This is one in a series of profiles about graduating law students and their career plans.

Long before he came to the College of Law in 2004, Jason Zasky saw the practical value of the J.D.

“When I played in a band we needed an entertain-ment lawyer, and since launching my company we’ve utilized a team of lawyers,” said Zasky, a guitarist and songwriter for the adult contemporary band, Black Velvet Flag, and the co-founder, editor and chief executive officer of Failure Maga-zine LLC. “Ultimately, I decided I wanted to be a part of that loop.”

His corporation features Failure magazine, a critically acclaimed online publication (www.failuremag.com) that covers the subject of failure and of its close relative, success. As a media analyst, Zasky has appeared on CNN, NPR and on other media outlets, is a former music journalist and has written editorials for such publications as Newsday, Telecom Business and Crunch.

Zasky, who has a JD degree from Emory University, said he has enjoyed the progressive nature of many of the programs at the Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law, such as the Center for the Study of Law, Science, & Technology.

“You have the opportunity to study cutting-edge subjects, instead of simply working over-well-ground,” the 37-year-old said. “Last year, I wrote my graduation paper on how the law might deal with virtual worlds, which isn’t exactly a hot topic among legal scholars yet. But in recent months, a few real world attorneys have opened virtual offices inside virtual worlds. Who knows – in a few years, virtual law might be its own specialty.”

After graduating in May, Zasky will continue running Failure, “play it by ear, and see what kind of opportunities I can create for myself.”

Michael Berch will deliver one of ASU’s 12th annu-al lecture series lectures at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, April 10, at the Pima Room in the Memorial Union.

Berch promises “theater at its height.”

His presentation, “A Defense Plea for Leniency at the Mitigation Hearing – State v. Raskolnikov,” will focus on whether legal method and processes and the rules of law they produce function accountably or whether the rules vary, depending on factors such as race, wealth, accidents of birth and luck.

It also will involve audience participation.

Those attending will sit as jury for Berch’s summation based on the trial of Rodya Raskolnikov, the central character in Fyodor Dostoevsky’s Crime and Punishment.

“Law and legal principles govern the behavior of all of the partici-pants to this crime: murderer, prosecutor, prostitute, jurors,” Berch wrote in his proposal.

The audience/jury must decide the fate of the man: life or death?

A clinic at the Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law that is addressing the lack of immigration services in Arizona by training students to help bat-tered children obtain immigration relief has received a major award from Arizona State University.

The College’s Immigration Law & Policy Clinic will be awarded the 2007 President’s Medal for Social Embeddedness at a reception on April 11.

“This recognition is based on your project’s demonstrated excellence in finding a community need or issue and fostering mutually-supportive partnerships between Arizona communities and ASU to implement successful solutions,” ASU President Michael M. Crow wrote in his award letter.

The Immigration Law & Policy Clinic was formed less than two years ago by Evelyn Cruz, a former Teaching Fellow at Yale Law School who was born in El Salvador and immigrated to the United States at age 12. Cruz was brought to the College of Law to create opportunities for students to interact with the Latino community and to develop the clinic to prepare them to serve Latinos and immigrants.

Patricia White, Dean of the Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law, said the work performed by Cruz and the clinic is “the very essence of community embeddedness.

“We are tremendously proud to have both Evelyn and the clinic as important parts of the law school,” White said.

Cruz has developed a curriculum that gives students a challeng-ing experience, while helping an underserved group of immigrants – children who live in the U.S. illegally to flee from violent & abusive homes or from persecution on the street and who, due to the nature of im-migration court, have no guarantees of legal representation.

In a short period of time, under Evelyn’s leadership, the students have been able to work on various areas of the law – in our community in this field, develop contacts and establish relationships with others doing similar work,” said Catherine O’Grady, a professor and execu-tive director of the Clinical Program at the College of Law. “They’re providing a much needed service, and it’s a wonderful accomplish-ment.”

Read more about the clinic and the award at law.asu.edu.
Matthew C. Whitaker will provide information and discuss possible expansion of a unique multilevel mentoring program that connects high school students with pre-law undergraduates, law students and local lawyers at a meeting at 12:15 p.m. on Tuesday, April 17, in Room 116.

"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," Calleros said.

The program creates mentoring teams, each consisting of at least one attorney, one law student, one pre-law college student, and one high school student.

"These are bright, hardworking students who nonetheless might not appreciate the academic and professional opportunities available to them or who 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 in 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.

Matthew C. Whitaker, associate professor of history at Arizona State University, will speak on “Understanding Culture and Building Community,” at The Annual John P. Morris Memorial Lecture on April 19, in Room 105.

Whitaker is an award-winning scholar, teacher, activist and emerging voice among public intellectuals. Whitaker’s wide-ranging expertise in interpersonal and intercultural communication, social movements, politics and popular culture places his work at the heart of the quickly changing global society.

The John P. Morris Memorial Lecture honors John Peyton Morris, a changing global society. By day, they impart wisdom about international contracts, bioethics and health-care law and author books about legal writing, public health and other topics.

But Professors Charles Calleros and Dan Strouse are passionate not just about legal matters, but about making music. Their Rhythm & Blues band, Repeat Offenders, will perform at The Rhythm Room, 1019 E. Indian School Road in Phoenix, from 6-8 p.m. on Saturday, April 7. They also recorded a CD, Back in the Joint, in May 2006, which was unveiling at a CD release party at The Rhythm Room last November. Others among the band’s 12 members are College of Law alumnus Jim Tinker (bass), Chuck Price (bass harmonica), and Jordan Kropko (piano and organ), all attorneys, as well as Calleros’s wife, Debbie, formerly an attorney, on background vocals. Two other attorneys and graduates of the College of Law, John Evans and Jeannette Woods, have roles in the band. John played trumpet on the Back in the Joint CD, and Jeannette often joins the band on vocals.

