancing your defense strategy — still transcend into my legal practice every day.”

Mickey now serves as one of the two SLU LAW coaches for the annual National Trial Advocacy competition, which is co-sponsored by the Texas Young Lawyers Association and the American College of Trial Lawyers, and draws more than 150 law schools and more than 250 teams from across the nation.

When the SLU LAW team advanced to nationals three years ago, Mickey spent nearly 200 hours coaching the team and preparing them for the national competition in Dallas.

“The way Tom Stewart and the law school structure the Trial Advocacy program results in this well-connected and collegial fraternity of trial lawyers,” he says. “Trial lawyers share a passion, and there is a strong network of trial attorneys who are alumni and/or adjunct professors at SLU that profoundly impact our students’ careers.”

The small groups of eight allow students the chance to work side-by-side and learn from some of the region’s most top-notch attorneys. “Through that personalized interaction the students also become part of that network,” Mickey adds. “It is a fantastic way to learn.”

As Mickey aggressively prepares for a three-week construction case in Kansas City, Mo., he explains that ultimately it all boils down to the same skills he honed in the law school’s Trial Advocacy program.

“I love being in trial and creating a visually dynamic story that makes my case come alive to the 12 everyday people deciding my client’s fate,” he says. “Law school taught me how to think like a lawyer — but Trial Advocacy taught me how to be a lawyer.”
Student Perspective — Jaclyn Brown, ’10

I’ve known I would be a litigator since childhood. Watching “Matlock” and “Law and Order,” I saw the drama unfold in the courtroom unrestrained by the law. The ability to tell your client’s story is vital, but in reality there are rules to follow.

Throughout my first year of law school, I learned the law. I read case after case analyzing and breaking down others’ arguments, without concern to creating my own.

Before too long, I forgot that in a trial, there is a jury. A jury made up of non-lawyers who don’t want to hear legalease. Fortunately, the Trial Ad class and competition team taught me how to simply tell my client’s story, following the law while communicating effectively.

Trial Advocacy is one of the few opportunities in law school where students can turn their attention away from precedent, statutes and the almighty judge — and instead look at those 12 people in the jury box, who are not as passionate about case law or my client.

The goal of Trial Ad is to prepare students to become litigators. We are handed a fictitious case and given a court date for our first trial. This wasn’t a bench trial in front of our professor. The trial was in the Civil Courthouse downtown, with a jury of non-law students and with our professor as presiding judge.

The format of the trial alone made the class indispensable.

This year, I was also honored to be on the Trial Advocacy Competition Team. This is a national competition, first broken down by regions, consisting of approximately 11 law schools. We were given about three months to prepare each side of the case. It was difficult to represent the plaintiff on Thursday and then switch to represent the defendant on Friday, hoping to remember if I was directing or crossing this witness. But the experience prepared me to be ready for anything and to see the case from both sides. But even at the competition, there was not a real jury. We had a jury of lawyers who were also evaluators.

So after my Trial Ad class trial, when I heard feedback from the jury, I thought, “how much different would the competition turn out if we had a real jury evaluating us?” Hearing the comments from people who had never read about my case, didn’t know the law and only had me as their interpreter, what did they find important? It wasn’t always what I thought was important.

Trial Ad class is the most worthwhile class I have taken in law school. I would not have the confidence to stand before a group of strangers and talk, well, like a human, instead of a lawyer. Before Trial Ad, I constantly worried what opposing counsel would object to, what they would offer into evidence and what spin they would come up with that I didn’t anticipate.

Now I know, slow down and tell your client’s story. It’s not about opposing counsel or precedent — it’s about connecting these 12 strangers with my client.

Professors Paige Canfield and Christine Rollins

Professors Christine Rollins and Paige Canfield began formally directing the Moot Court program at the law school four years ago. Since then, the SLU LAW Moot Court Team has made history: The team placed third in the country at the National Moot Court Competition in New York City this past winter.

“This is the third year we’ve had a team advance to the nationals, and this is the first time SLU LAW has made it to the semi-finals,” says Rollins, the director of the Legal Research and Writing Department. “We placed third out of 28 competitors at the national level.”

According to 2010 Moot Court National Championship rankings, the SLU LAW Moot Court program ranks 33rd out of the 108 law schools that participate in the annual competition — marking the School of Law’s highest placement ever.

“The recent success of our Moot Court students at the national level demonstrates the strength of our students’ critical writing, research and oral advocacy skills,” explains Dean Jeffrey E. Lewis. “Achieving such a high honor also increases the law school’s exposure on a national level and brings recognition to SLU LAW across the country.”

The School of Law has a robust appellate advocacy program that includes courses and competitions. Students learn skills critical to appellate work through simulated appellate cases. The program provides students the opportunity to refine legal research and writing skills particular to appellate briefs and the oral advocacy skills required for oral arguments before a judge.

“Moot Court teaches you skills you don’t realize you need until you actually start practicing,” says Laura Spencer, ’09, an associate at Bryan Cave in St. Louis. “The program and competition not only allowed me to become a better persuasive writer, but also how to take constructive criticism about my writing.”

Preparing for the 2009 national competition with classmates Liz Grana and Sarah Schweitzer also provided great practical experience for Spencer because she learned how to write and edit as a team.

“It’s rare at a firm for an associate to write a brief alone, in reality it’s more like four people writing a 50-page brief,” she says. “Moot Court taught me how to combine the efforts and writing styles of multiple people.”

In order to be successful at Moot Court, students must have a thorough understanding of the law and the ability to articulate the long-term ramifications of applying a particular rule of law through written and oral advocacy.

“Moot Court is an extension of the law school’s legal writing programs and offers students the opportunity to advance appellate advocacy skills,” Canfield says. “Students learn how to construct persuasive oral and written arguments, which requires them to creatively incorporate the foundational skills they’ve learned in Constitutional Law, Criminal Law and Civil Procedure.”

Rollins adds that students learn the building blocks of appellate advocacy — how to write a brief, research case law and hone oral argument skills — to best advocate for their clients. “But they also learn how to make persuasive written and oral arguments even if they personally disagree with the issue,” she adds.
Kristen Ratcliff, the 2008 winner of the Judge Robert G. Dowd Sr. Award for Appellate Advocacy at the law school, explains that the most valuable skill she learned in Moot Court was the ability to evaluate a position from different perspectives. “It allowed me to consider the issues from both sides to help determine my case’s strengths and weaknesses in order to advocate successfully for my client,” says Ratcliff, now the national coordinator for health and information technology at the Department of Health and Human Services in Washington, D.C.

Before Rollins and Canfield officially took over the program it was overseen by adjunct professors, faculty advisors and self-directed by students. Now more than 180 to 200 students can take advantage of Moot Court annually. The expanded and formalized programs not only allow more students to participate but also for small group and personalized interaction.

