November 1: HLSA of Venezuela
Dinner Meeting
Caracas, Venezuela (617) 495-4698

November 3: HLSA of New York City
Dinner Meeting
Harvard Club, New York (617) 495-4698

December 1–3:
Criminal Justice Institute Conference
on U.S. Immigration Law
HLS (617) 495-4698

January 6, 2000: HLSA Law Teachers Luncheon
in conjunction with AALS meeting
Washington, D.C. (617) 495-4698

January 28, 2000: HLSA of New York City
12 p.m., Harvard Club, New York (617) 495-4698

April 27–29, 2000: Spring Reunions Weekend
HLS (617) 495-4698

May 19–20, 2000: HLSA Spring Meeting
HLS (617) 495-4698

June 7, 2000: Alumni Speed and Class Day
HLS (617) 495-4698

June 8, 2000: Commencement
HLS (617) 495-4698

July 15–20, 2000: HLSA at the ABA
London, England (617) 495-4698

October 26–29, 2000: Fall Reunions Weekend
HLS (617) 495-4698

For more information, call the phone number listed for each event.
For up-to-date information about news and events at the School, visit www.law.harvard.edu/News/.

Front and Back Cover:
Commissioner Henry Stern ’57 of New York City Parks & Recreation walks his dog Boomer by the Central Park Zoo (profile on page 52).
Photograph: Scott Jones

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We hope you enjoy reading about what they and many others have been up to in recent months.

Thanks to all who wrote. Please keep the submissions coming.

Nancy Waring, Editor
AN AFTERNOON IN D.C.

August 31 on Fourth Street N.W., in Judiciary Square, as federal and municipal employees stream back to their offices after lunch.

The monumental edifices of Judiciary Square are a daunting display of law and order in the nation’s capital. Here stand the FBI headquarters, the D.C. Superior Court, and the mayor’s offices. Within another massive complex, Judiciary Center, are located the offices of Wilma Lewis ’85, the new U.S. attorney for the District of Columbia.

A pass through a metal detector and an elevator ride bring a visitor at the surprisingly low-key quarters from which Lewis runs the country’s largest U.S. Attorney’s Office, with a staff of over 600 and responsibility for prosecuting both federal and local crimes. As D.C.’s top prosecutor, Lewis oversees 340 assistant U.S. attorneys handling crimes that run the gamut from federal white-collar fraud cases, espionage, and terrorism, to local corruption, homicide, drug peddling, and auto theft. Her office also represents the United States and its departments and agencies in civil proceedings filed in federal court in the District of Columbia. Lewis’ role is unique, given her office’s dual prosecutorial function and her city’s singular stature. When Lewis assumed her post in January 1998, nominated by President Clinton, Washington’s reputation was tarnished from years of runaway crime rates and political upheaval. Although the election of a new mayor, appointment of a new police chief, and other municipal broom-sweeping have raised public spirits, many Washingtonians still feel swamped in public corruption and street crime.

“It’s fair to say that the city over the years has had its share of problems,” says Lewis, a resident of D.C. since 1981. “As I came into office, however, I sensed that things were on the upswing. Right now, crime is at a 25-year low. But that statistic doesn’t tell the whole story, because there’s still significant fear of crime among local residents.”

Eliminating these fears is part of the U.S. attorney’s mission. Judiciary Square seems a very long way from the crime-plagued parts of Washington, so Lewis makes frequent forays into the neighborhoods to talk with residents in churches, libraries, and schools. “What I hear is their pent-up frustration and concern about crimes they feel adversely affect their neighborhoods”—be it the drug user on the corner or the destruction or neglect of property. “So while violent crime is always a law enforcement priority, we can’t neglect quality-of-life crimes at the other end of the spectrum.”

In addition to gathering local opinion, Lewis uses the meetings to “explain legal matters that are a mystery to people. It’s a chance for me to tell them about the criminal justice system and our role.” One question she often gets is, Why is it that after somebody’s arrested and charged with a crime, we see them right back on the street? In response, Lewis describes the legal requirements for detaining a person pending trial, and other issues about how cases are processed.

She adds: “Our conditions-of-release enforcement initiative—which includes the enforcement of court-imposed stay-away orders to keep pretrial defendants out of the neighborhoods in which they are alleged to have committed the crimes—came about because of these public concerns over the ‘revolving door’ of justice.”

Lewis came to her new post from the Department of the Interior, where she first headed up the Division of General Law in the Solicitor’s Office and then was named inspector general by President Clinton in 1995. Previously, she had worked for seven years in the U.S. Attorney’s Office, moving up to deputy chief of the civil division.

A native Virgin Islander, Lewis grew up in St. Thomas, where the racial harmony of her youth stands in sharp contrast to D.C.’s chronic tensions. Her parents both had civil service careers,
in the U.S. Customs Service and Postal Service. Her godmother, a judge on a local court, first sparked Lewis' interest in legal argument. After graduating from HLS, Lewis practiced law for several years at Steptoe & Johnson, then jumped at the chance to enter government service.

In her first months as U.S. attorney, Lewis created a civil rights unit focused on hate crimes and excessive police force cases. She created a gang prosecution and intelligence section dedicated to prosecuting gangs, called "crews" in D.C., whose impact is pernicious and spreading. "Many homicides result from fights over a corner," says Lewis. Her gang and intelligence section stresses preventive measures and will engage in gang resistance training in the public schools. The section will also gather and disseminate the immense amount of information amassed through law enforcement investigations and prosecutions.

Lewis is also drastically expanding the pilot Community Prosecution (CP) Program, which assigns assistant U.S. attorneys to work directly with residents and local law enforcement working D.C.'s Fifth Police District. By the end of this year, more than 125 assistant U.S. attorneys will be involved in CP citywide. Lewis describes some of the program's benefits: "By looking at cases in the context of a particular area or district," rather than by category of crime, "we can screen and prosecute cases 'smarter,'" she says. "And because we develop stronger partnerships with the police officers and the community and we get to know the bad actors well, we can link crimes and cases across districts more effectively."

Lewis wants her office to be proactive in pushing for legislation, including a bail reform proposal currently before the City Council that would enable prosecutors to have pre-trial defendants detained in jail beyond the current 120-day limit "for good cause shown" in cases in which the court has found that the defendant is a risk of flight or danger to the community. She is also involved in the commission charged with establishing a determinant sentencing framework for the District, scheduled to go into effect in August 2000. "On the federal side we have mandatory minimums. On the local side, we've had a far more flexible structure, allowing great disparity in sentencing," she explains.

