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Law is More than a Profession.
It’s a Calling.
Victims of domestic violence have a strong ally in Maria Northington, a 1999 graduate who directed legal efforts for Samaritan House/Safe Harbor, a Virginia Beach-based ministry. Maria attended law school later in life, following a career in the military, primarily because she wanted to serve the public interest.

During her tenure with Samaritan House, Maria played an instrumental role in securing grants from the U.S. Justice Department, which were used to expand the ministry’s programs.

“We were able to hire two more attorneys,” she said. “The grant put us in a stronger position to represent more victims.”

While the work was rigorous at times, it was also rewarding and satisfying.

“I know people shy away from pro-bono work because it does not pay well,” she said. “But you can always take time to help the poor, even if you are working in another job.”

In choosing public interest work, Maria was greatly motivated by Proverbs 31:8-9, which praises the “virtuous woman” for extending her hand to the poor. She also credits her Regent training.

“The opposing side thinks Christians are meek and mild,” she said. “But Christians can be aggressive and articulate. We’ve got the fire in our bones. Regent gave me a wonderful legal training and background.”

“**You can always take time to help the poor, even if you are working in another job.**”

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**Regent Law Highlights**

- Established in 1986 as a full-time, three-year law program.
- Today, approximately 500 students attend the school.
- Gained full ABA accreditation in 1996.
- Students have come from 48 states, over 406 colleges and universities, and numerous foreign countries.
- Students regularly earn top honors at regional and national moot court and negotiation competitions.
- Regent University is prominently located in Virginia Beach, Va.; the Chesapeake Bay and Atlantic Ocean skirt the city with 28 miles of public beaches.
- Alumni practice in 47 states, the District of Columbia and several foreign countries as elected government officials, associates and partners in private practice and in legal organizations.
When she studied abroad in England, Ann Buwalda had no interest in staying in a dormitory as a typical student. Instead she sought out missionary work and became involved in the Jubilee Campaign. The organization works to promote human rights and religious liberty throughout the world.

Ann, a 1990 graduate of Regent Law School, became the USA director for the Jubilee Campaign in 1991. She coordinates her efforts with other international coalitions in an effort to put pressure on oppressive governments. A critical turning point for Ann came when she became acquainted with Operation Mobilization in London. She was studying international law and human rights when she heard about the plight of Christians in Nepal. A number of believers had been jailed for converting to Christianity, and the Jubilee campaign was lobbying for their release.

“I’m really glad I did not just stay in the dormitory,” she said. “I met the right people at Operation Mobilization, and I learned about the Jubilee campaign and the work it was doing.”

Since opening the U.S. branch of Jubilee, Ann has taken part in fact-finding trips to Nepal, India, the Philippines, Laos, Vietnam and the Thai-Burma region. The purpose is to gain first-hand knowledge of Christians who are the victims of intense persecution.

Most recently, Ann traveled to the Maluku Islands of Indonesia where there is a great deal of friction between Christian and Muslim communities. The Jubilee Campaign has provided food, housing, education, and spiritual and emotional support for the orphans of the conflict. Ann also visited the remains of Tial, which was once a Christian village, but is now Muslim occupied territory. The local church is an “empty, burned-out shell.”

“We want to stay the course and raise issues,” she said. “We do a lot of praying. We know God will open opportunities.”

Ann also founded the law firm Just Law International in March 1996. The firm concentrates primarily on immigration and asylum issues. In addition to receiving a Juris Doctor from Regent, Ann has Master’s degrees in Public Policy and Communication from Regent.

Regent Law School recently hosted Virginia Supreme Court Chief Justice Leroy Rountree Hassell, Sr. during the week of March 14-18, 2005. As a jurist-in-resident, Justice Hassell lectured in 10 law classes, met with student groups, and spoke in chapel. This year, Justice Hassell hosted members of the British judiciary, including Lord Justice Paul Kennedy, United Kingdom Court of Appeal. They joined Regent Law faculty, the Board of Visitors, and Dr. M. G. “Pat” Robertson for a dinner on March 15, 2005.

