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ABA NATIONAL CHAMPIONS
Two Regent Law students took on 219 other teams from the nation’s top law schools and won first place in the prestigious American Bar Association (ABA) National Negotiations Competition. This is the second consecutive national championship for Regent Law. Last year, a team of Regent students won the ABA’s National Appellate Advocacy Competition, winning the moot court contest and placing first for the nation’s Best Brief.

REGENT LAW SCHOOL RANKED #4 FOR “BEST QUALITY OF LIFE” BY PRINCETON REVIEW
Regent University School of Law is one of the nation’s most outstanding law schools, according to The Princeton Review. Regent Law School was ranked #4 in the country for “Best Quality of Life.” For more information, pick up The Princeton Review’s 2007 edition of “Best 170 Law Schools,” or visit www.princetonreview.com/law.

APRIL 12-13, 2007
LIBERTY UNDER LAW: 400 YEARS OF FREEDOM
Regent Law School hosted a symposium to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the first landing of settlers in Virginia Beach and the settlement of Jamestown. A series of panels and a gala banquet took place at The Founders Inn and Spa.

THE CHRISTIAN PRE-LAW CONFERENCE & PREVIEW WEEKEND: MARCH 15-17, 2007
Dr. Paul Corts, president of the Council of Christian College & Universities and former Assistant Attorney General for Administration with the U.S. Department of Justice joined us as the plenary speaker in March. The conference provided an opportunity for pre-law advisors to gather and reflect on how they might best train future attorneys. Lecturers included Dr. Abraham Davis of Morehouse College and professor and author Frank Guliuzza III of Weber University.

CHRISTIAN JURISPRUDENCE: AUGUST 6-8, 2007
John Witte, Jr., the Jonas Robitscher Professor of Law and Director of the Center for the Study of Law and Religion at Emory University, taught the course First Amendment Law: Religion and State as part of Regent Law School’s 2007 Summer Program in Christian Jurisprudence. This program provided an excellent opportunity for Christian students and lawyers to earn law school or CLE credit while studying topics of particular interest to the Christian lawyer.

LAW SCHOOL BLOGGERS
You can follow the journey of different students and their families, or take a glance into the mind of a law school professor, by visiting the law school’s blog site at http://www.regent.edu/acad/schlaw/studentlife/bloghome.cfm.

Get the latest news by visiting the News & Events page on Regent Law School’s website at www.regent.edu/lawnews.

Message from the Dean

The law school’s relationship with the American Center for Law and Justice (ACLJ) is one of our most important distinctives. The ACLJ is one of the nation’s great public interest law firms. ACLJ attorneys litigate cases at the highest level, regularly briefing and arguing cases before the United States Supreme Court.

Our relationship with the ACLJ affords our students countless opportunities they could not get at any other law school. Our students study under one of the finest oral advocates in the country, ACLJ Chief Counsel Jay Sekulow. Sekulow has argued numerous cases before the Supreme Court. He shares his knowledge and experience with students in two courses: Recent Supreme Court Cases and Supreme Court History.

Each spring a select group of students spends an entire semester in Washington, D.C. in the ACLJ Supreme Court Semester in Washington program. This opportunity combines one-on-one instruction from excellent constitutional advocates with hands-on legal work, often on cases pending before the Supreme Court. Many students also enjoy the opportunity to serve as paid law clerks with the ACLJ. Currently more than 20 students serve in this capacity. These students not only observe, but also participate in exciting and important work defending fundamental constitutional rights.

Students participating in Regent’s International Human Rights program in Strasbourg, France, spend time at ACLJ’s European arm, the European Centre for Law and Justice. There, they meet European Parliamentarians, ambassadors and top lawyers from all over Europe; they also learn of the battle for religious liberty in Europe.

The opportunities are phenomenal. I am personally thankful to Jay Sekulow and the ACLJ for all they do to shape the lives and careers of our students.

