

BARRY LAW MAGAZINE



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A Voice *for* the Earth:

Center for Earth Jurisprudence
Leads a Shift in Environmental
Legal Thinking



PHOTO BY PHELAN M. EBENHACK

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COVER PHOTO:

Dean Leticia M. Diaz (*right*) and Sister Patricia Siemen, executive director of the Center for Earth Jurisprudence, on the shores of Lake Maitland in Winter Park, Fla.

Cover Photo by ©Phelan M. Ebenhack

Established in 1999, the Barry University Dwayne O. Andreas School of Law in Orlando, Florida, offers a quality legal education in a caring, diverse environment. A Catholic-oriented institution, Barry Law School challenges students to accept intellectual, personal, ethical, spiritual, and social responsibilities, and commits itself to assuring an atmosphere of religious freedom.





A Voice for the Earth:

Center for Earth Jurisprudence Leads a Shift in Environmental Legal Thinking

At distinguished institutions like the Barry University Dwayne O. Andreas School of Law, the faculty is engaged in not only transmitting knowledge to its students, but endowing them with an ethical foundation. This mission is seen every day in our classrooms, throughout our campus, and in our commitment to the community. But it is more than just what we do, it is who we are.

In line with this foundation in ethics, Barry Law is at the forefront of the Earth jurisprudence movement that seeks to shift the thinking in how we legally protect the environment. Before becoming an attorney and eventually a legal educator, I worked as an organic chemist and studied the work of Rachel Carson, whose 1962 book *Silent Spring* alerted the public to the environmental and human dangers in pesticides and other toxins. During her courageous stand against the chemical industry, Carson explained, "But man is a part of nature, and his war against nature is inevitably a war against himself." Similarly, Earth jurisprudence recognizes the inseparable interconnectedness of all of Earth's inhabitants.

Five years ago, the Barry Law School began sponsorship of the Center for Earth Jurisprudence. In the cover story of this issue of *Barry Law Magazine*, Sister Pat Siemen, OP, JD, the director of our Center for Earth Jurisprudence, explains our role in advancing the Earth jurisprudence message, which "recognizes the inherent value of all members of creation and promotes increased legal protection of the natural world."

Other stories in this issue also reflect the school's ethical foundation, from our faculty teaching abroad as Fulbright scholars, to alumni like Tonya Meister who strive to fight for the underdog, to a presentation from the prioress of the Dominican Sisters of Adrian on their sponsorship of Barry University and the law school.

Living up to the values and morals we instill in our students is a humbling responsibility, and one we are proud to accept.

*Leticia M. Diaz, PhD, JD
Dean and Professor of Law*



- 2 Faculty Focus
 - Summers Latest Professor to Earn Fulbright Award*
 - Birdsong Takes Humorous Look at Criminal Law*
 - New Faculty at Barry Law*
- 4 Dean Examines Hispanic Legal Rights as Part of ABA Commission
- 6 Center for Earth Jurisprudence Leads a Shift in Environmental Legal Thinking
- 10 Championship Advocacy Teams State Their Case
- 13 A Day in the Life of Barry Law
- 16 A Dominican Foundation, and the Search for Truth
- 18 Alumni Today
 - Tonya Meister: A Sea of Compassion*
 - Eric Hires: Back in the Game*
 - Matt Farr: Flying High*
 - William Voight, Edward Combs Jr., Amy Mai: A Firm Friendship*
- 22 Campus News
 - Alumni Association Adds Class Reps*
 - Photographer Shares Haiti's Suffering*
 - Student Chosen for Supreme Learning Experience*
 - Students Rise up for Debate*
- 24 Thomas Freeman: A Lifetime of Law

Summers Latest Professor to Earn Fulbright Award

More than a decade after serving as an adjunct prosecutor at the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, Barry Law professor Mark Summers is back in the region, this time on a Fulbright Scholar grant. Summers is teaching International Criminal Law at the University of Zagreb in Croatia on a five-month Fulbright Scholar grant that runs until July 2011.

“My international criminal law classroom in Croatia serves as a laboratory where I have the opportunity to glean insights and perspectives unavailable anywhere else,” said Summers. “This experience will inform my teaching and scholarship for the rest of my career.”

Summers joins professors Terri Day and Lee Schinasi as Barry Law faculty members who have been awarded Fulbright Scholar grants. Day taught Restorative Justice at the University of Sarajevo in Bosnia, first on a Fulbright award for the 2000-01 school year and then on an extended award for the spring 2002 semester. Schinasi taught American Legal System and Litigation Skills at the University of Nis in Serbia in the fall 2004 semester. Schinasi was then a law professor at the University of Miami. But at his orientation for the Fulbright program, he met Day and learned about the Barry Law School. He joined the Barry Law faculty after returning from his Fulbright semester.



Professors Mark Summers (left), Terri Day and Lee Schinasi

The Fulbright Program is the flagship international educational exchange program sponsored by the United States government and is designed to increase mutual understanding between the people of the U.S. and the people of other countries. Recipients of Fulbright grants are selected on the basis of academic or professional achievement, as well as demonstrated leadership potential in their fields.

More information on the Fulbright Program is available at fulbright.state.gov.

Birdsong Takes Humorous Look at Criminal Law

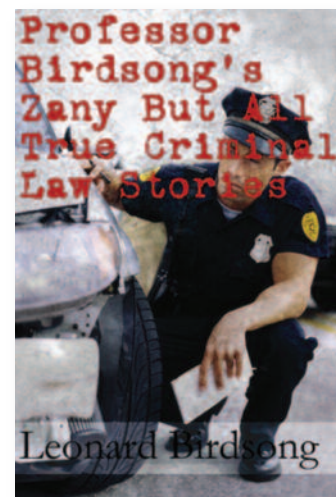
With background as a federal prosecutor and experience teaching criminal law at the Barry Law School since its founding, Leonard Birdsong has published several articles dealing with the very serious issues of criminal law. But for his first book, Birdsong branched out to explore the humorous side of crime.

Titled *Professor Birdsong's Zany But All True Criminal Law Stories*, the recently published book covers 250 of the most outrageous crime stories from around the world. Birdsong provides commentary on the crimes, drawing on his expertise and experience in criminal law. The book includes one chapter dedicated to crime stories from Birdsong's home state of Florida.

“I have written a number of very serious articles about crimes and criminal law, but this book was just for fun,” said Birdsong. “The stories in this book will provide readers with a lot of laughs at the expense of some foolish criminals.”

Birdsong teaches Criminal Law, White Collar Crime, Evidence,

and Immigration Law at Barry. Prior to entering academia, his legal career included work as a federal prosecutor and in private practice in Washington, D.C., where he specialized in trial work in areas ranging from criminal defense to political asylum. Birdsong has served as an on-air legal expert for Fox News, CNN, MSNBC, CBS Radio and Court TV. He earned a J.D. from Harvard Law School and a B.A. from Howard University.



Professor Birdsong's Zany But All True Criminal Law Stories can be purchased at publishamerica.net/product38060.html.

New Faculty at Barry Law



Susan Bendlin

TITLE: Interim Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Assistant Professor of Legal Research and Writing

EDUCATION:

J.D., Gonzaga University School of Law (Magna Cum Laude)
B.A., University of Virginia (With Distinction)

COURSES:

Legal Research and Writing 1
Legal Research and Writing 2

Bendlin has served at Barry Law as a visiting professor and dean of students and recently became a full-time faculty member. Her professional career includes 18 years as the dean of students at three different law schools: Emory, Duke and Barry. While her primary focus has been on administration, including academic support, admissions, financial aid, moot court, ADA compliance, enrollment management and student activities, she has also taught Legal Writing, Federal Appellate Practice, Professional Responsibility and Contracts at Virginia, Duke, Emory, and Barry.

Prior to becoming a law school administrator, Bendlin clerked for a federal judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit and worked as a litigator at one of Atlanta's largest and oldest law firms. She is a member of the Bar in Virginia and Georgia.

