Stetson Law selected as national headquarters for law review organization

Stetson University College of Law has been elected to be the future headquarters for the National Conference of Law Reviews. The five-year term will begin in 2003. Stetson was elected during the NCLR annual meeting in Orange County, Calif. in April 2002.

NCLR is the leading organization for law reviews and journals with approximately 145 periodicals from all 50 states, Puerto Rico and Canada.

“Serving as the headquarters for the National Conference of Law Reviews is the highest honor a school can attain in the organization,” said Vice Dean Darby Dickerson. “This prestigious accomplishment means that Stetson will serve as the central site for law review activities and will help define the future of law reviews on campuses across America.”

Stetson student wins Florida Bar essay competition

The Florida Bar’s Standing Committee on Professionalism recognized Stetson student Steve Morgan of Milton on Aug. 15 at the Florida Supreme Court for winning its Second Annual Essay Contest.

Morgan’s paper, “Professionalism in Times of National Crisis,” focused on the legal ramifications of the Sept. 11 attacks. “It is a ‘call to arms’ for the legal profession,” Morgan said. “I hoped to raise the consciousness of my colleagues about the extent of our involvement in this new war, and the need for new ways of thinking about our profession if we are to help our nation win.”

Morgan received a $1,000 check, and his name was etched on a unique “Lion of Justice” trophy that will reside at Stetson for this academic year.

Each Florida law school was invited to submit one student paper to the competition. Stetson student Sean Ravenel won the award last year.

“We are proud of Steve and the insightful way in which he addressed professionalism issues in the aftermath of Sept. 11,” said Vice Dean Darby Dickerson. “At Stetson, we stress ethics and professionalism from the first day of class, and we appreciate the Bar’s initiative in honoring students who choose to study these important topics.”

Morgan, a retired Marine Corps colonel, has been active in Stetson’s Calvin A. Kuenzel Student Bar Association and Christian Legal Society.

Morgan’s winning essay was published in a September edition of the Florida Bar News. The traveling trophy was donated last year by the West Palm Beach law firm of Searcy, Denney, Scarola, Barnhart & Shipley, P.A.

New Vice Dean, Associate Dean announced

Dean Gary Vause has promoted Professor Darby Dickerson to Vice Dean and Professor Royal Gardner to Associate Dean at Stetson.

Dickerson, who will continue to serve as Director of Research and Writing, succeeds Thomas Allison, who has returned to full-time teaching.

“We are very pleased that Dean Dickerson and Dean Gardner have accepted these challenging assignments. Both are seasoned professionals who bring special strengths to the management team at Stetson College of Law,” said Dean Vause.

Dickerson has been on the Stetson faculty since 1995. She authored the ALWD Citation Manual, which is currently used at more than 90 law schools and at many paralegal programs and law journals. During her tenure at Stetson, Dickerson has served as Associate Dean, advised the Moot Court Board and Stetson Law Review, and received several awards for excellence in teaching and faculty scholarship. In 2001, the American
Bar Association appointed Dickerson to its Law School Administration Committee.

Gardner joined Stetson in 1994 and specializes in international environmental law. He has received awards for outstanding teaching and faculty scholarship from both Stetson and Concordia International University in Estonia. Gardner will continue to serve as Stetson’s Director of Graduate and International Programs, a role he has held since 1999. Before joining Stetson’s faculty, Gardner worked for the Department of Defense and in the Army General Counsel’s office.

U.S. News ranks Stetson first in the nation for Trial Advocacy

U.S. News & World Report has again ranked Stetson first place in the nation (tied with Temple University) in trial advocacy training. The national publication ranks law school specialties based on nominations by legal educators at peer institutions. Stetson has consistently ranked among the top law schools for trial advocacy since the rankings began in 1995.

“We are proud that Stetson has earned this highest national ranking in trial advocacy,” said Dean Gary Vause. “We enjoy many of the factors that make a law school great: a strong faculty, outstanding students, a committed staff and supportive alumni.”