Jeffrey A. Brauch, J.D.
Dean, School of Law

Jeffrey A. Brauch, J.D.
Dean, School of Law
Alumna Works with ACLJ to Preserve America’s Constitutional Heritage

When she initially joined the American Center for Law and Justice (ACLJ) about 14 years ago, Shannon Demos Woodruff noted that the case load was reflective of an intense assault upon religious freedom. But today, Woodruff finds herself immersed in a diversity of projects that speak to the ACLJ’s expanded mission. Success vindicating basic religious civil liberties in the courtroom has provided ACLJ attorneys the ability to become active in other important areas of constitutional concern.

While the preservation of religious freedom remains a major concern, the safeguards have become stronger. “The focus of litigation has shifted because the ACLJ has been so successful in court on these core First Amendment issues,” Woodruff explains. “I am passionate about the issues we defend; each case is truly rewarding on both a professional and personal level.”

Woodruff graduated from Regent Law School in 1995, is a mother of five and serves as a senior research counsel for the ACLJ. Although her work is mostly behind the scenes, it has a direct and profound impact on the political and cultural landscape of America. The preservation of the Pledge of Allegiance and the National Motto “In God We Trust,” the passage of a federal ban on partial birth abortion and the confirmation of conservative Supreme Court justices are among the high-profile projects Woodruff has been involved with over the past several years.

The ACLJ played an instrumental role in helping to confirm John Roberts as the nation’s new Chief Justice. In anticipation of opposition to the President’s nominee, the ACLJ organized its own government affairs operation on Capitol Hill. Consequently, the Roberts confirmation hearing was devoid of rancor and antagonism that had characterized previous attempts to fill vacancies on the high court.

Woodruff credits Jay Sekulow, the ACLJ’s chief counsel, for placing the law firm in such a position of influence. She calls him “one of the most influential attorneys in America.” Thanks in large measure to Sekulow’s perseverance and leadership, the ACLJ has emerged as a serious counterweight to the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and other liberal political advocacy groups, according to Woodruff.

In addition to securing First Amendment constitutional protections, the ACLJ has worked to preserve vital law enforcement techniques that have a direct application in the war on terror. One rewarding experience Woodruff has had in recent years involved U.S. v. Recio, a criminal drug conspiracy case that reached the Supreme Court. The ACLJ had filed an amicus brief in the case supporting the U.S. government. She notes, “It was the most challenging brief I had ever written. The brief highlighted the potential negative impact the case could have on the prosecution of terrorist conspiracies. During oral argument, both Justice Stephen Breyer and the attorney arguing for the Department of Justice referred to the argument we advanced in our brief. It was exciting to see that our contribution had such an immediate and practical impact.”

Last summer Woodruff testified before the United States Senate Judiciary Committee, Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Property Rights. She testified in support of the Public Expression of Religion Act introduced by Senator Sam Brownback (R-KS) to protect state and local governments against the threat of massive attorney fees awards obtained by groups such as the ACLU when they sue under the Establishment Clause to remove a Ten Commandments monument, a cross on a war memorial, the National Motto “In God We Trust” or other symbols of our religious heritage. “Prior to law school, I worked on Capitol Hill for my senator and often attended hearings such as this one, so it was both exciting and nostalgic to now be one of the witnesses for such an important piece of legislation,” Woodruff shares.

She does have some advice for aspiring Christian lawyers. Woodruff encourages them to discover their natural gifts: “I believe the most rewarding career is one in which you are able to combine your work and your passion. Also, consider that all legal educations are not created equal. You can learn the law anywhere, but you may miss the education. Regent provided me with both. As Teddy Roosevelt once said, ‘To educate a person in mind and not in morals is to educate a menace to society.’ ”

“… Justice Breyer and the attorney arguing for the Department of Justice referred to the argument we advanced in our brief. It was exciting to see that our contribution had such an immediate and practical impact.”

