Serving People and the Public Interest

FALL 2010
ALUMNI MAGAZINE
VOLUME 02 NUMBER 01

in this issue
Criminal Defense Lawyers and Public Defenders

Ellen Barry
Bernie Grimm
Margo Cowan
John Iweanoge II

The Iweanoge brothers

University of the District of Columbia
David A. Clarke School of Law
Learning Law in the Spirit of Public Interest
Dear Alumni and Friends,

My years representing indigent people in the D.C. courts were among the most exciting and rewarding of my life. So I couldn’t wait to publish this edition of our alumni magazine devoted to public defenders and criminal defense lawyers. I loved the work of putting the government to the test, of ferreting out lying witnesses, including, sometimes, police officers who cut corners on the truth on an ends-justify-the-means theory. I reveled in it all!

I will never forget winning my first preliminary hearing in a murder case in which my client, a woman, stabbed a stranger through the heart with a boning knife. With an assist from Prof. Lois Yankowski, I was able to demonstrate that our client worked as a butcher, and used the knife she was carrying home from work to defend herself against a drunk who got aggressive with her in a dark alley. It was Tom Mack’s first day as Clinic Director at Antioch. Upon hearing the story of this victory, he turned to Dean Ron Pollack and said, “You said it would be public interest law!”

Melinda Douglas, then a student and now Chief Public Defender in Alexandria, Virginia, investigated that case on a cold winter’s night on her birthday. I knew then that she would be a superb defender. I am so proud of my many, many clinic students and those who came to defense work by other means, who carry on this important work, far exceeding anything I accomplished personally in the world of criminal defense. That is exactly how it should be, and it warms my heart.

Having to choose who to feature here from among our many superstar alumni criminal defenders is no fun—and a bit like being asked to choose among one’s children for a prize. With so many top-notch, career-long defenders to choose from, it’s impossible to do justice.

Antioch School of Law alums like George Kendall, Nina Ginsberg, Melinda Douglass and Marshall Dayan—among others—are all clearly superstars, but are not featured here. And “new school” alumni like Steve Mercer, Rene Sandler, Joe Teefey, James Snowden, Todd Zinicola and more are surely rising stars and deserve more “ink” than we can afford in this edition. We can also safely say that each and every one of the scores of “CJA Attorneys,” public defenders and federal defenders listed in the back of this magazine who do this work day in and day out, many of them for decades, trying to keep poor people out of jail, all surely have their stories to tell and deserve our attention and admiration.

So if you are an accomplished criminal defender and are not featured here, you are in good company. Don’t worry, we’ll circle back and cover more defender alums in later issues.

That said, as you will see, Bernie Grimm, Margo Cowan, Ellen Barry, and John Iweanoge are clearly worthy subjects and I hope and trust you will enjoy finding out a little more about them and why they do what they do.

Enjoy!

Shelley Broderick
Dean and Professor of Law,
University of the District of Columbia
David A. Clarke School of Law

P.S. We originally intended to include prosecuting attorneys here, but we have so many stars on both sides that we decided to feature prosecutors in a future edition.
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“I’d like to think that people are still passionate about what they do, because I am.”
Sometime between herring and salmon season, on a fishing and processing barge in the middle of Prince William Sound, Ellen Barry had her entrance interview for the Antioch School of Law, over the phone.

She had moved up to Alaska from Portland for the summer to make more money. For someone so committed to the law today, heading up the Central California CJA panel (more on that later), she was not waiting on pins and needles to hear about her admission to law school.

In fact, while in college, law school wasn’t even on her radar screen. “Chasing boys was the only thing on my mind,” Ellen says. But while living in a gigantic group house of mostly Portland State University students, Ellen met some Antioch undergraduates attending Portland State on six-week internships.

Because the main activity of the group house was to sit around and argue about anything under the sun, and because she was good at it, everyone told her she should become a lawyer.

“I wasn’t the least bit interested,” Ellen says. “To me, being a lawyer was all corporate BS.”

But one of the Antioch undergraduates was planning to go to Antioch School of Law. He told her about the mission and ethos of the school, its focus on public service and societal change. That was a different story.

“I thought I couldn’t get in,” Ellen says. “But one of those Antioch interns said ‘Life is just a series of hoops. Sometimes the hoops are burning, but they’re still just hoops. So when you come to them, you jump through them.’”

She jumped. She took the LSAT and applied to Antioch and CUNY, completed her course requirements and left for her fishing job in Prince William Sound. Still thinking she was likely not to get accepted to law school, she was in no hurry to finish the thesis required for graduation. But it turned out to be a busy and eventful summer. When she got the call and the conditional acceptance, she came back to Portland and not only completed her thesis, but met her husband. By August, the two of them were driving across country to Washington, D.C.

What she found when she got there was an environment that rekindled feelings she had when graduating high school. “Antioch was going to fulfill the idea that I could change the world.”

That enthusiasm had waned in the years since high school, for good reason. She had entered the University of Maryland right out of high school, but commuting from home to a large campus does not offer a lot of opportunity to bond with folks who are going to change the world. After her freshman year she took off hitchhiking across the country—and told no one in her family where she was going. Waitressing when she needed money, she got only as far as Chicago and a bad relationship. An older sister was able to track her down and took her with her to Portland, Oregon. By the time Ellen did graduate from college, she was older and had seen more of life than your typical 1L.

“Antioch was going to fulfill the idea that I could change the world.”

At Antioch, most of her classmates, by circumstance or choosing, had also arrived at law school via non-traditional routes.

“This was a time when at most law schools men outnumbered women 3 to 1,” Ellen says. “But not at Antioch. Most of us came from non-traditional backgrounds. I remember we had the largest contingent of Native American students in the country. There, the things that mattered to me mattered to my classmates, too.”