"Tough penalties in my view are appropriate" to deal with serious situations, "but the criminal justice system must be prepared to deal with a broad spectrum of criminal activities. It is not in every case that incarceration is the answer. There is also a need for treatment and prevention." She strongly supports the

Justice Department's Weed and Seed program, designed to weed out crime and seed social programs. On September 16, the U.S. attorney attended the grand opening of one such initiative, the Fulton House of Hope, a home that will offer drug treatment and job training to 22 women at a time. In its prior life Fulton was known as "Murder Hotel," a drug dealers' haven that often erupted in violence.

Lewis wants her office to encourage many more such transformations. The "role of prosecutors is evolving," she says, "with a broader sense of mission. The primary role is still to go in and secure convictions. But there's a growing sense among prosecutors that we have a much larger role to play in crime-prevention activities and in contributing to the overall goal of improving the quality of life." With that in mind, she will continue to beef up her office's community presence and meet face to face with the people she serves.

— JULIA COLLINS
July 19, Monday afternoon, heading south on the Harbor Freeway.

Belinda Smith Walker ’79, executive director of Girls and Gangs (G&G), and a Bulletin writer are speeding toward South Central Los Angeles. Our destination: the H. Randolph Moore Community Education Center (CEC) for youths on probation, where we will meet with four of Walker’s colleagues.

Walker and her colleagues are in the midst of launching Girls and Gangs, a novel nonprofit that will provide support and services to girls leaving Camp Scott, the only all-girls probation camp in Los Angeles County. The girls wind up at Camp Scott for crimes ranging from armed robbery and assault to drug trafficking. They illustrate a bleak trend: girls are the fastest-growing segment of the juvenile justice population nationwide.

In its pilot year, Girls and Gangs will serve at least 35 girls, ages 14 through 18. Most are minorities, from fragmented families. Many have substance abuse problems, and most, according to recent state statistics, have suffered physical, emotional, and/or sexual abuse. Some are also mothers — often with more than one child. The girls are members of or involved with gangs or live in gang-operated territory, such as where we’re heading.

Monthly G&G workshops have already begun at Camp Scott, some offered by former inmates, on topics such as “breaking the cycle,” job readiness, and child abuse prevention. A pilot group-mentoring project begins in January, linking groups of eight to ten girls with a trio of mentors, at three different locations. A one-on-one mentoring program will begin this summer. Girls and Gangs is also building a resource network and plans education initiatives to counter public stereotyping of young offenders.

As we exit the freeway at South Central Ave., Walker is saying, “We’ve talked for months to get the mentoring piece right, because it has to be something the girls will trust.”

We pull into the school lot concealed by a chain-link fence topped with barbed wire and incongruously entwined with morning glories. The CEC is a nondescript cluster of one-room classrooms. This is where one of the Girls and Gangs mentoring groups will meet.

Joining us inside are G&G board members Annette Gromfin, Maria Gutierrez, Elaine Moore, and Henry Toscano. Like Walker, the four are passionate advocates for girls in the California juvenile justice system. They reflect the diversity of the full board, which comes from the public, private, and nonprofit sectors. In addition to the board, there is a large, equally diverse Girls and Gangs Network that serves as a vehicle for public education and policy changes addressing the needs of at-risk girls.

The group convenes at a folding table. This classroom is a bare-bones space, with chalkboard, metal teacher’s desk, well-worn books, one computer, a globe, a solar system mobile, and posted inspirational quotes.

“I got involved with Girls and Gangs at the very beginning, but I never knew it would get into my blood the way it has,” says Elaine Moore, who has been with the YWCA of Greater L.A. for more than 30 years. “These girls have not had one person in their lives who cared about their well-being without an ulterior motive.”

Board member Maria Gutierrez is a probation officer assigned to Soledad Enrichment Action (SEA) Charter Girls Academy, a new school for girls on probation and hard-to-place girls. She seized the opportunity to get involved with Girls and Gangs “because no one else was addressing the issue of how to bring these girls back into the community. We have to work to keep them from becoming re-offenders.” She points out how law
enforcement efforts generally focus on boys and overlook troubled girls until they're embroiled in serious crimes.

Annette Grofin is a veteran educator and administrator who works with the L.A. County Office of Education. "Who ends up in juvenile Hall? The data says minority and poor kids," Grofin says. "Gangs provide them with an affiliation. With Girls and Gangs, we're trying to build a new kind of opportunity system."

"In a lot of places the gangs are winning. Their recruiters break right through to the kids because nobody else takes them seriously," says Henry Toscano, who was a gang leader in East L.A., where he grew up. Now he is supervisor of gang intervention activities at SEA, with more than 20 years of experience. "I turned around because people tried to reach out: older relatives, coaches, my probation officer. When I was ready to change, they were there for me."

He adds: "Society is too ready to build more prisons and lock everybody up. The concept of Girls and Gangs is unique and badly needed."

"Coming out of Camp Scott, it's hard for the girls to get a job, or education, or to get their record expunged. We (as a society) expect so much of them, and then we never reward them," says Walker. Like the others, she has years of experience in the nonprofit world. As a fresh HLS grad, she started out in private practice at Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher but decided lawyering wasn't for her. She then taught for seven years at a private high school, and after that went on to join nonprofit causes with social change agendas. In 1985 Walker cofounded the Los Angeles Women's Foundation, which supports organizations that empower poor women and children. Her husband, Jack Walker '71, is a partner at Latham & Watkins, which provides pro bono legal services to Girls and Gangs.

The group talked about the rewards of sharing their interdisciplinary skills in developing Girls and Gangs. They emphasized the need for long-term commitments to make any real headway in the long-term problems of juvenile offenders. Says Toscano: "To anyone who asks "What can I do this summer to help?" I want to say, 'Excuse me, but it's going to be 35 summers. Just send a check.'"

Asking what lawyers can offer, Moore says, "It's imperative that they know the system thoroughly, to get around it or barrel right through it. The layers of politics between courts and judges mean unfair hearings for the kids. Law grads may find their time is better spent on changing laws that are impacting the juvenile justice system, to give children a fair shake."

The camaraderie forged in hundreds of hours of volunteer labor on behalf of Girls and Gangs is obvious in this group. They kid each other, and respect and support each other, as they hope the girls will do when they come together for mentoring.

"We've had an extraordinary public response to Girls and Gangs," Walker says, leading the way back to her car. "The rise in crime by girls is ringing all sorts of alarm bells and setting off flashing red lights, yet this population is still small enough so we can wrap our arms around the problem."

Girls and Gangs plans to expand its mentoring program and public education throughout Los Angeles County. Says Walker: "We've got a program that has potential to be a model not just for other girl's programs but cross-gender. When it works here, it will give hope that expanding it to boys will work too."

