

# LAW Quadrangle

NOTES FROM MICHIGAN LAW



CAN

DETROIT

SCHOOLS BE

SAVED?



**02 A MESSAGE  
FROM DEAN WEST**

**04 BRIEFS**

8 Justices Sonia Sotomayor and Susanne Baer, LLM '93, Visit U-M

**10 IN PRACTICE**

10 Setting the Pace at the Boston Athletic Association

13 Scoring a Solo-Practice Touchdown

**16 FEATURES**

16 Can Detroit Schools Be Saved?

28 A Girl, Her Wonder Dog, and a Supreme Court Ruling

32 Raising the Curtain on a News Blackout

**40 @UMICHLAW**

44 African American Alumni Reunion

46 Not Your Father's (or Mother's) Legal Clinic

49 Happy Birthday, Geneva Externship Program

**50 IMPACT**

**62 CLASS NOTES**

65 Strengthening the GOP, One State Race at a Time

69 Advocating for the Rights of the LGBT Community

**72 IN MEMORIAM**

**76 CLOSING**

# HIGHLIGHTS

## GAME ON IN CHINA

12



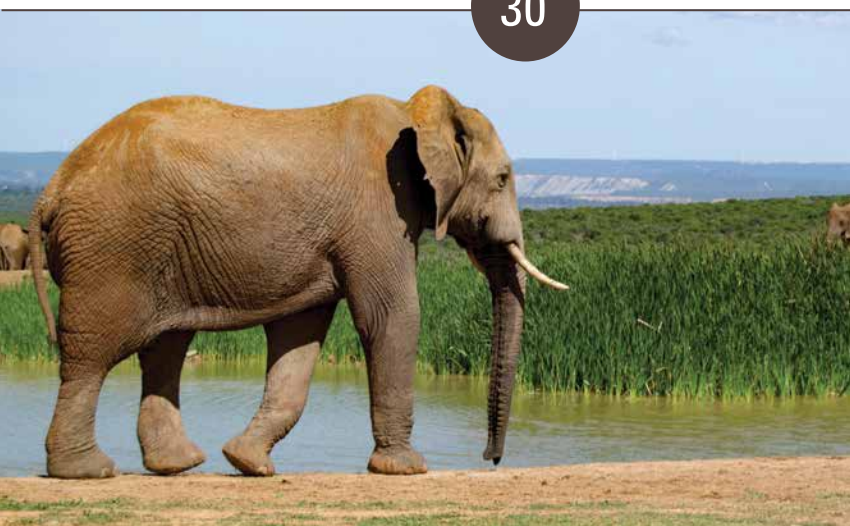
## EUROPE'S HUMAN RIGHTS STRUGGLES

14



## SOUTH AFRICA EXTERNSHIP

30



## SEMPER FI

66



# O P E N I N G

5 Quotes You'll See...

## ...In This Issue of the *Law Quadrangle*

1. "If something bad had to happen to the Boston Marathon, I still know I'd rather be in the center of it than watching helplessly." (p. 11)
2. "We're not asking for everybody to have a Cadillac. We're asking for everyone to have access to more than a Flintstones' car." (p. 25)
3. "I figured we would get hometowned. But the raw intelligence of this brainiac and his determination kept it all afloat. His energy level was mind-boggling. His commitment to the ideals we were fighting for was fantastic." (p. 36)
4. "I have vivid memories of showing up for an interview only to be told, 'You are well qualified, but we hired a woman last year. It will be 10 years before we hire another.'" (p. 57)
5. "There aren't a lot of me's out there— African American lesbian attorneys with a U-M Law School education— and I want members of my community to have a voice." (p. 69)



## Many Voices, One Michigan

Michigan Law always hosts a rich array of speakers and activities. This semester has been exceptionally vibrant. In recent weeks, the Law School welcomed alumni home to the Quad for the second African American Alumni Reunion. We hosted the biennial Environmental Law and Policy Program Conference, which this year brought together all seven former chiefs of the DOJ's environmental crimes section (as well as the current chief) to discuss environmental criminal enforcement. We hosted dignitaries from around the world for the biennial Colloquium on Challenges in International Refugee Law, in which participants drafted the Michigan Guidelines on the International Protection of Refugees. And we welcomed the justices of the European Court of Justice for two days of discussions with our faculty and students, both in Detroit and Ann Arbor.

These events happened, of course, in concurrence with the cornerstones of our semester: the 39<sup>th</sup> annual Student Funded Fellowships Auction, which raised a record amount this year;

# A MESSAGE FROM DEAN WEST



LEISA THOMPSON PHOTOGRAPHY

the 92<sup>nd</sup> annual Campbell Moot Court Competition; the 39<sup>th</sup> annual Alden J. “Butch” Carpenter Banquet; the Juan Luis Tienda Banquet; the Origins Banquet; and so much more.

In the midst of all these events, we launched the Problem Solving Initiative (PSI). This exciting new curriculum taps into the University’s unparalleled breadth of excellence, and tasks students with finding interdisciplinary solutions to complex global problems. As one professor put it, the instructors do not sit back hiding the answers because they don’t *have* the answers. The professors are hands-on facilitators, conveners, and project leaders, but students ultimately are the ones gaining experience as problem solvers. Student response has been very positive, and our expanded offerings for fall filled quickly. (You can read more about the PSI on p. 40.)

In January, U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice Sonia Sotomayor and Justice Susanne Baer, LL.M. ’93, of the Federal Constitutional Court of Germany visited Ann Arbor to headline the first President’s Bicentennial Colloquium. During their visit, both justices talked about the dynamics within their respective courts. They stressed that even justices with polarized beliefs

and a lot on the line can maintain personal friendships because they are bound together by a common love of country, and their discourse is grounded in respect. Justice Baer garnered a huge round of applause when she said, “Be forceful in your argument, but respect the other as a legitimate voice—even when it seems that voice comes from another planet.”

That ideal is essential to being a good citizen and a good lawyer. At Michigan Law, I am proud that we are training both.

**Mark D. West**  
*Dean*  
*Nippon Life Professor of Law*

# BRIEFS



# 50% ↓

## ...AND 50 PERCENT LEFT TO GO.

2Ls AND LLMs CELEBRATED THE HALFWAY POINT OF THEIR MICHIGAN LAW CAREERS AT MIDWAY MIXER, SPONSORED BY THE OFFICE OF DEVELOPMENT AND ALUMNI RELATIONS, IN FEBRUARY.

*“Epi-Pen happened, and everyone was like, ‘Wow, this is terrible, we shouldn’t allow this to happen. And we haven’t done anything about that, and it’s not clear what the solution is. Now, shocker, it’s happening again.’”*

**Nicholson Price**, assistant professor of law, in a *Scientific American* article about a massive price hike for a prescription antidote to opioid overdose.



# 100+

alumni participated in February’s Meet the Employers networking event for 1Ls, held for the first time this year at Michigan Stadium.

# 2,114

downloads of

**Professor Emeritus**

**J.J. White’s** “The Pros

and Cons of Getting to

Yes,” which was published

in 1984, were recorded by

the Law Library in 2016.

960

**CASES OF BOTTLED WATER WERE DONATED** to residents of Flint, Michigan, through a collection drive organized by the Catholic Law Students Association, Latino Law Students Association, Black Law Students Association, Racial Justice Coalition, and Law School Student Senate. The cases were given to the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan.



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LEISA THOMPSON PHOTOGRAPHY

## LAW IN THE KEY OF B MINOR

**Margo Schlanger**, the Henry M. Butzel Professor of Law, and an ensemble of Michigan Law students put aside the complexities of the law in exchange for the complexities of Brahms's Clarinet Quintet during a rehearsal in the Lawyers Club Lounge.

"THIS GENERATION OF STUDENTS IS  
EXCITED ABOUT INNOVATION AND  
THE IDEA OF BEING AN INNOVATOR."

—**Dana Thompson, '99**, clinical professor of law and founding director of Michigan Law's Entrepreneurship Clinic, in a *Financial Times* article, "How to bring out every lawyer's inner entrepreneur."

Airports where 26 Michigan Law graduates are known to have offered pro bono assistance to stranded travelers in the wake of President Trump's executive order on immigration in January.

# BRIEFS



"I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO PREVENTING THE USE OF OLD FOSTER CARE RECORDS AGAINST FORMER FOSTER CHILDREN WHO ARE NOW PARENTS IN THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM. THE SKADDEN FELLOWSHIP WILL ALLOW ME TO DEVOTE THE TIME AND EFFORT REQUIRED TO BEGIN TO CHANGE THIS UNFAIR PRACTICE."

**3L Dana Leib**, on her 2017 Skadden Fellowship at Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem. Michigan Law has had 34 Skadden Fellows since the program's inception in 1988.

# 1,483

Age of the Codex of Justinian, which, together with the Digest, is the core of the Byzantine compilation of Roman law called the Corpus Iuris Civilis. **Bruce Frier**, the John and Teresa D'Arms Distinguished University Professor of Classics and Roman Law, is the general editor of a three-volume annotated translation of the Codex, published in 2016.



**"PUBLIC SERVICE IS A TREMENDOUS CAREER. EVERY MORNING I WOKE UP AND WANTED TO GO TO WORK. ...I FELT LIKE I HAD THE BEST JOB IN WASHINGTON."**

**Elise Bean, '82**, who spoke to public interest students as part of the Inspiring Paths lecture series in February. Bean spent 30 years working for Sen. Carl Levin [D-MI] as staff director and chief counsel of the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations.



#### ONLINE EXTRA

See Bean reflect on her career at [quadrangle.law.umich.edu](http://quadrangle.law.umich.edu).



**"[Gorsuch] may be the closest thing the new generation of conservative judges has to Antonin Scalia."**

—**Richard Primus**, the Theodore J. St. Antoine Collegiate Professor of Law, quoted in numerous news outlets about President Trump's nominee to the U.S. Supreme Court.





## BRIEFS

The Reading Room recently made *Town and Country's* "America's Most Beautiful College Libraries" list and was named the state of Michigan's most beautiful library by *Business Insider Malaysia*.

*"Our ads warn that Hillary [Clinton] will take your guns because we believe that Hillary will take your guns."*

—Former NRA President Sandra Froman, who discussed gun control issues with **Professor Len Niehoff, '84**, days before the 2016 presidential election in a Federalist Society-sponsored luncheon.

*"Because life is rarely a straight path, my advice is to follow your interests (not your passion), have the right attitude, and give back to your community."*

— **May Liang, '89**, at the annual Origins banquet, sponsored by the Asian Pacific American Law Students Association. Liang, who is general counsel and chief financial officer for OpenConcept Systems Inc., delivered the keynote address.



### ONLINE EXTRA

See Liang reflect on her time at Michigan Law at [quadrangle.law.umich.edu](http://quadrangle.law.umich.edu).



## BIG DATA, BIG PROBLEMS?

**Richard Berner**, director of the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Office of Financial Research (OFR), delivered a keynote address during the Big Data in Finance Conference held at Michigan Law in October. Kara Stein, commissioner of the Securities and Exchange Commission, and Harvard economist and MacArthur Fellow Sendhil Mullainathan also gave keynote addresses. U-M's Center on Finance, Law, and Policy—which is led by Michigan Law Professor Michael Barr—and OFR co-sponsored the event.



## University Bicentennial Colloquium Features Justices Sonia Sotomayor and Susanne Baer, LLM '93



Associate Justice Sonia Sotomayor of the U.S. Supreme Court, and Justice Susanne Baer, LLM '93, of the Federal Constitutional Court of Germany, headlined the first President's Bicentennial Colloquium, "The Future University Community," during a January visit to campus. Former NPR host Michele Norris moderated the justices' conversation.

Universities like Michigan provide the perfect opportunity to hear different voices and build bridges, said the justices. Justice Sotomayor said that her initial shyness as an undergraduate at Princeton University—a very different environment from her upbringing as the child of Puerto Rican migrants—laid the foundation for her life and career, and her current work on the Court. "The trauma of putting yourself in situations where you're not comfortable is how you learn your strengths and weaknesses."

For Justice Baer, fear, not shyness, provided an initial barrier during her year as a Michigan Law student. "By nature of having a last name near the front of the alphabet, I was going to be the first one called on," she said. "I was terrified. I also wrestled with telling these superstar classmates that I am a lesbian." Justice Baer, who also is a William W. Cook Global Law Professor at Michigan, said she realized the Law School is a safe place where she could build a community around her identity. She encouraged the audience to do the same. "Don't run through the back door. Run forward. You will find people to go with you."



*(Top to bottom): The University community and the public packed Hill Auditorium to hear the justices' conversation. "Now I can finally say it, 'Go Blue!,'" said Justice Sotomayor after receiving an honorary doctorate of laws from U-M President Mark Schlissel. Michele Norris, former host of NPR's All Things Considered, moderated the Hill Auditorium conversation.*

LEISA THOMPSON PHOTOGRAPHY



Justices Baer and Sotomayor also stressed their dual role as citizens and said everyone has an obligation to engage with their democracy. Justice Baer carries a copy of the German constitution in her pocket, “as a reminder of my obligation as a judge and the common ground we all start from. The law is not mine as a judge; it’s ours as citizens.” Justice Sotomayor added, “While you don’t all have to be lawyers, I ask that you all be informed citizens. You can’t improve the world unless you understand how it functions.”

As part of their visit, the justices also taught a class at the Law School, which brought together students from Professor Martha Jones’s Critical Race Theory class and students who previously had taken Professor Daniel Halberstam’s European Union Law and Global Constitutionalism classes. “Our community is constructed through a commitment to the public good,” said Jones, who, as a Presidential Bicentennial Professor, led the effort to bring the justices to Ann Arbor. For five years, she also directed Michigan Law’s Program in Race, Law & History. “Justices Baer and Sotomayor have dockets that address issues at the core of our mission to be a diverse, inclusive institution, and it was an incredible honor to have them speak so intimately with our law students.”

Their high level of engagement also impressed the students, said 3L Erin Collins, who is pursuing a dual degree in law and Middle Eastern and North African studies. “I appreciated their candor with each other and their genuine interest in sharing not only their experiences, but in interacting with students. One of my biggest takeaways was when the two justices spoke about the importance of diversity of opinions on the Court and how that diversity is seen through their decisions. Both clearly use their respective judicial systems to try and push their courts into new and more inclusive directions.” —AS



*(Top to bottom): Justice Baer took to the stage to answer a student’s question during the public forum. Justice Sotomayor walked among the crowd as she answered questions. 2L Melody Alvarado Latino and Carolina Velarde, a 1L, enjoyed a moment with Justice Sotomayor as they entered South Hall.*



## Setting the Pace at the Boston Athletic Association

By Amy Spooner

No, Tom Grilk's current role as chief executive officer of the Boston Athletic Association (BAA) isn't a de facto retirement. ("I put in as many hours now as I did at my busiest while practicing law.") Yes, he works all year—not just April. And yes, there is more to the BAA than the Boston Marathon.

"But if you've gotta be known for something, the Boston Marathon isn't bad," says Grilk, '72.

The Boston Athletic Association is one of the country's oldest athletic clubs and once included equestrian, golf, rowing, and hunting facilities. But its legacy was sealed when it sent a team of runners to the 1896 Summer Olympics in Athens, and they returned with multiple medals along with descriptions of a new road race that exceeded 20 miles. The first Boston Marathon was held the next year—and every year since.

Grilk enjoys melding the BAA's storied tradition with modern innovation. "Our mission—to promote health and fitness—hasn't changed since 1887, although we've scrapped language like 'manly sports,'" Grilk says. BAA takes a three-pronged approach to that mission: sponsoring the marathon and shorter road races in Boston; building fitness-focused community service programs for youth and adults; and developing elite runners for national and international competition. "I am proud to carry our traditions forward and outward," Grilk says. "We have an obligation to do the very best for the community that has embraced us."

As CEO, Grilk manages a team whose responsibilities include race-day logistics for three annual events that each exceed 10,000 runners, as well as corporate sponsorships to make it all happen. Then there are the wannabe marathoners. Boston's marathon is unique in that it requires a qualifying time for nearly all participants. Grilk is gatekeeper for the other 20 percent who leverage connections to the city, sponsors, and charities to get in. "In some ways, the hardest thing is getting to the starting line," Grilk says. "It is an aspirational race, and people can be quite demanding. But I understand what a privilege it is to do what I do, so if every minute isn't pleasant, so be it."



FAV/FOTO/BOSTON

Tom Grilk, '72, addresses runners and supporters at the 2014 Boston Marathon.

Even the grumpiest almost-qualifier pales in comparison to Grilk's most unpleasant moments at the BAA. The challenge for the 2012 race was a forecasted race-day high near 90 degrees. "Our greatest obligation was to keep the runners safe," says Grilk. "We couldn't control the heat, but we could control the services we provided." The BAA also allowed one-year race deferrals and kept the finish line open until the last runner crossed, instead of the usual six hours.

The next year, late in the race, Grilk was in the basement of a nearby hotel command center, finalizing details for the awards ceremony, when a colleague said, "I hate to be the one to tell you this. . . ." The scene outside was horrific in the wake of two bomb blasts, and Grilk quickly realized those blasts weren't about the marathon. "It obviously was an attack on Boston, on the United States," he says. Grilk and his team had rehearsed disaster scenarios before, and they got to work: "Focus on the people to whom you have the greatest obligation at that moment, focus on the things you can control, and try not to get too distracted by the things you can't."

In a late-night meeting—with hospitals treating the victims, a manhunt for the attackers underway, and a global press corps covering the developing story—Grilk and his team decided that what they could control was getting medals in the hands of the 5,600 racers who were stopped from finishing, and the personal items that those racers had intended to reclaim at the finish line, which now was a crime scene. The ensuing days and months brought the challenge of dealing with the aftermath of a terrible event while keeping the BAA moving forward as an organization. "If something bad had to happen to the Boston Marathon, I still know I'd rather be in the center of it than watching helplessly," Grilk says. In 2015, he was the first witness for the prosecution in the trial of the surviving perpetrator. "I sat 10 feet away from someone who murdered children, and I set the scene of a beautiful day gone horribly wrong."

WHITE HOUSE PHOTO/LAMY STOCK PHOTO



*Then President Barack Obama offers encouragement to Grilk and BAA staff in the wake of the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing.*

What has gone wonderfully right since 2013 is the outpouring of support from around the world. Grilk says it motivates the already exemplary BAA to be even better. "The response has been astonishing and sustaining, and it carries a responsibility to be worthy of that support."

Since moments of his running-centric job are stressful, it's ironic that Grilk began the sport as a young lawyer to relieve stress. "My wife [Nancy Fredrick Grilk, AB '72] pointed out the window at the Charles River and told me to go and run along it until I felt better." He also wanted to relate to the elite runners he represented at Hale and Dorr LLP (now WilmerHale). Grilk eventually ran three Boston Marathons, for which he qualified with a personal best of 2:49:03. Later, he became a member and then a board member of the BAA. He also has been the finish line announcer since 1979. "People ask how I got my job, say they want my job, and I tell them to volunteer for 30 years and see what happens. Surround yourself with things you like, and you never know where it will lead."

## Bringing Global Sports to Audiences in China

By Katie Vloet



After working at international firms in Beijing (in capital markets and mergers and acquisitions) for nearly four years, Sam Li, '06, was ready to move back to the United States. But then, in 2012, NBA China came calling, and the course of his career changed instantly.

"I think sports was always in the back of my head as I progressed in my career. It's very difficult to get into the sports world," Li says. "I knew early on that many top people in the sports business are lawyers or have been lawyers, and that was a big motivator for coming to law school in the first place."

Li became associate vice president for NBA China, a job in which he advised the business team on legal, business, and compliance issues; was responsible for legal matters involving TV, marketing partnerships, and more; and negotiated agreements with key marketing partners.

One of those partnerships was with Sina Sports, a subsidiary of Chinese Internet company Sina.com, which was established in 1998 as China's first online sports platform. With Li's strong background on the legal side of the sports world, it's no surprise that Sina Sports contacted him in 2015. Li began as general counsel at the organization, but quickly transitioned to the business side and now is the head of content acquisition and strategic partnerships.

"We are somewhat similar to Yahoo Sports or ESPN," Li explains. "There are distinct differences, though. We have been live-streaming sports since the mid-2000s, including the World Cup and NBA games. But we have no TV station; we are purely an Internet platform. Sina also owns Weibo, the leading open social media platform in China, so we have a uniquely powerful one-two punch in terms of digital media and social media platforms."

Li says his job with NBA China prepared him well for his career at Sina Sports, though the positions are very different. "At the NBA, the lawyers are very hands-on. I was encouraged to go along with

the business side to strategic meetings. I was already very much involved with many different aspects of the business."

At Sina Sports, his work focuses even more on the business side. He is responsible for the acquisition of domestic and international sports content, as well as partnerships with teams and individual athletes. For example, Li has signed deals with NBA players Draymond Green and Tony Parker. He also helped secure the deal with swimmer Michael Phelps to provide content to Sina Sports before and during the 2016 Summer Olympics. Phelps published videos and columns on the platform in which he discussed how he trained for the Olympics and other topics.

