

# NAAG Gazette

A Newsletter of the National Association of Attorneys General

July 2009

## NAGTRI Completes Successful First Year and Schedules More Training



JUDY MCKEE, ACTING NAGTRI DIRECTOR

In its inaugural year, under the guidance of Director Chris Toth, the National Attorneys General Training & Research Institute (NAGTRI) conducted 23 national trainings in locations that spanned the country — from New York City to San Francisco and from Tampa

to Seattle. Along with our core courses in all aspects of trial and appellate advocacy, cybercrime, and bankruptcy, NAGTRI inaugurated courses in mortgage fraud, collections, and habeas corpus defense. We partnered with the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office to offer training on intellectual property and with the National State Attorneys General Program at Columbia University Law School in sponsoring a well-attended charities fraud course that included policy issues as well as specific training on the investigation and prosecution of fraudulent conduct in the charities sector. Finally, NAGTRI, in conjunction with the Conference of Western Attorneys General, trained 14 Spanish-speaking attorneys in the Attorneys General offices to act as faculty for 26 Mexican state prosecutors in a NAGTRI-developed trial advocacy course in Austin, Texas, in the spring.

NAGTRI faculty, consisting primarily of extremely talented and dedicated volunteer lawyers from Attorneys General offices, also traveled to 13 different locations to deliver mobile training. The 2008-2009 mobile trainings included computer forensics, ethics, trial advocacy, depositions, e-discovery, state defensive litigation, and ethics. These courses were conducted both at Attorneys General offices on the mainland as well as in Guam and Hawaii.

In all, NAGTRI provided training to over 1600 attorneys, paralegals, and investigators from all 50 states, the

District of Columbia, and the five territories. These trainings were made possible both through the generosity of the NAAG Mission Foundation, which funded a majority of the courses, and the Attorneys General who lent the expertise, knowledge, and talent of attorneys in their offices to act as faculty.

### Upcoming NAGTRI Courses



NAGTRI Director Chris Toth has been deployed to Iraq for a year.

Knowing that he would be deployed to Iraq this summer for a year, Chris established a strong foundation on which NAGTRI can continue to build while he is serving overseas. NAGTRI has a variety of substantive course offerings already planned and more to come. This month, an antitrust trial advocacy training will be held in Princeton, N.J. and hosted by Emily Myers, NAAG anti-trust counsel. It will be led by Andy Rossner, the recipient of

the first NAGTRI Faculty of the Year award. Much of the early success of NAGTRI can be credited to Andy's vision

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## **NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ATTORNEYS GENERAL**

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## **CORRECTION**

Consumer Protection Fellow, Nadine Ballard, will be with NAAG through the end of August. Last month's article stated that she would be here through the end of July.

and his dedication to quality training. Those who have had the privilege to receive trial advocacy training from Andy are well aware of his unmatched ability to encourage and teach the intricacies of advocacy. In September, Paula Cotter, NAAG energy and environment counsel, will travel to Lincoln, Neb., and in partnership with the Nebraska Attorney General's Office, will host a conference for representatives from the prairie states on Concentrated Animal Feed Operations (CAFOs). The course will cover the basic outlines of the federal statutes and regulations that govern CAFOs, right-to-farm laws, a discussion of state law approaches, the financial structure underlying feedlot operations, an ethical case problem written to reflect CAFO issues, and a panel inquiry into the future of CAFO rulemaking and regulation.

In October, Hedda Litwin, NAAG cyberspace law counsel, will be conducting a cybercrime training for prosecutors, in collaboration with and supported by the University of Mississippi's National Center for Justice and the Rule of Law, specifically focusing on child pornography and other Internet crimes against children. In addition, NAGTRI will reprise its highly successful habeas corpus defense training in Austin, Texas, and a depositions and negotiation training in San Francisco, Calif. Karen Cordry, NAAG bankruptcy counsel, will again be conducting her sought-after bankruptcy training in Nashville, Tenn. Those attorneys who have been tapped for management positions may be interested in attending the October "Moving into Management" training that will be offered in Madison, Wis.

