Faculty accomplishments

Professor Merritt Fox recently presented papers at several conferences. He spoke on "Mandatory Securities Disclosure Laws: Harmonization or National Treatment" at a conference sponsored by the American Enterprise Institute and the Chicago Federal Reserve Bank, presented on Financial Market Regulation in the Asian Pacific Region at a conference sponsored by the APEC (Asian Pacific Economic Cooperation) study center, and gave a paper on "Choice of Law in a Globalizing Securities Market" at a conference sponsored by the New York Stock Exchange.

Roberta Morris, who teaches copyright and intellectual property, recently presented at a United States Agency for International Development workshop at Michigan State University on intellectual property. The workshop participants came from Asia, Africa and South America and are involved in science and science policy in their own countries. They spent two weeks visiting a variety of places, including the University of Michigan's Technology Office and a law firm in Troy (where Deann Foran Smith, J.D. '91, served as their host). Morris also spoke in March at a State Bar Meeting for the Intellectual Property Section on pending patent legislation.

Andrea Lyon, assistant clinical professor, received the Reginald Heber Smith Award at the National Legal Aid and Defender Association's annual meeting in December. The award recognizes and honors outstanding achievements and dedicated service of a lawyer working as a public defender or legal aid attorney. Lyon is nationally recognized for her expertise in death penalty defense and extensive experience in homicide and capital cases.

In accepting her award, Lyon spoke of the difficult times those involved in legal services to the poor are facing and will continue to face. She talked about how media attacks and assaults on funding have made providing such services more difficult and how this has angered service providers. She noted, however, that it is important that such anger be directed toward fueling hope. "Hope is what causes us to continue to fight, to speak out and to stand tall," she said. "Anger, by itself, will only insure our failure."

Donald Duquette, clinical professor of law and director of the Law School's Child Advocacy Law Clinic, served as co-chair of the State Bar of Michigan's Children's Task Force. The group, co-chaired by Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Cynthia Stephens, worked for three years to assess how children are treated in Michigan's justice system and to recommend improvements focusing on sensitive and efficient resolution of cases involving children. In an article written for the Michigan Bar Journal about the work of the Children's Task Force, Duquette and Stephens pointed out that for every high profile case involving children, thousands of others "pass through our courts with little public attention but with consequences to them just as momentous and life altering as those cases featured on the national news." The final task force report offers nearly two-dozen recommendations for change that fall into four categories: adjudication of children's cases; advocacy; children's services and the courts; and training and practice resources.

Kamisar honored

Yale Kamisar, Clarence Darrow Distinguished University Professor of Law, is the recipient of this year's American Bar Foundation Research Award. Kamisar was recognized for his "outstanding contributions to the law and the legal profession through his research in law and government." He is the 40th recipient, succeeding Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, last year's honoree.

The award is given by the fellows of the American Bar Foundation. Kamisar received the award in February. A previous recipient of the same award and former dean of the Law School, Frank Allen, spoke about Kamisar's contributions to legal research and education at the awards ceremony.

"(His) writing has had enormous influence. A few years ago someone discovered that among all legal scholars, Kamisar was the most frequently quoted and cited in opinions of the United States Supreme Court. If citations in opinions of state and lower federal courts were added, the total would run into hundreds."

And, Allen continued, "(Kamisar) is a teacher as well as scholar. He is an instructor not only to students in his classes but also to a whole generation of younger teachers working in the fields he cultivates. There are surely few, if any, senior professors in American law schools who have had greater influence on young scholars than has Yale Kamisar during the last thirty-five years."