Everyone knows the White House is the workplace of a prestigious lawyer from the South Side of Chicago who did his legal training at a well-respected and historic institution. University of Chicago, right? Not so fast.

The John Marshall Law School is where South Sider and new White House Chief of Staff William Daley earned his law degree in 1975. Daley is the youngest of former Chicago Mayor Richard J. Daley’s seven children.

President Barack Obama named Daley his chief of staff on January 6, 2011, replacing Rahm Emanuel, who takes over as Chicago’s new mayor on May 16, 2011.

In accepting the White House role, Daley, 62, left his job as an executive at JP Morgan Chase and resigned from the boards of several Chicago companies, including Boeing Co. and Abbott Laboratories.

Since Daley took over at the White House, and was joined by new communications chief David Plouffe, there have been changes in the management style in the West Wing.

“The White House is more disciplined and less personality-driven, more focused on long-term strategic goals and less consumed by the daily messaging skirmishes with Republicans – even when that means absorbing hits and pulling punches,” according to a March 3, 2011, article in The New York Times.
Freedom Award... continued

Freedom Award winner Justice Joseph Gordon has a long and continuing association with the law school. A member of the Illinois Appellate Court, First District, Fifth Division, he first trained to be a rabbi, following in his father's footsteps. One of nine children born to Russian immigrants, Gordon received a bachelor's degree from Roosevelt University and was ordained as a rabbi upon his graduation from the Hebrew Theological College.

Although he did take up a rabbi's position, Gordon decided to attend Northwestern University School of Law graduating in 1960. He was a law clerk for U.S. District Court Judge Julius Hoffman, and in 1962, joined Lord Bissell and Brook (now Locke Lord Bissell & Liddell) as a trial lawyer. In 1964, Gordon joined the firm Sachnoff and Weaver (now Reed Smith), and became an adjunct faculty member at The John Marshall Law School.

He temporarily left the firm from 1967 to 1970, to serve as a full-time faculty member, and he is credited with re-establishing the Journal of Practice and Procedure, the forerunner of The John Marshall Law Review, which had been dormant since 1937. He and several fellow faculty trained the first generation of student editors, and he edited each article and student note published in the first two editions. Because of his efforts, The John Marshall Law Review has consistently been in publication for more than 40 years as an honors program for John Marshall's outstanding students.

Gordon returned to Sachnoff and Weaver in 1970 as a senior litigation partner until being elected to a judgeship in the Circuit Court of Cook County in 1976. He left the bench in 1982 whereupon he rejoined the John Marshall faculty, and also served as chief deputy assessor of Cook County. In 1988, Gordon was recalled to the bench, and in 1989, he was appointed to the Illinois Appellate Court. He has won election to the appellate court three times and served there for more than 20 years.

Gordon is a speaker at many seminars and workshops. In 2003, he was appointed to the Supreme Court's Special Committee to Study Supreme Court Rule 23. He is held in high esteem by his fellow judges and attorneys, and in 2008 he was awarded the Honorable Seymour Simon Justice Award by the Jewish Judges Association.

Judge John T. Doody Jr.

After earning a bachelor's degree from St. Procopius College (Benedictine University) and serving two years as a graduate assistant in political science at Illinois State University, Doody enlisted in the U.S. Army and served a year in Vietnam. After his discharge, he attended The John Marshall Law School on the GI Bill and received his law degree in February 1974. Upon graduation he served as appellate law clerk to Justice Alan L. Stoud and spent more than 28 years in private practice in Homewood, Illinois, including serving as a legal advisor to the Secretary of State in driver's license and revocation and reinstatement proceedings.

During his extensive career, Doody served in all three branches of government, as mayor of the Village of Homewood, State Representative from the 37th District, and now as a judge in the Circuit Court of Cook County elected from the 15th Subcircuit. In addition to numerous community and church positions, he serves on the boards of the Illinois Judges Association and The John Marshall Law School Alumni Association. Organizations across the south suburbs have recognized Doody for his volunteer efforts and he has been inducted into the Hall of Fame for the Village of Homewood, Mendel Catholic High School, and the Illinois Jaycees.

Doody served in Traffic Court for four years prior to being assigned to the Criminal Division in 2006. He has been a panelist discussing everything from DUI offenders to narcotics laws for various programs hosted by the Illinois State Bar Association, Illinois Judges Association, Chicago Bar Association, Cook County Public Defender's Office, Illinois Probation Officers, Illinois State's Attorneys, and South Suburban Bar Associations. He has served as co-editor of the Chicago Traffic Bench Book published in 2006 and as topic co-editor for the Illinois Judicial Bench Book on DUI/Traffic published in 2008. He was retained as a circuit court judge in 2008.

Judge Lynn Egan

Egan, a 1985 graduate, started her career as a Cook County assistant state's attorney. In 1987, Egan joined Hinshaw & Culbertson where she was later elected an equity partner. She litigated medical negligence cases on behalf of doctors and hospitals. In one of her high profile cases, she appeared before the Illinois Supreme Court in Cisarik v. Palos Community Hospital, which presented an issue of first impression in the country.

Egan was appointed a judge in the Circuit Court of Cook County in 1995, won election in 1996, and was retained in 2002 and 2008. During her career on the bench, she served in the Law Division where she handled an Individual Civil Call in the Fifth Municipal District, the Mandatory Arbitration Call, and Individual Commercial Calendar. In 2001, Egan moved to a General Individual Calendar and has presided over thousands of contested motions, pre-trials and case management conferences, as well as dozens of bench and jury trials.

Egan serves on the Illinois Judicial Conference's Executive Committee. She has taught at judicial seminars, authored dozens of publications on civil topics, addressed various bar associations and judged law school moot court competitions. She has served on numerous boards and committees, including The John Marshall Law School Alumni Association, Illinois Judges' Association, Illinois State Bar Association, Chicago Bar Association, and Southwest Bar Association, as well as numerous circuit court committees. She also has been appointed a mentor judge for new colleagues.

Norman Lasko

Lasko was an IRS agent for nearly 10 years in Florida, Tennessee, and Illinois after he received his accounting degree from the University of Miami in 1959. His assignments ranged from organized crime cases to serving as an estate and gift tax examiner. He often taught classes for IRS agents and for the U.S. Army as a 1st lieutenant in the U.S. Army Finance Corp. Lasko holds CPA licenses in Illinois and Florida. He continued working for the IRS while at John Marshall. He received his law degree in 1967, and was awarded the Edward T. Lee Scholarship for earning the highest grades in his third year.