David J.R. Frakt

TITLE: Associate Professor of Law

EDUCATION:

J.D., Harvard Law School (Cum Laude)
B.A., University of California, Irvine (Summa Cum Laude)

COURSES:

Criminal Justice Seminar
Criminal Law
Evidence

Frakt was director of the Criminal Law Practice Center at Western State University College of Law from May 2005 to July 2010. He also previously served as an adjunct professor at Georgetown University Law Center. Prior to entering academia, Frakt served on active duty with the U.S. Air Force Judge Advocate General's Corps (JAG) from 1995 to 2005 before transitioning to the Air Force Reserve.

From April 2008 to August 2009, Frakt took a military leave of absence from teaching to serve as lead defense counsel with the Office of Military Commissions, representing two detainees at Guantanamo facing war crimes and terrorism charges before the U.S. military commissions. Frakt is a highly regarded expert in the field of international war crimes, military law and military commissions and has been frequently quoted in the national media. He has had articles published this year in the *Duke Law Journal*, *Case Western Reserve Journal of International Law* and *Air Force Law Review*.



Katherine Puzone

TITLE: Assistant Professor of Law

EDUCATION:

J.D., New York University School of Law (Cum Laude)
M.Phil., University of Cambridge
B.A., Trinity College

COURSES:

Children and Family

Puzone was an instructor at Columbia Law School in the Legal Practice Workshop for two years. Prior to entering academia, she litigated complex commercial cases and provided pro bono representation of a death row inmate in Alabama while a litigation associate at Stroock & Stroock & Lavan LLP in New York. Puzone also served as an assistant federal defender in Montgomery, Ala., from 2003-05 where she defended clients on Alabama's death row in state and federal post-conviction proceedings.

Puzone's law career began in 1999 as a litigation associate with Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison in New York. While with the firm, she litigated complex commercial cases and represented two death row inmates in Texas pro bono.

Dean Examines Hispanic Legal Rights as Part of ABA Commission



Dean Leticia M. Diaz with Bill Richardson, former governor of New Mexico

The rapid growth of the Hispanic population in the United States has brought new and complex legal issues, and Barry Law School Dean Leticia M. Diaz is part of an American Bar Association commission formed to explore the matter.

Diaz was appointed to the advisory committee of the ABA's Commission on Hispanic Legal Rights and Responsibilities by ABA President Stephen Zack. Since November, the commission has been holding hearings across the country to help identify the significant legal issues affecting the Latino community and explore ways the population can be active participants in civic life in the U.S. Following the hearings, the commission will publish a comprehensive report that recommends solutions to key issues and serves as a guide to state and federal policymakers and government agencies.

"I feel passionate about the legal issues facing Hispanic Americans today, and I am honored to be part of a commission that is working to address these challenging matters," said Diaz, the first female Cuban American dean of an ABA-accredited law school in the United States.

Cesar Alvarez, executive chairman of Greenberg Traurig, one of the nation's largest law firms, chairs the commission. Serving as honorary co-chairs are Mel Martinez, former U.S. senator from Florida; Bill Richardson, former governor of New Mexico; and Emilio Estefan, Grammy Award-winning producer and songwriter. The 30 commission members represent a wide array of national and local leaders from government, the judiciary, civil rights organizations, educational institutions and the private sector.

The commission's work includes:

- Investigating legal access for the fastest-growing minority population in the United States;
- Convening principal legal and Hispanic advocacy organizations to review the state of legal disparities in the U.S. justice system;



Congressional Record



PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 111th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

When the DREAM (Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors) Act was before Congress in December, Dean Leticia M. Diaz joined the Dioceses of Orlando and Miami in calling for passage of the measure. As part of the effort, Diaz wrote an article supporting the DREAM Act, which would provide a path to citizenship for young adults who were brought to the United States as undocumented immigrants. The article appeared in the Congressional Record, the official record of the proceedings and debates of the United States Congress, as part of the debate on the act.

LETICIA M. DIAZ: STRENGTHENING AMERICA

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 7, 2010

Mr. GRAYSON. Madam Speaker, I would like to bring attention to an article written by Leticia M. Diaz at Barry University entitled "Strengthening America." Dr. Diaz, who holds a PhD and a JD from Rutgers University, is the Dean of the Barry University Dwayne O. Andreas School of Law in Orlando and a member of the advisory committee for the newly formed American Bar Association Commission on Hispanic Legal Rights and Responsibilities.

STRENGTHENING AMERICA (By Leticia M. Diaz)

Like millions of others, I came to America with my immigrant parents. Seizing on the opportunities and access to superior education offered by this country allowed me to not only achieve the American dream, but to give back to this nation. My story is far from unique. Like the immigrants before me, I came to the United States to seek the freedom and the opportunities unavailable in the country of my birth. Comprised of a vast immigrant population, the United States matured and expanded as a result of the great Irish and Chinese immigrations of the 1800s along with many newcomers from Europe over the years. These immigrants provided much of the labor force that built the infrastructure as our country grew into a world power. Over the years, my family and millions of other immigrants worked hard to make America into a strong, productive, and dynamic nation.

Today, tens of thousands of young adults stand ready to give back to the country they call home. By opening the door to educational advancement or military service,

the DREAM (Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors) Act before Congress benefits those youngsters who, as children, States. But without passage of the United Act, these young people—who have already proven themselves in our schools and communities—face a very uncertain future.

The DREAM Act would grant legal status to young adults brought to the United States as undocumented immigrant children. The rigorous requirements under the Act ensure that only contributing members of society who have already proven themselves to be law-abiding citizens and dedicated students would enjoy the benefits of the Act.

The stringent criterion prescribed by the DREAM Act ensures that the floodgates to illegal immigration will remain closed. Instead, the Act addresses the issue of young, undocumented children who have grown up in this country and excelled in school. As they seek to enlist in the military or continue their education and launch their careers, these motivated pro-American youngsters continue to run into unreasonable roadblocks. The DREAM Act prudently addresses those hurdles.

All members of society will benefit from the DREAM Act, not just a select few. Everyone wins when we educate the youth of tomorrow, encourage them to achieve their career goals, and motivate them to become productive citizens of our great country. As an educator and a person who was born in Cuba and immigrated at an early age, I am foremost an American who recognizes the importance of providing access to education to those who are truly committed to learning and personal growth.

As Americans, we have a moral obligation to address the immigration issues facing our country. The DREAM Act would be a great start to much-needed reform. As such, we urge Congress to pass the DREAM Act, blazing a trail for these young adults to become valuable, contributing members of the United States as they deserve.

Madam Speaker, I strongly encourage my colleagues to bring the DREAM Act to the floor for immediate consideration.

- Exploring impediments to access to justice through the lens of the Latino experience, ultimately for the benefit of all U.S. residents;
- Making policy recommendations based upon findings of regional hearings.

"Hispanic Americans have become the largest minority group in America. To make a meaningful contribution, they need fair, equal access to justice and full integration into our legal system and profession," said Zack, who is the first Hispanic American president of the ABA. "We expect from them that they will be thoughtful and committed members of our civic life. This commission will lay out a plan that identifies and responds to the legal rights and responsibilities of these future citizens and leaders."

More information on the commission is available at their website:
americanbar.org/advocacy/commission_on_hispanic_legal_rights_responsibilities.html.



Dean Leticia M. Diaz with ABA President Stephen Zack (center) and David Yellen, dean of the Loyola University Chicago School of Law



Dean Leticia Diaz (left) with Sister Patricia Siemen, executive director of the Center for Earth Jurisprudence, on the shores of Lake Maitland in Winter Park, Fla.

A Voice *for* the Earth:

Center for Earth
Jurisprudence Leads a
Shift in Environmental
Legal Thinking

In an effort to shift systems of law and governance from human centered to Earth centered, the Barry University Dwayne O. Andreas School of Law joined with the St. Thomas University School of Law in creating the Center for Earth Jurisprudence in 2006. With the CEJ now in its fifth year, Sister Patricia Siemen, OP, JD, executive director of the CEJ, discusses the purpose and mission of the CEJ, its role in protecting the environment, and Barry Law School's commitment to ecological responsibility.

[Explain the concept of Earth jurisprudence.]