In the spring, Dennis Cuevas, NAAG consumer protection counsel, will head to Indianapolis to provide a week of trial advocacy training. Prior to that, NAGTRI will host another "train the trainer" course so that we can increase the number of experienced attorneys who have been trained to teach using the method developed by the National Institute for Trial Advocacy. Finally, we are working on plans to once again partner with the Columbia University Law School's Attorneys General Program to develop a charities fraud course.

The NAAG Mission Foundation has pledged the funds to cover the courses already planned for this fiscal year. NAGTRI is actively pursuing other avenues of funding so that we can continue to provide quality training and develop new courses for the Attorneys General offices. In the meantime, we have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Practicing Law Institute (PLI), which has generously agreed to offer its Web-based courses to attorneys in the Attorneys General offices on a pro bono basis. Information concerning the MOU has been forwarded to all chief deputies and NAGTRI points of contact. Once the point of contact in each office provides PLI with the names and e-mail addresses of attorneys wishing to take advantage of this offer, each listed attorney will receive information on courses that PLI offers and how to sign up for them.

In addition to the national trainings, mobile trainings are already being planned for Arizona, Indiana, Louisiana, Ohio, Rhode Island, and Texas. Mary Winzenburg, NAGTRI program coordinator, serves as the primary contact for NAGTRI mobile trainings. She can be reached at (202) 326-6263 or by e-mail at [mwinzenburg@naag.org](mailto:mwinzenburg@naag.org).

On the research side, NAGTRI published a brochure on student loan forgiveness for public employees and a manual, written by Dan Schweitzer, NAAG Supreme Court counsel, on preparing cert petitions and oppositions. Two consumer interns, funded by the Center for State Enforcement of Antitrust and Consumer Protection Laws, Inc., have researched issues of interest to consumer counsel in the Attorney General offices.

This summer, NAAG interns are working on various projects: updating the compendium of state and federal criminal environmental enforcement laws (available at [http://www.naag.org/criminal\\_environmental\\_statutes.php](http://www.naag.org/criminal_environmental_statutes.php)); analyzing case law regarding prosecutions of doctors for violations of the Controlled Substances Act; examining the impact of global climate change on SEC disclosures, and researching a number of issues in e-discovery and e-health. We encourage states to send in suggestions for future research projects that NAGTRI might be able to undertake.

For more information on NAGTRI courses and research offerings, please contact Judy McKee, NAGTRI acting director, at 202-326-6044 or [jmckee@naag.org](mailto:jmckee@naag.org).

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## Special Inspector General Office for TARP Created



**NEIL M. BAROFSKY**

In the nine months since the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 (“EESA”) authorized creation of the Troubled Asset Relief Program (“TARP”), the Department of the Treasury (“Treasury”) has created 12 separate programs involving government and private funds of up to almost \$3 trillion. From programs involving large capital infusions into hundreds of banks and other financial institutions, to a mortgage modification program designed to modify millions of mortgages, to public-private partnerships using tens of billions of taxpayer dollars to purchase “toxic” assets from banks, TARP has evolved into a program of unprecedented scope, scale, and complexity. Congress created the Office of the Special Inspector General for the Troubled Asset Relief Program (“SIGTARP”) to oversee this vast program.

### Creation and Statutory Authority

Under EESA, SIGTARP has the responsibility, among other things, to conduct, supervise, and coordinate audits and investigations of the purchase, management, and sale of assets under TARP. EESA gives SIGTARP the authorities listed in Section 6 of the Inspector General Act of 1978, including the power to obtain documents and other information from federal agencies and to subpoena reports, documents, and other information from persons or entities outside of government.

The Special Inspector General, Neil M. Barofsky, was confirmed by the Senate on Dec. 8, 2008, and sworn into office on Dec. 15, 2008. SIGTARP currently has a staff of approximately 60 and is building toward a goal of 160.