But it wasn’t just her classmates who brought back her passion for remaking the world. “David Niblack was my inspiration, my partner in crime.”

Niblack was the Dean of Clinical Programs, arriving at Antioch after four years as Wisconsin’s Chief State Public Defender. “I met him while he was moving into his office, unpacking his stuff,” Ellen says. “He pulled out these great framed pictures of ornamental chickens. He was funny. I thought, ‘What other Clinical Dean could I joke and cuss with as he decorates his office with ornamental chickens?’”

Soon, Ellen wasn’t just working to make a better society, she was intent on helping to save the law school itself.

“Our classes were held in a shabby old donated mansion, the library was the Meyer House (Katherine Graham's
childhood home), we had only one or two computers—the ABA was going to pull its accreditation,” Ellen says. “The ABA expected us to have much greater financial backing, and there really was no infrastructure. But we didn’t need all that. We had the force of our passion.”

Ellen says that Joe Libertelli (today the Director of Alumni Relations at Antioch’s descendant, the University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law), Niblack, and now-Dean Shelley Broderick were the driving forces behind saving the school.

“We had enormous pride in how we performed our public service work. We knew that the Georgetown and George Washington Law schools (also in D.C.) had criminal law clinics as well, but we knew their students were intimidated when they had to go down to ‘the boiler room’ at D.C. Superior Court. That was the lock-up where you’d interview your client, an actual criminal, through the bars, and it was noisy and you had to stand real close and you’d smell their bad breath through the bars and some other inmate would be masturbating behind them. Yes, it was intimidating. But we prided ourselves for being prepared to handle just about anything. We had guts.”

Upon graduating from Antioch, she took a job with a small law firm, where she won her first jury trial. After a year there, a fellow Antioch alum told her about an opportunity in Alexandria, Virginia—the founding of a State Public Defenders office. “Melinda Douglas, also an Antioch alum, hired me as one of four founding staff attorneys. When lawyers coming out of school were getting jobs for $65-70,000 a year, I was happy to take this job for $20k. It was what I wanted to do.”

Five years later, in 1990, she transferred to the 8-lawyer Federal Public Defenders office in Washington, D.C. where she stayed for four years. She then transferred to the Los Angeles office of the Federal Public Defenders office (just in time to experience the Northridge earthquake) where she stayed for four years.

In September of 1999 she went into private practice as a criminal defense attorney, and remains in private practice to this day.

She recently took over the leadership of the CJA Panel of California’s Central District, overseeing the approximately 130 private practice defense attorneys who accept representation of indigent defendants in Federal cases. The panel is named for the Criminal Justice Act, the 1964 law that provides for the appointment and compensation of counsel for those who cannot pay. The Central District includes the counties of Santa Barbara, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino.

Leading the panel means acting as the unpaid liaison between the court and the panel attorneys, including running the mandatory day-long training for the attorneys, interim trainings as needed and recommending who should be added to the panel (and who should be let go).

The Central District is so large, there are enough filings to keep all the panel attorneys busy just handling those cases. Also, some of the filings are massive—the U.S. Attorney who just left ran a gangs task force and would routinely hand down filings with 50, 70, even 90 defendants.

While the goal of the CJA panel is to ensure quality representation, Ellen feels that the reality for the near future is more of the same: a need greater than the available resources. To get closer to consistent quality representation, she has established committees to focus on discovery and procedural issues.

“We’ve seen the erosion of a lot of things that prior generations fought for,” Ellen says. “Good, effective representation is a right that everyone is entitled to, and I’ll continue to fight for it. We all still need to be involved in civil rights and to remain suspicious of our government. Every voice carries some weight. It’s important to be engaged in the process, as that engagement affects more people than you.”

As passionate as Ellen is about what she does, she also has a self-effacing sense of humor about it. “I believe the only real lawyer is a criminal defense attorney, maybe because I’m a trial lawyer and have a giant ego.”
“Regarding my work at the Public Defenders Office here in Washington, D.C., I considered myself to have the best job in the world. There is no more noble calling in life than helping people facing a loss of liberty. Antioch School of Law inspired that passion and prepared me for the courtroom.”
Bernie Grimm worked two jobs to put himself through Kings College in Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania. In his spare time, he volunteered at the Luzerne County Prison, starting a remedial reading class for inmates. By the time he left, over 20 inmates were in the program.

After college he attended Antioch School of Law.

Upon graduation, Bernie worked at the District of Columbia Public Defender Service for six years and then opened his own firm, where he was the principal partner for 15 years. Most of the practice involved defending blue-collar criminals: the worst of the worst according to the government who prosecuted them.

Let’s just say Bernie Grimm has quite a work ethic. So many people were surprised when two years ago he left a lifetime of practicing the particularly grueling form of law that some refer to as “blue collar” criminal defense, characterized by long hours and a brutal trial schedule, and joined the White Collar and Complex Criminal Defense Group at Cozen O’Connor. As Bernie puts it “it’s still long hours but you witness less human devastation”.

“You have to practice with your complete soul, and that takes a toll on your body and your psyche—criminal defense of the poor just beats the hell out of you,” Bernie says. “A lot of lawyers, they could care less, they don’t do the blue collar stuff the way I used to; they stay in, when they should have gotten out long ago.”

He also believes it takes a special kind of person to do it, and especially to do it for a long time. “On the defense side it attracts those who love being on the front line and battling for the underdog. After 200 trials and more than 20 years of practice, I knew it was time for me to move on.”

His commitment to criminal defense work was there long before he enrolled at Antioch School of Law, having already worked as a volunteer for a year at the Public Defenders Office in the District of Columbia.