July 20, Tuesday morning, in downtown L.A.

The offices of English, Munger & Rice are eerily quiet. Stephen English '75 and Molly Munger '74 will walk in any moment. Their partner, Constance Rice, a civil rights attorney, is over at the U.S. District Court, arguing to uphold a consent decree obligating the local transit authority to buy more buses in order to relieve severe overcrowding. Many riders come from L.A.'s poorer neighborhoods and depend on buses for daily transportation.

Public transportation, education, housing for the homeless, city government, juvenile justice — these are some of the public policy areas that English, Munger, and Rice are addressing through a variety of strategies. Their one-year-old law firm takes care of the legal side, while their nonprofit startup, The Advancement Project, concentrates on alternatives to litigation.

In the first year, the Advancement Project focused on education. "Rising expenditures
on prisons have caused school and higher education spending in L.A. County to drop," says Munger. "Test scores are abysmal, and there's county-wide consensus that change is needed."

This spring the partners supported the successful campaigns of education reform candidates and were consultants to the new president of the board of the L.A. Unified School District. Now, as the reform board gears up, the project will provide policy research and propose ways to communicate education proposals across community divisions.

As for the law firm, "the unifying theme is that we're generally suing the government in one form or another," says English, who is married to Munger. That includes a couple of police departments for creating hostile work environments for minority officers.

He also represents a group lobbying the federal government to approve reuse of surplus Navy land and a substantial share of 545 vacant military family homes in the L.A. area as housing for the homeless. Homeless families would have use of the homes for several years, and would receive job training, tutoring, child care, and other services to help them become self-sufficient. Local property owners are fighting hard to stop the plan.

English originally got involved with homelessness in the inner city as president of the board of Public Counsel and a board member of the Los Angeles Legal Aid Foundation. "An increasing number of families in this city are one to two paychecks from being homeless," he says, noting that in parts of L.A., thousands of people live in subdivided garages as well as old cars and trailers.

Of the two HLS graduates, it was Munger who first made the transition from private practice to public interest work. At HLS she had been "imprinted with the idea that becoming a partner in a major firm was the pinnacle of success - especially as a woman from the glass ceiling era. Many of us were eager to prove that barrier need not exist." And she succeeded, when she became the sole woman partner in the L.A. office of Fried, Frank, Hanis, Shriver & Jacobson.

Found she and Rice agreed that to achieve solutions that would "blind the city together," litigators also needed political and organizing know-how, solid policy research, and media skills. The idea of a new partnership emphasizing this complete package emerged.

Meanwhile, Munger's husband says he grew envious. "Molly was having all the fun," English was closing in on 20 years as a general business litigator at Morgan, Lewis & Bockius. He'd been a partner for more than a decade. "I was knocking myself out on cases that had no significance I could believe in," he says. He decided to join Rice and Munger's dual venture.

The partners' ultimate goal "is to make this region, with all its wonderful resources, work better," Munger says. "Right now there's too much disconnect between the diverse kinds of expertise involved in public policy making, with litigators, policy experts, academics, politicians, law enforcement officials, who are all off in separate camps." Munger, English, and Rice are working to bridge these gaps.

- JULIA COLLINS

Having reached that pinnacle, when the L.A. riots took place in 1992 Munger says she was "ready to hear their message, and to look at their causes." Alarmed by L.A.'s rupturing communities, Munger realized "that people like me, who belonged to the establishment, needed to understand better the concerns of the rest of this big city."

So she left private practice and joined the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund, where she met Rice, one of LDF's top lawyers. Munger
KOH’S HUMAN RIGHTS AGENDA

“My job is to try to advance and increase human freedom, through reporting, persuasion, criticism, and advocacy,” says Yale Law School Professor Harold Hongju Koh ’80, who became assistant secretary of state for democracy, human rights, and labor in November 1998.

In February Koh presented Congress with the U.S. State Department’s annual report on human rights practices around the world, testifying about abuses in China, Cuba, and Sudan, among other countries. By mid-July Koh had visited 25 countries and spoken to victims of human rights abuses from Beijing to Belgrade and from Colombia to Kosovo.

While at Yale, where he began teaching in 1985, Koh directed the school’s Schell Center for International Human Rights, and in the early 1990s, he litigated human rights cases in the U.S. Supreme Court against the U.S. government for its policy of repatriating refugees from Haiti, Cuba, and elsewhere. The American-born son of Korean émigrés, Koh has had an eye trained on human rights abuses since he was six years old, when he watched his father, an HLS-trained senior UN diplomat, renounce his homeland for life as a political exile, rather than serve South Korea’s military dictatorship. “And now,” says Koh, “I am assistant secretary for human rights, and South Korea is free and democratic.”

When the Bulletin spoke to Koh this summer, in the midst of a typical day stateside, he had already met with an ambassador to discuss human rights in the ambassador’s home country, planned a trip to Turkey to observe human rights conditions and meet with government leaders, briefed a senator on a major human rights issue, talked with NGO leaders about plans for civil reconstruction in Kosovo, and led a long session about the human rights issues raised by the 16-year Sudanese civil war. That evening he gave a dinner speech to Yale alumni and attended a diplomatic session for international lawyers about the rule of law. “At the end of each day, I try to think about who has been helped by what I have done. If I don’t think I have done enough, I try to do more the next day.”

“One of the exciting things about the job is its global mandate,” says Koh. Another is witnessing “the indomitability of the human spirit. It has been remarkable in Kosovo to see ethnic Albanian refugees reopening restaurants and radio stations and publishing newspapers, just a short distance from bullet-riddled buildings and burned-out homes.”

In Kosovo, Koh is working with NGOs and intergovernmental organizations to document Serb atrocities and to reestablish a civil registry to restore to citizens documents lost or destroyed in the war. He hopes to develop a program through which lawyers can volunteer for short-term assignments in Kosovo, to train new judicial officials and ensure that judicial proceedings comply with international human rights standards.

The tireless Koh says he moves “heaven and earth” to get home to his family in New Haven every weekend. “It’s unbelievably restorative to come back from a war zone and hear your kids talk about Little League and ballet lessons. The quest for human rights is, above all, a struggle to give people a normal life. I am fighting to give other people this kind of normalcy.” — N. W.
August 6, early Friday morning, at 125th Street near Lenox Ave., a.k.a. Malcolm X Boulevard.

