

Quadrangle

LAW

NOTES FROM MICHIGAN LAW





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5 Quotes You'll See in This Issue

1. "We're not against the police. We are in favor of a successful police department. Our belief is that to do that you need transparency, accountability, and an outside voice." (p. 13)
2. "Our health depends on eating well-raised food that we have a connection to. It's about being good ecological and animal stewards." (p. 23)
3. "Everybody realizes that now, but 10 years ago when I was talking to civic groups and state legislators, I felt like I was bashing my head against a wall because nobody believed it. Now, everybody believes it, and it's just amazing to see how much easier it is to make systemic progress." (p. 27)
4. "At the end of the day, I got to do something super cool that tons of people haven't gotten to do. The experience has allowed me to be a little less serious and to enjoy being in the moment more." (p. 58)
5. "Between Lyndon Johnson, Richard Nixon, and the Senate's willingness to break with custom, we established the template for modern-day judicial politics. The Fortas nomination set in motion the process of a hyper-politicized Supreme Court." (p. 64)





WOMAN OF VISION

Renowned legal scholar and Michigan Law

Professor Catharine A. MacKinnon—who has

been called “one of the most significant figures in

feminism” by the National

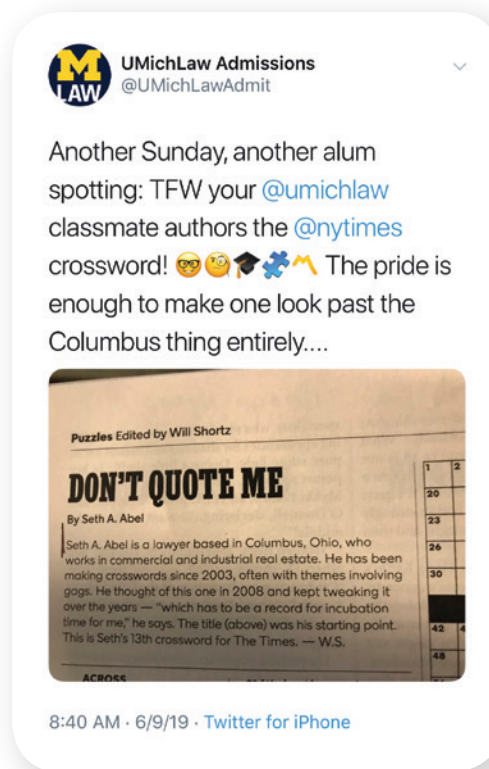
Organization for Women

(NOW)—received the organization’s Woman

of Vision Award for her

work in advancing

women’s rights.



LUCKY 13

Seth Abel, '92, constructs crossword puzzles in his spare time, including this one (his 13th) that was spotted in *The New York Times*. His crosswords also have appeared in *The Washington Post* and Simon and Schuster’s crossword puzzle books.



CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY

U.S. Rep. Justin Amash, '05, who represents Michigan’s third district, presented U-M’s annual Constitution Day address. Amash, who was a member of the Republican party and is now an independent, said the Constitution is “a subject dear to my heart.” In attendance were Amash’s brothers—John, '01, and Jeff, '07.

300+

Alumni and students who participated in Michigan Law's 2019 summer mentoring program, primarily in New York, Chicago, and Washington, D.C.



SUPREME COURT BAR

Six Michigan Law alumni became members of the Bar of the U.S. Supreme Court in October. **Dean Mark West** (center) and **May Liang, '89** (left), who moved for their admission to the Court, are pictured with inductees **Richard L. Kay, '61**; **Andrew Kay, '97**; **Barbara Jane Irwin, '80**; **Sophia Hudson, '06**; **Maren R. Norton, '04**; and **Broderick Johnson, '83**.



A new podcast about the U.S. Supreme Court created and co-hosted by **Assistant Professor Leah Litman, '10**

CLEAN-SLATE LEGISLATION

"We find nothing to suggest that granting someone a set-aside puts the public at risk, as skeptics have sometimes suggested. Those who receive set-asides are less likely to commit a new crime than the general adult population of Michigan. The rate of serious or violent re-offending is almost zero."