Earth jurisprudence recognizes the inherent value of all that exists and the urgency of unprecedented ecological challenges that are impacting the physical and spiritual health of humans and environment alike. It calls for a shift in thinking about how we legally protect the natural systems that sustain life. It understands that the future health of people and all beings on Earth is dependent on the health of ecosystems. To paraphrase eco-philosopher Thomas Berry, one cannot have well humans on a sick planet.

Earth jurisprudence calls for new legal systems that move beyond a property law paradigm for solving environmental challenges. It affirms the interdependent relationship between humanity and the natural world, and strives to balance the needs of both. It is rooted in an evolutionary cosmology that understands humanity is a part of a much larger whole.

[How is it different from environmental law?]

Earth jurisprudence is a strand of environmental law. However, environmental law generally takes an anthropocentric (human centered) approach to law. The barometer is usually what is good for the human community, not what is needed for the health of the wider community that sustains life and health. Environmental law is based in a property law approach: All that exists is there to be owned, controlled and made available for human use. It seldom recognizes the needs of other species or the soil.

Earth jurisprudence takes a more eco-centric and systemic approach that recognizes the inherent value of all members of creation. It advocates the recognition of biological and cultural diversity, the interconnected linkages and communion among all beings and natural processes, and the intrinsic value of all components of the environmental and human community in its legal approaches.

Earth jurisprudence advocates consideration of expanded legal standing for natural entities, greater recognition of the cumulative impact of pollution, inclusion of the precautionary principle, and advancement of the public trust concept for protection of the commons. It recognizes that current environmental law is generally too narrow to adequately address the cumulative impact of ecosystem erosion, climate change and ecological refugees.

[Why did Barry Law School form the Center for Earth Jurisprudence?]

Initially, in 2006, Barry University entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with St. Thomas University to sponsor the Center for Earth Jurisprudence at each of the law schools. The presidents and law school deans of both Catholic universities understood the urgency to address the mounting environmental deterioration as a part of their Catholic identity and as being consonant with Catholic social teaching to care for creation.

The Barry Law School faculty was the first in the nation to approve a seminar on principles of Earth jurisprudence, held in spring 2007. The *Barry Law Review* hosted the first national symposium on Earth jurisprudence in February 2008, in conjunction with the Center for Earth Jurisprudence. Today, the Center is a signature piece of Barry Law School as it develops curriculum and partnerships with other environmental organizations.

[How does the CEJ align with the mission of the law school?]

The Center for Earth Jurisprudence aligns itself directly with the law school's mission to develop graduates who have the skills and knowledge necessary to serve the good of society through competent and ethical practice of law. Part of accepting one's intellectual, personal, ethical, spiritual and social responsibilities is understanding the

NATIVE PLANTS TO BEAUTIFY CAMPUS

When construction on the new Legal Advocacy Center on the Barry Law School campus is completed this summer, the landscaping around the building will exclusively feature native plants and trees. Native landscaping requires less fertilizing, water and maintenance, making it better for the environment.

Among the plants that will be used are the saw palmetto (*pictured*), whose flowers are an important source of honey, and the yaupon holly (*pictured*), whose fruit is an important food source for many birds.

Scott Foyt, a third-year student and a member of the editorial board for the Earth Jurisprudence and Environmental Justice Journal, stands with Dean Leticia M. Diaz and Professor Pat Tolan, faculty advisor for the Environmental Law Society, with plants native to Florida that will be used in landscaping around the new Legal Advocacy Center.



A Voice *for* the Earth:

context and needs of the community in which we live. CEJ provides a wider context, an Earth community

context, in which future lawyers can advise clients in the care of ecological as well as human justice. Encouraging each student to become a caring person aware of the ecological responsibilities facing the global community today is essential to the mission of Barry Law School.

[What are some accomplishments by the CEJ in its short time of existence?]

The most significant accomplishment of the CEJ at Barry Law School is its participation with faculty and the other environmental initiatives at Barry Law School, particularly the Earth Advocacy Clinic, in designing the Honors Certificate program in Environmental Law, Jurisprudence and Justice. This certificate program began in January and already has 20 enrolled students.

A second major accomplishment was its participation in the approval of the electronic *Earth Jurisprudence and Environmental Justice Journal*, staffed and edited by Barry Law students. The first edition will be published this spring.

In addition to hosting the Symposium on Earth Jurisprudence in 2008, the *Barry Law Review* published the first law review issue dedicated to concept of Earth jurisprudence in 2009. CEJ publishes select student papers in the field of Earth jurisprudence on its website, earthjuris.org.

CEJ sponsors environmental law-related educational programs and an annual conference on future generations, and publishes a quarterly electronic newsletter, *Groundswell*. CEJ has just completed the first chapter of *Voices of Earth Jurisprudence*, an electronic teaching unit to be used by environmental law professors nationally and internationally. In addition, as the executive director of the center, I have spoken at regional and national events on Earth jurisprudence and extending legal consideration of nature. Recent presentations include one at the Brandeis Law School at the University of Louisville and in a webinar for the Environmental and Land Use Section of the Florida Bar. The Center is moving forward in partnering with appropriate environmental organizations in developing summer fellowships for students, as well.

A major accomplishment of the CEJ at St. Thomas University Law School is the design and implementation of an LL.M. in Environmental Sustainability that will begin in fall 2011. This is the legacy program of CEJ at St. Thomas. Two Barry Law School graduates have applied to that program.

[How are students at Barry involved with the CEJ?]

Barry students are participating in the ELJJ Honors Certificate Program. The *Law Review* sponsored the first Earth jurisprudence symposium and published the first *Law Review* issue on Earth jurisprudence. They serve as the editorial board of the new *Earth Jurisprudence and Environmental Justice Journal*, which will have its first edition published this spring. Top students enrolled in the Principles of Earth Jurisprudence course are invited to publish their final Earth jurisprudence papers on the student publication section of the CEJ's website. Students also volunteer at the various CEJ educational events, and some will participate in the future fellowships sponsored by the Center with select environmental organization partners.

[What particular environmental issues are currently priorities for the CEJ?]

The CEJ is not working on one specific issue but rather on the interconnected web of issues that contribute to environmental deterioration and, in the alternative, on ecological sustainability. The current legal system generally legitimates environmental devastation in the name of short-term economic benefits. The Center's role is to advocate the use of legal tools that will protect the long-term viability and ecological sustainability of the entire larger community. Its primary mission is to further a shift in consciousness that recognizes humanity's inherent dependence upon and oneness with the larger community that Earth provides, and to provide legal protection for the systems that sustain life. This is consistent with Barry Law School's Catholic and Dominican identities.

[How does the CEJ plan to provide long-term protection toward the environment?]

The CEJ first strives to shift the paradigm from human-centered concern to include the interests of the larger ecological community as well. Secondly, it strives to design legal education for interested students and legal representatives that will increase the legal consideration of nature. This could be done through expanding concepts of legal standing for natural ecosystems, for creating guardianships for certain environmental entities so that their interests are included at the policy table, for encouraging local governmental and state jurisdictions to claim their responsibilities as trustees for the public commons, and for expanding citizens' understanding that the public welfare now needs to include the health and well-being of the environmental community as well. There can no longer be a public "good" if it does not include the well-being of the larger community that sustains life: water, soil, air, plants and animals — as well as vibrant cultural and human communities.

[How does the CEJ collaborate with other entities focused on environmental law?]

In addition to supporting the other environmental initiatives at the Barry Law School, such as the Environmental Responsibility Committee, Earth Advocacy Clinic and *Earth Jurisprudence and Environmental Justice Journal*, the CEJ is collaborating with several excellent environmental law centers that carry threads of an Earth jurisprudence approach as they also work on how to best recalibrate the law to better protect nature's systems as a whole. CEJ is building on what's gone on before, especially with the thinking of conservationist Aldo Leopold and philosopher Thomas Berry and with the initiatives of the Global Alliance for the Rights of Mother Earth.

