



Greetings!

I am pleased to welcome you to the first addition of the Alumni Newsletter for the year 2018, and remain honored to continue to serve as your Alumni Board President! I hope that everyone is having a joyous start to the year. In this edition of the newsletter, we are proud to feature a compelling interview with alumnus Brian Heskamp, a 2008 graduate of Ave Law. Brian shares with us some of his perspective on the journey to becoming Associate General Counsel with the Diocese of Cleveland.

We have already had some exciting events happen in our alumni community since the year began. On January 18th, several alumni joined current students, faculty and staff in Washington, DC for an informal reception in advance of the March for Life. Some of the pictures are included below. We hope that this event continues to grow and flourish in the coming years!

On Thursday, January 25th, several local alumni mingled with students at our annual Career Services Mentor/Mentee Reception. This event allows 1L students an opportunity to network with mentors, the majority of whom are Ave Law alumni. It is always such a pleasure to see alumni and students connect with one another at this event!

We wish the best of luck to those new alumni sitting for the Florida Bar Exam on Tuesday, February 28th and Wednesday, February 29th. If you are in the area, please stop by to support our bar exam takers and wish them well.

Don't forget to stay in touch! You can always connect through the Symplicity network, and follow us on social media via Facebook, Twitter, Instagram (@aveschooloflaw) and Snapchat (@avemarialaw). And, your feedback on our ever-evolving newsletter content is always welcome at [alumni@avemarialaw.edu](mailto:alumni@avemarialaw.edu).

In Christ,



Jaime Hewitt, Esq.

President, Ave Maria School of Law Alumni Association



## Brian Heskamp, '08

Q. Describe your position.

A. I have the pleasure of serving the Diocese of Cleveland as Associate General Counsel. I've been in this position for a little over two years now after practicing primarily in the area of civil litigation (business and contract litigation, employment litigation, commercial litigation, and insurance coverage litigation) in a law firm for seven years. Our Diocesan Legal Office provides a wide variety of legal services to the Diocese and its various offices, as well as the 185 parishes and over 100 schools located within the Diocese. Among other things, we provide advice and counsel on real estate matters such as purchases, sales, and leases, we review and negotiate contracts, we provide advice on employment and benefit related issues, we advise schools on a variety of student and personnel matters, and we advise parishes on issues related to fundraising and charitable gambling. On any given day I could be involved in some or all of those and other matters. Our work intersects with Canon law in some areas, and so we work closely with the Diocesan Canon lawyers and need to have some familiarity with Canon law.



Q. What is the most challenging aspect about working in your position?

A. The biggest challenge is managing the large volume of inquires that come through our office and frequent "shifting gears" between the different areas of law. It certainly keeps one's mind sharp!

Q. What is the most rewarding part about working in your position?

A. It's inspirational to work with, and experience firsthand, the dedication and joy of so many of the clergy and lay faithful in our Diocese. Our new Bishop, the Most Rev. Nelson J. Perez, was installed in September, 2017 and he's a great witness to living out the joy of the Gospel. I look forward to going to work every day because every day is an opportunity to serve the Church in a concrete and tangible way.

Q. What do you want other people to know about your position?

A. One great benefit of working for the Diocese is the access to the sacraments. It's a blessing to work nearby the Cathedral where they have mass and confession three times a day. That same level of access to the sacraments was also one of the things I appreciated so much about Ave Maria.

Q. Tell me about someone or something that has influenced your decision to work in your position?

A. There are the things you might expect like a Catholic upbringing, wanting to work in a place where I could more completely integrate my faith with my work, and meeting all of the great people at the Diocese during the interview process. But there was also something quite unexpected. Maybe you've heard the story that St. Therese of Lisieux, shortly before her death, said that she would "let fall a shower of roses" and people have often attributed receiving a rose in some way as a sign of her intercession. At one point early on in the application and interview process for my current position, I wanted some assurance that I was following the right path, and, I admit, a little intercession in my favor if so, and so I prayed a novena to St. Therese. At the end of the novena, I finished my prayers in the Cathedral early one morning and walked down the steps and right into a woman with a bucket full of roses. She asked me to buy some (of course, I did!). It wasn't Valentine's Day, and although I have worked next to that particular stretch of 9<sup>th</sup> Street for almost ten years I have never before or since seen that woman, or anyone selling roses. I knew at that point that everything was in the Lord's hands, however it ultimately turned out.

Q. What do you do when you aren't working?

A. Mostly, spend time with my family. My wife Katie and I have five children – Gabriel (11), Elizabeth (9), Dominic (8), Zachary (6), and Luke (10 months), plus one more due in August. I've enjoyed coaching their sport teams and watching them grow and just spending time with them doing things like playing games, watching movies, visiting friends and family, and attending various events at our Parish. We also like to be outdoors and every year we try to complete the Summit County "Fall Hiking Spree." I also like to run, swim, and cycle when I can.

