

The magazine of the first law school in the Pacific Northwest | Spring 2014

# WILLAMETTE LAWYER



**Northern Lights**  
ALUMNI AND STUDENTS  
SHINE IN ALASKA



# WILLAMETTE LAWYER

SPRING 2014

## WUCL: HOME OF THE Northern Lights



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Deemed "Alaska's Law School," Willamette's College of Law has a surprising number of grads putting their law degrees to work in the Land of the Midnight Sun.

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Willamette alumni like Alaska's U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski JD'85 play an integral role in the dramatic growth of the law school's Externship Program.

### On the path of whales

Robin Brena JD/MBA'83 splits his time between a practice in Anchorage and a home in Hawaii. He credits a Willamette education and a historic renovation with making it possible.

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A new 3+3 Program with University of Alaska helps students save money and attracts top recruits to Willamette law.



## Raising the Bar Award

Two '97 grads share a name, an avocation and now, an award.

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### Dean

Curtis Bridgeman

### Editor

Karen McGlone

### Graphic Designers

Susan Blettell

Mike Wright

### Class Action Editor

Cathy McCann Gaskin JD'02

### Photographer

Frank Miller

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Send comments to:  
Karen McGlone  
kmcglone@willamette.edu

Willamette Lawyer  
Willamette University  
College of Law  
245 Winter St. S.E.  
Salem, OR 97301

[willamette.edu/wucl](http://willamette.edu/wucl)

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### Correction

“An Up-Close View of Immigration,” published in the fall 2013 issue of *Willamette Lawyer*, incorrectly identified an employer for Teuta Norman JD'98. Norman worked for HRCentral Corporation, a human resources outsourcing firm, from 1998-2001. She started practicing immigration law with the firm now known as Hecht & Norman, LLP in 2001, becoming an owner in 2004. We regret the error.

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# Dean's Message

Dear Alumni and Friends,

Greetings from the College of Law! This is a special issue of the Willamette Lawyer as it illustrates the close ties we have with Alaska and our alumni there. Many people do not realize that there are more members of the Alaska bar who are alumni of Willamette than any other law school in the country. We have long enjoyed a special relationship with Alaska and take pride in the many ways our alumni use their law degrees. Alaska grads are a microcosm of our alumni generally: they are amazingly accomplished leaders in politics, business and, of course, traditional legal practice. Many have demonstrated the ambition and independent spirit that is distinctive both of Alaskans and of Willamette alumni everywhere.



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of the Alaska bar who are  
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Here at the law school, we continue to focus on our top priorities: educating our students in a way that assures they are as ready to practice law as a new graduate can be, and helping them make the connections they will need in order to find fulfilling jobs. In this issue, you'll read about our full-time externship program, designed to immerse students in a hands-on legal environment, and you'll see that it's often our alumni who open their doors to these students.

As you may recall from the last issue, for the class of 2012, Willamette was one of the leaders on the entire West Coast in job placement in positions that either require or prefer the JD degree. The class of 2013 did even better. Our success is thanks to you and your efforts in mentoring them, teaching them through externships, introducing them to colleagues and, of course, hiring them. Please continue to help us get these new lawyers off to great starts in their careers. With your help, they can make a huge difference in the world.

Finally, connecting with our alumni remains a high priority. We want to reach out to you as a resource throughout your career, and ask for your help in strengthening ties with alumni and other friends in the practicing bar. We also want to ensure that your degree continues to give back to you. To that end, we are promoting our new CLE program, encouraging alumni to use the law library and continuing to develop a range of informative symposia and guest presentations.

I have been amazed in my first year at how helpful everyone is to our school and our students, and feel so fortunate to be part of the Willamette community. We want to be part of your lifelong education, and we know that we and our students also have a lot to learn from you. I hope you get to know our fantastic faculty if you do not already, and that you experience the joy and excitement that comes from involvement in educating tomorrow's leaders.

Thank you for your support.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Bridgeman'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Curtis Bridgeman

## Welcome back! New program invites alumni to use library services

It's a homecoming invitation of sorts. Willamette's J.W. Long Law Library is implementing a new Guest Access Program and improving access to electronic resources to encourage alumni and local attorneys to take full advantage of the services available through Willamette's law library.



Ann Kitchel

"The library is here to serve our students and alumni throughout their legal careers," says Law Library Director Ann Kitchel. "Our doors are open and our services

are available for lawyers from law school matriculation to after retirement."

The Guest Access Program allows alumni and local attorneys to use the

library beyond the hours it's typically open to the public. Interested attorneys can obtain a Guest Access Card during regular business hours by completing an application and showing a state bar card and picture ID. The card enables users to access the library between 7:30 a.m. and 10 p.m. on weekdays, and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekends. Library hours for non-card holders are 7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. on weekdays only.

Also available are enhanced electronic resources. The library maintains a traditional print collection, and has added two new public computer stations. Alumni and visiting attorneys may sign-up to use the campus wireless system for their laptops. Due to contractual restrictions, the library cannot arrange use of alumni passwords for Lexis and Westlaw or provide off-campus access to licensed databases.

### Online resources available at the library include:

- Fastcase for state and federal primary law
- HeinOnline providing access to law journals and an increasing vault of primary and secondary resources
- BNA's Law School Professional Information Center covering over a hundred specialties from Bankruptcy to Workplace Discrimination
- CCH Intelliconnect for Tax Law research and analysis
- Proquest Congressional and Legislative Insight providing access to federal legislative histories and other Congressional documents
- Shepard's Citator Online to update your research
- Oregon BarBooks available both in print and online



## Need help navigating databases and finding resources?

Call our reference desk at 503-370-5330 or email us at [law-ref@willamette.edu](mailto:law-ref@willamette.edu)

Need a resource from home or the office?

Visit [willamette.edu/law/longlib](http://willamette.edu/law/longlib) for convenient links, online resources or to check our online catalog of print materials and subscription databases.

### Guest Access Library Hours (for card holders only)

7:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. weekdays  
9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekends

### Regular Library Hours

7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. weekdays only

## First in the Pacific Northwest: Law school introduces Master of Legal Studies Program

Starting this summer, Willamette University College of Law will offer a Master of Legal Studies (MLS) program, becoming the first law school in the Pacific Northwest to offer the one-year master's degree program. The MLS is designed for professionals who do not wish to become lawyers, but whose job involves working within a legal or regulatory framework.

Professionals who might benefit from the program include government employees, human resources directors, health care professionals, corporate managers, compliance officers or other professionals who work closely with lawyers.

Possible areas of study include business, employment, healthcare, real estate and land use, and state and local government law. MLS students work with a law school advisor to develop a set of courses to meet their specific career needs or goals. Students can pursue the degree on a full-time or part-time basis.

The MLS is not intended to prepare students for the J.D. program.

# MLS

“The MLS program is designed with flexibility in mind.”

For more information, visit: [willamette.edu/go/mls](http://willamette.edu/go/mls). Applications are accepted on a rolling basis.



Clockwise from above:  
Paul De Muniz JD'75,  
Gina Johnnie JD'87,  
Angel Lopez JD'78



## Three alumni among OSB honorees

Three Willamette College of Law alumni were recognized during the 2013 Oregon State Bar Annual Awards Luncheon in December.

The Honorable Paul De Muniz JD'75, distinguished jurist in residence at Willamette law school and former chief justice of the Oregon Supreme Court, was honored with the 2013 Wallace P. Carson Jr. Award for Judicial Excellence. The award honors current or retired state court or federal judges who have made significant contributions to the judicial system and are considered a model of professionalism, integrity and judicial independence.

Gina Johnnie JD'87, a partner with the Salem firm of Sherman, Sherman, Johnnie & Hoyt LLP, received the President's Membership Award for contributions

made to the profession. Johnnie has served as president of the Marion County Bar Association, member of the OSB Board of Governors and member of the local Judicial Screening Committee.

The Honorable Angel Lopez JD'78, Multnomah County Circuit Court judge, was recognized with the President's Affirmative Action Award, presented to those who have made significant contributions toward increasing minority representation in the legal profession. A former criminal defense attorney, Lopez served as the 2002 president of the OSB Board of Governors. He also co-chaired the Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs, served as a member and chairman of the Multnomah County Library Board of Directors, and served on the Willamette College of Law Board of Visitors.

## Mock law classes by faculty boost law applications

Willamette's new approach to recruitment is drawing positive responses from undergraduate schools along the West Coast. Since late fall 2013, the Student Recruitment Committee, chaired by professor Keith Cunningham-Parmeter, and the Admission Office have scheduled law faculty to present mock law classes during recruiting visits to undergraduate campuses.

"The class on the Supreme Court case was so much fun," wrote one Washington political science professor. "Students said they felt you cared about them and their understanding of the case—which was not what they expected from a law professor." She predicts more of her students may be



Professor Keith Cunningham-Parmeter chairs the Student Recruitment Committee.

applying to Willamette law school if the visitation program continues. Similar predictions have come from other visited schools.

"The applicant market is very competitive this year, so we are creating events that will increase the College of Law's visibility," says Carolyn Dennis, assistant dean of admission. She agrees that the mock law classes have been a success.

"We've had students who previously did not consider Willamette submit their applications after our visit."

Additional efforts to recruit students included the College of Law Open House in January, which drew more than 75 people, and Preview Day in April, which drew more than 40 admitted students.

## Boot Camp helps first-year students shape up for job hunting



"If you can't understand what your client is telling you ... you won't be an effective attorney."

Mike Long, an attorney counselor with the Oregon Attorney Assistance Program, gave it to students straight when he talked to them about succeeding as a lawyer: "Thirty years ago, your ability to succeed was based on whether you went to a good school, got good grades and served on the Law Review," he said. "That reality has not been the model for many years."

Long was one of several speakers at Willamette College of Law's January Boot Camp, a program developed by Assistant Dean of Placement Phylis Myles to help new law students prepare for job hunting and career development in the legal world. More than 50 first-year law students attended the day-long program in January; 70 attended the Boot Camp held in December.

Today students who want to be successful need to be able to communicate effectively, recognize their own strengths and understand their personal communication and work styles, says Myles. Understanding such preferences helps students make career choices that result in greater satisfaction and success.

The 2014 Boot Camp included presentations on resume writing, interviewing and recognizing jobs that would be a good fit, as well as opportunities to participate in mock interviews and evaluate personal work styles.

## Clinical law students follow brief from Salem to U.S. Supreme Court



Four Willamette University College of Law students observed oral arguments before the U.S. Supreme Court in January in a case for which they prepared a friend-of-the-court brief as part of their Clinical Law Program experience. The unique opportunity to prepare the brief was part of the Clinical Law Program’s goal of providing hands-on, professional experience in the practice of law.

The amicus brief, prepared by third-year law students Rachel Schwartz-Gilbert, Janna Giesbrecht-McKee, Cassandra Cooper and Joshua Savey, addresses international and foreign legal authority in *Paroline v. United States*, a case involving restitution of child pornography victims. It was written on behalf of the

Dutch National Rapporteur, the Netherlands national agency that monitors child sexual abuse and human trafficking.

Preparing the brief entailed months of work, multiple drafts and input from many. Warren Binford, director of the Clinical Law Program, and Paul De Muniz, distinguished jurist in residence at Willamette’s College of Law and a former chief justice of the Oregon Supreme Court, advised the students directly. Their names appear on the brief. Law professors Norman Williams, Jeff Dobbins, Symeon Symeonides, and Gwynne Skinner also provided expertise.

In addition to observing the Supreme Court session, the students attended a congressional briefing, a lunch with attorneys from the case, a reception for amicus parties and counsel and a dinner hosted by the Dutch embassy.

