

Law Quadrangle (formerly Law Quad Notes)

Volume 49 | Number 3

Article 8

Spring 2007

Briefs

University of Michigan Law School

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Recommended Citation

University of Michigan Law School, *Briefs*, 49 *Law Quadrangle (formerly Law Quad Notes)* - (2007).
Available at: <https://repository.law.umich.edu/lqnotes/vol49/iss3/8>

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Campbell Moot Court final decision

After a grueling competition that covered much of the academic year and included 82 competitors, 30 faculty judges, and more than 200 Michigan Law graduates who adjudicated preliminary rounds, the team of Jeremy M. Suhr (standing center below) and Robert P. Stockman (seated center below) emerged as victors in the finals of this year's Campbell Moot Court competition. The team also won for best brief, and Stockman was named best oralist. They faced the team of co-finalists Caitlin M. Bair and Jessica Berry (left to right at lower right) in a hypothetical case focusing on two main issues:

- Can a pretrial detainee in the custody of a private corporation state a claim against individual employees of the corporation under *Bivens v. Six Unknown Federal Narcotics Officers*, 403 U.S. 388 (1971); and
- To what extent, if any, do pretrial detainees enjoy a Fifth Amendment right to privacy in their HIV-status?

Both teams faced constant questioning from judges for the final competition (left): the Hon. Gerald Tjoflat of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit (leading the way into the competition site); the Hon. Deane R. Tacha, '71, chief judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit, who acted as chief justice for the competition; and the Hon. Steven M. Colloton of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit.



MLK Day speaker: Injustice must be confronted

Speak up when you see injustice, and believe in the power of your words to produce justice, capital defense specialist and law professor Bryan Stevenson told a Law School audience on Martin Luther King Day in January.

Stevenson, executive director of the Montgomery, Alabama-based Equal Justice Initiative and a professor at New York University School of Law, visited Michigan Law in January as the Law School's speaker for the University-wide Martin Luther King Symposium, which celebrates the federal holiday and



commemorates the assassinated civil rights leader. Stevenson, who has argued before the U.S. Supreme Court and is nationally known

for his work in death penalty cases and on behalf of low-income people, taught at Michigan Law about 10 years ago.

Speaking without notes on the subject "Confronting Injustice," Stevenson ranged widely over topics from the injustice of sentencing young teenagers to life without parole to the modern-day withholding of voting rights from convicted felons.

"In the criminal justice system where I work, your entire fate is controlled by wealth," Stevenson asserted, citing as evidence the disproportionate number of black and poor people sentenced to execution or life imprisonment and the fact that some 38 million Americans currently live below the poverty line. "Our system treats you much better if you're guilty and wealthy than if you're innocent and poor."

In the case of capital punishment, he reported, modern DNA and other evidentiary methods have corrected many

wrongful convictions. "For every eight who are executed, we have identified one who was exonerated."

Today, one of every three African American men between the ages of 18 and 30 is in jail or prison or on parole, and within the last decade the number of women of color in prison has increased 600 percent, he said. U.S. prisons hold some 2.3 million inmates, and across the country some 4.1 million people have lost the right to vote because of their criminal convictions. In Alabama, Stevenson reported, state laws that deny voting rights to convicted felons mean that "in the next 10 years you will have a higher rate of disenfranchisement than when the Voting Rights Act was passed."

By way of example, he told the story of the elderly African American woman who was among those her neighbors had picked to represent them by occupying one of the few seats available at a trial to get a man off death row. Frozen with fear by a large dog authorities used to guard the courthouse—a tactic she said reminded her of authorities' use of dogs to quell the civil rights demonstration in Selma, Alabama, in 1965—the woman determinedly returned the next day, faced down the dog, and took her place in the courtroom. "I am here," she defiantly told the courtroom.

"The power of being a witness, of saying something, is the most powerful thing we can do," Stevenson emphasized. "A country that is comfortable with 38 million people in poverty must be challenged," he continued. "A country that tries 13- and 14-year-old children as adults must be confronted."