He practiced law with three firms before being named the senior attorney for the Chicago Housing Authority (CHA), where he served from 1975 through 1988. He wrote leases for more than 140,000 tenants, and was the attorney who defended class actions in state and federal courts for CHA. Lasko has been a prosecutor for the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulations since 1989. He has overseen rulings for real estate brokers, accountants, nurses, podiatrists, and psychologists. Currently, he is overseeing cases involving medical doctors, chiropractors, and persons practicing medicine without a license.
He has shared his expertise on medical corporations at American Bar Association conventions. Lasko has been a member of the faculty at Harper College, Malacroit College and Roosevelt University. Lasko has done pro bono work for numerous not-for-profit organizations, including The John Marshall Law School Alumni Association. He has served on the alumni association board for more than 10 years, and was presented with the alumni association’s President’s Award in 2009 for his dedicated service.

Anthony C. Raccuglia

A native of LaSalle, Illinois, Anthony C. Raccuglia’s first career was as a professional baseball player for the Washington Senators (now the Minnesota Twins) farm team. He served in the Korean War and returned to baseball for another season before enrolling in junior college. He later transferred to the University of Illinois and then transferred to The John Marshall Law School, graduating as the top student in the day division and top student overall in the 1959 class.

Raccuglia returned to LaSalle and established his law firm in 1959. He also was appointed that year as first assistant state’s attorney for LaSalle County, handling both civil and criminal cases. Two years out of law school, Raccuglia was the lead trial lawyer on the infamous murder case of three Chicago-area women who were bludgeoned to death while walking through Starved Rock State Park. The trial received international attention. Raccuglia won a conviction against a man who worked at the Starved Rock Lodge.

Raccuglia remained with the LaSalle County State’s Attorney’s Office for eight years, prosecuting nearly 60 felony cases and three or four civil cases per year. Today it is his daughter, Judge Cynthia M. Raccuglia, who is a public servant, serving in the 13th Circuit. In 1968, Raccuglia decided to concentrate his practice on plaintiff’s personal injury and workmen’s compensation cases. Now in his 52nd year as a trial lawyer, he still has a personal injury practice, Anthony C. Raccuglia and Associates, P.C., with four other attorneys, including fellow John Marshall graduates James McPhedran and Geno Caffarini.

Ferdinand P. Serpe

Ferdinand P. Serpe completed his undergraduate degree from St. Ambrose University before earning his law degree from The John Marshall Law School in 1984. In 1983, Serpe was the first night student ever elected president of the Student Bar Association. His first position after graduation was as an Illinois assistant attorney general assigned to the Industrial Commission and Revenue Litigation divisions. In 1987, Serpe became the executive director and chief lobbyist of the Illinois Transportation Association, representing the trucking industry for more than 14 years. During that time, he co-authored A History of Trucking in Illinois. Industry deregulation and fuel costs forced a restructuring of the association and on September 11, 2001, Serpe returned to private practice, opening a small storefront location in Melrose Park. Today Serpe is the principal partner of Law Offices of Ferdinand Serpe & Associates, Ltd. with two very active offices near the Fourth District Courthouse in Maywood and in Arlington Heights near the Third District Courthouse in Rolling Meadows.

Serpe currently serves as the chairman of the Illinois Secretary of State’s Merit Commission. Certified as an administrative adjudicator, he is hearings officer for the Village of Norridge. He is or has served as hearings officer or special defense counsel for Addison Township, Calumet City, Stone Park and Westchester Park District.

Serpe has dedicated his time to numerous organizations. He is currently the 2nd vice president of the West Suburban Bar Association and co-chairs its Judges Night, Judicial Evaluation, and Pro-Bono Committees. Serpe is the immediate past president of the Italian American Political Coalition. He has been an active member of the Justinian Society of Lawyers since 1983 and has sat on various committees of the Illinois State Bar Association. Serpe also served on The John Marshall Law School Alumni Board of Directors for 10 years from 1984-1994.
Guests at the John Marshall Law School Alumni Association Judges Reception were (from left) United States Bankruptcy Court Judge Manuel Barbosa (JD ’77); John Marshall Law School Foundation President John R. Lee (JD ’73) and Illinois Supreme Court Justice Charles E. Freeman (JD ’62).

Enjoying the alumni association’s evening event were (from left) Claire Battle (JD ’07), Sarah Manning (JD ’07) and Sherri Berendt (JD ’99), director of the Office of Alumni Relations.

Two guests at the Feb. 16 Judges Reception were Circuit Court of Cook County Judges Jillian M. Cerone-Marise (left) (JD ’90) and Cheryl D. Cesario (right) (JD ’81).

Fellow classmates and Judges Reception guests were Justice Joy V. Cunningham (JD ’82) of the Illinois Appellate Court and Judge Jesse G. Reyes (JD ’82) of the Circuit Court of Cook County.

John Marshall Law School Dean John E. Corkery (right), welcomed two Lake County 19th Judicial Circuit Court judges, Fred L. Foreman (left) (JD ’74), presiding judge of the Felony Division, and Margaret Mullen (JD ’80), presiding judge of the Civil Division, to the alumni association’s Judges Reception.

Special guests at the alumni association’s Judges Reception were (from left) Michael V. Favia (JD ’82), the association’s 2nd vice president, and member of the John Marshall Board of Trustees; Joseph M. Cataldo (JD ’92), an alumni association board member; James Goldberg (JD ’98); and Paula Hudson Holderman (JD ’79).
THE JOHN MARSHALL LAW SCHOOL FOUNDATION

CME Grant Helps Establish Global Markets Initiative

The John Marshall Law School recently was named the recipient of a $100,000 grant from the CME Group Foundation to support its initiatives to offer students greater insights into global markets.

CME Group is the world’s leading and most diverse derivatives marketplace consisting of four designated contract markets: CME, CBOT, NYMEX and COMEX.

Professor Paul Lewis, director of the Center for International Law, said the grant is providing for three components: a new LLM class, the creation of the Global Markets Law Journal, and a writing competition and annual symposia.

Beginning in the spring 2012 semester, the law school will offer the course “Derivatives: Markets, Instruments and Regulation” intended to provide students with a broad and deep understanding of the futures and derivatives industry. “This course is designed to keep our curriculum at the forefront of learning in diverse areas of transnational business law,” Lewis explained.

The Global Markets Law Journal will be a quarterly online peer-reviewed journal. Articles focusing on the law of capital markets will be solicited from outstanding business leaders, attorneys, and academics. The papers will be published in the journal and presented at the annual symposia, the first of which is planned for spring 2012.