—**Professors J.J. Prescott** and **Sonja Starr**, in a *Detroit News* op-ed about proposed Michigan legislation that would offer certain offenders a chance to set aside their criminal records through expungement. They recently conducted a major study of the effects of Michigan's set-aside procedure and found that expungement is associated with large improvements in employment opportunities, among other benefits.





Reconnecting at Reunion

There's nothing like fall in the Quad—especially for the Michigan Law alumni who returned to campus for their Reunion Weekend in September. Both weekends featured a Michigan football victory (an overtime win against Army and a 52–0 drubbing of Rutgers), as well as opportunities for classmates to reconnect during class dinners and at a Law School tailgate, an update from Dean Mark West, tours of the new (and old!) campus facilities, and more. Clockwise, from top left: Charles Lowery, '79; Donica Varner, '93, and Monica Navarro, '93; Tom Talley, '69; Kwame Gyimah, '14, and Jyoti Kuvelker, '14; Joe Grekin, '94; Doug Kahn, the Paul G. Kauper Professor Emeritus of Law; Steve Kelley, '89, and Lydia Barry Kelley, '89; Dustin Jackson, '09, and Eric Lee, '09; Jackson Conrad, son of Brandon Conrad, '08; Allen Giles, '74; attendees from the classes of 1994, 1999, 2004, 2009, and 2014; and the Pioneer High School drumline.

LEISA THOMPSON PHOTOGRAPHY





“[T]HE CHALLENGE IS THAT CURRENT LAW INCENTIVIZES PHYSICIANS TO MINIMIZE THE POTENTIAL VALUE OF AI.”

Professor Nicholson Price, in the co-authored article, “Potential Liability for Physicians Using Artificial Intelligence,” which appeared in *JAMA: The Journal of the American Medical Association*.



Senate Sit-Down

U.S. Sen. Rob Portman [R-OH], '84—in town for his 35th class reunion— took time to co-teach **Professor Julian Davis Mortenson's** Legislation and Regulation class.

6,876

Hours logged during the 2018–2019 academic year by students in Michigan Law's Pro Bono Program



FISKE FELLOWS

Four Michigan Law alumni are the recipients of 2019 Fiske Fellowships, which are awarded to recent graduates who have accepted positions in government. Pictured with **Dean Mark West** and **Bob Fiske, '55, HLLD '97**, who created the Fiske Fellowship Program, are **Ashlyn Angell, '19**, U.S. Navy JAG Corps; **Sarah Precup, '17**, U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona; **Christopher VanDeusen, '17**, Department of Justice Civil Division, Commercial Litigation Branch; and **Sarah Grunberger, '19**, Manhattan District Attorney's Office.

“The Stone Age didn’t end because we ran out of stone. It ended because we got a better idea, and we moved on to the better idea.”

