INTO THE WORLD

This is one in a series of profiles about graduating law students and their career plans. Andrew Becke grew up in rural Cottonwood, and graduated from Northern Arizona University in 1999 with a degree in Hotel and Restaurant Management.

After sustaining an injury which prevented him from continuing his work in restaurants, Andrew decided to pursue a career in the law. While in law school, Andrew has served as President of the student chapter of the Association of Trial Lawyers of America, a Legal Writing TA, and is the current Executive Managing Editor of the Arizona State Law Journal. He was also appointed by Governor Napolitano in 2004 as a public member of the Arizona Board of Osteopathic Examiners in Medicine and Surgery, the board which regulates the practice of osteopathic doctors in the state. He continues to serve on that board.

After graduation, Andrew will be clerking for Vice Chief Justice Rebecca White Berch of the Arizona Supreme Court for one year, and then will be joining the firm of Murphy, lettuce, Schmitt & Fuchs in Prescott. He plans on practicing mainly in the area of insurance defense and plaintiff's personal injury litigation. He looks forward to a small town practice.

CRUZ, KITTRIE PARTICIPATE IN IMMIGRATION FELLOWSHIP

Professors Evelyn Cruz and Orde Kittrie served as faculty in a recent media fellowship set up by the ASU Public Affairs’ Office of Media Relations.

The competitive fellowship brought reporters from across the country. Selected fellows included Oscar Avila from the Chicago Tribune; Mariano Castillo from the San Antonio Express-News; Jennifer Delson from the Los Angeles Times; Teils Davis from FORTUNE magazine; Joan Donohue from the Newark, N.J., Star-Ledger; Jerry Kaminer from Copley News Service; Sarah Muench from The Arizona Republic; Rosa Ramirez from the Rocky Mountain News; Robert Schmitz from KQED/NPR; and Dianne Solis from the Dallas Morning News.

Cruz and Kittrie were two of 14 ASU professors who served as faculty. Others came from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the W.P. Carey School of Business, the College of Public Programs, West campus and Polytechnic campus. They covered topics including the history of U.S. immigration policy, the economics of immigration, globalization and human migration.

Following the campus study sessions, the fellows traveled to the Arizona-Mexico border, where they met with various groups, including an overnight stay in a migrant shelter, a desert hike to experience what migrants face in their journeys, and a meeting with Group Beta, an agency of the Mexican immigration service.

DEAN TEACHES SECOND-GRADEERS

Dean Patricia White recently taught strategic negotiation to a second-grade class at Littleton Elementary School as part of Teach for America Week.

White had the students negotiate over several colored M&M figures that they believed were filled with candies of that color.

After negotiating for the color of their choice, they received the figurines. Most were filled with the candy as expected, but one contained only a few candies and another only paper clips.

White asked them if they thought the trade was fair, and whether they wanted a judge to decide what to do.

One student was designated the judge and decided that the candy should be distributed equally as well as the paper clips.

The lesson was part of Teach for America Week, which brings professionals into the classroom for an hour.

Teach for America is a national corps of recent college graduates who commit two years to teach in urban and rural public schools and become leaders in the effort to expand educational opportunity.

MULTI-LEVEL MENTORING PROGRAM KICKS OFF

More than 80 people gathered recently at the Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law as part of a new multi-level mentoring program that connects mentor high school students with pre-law undergraduates, law students, and local attorneys.

“One of the program’s goals is to provide inspiration and guidance to high school students and their parents when the families and the communities may not provide many professional role models,” said Charles Calleros, a professor at the College of Law who organized the mentoring effort.

These are bright, hardworking students who nonetheless might not appreciate the academic and professional opportunities available to them or might become discouraged before realizing their goals. Their student and attorney mentors provide examples of success to inspire them to stay on the academic track.

The four-tier mentoring program was created by the Hispanic National Bar Association, which launched it last September in several cities. Calleros is a member of the Association’s national committee for the mentoring program, and he was determined to bring the HNBA program to Phoenix.

