A Helping Hand for Katrina Victims

Bill Leahy ’68 takes to heart the old adage “when the going gets tough, the tough get going.” When the veteran Cleveland trial lawyer heard of a program providing free legal help for victims of Hurricane Katrina, he volunteered to help wherever he was most needed. In early December, Leahy journeyed to the Mississippi coast where he provided desperately needed legal help to one of the storm’s hardest-hit communities.

He got the idea at a Moritz College of Law reception in Cleveland when Dean Nancy Rogers talked about the Mississippi Bar’s Disaster Legal Assistance Program. Plus, he had another reason for the trip—his daughter lives in Jackson and he appreciates the kindness and Southern hospitality shown to her by the people of Mississippi.

Leahy was stationed in Waveland, Miss., a small town along the state’s Gulf Coast that Katrina nearly wiped off the map. A lone desk in a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) disaster relief center (actually a converted skating rink) served as his office. Though many worked at the center providing other kinds of assistance, Leahy was the sole provider of legal help, dispensing advice and directing people to additional services—their first steps on a long road to recovery.

The Disaster Legal Assistance Program, coordinated by the Young Lawyers Division of the Mississippi Bar, has been assisting Katrina victims since early September, immediately after disaster struck. According to the organization, more than 5,800 people have received legal assistance through the program. Around 600 attorneys have volunteered, approximately half serving on-site at FEMA disaster relief centers throughout the region and half giving guidance over the telephone.

Volunteer attorneys from out of state were specially admitted to practice under a Mississippi Supreme Court order to provide pro bono legal assistance to disaster victims. To prepare volunteers, the Young Lawyers Division held training sessions in which law professors and local attorneys provided a crash course in areas of Mississippi law that volunteers would be advising on, primarily landlord-tenant, real property, mortgage, and insurance issues.

It was a profoundly moving experience for Leahy, viewing firsthand the complete and utter devastation of the area: residences leveled, hotels completely or partially destroyed, bridges and highways stacked up like decks of cards, FEMA trailer camps, deserted beaches. He likens the scene to bombed-out Berlin after World War II.

The need for support remains strong, and Leahy has no doubt it will continue for a long time. He expresses concern that the general public may become apathetic. “It’s a situation where a loved one passes away and people

(Continued on page 2)
Ray Persons Receives Outstanding Alumnus Award

Ray Persons is a success by any measure. In recognition of his accomplishments, the 1978 graduate of Moritz Law received the college’s 2005–2006 Outstanding Alumnus Award on September 24, 2005. The award, presented at the Ohio State v. Iowa tailgate at the college’s new Barrister Club, located at 25 West 11th Avenue, is given yearly to a graduate for exceptional achievements or outstanding service to the college. Persons will also be the speaker at the annual Hooding Ceremony for the Moritz College of Law on May 12, 2006.

A skilled litigator, Persons is a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, an organization whose membership is limited to the top one percent of lawyers in the nation, and one of only 600 elected to the International Society of Barristers, a law honor society with membership limited to trial lawyers and barristers drawn from the United States, Canada, and England.

Persons’ roster of clients is equally impressive, including Union Carbide Corporation, Hewlett-Packard Company, Georgia Pacific Corporation, Lincoln Electric, Bridgestone Corporation, and Colonial Pipeline, among others. His practice focuses on complex litigation, including class actions and mass torts. He regularly appears before the state and federal courts and has been lead counsel in more than 50 jury trials. He has written numerous articles, taught trial advocacy at Georgia State University College of Law, and conducted lectures across the country and abroad on strategies for defending complex cases.

Few would have predicted this success. Money was short and Persons had to drop out of college to earn money in order to be able to continue his studies.

With the help of a Cleveland Bar Association scholarship and a mother who encouraged him at every turn, he entered law school.

A consummate professional, Persons has given back to his community and improved the profession. “Professionalism,” he says, “extends beyond civility to service—it’s treating your profession as a calling.” The American Heart Association, the Fulton County (Georgia) Criminal Justice Blue Ribbon Commission, the Task Force for Reform of the Fulton County Superior Court Clerk’s Office, and the Atlanta Legal Aid Society top the list of his many civic and professional commitments.

A true Buckeye, he learned the value of “paying forward.” Persons and his wife, Wendy, recently endowed a merit scholarship named in honor of their children. The scholarship will help Moritz Law attract students of high academic caliber with a drive to contribute to the profession.

Persons visits Moritz Law regularly to meet with students and share his experiences. Knowing the power of setting

(Continued on page 3)
Smith ’59 Honored with Distinguished Jurist Award

The Honorable George C. Smith ’59, District Judge, Southern District of Ohio, Eastern Division, is the 2005-2006 recipient of the William K. Thomas Distinguished Jurist Award, presented by the Moritz College of Law. The award, presented to Judge Smith on October 27, 2005, during the annual Judges’ Day, is given to a Moritz Law graduate whose personal integrity and commitment to fairness, freedom, and equality exemplify the highest ideals of the judicial system.