Gathered before the Justice Building in Washington D.C.: (from left) Cassandra Cooper 3L, Joshua Savey 3L, Rachel Schwartz-Gilbert 3L and Janna Giesbrecht-McKee 3L



## Skinner reports on human rights violations by businesses

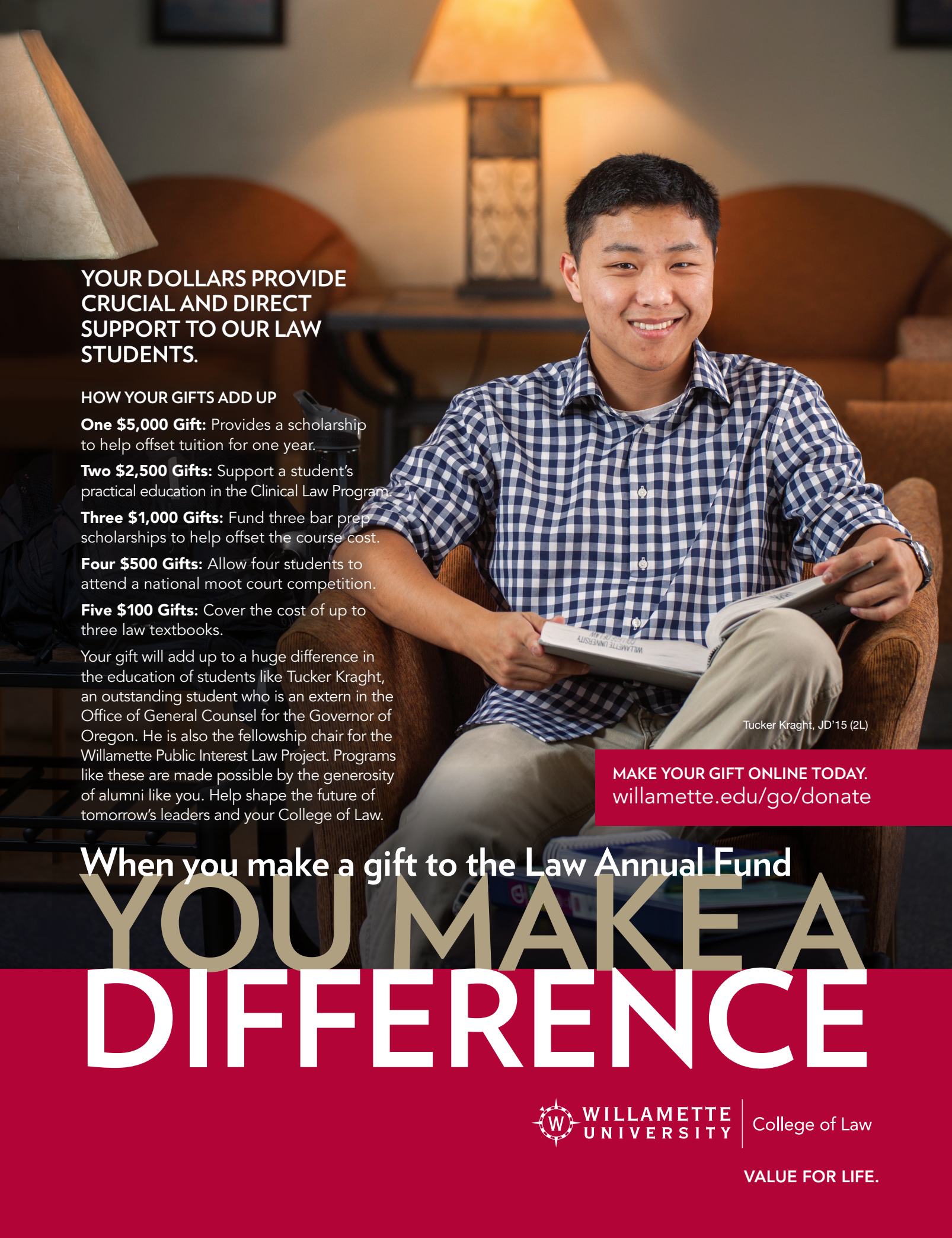
Associate professor Gwynne Skinner, director of Willamette’s International Human Rights Clinic, presented an expert report to the United Nations Second Annual Forum on Business and Human Rights in Geneva in early December. She also presented the report at a Congressional briefing hosted by the Senate Judiciary

Committee, at Georgetown University Law Center and at the University of Washington.

The report, “The Third Pillar: Access to Judicial Remedies for Human Rights Violations by Transnational Business,” concludes that states generally are not fulfilling their obligation to ensure access to effective judicial remedies to victims of human rights violations by businesses operating outside their territory. It identifies and analyzes the

most significant barriers to effective judicial remedies in the United States, Canada and Europe, setting out detailed recommendations for the actions states should take to address the issue.

Skinner researched and wrote the report with co-authors Robert McCorquodale, Olivier De Schutter and Andie Lambe on behalf of the International Corporate Accountability Roundtable and two European civil society coalitions.



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CRUCIAL AND DIRECT  
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STUDENTS.**

**HOW YOUR GIFTS ADD UP**

**One \$5,000 Gift:** Provides a scholarship to help offset tuition for one year.

**Two \$2,500 Gifts:** Support a student's practical education in the Clinical Law Program.

**Three \$1,000 Gifts:** Fund three bar prep scholarships to help offset the course cost.

**Four \$500 Gifts:** Allow four students to attend a national moot court competition.

**Five \$100 Gifts:** Cover the cost of up to three law textbooks.

Your gift will add up to a huge difference in the education of students like Tucker Kraght, an outstanding student who is an extern in the Office of General Counsel for the Governor of Oregon. He is also the fellowship chair for the Willamette Public Interest Law Project. Programs like these are made possible by the generosity of alumni like you. Help shape the future of tomorrow's leaders and your College of Law.

Tucker Kraght, JD'15 (2L)

**MAKE YOUR GIFT ONLINE TODAY.**  
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DIFFERENCE**



**WILLAMETTE  
UNIVERSITY**


College of Law

VALUE FOR LIFE.

A photograph of the Northern Lights (Aurora Borealis) over a snowy, mountainous landscape. The sky is dark blue, and the aurora appears as a vibrant, shimmering green and yellow light in the upper portion of the frame. The snow-covered ground is illuminated by the aurora's glow, creating a soft, ethereal atmosphere. The overall color palette is dominated by deep blues and greens, with the bright colors of the aurora providing a focal point.

WILLAMETTE  
UNIVERSITY  
COLLEGE  
OF LAW

**HOME OF THE** Northern  
Lights



Casting a glow over the legal landscape of Alaska is a surprisingly influential contingent of graduates from Willamette University College of Law. More than 150 law school alumni currently shape the state, the nation and the world from offices in Anchorage, Juneau, Bethel, Fairbanks and beyond. They are Alaska's elected representatives, business leaders, private practitioners, state bar leaders, members of the judiciary, professors, municipal, native and corporate counsel, nonprofit and public interest lawyers and active community members.

Without a law school of their own, many Alaskans turn to Willamette for legal education. More members of the Alaska bar are graduates of Willamette College of Law than any other law school in the country. Many share a lifelong commitment to their alma mater and credit the school's programs and supportive network for much of their success.

The state is too vast and the list too long to highlight all of our Alaska grads, but on the following pages you'll learn about some of the people and programs that illustrate why Willamette University College of Law can be called home to Alaska's northern lights.

NASA Earth Observatory image of the west coast of North America, including Oregon and Alaska.

A WILLAMETTE  
ALUMNUS REFLECTS  
ON 'ALASKA'S  
LAW SCHOOL'

# On the path of whales



Robin Brena JD/MBA'83 at his vacation home in Hawaii.

It's a frigid January day in Alaska, but Anchorage attorney Robin Brena JD/MBA'83 has his short-sleeve-shirt-clad arm out the open car window. It's part of his "grand experiment" – to spend two months on Maui while maintaining his law practice back home.

Brena, founder and owner of Brena, Bell & Clarkson PC, is heading to his Wailea home, where he looks for humpback whales from his lanai overlooking Maalaea Bay.

"The whales have got it pretty well figured out," Brena says. "They've been migrating between Alaska and Hawaii for tens of thousands of years, so maybe I ought to give it a try as well."

Here, he tells his story and how it was shaped by a historic saloon along the Klondike Trail and a joint JD/MBA degree from Willamette University.

At 17, Brena left his home in the historic southeast Alaska town of Skagway to earn a psychology degree. After earning his B.A. from New College in Sarasota, Fla., Brena realized that he wanted something more – and different. Practical considerations told him that solid legal, financial and business skills would allow him to translate his ideas into reality, so he kept studying.

After two semesters of pre-law courses at the University of Washington, Brena was determined to attend the Willamette University College of Law. Willamette appealed to him not only because it was the best known law school among Alaskans and had many prominent, accomplished alumni (today this includes U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski and the late federal District Court Judge James M. Fitzgerald), but also because it had a reputation



Skagway, Alaska

for academic rigor and a flexible joint degree program. In addition to a law degree, Brena decided to pursue a master's in business administration.

As a joint-degree student, Brena was slated to graduate in 1982, but during his second year, he returned to Skagway to plan, fund and oversee an urgently needed restoration of a 19th century building called the Pack Train (home to Alaska's oldest saloon since 1907), where his family had operated a business since 1950.

The Pack Train, now on the National Register of Historic Places within the Klondike Gold Rush National Historic Park, had become an important part of the Brena family's own history and provided financial stability. Letting it crumble to ruins was not an option.

When Brena returned to Skagway, he served as the building's owner-representative, which meant he not only worked closely with architects, electrical and structural engineers, but also had to raise finances for what was a major restoration.

"When you go into a historic building, it's never what you expect, no matter what you expect," says Brena.

The undertaking required money that the family simply didn't have, so Brena pursued funding through historic grants and Alaska's historic loan program.

With no suitable contractors available in Skagway and the prospect of importing labor from outside the state prohibitively expensive, Brena was able to coax a locally renowned contractor named Oly out of retirement for the job.

For the better part of a year, Brena directed the project, seeing that it was completed in a timely manner.

"The whales have got it pretty well figured out. They've been migrating between Alaska and Hawaii for tens of thousands of years, so maybe I ought to give it a try as well."

— ROBIN BRENA

“I was by the job site every day. That’s the way it got done,” Brena recalls.

Once the restoration was completed in 1982, Brena’s mother reopened the family business as a restaurant, leasing out two other spaces. Brena, eager to resume his studies at Willamette, hastened back to Salem with a true “nuts and bolts” understanding of property management and real estate finances that he was able to apply as he re-immersed himself in academics. Returning to Willamette, Brena says, “was like shaking hands with an old friend.”

“When I took a year off, I came back understanding the importance and context of what I was learning. I had a personal, real-life world situation to which I could apply my learning.”

In 1983, Brena graduated from Willamette with a joint degree before going on to earn an LL.M. (Legum Magister) in real estate and finance law from the University of Miami, and then returned to Alaska in 1984.

### North to Alaska

Armed with a highly specialized education, Brena saw his future as a real estate development attorney. In Anchorage, the state’s business and finance center, he accepted a position with Atkinson, Conway, Bell & Gagnon, where he began doing commercial transactional work. Under mentor Bruce Gagnon, Brena got his first taste of oil and gas litigation with a case relating to the Trans Alaska Pipeline

System (TAPS) settlement agreement.

