New centers focus on skills training
Leading the way in restructuring legal education

To listen to many legal educators, the goal of law schools is to train law students to “think like lawyers.” At NKU Chase, we have always recognized that “thinking like a lawyer” is not enough. Law graduates need to be able to “act like lawyers” as well. The authors of the recently released Carnegie Foundation report on legal education, *Educating Lawyers – Preparation for the Profession of Law*, have reached the same conclusion. The report calls for a substantial change in legal education, challenging law schools to restructure legal education in a way that both equips graduates with the basic skill sets needed to practice law effectively and ensures that those new lawyers have a deep understanding of the values that underlie the lawyer’s role in our society.

Not surprisingly, most jurists, practicing attorneys and legal educators have applauded the recommendations of the Carnegie report. There remains considerable skepticism, however, about whether most law schools will actually implement any of the proposals in a serious fashion. Law schools, as we all know, do change slowly, if at all. Were it otherwise, we would not all adhere so closely to a curriculum hewed by Dean Langdell at Harvard more than a century ago. Indeed, the word on the street, so to speak, is that we can expect most law schools to ignore the Carnegie report just as they did the MacCrate report 10 years ago.

Not so here at Chase. Drawing proudly on our tradition as “The Lawyers’ School,” the faculty approved two important revisions to the curriculum. First, the faculty approved the inclusion of a 50-hour pro bono graduation requirement for all students entering this year and beyond. When fully implemented, students working under the close supervision of faculty members and members of the practicing bar will provide the Northern Kentucky and Greater Cincinnati region with more than 10,000 hours of free pro bono services annually. Even valued modestly at $30 per hour, that amounts to more than $300,000 of badly needed legal services to the community annually. The students themselves will see first hand the value and the need for legal services generally unavailable to large segments of our society. Working with their mentors, the students will also gain first-hand knowledge of the true meaning of professionalism.

In addition to establishing the pro bono program, the faculty also approved the creation of two cutting-edge centers of excellence designed to provide students with training in the skills they will need to be prepared “to act like a lawyer” upon graduation. As the articles by professor Steve Stephens and visiting professor Sherry Porter that follow describe, the mission of these two centers is to provide Chase students with coursework in skills areas such as interviewing, counseling, negotiation and drafting. The centers will also provide students with numerous activities, including externships, seminars, workshops and other events at which they can work closely with alumni and friends of the law school to hone their skills further.

The key to making these new centers work is your support. Of course, we will need your continued financial support. Equally importantly, we need your time and energies. We on the faculty recognize that legal education is much too important a task to be left solely in our hands. While we are very good at what we do, we – and our students – have much to learn from the practicing bar. Please join us in making our new centers of excellence examples of the very best skills-training programs in legal education, and, in doing so, keeping true to our tradition of being “The Lawyers’ School.”

Dean Dennis R. Honabach
On the cover: Third-year student Tyler Fields and second-year student Danielle Ravencraft, both members of the Chase National Trial Team, hone their trial skills under the guidance of Judge Tony Frohlich ’80. Fields’ trial team won the Kentucky Mock Trial Competition in November 2008 and Ravencraft’s team was the runner-up. Ravencraft is also active in the Chase moot court program. Her moot court team won the 2009 National Moot Court Competition in Child Welfare & Adoption Law. Judge Frohlich is Chief Circuit Court Judge in Boone County, Ky., and the immediate past president of the Chase Alumni Association.
When I graduated from law school 34 years ago, those of us entering the profession were extremely fortunate if we had been exposed to the bare rudiments of the practice through a clerkship. However, even the best of those experiences did little to provide realistic training for litigation practice, not to mention the rigors of actual trial practice. The method of imparting instruction in law schools has changed very little in the last 140 years, ever since Christopher Columbus Langdell introduced the case study method (imparted through the use of the famous Socratic dialog) at Harvard. How many of us would have given our eyeteeth to have been able to have the time in our third year of study to watch (or even participate) in a complete civil or criminal trial!

In the mid-1990s the ABA brought to our attention the chronic lack of practical skills in the form of the MacCrate report. Most recently, the Carnegie report on legal education has amplified those concerns. As a consequence, the faculty at Chase are responding to the call for more practical lawyer training through a series of initiatives.

Creation of the Chase Center for Excellence in Advocacy

In 2008, the faculty approved the creation of the Chase Center for Excellence in Advocacy. The heart of the center’s purpose is the creation of extraordinary practical educational opportunities for students to acquire the skills they need in practice. To that end, the faculty will be creating such opportunities through the use of highly focused one- or two-hour courses designed to impart specific knowledge and skills concerning discrete practice subjects. In order to accommodate students in both the full-time and part-time divisions, we contemplate that many of these practical, experiential learning opportunities will take place in the evenings and on weekends. Whatever can be said about the ability of full-time faculty to teach doctrinal courses such as torts, contracts, property, etc., without question, we know that you, our experienced alumni and friends, are much better able to impart the practical skills we now seek to infuse into the curriculum.

This spring, the law firm of Lindhorst & Driedame Co. L.P.A. stepped up to provide the first in our series of one-credit-hour practicums titled “Voir Dire Strategies.” The course met for 3.5 hours on four successive Saturday mornings and was taught by James F. Brockman, Jay R. Langenbahn ’76, Michael F. Lyon ’75, Laurie A. McCluskey ’02, and David E. Williamson ’99. While the law pertaining to jury selection was explored, students were also required to select a jury as well as view an actual jury selection in trial and report back to the class.

The voir dire strategies course was followed on the next four Saturday mornings by “Deposition Strategies,” which was conducted in a similar format. This practicum was moderated by professor Kathleen Johnson, and students learned sound deposition techniques and applicable law from Victoria Boggs of Weber & Rose; Bill Gustavson ’78, a sole practitioner; Penny Hendy ’90 of Schachter & Hendy; and Dan Murner of Landrum & Shouse.

Future practicum topics will include...
preparing and responding to written discovery, scientific evidence, technology in the courtroom and e-discovery, just to name a few.

In addition, student knowledge of the “real world” will be enhanced by our “Pizza and Practice” forums with topics such as making law practice profitable, networking etiquette, controlling a witness on cross-examination and communicating with your client.

All of these new skills training opportunities have been developed in coordination with the Chase Student Advocacy Society. “The society promotes interest in advocacy and litigation through presentations, guest speakers, networking with local law firms and encouraging participation in Chase’s various competition teams,” explains Chase third-year student Michele Rigdon, society president.

In order to enhance placement opportunities for our graduates who have participated in the center’s practicums, programs and externships, the college of law is considering the creation of a certificate of excellence in advocacy to make prospective employers aware that certificate holders have received rigorous education and training in immediately usable advocacy skills. In addition, Chase will take a more active role in the provision of continuing legal education programs covering pre-trial litigation skills; training in, and persuasive use of, the high-tech courtroom; and advocacy training modeled after the National Institute for Trial Advocacy.

Support and participation from the practicing bar

The success of the Center for Excellence in Advocacy and the educational experiences it hopes to impart depend directly upon receiving support and participation from the practicing bar. As the faculty strive to create a truly noteworthy 21st century educational experience designed to assist our students in being better prepared to hit the ground running, we will need your advice, assistance, financial support and counsel. We hope that if called upon, you will assist us. Better-prepared law graduates produce a better-prepared bar and higher quality of practice life for all of us.
Most lawyers are transactional lawyers – problem solvers. But in the days when I was serving as a partner in a law firm in the corporate/business law area, I noticed that the newly hired attorneys lacked important practice skills and an understanding of how law and business interact.

Many students find that once they are out in the real world practicing law, they know little about how to counsel their clients involved in a business deal, how to draft documents to effectuate a business transaction or how to negotiate a transaction. Many students also find out that they do not know how the law intersects with business and that the right answer from a legal standpoint may not be the best answer from a business standpoint. It is exactly these lawyering skills that we hope to provide to our students so that when they begin practicing law, they will be fully equipped to handle these types of situations from day one. Through the Transactional Law Practice Center, Chase faculty are making sure our students are prepared for the world of corporate and transactional law and training them to be the dealmakers of tomorrow.

The center provides our students with innovative and sophisticated educational opportunities in all areas of business and transactional law, especially in the business planning and client counseling as well as specialized courses and workshops in accounting, corporate finance, general business concepts and economics. By partnering faculty with practicing attorneys and business leaders to offer these courses, the center is helping students understand both the business and legal aspects of a corporate transaction – skills that are integral to becoming a successful transactional attorney.
and technology fields. The college of law has approved a certificate in transactional law practice. Students who complete the certificate program will leave Chase with not only the knowledge but also the skills to be an immediate asset to any firm or company.

The center offers a variety of specialized programs for students including essential skills workshops, monthly programs in which seasoned practitioners teach students how to draft business and transactional documents, how to read financial statements, how to interview a client, how to negotiate a deal and how to handle real-life ethical issues.

Through a program called “Deal in a Day,” students see firsthand the inner workings of a business transaction by watching how a deal is handled from term sheet to closing, including document review and drafting, understanding the business and practical aspects of the deal and negotiation skills. In yet another innovative program slated for this summer, business boot camp, students will work in teams to solve a typical business problem, with guest lecturers from the fields of accounting, finance, human resources, insurance and banking. On the final day of the camp, teams will present their proposed solutions to a board of top Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky business leaders.