Continued collaboration with other law schools, practitioners and people who carry concern for the health of the environment as a social, moral, spiritual and legal issue is critical. As a Catholic law school, we are expected to meet our ethical and moral responsibilities to care for the future of life ... all life. As St. Thomas Aquinas wrote in the 13th century, everything created reveals some aspect of the divine. It is our unique responsibility and duty to make sure this revelation of awe and wonder is carried into the future and not diminished. [3](#)

More information on the Center for Earth Jurisprudence is available at earthjuris.org.

A FRIEND OF THE EARTH

With social responsibility as one of its core values, Barry Law School is committed to being a friend of the Earth. The school's effort to address environmental issues is demonstrated by its activities, practices and scholarship.

Barry Law School recently held two conferences focused on pressing environmental concerns. In February, the Center for Earth Jurisprudence hosted its second annual Future Generations Conference. Titled "Water Justice for All," the one-day conference focused on the importance of water in all areas of the ecosystem and the coming challenges to meet demand for clean water. Maude Barlow, an international environmental leader, author, and former senior advisor on water to the 63rd President of the United Nations General Assembly, gave the keynote address.

The Future Generations conference represents an ongoing effort by the Center for Earth Jurisprudence to provide education and probe significant areas of the essential task of this generation: reconciling current human needs and the needs of future generations of all species.

In October, the law school held the second Environmental Justice Summit, which drew nearly 100 law students, academics and local residents. Dr. Robert D. Bullard, who serves as director of the Environmental Justice Resource Center at Clark Atlanta University and has been called "the father of environmental justice," delivered the keynote address.

The summit, titled "Collaborating to Achieve Environmental Justice," was presented by the law school's Environmental Responsibility Committee



Dean Leticia M. Diaz (left) with Dr. Robert D. Bullard, director of the Environmental Justice Resource Center at Clark Atlanta University, and Jeanne Zokovitch, director of the Earth Advocacy Clinic at Barry Law School

and three student organizations: the Environmental Law Society, the Black Law Students Association, and the Hispanic American Law Students Association. The summit was funded in part by the Environmental and Land Use Law Section (ELULS) of the Florida Bar.

The Barry Law School faculty has also made the environment a focus in its scholarship. Dean Leticia M. Diaz has coauthored articles with Professor Barry Hart Dubner on the destruction of the environment as it relates to international law of the sea. In addition, Professor Judith Koons recently published an article on Earth jurisprudence.



Professor Mitch Frank with trial team members (from left) Kaley Austin-Aronson, Kristina Sexton and Kimberly Chavers

Championship Advocacy Teams State Their Case

With an eye on becoming a litigator, Margalie Fenelus joined the Barry Law School trial team after watching the team present a dynamic closing argument during her orientation in 2008. Now on the verge of graduation, Fenelus is part of a trial team that is among the most accomplished in the nation, and she is confident the ability she has displayed in mock trials will benefit her when she handles her first real case.

"Being on the trial team and the successes that our team has had, I have the skills that will let me hit the ground running."

—MARGALIE FENELUS
PRESIDENT,
BARRY TRIAL TEAM

"Being on the trial team and the successes that our team has had, I have the skills that will let me hit the ground running," said Fenelus, who is president of the trial team and is set to graduate in May. "Job interviewers have told me that the experience I have on the trial team gives me an edge over others who will be learning from scratch."

In her final year on the trial team, Fenelus and the team have attained new levels of success, earning them a place among the elite teams in the nation. In its first five competitions, the Barry Law trial team won two championships, reached the finals at another, and also achieved a final four appearance.

But Barry Law's success in advocacy competition isn't limited to the trial team. The moot court team has also established itself as a contender on the national stage, recently evidenced by a runner-up finish at the 17th Annual Burton D. Wechsler First Amendment Moot Court Competition in Washington, D.C. last October.

The success of the trial team and the moot court team stems from an emphasis by Barry Law School on teaching students advocacy skills. Those skills learned in the classroom are then put into practice in the courtroom under the guidance of Barry Law faculty and the coaches who prepare the teams for competition.

"We stress the importance of teaching our students a combination of legal theory and practice. When they graduate, they are equipped with the skills to practice law from day one," explained Leticia M. Diaz, dean of Barry Law School.

For the trial team's sustained success, Mitch Frank, associate professor and faculty advisory for the team, credits the law school administration and faculty, the students who put in long hours of preparation and perform in pressure-packed competitions, and the dozen volunteer coaches, most of whom have full-time law practices but still devote numerous hours to the teams. And as the team builds on its achievements, it has

TRIAL TEAM RECENT ADVOCACY ACHIEVEMENTS

CHAMPIONS

- ABA Quinnipiac School of Law Trial Advocacy Competition, October 2010, Hamden, Conn.
- Michigan State National Trial Advocacy Competition, October 2010, East Lansing, Mich.
- American Association of Justice Regional, March 2010, Seattle
- Georgetown Law Center White Collar Crime Tournament, November 2009, Washington, D.C.
- ABA University of Puerto Rico Trial Advocacy Competition, October 2008, San Juan, Puerto Rico
- ABA National Criminal Justice Trial Advocacy Competition, March 2008, Chicago



FINALIST

- Chester E. Bedell/Florida Bar Trial Team Competition, January 2011, Orlando
- ABA University of Puerto Rico Trial Advocacy Competition, October 2009, San Juan, Puerto Rico
- ABA National Criminal Justice Trial Advocacy Competition, March 2010, Chicago
- American Association of Justice Regional, March 2009, Las Vegas
- National Trial Competition (TYLA) Regional, February 2009, Tallahassee, Fla.
- American Association of Justice Regional, March 2008, Las Vegas
- Chester E. Bedell/Florida Bar Trial Team Competition, January 2008, Miami

FINAL FOUR

- Georgetown Law Center White Collar Crime Tournament, November 2010, Washington, D.C.
- American Association of Justice Regional, March 2009, Las Vegas
- American Association of Justice Regional, March 2008, Las Vegas
- Chester E. Bedell/Florida Bar Trial Team Competition, January 2008, Miami
- Michigan State National Trial Advocacy Competition, October 2007, East Lansing, Mich.

ELITE EIGHT

- Buffalo-Niagara Trial Team Competition, November 2009, Buffalo, N.Y.
- Buffalo-Niagara Trial Team Competition, November 2008, Buffalo, N.Y.

developed a system to ensure continued success.

“Over the trial team’s 12-year existence, our processes have all become standardized and streamlined — from how students try out for the team, to how we prepare for each competition during the seven or eight weeks customarily needed, and even to when we arrive at the competitions,” said Frank. “This ensures no wasted effort, and no need to reinvent the wheel, from competition to competition.”

In moot court competition, where appellate advocacy is involved, the Barry Law team relies on a combination of writing skills and an ability to make compelling oral arguments.

“The written brief can count up to 40 percent of scores, so we not only need good oralists, we need good writers,” said Terri Day, professor and faculty advisor for the moot court board. “Our success depends on good brief writing, real dedication and lots of preparation.”

MOOT COURT BOARD

RECENT ADVOCACY ACHIEVEMENTS

FINALIST

- Burton D. Wechsler First Amendment Moot Court Competition, October 2010, Washington D.C.
- Domenick L. Gabrielli National Family Law Competition, February 2008, Albany, N.Y.

ELITE EIGHT

- ABA National Appellate Advocacy Competition Regionals, February 2011, Washington, D.C.
- William B. Spong Moot Court Tournament, February 2009, Williamsburg, Va.

The emphasis on preparation by both teams is a critical component of their ability to advance in competitions, but also in allowing students to put the theories and skills they learn in the classroom into practice.

“Moot court allows you to put everything you learned in Legal Research and Writing into practice and sharpen your skills outside the classroom,” said Heather Meglino, vice justice of the moot court board.



Professor Terri Day with moot court board members (from left) Brian Kozlowski, Leanne Palmer and John Berry

“Taking a brief from start to finish and making sure that it complies with all the competition rules, re-researching complex legal issues, and crafting legal arguments are some of the skills advocates develop as part of the team. It also helps you to gain confidence in speaking before a panel of judges.”

Fenelus has also gained skills and self-

assurance from her trial team experience.

“Trial team has given me a confidence that I can have a better presence in the courtroom. Learning evidence, learning how to properly respond to objections, how to make closing arguments, how to put on a trial — these are great tools for a litigant to have in their arsenal,” she said.