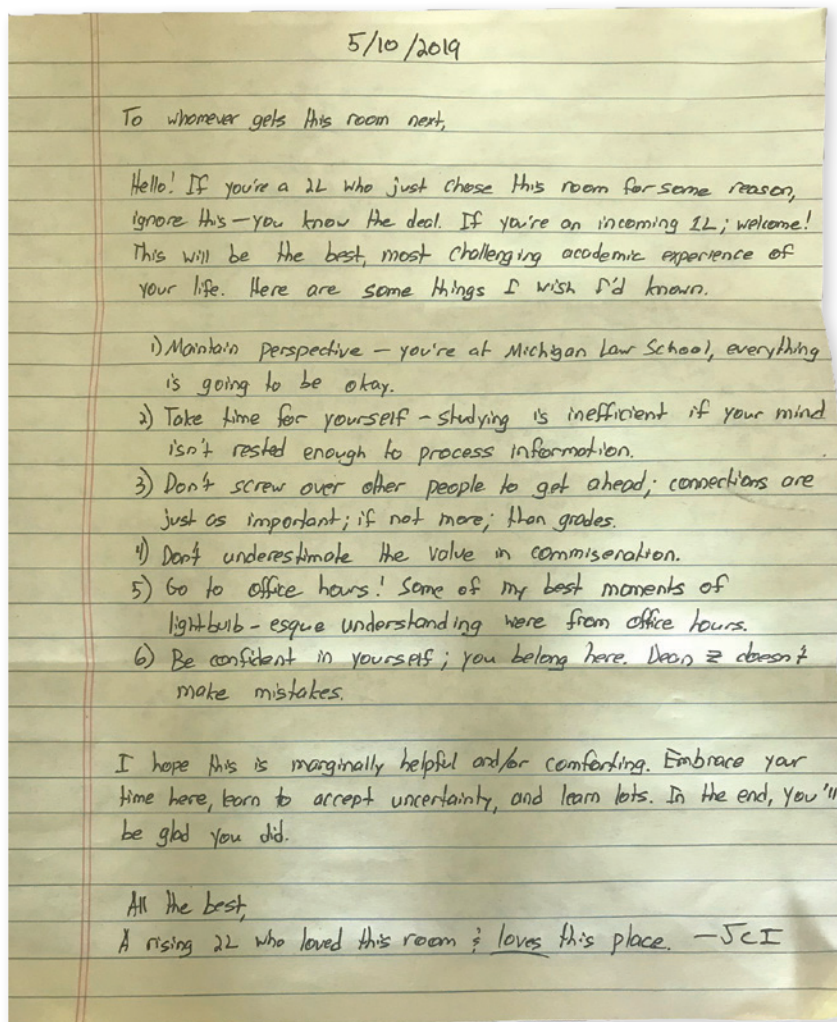
—Former Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick,

during an Environmental Law and Policy Program (ELPP) talk in which he advocated for more innovation to bring about a green economy. The ELPP Lecture Series also included the talk, “Climate Change Politics in Congress: Is a Bi-Partisan Agreement Possible?,” with **U.S. Rep. Ted Deutch, '90.**



Samuel Bagenstos,

the Frank G. Millard Professor of Law, was appointed to the Michigan Employment Relations Commission (MERC) by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer. MERC resolves labor disputes involving public- and private-sector employees by appointing mediators, arbitrators, and fact finders; conducting union representation elections; determining appropriate bargaining units; and adjudicating unfair labor practice cases.



SAGE ADVICE

A letter found in a drawer in a Lawyers Club student room last summer offers words of wisdom to an incoming 1L— from a rising 2L who “loves this place.”

B R I E F S

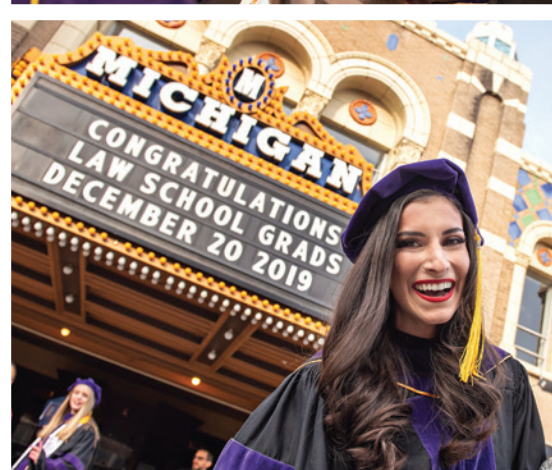




Farewell, Summer Start

Congratulations to Michigan Law's last Summer Start class. The 81 graduates were hooded and received their certificate of membership in the Lawyers Club at the December Senior Day ceremony, which featured remarks from Anne Steen, a member of the Class of 2019, and Andrea Delgadillo Ostrovsky, '05, a partner at Calfo Eakes & Ostrovsky and a former Summer Starter. A special banner was displayed during the event to honor all Summer Starters who graduated from the Law School and to mark their unique place in the Law School's history. With the graduation of the last Summer Start class, Section ABCD has been retired.