It's barely 8 a.m., and window washers are already at work on Carver Federal Savings Bank. The bank's headquarters stands on a bustling block of 125th Street that tells the story of Harlem today, with its themes of hardship and progress. Boarded-up windows, pawnshops, and the unemployment office juxtapose restored historic buildings, the Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone Development Corp., and a sparkling new Starbucks Coffee.

This is familiar stomping ground for Deborah Wright '84, Carver's new president and CEO. Until June she worked across the street from the bank, as president and CEO of the Empowerment Zone, where she pushed for dozens of small business, nonprofit, and commercial real estate projects throughout Harlem. But then the job she set her sights on for years opened up. She became the first woman leader of the nation's largest African American-managed bank, with the charge to re-energize a troubled institution struggling to compete with today's megabanks.

Carver was founded 50 years ago, when African Americans couldn't get financial services. Rebuffed by the state, the bank's founders got a federal charter and opened the first branch. For years they had the market to themselves.

Then came the Community Reinvestment Act of 1977, revised in 1995, which required banks to invest in the communities through which they derive deposits. "The irony is, this tiny institution, whose market was generated by discrimination, now finds itself competing with the very folks who wouldn't give services or set foot in New York's minority communities," Wright says.

Carver's new chief faces the fascinating challenge of meshing the bank's traditions with mainstream capitalist tenets. While Carver is a publicly traded company, with a mandate to make money and increase shareholder value, it's also a community fixture. "I have to find a way to bridge those two worlds," Wright says.

To generate new revenues, and keep Carver unique, Wright will launch one-stop financial services tailored to inner-city customers. She plans to offer seminars to teach Carver clients how to use bank services and select products that fit their personal goals. She will clean up Carver's bad loans and tap her community ties to find new investment partners and depositors.

Wright will also maintain the bank's role as an entry point to the financial services system. "There are still an enormous number of community members who need that," she says. For example, Harlem has a large immigrant population, and many fear bank bureaucracy and that their money will be confiscated or that the IRS will track them down if they open bank accounts. "We have a significant elderly population also, with people still keeping cash under their pillows."

The bank president's strong sense of community was shaped by family example, she says, particularly the public works of her minister grandfather and grandmother, her minister father, and...
her aunt Marian Wright Edelman, the famous founder of the Children's Defense Fund and White House adviser, who once worked for the NAACP in Jackson, Mississippi.

In 1994 Mayor Rudolph Giuliani appointed her commissioner of the Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD), where she led New York's redesign of housing and tax foreclosure policies and introduced key reforms that helped return properties to community residents and entrepreneurs. In 1996 Wright led the startup of the nation's largest Empowerment Zone, overseeing a capital budget of $5.25 billion in city, state, and federal funding. The projects were zooming along — and then that once-in-a-lifetime Carver offer came.

With a Y2K meeting soon to start, Wright steps outside for a quick photo session. While the photographer snaps away, she talks enthusiastically about the neighborhood: the great new buildings coming in, the venerable ones slated for restoration, like the historic Lenox Lounge just down the block. That Starbucks site on the corner was about to become another pawnshop, until Wright single-handedly fought to bring the upscale franchise to Harlem.

After a long, dry spell Harlem is booming, and Wright will ensure the bank benefits and does its part. The window washers are finishing up; Carver's facade sparkles in the sun. "I'm going to shake it up, polish it up, and take it to the next level," she says.

**August 6, late afternoon, in Central Park, alongside the zoo, near East 64th Street.**

Commissioner Henry J. Stern '57 is taking his golden retriever for an airing in the park, behind the 1847 Arsenal that houses the City of New York Parks & Recreation Department. It's a beautiful day, and the broad sidewalk teems with pedestrians and babystrollers. One toddler, after another makes a beeline for Stern's dog. "Oh, that's the Parks commissioner and his dog," a woman says to her friend. "Want to pet the doggie?" Stern asks a child.

Back inside The Arsenal, Stern calls attention to the WPA lobby murals of old parks, and other features of his historic headquarters. Entering the administrative offices we pass a photo of Stern wearing a combat helmet and stepping off a launch, ready to plant the park flag on the shore of a new waterside park.

All signs indicate Stern is no starchy, self-important bureaucrat. He doesn't hesitate to mimic a Marine, or don a toga, or kiss a largemouth bass all for the good of the parks. He ever enjoys the endless five-borough round of park dedications, statue unveilings — one of Ol' Blue Eyes will be coming to Times Square — and speeches to open a free concert or a new ball field.

But the H.L.S graduate also deals with more serious matters daily. After all, Stern's balliwick consists of 28,131 acres of parkland, 15 miles of beaches, 854 playgrounds, 700 playing fields, 33 recreation and senior citizen centers, and so forth, plus an ever-expanding array of programs and events. He is responsible for $167 million in capital spending, a large budget that is insufficient to satisfy New Yorkers' insatiable demand for greenery and places to play, which means the commissioner works hard to establish park partnerships with community groups, companies, foundations, and generous New Yorkers.
protesting permits required by the Parks Department to sell art in front of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, claiming violation of their First Amendment rights. None of this fazes Stern.

"There are constant, spirited controversies: dog owners versus anti-dog owners, rollerbladers versus bicyclists. People have strong feelings about their public spaces. We resolve things in a conciliatory fashion," he says.

But Stern knows how to wield authority. The U.S. Supreme Court decided a case on Stern's watch that gave his agency legal authority to control sound levels at park events. At present, the Parks Department is suing a state agency for the destruction of 2.6 acres of Manhattan's last native forest during a toll center expansion.

Under Stern, the department budget has more than tripled. In the last five years his agency has acquired another 1,600 acres. His Greenstreets program has planted and labeled more than 30,000 trees on city streets. New parks include City Hall Park and the Chinese Scholar's Garden in Staten Island. A planned Hudson River Park will run from Battery Park to 59th Street, and a new golf course is coming to ... Stern in the Bronx. Major restoration projects underway include the 19th-century Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Arch in Brooklyn.

Lounging on his comfy old sofa, Stern recalls his HLS days: buying his first tweed jacket at the Coop, his friendship with Professor Keeton, the bottomless pile of reading material, being named president of the Harvard Law Record.

After graduation, he was rejected by one New York firm after another because he is Jewish. "But if discrimination hadn't interfed, I'd have gotten a law firm job and been miserable," he says. After four years as a law clerk for New York Supreme Court Justice Matthew M. Levy '22, Stern became assistant to the borough president of Manhattan. From then on, his career centered on city government, as executive director of the Parks Department, assistant city administrator, first deputy commissioner of consumer affairs, and liberal member-at-large to the New York City Council.