Students also benefit from the extensive practical experience Professors Rollins and Canfield bring to the Moot Court program. Canfield has more than 23 years as an appellate lawyer because I wanted to help people who didn’t necessarily have the financial resources to hire an attorney. “Moot Court gave me the opportunity to learn how to argue legal theories, and it forces you to think critically about the issues of law from both sides to anticipate the judges’ questions.”

Now as an associate at Behr McCarter & Potter in St. Louis, Grana explains that Moot Court has given her a competitive advantage in her career. “I am more confident talking to partners, judges and to my colleagues about legal conclusions and theories because of Moot Court,” she says from her Clayton, Mo., office where she practices general civil litigation, including defending medical malpractice, construction and employment cases. “It also gave me the confidence to trust my judgment and the ability to engage in intelligent conversations with everyone from partners to witnesses about various legal issues.”

And Moot Court made her a much stronger writer. “I can write intelligently and persuasively argue my position, whether it’s a brief or summary judgment motion, or because I can analyze both sides of the case, which allows me to better advocate for our clients,” says Grana, who also served as a Moot Court and Legal Research and Writing fellow. “My legal writing is better organized and more compelling and comprehensive. I also can identify key issues and use facts to support my case — Moot Court taught me all those skills.”

Preparing for the national competition and advancing to finals with teammates Laura Spencer, ’09, and Sarah Schweitzer, ’08, also taught Grana discipline and a strong work ethic while developing a passion for oral advocacy.

“It was an incredible bonding experience,” she says. “We learned to strategize as a team and how to understand different people’s working styles,” she says. “That experience — writing, strategizing and preparing oral arguments — with my teammates has definitely helped me communicate more effectively with senior partners and my colleagues. Not to mention it improved my résumé because it demonstrated I had a specific skill set for litigation.”

While in law school, Grana served as a legal intern for the Hon. E. Richard Webber of the United States District Court, Eastern District of Missouri and completed an externship with the United States Attorneys Office, Eastern District of Missouri, Violent Crimes Division.

“In law school, there are few courses that really prepare you for the real-life practice of law,” she says. “The academic courses teach the foundation of law but Trial Advocacy and Moot Court taught me how to be a litigator. I tell law students to take Moot Court even if their interest isn’t litigation because it gives you the confidence to negotiate and advocate for your client through writing.”

Professors Rollins and Canfield’s passion for appellate advocacy also inspired Grana to coach mock trial at Cor Jesu Academy, her high-school alma mater in St. Louis.

“Coaching will be a lifelong passion,” she says. “I want to give back some of what I learned in law school to my community. I became a lawyer because I wanted to help people who didn’t necessarily have the skills to help themselves — and coaching is my way of giving back.”
Jeffrey L. Dunn, ’99
Shareholder, Sandberg Phoenix

As an equity shareholder of Sandberg Phoenix and the Chairman of the Health Law Practice Group, the largest of the St. Louis firm’s practice areas, Jeffrey L. Dunn’s trial experience includes million dollar nursing home and product liability defense trials.

He’s also tried numerous bench trials and first-chaired complex jury trials, taken dozens of depositions, including liability, causation and damages experts in multimillion-dollar cases.

But even a decade after graduating law school, Dunn still recalls and utilizes the skills he learned in Moot Court and Trial Advocacy every day. “Moot Court, in combination with Trial Advocacy, helped confirm my desire to be a trial attorney and a litigator. I argue my clients’ positions every day.”

But Dunn — who won the Judge Robert G. Dowd Sr. Award for Appellate Advocacy in 1999 — still vividly remembers arguing his Moot Court case to a panel of Federal Court of Appeals judges. “All the black letter law I learned in Contracts and Remedies from Professor Immel came to life in Moot Court,” he says. “The judges pressed me hard on my position because it rested on a plurality decision. It was a defining moment because it taught valuable lessons: to be candid with the court and not overstate your case — but most importantly it gave me the confidence to be in the courtroom.”

Paul F. Woody, ’08
Associate, Klar, Izsak & Stenger

Whether it’s running for state representative in the 15th District in St. Charles, Mo., or representing a corporate client as an associate at Klar, Izsak & Stenger, Paul Woody, explains that his Moot Court experience armed him with the skills to advocate for his clients and serve the public as a legislator.

Woody has long possessed a passion for public service. Before law school, he served as the Director of Communications and Policy for the Democratic Caucus in the Missouri House of Representatives. Combining government, public policy and the law offers Woody an ideal way to effect change and improve his community.

“Legislative policy can have serious ramifications, especially if a law is poorly written,” he says. “Bad law increases litigation. My campaign centers on problem-solving and crafting reasoned long-term policies because well-written legislation benefits all of Missouri.”

Woody’s campaign focuses on investing in literacy education, including enhancing educational programs to encourage early childhood development, especially for children with disabilities, as well as increasing advanced placement classes in high schools to make students more competitive.

“As an attorney and a politician, I can advocate for better and more effective laws that make our communities stronger,” he says.

And all the skills that allow Woody to be successful in law and politics — strong oral advocacy, excellent public speaking skills, breaking down complicated issues and skilled negotiation — were honed in the Moot Court program and competition at SLU LAW.

“I argue my clients’ positions every day through strong ancillary writing, whether it’s a brief, motion or even a settlement letter.”

He adds that Moot Court also taught him to think on his feet while honing the ability to answer any question, at anytime.

“Appellate advocacy also offers the opportunity to make law and change policy,” he says. “It’s exciting to help influence and shape legal policies and the law.”

Portia Kayser, ’10
Student Perspective —

Moot Court provides students with benefits far beyond credit hours; it builds confidence, expands public speaking skills, hones research skills and teaches students how to think on their feet.

No matter what type of law someone wishes to practice these skills are invaluable. Even students planning to be purely transactional attorneys must be able to express themselves orally and think on their feet to respond to difficult questions as they advocate and negotiate for their clients.

Professors Rollins and Canfield and the Legal Research and Writing Department have created an incredible Moot Court program for SLU LAW students. Personally, I was given the opportunity to progress through Moot Court I, Moot Court II and the ABA National Moot Court Competition Team.

The experience was hard work but so rewarding because it gave me the confidence to know I could tackle difficult legal issues and advocate for my client.

Professors Rollins and Canfield are a wealth of knowledge and were always available for guidance and support.

Yes, Moot Court is a lot of work but it is a class and an experience that will help you both get and excel at your job. Almost every posting I have seen is seeking a candidate with Moot Court, Trial Advocacy, Clinic or journal experience.

For one job in particular, after completing the first screening process with my résumé and transcript, I was given a hypothetical case and asked to write the argument section of the appellate brief within 10 days. There is no way I would have been able to compete for this job without the training of Moot Court.