So must U.S. Supreme Court decisions



Words have power and can create justice, Martin Luther King Day speaker Bryan Stevenson tells his Michigan Law audience.

like that in *McLeskey v. Kemp*, the 1987 case in which the Court acknowledged that some racial bias in handing down death sentences is inevitable, he continued. Thirty-three years earlier, in *Brown v. Board of Education*, the Court could have accepted some bias in school attendance patterns, but it didn't, Stevenson pointed out. "I continue to believe that *McLeskey* is the *Dred Scott* of your generation," he said, referring to the 1857 U.S. Supreme Court case that overturned the Missouri Compromise and declared that African Americans could never be U.S. citizens.

Speaking out isn't always easy, he warned his listeners. "I caution you that being hopeful, being a visionary, will sometimes cost you."

But "I came here," he continued, drawing on King's words, "to tell you to 'Keep your eye on the prize' and hold on."

Microsoft VP: Governments lead international decisionmaking

National governments remain the primary decision makers in the international arena, despite the growth in number and influence of multi-national organizations like the World Trade Organization and the World Intellectual Property Organization, according to a top official at Microsoft who has worked extensively in the firm's international activities.

In the end, "ninety-nine percent of the decisions are by governments," Brad Smith, Microsoft's senior vice president and general counsel told Michigan Law's International Law Workshop in March.

Smith used his talk, "The Role of Global Corporations in the Making and Implementation of International Law,"



to illustrate the variety of influence points and approaches that come to bear when law and technology interact in the international arena. In addition, Smith predicted, technological advances will continue to change the information industry, geological and life sciences, and other fields for the remainder of this century. Globalization also will be more of a factor in these fields, he said.

Recognized law often cannot keep up with rapid technological change, and in the global arena a company like Microsoft may face the same issue in many countries at the same time, according to Smith. And it can be very time-consuming to reach a "globally singular result" because consensus usually begins at the national level and only then slowly gains multi-national or global acceptance.

But global agreement is possible, he noted. In the 1980s, he reported, only four European countries recognized copyright protection for software. But since then nations around the world have recognized the value of such protection and have implemented it nearly worldwide.

Microsoft Senior Vice President and General Counsel Brad Smith meets with law students in an informal session shortly before his lecture to Michigan Law's International Law Workshop on "The Role of Global Corporations in the Making and Implementation of International Law."

Student Funded Fellowships Auction Night

The auction for Student Funded Fellowships is a rite of spring at Michigan Law, a rite in which students, faculty, and staff all participate to raise funds for fellowships for law students who wish to spend the summer working in public service positions. This year's auction, with additional support from graduates and firms helping to sponsor the event, raised more than \$62,000. Below, Professor Sherman L. Clark takes his turn as auctioneer and an audience member makes a bid.



New York Times editor: Press cannot be government mouthpiece

New York Times Executive Editor Bill Keller acknowledged that the American press stumbled in its coverage of the events leading to the U.S. invasion of Iraq in 2003, but overall he staunchly defended the significance of the press' role as questioning observer of government action during a lecture at the Law School last fall.

The *Times* won a Pulitzer Prize for its disclosure of the federal government's warrantless surveillance program, but the paper also was the target of White House, executive branch, and congressional vilification for disclosing the highly secret activity, according to Keller. He himself paid his only visit to the Oval Office to discuss the story with President Bush, who, Keller reported, told him The *Times* would be responsible for the next terrorist action in the United States if it printed the story.



The *New York Times* did not print the story for a year after reporters first discovered it, Keller said. Instead, editors demanded further fact gathering by the reporters, but finally decided that public knowledge of the program was more important than keeping it secret. "Government officials want it both ways," he said. "They want to protect the secrets and trumpet the successes."

Keller discussed this and other aspects of modern journalism as he delivered the 16th annual University of Michigan Senate's Davis, Markert, Nickerson Lecture on Academic and Intellectual Freedom. The annual lecture commemorates three U-M faculty members who lost their jobs during the 1950s for refusing to cooperate with investigations by the House Un-American Activities Committee. Keller called his talk "Editors in Chains: Secrets, Security, and the Press."

"How do we reconcile our obligation to inform with the responsibility to protect?" he asked. In the case of Iraq, he answered, "Reporters don't disclose intelligence." In the case of the story on the National Security Agency's eavesdropping program, "We took more than a year for additional reporting."

