

Pierce Law Alumni at

# THE HEAD of the CLASSROOM

“For me, teaching law in a business school provides an opportunity to make a difference with an audience that would otherwise have limited exposure to legal concepts,” says Daniel R. Cahoy '98, associate professor of business law at The Pennsylvania State University (Penn State), University Park, PA. “Given the recent spate of corporate scandals, we now recognize that an understanding of law is perhaps the best tool for avoiding another Enron or WorldCom.”

“I love teaching,” says Cynthia Noyes '84, assistant professor of sociology and anthropology at Olivet College in Olivet, MI. “I get paid to read, write, talk and satisfy my intellectual curiosity. I really enjoy my students and I work with an incredible group of educators. Olivet focuses on teaching rather than research so, while my research endeavors are supported, I am encouraged to continually refine my teaching skills. I use my experience in law constantly in my teaching.”

“I was interested in the chance to develop a program in law and technology, where the challenge is to communicate legal and political institutions to science and engineering students,” says Kent J. Rissmiller '80, associate professor at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI), Worcester, MA. “And, being a teacher means constantly being in a learning situation, too. That, and the chance to share what I learn with students, keeps me going.”

Cahoy, Noyes and Rissmiller have opted for the classroom instead of a courtroom and are among several Pierce Law alumni who have chosen teaching as either a full or part-time profession. For each, the decision to become a teacher has been a personal one, but a common desire to provide their students the best possible education is clearly evident.



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*Daniel R. Cahoy '98*



Daniel R. Cahoy '98

## DANIEL R. CAHOY '98

Assistant Professor of Business Law  
The Smeal College of Business  
The Pennsylvania State University  
University Park, PA

Daniel R. Cahoy '98 is assistant professor of business law at The Pennsylvania State University (Penn State) at University Park, PA, the school's main campus.

He joined Penn State in 2001 and serves in The Smeal College of Business specializing in teaching as well as the study of intellectual property law and general business law concepts. Cahoy teaches courses in Intellectual Property and Competition Law and the Legal Environment of Business to approximately 300 students each semester.

According to Cahoy, "Teaching law in a business school provides a unique opportunity to influence the corporate leaders of tomorrow. In practice, I learned first-hand how an appreciation of the value of intellectual property can lead to clear advantages in the market place. I enjoy relating those experiences in the vibrant atmosphere of undergraduate and graduate classes at one of America's top universities."

When he is not in the classroom, Cahoy is involved in research and writing on topics ranging from patent and copyright innovation incentives to mock jury behavior. He has received numerous honors for this research, including The Ralph C. Hoerber Award for Excellence in Research from the Academy of Legal Studies in Business and the *American Business Law Journal's* Holmes-Cardozo Award for Outstanding Conference Paper. His work has been published in the *Harvard Journal of Law & Technology*, the *Fordham Intellectual Property, Media & Entertainment Law Journal*, the *American Business Law Journal* and the *NYU Journal of Legislation and Public Policy*.

"I enjoy pure economic theory of intellectual property law and how it impacts the business world and society," says Cahoy. "Frankly, the most exciting thing about research is discovering how much you don't know. The search for knowledge to impart a greater understanding to others is a pleasure unique to academia, and I feel very lucky to be in this profession."

Cahoy's current research projects include investigating the legal and regulatory incentives to disclose information in the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries, and the impact of international compulsory license provisions on pharmaceutical innovation. He serves as articles editor for the faculty-edited *American Business Law Journal*, and is also pursuing a patent on the mock jury research method he invented

with Penn State colleague Min Ding, a marketing professor.

"As a tenure track professor, research is an essential part of my job. I'm given the flexibility and support to investigate some of the most complex problems in intellectual property law and to present my ideas to the academic legal community. It is very rewarding to see your proposals discussed and possibly influence public policy."

In addition to his teaching responsibilities, Cahoy is active in the creation of a Center for Bio-Business at the University that will be devoted to researching the business aspects of the biotechnology industry.

Prior to joining Penn State, Cahoy worked as an associate at one of the nation's largest intellectual property law firms, Fitzpatrick, Cella, Harper & Scinto, New York, NY where he was involved in complex patent litigation. He worked extensively on the development and protection of intellectual property rights in chemical, pharmaceutical, and biotechnology arts for such major firms as Pfizer, Inc., Bristol-Myers Squibb Co., and Bausch & Lomb Incorporated.

"Working at Fitzpatrick, Cella was one of the best experiences a young attorney could have," says Cahoy. "The firm's practice is on the cutting-edge of some of the world's most important intellectual property issues, including access to essential medicines and the place for generics as a pharmaceutical price relief mechanism. My education at Pierce Law allowed me to hit the ground running and take on substantive tasks quickly and confidently."

