

In the Loop

February 22 - 28, 2009

Zagotta Appointed to Serve on Board of Trustees

The John Marshall Law School Board of Trustees unanimously approved the appointment of Nicholas C. Zagotta to serve on the board. The appointment was approved at the Feb. 6 meeting. Zagotta will serve through 2010 filling the unexpired term of Martin "Ron" Riskin who resigned after a number of years on the board.

Zagotta was the owner of a Chicago Board of Trade commodities trading firm while attending The John Marshall Law School. After receiving his degree in 1994, he opened his own law office. Today he is a partner in the law firm of Connelly Roberts & McGivney LLC with a practice in corporate transactions, construction liability and commodities, futures, and derivatives law.

Zagotta has been a longtime supporter of the law school, and has been serving as an ad hoc member of the board's Audit/Budget Committee and Investment Committee. A long record of board appointments highlights Zagotta's resume. He was a member of the Chicago Transit Authority Board from 2004 through 2008; a member of the Board of Directors of United Community Bank in Lisle, Ill., from 2002 through 2004; and a member of the Board of Directors of the Chicago Board of Trade from 1998 through 2000.

Closer to his south suburban home, Zagotta served on the Board of Directors of St. Francis Health Services, the Glenwood School/South Campus, Ingalls Memorial Hospital Development Foundation and the Cancer Support Center. He was also a member of the advisory board of Marian Catholic High School.

"I know Nick Zagotta will be a wonderful addition to the board. He has much to share as an alumnus and a successful businessman and attorney," said Leonard Amari, board president. "Whatever we at the law school have asked of him, Nick has been more than willing to step forward and help. I look forward to him sharing his insights over the course of his term."



"I also want to thank Ron Riskin, another fellow alumnus, for his time on the board. Ron dedicated many years to the law school, despite the distance he had to travel from California to be here. I greatly appreciate all he's done as a member of the board of trustees, and as an alum," Amari added.



BLSA Celebrates Alumni Achievements

Members of the Black Law Students Association (standing, from left) Crystal Brown, vice president; Grace Okorie, secretary; Brandon DeBerry, advocate general; and Maria Barlow, president, welcomed Cook County Circuit Court Judge Cheryl Starks (J.D. '87) (seated, left) and Cook County Circuit Court Judge Arnette Hubbard (J.D. '69) (seated, right) as guest speakers for the African-American Judges Series in recognition of Black History Month.

Fair Housing Center Hosts 17th Annual Litigation Skills Training

For three days, Feb. 5, 6 and 7, the Fair Housing Legal Support Center hosted its 17th annual Litigation Skills Training, “Effective Advocacy Under the Fair Housing Laws.”

The center hosted 16 attorneys with one to eight years experience in fair housing litigation participated in the three-day training. They are employed with various nonprofit entities, community-based legal aid societies, fair housing organizations and government agencies, such as the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). This year’s diverse group of participants represented nine states and the District of Columbia.

This training program focuses on further developing the practical skills attorneys need to proceed in a contested hearing or trial in a fair housing case. Particular emphasis is placed on trial advocacy techniques used in the direct and cross examination of witnesses, opening statements and closing arguments.

The participants receive a case study prior to the conference and are grouped into teams with an assigned client to represent. They prepare their cases and present during a mock fair housing trial before judges and attorneys.

This year’s trainers included William C. Cregar, formerly with the HUD Office of Administrative Law Judges in Washington, D.C.; Judge Deborah Myers, Office of Administrative Hearing, Los Angeles; and attorney Edward Voci of Chicago, a visiting clinical professor at the Fair Housing Legal Clinic. Each of these trainers has served as an instructor for this and other Fair Housing Legal Support Center-sponsored training programs.

Taxes on Business Cell Phones and Blackberrys discussed at Luncheon Program

The Center for Tax Law and Employee Benefits is presenting a Lunch & Learn CLE program, “Can the IRS Tax You on the Use of Your Business Cell Phone or Blackberry?”

The program will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the law school, 315 S. Plymouth Ct. in Chicago, and features Kathleen Black, Congressional staff member for Rep. Sam Johnson (R-Texas), who was an original co-sponsor of the MOBILE Cell Phone Act; Mariana Dyson, chair of Miller & Chevalier’s Executive Committee, who



Trainers for the 17th annual Litigation Skills Training Program are (from left) Judge Deborah Myers, Office of Administrative Hearing, Los Angeles; William C. Cregar, formerly with the HUD Office of Administrative Law Judges in Washington, D.C.; and attorney Edward Voci of Chicago, a visiting clinical professor at the Fair Housing Legal Clinic.