"Judge Smith is renowned for his courtesy, judicial temperament, and scholarship," says former U.S. Bankruptcy Judge William Bodoh ’64, now of Frost Brown Todd LLC. "He represents the highest ideals of a distinguished jurist."

Upon his graduation from the Moritz College of Law in 1959, Judge Smith began a distinguished public service career in his hometown of Columbus. He worked with the City Attorney’s Office and for the Mayor, before joining then-Ohio Attorney General William B. Saxbe ’48 as an assistant attorney general of the State of Ohio. In 1971, he was appointed prosecuting attorney for Franklin County, becoming one of the youngest prosecuting attorneys in a large metropolitan area in Ohio history.

Judge Smith’s tenure on the bench began in 1980, when he was appointed to the Municipal Court of Franklin County. He was then elected to the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas where he confirmed his reputation as a trial judge who respects and enforces the rule of law without favorism, prejudice, or predisposition. On the Common Pleas bench, Judge Smith presided over numerous capital and other murder cases, and his courtroom provided an atmosphere of fairness for trial lawyers to advance their causes. He also tried high-profile civil lawsuits, such as the Ohio Deposit Guarantee Fund and the Ohio Lottery. The Ohio Supreme Court repeatedly conferred on Judge Smith awards for "Outstanding Judicial Service."

In 1987, President Ronald Reagan appointed Judge Smith to the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Ohio. Throughout his career, the judge has continued to deal with high-profile litigation, such as U.S. v. General Electric, and manages and disposes of these cases with efficiency and judicious temperament. The Ohio Bar Association and the Judicial College of Ohio continually seek his participation as a lecturer on practices, developments, and trends in the law.

His involvement in the community signals the leadership he displays on the bench. He has served on the board of trustees of the Central Ohio Leukemia Society and as an active member of the Central Ohio Leukemia Society. He has also been a driving force in establishing the Friends of Perry’s Victory and International Peace Memorial at Put-in-Bay on Lake Erie. In 1989, he helped form a nonprofit corporation to promote visitation to the monument. As a result, the U.S. Congress contributed more than five million dollars to improve the Perry Memorial and surrounding park lands, including the establishment of a visitor’s center.

In 1997, Governor George Voinovich ’61 appointed the judge as a member of the Ohio Bicentennial Commission, where he had an active role on the Historical Marker Committee. Judge Smith and his son, Ohio State Representative Geoffrey C. Smith (R-24, Columbus), also work together hosting the American Council of Young Political Leaders when the group visits Columbus.

He is married to Barbara Wood Smith (B.A. education, Ohio State), and they have three children: Curtis and Geoffrey, who received undergraduate degrees from Ohio State, and Elizabeth Ann ’97.

Persons (Continued from page 2)

high goals, he encourages students to raise their professional aspirations. He is as persuasive with them as he is with most jury sessions.

“Our heroes were lawyers,” he notes, “Robert F. Kennedy, Thurgood Marshall—civil rights champions who advanced the cause of racial justice. Even after the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, lawsuits had to be brought in the South to breathe life into the legislation and force change. I wanted to become an engineer of that sort of change.” Persons’ boundless energy and confidence fuel his drive and personal philosophy that, “If you can dream it, you can live it.” Those lucky enough to know him are instantly true believers.

EMPLOYMENT STATS

Of the 225 members of the Class of 2005 who were employed within nine months of graduation, 147 remained in Ohio, while others relocated to 20 other states and Washington, D.C. The average starting salary is $69,836.
Alumni News

Submit news items to Liz Cutler Gates, Director of Communications, Moritz College of Law, 55 West 12th Avenue, Columbus, OH 43210. You may also e-mail news to gates.65@osu.edu. Photos are welcome but will not be returned. Digital photos must be 300 dpi for printing purposes.

Because of the volume of class notes received, we regret we cannot confirm all information. If an item is printed incorrectly, please let us know and we will correct the error in the next issue.

1950s
Sheldon Mike Young ’51, Walter & Haverfield, has been selected for inclusion in the 2006 edition of the Best Lawyers of America. Young was also named a 2006 Ohio Super Lawyer.

Four members of the Class of 1955 have been honored by the Columbus Bar Foundation for 50 years of service in the legal profession. They include: David R. Alban, Alban, Alban & Alban; William F. Newman; Donald W. Wiper Jr., Squire Sanders & Dempsey; and David J. Young, Squire Sanders & Dempsey.

1960s
Josiah Blackmore ’62 was the recipient of the 2005 Columbus Bar Association President’s Award. Blackmore is a professor of law at Capital University, Columbus.