### SIGTARP’s mission

SIGTARP’s mission is to advance economic stability through transparency, coordinated oversight, and robust enforcement, thereby being a voice for, and protecting the interests of, those who fund TARP — i.e., the American taxpayers. SIGTARP does so by promoting transparency in TARP, through effective oversight of TARP in coordination with other relevant oversight bodies, and by robust criminal and civil enforcement against those, whether inside or outside of government, who waste, steal, or abuse TARP funds. In fulfilling this mission, SIGTARP serves many roles.



**DAN SCHWEITZER,  
SUPREME COURT  
COUNSEL**

As the NAAG Supreme Court counsel, Dan performs a myriad of duties to assist state appellate litigators who appear before the U.S. Supreme Court. He oversees the moot court program, edits 45-50 state briefs filed in the Supreme Court each year, and edits the *Supreme Court Report*, which summarizes opinions and cases granted review. He also organizes three annual conferences: the Supreme Court Advocacy Seminar, the Appellate Practice Conference, and State Solicitors General and Appellate Chiefs Conference.

One of the things Dan enjoys most about overseeing the Supreme Court Project is dealing with a wide array of legal issues from habeas corpus to the First Amendment to preemption to qualified immunity. He has honed his expertise on Supreme Court matters throughout the past 13 years at NAAG. And even though many would characterize him as an expert on these issues, he still continues to be challenged by new cases.

“Every case presents a new and difficult constitutional or statutory construction issue, and requires figuring out the best strategy for prevailing in the Court,” he said. Prior to joining NAAG, Dan was a litigation associate for six years in a DC law firm.

In his spare time, this New York City native enjoys playing tennis, softball and spending time with his daughter. Dan holds a bachelor’s in political science and economics from University of Pennsylvania and a J.D. from Harvard Law School.

- **Reporting and Transparency:** One of SIGTARP's primary responsibilities is to promote transparency in the operations of TARP, both by being an advocate for transparency with the Treasury and through SIGTARP's own quarterly reporting on TARP operations. SIGTARP's quarterly reports are the most comprehensive discussion of the various TARP programs and are written with the goal of translating the Wall Street concepts inherent in the programs into Main Street language readily understandable by the general public. SIGTARP's reports are available on its Web site, [www.SIGTARP.gov](http://www.SIGTARP.gov), and, as of June 30, 2009, have been downloaded more than 670,000 times.
- **Providing Advice to Treasury:** As Treasury has designed and implemented the various TARP programs, 12 in all at press time, SIGTARP has taken an active role in providing advice to Treasury with respect to compliance and anti-fraud aspects of the program designs. These recommendations are summarized in SIGTARP's quarterly reports.
- **Programmatic Audits:** SIGTARP's audit division has already undertaken numerous programmatic audits of TARP program implementation, examining Treasury actions, the actions of other governmental agencies that have TARP-related responsibilities, and the actions of TARP participants. SIGTARP's first audit report, which examines TARP recipients' use of the TARP funds, will be released shortly. Ongoing audits include examinations of outside influences on the application process for Capital Purchase Program funds, the background of the various Bank of America TARP transactions, AIG bonuses, AIG counterparty payments, and Treasury's warrant valuation procedures, among many others.
- **Criminal and Civil Investigations:** SIGTARP is building its investigation division to be the most sophisticated white-collar investigative agency in the federal government and consists of special agents, investigators, analysts and attorney advisors working directly with the investigators. Through June 30, 2009, SIGTARP has opened 37 and has 35 ongoing criminal and civil investigations. These investigations include complex issues concerning suspected accounting fraud, securities fraud, insider trading, mortgage servicer misconduct, mortgage fraud, public corruption, false statements and tax investigations. The division also manages SIGTARP's hotline, (1-877-SIG-2009 and accessible at [www.SIGTARP.gov](http://www.SIGTARP.gov)) which gets hundreds of contacts from the public per week and which is the impetus for more than half of SIGTARP's ongoing investigations.
- **Coordination:** In light of the massive size of the TARP landscape and the myriad oversight and law enforce-

ment agencies that have jurisdiction over some part of TARP activities, SIGTARP takes its coordination responsibility very seriously and endeavors to work with and provide assistance to any entity that is working on TARP-related matters, whether oversight or investigative, civil or criminal, state or federal. In that regard, SIGTARP: chairs the TARP-IG Council, a council of all of the various Inspectors General with jurisdiction of one or more TARP programs; organized the TALF/PPIP Task Force, a task force made up of eight federal law enforcement agencies examining potential fraud in the Term Asset-Backed Securities Loan Facility and Public-Private Investment Program; and works closely with federal and state law enforcement agencies, including numerous state Attorneys General.