I would highly recommend Moot Court to all students. Even if you don’t think you ever want to be in a courtroom in front of a judge, think of how easy it will be to talk to clients and answer questions if you know how to prepare for a barrage by a judge! The process of researching, writing a brief and preparing to argue it orally, teaches you just how deeply you need to know your case, facts and issues to be able to truly advocate for your clients.

And the best place to learn these skills is in law school before you have a client’s issue on the line.
legal clinics

Community & Economic Development Clinic (CED)
The CED Clinic, under the direction of Professor Dana M. Malkus, was added last fall. This semester, students provided legal assistance to Habitat for Humanity, working to complete post-closing matters — resulting in the addition of approximately $3.3 million in affordable housing to the St. Louis area. Students also worked with Habitat to enable a first-time homebuyer to purchase Florissant’s first LEED-certified Platinum house, dramatically reducing utility costs.

Child Advocacy Clinic
Under the direction of Professor Patricia Harrison, students provided holistic advocacy to local children and families who do not qualify for other free legal services. Students also handled appellate cases across the state concerning important issues of juvenile law. Currently, students are handling cases pending in the Western District and Eastern District Court of Appeals.

Criminal Defense Clinic
In the Criminal Defense Clinic, under the direction of Professor Susan McGraugh, students handled cases in the 22nd Judicial Circuit, interviewing and representing the “working poor” who do not meet public defender guidelines. Students obtained records, negotiated plea deals, took depositions and prepared for trials.

Elder Law Clinic
Under the direction of Professor Barbara Gilchrist, Ph.D., students served older clients and their family members with adult guardianships. Students interviewed clients, prepared pleadings, requested medical reports and prepared clients for testifying. They also assisted clients with estate planning documents.

Family Law & Immigration Clinic
Under the direction of attorney Marie A. Kenyon of the Catholic Legal Assistance Ministry, students represented abused women and served as guardians ad litem for abused and neglected children. In the Immigration Law Clinic, students have handled a wide range of legal matters, including citizenship and asylum applications.

Judicial & Externship Clinic
For the first time this summer, the Externship Clinic, supervised by Professor Amany Ragab Hacking, is offering placements to students at the Attorney General’s Office and the Dept. of Health and Human Services in Jefferson City, Mo., as well as Bridges Across Borders Southeast Asia’s International Human Rights Externship in Thailand. The Judicial Clinic, also supervised by Professor Ragab Hacking, is also offering summer placements. Students have the opportunity for the first time to work with Missouri Supreme Court judges in Jefferson City.

Litigation Clinic
Under the direction of Legal Clinics director John J. Ammann and Professor Brendan Roediger, students wrote briefs and presented oral arguments in the Missouri Court of Appeals, including assisting workers who have lost their jobs and have been denied unemployment compensation. Students are also working with Legal Services on litigation that impacts thousands of Missourians to ensure they receive public benefits required by law and are representing low-income local residents facing abusive land installment contract practices. The Clinic is presently engaged in litigation under Missouri’s new foreclosure rescue fraud legislation.

Clinic Highlights
- Clinic student Portia Kaiser, ’10, won two cases in the Missouri Court of Appeals, in which she wrote the briefs and presented oral argument.
- Professor Barbara Gilchrist, Ph.D., was recently appointed to the State Board of Senior Services.
- Professor Susan McGraugh was appointed to the Missouri Supreme Court Committee on Procedure in Criminal Cases.
- Professor Amany Ragab Hacking is serving on the Board of Interfaith Legal Services for Immigrants and the Legal Committee of the ACLU.

Student Experiences

Sam Geisler, ’10
Criminal Defense Clinic
Three weeks into the semester, I met with a client in a jail north of the city. He told me his story. I listened. The morning of the hearing, I made the case for a continuation of his probation and his enrollment in a controlled treatment program, not prison.

When my client spoke to the court, I had no idea what he would say. In a quiet, sincere tone, he said he wanted to put his life back on track and knew he needed help to get there. Amid total silence, he nearly whispered: “Your honor, I want to vote.” Here, I learned the best lesson the Clinic can offer: Advocacy, at its best, is giving those without a voice the chance to have their own voice heard. And in the end, my client was successful.

Kate Mortensen, ’10
CED Clinic
SLU LAW’s addition of a transactional clinic is a great asset to students who want to get a full picture of the legal field. As part of the CED Clinic, I worked with Habitat for Humanity, preparing and explaining documents to a new homeowner. I saw her tear with joy when we told her that she didn’t have to come up with a down payment. I saw the excitement on her face when we told her the move-in date. My paperwork helped this woman achieve a lifetime dream for her and her family.

Lauren Groebe & Kati Larson, ’10
Child Advocacy Clinic
Working with the Children’s Health Advocacy Project (CHAP) has shown us the infinite benefits of medical and legal professionals working together to provide services to children and their families.

The sparkle in a client’s eye is blinding when they hear that someone can possibly help them and realize that someone is listening. Our cases involved children with inadequate individualized education plans, denials of Supplemental Security Income and landlord tenant matters. In all the cases, we and the CHAP staff helped inform the mothers of their children’s rights and educated them about the possible solutions to help their children receive appropriate attention.

We are touched by our clients’ circumstances. By helping with their legal issues our intervention offers them a second chance to start their lives anew. Everyday we listen to their stories, their hopes and dreams and how their legal issues can impact those desires.

Stefani Hoeing, ’10
Elder Law Clinic
My Legal Clinic experience made me realize my clients’ issues aren’t as simple as a research question or petition, they are complex problems that are very important to them. My experience in the Elder Law Clinic has taken me a step beyond the foundations of law school toward the actual practice of law.
From scholarship on urban development to drafting state legislation on affordable housing, Professor Salsich provides expert perspective on St. Louis’ redevelopment.

Urban development fascinates Professor Peter W. Salsich Jr., ’65.

For more than 40 years, he’s devoted his scholarly work to exploring affordable housing and urban development while impacting state and federal legislation and policy. And nearly all of his impressive career has been spent at the School of Law.

“Academic freedom allows me to engage in discussions and to have a voice in local and national urban development,” says Salsich, the McDonnell Professor of Justice in American Society.

From drafting state legislation for affordable housing to researching President Obama’s urban development programs, Salsich defines scholarship in action. Next semester, he plans to take a sabbatical to analyze how the Obama Administration is handling housing and urban development initiatives set forth by the Stimulus Package, especially how funds are being distributed to the states and cities. SLU LAW students will assist him in his research efforts as fellows.

“Students always offer a fresh perspective and progressive ideas,” Salsich explains. “If I want to test a theory, we can discuss it in class and even explore the issue on an exam. Teaching informs the research and the research translates into potential urban development policies and programs.”