“I got into more competitive law schools,” Bernie says, “but I wanted to be in the courtroom as soon as possible.”

His years at Antioch School of Law were a tough time for the school. It was the height of the “Reagan Revolution” and the ideology of some of the political appointees was exposing what the real trickle down effect was for the poor and lower income households. In particular, President Reagan, within months of taking office, appointed a new director of the Legal Services Corporation who cut funding for the school from a long-time yearly award of $500,000 to just $25,000 for the year.

“A lot of schools talk a clinical legal education,” Bernie says, “but Antioch was

“...Antioch was the real deal. Professors and students alike were committed—politically, philosophically—to the concept and ideal of social justice.”
the real deal. Professors and students alike were committed—politically, philosophically—to the concept and ideal of social justice.”

He remembers Shelley Broderick for her energy and “super-charged, let’s go fight the good fight” attitude. Among his professors, he cites Mike Diamond, who taught contracts, as “direct, very smart and a great speaker.”

While his career focus has shifted, he remains out front and in the courtroom, most recently securing acquittal on conspiracy and obstruction of justice charges for one of the defendants in the highly publicized 2006 death of Washington, D.C. Attorney Robert Wone.

For all his career accomplishments, Bernie Grimm is likely best known as a legal commentator for Fox News, Court TV and CNN, most frequently on Greta Van Susteren’s show, On The Record.

To people who want to practice criminal defense law, especially blue collar criminal defense, Bernie urges them to “stay committed to the mission and remember the plight and circumstances of the unfortunate—you can make money at any time in your life.”

“You have to practice with your complete soul, and that takes a toll on your body and psyche—criminal defense of the poor just beats the hell out of you.”
“We have to fight and fight back and fight on and make the world a better place. As long as I can make that kind of contribution, that’s what I’m going to do.”
In 1976, when the Border Patrol confiscated the files of a community center in the Barrio Hollywood section of Tucson Arizona, Margo Cowan was its director. Margo and three other women from the center—one a nun—were hit with a 52-count felony indictment for harboring and transporting illegal aliens.

What the center, El Concilio Manzo, was doing was helping Central Americans safely flee civil wars in Guatemala and El Salvador. It was some of the earliest work of what came to be known as the Sanctuary movement, inspired by the Underground railroad. (Most sources cite the movement starting in Tucson, but use the date of 1980—four years later—when congregations declared themselves official sanctuaries for these refugees.) Federal immigration policies would have sent these undocumented refugees back to certain death in their homeland.

Margo was a community organizer. “That’s how I saw myself. If I needed legal help, I would just organize lawyers.”

But that indictment planted a seed. “It made me think ‘I should probably go to law school.’”

The charges were dropped, and in 1977, El Concilio Manzo went on to be the first community-based outreach center in the country authorized to represent—in a lay capacity—undocumented people in deportation proceedings. As a result, Margo had years of experience in immigration court before she ever became a lawyer, representing more than 3,000 Central Americans.

Like many Antioch alumni and many of today’s UDC-DCSL law students, she didn’t come to law school fresh from college, but brought extensive experience to her time at the school.

“All the students were people who had been out in the world, had distinguished themselves,” says Margo. “Professors tailored the Antioch curriculum to these students, with the aim of making us better prepared to be civil rights fighters.”

Co-founding the Sanctuary movement was certainly enough to deem her a civil rights fighter, but she brought even more to the table.

“I was fortunate to have worked for Cesar Chavez,” says Margo. “I ran a United Farm Workers strike in San Diego County. This was before he was a rock star, so he had time to mentor me. That experience shaped the kind of community organizer I became.”

When she took the leap to get a law degree, it was not hard to find Antioch.

“A dear friend of my parents, Ed Morgan, was an Antioch professor then,” says Margo. “Ed is a legend here in Arizona, a Tucson pioneer in civil rights who took on many death penalty cases.”

The fact that he was a practitioner as well as a professor was particularly attractive to Margo, and was typical of the entire faculty. “Lois Yankowski, Shelley Broderick—were all fighters.”

After graduating from Antioch, Margo worked for the Latin American Youth Center in Washington, D.C. and for People of Color United Against AIDS before taking on the role of General Counsel to the Tohono O’odham nation, the second largest federally recognized tribal nation in the country. The territory of the Tohono O’odham nation spans the U.S./Mexico border (the smaller, U.S. side is the size of Connecticut!), so Margo had a firsthand look at the increasing militarization of our Southern border.

In 2003, she returned to Washington D.C., accompanying her good friend Congressman Raul Grijalva as Counsel during his first year in the United States Congress.

Today, Margo is once again in Tucson, working as a Pima County Public Defender, a role she has filled since 2004.

“All of my clients are non-citizens,” says Margo. “I provide criminal defense in the context of trying to resolve issues of keeping or gaining status in the U.S.”

“I was fortunate to have worked for Cesar Chavez... That experience shaped the kind of community organizer I became.”
Margo encapsulates her career as “35 years of immigration law,” all growing out of her initial work in establishing the Sanctuary movement. But no matter the actual job, the role, broadly speaking, has been the same: fighting for the civil rights of individuals.

Her work in activities that stretch far beyond her job titles is proof of that commitment.

In 2003, she co-founded No More Deaths/No Más Muertes, a group that maintains camps providing food, water and medical care to people attempting to enter the U.S. through the harsh Sonoran desert. The mission of No More Deaths is to “end death and suffering on the U.S./Mexico border through civil initiative: the conviction that people of conscience must work openly and in community to uphold fundamental human rights.” It is summarized in the positioning line on their website: “Humanitarian Aid Is Never A Crime.” While hundreds still perish each year attempting to cross the desert, thousands of lives have been saved.