Each semester, the Transactional Law Practice Center will invite a distinguished practitioner to visit the college of law to interact with students, faculty and alumni in a variety of settings. The purpose of the program is to provide an opportunity for accomplished practitioners to share their experiences and insights about the realities of transactional law practice with the college of law community. The practitioner-in-residence will participate in lectures, regularly scheduled classes, special workshops and small-group discussions with the students, faculty and alumni.

In addition to these programs, the center also allows students to participate in externships in law firms and corporate general counsel offices. This year, the center has placed students in law firms and companies across the region to learn practice skills from the very best corporate and transactional attorneys our region has to offer.

At the heart of all of the center’s activities is the Transactional Law Practice Group, which is a student organization open to all law students. Students involved in the organization have designed many aspects of the center’s activities and meet with transactional lawyers from all fields of law. They also participate in center-supported CLE programs and bar association programs.

Transactional Law Practice Group president Jonathan Collins, a second-year student, says the center provides students with the skills to become successful transactional attorneys. “This is a unique opportunity to learn in law school the skills that would take us one to two years of practice to acquire,” Collins said.

By creating the Transactional Law Practice Center, we are making sure our students graduate with plenty of practical experience to complement their studies and to hit the ground running as they enter the practice of law.
Professor Fred Schneider retires after 39 years of teaching

Professor Frederick Schneider retired in the spring of 2008 after 39 years of teaching at NKU Chase College of Law. Schneider received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Iowa’s Luther College in 1961 and then his Doctor of Law from the University of Chicago in 1964. He practiced law for five years in La Crosse, Wis., before joining the Chase faculty in the fall of 1969, when the law school was operating in its downtown Cincinnati YMCA facility.

Schneider began to teach torts in the fall of 1970. Parts of tort law were changing in those years and much use was made of supplements that Schneider prepared. “I found that I especially enjoyed working with first-year law students,” Schneider says about that early period in his Chase career.

In the summer of 1972, the law school merged with Northern Kentucky University, then known as Northern Kentucky State College. Schneider recalls, “A professional mover moved the entire law library, desks, files, etc., to the Covington campus.” Chase College of Law then occupied what is now Hankins Hall and three out buildings, one of which housed the entire law library.

From the summer of 1974 until the summer of 1976, Schneider served as assistant dean, a position that involved scheduling of classes and professors, working with students on various issues, and general administration. Until 1975, Chase offered only an evening part-time program, and Schneider became very involved with formation of the full-time program during his term as assistant dean. Chase’s first full-time/day classes began in the fall of 1975. Schneider believes that Chase’s move to the newly renovated Nunn Hall on the Highland Heights campus in 1982 and its integration with the NKU community had a positive impact on the law school program.

Through most of the 1980s, he taught wills and trusts very frequently, federal estate and gift tax, and some estate planning. In the early 1990s, initially at the behest of then-Dean Henry “Steve” Stephens, property became a staple for Schneider, and he taught it for the remainder of his teaching career. “Property and torts are excellent courses in which to introduce students to important aspects of legal reasoning,” he believes. “The interplay of law and facts becomes very important. At times, truth is stranger than fiction, or at least so it seems, based upon the facts.”

Over the years, Schneider was a member and chairman of many law school faculty committees. He particularly remembers serving on faculty recruitment committees to locate and attract new faculty for the law school. He also served on committees that made reappointment, promotion and tenure recommendations, as well as various curriculum committees. He worked with university committees as well, chairing the committee that recommended the appointment of former Chase Dean Gerard St. Amand and serving on the committee that recommended the appointment of Chase Dean Dennis Honabach.

In the 1980s, Schneider became more involved in faculty governance outside the college of law. He chaired the peer review hearing committee for many years and was actively involved with Faculty Senate. Upon leaving Faculty Senate service, the senate honored him with the Faculty Leadership Award.
As Schneider reflects on his many years of teaching, he relates that students have always been first and foremost, and all of his teaching decisions were formed around that priority. Students awarded him the Justice Robert O. Lukowsky Award five times in recognition of his outstanding teaching performance. He believes these are the most significant honors he received during his teaching career.

Schneider has forged many friendships among his fellow teachers during his time at Chase. “Fred Schneider has been my colleague and friend for over 30 years,” says Professor Caryl Yzenbaard, a longtime associate of Schneider. “Our relationship is and has been a wonderful professional and personal pleasure.”

Students。“He taught with fervor and passion. Professor Schneider was always encouraging and quite sincere when it came to assisting students. He was a jewel to Chase,” she believes.

Schneider and his wife, Karen, recently celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary, and he feels blessed with their three children and 11 grandchildren. He looks forward to spending his newly free time with his family. “Our two sons are Eagle Scouts; now one grandson is working on Eagle rank,” he proudly relates. He further reflects, “It is good to watch grandchildren in recitals, dance performances and sport events, as we did for our own children.” He and his wife also plan some travel, beginning with a trip to Alaska taken this past summer. “I hope to enjoy hobbies I have put off for too long,” he says. He looks forward to catching up on non-legal reading. “The outdoors beckons, too,” he declares. He also enjoys amateur radio and photography.

Dean Dennis Honabach had the privilege of working with Schneider in his final years of teaching. “Fred Schneider was the consummate law professor,” Honabach says. “He cared passionately about the subject matter he taught. He cared passionately about our law school. And, most importantly, he cared passionately about his students. Fortunately, he will stay a part of our community as a professor emeritus, and, I hope, continue to teach and mentor our students.”

Schneider’s students likewise remember him with fondness. “He taught with fervor and passion,” according to third-year law student Katrina Bruce. “Professor Schneider was always encouraging and quite sincere when it came to assisting students. He was a jewel to Chase,” she believes.

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Faculty in the news

Professor Rick Bales was appointed as the scholar-in-residence for the ABA/Labor and Employment/ADR Section in September 2008. He was elected to the executive committee of the AALS section on employment discrimination in January 2009 and was selected as chair of the board of the NKU ADR Center for the 2008-09 and 2009-10 academic years. In February 2009, he spoke about the proposed restatement of employment law at a conference at U.C. Hastings.

Professor John Bickers was quoted in the Wall Street Journal in February 2008 in an article about the trial of six defendants being held at Guantanamo Bay. That same day, he was also quoted by U.S. News and World Report in a story titled “Charges Filed Against 9/11 Terror Suspects.” He was also interviewed on two nationally broadcast radio shows on the same topic: National Public Radio’s “The Diane Rehm Show” and On Point.

Professor Roger Billings was the featured speaker at Murray State University’s Harry Lee Waterfield Distinguished Lecture in Public Affairs series in April 2009. His speech, titled, “A. Lincoln, Always a Kentucky Politician,” traced Kentucky’s influence on Lincoln’s political career.

Professor Sharlene Lassiter Boltz was recognized as one of the top 100 African Americans of influence in the Cincinnati area by the Cincinnati NAACP in July 2008. Also, she received the Amy Jones Outstanding Advocate Award by the Northern Kentucky Women’s Crisis Center during the 14th annual Day of Peace celebration in Covington in September 2008.

Professor Carol Furnish received an NKU Faculty Project Grant for fiscal year 2008-09 to fund efforts to post Kentucky’s slavery laws, which date back to the early 1790s, on the Chase College of Law website.

Professor Christopher Gulinello, recipient of a Fulbright Scholar grant, lectured at the National Taiwan University in Taipei during the 2007-08 academic year and presented at National Chung Cheng University College of Law on “Understanding the U.S. Approach to Contract Law.”

Dean Dennis Honabach was elected secretary of the Association of American Law Schools section on part-time division programs in January 2009.

Professor Kathleen Gormley Johnson, associate director of the Center for Excellence in Advocacy, was a member of the Leadership Kentucky Class of 2008.

Professor Kenneth Katkin presented “The Global Broadband Satellite Infrastructure Initiative” to a faculty colloquium at Texas Tech University School of Law and presented at Michigan State University College of Law’s IP & Communications Law Scholars Workshop, both in February 2008. Also, he appeared on Louisville’s WFPL-FM to discuss the “Connect Kentucky” broadband deployment program in February 2008 and appeared on the “Impact Cincinnati” public affairs program on WVXU-FM to discuss “Free Speech and Political Activity in the Workplace” in July 2008.

Professor Jennifer Anglim Kreder filed a motion and brief in a U.S. Second Circuit Court of Appeals Nazi era art case and attended a meeting at the State Department concerning Nazi looted art in February 2009. She also presented on pending Nazi-era art litigation at DePaul University College of Law in Chicago in March 2009 and in Vienna, Austria, in April 2009.

Professor Michael Mannheimer participated in a panel discussion titled “Crisis in the Federal Death Penalty,” sponsored by the Bar Association of the City of New York, in conjunction with the annual meeting of the American Bar Association in New York, N.Y. in August 2008. Also, he was selected to serve on the executive committee of the criminal justice section of the Association of American Law Schools in January 2008.

