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MELANIE E. STEWART, MUS '83, choreographer and principal of Melanie Stewart Dance Company in Philadelphia, directed and choreographed *4.48 Psychosis*, a play by Sarah Kane, one of Great Britain's most controversial contemporary playwrights, at Rowan University.

JACKIE SHOCHAN *a unique champion of the law*

In *With Justice for None*, his best-selling critique of the American legal system, renowned trial lawyer Gerry Spence explains why nurses make outstanding attorneys.

"They've been taught to ask intelligent questions of the patient and to listen to someone who is hurt or frightened," he writes. "They have been taught to care about the patient and to

write reports others can rely on. They can get to the bottom of a case."

If that's true, then Jackie Shogan, *CHP '75*, must be an excellent lawyer.

Growing up in Western Pennsylvania, Shogan always knew she wanted to be in a "helping profession." This desire led her across the state to Temple and the study of nursing. "To say that Temple was an eye-opening experience would be an understatement," she says. "It was my first taste of a cosmopolitan city, with its many people and experiences — a far cry from my suburban upbringing."

Shogan spent 12 years after graduation as a nurse specialist and clinical instructor

at several teaching hospitals, including those in Richmond, Va., Atlanta and Pittsburgh. Although she had always been fascinated with the law, she didn't consider making it a career until one Christmas early in her nursing career. She spent the holiday tending a wounded soldier whose parachute failed during a training exercise. "It occurred to me that this man was hurt because a product didn't do what it was designed to do," she says.

That incident spurred her interest in product-liability issues, which in turn led to her earning a legal degree in 1990 from Duke University. She then set about becoming a top-notch attorney in civil, administrative and criminal law. Today she is a senior counsel in the law firm Thorpe, Reed & Armstrong, the same firm where she began her legal career as a litigation associate.

After succeeding as both a nurse and lawyer, she agrees that those professions are not as far removed as they may first appear.

"Nurses are very public-service oriented; they see the effects of legal decisions every day," Shogan says. Courts can determine the availability of medical procedures and decide who is eligible to receive them. The precedents they set in criminal, family and personal injury cases are lived out in real time in emergency rooms and patient wards across the country. "I saw the impact the legal system has on victims of violent crime, and saw early on some of the changes that have become today's headlines."

Shogan is taking her unique perspective to aspiring lawyers at the University of Pittsburgh. Her appellate legal writing course, which she developed with a colleague, has been a staple of Pitt's law school for the past two years. It draws on Shogan's teaching background, which includes time as an adjunct at Duquesne University, instructing nursing students and tutoring nurses within the hospital setting.

"Wanting to make sure that students are well prepared coming out of law school, I thought that teaching an appellate practice course was a way that I could help the profession," she says. "I fashioned it as a writing course, because writing skills are important in any profession, but especially in law."

Shogan had the opportunity to teach outside the classroom as part of her campaign for the Pennsylvania Superior Court. She visited each of the state's 67 counties to educate regular citizens about how their lives are affected by the court. "Traveling across the state was a wonderful way to get to know our commonwealth and appreciate the beauty, diversity and all that each area has to offer," she says. "It was great for me to get in front of people and teach them about the courts."

— JOSEPH McLAUGHLIN

