Primus awarded inaugural Guggenheim Fellowship in constitutional studies

Michigan Law Professor Richard Primus joined an international cross-section of intellectual luminaries recently when he was awarded one of two inaugural Guggenheim Fellowships in constitutional studies. He joins 189 other American and Canadian Fellows in the class of 2008. Fellows were chosen from a field of 2,600 applicants; altogether, awards distributed to this year’s group of artists, scientists and scholars will total $8.2 million.

The Guggenheim Fellowships, based on “stellar achievement and exceptional promise for continued accomplishment,” were established in 1925 and are designed to encourage work in the arts, sciences, and humanities. This year’s fellows are drawn from 75 different disciplines and 81 academic institutions; another 56 fellows are either unaffiliated with an institution or teach on a part-time basis.

In Primus’ case, the award will help support continued work researching constitutional authority in the period following the Civil War. This year’s other Guggenheim Constitutional Studies Fellow, Georgetown law professor Randy E. Barnett, will look into the “reconstructed Constitution.” A member of the Michigan Law faculty since 2001, Primus has taught the law, theory, and history of the U.S. Constitution, focusing on the role that history plays in constitutional interpretation.

Hasen named IRS professor in residence

Internal Revenue Service Chief Counsel Donald L. Korb has selected David Hasen as the 2008-2009 Professor in Residence. The IRS professor in residence reports directly to the chief counsel and provides advice and assistance on a wide array of legal issues within the scope of his or her expertise.

“We are excited to have David join us in the fall to carry on the fine tradition we instituted last year,” Korb said. “It is an extremely worthwhile program for both our lawyers, particularly the more recent hires, and for the law professors.”

Hasen will serve a nine-month term starting in late October.

Hasen has been an assistant professor at Michigan Law since 2002. During the spring 2008 term, he was a visiting faculty member at the University of Southern California Gould School of Law. Previously, he taught as a visitor at Hastings College of the Law.

Hasen has written about the taxation of financial instruments, the tax consequences of unwinding transactions, and the taxation of advance payments. He worked as an associate in the tax departments of Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP, and Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati PC, in San Francisco. He holds a J.D. from Yale Law School, a Ph.D. from Harvard University, and a B.A. from Reed College.

The IRS program provides some of the nation’s top legal academicians the opportunity to contribute to the development of legal tax policy and administration.