"The day after he won his medals, he came to our studios in Rio to talk about his races," Li says. "These are the partnerships we've been building with individual star athletes, and we've found them to be fruitful."

In addition to the individual deals, Li also has worked on partnerships with organizations. The range of sports involved in these partnerships helps to underscore the global nature of sports and, in particular, sports fandom. They include the English Premier [Soccer] League, Ultimate Fighting Championship, the four grand slams of tennis, the China Volleyball League, and the Tour de France. Li's legal background has helped him in many facets of acquiring and negotiating these deals, he says. "One of the reasons there are so many lawyers in the sports business is that the industry largely revolves around untangling an intangible web of rights."

What Li loves about this work is the freedom it gives him to think big. In the business world, he says, "you have to think outside of the box. We are being trailblazers in a lot of different ways. Nobody hands you these projects. Creatively coming up with concepts and executing them allows me to take a project from beginning to end rather than just the negotiation process, as I experienced in the legal world. I get to see the whole picture, and it's very rewarding."



(Bottom): Li poses with the Union of European Football Associations' championship trophy.

# Scoring a Solo-Practice Touchdown

By Amy Spooner

Nineteen years after wearing the winged helmet, Terrence Quinn's college football coach, Lloyd Carr, praises his listening skills. "Terrence always paid attention, so I had confidence that he would remember what he was told and know what to do."

At two critical junctures, however, Quinn, '02, didn't listen—first, when his high school coach said he never would play for Michigan. Quinn made the team as a walk-on and later earned a scholarship. He was a part of the 1997 national championship team, playing mostly on the special teams unit.

Second, Quinn ignored the advice of a partner at his law firm and left to open a solo practice—in September 2008, as the Great Recession hit. Quinn persevered, and today the TGO Law Firm has five attorneys in three Michigan cities. The home office is practically in the shadow of Michigan Stadium.

"I fell in love with working for myself and with estate planning," he says. "I love knowing that I'm helping clients resolve a stressful, emotional situation."

The TGO Law Firm's focus on estate law is a departure from the health care practice that dominated Quinn's tenure at Foster, Swift, Collins & Smith PC in suburban Detroit. It's also not the path he envisioned in law school. "Who wants to talk about what happens when people die? I thought I wanted to be Johnnie Cochran," he says. But at Foster Swift, Quinn saw estate planning as an opportunity to expand his client base. He took the certificate program in probate and estate planning through the Institute of Continuing Legal Education, then began hosting workshops statewide. And when he decided to leave Foster Swift, he figured tying up loose ends with estate planning clients would help pay the bills until he found his next career. "I was ready to quit practicing altogether because I was so burned out."

While he began to see appealing aspects of solo practice, hanging his shingle in the middle of a global financial crisis was nearly cataclysmic. "We lost everything," Quinn says of himself and his family. "We struggled like crazy, yet I still loved it and never regretted my decision. But I knew I needed to make money. Every time I got ready to send off my resume, though, I'd get another big project to keep me afloat."

All the times that Quinn hauled a projector and handouts into and out of churches, schools, and community centers—and the relationships that he cultivated along the way—began to pay off. Demographics also moved in his favor: As baby boomers grow older, about 10,000 people hit retirement age each month in Michigan alone, and the number keeps growing. They want to know they won't leave financial chaos in their wake after they die, says Quinn. In 2015, he hired the additional attorneys, selecting his team based on their fit with his core values: treat people well, provide sound counsel, and enjoy the process. "Lawyers can be uptight," says Quinn. "At my firm, we do things the right way, and we have fun."

Getting to where he is now wasn't always fun, even before those financial woes. Quinn recalls bringing homework on the road during football season, and spending the night before games studying academic subjects, not position notes. Carr, who conducted bed checks in every room the night before a game, says having to tell a player to put away his textbooks was a bit of an anomaly. "I knew Terrence had big goals and that he'd have to work hard to achieve them. But I also knew he was a tenacious competitor on the football field and in the classroom." Quinn says that even during challenging times as a student-athlete, he never considered giving up—a fortitude that carried him through the difficult beginning of solo practice. "I've always had to work for everything I've gotten. But God has a plan, and I know I'm doing the work that I'm supposed to do."





## On the Front Lines of Europe's Human Rights Concerns

ADRIAN HANCU

*By Amy Spooner*

Sometimes Bojana Urumova, '96, works on high-profile issues with regional or global implications. Sometimes the work simply concerns individuals. But in her line of work, nothing is really simple.

Urumova is deputy to the director in the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights, a part of the Council of Europe (COE) responsible for fostering the effective observance of the European Convention on Human Rights. Formally known as the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, it protects citizens' rights to not have their lives taken by a member state, while guaranteeing the right to a fair trial and freedom of expression, outlawing slavery, and other provisions.

The commissioner's mandate is broad. So Urumova's work has taken her to the Kremlin for discussions with Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev about Chechnya, to Finland to discuss the human rights of the indigenous Sámi people, and to many other points across the continent.

"We always are conscious that we're dealing with political actors, and sometimes it takes a lot of persuasion to convince those actors to take specific steps to respect human rights standards," Urumova says. "We're not always successful."

Urumova's office is not a judicial body; rather, it relies on awareness-building and persuasion through face-to-face meetings and the media.

Commissioner Nils Muižnieks has spoken out repeatedly—including in several *New York Times* op-eds—about human rights concerns in Europe, including the deterioration of freedoms in Hungary and the migration crisis.

Urumova specializes in the Balkans, Eastern Europe, and Russia and the former Soviet Republics, but as deputy to the director, she is involved with the whole office. Right now, that means a focus on migration-related issues that affect each of the COE's 47 member states. "We have intervened several times to call attention to problematic legislation that different countries have pursued in the name of security, such as closing borders, turning away asylum seekers, and extending the amount of time that migrant children can be deprived of their liberty," she says. "If you also take into account Brexit and the coup attempt in Turkey, 2016 was a very eventful year."

It seems that 2017 will be equally challenging for Urumova and her team. The general election in the Netherlands, presidential election in France, and federal election in Germany have questioned the stability of the European Union, while surges of right-wing nationalism, lingering fiscal uncertainty in Greece, and the ongoing struggle to manage the influx of migrants mean "greater uncertainty about the continent's future course and our human rights protection system," Urumova says.



Urumova has fought these challenges from different angles since graduating from Michigan Law. As the daughter of professors, she was born in Moscow but spent a large chunk of her childhood in what was then Yugoslavia. She lived in Ann Arbor for part of her junior high and high school years, in addition to earning a bachelor's degree and a JD from U-M. When, as a 3L, she saw that the COE was seeking a Macedonian national with a degree from a U.S. law school, she figured it was a sign that her interest in a public service career was going global. "Macedonia was becoming a member of the Council of Europe at about the same time that I took Professor [Brian] Simpson's seminar on the European Convention on Human Rights. It was a confluence of circumstances that I couldn't ignore."

She studied for exams on the flights to and from her interview in Strasbourg, where she still is based. Noting that the COE circa mid-1990s was very different from today, Urumova says a panel of Western European males interviewed her in every Western European language she could speak. "I told them I also spoke Macedonian and Serbo-Croatian, but none of them did."

During that first visit, Urumova also saw the global power of her U-M network. Hans Christian "Chris" Krueger, '59, then secretary to the European Commission for Human Rights (and later deputy secretary general of the Council of Europe) gave her encouragement. "He was very gracious and supportive, and wore his maize-and-blue tie when he received me."

Urumova's first assignment with the COE was with the Secretariat of the Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT). Under the European Convention on the Prevention of Torture, the CPT has authority to visit any place of detention—including prisons, detention facilities for foreigners, and psychiatric hospitals—in any member state for fact-finding purposes. During her tenure, Urumova went on numerous visits throughout Europe, from Turkey to the United Kingdom, visiting places of deprivation of liberty and then writing reports and recommendations about what she observed.

The goal of the visits was not to assess the legality of the deprivation of liberty, but rather the humaneness of the treatment, not only in the current facility but in previous ones. "We also were examining whether officials responsible for abuses were being held to account," she says.

"Not surprisingly, most ill treatment happened in police custody while officials tried to obtain a confession," Urumova adds. "The key is to interview people individually—away from guards and other prisoners. During a trip to Ukraine last year with the

commissioner for human rights, we interviewed former detainees who had been held captive by either the Ukrainians or the separatists. Their descriptions of ill treatment were remarkably similar, down to details of the methods, facilities, and captors. That's how you become more certain you're getting solid information."

While she has experienced delays and even obstructive behavior on the part of local officials who weren't aware of the CPT's mandate, Urumova says she has never been denied access as part of a CPT delegation. She also has witnessed police try to brush off sticks and other quasi-weapons as stolen property or unlabeled evidence. "On subsequent visits, they're more careful about storing them. Or preferably, they stop using them against the people in their custody."

After her service with the CPT, Urumova spent three years in Armenia as the special representative of the secretary general of the Council of Europe. As the Council's chief representative in-country just four years after Armenia joined the COE, Urumova worked with Armenian officials on post-accession commitments, including reforms to the constitution and the electoral code, and helped develop cultural programs. She also was a key source of information about the situation on the ground for the COE and other international entities following Armenia's presidential election in 2008, when a state of emergency was imposed after police clashed with protesters in downtown Yerevan. "I was at a critical place during a turbulent time, and it was a valuable learning experience," she says.

When the previous commissioner for human rights, Thomas Hammarberg, visited Armenia during Urumova's tenure, her leadership caused him to offer her a position on his staff, where she remains with Commissioner Muižnieks. Shortly after she began her new assignment, war broke out in Georgia, later followed by violent events in Ukraine and Russia's annexation of the Crimea region. "So much for enjoying some peace and quiet after leaving Armenia," she says.

While the world can often seem anything but peaceful and quiet, Urumova draws inspiration from the dynamic multinational team in the commissioner's office and from the times that she knows they helped to make a difference. Following the conflict in Georgia, she was part of tense negotiations with South Ossetian leaders to return the bodies of Georgian soldiers. Later, she saw a news story about fallen soldiers returned to their families and given a state burial. "Even though it wasn't publicly acknowledged, I knew it was thanks to the commissioner's efforts."

CAN

DETROIT

SCHOOLS BE

SAVED

Q.





**While some charter and traditional public schools thrive, many more struggle. The city is making a widely documented comeback, but can the city's schools rebound as well?**

**BY KATIE VLOET • PHOTOS BY LEISA THOMPSON PHOTOGRAPHY AND STEPHEN VOSS**



## Think of everything you've heard about Detroit Public Schools in recent years:

gym floors buckling, walls covered in toxic black mold, archaic math books scattered around the classroom floor of an abandoned school. A state bailout and restructuring plan. Teacher shortages, fraud charges against suppliers, and what *The New York Times* described as a "chaotic mix of charters and traditional public schools," in which students in many charters as well as traditional public schools lag behind in testing and other metrics.



**Now set those ideas to the side for a moment,** and meet Stephen Chennault III, known as Trey. He is a freshman in high school, and very bright. He is really interested in engineering and thinks about attending U-M, UCLA, and other top universities. He attended private schools until last year. Then, he and his mother, Kimberly James, '96, searched for the high school that would fit his skills and ambitions.

They chose a public school in Detroit: Cass Technical High School. "I think there might be a perception of a *Dangerous Minds* kind of environment," James says, referring to a 1995 movie about a tough inner-city school. "But I've been quite pleasantly surprised with the level of interaction we have with the teachers. They're very responsive, and they're very invested in their students doing well.

"I'm also glad that Trey can have a more traditional high school experience than he could have at a smaller private school. This was the best choice for him, academically and socially," she says. At Cass Tech, Chennault is on a curricular pathway for engineering; this year, he has been learning drafting and planning, and he will advance to computer-assisted design (CAD) software courses, among others.

How could it be that a public school in Detroit was the best choice for Trey? The answer lies in the complexities of a school district that is tattered but not completely broken, where some bright spots shine against a tableau of uncertainty—a school district that is a microcosm of challenges faced by public schools across the nation.





OUT OF RETIREMENT,

INTO THE

FIRE

**T**he Hon. Steven Rhodes, '73, had retired from the judiciary after a career that included overseeing the case that led the City of Detroit out of bankruptcy. He could have taken a vacation, or several, and enjoyed the tranquility of retired life. Instead, he accepted the offer when Gov. Rick Snyder, '82, asked him to be the short-term transition manager for Detroit Public Schools (now known as the Detroit Public Schools Community District, or DPSCD).

His task would be to balance the books and begin improving schools that serve 48,000 students—down from more than 160,000 students in 2000, due to demographics, the movement of some 34,000 students to charters, and the State-run Education Achievement Authority’s takeover of former public schools. A turnaround would be no small feat for a district that had closed dozens of schools and had accumulated deficits of more than \$500 million in recent years, and where state-appointed emergency managers had struggled.

Rhodes came into the almost-yearlong role in early 2016 with a solid understanding of the challenges but also with optimism about the district’s future. “One of the goals I had was for the district to take control of its narrative,” Rhodes said during an interview with the *Law Quadrangle* on his last day as transition manager in December. “Lots of people speak about public education in Detroit in ways that aren’t always accurate. The narrative that I think is accurate is one of a fresh start, of restructuring, revitalization, and reorganization. And a narrative of being on a path to a successful future.”

That path is complicated by numerous factors. One is the mix of public schools and charter schools. Detroit has the second-highest percentage (after New Orleans) of students in charter schools of any city in the United States. State taxpayers fund charter schools throughout Michigan with nearly \$1 billion a year, much of which would go to public schools in a traditional model. To be sure, some charter schools have been successful and have created what many see as necessary competition for public schools. At many charter schools in Detroit, however, test scores and other measurements indicate little or no benefit over traditional public schools.

“While the idea was to foster academic competition, the unchecked growth of charters has created a glut of schools competing for some of the nation’s poorest students, enticing them to enroll with cash bonuses, laptops, raffle tickets for iPads, and bicycles,” a recent *New York Times* analysis stated. “Leaders of charter and traditional schools alike say they are being cannibalized, fighting so hard over students and the limited public dollars that follow them so that no one thrives.”

“ One of the goals I had was for the district to take control of its narrative. ”

Nationwide, much of the debate about the impact of charter schools on traditional public schools references Michigan as a case study. Researcher David Arsen, a professor in the Department of Educational Administration at Michigan State University, published a widely cited paper in 2016 titled “Which Districts Get Into Financial Trouble and Why: Michigan’s Story.” Through their research, Arsen and his collaborators found that state school finance and choice policies “significantly contribute” to the financial problems of Michigan’s most hard-pressed districts, particularly Detroit.

“Most of the explained variation in district fund balances is due to changes in districts’ state funding, enrollment changes including those associated with school choice policies, and special education students whose required services are inadequately reimbursed by the state,” the study reports. “Our results show that the state’s school choice policies powerfully exacerbate the financial pressures of declining-enrollment districts, particularly those with sustained high levels of charter school penetration.”

The study came out in the summer of 2016, right around the time that the battle over charter schools in the state entered a new chapter. That’s when the Legislature passed and the governor signed a measure that did not include an education commission under the control of Mayor Mike Duggan, ‘83. Many in the Detroit educational community had hoped such a commission would have been able to influence which new charter schools were allowed to open.

But the June signing did include a \$617 million bailout for which Rhodes had pushed. "This legislation gives Michigan's comeback city a fresh start in education," Snyder told *The Detroit News*. "Now the residents of Detroit need to engage with their schools and help find good leaders who can provide the best possible chance of success for families in the city."

Another challenge for the school district is the way Michigan allots per-pupil spending. Not every district receives the same per-pupil allowance. But each district does receive an allowance within a "statutorily defined range, theoretically ensuring a modicum of funding equality across the state." In a 2016 opinion piece for *mlive.com*, Eli Savit, '10, who is senior adviser and counsel to Duggan, wrote, "The facade of equality collapses, however, when one realizes that Michigan funds only part of local school districts' expenses. Crucially, Michigan provides zero funds for building new school facilities, or for improving or maintaining older schools. Whenever a district needs to replace or refurbish

an aging school building, it must raise the funds itself. And as a practical matter, Michigan provides school districts just one way to pay for physical infrastructure: through local property taxes."

Savit says the problem—as with any system based on local property taxes—is that wealthy districts are far better equipped than poorer ones to raise the necessary funds. In Bloomfield Hills, for example, the average home value is about \$400,000. In Detroit, it is closer to \$40,000. Detroit must levy a property tax 10 times higher than Bloomfield Hills to raise the same amount, per home, for a school maintenance or improvement project. "The results are predictable," Savit wrote. "Wealthy districts in Michigan are able to build and maintain modern buildings while imposing only a minimal tax burden. In poorer districts—where many residents struggle to make ends meet—the cost of raising funds for building and maintenance is prohibitively high. Thus, aging schools in property-poor districts often go unmaintained and unreplaced. And so students in those districts are forced to attend school in





dilapidated, hazardous buildings.” (A bond issue passed by Detroit voters funded the new Cass Tech High School, Trey Chennault’s future alma mater, which opened in 2005.)

In spite of those challenges, DPSCD has begun maintenance and repair work at many schools, in addition to other improvements. “So much more is needed,” Rhodes says. “But we’re off to a good start.”

Rhodes remains optimistic about the district in general. He offered positive reviews of newly elected school board members (who include Sonya Mays, '08). Several partnerships between schools and businesses or organizations hold promise, he says—such as one between the Detroit Medical Center and Benjamin Carson High School of Science and Math, where students have increased opportunities to learn nursing, chemistry, and other skills; and one that will begin in the fall, a partnership between the city, trade unions, and A. Philip Randolph Technical High School to teach skilled trades.

Rhodes also is proud that the interim academic superintendent, Alycia Meriweather, involved teachers to help draw up the district’s new academic plan, and he says one of the best parts of his experience as transition manager was getting to interact with teachers.

“It all begins with the dedication and commitment of the teachers,” Rhodes says. “The efforts they put in given the challenges they face are incredible. Sixty percent of our students come from family settings in poverty. That makes educating them very challenging.” So teachers feed students breakfast. They do laundry at the schools so students can go to school in clean clothing. They buy supplies and textbooks with their own money.

“One visible change during my tenure is the attitude and morale of the teachers,” Rhodes says. “For the first time in seven or eight years, we were able to give them a modest pay raise. It was not as much as I would have liked to have given them, or what they deserved, but it was something. I hope the district can continue to find ways to give them the resources they need.”





A CONSTITUTIONAL

RIGHT

TO LITERACY?

**T**he lawsuit *Gary B. v. Snyder* lays out the problem in direct language: “Decades of State disinvestment in and deliberate indifference to Detroit schools have denied Plaintiff schoolchildren access to the most basic building block of education: literacy.”

The lawsuit was filed against Gov. Rick Snyder, '82, and other state officials in September 2016 on behalf of several students who attend schools in DPSCD as well as two who attended charter schools in Detroit. Leading the charge for the legal team was Mark Rosenbaum, director of Public Counsel Opportunity Under Law and previously, for nearly two decades, a professor from practice at Michigan Law. "For the last 15 years, the State has run the Detroit schools into the ground," Rosenbaum said at a news conference where the lawsuit was announced. He said the State has an obligation to ensure that all Michigan public school students receive their fundamental right to literacy under the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

Evan H. Caminker, the Branch Rickey Collegiate Professor of Law and former dean of Michigan Law, is a member of the legal team Rosenbaum assembled. Caminker knew at the outset that schools in Detroit were in disrepair and that students faced countless challenges, but he didn't know the extent of the adversity until he delved further into the details of the lawsuit. The suit argues that the schools named "are schools in name only, characterized by slum-like conditions, and lacking the most basic educational opportunities that children elsewhere in Michigan—and throughout the nation—take for granted. Plaintiffs sit in classrooms where not even the pretense of education takes place, in schools that are functionally incapable of delivering access to literacy."

Caminker, a constitutional lawyer, says, "What came as a surprise in a way that embarrasses me—I feel like I should have known this—is just how much the kids take [their decrepit school conditions] as a daily reminder that the only people who seem to care about them are the dedicated teachers. It's hard not to react to the hand that they're dealt and accept a

life of despondency. They're aware that they're not getting what everyone else is getting. Some manage to rise above it. Some act out. Some fall into a timeless funk. But all of them take away the message that the State doesn't seem to care about their education and well-being."

Attorneys for the State of Michigan filed a motion to dismiss the suit in November, in which they countered that no constitutional right to literacy exists. "The United States Supreme Court and Michigan courts recognize the importance of literacy. ... But as important as literacy may be, the United States Supreme Court has unambiguously rejected the claim that public education is a fundamental right under the Constitution. Literacy is a component or particular outcome of education, not a right granted to individuals by the Constitution." A ruling on the motion is expected this spring or summer.

Caminker points out that the *Brown v. Board of Education* ruling emphasizes the importance of public school education to our democratic society, and that more recent Supreme Court decisions have held open the question of whether a state's public school system must provide all and not just some students with access to minimum basic skills such as literacy. Constitutional lawyers who aren't involved in the case, including Laurence Tribe of Harvard, have observed that *Gary B. v. Snyder* has the potential to be a landmark civil rights case, much like *Brown* was.