Charles J. Kegler ’68, Geoffrey Stern ’68, and John R. Thomas ’68, all of Kegler Brown Hill & Ritter, have been recognized by Law and Politics Magazine as Ohio Super Lawyers. Kegler's practice focuses on business, tax and securities, and estate planning and probate. Stern focuses on business and securities, and Thomas practices in the area of business, tax and securities, and international business.

1970s
Joseph T. Dattilo ’73, a partner at Brouse McDowell in Cleveland, was chosen as a 2006 Super Lawyer by Law and Politics Magazine. He concentrates on litigation, environmental law, and product liability.

Thomas Dillon ’74, of Roetzel & Andress in Columbus, was named an Ohio Super Lawyer for 2006 by Law and Politics Magazine and Cincinnati Magazine.

Susan Barnes (Collins) de Resendiz ’74 joined the law firm of Gardner, Carton & Douglas, LLP, in Chicago in 2003. She resides and practices in Houston, while visiting the Chicago CCD office regularly. Her two daughters, Elizabeth and Meredith Collins, are third- and second-year medical students, respectively, at The Ohio State University College of Medicine.

George Rooney Jr. ’74, Roetzel & Andress, Cleveland, was named an Ohio Super Lawyer for 2006 by Law and Politics Magazine and Cincinnati Magazine.

Ronald Stansbury ’74, Caffee, Halter and Griswold, LLP, Cleveland, was named to Best Lawyers in America (2006) in the area of employee benefits law.

B. Joseph Schaeff ’75, of Dinmore & Shoel, LLP, in Cincinnati, has been named to the Who’s Who Legal USA – Trademarks.

Daniel R. Sharpe ’75, Hodgson Russ, LLP, Buffalo, N.Y., was named to Best Lawyers in America (2006) in the area of employee benefits law.

Ron McCracken ’76 is the individual winner of Chartwell’s 2005 Business Achievement Award. McCracken is the president and CEO of RJM Waste Equipment Company, Easley, S.C.

Stephen E. Chappellear ’77 was named president of the American Inns of Court, Franklin Chapter. He was also named a Best Lawyer (2006) in the commercial litigation area. He is a partner at Hahn Loeser + Parks, Columbus.

John I. Cadwallader ’78 has been listed as one of Ohio’s leading real estate lawyers. He is a member of the American College of Real Estate Lawyers and was named a Best Lawyer in America – Real Estate and an Ohio Super Lawyer – Real Estate. He is a member at Frost Brown Todd, LLC, Columbus.
Wayne A. Jenkins ’78, Dinsmore & Shohl, LLP, Cincinnati, has been named an Ohio Super Lawyer by Law and Politics Magazine.

Ronald Kopp ’79 and Gary Spring ’79, both of Roetzel & Andress, Akron, was each named an Ohio Super Lawyer (2006) by Law and Politics Magazine and Cincinnati Magazine.

David M. Whittaker ’79 has joined the law firm of Bricker and Eckler in the creditor rights and bankruptcy practice area. Whittaker has been a Chapter 7 panel trustee in Columbus since 1983 and is certified as a business bankruptcy specialist.

1980s

Donald W. Gregory ’82, Kegler Brown Hill & Ritter, has been recognized by Law and Politics Magazine as an Ohio Super Lawyer. His practice focuses on construction law and litigation.

Donald B. Leach Jr. ’82, managing partner at Buckingham, Doolittle & Burroughs, LLP, was elected to the Ohio State Bar Association’s Council of Delegates for District 7. He was also elected to the Upper Arlington City Council.

Douglas S. Morgan ’82, Calfee, Halter and Griswold, LLP, Cleveland, was named a Best Lawyer in America (2006) in the area of corporate law.

Paul A. Rose ’82, a partner at Brouse McDowell, Akron, was chosen as a 2006 Super Lawyer by Law and Politics Magazine. He focuses his practice on environmental law.


William H. Phillips ’83, Calfee, Halter and Griswold, LLP, Cleveland, was named a Best Lawyer in America (2006) in the area of real estate law.

S. Martijn Steger ’83, Kegler Brown Hill & Ritter, has been recognized by Law and Politics Magazine as an Ohio Super Lawyer. His practice focuses on business, tax and securities, international business, and litigation.

David I. Pomerantz ’85, Pomerantz and Crosby Co., LPA, Cleveland, published a chapter entitled “Health Care/Medical Malpractice,” in Baldwin’s Ohio Practice — Tort Law (Thompson/West).

Gregory E. O’Brien ’86, a partner with Weston Hurd, LLP, Cleveland, was elected Secretary of the Ohio Association of Civil Trial Attorneys (OACTA) at its annual meeting in December in Columbus.

