Owen C. Pell ’80

Owen C. Pell is Phi Beta Kappa and graduated summa cum laude from Binghamton in 1980, with a BA in political science. He continued his studies at the University of Virginia School of Law, where he received a JD in 1983; he was also a member of the Virginia Journal of International Law.

Pell is a partner in the New York office of the international law firm White & Case LLP, where he has worked since graduating law school. White & Case is one of the world's largest law firms with expertise across many areas of law. His practice includes all forms of complex commercial litigation, including litigation involving foreign sovereigns and their state-owned entities, securities litigation, bankruptcy litigation and cases in which sovereigns or companies are sued with respect to alleged violations of international law (such as cases involving the Holocaust, the South African Apartheid system, post-World War II land seizures in Poland, and African slavery in the United States).

Over the past seven years, Pell has presented lectures at Binghamton on the moral and social responsibilities of corporations, and the role of the judiciary in a democratic society. A strong supporter of Harpur College, he established a Philosophy, Politics and Law Honors Thesis Fund, which supports a select group of PPL students each year who write honors theses, and a conference at which those students defend their theses to a panel of faculty members. Students completing the program graduate with honors, and a thesis prize is awarded each year to one student. Pell received a Binghamton University Alumni Award in May 2002, and the Glenn G. Bartle Distinguished Alumni Award in October 2007. In May 2011, he was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Law and delivered a Commencement address at graduation.

Pell lives in New York City with his wife Pearl and their two sons Nathan and Adam.