The Massachusetts Appeals Court conducted its semiannual sitting at the School of Law on April 8, 2009. The appeals panel comprised Presiding Justice Ariane Vuono and Associate Justices Francis Fecteau and our own William J. Meade ’89. Justice Meade received his B.A. degree cum laude from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst in 1986. He began his career as an Assistant District Attorney. Prior to his appointment to the Appeals Court, Justice Meade, among other things, served as a Seminar Lecturer and Coordinator of a Clinical Program at Harvard Law School. He also served as Editor-in-Chief of the Massachusetts Law Review from 2003 to 2006. He was appointed by Governor Romney as an Associate Justice of the Appeals Court on December 22, 2006.

Justice Meade was not the only School of Law graduate in the Pelligrini Moot Court Room last April. A number of our graduates appeared before the Court to argue a wide variety of civil and criminal matters covering a range of constitutional, statutory, procedural, and evidentiary questions. Our graduates arguing before the Court were Assistant District Attorneys Jane Davidson Montori ’79 and Dianne M. Dillon ’77; Springfield Corporate Counsel Edward Pikula ’83; and Attorneys Harry P. Carroll ’75, Peter P. Fenton ’80, Edward B. Fogarty ’82, Lisa Brodeur McGan ’90, Daniel Sandell ’03, Erin Wylle ’90, and Kim Zadworny ’04.

This past spring, graduates who serve in our State Legislature and Institute Director Art Wolf met with Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick and Lt. Governor Timothy Murray ’94 to discuss a variety of legislative matters and other important matters of law and public policy. Carrying out their promise to regularly visit the communities in western Massachusetts, the Governor and Lt. Governor met specially with Senators Stephen Buoniconti ’95 and Gale Candaras ’82 and Representatives Cheryl Coakley Rivera ’95 and Angelo Puppolo ’01. Budgetary matters, the survival of community hospitals, education, healthcare, and the needs of the less fortunate were among the topics of discussion.

Finally, the School again this summer hosted two students from Siena College in Upstate New York. This summer, Ryan Ziegler and Keri Timlin worked with Professors Barbara Noah and Sudha Setty on two important research projects. Keri worked on researching the issue of preventive detention and specialized courts in Great Britain. She focused on two main topics: (1) reviewing a number of counterrorism books and wrote brief memos, summarizing the relevant contents of the books; and (2) writing a lengthy paper on the history of preventive detention and use of specialized courts in Great Britain, particularly focusing on the history of the Diplock Courts, used to try suspected terrorists during the “Troubles” in Northern Ireland.

Ryan researched and wrote an original paper about the regulation of prescription drugs, specifically controlled substances, in the United States. He described the federal and state regulatory schemes, and he examined some cases in which physicians appealed disciplinary actions against their licenses for alleged over-prescribing. Finally, he discussed the tension between maintaining access to controlled substances for appropriate medical use and regulating these substances in order to reduce illegal diversion and abuse.