

**T**he first pioneers who reached the Salt Lake Valley 150 years ago were people of faith and commitment. Today, modern-day pioneers need not leave home, travel in a covered wagon, or push a handcart. Those with courage to chart new paths and have fresh vision could be called pioneers. Since its beginnings less than 25 years ago, the Law School has had many pioneer graduates. They have built the school's national reputation, paving the way for others to follow. The tradition continues as today's students forge new paths as judicial law clerks.

**Blazing a Trail** | From its inception, BYU law students have enjoyed successful clerkships in judges' chambers. Continuing the steady increase of students receiving judicial clerkships, this fall there will be at least 22 graduates at all court levels across the nation. Many of these students will work for judges hiring their first BYU clerks.

Fall of 1998 looks even better. As of June 1997, nine students and one graduate had received and accepted clerkships, an increase from the same time last year. During the school year, many more students will receive clerkship offers for fall 1998.

Since judicial clerkships are such valuable experiences, the Law School makes every effort to secure such positions for the students. Those efforts are paying off.

One resource that aids students is Career Service's *The Judicial Clerkship Job Hunt Book*, which is distributed to all students each fall. This guide contains faculty letters encouraging students to apply for judicial clerkships, information about the jurisdiction and function of various courts, lists of faculty and Law Society members who have worked as judicial law clerks, and information about specific judicial clerkship and externship opportunities.

In an excerpt from *The Judicial Clerkship Job Hunt Book*, Jim Gordon, associate academic vice president, explains the importance of a clerkship:

*A clerkship is like a year of postgraduate study. You will be a fisher for the rest of your life; a clerkship lets you know what it feels like to be a fish. It helps you understand the forms and methods of argument that are most likely to appeal to judges, and it improves your judgment about legal issues. It provides an opportunity to do careful research and writing and to enhance your analytical abilities.*

*A clerkship can also be extremely enjoyable. As a law clerk you are directly involved in bringing about just results. You do not represent a particular client, and you influence the decision-making process in important ways. You also have the opportunity to develop a close working relationship with the judge and the other clerks and to discuss and debate issues with them. It is an especially enjoyable experience if your judge is a bright,*

*friendly, and open person who likes to discuss the cases and broader societal issues.*

More students have applied for judicial clerkships since the initial publication of *The Judicial Clerkship Job Hunt Book*.

Under the direction of Professor Douglas Floyd, the faculty judicial-clerkship committee takes proactive steps to help students locate judicial clerkships. Each fall, committee members counsel students about opportunities and help students polish résumés and improve interviewing skills. Committee members also compile and distribute a list of all judicial clerkship candidates to the entire faculty. They encourage their colleagues to write letters of recommendation for the students they know and to personally discuss a candidate's merits when appropriate.

Often, clerkships come from judicial externships. That is why Professor James Backman and Susan Griffith, who direct the Law School's externship programs, have exerted much effort locating judicial externship opportunities. They meet regularly with students, encouraging them to consider externships and explaining how to arrange one. They instruct students that externships will provide them with working knowledge of the court system and help them decide whether to apply for post-graduate clerkships.

Other Law School faculty and administrative personnel organize symposia, conferences, and moot court competitions where judges participate. These events give students an additional opportunity to interact with judges and learn about the function of a judicial law clerk.

**Legendary Judicial Law Clerks** | Of course, the Law School places many in judicial clerkships because the graduates have excellent reputations. And that excellence looks to continue. Each of our newest clerks is poised and ready to add distinction to the legal profession. Let's take a moment to meet these legends in the making.

by Vicki M. Huebner

## James Ahlstrom

ARIZONA SUPREME COURT

James Ahlstrom brings years of writing experience to his clerkship. James received his BA from BYU in journalism. As an undergraduate he worked for the *Daily Universe*, BYU's campus newspaper, as editor-in-chief, city editor, associate copy chief, and wire editor. Before attending law school, James was the city editor for a small daily newspaper in Northern California, the *Turlock Journal*. James's writing ability is serving him well as he functions as editor-in-chief of the *BYU Law Review*.

