Approaching Legendary Proportions

When last year's vice-presidential debate between Joseph Lieberman and Richard Cheney ended, a few family members and a handful of dignitaries came onto the stage to congratulate the candidates.

Among those dignitaries was James H. Evans, '48. Perhaps that's because the debate was held at Evans's undergraduate alma mater, Centre College, where he had been a longtime member of the board of trustees and chairman of that board for seven years.

Perhaps it's because Cheney served for several years as a director of Union Pacific Corporation, the company Evans ran, first as president, then as chairman and CEO, between 1969 and 1985.

Or perhaps it's just because Jim Evans can be found virtually anywhere that important civic undertakings are taking place. He has manifested an extraordinary commitment to civic betterment throughout his career, having served as—among other things—vice chairman and trustee of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, trustee of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, a member of the board of governors of the American National Red Cross and of New York Hospital, a member of the executive committee of the White House Preservation Fund, chairman of the Central Park Conservancy in New York, and founding chairman (and a life trustee) of the National Recreation and Park Association.

He has provided his expertise to prominent efforts to improve the functioning of government, including the Grace Commission's exhaustive search for ways to reduce government spending and the Council on Foreign Relations's 1998 report, "Making Intelligence Smarter." He was a founding member of the Citizens Advisory Committee on Environmental Quality.

He served as a Navy Lieutenant during World War II before entering the Law School in March 1946. He became an editor of the Law Review. Upon graduation, after seriously considering an invitation to clerk for Chief Justice of the United States Fred M. Vinson—also a Centre College graduate—he joined Harris Trust & Savings Bank of Chicago as assistant to the president. This decision followed the strong advice of Professor George G. Bogert, for whom Evans had worked. A Life Trustee of the University of Chicago, Evans is currently serving a second term on the Law School Visiting Committee. Last year he was named the first chairman of the University's newly-created Phoenix Society, which honors individuals who make estate commitments or life-income arrangements to benefit any area of the University.

Dean Levmore says, "There's one thing I have learned rather quickly from my conversations with previous deans and concerned alumni—few names are spoken with the respect and admiration that Jim Evans's name evokes. Getting to know him is a pleasure I anticipate. His vision and wisdom, his generosity with his time, and the consistent personal graciousness of Jim and his wife, Mary, approach legendary proportions."

Among the many noteworthy developments during Evans's leadership of Union Pacific were the accomplishment of the complex merger that created what is now by far the nation's largest and most profitable railroad system, and the farsighted diversification of the company into a natural-resources giant.

It is apparent that he achieved near-legendary status among his corporate peers as well: he has been a director of companies that include Citicorp, General Motors, AT&T, Anaconda Corporation, Dun & Bradstreet, Bristol-Myers, and Metropolitan Life, and he was co-chairman of The Business Roundtable.

In a New York Times interview that was published when he assumed Union Pacific's presidency, Evans discussed the determination it took to master the intricacies of his diverse previous jobs, which included the presidency and chairmanship of The Seamen's Bank for Savings and a vice presidency and directorship at Dun & Bradstreet. "It meant sometimes working twenty hours a day," he said. Even twenty hours a day seems barely enough to account for all Jim Evans has accomplished and contributed.
Who Gets to Keep the Notes?

Since he joined the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) in the fall of 1999 as associate counsel, Stanley Pierre-Louis, '95, has helped litigate some of the most significant cases in the new economy, the suits against Napster, MP3.com, and Scour that helped define the boundaries of a legitimate online marketplace.

Pierre-Louis's impressive résumé includes a clerkship with Judge David A. Nelson of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit and work as an associate at Washington, D.C.-based Shea & Gardner, where he focused on copyright and constitutional law. Currently, Pierre-Louis serves on the Visiting Committee of the Law School. He is also a frequent panelist on copyright matters and serves on the board of directors of the Washington Area Lawyers for the Arts, a nonprofit organization that provides pro bono legal services and sponsors training seminars for local artists.

This former Law Review editor is also an accomplished bassist and pianist who played in the University's symphony orchestra while at the Law School. However, Pierre-Louis says that it's more than just nice to follow his own passion, that his musical background actually informs his perspective and helps him appreciate the real-world consequences of the positions that his organization stakes out. "It's incontestable that the unauthorized distribution of music affects someone at every level of the process," he says, adding that he appreciates the opportunity to litigate issues that have such broad consequences for consumer choice, intellectual property rights, First Amendment rights, and the financial viability of the recording industry.