Shannon Demos Woodruff
1995 Regent Law School Graduate
The ACLJ/Regent Partnership Defends Life, Liberty and Family

A unique and exciting gateway to the Supreme Court of the United States is made available to Regent Law students through the American Center for Law and Justice (ACLJ). One of its primary offices is located on Regent University’s Virginia Beach Campus. This gives law students the opportunity to obtain volunteer and paid positions to assist ACLJ staff attorneys as they provide legal services for clients involved in pro-family and pro-liberty cases. “The practical, ‘real world’ experience law students acquire by virtue of working alongside ACLJ attorneys enables them to develop legal strategies for defending life, liberty and the family,” says Jay Sekulow, the ACLJ’s chief counsel.

The ACLJ was initially formed in 1990 to help secure religious and constitutional freedoms. It has successfully litigated a number of cases at all judicial levels, including the highest court in the land. Over the past several years, ACLJ attorneys have secured significant legal victories with long-term ramifications. Consequently, Regent law students who have pursued opportunities with the ACLJ have engaged in the most elite areas of litigation, research and advocacy.

The ACLJ has had a profound and lasting impact on America’s legal landscape. Christians who were previously targeted by discriminatory policies can now enjoy their First Amendment freedoms in an unfettered fashion. Of particular significance are legal disputes involving equal access to public facilities for Christian organizations and churches.

For example, in 1993, Sekulow worked with other ACLJ attorneys to win a unanimous Supreme Court decision in the case of Lamb’s Chapel v. Center Moriches School District. The ACLJ represented an evangelical church that sought to show a film series exploring family issues from a biblical perspective. The church had attempted to rent a public school hall for the occasion but was denied access by local officials. In its ruling the Supreme Court clarified that religious organizations cannot be excluded from access to government property made available to other groups.

The Lamb’s Chapel decision was written in such a way to protect the free speech of all Christians and faith-based organizations; it does not apply exclusively to churches or school buildings. Instead, Lamb’s Chapel opens access to many government facilities for individuals and groups who seek to comment on matters of public concern from a biblical worldview.

In other Supreme Court decisions, the ACLJ has secured the rights of pro-life demonstrators and the freedom of association for Bible clubs on school campuses. As a result of the profound success the ACLJ has enjoyed in terms of advancing religious liberty, it can now focus on other areas.

“We are much more diverse now in terms of the issues coming before us,” Sekulow says. “We have a much broader impact, and we have an identity beyond religious freedom.”

Some of the legal issues the ACLJ has tackled recently involve counter-terrorism policies, the status of detainees in Guantanamo Bay, property rights and judicial confirmation hearings. For example, the ACLJ ardently supported the nomination of John Roberts as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. Sekulow was one of four lawyers tapped by the White House to get John Roberts and Sam Alito confirmed. Students from Regent University assisted Sekulow in the confirmation process.

“The new additions to the nation’s highest court could help to reverse disturbing precedents,” says Sekulow. Since Justice Sandra Day O’Connor was often the crucial swing vote in many 5-4 decisions, Justice Samuel Alito is ideally positioned on a number of key questions before the Court.

There is also the concern over the application of international law in Supreme Court decisions. In this regard, the ACLJ has teamed up with its affiliated firms in Europe and Russia to develop helpful precedents. Regent students participate in these projects.

Another area of focus has been defending the federal law banning partial-birth abortion. The ACLJ submitted briefs with the Supreme Court on behalf of 78 members of Congress and over 320,000 ACLJ members. The ACLJ has also worked to defend the Mount Soledad Veteran’s Memorial in San Diego, which includes a commemorative cross and the use of “In God We Trust” as the National Motto.

The ACLJ does maintain a close
Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals Judge Daniel T. Ford, left, chats with Law School Dean Jeffrey Brauch after a panel discussion at Regent Law School. Ford was the keynote speaker at Wednesday’s fourth annual Regent Law School National Law Day event, held in the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. The event also included a full day of seminars and exhibits.

watch on areas of international law affecting human rights and religious liberty. Most recently, it has established offices in Strasbourg, France, and Moscow, Russia. Sekulow expects to maintain a strong international presence, which will work to the advantage of students. Officials with the European Centre for Law and Justice (ECLJ) meet each summer with students who take part in the study abroad program in Strasbourg, France.