Stetson’s Center for Excellence in Advocacy emphasizes its commitment to advocacy training. “We have a long tradition of training students to be ethical, professional and successful advocates. The Advocacy Center offers classes, internships and clinics that provide real life experiences to students while still in law school,” said Professor Roberta Kemp Flowers, center director.

Rugg named Health Law Center Director

Joseph Rugg, a shareholder at Akerman, Senterfitt & Eidson, P.A., has joined Stetson as Director of the Center for Excellence in Health Law. Rugg brings to Stetson more than 21 years of experience representing health law clients on a variety of transactional, regulatory and compliance issues.

“Joe Rugg is a highly respected health law attorney, author and lecturer. We are honored he has accepted this appointment. His experience in health law will be a tremendous asset to the Center and to the students and health care professionals it serves,” said Dean Gary Vause.

Stetson’s Center for Excellence in Health Law provides legal education to students, attorneys and health care professionals in the field of health law. The Center also offers continuing legal education programs.

Rugg will remain active with his firm while serving at Stetson. Rugg has served as an adjunct professor at Stetson since Fall 2000.

Lopez recognized with Public Service Award

Stetson recently recognized St. Petersburg attorney Karen Lopez ’84 with the 2002 Wm. Reece Smith Jr. Public Service Award.

As the first female president of the St. Petersburg Bar Association, Lopez played a major role in forming the Community Law Program Inc., a local nonprofit organization that provides pro bono legal services to those who cannot afford an attorney. Lopez also received the Florida Bar President’s Pro Bono Service Award for the Sixth Circuit in 1992.

Lopez works as a sole practitioner in personal injury law. She serves on the board of trustees for the Community Law Program and continues to be an active volunteer for the St. Petersburg Bar Association.

“It amazes me that Karen will so freely give of her time to the Community Law Program while she meets the demands of her sole-practitioner law practice and fulfills her family obligations,” said Community Law Program Executive Director Kelly Vaughn.

Karen Lopez ’84 receives the 2002 Wm. Reece Smith Jr. Public Service Award from the award’s namesake at the Spring Honors and Awards Ceremony.
Rauch, who nominated Lopez for the award. “Her contributions really are extraordinary.”

Stetson established the Wm. Reece Smith Jr. Award in 1990 to recognize and honor individuals who have demonstrated exemplary achievements in public service. Wm. Reece Smith Jr., the award’s namesake and its first recipient, is a member of the Stetson faculty and a past president of the American Bar Association and The Florida Bar.

Majewski named to national continuing legal education post
Jan Majewski, assistant dean of part-time studies and continuing legal education, recently was elected president of the Association for Continuing Legal Education. Majewski will serve a one-year term as the association’s president, ending August 2003.

ACLEA has an international membership of nearly 500 and represents 270 legal education providers from

Advocacy teams excel in 2001-2002 competitions

Trial Team
- First Place, 2002 National Criminal Justice Trial Advocacy Competition
- First and Second Place, 2001 AFTL Honorable E. Earle Zehmer Memorial Mock Trial Competition
- Finalist and Semifinalist, 2002 ABA National Trial Competition
- Semifinalist, 2002 Chester Bedell Memorial Mock Trial Competition

Moot Court
- Champion and Semifinalist, 2002 Robert Orseck Florida Bar Moot Court Competition
- Finalist and Best Oralist: 2001 E. Earle Zehmer Workers’ Compensation Competition
- Semifinalist, 2001 John Marshall Information, Technology and Privacy International Moot Court Competition
- Semifinalist, 2002 National Tax Moot Court Competition
- Semi-finalist, 2002 Wagner National Labor and Employment Law Moot Court Competition
- Quarterfinalist, 2001 Stetson International Environmental Law Moot Court Competition
- Quarterfinalist, 2001 National Health Law Competition
- Quarterfinalist, 2002 Pace Environmental Moot Court Competition

Client Counseling
- Finalist, 2001-2002 ABA Negotiation Regional Competition
- Second Place, 2000-2001 ABA Client Counseling Regional Competition
- Third Place, 2001-2002 ABA Client Counseling Regional Competition
national and local bar associations, law schools, legal publishers, and every state and provincial bar in the United States and Canada.