Pierre-Louis credits the Law School for helping him prepare for this role: "Chicago is an intellectually charged environment that requires deeper understanding than simple black letter law." Since many of his cases hinge on theories that have no legal precedent, thinking beyond the written word is essential. For that skill, he thanks the training and mentoring of the Law School faculty, particularly Professors Douglas Baird, Dennis Hutchinson, and Cass Sunstein.

His advice to students interested in music law? Realize that the relationship between intellectual property and technology will be the key to moving forward, and the only way to start understanding that relationship is to engage in the discussion, which includes a healthy divergence of views. "Ultimately," he says in good Chicago fashion, "the market—whether defined as consumer preferences or the marketplace of ideas—will light the path."

“A Man Who Knows the Law”

On February 1 of this year, John Ashcroft, '67, was confirmed by the Senate as attorney general of the United States. In nominating him, President Bush called Ashcroft "a man of great integrity, a man of great judgment, and a man who knows the law."


Recent Law School graduates joining the Justice Department under Ashcroft include Howard Nielson, ’97, as counsel to the attorney general, and James Ho, ’99, as special assistant to the assistant attorney general for civil rights.

Ashcroft, who was born in Chicago, entered the Law School after earning a B.A. in history with honors from Yale. He has described the Law School as "having had as arduous a set of rigorous demands as any place in the country... analytical and hard-nosed... not a touchy-feely place."

In 1965, he met Janet Roede, who was a year behind him at the Law School. The two married after she graduated and have been married for 33 years. Until recently, Janet Ashcroft taught business law at Howard University. The Ashcrofts have three children: Martha, an attorney in Kansas City; John, a professor at Forest Park Community College in St. Louis; and Andrew, on active duty with the United States Navy.

Ashcroft became a law professor at Southwest Missouri State University in 1967. In 1973, the governor of Missouri, Kit Bond, appointed him to the job of state auditor. Ashcroft then became an assistant to the Missouri attorney general, John Danforth, in 1974, and was elected Missouri attorney general in 1976.

He served two terms in that post, and then was elected governor of Missouri in 1984. He was reelected in 1988 by 64 percent, the largest percentage of any Missouri governor since the Civil War.

Leaving office after his governorship, he practiced law before winning election to the U.S. Senate from Missouri in 1994. While in the Senate, he served on the Judiciary, Commerce, Science and Transportation, and Foreign Relations committees, and chaired subcommittees on Consumer Affairs, Africa, and the Constitution.

John and Janet Ashcroft have both distinguished themselves not only in legal practice and public service, but also in outside activities and service to the Law School. John served on the Law School Visiting

John Ashcroft's widely varied hobbies include riding dirt bikes on his farm, riding motorcycles, driving his 1973 yellow Mustang convertible, writing gospel songs, fishing, hiking, and tennis.

### Breaking New Ground

Mary Murphy Schroeder, '65, chief judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit, was one of five women recently honored by the American Bar Association Commission on Women in the Profession with its prestigious Margaret Brent Women Lawyers of Achievement Award. Previous award winners have included such notables as U.S. Supreme Court Justices Sandra Day O'Connor and Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

Presented in August at the ABA's annual meeting in Chicago, and named for the first woman lawyer in America, the award honors outstanding women lawyers who have achieved professional excellence in their area of specialty and have actively paved the way to success for other women lawyers.

Judge Schroeder's own pioneering career began after she received her degree from the Law School in 1965. After working as a trial lawyer for the U.S. Department of Justice, then as a law clerk for the Arizona Supreme Court, she joined the Phoenix law firm of Lewis & Roca, achieving the distinction of being the first woman partner in any law firm in the Rocky Mountain/Southwest region.

In 1975, she became the youngest member of the Arizona Court of Appeals. In 2000, after twenty years of service as a circuit judge on the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, she was named chief judge of that court—the first woman to hold that position.

Dean Levmore said, "In addition to all her other dazzling accomplishments, Judge Schroeder has worked to improve the lives of women and minorities across the United States throughout her career. We are lucky to have her for another term on the Law School's Visiting Committee. Her vision and leadership are deeply appreciated."