Brian Sandoval ’80 has been appointed to the U.S. District Court, District of Nevada. From 2002 until his appointment in late 2005, he served as the Attorney General for the State of Nevada. He succeeds U.S. District Judge Howard McKibben.

Steve Mortinger ’89 has been named a vice president and associate general counsel at IBM Corporation in Somers, N.Y. Mortinger provides legal support to the recently formed Engineering & Technology Services business unit of IBM.

Michael A. Rambert ’89 has been elected and sworn in as president-elect of the Garden State Bar Association in New Jersey. He was also featured in the New Jersey Law Journal as one of the top minority attorneys in the state. He is associated with Parker McCay in Marlton, N.J.

Timothy T. Tullis ’89, of Kegler Brown Hill & Ritter, has been recognized by Law and Politics Magazine as an Ohio Super Lawyer. His practice focuses on health care, litigation, labor and employee relations, and telecommunication and utilities.

1990s

Marc A. Booker ’90 was ordained as a Baptist minister and has been named the senior pastor of the Jerusalem Baptist Church, Duquesne, Pa.
Alumni News

Continued

Gwen Silverberg Callendar ’91, general counsel for the Fraternal Order of Police, Ohio Labor Council, Inc., was elected to a four-year term on the Dublin City School Board in November 2005.

Jessica Shimberg Lind ’91 has returned to professional life after being a full-time mother. She is managing an initiative for the Supreme Court of Ohio designed to assist juvenile courts and public children services agencies in improving approaches to abuse, neglect, and dependency cases.

Lisa Han ’92, Schottenstein Zox & Dunn, LPA, accepted, on her firm’s behalf, Columbus Sister Cities International’s 2005 Community Ambassadors of the Year Award. Han specializes in international law.

David M. McCarty ’92, Kegler Brown Hill & Ritter, has been recognized by Law and Politics Magazine as an Ohio Super Lawyer. His practice focuses on labor and employee relations and litigation.

Erika Haupt ’94, Roetzel & Andress in Columbus, was named an Ohio Super Lawyer (2006) by Law and Politics Magazine and Cincinnati Magazine.

David E. Weisblatt ’94, McDonald Hopkins Co., Cleveland, was elected to shareholder status. His practice focuses on the area of labor and employment law.

Pariss Coleman ’95, Cooper & Walinski, has joined the Toledo Bar Association Board of Trustees for 2005-2006. Coleman brings to the board his experience as a past member of the boards of several community organizations.

Paul Giorgianni ’95 recently joined the Litigation Practice Group at Buckingham, Doolittle & Burroughs, LLP in the Columbus office. His practice focuses on business litigation.

Gerhardt A. Gossell II ’95, Chester Willcox & Saxbe, LLP, Columbus, was named an Ohio Rising Star by Law and Politics Magazine.

Tim Horton ’95, Chester Willcox & Saxbe, LLP, was named an Ohio Rising Star by Law and Politics Magazine.

Donald Simon ’95 was promoted to partner in the Oakland, Calif., law firm of Wendel, Rosen, Black & Dean, LLP. He is a co-founder of the firm’s Green Business Practice Group and focuses primarily on construction law and environmental sustainability.

April R. Bott ’96, Chester Willcox & Saxbe, LLP, was named an Ohio Rising Star by Law and Politics Magazine.

David Faure ’96, Porter Wright Morris & Arthur, was a recipient of the 2005 Columbus Bar Association Pro Bono Award.

Robert J. Brady ’97 and his wife, Isone, welcomed a son, Patrick Masato Brady, in October. In August, Robert was promoted to the rank of major in the U.S. Air Force Judge Advocate General Corps. He is the Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Western District of Texas.

Lee Freedman ’97 married Dana Chailton in her hometown of Toronto on August 28, 2005.

Loriann E. Fuhrer ’97, Kegler Brown Hill & Ritter, was promoted to firm director. Fuhrer was also named an Ohio Rising Star in 2005.

Lark T. Mallory ’97, Chester Willcox & Saxbe, was named an Ohio Rising Star by Law and Politics Magazine.

James Marx ’97, Dinsmore & Shohl, Cincinnati, was named an Ohio Super Lawyers Rising Star by Law and Politics Magazine.

Erika Lynn Pearsall-Christie ’98 has been named partner at the Columbus law firm of Cloppert, Latanick, Sauter, Washburn.

Maximillian C. Sutton ’98 became an associate with the Common Pleas Unit in Franklin County, Ohio, in 2005. He and his wife had a son, Xavier Christopher Sutton, in December 2004.

R. Gregory Smith ’99 joined Clark, Perdue, Arnold & Scott as an attorney in the business litigation group. He came to the firm with experience in complex commercial litigation, consumer law, and contract and warranty litigation.

2000s

Jason A. Hill ’00, Connelly, Jackson & Collier, LLP, was named to the Ohio Super Lawyers List of Rising Stars in the area of general litigation.