For several months, Calleros laid the foundation of the Phoenix program by working through student and professional organizations of which he is a member and which are affiliated with HNBA: the Chicano/Latino Law Student Association and Los Abogados.

He then broadened the program to other students, attorneys, and law schools, ensuring an ethnically diverse representation in the program. Most of the high school participants are from the law magnet program at South Mountain High School.

Jimmie Reyna, HNBA president, was so impressed with the efforts in Phoenix that he arranged a trip to be able to attend the February 3 event.

Calleros said the program works for participants at each step of the ladder to the legal profession: high school students are exposed to information about college; pre-law students learn about the law school admission process and the importance of taking challenging classes, and law students get an inside view of the practice of law with their attorney mentors.

It’s also a positive experience for law students to see how far they’ve come. “Law school is a very competitive environment, and positive feedback doesn’t come in generous quantities,” Calleros said. “Some very capable law students feel a little shell-shocked, but they are reminded of how talented and accomplished they are when they act as mentors and help younger students attempt to follow in the law students’ footsteps.”

On Feb. 3, participants mingled over a pizza dinner sponsored by the Hispanic National Bar Foundation and two law firms. After dinner, they met for about 30 minutes for some general information, then spent time in their groups getting to know each other. Many of the high school students were accompanied by their parents. “It’s important for high school students and their parents to see people like them who are lawyers and law students,” Calleros said. “They think, ‘If they can do that, then it’s not out of reach for me.’”

The program participants are expected to meet in their teams at least once each semester, and to call or e-mail each other when they need advice or have questions. In the weeks that followed the early February meeting, for example, one mentoring group met for an hour to talk about jurying and differing natures of undergraduate and legal education.

Another team arranged to accompany the attorney mentor in March to the closing of a commercial transaction, while the attorneys will explain the nature of the transaction and the purposes of various documents.

And on a Saturday afternoon in February, one college-level mentor met her high school partner on campus and the attorney stayed covered by coffee at the Coffee Plantation on Mill Avenue so that could get to know each other better. The college student later wrote to Calleros in an e-mail, “This program is really fun and a once-in-a-lifetime experience. I feel very privileged to be part of it.”

Near the end of this semester, Calleros plans to meet with all interested law student organizations to discuss ways of expanding the pilot mentoring program to as many students as possible.

GAZZANIGA ON NEUROETHICS

Michael S. Gazzaniga, a leading researcher in neuroethics, one of the 21st century’s hottest topics in science and law, will present next week at the Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law.

Gazzaniga, director of the SAGE Center for the Study of the Mind at the University of California, Santa Barbara, will deliver the sixth annual Hogan & Hartson Jurimetrics Presentation, “Neuroscience and Law.” It begins at 4 p.m., Monday, Feb. 26 in the Great Hall at Armstrong Hall, and is free and open to the public.
One of the country’s preeminent brain scientists, Gazzaniga will talk about key intersections between the emerging field of neuroscience and current legal practices and ethical issues.

“Neuroscience has lots of things to say about how the judicial process will go forward,” said Gazzaniga, author of The Ethical Brain (2005, Dana Press). “There also are a lot of areas where it should shut up and not say anything.”

For example, brain scientists are increasingly being called as expert witnesses in criminal trials to testify that individuals with brain damage aren’t responsible for their behavior. As a result, they may be treated and sentenced differently than those with normal brain function.

“They’re said to be not responsible for killing someone or getting violent, but the problem with that argument is there are a lot of people with brain lesions who don’t do those things, and making someone not culpable because they have a diminished brain is not right,” he said.

Gazzaniga is a major figure in neuroscience who created brain research centers at Dartmouth College, the University of California, Davis, and the University of California, Santa Barbara. Gazzaniga serves on the President’s Council on Bioethics, is immediate past president of the American Psychological Society, and is editor emeritus of the Journal of Cognitive Neuroscience.

