Recognizing Alumni Service

With this issue of the Sidebar, we wish to acknowledge and honor the professional work of our more than 4,500 alumni who serve their communities, the nation and the world in so many beneficial ways. In addition to their exemplary professional efforts, our alumni also perform an invaluable service as “ambassadors,” who bring greater recognition to the outstanding reputation of the College of Law.

We are grateful to our alumni who choose to “give back” to their communities, and especially to those who offer their gifts, time, and talents to the service of the College of Law, its students, and to fellow alumni.

The College of Law welcomes alumni participation through a number of opportunities, such as: speaking at "Brown Bag Briefs," identifying career opportunities for our students, sponsoring scholarships, hosting alumni events, serving on the alumni board, hosting students, and providing financial support.

Two alumni recently presented “Brown Bag Briefs” on the timely topic of working with the federal government. Another alum will host our William Brown Scholarship student in her home this summer, while the student interns with the National Association of Attorneys General. Two other alumni have recently joined the Alumni Board and we have been gratified to see alumni return for Homecoming and other well-attended alumni events. We also greatly appreciate those of you who have supported the Northern Fund and the Hanson Memorial project.

We are extremely proud of your professional work and greatly appreciative of your willingness to “give back” to the College of Law. For this and all that you do, THANK YOU!
ROBERT S. RYAN
PRESIDENT
LAW ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

As Yogi Berra said: “When you come to a fork in the road, take it.”
As active alumni we have the opportunity to give prospective and
current ONU law students more helpful advice than Yogi’s. We can
help them navigate their way into and through law school, and into
their law careers.

Alumni members are positioned to be instrumental in assisting the
ONU law college by:
- Giving of their Time
- Providing Employment opportunities
- Helping with the Admissions of new ONU law students
- And once they are admitted, Mentoring those students.

To demonstrate this TEAM approach, consider participating more fully in our Alumni Association’s activities, or host an event for ONU alumni and prospective law students in your community.

And please be receptive when asked to help memorialize Dean Eugene Hanson through the “Dean Hanson Reading Room Campaign.” You will receive more information on that campaign soon, and on how it will enhance the school’s atmosphere and improve the law school study environment.

Such participation can help prospective ONU students successfully negotiate their first fork in the road; it can only make ONU a more attractive school if they observe alumni participation.

Our law alumni have the power to attract undergraduates and convince them of the quality education awaiting them through the doors of the ONU law school.

And our alumni make outstanding mentors to ONU law students as they reach the next fork—exploring career opportunities available to them through our alumni network. I am sure each of us still recalls those attorneys who kindly took their time to assist with our first law job search or extend us our first job offer in our law career.

I recently attended the 2006 Law Alumni U.S. Supreme Court Admission Ceremony and Law Alumni and Friends Dinner in Washington, D.C. After witnessing that special event and connecting with other ONU graduates there, I am more convinced than ever that our graduates’ TEAM effort is essential to the overall success of the law college, and its students as they navigate the forks in the road toward their legal careers.

Robert Ryan, President

UPDATE ON THE EUGENE N. HANSON READING ROOM AND FELLOWS PROGRAM

To date, the College of Law has received $526,500 in gifts and pledges during the silent phase of the campaign for this important initiative. Professors Emeriti Al Baillis, Dan Guy and George Vaubel will initiate the public phase of the campaign in early 2007, by sending a letter to all College of Law alumni asking for their support of the project.

“This space will be a wonderful addition to the College of Law, one that I look forward to benefiting from during my 3rd year of law school in 2008, when it is completed,” stated Albert Brewster, a first-year student at the College of Law. This project will provide 2664 square feet of space that will be suitable for group study, individual study, group seminars and meetings. The main reading room space will be completely wireless and will consist of a series of long study tables each equipped with reading lights and electrical outlets. The Reading Room will be flooded with natural light that will be produced by four newly installed sky lights. If you wish to receive information on this project prior to the 2007 public phase of the campaign, please contact the College of Law Development Office at 419-772-2256 or lawdevelopment@onu.edu.

Robert S. Ryan
President
Law Alumni Association

The Sidebar is an official publication of the College of Law. The Sidebar is published three times a year and distributed to alumni and friends of the College of Law.

Alumni are encouraged to submit notices and announcements for possible inclusion in the college's publications or website.

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**Homecoming 2006: Alumni are “Gone Country”**

Ohio Northern University College of Law alumni returned to campus on Saturday, October 14 to celebrate Homecoming 2006 with “Gone Country” style. The day began at 8:15 a.m. with a Law Alumni and Friends Breakfast at the Wishing Well in McIntosh Center, where over 30 law alumni and friends were joined by Dean Crago and the law faculty, as well as past deans and professors emeriti. Breakfast was followed by “Your Law School in the 21st Century,” a presentation by Dean Crago on how the College of Law is meeting the challenges of the 21st century through dynamic growth in technology, placement, student excellence, the international curriculum and the LL.M. program.