Melanie Meyer Nealis ’00 and Peter Nealis ’00, welcomed their son, Jackson Robert Nealis, into the world on September 15, 2005. Melanie is house counsel for Nordson Corporation in Westlake, Ohio. Peter is an associate at Kahn Kleinman, LLP, Cleveland, practicing corporate/securities law.
Amy Wei ’00 has joined the Office of Chief Counsel (IRS) at the U.S. Department of Treasury in Washington, D.C. as an attorney. Her focus is in the areas of income tax and accounting.

Stephanie D. Champ ’02, of Carlile Patchen & Murphy, was selected to the Barrister Leader class of the Columbus Bar Association.

Julie Kidwell Hartzell ’02 gave birth to a baby girl, Molly Lauren Hartzell on May 4, 2005.

Kevin M. Mueller ’02 has joined Schottenstein Zox & Dunn LPA, Columbus, in the corporate practice area. His focus is on mergers and acquisitions and general corporate counsel.

Janica Pierce ’02, Chester Willcox & Saxbe, was named an Ohio Rising Star by Law and Politics Magazine.

Stephanie M. Rawlings ’02, Carlile Patchen & Murphy, was selected to the Barrister Leader class of the Columbus Bar Association.

Anthony M. Sharett ’02 has joined the Ohio Department of Commerce, Division of Financial Institutions. He is counsel for the Savings Banks/Savings Loan Associations and Credit Union sections within the division. He was also named co-chair of the Minorities in the Law Committee with the Columbus Bar Association in 2005.

Emily A. Smith ’02, Carlile Patchen & Murphy, was selected to the Barrister Leader class of the Columbus Bar Association.

Brant Rhoad ’03 has been honored by the University of Findlay (Ohio) with the Old Main Award, which recognizes the accomplishments of alumni age 36 or younger. Rhoad graduated from the university in 2000. He currently is associated with the Columbus firm of Christensen & Christensen, with a focus on complex litigation, plaintiff’s trial work, and professional ethics.

Jessica K. Walls ’03, Brant Ledman & Teetor, was selected to the Barrister Leader class of the Columbus Bar Association.

Anne E. Will ’03, Calfee Halter & Griswold, was selected to the Barrister Leader class of the Columbus Bar Association.

Benjamin E. Widener ’04 has joined the law firm of Stark & Stark, P.C., in Princeton, N.J., as an associate practicing in commercial, corporate, and civil litigation. Prior to working at Stark & Stark, he served as a law clerk to the Honorable Howell Cobb, U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas.

Kelly N. Woods ’04 has joined the Rutgers University Athletic Compliance Office in Piscataway, N.J., as the director of Eligibility Services. Previously, she interned with the Virginia Tech University Athletic Compliance Department.

Laura Balski ’05 has joined Calfee, Halter & Griswold, Cleveland, as an associate in the general corporate, commercial business and finance, and securities and capital markets groups.

James A. Cannatti III ’05 joined the law firm of Brouse McDonald, Akron, as an associate. He practices with the corporate and health care groups.

Kathryn L. Connor ’05 and Brendan P. Fecheley ’05 have joined Keough Brown Hill & Ritter. Connor focuses on business litigation, while Fecheley concentrates on labor and employee relations.

Julia Tosi ’05 has joined Calfee, Halter & Griswold, Cleveland, as an associate in the Securities and Capital Markets group.

Erin Wojno ’05 has joined Buckingham, Doolittle & Burroughs, LLP, Columbus. She is working in the firm’s Real Estate and Construction practice group.
Career Commitment to Helping Others Earns Moritz Law Public Service Award for Gene King ’83

By his estimation, Gene King ’83 has roughly more than 1.5 million clients, give or take a few hundred. One gets the impression from speaking with him that he would gladly take on one million more if they needed help. Since 1986, he has served as managing attorney of the state support unit for the Ohio State Legal Services Association (OSLSA), where he represents and serves the state’s six legal aid regions and 40 legal aid offices. A career spent improving access to the legal system for Ohioans has earned him Moritz Law’s 2005-2006 Public Service Award.

Driven by a desire for public interest work, the Cleveland native left a teaching career pursuing law at Ohio State. Upon graduation in 1983, King took a job with OSLSA after clerking for the organization before his third year. He remains there today, as motivated as ever:

“I feel like a lucky guy,” King says. “I like my job. I like the people I work with. I work on issues every day that change people’s lives, issues that might not be addressed otherwise.”

While his wife attended law school in Cleveland, King taught in the city’s public school system. Witnessing the problems of the economically disadvantaged firsthand was an experience that remains with him to this day. “We picked books by counting heads, then going to the book room to count out books,” he says. “Classes didn’t even have the same books. It politicized me.”

