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Partners in Excellence 2004–2005 Annual Report

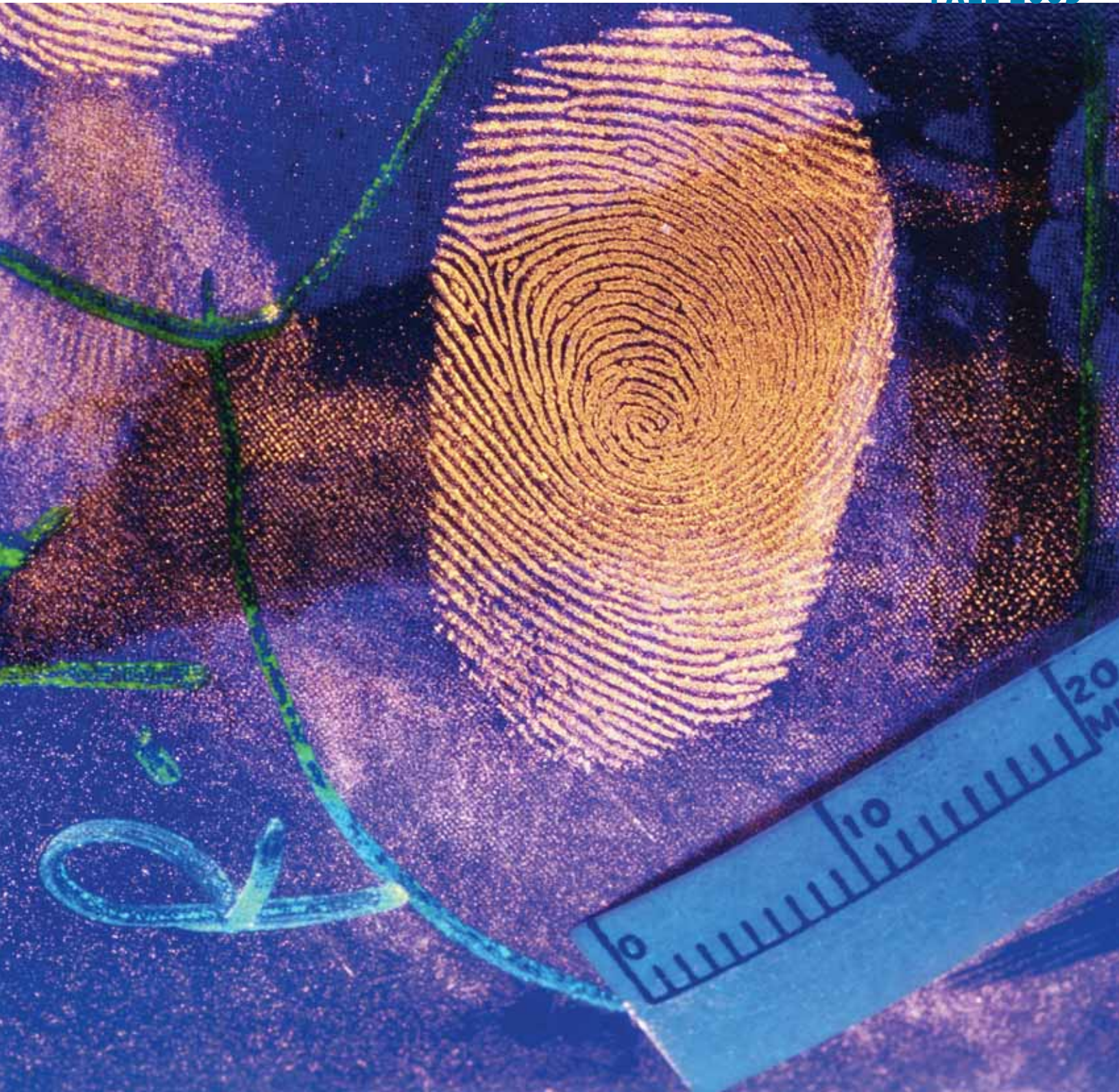
New Institute Brings Energy and Focus to Crime and Punishment

The Toughest Job You'll Ever Do for Free

Perspectives

THE MAGAZINE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA LAW SCHOOL

FALL 2005



LAW

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LAW SCHOOL

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Dean's Perspective

In this issue of the alumni magazine, we feature the study of criminal law at the University of Minnesota Law School. Criminal law has always captured the attention of people throughout the nation. Indeed, over the past few decades, America has adopted a CNN mentality that compels people to watch criminal trials as they unfold. Recent trials involving individuals as disparate as Michael Jackson and Dennis Kozlowski received continuous national attention. Since the terrorist attacks of September 11, law enforcement is receiving greater scrutiny with renewed calls for greater use of police power by some and complaints by others that such use is a violation of constitutional rights. Many of our most popular movies and television dramas continue to depict courtroom and crime scenes, and the enduring and seemingly endless versions of *Law & Order* sit atop the Nielsen ratings. Criminal law is, and always has been, one of the most important areas in legal education.



DEAN ALEX M. JOHNSON, JR.

The Law School has a rich tradition of devoting resources to the development of criminal legal education and has continued this trend in recent years. I think everyone would agree that a three-hour criminal law course could not begin to cover everything related to “criminal law” today. This is why the Law School offers a variety of courses to our students, ranging from criminal law and criminal procedure to specialty classes emphasizing domestic violence, social justice, race, gender, poverty, legal ethics, and many other relevant topics. At the University of Minnesota, we also believe that law students should develop skills that lawyers need to practice criminal law. This includes such skills as negotiation, interviewing, and trial practice. Indeed, several of our clinics help prepare students for careers in criminal law.

This magazine showcases the richness of our criminal law faculty and programs. We also profile several important alumni who are making a difference in the field of criminal law.

Finally, we reveal the new name for the alumni magazine—Perspectives. Our new name goes along with our new vision and bold new look. The University of Minnesota is a top public urban law school. As a public law school that is part of a larger research university, we are committed to serving the Bench, the Bar, and the greater community. As an urban law school, we have a comparative advantage in integrating the practice of law into the daily teachings of law.

I hope that you enjoy reading about what we are doing at the Law School in this issue. We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events.

Dean and William S. Pattee Professor of Law

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