Professor Ljubomir Nacev presented on the tax consequences of debt cancellation and debt restructuring at a conference on consumer lending in January 2009 sponsored by the DNA People’s Legal Services of Arizona, the largest legal aid office in the Southwestern United States.

Associate Dean Lawrence Rosenthal was quoted in the Wall Street Journal and the Las Vegas Business Press in June 2008 in articles about association discrimination under the ADA.

Visiting professor David Singleton, who also serves as the executive director of the Ohio Justice and Policy Center, received the prestigious Theodore M. Berry Award at the Cincinnati NAACP’s 2008 annual Freedom Fund Dinner.

Professor Bill Sjostrom was elected to the executive committee of the Association of American Law Schools section on securities regulation in January 2009.

Professor Phillip Sparkes, director of the Chase Local Government Law Center, was appointed chair of the technology section of the International Municipal Lawyers Association.

Professor Mark Stavsky was appointed by the Kentucky Supreme Court to represent a pro se inmate appealing a dismissal from the Court of Appeals. In May 2008, the Supreme Court reversed the Court of Appeals giving his counsel an opportunity to present his appeal.

Professor Henry Stephens, director of the Center for Excellence in Advocacy, was selected for inclusion in the 25th anniversary edition of The Best Lawyers in America directory under the specialty of alternative dispute resolution.
Law Review cosponsors symposium: ‘Lincoln, the Lawyer’

The Northern Kentucky Law Review and the Kentucky Historical Society cosponsored a free public symposium titled “Lincoln, the Lawyer” October 4, 2008, at the Marriott RiverCenter in Covington, Ky. The symposium focused on Lincoln’s career as a lawyer, including his reputation for honesty in the practice of law and how his love of politics affected his law practice.

Featured speakers were Roger Billings, Jr., Chase professor and Lincoln scholar; Christopher Schnell, assistant editor of The Papers of Abraham Lincoln; Dr. Mark Steiner, professor of law at South Texas College of Law and author of An Honest Calling: The Law Practice of Abraham Lincoln; and Frank Williams, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Rhode Island and one of the nation’s most renowned experts on Lincoln.

More than 100 lawyers from Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana attended the event in addition to a number of NKU Chase students and faculty. The law review’s symposium editor was Rhonda Schechter and the editor-in-chief was Katie Morgan.

Law Review symposium focuses on e-discovery

The Northern Kentucky Law Review hosted its spring symposium in February 2009 titled “E-Discovery: Navigating the Changing Ethical and Practical Expectations.” Roland Bernier, an attorney and e-discovery consultant with Forensic Consulting Solutions, LLC, provided an overview of the e-discovery challenges faced by practitioners. The symposium then provided a panel discussion on ethical issues in e-discovery featuring professor Debra Lyn Bassett, professor of law and Judge Frank M. Johnson, Jr., Scholar at the University of Alabama School of Law; Hon. John Carroll, former United States magistrate judge and current dean of Cumberland Law School at Samford University; and Gregory Harrison, Esq., partner at Dinsmore & Shohl LLP in Cincinnati. The panel was moderated by Chase professor Jennifer Anglim Kreder.

The symposium concluded with a panel discussion of best practices in e-discovery featuring Thomas Allman, Esq., an attorney and consultant; Steven Bennett, Esq., partner at Jones Day in New York; professor Steven Gensler, presidential professor at the University of Oklahoma College of Law; and Hon. Robert Wier, magistrate judge for the Eastern District of Kentucky. The panel was moderated by Chase professor and associate dean Richard Bales. The law review’s symposium editor was Bryce Rhoades and the editor-in-chief was Katie Morgan.
One of the more popular co-curricular activities NKU Chase offers its students is the opportunity to become a member of its nationally ranked moot court program. Showcasing the quality of the program, Chase students have won four national championships during the past two years.

The team of Benjamin Lewis, Marci Palmieri (now Schroder) and Scott Van Nice won the 2008 Robert F. Wagner Labor and Employment Law Moot Court Competition held in New York City. The team, coached by professor Lawrence Rosenthal, went undefeated (7-0) and swept every major category in the competition, including Best Preliminary Round Team, Best Final Round Oral Advocate (Scott Van Nice) and Best Respondent Brief. The team’s award-winning brief, dealing with Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, was published on the website of the Wagner competition. The competition is the largest student-run moot court competition in the nation and is sponsored by the Moot Court Association in honor of the late U.S. Sen. Robert F. Wagner.
A Chase moot court team also won the 2008 Adoption and Child Welfare Law Moot Court Competition held in Columbus, Ohio. Chase entered two teams in the competition, and each team won multiple awards. The team of Sara Caudill, Bethanie Chaney, Lindsay Lawrence and Tressa Milburn (coached by professor Emily Janoski) won the national champion title as well as awards for Best Brief and Best Final-Round Oral Advocate (Sara Caudill), and the team of Jordan Dallas, Becky Cull and Christopher Tapia (coached by professor Lawrence Rosenthal) won runner-up for Best Brief and emerged as national quarter-finalists. The competition was presented by Capital University Law School in partnership with The National Center for Adoption Law and Policy, the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, the ABA Center of Children and the Law, the American Academy of Adoption Attorneys and the National Association of Counsel for Children.

This year, third-year law students Dawn Danley-Nichols and Patrick Newton won the 2009 Albert R. Mugel National Tax Moot Court Competition held at the University at Buffalo School of the State University of New York. They were coached by professor Ljubomir Nacev. “For me, it was a pleasure to see Dawn and Patrick mature into their roles as appellate advocates and to rise to the occasion,” said Nacev. “Presence before the bench and substantive knowledge won the day.” Chase last competed in the Mugel competition in 2007, winning both the national championship and the best brief award.

Following the Mugel win, the NKU Chase team of Brad Gibson, Danielle Ravencraft and Christen Steimle won the national championship at the 2009 National Moot Court Competition in Child Welfare and Adoption Law. The competition was hosted by Capital University Law School and the National Center for Adoption Law and Policy. Ravencraft was also recognized as the best final-round oralist. The students were coached by professor Lawrence Rosenthal. At the same competition, Chase’s team of Brooklyn Franklin, Angel Zachel and Issac Burkhart won the best brief award and advanced to the quarterfinal round. The team was coached by professor Emily Janoski-Haehlen. Chase teams have won the best brief award four consecutive years.

Also in 2009, Chase third-year students Benjamin Lewis and Sara Caudill finished in second place in a field of 45 teams at the 33rd annual Robert F. Wagner Labor and Employment Law Moot Court Competition held at New York Law School in March. This marked the second final-round appearance in a row for Benjamin Lewis, whose team won the Wagner competition in 2008. This year also marked the fourth time in the last five years that a team from Chase was in the final round of the Wagner competition. The team was coached by Rosenthal. “The keys to this year’s success were hard work and experience. With their level of experience, I knew we would have a very good chance of succeeding,” said Rosenthal.

Chase’s moot court program is ranked 24th in the nation according to lawschooladvocacy.com, which touts a new ranking system for law school advocacy programs.

Both Chase trial teams competing in the Kentucky Mock Trial Competition held at the University of Kentucky in November 2008 advanced to the final round of the competition, where they competed against each other for top honors. The team of Tyler Fields, Joel King, Meagan Lorenzen and Michele Rigdon won the competition, and the team of Josh Brown, Brian Hoesl, Danielle Ravencraft and Krista Ray took second place. Chase second-year student Lorenzen tied with two other competitors for the Best Advocate Award.

“It’s such a thrill to not only win the Kentucky Mock Trial Competition but also to sweep first and second place,” said third-year student Fields, a Best Advocate nominee. “It’s a true testament to how hard the team worked this semester and how great our faculty and adjunct professors were at preparing us for competition.”

The two Chase teams that competed in the Kentucky Mock Trial Competition are part of the Chase National Trial Team, which also competed in the Ohio Mock Trial Competition in November. The full team consists of 16 students who are coached by Chase professor Kathleen Johnson and attorneys Ray Atkinson, Lorelei Bolohan, Luke Busam, John Dunn, Jennifer Lawrence, Carrie Masters, Titanie McMillan, Bob Sanders and Richard Smith-Monahan. The team is financially supported by the Lawrence Firm, PSC, and Reminger Co., L.P.A. Sharif Abdurabbo, Mia Conner, Kelly Gindele and Judge Fanon Rucker served as guest judges during practice rounds.
Chase’s clinical externship program has provided many opportunities for students to learn how to be lawyers in a real-world setting, all while they earn academic credit. Students have argued cases in both state and federal courts through the variety of clinical programs offered by Chase.

In September 2008, Chase student Amanda Aquino, a participant in the Chase Constitutional Litigation Clinic, successfully argued a prisoner’s rights case in the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals. Her client had alleged that prison guards retaliated against him by destroying his legal documents. Aquino successfully argued that the District Court erred by dismissing the case. Aquino’s victory was achieved thanks to a collaborative effort with Chase alumna Hannah Schrock ‘07, who wrote the brief. The Chase Constitutional Litigation Clinic partners with the Ohio Justice and Policy Center to offer eight Chase students a hands-on clinical experience handling civil rights cases on behalf of prisoners and former offenders in Ohio’s state and federal courts. The students work under the supervision of visiting Chase professor David Singleton, who is the executive director of the OJPC.

