



357 Unsung heroes of law school faculty

When I meet with alumni of the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law, I frequently ask: "Who was your favorite faculty member?" That question often leads to a wonderful set of memories and stories.

While there are some faculty members whose names come up frequently (such as Professor Patrick Keenan, who unfortunately passed away this past spring), I have also been struck by how many different faculty members have made an impression on their students that has lasted for decades.

I could write many columns about the wonderful stories I have been told about different faculty members, but I want to devote this column to a group of faculty who have a huge impact on our students (and whose names come up frequently in alumni reminiscences), but whose contributions do not receive nearly the recognition they deserve. I am talking about adjunct faculty.

At the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law we are truly blessed with a group of dedicated, superb, wise, experienced, and talented adjunct faculty members. I should also add the adjective "generous," since adjunct faculty at law schools across the nation give generously of their time and expertise. They are paid essentially what amounts to an honorarium, which does not nearly reflect even a fraction of the value that they contribute.

What follows is a partial list of some of the wonderful legal practitioners who are so dedicated to training the next generation of lawyers that they have agreed to serve as adjunct faculty at the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law (there are so many of them to thank that I will continue the list in my next column):

Alan Ackerman is the managing partner of Ackerman, Ackerman, & Dynkowski where he concentrates his practice on eminent domain issues. He co-teaches with Darius Dynkowski an eminent domain seminar.

Julie Teicher is a shareholder with Erman, Teicher, Miller, Zucker, & Freedman P.C. where she specializes in bankruptcy. She teaches a bankruptcy seminar as well as secured transactions.

Donald Campbell teaches professional responsibility. An associate at Collins, Einhorn, Farrell, & Ulanoff, he concentrates his practice in attorney grievance defense, defense in

legal malpractice cases, and representation in judicial tenure matters. He is also a former prosecutor and is taking his first foray into criminal law this term.

Joseph Pia is a partner at Hyman Lippitt P.C. and head of the firm's Tax and Estate Planning Department. He has taught a range of tax courses at UDM, most recently teaching Advanced Corporation and Partnership Tax.

Michael Morse opened his own firm, Michael J. Morse P.C., in 1995 with a specialty in personal injury. He teaches law firm management.

John Courie has been teaching criminal law and related courses (including, most recently, a prosecutorial ethics seminar) at the law school for 12 years. He is currently assistant prosecuting attorney at the Macomb County Prosecutors Office.

William Burgess has been teaching courses in the commercial law area at University of Detroit Mercy School of Law for approximately 20 years. He is a member of Dickinson Wright focusing on items including commercial and business litigation, corporate and municipal finance, mergers and acquisitions, and bankruptcy.

Julia Perkins is a member of the litigation group at Jaffe, Raitt, Heuer, & Weiss, with an emphasis on family law and commercial litigation. She teaches family law.

Vicki Harding is a partner at Pepper Hamilton L.L.P. where she handles commercial transactions with an emphasis on real estate and bankruptcy issues. She teaches a course in Law and Logic.

James Mellon teaches insurance law. His areas of practice at Mellon, McCarthy, & Pries P.D. include civil litigation, medical malpractice and insurance, among others.

David de Reyna is a shareholder at Kotz, Sangster, Wysocki, & Berg P.C. practicing in the estate and tax planning and related areas. He teaches various tax and estate planning classes at UDM.

In the spirit of Thanksgiving, on behalf of the entire University of Detroit Mercy School of Law community, I want to say to the adjuncts of this year and the adjuncts of previous (and future years): Thank you.

Mark C. Gordon is the dean of University of Detroit Mercy School of Law. He can be reached online at gordonmc@udmercy.edu.