In his first week, Brena undertook a \$2 million real estate transaction and was soon successfully litigating high-value cases like a \$35 million lawsuit against several major oil companies before the Regulatory Commission of Alaska. Although he was just 28 at the time, Brena is matter of fact in his recollection: “The amounts weren’t particularly daunting to me. It was trying to get major oil companies to do something that (I) wanted them to do that made sense, but oil companies don’t always do what makes sense.”

Brena calls his departure from the firm after three and a half years a “wonderful parting” in which he was allowed to take his open cases — all 110 of them — with him. When Brena launched his own practice, he contacted respected attorneys Frank Nosek and former colleague Jesse C. Bell.

### Oil and gas

Today, Brena, Bell & Clarkson (all three are Willamette alumni — Bell JD’67 and Kevin G. Clarkson, JD’85) specializes in cases related to real estate and business litigation, oil and gas, telecommunications and ad valorem tax assessment. With eight (soon-to-be nine) attorneys, the firm is considered mid-sized in Alaska but is frequently pitted against Washington, D.C.- and Texas-based firms with 500 or more attorneys.

Because Brena represents independent producers and refiners, he is one of the few Alaska attorneys with a lead



Managing the historic renovation of Skagway’s Pack Train (above left) gave Brena context for what he was learning when he returned to Willamette to complete his JD/MBA. The Pack Train, pictured on the left side of Broadway St. in 1916 (top right) and again in 2014 (bottom right), played a role in the history of the Klondike Trail. (Historic photo provided by: Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, KLGO 25823, gift of Dr. David Wallace)

litigation role in energy matters before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

Brena's position often has him litigating against lawyers for BP, Exxon and ConocoPhillips, which jointly own TAPS. He calls it a "pleasure and unique opportunity" to compete with the "best and brightest" lawyers in both state and federal jurisdiction within and beyond Alaska.

In one case, Brena is assisting a new municipally owned gas utility to bring natural gas service to unserved areas of the Fairbanks North Star Borough. Transitioning from diesel and wood to natural gas, Brena says, will benefit the health, environment and economy of the community.

### Team player

Reflecting on his own career, Brena is the first to recognize the role his colleagues, staff, family and friends have played in his success in and out of the workplace. Investing in people, giving due credit and accepting responsibility, he says, are a must.

"As the face of the team, you may end up with a good deal of credit, but most of the things you accomplish in life are the result of other people's efforts."

Starting his own firm made all the difference in Brena's career, and he encourages young attorneys to seize opportunities and vigorously pursue their own goals rather than "playing it safe." He also tells them to argue only the cases in which they truly believe.

"If you don't believe it," Brena says, "you shouldn't argue it."

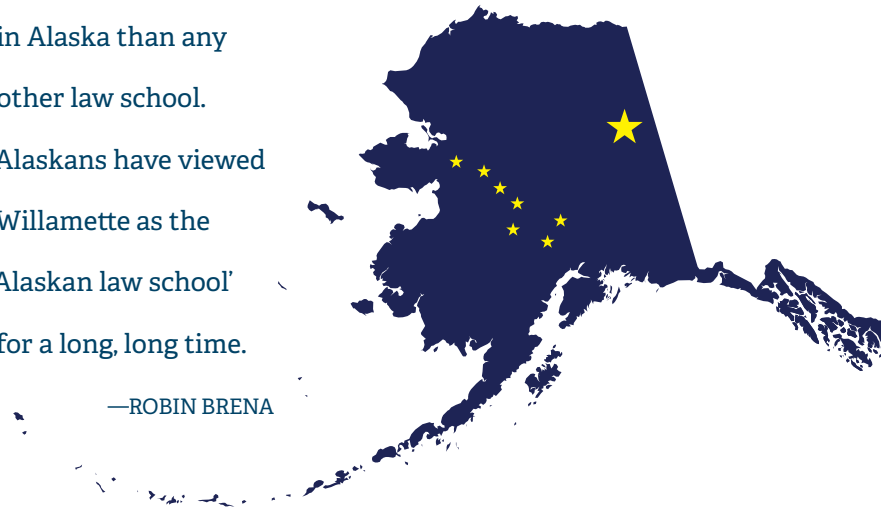
He continues: "The truth sounds different than anything else. ... If you say what you believe is the truth, people will hear it and walk away from your argument knowing that you believe it's the truth. That counts for something."

### Alaska's law school

Decades after graduating, Brena's relationship with his alma mater remains strong. "It's my understanding that Willamette has more graduates in Alaska than any other law school. Alaskans have viewed

It's my understanding  
that Willamette  
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in Alaska than any  
other law school.  
Alaskans have viewed  
Willamette as the  
'Alaskan law school'  
for a long, long time.

—ROBIN BRENA



Willamette as the 'Alaskan law school' for a long, long time. Of any law school in the nation, I'd say it has the strongest connection."

Bell, who has worked with Brena for 28 years, mirrors that sentiment. "I think Willamette's small size and terrific, open and friendly faculty are a great fit for Alaskans." The strong emphasis on the fundamentals, he says, left him feeling well-equipped and anxious to "show his stuff."

Brena calls the outreach by Dean Curtis Bridgeman "outstanding" and is grateful for him making Alaska a priority. In 2013, Bridgeman traveled to Alaska twice, meeting with Brena on both occasions. "Those of us that are Willamette grads are very appreciative of that," Brena says, noting that the visits galvanize the gathering of alumni. Another Alaska-Willamette informal get-together for potential students and graduates is likely to take place at Brena's home this summer.

On a flawless Hawaiian day, Brena looks out toward Kahoolawe Island as he speaks warmly of the law school that put him on the path to a meaningful career, blazing his own trail from Willamette to Alaska and Washington to Wailea.

"My experience at Willamette was excellent. The joint-degree program was wonderful. If you want to be competitive in the marketplace, it's not just about having a J.D. degree anymore. It's about that and something more, and I think the 'something more' are these joint-degree programs that allow you to better integrate into the fields that you're interested in working in," says Brena.

"I'd encourage students to go to Willamette because it is an excellent law school with great professors. It gave me good framework for success."

*By Jon Letman, a Kauai-based independent journalist who writes about plants, politics and people in the Asia-Pacific region.*

# Educating Alaskans

## **WILLAMETTE LAW LAUNCHES 3+3 PROGRAM PARTNERSHIP WITH UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA**

When the idea to initiate a 3+3 Program at the University of Alaska Anchorage came up, Mary K. Hughes JD'74 was quick to support it. Her father, an attorney who founded what would become Alaska's largest local law firm, had participated in a similar program as a college student in South Dakota and benefitted greatly from it.

Hughes, a Willamette University trustee since 1997 and a member of its Advancement Committee and College of Law Committee, already has witnessed the successful establishment of the law school's 3+3 Program with Oregon State University. And, as a member of the University of Alaska Board of Regents since 2002 and a longtime trustee of the University of Alaska Foundation, she knew Alaskans would benefit from a similar program.



Through the 3+3 Program implemented in Corvallis last fall, OSU students can earn their combined bachelor's and law degrees in six years. The program is an extension of one already offered to College of Liberal Arts students at Willamette. Through both programs, qualified students save time and money by earning both degrees in six years instead of the usual seven.

In the OSU program, students who qualify for the program spend their first three years at OSU's main campus in Corvallis pursuing a major in one of the approved 3+3 degree tracks. The last three years are spent at Willamette University's College of Law.

### Easing debt load

Willamette College of Law Dean Curtis Bridgeman traveled to Anchorage last summer to personally propose the program for the University of Alaska Anchorage. He believes the program will benefit the students and both universities equally. Students are able to complete their education in a shorter time, easing their debt load while gaining an extra year of earning power. Meanwhile, Willamette has the opportunity to continue recruiting some of Alaska's top students, and Alaska receives graduates who return home prepared to begin their new careers.

"People sometimes think the 3+3 Program is just about skipping a year of college. That's one benefit because it helps to ease the financial burden, but we want it to be a real integration of their law school education and their undergraduate education so they can see the benefits of combining real-world experience with a first-class education," Bridgeman says.

That goal strikes a chord for Debora Periman JD'85, another Willamette law grad, who is a professor at the UAA Justice Center and has helped develop the 3+3 Program. "The high standards of the program help motivate students to



achieve as much as they can in the undergraduate program and focus on their intellectual development," she says.

### A concrete goal

"Knowing Willamette is interested in Alaska students and wants to have them on their campus helps students picture their future. It makes the connection between focused study, academic achievement and their future less abstract. It gives them a concrete goal," she says.

Bridgeman notes that Willamette's 3+3 Program in Alaska is unique because it requires Alaskan students to return to their home state to complete a capstone course, participate in an externship or engage in other practical skills activities. The requirement will give them professional development training in the market and create good placement opportunities for students who are familiar with Alaskan employers.

"We take seriously our role, both historically and currently, in educating Alaskans, and we're really excited about this program," Bridgeman says.

Hughes says it's a perfect solution for a university that has never had a law school. And, according to her, there is a contingent, including the Alaska Bar Association, that believes any available higher education funding

(Above) University of Alaska Anchorage Professor Deb Periman JD'85 worked with Willamette to help develop the 3+3 Program. She experiences first-hand the student interest in the new partnership.

(Left) The Justice Center at the University of Alaska Anchorage is home to undergraduate students interested in law-related education. Alaska does not have a law school.

should be spent to support more general education goals rather than establishing a law school.

“The program, as presented by Willamette University’s law school dean, was exactly what the University of Alaska and the chancellor wanted. The presentation was so compelling,” Hughes says.

### Educating Alaska’s kids

“The dean is certainly to be commended. For him to come to our state within a month of coming on board, I can’t tell you how impressed I was,” she says of Bridgeman, who became dean in July. “He has developed a great relationship with Alaska through this partnership. I think that his openness and ability to share the information and expertise is what was so superb about the presentation. It was all about educating Alaska’s kids.”

“Alaska’s kids” are excited about the coming program, Periman said. After attending the mock law school classes taught by Bridgeman during his recent Alaska visits, UAA students were full of questions about when the 3+3 Program would be up and running and what’s required for law school admission.

The anticipated start date for the program is fall term 2014.

For Hughes, an Alaska native who found her experiences at Willamette to be rewarding both personally and professionally, there is a touch of serendipity involved in the process of establishing the new program.

“I think sometimes things just work out right because they were meant to work out. This program is going to be a really good thing for students, particularly because of Willamette’s reputation in Alaska,” Hughes says.

“We have three to five students from Alaska who go to Willamette each year, and I’m always so excited to go up during commencement and shake their hands and say congratulations from Alaska,” she adds.

*By Melody Finne more, a freelance writer who frequently writes about law school programs, legal professionals and issues that impact the profession.*



## Four decades after earning her law degree, Mary Hughes continues to call Willamette home

**MARY K. HUGHES** grew up in Anchorage, Alaska, earned her law degree at the Willamette University College of Law in 1974 and has since maintained a strong bond between the two locales she calls home.

Born on Kodiak Island, Alaska, Hughes moved to Anchorage with her parents as a young girl and earned a bachelor’s degree in management from the University of Alaska Fairbanks. She knew she wanted to go to law school; her father had practiced in Kodiak and Anchorage since the 1940s. He founded what would become Alaska’s largest local law firm, providing invaluable experience for his daughter.

“I was the eldest of three girls, and we talked about everything during dinner, including law,” Hughes says. “When I was 12, I started working in my dad’s office. I was pretty cheap labor, and he thought I did a good job. I was

the only one who came to work in bobby socks.

“It was really interesting to have had that kind of job before I went to college, and it was so gratifying to have worked in the early years for a law firm that eventually had several offices and, at its peak, 65 lawyers,” she adds. “Some of my classmates had never worked in a law office, and I always thought I was very fortunate to have done so.”

