

Turning to the future, Gershel shared some advice for new assistant U.S. attorneys coming into the office. "I would tell them they have one of the best legal jobs imaginable. Never let a case get in the way of your integrity," he said. "People have to be able to trust the prosecutor – that means everyone in the system. They cannot abuse the trust placed in them."

"I'm going to miss this place a lot," he said. "Despite bumps in the road, it's been simply marvelous."

The academic side

Gershel is looking forward to new opportunities at Cooley Law School.

"I'll be a full-time, regular member of the faculty," he said. "I started as a visiting professor. The experience so far has been terrific."

Gershel has honed his role as teacher over the course of many years. He was an adjunct professor for 15 years at the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law, and he has also engaged in classroom mock trial exercises with Rosen and Cranmer.

"Alan and I have done various teaching exercises together, and he's terrific," he said, describing a tradition developed over the past 15 years. "He's taught at the University of Detroit. I've taught at the University of Michigan, Cooley and Wayne, and he has always been very willing to participate in my class."

"The Department of Justice's loss is Cooley's gain," Rosen continued. "And I say that as an adjunct professor at Cooley. So from that perspective, I'm very happy that Alan is joining the faculty, and it's a real coup for Cooley."

They're welcoming him with open arms.

John Nussbaumer, associate dean of Cooley Law School's Auburn Hills Campus, said he couldn't be more pleased.

"We are honored to have Alan join us," he said. "He is our perfect candidate...He has seen just about every practical issue. He combines both academic excellence with a wealth of real-world experience."

Gershel looks forward to bringing his experience to the classroom.

"I have had more contact with more diverse people and personalities than the madrigal," he said, with a chuckle, noting the diversity of personalities in criminal prosecution.

Nussbaumer said the way Gershel has handled his extensive experience will make him a positive influence in the classroom.

"We believe that teachers teach by example as role models more than they do by speaking," Nussbaumer continued. "I can't think of a more ethical role model for our students."

Colleagues wish him well.

"I think the same qualities that made him do so well in this job will really shine through within that job," FBI Special Agent Arena said. "It's his demeanor, the way he interacts with people. He's just always so calm."

"You can walk into a meeting, there will be people there with 10 different viewpoints...but he never lets anything get off track," he continued. "He keeps focused. I think those qualities will certainly help him as an instructor."

Cranmer sees Gershel doing well in the classroom.

"His tenure has spanned a number of different U.S. attorneys, people who were appointed by both Democratic presidents and Republican presidents, and the fact that his tenure continued I think speaks volumes for the kind of person he was and is."

"He never made any decisions based on politics or for political reasons, and just was a person and is a person of enormous integrity."

"I think he's going to do wonderfully well...I'm glad to see that he's not going to be leaving the profession altogether – that he's going to pass along much of what he's learned as a teacher."