LEISA THOMPSON PHOTOGRAPHY



Asim Rehman, '01: Overseeing the Nation's Largest Police Department

By Claire Zulkey

When he was considering becoming the first general counsel of the newly opened Office of the Inspector General for the New York City Police Department (OIG-NYPD) in 2014, Asim Rehman, '01, wasn't sure what to expect when discussing the job offer with his mom, dad, and boss. He was convinced that his parents, immigrants from Pakistan, would question leaving the comforts of his private-sector job at MetLife for one in government. Instead, "Without hesitation, they told me to take the job." Next, after making the decision, he went to his supervisor at MetLife. "Midway through my lengthy explanation of why I was leaving, she cut me off and said, 'Asim, when you get an offer like this, you don't pass it up.'"

Rehman, who helps oversee the nation's largest municipal police department, was promoted to first deputy inspector general in 2017. As part of the Department of Investigation—New York City's independent corruption watchdog—his office investigates and reviews systemic issues concerning the policies and practices of the NYPD. His team has released 15 reports on a variety of topics regarding New York policing, from the treatment of the LGBT community to officer use of force to body-worn cameras. After Eric Garner died in a 2014 police incident, Rehman's department investigated the use of chokeholds by NYPD officers, looking at several cases where

officers applied chokeholds and how the officers were disciplined. "We were able to educate the public on NYPD's policy on chokeholds, the trends in chokehold cases, and what that tells us about things the police department should be doing differently," Rehman says.

How does one go from working as corporate counsel at MetLife—where he provided global litigation support to more than 40 foreign MetLife companies—to overseeing the NYPD? "I was working on police accountability issues because they were important to me, not because I was looking for a job," Rehman says. A self-described corporate litigator by day and community advocate by night, Rehman co-founded the Muslim Bar Association of New York in 2006. He advised community members of their legal rights and employers on accommodating workers who must fast during Ramadan. When the local Muslim community raised concerns about police surveillance issues, Rehman dove in. Later, when New York City legislation was enacted in 2013 establishing the Inspector General's office, local civil rights attorneys suggested Rehman apply for the open general counsel position. "I was encouraged that my peers came to me with that idea, and saw this as an opportunity to work full time on an issue that mattered to me," he says.