### Trusted reputation

The University of Alaska does not have a law school, so Hughes looked to Oregon. She also looked at California but, given the Haight-Ashbury scene in the late 1960s and early ’70s, her father encouraged her to focus on Salem.

“He felt Willamette was a very good school, and he had hired Willamette graduates for the firm,” Hughes says. “Willamette’s law school has the highest number of graduates in Alaska, and it has always been very well-respected.”

Once she was accepted into the law school, Hughes mentioned to her mother that she planned to travel around Europe first. Her mother responded by requiring Hughes to



Anchorage, Alaska

attend school while she was abroad, so Hughes entered a post-graduate program at Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh, Scotland.

“I was in a class of nine students and I was the only American. However, they didn’t consider Alaskans to be Americans — they considered us to be Canadians — which was probably good because the Vietnam War was not popular,” Hughes says.

“The experience was great. I spent about three months writing papers and giving presentations, and I realized that most Americans don’t understand how lucky we are to have the education system we have,” she says, adding most of her classmates were first-generation college students.

Hughes returned to Alaska in May 1971, in time to walk with her graduating class, and then came to Willamette to pursue her law degree.

### Ideal size

“The College of Law was small and intimate, which was ideal as I had come from a small university where I knew everyone,” she says. “Most fortuitously, there were five women in my law school class, and we had all played basketball in college and high school, so we formed our own team. That was really energizing for me because I had always been athletic.”

Hughes also completed an internship with the Multnomah County District Attorney’s Office in Portland and was excited to return to Alaska to prosecute

cases. The Anchorage district attorney’s office was still a year away from hiring its first woman by the time Hughes graduated, however.

She joined her father’s firm, now known as Hughes Gorski Seedorf Odsen & Tervooren, where she represented large multinational companies and became a partner during her 20-year tenure. Hughes says her father, now 98, continues to be a mentor for her.

She served as the Anchorage Municipal Attorney from 1995 to 2000, returning to the firm until 2003, when she joined the campaign of U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski JD’85. Hughes served as the senator’s Alaska State Director for three years and the campaign’s chief administrative officer until 2012, and co-chaired the write-in campaign committee for the senator’s historic election in 2010.

Within that busy schedule, Hughes made time to host a weekly talk radio show for seven years, where she interviewed Alaskans prominent in political, social and community circles. She says she especially enjoyed educating the public about the work of local nonprofits.

### Continued connection

Throughout the majority of her career, Hughes has remained connected to the universities that provided her education. She has been a trustee for Willamette University since 1997 and serves on its Advancement Committee and College of Law Committee, which she previously chaired. Hughes was a member of the Willamette University College of Law

Board of Visitors from 1978 to 2001.

In addition, she has served on the Board of Regents for the University of Alaska since 2002, and chaired it for three years. She also is a longtime trustee of the University of Alaska Foundation.

### Knowledge is power

Hughes says she believes it is important to be involved in higher education because, with several family members who were teachers, she grew up with the understanding that “knowledge is power, and it allows you to discover what you don’t know and further educate yourself.”

As for her continued service to Willamette University, Hughes says she appreciated the hands-on experience of her law school years when she felt she really mattered to the faculty and staff. “It still feels that way to me,” she says.

Hughes recently was appointed to the board of directors for the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges, the country’s leading voice for higher education governance. She is the first Willamette trustee to be appointed to AGB’s board.

“Ms. Hughes brings vast experience in higher education governance to AGB,” Richard Legon, AGB president, said in a statement. “Her service on boards of independent and public universities, combined with her work on university foundation boards, as well as boards of other nonprofit organizations, will be an asset to all of us at AGB.”

—Melody Finnemore

# From D.C. to El Paso

## EXTERNSHIP PROGRAM GROWS TO FULL-TIME, YEAR-AROUND OPPORTUNITY

In the middle of January in Washington D.C., third-year Willamette law student Justin Surber was overjoyed that his boss for a semester, U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski JD'85, had just signed off on one of his legislative sponsorship recommendations and given him a ticket to attend President Obama's State of the Union speech. Meanwhile, in El Paso, Texas, third-year law student Kyle Anderson was marveling over how much practical legal experience he had racked up in just one week. And in Salem, Kimberly Jones, second-year law student and self-described "water kid" who grew up on the Rogue River, was in her element at her once-a-week assignment at the Oregon Water Resources Department.

What all three students have in common is that they're spending spring semester in either full-time or part-time externships as part of the law school's growing Externship Program. It's an experiential learning opportunity that's been available to law students at Willamette for more than 15 years but is especially valuable today with employers seeking recent graduates who have hands-on legal experience.

Willamette's proximity to the state Capitol, state agencies, courts and the Legislature, all of which have accepted Willamette law externs for unpaid, semester-long assignments for academic credit, have contributed to the Externship Program's success. But since the beginning of 2014, the Externship Program, where students are partnered with attorney supervisors for real-world legal experience, has been ramped up to an unprecedented level and reach.

### Participation doubles

"The law school administration, I think rightly so, decided this was an area on which they wanted to focus and build," said Professor Gwynne Skinner, since January the interim manager of the enhanced and expanded program.

The most obvious change for this academic year is seen in the numbers. The total number of externs for spring semester was 40, the most ever and more than twice the number from previous semesters. The other big change is that since the beginning of the 2013-14 academic year, full-time externships are no longer limited to summer semester. Now, full-time externships can be taken anytime and, if strict criteria for the students' work environment and experience are met, pretty much anywhere in the world.



Justin Surber 3L (left) serves as an extern in Washington D.C. for Alaska's U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski JD'85. Recent changes to Willamette's Externship Program made the opportunity possible.

So when Anderson, 27, got the email in late fall announcing that change, he knew he'd be embarking on a new adventure, leaving Oregon and spending his last semester of law school doing a full-time externship. The question was, "Where?" Although prospective externs were provided with a list of potential locations, Anderson, a San Diego-area native, turned to his computer and went hunting on his own. Ever practical, Anderson settled on a city where an old friend needed a roommate and where it was sunny. When he found Texas RioGrande Legal Aid, an agency in line with his preferred specialty of public interest law, he applied online.

### **D.C. or bust**

Surber, 29, had already put out the word that he wanted to do an externship in Washington, D.C. He tried to get something set up last summer, but nothing fell into place. Finally, Surber recalled, "I was asked if I'd ever heard of Senator Murkowski and would I be interested in working for her. The (program staff) forwarded my information to her, and I got a call and an interview and, before I knew it, I was on my way over." Such an opportunity would not have been possible before the full-time program was expanded to be available year-around.

Jones, 34, decided on a part-time externship in Salem that allows her to keep earning the credits she'll need to

graduate. "For me," she said, "if I want to graduate on time, I would need to beef up my credits because the externships are pass/no pass and that counts differently for graduation." But her Thursdays-only, 13-week externship is a perfect fit for her interest in land use and water rights law.

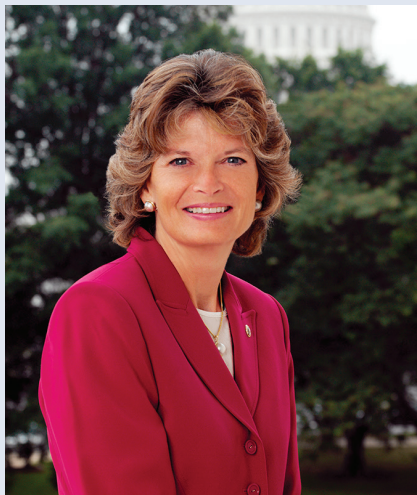
### **Career considerations**

All the externs work in their assigned positions for academic credit (three or six credits for part-time, nine for fulltime), not pay. They also attend a two-hour class taught three times a semester by Skinner. (Out-of-towners attend via video link.) In addition to samples of work performed on the job, the externs must submit class assignments and weekly written reflections.

The reflections, said Skinner, are intended to get students thinking about what type of legal career they want, what makes a good, ethical, professional lawyer, how to focus on clients and understand their needs, and how to use the law to solve clients' problems.

Assistant Dean of Placement Phylis Myles managed the program as part of the Career Professional Development Office from 2007 to the end of 2013, when her department shifted its focus exclusively to employment opportunities and was renamed the Placement Office.

## Senator Lisa Murkowski's Bearcat Central



You could call it Bearcat Central, but it's really the office of U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski JD'85. The Alaska Republican values her Willamette ties so much that, deliberately or not, she has surrounded herself with Willamette grads (Legislative Assistant Leila Kimbrell JD'06), children of grads (Deputy Press Secretary Taylor Thompson, daughter of Darryl Thompson JD'86 and Bridget Thompson JD'88 of Anchorage) and, in the case of Willamette law extern Justin Surber L3, one current student.

Born in Ketchikan, Alaska, Murkowski chose to attend Willamette University. She was at Willamette for her freshman and sophomore years, until her father, Frank Murkowski, was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1980. Lisa Murkowski transferred to Georgetown University, where she graduated with a B.A. in economics. Later, she decided to go to law school, and for her, returning to Willamette was a no-brainer.

When her father left the Senate to become Alaska's governor in 2002, he appointed her as his successor. Now she's the senior senator from Alaska and, according to extern Surber, she's very interested in the students on her staff.

"I've heard stories of other interns who on their last day finally met the senators," said Surber. "It was completely the opposite for me on my very first day. She just stretched out her hand and said, 'Who are you?' in the nicest, friendliest way you can imagine."

Murkowski said the way was paved for Surber's externship last fall when she met with Willamette College of Law Dean Curtis Bridgeman in Anchorage. "I mentioned that we had had legal interns assisting us," said Murkowski. "Both of us got really excited talking about the prospects of having a law student from Willamette." Bridgeman notes that such D.C. experiences are possible now that the Externship Program offers full-time opportunities throughout the year.

Although she traveled to Japan for an exchange program while a Willamette undergrad, Murkowski doesn't recall learning of any externship opportunities while she was in law school. If she'd been offered one, she said, she would have taken it.

"I think it would have been invaluable to have been an intern at one of the federal agencies from a perspective of really understanding the law, how the laws are made through the legislative processes and the impact of the regulatory process," she said.

She admits that she never intended to practice law; her interest in attending law school after working in the Alaska Legislature was to better understand how laws were made. "And yet when I got out, I had student loans that I needed to pay off," she said. Seeing no other choice, she became a practicing attorney.

"I think we need to encourage our law grads to look to the broader range of options, and I think these types of externships allow for a great consciousness of what is available," she said. Her office employs at least a half dozen young people who have law degrees. "They don't practice, but they have law in their life," Murkowski said.

And after only a week of being part of Murkowski's staff, Surber said he felt his horizons had been broadened. Already he was thinking of returning to the exciting world of national politics after graduation. Just a week earlier, he was pretty sure he'd be going into sports law.

—Susan Hauser



## Employers demand experience

Myles said law schools around the country are putting a greater emphasis on externship programs for several reasons. One is that in the current economy, new lawyers need a leg up by already having some legal work experience to put on a resume. Another, also related to the economy, is that most firms don't want to invest the time and personnel to train fresh graduates.

"They want someone to come in the office, pick up a file and know what to do with it," she said. But Myles says it was not long ago that firms insisted on training new lawyers their own way. "They didn't want them getting influenced by somebody else's way of doing things."

College of Law Dean Curtis Bridgeman is direct in his analysis. "Students who have experience get jobs," he said. "Our faculty deserve a lot of credit for understanding that the demands of employers have changed and our academic rules needed to change to encourage more externships."

Another reason that externships are now held in such favor, said Myles, is that bar associations feel a growing concern about the number of young lawyers who burn out and drop out of the profession, due mostly to mismatches of work environments or law specialties.