Law School Dean Jeffrey Brauch feels the international experience furnishes Regent students with an important perspective their contemporaries at other schools may lack.

“When you are training Christian leaders to change the world, it is important to meet current leaders in international locations who are change agents right now,” says Brauch. “Our students leave feeling inspired.”

Brauch also credits the ACLJ with helping to shape the law school’s Constitutional Law Moot Court Competition. He is particularly pleased to see a number of divergent viewpoints represented.

“The ACLJ has helped to make our tournament one of the top tournaments in the country,” he says. “We have first-rate judges who bring different legal philosophies. This makes for a more vibrant environment.”

Recently, Regent Law hosted Barry Lynn, an outspoken advocate for the separation of church and state. Last year, the tournament featured Michael Newdow, a California attorney who has attempted to have the phrase “under God” removed from the Pledge of Allegiance in public schools. In previous years, attorneys from the ACLU have participated in the competition.

While the presence of the ACLJ serves to enhance educational opportunities for Regent Law students, Sekulow is quick to point out that the relationship is mutually beneficial. He is quite impressed with the skill level of students attending the law school and expects to forge an even stronger partnership in the years ahead.

“I have the best group of law clerks I have ever had right now,” he says. “The caliber of the Regent students is tremendous. They have a good attitude, and they work hard.”

Sekulow is also full of praise for the leadership at Regent Law School. He notes that Brauch has performed “magnificently” in his current role and has a strong vision for the future. In fact, Sekulow expects the law school to have a significant impact on a global scale, and he credits Brauch for working to build new programs in overseas locations.

“Christians need to be mindful of some disturbing trends in the years ahead,” Sekulow warns. He is particularly concerned about bioethics issues and how they may impact public policy. Sekulow believes that the ACLJ and Regent Law School are ideally positioned to meet these new challenges. While he expects Christian lawyers to experience significant resistance as they seek to roll back assaults on traditional values, Sekulow has faith that they will persevere over the long term.

“I know Regent Law School has critics at other institutions,” he says. “But you must remember those same institutions are teaching their own worldview, so it is perfectly appropriate for Christians to do the same.”

Sekulow is optimistic about the future of both the ACLJ and Regent Law School. He expects the partnership to become even stronger as more Christians seek to become world changers.
When a teacher’s aid in Western, Pa., was suspended after refusing to remove her cross pendant, she found a powerful ally in Kris Wenberg, a 2001 graduate of Regent University Law School, who now works as associate counsel for the American Center for Law and Justice (ACLJ).

After filing a federal lawsuit on behalf of the aid in May 2003, the ACLJ secured a preliminary injunction against the educational agency. A district court judge concluded that Penns Manor Elementary School in Clymer, Pa., had violated the Free Exercise Clause of the First Amendment by displaying “hostility toward religion.” The injunction became permanent, and the aid was restored to her position with back pay. Brenda Nichol worked as an instructional assistant in the Penns Manor Area Elementary School and, because of the suit, could wear her pendant without fear of harassment or intimidation. Her employment record was also cleared.

“It is ridiculous for a school to tell someone what kind of jewelry they can wear,” Wenberg says. “This was a clear violation of our client’s free speech rights. I’ll never forget how grateful she was. I know I’m working for the Lord and helping people. This is where I belong.” The phone call from the client is still fresh in Wenberg’s mind. She remembers how appreciative Brenda was and what an enormous difference the legal victory made in the fight for religious freedom. “It may have seemed like a small case, but it meant the world to our client,” says Wenberg. Cases like these set an important precedent for others for years to come.