The grant also enables the journal to sponsor an international writing competition open to professionals and academics in the business world. Cash prizes will be awarded, and the winners will be invited to speak at the symposia.

“We hope the success of this initiative will strengthen our relationship with the CME Group Foundation as we help further the understanding of these dynamic markets,” said John R. Lee, president of The John Marshall Law School Foundation.

“We are especially grateful to our alumni Craig Donohue (JD ’67) and Leo Melamed (JD ’55) who were instrumental in developing this relationship and making this grant possible,” he added.

Donohue is chief executive officer and Melamed is chairman emeritus of the CME Group Incorporated.

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MANY LOOK TO THEIR ESTATE PLANS AS THE BLUE PRINT FOR CREATING THEIR LEGACY

Legacies... We all leave one. What will your Legacy be and how will you ensure your vision is realized? Many individuals look to their estate plans as the blue print for creating their Legacy.

If you have or would consider a charitable gift in your will, may we suggest you discuss with your lawyer the merits of creating a Statement of Intent?

A Statement of Intent:

• Allows you to clearly state how you want your charitable gifts utilized. This can be a very powerful document to ensure your wishes are fulfilled.
• Provides flexibility for changes by simply amending the Statement of Intent without the need to redraft your will.
• Ensures your Legacy will be realized through the acceptance and signed commitment from John Marshall.

To receive a sample copy of a Statement of Intent, please send a request to foundation@jmls.edu and we will send you a copy. Or call 312.360.2663 to speak with a member of the Foundation staff.

A gift by will can be a wonderful way to create your Legacy and etch your name in the family history of The John Marshall Law School forever.

Thank you!
Message from the Dean... continued

The enhanced space of both properties demonstrates our continuing investment in rising to the demands of our current and future students, our faculty, alums, and the Chicago legal community. We hope you will join us for a soon-to-be announced ribbon-cutting.

The US News & World Report’s most recent Law School rankings show us joining their revised first-tier at number 140 nationally, which means we have moved up from what would have been under the old system, Tier 4 into Tier 3.

We are pleased with the recognition and it’s always nice to be well spoken of, but rankings don’t always reflect reality. We have always been a good law school, and will continue to be a good law school, rankings aside.

Expanding our global reach has also played an important role in the growth of our offerings. I recently completed a 7-day trip to Beijing in March to hand out LLM diplomas to 14 Chinese attorneys at the State Intellectual Property Office (SIPO) – as a part of our Asian Alliance Program.

Joining me on this trip was Joliet attorney George Mahoney, whose firm of Mahoney Silverman & Cross LLC hosted a scholarship fundraiser for our George Sangmeister Public Service Scholarship. It was a pleasure sharing my Chinese experiences with George.

It is hard to believe that the law school has been in partnership with SIPO for nearly 17 years. I especially want to thank Dorothy Li, director of the Asian Alliance Program, who has nurtured our friendships with the Chinese and American IP communities for many years, and to Richard Gruner, head of our Center for IP Law, and Arthur Yuan, executive director of the Chinese IP Resource Center, for their work in making our Chinese IP programs the successes that they have become.

This year, we will have Chief Judge Randall R. Rader of the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit preside over the Sino-US comparative appellate moot court during the 2011 China Summer IP Program June 6 through July 1. We thank our SIPO hosts for helping us organize this program in Beijing.

In today’s market, every law school dean in the country is concerned about jobs for law school graduates. And I am no exception. At John Marshall we are working hard to prepare our students for the challenges of getting a job in this market and to give them the knowledge and the tools necessary to succeed as a lawyer. A primary goal is to help our students distinguish themselves through their skills in strategic thinking and problem solving, all within the context of law and professional responsibility.

In this regard, we emphasize training in practical settings via mock trial programs, trial advocacy and moot court competitions, and in our Fair Housing Clinic and our new Veterans Clinic. Our students also learn the law, and the practice of law, through numerous internship and externship programs. In our two high tech courtrooms, students take advantage of the latest advances in knowledge management and technology to learn how to best prepare strong and persuasive narrative presentations. And they are given numerous opportunities to concentrate their studies in areas that most serve their passion. Our joint JD/LLM programs also prepare graduates for jobs where employers are looking for highly-skilled and immediately productive attorneys with a depth of specialized knowledge in particular areas.

As you can see, there is a lot going on here at the school as we and our students face the challenges of the practice of law in the second decade of this century. We have confidence in our students and in our school as we make the investment in buildings and programs necessary to make our school better. I will continue to keep you posted on developments as they occur.

John E. Corkery, Dean

Alumnus Follows Path... continued

After Daley left John Marshall in 1975, he joined his family’s law firm of Daley, Riley and Daley. It wasn’t long before he was caught up in politics.

In 1976, Daley went to work as his father’s liaison to Jimmy Carter’s presidential campaign. Since then he has held either official roles or worked in an advisory capacity for the presidential campaigns of Walter Mondale, Al Gore, Bill Clinton, John Kerry, and Obama. He was the architect of the North American Free Trade Agreement and President Clinton’s U.S. Secretary of Commerce from 1997 until 2000.

Also a former president of Chicago’s Amalgamated Bank, Daley worked briefly at a private New York equity firm starting in 2001 before being named president of SBC Communications. He took the JP Morgan Chase position in 2004.


“[The Democratic Party – my lifelong political home – has a critical decision to make: Either we plot a more moderate, centrist course or risk electoral disaster not just in the upcoming midterms but in many elections to come,” Daley wrote.

Daley, whose second wife is Bernadette Keller, has three grown children, all of whom live in Chicago.

The John Marshall Law School Alumni Association has presented Daley the Freedom Award in 2003 in recognition of outstanding contributions to freedom in society, and in 1997 the Distinguished Service Award, recognizing outstanding achievement in a career or personal endeavor.

Professor Emeritus
Anthony “Tony” Zito
died February 25, 2011, after a lengthy illness. He joined the faculty in 1974 and taught thousands of alumni in Legal Writing, Corporations, Family Law and Legal Ethics.
Former SIU Law Dean Is Guest Professor

Peter Alexander, the former dean at Southern Illinois University School of Law, is a guest professor at The John Marshall Law School this spring semester. He is teaching Evidence and Bankruptcy.