## Changing legal landscape

"An externship lets them try out these things and find out what works," said Myles, "besides giving them the skills that will help them find a job when they get out of school."

Skinner, an expert on civil rights and international human rights, was hired by Willamette College of Law in 2008 to begin and direct the International Human and Refugee Rights Clinic. According to Bridgeman, she agreed to take on the Externship Program because she knew the students needed it. "Her heart is in clinical teaching, where she's been wildly successful, but she's done a great job of reshaping the



Kimberly Jones 2L pursued a part-time local externship with the Oregon Water Resources Department in Salem so she could continue to take classes at the law school.

Externship Program to fit the changing legal landscape."

Skinner plans to draw in Willamette law alumni wherever possible and develop new externship opportunities in Salem with the Legislature and government agencies, as well as new opportunities for students who desire more transactional work and with in-house counsel offices.

In addition to expanding opportunities within the region and nationally, Skinner plans to use her human rights experience, along with her and other faculty members' contacts, to expand opportunities internationally. "We have had a couple of students do international externships in the past, but we don't have anyone doing one this year. That is something I plan on building this next year."

Just ask Surber, Anderson or Jones if the program is worthwhile. Says Jones, "It was very interesting to see an actual case file and what goes into it, and that's exactly what an externship is for, having real world, hands-on experience." Anderson, who's already planning to take the Texas bar, says, "I think it will be a lot easier to get a job with a reference from a practicing attorney and having already gone to court." And after he graduates in May, Surber says, "I may hop a plane back here (to Washington, D.C.)!"

*By Susan Hauser, a Portland freelance writer and a previous contributor to Willamette Lawyer.*

## Faith Ireland: A judge who does the heavy lifting

Faith Ireland JD'69 calls herself a “fitness evangelist,” but it has not always been so.



As a teenager growing up in a suburb of Seattle, where “politics was my sport,” ringing doorbells was Judge Faith Ireland’s main form of exercise, she says. Only much later, after she became a judge, did the athletics bug bite her.

In 1983, just two weeks after her appointment to the King County Superior Court, she was rear-ended in a hit-and-run car accident and injured her back and neck. For several years, she tried all sorts of therapeutic approaches, to no avail. But after someone testified to her about his improvement from a back injury via weight training, Ireland gave it a go. She took to the regimen, lost 30 pounds by working out, and found not only a resolution to her pain problems but also a new, out-of-the-ordinary avocation: powerlifting. “It transformed my life,” she says.

Powerlifting is a vigorous activity most closely associated with heavily built men; but it also embraces women, who compete in various age and weight classifications, depending on the several federations governing the sport. In 1999, the year Ireland was elected to the Washington Supreme Court, the personal trainer who had helped her overcome the injury and was a former world champion powerlifter, encouraged her to compete in the sport.

### Competitive powerlifting at 57

At that point, she had never performed any of the three movements that comprise powerlifting: the bench press, squat and deadlift. But because her trainer had “made me well,” she said yes. She became a competitive powerlifter at age 57.

Today, she is a world champion. As of 2013, Ireland has won five world championships and seven national championships in her age and weight class. She holds 14 world records and 27 American records in three federations. Her most recent deadlift was 281 pounds, which set the world record in that event and — with a squat of 231 pounds and bench press of 143 pounds — a world record in total in her weight class at 655 pounds.

“For me, it’s about going for the records,” says Ireland, now 71. “I do the competition because the competition is a motivating factor for me.” But the workouts are what keep

her healthy, she says, and lifting — especially during the years she served on the bench — acted as a tremendous stress-reliever. It gave her a calmness that enabled her to stay on an even keel.

The reactions she got from her husband, Chuck Norem, and her fellow justices over her hobby were positive. Several of her colleagues worked out or skied, and the chief justice ran marathons. People who approach her at bar functions invariably want to talk about her powerlifting, not legal matters.

Her story has been reported in numerous media and more than one book. She speaks about fitness before groups, and says many people have told her they have been inspired by her example. Many women she's met around the country have told her they took up powerlifting after reading about her. All of this gratifies her, she says. "I receive a lot back."

**A legal pioneer**

No one in Ireland's immediate family had gone to college, but her parents were strongly supportive of their children's ambitions, including hers to go into law.

Ireland became interested in the profession after viewing the McCarthy hearings while in high school. She says she thought then, "If I was a boy, I would want to be a lawyer." Once she entered college at the University of Washington, "I was still

getting the same message" from people, which was some variation of: "You can't go to law school, you'll lose your femininity." Nonetheless, she decided she would take the risk, becoming one of only two women in her law class at Willamette.

During the interview for her first law job, her boss predicted that she was headed for the judiciary. She isn't sure if that planted a seed or if she thought of it on her own, but his prediction proved prescient; She ended up serving a combined 21 years on the bench. Ireland retired from the bench in 2005, and — between competitions — now does mediation, arbitration and consulting in Seattle.

*By Cliff Collins, a Portland-area freelance writer and previous contributor to Willamette Lawyer.*



"For me, it's about going for the records."



The Honorable Faith Ireland, competing in the deadlift event in the 2013 International Powerlifting Federation competition in Orlando, Florida.

## Raising the Bar Award

Two '97 grads share a name, an avocation and, now, an award

Nicole Nelson is a high-achieving attorney dedicated to defending the rights of disadvantaged clients and helping them win justice.

And Nikole Nelson is a high-achieving attorney dedicated to defending the rights of disadvantaged clients and helping them win justice.

Their names differ by just one letter, but the two 1997 Willamette College of Law graduates have similarities that go much deeper.

To start with, before coming to Willamette, they had heard of each other while applying to some of the same law schools in the Pacific Northwest. When they finally met at Willamette ("It's you!" said Nikole. "It's you!" said Nicole). They became fast friends on parallel tracks.

When the Willamette University Public Interest Law Project needed help reviving its Bid for Justice Auction in 1995, they jumped in and took over the program for three years, raising money for students to receive grants to pursue public-interest careers.

Sitting next to one another in some of the same classes and influenced by the same professors, they

both developed an ambition to wield the power of law to battle societal problems.

In separate years, they attended the same human-rights law program in Europe. They shared a Spanish-immersion adventure in Costa Rica.

And now, together, they have won the WUPILP Raising the Bar Award for excellence in public-interest and pro bono work and furthering the mission of the Project.

Professor Mike Wise, who nominated them for the award, said it is fitting that they should be honored considering how vital they were to the Project's success when they were students.

"They were very special. Their interests coincided. They worked very well together getting the public-interest program up and running. It was the strength of their commitment and organizational ability that kept it going, and it's going strong today," Wise said.

In their law practices today, both women do extensive work with low-income, minority and vulnerable populations. Their clients often have been victims of violence. They often navigate a cultural divide with those they serve.

**C** Nicole "with a c" Nelson is an immigration attorney with Nelson Smith LLP in Portland and represents primarily

Latino immigrants who are fighting to stay in the United States. Fluent in Spanish, she still has to be careful to make sure she understands her clients.

"Latino immigrants do not always express a story in a linear fashion. We have to spend a lot of time with people to figure out what happened. If you fled persecution, the court will want it in a chronological story, and sometimes

they will express things in a different order. I try to be sensitive to that," Nicole says.

Many of her cases involve domestic violence against women who are trying to get away from the abusive environment. While she does take payment from clients who can afford representation, she doesn't hesitate to do pro bono work for such cases.

"If I meet a woman who has just left her abuser, that might be a good pro bono case. Also asylum cases," says Nicole, who has been named an Oregon Super Lawyer for the past three years.

Her firm handles many U visas, the "U" designation referring to a case in which crime victims may be allowed to remain in the country. Under that program, crime victims get special consideration if they assist police and prosecutors. "What's great about it is that the person doesn't have to fear calling police. It encourages people to report a crime," she says.

A recent case was particularly satisfying for Nicole. "The U visa can also include immediate family. So I have a client with two kids born in Mexico. She was abused by dad for a decade. It was nice

to see how happy she is knowing that when her kids graduate from high school, everything will be opened up for them. ... They can go to college.”

**L**  
**K**

Nikole “with a k” Nelson shares the same job satisfaction that comes from using the law to help people in crisis and narrow the “justice gap.” As the executive director of the Alaska Legal Services Corporation, she leads a team of 25 lawyers in 11 offices



throughout Alaska. They provide some 6,300 Alaskans each year with free legal services in housing, health care, domestic violence, senior benefits and consumer protection matters.

She says there is a special need for such service in Alaska because of the high rates of alcoholism, domestic violence, rape and sexual abuse in the state, and because of the lack of access to resources for many rural residents.

“There is such a divide between the city and village communities that don’t have the basic infrastructure. There are no police in some areas. State troopers often have to fly in. If you’re a victim, you may have to wait a day or two for assistance. That is shocking to most folks in the Lower 48.”

In her leadership position, Nikole has reluctantly stepped away from

“They worked very well together getting the public-interest program up and running.

– Professor Mike Wise

Nikole Nelson JD’97 (left) is from Alaska;  
Nicole Nelson JD’97 (right) is from Oregon

representing clients directly but has embraced her role as an organizer, motivator and fundraiser.

“The biggest difficulty is getting resources. There’s a growing need and fewer dollars. People don’t always understand because in criminal cases you’re entitled to an attorney, but not in civil cases.”

Motivated to do public-interest law work from a young age, she has always had a locked focus on her path.

“The pay is not great, but it’s so rewarding to feel like your work is changing lives. Studies show that

lawyers have a degree of unhappiness in their professional life, but when you’re giving back to the community, you end up being very happy.”

*By Jim Springhetti, a Portland freelance writer.*



## Loving a job and leaving it

For Heather Parker, passion for  
her work lead to law school

Heather Parker, a first-year law student at Willamette University, decided she needed to go to law school last year during her daily commute. She was holding down two part-time jobs — one where she witnessed the power of government and one where she taught those without it — when she realized she needed to take a different path.

For more than four years, Parker had walked from the pillared Alaska State Capitol, where she worked part-time as a legislative information assistant with Alaska Legislative Affairs, to the red clapboard-and-brick Southeast Regional Resource Center (SERRC), where she taught English as a second language and U.S. citizenship to adult students.

“In the morning, I worked with people who had power to make changes, then I walked down the hill and worked with people who were disenfranchised,” she recalls. “I kept reaching a wall where I could only help so far. The two jobs made it clear that I needed to go to law school.”

At SERCC, the only adult education resource center in the vast Southeast Alaska region, Parker taught adult immigrants from countries as far flung as Mexico, South Korea, Venezuela and Vietnam. Fluent in Spanish, she took the job as an opportunity to use her language skills and stay in the state she had adopted after college.

Parker grew up in Indianapolis and graduated with a bachelor’s degree in Spanish and environmental studies from Grinnell College in Iowa.

After college, she wanted to use her Spanish-language skills and pursue an ideal unwittingly planted by her parents — two avid travelers who visited every national park in the United States during a road trip in their 20s. “I wanted to see Alaska. Our house was full of Alaska pictures from that trip. I’d seen pictures of Alaska my whole life.”

### There to stay

Parker found a job at Denali National Park working at the front desk and volunteering with the park service to study permafrost. As the park closed for the winter, she landed a temporary job with Alaska Legislative Research Services, an agency that responds to requests for information and analysis from individual legislators and legislative committees. By the end of the session, she was smitten with the state. “I wanted to stay.”