Cahoy, who earned his BA degree in biology from the University of Iowa, Iowa City in 1991, later worked at The University of Iowa College of Medicine where he conducted research in physiology and biophysics. His work focused on molecular biology research as it related to basic signal transduction and the mechanism of insulin resistance in type II diabetes.

"The exposure to a well-funded and well-respected research lab enabled me to gain a deep appreciation for the science that formed the basis of the cases I litigated as a patent lawyer," Cahoy explains.

In 1995, Cahoy enrolled at Pierce Law. "I knew from the outset that I wanted to be an intellectual property lawyer, and I was excited to study at one of the world's top intellectual property programs," says Cahoy. "I can't say enough about the quality of the education I received at Pierce Law."

While at Pierce Law, Cahoy served as editor-in-chief of *IDEA: The Journal of Law and Technology*. His moot court team won first place in the American Intellectual Property Law



Kent J. Rissmiller '80

Association's Giles Sutherland Rich Moot Court Competition in 1997. In 1998, he earned second place in the Boston Patent Law Association's Student Writing Competition and, during that same year, was Pierce Law's nominee for the American Bar Association's Jan Jancin Award for Outstanding Student Achievement in Intellectual Property.

*Cahoy is a registered patent attorney with the United States Patent Office, and member of the Bar of the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit as well as several state bars. Cahoy resides in University Park with his wife, Ellysa, and daughter, Laura, age 3.*

## KENT J. RISSMILLER '80

**Associate Professor  
Department of Social Science and Policy Studies  
Worcester Polytechnic Institute Worcester, MA**

Energy law and policy, American politics, constitutional law and jurisprudence are among the research and teaching interests of Kent J. Rissmiller '80, now associate professor in the Department of Social Science and Policy Studies at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) in Worcester, MA.

With three graduate degrees and a lengthy teaching career, Rissmiller has either studied and/or worked in an academic setting for most of his life. "All of that has been motivated by a life-long interest in law, politics and social decision-making," Rissmiller explains.

Before enrolling at Pierce Law, Rissmiller earned an AB degree in political science from Muhlenberg College, Allentown, PA in 1976. After graduating from Pierce Law in 1980, he went on to earn an MA in political science and a PhD in political science with an emphasis in political theory and American government from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY. "I spent more time in graduate school than most," says Rissmiller, "but I was motivated and inspired by exceptional teachers all along the way."

Rissmiller began his teaching career at Syracuse University in 1982 as an instructor in the Department of Political Science, and later as a visiting lecturer at the State University of New York in Brockport in 1985. He worked for a few years outside of academia in the mid-1980s when he served as a legal and administrative assistant for the Public Service Commission of Nevada in Carson City before accepting

a position in 1987 in the Department of Government at New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, NM.

"In 1988, I joined the faculty of WPI as assistant professor in the Department of Social Science and Policy Studies," says Rissmiller. "The department was particularly interested in my legal and governmental experience. I was interested in the chance to develop a program in law and technology, where the challenge is to communicate legal and political institutions to science and engineering students. And, being a teacher means constantly being in a learning situation, too. That, and the chance to share what I learn with students, keeps me going."

"These days, most of the students with whom I work closely are interested in IP law. My continuing contact with people at Pierce Law makes it easy for me to recommend the law school to my students," says Rissmiller.

At WPI, Rissmiller's areas of expertise include: public policy with an emphasis on energy and environmental policy; constitutional and administrative law; bureaucratic decision making (regulatory policy); and intellectual property. He teaches a variety of courses from Introductory American Government and Public Policy, to Judicial Process, and Administrative Decision Making and Law, and an occasional section of International Relations or Research Methods. In addition, he advises student project groups that complete research in some aspect of society and technology studies. WPI has enabled him to travel with project groups to WPI's study abroad centers in London, Costa Rica, Puerto Rico and Zurich.

"Although I'm working closely with a small number of students, many have gone on to become successful law students and practitioners. Students that I've stayed in touch with are IP attorneys in Chicago, New York, Washington and Boston," Rissmiller says.

Rissmiller's dedication to education and to his students is readily apparent. In 1991, he received the Outstanding Service to Students Award, presented by Alpha Phi Omega at WPI. He has served as pre-law advisor since 1988, helped to direct the International Scholars Program, chaired the College Committee on Student Advising, coached mock trial teams and advised delegations to the Model UN.

Rissmiller's research often takes him out of the classroom. In 2000, he was awarded funding by the Olin Foundation to work on a program "Building Global Public Policy Networks to Integrate Sustainable Development into Trade." He recently completed work on a three-year grant from the Technology Opportunity Program of the United States Department of Commerce, in conjunction with the Legal



Anne E. Yates '03

Assistance Corporation of Central Massachusetts. The grant funded an evaluation of an Internet based system for providing legal assistance by supplementing text with instant messaging technology at LiveJustice.com.