SIGTARP stands ready to provide assistance and encourages any federal, state or local oversight, investigative or law enforcement agency to contact SIGTARP with any referrals, needs for assistance, briefings or training, or concerns about the TARP or any related program.

For any audit-related inquiries, contact Barry Holman, SIGTARP's chief of audit, at: [Barry.Holman@do.treas.gov](mailto:Barry.Holman@do.treas.gov).

For any investigative or law enforcement inquiries, contact Christopher Sharpley, SIGTARP's chief of investigations, at: [Chris.Sharpley@do.treas.gov](mailto:Chris.Sharpley@do.treas.gov).

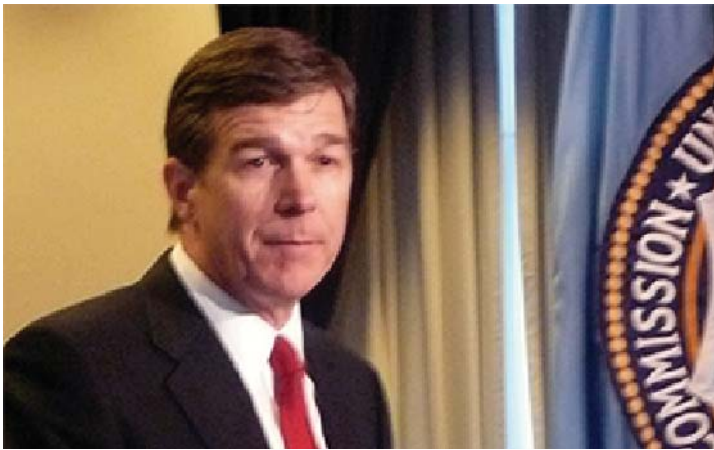
For any other inquiries, please call SIGTARP's general number: (202) 622-1419.

## Attorneys General Participate in Law Enforcement Sweeps

This month, state Attorneys General participated in two national law enforcement consumer protection initiatives focused on the economic downturn and the mortgage foreclosure crisis. The sweeps highlighted state and federal cooperation on law enforcement actions and included consumer education components to help consumers avoid becoming victims of these types of frauds and schemes.

Fourteen Attorneys General joined the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) in a July 1 law enforcement initiative dubbed Operation Short Change. The sweep targeted business scams that take advantage of the economic downturn to victimize consumers. The schemes include:

- promising non-existent jobs;
- promoting over-hyped get-rich-quick schemes, bogus government grants, and phony debt-reduction services; and



**NAAG President-Elect and North Carolina Attorney General Roy Cooper at July 1 press conference.**

- putting unauthorized charges on consumers' credit or debit cards.

"For con artists, a bad economy is like a gold rush," said NAAG President-Elect and North Carolina Attorney General Roy Cooper during the press conference, held in Washington, D.C. "We're cracking down on scammers who use empty promises of jobs and debt relief to try to strike it rich at consumers' expense."

The sweep included 64 enforcement actions by the states against individuals and companies for allegedly defrauding consumers. It also included 15 FTC cases and 42 law enforcement actions by DOJ.

As part of the sweep, Attorney General Cooper announced actions he had taken against 19 companies, including Possibilities Unlimited, a company that made illegal robocalls to pitch lower credit card rates in exchange for a fee. Attorney General Cooper obtained a court order banning the company from making any calls to consumers in his state, and requiring it to pay more than \$500,000 in fines.



**TEXAS ATTORNEY GENERAL GREG ABBOTT**

Also as part of the sweep, Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott charged four debt settlement companies with orchestrating fraudulent debt settlement schemes. The companies allegedly promised that they could eliminate their customers' unsecured debts – such as credit card accounts – in as little as three years. The suits seek restitution for consumers, civil penalties, and attorneys' fees and costs.