After he graduates in April 1998, James will clerk for Justice Charles "Bud" Jones of the Arizona Supreme Court. Eager to begin his legal career, James wasn't always certain that a judicial clerkship was what he wanted. However, after much thought, he decided that a judicial clerkship would jump-start his career by providing the best "hands-on" training and experience he could find.

James met Justice Jones in March 1997, when he visited the Law School to judge the National Moot Court Competition. From his interview James could tell that Justice Jones would be a wonderful mentor. James is looking forward to his clerkship and the opportunity to live in Phoenix.

## Richard Blake

UTAH SUPREME COURT

Although he was raised in the San Francisco Bay area and the Mid-Atlantic region, Richard Blake has decided to stay in Utah for another year. A 1998 candidate for graduation, Richard will begin a judicial clerkship for Justice I. Daniel

Stewart of the Utah Supreme Court next fall.

Richard chose to attend the BYU Law School after he was engaged to Jennie Holman. Both Richard and Jennie wanted to attend law school. After reviewing materials sent from various schools, they elected to attend BYU because of its high quality education and wonderful setting. Jennie will graduate from the Law School in 1999, one year after Richard. They are both enjoying their law school experience and living in Utah.

This past summer Richard worked for Wilson, Sonsini, Goodrich & Rosati in Palo Alto, California. He thoroughly enjoyed his experience there and would be interested in returning to the Bay Area. Before he enters law firm practice, Richard would like to pursue a second judicial clerkship on the federal level. Jennie has also set a goal to work as a judicial law clerk. She has already informed Richard that he will need to find his second clerkship in the same city where she'll be clerking!

## David Blood

U.S. COURT OF APPEALS  
NINTH CIRCUIT

Ever since he can remember, David Blood wanted to be an attorney. Growing up, he also developed a deep interest in business. As a BYU undergraduate majoring in economics, he admits he was also enticed to pursue a career in business—or perhaps a joint JD/MBA degree. However, he decided he would like to practice corporate law.

During his second year of law school, David worked as the torts teaching assistant for Professor James Rasband, who encouraged David to apply for a

judicial clerkship. After graduation David will be clerking for Chief Judge Clifford Wallace of the U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit, in San Diego (the judge Professor Rasband clerked for in 1989). David is glad to have the opportunity to work with such a well-respected jurist. After completing his clerkship, David would like to practice corporate law in Southern California.

## Matt Cook

U.S. COURT OF APPEALS  
FIFTH CIRCUIT

Ever since Matt Cook entered law school, he wanted to be a judicial law clerk at the U.S. Circuit Court level. After he graduates next April, he will work for Judge Edith H. Jones of the U.S. Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit, in Houston, Texas.

Matt feels that this clerkship will give him the opportunity to work closely with someone who is shaping the law, will improve his writing skills, and will provide him with good training if he decides to do appellate work as a career.

This past summer Matt enjoyed working at Vinson & Elkins' Houston office and the U.S. Senate General Counsel's Office in Washington, DC. Matt is particularly excited about clerking for Judge Jones. Not only is she a premier jurist, but the site of his clerkship is especially meaningful to Matt since he was raised in Houston.

## Paul Kohler

U.S. DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN

Speaking of meaningful locations, Paul Kohler decided to begin his career in a very important location to him:

Michigan. Paul served as a missionary for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Detroit, Michigan. Now he'll be returning as a judicial law clerk for Judge Robert H. Cleland at the U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Michigan.

Paul especially enjoys writing, which is one reason he pursued a judicial clerkship. Raised in Provo, Utah, Paul graduated from BYU in English. He continues to showcase his writing abilities as the note-and-comment editor for the *BYU Law Review*.

Although Paul had several career options available, he decided to pursue a judicial clerkship because of its strong mentoring and training components. He is interested in prosecution and welcomes the opportunity to observe federal prosecutors at work. Additionally, as a former prosecutor, Judge Cleland will be an excellent mentor. Paul anticipates that his clerkship will give him a practical knowledge of federal litigation and courtroom procedure.