**Groundbreaking Leadership**

Salsich joined the SLU LAW faculty in 1969 after two years with the Missouri Office of State and Regional Planning, a job that solidified his interest in local government and urban planning. From there, he went on to private practice for a year. After deciding litigation was not his calling, he joined the Legal Aid Society of St. Louis (now Legal Services of Eastern Missouri).

While a legal aid attorney, Salsich collaborated with former state representatives in the drafting of legislation in 1969 to create the Missouri Housing Development Commission (MHDC). Since its inception, the agency has invested nearly $4 billion in the production of affordable rental housing and provided homeownership for thousands of Missouri families.

“I was MHDC’s first chair more than 40 years ago,” Salsich says. “MHDC has become a major state agency that has significantly impacted affordable housing across the state,” Salsich says. “It’s been gratifying to watch it develop and become so successful.”

Surprisingly, neither urban development nor the law marked Salsich’s initial career interests. After graduating from Notre Dame’s ROTC program in 1959, the Navy stationed him at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. Salsich soon was drawn to the political action on the Hill and his first inclination was to seek elective office. At the time, adversarial hearings investigating game show payola and the need for increased television regulation, along with controversial proposals for military cutbacks following a decade of peace after
World War II, stirred the political debate on the Hill.

“Everybody who was anybody on the Hill was a lawyer,” Salsich says. “It didn’t make a difference whether senator or congressman, the person being grilled or the person asking the questions at the hearings; even newspaper reporters had law degrees. That’s when I first thought of becoming a lawyer.”

As an English major, Salsich thought he’d tap his writing skills and took a job on the sports and city desk at the former Globe-Democrat. He worked the evening shift and attended the School of Law during the day.

Until the political bug bit him again, Salsich became heavily involved with a state congressional campaign, and he admits he stopped going to class for a month. “Dean Richard Childress called me up and said, ‘Pete, where have you been?’ I explained I got preoccupied with the campaign.”

But Childress offered Salsich the chance to make-up the missed hours — and that fateful follow-up would ultimately change Salsich’s entire career.

“I will never forget how Dean Childress followed up with me,” he says. “That experience defines the epitome of this law school and exemplifies how the school truly cares about students.”

Several years later, when the opportunity presented itself to join the School of Law faculty in 1969, Salsich was still impacted by that experience. He took a joint appointment with the School of Public Policy, which he still holds, and began teaching courses in Contracts and Urban Planning.

The fall of 1971 would soon bring a student experience Professor Salsich will never forget.

The law school grew from an entry class of 70 to 220 in the first years of Salsich’s teaching career. On the first day of school in 1971, in walked a first-year student with a child in a papoose. The next arrived from the West Coast, dressed in a leather jacket fresh off her motorcycle. A soldier, just back from Vietnam, donning a gold chain with his shirt opened to his belt, walked in alongside a young man dressed in a three-piece suit from Boston looking like Ted Kennedy’s clone.

“I thought to myself this is going to be an interesting year,” he recalls. “It’s still my favorite class because it marked the first time we experienced diversity. Before that most people were like me: white, Catholic young men from the suburbs. The Women’s and Civil Rights Movements and the GI Bill suddenly changed the student body.”

**Spotlight on St. Louis**

Four decades later, Salsich is still focused on his students. “I fell in love with teaching and the University,” he says. “St. Louis also provides a natural lab for urban development because it is a historical city, not only for the neighborhoods, but also for the city’s significance as the first American city to establish Home Rule in 1875.”

The city was also the notorious site of one of the largest urban renewal failures in the United States, Pruitt-Igoe.

Shortly after its completion, living conditions in Pruitt-Igoe began to decay. By the late 1960s, the extreme poverty, crime and segregation brought the complex a great deal of infamy as the international press covered it extensively. The high-profile failure of Pruitt-Igoe has become an emblematic icon often evoked by all sides in public housing policy debate.

The Mill Creek Valley Urban Renewal area — the central vein of the city that stretches down Market Street from Union Station to West Grand Boulevard — was also the product of concentrated demolition instead of rehabilitation.

“In the afternoon, I would drive my car downtown to the Globe-Democrat past row after row of tight flats and apartments where people had lived in serious poverty,” Salsich vividly recalls. “On the way home at night, I passed big World War II search lights illuminating cranes demolishing the buildings.”

From his scholarship on urban development to drafting state legislation on affordable housing, Salsich has been at the forefront of St. Louis urban development for decades. “St. Louis is poised for future urban development, if we can recognize and take advantage of opportunities and welcome new ideas that incorporate affordable housing with jobs, transportation, education and business development,” he says. “If all the players can come together, we should be very optimistic about urban development over the next century.”

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*By Kim Gordon*
Professor Marcia McCormick discusses employment law, discrimination and what drew her to SLU LAW

Advocating and raising awareness for social change motivates Professor Marcia L. McCormick.

“We all agree that racism and sexism shouldn’t exist, but society still can be racist and sexist — and the fact that sometimes it isn’t even illegal — really aggravates my internal sense of social justice,” she says.

Issues of discrimination — race, gender, age, religion — often play out in employment law, which is what drew McCormick to the field.

As a member of the Wefel Center for Employment Law, McCormick’s teaching and scholarship explores employment and labor law, civil rights and the federal courts along with gender, race and sexual orientation in the law. She joined the SLU LAW faculty as an associate professor in 2009. She is also the co-editor of the Workplace Prof Blog, which provides daily information on developments in the law of the workplace and scholarship about it.

McCormick’s expertise is repeatedly sought after by national media — such as Newsweek, The New York Times and Oprah.com — to provide expert analysis and commentary surrounding discrimination and employment law.

“It’s been great to talk with the media and students about discrimination and employment issues,” McCormick explains. “I get excited about exposing and explaining different viewpoints as a catalyst for changing the way society thinks about issues.”

Professor McCormick earned her bachelor’s degree from Grinnell College in 1989 and is a 1993 honors graduate of the University of Iowa School of Law. During law school, she was the managing editor of the Iowa Law Review and was named the Outstanding Woman Law Graduate.

Soon after, McCormick began her legal career by directing analysis of
allegations of rape and sexual violence during the war in the former Yugoslavia. The findings played a key role the U.N. Security Council establishing the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. She then went on to the Illinois Attorney General’s Office to litigate civil appeals in state and federal courts.

However, teaching was McCormick’s true calling, and she entered a fellowship program at Chicago-Kent College of Law in 2001 to transition from practicing to teaching the law. Four years later, she joined the faculty at Cumberland Law School at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala., where she received the Lightfoot, Franklin & White Scholarship Award in 2008 and the Harvey S. Jackson Excellence in Teaching Award in 2007, before she joined the SLU LAW faculty last fall.