Those tools learned in the advocacy programs not only give students an edge in competitions, but also once they graduate.

“Team members learn work habits and skills that are beneficial and often essential to their success in practice,” said Frank. “Competitors must become highly efficient in the use of their time as their normally rigorous class work requirements do not cease. They learn to work extraordinarily hard because that is what is needed to achieve excellence. These habits are essential to success in any area of the practice of law, not just trial work.”

While students on the trial team practice trial advocacy and are trained in making persuasive arguments, questioning and cross-examining witnesses, and responding to evidentiary arguments and objections, the emphasis on writing in moot court develops a different skill set.

“Moot court is recognized by many judges as a very academic endeavor,” said Day. “For federal clerkships, many judges are taking applicants with law review or moot court experience because of its academic component. Students are presented with very complicated cases and have to learn the area of law, write the brief and be knowledgeable and quick-thinking in oral arguments when the judges question them.”

With many former trial team and moot court team members now arguing real cases in real courtrooms, new classes will be called upon to continue their success. It’s a challenge that Barry Law is ready for.

“The bar has been raised extremely high,” said Frank. “New students know they are expected to not only meet it, but raise it higher for those who will follow them.” ■



Meeting of the Student Board Association

A Day in the Life of BARRY LAW

PHOTOS BY
PHELAN M. EBENHACK



The Barry Law School campus is much more than brick and mortar. On a daily basis, the campus is filled with students passionate about justice, professors seeking ways to advance the legal profession, and services that assist the community at large. These photos on the following pages give a glimpse of the breadth and variety of the activities at Barry Law in a single day.

A Day in the Life of BARRY LAW

SCHOOL OF LAW



Professor Pat Tolan conducts class



VITA program
welcomes clients



Internship interview with Army JAG



Conference attendees break for lunch



Students study in the library



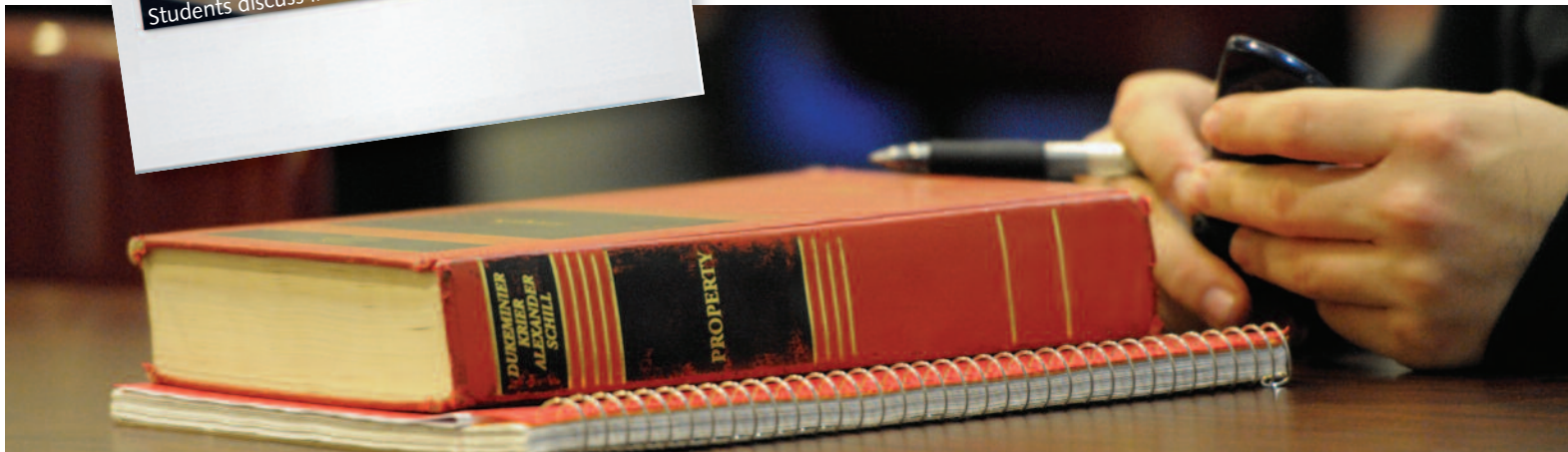
Class in the moot courtroom



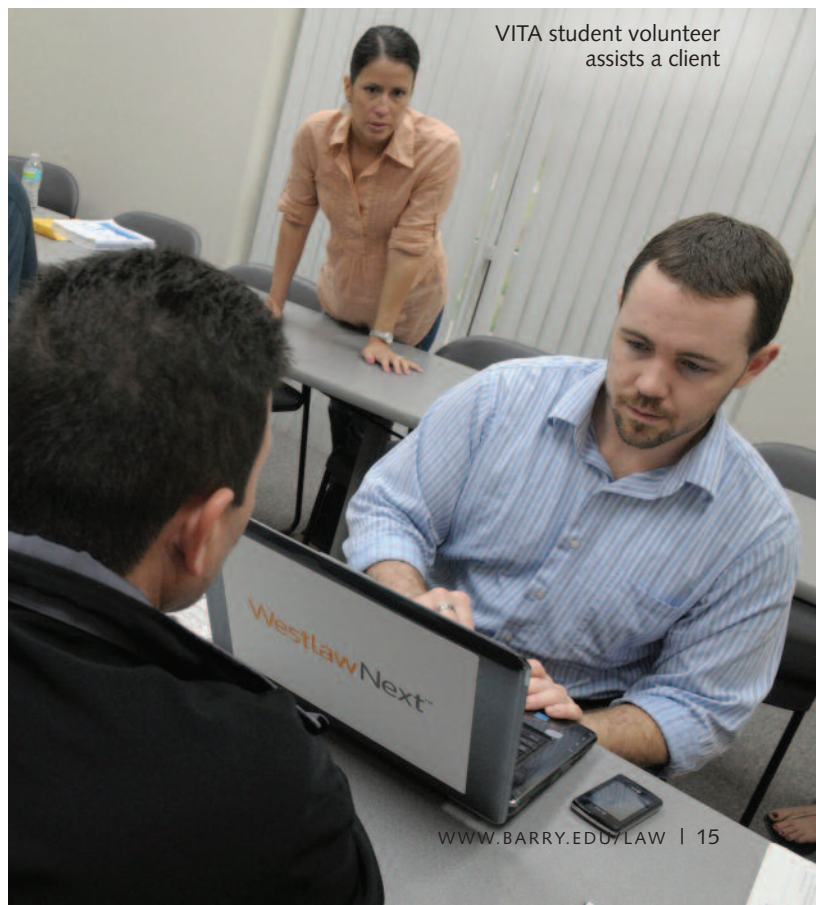
Students discuss in class



Dean Leticia M. Diaz presents to faculty



Construction on Legal Advocacy Center



VITA student volunteer assists a client



A Dominican Foundation, and the Search for Truth

Sister Attracta Kelly, OP, Esq., prioress of the Dominican Sisters of Adrian, visited the Barry Law School in November. As part of her visit, she spoke to faculty and staff about the history of the Dominican Sisters of Adrian, their mission, their sponsorship of Barry University, and how the university and law school reflect their mission. Here is an excerpt from her presentation:



The Dominican Sisters of Adrian go back a long way. In 1206, Dominic Guzman, a Spaniard, founded the order of women in Prouille, France. Later, men became part of Dominic's Order of Preachers, and later the Order became known as the Dominican order, after Dominic. Its mission from the beginning was to speak truth to both church and society.

Dominic designed the Order with the foundation of freedom for its members that made possible joyful response to the movement of the Spirit and the needs of the times.

The order spread quickly all over Western Europe, and in 1853, four Dominican Sisters came from Germany to New York. Between 1879 and 1880, eight Sisters from that foundation in New York came to St Mary's and St Joseph's Catholic schools in Adrian, Michigan. However, we trace our actual foundation in Adrian to 1884 when six Sisters came to open a hospital for railroad accident cases.

