Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law
Arizona State University

CONSTRUCTIVE NEWS
April 24, 2008 Volume 42

LAW STUDENTS, ALUMNI HONOR DEAN

Dean Patricia White was praised for her vision, tenacity and personal integrity during a celebration arranged by law students and alumni on Thursday, April 17, on the lawn in front of the Ross-Blakley Law Library.

White was honored as she returns to teaching after nearly a decade as dean.

“She reminded us we were among the fortunate few in our society to enjoy the great benefit of a legal education,” Roam said.

He recalled his first dean’s session, a course designed to introduce incoming students to various aspects of life in the law.

“She succeeded because she understood that they might have to teach him the job as well as how to do it,” he said.

Carolyn Williams, another third-year law student who will graduate in May, said the speakers, court sessions, and events the dean arranged gave Williams a sense of her own identity.

Carrie Thompson Jones, a second-year law student, said she was touched by White’s personal interest and awareness of “an average student.”

Thompson Jones recalled approaching White after a speech at the law school to tell White about her summer job.

“I realized I had failed to introduce myself, but she said, ‘Carrie, that’s so great. I’m so happy for you,’” she said.

“I’ve never felt anonymous,” Thompson Jones said. “The very simple, very personal act of calling me by my name made me feel like I was talking to an old friend.”

Carolyn Williams, editor-in-chief of the Arizona State Law Journal, Dean Patricia White and Judge Barry Silverman of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals enjoy a windy, but pleasant evening at the annual Law Students’ Law Dinner.

Judge Barry Silverman, of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, regaled nearly 200 people with funny stories of his law school years, when he was honored recently by the College of Law at the annual Arizona Law Journal Law Awards Banquet.

Members of 21 law firms, along with Journal staffers, attended the dinner held on Wednesday, April 16, at the Arizona Historical Society Museum in Tempe.

Silverman, 56, a member of the College of Law’s Class of 1976 who has been a state Court judge, federal magistrate and Circuit Court judge for more than 20 years, was given the John S. Lancy Award, named for the Journal’s first editor-in-chief.

Silverman recalled sitting in classes taught by Professor Michael Berch, in which Berch would lie propped in circles around the room, expounding on the case of the day and “scaring the hell out of everyone.”

“One day, each time he got close to one student, Ed Young, Ed tried to say something to Berch,” Silverman said. “Finally, Berch sees Ed, and says, ‘Sue, if you’re going to be a lawyer, you will have to learn to speak up.’ And Ed said, very clearly, ‘Sir, your fly is open.’”

Peter Baird, a partner at Lewis and Roca LLP, who was an associate on the landmark case, Miranda v. Arizona, introduced Silverman and praised his use of humor, even while on the bench.

“One time in open court, Barry was sitting on the Supreme Court bench and had a litigant appear without a lawyer,” Baird said. “He asked who was representing him, and the man said, ‘Jesus Christ is my counsel.’ Barry said, ‘Yes, but who is your local counsel?’”

Silverman was born in the New York City borough of the Bronx, arrived in Phoenix in his teens, and has called Arizona home ever since. He attended ASU, graduating cum laude, and went on to law school, during which he served on the Law Journal.

Prior to his appointment to the 9th Circuit by President Clinton in February of 1998, Silverman was a U.S. Magistrate Judge for the District of Arizona from 1995-1998, and a Maricopa County Superior Court judge from 1984-1995.

Silverman thanked his clerks for all their work, his wife, Georgy, “by whom I am exasperated and reminded frequently, but still very much loved,” and the students of the Law Journal, who gave him the award.

The award is named for John S. Lancy, a member of the first entering class at the College of Law in 1967, and the first editor of the Arizona State Law Journal.

Lancy’s sister, Mae Self of Phoenix, attended the dinner along with Lancy’s daughter, Jenica, from San Francisco, her husband and baby son. Lancy, who had a terrific sense of humor, would have appreciated the evening, his family said.

“He was very funny,” Self said. “You never knew if he was joking or serious.”

Other awards given at the dinner were: Outstanding Managing Editor, Matt Stokol, Outstanding Associate Managing Editor, Gary Newson, Outstanding Student Comment, Kendall Wilson, Outstanding Note and Comment Faculty Advisor, Art Hinshaw, Outstanding Note and Comment Editor, Terence Whalley, and Outstanding Article Editor, Brad Cosman.

To read the essays, go to law.asu.edu.

COHEN SCHOLARS NAMED AT LAW SCHOOL

Meghan McCauley, a first-year law student at the College of Law, recently was chosen as the winner of the 2008 Cohen Professionalism Scholars competition, based on an essay she wrote about integrity.