“We all agree that racism and sexism shouldn’t exist, but society still can be racist and sexist — and the fact that sometimes it isn’t even illegal — really aggravates my internal sense of social justice.”

“The faculty and students are what brought me to SLU LAW,” she says. “There is such a vast variety of resources to help students get the most out of their legal education, and the faculty is so committed to helping students find the path that works best for them.”

McCormick adds that the collaborative and supportive community that extends across the faculty, staff, students and alumni sets SLU LAW apart from other law schools.

“It’s very rare to find a law school that is focused on the success of both the faculty and the students,” she says. “The SLU LAW faculty consists of amazing scholars and teachers. And as colleagues, we all have the same goals: to see each other and our students excel.”

— By Kim Gordon

Read Professor McCormick’s article, “Back to Color-Blindness: Recent Developments in Race Discrimination Law in the United States,” and other selected works on the Workplace Prof Blog at lawprofessors.typepad.com/laborprof_blog
Faculty Scholarship:

The reputation of the faculty members at Saint Louis University School of Law continues to grow nationally and internationally as their scholarly production increases quantitatively and qualitatively. In the 2010 installment of Faculty Scholarship it is my privilege to share with the SLU LAW alumni the latest scholarly accomplishments of our talented faculty members.

— Nicolas P. Terry, Senior Associate Dean

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2010 Law Reunion

Class Years Ending in 5s & 0s

Thursday, September 23
Black Law Students’ Association 40th Anniversary Celebration

Friday, September 24
Richard J. Childress Lecture*
Colloquium on Labor and Employment Law*
Happy Hour & Trivia Night (open to all alumni)
*Test your knowledge with 10 rounds of trivia questions, ranging from movie titles to world flags to famous quotes.

Saturday, September 25
P.I.L.G. 5K Run/3K Walk Ambulance Chase
Colloquium on Labor and Employment Law*
SLU LAW Family Day
Cocktail Party and Dinner

Sunday, September 26
Mass at St. Francis Xavier College Church
Golden Billiken Brunch — Class of 1960 and earlier
Brunch with the Billiken
*Continuing Legal Education credits available

LAW.SLU.EDU/ALUMNI/REUNION
Questions? Contact Alumni Relations at ebolen1@slu.edu or 314-977-3978

NEW ADDRESS? If you have a new address, please send your updated information to alumni@law.slu.edu or send this form to: Saint Louis University School of Law, Attn: Alumni Relations, 3700 Lindell Blvd. St. Louis, MO 63108.

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2010 alumni lunches

For more information about alumni events, contact Elizabeth Stookey at ebolen1@slu.edu, or check the back cover for the Calendar of Events. Visit law.slu.edu for the latest news and events.
Tune in to Meet
NPR's Joyce Slocum, '81

During her sophomore year of high school, Slocum sought more challenging educational opportunities. She persuaded her mother to let her enroll in a junior college program that allowed students without a high-school diploma to enroll initially as special students and become regular students after successful completion of three junior college semesters.

Slocum later earned her degree in sociology from Southern Illinois University and became interested in a career in law. Her academic advisor, himself a SLU graduate, encouraged her to visit Saint Louis University School of Law.

"I was very impressed," she says. "Looking back, it felt like a welcoming place and faculty and staff did a good job of making you feel at home. And, I had fabulous classmates at SLU! There was great camaraderie and a lot of fun, even though we were all working hard for the best grades we could get."

"SLU LAW’s emphasis on service orientation came through so strongly during my time there, and it had an effect on me. It’s my philosophy to be a servant leader, even in my professional life."

Reflecting further on her time at SLU LAW, Slocum tears up when remembering Professor Vincent Immel. "When I think about education at SLU, so much is about Vince Immel," she says. "Now, when I run into a hard problem, I think about what he taught — the discipline of analysis he drilled into us has had a huge influence on me."

However, dedicated faculty and students and challenging curriculum were only a part of the SLU LAW experience for Slocum.

"The School of Law’s emphasis on service orientation came through so strongly during my time there, and it had an effect on me," she says. "It’s my philosophy to be a servant leader, even in my professional life. My colleagues laughingly say that ‘I’m happy to be of service’ is my mantra."

Prior to joining NPR, Slocum’s services were put to good use in several diverse ways.

Immediately after graduation from SLU LAW, Slocum jumped in her car and headed back to Dallas and began working at Johnson & Swanson as a tax attorney. She later moved to the Southland Corporation, where she handled international licensing and franchising matters. In 1994, she became general counsel at Lyrick Studios, owner of the Barney “The Big Purple Dinosaur” children’s character, but this time she did more than legal work.

The production timeline for Lyrick Studios’ feature-length movie, “Barney’s Great Adventure,” was tight. And ever the team-player, Slocum helped co-write the lyrics to “Count the Stars” and to a new verse to the famed “I Love You” theme song.

Slocum laughs when asked about her skills as a musician. "I love music, but I don’t consider myself to be a musician," she says. "I was more of a lyricist. It was a lot of fun.”

In 2001, Lyrick was acquired by HIT Entertainment, owner of the Bob the Builder character, and the combined company shortly thereafter acquired Gullane Entertainment, which brought its ownership of the Thomas the Tank Engine character, as well. The wealth of quality programming it controlled positioned HIT to join with Comcast, Sesame Workshop and PBS to create PBS Kids Sprout — a channel devoted to providing quality, child-friendly programming on a 24/7 basis.

Slocum spent 18 months navigating the complicated legal aspects of creating a joint venture among companies with very different interests. The experience presented great challenges — and opportunities.

"It was a very long and intense negotiation, because we were bringing together profit-seeking interests with more mission-driven organizations that would happily sacrifice profits to help preserve the purity of all the brands involved," Slocum says. "Because HIT had a strong mission-driven legacy, but was a for-profit company, I could understand the views of all sides and help develop solutions that worked for everyone. And now, many years later, when I see Sprout on the channel guide, or I hear great things about the channel from moms, I’m still very proud of it."

Although she has no aspirations to be behind the microphone, Slocum had a few ideas about what she’d do if NPR ever needed her to step in and host a radio show: "I would call it ‘At the Bar’ and my first guest would definitely be Ruth Bader Ginsburg."
1939
Joseph Stewart is playing golf and spending winters in southern California to be near his son, Mark (ALLW ’81) and daughter, Mary.

1952
The St. Andrew’s 2009 Class of Ageless-Remarkable St. Louisans honored Melvin Bahle as one of 20 remarkable seniors over 75 for their incredible contributions.

1958
Joseph McGlynn has been named by the Irish Voice newspaper and Irish America magazine to the second annual “Irish Legal 100” list of distinguished and accomplished lawyers of Irish descent. He is also the honorary Irish Counsel for St. Louis.

1969
The 2010 edition of Chambers USA: America’s Leading Lawyers for Business named James Virtel in the area of general commercial litigation.