## Jeremiah Morgan

U.S. COURT OF APPEALS  
EIGHTH CIRCUIT

After beginning law school, Jeremiah decided to pursue a judicial clerkship, realizing it is "one of those once-in-a-lifetime things." In fall 1998 Jeremiah will begin his clerkship for Judge Clarence Arlen Beam of the U.S. Court of Appeals, Eighth Circuit, in Lincoln, Nebraska. Jeremiah is the first BYU Law School student to clerk for the Eighth Circuit and hopes to blaze a trail for others to follow.

Jeremiah was raised in Independence, Missouri, and hopes

to practice in the Midwest, so he is especially pleased with the opportunity to work for Judge Beam. Before attending the *BYU* Law School, Jeremiah attended Central Missouri State University, where he played football and was in the orchestra. This past summer he worked in St. Louis and Kansas City for Bryan Cave and Shook Hardy & Bacon, respectively.

Jeremiah feels that participation in cocurricular activities builds the strength and prestige of *BYU*. He hopes to do his part this year as a *BYU Law Review* lead-articles editor.

**David Mortensen**  
U.S. COURT OF APPEALS  
NINTH CIRCUIT

Everyone who is acquainted with David Mortensen knows that he belongs in the courtroom. David decided to become a lawyer in high school when, as a Sterling scholar in debate, he competed in regional and national tournaments.

David began his college career at the University of Utah. At a debate scholarship dinner, a publisher from the *Salt Lake Tribune* asked him what career he had chosen. David replied, "I want to become a lawyer." The publisher advised him to major in English to improve his writing skills. After completing his mission to Japan, David transferred to *BYU*, where he followed that advice. He brings excellent writing skills to his work as a managing editor for the *BYU Law Review* and the Trial Advocacy Program.

During his first few weeks of law school, David attended a lecture by Professor Michael Goldsmith about judicial clerkships and was persuaded to apply for one. During fall 1998

David will clerk for Judge Stephen Trott of the u.s. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit, in Boise, Idaho. Judge Trott is known for his dedication to the law and his meaningful interpersonal relationships with his clerks. Since finalizing the offer, Judge Trott has sent David every opinion he has issued.

**Jonathan Schofield**  
U.S. DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF UTAH

The latest 1998 graduate to receive a clerkship is Jonathan Schofield. Jon will be clerking for Judge Dee Benson, u.s. District Court, District of Utah, for whom he had previously externed. Jon enjoyed his externship so much that he applied for a judicial clerkship.

As a first-year student, Jon was a finalist in the Trial Advocacy Competition and was later appointed to the board. He is also mastering advocacy skills through scholarly research. Besides being a member of the Trial Advocacy Board, Jon is also a lead-articles editor for the *BYU Law Review*. His article about the admissibility of expert testimony in federal court ("*Compton v. Subaru of America: Misapplication of Duabert—Opening the Gate for Unreliable and Irrelevant Expert Testimony*") will be published in the next issue of the *BYU Law Review*.

After completing his clerkship, Jon wants to return to the

courtroom as a trial attorney. He is convinced that he will be a better litigator by clerking for Judge Benson, observing him manage his courtroom, watching experienced attorneys, and listening to the judge's opinions about different trial techniques and strategies.

**Marc Turman**  
ARIZONA COURT OF APPEALS  
DIVISION ONE

After graduating next April, Marc Turman will move to Phoenix, Arizona, where he will clerk for Judge Sheldon H. Weisberg of the Arizona Court of Appeals, Division One. As an undergraduate, Marc worked for the Utah Administrative Office of the Courts. In this role he had the opportunity to travel to most of the courts in Utah and met

with many judges and their clerks. He was impressed with their attitude toward their work. They seemed to genuinely care about the cases on which they were working and the people's lives they were influencing. He wanted to be like those people.

Marc solidified his decision to work as a judicial law clerk in the Arizona appellate court after he met Judge Weisberg. He realizes he can significantly improve his appellate skills as he observes oral arguments and works closely with the judge.

