

**Kelley Deibel Louis '94** and **Harlan Louis '94** live in New Albany, Ohio. Kelley is the library manager at Schottenstein Zox & Dunn Co.

in Columbus, Ohio, providing reference services, overseeing collection development and training users in computerized research.



Kelley is chair of the legal research committee of the Columbus Bar Association and a member of the association's pro bono task force.

She received her Master of Library and Informational Science in 2004 from Kent State University. Harlan was elected a member of the firm Bailey Cavalieri in Columbus, Ohio.



His practice focuses on estate planning, wills and trust; elder law; probate and trust administration; and federal, state and local taxation. He is a certified specialist in estate planning, trust and probate law. This summer, he was named a "Rising Star" among Ohio attorneys by *The Journal of Law and Politics*.

**Buddy Roach '95** and **Julie Herman Roach '93 (ACC)** announce the birth of Caitlyn Elizabeth (3-5-05), who joins sister Kelsey at home in Beavercreek, Ohio. Buddy is a managing partner at the law firm of Martin, McCarty, Wright & Roach in Fairborn, Ohio.

**Kevin Edgar '96** joined the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board in Washington, D.C., as associate director for government relations. The board was created by the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 to oversee the auditors of public companies, protect investors and ensure informative, fair and independent audit reports. Kevin writes that he spent the last nine years with the New York Stock Exchange in its Washington, D.C., office, most recently as senior counsel. He lives in Alexandria, Va.

**Philip Heald '96** lives in Ironton, Ohio, where he is a partner in the law firm of Stillpass, Delawder, Smith & Heald.

**Jason White '96** and **Laura Newman White '92** announce the birth of Lindsey Elizabeth (12-6-05), who joins brother Nathan (5-31-03) at home in Chicago. Jason is a partner with the intellectual property law firm of Brinks Hofer Gilson & Lione.

**Michelle Woodward '96** and her husband, D.J. West, live in Bedford, Ind., with their children, Karoline, Katherine and Karter. Michelle is a deputy prosecuting attorney with the Lawrence County Prosecutor's Office in Bedford, Ind. She ran for Lawrence County prosecutor in the May 2 primary election.

**Jeffrey Bowling '98** lives in Hamilton, Ohio, where he is a vice president of the law firm of Brandabur & Bowling Co.

**Jason Gerstein '99** and **Sharon Diamant '99** announce the birth of Joshua Matthew Gerstein (4-21-06), who joins big sister Hayley (9-23-04) at home in Rockville, Md.

**Toby Henderson '99** has been named a shareholder of Sebaly Shillito + Dyer in Dayton. He joined the firm in May 2000 as a member of the litigation practice group and concentrates his practice in business and commercial litigation, health care law, construction law, labor and employment law, and insurance policy holder rights. Toby serves on the civil trial practice

committee of the Dayton Bar Association and is a member of the associate board of the Dayton Art Institute. He lives in Miamisburg, Ohio.

**'00s** **Edward Boll III '00** lives in Southgate, Ky. He is an attorney with Lerner, Sampson & Rothfuss in Cincinnati.

**Amy Ioannidis '01** is an assistant prosecutor with the Lorain County Prosecutor's Office in Elyria, Ohio. She lives in Cleveland.

**Laurie Marshall Miller '01**, an attorney with Jackson Kelly in Charleston, W.Va., has been elected the "young lawyers" representative to the board of governors of the Defense Trial Counsel ▶

## Purely for the plaintiffs

Victoria Pugh changed his life.

The 23-year-old was beautiful, 5'6", with a determined voice and an ambitious nature. Derric Crowther '96, a trial attorney who was defending an asbestos manufacturer for Evert & Weathersby in Atlanta, had interviewed upwards of 200 witnesses in cases related to the health effects of asbestos. Most of them had been men in their 70s with visages of death.

### Derric Crowther '96



Photo by Bonnie Heath/Daily Report

As Crowther watched Pugh walk into the deposition room, he said to himself, "This is the most frivolous lawsuit I've seen in my life."

But within 10 minutes of questioning, Pugh's breath began to fail and her head slump until, exhausted, she lay on the table, trying still to answer questions about how such a young woman could have contracted mesothelioma, a rare, incurable form of lung cancer associated with asbestos exposure occurring decades earlier.

"She looked up at me and said, 'I wanted to be a lawyer, just like you,'" he said during a phone interview from his Atlanta office. "I can see her right now as I close my eyes.

"It touched me and affected me to the core. I was really moved by her. I just wanted to help her while she lay there."

Two months later, Pugh died. On her deathbed, she relayed a thank you to Crowther for showing compassion and cutting short that day's deposition.

"My heart just wasn't in it to do it anymore, to defend these big companies," he said. "I know I should be helping folks get justice instead of finding ways to deny them justice."

In 2002, Crowther began representing only plaintiffs, first through Evert & Weathersby, and then with Henry, Spiegel, Fried & Milling. He left the firm in 2003 to attend Gerry Spence's Trial Lawyers College in Dubois, Wyo., on which he has been a staff member ever since.

"Doing plaintiffs' work can be very draining at times, emotionally, physically and even spiritually, depending on whom you're sitting across from," he said. "It (Trial Lawyers College) is an opportunity if nothing more than to recharge your batteries around other people who are trying to get justice for people."

Crowther started his own practice in 2003 and took on a partner, Solomon H. Ashby Jr., this June. Their caseload includes medical malpractice, product liability and toxic tort cases, with Crowther consulting on medical malpractice and toxic tort cases nationally.

Crowther, who at UD was on the mock trial team and was president of BLSA, sees his job as giving a voice to those who are underrepresented. He donated funds to support diverse students at the UD School of Law. Such diversity is important for all students, he said, since lawyers are required to understand the cases of people of all backgrounds. "We require, at the very least, exposure to folks of different backgrounds so we don't come off not knowing, as we often do," he said.

To better know his clients, Crowther invites them over for dinner with his wife, Dr. Freda McCarter, and visits with them and their families at their homes.

"If I'm going to go to court and represent them, I need to be their voice, and so I need to know them."

—Michelle Tedford