1970
The St. Louis Business Journal named Joseph Conran as one of its 2010 “Most Influential St. Louisans.”

1971
The Hon. Kathianne Knaup Crane received a 2010 Women’s Justice Award, sponsored by the Missouri Lawyers Media, in the public official category. Crane also received the Distinguished Honoree Award from the Women Law Students’ Association at SLU LAW.

1974
Jay Kiesewetter, a labor and employment lawyer with Kiesewetter, Wise, Kaplan, Prather PLC, was one of only 35 attorneys statewide to be selected as a fellow for the Tennessee Bar Foundation. Illinois Super Lawyers recognized Robert Wells in the field of mediation and alternative dispute resolution. He continues to serve on the Illinois State Bar Association Section Council on Alternative Dispute Resolution, which he chaired in 2004-05.

1975
Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon recently appointed Michael Calvin to serve a term on the St. Louis Board of Police Commissioners. The board is responsible for oversight of the operation of the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department.

1976
James M. Gallen (Cook ’73) of Evans & Dixon, L.L.C. was inducted as a fellow of the College of Workers Compensation Lawyers during its fourth annual induction dinner in Phoenix. The College of Workers Compensation Lawyers honors attorneys who have distinguished themselves in their practice in the field of workers compensation.

1977
Fox Rothschild LLP named Amy Rubin as a partner in its West Palm Beach, Fla. office, focusing her practice on complex commercial litigation.

1978
John Kurowski was named a 2010 Illinois Super Lawyer in the area of personal injury law.

1979
Fox Rothschild LLP named Amy Rubin as a partner in its West Palm Beach, Fla. office, focusing her practice on complex commercial litigation.

1980
James Neville was recently inducted into the American College of Trial Lawyers. The group honors attorneys with at least 15 years of trial experience and only recognizes the top 1 percent of the total lawyer population of any state.

1981
Habitat for Humanity Saint Louis announced faculty member the Hon. Jimmie Edwards of the 22nd Judicial Court, St. Louis Family Court and Innovation Concept Academy, to its board of directors.
Reuben Shelton, senior counsel for Monsanto Company, was recently honored with the 2010 Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis’ Distinguished Lawyer Award. Shelton also serves as general counsel of the Monsanto Citizenship Fund, the company’s political action committee.

The 2010 edition of Chambers USA: America’s Leading Lawyers for Business named Timothy Tryniecki in the area of real estate.

1982

Kevin Cavanaugh is practicing real estate and family law in the metropolitan Kansas City area at the Cavanaugh Law Firm. He visits his four grandchildren in California whenever possible.

The 2010 edition of Chambers USA: America’s Leading Lawyers for Business named George Von Stanwitz in the area of environmental law.

1983

After 23 years, Christi Griffin retired from heading one of the largest bankruptcy practices in Missouri. Griffin founded the Ethics Project, a nonprofit corporation that addresses the impact of crime, incarcerations and injustice on the community. She recently chaired youth/gang summits, bringing together more than 70 community leaders to work with St. Louis City high schools. And she enjoys spending time with her eight grandchildren.

1984

The Missouri Child Abuse and Neglect Review Board recently reappointed Tracy Gonzalez. She is also the Assistant Dean for Admissions, Career Development and Student Services at the University of Missouri Law School.

The Hon. Laura Grandy was named chief judge of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Southern Illinois District.

Christine Miller is a Women’s Justice Award Honoree in the trial practitioner category.

1985

The Hon. David Hylla was named chief of the Civil Division of the Third Judicial Circuit. Hylla was elected as a circuit judge in December 2006 and has been trained at the National Judicial College as a civil-medical malpractice mediator.

Jeffrey Lowe recently formed the firm Carey, Danis & Lowe, a personal injury, medical malpractice, pharmaceutical liability and product liability firm.

1986


1987

John Carey recently formed the firm Carey, Danis & Lowe, a personal injury, medical malpractice, pharmaceutical liability and product liability firm.

Best Lawyers in America recently recognized David Neiers.

Therese “Tessa” Rolufs Trelz, partner at Armstrong Teasdale and founder of the firm’s Professional Advancement for Women Program, has been named a recipient of the 2010 University of Missouri-St. Louis Women Trailblazer Award.

1988

The Black Law Students’ Association recently presented the Hon. Gloria Clark Reno with the Honorable Theodore McMillian Award.

Minnesota State Colleges selected Timothy Wynes to serve as president of Inver Hills Community College in Inver Grove Heights, Iowa. Wynes has been the Chancellor of Iowa Valley Community College District since 2002. Prior to joining Iowa Valley, he served as executive dean of Governmental Affairs, Grants & College Research at Indian Hills Community College in Ottumwa, Iowa.

1989

Daniel Cook joined the accounting firm RSM McGladrey’s tax practice.

1990

The Hon. Ann E. Callis was recently honored by the Women Law Students’ Association Biennial Judges Reception.

Armstrong Teasdale LLP added Michael Cardenas as a litigation partner to the firm’s St. Louis office. Cardenas, former senior director and litigation counsel at Ascension Health, works in all aspects of health care law, regulatory compliance and antitrust matters.

Jennifer Joyce was named to the St. Louis Business Journal’s “Most Influential St. Louisans” list in 2010 for the third straight year.

St. Louis Business Monthly named Paul Klug, a shareholder with Polsinelli Shughart PC, as one of its “Top St. Louis Attorneys” for 2010.

The 2010 edition of Chambers USA: America’s Leading Lawyers for Business named James Mello in the area of real estate.
1991
Elisha Sayad is overseeing the Shanghai office of Minneapolis-based Fredrikson & Byron. The office serves clients planning to grow their markets in China and Chinese clients interested in the U.S. market. Sayad previously served as managing partner of Armstrong Teasdale's Shanghai office and as director of the Missouri Department of Economic Development China Trade and Investment Office.
Penny Smith recently started the law firm Penny Smith Life Science Law Group LLC in Roswell, Ga.

1992
Maureen McGlynn was a 2010 Women's Justice Award Honoree as a trial practitioner.

1993
Joseph Danis recently formed the firm Carey, Danis & Lowe, a personal injury, medical malpractice, pharmaceutical liability and product liability firm.
Thompson Coburn LLP recently elected Michael Nepple to partner. Nepple is a member of the firm’s Intellectual Property group.

1994
Bruce Bartlett recently started the firm Jensen, Bartlett & Schelp.

1995
St. Louis Small Business Monthly named Brian Behrens as one of St. Louis’ top lawyers for small businesses.
Bradford Cyron recently joined the firm of Polsinelli Shughart PC as a shareholder in its real estate practice, focusing on real estate transactions and development.