David Banks, president of Regent’s Black Law Student Association (BLSA) and National BLSA Moot Court chair, stated that “Chief Justice Hassell conveyed invaluable insight into the legal field, its rigors and rewards.” He also noted that he was inspired about his future after listening to the message.
ASSISTANCE TO STUDENTS INTERESTED IN PUBLIC INTEREST LAW

- Regent Law School has a prolific legacy of sending students and graduates out to serve in public interest. Because service to others is such a foundational aspect of Christianity, Regent is working to continue this tradition by supporting and encouraging students and graduates who are interested in public service law.

In 2001, a handful of students came together and founded Public Interest Law Advocates at Regent (PILAR), an organization designed to encourage students toward public service during law school and beyond. Since its humble beginnings, PILAR has grown into the law school’s largest voluntary organization. More than one third of Regent’s current law students are PILAR members.

PILAR’s purpose is to support students who are interested in pursuing public interest law, to inform students of opportunities to serve in areas of public interest, and to encourage all students, even those not pursuing careers in public interest, to use their legal training to make contributions in their communities.

PILAR achieves its goals by sponsoring speakers throughout the year to address various aspects of public interest law. In addition, beginning in 2003, PILAR has held an annual auction to fund $1,000 grants to students accepting volunteer summer positions with public interest organizations. Along with items such as vacation packages and gift certificates, the auction offers such desirable commodities as a southern meal prepared by Professor Alice Curtis’ mother, coveted egg-rolls from Associate Dean Jim Murphy’s wife, a full vegetarian dinner prepared by Professor James Duane, Career and Alumni Services Director Mark Morrell’s note-taking services—relying the highest bidding student of one class period, and the highly coveted week-long privilege of parking in Dean Brauch’s reserved space. Last year’s auction raised approximately $9,000.

Further encouraging students to serve the public interest, Regent has also implemented a student loan repayment assistance program (LRAP) to assist graduates employed in public interest fields. Program recipients receive a zero percent interest loan for up to the amount for which they are eligible under the program regulations. The participant’s LRAP loan will be forgiven if a participant works in qualifying employment within the LRAP guidelines for at least one year after disbursement.

PROFESSOR’S ARTICLE INSPIRES VIRGINIA LEGISLATIVE ACTION

- After reading Professor James Duane’s article in Regent’s Law Review regarding the admissibility of confidential communication between married couples, a member of the Boyd-Graves Conference of the Virginia Bar Association requested that Professor Duane draft a bill to revise the Virginia privilege statutes.

While national treatises on evidence and federal case law recognize the confidentiality of letters between spouses, Virginia’s statute does not afford full protection. Under the current language, Virginia law only precludes testimony about the letters but does not necessarily protect the letters themselves.

The bill, drafted by Duane with proposed changes, passed in both houses of the state legislature without a single negative vote. The measure was signed on March 26, 2005, and will take effect on July 1, 2005.

As a result of Professor Duane’s work on the marital privilege project, he was invited to join the Boyd-Graves Conference, a distinguished group of nearly 100 judges, lawyers, and law professors from all over the state. The Conference has met annually since 1978 to discuss and develop recommendations to the General Assembly for the reform of Virginia law in the areas of evidence and civil practice and procedure. Admission to the organization is by invitation only.

NEWS & EVENTS

Former Attorney General Joins Regent Law Faculty
Former U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft joined Regent Law School as a distinguished professor of law and government. He will teach classes at the Virginia Beach Campus and in Strasbourg, France, in Regent’s International Human Rights Program.

NRB reception with Jay Sekulow
Regent Law School’s reception at the National Religious Broadcasters Convention (NRB) in Anaheim, Calif., in February 2005, featured Jay Sekulow as the keynote speaker.

Justices Dinner
Members of the British judiciary, accompanied by Chief Justice Hassell, joined Regent Law Dean Jeffrey A. Brauch and Regent University President and Chancellor Dr. M. G. “Pat” Robertson for dinner on March 15, 2005.

European Parliament
Lennart Sacreideus, the first vice president of the European Parliament Delegation for Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova spoke at Regent’s International Law Society. His past positions have included mayor of Mora, Sweden and member of the European Parliament in Strasbourg and Brussels.

