

Suffolk University

Digital Collections @ Suffolk

Advancement and Alumni Newsletters

Suffolk University Publications

2005

Suffolk University Law Dean's Alumni Newsletter, Fall 2005

Suffolk University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://dc.suffolk.edu/ad-news>

Recommended Citation

Suffolk University, "Suffolk University Law Dean's Alumni Newsletter, Fall 2005" (2005). *Advancement and Alumni Newsletters*. 163.

<https://dc.suffolk.edu/ad-news/163>

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by the Suffolk University Publications at Digital Collections @ Suffolk. It has been accepted for inclusion in Advancement and Alumni Newsletters by an authorized administrator of Digital Collections @ Suffolk. For more information, please contact dct@suffolk.edu.

FALL 2005



DEAR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF
SUFFOLK UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL,



AS SUFFOLK UNIVERSITY PREPARES TO CELEBRATE ITS CENTENNIAL, the Law School community takes special pride in recalling a century of opportunity, growth, and achievement. In this newsletter, I highlight some of our accomplishments during recent months, as well as plans for what promises to be an exciting new academic year.

MASSACHUSETTS SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
SUFFOLK UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL

In May, Suffolk University Law School was selected by the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court to produce and archive live Internet broadcasts of oral arguments heard by the state's highest court. This alliance represents the first time the SJC has joined with a law school in such a technologically advanced venture. The pilot project has proven to be a success with lawyers, students, media, and the general public, who can now observe the SJC arguments without ever having to leave their desks.

On September 6, the SJC and Suffolk resumed broadcasting of the Court's arguments and have begun archiving them, so that viewers can access previously argued cases, experiencing 'real-time' interaction between the Justices and counsel. The SJC hears oral arguments the first week of every month from September through May. Each case takes approximately thirty minutes and a schedule and brief summary of the cases to be broadcast are also available on the Web site. Oral arguments begin at 9am and can be viewed and heard online at www.suffolk.edu/sjc.

Supreme Judicial Court Chief Justice Margaret H. Marshall had high praise for this partnership with Suffolk Law School, saying, "Live Web broadcasts of the Court's oral arguments were successfully launched last spring with the assistance of Suffolk University Law School. Archiving Webcasts of Court proceedings will now allow people everywhere the opportunity to observe the Justices and lawyers discussing legal matters that affect people's lives at times that are convenient for them."

Although the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court is just one block away from Suffolk University Law School, the attention given to the Webcasting of arguments is national in scope. This has been demonstrated in the diverse source of visitors to the Suffolk Web site, including various local and state government agencies, law firms, academic institutions, and technology companies. As public demand for information available on the Web is on the rise, state and local courts around the country are beginning to recognize the benefits of this technology and how improved court access will now help to promote confidence in the judiciary.

Having Patrick Shin and Leo Romero as colleagues adds to the sense of excitement that we feel at the start of the new school year.

FACULTY APPOINTMENTS

We continue to attract extremely strong candidates for faculty positions at the Law School. Their professional accomplishments, unique backgrounds, and academic interests fulfill our aspirations for providing students with the very best teachers, mentors, and role models.

Assistant Professor **Patrick Shin** is a summa cum laude graduate of Dartmouth College and a cum laude graduate of Harvard Law School, where he served as an editor of the *Harvard Law Review*. He is near completion of his PhD in philosophy at Harvard University. Following graduation, Professor Shin was a law clerk to Judge Douglas Woodlock of the US District Court, District of Massachusetts; he later served as a law clerk to Judge Sandra Lynch and Judge Norman Stahl of the US Court of Appeals for the First Circuit. He previously was a litigation associate with the firm of Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP in Boston. He will be teaching Torts and Jurisprudence.

Distinguished Visiting Professor **Leo M. Romero** is the Keleher and McLeod Professor of Law at the University of New Mexico School of Law. He previously served as the dean of that school from 1991 to 1997. Professor Romero is the author of articles and books on a wide range of topics, including evidence, criminal law, trial practice, affirmative action, judicial selection, and law school admissions. He has been a leader in legal education at the national level, having served on the executive committee of the Association of American Law Schools and on the board of trustees of the Law School Admission Council, including a two-year term as chair. He currently serves as president of the National Order of The Coif and on the board of the National Institute for Trial Advocacy. He has been a visiting professor at the law schools of George Washington University, the University of California—Hastings, the University of Oregon, and Washington University in St. Louis. Professor Romero is teaching Criminal Law and International Criminal Law during his semester visit.

Having Patrick Shin and Leo Romero as colleagues adds to the sense of excitement that we feel at the start of the new school year.

ALUMNI EVENTS

I often joke that I wish I could “brand” all of our alumni with a Suffolk Law logo, so that everyone with whom they have contact knows where they went to school. Given our large number of alumni and their prominent professional accomplishments and service activities, that would be the best marketing tool we could ever devise!