Since assuming the mantle of managing attorney at OSLSA, he has made health care his priority, particularly collection defense and access issues. He chairs a statewide task force that monitors Medicaid, Medicare, and welfare rules and sets the statewide health agenda for legal aid. King says he considers each one of the 1.6 million people on Medicaid in Ohio in a given year to be his clients. “The biggest problem for my clients is they have no discretionary income,” he notes. “They can make decisions based only on economic need. My clients don’t have many choices; that’s why I do this work.”

As he approaches 25 years in his chosen field, he remains as driven as ever, in part because he thinks his clients are worse off now than they were 20 years ago.

“[I] work on issues every day that change people’s lives.”

“The laws, the social services support system have become more restrictive,” he explains. “There is less of an understanding of poverty in this country and Ohio. When laws are proposed, policymakers do not understand the impact on low-income Ohioans.” He cites a $3 Medicaid prescription co-pay, which to most people sounds inexpensive.

To someone making $150 per month, $3 is a sizable portion of their income—more so with multiple prescriptions. Issues such as this keep him fighting, day-in and day-out. “Because OSLSA is under-funded, we carry a heavy responsibility to identify the highest priorities for our clients, which is appealing and challenging,” he says.

In a career marked with successes, one that King himself enjoys noting is a battle with the state that netted three months of Medicaid eligibility and the right to reapply for 168,000 recipients who had been wrongfully terminated from the program. It took 18 months and a statewide coalition of work, but he says the sheer numbers of those helped make all the effort worth it.

King says there are 220 legal services lawyers across the state, representing 1.4 million people—about 10 percent of the state’s population. That leaves more than 300,000 lawyers for the remaining 90 percent. “We’re good, but we’re not that good,” he says. “I encourage alumni to think about pro bono work or volunteering for legal aid. It is a valuable experience.”

He is delighted and flattered with the recognition from his alma mater. “Public interest work is often low-profile work,” King notes. “It is a fault of ours that we don’t go for publicity very often.”

He credits much of his success to the support he receives from his family. Gene’s wife, Nancy King, is the chief public defender in the juvenile unit for Franklin County, Ohio. “Having a spouse that works in the same area as I do is very important to me. It reinforces the issues we’re dealing with,” King says. “My clients are her clients on different days of the week.”

The Kings live in Upper Arlington with their 17-year-old son Jordan and their 21-year-old daughter Caroline, who is attending Rhodes College. An avid bicyclist and fly-fisherman, King is also an active member of the Board of the Granville Heights Public Library.

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MORITZ JOB FAIRS

In 2006 Moritz Law will host or participate in job fairs in Washington, D.C. (July 13 and 14), Chicago, Ill. (August 8 and 9), and in North Carolina (September 7 and 8). For more information, contact Lombardi.2@osu.edu.
Wagoner ’97 Named Outstanding Recent Alumnus

At age 34, Mark Wagoner has demonstrated distinctive achievement as a lawyer, newly elected Ohio representative, and Toledo community leader. In recognition of his leadership abilities, Wagoner, a 1997 graduate of Moritz Law, received the college’s Outstanding Recent Alumnus Award on October 15 at the tailgate prior to the Ohio State v. Michigan State football game at the college’s new Barrister Club, located at 23 West 11th Avenue.

The award is presented to the Moritz College of Law alumnus who has graduated in the last 10 years and whose early accomplishments exemplify outstanding professionalism or service to the college. “It means a lot to receive such an award from a school I care so much about,” says Wagoner. “It’s really exciting to come back after eight years and see all the changes,” he adds. “Dean (Nancy H.) Rogers has built a strong sense of community within the school.”

Recognition of Wagoner’s leadership abilities began early. At Ottawa Hills High School, he captained the football, ice hockey, and baseball teams. Wagoner was selected as the outstanding athlete in his senior class and was involved in a wide range of extra-curricular activities. He graduated cum laude from Georgetown University, where he majored in government and history, and then entered law school at Ohio State. During that time, he served as president of the Student Bar Association and as senior editor for the Ohio State Law Journal.

For the past eight years, Wagoner has practiced law with Shumaker, Loop, and Kendrick in Toledo, Ohio. His work focuses on litigation, where he helps people and companies solve difficult and pressing problems on a daily basis. He has also done legal work for the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments and twice has received the Pro Bono Award from the Toledo Bar Association for providing legal services to people who can’t afford it.

Wagoner is committed to making his community a better place to live. He has served as the president of the Young Leaders Council and on the campaign cabinet of the United Way of Greater Toledo. He is also an active member of the executive committee and board of trustees for Mobile Meals for Greater Toledo and the Aspiring Minds of Toledo, a group of young individuals who seek to provide a future vision for Lucas County. Wagoner is also a graduate of Leadership Toledo and the Toledo Area Chamber of Commerce Local Government Academy.