Today we are over 900 Sisters and Associates, ministering in 31 states as well as in the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Canada, Italy, and Swaziland. We are involved in all areas of education, from preschool to presidents of universities. We are nurses, social workers, doctors, parish workers, lawyers, administrators of hospitals and other nonprofit organizations.

Our Mission as Dominican women is to share faith and life with each other and to be with others to bring about the reign of God, "to try to forge a new way for humans to live with each other, a new way of structuring society in which the foundational values for all laws and economic policies and international relationships will be compassion that calls for and animates justice." (Paul Knitter, "Mission and Dialogue," *Missiology: an International Review*, Vol. XXXIII, no. 2, 3 April 2005).

We meet every six years to assess how we are living, who we say we are, and to plan for the next six years. When we met in February of 2010, this is what we committed ourselves to for the next six years:

*Our Vision continues to impel us as contemplative ecclesial women, global citizens, and humans in God's unfolding universe:
We commit to live simply and sustainably for the sake of the whole Earth community.
We commit to study worldviews and emerging theologies informed by science and our suffering world.
We commit to open our hearts to the other and deepen our understanding of diverse cultures and beliefs.
We commit to claim our moral authority to speak truth in Church and society in the spirit of Catherine of Siena.
We call one another to mutual accountability and transformation.*

—General Chapter 2010

Now when I say we commit ourselves, I don't mean just us 800-plus Dominican Sisters as individuals. We do this through our ministries wherever we are, and especially through the institutions we sponsor.

In Florida, our Sisters are involved in numerous ministries. However, we, as the Dominican Sisters of Adrian, sponsor two institutions in Florida: Rosarian Academy in West Palm Beach and Barry University with its main campus in Miami and this wonderful law school in Orlando.

Barry University, the founder of Barry Law School, had its beginnings, according to what I read recently, in a scrub- and palmetto-studded 40 acres in what is now Miami Shores. Like the elm house in Adrian, it too had a rather bleak beginning when ground was broken in January 1940. When Barry College opened in September 1940, 14 faculty — 11 sisters, one priest and two lay people — were on hand to instruct the 47 students enrolled.

The Mission of Barry University today states:

In the Catholic intellectual tradition, integration of study, reflection and action inform the intellectual life. It fosters individual and communal transformation where learning leads to knowledge and truth, reflection leads to informed action, and a commitment to social justice leads to collaborative service. It provides opportunities for affirming our Catholic identity, Dominican heritage, and collegiate traditions. Catholic beliefs and values are enriched by ecumenical and interfaith dialog. Through worship and ritual, we celebrate our religious identity while remaining a University community where all are welcome.

Your law school's mission is to offer a quality legal education in a caring, diverse environment. A Catholic-oriented institution, Barry

Law School challenges students to accept intellectual, personal, ethical, spiritual, and social responsibilities, and commits itself to assuring an atmosphere of religious freedom.

So why should a Catholic university, a Dominican university, put its name and support behind a law school? When Barry University bought this law school in 1999, the hope was that it would further the unique mission of Barry University and its sponsor, the Dominican Sisters of Adrian. As Dominican Sisters, we expect all of the institutions we sponsor to reflect our mission and vision as well. Your mission indicates that Barry Law School advances the mission of both Barry University and the Adrian Dominican Sisters, its founder and sponsor, when among other things, faculty and students strive to enhance a caring and diverse environment. It is in such an environment that faculty, staff and students can reflect on Catholic intellectual and social thought, as it is enunciated by the Dominican Sisters of Adrian. It is through this study and reflection that students are encouraged to take on

the most pressing legal, justice, and public-policy issues that affect the most poor and vulnerable and the needs of our planet.

A Catholic law school, and the Catholic university of which it is a part, at their very best, draw on centuries of Catholic learning and intellectual tradition. For Barry, that would include, I hope, the centuries of Dominican tradition in our search for truth. My hope is that as a Catholic law school, like the Catholic university of which you are a part, you recognize

there is truth, not simply ideas, perspectives, and arguments, and that each of you and your students experience truth in your encounter with the living God in every person you meet each day and in all of God's creation. ■



Sister Attracta Kelly (center) with Dean Leticia M. Diaz (left) and Sister Patricia Sieman, coordinator of mission integration at Barry Law School

TONYA MEISTER: A Sea of Compassion



"I had tears in my eyes after the decision because it had significant, far-reaching consequences to protect seafarers and make sure they are not taken advantage of by ship owners."

— Tonya Meister

When oil gushed into the Gulf of Mexico last summer at an estimated rate of 2.5 million gallons per day, Tonya Meister (JD '03) was at the ready. Having recently become board certified in admiralty and maritime law, Meister was prepared to do what she does best — fight for the underdog.

It was helping people who depend on the sea for their livelihood that drew Meister to maritime law. Working on a sailboat in The Bahamas during a summer job while in college exposed her to the conditions that the boat's crew had to endure. She knew then that she wanted to fight for the rights of people who work on the water.

"Growing up, I always wanted to be an attorney helping people," said Meister. "Through my experience in The Bahamas, I saw the plight of the seaman. That is why I wanted to focus on maritime law."

While earning her law degree at Barry, Meister volunteered with the Space Coast Seafarers Ministry in Cape Canaveral to satisfy the volunteer requirement in a maritime context for graduation. Upon graduation and admittance to the Florida Bar in 2003, Meister began work at Morgan and Barbary, P.A. in Melbourne, Fla. But since she was the only attorney at the firm focusing on maritime law, it was up to her to secure clients. Then her volunteer work with the Seafarers Ministry

paid dividends when the organization referred her first case.

The case involved a crewmember of a ship that later went bankrupt. Meister fought for the crewmembers and was able to secure back pay, severance pay and travel back to their home countries. As the crewmembers continued to work on other ships, they referred work to Meister and she was able to build a practice.

"Maritime law is very specialized, so it was a little scary starting out," said Meister. "To build a practice, it's important to treat people how you want to be treated. They will remember you and they will refer you other business."

Meister then moved on to Lipcon, Margulies & Alsina, P.A., a firm in Miami specializing in maritime and admiralty law. It was there that Meister began work on an amicus brief submitted to the U.S. Supreme Court on behalf of Port Ministries International. The brief demonstrated the harsh conditions seafarers face, and the landmark decision in the case — *Atlantic Sounding Co. v. Townsend* — upheld the rights of seafarers.

"I had tears in my eyes after the decision because it had significant, far-reaching consequences to protect seafarers and make sure they are not taken advantage of by ship owners," said Meister. "It was an important

decision and I was honored to have the opportunity to be involved in it."

Meister left Lipcon, Margulies, and Alsina, P.A., in 2009 to open her own practice. The next year, the BP oil spill affected the livelihoods of tens of thousands of businesses along the Gulf Coast, and a law firm in Louisiana enlisted Meister's help in taking on BP and aiding those affected in Florida. Fortunately, the oil didn't impact Florida as extensively as was initially feared, and Meister helped those affected navigate the claims process but she did not take any cases.

"I gave out a lot of free legal advice in advising people on the claims process," said Meister. "I'm busy and successful by focusing on things that I feel good about, so I didn't feel good about taking people's money when they could claim it themselves."

Meister, whose sister Tamara graduated from Barry Law in 2008 and works as a public defender in Melbourne, Fla., is focused on building her practice, with ultimate goals for expansion. Her passion remains in maritime law and helping those in need.

"I love maritime law. I've always loved the water, so this type of practice fits me," said Meister. "I like to help the underdog. For me, to help someone makes it worth staying at work late or sacrificing personal time because I really believe in what I'm doing."

ERIC HIRES: Back in the Game

When Eric Hires (JD '00) graduated with his bachelor's degree in business management from the University of Central Florida in 1985, it marked the end of his football playing days. Sports were put on the back burner, but they were not forgotten.

More than two decades after playing his last down, and with a law degree from Barry in hand, Hires reentered the sports arena — this time representing pro football players in contract negotiations. In 2006, he earned certification through the National Football League Players Association and became a certified contract advisor. In addition to NFL players, Hires has also represented players in other professional football leagues, including the Arena Football League and United Football League.