1996
Rashda Buttar is a 2010 Women’s Justice Award Honoree in the enterprise category.
Joseph O’Keefe was appointed chairman of the 2009-2010 Federal Taxation Section Council for the Illinois State Bar Association.
The Women Law Students’ Association Biennial Judges Reception recently honored the Hon. Ellen (Nellie) Ribaudo.

1998
Polsinelli Shughart added Jon Bierman as a shareholder in the national labor and employment practice.
Flynn & Guymon named Anthony Garvalia as an associate.

1999
Sandberg Phoenix & von Gontard PC named Jeffrey Dunn as leader of its Health Law Practice Group.
Thompson Coburn LLP elected Clyde Smith to partnership.
Smith is a member of the firm’s intellectual property group, focusing on obtaining patents, providing counseling and litigation support.
Karen Volkman joined the firm of Hawkins, Parnell & Thackston LLP, which opened its new St. Louis office last January.

2000
Armstrong Teasdale named Susan Ehlers as partner. Ehlers is a member of the financial services group, focusing her practice on financial restructuring and reorganization and bankruptcy.
Frank Schmidt recently formed the St. Louis firm Waltrip & Schmidt.
Christina Schultejans joined RehabCare as corporate counsel.

2001
Thompson Coburn LLP elected Matthew Braune to partnership. Braunel is a member of the firm’s intellectual property group.
Mark Gaertner was named partner with the newly renamed Holloran White Schwartz & Gaertner LLP.
Thompson Coburn LLP elected Milada Goturi to partnership. Goturi is a member of the firm’s Health Care Group. Prior to joining the firm, she worked as an ICU registered nurse at Barnes-Jewish Hospital.

2002
Husch Blackwell Sanders named Michael Bokemann a partner.
Katrina Jones (Snow) has recently formed Gelman & Jones, LLP in New York City. The firm concentrates in the areas of employment, family, trusts and estates and alternative dispute resolution.
Aaron Pawlitz was named a member of the law firm Lewis, Rice & Fingersh.
Husch Blackwell Sanders named Matthew Schneider a partner.
Sarah Molina wrote a Law Journal article, cited in July 2008 as Amici Curiae by a United States Supreme Court brief granting certiorari to Jose Padilla. The Fall 2009 issue of the Brief inaccurately reported Padilla was the individual accused of trying to construct a “dirty” bomb. Padilla was a Honduran national who plead guilty to a deportable drug offense.

Chandler Atkins started the two-attorney firm of Atkins & Rodgers LLP.

Bryan Cave’s St. Louis office added Amanda Colvin as an associate in its Class Actions Practice.

Mary Curtis is a family law associate lawyer with the Stange Law Firm LLC.

Prairie State Legal Services hired Mark Guest as a staff attorney, focusing on family, housing and benefit cases. Prairie State Legal Services is a nonprofit law firm that provides free civil legal services to low-income persons and seniors in 36 counties in northern and central Illinois.

William Halaz is a family law practitioner with the firm Cordell & Cordell, PC at its Arnold, Mo., office.

Thomas Harvey co-founded the nonprofit corporation ArchCity Defenders with SLU LAW classmates John McAnnar and Michael John Voss. ArchCity Defenders provides legal counsel to the poor who are facing state prosecution, along with services to remedy or mitigate their clients’ mental illness, substance abuse or other disabilities or disorders.

Sara Stock was selected to the board of directors of the St. Louis Chapter of Commercial Real Estate Women.

Ronda F. Williams, senior corporate counsel for SAVVIS Inc., received the Black Law Students’ Association Service Award in a recent ceremony. She also received a Women’s Justice Award for Business Practitioner.

HeplerBroom LLC named Michael Young a partner.

2003

Julia Ruckman (Bruzina) serves as a trial attorney with the U.S. Department of Justice in the Environmental Torts Section of the Civil Division. She resides in Arlington, Va., with her husband, Craig, who is a staff attorney for the Securities and Exchange Commission.

2004

Christina Lewis Abate of the Bar Plan Foundation was appointed chair of the American Bar Associations’ Young Lawyers’ Division Ethics and Professionalism Committee.

Nick Brockmeyer is the founder and president of Platinum Sports & Entertainment Management LLC, which represents nearly 40 professional baseball players. Brockmeyer works with his father in the criminal defense field as an attorney at Brockmeyer Law Offices.

Hassan Hassan published a recent article in Legal Week magazine titled, “Charting a New Frontier.” Hassan is associate general counsel for GE Healthcare in the Middle East, Africa, Central Asia, Turkey and Russia.

Summers Compton Wells PC recently named Alan Ratchford a principal in the areas of taxation, general corporate and commercial law. Ratchford practiced public accounting in a local CPA firm, where he provided tax preparation consulting and other services.

2005

Lindsay Chapman joined Kansas State University’s Office of General Counsel as an assistant general counsel. She handles an array of legal issues, such as free speech, discrimination, open records, student privacy rights, contracts and intellectual property.

Erica Nuyen is a 2010 Women’s Justice Award Honoree in the Rising Star category.

2006

Annie Ewing recently accepted a position at Lindenwood University’s new Belleville, Ill., campus as professor, head women’s basketball coach and academic advisor.

The Suburban Journal named Melissa Glauber as one of 30 “Young People Making a Difference” in the Metro East area. Glauber is a patent attorney with Armstrong Teasdale in St. Louis. She is also a member of the United Way Young Leadership Society, Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville Alumni Board of Directors and SIUE School of Engineering Industrial Advisory Board.

2007

Goffstein, Raskas, Pomerantz, Kraus & Sherman LLC added Maureen Bulgrin as an associate, focusing on litigation and insurance defense.

Melissa Dorsey was recently sworn in as a Foreign Service Officer for the Department of State. Her first assignment is serving as a political officer on the Iraq Desk in the Near Eastern Affairs Bureau.

Brian Kelley has been promoted to the Family Violence/Criminal Sexual Conduct Unit of the Office of the Attorney General of Guam. Kelley will be prosecuting felony domestic violence, sex crime and human trafficking cases.

Jessica Sleater is an associate at Firm Milberg LLP in New York City, focusing her practice on class action litigation involving defrauded investors and consumers.

2008

Constangy, Brooks & Smith, a national labor and employment law firm, hired Matthew Day as an associate to its recently opened St. Louis office. Day was previously with Greensfelder, Hemker & Gale, where he focused on employment law counseling and litigation.

Ann Hendrickson joined Myers & Billion LLP as an attorney focusing on family law and general litigation. Before joining the firm, Hendrickson worked as an attorney with the general counsel to the Secretary of the Senate in Washington, D.C., working on matters relating to its legislative, financial and administrative functions.
2009 Continued

Greensfelder Attorneys at Law added Karen Johnson as an associate, focusing on labor, construction and trademark law.