Q. How did your experience at Ave Maria School of Law prepare you for your position?

A. The integration of Catholic social teaching and natural law into the curriculum was helpful, as that factors into decision making in the Diocese. Also, while I didn't take the Canon law class offered at the school (I now wish I had!), we did briefly discuss some aspects of Canon law in other classes which was a helpful introduction. Finally, the diverse course offerings and broad exposure to a variety of subjects has proven valuable.

Q. What advice would you give to someone who wanted to follow in your career path?

A. First, pray about it to see if that's where the Lord is calling you. If so, it would be helpful to get a legal education from a Catholic law school (like Ave Maria, of course!), and take Canon law if possible. Finally, you should seek out some preliminary employment in a position where you will gain experience in a variety of subject areas but especially including real estate, employment, and contract law.

Q. Do you have anything you'd like to share with fellow alumni? To my classmates and friends from Ave Maria – I miss you all and hope our paths cross again, or cross more frequently. To everyone else, I hope I will meet you someday. Finally, I know so many of you are doing great and inspirational work both inside and outside of the practice of law and thanks for your example!

## AMSL Breakfast CLE Series Continues

On Thursday, January 11th, Ave Maria School of Law welcomed back alumnus Luca Hickman, '14, and well-known intellectual property attorney Charles Grimes for the fourth installment of our Breakfast CLE series. Luca and Charles' presentation *Intellectual Property 101: How to Recognize and Navigate Intellectual Property Issues For Your Clients* did a wonderful job of bringing life to the subject of IP law. Their insight was appreciated by all those who participated. If you are interested in attending, or presenting, at future Breakfast CLE programs, please email [alumniaffairs@avemarialaw.edu](mailto:alumniaffairs@avemarialaw.edu).



### Interested in employing fellow alumni?

As alumni at Ave Maria School of Law, you know the outstanding lawyers, law clerks and business professionals Ave Law graduates. If you or your employer are looking for talented

long or short term employees, post or recruit from Ave Maria School of Law. You can post your open position through the link below or contact [Career Services](#) for recruitment options.

[Post a Position](#)

## Alumni at Ave Maria School of Law



On Friday, January 19th, Ave Maria School of Law proudly hosted Dr. Alveda Celeste King, niece of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. King spoke about her life experiences, as well as pro-life issues. Dr. King's visit was in celebration of Ave Law's First Annual Monsignor Laurence Higgins Respect For Life Celebration.

The presentation was followed by Ave Law's third annual campus March for Life. Mrs. King is pictured here with alumnus Brandon Cooper, '16 and his wife, Brittni Brown Cooper.



On Thursday, January 25th, approximately 40 alumni and students joined together for the Career Services Office annual Mentor/Mentee Reception. Pictured here are alumni Brian Hoeing, '05, and Shane McDonald, '08.



Alumni Alan Hamisch, '10, and Terai Griffith-Spence, '12, mingle with current 1L students at the Mentor/Mentee Reception.



Brittany Harris, '15, participated in the Third Annual Non-Traditional Legal Career & In-House Counsel Information Fair on Thursday, November 9, 2017. Brittany is currently a Financial Advisor with Northwestern Mutual.



On Thursday, February 8th, Ave Maria School of Law Career Services Office hosted the Fifth Annual Government and Public Interest Fair. Among those organizations that participated, alumna Kristian Singleton, '16 (pictured on the right in the top picture), attended as an attorney with the Office of the Public Defender, 20th Judicial Circuit; and alumna Diane Miller, '13 (pictured bottom left) came as an attorney for the Legal Aid Society of Collier County. If you are interested in participating in this or other future events, please email [alumniaffairs@avemarialaw.edu](mailto:alumniaffairs@avemarialaw.edu).



## Ave Maria School of Law Happenings

## March For Life 2018



On Thursday, January 18th, several alumni joined current students, faculty, and staff for an informal gathering at Capitol City Brewing Company in Washington, DC. Pictured here with a group of current 1L, 2L and 3L students are Monsignor Frank McGrath (far left), alumni Mary Kanowsky, '16, Naomi Hatton, '17, Stephen McGuire, '12, and Stephen Klein, '09; Dean Kevin Cieply and Professor Brian Scarnecchia. A good time was had by all at the festivities. We hope that you can join us next year if you are in the area!



On Friday, January 19th, a strong contingency of Ave Maria School of Law alumni, students, faculty and staff members participated in the March For Life in Washington, DC.



Alumni Daniel Whitehead, '17 (Center), Mary Kanowsky, '16 (5th from the left), and Naomi Hatton, '17 (far right), enjoying some quality time with Ave Law students on a chilly DC evening over the March For Life weekend.

## Alumni Being Recognized

### **Lisa Haba, '09, Awarded Prosecutor of the Year at Human Trafficking Summit**



Alumna Lisa Haba, '09 was recently awarded the Florida Attorney General's Prosecutor of the Year award. Lisa is currently the Assistant State Attorney in Seminole County, Florida. The Orlando Sentinel featured Lisa's success in a November article. A link to the article can be found [here](#) .