"I've always had an affinity for sports, as an athlete and as an avid sports fan," said Hires. "I knew I wanted to do something connected to the sports industry."

Hires didn't plan on his law degree serving as an entry into the sports business. He became interested in the legal field while working as a claims adjuster for Liberty Mutual Insurance Company, handling workers' compensation, personal injury and general liability claims. He then left the insurance industry to become a paralegal, and soon enrolled in law school to pursue a degree.

After graduating from Barry Law and becoming a member of the Florida Bar in 2004, Hires began practicing in the areas of personal injury and workers' compensation — the same areas that initially drew him to legal work. But in 2008, Hires established his own law office in Orlando so he could focus more on his work in the sports industry.

"In law school I thought I wanted to be



"I've always had an affinity for sports, as an athlete and as an avid sports fan. I knew I wanted to do something connected to the sports industry."

— Eric Hires

a litigation trial attorney, and I still do some of that, but I wanted to have the autonomy to do other things," he said. "There's a lot of risk involved and the sports industry is very competitive, but I decided it was a good opportunity to strike out on my own."

Hires continues to handle personal injury and workers' compensation claims while he works to expand the sports side of the business.

"I still like the practice of law and still enjoy litigation and injury claims, but my true love is the sports arena," said Hires, who also teaches a sports law class in the legal studies department at UCF. "Sports law is the area I want to develop and grow."

One of the first graduates of Barry Law

School, Hires has remained closely connected with the school. He received the 2008 Distinguished Alumni Award, has served on the Board of Advisors, and will sing the national anthem at the commencement ceremony in May — reprising a role he has played at several other Barry Law commencements. His continued involvement reflects his appreciation for the school equipping him with skills that have allowed him to succeed.

"I'm very thankful for the opportunity Barry gave me," Hires says. "I'm invested in seeing the school succeed, and everything I do I want to be a positive reflection for Barry. The law school gave me an opportunity to pursue my dreams and my goal."



MATT FARR: Flying High

When Matt Farr (JD '07) is presented a challenge, he knows only one way to approach it: complete commitment. That approach drove him during his work as a computer engineer, continued when he began a second career in the legal field, and may be best illustrated in his love of flying.

Growing up around planes in Anchorage, Alaska, Farr always dreamed of being a pilot and earned his pilot's license after completing flight school in 1995. But it was only recently, through perseverance and commitment, that he was able to fulfill the ultimate flight goal — owning his own plane.

Farr flies the plane, a 1969 Beechcraft Baron, as a hobby but also uses it to travel to Massachusetts six times a year where he serves in the U.S. Air Force Reserve at Hanscom Air Force Base. Farr has over 20 years of service in the Air Force as an ICBM launch officer and computer engineer, including seven years of active service.

When he's not in the air or spending time with his wife and two daughters, Farr operates his own law firm, The Farr Group, in Orlando. He started the firm in 2009 after originally partnering with Barry Law classmate Jennifer Frericks (JD '07).

"Starting my own firm was the best thing I ever did," said Farr. "It took becoming an attorney to realize that I could be my own boss."

Farr and his associate do work in probate, bankruptcy, wills, trusts and estates, but the main focus of the firm is on immigration law.

"I speak fluent Spanish, so immigration law is a natural fit," said Farr, who learned the second language as an exchange student in Paraguay during high school. "Immigration law is very different from any other law that I've dealt with. It's constantly changing and can be very complex. But I love what I do."

Farr turned to the legal field after working more than a decade as a software engineer. In that field, he thrived on the thrill of the hunt and even worked late nights for weeks at a time to complete a project. That

drive transferred over when he enrolled at Barry Law School in 2004.

"I took it very seriously and was very involved. I wanted to learn, so I was very active in class and worked hard."

He served as editor-in-chief of the *Barry Law Review* and graduated cum laude. The skill set and commitment that drove him through his engineering career and law school has also served him well as an attorney.

"When I'm on the hunt, I'm absolutely obsessive about it," he said. "When I'm doing a case, my drive is to win. I'm going to research it so I know more than the opposing attorney, without a doubt."

He also sees some of that same commitment from his former Barry Law classmates.

"The alumni are making an impact in the community," said Farr, who served as vice president of the Barry Law School Alumni Chapter in 2010. "The reputation is building because our graduates are going to court and doing a good job. People are noticing it."

People are also noticing Farr, whether it's in the courtroom or in the skies above them.

WILLIAM VOIGHT, EDWARD COMBS JR., AMY MAI: A Firm Friendship

Even before the collapse of the world's financial system, William C. Voight II (JD '09) saw the need for financial planners with a greater breadth of knowledge. He co-founded Hummel Voight, a financial firm in Orlando, in 2004 and wanted to provide clients with more than just advice on where to invest their money. His solution? A law degree from Barry.

Voight attended the part-time program at Barry Law while his Hummel Voight co-founder sought to become a certified financial planner. Voight pursued legal education to enhance and diversify the services his financial firm provides.

"We wanted to offer our clients the best quality of service and bring different pieces to the puzzle that they would need," said Voight. "It's really worked out well for our clients."

Upon completing his law degree in 2009, Voight continued management of Hummel Voight while also establishing a separate law firm. To build the firm, Voight sought the help of former classmates at Barry, Edward Combs Jr. (JD '10) and Amy Mai (JD '09). Together, the trio now forms Emeritus, PA, with offices in Maitland, Fla.

The general practice firm provides a wide range of legal services, from estate planning to family law to securities law.

In establishing their practice, the three former classmates benefit from their close relationship.

"In a small office, it helps that we've become good friends working together," said Mai. "Our friendship has grown from working with one another."

The firm also stays close to the law school, frequently reaching out to Barry faculty for advice and consultation.

"We're not in this alone. We still have the whole Barry family as a resource," said Combs.

Voight and his fellow graduates want to grow Emeritus, and the firm has launched a giving project in which they will provide free simple wills for the teacher and support person of the year at Orange County Public Schools. The project means Emeritus will grant up to 350 simple wills at no cost for the educators.

Emeritus has hired Barry Law students as interns, and when they do decide to add more attorneys they will again turn to their alma mater.

"We like to look at Barry first," said Voight.



STAY CONNECTED!

Make sure you receive Barry Law alumni news, information and event invitations by keeping your contact information current. Updates can be made:

ONLINE: <http://lawalumni.barry.edu>

E-MAIL: lawalumni@mail.barry.edu

MAIL:

Barry University
Dwayne O. Andreas School of Law
Office of Institutional Advancement
6441 East Colonial Drive
Orlando, FL 32807

SHARE YOUR NEWS!

Let your classmates know what you're doing.

SUBMIT YOUR CLASS NOTES to lawalumni@mail.barry.edu or online at <http://lawalumni.barry.edu>.

Law Alumni Chapter

President: Eric DuBois (JD '00)

Vice President: Rob Witt (JD '09)

Secretary: Alexandra Steele (JD '06)



Alumni Association Adds Class Reps

The Barry Law Alumni Chapter has installed two representatives from each graduating class in an initiative to enhance communication and participation in the alumni chapter. The class representatives, working with the Law Alumni Chapter officers, will connect with their former classmates to keep them informed and involved in alumni activities.



Alumni class representatives gather at *Orlando Magazine's* Best Lawyers celebration at the University Club on March 3.

2011 Class Representatives

2000: David Katz and Sidney Roman
 2001: Mark Matovina and Thomas Delattre
 2002: Terry Covert and Ada Aviles-Yaeger
 2003: Pamela Padilla and Ralph White
 2004: Hector DeJesus and Davi Toole
 2005: Michael Damaso and Susan Savard
 2006: Amber Neilson-Davis and Hope Newsome
 2007: Stephanie Knott and Priscilla Rivers
 2008: Sultana Haque and Susan Morris
 2009: William Voight and Kerry Adams
 2010: Scott Lindquist and Ryan Cipparone

Photographer Shares Haiti's Suffering

In his 25 years as a photojournalist, Patrick Farrell has travelled much of the world covering major breaking news for the *Miami Herald*. But it would all pale in comparison to the devastation and suffering he witnessed in Haiti, first following a brutal hurricane season in 2009 and then after the earthquake that left an estimated 230,000 people dead in 2010.