To fulfill its role of informing citizens, journalism must verify its information, believe in transparency, and be "agnostic as to where a story may lead," according to Keller. "Impartial journalism," he said, "like child rearing, an unachievable goal, but a worthwhile one."

During his visit Keller also met with a select group of Law School faculty and students.

Bill Keller, executive editor of The New York Times at the Law School

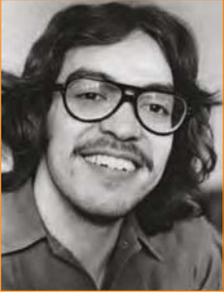
S.J.D. candidate headed for International Court of Justice traineeship

S.J.D. candidate Noam Wiener, LL.M. '06, has been chosen to participate in the nine-month university traineeship program at the International Court of Justice in The Hague beginning in September. This is the fourth year that Michigan Law has participated in the program and Wiener is the Law School's fifth nominee to receive a traineeship at the court. The highly competitive traineeships are awarded to nominees from a group of nine law schools, including Columbia, Yale, Georgetown, Virginia, New York University, McGill, Strasbourg, and Geneva.

Wiener earned his bachelor's degree in political science at Tel-Aviv University. At Michigan Law, he has received the Grotius Scholarship and has served as an article editor on the *Journal of International Law*. His S.J.D. doctoral work is under the supervision of Assistant Professor of Law Steven Ratner.

During 2001-02 Wiener worked with a law firm in Tel-Aviv, where he assisted in litigating human rights cases growing from the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip. From 2002-05, he worked as a teaching assistant at Tel-Aviv University and was a research fellow at the Concord Research Center for the Interplay between International Norms and Israeli Law. His current research concentrates on international criminal tribunals, how they justify the punishments they decide, and how these actions affect judicial and prosecutorial policy.





Honoring Juan Luis Tienda: Gone 30 years—and still remembered

By the time of his fatal auto accident 30 years ago, Juan Luis Tienda already had made a profound impact on his classmates and teachers. An impact that continues to this day in the form of the annual Juan Luis Tienda Scholarship Banquet, which drew more than 250 participants last February and featured the awarding of three scholarships to law students, an additional special award from the Hispanic National Bar



J.T. Canales Distinguished Alumni Award winner Monica P. Navarro, '93, reminds listeners that despite advances in number, U.S. Hispanics still lag behind the overall population in earnings, education, and other factors.

Association Foundation, and presentation of the J.T. Canales Distinguished Alumni Award.

This year's 22nd annual banquet—there was a break during the 1970s—was a time for remembrances: Tienda's four sisters attended, as did members of his extended family, and instead of featuring a single keynote speaker, banquet co-chairs Luis A. Barrerra and Andrew Knepley invited four classmates of Tienda to share their memories of the young future lawyer whose life was cut so tragically short in 1976.

Miguel Rodriguez, '78, was a second-year law student when Tienda died in an auto accident, and "I felt we just had to find a way to do something," he recalled.

Today, he said, to look out and see how that first Sunday dinner of rice, beans, tortillas, and tamales in the Lawyers Club has "grown and grown into what there is here tonight, makes it very special."

Tienda's short life was not an easy one, but he lived it fully and quickly inspired those who knew him. He lost his mother when he was five and grew up in a poor family in Detroit. He entered the U.S. Army after high school because the G.I. Bill offered him the chance to attend college, and earned his bachelor's degree from Michigan State University in three years so he could apply his remaining year of G.I. benefits to law school tuition. At the Law School, he headed La Raza, the predecessor to today's Latino Law Students Association (LLSA), formed and worked during the summer on a program to help migrant workers, and proved a constant source of support to his fellow students.

"He was tall, lanky, with long hair," recalled Santiago Pellegrino, '77, of Delta College in Michigan. "He looked like a hippie—and maybe he was, but he had this infectious smile that would light up the room when he entered. He was quite a charismatic person."

"I was a 1L when I got to know Juan," recalled Paul Zavala, '78, now a member of GM's legal staff. "I was scared, and stressed. . . . And Juan said, 'Don't worry, Paul, you'll make it.'"

"He's the model that we all aspire to as we try to make the world a better place."