Lisa's husband, Adam, is also an Ave Law alumnus, having graduated with the class of 2008. Congratulations, Lisa!

### **Nancy Navarez-Myrick, '16, Receives JAG Certification**

### **Colette Kellerhouse, '13, Recognized for Pro Bono Service**



On January 25th, Naples attorney, and 2013 Ave Law alumna Colette Kellerhouse was among 21 lawyers honored by the Florida Supreme Court for working on behalf of poor and indigent clients.

A link to the Pro Bono Service Awards Ceremony at the Florida Supreme Court can be found [here](#) .

Congratulations to attorney Colette Kellerhouse, recipient of the Florida Supreme Court's Pro Bono Service Award for the 20th Judicial District!



Nancy  
Nevarez-  
Myrick, Ave  
Law 2016  
alumna,  
received her



JAG certification from the Deputy JAG of the  
Air Force, Major General Rockwell.  
Congratulations, Nancy!

## Brian Cordero, '17, Receives Pentagon JAG Assignment



Recent graduate Brian Cordero, Class of  
2017, received his first assignment as  
Lieutenant in the Judge Advocate Division at  
the Pentagon in Washington, DC. Well  
done, Brian!

## CAMPUS NAMING OPPORTUNITIES

With the purchase of our campus, we now have many Naming Opportunities that offer a meaningful way to support Ave Maria School of Law while honoring and commemorating someone or something important in your life. Please review this partial list of Campus Naming Opportunities and if you are interested in learning more, contact Donna Heiser, Chief Advancement and External Affairs Officer at 239-687-5405 or [dheiser@avemarialaw.edu](mailto:dheiser@avemarialaw.edu) . [View Naming Opportunities HERE](#) .

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## Stay Connected!

Ave Maria School of Law encourages our alumni to stay connected. We invite you to share your personal and professional milestones, join our Networking and Referral Center, and participate in initiatives to grow and guide the next generation of Ave Maria School of Law practitioners. The Career Services & Alumni Affairs Office also offers alumni the opportunity to connect via a Professional Network on Symplicity. Please watch the video linked below for instructions on how to access Symplicity.



[Join the Network](#)

[Participate in AMSL Events](#)

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## Alumni Milestones

### Class of 2004

**Cameo Cristina Anders** shared the following inspirational update: "I wanted to attest to the beauty of divine providence. As a stay-at-home mom of four/attorney with my own practice, I have been working from home for the past 10 years, juggling family and law with grace and style (ok that might be stretching it). As my youngest started kindergarten I wondered if there was more I could or should be doing to serve God through the law. That wondering did not last long as God placed mentors in my path and opened the door to an exciting new area of the law-bioethics. I now serve on the Catholic hospital ethics board and am a professor of ethics for our medical school, both of which have been a wonderful learning experience while also providing an opportunity to focus on moral issues in the legal and medical arenas."

**William Baaki** was recently nominated for appointment as First Ward Alderman in the city of Amsterdam, NY, as cited in the [Mohawk Valley Compass](#).

### Class of 2005

**Matthew Dawson** has been appointed as a Federal Administrative Law Judge with the Social Security Administration.

### Class of 2012

**Diana Dawn Jezik** is President of the Lee County Association for Women Lawyers, as recognized in Res Gestae magazine, a publication of the Lee County Bar Association.

## Class of 2014

The Law Office of Verderamo & Nunez has been renamed to reflect **Jose Nunez** becoming a partner/shareholder in the firm, whose practice is divided between criminal defense and plaintiff's personal injury.

## Class of 2016

**Jorge Rodriguez-Sierra** opened the Law Office of Jorge W. Rodriguez-Sierra, in Lake Placid, FL. His practice focuses on real estate, business law, and estate planning needs. Jorge is also the newest firefighter for the Highlands Park Fire Department.

[Click Here to Share Your Milestone](#)

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## Upcoming Events

**Friday, March 9**

**NUREMBURG: It's Lesson for Today presented by Professor Schulberg**

9:00 a.m.

Naples Daily News Community Room, Naples, FL

The Research, Writing and Advocacy Department is hosting their annual **St. Thomas More First Year Oral Advocacy Competition on Saturday, April 14th. Click the button below if you would like to volunteer to be a guest judge!**

**Tuesday, March 20**

**Career Services Dress for Success, Featuring Mr. Tom Monaghan**

12:20 p.m. - 1:20 p.m.

Ave Maria School of Law, Naples, FL

[Volunteer](#)

**Monday, April 9**

**Networking Expo**

Ave Maria School of Law, Naples, FL

**Saturday, April 14**

**St. Thomas More First Year Oral Advocacy Competition**

St. Thomas More Commons

Ave Maria School of Law, Naples, FL

**Friday, April 27**

**Ave Maria School of Law Estate Planning Conference**

The Ritz Carlton Beach Resort, Naples, FL

**Wednesday, October 10**

**First Annual Ave Maria School of Law Day of Giving**

Ave Maria School of Law, Naples, FL