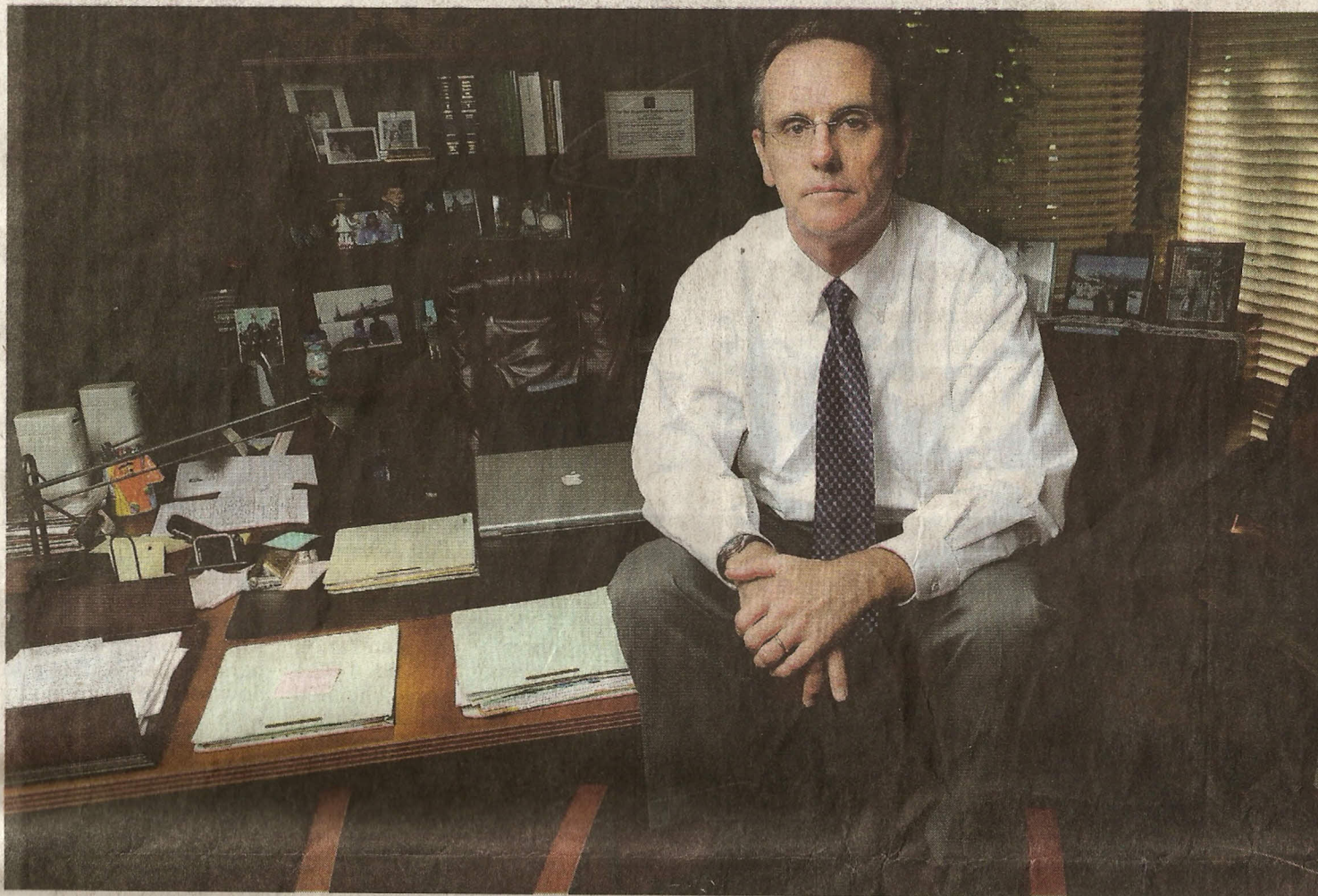


# CHRONICLING THE HOLOCAUST



SCOTT FISHER, SUN SENTINEL

Scott Richardson has represented some of Palm Beach County's well-known defendants and travels as a visiting law professor in Eastern Europe. During his teaching stints, he studies the Holocaust and passes along his knowledge to Palm Beach County high school students.

Lawyer  
shares his  
findings  
with high  
school  
students

**By Missy Diaz**  
STAFF WRITER

For many years, those in deep legal trouble have sought the counsel of criminal defense attorney Scott Richardson.

He has represented some of the county's well-known defendants, including Darren Cogoni, the former Delray Beach rookie police officer who shot and killed an unarmed teen in 2005; and David Carhart, a sheriff's captain strip-

ped of his badge for cyberstalking and witness tampering.

Wealthy Boca Raton developer Gregory Talbott hired Richardson when Talbott was charged with assaulting his wife and a police officer. And he currently represents the Rev. John Skehan, former pastor of Delray Beach's St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Church, on charges that he misappropriated hundreds of thousands from the parish he led for 40 years.

The slender, bespectacled

55-year-old looks the part of a cerebral barrister. A fortuitous coincidence, since someday he'd love to be in a law school classroom full time, sharing his knowledge.

When Richardson read a few years back about an opportunity to be a visiting law professor in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union he saw the chance to meld his two great interests — the law and history, specifically World

» **HOLOCAUST** PAGE 2

## Lawyer visits sites on assignments

War II and the Holocaust. He returned Sunday from his third assignment with the Center for International Legal Studies, this time to Siberia. Through his travels to lesser known sites of the Holocaust's atrocities, Richardson put together a program he presents to Palm Beach County high school students enrolled in a Holocaust studies course.

His journey began with a 2006 assignment to teach a white-collar crime class in Kaunas, Lithuania. While researching the country, he learned it was home to the Ninth Fort, where 50,000 Jews were killed between 1941 and 1944. A group of German death squads — known as *Einsatzgruppen* — came to town and herded the Jews to the outskirts of the city and exterminated them by the thousands. He also visited Vilnius, Lithuania, home to Paneriai, where the Nazis' mobile killing units slaughtered 100,000 people.

In 2007, Richardson visited Kiev and Babi Yar, where 33,000 Jews died in a two-day period in 1941.

"Everybody knows about concentration camps," he said. "[The students] are shocked and stunned when they find out what happened. One of the reasons I did this is I see that a generation of people are dying and it's important to preserve the memory in the

immediate sense and not just reading it in a book."

Richardson's presentations are a great addition to the curriculum, according to Eileen Shapiro, program planner for the school district's Holocaust studies program.

"He tells a part of the history that maybe the kids would not necessarily get," she said.

The fact that Richardson is not Jewish makes his contribution that much more meaningful, Shapiro said.

Raised an Episcopalian in Los Angeles and later in Burlington, Vt., Richardson always felt a connection with Jewish people.

"I feel Jewish, just not in a religious sense," he said. "Personally, I feel it's much more of a humanistic approach as opposed to a belief in a divine creator. For me, it's more of how you treat other people kind of religion."

His wife Leslie is Jewish and the couple has raised their three children in the religion.

State Attorney Barry Krischer jokes that Richardson is "more Jewish than some of my Jewish friends." A devout Jew himself, Krischer understands his friend's respect for the faith.

"He interacts with the religion on an intellectual and philosophical level," he said. "He doesn't need to not eat on Yom Kippur to be the kind of person he is. He's a down-to-earth, great guy with no sense of how great he really is, as both a person and a lawyer."

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