Other state Attorneys General offices participating in Operation Short Change were from California, District of Columbia, Florida, Illinois, Iowa, Louisiana, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin. More information about the cases included in the sweep can be found at <http://www.ftc.gov>.

Eighteen state Attorneys General joined the FTC on July 15 in Operation Loan Lies, a coordinated national law enforcement effort to stop mortgage modification scams. During the press conference, California Attorney General Edmund G. Brown, Jr. and FTC Chairman Jon Leibowitz announced 189 actions by 25 federal and state agencies against defendants that deceptively marketed foreclosure rescue and mortgage modification services.

Attorney General Brown announced his enforcement actions against 21 individuals and 14 companies that defrauded thousands of homeowners desperately seeking mortgage relief. The suits seek millions in civil penalties, restitution for victims, and permanent injunctions to keep the companies and defendants from offering mortgage-relief services.

As part of the sweep, Idaho Attorney General Lawrence Wasden announced a settlement agreement with Steven Curtis Lux, vice president of Coeur d'Alene-based Apply 2 Save. Lux was suspected of engaging in unlawful and unlicensed mortgage modification activities. The settlement prohibits Lux from engaging in mortgage modification and loan broker activities, and requires him to pay \$45,000 in restitution and \$5,000 in attorneys' fees and costs. Attorney General Wasden's suit against Apply 2 Save and its owner continues.

Other state Attorneys General offices participating in Operation Loan Lies were from Arizona, Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, and Texas. More information about this sweep can be found at <http://www.ftc.gov>.

## **U.S. Senate Testimony on Fraud**

On a related matter, Missouri Attorney General Chris Koster testified July 14 before the U.S. Senate Commerce Committee during a hearing entitled, "The Economy and Fraud: Protecting Consumers During Downward Economic Times."

Attorney General Koster focused his testimony on companies and individuals who specialize in servicing, some might say preying on, consumers who have significant credit card debt, and/or an unsustainable mortgage.

Attorney General Koster said, "The Complaint Unit in my office has seen a sharply increasing volume of complaints regarding foreclosure rescue scams: from 16 complaints in 2007 to 9 complaints in 2008 to 84 complaints thus far in 2009.

For debt settlement, there has been a similar spike: from 78 complaints in 2007 to 109 complaints in 2008 to 105 complaints thus far in 2009."

"Missouri polices all manner of fraud, but financial fraud has become a priority," Attorney General Koster said.

In addition to describing how he enforces state law and the public education efforts underway to help consumers, Attorney General Koster urged the Senate committee to consider any additional enforcement measures at the federal level to make people using these fraudulent tactics think twice, and to give Attorneys General as strong of tools as possible to go after them once they have perpetrated their scams.

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## 2009-2010 NAAG Committees

With new NAAG leadership comes new NAAG committee assignments. NAAG President and Nebraska Attorney General Jon Bruning has appointed standing and special committee chairs. Committees are charged with studying all substantive matters within their jurisdiction and recommending policy positions and other matters to the Attorneys General for action by the full Association. NAAG committees work under the leadership of co-chairs who determine the committee's agenda items, as well as meeting dates and times.

### **Antitrust Committee**

Attorney General Rich Cordray (OH), Co-Chair  
Attorney General Chris Koster (MO), Co-Chair  
Attorney General Gary King (NM), Vice Chair  
Attorney General Tom Miller (IA), Vice Chair

### **Civil Rights Committee**

Attorney General John Kroger (OR), Co-Chair  
Attorney General Bill Mims (VA), Co-Chair



### **Consumer Protection**

Attorney General Mark Bennett (HI), Co-Chair  
Attorney General Steve Bullock (MT), Co-Chair  
Attorney General Janet Mills (ME), Vice Chair  
Attorney General Bill Mims (VA), Vice Chair  
Attorney General Greg Zoeller (IN), Vice Chair