Caminker hopes that the lawsuit will lead to meaningful changes in the way that public education is provided, especially in major urban areas. "Detroit and school districts like it are so far below meeting the requirements for access to literacy," he says. "We're not asking for everybody to have a Cadillac. We're asking for everyone to have access to more than a Flintstones' car."





DEFENDING TRADITIONAL

PUBLIC

EDUCATION

**S**onya Mays's mother taught in Detroit Public Schools (DPS) for 30 years. Mays, '08, attended schools in the district and later began her career as a substitute teacher in DPS. In 2013, she left a Wall Street job to return to her hometown, where she worked on the city's successful efforts to emerge from bankruptcy.

While she was proud of the comeback in the central business district of Detroit, she grew frustrated with the lack of progress in the neighborhoods. So she led the creation of a nonprofit real estate company, Develop Detroit, which focuses on building opportunities around the city.

She also ran for a seat on the school board in the 2016 election, winning her seat in November. "I'm a diehard believer in traditional public education," Mays says. "I tend to see it as one of the most progressive things the country has ever done. It represents the best of collective humanity, and it's worth protecting."

Kimberly James, '96, whose son, Trey, attends Cass Tech, also believes in the need for strong public schools. "I believe public education should be a fundamental right," she says. "I'm hoping with the new school board there will be more accountability and oversight. It's not going to happen overnight, but there is a lot of room for improvement."

Mays adds that the influx of younger professionals into the city could benefit the school system, if they decide to send their kids to public schools. "They have to realize good schools cost money," she notes.

In her first months as a member of the school board, Mays has visited several schools and met with many teachers and parents. She hopes board members can help to address the deferred maintenance, as well as find ways for teachers to have adequate resources. In March, Mays and fellow school board members filed a lawsuit on behalf of DPSCD against the State of Michigan over the State's efforts to close 25 schools that have ranked in the bottom five percent academically for three straight years. The suit argues that the new district, which was just created in June 2016, should have a chance to reform the underperformers. "This lawsuit, at its core, is about clarity," Mays says. "Does DPSCD have a fresh operational start or not?"

She also has learned more about the bright spots in the district that "don't get heralded as much as they should," Mays says. Among those are the top schools that historically have done a good job of educating students, such as Bates Academy, Renaissance High (the alma mater of Mays and Interim Superintendent Alycia Meriweather), Chrysler Elementary, and Cass Tech—which earned an "A" from the Mackinac Center for Public Policy in its 2016 Michigan High School Context and Performance Report Card.

Additionally, Mays points out that students in the district have one strong advantage, even while they face more challenges than students elsewhere: They are part of the Detroit Promise Zone, created by Mayor Duggan and City Council in 2015 to dedicate a portion of tax dollars to permanently fund two-year scholarships. In November 2016, the program was expanded to include scholarships at four-year colleges for students who meet GPA and admissions-test criteria.

In general, Mays says, "I see a clear path to not just stabilizing the school system but also reforming it in a smart way. I wouldn't be doing this if I didn't think that this system could and should survive."



# A GIRL, HER WONDER DOG, and a Supreme Court Ruling

BY LORI ATHERTON

**L**AST HALLOWEEN WAS MOMENTOUS for Brent and Stacy Fry and their 12-year-old daughter, Ehlena. While Ehlena's peers were getting ready for trick-or-treating, the young girl and her retired service dog, Wonder, were at the U.S. Supreme Court to hear arguments in their disability-rights case *Fry v. Napoleon Community Schools*. At issue was whether the Frys could sue Ehlena's former public school district for denying her the right to use a service dog in class. Nearly four months later, on February 22, the Frys celebrated another momentous occasion: The Supreme Court unanimously ruled in their favor.

"I saw with my own eyes how Wonder helped my daughter grow more self-reliant and confident," Stacy Fry said in a statement after the ruling was announced. "We are thankful the Supreme Court has clarified that schools cannot treat children with disabilities differently or stand in the way of their desired independence."

The Fry family's legal team included Samuel Bagenstos, the Frank G. Millard Professor of Law at Michigan, who argued the case before the Court. "Our victory should ease the way for kids around the country, with many different disabilities, to assert their rights in court," says Bagenstos. "It's been a real honor to represent such a terrific family who are standing up for their rights."

The Frys' journey to the Supreme Court began in fall 2009 when Ehlena was five years old and about to enter kindergarten. Ehlena, who has a severe form of cerebral palsy that limits her mobility, was prescribed a trained service dog by her pediatrician to help her gain more independence. Wonder, a fluffy white Goldendoodle, helped Ehlena open doors, turn on lights, pick

up dropped items, remove her coat, and steady her as she used a walker. "Wonder helped Ehlena gain the skills needed to become more independent and function at a higher level than what would have been possible if she had to rely on a human aide," says Stacy.

Ehlena was looking forward to attending kindergarten with Wonder by her side, Stacy says. But soon after she started at Ezra Eby Elementary School in Napoleon, Michigan, near Jackson, the Frys were told that Wonder wasn't welcome. In April 2010, after the ACLU of Michigan intervened on the Frys' behalf, Wonder was allowed to attend school with Ehlena on a trial basis, but wasn't acknowledged as a service dog. Wonder was required to stay in the back of the classroom and couldn't accompany Ehlena during recess, lunch, and other activities. If Ehlena needed assistance with certain tasks, the Frys were told a human aide could perform them in Wonder's place. When the school year ended, the Frys learned that Wonder wouldn't be allowed back in the fall.

"It was a huge letdown and disappointment for Ehlena, who had this dog that was supposed to help her but was not accepted at school with her," says Stacy.

That same year, 2010, the Frys filed a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights (OCR). Not wanting to separate Ehlena and Wonder any further, they homeschooled their daughter while awaiting a decision from the OCR, which came in May 2012. The finding? Ehlena's rights had been violated under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Napoleon Community Schools agreed to let Wonder return to school with Ehlena for second grade, but still refused



to let him fulfill his role as a service dog. “Their response let us know that there was animosity, and that this wasn’t going to be a warm welcome or a positive learning environment for Ehlena,” Stacy says.

Instead, the Frys found the right environment for Ehlena in the nearby Manchester, Michigan, school district. When Ehlena began second grade there, school officials welcomed Wonder with open arms, and even gave him his own ID badge and included him in the school yearbook. “He had a bigger package of pictures than Ehlena did,” Stacy laughs. “Manchester really thought about Ehlena and her needs, and not about whether something bad would happen with Wonder in the classroom.”

As Ehlena settled in at her new school, the Frys—represented by the ACLU of Michigan—filed a lawsuit against their former school district. Lower courts and the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals dismissed the case, ruling that the family had to exhaust all administrative remedies under the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA)—which entitles students with disabilities to a free appropriate public education tailored to their individual needs—before seeking damages under the ADA. The Frys maintained that Ehlena’s education wasn’t the issue; rather, it was the school’s unwillingness to accommodate her use of a service dog in class to help her gain independence. Now, the Supreme Court’s 8-0 ruling in *Fry v. Napoleon Community Schools* has opened the door for the Fry family to “sue for violations of the ADA unrelated to the adequacy of Ehlena’s education without first exhausting administrative proceedings.” The case will go back to the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals for review.

“This victory will, once and for all, remove unfair legal hurdles for victims of discrimination across the country that prevent students from seeking justice guaranteed by the Americans with Disabilities Act,” says Michael Steinberg, legal director of the ACLU of Michigan and a lecturer and public interest/public service fellow at Michigan Law. Dykema Gossett PLLC served as cooperating counsel, including Jill Wheaton, ’90, and James Hermon, AB ’92.

Ehlena now is in sixth grade, and Wonder has retired as a service dog. He gave Ehlena the desired independence and self-reliance she sought, notes Stacy. Despite the lengthy legal process, the Frys say they are grateful their case has brought visibility to disability rights, and hope it will serve as an example for other cases involving the use of service dogs.

“We’ve raised awareness that having a service dog in school can work—and worked well,” says Stacy. “Hopefully, schools will think twice about being fearful, and be more accepting and willing to teach students the right way to include somebody.

“No one deserves to have done to them what was done to Ehlena,” she adds. “They deserve to have their service dogs with them and to not be denied their independence because of the tool they choose to use. Ehlena wanted to gain her independence through a service dog, and she shouldn’t have been denied that opportunity. It’s her right and the right of other kids like her to gain that independence and feel accepted at school—one of the most important places for a child Ehlena’s age. Michael [Steinberg] always said that to make a child choose between their education and their independence is cruel and illegal.”

BY JORDAN POLL

# *Small Moments,* **BIG CHANGES**

*An externship in South Africa teaches a 2L an important lesson about life as a lawyer*



It was during a phone call—a hushed conversation in a tiny library in South Africa—when Katie Joh realized she already had begun her career as an agent of change. As an extern during her 2L year, Joh spoke with the principal of a junior secondary school in the small town of Libode about school furniture. “He was so excited to receive a new shipment of chairs and materials to build more classrooms,” says Joh, recalling the principal’s contagious delight. That moment not only changed her perspective on what it means to be a practicing lawyer, but also reaffirmed her passion for it.

*(Top to bottom): During her externship semester, Joh (left) helped a local school principal successfully install an app that can coordinate information-gathering around enforcement of a consent decree. Students at St. Patrick’s Junior Secondary School in Libode. Addo Elephant National Park, near Joh’s externship site.*





With a minor in education and a regard for child welfare, Joh's background prepared her well for the three-month externship in South Africa, and for law school. "I really liked that Michigan has this vibrant public interest community with a commitment to experiential learning," says Joh, now a 3L. She came to Michigan determined to pack the next three years with a broad range of experiences, and went on to join the Pediatric Advocacy Clinic and the Student Rights Project. She also set her sights abroad.

"I wanted to get outside of my context for a little bit, and yet still be in the legal world, to have more perspective on what does and doesn't make sense about the American legal system," Joh says. Wanting to continue her study of education and child welfare law, she reached out to the Grahamstown branch of the Legal Resources Centre (LRC), an organization in South Africa that was started more than 30 years ago to represent people who were being tried for violations of apartheid law. Since that time—and especially during the past 10 years—the organization has focused on education litigation, specifically issues involving education access for the rural schools of the Eastern Cape (one of the poorest provinces in South Africa).

During apartheid, rural schools were denied infrastructure, textbooks, teachers, food, and more. It was not uncommon for the classroom experience to involve sitting under a tree with dozens of other children in the hot sun, taught by a single teacher without any textbooks, desks, chalkboards, or even lunch. With the ratification of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa in 1996, every citizen gained the right to a basic education. This brought to light the question of what it means for the State to provide citizens with meaningful access to education.

Shortly before Joh's arrival, the LRC won a precedent-setting ruling that declared the State responsible for providing adequate classrooms and furniture to the schools in and around the city of Mthatha. In subsequent litigation, the LRC received permission to monitor and implement this judgment, which it did by visiting each school and encouraging it to report its number of students and pieces of furniture.

One of Joh's first experiences with the LRC involved traveling to the rural schools near Mthatha. Most of these schools have been involved in education-related litigation for the past decade. "They are somewhat inured at this point," Joh says. "That being said, they recognize that litigation is a big

part of progressing education reform." During her visits, she assisted her managing attorney by having conversations with school administrators about their rights following the recent judgment.

She also listened to the schools' many concerns—the biggest being overcrowding. Since the schools' interest in pursuing this direction of litigation coincided with her arrival in South Africa, Joh jumped at the opportunity to help. She began building upon the legal groundwork laid by the LRC by drafting an initial demand letter to the provincial Department of Education.

"The practice of the law—the actual mechanisms, interpersonal skills, writing skills, and logical skills that you need—is the same even if the exact law is very different. I developed a much better sense of that and a better intuition through my experience in South Africa," Joh says. She continued traveling to the rural schools around Mthatha with her colleagues, once visiting nine in one day. They identified the locations that had infrastructure problems and encouraged them to join the LRC's complaint. Joh collected information from students, teachers, and administrators and wrote affidavits that were filed with the complaint.

Of the many schools Joh visited, one stands out. St. Patrick's Junior Secondary School in Libode, outside of Mthatha, has become well-known for its discipline and for producing students who perform well on tests. Parents throughout the surrounding area send their children to be educated there. The school couldn't keep up with the ever-increasing number of students they received, resulting in overcrowding. "I remember walking in and they [the learners, as students are referred to in South Africa] were sitting with their backpacks on their laps because there was no space," Joh says. "Even if they had desks, they wouldn't be able to fit them in." She quickly became involved and worked closely with the school and its principal to fight for the infrastructure they needed. When the effort led to additional classrooms and furniture coming to the school, Joh and the principal had their celebratory phone call.

"It was a moment for me: That I, this law student, and the words I typed into my computer—in a little house and even smaller library—could actually lead to a kid somewhere having a classroom to learn in," says Joh, who plans to join Legal Services of Northern California. "I was able to make a change in this one way, and I hope it will be the first of many such moments in my career."





# Raising the Curtain on a News Blackout

**A Michigan Law alumnus, a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist,  
and the case that forever changed them both**

**By David Cay Johnston**



**Harvey J. Shulman, '72, read a letter one morning pleading for a litigator to fight against renewal of a Michigan television station's license, saying its owner used news blackouts and manipulations for his personal and political gain.**

**Shulman sat in his ramshackle office in Washington, D.C., transfixed by the accusations from the Lansing branch of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). They were accompanied by my exposé of WJIM-TV and owner Harold (Hal) F. Gross, which splashed a few days earlier across the top of the Sunday front page of the *Detroit Free Press*.**

"I just couldn't believe a broadcaster could get away with this for so many years," Shulman recalled recently at his winter home, a Phoenix condo that he shares with Eric Mugele, a corporate training and development executive who has been his partner since 1987.

The smart move back in 1973 would have been to send the ACLU letter back. Shulman was no litigator. He had never even appeared in court as a lawyer, had never deposed a witness. Shulman, who skipped fourth and eighth grades, was just 24. He had earned his Michigan Law degree only 16 months earlier.

Besides, there was no money to mount a challenge. The Media Access Project, a lightly funded public interest law firm in Washington, paid Shulman just enough to scrape by. The ACLU branch members were working folk. On the other side, WJIM-TV was immensely profitable. In 1954, a Federal Communications Commission (FCC) report showed that the station counted as pretax profit an eye-popping 90 cents out of each dollar of revenue. Even in 1973, Gross Telecasting's profit margins were well above broadcast industry averages.

Despite these and other formidable obstacles, Shulman packed interns and duffle bags into his yellow Dodge Dart and left the nation's capital for Michigan's.

*In 1973, as the first investigative reporter in the Lansing bureau of the Detroit Free Press, David Cay Johnston broke the story concerning news manipulation at WJIM-TV. He went on to write for the Los Angeles Times, The Philadelphia Inquirer, and The New York Times. Johnston received the 2001 Pulitzer Prize for Beat Reporting for exposing loopholes and inequalities in the U.S. tax code. He is a frequent commentator in print and broadcast media and is the author of New York Times bestsellers Perfectly Legal, Free Lunch, and The Making of Donald Trump, now in 10 languages. For eight years he taught property, tax, and the regulatory law of the ancient world at Syracuse University College of Law.*

**“I knew I would do just fine if I was thoroughly prepared, and being too young to drink, I spent Friday and Saturday nights in the Law Library studying.”**

For months, they camped out in a downtown hole in the wall, relying on the kindness of ACLU members for casseroles, sandwiches, and the occasional hot meal in someone’s home. They interviewed people Gross had attacked or blacked out, including the owner of the Lansing Tennis Club, which owed \$1,500 for advertising, and Lansing Mayor Jerry Graves. Gross had ordered that Graves only appear in the news when it made the mayor look bad.

To back my story, I relied on dozens of interviews with former station employees, as well as a clutch of memos ordering news blackouts and manipulations. In response, the local paper ran a front-page story that I was under police investigation for supposedly burglarizing Country House, the WJIM studios with richly paneled executive offices and a swimming pool out back. Employees gave me the memos, which had been posted over the years on the newsroom wall.

In taking on Gross’s media empire, Shulman faced off against veteran litigators and defeated their efforts at summary dismissal. Over the next decade, testimony was taken from 129 witnesses during 164 days of hearings, producing 24,355 pages of transcript and 917 exhibits.

The beginner won. It was a stunning victory that no one expected, least of all Hal Gross and Harvey Shulman.

The case was “unique, massive, and complex,” administrative law judge Byron E. Harrison wrote in a 249-page opinion in 1981, finding overwhelming evidence of “clear intent” to engage in “outright fraud.” He held that Gross was “beyond rehabilitation.” The FCC later softened the decision, awarding a two-year “short license” instead of the normal three, a signal to Gross to sell.



(Left): In a Lansing hotel room that jointly served as living space and office space for Shulman's legal team.

## Lawyers in Motion Stay in Motion

Shulman credits his success, in part, to Michigan Law's willingness to take a gamble on him. At age 16, he graduated from Brooklyn Tech High School, where 6,000 students attended. He was just 19 when Michigan Law accepted him, a risky move not just because of his age but because his bachelor's degree from the University of Maryland was in physics, an uncommon preparation for a legal career.

In high school, Shulman struggled with physics because it made no sense to him. But after he mastered the subject, he came in first among a thousand students taking a physics exam.

A key turn in his law school experience came when he took Professor Arthur R. Miller for Civil Procedure.

"Some people came out of that first class terrified" by Miller's famously demanding questions, which seemed to flow to those least prepared to answer, Shulman recalls. "I knew I would do just fine if I was thoroughly prepared, and being too young to drink, I spent Friday and Saturday nights in the Law Library studying."

Shulman wanted to be an environmental lawyer. He spent a semester of law school in Washington, D.C., where he expected to work on pollution issues. Instead, he was assigned to handle FCC issues at the Center for Law & Social Policy because he was the only law student who knew physics—a possibly valuable asset in radio and television broadcast cases.

While Shulman mastered the art of preparing for class, he says he had no clue about how grades and connections got one onto the *Michigan Law Review*, which could open doors to the best-paying jobs. But looking back, Shulman says he's glad he sought jobs he wanted, not the biggest paycheck.

"Take a job based on what is emotionally and intellectually satisfying, not what pays the most, and you will have a much happier life," he says. "You don't have to live in one place; you don't have to do one thing if you practice law.

"Never feel intimidated, and remember that lots of hard work makes up for inexperience," he adds. "And when you know enough that you can take responsibility for the growth of younger people, empower them to grow and to be both fearless and passionate."

Shulman took his own advice while still a young lawyer himself.

Howard Weiss, a law student at The George Washington University when he joined Shulman's litigation team, recalls working for him as a great learning adventure, although it distressed his girlfriend at the time. Weiss did legal research on how to frame the WJIM license challenge and push back against efforts to limit discovery.

"Harvey's a good man and brilliant lawyer," Weiss says. "He was hard to please because he has a steel-trap brain and he never forgets anything. My girlfriend said I was out of my mind because I was

working so hard and making maybe \$3.50 an hour when a law firm would pay me \$8. I told her I thought we were doing the Lord's work."

Jim Backstrum, a student at the University of Pennsylvania Law School who later became a Justice Department senior lawyer, says, "I would have been happy just to carry Harvey's bags for him." When he arrived in Lansing, he expected their little band of lawyers to be sent packing quickly.

"We were taking on Leo Farhat, a locally famous lawyer, and Arent Fox, a big D.C. firm with former FCC people, and I knew right off Harvey had no litigation experience," Backstrum recalls. "I figured we would get hometowned. But the



*Harvey Shulman, '72, poses on his 1972 Dodge Dart Swinger, taken during the FCC proceedings in Lansing about 1975.*

raw intelligence of this brainiac and his determination kept it all afloat. His energy level was mind-boggling. His commitment to the ideals we were fighting for was fantastic.”

The one thing the team did not like was Shulman taking the wheel of his yellow Dodge Dart as they drove all over the Midwest, cajoling former employees who had gone on to other stations into giving affidavits. Finding Shulman’s driving not so smart, they made sure Karen Tomb—the team’s hardworking paralegal whose own path to law school was inspired by the case—was more often behind the wheel.

## A Not-Bigger, Not-Older Rookie

Backstrum’s detailed analysis of advertising records showed years of fraudulent billing. Gross would run local commercials, but also bill CBS for network commercials that never aired. The station even had a fake CBS eye logo. To save money, Gross had the 11 p.m. weather forecast taped hours earlier with no updates when unexpected ice storms and other changes threatened lives.

Farhat, a former Golden Gloves boxer whom I found to be alternatively pugnacious and gracious as I covered the story, quickly learned to respect Shulman.

“When we arrived in Lansing, we had no idea who Farhat was,” Shulman says. “He was gruff and tough, the opposite of a K Street or Wall Street lawyer in appearance and demeanor. Leo could be a nice guy, and at times he could scream at you—the theatrics of the job. And me, I was maybe 18 months out of law school when I examined my first witness. I’d never tried a case or deposed a witness, but nothing phased me. What I did was watch every move Leo made. I learned a lot about how to handle witnesses.”