Edward Voci (at head of table) leads one of the classes for the Fair Housing Legal Support Center’s 17th annual Litigation Skills Training Program.

served as the special assistant for Fringe Benefits and as senior attorney in the office of IRS Associate Chief Counsel; Steven Hoffman, director of Payroll and Tax Services at West Virginia University and co-author of the 2008 Advisory Committee on Tax Exempt and Government Entities’ Tax Treatment of Cellular Telephones and Internet-Provider Allowances; and Nora Stapleton, a tax partner with Blackman Kallick, which provides tax planning and compliance services.

Food will be provided at the free program and approximately 1.5 hours of CLE credit are available upon completion. For more information, contact Steven Szydelko, program coordinator, at oszydelko@jmls.edu. To register, visit www.jmls.edu/events/010409TX.asp.

Fair Housing Legal Clinic Welcomes New Staff

The Fair Housing Legal Clinic at The John Marshall Law School announces the appointment of two staff members, Kelly J. Keating (J.D. '07), a supervising attorney, and Edward Voci, a visiting clinical professor.



As a supervising attorney, Keating will serve for one year at the Fair Housing Legal Clinic handling cases and teaching clinical law students. She also will handle a portion of the clinic's fair housing cases. The supervising attorney position is open to recent John Marshall graduates.

Before joining the clinic staff, Keating was in private practice concentrating in the areas of landlord/tenant litigation, mortgage foreclosure law and residential real estate. She

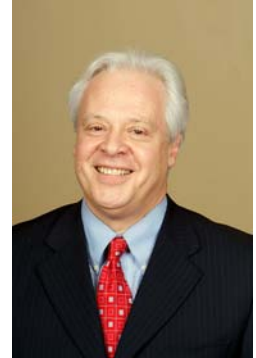
provided legal services to attorneys in civil, domestic relations and landlord/tenant litigation, probate matters and residential real estate.

Keating's previous legal experience includes serving as a law clerk for The Law Office of Diane J. Blair, The Law Office of Gregory L. Goldstein & The Law Office of Michael E. Fleck in Villa Park, and completing internships at the Fair Housing Legal Clinic and at Greater Southwest Development Corporation, Housing Counseling Division, in Chicago.

Voci is a visiting clinical professor for the spring 2009 semester. He has been a John Marshall adjunct professor since

1992 and has a longstanding and distinguished affiliation with the Fair Housing Legal Clinic.

Voci was an attorney with the Leadership Council for Metropolitan Open Communities from 1993 to 1999. He prevailed in 25 consecutive housing race discrimination trials. He has handled more than 200 fair housing and fair lending cases and has tried cases in the U.S. District Court, The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Illinois courts, the Illinois Human Rights Commission, and the Chicago Commission on Human Relations, as well as appeals before the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit.



In private practice for three decades, Voci has primarily litigated cases involving racial and national origin discrimination, housing discrimination, police misconduct, employment, and First, Fourth and Fourteenth Amendment constitutional issues following criminal, juvenile and immigration defense trial work early in his career.

For the past several years Voci has co-instructed with administrative law judges at The John Marshall Law School Fair Housing Legal Support Center's annual fair housing trial skills program that draws litigators from around the country.

Distinguished Professor Presentation Focuses on Patent Quality Mechanisms

The Center for Intellectual Property Law at The John Marshall Law School will welcome Professor R. Polk Wagner of the University of Pennsylvania Law School for a Distinguished Professor Presentation from noon to 1:30 p.m., Friday, March 27, at the law school, 315 S. Plymouth Ct. in Chicago

Wagner will present "Understanding Patent Quality Mechanisms," at the free luncheon program.

There are approximately 1.5 CLE credit-hours available upon completion of the program. For more information, contact Michele Bridges, executive director of the center, at 312.427.2737 ext. 581. To register for the program, visit www.jmls.edu/events/032709IP.asp.

Staff Activity

Virginia M. Russell

Associate Director, Center for International Law

She attended the National Council of International Visitors (NCIV) Annual Conference in Washington, DC, February 11 through 14, where she spoke on "Building a Diverse and Inclusive Board." She also participated in the NCIV Breakfast on the Hill where she hosted US Rep. Jan Schakowsky (IL - 9th). Russell is a past president of the International Visitors Center of Chicago and also serves on the Chicago-Lucerne Sister Cities Committee.

Faculty Activity and Publications

Visiting Professor Robert Schwemm

Activities

He was named one of six University of Kentucky professors to earn the 2009 Great Teacher Award. Schwemm is teaching Civil Procedure and Constitutional Law at John Marshall.