Margo organized the first in-detention defense project in the country, using its $3.5 million bond fund to release 3,200 people from a detention center in El Centro, California. While there are hundreds of detention centers across the country, holding more than 32,000 people, there are only three other in-detention defense centers.

With funds from the Ford Foundation of the United States and Mexico, Margo is establishing a virtual courtroom in Tucson, Arizona and Hermosilla, Mexico, that would allow family members to follow proceedings in Pima County Superior Court felony trials of non-U.S. citizens from the “mirror” courtroom in Mexico. In addition, family members could appear and testify from Mexico in the immigration hearing.

It should be up and running in early 2011, and, given the large number of non-citizen dependents with matters pending in state court, Margo is hopeful that this pilot will spawn similar programs all along the border.

The project Margo seems most excited about today is the one that she takes the least credit for: the student movement organized in support of the DREAM (Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors) Act, which has yet to pass into law. Margo advises the undocumented students and recent graduates who have organized to work for passage of the Act; they would be eligible for citizenship under this new legislation which provides for children brought to the U.S. under the age of 16 to become citizens upon completion of a college degree or two years of military service.

The students have organized sit-ins and demonstrations outside the offices of Senators McCain, Reid, Feinstein and Schumer, some in their home districts, others at the Hart Senate office building, all encouraging passage of the Act before this session of Congress expires. Turning to civil disobedience as one of their tactics is an act of great personal bravery, as they risk deportation upon arrest.

“In my 35 years of immigration work, I’ve seen lots of collaborative efforts,” says Margo, “but this is the first that I’ve ever seen that is created, managed and wholly executed by undocumented people.”

Her view on the role of the law and lawyers is likely not held by a majority of people. But it is certainly representative of the ethos of the institution that began as the Antioch School of Law and lives on today as the David A. Clarke School of Law.

“This is what we’ve got to do—we have to continue to fight and fight back and fight on and make the world a better place,” says Margo. “As long as I can make that kind of contribution, that’s what I’m going to do.”

“In my view, that’s what practicing law is all about.”
When asked why, out of all the ways to practice law, he chose to become a criminal defense attorney, John O. Iweanoge, II smiles ever so slightly and says “That is a very long story.” He goes on instead to state that criminal defense law is the only law that interests him; that he loves litigation, in his experience more than most other lawyers do; that a new set of challenges come with every case; and that the work is not for the faint-hearted—it is very challenging.
“It gives me the satisfaction of being a lawyer,” John says, “and at the same time of making a difference.”

But what about that long story?

“My desire to be a criminal defense lawyer arose from an experience I had when I was a very young man in Nigeria.

“I was driving and I heard a siren and pulled over. A paddy wagon came along and stopped, briefly, across from me.

“Through the blinds of the paddy wagon, I caught the eyes of one of the prisoners, a man being transported from death row to the gallows. He looked so tortured. I was sure he was to be executed that day.

“Suddenly I thought, ‘What if this man is innocent?’

“I turned around and followed the paddy wagon to the public gallows. I waited, but saw nothing. Finally, I had to leave. But when I did, there was a sense of a mission left incomplete—I had found my calling, nothing else would do but the practice of criminal law.”

In high school, John initially thought he would become a priest (he was raised Catholic, and continues in the faith) and then considered medicine. But he talked so much in class that all his teachers and classmates said he was going to be a lawyer. His inclination was to attend law school in Nigeria, but he would be learning the British system, down to the wig and gown.

The more he learned about the American system of law and the right to a jury trial, the more he realized that he could best fulfill his goal of meaningful work here in the United States.

John emigrated in 1986, began attending the District of Columbia School of Law in 1990 and graduated in 1993. He is licensed to practice law in the District of Columbia, Maryland and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

He then had a choice. While he knew the type of law he wanted to practice, he wasn’t sure of the best way to go about it—work for someone or go out on his own from day one?

His experience with two professors in particular helped him to choose starting his own law firm: Joe Tulman, and Erias Hyman. Hyman taught trial advocacy.

“Professor Hyman challenged me to be the best at what I wanted to do,” John says. “To master my thoughts—have it in my head and be able to spit it out in open court.”

Joe Tulman’s influence was more pervasive. Not only did John represent clients in Professor Tulman’s Juvenile clinic in both his first and third years (John also cites Professor Suji Sutler’s influence during his second round in the juvenile clinic), but he took to heart a very short speech from Professor Tulman.

“He merely said that, after observing me for three years, he knew that I could do it on my own.”

That simple declaration of belief in John’s abilities cemented his leanings to start his own firm as a criminal defense lawyer immediately upon graduation. John believes that it was absolutely the right thing to do. However, he did have to change the firm’s name, from “The Law Offices John O. Iweanoge” to “The Iweanoges’ Firm, PC.” He is today in practice with his two brothers, Charles and Jude—both of whom are also District of Columbia Law School graduates. They handle the Firm’s Civil, Commercial and Appellate Practice, amongst other specialized areas of law.

John has another brother, Vincent, who also graduated from District of Columbia Law School and manages the family’s real estate business: Astericks Realty, LLC.

Two cases in particular stand out for John, one for its length and grueling nature, the other for its setting and effect on the law.

The first, U.S. v. Ronald Taylor, et al, was the second longest trial conducted in a D.C. Federal Court. It was tried twice. The defendant, an alleged drug kingpin, was facing a sentence of life imprisonment for Conspiracy and for allegedly running a Continuing Criminal Enterprise. His first trial, which lasted six months, resulted in a hung jury on all counts. Upon re-trial, which lasted another seven months, the Jury returned not guilty verdicts on three counts and was hung on the remaining four. Rather
than try the case for the third time, the United States dismissed it.