Shulman realized how much he had impressed Farhat only when it came time to meet Hal Gross for a deposition. Gross, a former haberdasher, stood six-foot-four in his tailored suits. Depending on your point of view, he was either courtly or imperious. Gross looked down at Shulman, a skinny guy with a mop of wiry hair who barely came up to his neck, and put his hand out to shake.

“Oh, I pictured you to be somebody totally different—bigger, much older,” Gross said, subtly revealing that Farhat had prepared him to expect a tough line of questioning by someone who knew what he was doing.

Shulman also drew on advice he got while clerking for the Hon. Frank Coffin, then chief judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit.

Judge Coffin told Shulman, “we get lots of appeals, but what we get is just a record. In your briefs, you’ve really got to get to the judge. You have to make your case real—about people or something that makes a judge want to care.”

At every turn, Shulman tried to make the WJIM case about the people who had been ordered to act illegally or unethically—about how they did what they were told just to keep their jobs—and also about the victims of the news distortion and blackout orders.

**“I’d never tried a case or deposed a witness, but nothing phased me. What I did was watch every move Leo made. I learned a lot about how to handle witnesses.”**

**The WJIM case settled in 1984, more than a decade after Shulman read the letter from the ACLU and the first in my series of *Free Press* exposés.**

“What I learned from working with Judge Coffin is that you use all the legal tools you have, not just the ones you want, if you are going to win,” Shulman recalls. “One thing we had going for us was that the FCC had previously admonished Gross for a lengthy editorial attacking a state government official.”

Indeed, the editorial had taken up about half the nightly newscast, berating a little-known state aviation official who would not give Gross the lease terms he wanted for an airport restaurant.

“The legal principle is that station owners are trustees using the public airwaves for the public interest, convenience, and necessity, not to punish enemies, promote friends, and pursue their personal financial interests,” Shulman says.

### **“Ain’t American Justice Great.”**

WJIM turned out to be just the first of several Shulman cases I reported on over the years in the *Los Angeles Times* and *The New York Times*. Shulman has testified before Congress more than a dozen times.

In one case, Shulman fought against a tax rule sponsored by Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan [D-NY] as a favor to IBM. It was supposed to raise \$12 million annually through higher taxes paid by freelance software programmers who supposedly fudged on their income tax returns. A subsequent study showed it had no such effect. Shulman represented jobs brokers for these freelancers who found the rule onerous. When he took the government to court, warning of the anger it generated, the Justice Department took action that seemed to clearly violate the law.

In 1995, I arranged a photograph in *The New York Times* showing Shulman and another lawyer in a Washington law office posed at a conference table with 32 complete tax returns arrayed before them. The Justice Department had turned those tax returns over to Shulman even though Section 6103 of the Internal Revenue Code makes all taxpayer information confidential.

Fifteen years later, a Texas software writer blamed his frustration over that law for his decision to fly his private plane into an Austin office building, killing Vernon Hunter, a veteran IRS worker. That law remains on the books.

Shulman was a partner at two law firms, first the now-defunct Ginsburg, Feldman and Bress and later Greenberg Traurig LLP. He helped create an association of software job brokers and served as their general counsel. He also served as general counsel of a high-tech firm founded by one of his two younger brothers. And he taught for a year at the University of Oregon Law School. Today, Shulman continues representing entrepreneurs and takes on pro bono work for grassroots organizations. He also serves on the planning commission in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware. His business card and email signature say “expert advice.”

Shulman’s eye for spotting issues pre-dates his legal career, however. It traces back to when he was on the University of Maryland’s Student Government Cabinet Association in 1968. The cheerleading squad asked for its annual allotment of funds.



Shulman, noting that the university had just fielded its first black basketball player, asked why there were no black cheerleaders.

“I asked what I thought was an obvious question,” Shulman says. “I was told, by a young woman, that blacks move differently than whites.”

Shulman was gobsmacked by that response. Then came the second explanation: Black students did not belong to sororities and fraternities, so they could not travel with the teams because they often stayed at Greek houses in the still-segregated South.

The absurdity of those answers stayed with Shulman and helped frame his thinking in the WJIM case and many others where nonsense often justifies existing policy.

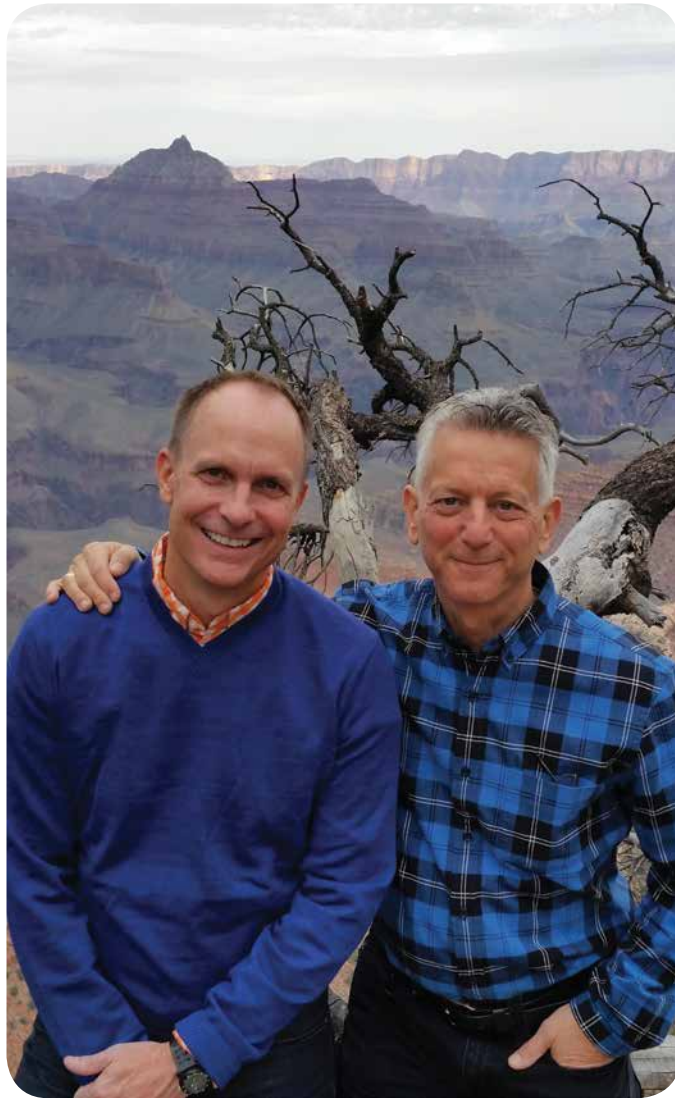
The WJIM case settled in 1984, more than a decade after Shulman read the letter from the ACLU and the first in my series of *Free Press* exposés. Gross sold WJIM-TV and five other stations in Lansing and Eau Claire, Wisconsin, for \$48 million (roughly \$111 million in today’s money), a steep discount from the stations’ value had the FCC license been fully renewed.

Mayor Graves, before he died, told me he was glad Gross was out, but he was not entirely happy with the result—much as he praised Shulman’s young team for winning a case he thought would go nowhere.

“So Hal Gross committed every single act the *Free Press* accused him of and more, and his punishment is he gets \$48 million,” Graves said, breaking into a laugh. “Ain’t American justice great.”

As part of the settlement, Gross Telecasting donated \$800,000 to the ACLU Lansing branch, a fund that has grown to nearly \$2 million to finance defense of constitutional rights in the state capital area.

It was the only time in American history that a broadcast chain was forced off the air over news manipulations and blackouts. For decades, I’ve dined out on the story I broke, but what made the real difference in forcing Gross Telecasting out of business was not my work, but that of a wiry and determined novice lawyer named Harvey Shulman—whose career shows what a solid education and fierce determination can achieve.



Shulman (right) with his partner, Eric Mugele, in 2016.

## New Interdisciplinary Curriculum Focuses on Problem Solving



LEISA THOMPSON PHOTOGRAPHY

Professors Daniel Crane, Alicia Davis, and Bridgette Carr, '02.

On a rainy day in late March, students from five top-ranked U-M schools and colleges, including the Law School, assembled in a makeshift conference room in a small utilitarian building on North Campus to ask questions about data collected by autonomous vehicle networks. They confidently used shorthand references like “V2V,” “V2X,” and “DRSC.” The students, accompanied by Daniel Crane, the Fredrick Paul Furth Sr. Professor of Law, were waiting to board a self-guided shuttle bus—the only one of its kind operating in the United States—for a trip through Mcity, the University’s 32-acre proving ground built for testing driverless cars.

The class, which is exploring development of commercial and regulatory uses for connected and autonomous vehicle data, is one of two pilot courses offered this semester through the Law

School’s new Problem Solving Initiative (PSI). These aren’t regular classroom courses, clinics, or practice simulations. PSI courses provide a platform for the development of creative solutions to difficult challenges in business and society by giving students a framework for analyzing and solving complex problems. Through a team-based, experiential, and interdisciplinary learning model, small groups of graduate and professional students work with top-notch faculty to explore and offer solutions to emerging, multifaceted problems. The small-group classes, comprising students from several U-M graduate and professional schools, give participants a unique opportunity to receive guidance from accomplished instructors and leading experts in business and policy. The format allows students to represent the unique perspective of their academic disciplines while collaborating with faculty and outside experts to propose solutions to challenging issues.

“Until now, the Law School’s experiential opportunities have focused primarily on addressing client matters, not large-scale problems,” says Alicia Davis, associate dean for strategic initiatives and professor of law. “Our graduates, whether they are in a small or large firm, a multinational corporation or a startup, a nonprofit, or any level of government, will be expected to work with multidisciplinary teams to solve tough challenges. These classes teach law students not only to spot issues for their clients, but also to offer a range of creative solutions, and give them experience doing that.”

The second PSI pilot class focuses on identifying and supporting human trafficking victims in the child welfare system, and includes students in law, public health, public policy, and social work. It is co-taught by Clinical Professors Bridgette Carr, '02, who also directs the Law School’s Human Trafficking Clinic, and Vivek Sankaran, '01, who directs the Child Advocacy Law Clinic and the Child Welfare Appellate Clinic.

“PSI epitomizes Michigan Law’s spirit of innovation and collaboration,” says Davis. “We are excited to see its impact on our students and society as it continues to grow.”



### ONLINE EXTRA

Four classes will be offered in Fall 2017. To learn more, visit [problemsolving.law.umich.edu](http://problemsolving.law.umich.edu).

## Clark Elected to ALI

Professor Sherman Clark was one of 45 new members elected to the American Law Institute (ALI) last October. Clark, the Kirkland & Ellis Professor of Law, teaches courses on torts, evidence, and sports law. His current research focuses on the ways in which legal rules and institutions may have an impact on character, and thus on the extent to which people thrive. A graduate of Towson State University and Harvard Law School, Clark practiced in the Washington, D.C., office of Kirkland & Ellis before joining Michigan Law in 1995. The ALI's more than 2,800 elected members include judges, lawyers, and law professors who produce scholarly work that "clarifies, modernizes, and improves the law."



## DEAN WEST REAPPOINTED FOR SECOND TERM

In February, the U-M Board of Regents reappointed Dean Mark West for a second five-year term, effective September 1, 2018, through August 31, 2023. In his first term, Dean West, who also is the Nippon Life Professor of Law, has focused on enhancing student life and the broader intellectual community at the Law School. He worked with students, alumni, and donors to establish a program that guarantees summer funding for all first-year students—the most comprehensive program of its kind among top U.S. law schools because it does not limit funding based on type of position. He also worked to ensure that every law student has the opportunity to participate in a legal clinic, and launched the Veterans Legal Clinic in 2015. In addition, Dean West engaged and collaborated with faculty and administrators to reform the Law School curriculum, with an emphasis on increasing students' flexibility and better preparing them for legal practice in an evolving profession.

"I am pleased that Mark West has agreed to continue serving the Law School as dean," says Paul Courant, U-M interim provost and executive vice president for academic affairs. "His expansive orientation toward research and scholarship and his support of professional practice and training has fostered innovative planning and programming that supports the work of faculty, students, and staff. He is an exceptionally effective dean who leads with respect, imagination, and inspiration."

## 2014 Grad to Clerk for Justice Kennedy

Matt Gregory, '14, received an unforgettable gift last Christmas when he was offered a coveted clerkship with U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice Anthony Kennedy for the 2017 term.

Justice Kennedy personally called Gregory the day after his in-person interview, which was held in late December, to share the good news. "Justice Kennedy is someone I have a lot of respect and admiration for, and this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to clerk for the Supreme Court," Gregory says.

Gregory is an associate at Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP in Washington, D.C., where he practices administrative law and appellate litigation. He previously clerked for the Hon. Raymond Kethledge, '93, of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. Gregory will be the 33<sup>rd</sup> Michigan Law graduate to clerk for current and former Supreme Court justices since 1991, and the third to clerk for Justice Kennedy. —LA





## DLAW: Class Explores Affirmative Litigation Opportunities for Detroit

By Katie Vloet

As senior adviser and counsel to the mayor of Detroit, Eli Savit, '10, (pictured above) knows that the legal challenges facing the city are vast. So vast, in fact, that there simply is no way for staffers to explore affirmative litigation opportunities. Such public interest lawsuits filed on behalf of the city could address topics like consumer protection, environmental justice, housing, and nuisance abatement.

So Savit—with the support of his boss, Mayor Mike Duggan, '83—decided to enlist some of the emerging legal experts at Michigan Law. The idea has evolved into the Detroit Litigation Advocacy Workshop, or DLAW, which was offered for the first time this semester. Each of the 12 students in the research-oriented class was responsible for exploring litigation options available to the city and producing a white paper about how to tackle those opportunities. Yale Law School and the City of San Francisco have a similar partnership, which has led to judgments that have brought money into the city's coffers, Savit notes.

"I thought it would be great to bring to bear the talents, ingenuity, and creativity of Michigan Law students to explore the legal hooks that the City of Detroit might have to go to court and achieve positive outcomes for its citizens. We are committed to using every possible lever to create a better life for the citizens of Detroit," says Savit, who co-taught the course as an adjunct professor with Professor Julian Davis Mortenson.

The hope of improving the lives of Detroiters drew 2L Adam Kleven to the class. "I think it's really important to be part of the city's comeback and to have a meaningful impact on the citizens of Detroit," says Kleven, a Michigan native who hopes to stay in southeastern Michigan after law school. Kleven researched possible litigation related to the city's blight problem. "The collaboration and creative thinking involved with trying to get

affirmative litigation off the ground was my favorite aspect of the class, and the work definitely improved my legal research skills," he says.

Mortenson jumped at the chance to get involved with teaching the course. "I've maintained an active litigation practice throughout most of my career at Michigan, and my research and doctrinal teaching have always been closely connected to that practical experience," Mortenson says. "It was hard to resist the chance to combine all three in one project, particularly in the context of government practice. Government work is a crucial form of public service and is closely connected to one of my favorite things about working at a state institution: the feeling of genuine public mission in our work as faculty members."

The Law School has been increasing the depth and breadth of its connections with Detroit in recent years. The student-led organization JDs in the D (of which Kleven is co-president) sponsors activities throughout the academic year. In addition, the Law School has several clinics that serve clients from Detroit, and sponsors a revamped Service Day in which incoming students work solely with Detroit organizations.

"This is a terrific opportunity to deepen that connection. Detroit is a vibrant place, rich in history and opportunity, facing a future full of both challenge and promise," Mortenson says. "Our students and faculty have so much to learn about the challenges of governing in one of the great cities of America. In return, we hope to offer meaningful contributions to the city government's work."

The course also is part of the Law School's continuing efforts to expose students to real-world lawyering. In this instance, they learn while also, possibly, assisting with the turnaround of a large city. "It doesn't get any more real than this," Savit says.

## Learning by Doing: Students Assist with Real-Life Workplace Law Issues

By Katie Vloet

While raising the minimum wage around the country has become a well-known political and legal battle, many people are being paid 40 cents an hour—or even less. And it's perfectly legal.

This so-called “subminimum wage” is paid to people who have physical and mental impairments. An organization called Disability Rights Texas decided to push back, and they did so with the help of students in an innovative Michigan Law class that addressed a variety of workplace laws around the country.

Here's how the current laws work, according to an investigative report issued by Disability Rights Texas in 2016: Employers in Texas holding special certificates issued by the Department of Labor have been allowed to pay less than the minimum wage to workers with disabilities, in many cases as little as a penny an hour. These certificates are issued in accordance with Section 14(c) of the Fair Labor Standards Act, a law enacted in 1938 during an era when people with disabilities often were excluded from the job market.

“Today, most employers paying subminimum wage under Section 14(c) keep their employees segregated from the community,” the report says. “Workers with disabilities making subminimum wage are employed in sheltered workshops, which intentionally isolate workers with disabilities from the rest of their communities. Their co-workers consist exclusively of other individuals with disabilities, and they perform tedious and unfulfilling work, sometimes for state government contracts.”

Jonathan Huberman is one of the students who worked on this class project. “It's unconscionable that you could work 40 hours a week and take home less than \$20,” he says. “We should demand laws that require employers to treat people with disabilities fairly.”

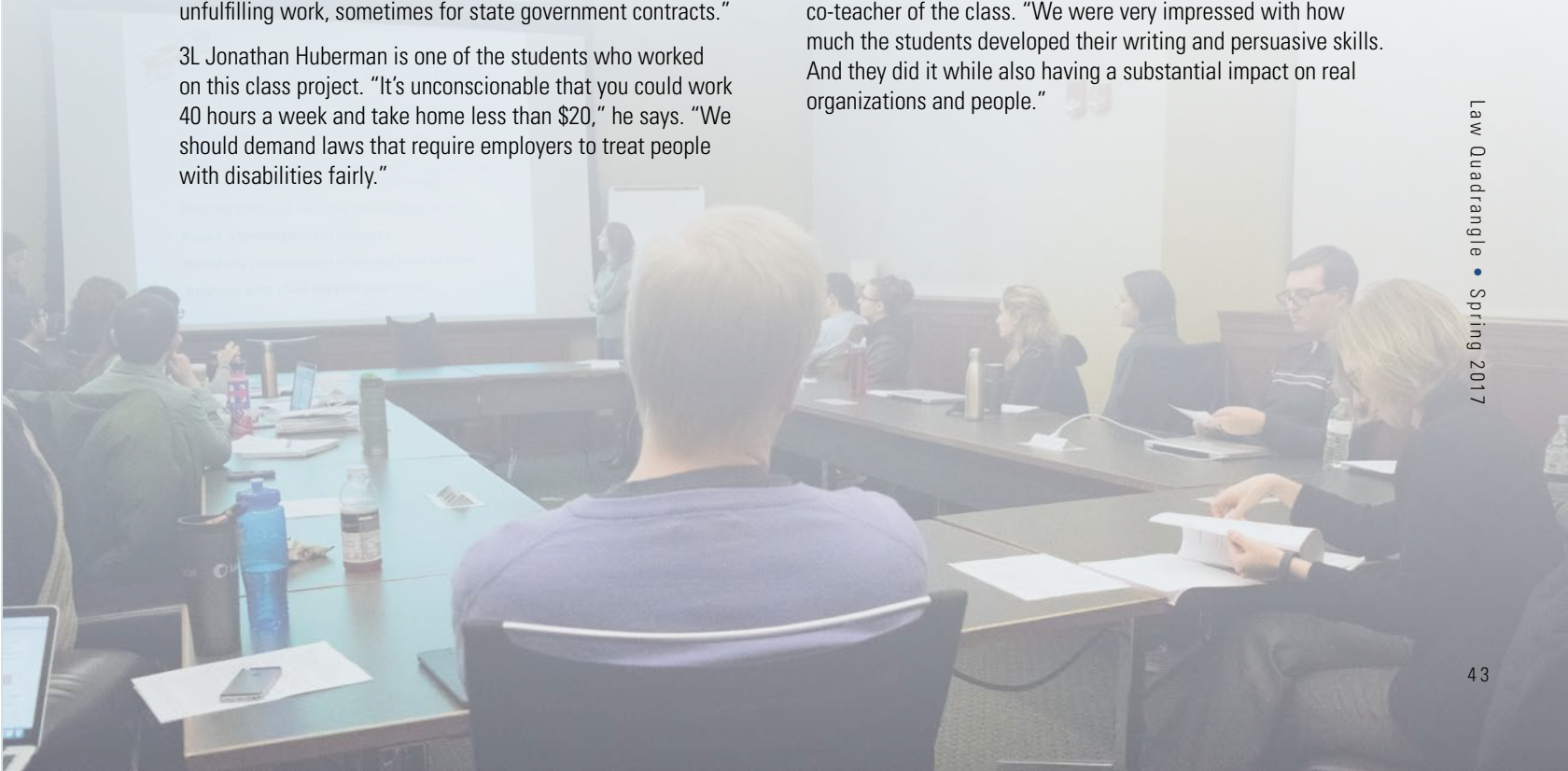
The students in Huberman's group worked with Disability Rights Texas to develop legislation that would bar the payment of subminimum wages, at least in positions paid for by state contracts. They also produced a white paper explaining why the bill is necessary.