An opening with The Learning Connection, the adult education division of SERRC, gave Parker the opportunity she was looking for. She taught English “slowly and with lots of pictures,” pairing more experienced speakers with new students, mixing people from different countries and asking them to “give back to the community of language learners.” She helped them practice their English skills for job interviews and work situations, and she took them on field trips to the legislature and to meet the governor.

Parker also helped write grants. Through her 2010 grant application to the U.S. Citizenship and Integration Grant Program, SERRC was awarded more than \$98,000 the first such grant awarded to an Alaska organization. The much-needed money was used for citizenship books, training and instructors in Juneau, Sitka and Ketchikan. Demand for the program mushroomed as word about it spread.

“The two jobs made it clear that I needed to go to law school.”

The funding also supported Parker in developing an English-language and citizenship curriculum website now used in citizenship education programs across the state of Alaska. She was honored as the State of Alaska Adult Educator of the Year by the Alaska Education Association in 2012.

### Insurmountable barriers

Parker was thrilled, but the experience of one student pushed her to look beyond teaching. A man from a nearby town who had been in the country for 15 years wanted to become a U.S. citizen. He was the sole provider for his family of three young children. “Just becoming a citizen opens so many doors and gives so much security,” Parker explains.

He had made it to every citizenship class for eight months, but in the end, he had an issue Parker couldn’t help him with. He needed legal representation. “Southeast Alaska has no immigration lawyer. To have legal help, he’d have had to fly to Anchorage or Seattle. The cost of travel is a major barrier,” she says.

Rather than trying to represent himself and risk making matters worse, the man decided to forego applying for citizenship. “I kept thinking, if I was a lawyer, I could help him.”

### Mayor recommends Willamette

Parker began considering law school. When her hours at SERRC tapered off in the summer of 2012, she served as an intern in the Juneau office of U.S. Sen. Mark Begich. She applied and was accepted at Willamette University College of Law. The school was recommended by one of her mentors, former Juneau Mayor Bruce Botelho JD’76, a Willamette alumnus and former longtime attorney general for the state of Alaska. “He helped me make the decision to come to Willamette for law school,” she says.

Parker likes Willamette’s small environment as well as the easy access back to Alaska. She has been offered a summer internship with the City Attorney’s Office in the City and Borough of Juneau Law Department. Ultimately, she hopes to return to Juneau to practice immigration law.

“I think I did a lot to help people,” she says of her years at the SERRC. “A law degree can help me do more.”



Bruce Botelho JD’76, former Alaska attorney general and mayor of Juneau, Alaska, played a role in Parker’s choice of law schools.



## Tools of the trade

Trial Practice and professor  
Rick Martson prepare students  
for court

Professor Rick Martson begins teaching about depositions by unpacking a bag of tools: a vacuum cleaner, a scalpel and a “thumper” — a massive wooden sledgehammer. Martson, a visiting faculty member with Willamette’s College of Law and a partner with the Portland firm of Tonkon Torp LLP, is a long-time litigator who has been teaching semester-long courses in trial practice and deposition skills at Willamette since 2012.

The unusual tools are metaphors for real-life lawyering skills, Martson says. The vacuum represents the ability to suck information out of a witness; the scalpel is for cutting to the heart of the matter with precise questioning; and the thumper is for ... Martson didn’t quite say.

The visual aids reflect Martson’s approach to examining a witness, addressing a jury and teaching law school. “Keep it interesting to make a point. If you stand up there and look boring or arrogant, you’ll have a very short trial career,” he says.

### Learn by doing

With the full retirement this June of trial practice professor Leroy Tornquist, originator of Willamette’s well-known Intensive Trial Practice Seminar, Martson will take on a heavier teaching load. He will continue his semester-long courses and is exploring ideas for a new advanced trial practice seminar.

Like the seminar, the semester-long class employs practices endorsed by the National Institute for Trial Advocacy. “Learn by doing,” Martson says.

Martson’s three-day-a-week Trial Practice course includes one day of lecture focusing on a particular skill and two days of student trial simulation performance. Every student performs each day, and Martson critiques each in front of the rest of the class, allowing students to learn from each other’s experiences.

“The critique must be constructive and fair, but also honest,” he says. “I’m not here to tell someone that fish guts is caviar. It’s all about getting feedback on what needs to be improved.”

### Confidence and effectiveness

Students must come prepared to try either side of a case. They won’t know whether they are plaintiff’s counsel or defense counsel until they step before Martson.

“Anything we do — prepare, analyze a case, think on our feet — is a good thing,” Martson says. His course objective is to prepare students to be effective and confident in court. That includes helping them find their voice as trial lawyers, translate what they learn into practice and develop confidence.

“For those who will be trial lawyers, the class will get them courtroom-ready. For those who are ambivalent or uncertain, it helps them sort that out. Better here than after graduation,” he says.

“If you stand up there and look boring or arrogant, you’ll have a very short trial career.”

Martson learned by doing, but it was in the early 1970s, when trial attorneys were in court almost daily. His first experience came unexpectedly after he’d prepared a case for a more senior attorney in his firm. On the day of trial, the attorney walked Martson to the courthouse,

patted him on the back and said, “You know this case better than I do. You take it to trial.”

He swallowed his fears, went to court and won. Over the next 30 years, Martson tried more than 200 cases and more than 75 injunctive proceedings to conclusion.

But now, “The world has changed,” Martson points out. “It’s harder for young lawyers to get the experience they need.”

Those enrolled in Willamette’s Trial Practice are the fortunate exception.

## Legal celebs bid Tornquist adieu

It may not have drawn the Hollywood stars that Jay Leno’s final “Tonight Show” appearance did, but professor Leroy Tornquist’s final Intensive Trial Practice Seminar drew a group of celebrities from the legal world.

Judge William Bauer, former chief judge of the Seventh Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals; Phillip Auerbach, a top trial attorney from the East Coast; and Gino DiVito, a former justice of the Illinois Appellate Court; all participated in the December week-long Intensive Trial Practice Seminar that was Tornquist’s last before he retires in June. Trial Practice will continue to be taught by professor Rick Martson, who is a partner at Tonkon Torp in Portland, Ore.

Tornquist developed the experiential method of teaching trial practice in 1972 while at Loyola University in Chicago. His method was considered revolutionary at a time when trial practice was taught only through lecture. He brought the course to Willamette when he joined the faculty in 1978 and has taught the seminar since then.

“This [experiential method] teaches students skills that don’t come naturally,” said Bauer, who reprised his role as a judge during the December seminar. “You learn them either in a setting like this, or in a setting where you get your teeth kicked in at the expense of a client. This is much better.”



On the red carpet, clockwise from top: Judge William Bauer, former judge Gino DiVito, attorney Phillip Auerbach and Willamette law professor Leroy Tornquist.

# Class Action

## 1960s

**Ronald G. Stephenson JD'67** of Portland, Ore., was named to the list of *Best Lawyers®* in America for 2014 in the area of product liability litigation (defendants). Stephenson is senior counsel in the Portland office of Bullivant Houser Bailey PC.

## 1970s

**Michael D. Crew JD'72** of Portland, Ore., has joined Dunn Carney Allen Higgins & Tongue LLP as of counsel. Crew's practice will focus on health care and business law. He will head up the health care team at the firm. Crew previously was a partner at Cooney & Crew LLP.



**Robert J. Saalfeld JD'74** and **James C. Griggs '71, JD'75** of Salem, Ore., joined Willamette University President Stephen Thorsett and College of Law Dean

Curtis Bridgeman at a Bearcat football game in November 2013. The attorneys showed their school spirit and supported the home team in a tough game against Linfield.



**E. Pennock Gheen JD'75** of Seattle, has been named to the list of *Best Lawyers®* in America for 2014 in the

areas of medical malpractice law (defendants) and products liability litigation (defendants). Gheen is a shareholder in the Seattle office of Bullivant Houser Bailey PC.

**E. Walter Van Valkenburg JD'78** of Portland, Ore., has been elected to the board of directors for the Oregon Business Association. Members serve three-year terms and work with OBA policy committees and task forces to shape the organization's agenda. Van Valkenburg is managing partner in the Portland office of Stoel Rives LLP.

## 1980s



**Michael E. Kreger JD'82** of Anchorage, Alaska, has been

named Anchorage construction law Lawyer of the Year by *Best Lawyers®* in America for 2014. Kreger is a partner in the Construction and Real Estate Practice Group at Perkins Coie.



**Loren D. Podwill JD'84** of Hillsboro, Ore., was named to the list of *Best Lawyers®* in America for

2014 in the areas of commercial litigation, government relations, banking and finance litigation and construction litigation. Podwill is firm president and a shareholder in the Portland office of Bullivant Houser Bailey PC.

**Eva M. (Connelly) Kripalani JD'86** of Portland, Ore., recently co-authored a book, "The Generalist Counsel: How Leading General Counsel Are Shaping Tomorrow's Companies," with Prashant Dubey. The book was published by the Oxford University Press in August 2013. Kripalani has also been appointed chairperson of the Metropolitan Family Service Board of Directors. She is the owner of Eva Kripalani Legal and Consulting Services in Portland.

**Kenneth L. Ammann JD'88** of Salem, Ore., and **Timothy J. Jones JD'88** of Portland, Ore., have joined to form the personal injury firm of Jones Ammann LLC. The firm focuses on a wide range of cases involving catastrophic injury, traumatic brain injury and wrongful death.

**Randall W. Cook JD'88** of Salem, Ore., is the practice group leader of the Employee Benefits & Executive

Compensation Group at Saalfeld Griggs PC. The firm has been named a Tier 1 Law Firm for employee benefits (ERISA) law by *Best Lawyers®* 2014 Best Law Firms. Firms included on the 2014 Best Law Firms list are recognized for professional excellence with persistently impressive ratings from clients and peers. Achieving a tiered ranking signals a unique combination of quality law practice and breadth of legal expertise.



**Russell D. Garrett JD'88** of Lake Oswego, Ore., has been named to the list of *Best Lawyers®* in America for

2014 in the areas of bankruptcy and creditor debtor rights and insolvency and reorganization law. Garrett is a shareholder at Jordan Ramis PC.

**Marie E. Colmeley JD'89** of Manhattan Beach, Calif., has joined the Maloney Firm APC in El Segundo, Calif. Colmeley has more than 20 years of experience handling complex civil litigation matters, including business and partnership disputes and defense of professional liability claims. She represents lawyers, accountants, architects, engineers and insurance agents and brokers on professional ethics and risk-management issues. Colmeley also handles cyber liability, confidentiality and data

# EVENTS

## 1963 Reunion

The Willamette University College of Law Class of 1963 gathered at Salishan Sept. 27–29, 2013, for a weekend of catching up.

Pictured, from left: Philip J. Washburn JD'63, Paul K. Davis JD'63, Weldon S. Wood JD'63, B. Gary McBride '61, JD'63, Charles I. McGinnis JD'63, William B. Moore JD'63.



security matters. Prior to joining the Maloney Firm, Colmey worked with Vandevanter Black LLP and Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP.

1990s

**Rhonda L. Canby JD'91** of Sacramento, Calif., has returned to the appellate courts after a time in private practice. She is working in the chambers of the Honorable Louis Mauro in the 3rd Appellate District of the California Court of Appeals. "I always said my first law job (as clerk to Oregon Supreme Court Chief Justice **Wallace P. Carson Jr. JD'62**) was my favorite." She is pleased to be back in the courts.



**Paul D. Migchelbrink JD'93** of Portland, Ore., was elected vice chair of The Salvation Army Portland Metro Advisory Board. He has served as a board member since 2010. He will complete one year as vice chair and is slated to assume the position of board chair in 2015. Migchelbrink is a shareholder at Farleigh Wada Witt.



