

By Professor Arthur D. Wolf, Director

INSTITUTE FOR LEGISLATIVE AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

SUMMARY OF EVENTS FOR FALL 2011

The Legislative Institute had a busy fall semester. Among its many programs were “Constitution Day and Citizenship Day,” the 16th annual Supreme Court Review Conference, and a seminar on the newly reformed alimony law in Massachusetts (see separate story by Senator Candaras on page 3.)

Fifty applicants became citizens of the United States during a naturalization ceremony held at the Blake Law Center on September 16th.



- In 2004, Congress renamed “Citizenship Day” as “Constitution Day and Citizenship Day” to be observed on **September 17**, the day the framers, in 1787, completed their work on the United States Constitution. For the first time this year, we focused on the citizenship side of the holiday.

With the dedicated assistance of Officer Luis Chaves of the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services of the United States Department of Homeland Security, we held a naturalization ceremony in the J. Gerard Pellegrini Moot Court Room. Fifty applicants

from 30 countries around the world swore allegiance to the United States.

Federal Magistrate Judge Kenneth Neiman presided, as it was an official session of the United States District Court. After the swearing in, Judge Neiman welcomed the new citizens.

State Senator Gale D. Candaras '82 was the keynote speaker for the ceremony. She joined Judge Neiman in congratulating each new member of our polity and noted the dedication it takes to become a citizen and an active member of our society.

Senator Candaras spoke of her father, who

had come to America from Greece many years ago with very few worldly possessions. Through his hard work and love of this country, he became a successful owner of a small business, married and raised a family, and served in the United States Army during World War II. He, like the people in the Moot Court Room, had become an American citizen through naturalization.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, Dean Gaudio hosted a reception for the new citizens and their families and friends. It was filled with much celebration and tears of joy.

- **On Friday, November 11**, the Institute hosted the 16th Annual Supreme Court Review Conference, focusing largely on the Supreme Court's October 2010 Term. For the first time, it was held on a Friday (rather than the usual Saturday). The program began with a panel discussion of the constitutionality of the federal health care law, officially entitled the “Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010.”

Professor Jennifer Levi moderated the panel comprised of Professors Leora Harpaz, Bruce Miller, and Art Wolf. The panelists focused on the individual mandate provision

that requires everyone to participate in the program. The lower federal courts have disagreed on the validity of the statute under the Commerce Clause. The statute is now before the United States Supreme Court for review.

Following the panel discussion, Professor Harpaz presented the First Amendment decisions of the past term. Professor Giovanna Shay discussed the criminal law cases, including important cases from the current term of the Court. Professor Miller concluded the program with decisions addressing federalism, the business orientation of the current Court, and related themes.



(L to R) Professor Giovanna Shay, Professor Bruce Miller, and Professor Leora Harpaz