CLASS NOTES

1950s
Arnold H. Weiss ’52 was featured in an article in the Washington Post Magazine of July 24, 2005, detailing Weiss’s life after fleeing the Holocaust in Germany and his lifelong passion for tracking down Nazi criminals.

1960s
Thomas G. Ragatz ’61 and his wife, Karen, have received the 2005 Alexis de Tocqueville Society Award from the United Way of Dane County in recognition of 40 years of outstanding community commitment.

F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr. ’68, a member of Congress since January 1979, is Chair of the U.S. House Judiciary Committee. Sensenbrenner has been chair of the committee since 2002.

1970s
Thomas G. Cannon ’71 has been appointed Executive Director of the Legal Aid Society of Milwaukee, Inc. The society, founded in 1916, is one of the nation’s oldest continuously operating public interest law firms.

Nathaniel Friends, Sr. ’71 has been appointed Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at Florida A & M University College of Law. Before joining the College of Law faculty in 2003, Friends had a distinguished 29-year career with AT&T as general counsel and contracts vice president for AT&T Government Solutions.

1980s
Thomas Godar ’81 has joined the labor and employment practice of Whyte Hirschboeck Dudek in Madison. Godar’s practice will include both traditional labor law and all aspects of employment litigation and counseling.

Robert S. Banks, Jr. ’82 has been elected President of the Public Investors Arbitration Bar Association, a nonprofit international bar association dedicated to the representation of investors in disputes with the securities industry. Banks practices in Portland, Oregon.

John P. Yentz ’82 has been named President and Managing Shareholder of the Waukesha County law firm The Schroeder Group. Yentz has more than 20 years of experience in the business and real-estate areas of law.

Eric Serron ’84 has been named a partner at the Washington, D.C., office of Steptoe & Johnson. Serron works primarily in the employee-benefits area of the litigation section.

1990s
Dane E. Allen ’92 has joined the Wisconsin Public Service Corporation as Senior Attorney-Corporate in Green Bay, Wisconsin. He was previously affiliated with Appleton Papers in Appleton, Wisconsin.

Tracey Thomas ’93 is Chief Intellectual Property Counsel at the American Express Company. An article in the August 2005 issue of IP Law & Business notes that Thomas won over skeptical colleagues and launched a patent-licensing program that has generated millions of dollars. Corporate Counsel also profiled Thomas (October 2005).

Jeffrey H. Brown ’94 has joined the Chicago office of Michael Best & Friedrich in the firm’s intellectual-property practice.

Shannon A. Allen ’95 has become a shareholder at the Milwaukee firm Friebert, Finerty & St. John. She practices employment law and commercial litigation.

Tamara M. McNulty ’96 has been named a partner in the Washington, D.C.-based firm of Venable, LLP. A member of the construction group, McNulty focuses her practice on complex commercial litigation. She is based in the firm’s Tysons Corner, Virginia, office.

Joseph E. Tierney, IV ’95 has joined the firm of Davis & Kuelthau as a shareholder. Tierney will continue to work in the area of real-estate law, general corporate law, and tax law.

Beth Ermatinger Hanan ’96 has been named a member of the firm of Gass Weber Mullins in Milwaukee. She concentrates on appellate practice and complex litigation. Hanan is also Vice Chair of the Wisconsin Judicial Council.

Brenna M. Binns ’97 has been named a partner at Schiff Hardin in Chicago. Binns practices in the firm’s labor employment group.

Jeremy P. Levinson ’97 has become a shareholder at Friebert, Finerty & St. John in Milwaukee. He practices appellate, governmental, and employment law, and commercial litigation.

Timothy L. Stewart ’97 has joined the Milwaukee office of DeWitt Ross & Stevens. Stewart focuses his practice on employee benefit law and labor-relations law, with an emphasis on issues involving health-care coverage.

Kristin D. Lein ’98 has joined the Madison firm of Solheim Billing & Grimmer as an associate practicing in the areas of estate planning and administration, marital-property law, nonprofit organizations, real estate, and general business.

Stephanie A. Lyons ’98 has been elected a shareholder by the Milwaukee firm of Godfrey & Kahn. Lyons is a member of the firm’s real-estate practice group. Her expertise includes land use and zoning issues in real-estate development.
Mike B. Wittenwyler ’98 has been elected a shareholder of Godfrey & Kahn. Wittenwyler, an administrative and regulatory attorney, leads the firm’s political-law practice group. He traveled to Israel in January 2006 with five UW professors, participating in presentations on U.S. campaign finance (which he teaches at the Law School), and conferring with officials about the 2006 Israeli and Palestinian elections.

2000s
Stacy L. Leeds ’00, University of Kansas Associate Professor of Law and Director of the university's Tribal Law and Government Center, has received the Clyde Ferguson Award from the Minority Law Section of the Association of American Law Schools, in recognition of excellence in public service, teaching, and scholarship. In 2002, Leeds became the first woman confirmed to the Supreme Court of the Cherokee Nation.

Erin Binns ’01 is Assistant Director of Career Planning at Marquette University Law School.

SanDee I. Priser ’02, an accountant in the Investigative and Dispute Services division of Ernst & Young in Chicago, spent three months in Fall 2005 working in El Salvador with the firm's Social Responsibility Fellows pilot program. The firm covers employees' salaries while they donate their expertise to small businesses in developing countries.

Lori A. Hickman ’05 has joined the Madison office of DeWitt Ross & Stevens. Hickman's law practice focuses on family law, including adoption and juvenile issues, and on estate planning.

Tom O'Day ’05 has joined the law firm of Godfrey & Kahn as a member of the firm's labor and employment practice group. O'Day also holds a master's degree in education policy from the UW-Madison, focusing on state and federal education law.

Please stay in touch: disattinger@wisc.edu