### Tribal Counsel

When Robert N. Clinton graduated from the Law School in 1971, the last thing he expected to become is what he is today: perhaps the country's leading authority on federal Indian law; chief justice of the Winnebago Supreme Court, which hears appeals from the tribal courts of the Winnebago tribe of Nebraska; and an associate justice of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribal Court of Appeals.

He did know back then that he wanted to teach, and that is something that he also does today, having recently relocated from the University of Iowa College of Law, where he taught from 1973 until last year, to the Arizona State University College of Law, where he now holds the Barry Goldwater Chair of American Institutions. The Goldwater chair, rotated annually among departments, is the most prestigious academic position at the university.

Clinton, who is not himself Native American, says two events that occurred shortly after he arrived at Iowa—after two years as an associate at Devee Shadur & Krupp in Chicago—persuaded him that Indian law merited attention. He worked on the discovery brief for the appeal of American Indian Movement leaders Russell Means and Dennis Banks, arising from the dramatic standoff at Wounded Knee, only to see government prosecutors violate the discovery order. That violation, which led the presiding District Court judge to say he was "ashamed" of the government's handling of the case, led to the dropping of charges against Means and Banks.

Then, while working at Iowa's legal clinic, he represented a Meskwaki man and succeeded in having the man's state-court conviction vacated, arguing that jurisdiction belonged with the federal government and the tribe to which the man belonged, not the state.

"Native American issues were not only socially important, they were interesting and satisfying work, because they involve not just critical legal policy questions but also deep historical and anthropological issues, which interest me quite a bit," Clinton says. He adds that Soia Mentschikoff's introductory law class was quite helpful to him as he began digging into the field that has today become his specialty.

He is co-author of three texts: *American Indian Law*, *The Handbook of Federal Indian Law*, and *Federal Courts: Theory and Practice*. His expertise seems to land him in newspapers from Maine to Alaska with regularity, and he was the subject of a *New York Times* feature interview on Indian land claims.
He describes his services on the Winnebago and Cheyenne River courts as “a thrilling honor and fascinating work,” but notes that he looks forward to the day when tribal members will take over his seats. Because so many cases require an understanding of traditional practice as well as written law, he is encouraged that there are now perhaps 2,000 Native American lawyers nationwide. “I believe strongly that giving Indians their own voice is critical,” he insists.

Regarding overall issues of Indians’ control of their destiny, he worries about the direction of recent court decisions affecting sovereignty—disputes between states and tribes over the scope of their respective authority in Indian country. Until recently, Indians often prevailed in such disputes, many of them reaffirming the basic federal protections of tribal sovereignty embedded in both the early federal treaties with Indian tribes and in the federal constitution itself. Beginning in the 1980s and accelerating in the last decade, however, the decisions of the Supreme Court more frequently countenanced expanding state authority in Indian country by limiting the historic scope of tribal authority in Indian country.

“This should not be allowed to continue,” he says. “The most fundamental right tribes and their members have is the right of sovereignty.”

Sustaining a Legacy

Law graduates contemplating careers outside the traditional practice of law need look no farther for a sense of the possibilities than to the extraordinary career of Deborah Leff, ’77.

In June of this year, she took office as director of the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum, following a stint as president and CEO of America’s Second Harvest, the nation’s largest domestic hunger relief organization. Before that, for seven years she was president and CEO of the billion-dollar Joyce Foundation, and before that, a senior producer at ABC News for nine years, working on Nightline, 20/20, and World News Tonight with Peter Jennings, winning Emmy and Peabody awards along the way. Before that—yes, there were several other impressive career stops—as a trial attorney for the Justice Department’s civil rights division, in the White House working for the appointment of women and minority candidates to federal judgeships, and as director of the office of public affairs at the Federal Trade Commission. She was political director of the National Women’s Political Caucus while still a Princeton undergraduate.

Her commitment to social action began early, shaped by a mother who fled the Nazis and a father who grew up in Chicago as one of six sons of a widowed mother. “I wanted to be a civil rights lawyer for as long as I can remember,” she says. Her studies at the Law School—her clinical experiences in particular—gave her a holistic view of social action, focusing both on direct service to individuals and on forging responsive public policy. She gives an example from her work at America’s Second Harvest. “It was very gratifying each day to know that I had helped put nourishing meals in front of people who needed them, and it was even more important to agitate for legislation and policies that meant fewer people would be hungry in the first place.”