Before serving as dean, Alexander had a distinguished career in academia as a professor at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law, University of Maine School of Law, Washington and Lee University School of Law, and Pennsylvania State University’s Dickinson School of Law. In 2009, he received the Award for Distinguished Service to Law and Society from the Illinois Bar Foundation and was named a 2009 Fellow by the American Bar Foundation.

Save the Date

The John Marshall Law School Alumni Association will conduct its annual meeting from 5 to 7 p.m., Friday, June 10, 2011, at the law school.

Justice James Fitzgerald Smith (JD ’75) will take the oath of office as the president for the 2011-2012 term. He will be joined by the other officers and board members. The Alumni Association Scholarships also will be awarded, and special awards for outstanding efforts will be presented.

RSVP’s are being accepted by the Department of Event Management at 312-987-1420 or events@jmls.edu.
The John Marshall Law School Expands Beyond the Classroom with Distance Education

When it comes to providing access to a legal education, The John Marshall Law School has always been at the forefront. With advances in technology and the growth of the alternative student population, that mission of access now takes a new approach with distance education.

In 2002, the law school offered its first distance education class. At that time, videoconferencing allowed Professor Doris Long to share her Unfair Competition class at John Marshall with students at Southern Illinois University (SIU) School of Law. John Marshall students also were able to watch an SIU professor teach an Education Law course. Since then, The John Marshall Law School has never looked back.

John Marshall’s Distance Education Program continues to expand, growing from an initial two “eCourse” offerings in 2009 to more than 20 online courses in three short years. In the fall 2011 semester, the law school offers online LLM courses from the Centers for Information Technology and Privacy Law, Intellectual Property Law, International Law, and Tax Law and Employee Benefits.

The online format allows practicing attorneys to complete certain LLM courses as they begin earning a specialized degree in law, on their own schedule.

“This gives lawyers and professionals opportunities for learning that they otherwise may not have,” said Professor Robert J. Nye, director of the Distance Education Program, who has been studying various teaching formats for a decade. “We’ve seen that students don’t always have to be in a classroom to learn. I think it’s an exciting model,” he said.

The “eCourses” are offered on an asynchronous basis. Graduate students sign onto their class websites to interact with their professor and fellow classmates using chat, discussion boards, and email. Students enjoy several advantages, including added assessment during the semester (unlike traditional law courses that tend to depend on one final exam); classes that can be re-watched several times to help students absorb the material; and individual and group assignments, quizzes, downloadable lectures, and weekly chats that allow the professor to fully engage the students in their course material while providing the students the flexibility to take their classes anytime, anywhere.

These LLM courses also can be taken as part of the Alumni Advantage Program (see story on page 16). For additional information about the fall schedule, visit ecourses.jmls.edu/.

Meeting in the South Suburbs

Vanessa Jackson (center), systems administrator with the Office of Alumni Relations, welcomes alumni Michael Block (left) (JD ’70) and Elias Gordan (JD ’94) to the South Suburban Alumni Reception in November 2010.

Peter Fera (left) (JD ’68), Sherri Berendt (center) (JD ’99), director of the Office of Alumni Relations; and John Fotopoulos (right) (JD ’00) enjoyed the evening at Cooper’s Hawk Winery in Orland Park.

Ralph Muenterz (left) (JD ’66), Colleen Muenterz (center) (JD ’85) and John Jurus (right) (JD ’62) were in attendance at the South Suburban Alumni Reception.
You may know Dan Cotter (JD ’95) as the power lifter for the Sun-Times Judge Marovitz Lawyers Lend-A-Hand for Youth Program, or as an officer at both the Chicago Bar Association (CBA) and the Chicago Bar Foundation.

You may see him regularly at The John Marshall Law School Alumni Association board meetings and events. Maybe he mentored you as a student, was your adjunct professor or a fellow classmate.

He gives his time as a board member for the Epilepsy Foundation of Greater Chicago, and the board of trustees of Monmouth College. He writes for the CBA Record magazine, and is dedicated to his sons’ school programs and Boy Scout activities.

The John Marshall Law School is one of the many recipients of Cotter’s time. He is secretary for The John Marshall Law School Alumni Association and will be president in a few short years.

Few could step into his shoes. Those who know him are amazed by his energy and applaud him for his dedicated service. Yet Cotter doesn’t consider his volunteer efforts remarkable.

“It’s basically that I have a passion for these organizations and what they do, so I just give back,” he says.

Cotter took his weightlifting hobby and turned it into a fundraising initiative nine years ago. To date, he has raised more than $175,000 for the Lawyers Lend-A-Hand for Youth program that supports one-on-one tutor/mentor programs for disadvantaged youth in Chicago.

“I played football in high school and at Monmouth College and weight-lifted as part of my training, but I didn’t do it for 10 years before I went back to it. I thought, if I’m going to do this, it should be for a cause, which is when I got involved with the Lawyers Lend-A-Hand program. I get donations that are $10 and I get donations that are $1 per pound that I lift, which can total $1,500,” he explained.

His solicitation list of between 200 and 300 donors includes current and former colleagues, business associates and alumni in Chicago and across the country. Many put a reminder on their calendars to support the program each year.

Cotter’s also served as chairman of the Lawyers Lend-A-Hand board of directors, and he is one of the many volunteers who work with the children. He spearheaded a CBA initiative to “adopt” Chicago’s William C. Goudy Elementary School, named after the CBA’s first president, and has been a guest speaker at the school more than 50 times.

For a second year, Cotter is serving as the treasurer of the Chicago Bar Foundation, and he also is treasurer for the CBA.

In December 2010, Cotter was one of 32 attorneys and judges to travel to Cuba on a CBA-sponsored trip.

“The trip itself was fantastic. There are so many contradictions there. I remember our interpreter saying their food rations don’t include any fish. You just scratch your head. Their housing is very crowded, and yet they maintain the Ernest Hemingway Plantation as a museum,” he explains.

Cotter says five days on the island was barely enough time to scratch the surface, but he did find the people to be very resilient, and they maintain their love of former leader Fidel Castro.

At home, Cotter works to instill in his sons, John and Tim, a strong work ethic and a willingness to help others. He has fostered a love for not only his boys but the children around them as a Cub Scout den leader, and a classroom mentor at Chicago’s Edgebrook School where he’s also been an officer for the Edgebrook School Foundation.

In 2010, Cotter was one of three finalists for the Illinois Fatherhood Initiative’s Ricky Byrdsong Award.