Law School and Student Calendar of Events

February 23, 2009

Phi Alpha Delta blood drive, All Day
Insights I Room 409, 11 a.m.
IL Mock trial Competition Mandatory Information Session, BAIM Courtroom, noon
Faculty Comprehensive Curriculum Review Committee, Room 605, 12:15 p.m.
Faculty Adjunct Committee, Room 608, 1 p.m.

February 24, 2009

Phi Alpha Delta blood drive, 3East, All Day
Polish Law Students association, "Fat Tuesday PAKKI" bake sale, Sargis Miner Lounge, All Day
Amnesty International meeting/election, Room 201, noon
CSO Professionalism: How to Handle Assignments, Room 1105, noon
Faculty Executive Committee Meeting, Room 608, 12:15 p.m.
SBA Faculty Auction, Room 200 & 201, 5 p.m.
WRC Transitions Workshop, Room 403, 5 p.m.

February 25, 2009

IL Mock Trial Competition Team Signups, Room 411, 10 a.m.
WRC Plagiarism Seminar, Room 403, 11:30 a.m.
Student Orientation Committee Meeting, Room 1200, noon
WRC Transitions Workshop, Room 522, noon
CSO cover Letter Writing Workshop, Room 1102, 5 p.m.

February 26, 2009

CSO IP Alumni Panel, Room 403, 11:30 P.M.
The Black Law Students Association Black History Month series, room 201, 11:30 a.m.
Lecture by Dr. Alexander Kedar, Room 1200A, noon
Banner & Witcoff Trial Program, Courtroom 3rd Floor, 1 p.m.
IL Mock Trial Competition Mandatory Evidence Lecture Judge Flood, Room 200, 5 p.m.

February 27, 2009

53rd Annual Conference on Developments in Intellectual Property Law, room 1200, 8 a.m.
Midwest Regional Diversity Undergraduate Mock Trial Competition, Check in on 3East, 9 a.m.

February 28, 2009

Midwest Regional Diversity Undergraduate Mock Trial Competition, Check in on 3East, 9 a.m.
BAR BRI MPRE, Room 200, 10 a.m.
Insights I, Room 409, 1:30 P.M.

March 1, 2009

BAR BRI MPRE, Room 209, 10 a.m.

March 2, 2009

Center Directors' Meeting, Room 1003, 10 a.m.
Insights I, room 409, 11 a.m.
Center for International Law Lucerne Study Program Information Session, Room 1102, noon
Faculty Assembly Meeting, Room 1200, 12:15 p.m.
FAO Loan Repayment presentation, Room 300, 12:30 p.m.
FAO Loan Repayment Presentation, Room 300, 4 p.m.
CSO Orientation for JA12 First Year, Room 503, noon
Distinguished Lecture Series in Employee Benefits Law with Prof. Paul Secunda, Room 1200, 12:15 p.m.
WRC Passive Voice Workshop, Room 403, 5 p.m.

March 4, 2009

WRC Passive Voice Workshop, room 1102, 12 a.m.
Tax Law Lunch and Learn, Room 1120, 11:30 a.m.
Christian Legal Society, room 428, noon
WRC Passive voice Workshop, Room 522, noon
Faculty scholarship roundtable Series with Frank McLellan Teaching and Practicing Tort Law, Room 3East, 12:15 p.m.

March 5, 2009

The Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit and the Modern Cityscape Lecture, Room 1200, 8 a.m.
CSO Trial Superstar Series Family Law, Room 216, noon
Faculty Scholarship in Progress Presentation, Room 3East, 12:15 p.m.
FAO Loan Repayment Presentation, Room 300, 12:30 p.m.
CALI Award Reception, Room 3East, 4p.m.
FAO Loan Repayment Presentation, Room 300, 4p.m.
Phi Alpha Delta Meeting, Room 201, 5 p.m.
FAO Loan Repayment Seminar, Room 200, 5:30 p.m.

March 6, 2009

Board/Faculty Lunch, Room 1200 A&B
Board of Trustee Meeting, BAIM Courtroom, 1:30 p.m.
Faculty Administration Privacy Committee, Room 608, 2 p.m.
Law Review Reception, Room 3East, 5 p.m.
SBA Annual Barrister's Ball Knickerbocker Hotel 9 p.m.

March 7, 2009

SBA Annual Barrister's Ball Knickerbocker Hotel, 12 a.m.
Insights I, Room 409, 1:30 p.m.

March 9, 2009

Insights I, Room 409, 11 a.m.
WRC Scholarly Writing Seminar, Room 403, noon
CSO Interviewing Skills Workshop, Room 1101, noon

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