‘For its length alone,’ John says, ‘that trial would be the experience of a lifetime. Of course, we put on a successful defense, too. It was very gratifying—we did God’s work.’

The second case, U.S. v. Wilson-Bey et al, marked the first time the D.C. Court of Appeals sat outside the H. Carl Moultrie courthouse when they agreed to hear oral arguments at the University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law after granting an En Banc rehearing. More important, prior to the rehearing, the case set precedent when the D.C. Court of Appeals agreed with the defense and urged the full Court to take on the case to change a longstanding interpretation of D.C. criminal law. Namely, that a person who aided and abetted in a murder could be convicted of the same charge as the killer, even if it had not been proven that the person acted with specific intent to kill. It is now the law in the District of Columbia that a conviction of first degree premeditated murder on an aiding and abetting theory requires the prosecution to prove that the accomplice acted with premeditation and deliberation and intent to kill.

“This represented a lifetime change in the law,” John says.

In 1997, John discovered another practice area of interest to him. He represented, pro bono, because the lawyer was a good friend, another attorney before the D.C. Board of Professional Responsibility.

“I fell in love with that area of the law where I could represent my fellow lawyers,” John says, and now lists defending lawyers in legal ethics matters as one of his primary areas of practice.

His work continues to be highly gratifying for him.

“I had a dream about how I was going to make a difference in this world, and with God’s blessings, it has come true,” John says. “What I have been able to do with a law degree the past 17 years, how I’ve been touched by people I represented, and vice versa, even when we lose, is so gratifying that if I had to do it over, I would do the same thing.”

The Iweanoge brothers: Charles, Vincent, Jude, and John II.
More Alumni in Criminal Defense

Jerry Bernstein, ’75 heads the White Collar Defense and Investigations practice group at Blank Rome. He had been an AUSA in Washington (with David Krakoff, ’77) and a Special Attorney in the Brooklyn Organized Crime Strike Force, a part of DOJ. jbernstein@blankrome.com

David S. Krakoff, ’75, counsels corporations in all aspects of criminal and related civil and administrative matters. In 2009, he represented a former executive of W.R. Grace & Co. in a lengthy criminal trial in the District of Montana that ended in an acquittal of all charges. He is regularly listed as a Best Lawyer in America a Superlawyer and more! He was an AUSA in the U.S. Attorney’s Office for D.C. for 10 years. dkrakoff@buckleysandler.com

Bill Mauk, ’75 has had two notorious criminal cases. He defended Claude Dallas (en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Claude_Dallas) a mountain man convicted of killing two game wardens, who escaped from prison and then served more than two decades in jail, and Don Paradis (truthinjustice.org/paradis.htm) who Mauk helped save from execution. The year Don Paradis was released from prison, the ACLU of Washington gave Ed Matthews and Bill its Civil Libertarian Award. The following year the Idaho ACLU honored them with its Thurgood Marshall Award. Bill was the 1988 Democratic nominee for the US Senate and has served as Chair of the Idaho Democratic Party.

www.maukburgoyne.com/attorneys/mauk

Wilbur Colom, ’76 is primarily a tort lawyer, not a defense attorney, but that didn’t stop him from serving as a founding benefactor of the University of Mississippi Innocence Project.

www.colom.com

Daniel H. Forman ’76 joined the Miami State Attorney’s Office as a prosecutor and then went to the U.S. Attorney’s office in the southern district of Florida prosecuting major international drug traffickers. Now, in private defense practice, he specializes in state and federal criminal trials and appeals. Defense work was always his goal. “The interesting thing is that I didn’t back into this type of practice area, I always wanted to practice criminal law. While at Antioch, I fondly remember work in the criminal law clinic.”

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Andrea Lyon, ’76, a nationally renowned death-penalty foe and legal educator at DePaul University, was featured in an earlier edition of this magazine. See info on her terrific book, Angel of Death Row at www.andrealyon.com

David Carr, ’77 is a D.C. CJA Attorney.

Robert Hays, ’77, is a Lancaster County Public Defender, Lincoln, NE.

William Renahan, ’77, is a Maryland Public Defender.

Nina Ginsberg, ’78, named one of the top 75 lawyers in Washington by Washington Magazine in 2002, concentrates her nationwide practice on complex criminal trial and appellate litigation with a focus on national security law, white collar investigations and prosecution, financial and securities fraud, computer crime, copyright fraud, and professional ethics. www.dimuro.com/ nnginsberg@dimuro.com To see Nina “Activist Lawyer” Ginsberg turn the tables on Bill O’Reilly’s “gotcha” hitman, see www.dipity.com/timeline/John-Adams-Project/event?eid=bVO-6Lw&sid=Zdliai1PTE&skin=(you might want to go to our website to click on this one – but it’s worth it!)

Heather Shaner, ’78, is a D.C. CJA Attorney.

Anthony Natale, ’78 is a Supervising Assistant Federal Public Defender and training coordinator in Miami. Previously, he was in private practice for 20 years concentrating in criminal defense and civil trials both state and federal. Although the vast majority of his clients have been those too poor to afford an attorney his former clients include a Donald Trump enterprise and the rock group The Red Hot Chili Peppers. Anthony_Natale@fd.org

Garrick Byers, ’79, is a Fresno County Public Defender, CA.