In November 2004, he was elected to the Ohio House of Representatives as a representative of Ohio’s 46th district by a 61 percent winning margin. He now is vice chair of the Civil and Commercial Law Committee and serves on the Finance and Appropriations Committee; the Financial Institutions, Real Estate, and Securities Committee; and the Public Utilities and Energy Committee.

“Ohio State’s law school did a terrific job of instilling the importance of public service,” says Wagoner. “From Professor Brudney’s legislation seminar to Professor Shipman’s securities class, I still use the lessons I learned in law school each day in the legislature.”

Mark and his wife, Meredith, and son, Mickey, live in Ottawa Hills.
In Memoriam

The Moritz College of Law has received word of the death of these graduates. We express our sympathy to relatives and loved ones.

Carl C. Tucker ‘34 died September 2, 2005 in Hudson. He was 85. He joined the law firm of Tolles Hogsett & Gunn, which became a part of Jones Day, in 1934. He retired in 1982 and was a past president of the Ohio State Alumni Association. He is survived by daughters Sara T. Shelton, Dunwoody, Ga., and Patricia T. Kilkenny, Frankfort, Ky.; sons Robert C., Shaker Heights and Pearce B., San Diego; nine grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Joseph S. Heyman ’37 died January 9, 2006 in Toledo. He was 92. A former president of the Toledo Bar Association and a former member of the executive committee of the Ohio State Bar Association, in 1947 he was the founding member of the law firm of Spengler, Nathanson, Hebenstreit and Heyman, now Spengler Nathanson. He is survived by his wife of 70 years, Virginia Selby Heyman; his daughter Sally Nelsen; his son Richard S. Heyman (and wife Rosace); a sister, Dorothy MacEachron (and husband Raymond); and a brother, Robert N. Heyman: six grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren.

James Finley Bell Jr. ’39, a former Supreme Court of Ohio justice, died September 23, 2005, in Bradenton, Fla. He was 90. A native of London, Ohio, he was elected to the state Supreme Court in 1954 and served until 1962 when he joined a Columbus law firm. He was general counsel to General Telephone Co. of Florida until retiring in 1980 to found an arbitration firm.

J. Robert Donnelly ’49 died September 26, 2005, at the age of 87 in Florida. He retired as a partner in the Dayton law firm of Iddings, Jeffrey, and Donnelly after 29 years. Survivors include his wife M.J. and the Squeri and Hoborecht families.

Charles Raymond Gamb Jr. ’49, Columbus, died October 26, 2005. He was 81. A veteran of World War II and a former U.S. Army Reservist in the Judge Advocate General’s Corps, he was a Federal Bureau of Investigation special agent from 1950 to 1958. He retired from The Ohio State University in 1985 as assistant vice president, director of public safety. He is survived by his children Jeffrey M. (and wife Layla), Phoenix, Ariz., Susan G. Newman (and husband Craig), Mt. Carmel, Ill., Joseph E. (and wife Kathleen), Cypress, Calif., Jane G. Royal (and husband Stewart), Duluth, Ga.; and six grandchildren.

O. Allan Guler ’54, Powell, died September 3, 2005, at the age of 75. He retired in 1987 from The Ohio Company as executive vice president and director of corporate finance and syndicate departments. After retirement, he created a web site for Christian Medical College, Vellore, India, and served as its volunteer web master for 10 years (see http://www.cmch-vellore.edu/). He is survived by his wife Alice; sons Charles (and wife Margaret), James, and William (and wife Lisa); step-children Robert (and wife Teri), Patricia (and husband Jay), and Christopher (and wife Amanda); and 14 grandchildren.

Craig Edward Larrimer ’97, Columbus, died January 7, 2006. He was 36. A partner with the Larrimer & Larrimer Law Firm, he was a member of Simon Kenton Council, Boy Scouts of America. He is survived by his parents Gavin and Alice Larrimer; brother and sister-in-law Scott Larrimer and Erin Day, San Francisco; sister Heidi Larrimer, Columbus; grandmother Henrietta Hamm, Columbus; a niece and nephew; and numerous loving aunts, uncles, and cousins.

UPCOMING EVENT REMINDER
Ohio State Bar Association Convention/Alumni Reception, 5:30 p.m., May 4, Grand Ballroom C, Crowne Plaza Quaker Square, Akron
Four Members of the Class of 2006 Prove that Equal Justice Works

Four third-year students at the Moritz College of Law have received Equal Justice Works (EJW) grants for 2006. Rachel Shapiro, Tracy Simmons, Lori Turner, and Melissa Will plan to use their grants to work with low-income or special needs clients.

Founded in 1986, the Equal Justice Works program is the nation’s leading provider of summer and postgraduate public interest opportunities. EJW matches various sponsors with public interest attorneys who develop legal projects aimed at addressing the needs of currently underserved populations. The goal of EJW is to create a just society by mobilizing the next generation of lawyers committed to working in public interest.