In 1983 Mayor Ed Koch appointed Stern to his current post, and he served until 1990, when Mayor David Dinkins was elected. From then until 1993 Stern was president of the Citizens Union of the City of New York, a venerable civic organization that monitors city government. Then Rudolph Giuliani was elected mayor, and returned Stern to his Parks commissioner post in 1994.

He has been happily ensconced at The Arsenal ever since. Stern's goal is to continue to expand and improve the parks, and increase citizen participation. "The strength of our parks politically and at budget time depends on how much people care about them," he says.

Soon nervous aides are glancing at their watches and the commissioner is in motion again. The park SUV pulls up, Stern and company climb aboard, and off he goes to greet the crowd at another public event.

August 7, Saturday evening, at the Criminal Courts Building, 100 Centre Street in Manhattan.

"Hey! Steve Pokart!" a woman calls to a lawyer waiting on the courthouse steps. They exchange jocular greetings: both work for the Legal Aid Society's Criminal Defense Division, comrades in arms. But Stephen Pokart '65 has years more experience than his colleague and is one of that rare breed: the career public defender. He has been a Legal Aid lawyer since 1974, and no one knows better than Pokart the rewards and frustrations of representing the poor in this vast city. Tonight he is pulling the night court shift, 4:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. It could be worse: the lobster shift runs till morning.

Two courtrooms are open tonight; by day 50 or 60 rooms are going. Painter Edward Hopper would have done justice to NYC night court: the somber judge staring into space, the shuffle of downcast and anxious prisoners, the overworked lawyers rushing between clients, and the bewildered onlookers in the benches, awaiting a loved one's fate.

"Tonight there are about 300 people in the system," says Pokart. It's an average of 24 hours before a person taken into custody is arraigned before a judge; 48 hours is the legal limit. Felony defendants kept in on bail can be held a maximum of six days unless indicted by a grand jury.

He points out the metal basket of folders, each representing a case. "On an average shift, I'll handle six or seven felonies and some misdemeanors. Many will be drug-related." Most of his cases are plea-bargained. "I have to pick my battles carefully," he says. Last year he went to trial twice, an acquittal on a murder case and a hung jury on a robbery.

There are usually four to five Legal Aid lawyers working a shift, plus other public defenders and a smattering of criminal lawyers in private practice. Tonight Judge Bradley's on the bench. Pokart thinks well of Bradley, who he says is fair and doesn't cave in to prosecutors' inflated bail demands.

A door at the back of the courtroom opens, offering a bleak glimpse of the pens, where the prisoners are held. We barely sit down before Pokart whips open a case folder; no time to waste. He briskly assesses: Mr. S is charged with robbery third degree, for allegedly stealing a piece of jewelry from a man lying drunk on the street. There are two witnesses. Mr. S has three prior felony convictions, two for robbery. Pokart scribbles notes, jumps to his feet, and slips out back to a row of interview cells. There's a heavy odor of sweat and anxiety. "Mr. S?" Pokart hollers, to be heard in the pens beyond, and soon a door opens and an attractive young man with an earnest demeanor enters the cell and sits down.

A metal grate separates lawyer and client. Pokart hands over his card, asks what happened, and scribbles more notes while Mr. S sweats up and down he was only helping the old guy, didn't take a thing. . . . A fast talker, nimble with legal details, Pokart in short order reviews the circumstances and gives Mr. S a dose of reality, about those three priors, how things are going to look to the judge. "There will be ball set," he warns, guessing an amount, and Mr. S claps his head and moans softly. He'd hoped the fact that he has work, putting up drywall, his best job ever, might help get him out that night. Now he's stuck in jail, probably for months, perhaps for years.

Pokart hands the notice of appearance to the court officer, and now Mr. S is in line to see the judge. The case gets a yellow back, for felony; misdemeanants get blue backs.Pokart sits down, opens a fresh folder, speed-reading again.

Next case: Mr. J, charged with break-in and burglary in the third degree. A rod was stuck in the lock of a dell's metal grate, and there was Mr. J, sitting
curbside, in the middle of the night, when the police car pulled up. Mr. I has seven, or is it eight, priors, all felony convictions for burglary or possession of stolen property. A long list of aliases too. And he's on parole. This does not bode well: high bail and the prospect of hard time loom. Out back, when Pokart cuts to the chase and urges full disclosure, to effectively represent him, Mr. I is forthcoming. He knows the legal drill, the terminology, and talks intelligently with Pokart about his prospects, "I can do two to four," he says grimly. "I can't afford fifteen." He squirts a packet of mustard on his sad-looking baloney sandwich. "Nothing good ever happens to me." One ray of hope: Pokart will seek dismissal of the burglary in the third degree charge, since there's no evidence of a completed felony.

The night court assembly line bunks along. Foldiers keep plopping into the baskets. Pokart grabs his share. He darts between tasks: scanning files, advising junior colleagues, heading for the cells, taking his turn before the judge, tending to matters in the courtroom across the way.

His cases are going as well as he could expect. The judge dismisses Mr. I's burglary in the third degree charge. And reduces Mr. I's bail from $7,500 to $2,500 when Pokart stresses his client's employment and points out weaknesses in the prosecution's case.

Before he joined Legal Aid, Pokart was a stage director. During the Vietnam War he put on musical and variety shows for American soldiers and Vietnamese civilians, traveling by helicopter from one site to another. His dramatic talents still serve him well: his voice rings out in the buzzing courtroom, he is always at ease before the judge, and he is masterful at sketching scenarios to engage his numbed-out, confused, frightened, beleaguered, sometimes hostile clients.

Pokart spent his first seven years with the Legal Aid Society working in the Juvenile Rights Division, "mostly abuse and neglect cases." In 1978, he picked up the first felony case when the law changed to allow juveniles to be prosecuted as adults for serious crimes. He managed to get that case sent back to Family Court. But after a year or so, the judges wouldn't go along. "Now it's almost impossible to get the cases sent to family court, although the kids can often get probation in adult court."

At 9:30 p.m. it's time for dinner, and Pokart and his colleagues head for Mulberry Street in Little Italy, where they talk shop and compare the quality of pasta here to another neighborhood favorite.

