Easing the Burden in the Public's Interest

Baltimore-area lawyer Kieron Quinn makes his living "in the local community where I represent people, not companies." Quinn is an outspoken advocate for students entering the public sector. He believes that the only way to interest students in pursuing public-interest careers is to make a major effort to alleviate the massive debt associated with higher education. "Graduates are faced with paying off loans and yet have to make a living somehow," remarks Quinn.

To make it easier for graduates to accept public-interest positions, Quinn responded generously to the dean's request with a $500,000 gift to establish a loan repayment assistance program. Named the Kieron F. Quinn Loan Repayment Assistance Fund, the donation is the largest gift that supports loan forgiveness in the School's history.

Quinn's ties to the School of Law (he has helped fund the Maryland Public Interest Law Project and an annual environmental symposium) and the School's reputation for housing one of the best clinical law teaching programs in the country (in the top 6 according to U.S. News & World Report) were the main reasons for his contribution. "This fund is set up in the hopes that it will be increased from all directions. It's designed to go beyond graduation," Quinn explains.

According to Teresa Schmiedeler, director of Career Development at the law school, there is a genuine need for loan repayment assistance. She points out that of the 30 percent of entering students who express interest in public-sector careers, only 3 to 5 percent actually enter the public sector after graduation. The main reason for the lack of interest in public-sector work is the money. "The average starting salary for public-sector lawyers is about $31,000," notes Schmiedeler. "Graduates who enter the private sector can make anywhere from $60,000 to more than $100,000 their first year."

Schmiedeler explains that the average graduate has about an $80,000 debt after graduation (including undergraduate loans). Given these numbers, it is increasingly difficult to find graduates willing to pass up the opportunity (and the salary) to work at a private firm.

In creating the fund, Quinn took a step toward eliminating some of that overwhelming debt. Furthermore, the Quinn fund will aid the law school in its ongoing commitment to public service.

"A high percentage of students express a commitment to public-interest work and this fund enables them to follow that dream," says Dean Karen H. Rothenberg. She acknowledges that this fund is a tribute to the excellent clinical program at the School of Law. "Mr. Quinn's gift is another building block in the ongoing commitment of the law school to educate people in public interest. Hopefully it will stimulate similar private contributions in the near future."

BRAD DWIN
Constellation Energy Group Lights the Way

The Constellation Energy Group (CEG) has an eye for the future. The company is seeking students to eventually join their in-house legal team and it has turned to the law school for help. One of the largest employers in Baltimore, CEG has established a full-tuition scholarship at the School of Law.

The Constellation Energy Group Scholarship Fund was created to identify students interested in energy law, utility law, the environment and other regulatory issues that are important to CEG. The first recipient, Shana Jones, is a first-year student (see related story page 14).

According to Linda Goldberg, the company's director of human resources, the scholarship was established not only to find a student whose interests match those of CEG, but also to find a student who desires a career in its legal department. In fact, it is CEG's intention that the recipient participates in inter-session employment with the company and considers full-time employment at CEG after graduating.

CEG's gift, the company's first to a graduate school program, is one of only a few fully funded corporate scholarships. According to Dean Karen H. Rothenberg, "This scholarship enables the law school to recruit the best and brightest students with the support and leadership of Constellation Energy Group, a company that has shown a great deal of commitment to the community."

BRAD DWIN

Moot Court Competition Toots Its Horn

The Morris Brown Myerowitz Moot Court Competition celebrated its 30th anniversary on March 15 most fittingly: with more than an hour of arguments.

This year's final round of oral arguments was held in the ceremonial courtroom at the Federal Courthouse in Baltimore and was presided over by The Hon. Andre M. Davis '78, judge, U.S. District Court of Maryland; The Hon. Ellen M. Heller '77, administrative judge, Circuit Court of Baltimore City; and The Hon. Diana G. Motz, judge, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit.

The four finalists in the competition were Anne Connolly and Greg Wasylak versus Hank Walther and Damon Krieger. After more than an hour of oral arguments and intense questioning by the presiding judges, Anne Connolly and Damon Krieger were selected as the winners.

To commemorate the competition's longstanding history at the law school, the Moot Court Board honored past winners, both orals and outstanding brief writers, from the last 30 years after the competition portion of the program. More than half of the winners from three decades celebrated the anniversary.

The School of Law acknowledges the ongoing support of the Myerowitz family. Through their generosity more than 35 years ago, the Morris Brown Myerowitz Endowment was established. This fund supports the moot court competition and some activities of the Moot Court Board.

TRISHANA BOWDEN

Linda C. Goldberg, director of Corporate Human Resource Services and Compliance; Shana Jones; and Assistant Dean Shelley Gitomer

The Myerowitz Family celebrates this annual event with the law school.