McCauley’s essay was entitled, “Commandment 10: Honor who you are and you will bring honor to what you do,” received a $1,000 scholarship from the sponsors of the contest, Loren Cohen and Maricopa County Superior Court Judge Bruce R. Cohen, an alumnus of the College of Law.

The Cohens awarded second place and a $500 scholarship to Alanna Atwater, and honorable mentions, along with $250 scholarships, to Amy M. Coughenour, Natalie Greaves and Daniel A. Lewis. The Cohens will be taking the students to the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles in June. This is the third annual presentation of the awards.

The Cohens visited the law school on Tuesday, April 8, to give the awards and to talk about the topic of the essay competition, integrity.

“Integrity is not a black and white issue,” Judge Cohen said. “Integrity is the result of the struggle that goes on in your own mind and how you act upon those thoughts.”

He showed a clip from the movie, The Ringer, in which actor Matt Damon portrays a lawyer who is faced with right and wrong. Paraphrasing from the film, Judge Cohen noted that “every lawyer in every case has the opportunity to cross the line, and if you cross the line one too many times, it frequently disappears, and then you become a lawyer joke.”

He encouraged the students to let their own standards be the highest against which they will be judged.

The entire Class of 2010 submitted essays to the Cohens, writing about the greatest moral dilemmas they’ve ever faced and how they were resolved. The Cohens said the submissions were entertaining and inspiring, making the judging very difficult.

If “you’re not called up here, you nonetheless have inspired us and raised our optimism for the legal profession for the future,” Judge Cohen said.

McCauley’s essay recounted her internal struggle with telling the truth about her past indiscretions when applying to get into the Air Force, and risk not only being rejected, but bringing dishonor to three prior military generations of her family, or lying about her past and being admitted.

Atwater wrote a poem, “How Imate Fifty-Five Earned His Stripes,” a Dr. Seuss-metered, first-person view of a lawyer who was caught fudging a deal.

The attorney’s conscience and guilt battle back and forth in the prose.

Coughenour had no problem coming up with a topic for her essay. She chose to reflect on the difficulty of being a law student and a single mother of three young girls and a proposal from her parents to allow the children to live with them during the week. She weighed the pros and cons, a moral battle that continues to rage in her head, and made her decision.

In Greaves’ essay, “The Knocked Out Principal,” she wrote about her two children, Caleb and Aspen. The story focused on where she drew her line on keeping them.

To read the essays, go to law.asu.edu.

The entire Class of 2010 submitted essays to the Cohens, writing about the greatest moral dilemmas they’ve ever faced and how they were resolved. The Cohens said the submissions were entertaining and inspiring, making the judging very difficult.
ROYAL NAMED TO “FORTY-UNDER-40”

K Royal, Director of Pro Bono Programs and Student Life at the College of Law, received an award from a Phoenix newspaper for her contributions to the Valley’s business community. Royal was selected as one of the Phoenix Business Journal’s 2008 Class of Forty-Under-40, a program that salutes up-and-coming leaders in the community. She and isn’t afraid representation in civil law matters.

“Thank you all for this wonderful opportunity for the bank to support an attack on a problem within a community that isn’t being served by others.”

“VLP appreciates the many hours of service that law students and faculty have provided to represent low-income families,” said Gerrich, a 1983 College of Law alumna. “The pro bono representation they provide can help families get justice and avoid losing their homes or get a fresh start for themselves and their children.”

The work wouldn’t have been possible without the financial support of Meridian Bank, and its chairman and CEO, Doug Hile, she said. “We think what Jen and the Civil Justice Clinic do with the community is extraordinary, and we are so glad to support it,” Hile said. “This is a wonderful opportunity for the bank to support an attack on a problem within a community that isn’t being served by others.”

Todd Erb, a third-year student who signed up for the Civil Justice Clinic this semester, said he received invaluable legal experience and learned the importance of pro bono work. Erb and other students did legal research, wrote complaints, took depositions, met with clients and did other legal work that they learned about as first-year law students.

“Most first-year associates don’t get to do the things we get to do,” he said. “There’s no other place you can learn these things in a hands-on way.”

Read the full story at law.asu.edu

ULLMAN PUBLISHES ARTICLE IN ‘HARVARD JOURNAL’

A new method for creating guidelines for child support payments is proposed in an article by Professor Ira Ellman published in March in the Harvard Journal on Legislation. The article, “The Theory of Child Support,” is co-authored with Ellman’s wife, Tara, who has an MBA from the University of California, Berkeley, and contributed to the economic analysis in the paper.

According to Ellman, the work grew out of the couple’s involvement with a special committee appointed by the Arizona Supreme Court to consider changes in the way the state’s child support guidelines are constructed.

“It may that there are great differences in the amount of support to be ordered? What do these fundamental principles say about the impact that a parent’s marriage or remarriage should have on the amount of support to be ordered?”