Cotter is chair of the Corporate, Transactional and Regulatory/Compliance Group at Lindemann LLC - Greater Chicago. He has been an attorney for 16 years, but the law was not his first profession. A certified public accountant, Cotter was working for CNA Insurance when he realized he needed to get back in school before his post-graduate scholarship from the National Football Association expired.

“I thought I’d challenge myself, but I have to say, law was not at the top of my list,” he recalled. “I thought maybe an M.B.A. would be good, but I took the LSAT and I did well. I looked for a January admission option, and an evening program” and John Marshall had both.

“The first night of law school was the first night of the (first) Gulf War, and I remember Professor (Michael) Closen sent us home to watch it on TV,” he said. While every night class wasn’t that easy, Cotter said he found he was enjoying his classes.

As a mentor for current John Marshall students, Cotter finds that same enthusiasm. “Yes, the economy is tough right now, but they tell me they chose the law as a profession. They have confidence that long-term, things will go okay.”
Naomi Davis: From Gaslight Girl to Green Activist

Naomi Davis, a John Marshall Law School graduate (JD ’81), is making her mark on her adopted hometown of Chicago.

Davis is the founder and president of Blacks in Green, an education and advocacy group that promotes a whole-system solution for the whole-system problems common to black communities everywhere.

Blacks in Green (BIG), a national eco-organization, is a "green-village-builder," underpinned by the fundamentals of self-reliance, that aims to foster green, neighborhood-owned businesses in communities of color.

The group’s literature spells out its reasons for being:

“Our vision is self-sustaining black communities everywhere. Our goals are to invent, invest, manufacture, and merchandise our communities into walkable, self-reliant, mixed-income villages. Our green villages are walk-to-work/walk-to-shop communities anchored by these neighbor-owned businesses, which become the agents of ‘jobs-driven development.’”

Davis, herself, spells out what led her to found the organization.

“I was deeply despairing that it looked like the gains that we had made in the times I was growing up, the times of Martin and Malcolm, were all rolling downhill and the communities that were once vibrant with neighbor-owned businesses were disappearing.”

In 2001, Davis started to research how she could become a part of the solution and not a part of the problem. And this granddaughter of Mississippi sharecroppers began to determine, through questioning and discovery, that the answer lay in reinventing the black cultural legacy of stewardship of the land and returning to the common sense of yesterday’s self-sustaining communities.

Initially fueled by despair, but now armed with passion, intelligence and an idealism that she could, indeed, change the world, this vibrant, whirligig of a woman is leading a movement that offers a new paradigm for green community economic development. It was 2007 when she founded Blacks in Green.

In Chicago, Davis teaches a 10-week course on “green-village-building” at the University of Chicago. As part of that class, students are working on a pilot project to transform the blighted neighborhood of West Woodlawn, near the university and where Davis lives on Chicago’s South Side, into a green village. Little progress is yet evident in the boarded up storefronts that line East 63rd Street, visual imagery that compels Davis to speak her mind.

“It is a crime the way our leaders have allowed our communities to languish,” she says.

Davis moved to Chicago in 1976, a 19-year-old with a theater background from Fisk University, to attend The John Marshall Law School. While she was at school she worked days as a law clerk at Lindgren & Zickert and nights as a “Gaslight Girl” — kind of a cousin to the Playboy bunny — at the Palmer House Hotel, where she served drinks wearing a tiny costume and also got to feed her need to perform, singing old Billie Holiday tunes like “No Regrets,” “I Cried for You,” and “What a Little Moonlight Can Do,” for big-spending businessmen and even the occasional colleague from the legal profession.

“I longed for a life with the performing arts, and tolerated many a ‘forward pass’ to have the fun I did at the Gaslight,” Davis said. “I got my love of jazz from my dad’s old LP’s, but he hated I was there.”

After her graduation from John Marshall, Davis was South Side branch chief at the Illinois Attorney General’s Consumer Fraud Division, but, she says, “I could feel the law was not for me.”

Before her latest venture, she worked in a variety of arenas, ranging from housing financing in New York state to launching her own creative firm that produced a line of couturier stationery, to writing three musicals.

Davis stayed connected with the law as she worked in public affairs and communications marketing, running election campaigns for lawyers who wanted to be judges. She also was manager of membership, advertising and business partnerships for the League of Chicago Theaters.

Davis serves on the Chicagoland Green Jobs Initiative Steering Committee, the Chicago Food Policy Advisory Council and the editorial board of Environmental Justice magazine. In 2007, she was awarded Lt. Gov. Patrick Quinn’s Environmental Hero Award for her work in green community economic development. She also has been awarded the 2008 Chicago Magazine Green Award, the Jewel-Osco Environmental Stewardship Award, and was named in the 2010 Citizen Newspapers “10 Community Leaders To Watch” and Ebony magazine’s “Power100.”

Naomi Davis works to encourage the reopening of neighborhood stores.
I have been around John Marshall since I started as a student here in 1996. After graduation, I worked in the Admission Office and have been in the Office of Alumni Relations for over five years. One thing that has become very clear to me over the years, is that this school is much better than others perceive it.

The dean told you about the recent US News rankings change and this is very exciting for the law school. There is no arguing that it’s as important that the perception of John Marshall held by prospective students and fellow attorneys matches the realities of what goes on at the law school. To me, this ranking is long overdue but I still firmly believe that our #140 is lower than it should be and is lower than we deserve. And to be fair, there are so many intangibles that are not taken into consideration in the rankings. Many see that as a major flaw.

I’ve gotten to know so many of our students: they are bright, outgoing, motivated and goal-oriented. Our professors are active in the academic and legal community, they are invested in our students and deeply care about their success. Our programs are strong and our institutional goals are big!

And you, our alumni, have a strong affinity to this institution. You understand that “but for” John Marshall, you would not have received the education that today allows you to practice law, sit on the bench, or like me, have the opportunity to work in an alternative career.

John Marshall is at a turning point. As I’ve previously reported, we are moving the main entrance of the building to State Street and are undertaking an impressive renovation to the former Walgreen’s space. The law school has purchased the 19 W. Jackson building and will be starting renovations on that space shortly. We have built an incredible new state-of-the-art courtroom and have expanded onto nine floors of the Chicago Bar Association building.

Now more than ever, we need your financial support. I’ve talked to many alumni who say they don’t give back to John Marshall because they can’t make the size gift that they would like. I encourage you to give what you can on an annual basis. If you can give $20, $100 or $1,000, please use the envelope in this issue of Briefcase (or donate online at www.jmls.edu/foundation). Give what you can. All of this growth and improvement cannot be on the financial backs of our students through their tuition costs. If you have ever considered giving back to John Marshall, now is the time to do so.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with your questions or comments. We are all working hard to increase the value of your diploma. I hope you will join us as a partner in our efforts.