Also in September, Chase student Bob Hengge successfully defended a client charged with theft. Hengge, along with his supervising attorney Ray Faller, tried the case before the Hamilton County Municipal Court. Hengge is a participant in the Indigent Defense Clinic under the supervision of Chase professor Mark Stavsky. The clinic is a joint effort of the OJPC, the Hamilton County Public Defender’s Office, NKU Chase College of Law and the University of Cincinnati College of Law.

In October 2008, Chase students Rob Vonckx and Alan Spivak both gained valuable courtroom experience as participants in the Indigent Defense Clinic. In one case, Vonckx negotiated a plea for his client reducing a first-degree misdemeanor theft charge to fourth-degree unauthorized use of property. He also successfully argued for probation and mandatory attendance at a life-skills training class. In another case, Spivak persuaded the judge to mitigate the sentence of his incarcerated client. He secured the client’s access to services and ensured that the client made an informed decision about the outcome, which included treatment-focused probation.

In November 2008, third-year Chase student Jason Fowler argued an appellate case in the Ohio First District Court of Appeals in Cincinnati. The issue was whether Fowler’s client had a duty to register as a sex offender under a statute that was passed after his client had completed his prison term. Fowler argued the case as part of the Constitutional Litigation Clinic under the supervision of Singleton.

Vonckx was in court again in January 2009, where he obtained an acquittal for a client charged with obstructing official business. Vonckx visited, photographed and mapped the scene. He obtained all of the available police records. He thoroughly analyzed the case, crafted a theory of defense, then tested and revised his theory in a mock trial. Vonckx worked the case under the supervision of attorney Wende Cross ’92 through the Indigent Defense Clinic.
The NKU Chase College of Law Class of 2008 commencement ceremony was held May 17, 2008, during which university President James C. Votruba conferred 156 juris doctor degrees.

The Honorable Wil Schroder, justice of the Supreme Court of Kentucky, delivered the commencement address to the graduates and guests. The welcome and opening remarks were presented by then-associate dean for students Sherry Porter. Gail Wells, NKU vice president for academic affairs and provost, delivered remarks in recognition of Chase faculty. Chase Dean Dennis Honabach presented the degree candidates and led the charge to graduates, along with Chase professor Frederick Schneider, who retired after 39 years of teaching.

Awards were presented on behalf of the graduating class by Wil Schroder II, president of the Chase Student Bar Association. The 2008 Robert O. Lukowsky Faculty Award recipients were assistant professor Annette Burken and associate professor Christopher Gulinello. Burken served as grand marshal and led the procession. Chase student Steven (Travis) Mayo accepted the award for Gulinello, who was teaching in Taiwan on a Fulbright grant. Faculty assistant Billy Scott received the 2008 Outstanding Staff Member Award.
Clockwise: Students enjoy a laugh at the Student Bar Association’s 2008 golf outing. Students pose at the Black Lawyers Association of Cincinnati’s 2009 banquet. Students take a break from classes at the Chase Law Library fall picnic. Students gather at the Northern Kentucky Bar Association’s 2008 Judge Judy West luncheon. Second-year student Joe Johns meets with professor Barbara McFarland in the Chase Law Library.
More than 325 Chase alumni and friends attended the Chase Alumni Luncheon, a new tradition at the college of law, held at The Bank of Kentucky Center on Northern Kentucky University’s campus October 10, 2008. The luncheon was hosted by the Chase Alumni Association and featured the presentation of the annual alumni awards.

Richard D. Lawrence ’71 was the recipient of the lifetime achievement award. Lawrence is president of The Lawrence Firm and has been trying cases for more than 35 years in Southern Ohio and Northern Kentucky. His early years of practice included successful defense of people accused of serious crimes, and since the 1980s, he has concentrated on representing those who have been catastrophically injured. He has served as president and board member for numerous trial practice associations and has received many awards for his noteworthy accomplishments as a trial attorney, including the KJA’s Peter Perlman Outstanding Trial Lawyer of the Year, AAJ’s Wiedemann & Wysocki Medal Award twice for outstanding contribution to civil justice, and AAJ’s Dan Cullen Award for his efforts in representing children with brain injuries. He has published in legal and medical texts and has been privileged to speak in 20 states and three foreign countries.

Alyson Schlinger Barclay ’85 was the recipient of the Professional Achievement Award. Barclay is vice president, secretary and general counsel of ESCO Technologies, Inc., which is based in St. Louis with operations around the world. Her practice includes legal
responsibility for the company’s domestic and international mergers and acquisitions and affords her the opportunity to work with business leaders and legal counsel throughout the world. Most recently, she led a team of in-house, domestic and international legal counsel in the completion of a $319 million acquisition of a company with locations in the U.S. and five foreign countries. Among her past honors, she was named as one of St. Louis’ top 25 most influential businesswomen by the St. Louis Business Journal.

J. David Bender ’79 was the recipient of the Exceptional Service Award. Bender is a sole practitioner with offices in Ft. Thomas, Ky., and his practice includes civil litigation, corporate, domestic, estate, probate and criminal law. Over many years, he has devoted countless hours in service to Chase, NKU, the bar and the community, including service as president or board member for the Northern Kentucky Bar Association, Children’s Law Center, Chase Alumni Association, NKU Foundation, Norse Athletic Club, Villa Madonna Academy and many other organizations. He was recently chosen to be included in a soon-to-be-published book, Lessons in Entrepreneurship, by NKU’s Fifth Third Bank Entrepreneurship Institute.

Paige Leigh Ellerman ’99 was the recipient of the Outstanding Recent Graduate Award. Ellerman is a partner in the bankruptcy, business restructuring and creditor rights practice group at Taft, Stettinius & Hollister. Board certified in business bankruptcy law by the American Board of Certification, she has been named a Cincinnati Magazine “Super Lawyers Rising Star” each year since 2005. She also devotes a significant amount of time to the legal profession and community, including service as chair of the Cincinnati Bar Association’s young lawyer section, board member of the Cincinnati Bar Association and Cincinnati Bar Foundation, past president of the Chase Alumni Association, chapter treasurer of the Federal Bar Association, member of the St. Elizabeth Medical Center Foundation, and several other charitable and nonprofit organizations.

The luncheon sponsors were The Lawrence Firm and Taft, Stettinius & Hollister. The table sponsors were Adams, Stepner, Woltermann & Dusing; Arnzen, Wentz, Molloy, Laber & Storm; Busald, Funk & Zevely; Cors & Bassett; The Farrish Law Firm; Freund, Freeze & Arnold; Frost Brown Todd; Mark Modlin, Inc.; Ralph P. Ginocchio ’77; Greenebaum, Doll & McDonald; Keating, Muething & Klekamp; Lerner, Sampson & Rothfuss; Edward J. McTigue ’78; O’Hara, Ruberg, Taylor, Sloan & Sergent; Parry, Deering, Futscher & Sparks; Reminger Co. LPA; The Sanders Law Firm; Santen & Hughes; Schachter & Hendy; Schuh & Goldberg; Sutton Rankin Law; Turner Construction Company; Wood & Lamping; and Ziegler & Schneider.
Shea named 2008 outstanding Chase alumnus

Joseph W. Shea III ’74 was named 2008 Outstanding Chase Alumnus by the NKU Alumni Association at its annual alumni awards banquet February 6, 2009. Shea is a highly regarded legal practitioner and is well known throughout the Kentucky and Ohio legal communities. He served the Ohio Supreme Court as its chief bar examiner, was elected as the youngest president ever of the Ohio Justice Association, and is widely used nationally as a bar examiner in the field of civil litigation. He has authored several books including an annual publication of his widely used courtroom evidence manual. He is the principal in the Cincinnati-based law firm Shea and Associates.

Shea’s peers have voted him as one of the top 100 lawyers in Ohio or top 50 in Cincinnati annually since 2004. He is a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and Society of International Barristers. He holds various record verdicts and outcomes. He received the 2008 Ohio State Bar Association’s Ritter Award, its highest commendation, given annually to the Ohio attorney who has obtained the highest level of professionalism, integrity and ethics in the practice of law.

Shea also believes in giving back. Years ago, Shea became concerned that smaller firms could not afford access to powerful online legal research sites. Using his own resources, he pioneered the idea of providing online legal research resources directly through state bar associations. In the late 1990s, he partnered with the OSBA to offer its members access to the online libraries as a “free” membership benefit. It was an immediate success. Today, 28 state bar associations, including the Kentucky Bar Association, offer members free unlimited access to the service. Casemaker libraries have saved attorneys and their clients millions of dollars.

The Casemaker libraries now include rules, codes, case and statutory law for all 50 states and the federal system. Casemaker currently contains more than 13 million legal documents. More than 400,000 lawyers have access to Casemaker, and in the past year more than 300 million documents have been retrieved.