Back in court, the cases roll on, and the spectators' faces grow wearier. There's scared Mr. H, 20, nabbed for drunk driving, his first offense. His big worry: getting his car back. Nest in the booth: Ms. S, busted by an undercover cop for allegedly acting as a middleman in a drug buy. "As God is my witness, I did not do it," she pleads, while Pokart tries to focus her on the facts. Next comes Mr. P, accused of not paying for his meal at a restaurant. After delicate probing, through a Portuguese interpreter, it becomes clear to Pokart that his client is actually psychotic. This becomes a certainty when Pokart manages to elicit that the defendant used to run a company in Brazil that can make helicopter blades run backwards. Pokart promises to get the man out of jail. After Mr. P comes world-weary Mr. M, caught with a crack pipe, and even more discouraging, gaunt, hollow-eyed young Mr. V, who allegedly jumped a subway turnstile. The police found glassine packets of heroin in his pockets; he has a $600-a-day habit. Maybe the search evidence can be suppressed, maybe he will be sent to a residential treatment program he so far shows no interest in attending — or maybe this young man with multiple prior's is bound for Rikers.

Steve Pokart will do his best to prevent that.

—Julia Collins

A NEW KIND OF LEGAL AID OFFICE

Joel Feldman's four-attorney private legal aid office in Springfield, Mass., recently sued a rental agency that was coding its listing sheets to identity landlords who didn't want to rent to Blacks and Hispanics. Feldman '68 settled the suit against the agency and is now "going after the landlords" — 11 percent of those listing apartments with the agency. "I wish cases like this didn't exist," he says. But they are the staple of Feldman's practice, focused on housing discrimination.

If such cases are all too common, the three-year-old Heiser, Fields, & Feldman — which handles matters involving consumer issues, tenants' rights, and all types of discrimination — is anomalous, even among the relatively few firms that serve predominantly low-income clients. Feldman and his partners hardly ever charge their clients an advance fee. They handle all their cases under fee-shifting statutes, so that if the plaintiff prevails, the defendant pays the plaintiff's attorney fees. "If a case settles out of court, we take a portion of the total settlement, or try to negotiate with the defendant to pay our fees separately," says Feldman. And while other private legal aid offices often supplement their incomes with lucrative personal injury cases, Feldman's firm does not.

Feldman is the former legal director of the Housing Discrimination Project in Holyoke, Mass., and has also worked for Greater Boston Legal Services. He joined Heiser, Fields, & Feldman in September 1998, two years after it was started by two of his friends who were especially concerned with the legal needs of low-income clients who could not obtain assistance from publicly funded legal service agencies. "For example, a lot of housing units in legal service offices have been so depleted that they only serve clients who live in public or subsidized housing," Feldman explains. Heiser, Fields, & Feldman receives hundreds of referrals from overburdened federally funded legal service agencies in the Springfield area.

One of the joys of his practice is "having complete autonomy and independence" to do the work he always wanted to do, Feldman says. "No funders can dictate the cases we take, so we are able to represent hundreds of people who would otherwise have no legal representation."

—N. W.

1992 Carolyn Zander Alford has been elected a partner at King & Spalding in Atlanta, where she represents banks and financial institutions in private debt transactions. She announces her June 15, 1996, marriage to J. Tucker Alford on St. Simons Island, Ga. "Lem Hewes '65 and Kelly Jackson Schnabel were on hand to help celebrate," Alford writes.

In the spring Chris Ayres traveled to Southern Sudan, Uganda, and Rwanda to "devise the means of delivering assistance to impoverished victims of war in New Sudan [Southern Sudan] and to continue assistance to the orphans and other victims of violence in Rwanda," as part of his work with Amahoro Advocacy Clinic & Shelter, Inc. (AACS). "Both efforts [were] staged from a central location in Uganda," he writes. In addition to assisting with essential health, nutrition, education, and advocacy issues, he helped set up an AIDS awareness clinic and the first HIV/AIDS testing unit in Southern Sudan. Ayres is director of AACS, a nonprofit organization formed by HLS
August 11, Wednesday evening, around town and at the playing field. "Coaching the corner."

Zack Lehman’s wife calls his habit of cruising the streets of Charlestown in his Nissan Pathfinder, looking for boys who have missed practice, and making sure they’re not getting into trouble.

It’s off-season now for Charlestown Lacrosse, which Lehman ’81, a law clerk for Chief Judge William Young ’67 of Boston’s federal court and soon-to-be litigation associate at Ropes & Gray, founded here a year ago. Lehman serves the program in every conceivable capacity — from head coach and grant writer to board chair and equipment repairman. Tonight he is giving a Bulletin writer an early evening tour of Charlestown, beginning with the neighborhood where most of the players — some 200 boys and girls ages 8 to 18 — live.

“Hey, when are you going to bring your equipment by?” Lehman calls to a group of teenage boys hanging out in front of a two-story brick housing development, its open entryways revealing institutional green, littered stairwells. Some of them have attended summer lacrosse camps sponsored by the program and been allowed to keep their gear past the regular “turn-in day.” The boys, their faces barely visible beneath their baseball caps, wave and shout their good intentions.

Charlestown covers a mere square mile and has more public housing per square foot than any other Massachusetts city, Lehman says as we drive the few blocks to the more prosperous section. The predominantly Irish working people who have lived here for generations are said to sometimes cast a suspicious eye on well-to-do newcomers occupying pricey homes near the Bunker Hill Monument.

Zack Lehman, with his Phillips Exeter—Dartmouth-Harvard Law pedigree, could be another suspect outsider — a “towner” in the local lexicon. But by all indications, that’s not the case.

Lehman and his wife bought a townhouse on a modest Charlestown street two years ago when he was a 3L. His next-door neighbor, Stan Leonard, a local policeman, spotted Lehman’s Dartmouth lacrosse jacket — Lehman played goalie in high school and college — and kept after him until Lehman agreed to help start a lacrosse program for the city’s kids. Leonard’s interest in lacrosse was sparked by his daughter, now a college player, who learned the sport while a scholarship student at a Cambridge private school.

“The idea wasn’t just to introduce a sport that has usually been confined to more affluent communities,” says Lehman. “It was also to provide a structured alternative to drugs and gangs, and to help kids who are largely from the projects develop discipline and confidence.”

The idea took. The program has grown from 25 neophyte teenagers in the first year to nearly 200 well-trained players in six teams, the varsity playing elite prep schools, and the younger teams competing against other local teams.

Charlestown Lacrosse has 35 volunteer male and female coaches recruited by Lehman, a packed season, and top-flight equipment underwritten by corporate sponsors, who also help send a number of kids to summer lacrosse camps. (Among the program’s many supporters is Hale and Dorr, which provides pro bono legal services.) “As great as it is for the kids and their families, the program is just as great for the coaches and other volunteers,” says Lehman. “For me, being part of a community for the first time has made it all worthwhile.”
play here,” says Lehman. “They’re used to lush playing fields. We give them this, plus we usually beat them.” Last year the varsity boys won 14 out of 19 games, a big jump from their first season when they won a third of their games.