Warmly,

Sherri J. Berendt (JD ‘99)
Director of Alumni Relations and Annual Fund Programming

Will County Alumni Meet at Spesia & Ayers in Joliet

Alumnus Wayne M. Kwiat (left) (JD ‘72) met with John R. Lee (right) (JD ‘77), president of The John Marshall Law School Foundation, at the alumni association’s Greater Will County Alumni Reception.


Elizabeth Johnson (left) (JD ‘10) shares a story with Erica Connor, associate director of the Career Services Office, at the Dec. 2, 2010, Greater Will County Alumni Reception hosted by the law firm of Spesia & Ayers in Joliet.

For more alumni news, visit www.jmls.edu/alumni
1972
Hon. Edward R. Jordan has been honored with the “Most Civil Judge Award” from the Northwest Suburban Bar Association. Jordan is with the Circuit Court of Cook County.

1974
Thomas O. McCulloch has been named interim Kane County Public Defender. McCulloch previously served in this position from 1976-1981.

1975
William M. Daley has been appointed White House Chief of Staff by President Barack Obama. Daley is formerly an executive with JPMorgan Chase in Chicago, Illinois, and also served as the U.S. Secretary of Commerce under President Clinton.

Hon. Russell W. Hartigan has been appointed to the bench in the Circuit Court of Cook County. Hartigan is formerly with Hartigan & O’Connor, PC in Chicago, Illinois.

1976
Jeffrey L. Gingold has been honored with the 2010 “S. Fred Bruhn Award” from the Association of Washington Business. Gingold is with Lane Powell, PC in Seattle, Washington, and concentrates his practice on health care and insurance law.

James E. Saloga has been appointed to the board of directors for Batavia Enterprises Inc.

1978
Hon. Cheyrl D. Ingram has been named presiding judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County 4th Municipal District.

Michael J. Lauer has been named leader of the Tax, Estate Planning & Exempt Organizations Practice Group of Whyte Hirschboeck Dudek in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

1980
Terry L. Levine married David R. Mika on July 17, 2010.

Gary A. Peters has been named one of the DBusiness “Top Lawyers of 2011.” Peters is with Howard & Howard Attorneys, PLLC in Royal Oak, Michigan, and concentrates his practice on environmental and regulatory law.

Hon. William E. Poncin has been elected circuit judge in the 9th Judicial Circuit Court of McDonough County, Illinois.

Hon. Roger D. Rickmon has been named to Will County’s 12th Judicial Circuit Court. Judge Rickmon was previously a partner with Rickmon Law Firm in Joliet, Illinois.

1981
Hon. Joseph E. Birkett has been named to the Illinois Appellate Court, Second District. Birkett was previously the DuPage County state’s attorney.

Carolyn H. Clift has been re-elected to senior vice president and chief diversity officer of Health Care Service Corporation.

Hon. James E. Padish (ret.) has formed Caldwell, Padish & Wells PLLC in Scottsdale, Arizona. He concentrates his practice on domestic relations, criminal defense, and personal injury law.

Christopher L. Picone has been appointed president and general counsel for Buccino & Associates, Inc. in both the Chicago, Illinois, and New York City, New York, offices.

1982
Joseph A. Giannelli has been elected to the executive committee of Cassidy Schade, LLP in Chicago, Illinois. Giannelli concentrates his practice on civil litigation.

Hon. James G. Riley has been named supervising judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County, Probate Division.

1983
James P. Balog has joined SmithAmundsen LLC as a partner. Balog concentrates his practice on professional liability, construction accident litigation and litigation based on third party criminal acts.

Hon. John P. Kirby has been honored with the 2010 “Commitment to Justice” award from the Chicago Appleseed Fund for Justice and the Chicago Council of Lawyers. Kirby is with the Circuit Court of Cook County, Criminal Division in Chicago, Illinois.

Hon. William S. McNeal has been elected circuit judge in the 9th Judicial Circuit Court of McDonough County, Illinois.

1984
Hon. Edmund Ponce de Leon has been named presiding judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County, County Division. Ponce de Leon was previously presiding judge of the 4th Municipal District in Cook County.

Hon. H. Chris Ryan, Jr. has been selected chief judge of the LaSalle County 13th Judicial Circuit Court in Ottawa, Illinois.

1985
Antonio M. Romanucci has been honored with the “Excellence in Leadership” award from the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County. He also has been honored with the “Moses Harrison II” Award from the Justinian Society of Lawyers. Romanucci is with Romanucci & Blandin LLC in Chicago, Illinois, and concentrates his practice on personal injury law.

1987
Robert I. Wertheimer (LLM/ TX) has joined Levenfeld Pearlstein LLC in Chicago, Illinois, as of counsel in the Asset Planning & Preservation Group.

Marina A. Tanzer has been appointed director of Planned Giving for the American Lung Association of The Upper Midwest in Brookfield, Wisconsin.
1988
Charles T. Newland has joined the College of Lake County as an adjunct faculty member. Newland is a partner with Newland, Newland & Newland in Arlington Heights, Illinois.

1989

Jerald B. Holisky has joined Aronberg, Goldgehn, Davis & Garmsa in Chicago, Illinois. Holisky concentrates his practice on business formations, mergers and acquisitions, commercial finance and real estate law.

Hon. Sheila M. McGinnis has been named the domestic violence presiding judge for the Circuit Court of Cook County, Bridgeview Courthouse.

1990
Michael T. Blair has joined Greenberg, Traurig LLP in Chicago, Illinois, as a shareholder. Blair concentrates his practice on corporate and real estate law.

Brian E. Clauss has been admitted to The National Academy of Arbitrators. Clauss operates a private practice in Park Ridge, Illinois, concentrating his practice on labor and employment disputes, and serves as the co-executive director of the Veterans Legal Support Center & Clinic at The John Marshall Law School.

James M. Hagler has been chosen to direct the litigation team at the Law Firm of Jeffrey M. Leving, Ltd. in Chicago, Illinois.

1991
Dean S. Dussias has been appointed president of the Illinois Chapter of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers. Dussias operates a private practice in Chicago, Illinois.

1992
James A. Kochinski has joined Allianz Life Insurance Company of North America in Minneapolis, Minnesota, as senior counsel.

1993
Debra Kirby has been appointed deputy superintendent of professional standards for the Chicago Police Department in Chicago, Illinois.