A reception will follow the lecture in the Steptoe & Johnson Rotunda in Armstrong Hall. For more information, contact Sandy Askland at (480) 965-2465 or at sandy.askland@asu.edu.

ATTORNEY SPEAKS ON CYBERCRIME, CYBERSECURITY

Dr. Christopher T. Pierson, an attorney with Lewis and Roca, will speak on Cybercrime & Cybersecurity: Understanding the Legal and Privacy Risks Associated with Compromised Data at 12:10 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 20, in Room 118.

Pierson’s premise: Your trade secrets, customer lists, employee data, and customer data have all been exposed in a data breach. Your company is facing civil lawsuits, FTC action, and is attempting to mitigate the scope of the breach and keep business operations running. Now what?

This presentation will examine breaches involving organized Russian criminal syndicates, hackers, ex-employees, and “traditional” thieves as a means to understand the delicate balance between the law, policy, criminal investigations, and business economics.

Pierson will review the range of actions from the FTC for privacy violations as well as implications of the new data breach law in Arizona and other states.

Whether you are interested in high-technology, criminal law, or civil law, each attendee will be able to understand his or her role in this developing area of cybersecurity.

Pierson established his firm’s Cybersecurity and Cyberliability practice group. He also works in the firm’s Intellectual Property and Technology practice group. He serves on the Governor’s Homeland Security Coordinating Council and is President of the FBI’s Phoenix InfraGard, a private sector alliance with the FBI for collaboration and information storage on 13 critical infrastructures. He holds a B.A. and an M.A. from Boston College and a J.D. and Ph.D. from the University of Iowa.

ORTEGA SPEAKS AT CLINICAL LUNCHEON

Attorney Daniel R. Ortega Jr. will speak at 12:15 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 27, in Room 105 as part of the Clinical Program Luncheon. Ortega is a partner with the law offices of Roush, McCracken, Guerro, Miller & Ortega. He has a long and distinguished history, not only with respect to his law practice, but also because of his public service in the community. Lunch will be served.

Ortega is a 1974 graduate of Arizona State University, with a B.A. in Political Science, and a J.D. in 1977 from the Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law. He is a member of the Arizona State Bar, Association of Trial Lawyers of America, the American Bar Association, Maricopa County Bar Association, and Los Angeles Hispanic Bar Association.

The law firm of Roush, McCracken, Guerro, Miller & Ortega has always limited its practice to representing plaintiffs in complex cases involving products liability and consumer issues. The firm’s practice includes personal injury, product liability, construction accidents, product liability, trucking accidents and similar challenging cases.

Ortega’s practice is concentrated on serious personal injury and wrongful death cases.

ABA REPRESENTATION IN MEDIATION COMPETITION

The ASU intramural round for the ABA Representation in Mediation Competition will be held from 9:30 a.m. to noon on Thursday, Feb. 22, and 2:30 to 5 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 23, in the Mediation Clinic Room, Room 150 (to the left of the Sidebar Café). If you were not able to make the information session, Professor Art Hinshaw has put the problem and other materials on reserve in the library.

The winners of the intramural round will represent the Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law at the Regional Competition at the University of Utah School of Law from Feb. 22-24. The winners of the regional round will then have to decide if you have any questions about the competition or cannot make the information session, feel free to contact Professor Hinshaw.

CAREER SERVICES

Government/Public Interest Career Fair: Noon to 1:30 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 21, Steptoe & Johnson Rotunda. Nearly 30 government and public agencies are participating - with five agencies conducting interviews before and after the fair.

Study Abroad Fair: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 22, Rotunda. Information available on study abroad programs throughout the world.

LL.M. Fair: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Friday, Feb. 23, Rotunda. Information available on a wide variety of LL.M. programs throughout the country.

Government/Public Interest Workshop, Monday, Feb. 26, Room 105. Information provided about summer legal positions with government and public interest employers. Learn how to identify job opportunities and funding sources.