Lehman is a familiar face, and among those who greet him is the mother of the star player on the girls team. Lehman later says the coaching staff emphasizes that the girls are not “second fiddle” to the boys, that in the next few years, there will be a girls varsity team. The program currently has two all-girls teams, one for 13- and 14-year-olds, the other for 11- and 12-year-olds.

Adam, a mid-fielder on the boys varsity team, strolls over, football in hand. He’s an honor roll student at Charlestown High, and he tells Lehman his Spanish grade went from C to B with help from a tutor at lacrosse players, good students, and good citizens. Lacrosse is our hook, but the center is just as important as the program’s recreational component.”

A one-room schoolhouse in a former storage facility, the center opened across from the field in April. Kids get tutoring here, from volunteers recruited by Lehman and other board members, and do community service under the center’s aegis. This spring they took it upon themselves to clean up the city’s infamous “Montego Bay,” an overgrown, trash-strewn drinking haven overlooking the Mystic River just beyond the field. Thanks to a grant, the center is expanding and will soon offer writing workshops, mentoring programs, and standardized test preparation.

Lehman begins at Ropes & Gray in November, and while he expects to cut back from the 20-25 hours a week he devotes to Charlestown Lacrosse during spring playing season, he’s happy that the firm’s hiring partner, Ken Erickson ’75, roots for the program. “Ken said it’s OK if I sometimes need to leave early for a practice.”

— NANCY WARING
Fifty years ago, Dean Erwin N. Griswold ’28 S.J.D. ’29 launched the Harvard Law School Fund’s annual giving program. An outgrowth of a two-year fundraising campaign, the Fund was intended to support scholarships, fellowships, research, and the Library — the same areas that benefit from annual giving today.

During the Fund’s first year, 1,600 people gave a total of $63,000 to the School. Participants included future national Fund chair Harris K. Weston ’43 (’46), future HLS Professor Roger Fisher ’48, and members of the faculty, among them Austin W. Scott ’06 and Samuel Williston 1888. Original Fund participants also included many recently graduated members of the Class of 1949 (who just celebrated their 50th Reunion with a Class Gift of more than $1,000,000).

Today, more than 10,000 alumni and friends make annual gifts to Harvard Law School, and 350 Langdell, Reunion, and Class Agent volunteers strive to set new records. The Fund ended its 49th year on June 30, 1999, under the leadership of Robert H. Craft, Jr. ’66 with an all-time high of $9,000,000 in annual gifts, of which $6,700,000 was unrestricted. Craft’s successor, Lewis B. Kaden ’67, anticipates celebrating the Fund’s 50th anniversary with new records.

— Rachel Smith
Associate Director,
The Harvard Law School Fund

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Fund chair from 1977 to 1979 and indefatigable donor, Fred Fishman ’48 has given to the Fund every year.

Wilkie Bushby ’25, first Fund chair

A page from the Fund’s first ledger, showing gifts from Dean Erwin Griswold and other donors

Lewis B. Kaden ’67, current Fund chair
1999 Commencement Awards

Joseph H. Beale Prize
Awarded for highest grade during the year in the course Conflict of Laws
Kristen Lee McKeever (1998)
Mary Jane Philbrook (1998)
Carl Geoffrey Sussman

Addison Brown Prize
Best essay on a designated subject of maritime or private international law
Soffie Maria Frans Geeroms

Fay Diploma
Highest combined average for three years
Julian Wing-Kai Poon

Edith W. Fine Fellowship
Fellowship for demonstrating extraordinary leadership and commitment to public service work
Kathryn Christine Jones

Irving R. Kaufman Public Service Fellowships
One- to two-year fellowships for individuals demonstrating exceptional promise for careers in public interest
Jacqueline Aimee Burke
David Leonard Calone
Sean Michael Flynn
Matthew Eric Freedman
Venu Gupta
Christina Sing-wei Ho
Kathryn Christine Jones
Rafael Harri Mares

Margaret Grace McWilliams
Aliki Ann Moncrief
MaryBeth Musumeci
Evan Scott Reynolds
Lara Ann Stemple

Laylin Prize
Best paper on public international law
Brett Steven Henrikson

George Leisure Award
Best oralist in the final round of the Ames Moot Court Competition
Alvin Leonard Bragg, Jr.

Mancini Prize
Best essay on law of the European Union
Dorothea Yessios

Irving Oberman Memorial Award
Best essay on legal ethics
Peter Eric Izanec

John M. Olin Law and Economics Prize
Best paper on law and economics
Laura Nyantung Beny
Barak Yechiel Orbach

Boykin C. Wright Memorial Fund Prizes
Awarded to Ames Final competitors
Alvin Leonard Bragg, Jr.
Arlo Devlin-Brown
Grant Michael Dixton
Daniel Scott Gordon
Sarah Elaine Harrington
Michael Paul Jurgens
Maya Renata Kobersy
Erin Elizabeth Murphy
Peter Nicolas
Stuart Glen Svonkin
Adam Jacob Szubin
Cametra Allenette Thompson
A Tribute to Vern Countryman

Professor Emeritus Vern Countryman died on May 3, 1999, at age 86. Countryman, who taught at the School of Law from 1947 until 1961, was an expert on commercial law, particularly bankruptcy law, and was a strong supporter of the rights of the debtor. He was also a specialist in securities transactions and civil liberties.

A 1942 graduate of the University of Washington Law School, Countryman became associated with the National Labor Relations Board in Seattle before devoting himself to teaching at the University of Washington Law School. In 1942, he took a leave of absence from law school to teach at Yale University, where he remained until 1949.

When Vern Countryman retired in 1961, I wrote a short appreciation for the Bulletin. I will begin simply by repeating much of what I said then because it still represents my views.

Some of his achievements and sterling qualities are common on the faculty. He knows the fields in which he teaches. He is a tireless worker and a very prolific scholar. When he finishes writing about a topic, the topic is exhausted. But he is no ivory tower scholar. All his work has been devoted to the public and practical ends of improving the law. He has been very respected in the profession and for decades influential in reforming substantive and procedural rules of bankruptcy.

Some of his sterling qualities are not so common: A fierce opponent of anything that threatens human rights and freedoms, he has followed the path less taken for such believers of holding students (and faculty) to high standards of achievement. Those standards were not to be compromised, not for politics, not for friendship.

Some of his sterling qualities are quite rare. When important decisions have to be made, he walks by himself and answers to no one but himself. He never seeks to manipulate. He never dissolves, either to others or to himself. His integrity is incorruptible, and his departure will leave a large void in the Harvard Law School and, I may indulge myself, in my life. I know no one like him.