"There is strength in diversity, but only when we respect each other," Arturo Nelson, '77, District Judge for the 138th District Court in Cameron Country, Texas, told banquet goers. "I



Let's continue Juan Luis Tienda's tradition of social concern, Miguel Rodriguez, '77, tells listeners. Rodriguez was one of four Tienda classmates and organizers of the original banquet who spoke at this year's program. Behind him from left, are Santiago Pellegrino, '77, Paul Zavala, '78, and Arturo Nelson, '77.

think Juan did that. Let us continue that tradition."

Tienda's legacy also lives on in the competitive scholarships that LLSA awards each year to selected first-year students who reflect the dedication to public service that marked Tienda's life. This year's winners were David Pacheco, Shana Ramirez, and Kristen Rodriguez.

This year's banquet also featured the first-time presentation of a special leadership award/scholarship from the Hispanic National Bar Association



From left, Daniella Polar, recipient of this year's special scholarship from the Hispanic National Bar Association Foundation, and Juan Tienda Scholarship winners Shana Ramirez, David Pacheco, and Kristen Rodriguez.

Foundation to first-year law student Daniella Polar.

The annual J.T. Canales Distinguished Alumnus Award went to Monica P. Navarro, '93, of Detroit-based Frank, Haron, Weiner and Navarro. Despite continuing gains in numbers—Hispanics are now the largest minority in the United States and are expected to account for one-quarter of the U.S. population by 2025—Hispanics lag behind in high school graduation rates (55 percent), Master's level and higher degrees (4 percent and 2 percent respectively), are not well represented at managerial levels in business, and suffer a poverty rate double that of the rest of the population, reported Navarro, who came to the United States from Colombia when she was 17.

"You belong in the boardrooms, in the White House," said Navarro, herself a Tienda Scholarship winner in 1991. "Think what odds you've already beat to be here."

The J.T. Canales Award commemorates the 1899 graduate considered to be the first Hispanic to graduate from Michigan Law. José Tomás "J.T." Canales challenged Texas Rangers' treatment of Mexican Americans, served as an appellate attorney in the first Texas case concerning segregation of Mexican school children, and was involved in *Delgado v. Bastrop ISD*, the case to eliminate Texas' separate public education for Latinos.

After he retired, Canales remained active in the Mexican American civil rights movement, served on the first board of directors of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), and served as LULAC's president in 1932-33.

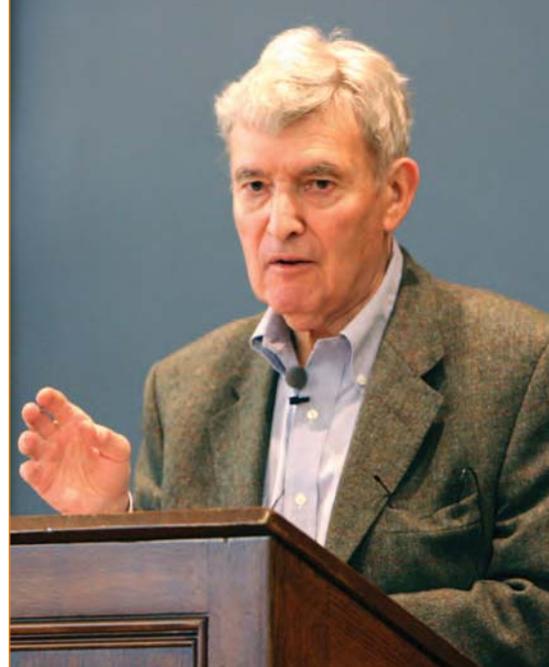
Speaker: Political will, public pressure make or break court decisions

Judicial decisions need to be backed by political will and public support to work significant change, a veteran of civil rights disputes told a standing-room-only crowd at the Law School earlier this year. And those decisions can interpret the same laws and same words differently at different times, in large part because of the political and social currents that can upend or buoy up a court's ruling.

That's how Jack Greenberg, who was assistant counsel with the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund from 1949-61 and then succeeded Thurgood Marshall as director counsel from 1961-84, described the shifting currents of jurisprudence that flow from the country's courts, especially the U.S. Supreme Court.