1994
Hon. Amy C. Hoogasian has been appointed to the Federal Immigration Court in San Francisco, California.

Heather E. Shea has joined SmithAmundsen, LLC in Chicago, Illinois, as a partner. Shea concentrates her practice on civil litigation, personal injury defense, and commercial litigation.

1996
Karen V. Newbury has joined Schiff, Hardin LLP in Chicago, Illinois. She concentrates her practice on bankruptcy and creditors’ rights.

Mariyana T. Spyropoulos has been elected to one of nine commissioner positions for the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago.

1997
Maureen B. Gorman has joined Marshall, Gerstein & Borun LLP in Chicago, Illinois. She concentrates her practice on copyright, trademark, and intellectual property litigation.

Neil F. Narut has been named assistant vice president – managing attorney for Potestivo & Associates, P.C. in Chicago, Illinois. Narut was previously the supervising attorney for the firm.

Eric S. Prezant has been named to the executive committee with Bryan, Cave LLP in Chicago, Illinois. Prezant concentrates his practice on bankruptcy, restructuring, and creditors’ rights.

1998
Mary Ruth Coffey has been named executive director of the American Theater Company based in Chicago, Illinois. Coffey was previously with the Old Town School of Folk Music.

Anita M. DeCarlo has been installed as treasurer of the Justinian Society of Lawyers. DeCarlo also has joined Vasilatos & Cotter, LLC in Chicago, Illinois, and concentrates her practice on workers’ compensation.

Kathleen A. Reid has joined Grotefeld, Hoffmann, Schleiter, Gordon & Ochoa, LLP in Chicago, Illinois.

1999
Brian J. Gill has joined Armstrong Teasdale LLP in St. Louis, Missouri. Gill concentrates his practice on intellectual property law.

Alan T. McGrath has been named the Illinois masters Olympic weightlifting champion. McGrath operates a private firm in Glenview, Illinois.

2000
Katherine A. Amari O’Dell has been installed as first vice president of the Justinian Society of Lawyers. O’Dell is with Amari & Locallo in Chicago, Illinois, and concentrates her practice on real estate law.

Amy J. Susdorf welcomed baby boy Jake Ryan McGill on October 1, 2010. Susdorf is the Residuals Collections Administrator with the Writers Guild of America in Los Angeles, California.

2001
Emily R. Carrara has been elected partner with Sullivan, Taylor & Gumina PC in Wheaton, Illinois. Carrara concentrates her practice on family law.

Katherine Johnson has been named Shelby County assistant state’s attorney in Shelbyville, Illinois.

For more alumni news, visit www.jmls.edu/alumni
2002
Raul Abad (LLM/EB ’03) has rejoined Gust Rosenfeld in Phoenix, Arizona. Abad concentrates his practice on commercial real estate transactions.

Jonathan W. Goken has been elected shareholder with Johnson & Bell Ltd. in Chicago, Illinois. Goken concentrates his practice on insurance coverage, bad faith litigation, and general negligence.

William B. Gont has been elected to the board of directors for McAndrews, Held & Malloy Ltd. in Chicago, Illinois. Gont concentrates his practice on intellectual property law.

Kristin N. Hansen has been elected to the Montana State House of Representatives. Hansen was previously the chief deputy attorney for Hill County in Havre, Montana.

Martin W. Jaszzck has been elevated to partner with Locke, Lord, Bissell & Liddell LLP in Chicago, Illinois. Jaszzck concentrates his practice on business litigation and arbitration.

Benjamin P. Kota has joined Marjama Muldoon Blasiak & Sullivan, LLP in Syracuse, New York, as an associate. Kota concentrates his practice on intellectual property law.

Christopher B. Lega has joined Johnson Legal Group, LLC in Chicago, Illinois. Lega concentrates his practice on commercial litigation, creditors rights and bankruptcy law.

Michael J. Scully has been elevated to partner with Bryce, Downey & Lenkov LLC in Chicago, Illinois. Scully concentrates his practice on workers’ compensation defense.

Monica Torres-Linares has been honored with the 2010 “Chicago Bar Foundation Sun-Times Public Interest Law Fellowship.” Torres-Linares is with the Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago in South Holland, Illinois.

Kristin S. Yoo has joined the board of directors of the Korean American Bar Association of Chicago. Yoo is with Cozen O’Connor in Chicago, Illinois, and concentrates her practice on general litigation.

2003
Ognyan I. Beremski (LLM/IP) has been elevated to the board of directors for McAndrews, Held & Malloy Ltd. in Chicago, Illinois. Beremski concentrates his practice on intellectual property law.

Beverly A. Berneman (LLM/IP) has joined Golan & Christie in Chicago, Illinois, as a partner. Berneman concentrates her practice on intellectual property and bankruptcy law.

Christopher E. Condelucci has joined Miller & Chevalier in Washington, DC. Condelucci concentrates his practice on employee benefits and tax policy law.

Kristen E. Hudson has been elevated to partner with Schopf & Weiss LLP in Chicago, Illinois. Hudson concentrates her practice on insurance coverage disputes and contract and securities litigation.

Peter M. King has joined Cassiday Schade LLP in Naperville, Illinois. King concentrates his practice on commercial litigation with emphasis on title insurance litigation.

Kolleen K. Rill has been honored with the 2010 “20 Under 40” Leadership Recognition Award from the business community in Toledo, Ohio. Rill is president and owner of Findlay Machine & Tool in Findlay, Ohio.

In Memoriam

Hon. Charles I. Barish, JD ’56
Hon. Gerald C. Bender, JD ’68
Victor Brown, JD ’64
Theodore J. Craig, JD ’75
William Louis Edwards, LLM/TX ’91
Hon. Glenn T. Johnson, JD ’49, LLM ’50
Richard Gardner Kahoe, JD ’76
Muriel Liftin, JD ’76
Kenneth T. McCurry, JD ’75

2004
Violeta I. Balan welcomed baby girl Alex Hera Balan on October 12, 2010. Balan is with Mayer Brown, LLP in Washington DC, and concentrates her practice on dispute resolution.

Donna L. Otis has been honored with the “Distinguished Service Award” from Chicago Volunteer Legal Services. Otis is with Quarles & Brady in Chicago, Illinois, and concentrates her practice on trusts and estates.

2005
Daniel E. Edelstein has joined The Law Firm of Bruce A. Danford, LLC in Broomfield, Colorado.

Sandra A. Franco has joined SmithAmundsen LLP in Chicago, Illinois, as an associate. Franco concentrates her practice on commercial litigation, banking law, and real estate law.