After his clerkship Marc would like to settle in the Phoenix area. He spent this past summer working as a law clerk there at Roshka, Heyman & DeWulf, learning business litigation and regulatory law. Marc credits his success in finding a judicial clerkship to the support of the Law School's faculty and administration.  
**David Zimmerman**  
U.S. COURT OF FEDERAL  
CLAIMS



Often, clerkships come from judicial externships. That is why Professor James Backman and Susan Griffith have exerted much effort locating judicial externship opportunities.

David Zimmerman, a 1996 Law School graduate, has had a significant amount of experience in the judicial arena. David's entrance into law was probably a surprise to everyone who knew him. As an undergraduate he planned to attend medical or dental school and scored in the top 10 percent on the MCAT and the top 1 percent on the DAT. However, during his senior year he reconsidered and decided to study law.

During law school, David completed two judicial externships. Then, after graduation, he clerked for Magistrate Roger L. Hunt, U.S. District Court, District of Nevada. He is currently clerking for Judge Ronald M. Holdaway of the U.S. Court of Veterans

Appeals, and in fall 1998 he will begin clerking for Judge Moody R. Tidwell III of the U.S. Court of Federal Claims.

David has decided to pursue three judicial clerkships because of the satisfying nature of the work and the subject matter jurisdiction of the courts where he will work. His experience at the U.S. Court of Veterans Appeals and the U.S. Court of Federal Claims will give him a firsthand understanding of substantive and procedural laws governing two Article One courts in which few attorneys choose to practice. After completing his clerkships, David plans to develop a federal practice in Washington, DC, or Raleigh, North Carolina.

## | The Trek Continues |

**A**s another school year approaches, the Law School will be reenergized by entering and returning students. Several more third-year students will receive offers for fall 1998, and second-year students will continue their hunt for fall 1999 judicial clerkships. As the trek toward increasing the number of judicial clerkships continues, we hope to open new roads by showing the judiciary and bar the solid legal foundation BYU students receive. We hope that in this way these valuable work experiences will become available for more students, who, because of the values of a BYU education, can contribute significantly to the legal community.

Vicki Huebner is the assistant director of Career Services. She is a Law School graduate and former judicial law clerk for Judge Ronald M. Holdaway, U.S. Court of Veterans Appeals.

## Richard G. Wilkins *Still Fiddling a Sweet Tune*

by Charles Cranney

Continuing his work with the Habitat II agenda (see "A Fiddler on the U.N. Roof," *Clark Memorandum*, Spring 1997), Richard Wilkins joined BYU faculty member Cory Leonard and three students at the United Nations Commission of Human Settlements in Nairobi, Kenya, April 28 through May 8, 1997. As with his earlier experience in Istanbul, Wilkins and the team faced myriad obstacles while trying to accomplish three important tasks.

First, the team wanted to ensure the democratic operation of the U.N. Commission on Human Settlements (UNCHS) by preventing the commission's expansion to include 12 private organizations hostile to family and religious values. They also wanted to prevent formal recognition of the seven-member Huairou Commission, an antitraditional family and openly prohomosexual rights group. Finally, the team wanted to ensure that the profamily language in the Istanbul Habitat mandate remained intact in the "implementation resolutions."

"Accomplishing any one of these results," says Wilkins, "would be remarkable." The fact that all three were accomplished was, again, "the legal equivalent of the parting of the Red Sea."

Fighting severe illness, exhaustion, and several antifamily groups, the battle often went into the early morning hours. Cory Leonard, director of student programs for the David M. Kennedy Center (and instructor of the Model U.N. Program), joined Wilkins as a member of NGO Family Voice, a registered nongovernmental U.N. organization created jointly by the J. Reuben Clark Law School and the Kennedy Center. Mike Lee and Carrie Taylor, Law School students, and William Perry, a BYU international relations major, rounded out the team.

Beyond their immediate success at the conference, several more constructive alliances were initiated. For example, the Romanian ambassador (who was a key in ensuring the success of Family Voice goals) invited Wilkins to discuss cooperation between Family Voice and the Romanian government with the president of Romania. The Iranian ambassador, referring to Family Voice, said that "your organization is different from the others" and then asked if it was merely "political posturing" or "based on a deeper spiritual foundation."