Wenberg is convinced the public has a distorted view of what is meant by “separation of church and state.” She is working alongside other ACLJ officials to help alter common misperceptions. Wenberg also wants parents, teachers, public officials and private citizens to know that the forces of secularism are not omnipotent; religious speech and exercise can be protected in court. “There is a belief out there that says it is necessary to wipe out religion completely from the face of public life to achieve the goals of the establishment clause,” she says. “That is simply not the case.”

Wenberg worked both as a law clerk and an intern for the ACLJ while attending Regent Law School. During that time, her understanding of key First Amendment issues for Christians came from time spent researching for and working with other ACLJ attorneys. She believes the experience she gained outside of the classroom with the ACLJ greatly enhanced her legal training. “I was better prepared for the manner in which religious freedom is attacked,” she explains. “I learned about the opposition’s conception of what separation of church and state means, and I learned how to respond effectively.”

In addition to becoming better acquainted with key constitutional questions, Wenberg also developed and honed practical legal skills by working with the ACLJ. As a student, she gained practical knowledge working with experienced litigators. “The practical experience really helped me on the bar exam,” she shares. “I’m very grateful the Lord called me to work with the ACLJ and to attend Regent Law School. My classroom education was supplemented with exciting work in the field that makes a difference. Regent was the best school and the best choice for me. The personalized attention and instruction from committed faculty members are among the many factors that distinguish Regent Law from more secularized institutions,” Wenberg says. Even when she struggled with classes such as Property Law and Civil Procedure, Wenberg was greatly comforted by the presence of law professors who were willing to pour additional time and energy into the intellectual growth of their students.

Although some prospective students may not be keen to the idea of attending a relatively new law school, Wenberg believes this notion is misguided. Instead, she encourages aspiring legal scholars to consider the unique attributes and characteristics of Regent that set it apart.

“A quality education depends on the enthusiasm of professors,” she says. “At Regent, the professors are passionate, and they pull you into subjects. They want to see you succeed. Prospective students need to know they will receive one-on-one attention that is missing at other schools.”

Wenberg singles out a number of faculty members for special praise. They include Eric DeGroff, James Duane and Lynne Marie Kohm. In addition to helping her to develop analytical skills, these individuals also highlighted issues directly impacting Christians. “It makes a world of difference to have professors who pray for you and keep their doors open,” she shares. “At other schools I know the...
Select Students Spend Semester with the ACLJ in D.C.

Each year a select group of Regent University School of Law students works with the American Center for Law and Justice (ACLJ) while spending an entire semester in Washington, D.C. Participating students are selected jointly by the ACLJ and Regent Law to participate in the program through a selection process that closely resembles the employment recruiting process. Candidates are required to submit an application that includes a résumé, a cover letter addressing their interests in religious liberties and constitutional law, and an academic transcript that details their academic success.

Students participating in the program complete 15 credit hours during the semester, focusing on areas such as legislation and first amendment law. The candidates also complete 250 hours of externship activities during the course of the semester. Externship activities include assisting the ACLJ attorneys with legal research and writing, as well as observations at the United States Supreme Court and United States Congress. ACLJ attorneys teach all course components and supervise students as they engage in externship activities.

Second-year law student Stephen Casey, one of six students selected to participate in the program this spring, expressed his excitement about working with attorneys in such a high-caliber law firm while working to enhance his appellate skills. Casey, a joint-degree student who has recently completed his M.A. in Biblical Interpretation, states, “The interplay of philosophy, law and religious principles fascinates me. Promoting truth requires a balanced perspective in each area.”

All of this spring’s student participants are excited about the opportunity to study the legislative and appeals processes while working in our nation’s capital. Students interested in applying for next year’s ACLJ program should contact the Student Affairs Office at 757.226.4046 for more information.
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 49 states, over 450 colleges and universities, and numerous foreign countries.
- Students regularly earn top honors at regional and national moot court and negotiation competitions, including the 2006 ABA National Appellate Advocacy Championship and the 2007 ABA National Negotiation Championship.
- 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.