**Kevin C. Anselm JD/C'94** of Palmer, Alaska, has been

promoted to director of the Division of Banking and Securities for the Alaska Department of Commerce, Community and Economic

Development. Anselm brings to her new role extensive experience in the world of finance and securities regulation, including serving as the division's operations manager and enforcement and securities chief.



**Averil Budge Rothrock JD'94** of Seattle, has completed a one-year term as the elected chair of the Appellate

Practice Section of the King County Bar Association. Rothrock is an attorney with Schwabe Williamson & Wyatt PC in Seattle, where she focuses on appeals.



**Troy K. Walker JD/C'96** of Draper, Utah, was sworn in as mayor of Draper on Jan. 6, 2014. Walker practices law

in the city and is a member of the Draper City Council, where he has served for the past six years. He also serves as a trustee of the Utah Transit Authority and is chairman of a charter school board. Draper is a city of roughly 45,000 people and is a key city in the Salt Lake metropolitan area.

**Steven M. Zipper JD'96** of Portland, Ore., has joined Gevurtz Menashe as a shareholder. He brings 17 years of experience in estate planning to the firm, where he

will continue to handle estate planning, trust and probate administration issues for clients in Oregon and Washington.



**Robert G. Koury JD/MBA'97** of Portland, Ore., has joined Jordan Ramis PC as a shareholder

and chair of the firm's Dirt Law® real estate practice. He previously was a shareholder at Lane Powell. He handles the full range of real estate matters for his clients, including transactional, financing, leasing and development.

**Alison S. Kelley '94, JD/C'98** of Salem, Ore., was named chief executive officer of the Liberty House in September 2013. The Liberty House is a child abuse assessment center serving Marion and Polk counties. Kelley most recently served as the Marion County community services director.



**Laura Caldera Taylor JD'99** of Lake Oswego, Ore., has been selected for fellowship in the Litigation Counsel of

America. Taylor is a shareholder in the Portland firm of Bullivant Houser Bailey PC, where she focuses her practice on complex business litigation.

2000s

**Erin C. Lagesen JD'00** of Portland, Ore., has been appointed to the Oregon Court of Appeals. After law school, Lagesen clerked for Judge Susan Graber on the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals and worked as a litigation associate at Stoel Rives LLP. In 2004, she joined the Appellate Division of the Oregon Department of Justice, where she has handled hundreds of appeals of civil, criminal and administrative cases in state and federal court.



**James D. Howsley JD'01** of Vancouver, Wash., was named to the Portland Business Journal's list of

Forty Under 40 for 2014. Howsley is a partner at Jordan Ramis PC in the firm's Dirt Law® real estate group, where he focuses his practice on land use.

**Andrew L. Logerwell JD'01** of Olympia, Wash., has been working as a state assistant attorney general for nearly 12 years. He clerked for a short time his first year out of law school with Lane County Circuit Court Judge Cynthia Carlson, but then returned to his work at the Oregon Department of Justice in October 2002. Logerwell moved to Olympia in 2007 after a year in private practice. He currently works as a managing attorney in

Boise Alumni Gathering

Dean Curtis Bridgeman joined Willamette University College of Law alumni at the Table Rock Brew Pub in Boise on Nov. 15, 2013.

Pictured: Tony J. Steenkolk JD'90, Dean Curtis Bridgeman, Mary E. Watson JD'97, S. Ellis Cunningham JD'11



# Class Action

the Washington Attorney General's office. His work has evolved from employment and torts defense to providing advice and guidance to state employers in both labor and employment law issues. In his spare time, he has summited the five highest peaks in Washington, earned a black belt (and is working on his second) and recently taught the dumbest dog in the world to lay down. He resides in Olympia with his companion Suzanna.

**Brian M. Parrott JD/MBA'01** of Portland, Ore., has joined Dunn Carney Allen Higgins & Tongue LLP as an associate. His practice will focus on health care and business law, and he will also be a member of the firm's health care team. Parrott previously was an associate with Cooney & Crew LLP.

**Daniel B. Atchison JD'03** of Salem, Ore., was appointed Salem city attorney in October 2013. He had served as assistant city attorney since 2007, and was the acting city attorney from July 2013 until his appointment. The city attorney provides a full range of legal services to the city, including civil defense, criminal prosecution and general counsel.



**Joshua M. Kindred JD'05** of Anchorage, Alaska, has joined

the Alaska Oil and Gas Association as regulatory and legal affairs

manager. Raised in Anchorage, Kindred is a seasoned legal professional with years of experience in the state, serving most recently as the violent crimes supervisor for the Anchorage District Attorney's Office.

**Jessica R. Faber JD'06** of Pristina, Kosovo, is a foreign service contracting officer for the United States Agency for International Development, and is currently serving at the USAID mission in Pristina. She is accompanied by her husband, Jeremy, and daughter, Scarlet. She recently was assigned to a mission in Pretoria, South Africa, and will begin her tour there in late summer 2014.

**Nathan K. Boderman JD'07** of Salem, Ore., has joined the Clackamas County Office of County Counsel as an assistant county counsel. In his new role, he will be responsible for advising on all aspects of land use, development review, transportation, real property matters and general transactions. Boderman previously was with the Salem firm of Saalfeld Griggs PC.

**Naomi L. Levelle Haslitt JD'07** of Portland, Ore., has been elected partner at Miller Nash LLP. She practices with the firm's employment law and labor relations and education law practice teams.

**Stacey A. Martinson JD'07** of Portland, Ore., has been elected partner at Miller Nash LLP. She focuses her practice in the areas of litigation, construction and insurance coverage. She began working at the firm in 2006 as a summer clerk.



**Julia C. (Smith) Rice JD'07** of Salem, Ore., who provides mediation services in family law

cases, has expanded her practice to include legal representation in the areas of estate planning, probate, trust administration, guardianships, conservatorships, uncontested divorces and adoptions. The Law Office of Julia C. Rice will also continue to mediate domestic-relations cases.



**Paige A. (Allen) De Muniz JD/C'08** of Portland, Ore., has

been named a shareholder in the family law and estate planning firm of Gevurtz Menashe. De Muniz's practice focuses on a broad range of family law matters, including divorce and complex asset cases, custody and parenting time, child support,

grandparent and third-party rights, paternity issues and domestic partnerships.

**Dorothy R. Bean JD'09** of Salem, Ore., is now a staff attorney/enforcement officer at the Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Services in the Division of Finance and Corporate Securities. She will be working on securities fraud and consumer protection issues. She previously was an associate at Saalfeld Griggs PC.

**Amanda L. Keller JD/MBA'09** of Tualatin, Ore., has joined the Clackamas County Office of County Counsel as an assistant county counsel. She will be primarily responsible for advising the county's Water Environment Services department on general business transactions, environmental regulatory compliance and real estate transactions.

**Jamie E. (Carmichael) Stanton JD/C'09** of Olympia, Wash., is now working for the Washington State Republican Caucus as staff counsel. In this role, she helps senators draft bills and amendments, and is assigned to the policy areas of human services and corrections, as well as natural resources. Prior to attending law school, Stanton worked for Washington state Sen. Jim Honeyford as a legislative aid.

# EVENTS

## Boise Alumni Gathering

Table Rock Brew Pub  
Nov. 15, 2013

David P. Claiborne JD'02, Jim C. Harris  
JD'72, Kacc Harris



**Luke A. Stanton JD'09** of Olympia, Wash., is now a deputy district attorney in Lewis County, Wash. He previously was a deputy district attorney in Douglas County, Ore.

**2010s**

**Jennifer R. Okubo JD'10** of Waipahu, Hawaii, is enjoying her work at First Hawaiian Bank. Since September 2012, she has worked in the Personal Trust Department handling trust and estate administration. Prior to joining the bank, she clerked for a circuit court judge on a criminal felony calendar, and then worked for the City and County of Honolulu Department of the Prosecuting Attorney.

**Veronica A. Digman-McNassar JD'11** of Woodburn, Ore., has opened a private practice based in Woodburn that focuses on immigration law. Prior to becoming an attorney, Digman-McNassar worked for the Oregon Law Center, Legal Aid Services of Oregon and the Marion County Children and Families Commission.

**Kevin J. Anderson JD'12** of Portland, Ore., has joined Sather Byerly & Holloway LLP as an associate. He represents Oregon employers and insurers in workers' compensation and related employment matters.



**Zachary W. Brunot JD'12** of Portland, Ore., has joined the Salem law firm of **Randy M. Elmer '80, JD'83** as an associate.

Brunot's practice will focus on representing individuals in workers' compensation, employment law and personal injury matters.

**Haley A. Bury JD'12** of Salem, Ore., has joined Martin Bischoff Templeton Langslet and Hoffman LLP as an associate. Bury previously worked as a judicial clerk for Lane County Circuit Court Judge **Debra K. Vogt JD/C'94**.

**Jeffrey A. Jorgensen JD'12** of Salem, Ore., has joined Spooner & Much PC as an associate. His practice will focus on insurance defense litigation.

**Dane E. Rowinski JD'12** of Portland, Ore., is now a labor relations assistant with the Pacific Maritime Association. In his new role, Rowinski researches and interprets the contract documents negotiated between the shipping employers and International Longshore and Warehouse Union. He also assists with the administration of the contracts when there are disagreements on a local level, or when either an employer or the union files a grievance and the issue goes to arbitration. The PMA is a

collective of shipping companies, terminal operators and stevedores with offices in Washington, Oregon and California.

**Jessica E. Wilcox JD'12** of Portland, Ore., is now assistant director for placement at Willamette University College of Law. She is pleased to be back at her alma mater helping current students make the next step in their own careers.



**Emily J. Apel JD'13** of Roseburg, Ore., joined the Umpqua Valley Public Defender in December 2013. She

represents indigent defendants accused of misdemeanors and parents accused of failing to pay child support. During law school, Apel was a certified law clerk with the public defender of Marion County and interned with Willamette University College of Law's International Human and Refugee Rights Clinic.

**Kirsten A. Larson JD'13** of Salem, Ore., has joined the law offices of Lance D. Youd as an associate. She represents clients in family law cases, dealing with dissolution, modification, support issues and custody matters. She also works with plaintiffs on personal injury matters.

**Kathryn L. Ludwick JD'13** of Kirkland, Wash., was recently hired as a deputy prosecuting attorney for Island County in Coupeville, Wash. She is one of two prosecutors who will handle all manner of misdemeanor cases for the county in district court.

**James D. Lutes JD'13** of Portland, Ore., has joined Stahancyk Kent and Hook PC as an associate in the firm's Vancouver, Wash., office. The firm focuses exclusively on family law and estate planning.



**Rebecca S. Pitts JD'13** (at right) of Salem, Ore., is an associate with the all-Willamette firm of Douglas, Conroyd, Gibb & Pacheco PC. Pictured here, firm members (from left) **Monica D. Pacheco JD'06**, **Ryan E. Gibb JD'97**, and **Cinda M. (Sutton) Conroyd JD'84**, cheer Pitts on at her Oregon State Bar swearing-in ceremony in October.

**Boise Alumni Gathering**

Table Rock Brew Pub  
Nov. 15, 2013

Brent T. Wilson JD'02, Anthony M. Pantera JD'08, Christopher R. Moore JD'11





**Darin R. Markwardt JD'13** of Bethel, Alaska, is enjoying his work as a clerk for Bethel Superior Court Judge Dwayne McConnell. His work, which started in August 2013, includes reading and analyzing motions in civil, criminal and child-in-need-of-aid cases; researching case law; writing memorandums and drafting opinions.

"In Alaska, the Superior Court is the court of general jurisdiction. It is one step below the Appeals Court in criminal matters, and one step below the Supreme Court in civil and child-in-need-of-aid cases," Markwardt explained.