### **Working Group**

Attorney General Mark Bennett (HI)  
Attorney General Steve Bullock (MT)  
Attorney General Gary King (NM)  
Attorney General Janet Mills (ME)  
Attorney General Bill Mims (VA)  
Attorney General Steve Six (KS)  
Attorney General Greg Zoeller (IN)

### **Criminal Law Committee**

Attorney General Anne Milgram (NJ), Co-Chair  
Attorney General Alicia Limtiaco (GU), Co-Chair

### **Executive Working Group on Prosecutorial Relations**

Attorney General John Suthers (CO), Co-Chair  
Attorney General Rich Gebelein (DE), Co-Chair  
Attorney General John Kroger (OR)  
Attorney General Larry Long (SD)  
Attorney General Anne Milgram (NJ)  
Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen (WI)  
Attorney General James "Buddy" Caldwell (LA)  
Attorney General Tom Corbett (PA)  
Attorney General Greg Zoeller (IN)

### **Energy and Environment Committee**

Attorney General Douglas Gansler (MD), Co-Chair  
Attorney General Rob McKenna, (WA), Co-Chair

### **Finance Committee**

Attorney General Dustin McDaniel (AR), Co-Chair  
Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen (WI), Co-Chair

### **Tobacco Committee**

Attorney General Jon Bruning, (NE), Co-Chair  
Attorney General Martha Coakley (MA), Co-Chair

## SPECIAL COMMITTEES

### Elections Working Group

Attorney General Martha Coakley (MA), Chair  
Attorney General Robert Cooper (TN)  
Attorney General Terry Goddard (AZ)  
Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen (WI)  
Attorney General Greg Zoeller (IN)

### Financial Practices

Attorney General Richard Blumenthal (CT), Co-Chair  
Attorney General John Kroger (OR), Co-Chair

### Intellectual Property Committee

Attorney General Jim Hood (MS), Co-Chair  
Attorney General Rob McKenna (WA), Co-Chair

### Legislative Committee

Attorney General Tom Miller (IA), Co-Chair  
Attorney General Doug Gansler (MD), Co-Chair  
Attorney General Bill McCollum (FL)  
Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen (WI)

### Public Safety and Health

Attorney General Dustin McDaniel (AR), Co-Chair  
Attorney General Steve Six (KS), Co-Chair

### Youth Access to Alcohol

Attorney General Doug Gansler (MD), Co-Chair  
Attorney General Alicia Limtiaco (GU), Co-Chair  
Attorney General Mark Shurtleff (UT), Co-Chair

### Ad Hoc Committee on Animal Cruelty

Attorney General Richard Blumenthal, (CT), Co-Chair  
Attorney General Henry McMaster, (SC), Co-Chair

### Ad Hoc Committee on Veterans Affairs

Attorney General Richard Blumenthal, (CT), Chair

For a listing of NAAG staff contacts for each committee and updates, please go to [http://www.naag.org/naag\\_standing\\_committees.php](http://www.naag.org/naag_standing_committees.php).



## Summer Interns Working for NAAG

This month NAAG introduces four new interns that are working alongside NAAG counsel. Interns not only serve an integral role across the various NAAG projects, but they also gain valuable work experience, refine their skills and learn about the work of Attorneys General in various legal and policy areas.



**Catie Ashburn** is working as an intern on the Cybercrime Project. In her short time at NAAG, she has worked to brief cases for upcoming conferences, and attended meetings and legislative hearings regarding Internet predators and bullying in schools.

Catie is a third-year law student at the University of Mississippi School of Law. A native of Asheville, N.C., she graduated with a bachelor's degree in biology from University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

"I really enjoy D.C. and the policy side of law," she said. "It's interesting to be in the place where policy is made."

Previously, Catie worked as a law clerk for two different law firms and worked on grant writing and development for the Boys & Girls Club. She also taught eighth-grade science for two years in the Mississippi school system as a part of Teach for America.

She also serves on the editorial board of the Mississippi Law Journal and the Dean's Leadership Council. Catie has proudly made the dean's list every semester thus far, and was the winner of the Neil B. Biggers Constitutional award. The award is presented to a student who exemplifies outstanding excellence in constitutional law classes.