“Their white paper presented good arguments about why Texas should incorporate the model legislation, plus philosophical arguments about why subminimum-wage work shouldn't be allowed,” says Ted Evans, Equal Justice Works fellow and staff attorney at Disability Rights Texas. “They did some pretty amazing work, and we're grateful for their collaboration.”

Other students in the class worked on projects focused on farmworker wages, mandatory arbitration agreements, EEOC wellness regulations, expanding access to integrated employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities, wage theft, and more.

“We wanted the students to work on a variety of projects and documents to reflect the ways actual lawyers practice,” says Samuel Bagenstos, the Frank G. Millard Professor of Law and co-teacher of the course. He says he was impressed with the student groups' white papers, amicus briefs, policy memos, and other materials, which he describes as “very professional final products.”

“Sam and I found that we were both doing a lot of pro bono work with students, and that's what led us to establish this workshop,” says Kate Andrias, assistant professor of law and co-teacher of the class. “We were very impressed with how much the students developed their writing and persuasive skills. And they did it while also having a substantial impact on real organizations and people.”





## African American Alumni Reunion: Reconnection with Classmates and Michigan Law



(Top to bottom): Panelists Aaron Lewis, '05, Leslie Overton, '94, Laura Kupe, '13, and Broderick Johnson, '83, discuss their roles in the Obama administration. The Hon. Mark Randon, '92, (left) catches up with fellow alum James Humphries, '84. J. Danielle Carr, '89, (left) and Sharon Barner, '82. (From left to right): The Hon. Gershwin Drain, '72, the Hon. Harry Edwards, '65, and Michele Mayes, '74, share a laugh during Saturday's luncheon, where Edwards delivered keynote remarks.

The second African American Alumni Reunion, held March 24–26, increased the size of 2014's inaugural run, while retaining the same spirit of excitement to be home in the Law Quad and eagerness to stay connected.

The Honorable Harry Edwards, '65, delivered Saturday's luncheon keynote address, "Reflections on Racial Stigmas and Stereotyping." Judge Edwards, who is senior circuit judge and chief judge emeritus on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, reflected on the ongoing quest for racial justice in today's America. "We can point to significant numbers of African Americans in prominent legal roles. Yet, with all the progress, racial injustices still stain the landscape of our country."

Connections bridged generations at Saturday's Alden J. "Butch" Carpenter Gala—sponsored annually by the Black Law Students Association to award scholarships through a fund that classmates established in the wake of Carpenter's sudden death as a student nearly 40 years ago. "It was amazing to meet the esteemed alumni who paved the way for us," says event chair Omotunde Okesanya, a 2L.

Broderick Johnson, '83, gave the gala's keynote address, and discussed the importance of using one's position and stature to help young people think broadly about their future. "A central motivation of my life's work has been to raise expectations and provide African American children with opportunities and resources to succeed so they too can make the improbable probable," said Johnson, who was assistant to the president and cabinet secretary under President Obama and also chaired the president's My Brother's Keeper Task Force.

"Without question, the 2017 African American Alumni Reunion demonstrated its worth as a resource and tool," says reunion executive co-chair Elizabeth Campbell, '78. "I am very proud that we have started something that is both valued and sustainable by the Law School." —JP



### ONLINE EXTRA

Enjoy Judge Edwards's keynote address at [quadrangle.law.umich.edu](http://quadrangle.law.umich.edu).



*(From left to right): Butch Carpenter Scholarship winners Morgan Brown, Edna Turay, and Peter McDaniels—all 1Ls. African American alumni who are retired or sitting judges pose together at Saturday's luncheon. Broderick Johnson, '83, laughs while being introduced as the keynote speaker at the Alden J. "Butch" Carpenter Gala. Reunion executive chair Curtis Mack, LLM '73, talks with Lauree Pyke Malson, a former clerk for Judge Edwards. Reunion executive chairs Elizabeth Campbell, '78, and Saul Green, '72, stand with Broderick Johnson, '83, (center), during welcoming remarks on Friday. Reunion attendees in Honigman Auditorium (Hutchins Hall 100).*



## Not Your Father's (or Mother's) Clinic



Michigan Law's commitment to producing well-rounded, career-ready lawyers with real practice experience dates back to the launch of our first legal clinic in 1969. The *Law Quadrangle* recently sat down with David Santacroce, associate dean for experiential education, to discuss how the Law School's experiential education program has evolved in 45-plus years. The bottom line: "It's not what you remember," says Santacroce. "It's much bigger and much better."

### WHAT SETS MICHIGAN LAW'S CLINICAL PROGRAM APART?

**DS:** We're effectively running a midsize law firm with 18 full-service practice areas—balanced between litigation and transactional work—from our collaborative clinic space in South Hall. Each clinic is taught by at least one full-time faculty member, but some have multiple faculty or teaching fellows. They have an obligation to provide sound counsel to the client, while creating a stellar educational experience for students. We put learning first, and we see every bit of casework as an opportunity for students to learn what good work product is and how to get there on their own. Also, our clinics offer a minimum of seven credits, which means they are intense. And we are unique in that we guarantee a clinic to every student—between 70 and 80 percent take at least one before they graduate. I'm hard-pressed to think of another clinical program that is as rigorous, broad, and deep, and still reaches such a high percentage of students prior to graduation.



## TALK ABOUT THE CLIENT WORK.

**DS:** Our students work directly with and for clients as first-chair attorneys. They identify issues, research their options, and choose the best one in consultation with their professor. Despite the inefficiencies of a practice focused heavily on learning, our clinics make a real impact on the legal community in southeastern Michigan and beyond. In the last academic year, clinic students provided nearly 85,000 hours of free legal services to those who need it most.

## WHAT ARE STUDENTS LEARNING?

**DS:** Students learn what lawyers do and how to do it well in an actual practice setting. Each clinic teaches students how to work collaboratively in a practice environment, as well as core lawyering competencies at play in every practice setting, from law firm to legal services. These competencies include planning, strategic thinking, problem solving, client relations, negotiation, public speaking and advocacy, investigation, and legal writing. Again, the students are out front, first-chair, with primary responsibility for their clients.

We also teach our students to reflect on what transpired, so that they become lifelong learners who will always get better at what they do. My students know I'll intervene if I see that they are going to do something that will change the outcome of the case. Short of that, I'll let them make mistakes in court and with clients, because only by making those mistakes and reflecting on them will they not make them again. It's that cycle of learning that we intend to take root and spin like a wheel during the students' time at Michigan Law and throughout their professional careers. In short, we want them to be hungry to learn from their experiences because we know that this is a trait shared by all successful lawyers.

In addition, we are teaching students about professionalism in the office and how to be good associates, which is a tricky thing. It's a big deal to know when to go into a partner's office and when not to. Am I the guy who is going in there every 30 seconds saying there's a problem and not knowing what to do about it, or am I the guy who identifies a series of problems, thinks about them and does the research, and then talks to the partner about the possible solutions I've identified? We also teach students the importance of collaboration. They collaborate with each other, because they are working in teams of two, and they collaborate with the professor and with other clinics. Many clinics, including Entrepreneurship, Pediatric Advocacy, Veterans, and Human Trafficking, work with students in other disciplines across the University. It's uniquely Michigan in that collaborative way.

## WHAT EXCITING NEW THINGS ARE YOU DOING WITH 1Ls?

**DS:** Each fall, a sizeable portion of the 1L class does volunteer work at local legal services organizations, and they have a strong desire to do what real-world lawyers do as soon as they come to Michigan. We decided to address this in a pedagogically sound way that would help students connect the more theoretical underpinnings of their first year of law school with real-world practice.

For the past several years, we've offered the Unemployment Insurance Clinic, the only in-house clinic exclusively for 1Ls in the nation. They do full administrative trials, including the opening, closing, cross and direct examinations, client interviewing and fact investigation, and preparing all necessary pleadings. Our 1Ls don't share their responsibilities with upperclassmen, and we don't count the Unemployment Insurance Clinic toward the clinic guarantee, which is for upper-level, deeper-credit clinics that we strongly encourage all students to take.

We also are in our second year of an experimental program that is bringing live-client work into mandatory 1L legal practice classes. In about half of these classes, we're bringing in skilled practitioners from the community to teach core lawyering competencies. For example, instead of doing a simulated interview, students learn about client counseling in class and then interview real people in need of legal help at local legal services organizations. Students learn how to communicate what they learned in an immediate and comprehensible way to lawyers in those organizations, so they can decide whether and how to help those potential clients. The students also memorialize the client interactions; the memos are utilized by the legal services organizations, and they are reviewed by each student's legal practice professor, who provides detailed feedback on how to improve as a real-world legal writer.

Finally, we're helping students make the theory-practice connection in their more traditional 1L classes. Every 1L has a core class that, several times over the semester, is co-taught by a clinician. For example, civil procedure students will study case law and doctrine about what constitutes a sufficient complaint. Then, in a co-taught class, they'll learn how to read and actually draft a complaint that will stand up in federal court. We're doing this in contracts, too, and, next year, in criminal law.



## Former U.S. Attorney Barbara McQuade, '91, Joins Michigan Law Faculty

Barbara McQuade, '91, has joined the faculty as a professor from practice, effective May 1. She will teach in the areas of national security, criminal law, and criminal procedure.

McQuade served until March as U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan—the first woman in that role. She oversaw many significant cases during her seven-year tenure, including the conviction of former Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick on public corruption charges; the conviction and life sentence of an Al-Qaeda operative for attempting to blow up an airliner over Detroit on Christmas Day 2009; and the conviction of Volkswagen AG and Takata Corp. for fraud relating to emissions tests and defective airbags. McQuade, who was appointed to the federal bench by President Obama, also was vice chair of the U.S. Attorney General's Advisory Committee under Attorney General Loretta Lynch, and co-chaired the Terrorism and National Security Subcommittee.

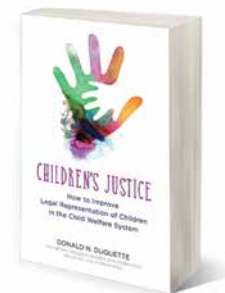
"Michigan's unique learning environment opened a new world of ideas for me as a student, and I am honored to return to teach the next generation of law students at a critical moment in our nation's history," says McQuade. "Helping students to develop a deep understanding of our laws, courts, and legal system has never been more important."



## MLaw Faculty Argue Brexit

While the U.K.'s planned withdrawal from the European Union has captured attention worldwide, it also has been of keen interest in the Law Quad. Christopher McCrudden, a William W. Cook Global Law Professor, and Daniel Halberstam, the Eric Stein Collegiate Professor of Law, director of the European Legal Studies program, and associate dean for faculty and research, have been deeply involved in examining the constitutional questions surrounding secession, including EU law. In December 2016, the pair helped advance a successful argument before the U.K. Supreme Court relating to use of the Royal Prerogative to give notice to the European Council under Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union. Halberstam is pictured (second from right) with co-counsel.

## Duquette's Seven-Year Study Produces Best Practices for Child Representation



A new book focused on best practices for child representation has been coauthored by Don Duquette, '74, clinical professor emeritus of law.

Duquette founded the Child Advocacy Law Clinic, the oldest such clinic in the United States, at Michigan Law in 1976. His latest book, *Children's Justice: How to Improve the Legal Representation of Children in the Child Welfare System* (American Bar Association Publications, 2016), is the final report of a nearly seven-year, \$6 million federal project known as

the Quality Improvement Center on the Representation of Children in the Child Welfare System (QIC-ChildRep). Directed by Duquette and funded by the Children's Bureau of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, QIC-ChildRep sought to improve the quality of legal representation for children and youth in child welfare cases.

*Children's Justice* highlights the work of QIC-ChildRep, which included a nationwide assessment of lawyer representation of the child and creation of a consensus best-practice model. The model was field tested in the first-ever random assignment experimental study of lawyer performance. The QIC-ChildRep best-practice model improved lawyer performance and resulted in measurable improvements in case outcomes for at least some of the children.

"Our book overcomes a national uncertainty as to how children should be represented and demonstrates empirically that lawyers practicing according to our model improve results for children," Duquette says. "I hope that our work stimulates reform in the delivery of legal services to children. Without good lawyers, abused and neglected children are denied justice."—LA

# Geneva Externship Turns 10

By Katie Vloet

Growing up, Amy Bergstraesser, '16, witnessed extreme poverty and political turmoil in Africa while her mother, a doctor and medical researcher, was working with AIDS and tuberculosis patients. Bergstraesser decided that she would, one day, make a difference in the world as well—by pursuing a career in the law.

So it was natural that she would look for a law school with strong international offerings, and she chose Michigan Law in no small part because of the Geneva Externship program.

"I demonstrated my interest in the Geneva Externship on my application," says Bergstraesser, now an associate at Ogletree Deakins PC in Indianapolis. As a Geneva International Fellow, which the externs now are called, she worked for the World Health Organization during the Winter 2016 semester. "It lived up to all of my expectations, and it solidified my interest in international law. I was doing really interesting work every day."

That's been the goal of the Geneva Externship program since it began 10 years ago, says Steven R. Ratner, the Bruno Simma Collegiate Professor of Law, who founded the program. He envisioned an externship through which students could work for a multitude of international organizations in one location.

"There simply is no other law school that has this," Ratner says of the diversity of experiences available to students, and the presence of an onsite faculty member. "I've heard so many students talk about how it was a transformative experience."

Many positions are at organizations where Ratner has contacts, including United Nations programs and agencies, as well as other intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations. Other connections have been made by the onsite professor (originally Claire Mahon and now Anna Nicol). Amy Sankaran, '01, director of externships and pro bono programs, and Theresa Kaiser-Jarvis, assistant dean for international affairs, also work closely with the program and are active in finding the right placements.

"We do a lot of work on our end to maintain a really good relationship with the employers," Ratner says. "The single most important reason is that we send students who can do the job."

Eelco Szabó, legal director at Gavi (formerly the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation), agrees. "Michigan externs all rank among the top of the students I have worked with over a 20-year legal career. They are quick on the uptake, motivated, and are excellent sparring partners on a wide variety of legal issues. In a small legal team like ours, the externs essentially function as additional lawyers; their contributions are at a very high level."

Nicol, the Geneva-based faculty member, maintains regular contact with the job supervisors to ensure the positive experience continues on both sides. "It is critical to maintain this consistency, given the transitory nature of mission-based work at the UN and the regular turnover of staff. This enables the Law School to ensure the quality of the student educational experience, including the appropriateness of the supervision and the student work," she says. Nicol also organizes a guest lecture series in which a variety of local practitioners provide insight into myriad public international law careers and practices.

The program has been vital in shaping the careers of many externs. "My time with the International Service for Human Rights (ISHR) was invaluable. I've been in the private sector since graduating, but it gave me a front seat to what it meant to be a lawyer in any capacity—and all the better because I saw lawyers working for the greater good," says Ashwini Habbu, '09, an associate with Clifford Chance LLP in New York City. "I am indebted to the Law School for a lot of things, but the Geneva Externship program is one that I truly cherish."



2016 Geneva International Fellows Rob Burnett (now a 3L), Amy Bergstraesser, '16, Zach Anderson (now a 3L), and Alisa Hand (also a 3L) enjoy spring in Switzerland.

## GENEVA EXTERNSHIP PROGRAM BY THE NUMBERS

(2008–2017)

# 131

Externs

.....

## Most Placements

Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

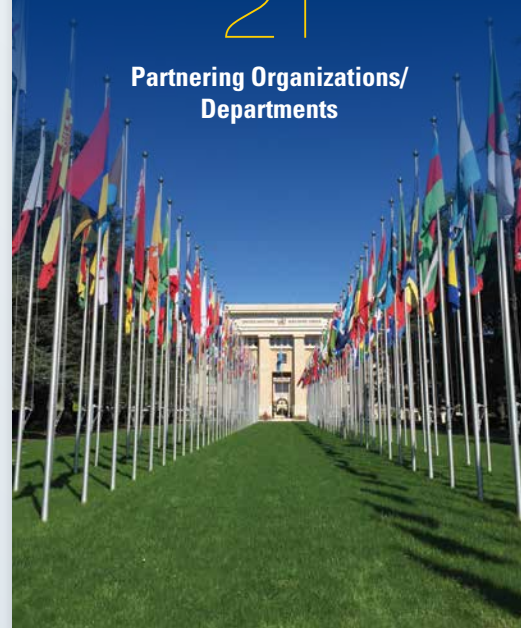
International Organization for Migration

UN High Commissioner for Refugees

.....

# 21

Partnering Organizations/ Departments





Green Eggs and Ham Dr. Seuss  
UNITED STATES REPORTS 493 OCT. TERM 1998  
THE RAINBOW FISH NorthSouth  
UNITED STATES REPORTS 494 OCT. TERM 1998  
The Very Hungry Caterpillar Puffin

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## MAKE THE DREAM OF MICHIGAN LAW A REALITY

SUPPORT THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE

*When it came time for Aurora Mayté Salazar Ordoñez to apply to law school, Michigan Law was home in more ways than one. She remembers being a 5-year-old racing through the Law School's maze of stairs and corridors in search of her father, who was studying for his LLM degree. She always found him in the Reading Room. "It was so beautiful," says Mayté. "My mom would bring books for my brother and me to read at the 'big-kid desks.' I always imagined coming back and doing that again." Today, the Reading Room fills her with the same sense of awe. A 2L, she is co-president of the Latino Law Students Association and the Racial Justice Coalition, and spent her 1L summer at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP. However, when she was accepted to Michigan Law, she feared she couldn't afford to follow in her father's footsteps. While looking at other schools, she got a call notifying her that she had received the Victors for Michigan Scholarship. "I cried a lot. I called my parents and we cried together," she says. "I feel incredibly blessed to be at Michigan. The entirety of my experience has changed me, and I would not be here if not for my scholarship."*

**Be a Victor for Michigan Law**

[law.umich.edu/campaign](http://law.umich.edu/campaign)

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## Phillipp, '66: Supporting Legal History and Scholarly Research

"MY GIFT IS MORE OF A  
REPAYMENT TO THE LAW  
SCHOOL FOR HAVING  
GIVEN ME THE CHANCE  
TO MAKE A SUCCESS OF  
MY LIFE RATHER THAN  
MERELY A DONATION TO  
A GREAT EDUCATIONAL  
INSTITUTION."

With the James G. Phillipp Law Professorship Fund, James Phillipp, '66, supports a subject that is of personal interest and shares his gratitude to Michigan Law for setting him on his path to a fulfilling career.

"I have always been interested in history of all kinds. Even more so now that I have retired to a spot where Ponce de León was quite possibly trooping through my yard some 500 years ago," says Phillipp, who splits his time between Ormond Beach, Florida, and Pasadena, California.

He credits no small part of his success to the Law School, where he received the education and credentials to take advantage of the many opportunities that came his way—particularly those that led him to a 35-year commercial law practice at a prestigious firm on the West Coast.

"My gift is more of a repayment to the Law School for having given me the chance to make a success of my life rather than merely a donation to a great educational institution," says Phillipp.

In celebration of his career and his 50<sup>th</sup> reunion, Phillipp has made a \$2.5 million gift to establish the James G. Phillipp Law Professorship. He says he is especially cognizant of his obligation to give back to the Law School because he attended Michigan as an out-of-state student. "The concept of 'repayment' was particularly appealing in my case. My family lived in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and paid no Michigan taxes to support the University," he says. "Even while I was in Ann Arbor, I was not entirely comfortable with the knowledge that [the taxpayers of the State of Michigan], especially those who worked on the assembly lines in Dearborn and Hamtramck, were putting me through law school."

Phillipp launched his legal career with a two-year clerkship with the Hon. Ralph Freeman, '26, of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan. He then travelled to Los Angeles to practice taxation law at Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP—then a midsize regional firm—and quickly rose through the ranks to become partner.

While Phillipp's professional experience lies mainly in tax law, he chose to pursue a completely different direction with his professorship. The James G. Phillipp Law Professorship will create a chair in legal history and comparative law. "Legal history easily lends itself to a lot more scholarly research than many other areas of the law," Phillipp says. "I tend to think of an endowed chair as something of a reward for a career of peer-approved scholarly research." —JP

## Bullitt, '87: Honoring Four Generations of MLaw Graduates

In establishing the James and Shelda Baylor Scholarship Fund, Georgia Bullitt, '87, honors her family and celebrates their legacy with Michigan Law. "Michigan makes such a difference in so many lives," says Bullitt. "Just look at what it did for my family."

Her great-grandfather, Fahy "Bill" Baylor, 1910, grew up on a farm in Iowa. The grandson of pioneers who arrived in a covered wagon, Bill wanted more than the life of a farmer. He applied to Michigan Law and received a full scholarship. "He loved practicing law," says Bullitt. "Michigan gave him that and a livelihood that supported his family during the Depression."