George H. Kendall, ’79 handles pro bono capital, criminal and civil rights cases for Squire Sanders in New York City. He’s handled cases around the United States at trial, on appeal and in post-conviction proceedings including in the United States Supreme Court, where he has represented clients for more than 25 years. He also regularly consults with capital defense lawyers nationwide. George has worked with the Defender Services Division of the Administrative Office of the US Courts in improving discovery in federal criminal cases and has also worked closely with The Innocence Project and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Legal Defense Fund (LDF) on policy initiatives. While at the LDF he was editor of the newsletter Race Notes, which identifies arguments and strategies citizens can use to lessen the influence of racial bias in the criminal justice system. He is a former staff attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union Eleventh Circuit Capital Litigation Project. www.ssdi.com/glendall/

Stephen Kiersh, ’79 is a D.C. CJA Attorney.

Rick Seligman, ’79, has represented criminal defendants in Washington area local and federal courts for the past 25 years. www.seligman-law.com/

Maria Mendoza, ’80, is a D.C. CJA Attorney.

Floris Mikkelsen, ’80, is a King County Public Defender in Washington State.
Andrew S. Birrell, ‘81 has litigated criminal, white collar criminal and complex civil cases. Minnesota Law and Politics has named him one of the top 100 “Super Lawyers” based on a statewide survey of Minnesota Lawyers. www.birrelllaw.com/birrell.html

Melinda Douglas, ‘81 is the Public Defender for the City of Alexandria – having created the office in 1987. She handles a caseload of drug, rape, armed robbery, and homicide cases including death penalty representation; supervises a staff of ten attorneys, two investigators, one sentencing specialist and five secretaries. She created and supervises the clinical education program for law students and also has a private practice emphasizing criminal and civil litigation in the District of Columbia and Virginia. melinda.douglas@alexandriava.gov

Susan Herman, ‘81 wrote the recent, Parallel Justice for Victims of Crime www.paralleljustice.org. It presents a new framework for thinking about what it would mean to provide justice to victims. It’s a vision both prosecutors and defense attorneys can, and have, embraced. She envisions a parallel, dual-path to justice—requiring society to help repair the harm done to victims (who are disproportionately poor, and people of color) while holding offenders accountable for their crimes. This approach would revolutionize our justice system by establishing and funding an official set of responses to victims of crime. Parallel Justice elevates the goal of helping victims rebuild their lives to a fundamental component of justice. Parallel Justice requires us to decouple the pursuit of justice for victims from the administration of justice for offenders. Under a system of Parallel Justice the societal message to victims would be, “What happened to you is wrong and we will help you rebuild your life.”

Teresa McCune, ‘81 has been the Chief Public Defender of Mingo County, WV, for the past 20 years. Her shop was the first to be granted “taint hearing” in a child sexual assault case in WV and once this hearing was granted, an 18 count indictment against her client was dropped. In 2010, she was awarded the Distinguished Women in the Law Award in Public Interest by the WV University College of Law. The award was signed by Dean Joyce McConnell, ‘81! tess_mccune@hotmail.com

Linda Peyton, ‘81 is now the Executive Director of the Legal Clinic for the Disabled in Philadelphia, PA. She previously spent 20 years with the Defender Association of Philadelphia as a trial and appellate attorney. She was the director of the Defender Association’s criminal law clinic at the University of Pennsylvania, and is an adjunct professor at Temple University and Arcadia University. 215-587-3350.

David Vega, ‘81 is a D.C. CJA Attorney.

Carlos Alfredo Williams, ‘81 is the Executive Director of the Federal Public Defenders, the President of the National Association of Federal Defenders, and the President of the Mobile Bar Association in Mobile, AL. Before joining the Federal Defenders Organization in Mobile, he was a staff attorney with Legal Services Corporation of Alabama (LSCA) and Director of the LSCA Migrant Project. He was also engaged in private practice in Selma and Birmingham, Alabama as a partner in the firm of Chestnut, Sanders, Sanders, Turner, Williams & Pettaway. Carlos is married to Merceria Ludgood, ‘81.

Cary Clennon, ‘82 is a D.C. CJA Attorney.

Simmie Baer, ‘83 is a Supervising Attorney and Clinical Professor in the Children and Family Justice Center, Bluhm Legal Clinic at Northwestern University School of Law. Prior to this appointment, she was the Supervising Attorney for the Juvenile Division of The Defender Association in Seattle for over 16 years and practiced with the office for 20 years. s-baer@law.northwestern.edu

Robert Friedman, ‘83, is a Public Defender for the 2nd Judicial Circuit in Florida.

Vincent Lopez, ‘83 is a Public Defender in Rock Island County Public Defender; in Rock Island, IL.

Sharon Burka, ’84, is a D.C. CJA Attorney.

Relinda Louisy, ’84, is a D.C. CJA Attorney.

Jonathan Zucker, ‘84 took the Criminal Misdemeanor Clinic at ASL supervised by Shelley Broderick and Barbara Miller and represented criminal defendants in D.C. Superior Court. Upon graduation he reports, “I was not particularly excited about looking for a job so I just started picking up court-appointed criminal defense cases under the CJA system and represented anyone who would retain me. Twenty-six years later I am doing the same thing, though the types of cases have changed — now it is mostly serious felony cases in D.C. Superior and Federal Court, homicides, conspiracies, etc. I do primarily trial work. Luckily Patricia Daus, ’86 does most of the research, writing and appeals. I still love trying cases, nothing like a good courtroom fight to get the juices flowing. I do not think any other area of law can be as exhilarating, challenging or satisfying.” jonathanzucker@aol.com

Stephen Jackson, ’85, is a D.C. CJA and Juvenile CJA Panel Attorney.

Jody Jose, ’85, is a D.C. Juvenile CJA Panel Attorney.