“As president of ACLEA, Dean Majewski will serve as a national spokesperson on continuing legal education matters,” said Dean Gary Vause. “His position will be very visible, and this significant achievement will reflect well on Stetson.”

Under Majewski’s leadership, Stetson has increased its continuing legal education offerings from a few programs a year to 30, multiplying its registrations to nearly 3,000 attendees annually. Stetson’s CLE programs range from local half-day workshops to multi-day conferences held at various locations in the United States and abroad.

Majewski also directs the College’s new part-time Juris Doctor program, including development of the Tampa campus and law center.

**Nobel Laureate views Stetson’s Nuremberg collection**

Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, author and internationally recognized humanitarian Elie Wiesel described his April visit to the Nuremberg collection at Stetson as “A moving experience.”

“To visit the Nuremberg Archives at Stetson University’s law school is a moving experience of remembering and learning. Anyone dealing with the Second World War, historians as well as students of international jurisprudence, would benefit from consulting them. They represent an immense source of information and knowledge,” said Wiesel.

Stetson’s Law Library and Legal Information Center houses more than 100 volumes of court transcripts and personal papers donated by former law school dean, Harold L. “Tom” Sebring, who served as a judge during the Nuremberg Trials from 1946 to 1947. These papers offer chilling details of Nazi war crimes committed on inmates in concentration camps.

The International Military Tribunal was convened following the conclusion of World War II to hold accountable the principal perpetrators of the Holocaust. The Nuremberg Trials were part of this tribunal.

While at Stetson, Wiesel hosted an international teleconference with an Argentinean-based humanitarian organization.

Wiesel is the author of 36 works dealing with Judaism, the Holocaust and the moral responsibility of all people to fight hatred, racism and genocide.
American, European attorneys collaborate at Stetson symposia in Italy

Beautiful mountains, clear lake water, villas, fresh bread baking, pasta dishes, Italian gelato. A scene from a movie? A fantasy vacation?

No, this describes the site of Stetson’s Third International Bankruptcy Symposium and the First Overseas Elder Law Symposium, two continuing legal education programs held this summer in Varenna, Italy.

The conferences were designed for U.S. judges and attorneys to meet with their Italian and European counterparts. Special guest Douglas L. McElhaney, the U.S. Consul General in Milan, Italy, greeted the participants and spoke about the importance of intercultural educational and professional exchanges.

“These programs provided a unique opportunity for intercultural exchange on major legal issues affecting Europe and the United States. That’s why it is important to study other countries and their solutions to similar problems,” said Assistant Dean and CLE Director Jan Majewski.

Stetson alumni attending included Michael Becker ’78, Rebecca Becker ’78, Stephen Busey ’69, Ed Boyer ’78, John Brook ’81, Linda Griffin ’91, Mary Alice Jackson ’91, Nancy Rhoades ’85, Beth Ann Scharrer ’89, David Schultz ’77, Angela Stathopoulos ’97, Traci Strickland ’91, James Thaler ’00 and Susan Woodard ’91.

The program chair for the Overseas Elder Law Symposium was Rebecca C. Morgan ’80, Boston Asset Management Distinguished Professor of Law and Director of the Center for Excellence in Elder Law at Stetson University College of Law.

Judge Alexander L. Paskay, chief U.S. bankruptcy judge emeritus and Stetson adjunct professor, was the program chair and a speaker at the International Bankruptcy Symposium.

During free hours, participants shared legal experiences and discoveries made in Italy. An array of pre-scheduled events included a boat tour of Lake Como, a tour of a silk factory, and tours of the Villa Carlotta estate and the Valtellina countryside.