Her uncle, Robert "James" Baylor, '51, followed in his grandfather's footsteps to also find love of another kind. He met the woman of his dreams, Shelda Ryburn, BFA '50, during a game of touch football. "They are two of the most interesting, fun-loving, and giving people I know," Bullitt says. "Their strong senses of humor, pragmatism, and wisdom reflect the Michigan community."



*Rick Bullitt, Georgia Bullitt, '87, and daughter Ellie Bullitt (far right) celebrate the engagement of son Richard "Stockton" Bullitt, a 3L, to Caitie Haigis (center).*

Now Bullitt's son, 3L Richard "Stockton" Bullitt, is nearing graduation. "The minute he told me he wanted to go to law school, I tried to hold back from saying he had to go to Michigan," she says. "It has been great having him at the Law School and hearing how vibrant it is."

Like the generations before and since, Bullitt found her passion for law at Michigan. "It gave me a great career that I love," she says. "And breadth of experience and perspective that enabled me to do a large range of things." Bullitt currently is a partner in the asset management group of Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP in New York.

Bullitt hopes that the scholarship she created to celebrate her aunt and uncle will support students like her great-grandfather. "I want them to see the world in ways they wouldn't otherwise have been able to." —JP

## Feldman, '80: Holistic Education Equals Better Leaders

Adaptability serves Stewart Feldman, '80, well. As a law student, he always studied at the same table in the Reading Room—until the persistent jackhammering from construction of the Allan and Alene Smith Law Library addition forced him to cross the room.

"We always thank the library addition for our introduction," says Marla Matz Feldman, BS '78, DDS '82, who had long studied on the opposite side.

Professionally, Stewart's business training at the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School and his legal training at Michigan gave him the adaptability to embrace career opportunities. He is CEO and general counsel of Capstone Associated Services Ltd., a captive insurance services provider; managing partner of Feldman Law Firm LLP; and founder of RSL Funding LLC, a structured settlement funding company. Earlier in his career, he developed office parks, and owned and operated a new car dealership and an auto parts distributor. He was a CPA before law school, then briefly practiced in a large law firm before entering the business world. "Whether a student ends up in business or in an advisory role as a lawyer, investment banker, or consultant, there are benefits of broad exposure in both business and law," Stewart says.

The Feldmans previously supported scholarships, the Law School Fund, and the South Hall building project. Their recent gifts to the Zell Entrepreneurship and Law (ZEAL) program will help today's

students get the integrated educational experience that the couple had to navigate for themselves. Marla—who practiced dentistry for 18 years before focusing on her family and community—recalls sneaking into a business law class as a pre-dentistry student. Stewart, who taught intermediate accounting at the business school while a law student, says that the lack of clear crossover opportunities between the two schools was detrimental to students. "I've had a longstanding belief that real-world problems present themselves independent of the silos that formal education provides. Education in only one area—either law or business—leaves you with one hand tied behind your back."

When the Feldmans found out that Sam Zell, '66, provided lead funding for the ZEAL program, that sealed the deal, says Stewart, who recalls hearing him speak at the Drexel Burnham "Predators' Ball" in 1988. "Marla and I see our gifts to ZEAL as a great way to support the University and our beliefs about the importance of a holistic approach to education. It's an approach that produces better leaders in both law and business." —AS



# Doubling Down on Michigan

## Make a Plan Now to Secure Your Legacy and Strengthen Michigan Law's Future



**“Cash gifts and short-term pledges are critical...to meet the needs of today’s students. ... But we also need to provide for the future of the School and the needs of tomorrow’s students.”**

—**JOHN NANNES, '73**  
*Chair, Victors for Michigan Campaign*

John Nannes, '73, has found a way to “double down” on Michigan.

Nannes, who is chair of the Law School’s Development and Alumni Relations Committee, previously made a significant gift to the School as part of the Victors for Michigan Campaign. Now, he has matched that gift by making a deferred gift of a similar amount.

“Cash gifts and short-term pledges are critical to the success of the Campaign and the Law School’s ability to meet the needs of today’s students,” says Nannes. “That has to continue to be the priority. But we also need to provide for the future of the School and the needs of tomorrow’s students. It just seemed to me that combining a cash gift with a deferred gift made a lot of sense.”

Careful and thoughtful gift planning through an estate plan or other forms of deferred giving will help support the work of Michigan Law for future generations. Planned giving allows alumni to increase the impact of their philanthropy and create a lasting legacy.

“It feels good to make a bequest that will leave a lasting mark on the Law School, and it can be pretty easy to do so,” says Stefan Tucker, '63, whose practice has included tax and estate planning. “For many, the most tax-efficient way is through their retirement plans.” Because of the variety of available deferred giving options, Tucker encourages alumni at every stage of their careers to think about supporting the Law School in this way. “No matter your current level of giving to Michigan Law, a deferred gift is something to consider,” says Nannes. “As alumni think about the ways the Law School has impacted their lives, both personally and professionally, it is my hope that they will want to give back.”



### MAKE YOUR PLAN

**CONTACT US TO EXPLORE HOW DEFERRED GIVING WORKS BEST FOR YOU.**

#### **Erica A. Munzel, '83**

Director, Leadership Gifts and Planned Giving

Phone 734.763.0414

Email [lawplannedgiving@umich.edu](mailto:lawplannedgiving@umich.edu)



## DEFERRED GIVING OPTIONS

GIFT TYPE	BASIC DESCRIPTION	BENEFITS	HOW IT WORKS
<b>BEQUEST</b>	Transfer property (including cash, securities, or tangible property) through a will or trust. A bequest can be a specific dollar amount or a designated percentage of your estate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legacy</li> <li>• Simple and flexible</li> </ul>	
<b>BENEFICIARY OF RETIREMENT ACCOUNT(S)/LIFE INSURANCE POLICY</b>	Name the Law School as a beneficiary of your retirement account(s) or life insurance policy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legacy</li> <li>• Simple and flexible</li> <li>• Tax savings</li> </ul>	
<b>CHARITABLE REMAINDER TRUST (CRT)</b>	A life income gift that benefits you and the Law School. You choose the fixed percentage rate of return and transfer cash, an appreciated asset, or other property to a trust that the University manages to generate payments to you. Payout amount fluctuates based on market value of investment. Upon the passing of income beneficiaries, the balance comes to Michigan Law.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legacy</li> <li>• Tax savings</li> <li>• Lifetime income to donor</li> <li>• Variable payments</li> <li>• Irrevocable</li> </ul>	
<b>CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY (CGA)</b>	A life income gift that benefits you and the Law School. Based on your age at the time of the gift, the University sets a fixed percentage rate of return. The University then invests your gift and makes fixed payments to you. Upon the passing of income beneficiaries, the balance comes to Michigan Law.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legacy</li> <li>• Tax savings</li> <li>• Lifetime income to donor</li> <li>• Fixed payments</li> <li>• Irrevocable</li> </ul>	

## Cause and Effect

### A Donor and Her Scholarship Recipient Reflect on Their Connection to Michigan Law

Barbara J. Kacir, '67, was the first woman lawyer and partner at Arter & Hadden LLP in Cleveland. She later became the first female lateral partner at Jones Day, where her clients included members of the Motion Picture Association of America and R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. After 15 years with Jones Day, she accepted a position as vice president and deputy general counsel for litigation with Textron Inc., where she spent the final years of her career. Kacir now is retired and resides in Cleveland. She established the William J. Brattin Scholarship in 1990 in honor of her father.

Jenna Neumann is a 3L from Flint, Michigan, where she founded Chapter for Children, a program to promote literacy among future generations. She earned her bachelor's degree, *summa cum laude*, in political science, Spanish, and philosophy from Kalamazoo College. Neumann wants to pursue a career in employment law. As a 1L, she served as a representative for the Federalist Society and was a summer associate for the office of the general counsel at Fiat Chrysler Automobiles NV. More recently, she was an extern in Geneva, where she worked for the international migration law unit of the UN International Organization for Migration. She also was a summer associate at Baker McKenzie in Chicago. After law school, she will return to the firm to join the employment and compensation practice.

BARBARA



JENNA



#### Why did you want to go to law school, and why did you choose Michigan?

BARBARA

Initially, my goal was to become Ohio's first female senator, and law school appealed as a traditional access field for politics. But when I realized I could make a living arguing, negotiating, and advising people what to do, I knew I had blundered into a field that suited me exactly.

Back in my day, there was a commonly quoted saying about the premier law schools: Harvard teaches you what the law was,

Yale teaches you what it will be, and Michigan teaches you what it is. That more pragmatic view appealed to me, as did the chance to watch real trials at the School and perhaps do some representation for pro bono clients.

JENNA

I knew I wanted to go to law school since I took AP government as a junior in high school. The class provided a very short introduction to U.S. Supreme Court cases, and I was completely intrigued. I have always loved to read and write, and I knew that law school would provide me with the opportunity to focus this passion. I certainly have not been disappointed.

## What class/professor impacted you the most, and why?

BARBARA

Looking back after 50 years, what stands out are the common threads I saw in virtually all my professors: a deep love and respect for the law, intellectual rigor and honesty, and a questing mind. Those were qualities I tried to apply in my practice.

JENNA

I loved taking Constitutional Law with Professor [Samuel] Bagenstos. His passion for con law was contagious, and he made me really excited to come to class every day. Although the subject could be difficult, he broke it down in a way that integrated high-level analytical material with students' practical, everyday experiences. This class not only made me more aware about the law, but also more attuned to how constitutional law affects social policy and people's everyday lives.

## What was your experience as a female student at Michigan Law?

BARBARA

There were 14 women in my class of nearly 400. Women couldn't live in the Quad, which was a loss in terms of study groups and fellowship.

Professors and interviewers treated women differently and sometimes discriminated quite openly. Some professors called on us constantly, while others wouldn't acknowledge women in class—even when we were volunteering answers.

I have vivid memories of showing up for an interview only to be told, "You are well qualified, but we hired a woman last year. It will be 10 years before we hire another." Some firms didn't even interview women.

Still, I loved the Law School and found it exhilarating. Being around so many bright, articulate people willing to argue about anything and everything was a constant joy. Sharing analyses of why things were decided the way they were was endless fun. The variety of backgrounds and interests among my classmates made for a viewpoint-broadening experience.

JENNA

I do not feel as if I am treated any differently as a female law student. I have the same opportunities as my male counterparts and am afforded the same respect when I voice my opinions in class. This is largely due to people like Barbara who took the leap of faith to enter the legal profession and encouraged other women to do the same. We owe her a great debt of gratitude for paving the way for women.

## What was your proudest moment in law school?

BARBARA

I helped develop a course in negotiation for the Law School. I was working as a counselor in an undergraduate dorm at the time, so we drafted students to play estranged spouses. They had instructions on what to fight for in a divorce. Then the lawyers had to interview their clients and negotiate with counsel for the opposing spouse. It was possible, though difficult, to reach a compromise. I thought it was highly innovative for that era.

JENNA

My proudest moment in law school was working for the Agency for Migration with the United Nations in Geneva. I met diplomats and activists doing incredible things with their careers and had the opportunity to attend the Human Rights Committee on behalf of my organization.

## Why do you give in support of scholarships?

BARBARA

I went to Michigan on scholarship. Without that help, I would never have the life that I do. I am grateful every day for the world the Law School has opened for me. How could I not pay that back? I am glad that I am in a position to help others have a Michigan experience.

## What does receiving the William J. Brattin Scholarship mean to you?

JENNA

The William J. Brattin Scholarship has been very useful for funding law school. I am grateful to Barbara for the financial assistance. I am so proud to be an MLaw student and am thankful that she helped make this possible.

## Dinerstein, '66: Redefining His Relationship with Michigan Law



"I ALSO FELT VICTIM TO THE COMMON MISCONCEPTION THAT THE SCHOOL WAS RECEIVING MORE STATE FUNDING THAN IT WAS. I THOUGHT NOTHING I DID WOULD BE IMPACTFUL."

Even though Robert "Bob" Dinerstein, '66, spent 50 years away from his home in the Law Quad, he has never forgotten what the Law School gave him. "A Michigan education provided me the confidence to believe that I could be a first-rate lawyer and the credibility to make others believe that as well," says Dinerstein. With a \$100,000 gift, which includes a \$50,000 bequest, Dinerstein seeks to reconnect with his alma mater.

"The Law School has evolved, and I want to learn more," says Dinerstein, who returned to campus for his 50<sup>th</sup> reunion last September. It was his first visit since graduation. Dinerstein is a passionate supporter of education and considers the addition of Michigan Law to his estate plan as an extension of this interest. Rather than designating the funds in a specific way, Dinerstein chose to make his bequest to the Law School Fund, an unrestricted avenue of giving. "I would rather give for general purposes and let the Law School decide where the money is most needed," he says. "I would recommend it as part of any estate plan."

Dinerstein says Michigan Law hasn't been far from his thoughts, despite the long gap between visits. "Because I went back to New York after graduation, I just lost touch. I also fell victim to the common misconception that the School was receiving more state funding than it was. I thought nothing I did would be impactful." When a classmate reminded him of his fast-approaching reunion, Dinerstein decided it was the perfect time to reengage and redefine his relationship with the Law School. "The realization that it's our 50<sup>th</sup> reunion—that is a long time," he says. "I wanted to make up for my neglect and to show support for the school that I have nothing but fond memories of."

Walking through the Quad during Reunion Weekend, Dinerstein couldn't help but think back to his own experience as a student, how it compared to that of the students today, and the role Michigan Law has played in his life. "I can't tell you how important it was for me to have gone to Michigan," he says. "I was uncertain of my career aspirations when I came to law school. Both the education I received and the friendly, open culture of Michigan Law gave me the grounding and confidence to make informed decisions about how I wanted to apply that experience." After graduating, Dinerstein joined the first administration of New York City Mayor John V. Lindsay, as legal assistant to the corporation counsel. Later, after four years as an associate at Debevoise & Plimpton and a six-year stint as corporate secretary and assistant general counsel of American Airlines, Dinerstein began a 30-year career in financial services. First, he was general counsel of Citicorp's Investment Bank, then executive vice president and general counsel for Shearson Lehman Brothers, and finally, general counsel and vice chairman of UBS Investment Bank. Dinerstein now is retired but still serves on the board of Amalgamated Bank and is chairman of Veracity Worldwide, a strategic risk advisory firm that counsels companies doing business in emerging markets. "It has not been a linear career, but it has been exciting," he says.

And it all began at Michigan Law. Dinerstein distinctly remembers the day he arrived on campus. His impression that first day formed his whole outlook on the Law School experience. "This wonderful Quad and the nice people, it just reaffirmed my decisions to go to law school and to go to Michigan," he says. "It felt like coming home, and that hasn't changed." —JP



## Record-Setting Reunion Giving

Classes celebrating milestone reunions were exceptionally generous in 2016. While many classes met and even exceeded their reunion class-giving goals, the Classes of 1966 and 2006 shattered records for revenue raised and participation. The Class of '66 gave \$5.7 million, the most ever raised by a 50<sup>th</sup> reunion class. The Class of '06 raised nearly \$283,000 with a 27-percent participation rate, both new records for a 10-year reunion class. In addition, 10 classmates from the Class of 2006 saw their 10<sup>th</sup> reunion as an opportunity to increase their commitment to the Law School Fund, and made gifts at the Cavaedium Society level (at least \$2,500).

While the Classes of '66 and '06 reached new levels of reunion giving, the combined efforts of all of the classes make Reunion a success. We are grateful to all alumni who honor their classmates and Michigan Law with their generous support of the Law School Fund and other initiatives.

*(Counterclockwise from top right): The Hon. Judith Levy, '96, of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan, networks during Alumni-Student Speed Mentoring, part of the Reunion Weekend that took place September 23–25. Students enjoy alumni advice and inspiration at the speed mentoring session. Paul Cambridge, '06, shares the magic of a Football Saturday with his daughter, Grace. 2011 LLM classmates Camilla Zanetti (left) and Cormac Kerins enjoy lunch in the Quad. 2011 graduates celebrate their first of many Michigan Law reunions.*



## Recent Gifts

**Dennis Bedell, '64**, and **Janet Bedell** made a gift to establish the Dennis and Janet Bedell Scholarship Fund. Their gift will be enhanced through the University's Third Century Matching Initiative for Student Support. Denny is a retired partner of Miller & Chevalier in Washington, D.C.



**Kevin Conroy, '91**, and **Sheila (Brennan) Conroy, '91**, of Madison, Wisconsin, made a \$100,000 gift to establish the Kevin T. and Sheila M.

Conroy Scholarship Fund in honor of their 25<sup>th</sup> reunion and in appreciation for the education they both received at Michigan. Kevin served as co-chair of the Class of 1991 reunion committee. He is chairman of the board, chief executive officer, and president of Exact Sciences Corp. Sheila has joined Clark & Gotzler LLC, where she litigates and counsels employers in employment law and human resources matters. Their gift will be matched at 50 percent through the University's Third Century Matching Initiative for Student Support.

**Kirk Davenport, '84**, and **Peggy Davenport** have made an additional \$100,000 gift to the Davenport Family Scholarship Fund, which Kirk established with his father, **Bill Davenport, '53**, in 2015. Kirk recently retired from the New York office of Latham & Watkins LLP, where he was a partner in the corporate department and had served as co-chair of Latham's national office. Their gift will be matched at 50 percent through the University's Bicentennial Opportunity Matching Initiative for Student Support.

**The Hon. Harold Ford Jr., '96**, and his wife, **Emily**, of New York, have made a \$100,000 gift to establish the Harold E. Ford Jr. and Emily Ford Scholarship Fund. Harold is a managing director at Morgan Stanley and a contributor to NBC News. He previously served five terms in the U.S. House of Representatives as a Democrat from Tennessee's 9<sup>th</sup> congressional district. Their gift will be matched at 50 percent through the University's Third Century Matching Initiative for Student Support.



**Kerry Galvin, '86**, of Houston, made a \$100,000 gift to the Law School Fund in honor of her 30<sup>th</sup> reunion. Kerry is the national chair of the Law School Fund and serves on the Development and Alumni Relations Committee. She is the former senior vice president and general counsel of Axiom Energy Services.



**Robin Harrison, '81**, and his wife, **Katherine**, made a \$50,000 gift to the Victors for Michigan Law Scholarship Fund in honor of Robin's 35<sup>th</sup> reunion and the Class of 1981. He is a partner at Hicks Thomas LLP in Houston, where he litigates complex business disputes. The gift will be matched at 50 percent

through the University's Third Century Matching Initiative for Student Support.



**Pran Jha, '91**, and his wife, **Debbie**, made a \$50,000 gift to the Victors for Michigan Law Scholarship Fund in honor of Pran's 25<sup>th</sup> reunion. He is a

partner in the Chicago office of Sidley Austin LLP, where he advises clients on a variety of M&A and other transactional matters. The gift will be matched at 50 percent through the University's Third Century Matching Initiative for Student Support.

**James Lurie, '72**, made a gift of \$62,000 to the Victors for Michigan Law Scholarship. The gift will be matched at 50 percent through the University's Third Century Matching Initiative for Student Support. James and his wife, **Nora Bailey, '72**, reside in Bethesda, Maryland.

**Yvonne Quinn, '76**, has made an additional \$100,000 gift to the Yvonne S. Quinn Scholarship Fund in honor of her 40<sup>th</sup> reunion. Yvonne is a member of Sullivan & Cromwell LLP's litigation group in New York and is one of two partners in charge of coordinating the firm's antitrust group. Her gift will be matched at 50 percent through the University's Bicentennial Opportunity Matching Initiative for Student Support.



**Gary Robb, '81**, and **Anita (Porte) Robb, '82**, made a \$100,000 gift to establish the Robb & Robb LLC Scholarship Fund in recognition of their relationship with the Law School and the meaningful impact Michigan Law has had on their lives. The gift is in honor of their 35<sup>th</sup> reunions and with pride for their son, **Andrew Robb, '16**. Gary and Anita are founding partners of Robb & Robb LLC, a plaintiffs' aviation law firm in Kansas City, Missouri. Their gift will be matched at 50 percent through the University's Third Century Matching Initiative for Student Support.



**Daniel Sandberg, '84**, made a \$75,000 gift to the Daniel M. Sandberg Scholarship Fund. Daniel is president and chief executive officer at Brembo North America in Plymouth, Michigan. His gift will be matched at 50 percent through the University's Bicentennial Opportunity Matching Initiative for Student Support.



**Dick Sneed, '66**, and his wife, **Nancy Sneed, AB '65**, of Sarasota, Florida, made a \$50,000 gift to the Law School Fund in celebration of Dick's 50<sup>th</sup> reunion. He practiced law in Cleveland, first at what is now Squire Patton Boggs and then in the general counsel's office at TRW Inc., now part of the Northrop Grumman Corp.



**Stefan Tucker, '63**, and **Marilyn Tucker, ABEd '62**, made an \$80,217 gift to the Stefan & Marilyn Tucker Scholarship Fund. Their gift will be matched at 50

percent through the University's Bicentennial Opportunity Matching Initiative for Student Support. Stef is a partner in the Washington, D.C., office of Venable LLP. Marilyn is the director of alumni career services and international internships at Georgetown University Law Center.