Jason M. St. John, JD, MBA,'00, Myerowitz Moot Court Competition Chairperson
Putting the Spin on Global Accountability

As the world grows economically richer, it is in many ways becoming environmentally more impoverished through higher rates of natural resource depletion, energy use, deforestation, and disruption of natural ecosystems. How to address these challenges was the focus of the April 28 Ward, Kershaw and Minton Environmental Symposium. Policymakers and legal scholars from four continents highlighted creative strategies for promoting environmental protection throughout the world.

Four panels examined the concept of environmental responsibility, the transformation of environmental law and policy in the United States and abroad, creative mechanisms for enhancing global environmental accountability, and the role of the public in assuring environmental accountability.

Speakers included environmental scholars from four foreign countries (Uruguay, Kenya, Uganda and Hungary) and representatives of the National Wildlife Federation, Natural Resources Defense Council, Earthrights International, Environmental Defense Fund, and the Centers for Disease Control.

The symposium was established by a gift to the School of Law’s Environmental Law Program from the Baltimore law firm of Ward, Kershaw and Minton. The firm, founded in 1984, specializes in complex civil litigation, including class action and environmental lawsuits.

This year’s symposium was organized by Karin M. Krchnak ’93.

CHRIS STUTZ

Is There a Pink Slip in My Genes?

Paul Steven Miller, commissioner of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), spoke on genetic discrimination in the workplace at the annual Stuart Rome Lecture held in April.

Commissioner Miller contends that because of the recent breakthroughs in genetic research and technology, there has been an expansion in the range of genetic test results and other genetic information made available to physicians, insurance companies and employers. Results of genetic tests can provide information about an individual’s increased risk of future disease, disability or early death. This information has lead to the emergence of legal issues regarding employment discrimination on the basis of genetic information.

Miller’s lecture presented a range of issues from workers’ fears and the reality of genetic discrimination in the workplace to the application of existing federal statutes such as the Americans with Disabilities Act. His article, which was the basis for the lecture, was published in the spring 2000 symposium issue of the Journal of Health Care Law.

TRISHANA BOWDEN
So You Wanna Be...

a labor and employment discrimination lawyer, an intellectual property attorney, in-house counsel or a criminal law practitioner? School of Law students had the opportunity to learn more about these four sectors of the legal field at a series of panels moderated by the faculty featuring alumni and their colleagues.

Some of the law school’s most energetic and articulate alumni shared real-life career experiences on the panels, which were convened during the last academic year.

Participating on the Labor/Employment Discrimination Law panel were Ann Hoffman ’72, legislative director, UNITE; and Dinah Leventhal ’96, associate, O’Donoghue & O’Donoghue. The Intellectual Property Law panel included Teresa LaMaster ’95, associate, Bowie & Jensen, LLC; and Judith Kim ’95, associate, Sterne, Kessler, Goldstein & Fox. Contributing on the In-House Counsel panel were Meryl Eddy ’82, university counsel, University of Maryland Baltimore; Daniel Pugh ’94, deputy chief counsel, Prism Communication Services, Inc.; Ruth Riley ’90, counsel, Bank of America Corp. and M. Melinda Thompson ’81, associate corporate counsel, The Ryland Group. Representing the Criminal Law panel: Videtta Brown ’87, director of Baltimore City’s Domestic Violence Unit; the Hon. Lynne Battaglia ’74, U.S. attorney for the District of Maryland; Howard Cardin ’65, of Cardin & Gitomer.

This successful series is scheduled again for this academic year.

LIZ McFARLANE

Governor Speaks About Gun Violence

Maryland Gov. Parris N. Glendening and Attorney General J. Joseph Curran were among the speakers at the March 9 conference “Guns As A Consumer Product: New Public Health and Legal Strategies to Reduce Gun Violence.” Hosted by the law school’s Law and Health Care Program, participants explored the public health, policy, and legal ramifications of gun violence and the proposed changes to state and federal gun laws.

The governor spoke about the then-pending “smart gun” bill, and the attorney general discussed his report, which recommended a ban on firearms as a solution to gun violence. Panelists discussed other topics including the redesign of handguns, gun safety in Maryland, litigation against gun manufacturers and the epidemic proportions of handgun injuries.

With modifications to Gov. Glendening’s original “smart gun” bill, the Maryland General Assembly passed landmark gun-control legislation during its spring session.

Maryland is the first state to require built-in locks on new handguns beginning in 2003.

Until then, the law requires handguns to be outfitted with external trigger locks.

KAREN PEARS

Maryland Student Bar Association Named SBA of the Year

The School of Law’s Student Bar Association (SBA) was named the American Bar Association Law School Division’s North East Regional Student Bar Association of the Year. Congratulations to former SBA President Louis Patalano ’00 and ABA Rep. Christina McDonald ’00 for topping the 44 other schools in the region, which runs from Maine to Maryland.

Class of 2000 Leaves a Legacy

Kaliophe Parthenos, president of the Class of 2000’s day division, donated a gift to the building campaign on behalf of the class. The donation will be used to purchase a tree to be planted in the courtyard of the new building.