Rothfuss elected president of national association

Richard M. Rothfuss ’77 was elected president of USFN, a national not-for-profit association of law firms, trustee companies and industry-specific vendors who specialize in the area of creditors’ rights. Rothfuss is the CEO of Lerner, Sampson & Rothfuss, an AV® rated law firm focusing its practice in the areas of real estate, creditors’ rights and commercial litigation. He is admitted to the bar in Ohio, Kentucky and Florida. He earned his undergraduate degree at the University of Kentucky in 1972.

In addition to his practice, Rothfuss is a frequent lecturer to various groups on a wide variety of real estate, bankruptcy, creditors’ rights and general mortgage banking issues. His firm is both Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac designated counsel for Ohio as well as counsel to MERS. Rothfuss was the recipient of the 2007 Outstanding Chase Alumnus Award, and his firm has been the recipient of many awards including the Better Housing League’s Civic Award, the Pinnacle Award and the USFN Diamond Excellence Award for 13 consecutive years.

Schworer leads Cincinnati Bar Association

Philip J. Schworer ’86 was installed as president of the Cincinnati Bar Association at the CBA’s annual meeting luncheon May 9, 2008.

Schworer is a member of the environmental law department of
Crawford elected president of Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis

NKU Chase graduate David E. Crawford, Jr., ’93 was elected president of the Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis for 2008-09. Crawford is a partner with the law firm Senniger Powers LLP, where he practices patent law. Crawford has extensive experience preparing and prosecuting patent applications in a wide variety of arts. He conducts freedom-to-operate, infringement and validity studies; prepares and negotiates licenses and other agreements; and prosecutes trademark and copyright applications. He has provided intellectual property legal services in a diverse range of technologies including medical devices and surgical instruments, aircraft systems and engines, hydraulic systems, semiconductor processing equipment, transmissions, welding equipment and lasers.

Crawford’s goals for the year are to increase service to the community by providing opportunities for pro bono activities and to further increase diversity in the bar. In his first “message from the president” letter, he talked about his goal to improve unity and inclusiveness in the profession and in the bar association. Crawford graduated from Chase in 1993 and served on the law review. He also has a B.S. in mechanical engineering from The Ohio State University and an M.S. in engineering from the University of Cincinnati. Prior to becoming a patent attorney, Crawford was a design engineer at GE Aircraft Engines for 10 years, where he had responsibility for various turbine components used in military aircraft engines.

Muehlenkamp invested as Aquinas College president

Aquinas College formally invested NKU Chase alumna Sister Mary Peter Muehlenkamp, O.P., as its 10th president at the Cathedral of the Incarnation September 14, 2008. More than 200 guests gathered to witness Muehlenkamp profess the oath of office as she received the chains of office and academic mace of the nearly 50-year-old institution. Representatives from colleges across the country were in attendance. The Most Reverend David R. Choby, Bishop of Nashville, presided over the ceremony.

Muehlenkamp is a native of Ft. Thomas, Ky., and received her Bachelor of Science in management from Northern Kentucky University. The daughter of the late Judge George Muehlenkamp, Muehlenkamp graduated from Bellarmine University where she received her Master of Science in Management.

Frost Brown Todd LLC, where he represents business and industry in all aspects of environmental health and safety issues. His practice includes litigation, environmental due diligence and negotiations associated with corporate acquisitions and divestitures and compliance counseling. Schworer holds a B.S. in biology and an M.S. in environmental health from the University of Cincinnati, where he also did graduate-level work in environmental engineering.

Schworer began his long history of service to the CBA during his last year at NKU Chase College of Law, first becoming involved with its environmental law committee, which he later chaired. He has worked on CLE programs, participated on the committee on committees and graduated from the CALL program. He contributed his environmental engineering skills to the CBA by overseeing the environmental due diligence review for the current Cincinnati Bar Center building. He also assisted in negotiating environmental terms and conditions for the acquisition contract.

In addition to his service to the CBA, Schworer is active in a host of civic and charitable organizations. He is a graduate, past alumni association president and member of both the Leadership Cincinnati and Leadership Northern Kentucky programs. The Northern Kentucky resident is president-elect of the board for the Redwood Rehabilitation Center and has served as chair of the Northern Kentucky United Way Campaign. He is also active in the Just the Beginning Foundation, a group whose mission is to increase the number of minority students entering the legal profession.
Chase alumni sworn in at the United States Supreme Court

Thirty-one Chase College of Law alumni traveled to Washington, D.C., to be sworn in as members of the United States Supreme Court bar November 13, 2007, marking the fourth annual Chase Alumni Association group admission ceremony at the Supreme Court.

The Chase alumni, their family members and guests, and representatives of the college of law gathered at a reception the evening prior to the group admission ceremony at the Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill, where they were welcomed by the clerk of the Supreme Court of the United States, William Suter, and his wife, Jeanie.

A reception followed the swearing-in ceremony at the court the next day and was held in the east conference room, where the portrait of U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice Salmon P. Chase is displayed. Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg both attended the reception. A luncheon was held at The Willard Intercontinental hotel to conclude the day’s activities.

The newly admitted members of the Supreme Court bar were

A Chief Justice John Roberts poses with the new admits.
Herbert Adams ’72, A. Page Beetem ’95, Cynthia Clausen ’01, Joseph Conley ’65, Debra Crane ’96, William Culbertson ’02, Jason Darnall ’03, Debbie Davis ’02, Donna Denham ’02, Glenn Denton ’95, Heather Denton ’95, Laurie Dowell ’88, Susan Draper ’03, Jeffrey Edwards ’87, Frank Fisher, Jr., ’75, Theresa Hoagland ’89, Margaret Huddleston ’82, Maura Johnson ’92, Marvin Kleinman ’53, Mary Kathleen (Kate) Mollov ’80, Linda Novakov ’93, Darrell Payne ’89, Thomas Rauch ’74, Linda Schaffer ’81, John Sellins ’76, Aaron Silletto ’02, Patricia Taba ’98, June Wagner ’96, Thomas Wall ’99, Joseph White ’03, and Michele Wilson ’89.

Chase College of Law and Alumni Association representatives participating in the events were Judge Tony Frohlich ’80, then-alumni association president, and his wife, Candy; Mac Riley ’86; Jan Oliver ’91; Christie Wright ’98; Associate Dean David MacKnight; Associate Director Terri Schierberg; and advancement assistant Karen Young. Judge Frohlich made the motion for admission before the court.
Alumni photo gallery

> Left to right:

Chase Alumni Association “tailgating” lunch for Chase graduates taking the Ohio bar exam in Columbus.

Chase alumni reception at the 2008 Kentucky Bar Convention in Lexington.

Chase alumni and special guests share a laugh at the Chase Alumni Association’s annual graduation reception at the Montgomery Inn Boathouse.
Chase Alumni Association board members distribute Chase T-shirts to the first-year class.

The Class of 1977 30th reunion.

U.S. Ambassador Patricia Herbold ’77 (center) and her husband, Robert Herbold, (on her right) pose with Chase deans and alumni at a reception held after Ambassador Herbold delivered the commencement address at NKU’s first ceremony in The Bank of Kentucky Center.

Chase alumni reception in Bowling Green, Ky.

The Class of 1958 50th reunion.

Chase alumni golf outing at Belterra golf resort.

Chase alumni reception in Western Kentucky.
Giving back

NKU Chase
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Gifts to NKU Chase College of Law from alumni and friends help fund student scholarships, student co-curricular and extra-curricular programs, student skills training opportunities through the Chase centers of excellence, and the most up-to-date law school facilities and equipment. Your gifts truly make a difference in the lives of our students. To learn more about NKU Chase’s funding needs, priorities and opportunities, you may contact the Chase Office of Advancement at (859) 572-1461 or chaselaw.nku.edu/alumni.

Dan Meyer ’67 speaks at the dedication ceremony of the “Dan Meyer Faculty Conference Room,” located on the fifth floor of Nunn Hall. The plaque, which was unveiled by NKU president James Votruba during the ceremony, reads: “Named in honor of Dan Meyer ’67 in grateful appreciation of his generosity to Northern Kentucky University Salmon P. Chase College of Law.” Meyer’s gift of $500,000 to the college of law is designated for faculty development.
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Jeremy D. Richards
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R. Craig Rockenstein
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Nicholas Zingarelli

Class of 2005
Melody Bennett
Susanne M. Bookser
Chissy M. Dunn
George E. Fee IV
Sabrina Girty
Sandra M. Grilly
Jay H. Knight
Justin L. Lawrence
Wade Napier
Brenna Penrose
Amy M. Pugh
Julie A. Schoepf
Meredith O. Spille
Timothy L. Spille
Judith Stubbe
Nicholas Zingarelli

Class of 2006
Jay Manire
David Spaulding
Class notes

CLASS OF 1960


CLASS OF 1967

John W. Eilers, a partner in the Cincinnati law firm of Wood & Lamping LLP, was honored as the Volunteer Lawyer of the Year at the Cincinnati Bar Association’s 2008 annual meeting luncheon. The award recognized his long-term participation in and commitment to providing high-quality legal services to the most vulnerable in the community and his dedication to the mission of the Volunteer Lawyers Project. Eilers practices in the areas of estate planning and probate.