Mark C. Palmer has been named “Man of the Year” by Central Illinois Business magazine. Palmer is with Evans Froehlich Beth & Chamley in Champaign, Illinois, and concentrates his practice on banking, creditors’ rights, commercial litigation, and municipal law.

Jordan Rudnick has joined Meckler Bulger Tilson Marick & Pearson, LLP in Chicago, Illinois. Rudnick concentrates his practice on corporate litigation and dispute resolution.

Angelica A. Tsakiridis (LLM/IBT ’07) presented her paper “Making the Case for Angola: Identifying and Assigning Legal Responsibility to Multinational Corporations as Actors or Abettors in the Context of an International Constitutional Legal Framework” at the International Workshop on Transnational Legal Processes and Human
John Marshall Represented at International Conference
Angelica Anatole Tsakiridis (JD ’05/LLM/IBT ’07) (left), Ali Abid (JD ’11) (center), and Karen Jones (right), an LLM student in International Business and Trade Law, were John Marshall Law School presenters at the International Workshop on Transnational Legal Processes and Human Rights October 29 and 30, 2010, at the University of Lucerne School of Law. They discussed their research papers with presenters from institutions in India, Britain, Bangladesh, Switzerland, Northern Ireland, and the United States at the program sponsored by the Chair of Comparative and Anglo-American Law at the Lucerne School of Law.

Rights at the University of Lucerne School of Law in Lucerne, Switzerland in October 2010. Tsakiridis is with Renesas Electronics America, Inc. in Santa Clara, California.

2006
Tara M. Alhofen married Jason J. Grimm on October 9, 2010, in Chicago, Illinois. Alhofen is assistant general counsel for the Chicago Public Schools Board of Education.

2007
Michael Abramson has joined Lindemann LLC in Downers Grove, Illinois. Abramson concentrates his practice on corporate environmental defense, toxic tort defense, and intellectual property law.

Carrie M. Buddingh has joined Bellock & Coogan, Ltd. in Oak Brook, Illinois. Buddingh concentrates her practice on estate planning, estate administration, business law, and real estate transactions.

Alison K. Hayden has joined Hodge, Dwyer & Driver in Springfield, Illinois. Hayden concentrates her practice on environmental law.

Claire K. O’Connor and Sean E. Battle were married November 13, 2010, at Hotel Allegro in Chicago, Illinois. O’Connor is with ArcelorMittal USA in Chicago.

2008
Joshua S. Alexander has been honored with the 2010 “Outstanding Prosecutor in North Florida” award by Mothers Against Drunk Driving-Northeast Florida. Alexander is with the St. Johns County Clerk of Courts in St. Augustine, Florida.

Chad A. Naffziger has joined Gilbert Russell McWherter PLC in Jackson, Tennessee. Naffziger concentrates his practice on civil litigation.

Paula L. Velde has joined the Office of the Illinois Attorney General in Springfield, Illinois, as an assistant attorney general.

2009
Wilton E.D. Anderson has joined The Law Firm of Bruce A. Danford, LLC in Broomfield, Colorado, as an associate. Anderson concentrates his practice on business and corporate property, commercial, and civil litigation, and credit and collection law.

Jonathan Arias has been sworn in as a Cook County assistant state’s attorney.

Lisa K. Johnson has joined Case Lombardi & Pettit in Honolulu, Hawaii. Johnson concentrates her practice on real estate, tax, and business law.

Mark J. Laughlin has joined The Law Firm of Bruce A. Danford, LLC in Broomfield, Colorado.

Jessica Scutt and Matthew Scutt have opened Scutt Law PLLC in Austin, Texas. Matthew and Jessica concentrate their practice on intellectual property and real estate law.

Antonio G. Vann has joined Bambi Faivre Walters, PC in Williamsburg, Virginia. Vann concentrates his practice on trademark, unfair competition, copyright, and commercial transaction law.

2010
James L. Borkman has been elected president-elect of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra’s Overture Council. He also has been honored with the “Gold Key” from the American Bar Association Law Student Division. Borkman is with Chilton Yambert & Porter, LLP in Chicago, Illinois.

Rebecca S. Carlson has joined The Collins Law Firm PC in Carol Stream, Illinois, as an associate. Carlson concentrates her practice on banking, finance, and commercial litigation.

Daniel M. Gold has been sworn in as a Cook County assistant state’s attorney.

Andrew C. Landsmann has joined Godfrey & Kahn, SC in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Landsmann concentrates his practice on intellectual property law.

Lena A. Lee has been sworn in as a Cook County assistant state’s attorney.

Jeremy S. Macklin has joined Stellato & Schwartz Ltd. in Chicago, Illinois, as an associate.

Jacqueline E. Marquardt has been sworn in as a Cook County assistant state’s attorney.

Donyel Perry has joined O’Hagan, Spencer LLC in Chicago, Illinois.

Mary Ann Scholl has been sworn in as a Cook County assistant state’s attorney.

Lindsey M. Shapiro has been sworn in as a Cook County assistant state’s attorney.

Sebastian A. Soto has been sworn in as a Cook County assistant state’s attorney. Soto also has been elected vice president of The Illinois Native American Bar Association.

Brendon Stark has been sworn in as a Cook County assistant state’s attorney.
Alumni Advantage Program Renewed to Help John Marshall Graduates in Struggling Economy

In response to the continued layoffs and high unemployment rate befalling the legal profession, The John Marshall Law School announced it is renewing its Alumni Advantage Plan (AAP) to assist graduates wanting to enhance their legal skills through additional coursework.

The program is currently available to graduates from 2007 through 2011. The AAP offers a reduced tuition rate to John Marshall alumni earning less than $50,000 annually who choose to return to the law school to audit a JD course, or apply and enroll in an LLM degree program. The application fee will be waived for alumni who choose to apply for admission to one of the AAP programs.

Each of the AAP programs is offered to alumni at 50 percent of the current tuition rate, subject to seat availability. Certain skills courses, at the discretion of the law school, will not be available to alumni.

Alumni who opt to enroll in an LLM program may select from Employee Benefits, Information Technology and Privacy Law, Intellectual Property Law, International Business and Trade Law, Real Estate Law or Tax Law.

To learn more about the Alumni Advantage Program, contact Silvia Rodriguez, assistant director of Graduate Admission, at srodrigu@jmls.edu or at 312.427.2737 ext. 658.