In the 19th century for example, the interpretation of "equal protection" that led to major progress by African Americans after the Civil War led to the "separate but equal" decision of *Plessy v. Ferguson* and then swung back again nearly 60 years later in the "separate is not equal" interpretation at the core of *Brown v. Board of Education* in 1954, according to Greenberg, a faculty member and former dean at Columbia University Law School.

Greenberg, who helped to argue *Brown* before the U.S. Supreme Court and also is a founder of the watchdog organization Human Rights Watch, was the keynote speaker for the initial program in the Uniting Civil and Human Rights Symposia Series, sponsored by the College of Literature, Science and the Arts' Human Rights Through Education organization and co-sponsored by the Law School's Center for International and Comparative Law along with other supporters.



Jack Greenberg

Greenberg illustrated his point with a brief history lesson on racial integration: A "synergy of law and society" produced considerable racial integration in the South after the Civil War despite significant opposition, Greenberg explained. But the shift stalled with the Compromise of 1877 that decided "a race as close as *Bush v. Gore*" in 2000, Greenberg continued. Rutherford B. Hayes eked out a victory by promising to withdraw U.S. troops from the South if he were elected. Hayes kept his election promise, thereby removing the federal lid from the anti-integration forces, whom Greenberg called "Redeemers."

The *Plessy* ruling in 1896 "reflects the reality of the power of the redeemers," Greenberg noted. The shift changed the legal definition of "equal protection" from one that opposed segregation to one that supported it, he continued. It would not shift back until the close of World War II, when black migration from the southern United States to the North, the fact of the Holocaust, passage of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1950, and other factors combined to set the stage for reversing the meaning of "equal protection" again that led to the *Brown* decision in 1954.

Today, once again "desegregation has slowed and is declining," he reported, the victim of Court decisions banning busing across school district lines.

Carpenter Banquet speaker: 'Tomorrow isn't promised to any of us'

For Daniel S. Varner, '94, the legacy of Alden J. "Butch" Carpenter is so real and personal that he sometimes has difficulty discussing it.

No, he never met Carpenter, the Detroit-born law student who died suddenly in 1978 while playing basketball, whose ideals of community service are commemorated each year at the Alden J. "Butch" Carpenter Scholarship Banquet.



Keynote speaker Daniel S. Varner, '94

Varner enrolled in the Law School more than a decade after Carpenter's tragic death at age 28. But like many law students, he knew of Carpenter. His friend and Law School classmate D. Duane Hurtt, '94, won a Carpenter Scholarship in 1992, and the pair worked closely together after they graduated.

"The legacy of Butch Carpenter is special for me—because of Duane Hurtt," Varner explained in his keynote talk to Carpenter banquet participants at the 29th annual banquet in March. "I feel in many ways like I know him through Duane Hurtt."

Varner in 1997 co-founded (with fellow Law School graduate Michael F. Tenbusch, '96) Think Detroit, a nonprofit organization that uses

organized sports, tutoring, summer camps, and other activities to mentor and develop character in Detroit's youngsters. Think Detroit, which uses some 1,500 volunteers to serve about 13,000 youngsters each year, merged last year with the Detroit Police Athletic League into what now is called Think Detroit PAL.

Hurtt's expert hand guided that merger. Mirroring Carpenter's goals of community service, Hurtt had been a volunteer and board member with Think Detroit for many years, and when Varner asked him to come aboard to shepherd the merger with Detroit PAL he didn't hesitate to leave his much higher paying job to join his friend.

Like Butch Carpenter, Hurtt opted for community improvement over income. And like Carpenter, he was denied the satisfaction of seeing the full benefits of his work. Hurtt died January 20, 2007, at the age of 38. "Tomorrow isn't promised to any of us," Varner

reminded his listeners, "and if you're going to do something, do it now. Do it right away."

This year, three first-year law students received a total of \$35,000 in Carpenter Scholarship aid through a competitive application process that uses past, current, and intended public service as its main measure of evaluation. This year's winners were Aisha Harris, Lisa Helem, and Vernon Thompson.

The Black Law Student Alliance (BLSA), which sponsors the annual Carpenter Scholarship Banquet, also honored former Michigan Law Assistant Dean of Students Charlotte Johnson, '88, for her support of diversity at the Law School and her assistance with BLSA and its programs. Johnson was unable to attend this year's banquet. She left the Law School last summer to become vice president and dean of the college at Colgate University in Hamilton, New York.