That combination of moving at the individual level and shaking at the policy level has marked all her activities, but there’s also something else about Leff, described by many who know her but perhaps put best by Sunny Fischer, executive director of Chicago’s Driehaus Foundation and a longtime colleague: “Everything Deborah touches becomes magical. She has inspired everyone she’s met.”

In her new job, she’s responsible for sustaining a legacy to which the words “inspiration” and “magic” have also been frequently applied. The Kennedy Library is the most visited of all the presidential libraries. Its 36 million pages of materials, nearly 400,000 photographs, 8 million feet of film, and 9,000 hours of audio recordings are vital scholarly resources. Just as important for Leff is the evocative power of Kennedy’s presidency. “As is true of so many people, a big part of my view of personal and political responsibility was influenced by John Kennedy’s presidency,” she says. “It’s part of my job to sustain the impact that his life had. It’s still hard for me to believe sometimes that I have been entrusted with the honor and privilege—and the huge responsibility—of doing that.”

Leff, who recently completed a term on the Law School’s Visiting Committee, participated in a suit against the Law School during her days as a student, challenging the makeup of the faculty, which at that time consisted entirely of white males. “We were the only major law school back then with zero representation of minorities and women, and I felt something had to be done about that,” she says. Now, she observes, “Things are very, very different. I think the Law School is so much better today, not just the way the faculty looks, but the way it feels. There’s rich, brilliant, and respectful interchange among so many different people, even people with very different views; so much sense of so many possibilities.”

Somehow it seems that “possibilities” may always be a word that is associated with Deborah Leff.
Chicago International

International law has been the focus of the career of Guillermo Morales Errazuriz, LL.M. '87, since he left the Law School. After graduation, he joined the international lawyers program of White & Case in New York, where much of his work concentrated on financial transactions. During the summer of 1988, he transferred to the White & Case office in Washington to be involved in regulatory work for the firm's corporate and foreign government clients.

In 1989, he returned to his native Chile to join an established firm and teach at the University of Chile School of Law. He recounts, "On the professional side, I mostly continued to practice international finance law: bank lending, project finance, and M&A work for the international clients of the firm. On the academic side, I concentrated in international business transactions. I managed to 'smuggle' into the classroom the heresy of Law & Economics, to the delight of the students and the outright skepticism of my older peers on the faculty."

In 1992, Morales and two colleagues started their own firm in Santiago. "Initially, it was a boutique kind of firm, highly specialized in international and cross-border work, for which there was an acute demand in Chile at the time. Ever since, my firm has been a most remarkable success story. All international publications rank our firm among the top five law firms in the country by every measure." Morales, Noguera, Valdivieso & Besa is now a full-service firm with approximately 30 lawyers and an extensive base of international and domestic clients. It also represents the government of Chile in the capital markets area and in privatizations of state owned enterprises.

Virtually all of Morales' own work has an international dimension, and that has presented him with a challenge: "It's not always easy to bridge the demands of world-class clients in terms of standards of professionalism and sophistication with the local reality—a less than fully developed body of law, an unsophisticated judicial system, and a rather parochial community of legal practitioners."

The global sweep of legal practice today presents him with an additional challenge: "Big multinational providers of legal services such as the consulting firms, accounting firms, and the global law firms are already putting a lot of pressure on the legal market. Our response to globalization has been to emphasize that which is more unique to local law firms: agility, responsiveness, flexibility, and personalization. We think there is more value here than in the bundling of myriad services or in reaching to every corner of the world under one name."

Guillermo Morales Errazuriz sees his Chicago experience as a fitting preparation for whatever challenges come his way. "The rigorous work at the Law School and the intellectual potency of its professors and students opened up for me a completely fresh and inspiring look at the practice of law that empowered me in every respect," he says.

Fostering Service in the City

Michael Alter, '87, has balanced corporate and philanthropic leadership in Chicago for a number of years. As president of the Alter Group, a national real estate development firm, he oversees more than $700 million in current projects. Alter also founded City Year Chicago in 1995. City Year Chicago is part of a large national service organization, City Year, which provides young people from 17 through 24 an opportunity for a year of community service and leadership training. It is the largest of the organizations that make up Americorps, the domestic Peace Corps initiated by former president Bill Clinton. Alter has been president of City Year Chicago since its founding and was instrumental in arranging for the University of Chicago to host the organization's annual weeklong convention, which was held on campus in July.