Marshall Dayan, ’86 has been actively involved in the anti-death penalty movement since 1981 and recently joined the Capital Habeas Unit of the Federal Defender’s Office in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He has published several law review articles on the death penalty and has also written several pieces on capital litigation for The Champion, the magazine of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. He has served as Chair of the Board of the National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, and as President of the NC-based People of Faith Against the Death Penalty. He currently serves on the board of Pennsylvanians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty, and the legal committee of the Pittsburgh chapter of the PA ACLU. (Much more on Marshall in our online version!) marshalldayan@gmail.com

Harry Goldwater, ’86, is a D.C. Juvenile CJA Panel Attorney.

Danny Oshty, ’86, is a D.C. CJA Attorney.

Laura Rose, ’86 has been a Visiting Professor with the American University Criminal Justice Clinic and E. Barrett Prettyman Fellowship Program on leave from the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia (PDS), where she has been employed since 1990. While at the Public Defender Service, Ms.
Rose served in the agency’s trial, appellate, and mental health divisions. Prior to her tenure at PDS, Ms. Rose was a fellow in Georgetown’s E. Barrett Prettyman Fellowship Program and a law clerk for the Honorable Richard A. Leive in the Superior Court for the District of Columbia.

Joe Russo, ’86 has served as Senior Trial Attorney and First Assistant Deputy Public Defender for the State of New Jersey representing defendants in all phases of criminal litigation, including death penalty cases. He also managed and supervised staff attorneys, conflict attorneys, investigators, and administrative staff. He is now of Counsel to Russo Law Offices, LLC, with offices in Phillipsburg, New Jersey and Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. His sister Mary Ann Marfia is a 1985 ASL grad! JoeRusso@russolawllc.com

Dan Dorsey, ’87, is a D.C. CJA Attorney.

Anne Saunders, ’87, is a Federal Public Defender in Harrisburg, PA.

Harold Willocks, ’87, was recently appointed to a seat on the Virgin Islands Superior Court. Harold, a noted historian in addition to his legal career, served as Assistant Attorney General before joining the Office of the Territorial Public Defender, where he had been Chief Public Defender since 1992. An article announcing his appointment read, “Atty. Willocks was praised for his long-time involvement in the community, his thoroughness as a researcher, his calm demeanor and his responsiveness. Additionally, he was noted as a person who is in touch with the people, a characteristic his questioners and those who came to testify on his behalf noted as a particularly positive attribute for a judge in the Virgin Islands.”

Ramon Acosta, ’88 is a Federal Public Defender in Reno, Nevada.

Ken Morrison, ’88. In 2005, at the ripe old age of 44 and with no trial experience, Ken started a new career in criminal defense for the Orange County Alternate Defender’s Office in California. After setting a countywide record of winning ten consecutive trials during his first year, and picking up a public defender “Attorney of the Year” award in 2007, Ken is now assigned to defending clients accused of special circumstance homicides, child rapes, and other serious and violent felonies. Ken’s last trial victory showcased creative “magic tricks” during a three-hour closing argument to convince a jury to vote “not guilty” in an attempted murder trial, even though his client confessed to shooting an unarmed man four times from five feet away (including once below the heart and once in the back). By removing a dime from an empty wine bottle -- before removing the cork -- Ken assisted the jury in reevaluating exactly what was “reasonable.” Ken now has a new six felony trial win streak, having lost only five of his last 27 trials. Kenneth.Morrison@atdef.ocgov.com

Deborah St. Jean, ’88, (featured in a previous edition of this magazine) is Director of the Juvenile Protection Division of the Maryland Office of the Public Defender.

Patricia Newton, ’91, is a D.C. CJA Attorney.

Leah Reibel, ’91 has defended criminal clients in a wide range of misdemeanor and major felony cases. She has also helped clients gain early release from prison by filing Motions for Judicial Release (formerly known as shock probation), and has also represented clients in Senate Bill 10 cases regarding sexual offender classification. She is in private practice in Columbus, OH. See www.reibellaw.com

Yvonne Davis-Smith, ’92, is a D.C. Juvenile CJA Panel Attorney.

Alene Grabauskas Sprano, ’92 started her career as a Public Defender in York, PA and then worked for the Fairfax Office of the Public Defender in Virginia where as a Senior Assistant, she trained and supervised other lawyers in the office’s Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court division while representing juveniles and adults charged with serious crimes. She’s now in private practice. www.spranolaw.com

Russell Hairston, ’92, is a D.C. CJA Attorney.

Lawrence Schweiker, ’92, is a Public Defender in Broward County, Florida.

Steven Michael Onifer, ’93 has a general practice in Elkhart, IN with which he has done a variety of criminal defense work. See www.oniferlaw.com/

Stephen B. Mercer, ’94, is now Chief of the Forensics Division for the Maryland Office of the Public Defender. Previously in private practice, he was one of a few private attorneys in Maryland whose practice emphasized direct criminal appeals from Maryland trial court convictions to the state appellate courts. Heavily involved in DNA cases, in July, 2007, Steve was a featured guest on a CBS News Sixty Minutes report entitled “A Not So Perfect Match,” an examination of the newly-emerging technique of familial searching of forensic DNA databases. He has been an adjunct professor at UDC-DCLSL for many years.