Butch Carpenter Scholarship recipients Aisha Harris, Vernon Thompson, and Lisa Helem.





Court is in session—Chief Judge Bernard Friedman of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan brought his courtroom to Michigan Law last winter so that students could see and hear real cases being argued and actual decisions being handed down. Here, Friedman listens intently as attorneys argue an insurance coverage case whose history included at least three previous lawsuits and at least one jury verdict. During the Motions Day proceedings, Friedman and attorneys also explained the cases to law students, who had filled the room before court opened. Afterward, below, Friedman and his clerks shared a brown bag luncheon with students to discuss how clerkships operate within the court system and benefit judges, courts, and law school graduates alike. Friedman, center, was accompanied by, from left, career clerk Jennifer McManus and term clerk Jeff Imerman, plus career clerk Steve Thoburn (not shown). The program was sponsored by the Federal Bar Association.



First-hand experience leads to Refugee and Asylum Law Fellowship

For law student Aref M. Wardak, the life-changing war in Afghanistan was not the current one against terrorists and the Taliban. It came 20 years ago when the Soviets invaded Afghanistan. Wardak's family fled "and found our way to the refugee camp in Pakistan," as he recalled in a recent essay. "However, unlike millions of Afghans, my family was able to escape from the disease and starvation prevalent in the camp for the promise of a better life in America."

The experience branded Wardak's values in a way that he expects to shape his professional career. "I am quite aware of the fact that were it not for mere chance that brought my family, instead of another, to America, I might be scrounging for food instead of attending classes," he explained in his successful application for one of four Michigan Law fellowships in refugee and asylum law. "This humbling understanding motivates me to be involved in issues concerning refugees."

Later this year Wardak, a 3L who will graduate in December, will head for New Zealand to work for at least six weeks with that country's Refugee Status Appeals Authority in Auckland. He'll "have an opportunity to observe the refugee determination process from the inside, including attending appeal hearings and discussing cases with the panel hearing the appeal," says the description of his posting. He'll also have the opportunity to do research on legal matters and conditions in refugees' home countries, as well as visit first-line immigration decision makers and meet with members of the refugee bar.

Much of the time he will be working with RSAA Deputy Chairperson Rodger Haines, who has taught at Michigan Law.

This year's other three fellowship winners and their assignments are:

- **Maleeha Haw**, '07, a native of Pakistan who came with her family to the United States in 1992, who will be working with the refugee policy program of Human Rights Watch in Washington, D.C.;
- **Martina Pomeroy**, who graduates in December, will be working with the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) in Lillongwe, Malawi, a new posting for the fellowship program that means she will serve as "the first advocacy-oriented member of the JRS team in Malawi," according to JRS; and
- **Rachel A. Simmons**, who graduates next year, will be an associate with the refugee program of Amnesty International's international secretariat in London, England.

Fellows this year for the first time have the option to extend their usual six-week assignments to a maximum of 10 weeks, reported Professor James C. Hathaway, who directs Michigan Law's Refugee and Asylum Law Program. The innovation offers the opportunity for a deeper, more nuanced and more complete experience, Hathaway explained.

Hathaway and Assistant Dean for International Affairs Virginia Gordan evaluate applicants and determine fellowship winners. Fellowship recipients receive airfare to/from their assignments and a living expenses allotment, and must complete their assignments between May and August.

2007 Fiske Fellows

Robert B. Fiske Jr., '55, is shown with 2007 Fiske Fellowship winners Neil J. Beck, '07, Thomas A. Ferrone, '07, and alternate Thomas Dillon, who will graduate from Michigan Law in December, at the dinner for fellowship winners in Ann Arbor in March. Fellowship winner Toni Gantz, '06, and alternate Breanne M. Sheetz, who graduated in May, were unable to attend and are not shown. The fellowships were established by Fiske, a senior partner with Davis Polk & Wardwell in New York City whose public service has included serving as the first independent counsel for the Whitewater Investigation and as chairman of a judicial commission on drugs and the courts appointed by New York State Chief Judge Judith S. Kaye. The fellowships are awarded competitively to law students and recent graduates who will work in national, state, or local government positions. Each fellowship provides debt repayment assistance for the three-year duration of the award plus a \$5,000 first-year cash stipend. Two of this year's winners will work with the federal government, and the third will work in a New York City government post: Beck, who received his J.D. in May and his M.P.A. from Harvard University's Kennedy School in June, will work within the U.S. government; Ferrone, who also received his J.D. in May, will work as a legislative assistant or counsel in the legislative branch of the federal government; and Gantz, '06, currently doing a court clerkship, in August will begin serving as assistant corporation counsel in the general litigation division of the New York City Law Department.