Where did the idea of City Year come from?

It began in college as one of those things students talk about late at night, figuring out how to make a difference in the world. My (Harvard) roommates, Alan Ghazei and Michael Brown, developed the concept as undergraduates and in law school. Right after law school, they started a pilot program in Boston for what they'd decided to call "City Year" and it grew and grew.

When did you become more involved?

Seven or eight years ago, conversations started about replicating the Boston program in other cities to create a national platform. This was when everyone was saying that "Generation X" would never contribute. We believed that young people, if challenged and given an opportunity, would step up and rise to the occasion. We felt that if we could engage young people in this way, it would strengthen our democracy overall by fostering idealism, patriotism, and service. Young people were not the cynics everyone said they were.
And the goals of the national convention?

As we expanded to more cities, we wanted an event that would bring everyone together to celebrate what these young people are doing, and also give them an opportunity to learn from one another and expose them to ideas from political and business leaders and from academics. For our host committee at the July convention on the campus, we had support from a who's who of Chicago's corporate leadership.

What are your programs in Chicago?

First, we tie in with the Chicago Public Schools requirement that all students give a number of hours to community service, and we're working with the CPS on prototype programs to make that service as meaningful as possible. Second, our young people work in literacy programs in partnership with several community organizations and schools. Finally, our "Young Heroes" program brings together kids between nine and thirteen for service and leadership development. We want to take the message of City Year to another generation.

Labor of Love

By the time he was thirty years old, Gilbert A. Cornfield, '54, had argued—and won—two cases before the United States Supreme Court. Today, forty years since those decisions were handed down, he's still tackling big issues on behalf of his cherished clientele: organized labor. He's a name partner in the Chicago-based firm Cornfield & Feldman, whose client roster features nearly a score of union organizations, including two of the largest in Illinois—the Illinois Federation of Teachers (for which Cornfield is general counsel) and the state council of the American Federation of State, Municipal and County Employees.

He has seen big changes in labor's status. Numbers have dwindled—there were more than 150,000 steelworkers in the Chicago metropolitan area when he started practicing law—and attitudes have changed. He can easily recall the time when organized labor was such an esteemed institution that companies and politicians risked grave consequences for even appearing to be anti-union.

"Then," he says, "one day we looked around, and it was just like that scene in Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid where Butch and Sundance are being chased by these very organized, implacable Pinkerton men, and Butch says, 'Who are those guys?' Times had changed, and we were rather suddenly on the defensive."

Not that he hasn't continued to win his share of cases. Last year, for instance, Illinois state courts upheld the right to unionize of one of his clients, an organization representing several thousand University of Illinois graduate students who handle teaching duties and other employee functions.

Looking back, he recalls with satisfaction winning the first court ruling that party affiliation was an unlawful basis for firing decisions by government officials, arguing that such actions violated the right of free association. "A seventh Circuit justice asked me during oral argument whether this patronage-based decision-making wasn't just the way things had always been done, and why it should be changed. 'Live by the sword, die by the sword,' he said. I answered that we had also lived with racial discrimination for a long time, and now we were finally changing that. It was a time when I think an oral argument actually affected the outcome of a case."

Racial discrimination is another injustice Cornfield has fought. He worked closely with Martin Luther King, Jr. and other civil rights leaders in Chicago. As an outgrowth of community organizing activities, he represented tenants, largely from Chicago's West Side, in protests against intolerable living conditions. He argued the 1972 case in which the Illinois Supreme Court declared that rents could be withheld when landlords failed to live up to an implied warranty of habitability. Until then, he says, "landlord-tenant law had been very strongly tilted toward the property owner."

His firm is run along the egalitarian lines that he prefers in all social institutions. There is virtually no hierarchy, and there has been no turnover in the firm's recent history except for such personal circumstances as a spouse's relocation. "You have to really care about this work to do it in the first place, especially since the pay is about a third of what could be earned at a big corporate firm. We get great people, and we let them have the freedom to do their jobs," he says.

As for himself, he expresses no expectation of becoming a turnover statistic of any kind. "I retired when I got out of the army in '56," he says. "Ever since then I've just been doing what I want to do, which happens to be practicing labor law."