A noted lecturer and author, Rissmiller has published and given numerous presentations on policy change, and environmental and energy issues. Rissmiller is a member of the American Political Science Association, the System Dynamics Society and the bars of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the Federal District Court for the District of Massachusetts.

*Rissmiller resides with his two children, John, age 10, and Kevin, age 5, and is engaged to Rachel Ross. He lives in Jefferson, MA.*

#### **ANNE E. YATES '03**

**Associate, Troutman Sanders, LLP  
Atlanta, GA  
Adjunct Professor  
Clayton College State University  
Morrow, GA**

A former legal assistant in several practice areas, Anne E. Yates '03 is an associate at Troutman Sanders, LLP in Atlanta, GA where her intellectual property practice focuses on trademark and copyright prosecution, registration, maintenance, and enforcement. Her practice also includes counseling clients concerning gift card and sweepstakes matters. Included among her clients are regional, national and international restaurants, sporting goods manufacturers, energy companies, financial institutions, and retailers.

Yates earned a BA in sociology at Georgia State University in 1997. Following graduation, she worked as a legal assistant for the Law Office of Malcolm Decelle, Jr. in her hometown of West Monroe, LA.

"I decided to become an attorney after working as a corporate and securities legal assistant for a large southeastern law firm," says Yates, "and I discovered intellectual property law while working in-house as an intellectual property legal assistant for UPS."

In 2004, Yates joined the adjunct faculty of Clayton State University, Morrow, LA to teach intellectual property law to paralegal students.

"I enjoy teaching my students intellectual property law. Many of them come into class very intimidated about learning intellectual property law, and I love feeling at the end of the semester when my students realize how much they have learned," says Yates. "Regardless, if my students elect to work in the intellectual property field, I like knowing that I have at least opened their eyes to intellectual property law."

Yates excelled as a student at Pierce Law where she served on the Bookstore Board and the Admissions Committee, as well as working as a teaching assistant for both legal writing and trademarks. In 2002–2003, she was the student representative to the Pierce Law Board of Trustees, a position she secured for the student body while serving as president of the Pierce Law Student Bar Association. During her third year of law school, she was president of the Pierce Law Moot Court Board. In 2002, Yates participated on the team that won the Second Place East Region Award in the Saul Lefkowitz National Trademark Law Moot Court Competition, and in 2003, she assisted Professor Susan Richey in coaching the team that won the National Best Brief Award as well as the National Second Place Award. Yates was selected by her classmates to share the honor of student speaker with Jocelyn Kennedy at commencement ceremonies in 2003.

Today, Yates is a member of Troutman Sanders' Diversity Committee and is co-editor of the firm's *Intellectual Property & the Law*. She has co-authored articles on recent developments in trademark law, effective domain name portfolio management, and fair use in the educational setting. In addition, she has served since 2004 as a brief judge for the Saul Lefkowitz Competition.

*Yates is admitted to the Georgia State Bar and resides in Atlanta.*



Cynthia Noyes '84

## CYNTHIA NOYES '84

**Assistant Professor of Sociology and Anthropology;  
Director of Pre-Law Program  
Department of Social Sciences  
Olivet College  
Olivet, MI**

Cultural icons, Internet folklore and gender studies are topics of primary interest to Cynthia Noyes '84, assistant professor of sociology and anthropology at Olivet College in Olivet, MI.

"More specifically, ownership of cultural icons and concepts," says Noyes.

"This is what I am going to be developing as my masters thesis. In a world where we 'brand' everything and trademarks proliferate, it is interesting to see what happens with the co-option of important cultural symbols and processes. Should a self-help guru be able to legally monopolize a ritual he or she took from a particular cultural group? Can one monopolize a symbol because it looks good, change the meaning to comport with corporate ideology, and then trademark it? We have laws that prohibit us from simply taking potsherds, projectile points, artwork, and buildings from other cultures and other times. I'm interested in seeing if we need similar protection for immaterial cultural artifacts such as rituals and symbols."

"The focus of my research at Olivet is gender studies, in particular, women and religion, rituals and folklore," explains Noyes. "My classes focus on social justice and inequalities that derive from sexism and heterosexism. I'm very interested in women and their religious practices, from the solitary Wiccan to the most fundamental practitioner of one of the major religions."

Noyes, who earned a BA in anthropology with a concentration in archaeology from the University of Illinois, Urbana/Champaign, is a candidate for an MA in anthropology from Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo in 2007. She is also currently researching material for a fiction novel about Xantippe, the wife of Socrates.