Christian Pre-Law Conference of 2005
The Christian Pre-Law Conference provided an opportunity for Christian advisors to gather and reflect on how they might best train future Christian lawyers. Pre-law students also attended the February conference in Virginia Beach.

James Kent Inn of Court Banquet
The Honorable Paul J. McNulty, United States attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, addressed the local James Kent American Inn of Court at its annual banquet on March 16 at Regent.

Michael Newdow Speaks at Regent Competition
February 4-5, 2005, the Regent Law Moot Court Board hosted its Fourth Annual National Constitutional Law Moot Court Competition. Attorney Michael Newdow served as the keynote speaker at the competition awards banquet.

Get the latest news by visiting the News & Events page on Regent Law School’s website at www.regent.edu/lawnews.
Regent Law students taking part in civil litigation and family mediation clinics can have a profound impact on the lives of clients with limited financial means.

Professor Kathleen McKee has been running the civil litigation clinic since its inception in August 1999. It provides students the opportunity to produce positive outcomes for individuals who have suffered misfortune.

Professor Alice Curtis runs the family mediation clinic. “Bad things happen to good people,” Professor McKee said. “It is important for students to have compassion for the clients and to withhold judgment. Sometimes they have lost what they have through no fault of their own.”

Students participating in the civil litigation clinic encounter a variety of issues, including landlord-tenant disputes, government benefits, consumer concerns, and protective orders stemming from domestic disputes.

Jennifer Lang, a third-year law student, has acquired practical experience that is not widely available. Moreover, she believes she has made an important difference in the lives of clients. Jennifer is also the president of PILAR (Public Interest Law Advocates of Regent).

“I have a God-given interest in this area,” she said. “It is my forte. I want to make sure justice is available to everyone. I really appreciate having the opportunity to work one on one with clients.”

Jennifer, working in partnership with fellow student Kristen Shannon, is working on securing a satisfactory legal settlement for a woman who is involved in a dispute with an automobile company. She initially went to court on her own, but was confronted by six lawyers representing the auto company. But after coming to the clinic her situation has improved. “There’s a good chance she’ll get a decent settlement,” Jennifer said.

Professor Curtis has devoted extensive time and energy to the family mediation clinic over the past several years. Her students have worked with concerned parties to resolve custody issues in a confidential manner. The clinic accepts referrals from the Chesapeake Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court. Students must take Professor Curtis’s family mediation class before they are eligible for the program. Some custody cases can be complex. In addition to working with parents, students must also work with aunts, uncles, and grandparents who are attempting to acquire custody. Students who co-mediate with Professor Curtis are encouraged to operate as facilitators who offer guidance. “She is a wonderful role model for students,” said Professor McKee.

Professors McKee and Curtis share a belief in training students to be counselors of law. “A lot of corporations, government agencies, and law firms permit employees to do pro-bono work,” said Professor McKee. “It is a privilege to be a lawyer and it is vitally important to help the less fortunate.”
One of the noblest and most vital callings in law is to represent the poor and underprivileged members of society. Many Regent students and alumni have embraced this calling. Nationally, no more than 2.5 to 3 percent of law school graduates go into public interest work. Regent, though, annually places graduates in public interest positions at two to four times that rate.

I’m very proud of these graduates. They provide a service that is desperately needed. They also fulfill literally the instruction in Proverbs 31:8-9: “Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.”

Regent’s commitment to public interest service does not happen by accident. It begins in the admissions process as we seek out men and women with a heart for and record of service. It continues in our training. Though we are a relatively small school, we offer students opportunities to serve the poor in two live client clinics—a litigation clinic and a family mediation clinic. Students also enjoy many opportunities to serve the public interest as volunteers and externs. The school’s commitment to public interest service carries on after graduation as we assist graduates financially through our loan repayment assistance program as they begin public interest careers.

The results have been remarkable. Regent graduates provide a voice for the poor as public defenders, protect the victims of domestic abuse, defend free speech and religious freedom rights of American citizens, and protect Asian women and children forced into prostitution and human trafficking. Our graduates are making a concrete difference in the lives of men and women all around the globe.