Rene Sandler, ’94, was recently recognized as one of the Washington area’s top Criminal Defense attorney’s by Washingtonian Magazine and has appeared with a client on the Geraldo Rivera Show, on local Montgomery County Cable Television, local television and news outlets, and a variety of local and national newspapers and magazines for her work on numerous high profile cases in Montgomery County, Maryland. www.sandlerlawllc.com

Joseph Teefey, Jr., ’94 did an internship with the Federal Public Defenders in D.C. under Ellen Barry, featured above. He has represented 25 capital defendants in 11 counties in southside Virginia – none of whom have received the death penalty, and three of whom were acquitted. Joe has received the Bill Geimer award for his work as a capital defender from the Washington & Lee School of Law, Virginia Capital Case Clearinghouse. teefey@comcast.net;www.teefeyandteefey.com

Gladys Weatherspoon (nee Joseph), ’94, a former D.C. public defender is now a D.C. CJA attorney in private practice in the District and Maryland. www.weatherspoonfirm.com/lawyer-attorney-1286668.html

Sam Adewusi, ’95 was on the D.C. Criminal Justice Act (CJA) panel from 1997 till 2001. He has since teamed up with his law school classmate, Mark Cotton, ’95 to form the law firm of Cotton and Adewusi, LLC which practices in Maryland and the District of Columbia. See www.cottonslaw.com

Ada Chan and Mark Rollins, both ’95 are D.C. CJA attorneys.
Marc Thompson, ’96, has practiced criminal law since his graduation in Washington, D.C., Virginia and in the federal courts. His firm is Baldwin, Molina and Escoto. See www.criminaldefence.seattorneydc.com

Catherine Carhart Henry, ’95 (married to Todd Henry, ’96, below) is a Federal Defender in Philadelphia, PA.

Robert Levant, ’95 has tried over one hundred jury trials in the Pennsylvania state and federal courts. He has been a regular panelist on Lynn Doyle’s television show “It’s Your Call” as an expert legal commentator and has served as an adjunct instructor at Temple University’s L.L.M. program in Trial Advocacy. www.lmtpc.com

Christina (Lugo) Raskin, ’95, is a D.C. CJA Attorney.

Sabrina Bazemore, ’96 (featured in a previous alumni magazine) is a Public Defender in the D.C. PDS Civil Legal Services Division, dealing with special education matters.

Todd Henry, ’96 is a criminal defense specialist in Philadelphia, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Bucks counties in Pennsylvania, and in New Jersey. www.henryfirm.com

Tammy (Strange) Jacques, ’96, is a D.C. CJA Attorney.

Marc Thompson, ’96 works in the Criminal Appellate Section of the Office of the US Attorney for D.C. as a paralegal, but because he has a JD, he has turned the position into that of “attorney-lite.” He has been involved with 2nd Amendment issues, and does lots of work with collateral appeals (28 USC 2255), and has his hand in all sorts of Constitutional and procedural issues. He never wanted to go into criminal law, but says that “working in Criminal Appellate law here at the Office of the US Attorney is a fabulous experience.” And “I adore it!” marcdthompson@yahoo.com

Anthony Cade, ’97, is a D.C. CJA Attorney. Dan Demora, ’99, is a Deputy Public Defender in Swedesboro, NJ.

Dominic Vorv, ’99, a member of the D.C. CJA Attorney panel, is President of the Maryland Hispanic Bar Association, is a board member and past President of the D.C. Hispanic Bar Association, is a member of the Board of the Bar Association of the District of Columbia and is a member of the D.C. Council for Court Excellence. vorv@vorv.net


Nycole Grissett, ’01, is a D.C. CJA and Juvenile CJA Panel Attorney.

Aaron Price, ’03, is a D.C. CJA Attorney.

Sean Riley, ’03, is a D.C. CJA and D.C. Juvenile CJA Panel Attorney.

Cheesley Robinson, ’03, is a D.C. Juvenile CJA Panel Attorney.

Tiffany Shannon, ’04 is a felony trial attorney at the Maryland Office of the Public Defender.

James Snowden, ’04, a Dave Niblack Scholarship recipient, has been with the Office Of the Public Defender Palm Beach County for six years and is now in the Serious Felony Division where he represents defendants charged exclusively with serious crimes. Before his work in Serious Felonies, he was one of three attorneys in his office who exclusively represented children charged in adult court. JSnowden@pd15.state.fl.us

While representing a client in court, James was the victim of “mistaken identity” when the crime victim wrongly identified him as the defendant – a compelling lesson in the lack of reliability of eye witness testimony. That incident was chronicled in an excellent story of James and two other attorneys who suffered the same fate. See www.palmbeachpost.com/local_news/content/local_news/epaper/2009/03/24/a1a_eyewitness_0318.html

Todd Zinicola, ’04, a Niblack Scholarship recipient, got this testimonial from a classmate: “The piece on alums practicing criminal law would be remiss if it neglected to mention Todd - a superb criminal defense attorney who has recently gone into private practice. He was a former Assistant Public Defender for the General District and Circuit Courts of Fairfax, Virginia. Whenever I have a criminal defense query Todd is the first person I call. The following is the info I have for him: todd@elderszinicola.com and www.elderszinicola.com/index.html

Megan Allburn, ’06, a Dave Niblack Scholarship recipient, is a D.C. CJA Attorney.

Tony Fashola, ’07 was a public defender for 2 years after graduation who now does civil legal aid. t_fashola@yahoo.com

Jason Hart, ’08, a Dave Niblack Scholarship recipient, is a staff attorney for the Kentucky Department of Public Advocacy.

Yesenia Polanco, ’08 practices Criminal Defense and Immigration law in North Carolina. ypolanco@email.unc.edu

Melanie Acuña, ’09, a Niblack Scholarship recipient, was recently hired by the Maryland Public Defenders’ Association.

Karen Malovrh, ’09, is a Law Clerk with the Community Reentry Program of the Public Defender Service for District of Columbia. KMalovrh@PDSDC.ORG

Brandon Beckham, ’09, has recently been appointed as the Chief Public Defender for the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe.

More detailed versions of many of these short write ups can be found at www.law.udc.edu/defenders