“I am very pleased to appoint Ms. Kelly to this position. She brings with her a tremendous knowledge base as we prepare to launch new programs within our College Relations Office,” said Dean Gary Vause.

Kelly joined Stetson in August 1999 as Associate Director of Alumni and Public Relations. Kelly previously served as Executive Director of the St. Petersburg Bar Association, and worked for more than 10 years with the St. Petersburg Area Chamber of Commerce and The Florida Bar.

For information on the next international CLE program scheduled for May 18-21, 2003 in York, England, or other CLE programs, please call (727) 562-7830 or visit www.law.stetson.edu/cle.

Foreign legal scholars serve as visiting faculty

Several international law scholars from Asia and Europe recently have visited Stetson. Through foreign exchange arrangements with law schools around the world, these professors research, speak and reside at Stetson, providing a stimulating multicultural environment.

Recent international visitors include Hon. Arníjótrur Bújórsson, former justice of the Supreme Court of Iceland and dean of law at the University of Iceland; Dr. Christopher W. Professors Heng and Xingli Liu (far left and far right), with daughter Monghan, visit with Dean Gary Vause in Spring 2002.
Stetson launches new communications office

In January, Frank Klim, a 24-year communications veteran, was named director of communications, and Davina Gould was named assistant director. Dawn Kennedy was appointed Webmaster in March.

Before joining Stetson, Klim was a founding partner in a marketing communications firm, and worked as a journalist. He most recently worked in public communications for the City of Clearwater.

Gould, who is an alumna of Stetson’s DeLand campus, previously served as director of online communications at Mercer University’s Office of University Relations and Marketing.

Judge Alexander Paskay hosted the Armenian Deputy Minister of Justice, the Deputy Finance Minister and four Armenian jurists on a campus tour on March 11. “It is in the best interest of the United States and the western economic community to help the new republics establish a viable legal system,” said Judge Paskay.

Judge Elizabeth A. Jenkins, U.S. Magistrate Judge for the Middle District Court of Florida, hosted a delegation of five prominent Russian Federation judges the same week. While on campus, the visiting judges observed oral arguments before the Second District Court of Appeal, which heard cases in Stetson’s courtrooms.

The Russian judges visited the Tampa Bay area on a high-level exchange sponsored by the Open World Program. Open World is a bipartisan congressional initiative that brings young Russian leaders to the United States for a hands-on introduction to its democratic institutions and market economy.

Stetson also has hosted delegations from the Czech Republic, China, Great Britain and the Ukraine during the 2001-2002 academic year.

Fulbright Scholar visits Stetson

Dr. Ruslan M. Myrzalimov, a visiting Fulbright Legal Scholar from Kyrgyzstan walked into the Faculty Conference Room at Stetson this spring to discover a strong international presence.

Myrzalimov was greeted by an Armenian delegation consisting of the Deputy Finance Minister, Deputy Minister of Justice and four jurists. Seated across the table was a former justice of the Supreme Court of Iceland and a visiting law professor from Germany. In a few days, he would meet five prominent Russian Federation judges visiting Stetson.

“I am here at Stetson to see how the America judiciary works and to meet with law professors. Stetson has strong international links, a great research library and a strong academic environment,” said Myrzalimov. This prominent constitutional law scholar spent one week at Stetson researching constitutional issues related to human rights.

During his visit, Dr. Myrzalimov delivered presentations to students and faculty members on comparative analyses of judiciary systems of Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation and the United States.

Russian, Armenian judicial delegations visit Stetson

Two delegations of foreign judges visited Stetson’s campus in March.

Below, Dean Gary Vause (far left), Judge Alexander Paskay and Professor Theresa Radwan visit with a judicial delegation from Armenia. Right, Professor Tim Reilly ’58 escorts a Russian delegation on a tour of campus.