Michigan Law launches new clinic for low-income taxpayers

Michigan Law has expanded its highly regarded clinical teaching program with the opening of its Low Income Taxpayer Clinic (LITC), the School's eighth publicly-oriented law clinic. As in the School's other clinics, clients in the new LITC will be served by second- and third-year law students working under supervision of a faculty member.

Supervising attorney for the new clinic is Nicole Appleberry, '94, an adjunct clinical faculty member who specializes in tax matters. As a student at Michigan Law, Appleberry participated in the Child Advocacy Law Clinic and the Family Law Project. She served as an assistant prosecuting attorney in Livingston County, Michigan, and since 1999 has practiced with Ferguson & Widmayer PC in Ann Arbor, where she focuses on tax-related matters. Appleberry is a Washtenaw County (Michigan) approved civil mediator and serves as co-chair of the taxation section of the Washtenaw County Bar Association. She earned her LL.M. in taxation in 2000 at Wayne State University Law School.

Being launched with a Tax Advocacy Program grant from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), the clinic is designed to enroll six law students and is expected mostly to assist clients with issues under a \$50,000 ceiling regarding Internal Revenue Service notices, liens, and levies; tax installment agreements; tax audits; collection hearings and conferences; earned income and child tax credit eligibility and denial; and similar matters.



Commencing the journey

Three-and-one-half-year-old Ria West tugged at her mother's hand as she crossed the Michigan Theater stage and tried to veer into hand-reaching range of the flowers that decorated the stage for Senior Day in December. Her action brought appreciative smiles and laughter from graduates and onlookers alike—as well as a blossom-denying counter tug from her mother, graduating law student Susan West.

In making her move to snag a memento, Ria simply was acting out what everyone at the ceremonies was doing: Identifying something special from the day to take away and treasure. For graduates, perhaps the excitement of moving on to work and profession, certainly the satisfaction of completing three years of legal studies. For parents, spouses, and other well-wishers, pride in a loved one's significant accomplishment.

To move from the halls of the Law School to the halls of justice is not to make an easy passage, nor does the conversion bring graduates to times of ease. Many have made the transition since Michigan Law began in 1859, but each individual's passage has been just that—individual, and thus new, special, and unique. Law Professor Sherman L. Clark reflected upon this as he began his commencement talk:

“It is perhaps a cliché to invoke, at a graduation, the image of embarkation. But a cliché is just a truth-worn tale.” To illustrate, he reached back more than 3,000 years to the timeless tale of a warrior trying to return home: “So listen [from the Robert Fagles translation] to how it sounded when it was fresh—this from *The Odyssey*—the end of the second book—where young Telemachus, having come of age and been inspired by Athena, sets off in search of news of his father.”

Young Telemachus accepts the aid of another's wisdom and craft, he labors in the company of friends and shipmates, and they honor “that which has given them the reason and the courage to set sail,” Clark noted.

“We cannot know now what each of you will accomplish—or what you will encounter. . . .” Clark concluded. “But if you can do these things:

- “If you can face with courage your place in the world;
- “If you can respect and be guided by your craft, your wisdom;
- “If you can build community with true friends [and] worthy colleagues;
- “And, if you can keep fresh [and] honor the dreams that have inspired you so far,

“If you can do these things, your journey will be a noble one. And you can make a story worth telling.”

Other speakers included Law School Student Senate President Grace Lee, graduate Matthew Paul Herrick, and Dean Evan H. Caminker, who noted in his welcoming remarks that the graduates are entering the legal profession at a time of momentous questions concerning U.S. presidential powers and other issues. When there is this much at stake, he said, it is “critical” that people trained in the law are involved in the debate.

And, yes, Ria West got her blossom—after the ceremony.