"Nothing had prepared me for what I saw in Haiti," said Farrell.

Farrell, who won a Pulitzer Prize in 2009 for the images he captured in Haiti after it was ravaged by hurricanes, shared some of



© PATRICK FARRELL

his work at an interactive photo presentation at the law school on Jan. 20. He told the audience of students, faculty and community members about the heartbreaking stories behind the photos, and how the pictures helped spur relief efforts for the troubled nation.

Farrell's presentation, titled "The People and Land of Haiti," was held to mark the one-year anniversary of the Jan. 12 earthquake in Haiti and to honor the principles and values of Martin Luther King Jr.

The event was organized by the Barry University School of Law Mission Effectiveness Committee, the Black Law Students Association, and the First Unitarian Church of Orlando. Farrell also gave a presentation at the First Unitarian Church. Both events were free, but donations for Partners in Health were collected and more than \$1,200 was raised in support of a new hospital the organization is building in Mirebalais, Haiti.



Sister Patricia Siemen with photographer Patrick Farrell

Student Chosen for Supreme Learning Experience

After enduring a childhood marked with poverty and periods of homelessness, second-year law student Mark Campbell wants to help other kids in difficult situations. For his dedication to this cause, he was chosen to attend oral arguments at the U.S. Supreme Court on March 1 in the case of *Greene v. Camreta*.

Campbell was invited to attend the case by Families Best Interest, Inc., which coordinated attorneys, organizations and law schools that have produced more than 25 amicus briefs for the case. According to Families Best Interest, Inc., Campbell was selected because he “best demonstrated the character, leadership and compassion for those less fortunate that our organization embraces.”

Campbell has done volunteer work with at-risk families and served as a Guardian Ad Litem in Volusia County. His *Law Review* topic is on the *Greene v. Camreta* case, which involves the issue of whether police and social workers must obtain a warrant before interviewing children about possible abuse without parental consent.

“It’s hard to describe what an honor this was,” said Campbell, who also was able to meet the organizations and attorneys involved in the case and observe their preparation work before the arguments. “There is so much important history at the Supreme Court. It was also a great opportunity to make a lot of good contacts who can serve as mentors for me.”



Students Rise Up for Debate

A week before the November elections that shifted political power in the U.S., a group of students from the Barry Law School organized a debate in one of the most watched races: Florida’s 8th Congressional District.



Dean Leticia M. Diaz with students from the Public Leadership Initiative

Students in the newly formed Public Leadership Initiative were involved in all aspects of organizing the Oct. 27 debate, which was dubbed the “Showdown on the I-4 Corridor” and cosponsored by the law school and the *Orlando Sentinel*. The debate took place at the Winter Park Civic Center and featured three of the four candidates that ran for the seat eventually won by Republican Daniel Webster.

The event drew local and national media attention. Greg Fox, a reporter with WESH-TV Channel 2, served as the moderator. The panelists were Lauren Rowe, anchorwoman at WKMG Local 6; Scott Maxwell, columnist with the *Orlando Sentinel*; and Erin Sullivan, editor of the *Orlando Weekly*.

“It was fascinating to watch the democratic process unfold,” said John Berry, a second-year law student and a member of the Public Leadership Initiative. “Organizing the debate gave us the opportunity to work with many leaders in Central Florida.”

TO GIVE BARRY LAW GRADUATES a way to connect and share business opportunities, three alumni have turned to Facebook and created the Barry University School of Law Alumni Referral Circle. The group describes itself as a “helpful place to find fellow Barry alumni, the fields of law in which they practice, and to facilitate referrals within our community.” It boasts nearly 150 members, but users do not have to be members to participate. The group was created by Ryan Hogan (JD, '09) and is facilitated by William C. Voight II (JD '09) and Laura Valdastrì (JD '09).

To join the group on Facebook, contact William Voight at william@emerituslaw.com.



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Thomas Freeman: A Lifetime of Law

For 50 years, the law has been a part of Thomas Freeman's life. It began in the Navy, spanned a legal career that included nearly three decades of practice and a judicial post, and was passed down to his children. Now, Freeman's half-century of legal expertise contributes to Barry Law School's Board of Advisors, the continuation of a relationship with the school that was in place at its founding.

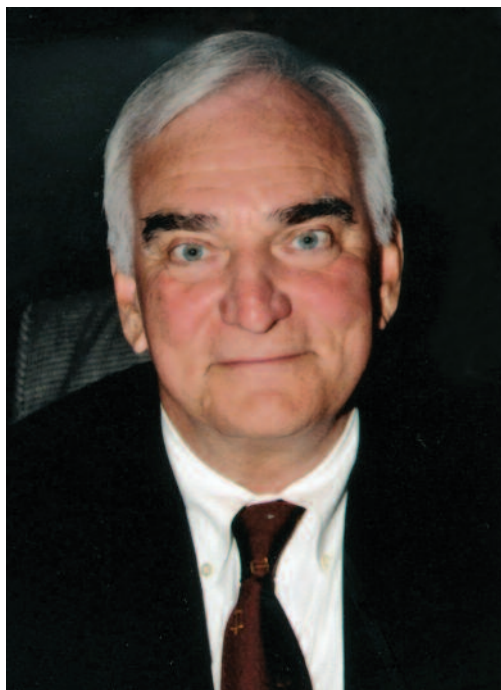
Freeman's first interest in the law came after he left his hometown of Springfield, Ill., in 1960 for Jacksonville, Fla., where he was stationed in the U.S. Navy. During his three years as a naval officer, Freeman worked with the defense counsel on several court-martials, opening a path he would follow toward legal work.

"I was drawn to the adventure of the practice of law," said Freeman. "To me, it was very exciting."

He enrolled in law school at the University of Florida, graduated in 1965, and then gained admittance to the Florida Bar. After weighing several job offers, Freeman joined a firm in Seminole County. He stayed in the county for his whole career, through 29 years of practice in the areas of real estate and probate law, and then for an appointment as a judge in Florida's 18th Judicial Circuit Court. Freeman served on the bench for 10 years before retiring in 2003, and he was presented with the Seminole County Bar Association Lifetime Achievement Award.

It was during his time as a judge that Freeman's association with Barry Law School began. He was teaching real estate law in the paralegal program at Valencia Community College when he became an adjunct professor at Barry to teach a practical skills class on drafting wills and trusts. His classes left him impressed with the school and the student body.

"Barry has always had very high-caliber students," said Freeman. "They applied themselves, were very diligent and worked very hard. The amount of talent that you had in the classroom was extraordinary. It matched the talent level of any law school in Florida. It makes teaching fun when you have an engaged class



"Barry has always had very high-caliber students. They applied themselves, were very diligent and worked very hard. The amount of talent in the classroom was extraordinary."

—Judge Thomas Freeman

and they're doing something that is a love for them."

Teaching also gave Freeman a way to promote and stay connected with the next generation of attorneys.

"He's always been very active in the legal community, and teaching was a continuation of those values he holds to promote the legal community and teach new people coming into the profession," said Freeman's daughter Nancy, who spent three years as an assistant professor of law at Barry. "He's always been a good storyteller, so he's a natural teacher."

Freeman's passion for the law inspired both his daughters to enter the legal field. Nancy is a shareholder with the law firm of Winderweede, Haines, Ward & Woodman, P.A., in Winter Park, Fla., and her sister Melanie is part of Chase Freeman, the largest law firm in Seminole County. Thomas Freeman still remains active in law, assisting Melanie's firm on cases and serving as an expert witness. And his involvement with Barry Law continues as a member of the Board of Advisors.

"We have been very fortunate to have Tom be a part of the school since the beginning. His wisdom and experience are of great value for us and he has been a terrific supporter," said Dean Leticia M. Diaz.

For Freeman, his commitment to the school is as strong as when he first started teaching.

"I have a dedication of love for Barry Law because I was there at the very beginning," he said. "The school has grown and made extraordinary progress, and is very active and involved in the Central Florida legal community. I am extraordinarily proud of my association with Barry Law School."

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