**Elizabeth and David Zott, '86**, made a \$50,000 gift to the Victors for Michigan Law Scholarship Fund in honor of David's 30<sup>th</sup> reunion. He is a partner in the Chicago office of Kirkland & Ellis LLP, where he litigates complex commercial cases. The gift will be matched at 50 percent through the University's Third Century Matching Initiative for Student Support.

## Increase Your Impact

For a limited time, gifts in support of endowed scholarships may qualify for matching funds from the University. The Bicentennial Matching Program for Student Support will match gifts for endowed scholarship funds by providing \$1 for every \$2 gift. Gifts may establish new scholarship funds, or they may be added to existing funds. The minimum gift to qualify for the Bicentennial match is \$50,000; gifts up to \$1,000,000 will be matched. Gifts from individuals and family foundations qualify. Pledges are payable over a maximum of five years; the match is subject to the availability of University funds that have been designated for this purpose.

**For more information**, contact Erica Munzel, '83, director of leadership gifts and planned giving, at 734.763.0414 or [emunzel@umich.edu](mailto:emunzel@umich.edu).



## 1963

**Larry Snider** won first prize in the portraiture category in the Prix de la Photographie Paris 2016 competition. His entry, "Faces of Tibet," was chosen by an international jury from photographs submitted from 85 countries.



## 1963



**Henry C. Cashen**, senior counsel for Blank Rome LLP in Washington, D.C., was elected to the board of directors of Safe Shores—The DC Children's Advocacy Center.

## 1968

**Lee Hornberger**, an arbitrator and mediator in Traverse City, Michigan, was elected chair-elect of the alternative dispute resolution section of the State Bar of Michigan at the section's annual meeting.

**James E. Schwab** announced his retirement as president and chief executive of Interact for Health, the largest health nonprofit in greater Cincinnati. Additionally, as a longtime member of the University of Cincinnati Foundation Board of Trustees, he was presented with an honorary doctorate in commercial science.

## 1970

**James N. Barnes** retired as executive director of the Antarctic and Southern Ocean Coalition, which he founded in 1978. The nonprofit organization represents the global environmental community in the Antarctic Treaty System, which manages and protects the continent and surrounding Southern Ocean. He continues to serve the organization as honorary founding chair, providing advice and fundraising assistance to the executive director and board chair.

**Simon Lorne**, chief legal officer of the hedge fund Millennium Management, has been named chair of the Alternative Investment Management Association. The organization represents alternative investment managers with more than \$1.5 trillion under management.



1971

**Carter Keithley** recently retired as president and chief executive officer of the Toy Industry Association Inc. He was named the 2015 outstanding executive by New York Society of Association Executives.

1972

**Norman Roos**, chair of Robinson & Cole LLP’s finance group in Hartford, Connecticut, has been elected to serve as secretary of the American College of Mortgage Attorneys.

1973



**Ronald L. Kahn** received the Ramey Award for Distinguished Community Service from the Ohio State Bar Foundation. A senior partner at

Ulmer & Berne LLP, he has practiced law for 43 years and has spent most of those years developing the Ronald McDonald House of Cleveland Inc. The project became a passion for him many years ago, when his infant daughter was undergoing weeks of treatment for a rare form of eye cancer in a New York hospital. He and his wife stayed in a nearby brownstone made available without charge to out-of-town families by the hospital’s eye clinic. Upon returning to Cleveland, their daughter’s physician approached the couple about starting a Ronald McDonald House in the city.

**The Hon. Steven Rhodes** and the Hon. Gerald Rosen will open a Detroit office of Judicial Arbitration and Mediation Services with Miller Canfield principal **Clarence “Rocky” Pozza Jr.**, ’74. (Read more about Judge Rhodes on p. 20–23.)

1974

**Clarence “Rocky” Pozza Jr.** retired as a principal at Miller, Canfield, Paddock, and Stone PLC to open a Detroit office of Judicial Arbitration and Mediation Services with the **Hon. Steven Rhodes**, ’73, and the Hon. Gerald Rosen.

1976



**Renee M. Schoenberg**, a senior counsel in the Chicago office of DLA Piper LLP (U.S.), received the American Bar Association’s Pro Bono Publico Award in 2016

for her transactional pro bono achievements in providing legal services to organizations that serve the poor and disadvantaged. Recent projects include obtaining recognition of tax-exempt charity status for the D.C. Affordable Law Firm, a “low bono” firm jointly sponsored by DLA Piper, Arent Fox, and Georgetown University Law Center. The firm narrows the access-to-justice gap for residents whose modest income levels disqualify them for legal aid but who still cannot afford to pay customary legal fees for representation in civil matters. Her primary practice areas are tax-exempt organizations, closely held businesses, and estate planning.

1977

**James L. Allen**, principal at Miller, Canfield, Paddock, and Stone PLC in Troy, Michigan, has coauthored the “Foreclosure of Mortgages and Land Contracts; Receiverships” chapter of the *LexisNexis Practice Guide: Michigan Real Estate Litigation*.

1978

**Frederick R. Nance Jr.** was appointed global managing partner of Squire Patton Boggs U.S. LLP. His practice ranges from leading an ongoing series of negotiations involving community interests in northeast Ohio to serving as business counsel to notable athletes and entertainers, including NBA star LeBron James and comedian Dave Chappelle.

1979

**Kevin M. McCarthy** has been named general counsel at Trillium Staffing, a national staffing firm headquartered in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Previously, he spent 37 years in private practice in Kalamazoo, representing employers in labor and employment law matters.

1980

**John W. Butler Jr.** is the founder and chief executive officer of Birch Lake Holdings LP, a boutique merchant bank in Chicago that invests in undervalued, high-potential companies in transitional situations and advises corporations and investors on mergers and acquisitions, financial restructurings, and complex special situations.

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**2017 REUNION**  
 Emeriti, 1967, 1972, 1977, 1982, and 1987  
**SEPT. 8–10**

# CLASS NOTES

## 1981

**Natalia Delgado** is directing a project at Columbia Law School to help develop the institutional capacity in Cuba needed to promote private economic activity and to attract foreign direct investment. She previously retired from private practice after more than 20 years.

**Michael J. Grace** has joined Wiley Rein LLP in Washington, D.C., as consulting counsel. He has spent his career practicing tax law, and he supports the firm's corporate practice.



**Mark R. Lezotte**, a health care attorney at Butzel Long's Detroit office, completed 15 years of service on the United Cerebral Palsy national board of trustees.

**Stefan Stein** is a member of Sherman & Howard LLC's litigation, trial, and appeals practice group in Denver. He has extensive experience representing companies and individuals in complex business disputes, government and internal investigations, corporate compliance, and directors and officers insurance coverage matters.

## 1982

**Rebecca Troth**, former pro bono counsel of Sidley Austin LLP, has joined the District of Columbia Bar as executive director of its pro bono center in Washington, D.C.

## 1983

**Susan Dunnings** received the Matthew J. Whitehead II Diversity Award from the Association of Corporate Counsel. She is vice president and associate general counsel at Lockheed Martin Corp. in Bethesda, Maryland.

**Carl Valenstein**, partner at Morgan Lewis & Bockius LLP, has been appointed co-chair of the Boston Bar Association's international law section through August 2018. He also is an adjunct clinical assistant professor in the International Transactions Clinic at Michigan Law.

## 1985



**Perrin Rynders**, partner in the Grand Rapids, Michigan, office of Varnum LLP, was inducted into the American College of Trial Lawyers. He has successfully prosecuted and defended business and commercial disputes, ERISA cases, employment cases, product liability and personal injury cases, health care fraud, and tax matters.

## 1986



**Thomas Bean**, a partner at Verrill Dana LLP in Boston who represents businesses in complex disputes and insolvency matters, has been elected to the council of the Boston Bar Association.



**Ronald Betman** has joined Ulmer & Berne LLP as Chicago-based counsel in its business litigation practice. He is a veteran trial lawyer in the areas of business and financial services litigation.

## 1987

**James L. Komie** has joined Howard & Howard Attorneys PLLC in its Chicago office. He concentrates his practice on civil litigation and counseling matters, with an emphasis on employment and trade secret/non-compete issues.



**Mary Jo Newborn Wiggins** was named University Professor at the University of San Diego School of Law. The university professorship is the highest university-wide honor given to faculty and is awarded in recognition of outstanding achievements in teaching and scholarly research. She served as inaugural vice dean of the School of Law from 2011 to 2016.

## 1988

**Christopher M. Robertson** has joined the Orange County, California, office of Carothers DiSante & Freudenberger LLP. He focuses his practice on counseling and representing management on a variety of labor and employment issues under state and federal law.

## 1989

**Earl J. Barnes II**, former senior vice president and general counsel at OhioHealth Corp., was named senior vice president and general counsel at Advocate Health Care in Chicago.

2017  
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1982, and 1987

SEPT. 8-10



## Strengthening the GOP, One State Race at a Time

By Amy Spooner

Matt Raymer, '08, has a Jim Harbaugh bobblehead in his office. Prominent election lawyer and fellow Wolverine Charlie Spies, AB '95, sent it to Raymer with a note encouraging him to attack the 2016 election with an enthusiasm unknown to mankind—a nod to Harbaugh's mantra.

Raymer was general counsel at the National Republican Senatorial Committee (NRSC), and the team did just that. Republicans successfully defended 22 U.S. Senate seats to retain control of the chamber on the night they also took control of the White House and kept the majority in the House of Representatives.

"When I came to the NRSC, no one outside the party thought we would keep the Senate [majority]," Raymer says. With classic locker-room mentality, the team printed articles predicting the magnitude of Republican defeat and hung them in the office. "We had that sense of being in the trenches together and wanting to work hard, and my colleagues were some of the smartest people in politics. It was high-profile, high-intensity work, and lo and behold, we kept the Senate."

It was a dream job at a great time for Raymer, a political junkie since high school. After earning an undergraduate degree in history and government at Dartmouth, he worked as a consultant in Washington, D.C., and noticed that people who had the jobs he wanted also had law degrees. So he came to Michigan and developed a passion for football, thanks to his first game-day experience, and for election law, thanks to Professor Ellen Katz.

During his 1L summer in 2006, Raymer interned for Don McGahn, who then was the general counsel for the National Republican Congressional Committee (NRCC) and currently is White House counsel. Raymer helped the NRCC's legal team gear up for the November midterm elections—and didn't want to leave at summer's end. "Fall was going to be exciting," he says. Raymer worked with Michigan Law to craft an externship that kept him at NRCC through the election. He says that experience was pivotal in getting him to where he is now. "It launched me into the world of election law, which is a pretty small world, and I will always be grateful to Michigan Law for going out of its way to help me do that."

That small-world aspect was advantageous when Raymer was an associate at BakerHostetler LLP in D.C. While catching up with classmate Megan Sowards Newton, '08, he said he was considering his next career move. Soon after, Newton called to say she was leaving her job as general counsel at the NRSC—she later became general counsel for Jeb Bush's presidential campaign—and she had included his name on a list of replacements. Several interviews later, he had the job.

In the wake of the November elections, Raymer left the NRSC to become vice president and general counsel at the Republican State Leadership Committee (RSLC)—the country's largest caucus of Republican leaders elected to state government. The RSLC focuses on recruiting candidates and helping to elect state legislators, secretaries of state, judges, and lieutenant governors nationwide. "It's a great challenge as a lawyer," he says. "With federal candidates and committees, you're mainly dealing with one set of [federal] election laws. With the states, you're dealing with 50, and you have to ensure compliance with them all."

It's an exciting time to join the RSLC, says Raymer. "So much of what actually affects voters' lives happens in the states, and the states are the breeding grounds for the next generation of national leaders. Republicans are at all-time highs right now at the state level, and we know the Democrats want to change that."

Regardless of drama inside the Beltway, Raymer says the key to maintaining the Republican Party's success is relatively simple. "Every race is about having good candidates who speak best to the issues that matter to voters. As long as our candidates do that, we'll continue to win." He also says the current political climate might be here to stay. "There are so many ways now for people to be engaged politically through social media, so in a sense, our democracy is more 'small d' democratic than ever. We can have sharp political disagreements, yet we still have peaceful transitions of power. That's what makes our country so incredible."





## Outstanding Young Military Lawyer, for the Prosecution and the Defense

By Lori Atherton

Capt. Joe Neely, '09, entered law school intent on pursuing a career in Big Law, but when his 2L summer internship ended, he realized that working in a law firm wasn't for him. As Neely researched other career options, he found himself drawn to the Marine Corps—not only because of its judge advocate program, but also because of the rigor it promised.

"I knew that I wanted to do meaningful work, and I knew that I wanted to do something that challenged me physically as well as intellectually," Neely says. "The more I researched, the more I realized that the Marine Corps is the embodiment of these things. It seemed like a good fit."

Neely was commissioned as an officer in the Marine Corps in 2011 and completed nine months of training with his fellow recruits before receiving additional instruction as a judge advocate. "A foundational tenet of the Marine Corps is that we all go through the same six to nine months of training to become Marines before we go to our specific jobs," Neely says. "The idea of being a Marine first and an attorney second was really appealing because I didn't want to be a lawyer serving in the military; I wanted to be in the military and also be a lawyer."

Being both a Marine and an attorney has suited Neely, who was given a 2016 American Bar Association Outstanding Young Military Lawyer Award for his legal contributions as a judge advocate. Neely's career has been filled with diverse assignments that have taken him all over the United States, including California, Washington, D.C., Rhode Island, Virginia, and North Carolina, and overseas to Cuba, Romania, France, and Germany. He has served as both a defense attorney and prosecutor at Camp Pendleton; as an assistant staff judge advocate for the military commissions at Guantanamo Bay; as a deputy director

training prosecutors at the Pentagon; and, more recently, as a staff judge advocate in Romania, where he is pictured below (second from left). There, he was the sole legal adviser to a commander overseeing 1,100 Marines in 16 countries on matters relating to ethics; contracts; civil and criminal investigations; and operational, family, and employment law.

"My job is to resolve the Marines' legal issues, so they can do their job of fighting and winning wars," Neely says. "I've gotten to represent a lot of good people who were in bad circumstances, and occasionally I've been able to do some good."

One of Neely's most rewarding assignments was serving as defense counsel at Camp Pendleton, where he represented Marines facing federal charges—including some at the felony level—of involuntary manslaughter, rape, sexual assault, larceny, obstruction of justice, and drug possession and distribution. "It certainly wasn't always glamorous, and oftentimes it was frustrating, but there were plenty of times where I got to fight to make something right for someone who truly needed help," Neely says. "I believe my time as a defense attorney also made me a reasonably competent prosecutor. It provided me with a lot of perspective on punishment, the human factors associated with litigation, and, most importantly, how to spot holes in my cases."

Having celebrated his six-year anniversary as a Marine in January, Neely says he has no regrets about joining the military, and is grateful for the opportunities it has provided him and for his fellow officers, for whom he has the utmost respect. "The most fulfilling part about serving in the military is getting to be around Marines," Neely says. "I like to think that I joined for the right reasons, but I know I've stayed because of the selfless, altruistic, and dedicated people I've met."



1990



**Brian W. Easley**, formerly of the Chicago office of Jones Day, has been appointed partner-in-charge of the new Minneapolis office of the firm.

1991

**Judy (Friedman) Marotti** has joined Thompson, Coe, Cousins & Irons LLP as a partner in the Los Angeles office. She is a member of the insurance litigation and coverage section, with a practice that focuses on representing insurance carriers in sophisticated coverage disputes and bad-faith claims.

1992

**Christopher A. Ballard** has joined Varnum LLP in Ann Arbor as a partner. He practices in the areas of estate planning and tax.



**Michelle M. Gallardo**, director-legal at Harman International Industries Inc. in Novi, Michigan, was appointed by the president of the

American Bar Association to the Commission on Women in the Profession, which provides a national voice for women lawyers.



**Roger Lucas** has joined Kirkland & Ellis LLP as a partner in the Chicago office. A member of the firm's tax practice group, he represents clients on business formations,

complex transactions and financings, and executive compensation.

**Stacy E. Singer**, central region trust and adviser practice executive at Northern Trust Co. in Chicago, has been elected a fellow of the American College of Trust & Estate Counsel.

1993

**Mark E. Crane**, an attorney specializing in family law, has joined Butzel Long PC in the firm's Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, office. His experience in family law includes 12 years as principal of his own firm.



**Paul Grant** has joined Rose Walker LLP, leading its new office in Denver. He has spent his career representing businesses and individuals as both

plaintiffs and defendants in a variety of litigation and arbitration cases.

1994

**Keith Fentonmiller** has published his debut novel, *Kasper Mützenmacher's Cursed Hat* (Curiosity Quills Press, 2017). It is a family saga about tradition, faith, and identity that is set during the Jazz Age, Nazi Germany, and the Detroit race riots of 1943.

**Jill Dahlmann Rosa** received the Attorney General's Award for Distinguished Service, the second-highest award for employee performance in the U.S. Department of Justice, for her work on the trial team of the Deepwater Horizon/BP oil spill litigation. She is a trial attorney in the aviation and admiralty litigation section of the civil division.

1995

**Eric Gonzalez** has assumed the role of acting district attorney for Brooklyn, New York. He is a member of the Puerto Rican Bar Association and also sits on the board of directors of the Kings County Criminal Bar Association.

1996



**Fred Herrmann** has been sworn in as chair of the State Bar of Michigan Representative Assembly. He is a partner with Kerr Russell in Detroit.

**Nathaniel Marrs** has joined DLA Piper as a partner in the finance practice in the Chicago office. He represents domestic and international real estate fund sponsors and other real estate owners and operators in a variety of corporate transactions.

**Ross Romero**, a former Utah state senator, has joined the Salt Lake City office of Michael Best Strategies LLC. As senior adviser, he is focused on government relations and public policy in Utah and the western United States.

**Gillian Thomas's** book, *Because of Sex: One Law, Ten Cases, and Fifty Years That Changed the Lives of America's Working Women* (St. Martin's Press, 2016), surveys 10 of the most significant U.S. Supreme Court decisions involving women and work, as told by the women who brought the cases. It has earned positive reviews from *The New York Times* and many other publications.



2017  
**REUNION**  
 1992, 1997, 2002, 2007,  
 and 2012  
**SEPT. 15-17**

# CLASS NOTES

## 1997



**The Hon. Elizabeth Peterson**, partner in the Palo Alto, California, office of Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati PC, has been appointed to a judgeship on the

Santa Clara County Superior Court.

**Julie (Burnham) Porter** has joined the newly renamed firm of Salvatore Prescott & Porter PLLC, leading its new Chicago office. She joins Detroit-based classmate **Jennifer Salvatore** and Michigan Law lecturer **Sarah Prescott** at the firm, which specializes in employment and civil rights litigation, as well as criminal defense and investigations.

**Chad Readler** has been appointed to serve as principal deputy assistant attorney general in the civil division of the U.S. Department of Justice. Previously, he was a partner in the Columbus, Ohio, office of Jones Day.



**Bryan Walters**, partner at Varnum LLP in Grand Rapids, Michigan, was named president of the Western District of Michigan Chapter of the Federal Bar

Association. He specializes in business litigation and dispute resolution, with emphasis on federal court and bankruptcy court litigation, intellectual property litigation, and mediation and arbitration of business disputes.

## 1999

**Jonathan M. Grandon** was appointed chief administrative officer and general counsel of Franklin Electric Co. Inc. in Fort Wayne, Indiana. He is responsible for the legal and human resource functions of the company and also plays an integral role in leading various business development activities.



**Jackson Lewis** has joined the board of directors of the Terwilliger Plaza Foundation. He chairs the estate planning practice group at Tonkon Torp LLP in Portland, Oregon, and advises clients on a variety of estate, tax, and probate issues. His practice includes counseling closely held businesses on estate and succession planning.

**The Hon. Scott T. Varholak** was appointed federal magistrate judge for the U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado, after many years of service as a federal public defender in Colorado.

## 2000

**Katherine S. Dawson Varholak** was selected to serve as the chair of the litigation, trials, and appeals department at Sherman & Howard LLC in Denver. Her practice focuses on insurance litigation on behalf of corporate policyholders and high-stakes fiduciary litigation.

## 2001

**Erica Fitzgerald**, member at Barris, Sott, Denn & Driker PLLC in Detroit, has been appointed to the board of directors of the Southeastern Michigan Administrative Services Group (formerly known as the Legal Aid and Defender Association), the largest provider of legal services to low- and moderate-income people in Michigan.



**William P. Johnson** has been appointed dean of the Saint Louis University School of Law. He previously was a professor and director of the law school's Center for International and Comparative Law.



**Alan Kahn** has returned to the Law School as public interest director in the Office of Career Planning. He previously worked in a variety of government and public interest positions, most recently serving in the litigation and oversight division of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

## 2002

**Erin L. (Johnson) Webb** has joined Tayman Lane Chaverri LLP as partner in Washington, D.C., where she focuses her practice on recovering insurance proceeds for business clients.

