

# Gershon law school legacy phenomenal

Sunday, December 9, 2007

Last week, Richard Gershon announced that after serving as the first dean of the Charleston School of Law for the past four and a half years, he was giving up his administrative responsibilities and returning to the classroom on a full-time basis.

Clearly, the foundation he has built and the legacy he leaves behind as he rejoins the faculty is nothing short of phenomenal.

Under Dean Gershon's adroit leadership, in less than five years the Charleston School of Law has been transformed from an ambitious vision articulated by the school's founders - five of the state's leading attorneys and jurists - to a vibrant, flourishing ABA-accredited law school.

The success story of the Charleston School of Law is virtually unprecedented.

In 2003, the Charleston School of Law began in a small upper King Street storefront office with Dean Gershon, three other employees, one phone line, no faculty and no students.

Today the law school occupies all or part of three major buildings in downtown Charleston; educates 600 students annually; has graduated its first class with 124 alumni now practicing law in six states; and employs 121 people, including 29 full-time faculty.

The impact of the law school on the community has been and will continue to be profound.

For example, consistent with the school's public service mission, Charleston School of Law students have contributed an astounding 24,768 hours of community service to better the quality of life for the citizens of the Lowcountry.

Additionally, in furtherance of its mission to support the local legal community, the school's students have completed 161 externships with Charleston area law firms, judges, governmental agencies and businesses.

So as Dean Gershon, like the Roman-citizen-soldier-farmer Cincinnatus, returns to his proverbial farm, he does so with the knowledge that he has served his community nobly and well.

ANDY ABRAMS

Randall Bridwell

Jerry Finkel

Gordon Russell

Steve Spitz

Tenured Faculty

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