Thompson Coburn hired Scott Lane as an associate in its Government Contracts Practice.

Armstrong Teasdale hired John McAnanar as an associate in their Litigation Practice Group.


David Rodgers started the two-attorney firm of Atkins & Rodgers LLP.

The Evans Partnership added Katherine Schierholz as an associate, focusing her practice on trial litigation.

Bryan Cave's St. Louis office hired Laura Spencer in its Commercial Litigation Practice.

Bass, Berry & Sims PLC hired Aryn Subhawon as an associate in the firm's Nashville, Tenn., office. Subhawon focuses on mergers and acquisitions and securities law. He previously worked as a contract landsman for Jim Burgin and Associates in Fulshear, Texas, and he interned at the International Legal Counsellors of Thailand in Bangkok.

Alexander Thomas is an attorney at PricewaterhouseCoopers in Houston.

Ryan Turnage is assistant general counsel to Missouri State Treasurer Clint Zweifel.

in memoriam

Sally Pfeffer Clayton, 1980
David Cooper, 1999
The Honorable Francis Dorsey, 1948
Irvin Dubinsky, 1949
Phillip Feder, 1956
The Honorable Richard Fitzgerald, 1938
The Honorable John Gray, 1948
Dorothy Kopp Hirzy, 1980
John Igoe, 1970
The Honorable William Johnson, 1960
Robert Kroum, 1952
William Leising, 1976
Senator Edward Linehan, 1952
Thomas Maue, 1949
Donald Meyer, 1965
Richard Roberts, 1936
Dennis Schafer, 1979
Charles Shaffar, 1950
William Shaw, 1950
Kimberly Stroud-Schallert, 1994
Michael James Zimmer, 2010

Black Law Students’ Association
40th Anniversary Celebration

Thursday, September 23, 2010
Il Monastero on SLU’s Campus, 3050 Olive St.
St. Louis, MO 63103

For more information (or an invitation), please contact Elizabeth Stookey at ebolen1@slu.edu or 314-977-3978.

Black Law Students' Association 40 years
If you knew Ronda F. Williams, ‘02, only by her list of 2009 and 2010 honors — the Black Law Students’ Association Annual Service Award, the St. Louis Bar Foundation Spirit of Justice Award, the St. Louis Business Journal 40 under 40 Award and the Missouri Lawyers Weekly Women’s Justice Award — you might assume Williams has a day job steeped in public-interest law, maybe at a foundation or a legal aid clinic.

Not so. The St. Louis native who was raised by her father and a beloved grandmother who “believed in helping people,” fits in her community service with the Mound City Bar Association, the National Bar Association and the Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis, as well as other groups, around her day job as Senior Corporate Counsel at SAVVIS Communications Corporation, a global IT-infrastructure company based in St. Louis.

Williams is tirelessly dedicated to both her volunteer endeavors and her demanding corporate job — a heavy schedule that sounds perfectly normal to her. “It’s more of my hobby than my job, just something that would be a part of my life no matter what I was doing in my career,” Williams says.

She had spent the day before — a typical one — at a board meeting before heading to work, then at another one immediately afterward, finally getting home around 9 p.m., after a post-meeting session of stuffing envelopes.

Tiring schedule? Not for Williams, who had a judicial clerkship and internship (with the Honorable Booker T. Shaw of the Missouri Court of Appeals and the Honorable Kathianne Knaup Crane of the same court) and a stint as a litigator for Fox Galvin to her credit before joining SAVVIS in 2007. Reaching out and helping her community also allows her to make important connections in local legal circles — a lesson she learned as a SLU LAW student.

Williams looks back on her first eight eventful years of practice recently from her office at SAVVIS:

**You joined the bar in 2002. What do you wish you knew then, that you know now?**

Putting energy and time into building relationships will render great results for whatever you do. I can point to a relationship with someone that led me to each point in my career where, if it weren’t for that connection, I wouldn’t have been able to take a particular step.

This is a good story: The very first legal job I got (when I was still in law school), was as a clerk at White Coleman & Associates. I had built a relationship with former SLU LAW Professor Leland Ware who wasn’t even my professor — he taught my friends. They told me to introduce myself, to get to know him, and I did. So after my first year, Professor Ware sent a letter to the managing partner at the firm suggesting she hire me. It was because of that letter, I received an interview and was subsequently hired. And I ended up working there throughout my entire law school career and acquired a great mentor and friend in Dorothy White Coleman.

**What did SLU LAW give you that you appreciate the most?**

It’s given me an opportunity to be a part of the SLU LAW alumni family, which is very close but large in St. Louis. Federal and state judges, law firm partners, professors, and just a great group of people that I get to say I’m a part of now.

Cherish and nurture relationships with the people you meet, because you never know how that relationship will help you later. Also, your reputation will precede you. If you do a good job and make the quality of the work you do a priority, that will take you far.

**Recently you received the BLSA Annual Service Award. What did you think when you found out?**

It’s great to be recognized for things that you do, although certainly that’s not why I do them. The real reward is to hear people say what I did was helpful to them in some kind of way. That’s really what this means to me. At least this year, I’ve done something that helps others. This almost means more to me than any of the other awards because it came from people who felt I helped them personally.

I think attorneys have a responsibility when getting to this stage in their career. It brings a lot of great opportunities to us, and one of those is serving others.

**What’s the most rewarding aspect of your current position at SAVVIS?**

Feeling like I’m part of a team. We work as a team, which makes the working environment much more pleasant and productive. I can focus on the work rather than some of the additional things you have to do and show in other working environments.

**What did you do in law school?**

If it had not been for various relationships I had built with different people, my path would have been very different, and more difficult.
calendar of EVENTS ’10

June 16  Washington, D.C. Alumni Reception
July 28  Dinner for alumni taking the Missouri Bar in Jefferson City, Mo.
August 9–13  New Student Orientation
           16  SLU LAW Classes Begin
September 23  Black Law Students’ Association 40th Anniversary Celebration
          24–26  Reunion Weekend and SLU Homecoming
          24  • Richard J. Childress Lecture*
          • Colloquium on Labor and Employment Law*
          • SLU LAW Trivia Night (open to all alumni)
          25  • PILG Ambulance Chase 5K Run/3K Walk
          • Colloquium on Labor and Employment Law*
          • SLU LAW Family Day
          • SLU LAW Cocktail Party and Dinner
          26  • Mass at St. Francis Xavier College Church
          • Golden Billiken Brunch — Class of 1960 and earlier
          • Brunch with the Billiken
October 1  Missouri Bar Alumni Luncheon, Columbia, Mo.
          7,9  Health Law Conference*
          23  SLU Make a Difference Day
December 10  SLU LAW Alumni Reception, Chicago, Ill.
           16  SLU LAW Mid-Year Graduation

*Continuing Legal Education credits available