Another event of the morning was the SBA Law Alumni Homecoming Golf Outing at Hawthorne Hills Golf Club in Lima. Lunch was served at a Law Alumni and Friends Tailgate Party at Dial-Roberson Stadium, preceding the football game. Although there were plenty on hand to cheer for the Polar Bears, they lost to Capital by seven points.

**Berman and Price Join Law Alumni Board**

At the June 17, 2006 College of Law Alumni Association board meeting held in Washington, D.C., two new College of Law alumni were inducted onto the board:

**Gregory S. Berman** is a member of Wyatt, Tarrant & Combs, LLP, located in Louisville, KY. Mr. Berman is a member of the firm’s Commercial Litigation Group, and concentrates his practice in the areas of civil trial, tort and insurance law, commercial litigation, creditors’ rights and real estate litigation. Mr. Berman has experience in contract, U.C.C., and consumer protection litigation including defending lawsuits alleging violation of Kentucky’s Consumer Protection Act and the Federal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act. During law school, he was Editor-in-Chief of the Ohio Northern Law Review and was valedictorian of his class. He is a member of the Louisville, KY, and American Bar Associations and was named as one of Business First’s Forty Under 40. Mr. Berman is a member of the 2004 Leadership Louisville class. He received his B.S.B.A. degree from Boston University in 1987 and his J.D. degree from Ohio Northern University Pettit College of Law in 1993.

**Jessica E. Price** is a partner in the Cleveland, OH, office of Brouse McDowell LPA. Ms. Price focuses her practice on representing corporate debtors, financial institutions, official creditors committees and trade creditors in all aspects of commercial bankruptcy cases and out of court debt restructuring. Her practice also includes federal and state court commercial litigation with an emphasis on creditors’ rights. Ms. Price is a board member of the Federal Bar Association Northern District of Ohio Chapter. She is also a member of the Cleveland, Ohio State, American and Federal Bar Associations and the William K. Thomas Inn of Court. She was selected as a 2005 Ohio Super Lawyers Rising Star. She received her B.A. degree from Miami University in 1994 and her J.D. degree from Ohio Northern University Pettit College of Law in 1997.

**Mark Your Calendar Now!**

**Homecoming 2007 is Scheduled for October 6.**
The Law Alumni Board met on campus, October 6, 2006, in conjunction with the University’s Board of Trustees fall meeting. The board attended the morning meeting that combined the Board of Trustees and the Boards of the Colleges. After the morning meeting, the board attended the dedication of the new Hakes-Pierstorf Family Pharmacy Education Center and a luncheon. The keynote speaker for the luncheon was Tommy G. Thompson, former Secretary of Health & Human Services.

After lunch, the Law Alumni Board met in the law school to conduct their fall meeting. Robert Ryan, president, called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. During the meeting, the law school administration reported on their respective departments. Linda English, Director of Admissions, reported that all 120 entering 2006 students remain in the class. English announced that this year’s recruiting will be challenging with the applications down approximately 8%. Carla Willis, Director of Development, reported that she has met with twenty alumni over the past seven months. From these meetings, Willis has secured one $25,000 commitment and one endowed scholarship. Willis also reported that three projects under the umbrella of the Development Office are in place: The Northern Fund and the phone-a-thon will be taking place in the next few weeks and the Eugene N. Hanson Reading Room construction will take place in summer, 2008. The Hanson Reading Room will be located in the law library and will honor the late Dean Hanson. Cheryl Kitchen, Director of Law Alumni and Career Services, reported that the fall recruiting season is well underway. The on-campus interviews began the first week of classes. Last year, ONU hosted 50 employers on campus. Kitchen also reported that the Alumni Office has been very active. This past June, the College of Law held its fourth U.S. Supreme Court Swearing In ceremony and alumni dinner in Washington, D.C. The plan for 2006-07 is to hold three alumni events per month. Kitchen thanked the alumni for helping host these events. Dean David C. Crago addressed the board concerning the ABA Self-Study and follow up to last year’s alumni board participation in the Self-Study. The ABA accreditation visit will take place the second week of November. All concerns from the 1999 site visit have been met and surpassed. Following the 2006 site visit, Crago reported that he will provide a new 5-year strategic plan. Some future concerns for the College of Law center around the ranking in the U.S. News & World Report and the growth of online education in professional education, including law. The U.S. News & World Report continues to influence students’ decisions on applying to law schools. Crago told the board that he feels ONU must continue to stand out as extraordinary to students seeking a legal education if ONU intends to continue to compete in the market. Crago asked the board to consider these challenges. He also asked them what they could do as a board to achieve the goals of the law school and to make a difference in the next generation. After the reports, the board had a brief discussion on board member terms due to expire and new members to be added to the board. The nomination committee along with the Dean will address these issues and invite two new members to the board to be announced at the spring 2007 meeting. It was also discussed to hold the next meeting in April, 2007, in Louisville, Kentucky, hosted by Greg Berman. President Ryan adjourned the meeting at 5:00 p.m. so board members could participate in the reception for the international LL.M. students. The day concluded with the Lehr Society Dinner at the Shawnee Country Club in Lima, Ohio.
Longtime supporter of the College of Law and former Alumni Board member, Gerald E. Boltz, died on May 10, 2006 at age 74 at his home in Santa Monica, CA.