Catie, who recently married, enjoys spending time with her husband and working on their new house. They also enjoy spending time with their dog and attending "Ole Miss" sporting events.



**Clifton Drake** began his work on the Tobacco Project this month as a summer law clerk. His work includes researching legal issues arising under the Master Settlement Agreement and drafting legal memos and presenting the findings of his research.

Clifton has enjoyed the depth of the assignments that he has been

given at NAAG. “The issues I’ve been working on are very cutting-edge in the field of tobacco litigation,” he said.

Clifton decided to apply to work for NAAG after speaking to a former Supreme Court Fellow Corey Maze, who is the solicitor general in the Alabama Office of the Attorney General. “The work sounded really interesting, and I wanted the opportunity to work with various state Attorneys General and the public interest side of law.”

Last fall, he interned at the Executive Office of the President in the Office of Administration and hopes to continue in a career in government. Clifton is also a member of the Georgetown Journal of Law and Public Policy, a dean’s list scholar, and the recipient of the Reynolds Scholarship at Georgetown. A third-year law student at Georgetown, he serves as the president of the Christian Legal Society and as a peer adviser to first-year law students.

This Crestview, Fla., native received bachelor’s degrees in business administration and political science from the University of Florida and is a diehard Florida Gators fan. Clifton also loves touring D.C. and playing the piano.



NAAG also welcomes **Lisa Kohl** as a law clerk. She joins NAAG as a third-year law student from the American University Washington College of Law and is working on a project that will determine when private companies have to disclose potential liability for climate change risks and climate change regulation.

Last summer, Lisa worked for the Securities and Exchange Commission’s (SEC) Denver office in the Division of Enforcement compiling insider trading research and analyzing petty stock fraud.

“After working at the SEC I realized I liked the public enforcement and protection side of law,” she said.

Lisa’s duties at NAAG include attending Supreme Court hearings, and she looks forward to attending a Supreme Court Year in Review event and the Sonia Sotomayor confirmation hearings.

“I enjoy being exposed to a lot of different experiences in law and how the NAAG offices coordinate with state Attorneys General to protect the public,” said Lisa.

Lisa serves as a note and comment editor for the American University Law Review and has worked as a research assistant for two professors. Her research covers the World Trade Organization, international trade, and corporate and securities laws.

She was born and raised in Grand Rapids, Mich., and received her bachelor’s degree in economics and political science from the University of Michigan. Now residing in

Washington, D.C., Lisa enjoys vacationing in Colorado, hiking, and college football. She is also training for her first marathon in the fall and has played on a local women’s soccer team for two years.



**Michelle Singer** began her law clerk internship at NAAG this month after working for the Dow Lohnes law firm at the beginning of the summer. She is no stranger to the workings of a political office. Before joining NAAG she worked for the Democratic National Committee as a media monitor in conjunction with Sen. John Kerry’s 2004 presidential

campaign. In 2005-2006, she worked for then-Congressman Jim Davis’s gubernatorial campaign as the research director and deputy communications director. She is currently working on a law review-style article concerning the standards needed to prosecute doctors who abuse their power to issue prescription drugs.

She said she has enjoyed the work on her article thus far and the dedication of the people she works with.

“I really like the idea of acting as a support for the state Attorneys General,” she said. “There is an important interplay between the states and federal government and sometimes the Attorneys General are overlooked as a key part.”

Michelle joins NAAG from the University of California, Berkeley School of Law (Boalt Hall), where she will be a third-year law student in the fall and serves as a supervising editor of the California Law Review. A native of Los Angeles, she graduated with honors from University of California, Los Angeles with a bachelor’s degree in political science and history. She now resides in Berkeley, Calif., while she completes her law degree.

Outside of the office, Michelle enjoys attending a variety of concerts and practicing yoga.



## SAVE THE DATE

### Presidential Initiative Summit: “Virtual World-Real Crime”

February 9 - 11, 2010  
Ft. Lauderdale, FL

### NAAG Spring Meeting

March 1 - 3, 2010  
Washington, DC