For tickets to The Rhythm Room event, call (602) 265-4842.

To see the band in action and listen to some of its music, go to http://myspace.com/krandrepeatoffenders.

Senator Frank Curci of the Arizona State Senate (D-Dist. 21) will present a lecture highlighting the key legal issues to consider when licensing technology, including scope and identity of a license, exclusivity, performance milestones, royalties, and ongoing protections and warranties. He will also answer questions about the practice of intellectual property law and his experiences.

Students and faculty interested in intellectual property law, and small business/corporate law are especially encouraged to attend.

JURY SELECTION EXERCISE FOR PRO BONO CREDIT

The Civil Justice Clinic is seeking first year law students to participate in a jury selection exercise from 3:30-5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 17, in Room 115. Participants must also attend a briefing from noon to 12:45 p.m. on Tuesday, April 17, in Room 115. This is an excellent opportunity to learn about the clinical experience. Each participant will earn 2.75 hours pro bono credit.

To participate, contact the Clinic by emailing karen.barnett@asu.edu or stop by her desk in Room 106 to pick up a brief jury form. An e-mail with an attached questionnaire will be sent to all 1Ls.

SPASH ALERT

The annual dunk tank sponsored by the Pro Bono Board and the Black Law Students Association will be operating from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 12, in the area between Armstrong Hall and the Ross-Blakely Law Library.

The Native American Law Students Association will be serving tacos, and 21 Rodeo Drive will be on hand.

Invite your favorite professor or administrator to participate. Last year, Dean Patricia White sunk an “unnamed” professor with a one-shot power ball after some alleged good-natured comments about women in the legal profession.

FRANK CURCI TO ADDRESS TECHNOLOGY LICENSING

Frank Curci, of Jennings, Strouss & Salmon, PLC, will speak on Technology Licensing at 12:15 p.m. on Thursday, April 12, in Room 114. Lunch will be provided by the Intellectual Property Student Association, which is hosting the event.

Curci is an adjunct professor at the Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law and a Member (Partner) in the Intellectual Property, Technology, and

Biotechnology practice group at Jennings, Strouss & Salmon, PLC. He advises clients in many technology sectors, including semiconductor, bio-technology, medical device, software, and other technology companies, and universities/research institutes.

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All students, especially 3Ls, should be sure to record their pro bono hours. The correct total ensures that all deserving students receive recognition in graduation ceremonies. All hours must be submitted online through the law interactive site by April 20. Contact K Royal with any questions.

JOIN THE TECHNOLOGY VENTURES CLINIC

The Technology Ventures Clinic is accepting applications for the Summer 2007 and Fall 2007 semesters. Applications are due by 5 p.m. on Monday, April 9. If you have any questions, or would like an application form, contact Professor Eric Menkhus at eric.menhkus@asu.edu or (480) 727-8856.

REPEAT OFFENDERS’ TO PLAY THE RHYTHM ROOM

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KEN HALE JOINS IT DEPARTMENT

Ken Hale recently joined the IT Department as a tech support analyst and shares the following information about himself:

I have long desired to be a part of Arizona State University. I decided, while pursuing my computer science undergraduate degree, to complete my graduate studies at ASU.

In a stroke of happenstance, my wife, having a strong background in Human Resources, moved from Arkansas to Arizona after accepting a position with Mayo Clinic Arizona. She is now the HR Director for the Herberger College of Fine Arts. Our family’s move to Arizona confirmed my desire to work and study at Arizona State University.

My IT background includes working as the PC Support Supervisor with the Department of Child Support Enforcement and later Local Area Network Support Management for the Department of Finance and Administration for the State of Arkansas as well as work with Arkansas Children’s Hospital in their computer operations department. Locally, I’ve worked in the IT department of Scottsdale Healthcare.

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Students and faculty interested in intellectual property law, and small business/corporate law are especially encouraged to attend.

TAKING THE MESSAGE HOME

Jerome Clarke, a 2L in the Indian Legal Program, spoke to students at his former elementary school, Wingate Elementary, over spring break.

"My message had several purposes," Clarke wrote. "To introduce and, hopefully, encourage the practice of law, specifically, federal Indian law; to promote our awesome IPL program; to promote healthy study habits, (the importance of an upcoming clean high school grading scale...0.0 starting GPA); and to motivate these students and to be tangible proof that if a person with a similar background/education could do it, then they could too with lotsa hard work!"

Clarke will speak to students at his former high school in May.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO EXPAND MENTORING PROGRAM

Professor Charles Calleros will provide information and discuss possible expansion of a unique multilevel mentoring program that connects high school students with pre-law undergraduates, law students and local lawyers at a meeting at 12:15 p.m. on Tuesday, April 17, in Room 116.

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SPACE AVAILABLE AT APPEALS COURT EVENT

A few spaces are available for law students to join participants in a mentoring program at the Arizona Court of Appeals 10 a.m. to noon on Tuesday, April 10.

Visitors will hear an oral argument, then meet with the advocates and the panel of judges to discuss advocacy techniques.

Next year’s officers of student organizations are encouraged to attend to learn about the mentoring program, said Professor Charles Calleros.

Anyone interested should e-mail Calleros’s assistant, Vera Hamer-Sonn by 3:30 on Friday.

MATTHEW C. WHITAKER TO DELIVER MORRIS LECTURE

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