At times, the recognition of the connection of a particular lawyer with Suffolk Law School occurs at our own alumni events. We are increasing the number and variety of social, cultural, and professional development events, which offer alumni the opportunity to create and renew professional and personal connections. A good example of this occurred at a reception last spring in Philadelphia. It was the inaugural event of our Delaware Valley Alumni Chapter, attended by Suffolk Law School alumni from the 1960s through the 2000s. Among the attendees were senior partners of two prominent Philadelphia law firms, who knew of each other by reputation, but were pleasantly surprised to realize that they were not only involved in the same lawsuit, but also shared a common tie as alumni of Suffolk Law School.

You might be surprised by the extensive incorporation of technology in our teaching—not only in the classroom (e.g., the use of PowerPoint, videos, and Internet access at each seat) but also outside of class. Professors have course Web sites with links to supplemental readings, online Q&As with the professor and discussion groups among students, and computer-assisted review exercises.

You probably have not-so-fond memories of waiting in line to register for courses. That is happily a thing of the past, as registration now occurs online.

Another innovation allows students to take exams on their laptop computers. Can you imagine—soon there will be no more “bluebooks,” and professors won’t be able to complain about not being able to read students’ handwriting!

STUDENT LIFE

I know from speaking with you and your peers that co-curricular and extra-curricular activities were often a formative aspect of your Law School experience. That is likely to hold true for even more students today, as the number and range of such activities abound.

The new Law School building, Sargent Hall, features informal gathering spaces, including seating areas outside of the classrooms, the cafeteria (which doubles as a spacious student lounge), and the offices of the four student-edited law reviews (*Suffolk Law Review*, *Transnational Law Review*, *Trial and Appellate Advocacy*, and *Journal of High Technology Law*), moot court programs, and student organizations. In addition to a very active Student Bar Association, there are 37 student groups that provide opportunities for service activities, professional development and networking, and socializing.

Former Dean John Fenton, Jr.’s creation of a dean of students office in 1998 has also improved student services. The dean of students and assistant dean of students advise, counsel, and advocate for students and for student organizations.

You would also find a rich array of student competitions in moot court, mock trial, negotiation, interviewing and counseling, international law, tax, and alternative dispute resolution. Suffolk continues to have a strong record of success in these regional and national competitions.

CAREER PLANNING

For much of the Law School’s history, students were on their own in choosing the career they wanted to pursue and making professional connections. In the 1970s, a single person staffed the school’s law placement office.

Today you would enjoy the support of our Office of Career Development’s eight counselors. They help students assess their skills, interests, and values; bring students and alumni together to discuss practice areas and opportunities; and assist with interviewing skills, resume-building, and job search strategies.

You might be surprised by the extensive incorporation of technology in our teaching—not only in the classroom, but also outside of class.

We provide many services that are helpful to our alumni as they begin their careers and consider career changes.

Our alumni live and work across the country and serve as key contacts in our current students' job searches. We are very pleased that the appointment this spring of David James as our new director of career development will further the national scope of the office.

Dave comes to us from California, where he served as the senior deputy attorney (and hiring attorney) for the San Diego City Attorney's Office. He has strong connections nationally as a result of his leadership positions in the National Association for Law Placement (NALP), and he has a sound record of success as a lawyer, legal recruiter, and mentor to law students and young attorneys. He will further strengthen our national network of alumni organized by former director Jim Whitters and associate director Mary Karen Rogers (who served very ably this year as the interim director).

AFTER GRADUATION

After today's students graduate, they are much more likely to keep in touch with the school. We provide many services that are helpful to our alumni as they begin their careers and consider career changes. We have improved our communications with alumni through this newsletter, the Suffolk Law alumni magazine, and emails to alumni registered on our Web site. We strongly encourage alumni to assist the school in recruiting future students, mentoring current students, and assisting our career development office through job postings and alumni-student networking.

We are offering more events for alumni and have developed alumni chapters in Boston, in New England, and throughout the country. We also find that many alumni attend professional development programs offered by our Center for Advanced Legal Studies (see: www.law.suffolk.edu/academic/als/).

The most popular enhancement of our alumni programs has been our reunion celebrations. This year we have a festive weekend of events planned for June 3-5, for graduating classes ending in a "0" or a "5." More information about the reunions, and opportunities to contact friends and classmates, is available at www.law.suffolk.edu/offices/alumni/reunion.

Suffolk University Law School has grown remarkably in the previous century. As we celebrate our centennial, I hope you will continue to be part of this amazing success. Best wishes for a relaxing summer.

Very truly yours,



Robert H. Smith
Dean and Professor of Law