CLASS OF 1978

James G. Fogle of Ferreri & Fogle, PLLC, was inducted as a fellow by the American Bar Association’s College of Workers’ Compensation Lawyers. Fogle has authored multiple publications on workers’ compensation law and labor law and has given numerous presentations on those topics. He practices in the firm’s Louisville, Ky., office.

Jeffrey Hunt Raines opened a law firm with partners Edward Buechel, Joseph Conley, Jr., and Jennifer Raines Dusing. The firm, Raines, Buechel, Conley & Dusing, PLLC, operates in Florence, Ky. Raines practiced for two years in Northern Kentucky until joining the law department of Ashland Oil, now Ashland Inc., where he served for more than 27 years in various positions, including associate general counsel in charge of litigation. His practice areas for the new firm include commercial and civil litigation, mediation, and alternative dispute resolution services and contract, corporate, and business law.

R. Kim Vocke, with offices in Covington, Ky., received the 2008 Attorney of the Year Award from the Northern Kentucky Volunteer Lawyers program in recognition of his 30 years of providing hundreds of hours of free services to legal-aid clients.

CLASS OF 1980

Stephen Gillen of Greenebaum Doll & McDonald PLLC was elected to the board of directors of Cincy IP, the Cincinnati Intellectual Property Law Association. Gillen is a member of the firm’s intellectual property team and focuses on publishing and entertainment transactions and disputes, Internet issues, advertising law, computer law, copyrights, trademarks, technology transfer, trade secrets and related matters.

Donald C. Moore has been certified as a member of the Multi-Million Dollar Advocates Forum. The group includes those who have acted as principal counsel in at least one case that resulted in a multimillion-dollar verdict, award or settlement. Moore’s practice centers on plaintiffs’ catastrophic injury and wrongful death cases resulting from trucking, medical or product liability.

Timothy B. Thiessen of Strauss & Troy, L.P.A, of Covington has been elected as fellow of American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers. Requirements for membership include passing both oral and written examinations, at least 10 years of legal experience with a 75 percent minimum concentration in matrimonial law, recommendations from judges and other AAML fellows, and evidence of significant involvement in the study or improvement of matrimonial law.

LaJuana S. Wilcher, a partner in the Bowling Green law firm of English, Lucas, Priest & Owsley, LLP, was a featured speaker at the National Association of Clean Water Agencies’ summer conference held in Anchorage, Alaska, in July 2008. She discussed approaches to amend the federal Clean Water Act. Wilcher, who focuses her practice on environmental law, served as head of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Office of Water in Washington, D.C. (1989-93), and as Kentucky’s Environmental and Public Protection Cabinet Secretary (2003-06).

CLASS OF 1981

Kevin L. Murphy has been reappointed to the Children’s Law Center’s board of directors. This is Murphy’s second term on the board, on which he has now served for 12 years. Murphy is a partner with Graydon Head & Ritchey LLP in the firm’s commercial litigation and dispute resolution department. He has been recognized with inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America since 2003.

CLASS OF 1982

David D. Flatt was named Outstanding Commonwealth’s Attorney by Kentucky Attorney General Jack Conway during the Kentucky Prosecutors Conference in August 2008. Flatt is the commonwealth’s attorney for the 37th judicial circuit serving Carter, Elliott and Morgan counties.
Richard L. Robinson, a partner with Graydon Head & Ritchey LLP, was named a finalist in the best political fiction category by the Indie Book Awards. Robinson was chosen for his political thriller *The Maximum Contribution*. The book is a fictional accumulation of 30 years in politics and is available at bookstores everywhere or directly through Publisher Page, Inc. Robinson practices in the areas of banking, financial services, business law, commercial real estate, litigation and civic affairs. Also, Robinson was among seven community leaders honored as HealthPoint Heroes at HealthPoint Family Care’s annual “Community Check-Up” luncheon.

Judge Julia A. Stautberg was elected 2008-09 vice president of the Cincinnati Bar Association. Stautberg has served as Hamilton County municipal court judge since 2004.

Dan Boaz was named Outstanding County Attorney by Kentucky Attorney General Jack Conway during the Kentucky Prosecutors’ Conference in August 2008. Boaz is the McCracken County attorney.

Jeffrey D. Hensley of the Hensley Law Office, PSC, in Flatwoods, Ky., announced his partnership with attorney Christopher A. Dawson. The firm name has changed to Hensley & Dawson, PSC.

Todd V. McMurtry, partner in the law firm of Dressman, Benzinger & LaVelle, P.S.C., (DBL) is a Ft. Wright, Ky., city council member. In his law practice, McMurtry handles complex litigation involving business disputes, land use, real estate, construction and personal injury in Ohio and Kentucky courts.

Jody Luebbers was appointed to the Hamilton County Court of Common Pleas by Ohio Gov. Ted Strickland. Since 2005, Luebbers served as the chief assistant prosecuting attorney for the Hamilton County municipal court division. From 1999 to 2005 she worked as an associate for Fox and Fox LPA in Cincinnati, handling workers’ compensation and personal injury cases, Social Security claims, unemployment hearings and criminal defense work. She previously served as a law clerk/constable in the Hamilton County Court of Common Pleas 1986-90.

J. Donald Mottley, an attorney in the Columbus office of Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP, became chair of the Ohio State Bar Association taxation committee July 1, 2008. A committee member since 2001, Mottley previously chaired the municipal income tax subcommittee and served on a working group that identified “consensus” improvements in Ohio’s tax administration and appeals processes. Mottley focuses his practice on state and local tax matters, tax issues involving nonprofit organizations, tax controversies (federal, state and local), and public agency law.

Denise Stoner-Barone has published her first young adult novel, *House of Wacks*. It will be published through the Climbing Rose line of the Wild Rose Press. Stoner-Barone focuses her law practice on divorce, family law, general civil law, injury law and juvenile law.

Steven Zweigart announced the relocation of his law practice to Flemingsburg. He had been with the law firm of Royse, Zweigart, Kirk, Brammer & Caudill in Maysville for the past 17 years. His new solo practice will be general in nature with emphasis in the areas of consumer bankruptcy, estate planning and probate, commercial and residential real estate, landlord-tenant, family law, business entities and transactions, and alternative dispute resolution.

Cynthia C. Felson, a partner in Taft Stettinius & Hollister’s Cincinnati office, was elected to the board of trustees of the Kidney Foundation of Greater Cincinnati. She is a partner in the workers’ compensation practice of the firm’s litigation department. She chairs the firm’s professional women’s resource group.

Sterling Colvin, a partner at Dinsmore & Shohl LLP’s Cincinnati office, was selected for the Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber’s WE Lead leadership program. WE Lead, part of the Women Excel initiative, is a program geared toward women on established career tracks who want to gain the skills necessary to advance to higher levels. Colvin is a member of the firm’s labor and employment department. She focuses her practice on representing clients in a wide range of commercial real estate matters, with an emphasis on acquisition, sales, financing and leasing.

Glenn Denton was appointed by Kentucky Gov. Steve Beshear to fill a vacancy in the Council on Postsecondary Education for a term ending December 31, 2010. Denton is a partner with Denton & Keuler of Paducah, Ky. His practice focuses in litigation. He is married to Heather Hallmark Denton, also a 1995 Chase graduate.
Bryan M. Cassis opened The Cassis Law Office. He will continue to focus his practice on labor and employment law and business litigation. Cassis represents companies in state and federal court employment litigation and advises management on all human resources and employee discharge issues. He also represents plaintiffs in harassment, discrimination and wrongful discharge lawsuits.

Greta Hoffman opened her new office at 6711 Dixie Highway in Florence, Ky. Hoffman will continue practicing in family law and minor criminal matters while she expands her practice in mediation.

Jeffrey S. Rosenstiel of Frost Brown Todd LLC was reappointed to chair the Ohio State Bar Association’s banking, commercial and bankruptcy law committee. In his practice, Rosenstiel represents businesses and financial institutions as well as other creditors in the litigation of debt instruments. Rosenstiel serves as an adjunct professor at Chase College of Law. Also, he served as president of Leadership Northern Kentucky’s class of 2008.

Kelly A. Schoening, a partner with the law firm of Dressman, Benzinger & LaVelle (DBL), was named a 2008 Outstanding Woman of Northern Kentucky. The award was established in 1984 to honor women serving the Northern Kentucky community who exemplify notable achievement, service to their profession or community, and the qualities of integrity, perseverance and leadership.

Thomas W. Landon was promoted to vice president at Fifth Third Bank. He serves as a senior trust officer, and in the estate settlement department he is responsible for legal analysis of estate administration issues, preparation of court documents, tax returns and property division. He resides in Union Township with his wife and their three children.

Linda Averbeck was honored by the Cincinnati Business Courier as part of the 2008 Forty Under 40 class. Averbeck is a senior attorney in the Internal Revenue Service’s Office of Chief Counsel, where for 10 years she has provided assistance to IRS examiners.

Brian R. Redden joined Beckman Weil Sheppardson LLC as a member. Redden serves clients in the areas of general business, civil, and personal litigation, including employment discrimination, trade secret, and non-compete litigation, commercial and personal real estate litigation, and construction law. In addition, he has experience in representing professional athletes in the negotiation and enforcement of player and endorsement contracts and has assisted a number of professional athletes in the creation and operation of charitable foundations and for-profit businesses.