This "different from others" feeling came about because most others from the western European nations and the United States





Richard W. Jones '82 and his wife, Jean, called to Atlanta, Georgia

Richard W. Jones, age 42, Kaysville 20th Ward, Kaysville Utah Crestwood Stake; stake Young Adult advisor; former high councilor, bishop, elders quorum president, Young Men president, Sunday School president and teacher, and missionary in the Washington DC Mission; attorney; received bachelor's degree in economics and law degree from BYU; born in Columbus, Ohio, to Milton Bennion and Grace Elaine Guymon Jones; married Jean Knudsen, five children. She is stake Young Adult advisor; former Young Women president's counselor, Relief Society president's counselor, Relief Society homemaking leader and teacher, activities committee chairman, and missionary in Osaka, Japan; received degree as a registered nurse from BYU; born in Salt Lake City to Jesse Deroid and Marjorie Lorraine Ludlow Knudsen.



Arlen D. Woffinden '77 and his wife, Debi, called to Belo Horizonte, Brazil

Arlen D. Woffinden, age 47; Santa Margarita Ward, Santa Margarita Stake; ward mission leader; former high councilor, stake Young Men president, bishop, ward Young Men president, and missionary in the Brazil North Mission; attorney, partner in law firm; received bachelor's degree in English and economics and juris doctorate from BYU; born in Honolulu, Hawaii, to Charles Maurice and Ruth Jane Rynearson Woffinden; married Debi Nielsen, five children. She is Laurel advisor; former member of stake Young Women board, ward Young Women president, Primary president, Relief Society teacher, ward children's choir director, and ward music chairman; received associate degree in business from BYU; born in Portland, Oregon, to Delmar and Marjorie Avery Nielsen.

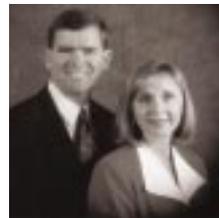
FOUR ALUMNI CALLED TO SERVE AS MISSION PRESIDENTS

Four law grads left the Missionary Training Center in June to preside over missions in both North and South America. Now 13 Law School alumni have received such callings. They have been called by the First Presidency to these volunteer positions for the next three years. Sensing both the blessings and the burdens that attend this full-time service, on behalf of the members of the J. Reuben Clark Law Society, the *Clark Memorandum* wishes each of them and their families good health and happiness.



Robert G. Dyer '77 and his wife, Lynda, called to McAllen, Texas

Robert G. Dyer, age 50; Cardiff First Ward, Del Mar California Stake; stake president; former high councilor, bishop's counselor, branch president, Young Men president, high priests group leader, Sunday School teacher, and missionary in the Cordoba Argentina Mission; attorney; received bachelor's degree in chemistry and juris doctorate from BYU; born in Washington, DC, to James Glenn and Nona Richards Dyer; married Lynda Hancock, 10 children. She is a Sunday School teacher; former Primary president, Young Women president's counselor, Primary chorister, and Laurel advisor; received bachelor's degree in elementary education from BYU; born in La Jolla, California, to Lynn Young and Ada Bell Gifford Hiner Hancock.



Kevin E. Monson '79 and his wife, Barbara, called to Montevideo, Uruguay

Kevin E. Monson, age 42; Fountain Valley 1st Ward, Huntingdon Beach California Stake; bishop; former high councilor, stake Young Men president, bishop's counselor, high priests group leader, and missionary in Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay, and Texas; attorney; received bachelor's degree in political science and juris doctorate from BYU; born in Culver City, California, to Eldon Eugene and L. Jeanne Ellett Parks Monson; married Barbara Sue Condie, four children. She is a ward Relief Society president counselor; former stake Primary president's counselor, ward Young Women president, activities committee member, and Cub Scout leader; received bachelor's degree in home and family education from BYU; born in Pomona, California, to James and June Palmer Condie.