## 2003



**Stephen T. Blackburn** has joined Standly Hamilton LLP in Dallas as a trial lawyer. His practice focuses on injury, wrongful death, and dangerous water contamination cases.



**Marquel S. (Sautural) Jordan** has been elected partner of Blank Rome LLP in Houston, where she practices in the areas of toxic tort and products liability litigation.



## Opening the Courthouse Doors to Everyone

By Lori Atherton

When the marriage equality movement started gaining momentum, Kerene Moore, '05, saw an opportunity to help the LGBT community understand its rights, and to access them. It's why she helped to create the LGBT Rights Project at the Jim Toy Community Center in Washtenaw County.

The LGBT Rights Project is a collaboration between Legal Services of South Central Michigan, where Moore is a supervising attorney, and Outlaws, a student organization that serves the needs of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community at Michigan Law. Since 2015, when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in favor of marriage equality in *Obergefell v. Hodges*, the project has been assisting clients with legal matters related to custody, divorce, adoptions, name changes, public benefits, expungement, and more.

"Part of the reason we established the LGBT Rights Project is to provide a free place, with open doors, where individuals can ask legal questions in a welcoming environment and get an informed response," says Moore. "I've found that although we think people understand their rights, they really have no idea how laws directly impact their lives. Whether it's understanding tax implications or figuring out how best to protect a parent-child relationship, we want to help people work through those options. More importantly, we want to take the papers to the courthouse and say, 'This person would like to take advantage of his or her rights.' That's a big part of who I am—helping people access the courthouse and bringing about change for them on the ground level."

For her efforts on behalf of the LGBT community, Moore was named a 2016 Best LGBT Lawyer Under 40 by the National LGBT Bar Association last August. It's an honor that is particularly meaningful for Moore, who notes that it recognizes "those who are working behind the scenes, making a direct impact on LGBT people every day."

A double Wolverine who earned her bachelor's degree in psychology in 2002, Moore originally considered a dual degree in law and social work. But she realized her strengths are "working through regulatory details and finding loopholes."

In law school, Moore worked as a student-attorney in Michigan Law's Children's Rights Appellate Practice Clinic and Legal Assistance for Urban Communities Clinic (now the Community and Economic Development Clinic)—pivotal experiences that enabled her to "go the extra mile for clients." That same drive



to help clients is evident in her work at Legal Services of South Central Michigan, where she began as a staff attorney in 2007 and handles civil cases related to housing, family, immigration, public benefits, consumer, and LGBT rights law. In addition, she holds volunteer roles with the Ann Arbor Human Rights Commission and the Washtenaw County Bar Association's LGBTQ rights section, among others.

What motivates Moore, who was raised in a working-class family in Detroit, "is having something that many people in my community don't have. When you have access to education and information, you can make the world a better place. I'm from a community that has serious challenges and barriers, and I want to do my part to help others access what appears out of reach.

"There aren't a lot of me's out there—African American lesbian attorneys with a U-M Law School education—and I want members of my community to have a voice," she adds.

Moore is inspired by the Michigan Law students she mentors through the LGBT Rights Project. Their optimism and unwillingness to take no for an answer are "refreshing," Moore says. The students, along with the marriage equality case *Obergefell* remind her of why she is committed to the law and advancing LGBT rights.

"It's a huge deal in one's lifetime to watch this type of decision [*Obergefell*] come down and to be part of making sure it gets implemented at the ground level," Moore says. "I wasn't around when *Brown v. Board of Education* came down. For *Obergefell*, I'm here, I'm ready, and I can help make sure the doors to the courthouse are open to everyone."

# CLASS NOTES

## 2004

**Scott S. Minder** was appointed to the Maricopa County (Arizona) Superior Court. He is an attorney with Perkins Coie LLP in Phoenix, where he practices complex commercial litigation.



**Azadeh Shahshahani** has been named an Outstanding Person of the Year by the newspaper *Mundo Hispanico* for her activism on behalf

of the Latino community and defending the rights of immigrants in Georgia.

## 2005

**Brian C. Greene** was elected partner at Chadbourne & Parke LLP in Washington, D.C. He represents public and private entities in domestic and international project finance, energy, and infrastructure projects, particularly in the United States and Latin America.



**Aaron Lewis** was promoted to partner at Covington & Burling LLP in Los Angeles, where he represents clients in sensitive, high-profile internal investigations,

government enforcement matters, and complex commercial litigation. He returned to Covington to help open the L.A. office after six years of service in the U.S. Department of Justice, first as counsel to Attorney General Eric Holder, and later as a federal prosecutor in Los Angeles.



**Andrea (Delgadillo) Ostrovsky** was promoted to partner at the newly formed firm Calfo Eakes & Ostrovsky PLLC in Seattle. Her practice focuses on white collar

criminal defense, complex commercial litigation, and investigations.

**Samantha Sturgis** has been promoted to partner at Perkins Coie LLP. She is a member of the firm's technology transactions and privacy law practice in the Denver office.

## 2006



**Joshua D. Burns** has joined Crowe & Dunlevy PC as an attorney in the firm's Oklahoma City office. He is a member of the firm's banking and financial institutions;

bankruptcy and creditor's rights; energy, environment, and natural resources; health care; and litigation and trial practice groups.

**Joanne Alnajjar Buser** has been promoted to partner at Paul, Plevin, Sullivan & Connaughton LLP in San Diego. She works in the area of labor and employment law.



**Sophia Hudson**, a partner with Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP, was named a 2016–2017 David Rockefeller fellow. She was selected by the Partnership for

New York City to participate in the yearlong business and civic leadership program.

**Matt Nolan**, former general counsel of the American Football League of Shanghai, has joined the Heico Companies LLC as vice president, general counsel of the Ankra group, and director of Heico global compliance. He is based in the company's office in Warrenville, Illinois.



**Paul Porter** joined O'Melveny & Myers LLP as counsel in San Francisco, where he will continue his capital markets practice. He spent the previous nine

years at Allen & Overy LLP in London and Hong Kong.

## 2007

**Sheila B. Neba**, an attorney in the Atlanta office of Littler Mendelson PC, has been elevated to shareholder. She represents and counsels employers in a broad range of employment matters arising under federal and state law.

## 2008



**Jennifer R. Garner** has been promoted to partner at Locke Lord LLP in Chicago. She practices real estate law and works on local and national matters involving the

acquisition, disposition, financing, and leasing of commercial properties.

## 2009

**Adrienne E. Fowler**, former trial attorney in the U.S. Department of Justice's consumer protection branch, has been named partner at Harris, Wiltshire & Grannis LLP in Washington, D.C.

**Robert Kim**, former senior litigation associate at Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP in San Francisco, has joined the litigation department of Sussman Shank LLP in Portland, Oregon.

**Gabriele Sabato** co-wrote *Ambiente* (IPSOA, 2016), a legal guide to key issues in environmental law. The book describes the current status of environmental law in Italy and the European Union, and relevant case law. He also earned his PhD in environmental law and economics at Università degli Studi di Roma Tor Vergata.



2010



**Leah Litman** has joined the faculty of the University of California, Irvine School of Law. She researches and writes on constitutional law with a particular focus

on federalism and federal post-conviction review.

2011



**Jeffrey T. Bagley** was named assistant federal public defender for the U.S. District Court, Western District of New York.

**Matthew Miller**, adjunct professor at Georgetown University Law Center, has joined the Sierra Club in Washington, D.C., as a staff attorney. His advocacy focuses on hastening the transition from dirty fuels to clean, sustainable energy.

2013

**Giselle B. Safazadeh** has joined Butler Ruben Saltarelli & Boyd LLP in Chicago as an associate, concentrating her practice on complex commercial litigation.

2014



**Nick Leonard** was promoted to staff attorney at the nonprofit Great Lakes Environmental Law Center in Detroit, a partnership with Wayne State

University Law School's Transnational Environmental Law Clinic. He previously was an Equal Justice Works fellow at the Center.

2015



**Jonathan B. Koch** has joined the appellate practice group at Collins Einhorn Farrell PC in Southfield, Michigan. Before joining the firm, he worked as

a clerk to the **Hon. David F. Viviano, '96**, of the Michigan Supreme Court.

**James W. Thurman** has joined Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP as an associate with the firm's bankruptcy team in Birmingham, Alabama.

2016

**John C. Muhs** joined Warner Norcross & Judd LLP's office in Southfield, Michigan, where he practices corporate and securities law as a member of the business practice and automotive industry groups.



**Eric L. Scharphorn** has joined Faegre Baker Daniels LLP as an associate. He practices with the firm's corporate group in Chicago to develop business solutions for

companies with operations throughout the world.

**2017  
REUNION**  
1992, 1997, 2002, 2007,  
and 2012  
**SEPT. 15-17**

## Charles W. Joiner



The Hon. Charles “Charlie” Joiner, former Thomas M. Cooley Professor of Law Emeritus at Michigan Law and a former federal district judge, died March 10 in Naples, Florida, at the age of 101.

Judge Joiner received his law degree from the University of Iowa in 1939. His professional career in the following years spanned the breadth of the legal profession.

He began his career as a trial attorney in Des Moines, Iowa. He also served in the Army Air Corps, volunteering as an aviation cadet. He went on to become a flight instructor, then a pilot and crew commander of a B-29 bomber squadron in the Pacific during World War II.

After discharge from military service, he joined the Michigan Law faculty in 1947. He also became active in both Rotary International and city government.

As a law professor at Michigan, he developed an innovative teaching method that involved filming a series of faux accidents from different angles. Moot courts in law schools around the country used the footage. “Charlie cared deeply about the courts and the practicing Bar of Michigan, and devoted great energy to their improvement,” says John Reed, the Thomas M. Cooley Professor of Law Emeritus. “True to his surname, he was indeed a ‘joiner’ of associations, commissions, and other bodies working to reform flawed procedures; but more, he was a leader and creator of new structures. His fingerprints are on numerous current elements of Michigan law and lawyers.”

Throughout his life, Judge Joiner had an abiding interest in continuing legal education. In addition to his passion for designing new teaching materials, he also was a key advocate for the first national effort to provide a continuing education program for lawyers returning home after the war. “Michigan’s preeminent Institute of Continuing Legal Education was his brainchild,” notes Reed, “as was the creation of Michigan’s district courts, replacing an antiquated system of justices of the peace.” His reputation as a gifted legal scholar attracted the attention of Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court Earl Warren, who requested his aid in authoring the proposal that resulted in the Uniform Rules of Evidence for the federal court system. Later, the chief justice recruited him to serve on the Civil Rules Advisory Committee, the Standing Committee on Civil Rules of the Judicial Conference, and the Committee to Review Circuit Council Conduct and Disability Orders (Ethics). He served as associate dean of Michigan Law from 1960 to 1968 and then as acting dean for a year before he was appointed dean of Wayne State University Law School in 1967. “Charlie was an especially friendly and kind individual,” says Douglas Kahn, the Paul G. Kauper Professor of Law Emeritus. “In his year as interim dean, he made a number of improvements to the services available to the faculty, including the creation of a faculty room. Prior to that, there was no place for faculty to gather and talk informally.”

In 1972, President Richard Nixon nominated him to a seat on the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan that had been vacated by the Hon. Talbot Smith, ‘34. On the federal bench, Judge Joiner heard and decided a number of significant and landmark cases, both civil and criminal. Among them were some of the first cases involving the use of polygraph technology in the federal system. After taking senior status in 1984, he sat by invitation on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit until 1997.

Judge Joiner is survived by three children: Charles Jr. (Katherine), Nancy (Stan) Bidlack, and Richard; seven grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren.

## Roger C. Cramton

Roger Cramton, a former Michigan Law professor, died February 3 in Ithaca, New York. He was 87.

Cramton joined the Michigan Law faculty in 1962 as an assistant professor. He taught administrative law and conflict of laws until 1973, when he left to become dean of Cornell Law School.

“Roger went from being Nixon’s chief legal counsel to one of the first to call for his resignation,” says Ted St. Antoine, ‘54, the James E. and Sarah A. Degan Professor of Law Emeritus, who considered Cramton a personal friend as well as a colleague. In 1970, while on leave from Michigan Law, President Richard Nixon appointed Cramton as chairman of the Administrative Conference of the United States. He later appointed Cramton as assistant attorney general in charge of the Office of Legal Counsel in the Department of Justice. “Had things gone a little differently, I could easily have seen him as a Cabinet member,” St. Antoine says. While serving as Cornell’s law dean, President Gerald Ford also appointed Cramton as the first chairman of the Legal Services Corporation.

“Roger was a powerful figure who could be the soul of kindness—or toughness personified,” says St. Antoine. The two shared a love of the lakes and mountains of their native Vermont. Cramton’s wife, Harriet, called the duo the “Green Mountain Boys.” Another popular topic of conversation was political history, especially presidential biographies, which Cramton enjoyed.

In addition to being a leader in his scholarship, Cramton also was a leader in the Law Quad. “He became one of the most active and influential members of the faculty,” says Jerry Israel, the Alene and Allan F. Smith Professor of Law Emeritus. “Roger chaired several important committees, encouraged faculty participation in the Administrative Conference, and was always available as a sounding board for anybody seeking a rigorous analysis of a potential theme for an article or book.” At the same time, Cramton’s own research continued to expand upon an approach to conflict of laws, which challenged the old-school “mechanical approach,” says Israel. Cramton went on to coauthor a major casebook on conflicts.

“Despite his relative youth, Roger was a leading figure as a member of the Michigan Law faculty. He was very decisive. He always made it quite clear what position he took and, in my opinion, he was almost always right,” says Yale Kamisar, the Clarence Darrow Distinguished University Professor of Law Emeritus.

Cramton is survived by his wife of 62 years, Harriet (Hasselstine) Cramton; his children, Ann Kopinski (Don), Charles (Debbie), Peter (Catherine), and Cutter (Dawn); 11 grandchildren; and 21 great-grandchildren.



## Roger Wilkins, '56



Roger Wilkins, '56, died March 26 in Kensington, Maryland. He was 85. Wilkins exposed injustice and fought for equality—through the complex lens of being a black man in America—throughout his career as a public servant, educator, and Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist.

"I don't think we're 'Africans in America,'" Wilkins said in a 1997 speech at U-M. "At least I'm not. What kind of African is born in Kansas City; lives and dies for the University of Michigan football

team; loves Toni Morrison, William Faulkner, and the Baltimore Orioles; reveres George Washington and Harriet Tubman; and who, when puzzled by the conundrum of Thomas Jefferson, collects his thoughts while listening to B.B. King?"

In honor of Wilkins's vast and varied accomplishments, the Law School honored him as its 2014 Distinguished Alumni Award (DAA) recipient. He also received an honorary degree from the University of Michigan in 1993. Upon receiving the DAA, Wilkins said, "Michigan Law gave me the analytical tools and skills I needed to push these struggles [for racial justice] forward as a lawyer, journalist, and professor, and I know that it will do the same for many others. I am truly honored to be receiving the Distinguished Alumni Award from the institution that helped me to become the person I sought to be."

Wilkins came of age intellectually and professionally during a watershed time in American history: the *Brown v. Board of Education* ruling was handed down while he was in law school. "Sixty years later, we all appreciate that *Brown* unleashed a movement that... affected profoundly many aspects of American life," said Wilkins.

In his early days at Michigan Law, Wilkins was confronted with the fact that race helped define how others saw him. In his autobiography, *A Man's Life* (Ox Bow Press, 1982), he recalled meeting with a professor who said that although Wilkins had a subpar academic record, the Law School had admitted him because his undergraduate professors at U-M—he earned a bachelor's degree in 1953—had vouched for the quality of his campus involvement. The professor then said the Law School felt strongly that it had a responsibility to help produce strong black leaders. "That doesn't mean you won't have to do the work," Wilkins recalled the professor saying, "but that's why we took a

chance [on you]." Wilkins answered the challenge by graduating with a far better academic record than he held as an undergrad.

His first formal work with civil rights was as a rising 3L intern at the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, under then director-counsel Thurgood Marshall. A commitment to social justice ran in Wilkins's family: His uncle, Roy, was executive secretary of the NAACP; his father was a well-respected black journalist; and his mother worked to integrate the YWCA. After graduating from Michigan Law, Wilkins became a caseworker for the Ohio welfare department. He later served as an assistant attorney general in the Lyndon Johnson administration, in charge of the Justice Department's community relations service.

He explained his commitment to the public sector in a 2011 NPR interview: "Can I stand around with my two degrees from the University of Michigan and watch other people do the changes? I couldn't be a bystander."

At that time, Wilkins was one of the highest-ranking black Americans ever to serve in the executive branch, and as head of the community relations service, he was the White House's emissary to peacefully resolve the 1965 Watts riots in Los Angeles. "One of the worst things... was the fact that important Angelenos, who should have known about the conditions in Watts, were seeking interviews with us [to find out] about conditions in their own town," Wilkins wrote in a 2005 *Washington Post* op-ed.

He had seen firsthand the power of the press; his father was the only black journalist to interview presidential candidate Franklin D. Roosevelt, and his father and uncle both worked for a prominent black newspaper. So after Johnson left office, Wilkins became a journalist, first at *The Washington Post*, then at *The New York Times* (where he was the first black person on the editorial board), *The Washington Star*, and National Public Radio. In 1972, as a member of the *Post's* editorial staff, he shared the Pulitzer Prize for coverage of the Watergate scandal with Bob Woodward, Carl Bernstein, and Herbert Block. He also was the publisher of the NAACP's journal, *The Crisis*.

Later in his career, Wilkins served as the Clarence J. Robinson Professor of History and American Culture at George Mason University. In a statement following Wilkins's death, university President Ángel Cabrera called him "irreplaceable."

Wilkins is survived by his wife, Patricia A. King, a law professor at Georgetown University; his daughters, Amy and Elizabeth; his son, David; and two grandsons.

*A portion of this story appeared in the fall 2014 issue of the Law Quadrangle.*

# I N M E M O R I A M

## 1940s

Arthur M. Hoffeins, '42	12/21/2016
David R. Chenoweth, '48	11/05/2016
Maurice Reuler, '48	12/12/2016
Richard L. Weiss, '48	12/10/2016
Marvin M. Okun, '49	10/20/2016

## 1950s

Jack M. Bowie, '50	10/31/2016
Henry B. Davis, '50	01/03/2017
Jack E. Kennedy, '50	10/10/2016
Arthur Staton, '50	12/03/2016
Blaine O. Rudolph, '51	09/16/2016
Sheldon W. Sandweiss, '51	01/17/2016
Frances E. Bilmes, '52	12/18/2016
William M. Osborn, '52	10/26/2016
Joseph B. White, '53	12/16/2016
Carl R. Withers, '53	09/10/2016
James L. Howlett, '54	11/11/2016
Richard D. Ward, '54	07/24/2016
Douglas E. Peck, '55	09/27/2016
Kenneth A. Miller, '56	12/25/2016
Edwin S. Taylor, '56	12/08/2016
Roger Wilkins, '56	03/26/2017
Charles N. Glass, '57	11/22/2016
Robert E. Hammell, '57	06/15/2016
Richard F. McClurg, '57	11/30/2016
Dwight H. Vincent, '57	10/22/2016
Donald L. Reisig, '58	10/21/2016
Malcolm H. Fromberg, '59	09/07/2016
Arnold Henson, '59	12/18/2016

## 1960s

Robert A. Burns, '60	10/15/2016
Kent J. Vana, '62	12/31/2016
Sandor M. Gelman, '63	11/23/2016
Perry W. Lewis, '63	07/26/2016
Florenz D. Regalado, '63	07/24/2015
Lauren B. Grinage, '64	10/01/2016
Thomas V. Giles, '65	09/27/2016
John C. Landis, '66	09/10/2016
Michael P. Knapp, '67	11/29/2016
John W. Puffer, '67	11/25/2016
Robert J. Oexeman, '68	12/11/2016

## 1970s

Isaac Schulz, '70	09/19/2016
Robert C. Williams, '70	12/10/2016
Michael L. Chojnowski, '71	01/19/2017
Gary N. Sinawski, '73	09/15/2014
Miriam D. Santiago, '75	09/29/2016
David L. Dawson, '76	11/06/2016



THE PSURFS

SING

The Psurfs Sing

Members of The Psurfs, the vocal group at the Law School in the middle of the last century, could do more than carry a tune; they also could explain the group's origin with wryness and wit. "Early in 1941, a small band of law students, seeking diversion from the tedium of legal study, organized an outing association named: 'The Ann Arbor Surf-Board Riding and Mountain Climbing Society.' Almost from its inception, however, it appeared that the society would be frustrated in its purpose due to geographic location. To avoid an early stymie a revised charter was therefore adopted incorporating singing as the main activity," state the notes on the jacket of the vinyl record produced by the group in 1955. The "p" at the beginning of the group's name stands for "pseudo," the record jacket also clarifies.



ONLINE EXTRA

Enjoy some tracks from the album at [quadrangle.law.umich.edu](http://quadrangle.law.umich.edu).



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