Mary P. Burns, trust counsel at Johnson Trust Company, was elected to the Cincinnati Estate Planning Council board of trustees. Burns is also currently president of the Estate Planning Council of Northern Kentucky.

Debbie L. Davis, with offices in Covington, Ky., received the 2008 Distinguished New Volunteer Award from the Northern Kentucky Volunteer Lawyers program for accepting numerous pro bono cases as a new member of the program and for demonstrating exceptional commitment and concern for her clients.

Sean Land of the Owensboro law firm Stevenson & Land announced that the firm has relocated its offices in Owensboro to 100 West Third St, suite 302. The firm’s contact information, including its telephone and facsimile numbers, remains the same.

M. Suzanne Van Wert announced the opening of her new office in Lexington. Formerly the Law Office of M. Suzanne Van Wert, PLLC, she has joined partner Rachelle Higgins Brown ’04 to form the new firm Van Wert Brown. Van Wert will focus her practice on business and corporate transactions, information technology, intellectual property and equine transactions. She is also a mediator in the areas of business, information technology and equine law.
Rachelle Higgins Brown has become a partner in the new law office of Van Wert Brown. Higgins will focus her practice on business and civil litigation as well as domestic relations and criminal law.

Charles Shane Crase was awarded the 2008 Alice Neeley Memorial Award by Dinsmore & Shohl LLP. He is an associate in the labor and employment department in the firm’s Cincinnati office. He represents employers in issues related to the workplace.

Amanda Jerrells Mullins was honored with the In re Gault Award during the 36th annual Public Defender Conference and Awards Banquet in June 2008. Mullins is a public defender in the Maysville trial office who was recognized for her skill and advocacy in making the criminal justice system fair and humane for Kentucky’s youth and children. During 2007-08, Mullins represented the interests of children and youth in Bracken, Fleming, Lewis and Mason counties.

Wade Napier was appointed an assistant United States attorney for the United States Attorney’s Office for the Eastern District of Kentucky. He will be working in Lexington.

Lewis Diaz joined the Cincinnati office of Peck, Shaffer & Williams LLP. Diaz concentrates his practice on housing matters relating to multifamily housing and single-family housing. He formerly worked at the Kentucky Housing Corporation where he served in various capacities during his six-year tenure.

Sarah C. Leyshock joined Beckman Weil Shepardson LLC as an associate attorney. Leyshock serves clients in the area of business and personal litigation, employment law, family law and institutional law. She is active in her community, serving on the board of directors for the Welcome House in Covington.

Deborah M. McKinney, legal staff manager at Wood, Herron & Evans LLP and a sole practitioner in Cheviot, was appointed to chair the paralegal committee of the Ohio State Bar Association. A 1990 graduate of the College of Mount St. Joseph, she currently serves there as an adjunct instructor of paralegal studies. She chairs the Certification Commission of the American Alliance of Paralegals, Inc. In the community, McKinney serves as the vice mayor and president of Cheviot/Westwood Community Association.

Kelly M. Gindele joined Dressman, Benzinger & LaVelle as an associate attorney. Gindele practices primarily in the areas of construction and real estate law and is a member of the American and Kentucky bar associations.

Lindsey Jaeger has joined The Wolfe Practice as an associate attorney. The Wolfe Practice concentrates on emerging companies, commercial real estate, and media and entertainment law. Jaeger is a member of the firm’s intellectual property team and focuses on all aspects of the preparation and prosecution of patent applications, specializing in biological and chemical technologies.

Steven D. Jaeger, an attorney with O’Hara, Ruberg, Taylor, Sloan and Sergent, was elected to serve on the Edgewood, Ky., city council. Jaeger is a member of the civic engagement committee, and he is also a member of the Northern Kentucky Bar Association’s young lawyers section, where he chairs the membership committee. Jaeger is married to Lindsey Jaeger, an attorney with The Wolfe Practice LPA in Cincinnati and a 2007 Chase grad.

Jennifer L. Scholl joined the firm of O’Hara, Ruberg, Taylor, Sloan and Sergent. She will primarily focus her practice on the area of domestic relations. She is a certified family law mediator and guardian ad litem.

To submit your classnotes, please visit the chase website at chasinglaw.nku.edu
In memoriam

**Professor Edward C. Brewer III** passed away December 11, 2008, at Alive Hospice in Nashville, Tenn. He had been battling cancer for several months. His family and friends were with him. Brewer had been a member of the Chase faculty since 1996. In those years he taught professional responsibility, torts, law and religion, civil procedure, conflict of laws, federal jurisdiction, remedies, trial advocacy, and agency, partnership and LLCs. He was a brilliant, dedicated professor and advocate who cared deeply about his students and their welfare. He was a gifted writer. In his hands, a pen or a keyboard was an artist’s instrument. Brewer lived life with a zest, whether singing in choral groups, playing his guitar, motorcycling or canoeing. A memorial service was attended by family, faculty, staff, students and alumni. Brewer is survived by his five children, Katherine, Julia, Caroline, Matthew and Andrew.

**Dean Constantine N. (Charles) Revelos** of Middletown, Ohio, passed away November 3, 2007. He was dean and associate professor of law at Chase 1967-70. He graduated from Bowdoin College with an A.B. and received his Juris Doctor from the University of California at Berkeley. He was a professor of law at the Detroit Law College Michigan State University from 1971 until he retired in 2006. He is survived by his mother, three brothers, a sister, three nephews, five nieces, two great-nephews and two great-nieces.

**Richard R. Finkelmeier** ’40 passed away December 16, 2007. He specialized in disability law for almost 50 years. In 1968, his nephew Lou Finkelmeier joined him, creating the law firm of Finkelmeier & Finkelmeier, where he practiced until his retirement in 1989 at the age of 75. He is survived by his daughter, Phyllis F. Head; son, Robert L. Finkelmeier; two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

**Ernest Karam** ’47 of Cincinnati passed away July 10, 2007. He had retired as chief magistrate of the Hamilton County Court of Domestic Relations in 2006 just before his 97th birthday. He began his career with the court in 1976 following his retirement from The Cincinnati Post, where he was director of circulation and had worked for 41 years.

Karam, enrolled at Chase while working full time for the Post, had his legal studies interrupted by his service with the Navy during World War II. He established the Ernest Karam Endowed Fund at Chase and was recognized by Chase with a Lifetime Achievement Award in 2004. His wife, Lucille, died in 1985. He is survived by his daughter, Sheila Dean; son, Greg, who is a 1981 graduate of Chase; sister, Annette Karam; and two grandsons.

**James J. McGraw** ’49 passed away July 21, 2008. He is survived by his wife, Marjorie “Marge” McGraw; son, James J., Jr.; daughters, Marjorie A. Ogle and Kathleen McGraw Comisar; six grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and sisters, Rosemary Brune and Patricia Sweeney. He was preceded in death by his brother, Robert McGraw.

**James C. Purdue** ’50 passed away April 4, 2008. He was retired from General Electric where he worked as a contract attorney. He is survived by his son, Richard D. Purdue; daughter, Nancy Purdue Tolley; and two grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to the James C. Purdue Scholarship Fund for the benefit of evening students at Chase.

**Eugene J. Utz** ’53 passed away May 28, 2008. Utz was a former judge of the Hamilton County Court of Appeals, First Appellate District of Ohio. In private practice he handled civil cases including probate, corporate law and workers’ compensation from 1955 until he was elected a judge in the old Hamilton County court system in 1963. He resumed private practice after leaving the bench in 1968 until he was elected to the Court of Appeals in 1986. He served three years with the Golden Acorn 87th Infantry Division during World War II, including a year in Europe. He was awarded the Bronze Star. He is survived by his wife, Gertrude Bernert Utz; sons, Eugene J. Utz II and Gary Lee Utz; daughters, Marcia Scott and Marianne Utz-Sahms; 10 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

**Raymond E. Scroggins** ’54 passed away October 26, 2008. He began his banking career with Fifth Third Bank in Cincinnati. He later served as vice president of commercial loans in Jackson, Mich., president of American City Bank of Milwaukee, president of Lumberman’s Bank of Muskegon and president of Old Kent Bank of Big Rapids. He left banking and started Scroggins and Associates, Inc., in Atlanta, Ga., a business-consulting firm directed at physicians. He is survived by his children, Deborah Gmitruk, Stephen Scroggins and Amy Scott; three grandchildren and great-grandchildren; his companion, Marilyn Hulst; and his sister, Mrs. T. Embury Jones. He was preceded in death by his wife, Jean Cadwallader Scroggins, and his brothers, William H. Scroggins III, Clayton Scroggins and Roger Scroggins.

**John “Jack” D. Valentine** ’55 passed away March 7, 2008. He is survived by his children, John, Bill, Jim and Mona Valentine; and numerous nieces, nephews, other family and friends. He was preceded in death by his wife, Patricia Valentine, and his brother, Fredrick L. “Tad” Valentine.