“What principles should decide the design of such guidelines and thus the amount of support to be offered? What do these fundamental principles say about the impact that a parent’s marriage or remarriage should have on the amount of support to be offered?”

“Federal law requires each state to have its own guidelines to determine the dollar amounts of most support orders.”

“What principles should decide the design of such guidelines and thus the amount of support to be ordered? What do these fundamental principles say about the impact that a parent’s marriage or remarriage should have on the amount of support to be ordered?”

Ira Ellman

ELLMAN PUBLISHES ARTICLE IN ‘HARVARD JOURNAL’

A new method for creating guidelines for child support payments is proposed in an article by Professor Ira Ellman published in March in the Harvard Journal on Legislation. The article, “The Theory of Child Support,” is co-authored with Ellman’s wife, Tara, who has an MBA from the University of California, Berkeley, and contributed to the economic analysis in the paper.

According to Ellman, the work grew out of the couple’s involvement with a special committee appointed by the Arizona Supreme Court to consider changes in the way the state’s child support guidelines are constructed.

“It may that there are great differences in the amount of support to be ordered? What do these fundamental principles say about the impact that a parent’s marriage or remarriage should have on the amount of support to be ordered?”

“What principles should decide the design of such guidelines and thus the amount of support to be offered? What do these fundamental principles say about the impact that a parent’s marriage or remarriage should have on the amount of support to be offered?”

Federal law requires each state to have its own guidelines to determine the dollar amounts of most support orders.”

“What principles should decide the design of such guidelines and thus the amount of support to be ordered? What do these fundamental principles say about the impact that a parent’s marriage or remarriage should have on the amount of support to be ordered?”

Ira Ellman

ELLMAN PUBLISHES ARTICLE IN ‘HARVARD JOURNAL’

A new method for creating guidelines for child support payments is proposed in an article by Professor Ira Ellman published in March in the Harvard Journal on Legislation. The article, “The Theory of Child Support,” is co-authored with Ellman’s wife, Tara, who has an MBA from the University of California, Berkeley, and contributed to the economic analysis in the paper.

According to Ellman, the work grew out of the couple’s involvement with a special committee appointed by the Arizona Supreme Court to consider changes in the way the state’s child support guidelines are constructed.

“What principles should decide the design of such guidelines and thus the amount of support to be ordered? What do these fundamental principles say about the impact that a parent’s marriage or remarriage should have on the amount of support to be ordered?”

Federal law requires each state to have its own guidelines to determine the dollar amounts of most support orders.”

“What principles should decide the design of such guidelines and thus the amount of support to be ordered? What do these fundamental principles say about the impact that a parent’s marriage or remarriage should have on the amount of support to be ordered?”

Ira Ellman

ELLMAN PUBLISHES ARTICLE IN ‘HARVARD JOURNAL’

A new method for creating guidelines for child support payments is proposed in an article by Professor Ira Ellman published in March in the Harvard Journal on Legislation. The article, “The Theory of Child Support,” is co-authored with Ellman’s wife, Tara, who has an MBA from the University of California, Berkeley, and contributed to the economic analysis in the paper.

According to Ellman, the work grew out of the couple’s involvement with a special committee appointed by the Arizona Supreme Court to consider changes in the way the state’s child support guidelines are constructed.

“What principles should decide the design of such guidelines and thus the amount of support to be ordered? What do these fundamental principles say about the impact that a parent’s marriage or remarriage should have on the amount of support to be ordered?”

Federal law requires each state to have its own guidelines to determine the dollar amounts of most support orders.”

“What principles should decide the design of such guidelines and thus the amount of support to be ordered? What do these fundamental principles say about the impact that a parent’s marriage or remarriage should have on the amount of support to be ordered?”

Ira Ellman

ELLMAN PUBLISHES ARTICLE IN ‘HARVARD JOURNAL’

A new method for creating guidelines for child support payments is proposed in an article by Professor Ira Ellman published in March in the Harvard Journal on Legislation. The article, “The Theory of Child Support,” is co-authored with Ellman’s wife, Tara, who has an MBA from the University of California, Berkeley, and contributed to the economic analysis in the paper.

According to Ellman, the work grew out of the couple’s involvement with a special committee appointed by the Arizona Supreme Court to consider changes in the way the state’s child support guidelines are constructed.

“What principles should decide the design of such guidelines and thus the amount of support to be ordered? What do these fundamental principles say about the impact that a parent’s marriage or remarriage should have on the amount of support to be ordered?”

Federal law requires each state to have its own guidelines to determine the dollar amounts of most support orders.”

“What principles should decide the design of such guidelines and thus the amount of support to be ordered? What do these fundamental principles say about the impact that a parent’s marriage or remarriage should have on the amount of support to be ordered?”

Ira Ellman