December 2015 Newsletter

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Dear alumni:

Finals are nearly over, Baier Hall is filled with the energy that the end of a semester tends to bring, and the campus is as beautiful as ever as fall gives way to winter. It has been a remarkable year at the Maurer School of Law. Our faculty, students, and alumni have done some incredible things, and I wanted to share just a few of those highlights with you.

Fred Cate was named the university’s vice president for research and was honored with the Phi Beta Kappa President’s Award and Krug Medal. Amb. Feisal Istrabadi was named to the prestigious American Academy of Arts and Sciences. National Jurist ranked Bill Henderson as the most influential person in legal education. Jeannine Bell was appointed editor of the Law & Society Review. Hannah Buxbaum was installed as academic director of IU’s new gateway office in Berlin. Carwina Weng launched the state’s first Veteran’s Disability Law Clinic. Dan Cole and two other scholars were awarded the Elinor Ostrom Prize for the best full-length article published during the previous year in the Journal of Institutional Economics. And the Jerome Hall Law Library’s digital repository, under the direction of Linda Fariss, passed the two-million download mark.

Indiana Law students were just as equally impressive, performing well in moot court competitions, raising thousands of dollars for local charities, and donating more than 15,000 hours of pro bono service.

As we approach the holiday season, we pause to remember those alumni, friends, and
faculty members we lost, Douglass Boshkoff and Thomas Schornhorst among them. Our school is stronger for having known them.

Finally, allow me to offer my immense gratitude to all of you. The accomplishments above (and the countless others that occur here during a calendar year) wouldn't be possible without you. Our school is built on a legacy and heritage that spans generations, languages, specialties, and borders. Thank you for being a part of our rich and vibrant history. But even more importantly, thank you for being a part of our promising future.

We hope 2016 is even better. For our school. And for you.

With warmest regards,

Austen L. Parrish
Dean and James H. Rudy Professor of Law

Prominent international guests visit CGLP
The Center on the Global Legal Profession welcomed two prominent guests in November. On November 13th, Dr. Wang Yu-Chi (top), SJD '97, Taiwan's National Security Advisor to President Ma Ying-jeou, spoke to students in CGLP Director and Prof. Jayanth Krishnan's comparative legal systems course. Dr. Wang was the first graduate from Maurer's SJD program. He discussed his experiences as a key policymaker in Taiwan, as well as his former role as the country's Minister for Mainland Affairs, where he worked intensively on cross-strait relations between Taiwan and China.

On November 18th, the CGLP hosted the Hon. Deepender Singh Hooda (at right, with Prof. Krishnan), who is in his third term as a member of India's lower house of parliament, the Lok Sabha. Mr. Hooda is a graduate of the Kelley School of Business, where he presently holds the visiting Poling Chair of Business and Government. Mr. Hooda spoke to the Maurer audience about the state of politics in India and his position as the whip for his party (the Indian National Congress), which is now in opposition to the current ruling government in power in India.

Law schools racing to meet student demands, Dean Parrish tells FT
Dean Parrish was quoted in the Financial Times on November 30th, in an article chronicling the changing expectations of today's -- and tomorrow's -- law students.
Though law schools remain expensive, Parrish told the publication "it is pretty clear that getting a good education from a top university in the U.S. opens a lot of doors." The author noted that while many schools have lowered admissions standards, "(t)he likes of Maurer remain in a better position than lower-ranked U.S. schools."

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**In memoriam: Doug Boshkoff**
Prof. Douglass Boshkoff passed away unexpectedly on November 15th, after more than 50 years teaching at Indiana Law. Dedicated to education and the Law School, he served as associate dean and then dean from 1972 to 1975. Doug officially retired from teaching in 1995 but continued to teach his favorite class, Contracts, for another 20 years. The Law School will hold a memorial service in the spring, but alumni and friends are encouraged to leave memories of Doug for his family before then.

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**Alum wins unanimous Supreme Court decision**
Juan Basombrio, '89, won a unanimous decision earlier this month in a United States Supreme Court case on the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act. It was the first case argued in the term. Mr. Basombrio is a partner at Dorsey & Whitney LLP. The Supreme Court unanimously held that Dorsey's client, OBB Personenverkehr AG ("OBB"), the national railway of the Republic of Austria, is entitled to foreign sovereign immunity in a lawsuit filed against it in federal court by a United States resident who was injured while boarding OBB's train in Innsbruck, Austria.

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**Wintersession**
Dozens of students will return to Bloomington early after the holidays to participate in Indiana Law’s inaugural Wintersession. This series of six one-credit courses - ranging from depositions to "The Lawyer as a Business Executive" - takes place between January 5-8, and will be taught by extraordinary alumni, faculty, and practitioners, such as the Hon. Nancy Vaidik, Steve Burns, and Bill Hunt. The courses are included in students' tuition, giving them an opportunity to gain practical skills in a condensed format. Demand for the courses far exceeded initial expectations, according to Dean Parrish.
ABA-Labor Section mock trial team impresses

Eight Indiana Law students participated in the ABA-Labor Law Section mock trial in November, tackling a case involving the termination of an employee. At issue was whether an employee was fired in retaliation for filing FMLA, workers' comp, and a police report, or because of misconduct at work. "Our students, Ashly Eklund (team captain and coordinator), Sonam Vachhani, Becky Sharon, Ben Shute, Haddy Rikabi, Will John, Neil Backer, and Michael Diehl did an excellent job," said Prof. Aviva Orenstein. "They were professional and comfortable in the courtroom and their arguments were impressive. Only four out of 18 teams advanced, and though neither of our teams did, I was very pleased with the students' performance. Over the course of the weekend, I could see their improvement and how much they learned by participating and getting feedback from the judges, most of whom were very constructive in their criticism."

In brief...

The Jerome Hall Law Library Digital Repository, the institutional repository for the Maurer School of Law, surpassed the two million download mark in late September. The repository now contains more than 9,000 items, including a new portrait gallery and collection of books authored by Indiana Law faculty.

In search of assistant dean for career services and assistant admissions director

Indiana Law is seeking an assistant admissions director to help recruit the next generations of fantastic Maurer students and alumni, and an assistant dean for career services to help them find jobs. Know anyone who might be interested? Visit jobs.iu.edu and search for job numbers 15706 and 15544.

Upcoming alumni events

DENVER -- Tuesday, January 26, 6 to 8 p.m. Location TBD.
SEATTLE -- Wednesday, January 27, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Location TBD.
PORTLAND -- Thursday, January 28, 6 to 8 p.m. Location TBD.
MIAMI -- Wednesday, February 10, luncheon. Location TBD.
NAPLES -- Thursday, February 11, time and location TBD.
SAN DIEGO -- Wednesday, February 17, time and location TBD.
SAN FRANCISCO -- Thursday, February 18, time and location TBD.

Visit the events calendar for details as they become available and to RSVP.