For the sake of Vern's many friends in the Harvard Law School community, especially those who tried unsuccessfully to keep in touch with him, I should address the events of the last 11 years, especially the years following the death of his wife, Vera, who had shared his life ever since high school. Vern was beset with problems, including a variety of health problems. After Vera's death in 1994 he returned to Massachusetts from his retirement home in California and attempted to cope. But his health problems were overwhelming, and he was unable to live the kind of professional life he wished. His frustration led him to shut himself off; he could not bear to let his friends see him in a diminished state. And so he turned to a few friends, or rather, he secluded in letting a few friends care for him. Clark Byse devoted virtually every Saturday morning to him after Vern returned from California. Clark kept him apprised of happenings at Harvard Law School and in the world, and brought an element of good humor and cheer into Vern's life. And then there was Maura Kelley, who had been Vern's assistant when he was still teaching at Harvard Law School. For no reward, except the personal satisfaction reserved for those who perform saintly acts, Maura did for him what only the most devoted daughter does for a parent. He could not have gotten along without her, and Vern's friends should be everlastingly grateful to her. I know that I am.

But I should not paint an overly gloomy picture. Vern's friends will not be surprised to learn that he was, Vern retained his essential core to the end. His sharpness of judgement, his straightforward outspokenness, his dignity, and his integrity all remained intact and constantly reminded us that we were in the presence of a man who asked no favors of the world as he sought to make it a better place.

Andrew Kaufman '54

Correction:
The correct title for Alice Dejardins LL.M. ’97 (Spring 1999 Harvard Law Bulletin) is The Honourable Madame Justice Alice Dejardins, Federal Court of Canada, Appeal Division.

Another HLS Pioneer
The Summer 1999 issue was fascinating. My congratulations to you and your staff.

Regarding your "Walk on the Wired Side," for future reference, in 1966 and 1976 I was a student at the Law School as well as a programmer at the Computing Center across the way. I both taught a class in Computer Programming for Lawyers under the auspices of the center. Scores of law students (and a few professors) took the class. It was rudimentary Fortran IV Programming where, as I recall, class members wrote programs to search a tape I had prepared using faculty names to locate and print out faculty birth dates. The computer used was batch-processed IBM 7094 — which covered about 1 acre and cost $375,000/month to rent. Of course, the $1,200 Compaq PC in front of me can run rings around it.

Michael R. Mitchell ’88
Los Angeles, Calif.

Never "Sir Popham"
I question whether "Sir Popham" is correct. Have you any authority which would support this? I believe one should say "Sir John" or "Sir John Popham," but never "Sir Popham."

Edmund K. Trent '39
Vienna, Austria

The Bulletin checked with our in-house authority on titles of nobility, Librarian for Special Collections Dave Worthington, who confirms that you were right to question the usage. Thanks for setting us straight.
A Peruvian oven mitt, a Rwandan flag, a swatch of a Scottish family plaid — these were among the cloth pieces stitched together by then L.L.M. coordinator and quiltmaker Adelaide Shallhope to create a colorful quilt that now hangs in the Graduate Program office. At the program’s behest, Shallhope (who left HLS this fall to pursue a design program in London) began the project in 1999, asking that year’s L.L.M. and S.J.D. students to give her quilt-suitable materials representing their cultures. Thirty-six students from 30 countries participated in the quilt project.

AN ACTIVE LAWYER’S LIFE

Thomas L. P. O’Donnell
A.B. ’47 (“46), LL.B. ’49

O’Donnell, former managing partner of Ropes & Gray, has forged a remarkable career that combines lawyering with civic leadership, charitable endeavors, and hard work for Harvard. In his labor and employment law practice O’Donnell has represented manufacturing companies and financial and educational institutions, negotiated for TV and radio stations, and counseled Boston newspapers in their dealings with a variety of unions. “I’ve especially enjoyed serving Harvard as counsel,” says O’Donnell, who has advised the University on union matters and employment issues for over 40 years.

In the town of Hingham, Massachusetts, no name is more familiar than Tom O’Donnell. As the elected town moderator since 1967, O’Donnell presides at town meetings and appoints principal town committees. He has also held numerous leadership posts in civic and charitable organizations. He is currently chairman of the board of the United Way of Massachusetts Bay and has served as chairman of the Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation, the Boston Municipal Research Bureau, the Trustees of Reservations (which preserves open space and historic places), and the Massachusetts Land Conservation Trust.

A loyal HLS graduate, O’Donnell was instrumental in raising funds to endow the Ropes & Gray professorship. “Mr. Gray taught at HLS in the morning and practiced law in Boston in the afternoon,” he says. “Many distinguished teachers at the school since have also practiced at R & G, including Archie Cox, Lon Fuller, Jim Casner, Bill Andrews, Jim Vorenberg, and Bob Clark. And HLS is still by far our largest source of new associates.” O’Donnell explains that he wanted the firm to do something to recognize these strong connections, “so he did “some encouraging” with extraordinary results: all 75 active or retired R & G partners who were HLS graduates contributed to the professorship. “We are all delighted that Al Warren is the first Ropes & Gray professor,” says O’Donnell.

In 1997 O’Donnell received the Harvard Medal for his dedication to the University, including his service on the Harvard Board of Overseers and the visiting committees to the Kennedy School, the Divinity School, the School of Public Health, and HLS — the last two as chairman.

The native of Taunton, Massachusetts, entered Harvard College in July 1943. His studies were accelerated by service in a Navy officer training program and he graduated, Phi Beta Kappa, in 1946. O’Donnell’s strong interest in public policy led him to HLS, where two professors and classes in particular would influence his professional life: Archibald Cox in labor law, and Henry Hart in legislation.

In 1949 O’Donnell joined Ropes & Gray but in 1952 was recalled to serve as a Navy lieutenant in Washington until 1954. After returning to Ropes & Gray, O’Donnell began to specialize in labor law. In 1962 he became a partner. He joined the Policy Committee in 1976 and served as chairman from 1984 to 1990, a period of unprecedented firm growth. In 1991 O’Donnell cochaired the Boston Bar Association’s Conference on the Advancement of Women in the Law. He says: “The advancement of women is the most important, and clearly the most positive, change in our profession in the last half century. I have been an ardent supporter of recognizing the talent of women in every area of R & G.”

Last year O’Donnell became counsel to his firm. Characteristically, he immediately filled the free time this created. He not only increased his volunteer work, he also commenced studies at the Weston Jesuit School of Theology to pursue his longstanding interest in the role of religious values in public affairs.

The image contains photographs of a quilt with various flags and patterns.