Rachel Shapiro has been dedicated to special education law from the time she worked with low-income, special needs students while at Washington University. She says she “noticed the stark difference between the available resources for children from wealthier families and those who were from low-income families,” and she wanted to use the law to rectify this situation. The Chicago Bar Foundation is funding Rachel’s two-year legal project in Chicago. Specifically, she will be providing legal representation for children that have as yet unmet special education needs. Her hope is to reduce recidivism rates in Cook County through her work.

Tracy Simmons will provide legal advocacy for low-income Franklin County, Ohio, families who are facing custody relinquishment. In this county alone, in 2004, more than 900 parents relinquished custody of their mentally ill children in order to gain access to mental health care services. Through her EJW grant, Tracy wants to help in “ensuring that the educational and medical needs of low-income children with disabilities are met.” She will work in conjunction with the Child Advocacy Program at the Legal Aid Society of Columbus, and her fellowship will be funded by the Ohio Legal Assistance Foundation.

Rachel Shapiro, Tracy Simmons, Lori Turner, and Melissa Will plan to use their grants to work with low-income or special needs clients.

Lori Turner is joining the Children’s Initiative of the ACLU of Illinois. Her two-year EJW fellowship, sponsored by McDermott Will & Emery, focuses on identifying unmet educational needs of children in state care. Lori will implement strategies to assure that these children have adequate, stable education and mental health care services. She will leverage existing agreements to petition the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services to design and implement initiatives that will help children in state care meet educational goals.

Melissa Will was working at a homeless shelter when she realized that, for some at-risk people, legal problems can lead to homelessness. She calls her two-year EJW fellowship “a tool for preventing homelessness.” She will be working with the Ohio State Legal Services Association and will be funded by the Ohio Legal Assistance Foundation. Her goal is to prevent homelessness by resolving, in a timely manner, the legal issues of people at risk of homelessness. Melissa’s strategy is to create training programs for employees of social service organizations so that those employees can readily recognize a client’s legal problems and be able to refer clients to legal aid offices.

IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST

The percentage of Moritz graduates who accepted public positions rose from 2.6 percent in 2004 to 6.5 percent in 2005.
Scholarship Influences Personal, Professional Growth

—as by Leigh Anne Williams ’07

As an Ohio State alumna, a major reason I considered attending the Moritz College of Law was the generosity I experienced and the outstanding, yet affordable, education I received as an undergraduate here. That such generosity exists throughout Ohio State and at the Moritz College of Law was a gratifying discovery as I weighed the choice of which law school to attend. Ultimately selecting Moritz Law was a simple, straightforward decision.

The impact of receiving the Samuel B. Erskine Scholarship is difficult to put into words. As a practical matter, without a scholarship, I would have to seek additional loan money, either from the federal government or private lenders, which is increasingly burdensome given rising educational costs and interest rates. Many students at Moritz Law face a situation similar to mine; we are independent adults and must personally obtain funding for the ever-increasing price of legal education. Being awarded a scholarship showed me that generous Moritz Law alumni and community members recognize the practical effects of these rising costs and the load it places on students who, like me, are determined to seek a legal education but do not have the personal wealth to fund it themselves.

Receiving a scholarship also has had an important emotional effect on my experience here at the college. Being awarded a scholarship demonstrates that the prestige of the legal profession is well-deserved—for a donor to take a chance and invest in a future generation of attorneys exhibits the community and collegiality I sincerely hoped to find in taking this career path. Such investment in the future is a testament to not only the quality of friends and alumni of the Moritz College of Law, but also to their sincere desire to ensure that students like me are given the tools to be successful well after graduation—and hopefully be in a position in our future careers to be as generous as they.

Specifically, the Samuel B. Erskine Scholarship affects me in a more significant way because of the students it seeks to fund. By providing financial aid for students from the Appalachian region of Ohio, this scholarship recognizes that opportunities for legal education at Moritz Law are available for all Ohioans—regardless of financial or cultural background. Awareness of the special challenges individuals from Appalachia face is yet another reason I consider myself fortunate to have received this scholarship.

My gratitude for my scholarship would be the same regardless of the amount—for those of us facing loan payments after graduation, any way to alleviate the amount we owe is greatly appreciated. Having numerous career options, realizing the generosity of the professional community that sustains Moritz Law, and receiving a reward for hard work and dedication has been an incredible influence on my personal and professional growth.

Editor’s Note: The Samuel B. Erskine Scholarship Fund was established in 2002 by Maxine Marquand Erskine. It funds needs-based scholarships for students, preferably from Athens, Ross, or other Appalachian Ohio counties.

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T. H. E. O H I O S T A T E U N I V E R S I T Y

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