"I have to start reading less about the period and writing more. In a way this came out of my readings of Plato, Socrates and their contemporaries. Xantippe got a bad rap. She was a Greek wife which meant that her role was quite circumscribed. She probably had no education, no way to work outside the home, but she would be responsible for making sure the fami-

ly, including any slaves or servants, were fed and clothed. All this while Socrates was off in the Agora, teaching, not bringing home much money and getting in trouble with the powers that be. No wonder she gave Socrates a hard time. Then, to top it all off, Socrates is forced to commit suicide (rather than accept exile) which threw her back into her family's care, at best, or into destitution, at worst. I'm trying to write about the entire situation from her perspective and am having a difficult but fun time trying."

Noyes' legal career began in 1985 at The Legal Clinics, PA in Manchester, NH. "I have always been interested in societal and cultural issues," says Noyes. "I view the law as a cultural artifact. At any given time our laws reflect us, and our society. I find it interesting when our legal worldview bumps up against the views of another culture. Looking at a society's laws gives you an idea of that society's values. One should pay attention not only to what the laws say and who is protected, but how the law is articulated. Look at Irish Brehon law with the number of ways that a marriage relationship could be defined versus our restrictive definition. It is an interesting way of evaluating a society."

Noyes later opened a private practice in Concord NH where she specialized in family law. She also trained and became certified as a marital mediator and guardian *ad litem*. In 1995, Noyes moved to Michigan where she joined the staff of Olivet College as assistant professor of social sciences and pre-law advisor.

"I was hired to teach a geography class at first. My background in anthropology (with a lot of geology) made it a good fit," says Noyes. "At that time one of the anthropology teachers left and I was asked to step in, pending a search. I ended up with more and more classes and finally became a full-time instructor. This is a small college so no one gets away with only one 'job'. As I had practical experience, it made me a good fit for working with our students who were interested in law. Pre-law advising is really an extension of academic advising. Other instructors or students steer potential law students to me and I work with them to prepare for the application process and school itself. I emphasize communication and critical thinking skills, and act as number one cheerleader when they are prepping for the LSAT"

Noyes, who now teaches classes in Geography, Sociology/Anthropology, History and Political Science says, "I love teaching. I get paid to read, write, talk and satisfy my intellectual

curiosity. I really enjoy my students and I work with an incredible group of educators. Olivet focuses on teaching rather than research so, while my research endeavors are supported, I am encouraged to continually refine my teaching skills. I use my experience in law constantly in my teaching.”

While at Olivet, Noyes has received several academic and administrative appointments. She currently serves as Faculty Senate president and faculty senator for the Social Sciences Department and is co-developing a curriculum for a criminal justice major and assisting in the redefining of the psychology curriculum.

As inter-society director, she was responsible for coordinating and supervising activities of the local sororities and fraternities. From 1996–2001, she served as resident educator,

helping to develop maintain specific parameters for a new college-wide computer program and assisting the dean of community life with ongoing departmental issues.

“I want to continue on as I have been. I’m working on my Masters more for my own benefit than anything else. In a way, I’m keeping a promise I made to myself in 1981 when I decided to go to law school. I told myself that I’d get my Masters later. I guess you could say that 24 years qualifies as later. I hope to continue teaching at Olivet. I enjoy the people and (except for no mountains) the place.”

*Noyes resides in Olivet.*

#### SUSAN COLMAN '81

Colman Tech Law, Washington, DC  
International Senior Lawyers Project,  
Kampala, Uganda

In 2003, the International Senior Lawyers Project (ISLP) asked Susan Colman '81 to travel to Uganda to teach eCommerce law at the International Law Institute in Kampala.

“I absolutely jumped at the chance,” says Colman. “I spent the next five months preparing 650 pages of material for a five-day course.” The ISLP provides volunteer, highly skilled, and experienced attorneys to advance democracy and the rule of laws, protect human rights and promote equitable economic development worldwide.

Eight students from four East African countries participated in Colman’s class. All were legally trained except one, who was a contract specialist from the Communications Commission of Kenya. Other students included: a legal officer at the Central Bank of Tanzania, Dar es Salaam; a legal officer with the Zambian Communications Authority; two female legal officers with the Uganda Revenue Authority; a female legal officer with the Centenary Rural Development Bank; and a member of the Uganda Law Reform Commission.

“I am hoping with all my heart to get back to Africa,” says Colman. “After my time in Kampala, I took a safari in Tanzania to the Ngorongoro Crater and the Serengeti and a few other places. Africa is beyond magic and my heart remains

there, somewhat impatiently, for my return. I will never, ever forget it.”

Colman is a sole practitioner in Washington, DC where she focuses on computer law, IT-law, copyrights and trademarks. Fluent in Swedish, she is currently planning a conference that will take place in June 2006 in Gothenburg, Sweden on “Proactive Risk Management in the Electronic World.” A noted lecturer and author on various software and IT-related subjects, her work has been published in Sweden.



*Susan Colman '81 (center) with students in Uganda.*