A native of Dennison, OH, Boltz earned his bachelor's and law degrees from Ohio Northern University, completing his formal education in 1955. He joined the Securities and Exchange Commission in 1959 as a member of its special investigations unit, which prosecuted organized-crime figures in New York City. In 1961, he was reassigned to the Denver office as chief trial counsel. He was promoted to head the Fort Worth regional office in 1967.

After taking over as head of the Western regional office in 1971, Boltz moved its headquarters from San Francisco to Los Angeles and was credited with transforming it into a much more aggressive unit. He quadrupled the staff and doubled its civil caseload. His office investigated security violations in California, Arizona, Nevada, Hawaii and the territory of Guam. For 12 years before his retirement in 2004, Boltz was a partner in the Santa Monica office of the law firm Bryan Cave. His national practice was focused on federal and state securities law.

He is survived by his wife of 46 years, Janet Scott Boltz; daughters Gretchen Boltz Fields of Louisville, KY, and Jill Marie Boltz of Santa Monica, CA; and son Eric Scott Boltz of Cincinnati. He is also survived by six grandchildren and a brother.

The College of Law benefited greatly from Boltz's over 25 years with the Alumni Board. Boltz was elected to the Law Alumni Board in 1981 and served until his death. Over the years, he chaired a working committee on recruitment and placement, served as vice president from 1991-1994, served as treasurer, hosted an alumni reception for law alumni in the area of Santa Monica, CA, served as the board's law alumni recruitment representative area director for the ninth circuit (California), and chaired the Special Scholarship Committee. The College of Law sincerely appreciated his service and dedication.

Robert E. (L'55) and Charlotte P. Mabee of Mansfield, OH during a recent visit to the College of Law during Lehr Society Weekend

Florida Alumni Event, Boca Raton Resort & Club, Mindi Wells (L’98), Assistant Dean for Administration and Student Services, College of Law; Carla S. Willis, Director of Development, College of Law; Markisha Tindall (L’06), Robert Jaegers (L’77); Eric L. Meeks, II; Susan Meeks; Eric L. Meeks (L’98) holding Carl Meeks; Susan D'Ambrosia; and Gerald D'Ambrosia (L’65). Not pictured: Laird Lile (L’84)

ALUMNI COME TOGETHER

College of Law alumni had many opportunities to come together over the past several months, including at an Admission Ceremony at the United States Supreme Court. Northern representatives traveled across the country to meet with alumni, thank them for their support and update them on their alma mater. Alumni events occurred at the following places:

- June 6, 2006 in St. Clairsville, OH
- June 7, 2006 in York, PA
- June 7, 2006 in Hershey, PA* 
- June 8, 2006 in Indiana, PA
- June 14, 2006 in Covington, KY*
- June 15, 2006 in Charleston, WV
- June 16, 2006 in Richmond, VA
- June 17, 2006 in Virginia Beach, VA*
- June 19, 2006 in U.S. Supreme Court
- June 22, 2006 in Boca Raton, FL*
- Sept. 6, 2006 in Tiffin, OH
- Sept. 14, 2006 in Ypsilanti, MI
- Oct. 6, 2006 Law Alumni Board & Trustees meeting
- Oct. 11, 2006 in Middleton, OH
- Oct. 12, 2006 in Toledo, OH
- Oct. 14, 2006 ONU Homecoming Weekend
- Nov. 13, 2006 in Beaver Creek, OH
- Nov. 14, 2006 in Penn Hills, PA
- Nov. 16, 2006 in Akron, OH

*Held in conjunction with the state’s Bar Annual Conference

For additional details on alumni events, visit www.law.onu.edu.
Hark Named Chair-Elect

Ned Hark (L’84), a member of the law firm of Howard M. Goldsmith, P.C., in Philadelphia, PA, was elected to the position of chair-elect of the Pennsylvania Bar Association Family Law Section at the Section’s meeting in Toronto. He is a Fellow in the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, is a past chair of the Philadelphia Bar Association Family Law Section and that association’s Lawyer Referral and Information Service Oversight Committee. He has served as co-chair of the Pennsylvania Bar Association Family Law Section Legislative Committee. Hark is a frequent speaker and course planner for the Pennsylvania Bar Institute, and has appeared as a guest on several television programs dealing with family law and divorce issues. He has testified before the Pennsylvania State Legislature on pending family law legislation.