**George W. Ratterman** ’56 passed away November 3, 2007, in Centennial, Colo. He played professional football and suffered a career-ending football injury in October 1956. He was admitted to practice in Ohio and Kentucky and acted as general counsel for the American Football League Players Association. In 1961, Ratterman ran for sheriff of Campbell County, Ky., pledging to fight longstanding gambling and vice in Newport, Ky. In a case that drew national attention, a lawyer and a nightclub operator were convicted of trying to frame Ratterman for a crime he did not
commit. Ratterman won the election and fought against organized crime in Newport. Later, he worked as a color commentator on TV and radio broadcasts of AFL and NFL football games. He is survived by his wife, Anne; his sons, Dave, Tim, Mark, Matt and Ned; his daughters, Mollie McDonald, Amy Puchino, Sally Dill and Julie Ratterman-Boryla; 23 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Paul P. Thiemann, Jr., ’57 passed away March 16, 2008. He is survived by his wife, Theresia Thiemann; sons, Gerry and Joe Thiemann; grandchildren, Danny and Carina Thiemann; sister, Lucille Pinto; and brothers, Charles and Bernard Thiemann. He was preceded in death by two sons, Kenneth and Paul Thiemann III.

Robert F. Gardner ’58 passed away March 6, 2008. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1951 to 1953. He was employed by the First National Bank of Cincinnati and was then appointed as assistant treasurer of the state of Ohio in 1964 before starting his private law practice in Columbus. He was also a CPA and was an active parishioner of St. Timothy Parish. He is survived by his wife, Martha Wells; sons, Michael, Mark and Rob; daughters, Kathy Theado, Diane Carolus and Teresa Davidson; 14 grandchildren; one great-grandchild; brothers, Tom, Don, Jim and Ted; and sister, Mary Helen Petry.

Patrick Flannery ’59 passed away August 12, 2008. A lawyer for nearly 50 years, he owned his own practice, Patrick M. Flannery Law Offices, in Covington. He was a member of Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption in Covington and was a Korean War Army veteran. He is survived by his wife, Anne Flannery; sons, Kevin Flannery and Patrick Flannery; daughter, Molly Flannery; brother, Joseph Flannery; and sisters, Patricia Durso and Elizabeth Teneover. Two daughters died earlier: Sharon Flannery in 1962 and Kathleen Harding in 1997; and a granddaughter, Emily Harding, died in 2005.

Albert C. Hawes III ’68 passed away April 12, 2008. He was an Army veteran, a former Park Hills and Covington lawyer, and a founding member of the Beechwood Educational Foundation. He is survived by his wife, Catharine “Casey” Hawes; daughter, Elizabeth “Bitsy” Unangst; sons, James Cary Hawes and Andrew Butler Hawes; sister, Anne Edmiston; and five grandchildren.

Thomas B. Kirby ’68 passed away November 10, 2008. For more than 40 years, he practiced in various areas of family law and most recently in personal injury litigation. He was a one-time Warren County assistant prosecutor and Franklin city prosecutor. After beginning his practice in Franklin, he had a law office in Springboro for the past 25 years. He is survived by his wife, Patricia Kirby; sons, Joe, Jeff and John Kirby; and daughters, Julie Kirby and Jennifer Stewart.

Roger T. Wolfe ’69 passed away May 7, 2008, in Rochester, N.Y. Formerly of Cincinnati, he was an employee of Sterling Drug for more than 32 years and most recently at Eastman Kodak Co. He is survived by his wife, Judy; daughters, Connie Fucito and Dr. Barbara Wolfe; stepchildren, Karen Araujo and Brian LaFollette; three grandchildren; and four step-grandchildren.

Stephen F. Hayhow ’70 passed away November 22, 2008. He worked 22 years for the Hamilton County Public Defender’s office until his retirement in 2001. He is survived by his wife, Eileen Hayhow; children, Matthew, Amanda and Kate; and four grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his father, Fred Hayhow, and mother, Gertrude Hope.

David J. Niehaus ’71 passed away July 31, 2008. He served as administrative judge of the juvenile division of the Butler County Court of Common Pleas. He was a judge for 27 years and became the county’s first juvenile court judge 21 years ago. He is survived by his wife, B. Gayle Niehaus; son, Erik Niehaus; and daughter, Heather Kirkendall.

Dennis W. VanHouten ’76 passed away December 16, 2008. He was a lawyer with Montgomery, Rennie and Johnson, Attorneys at Law. He is survived by his wife, Jacque VanHouten; daughter, Caitlin VanHouten; son, Eric VanHouten; mother, Pauline Millikin; and sister, Sandra Dwan.

Jerrold J. Litzinger ’77 passed away November 18, 2007. Litzinger operated a patent law practice in Hyde Park, Ohio. He is survived by his wife, Monica L. Litzinger; father, Jack Litzinger; brother, Jackie (Bill) Tholotowsky; and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his mother, Peg Litzinger.

Martin J. Horwitz ’78 passed away February 7, 2009. He founded The Horwitz Law Firm in Crescent Springs in 1998. The firm of eight attorneys and several former Internal Revenue Service officials provided clients with guidance and insight in their dealings with the IRS. He is survived by his wife, Anna Marie “Ree” Horwitz and his children, Allie Horwitz and Zach Pille.

Sharon C. Baird ’82 passed away June 2, 2008. She practiced law in the Cincinnati area for 26 years. She is survived by her children, Aaron Hilberg and Meredith Krupp; father, John Hampton; and brother, Douglas Baird.

Patrick Garretson ’84 passed away September 8, 2008. He practiced law in the Hamilton area for more than 20 years and was a member of The Presbyterian Church in Hamilton. He is survived by his wife, Jeannie Garretson; daughters, Carly Garretson and Katie Garretson; stepson, Rob Alexander; father, Fred Garretson; brothers, Bob Garretson, Jack Garretson, Dave Garretson, Steve Garretson; and adopted brother, Don Keller. He was preceded in death by his mother, Virginia Garretson.

John N. Seibel ’88 passed away November 7, 2008. Seibel was a self-employed coal broker and attorney. He was a member of
Salmon Portland Chase was born in Cornish, N.H., January 13, 1808. After his father died, the young Chase moved in with his uncle in Worthington, Ohio, in 1820, and a few years later moved with his uncle to Cincinnati. Chase graduated from Dartmouth College at the age of 18 in 1826 and then studied law in Washington, D.C., under U.S. Attorney General William Wirt. He returned to Cincinnati in 1830, was admitted to the Ohio bar, and opened his law practice in an office on Third Street. While practicing law in Cincinnati, Chase became active in the abolitionist movement and often represented escaped slaves, for which he was referred to as the “Attorney General for Fugitive Slaves.”

Chase was elected Cincinnati city councilman in 1840, U.S. senator from Ohio in 1849, and governor of Ohio in 1855. Chase sought the nomination of the Republican Party for president in 1860, but the nomination went to Abraham Lincoln. Chase was again elected U.S. senator in 1860, but he resigned to become secretary of the treasury under President Lincoln as the Civil War began.

The war created the need to raise tax revenue. Chase responded by creating the Bureau of Internal Revenue, later named the Internal Revenue Service, to collect stamp taxes and internal duties in 1862 and the nation’s first income tax the following year. To further finance the war, Chase created the Bureau of Engraving and Printing in 1862 to print the government’s first currency. Chase was responsible for designing the early bills and for placing the words “In God We Trust” on the currency. The national banking system was created in 1863. With the nation’s finances in a more favorable condition, Chase resigned as secretary of the treasury in June 1864.

In December 1864, President Lincoln nominated Chase as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. Chase succeeded the late Chief Justice Roger B. Taney, who wrote the Dred Scott decision. One of Chase’s early acts as Chief Justice was to admit the first African-American lawyer to practice before the Supreme Court. Chase served during the difficult period of Reconstruction and presided over the impeachment trial of President Andrew Johnson in 1868. Chase served as Chief Justice until he died May 7, 1873. He was initially interred in Washington, D.C., and then reinterred in Spring Grove Cemetery in Cincinnati. Chase was preceded in death by three wives and four infant daughters. He was survived by two daughters and by grandchildren.

In 1877, the founder of Chase National Bank, a predecessor to today’s Chase bank, named his newly established bank in honor of his late friend Salmon P. Chase. From 1918 through 1934, the U.S. Department of the Treasury honored Chase’s service to the nation by placing Chase’s portrait on the $10,000 bill. In 1943, as the Cincinnati YMCA Law School prepared to celebrate its 50th anniversary, the name of the school was changed to the Salmon P. Chase College of Law at the request of the students. In 1972, Salmon P. Chase College of Law merged with Northern Kentucky State College (later NKU). The “Chase Room” at the College of Law houses a number of Chase’s personal effects, and the Chase Law Library owns the microfilm edition of the Salmon P. Chase papers containing 14,500 documents written by or addressed to Chase.

As a graduate of NKU Chase College of Law, you join a list of Chase graduates who are among the leaders of law firms, corporations, nonprofit organizations, the judiciary and in government service. Many graduates make bequests to express their gratitude for a lifetime of value they received from their law school education. Your gifts can help create scholarships, sustain a talented faculty and provide up-to-date facilities.

For more information, please contact:

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Salmon P. Chase College of Law
Northern Kentucky University
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