He also serves as a Bethel court librarian in the small town.

"Bethel is the hub – basically, the seat of government, health care and commerce – for the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta region," he says. The Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta comprises an area the size of the state of Oregon and encompasses 56 villages. "The vast majority of the villages are inhabited by Yup'iks, many of whom speak Yup'ik as a first language."

Bethel has a population of about 6,000 and is located 400 miles west of Anchorage. "There are no roads in or out of Bethel. However, the town has one 'highway,' a paved road that runs approximately five miles, from the airport through the town," said Markwardt. There are no crosswalks on the highway. "Needless to say, crossing the lone, icy road is a rather spiritual experience," he jokes.

"Contrary to what people might imagine after seeing photos of the majestic mountains in so many areas of Alaska, the town of Bethel and the surrounding region is relatively barren tundra. And contrary to what you might think when you hear that statement, it is beautiful in its own way," he continued. "Viewed from above, vast ribbons of waterways flow through and around the region, which blooms into bright green grasses and ground cover in the summer months. The local wildlife refuge is home to a wide array of waterfowl, shorebirds and fish species, as well as muskox, caribou, moose, brown and black bears, and wolves."

Markwardt, a Palmer, Alaska, native, admits to missing the trees that are relatively sparse in Bethel. "A few weeks ago, while ice skating, I spotted a couple spruce trees," he said. "It was a delightful moment."

# EVENTS



## Alaska Alumni Gathering

Dean Curtis Bridgeman joined a big crew of College of Law alumni at the Glacier Brewhouse in Anchorage on Feb. 6, 2014.

**Lauren E. Rauch JD'13** of Salem, Ore., has joined the Oregon Department of Justice as an honors attorney/assistant attorney general in the General Counsel Division, Health and Human Services Section.

**Ashley M. Rosenbaum JD'13** of Oregon City, Ore., has joined the law office of Michael L. Rosenbaum as an associate. She will focus her practice on civil litigation.

**Stephen M. Scott '10, JD'13** of Portland, Ore., has joined Sather Byerly & Holloway LLP as an associate. He focuses his practice on representing Oregon employers and insurers in workers' compensation and related employment matters.



**Andrea J. "AJ" Wahl JD'13** of Seaside, Ore., joined Gilded Rogue Enterprises LLC as corporate counsel in October 2013. Gilded Rogue buys, launches and consults with local small businesses that want to

make a profit and a difference. Each of the Gilded portfolio companies has a charitable focus, such as ending childhood hunger or homelessness, or supporting sustainable local products. Wahl assists the portfolio companies with permit applications, drafting policy materials and organizing operations.



**Angela I. Wilhelms JD/MBA'13** of Wilsonville, Ore., has joined the Portland firm of Dunn Carney Allen

Higgins & Tongue LLP as of counsel. She will focus her practice in governmental affairs and business law. Wilhelms previously served as chief of staff of the Oregon House Minority Office from 2007 until January 2011, and served as chief of staff for the Oregon House co-speaker from January 2011 until January 2013.



**Christian J. Zupancic JD'13** of Seaside, Ore., has opened his own general practice law firm, Zuplaw

Law Firm LLC in Seaside. Zupancic has enjoyed the process of building his firm from the ground up and eventually plans to emphasize business and real estate law.

## Additions



**Timothy M. Brown JD'02** and **Jennifer J. (Tucker) Brown JD'08** of Salem, Ore., welcomed son Allister Dean on

July 7, 2013.

**Marisa Mendoza Salinas JD'02** of Salem, Ore., welcomed daughter Niza Adelise on June 2, 2013.



**Jocelyn J. (West) Compton JD'04** of Salem, Ore., and husband Eric welcomed son Morrow Isaiah on March 10, 2013. He joins siblings Marshall, Eliza and Jameson.



**Kelly A. (Rees) Rosenberg JD'04** of Denver, and husband Dan welcomed daughter Anna Cordelia on Nov. 8, 2013. She joins big sister Molly.



**Amy N. Velazquez JD'04** of Beaverton, Ore., and husband Kelly M. Evans '95 welcomed

daughter Isla Cleo on Aug. 7, 2013. She joins big sister Arden.

**Stephanie Farley Wilson JD'07** of Salem, Ore., and husband Tim welcomed daughter Delliah Perry on July 11, 2013.

## Marriages



**Jennifer R. Shmikler JD'07** married Nathan Baker on July 6, 2013. She continues to work for Regence BlueCross BlueShield (a.k.a. Cambia Health Solutions) in Portland.

## Alaska Alumni Gathering

Glacier Brewhouse, Anchorage  
Feb. 6, 2014

James M. Gorski JD'77 and Clay A. Young JD'74



## In Memoriam



**William R. Thomas '41, JD'43** of Lebanon, Ore., passed away at the age of 94 on Aug. 6, 2013. After graduating from law school, Thomas joined

**Laurence L. Morley '37, JD'40** in Lebanon, and together they began Morley and Thomas Attorneys at Law. He worked in the practice for 66 years, retiring in 2010. In addition to his law practice, Thomas was instrumental in building the current Samaritan Lebanon Community Hospital and served as secretary of the hospital's board of trustees from 1950 to 2009. In 1996, he received the Amos Conrad award from the hospital. He was honored as the first Lebanon Junior First Citizen and later as Senior Citizen of the Year by the Lebanon Jaycees. His work and community involvement came second to his commitment to his family. He also enjoyed hunting, fly fishing, traveling, reading, telling stories, going to the opera, farming "on the hill" and loved animals. He is survived by wife Helen, two daughters and several grandchildren.

**Harl D. Haas JD'61** of Portland, Ore., passed away peacefully at his home, surrounded by his loved ones, at the age of 80 on Sept. 21, 2013. He succumbed to lung cancer. After military service and undergraduate

study, Haas attended the College of Law, graduating with honors. He was proud to be a 52-year member of the Oregon State Bar. His occupation was trial lawyer, his avocation was public service. He was able to combine the two in a long and distinguished career serving the people of Multnomah County and the state of Oregon as a legislator, district attorney and circuit court judge.



Haas' motivation to enter public service was a true desire to improve the lives of the people he represented. He was most proud

of the programs he pioneered that positively impacted thousands of lives. In 1974, as district attorney, his office created the first Rape Victim Advocate program to ease the trauma and protect the dignity of rape survivors as they assisted in the prosecution of the accused. In 1975, he implemented the first victim's assistance program to require restitution and protect the rights of crime victims.

In 1991, as circuit court judge, he started the Sanctions Treatment Opportunity Progress Drug Court to recognize and minimize the impact of drug addiction in the administration of justice. It offered people who were charged with nonviolent drug crimes the chance to receive treatment for their addictions, which could result in their convictions being expunged.

These programs became models for the nation.

Haas was a proud Democrat and skilled politician who practiced his craft in a time where differences of opinion created opportunities for compromise and progress. He was an invited guest of President Bill Clinton at the signing of the federal Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 at the White House. He never lost sight of his role as an advocate and arbiter for justice and fairness.

His accomplished professional life was balanced by a rich personal life. He was an avid St. Louis Cardinals fan and enjoyed both the Ducks and the Beavers. He loved to read biographies, tell stories, listen to love songs, go out to lunch and travel with the love of his life and wife of 28 years, Mary Lou. He was devoted to his daughters and proud to be "Papa" to his grandchildren. He is survived by his wife; daughter Holly; step-children Ross, Cathy and Scott; and his grandkids. He was preceded in death by daughter Amy.

**J. Hartly Newsum II JD'63** of Kirkland, Wash., passed away peacefully at his home at the age of 77 on Aug. 16, 2013. Newsum was an attorney for more than 40 years. After graduating from law school, he served for four years with the King County Prosecutor's Office. He opened his own law practice in the early 1970s and spent many years as a defense attorney for both civil and criminal cases, but he was passionate about

providing pro bono services for those in need. He volunteered with Volunteer Legal Services, Volunteer Attorneys for People with AIDS and the Housing Justice Project. In 2003, he was named Pro Bono Attorney of the Year by the King County Bar Association. He was also active in several community organizations. In his free time, he enjoyed gardening, reading and traveling with his wife, Judy. He is survived by his wife, four children and five grandchildren.

**Franklyn N. Brown JD'69** of Parkdale, Ore., passed away Sept. 5, 2013, at the age of 71. Brown was a graduate of Oregon State University and a lifelong Beaver fan. After receiving his law degree, he moved to Tigard and started his own law practice. Brown played an active role in his community for two decades. He was a lifelong teacher to his two children, son Anders and daughter Stephanie, sharing his wisdom and experience both in their youth and when they were adults with growing families. Brown had an unbridled love of learning, and his interests included aviation, construction, art, music, boating, history and religion, to name but a few. He loved planes and obtained his private, and then commercial, pilot's license and was a certified flight instructor. Fascinated by all types of music, his living room housed a banjo, clarinet, guitar and cello. He is survived by his son and daughter and four grandchildren.

**Charles M. Gudger III JD'73** of Eugene, Ore., passed away at the age

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## Alaska Alumni Gathering

Glacier Brewhouse, Anchorage  
Feb. 6, 2014

Nancy J. Schierhorn JD'86, Joseph M. Schierhorn JD/MBA'85, Christopher V. Hoke JD'10



of 65 due to complications with breathing problems caused by several health conditions on Sept. 6, 2013. A big man with a giant heart, Gudger will be remembered for the many people he helped as an attorney and in life, often making it his mission to help single parents maintain their rights to be with their children. His door was always open to family and friends, and he hosted many friends in need whom he helped put back on their feet. A devoted son, he left his legal practice after many successful years to care for his mother in her last years, and he always made it clear to all that his family was the most important thing. He is survived by wife Ruth Anne, whom he loved dearly. They met later in life after many tries at love, bringing together a Celtic union that kept him on his toes and a fire burning in them both. He is also survived by two sons and one grandson.



**Nancy E. Brown JD/C'89** of Portland, Ore., passed away at the age of 74 on Dec. 9, 2013. She died peacefully at home with

her family close by. She had fought metastasized ocular melanoma. Prior to attending law school, Brown taught at the junior high level, and then began her career in labor relations with the Oregon Education Association. In 1978, she found her true passion as a labor mediator for the state of Oregon. After earning her law degree,

she continued as a mediator and then as an arbitrator. She loved to travel, and visited Asia, Africa and Europe. She loved to cook for her family and friends. She's survived by daughters Marsha and Elizabeth, her sons-in-law and grandchildren.

**Lynda A. (Golar) Clark JD'89** of Salem, Ore., passed away on Sept. 14, 2013, at the age of 61. After graduating from law school, Clark worked in several positions that allowed her to bring greater justice and equality to deserving populations. She was an adjunct faculty member of the College of Law, working with the Clinical Law Program for several years. She also worked as a deputy district attorney in Marion County, and later taught life skills and workplace basics to disadvantaged members of the Salem community through her work with the New Workforce Program at Chemeketa Community College. She continued her work with at-risk populations both as director of the Salem Outreach Shelter and as director of Legal Aid Services of Oregon before starting down a new path as an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ. Clark enjoyed acting from a very young age, and was involved in numerous acting troupes, including the Pentacle Theatre in Salem. She also loved reading, gardening, traveling and spending time with her family, particularly her three grandchildren, who brought her endless amounts of joy. She is survived by her mother, brother, three children and three grandchildren.

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## Alaska Alumni Gathering

Glacier Brewhouse, Anchorage  
Feb. 6, 2014

Dean Bridgeman and Michael A. Moberly JD'95





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