Alumni Recognized

Allen J. McKenna (L’83) was named to the 2006 edition of Florida Super Lawyers. Attorneys are selected for inclusion in this magazine exclusively through peer voting. The rigorous voting process is designed to identify lawyers who have attained a high degree of peer recognition and professional achievement. Only 5 percent of the lawyers in each state or region are named “Super Lawyers.” McKenna is the managing partner of the Orlando office of Ford & Harrison. He has represented management in all aspects of employment and labor law for over 22 years. McKenna has been included in Leading Florida Attorneys since its inception and was recognized by Florida Trend magazine as “Florida’s Legal Elite” in 2004 and 2005. He is also listed in The Best Lawyers in America, is AV Peer Review Rated by Martindale-Hubbell and Board Certified as a Specialist in Labor and Employment Law.

Laird A. Lile (L’84) was recently selected by his peers for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America© 2006. This marks the 10th consecutive year that Lile has been recognized in this prestigious publication for his trusts and estates-based law practice. Lile practices throughout Florida from his office in Naples, Florida.

Lile has practiced law in Florida since 1984, specializing in estate and trust matters. Laird is certified by The Florida Bar as a Wills, Trusts and Estates lawyer (since 1989), is a Fellow in the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel (ACTEC) (since 1995), is included in Woodward/White’s The Best Lawyers in America (since 1995) and is recognized as one of “Florida’s Legal Elite” (Florida Trend, 2005).

2006 Super Lawyers – Ohio Rising Stars

A project of Law & Politics and the Publishers of Cincinnati Magazine, Ohio Super Lawyers voted for the best state attorneys across numerous practice areas who are either 40 years old or younger, or who have been practicing for ten years or less. The list represents the top 2.5% of licensed attorneys in the state who meet the aforementioned criteria. The following Ohio Northern alumni were included:

Lynnette P. Ballato
Heather M. Barnes
Christopher Brown
Anthony J. Calamunci
Robert J. Cochran
Todd A. Cook
Joseph Alan Downing
Robert C. Folland
Steven N. Geise

Donald W. Hughes
Douglas S. Hunter
Laren E. Knoll
Nicole Lundrigan
Jessica E. Price
Thomas D. Robenalt
Andrew Stienecker
Antonios P. Tsarouhas
Scott M. Zurakowski
**Alumni Present Brown Bag Briefs**

College of Law students learned more about careers in the federal government and how to navigate the application process from two ONU alumnae: Cheryl Mason (A&S’86), Veterans Law Judge to the Board of Veterans’ Appeals, and Stephanie L. Stoltzfus (L’98), Manager of the External Compliance Division in the Office of Civil Rights and Liberties at the Transportation Security Administration, Department of Homeland Security. Both presented “Brown Bag Briefs” encouraging students to consider service to country and explaining the various opportunities for attorneys to work with the federal government.

**Attorney General Corbett Names Thomas M. Devlin Head of Health Care Section**

Pennsylvania Attorney General Tom Corbett announced the appointment of Thomas M. Devlin (L’81) as Chief Deputy Attorney General of the Attorney General’s Health Care Section based in Harrisburg. Devlin has served as Senior Deputy Attorney General within the Attorney General’s Charitable Trusts & Organizations Section since 1999. Prior to that, Devlin served as Senior Deputy Attorney General within the Attorney General’s Tort Litigation Unit.

As chief of the Health Care Section, Devlin is in charge of a staff of 10 including attorneys, agents and support personnel who handle more than 2,300 consumer complaints each year. The Health Care Section investigates, mediates and takes legal action on behalf of consumers against health care organizations and providers that are involved in unfair, deceptive or illegal practices. Devlin will also serve as Attorney General Designee on the State Chiropractic Board, under the Pennsylvania Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs within the Department of State.

Prior to his service with the Office of Attorney General, Devlin worked as a solo practitioner, private law firm associate, Assistant Counsel for Pennsylvania’s Department of General Services and law clerk for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court Middle for the District of Pennsylvania.

**Ian S. Fenberg** (L’97) received the Toledo (Ohio) area’s 20 Under 40 Leadership Award, which focuses on individuals who are making exceptional contributions to the community and/or have distinguished themselves in their careers. Fenberg is president/CEO of Hurricane Express, Inc. He has developed a program for fifth-grade students at Chamberlin Hill Elementary School to teach math, science, and history through a partnership with his trucking company. Additionally, he has managed Findlay youth baseball for five years, coached Gra-Y youth basketball for three years, and served as assistant football coach of Arlington High School for one year. He has also been recognized for his volunteer service in support of community efforts to assist the Gulf Coast region following last year’s hurricanes.