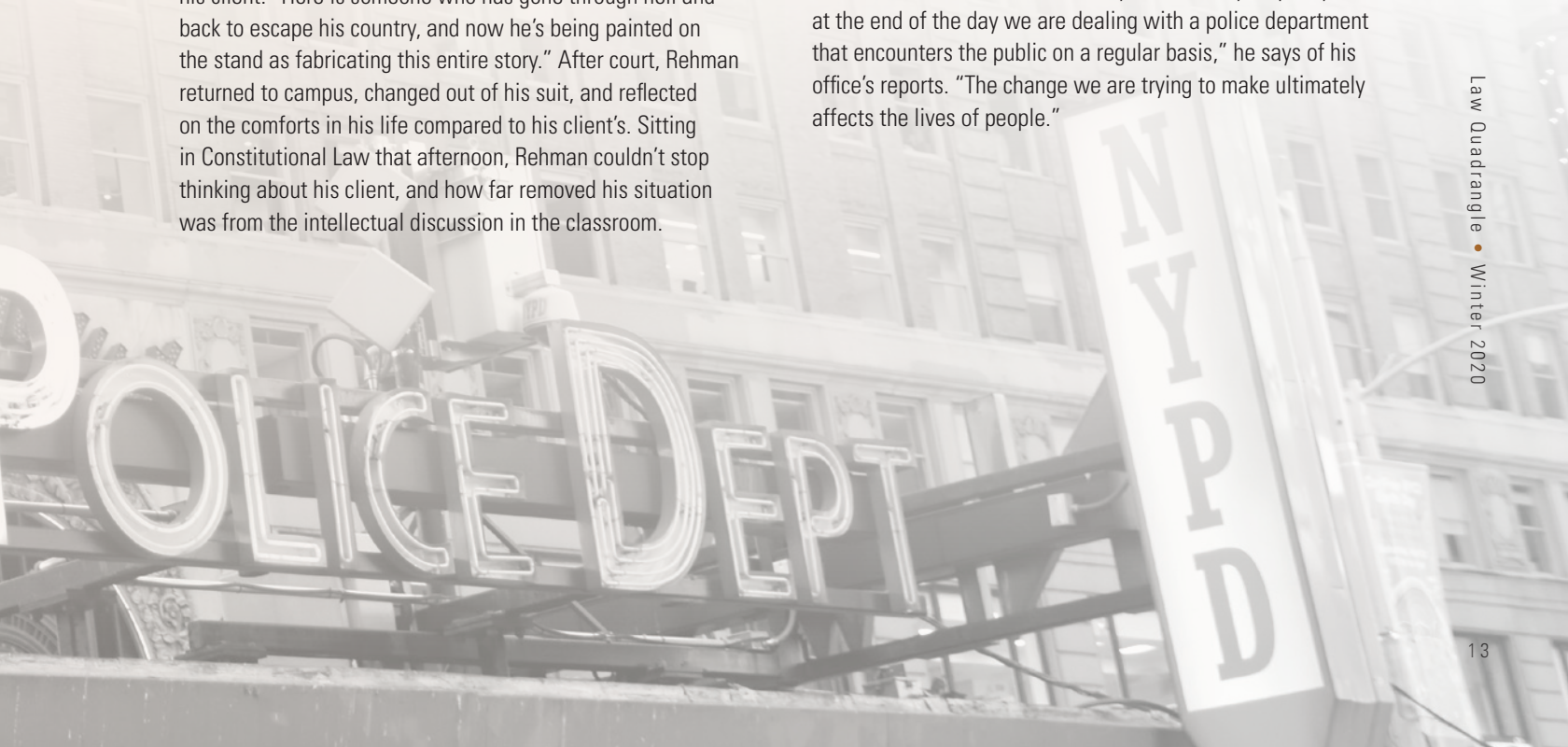
There are some parallels between Rehman's current work and his previous role. "As an in-house lawyer, the work is sometimes less about the law and more about assessing risk and identifying solutions." He says his work at OIG-NYPD, like that at MetLife, "involves bringing the legal voice to the table when people are thinking about issues from other perspectives." However, with police conduct under intense public scrutiny, there is an acute onus on Rehman and OIG-NYPD's team of 35 people to produce exceptionally high-quality reports that are rooted in fact and provide reasonable, actionable recommendations. "We're not against the police. We are in favor of a successful police department. Our belief is that to do that you need transparency, accountability, and an outside voice," he says.

Across the 15 reports his office has released, NYPD has implemented or accepted approximately 75 percent of the reports' recommendations for reform. Beyond New York City, Rehman adds, "We are very proud that our office's reports have been recognized by other police oversight entities as best practices in the field."

This work is an extension of his experiences at Michigan Law. In his first year, Rehman helped with an asylum case and was taken aback at how aggressively the government interrogated his client. "Here is someone who has gone through hell and back to escape his country, and now he's being painted on the stand as fabricating this entire story." After court, Rehman returned to campus, changed out of his suit, and reflected on the comforts in his life compared to his client's. Sitting in Constitutional Law that afternoon, Rehman couldn't stop thinking about his client, and how far removed his situation was from the intellectual discussion in the classroom.



"That experience in the Law School clinic showed me how easy it is for lawyers to focus on concepts and ideas, when the reality is that the laws that we deal with impact the lives of real people." Rehman carries this mentality with him at OIG-NYPD. "Some of our work may sound heavy on policy, but at the end of the day we are dealing with a police department that encounters the public on a regular basis," he says of his office's reports. "The change we are trying to make ultimately affects the lives of people."



Meegan Brooks, '13: An Advocate for the Retail Industry

By Julie Halpert

Throughout law school, Meegan Brooks, '13, was most interested in cases involving retail brands and other companies that she admired. Brooks joined Sedgwick LLP as a 2L summer associate and became enamored with its retail practice group, which specialized in defending consumer class actions. "I identified their work as being fun and cool and interesting," she says. She emailed the head of Sedgwick's retail group every month for a year expressing her interest in working for the group after she graduated from law school. Her persistence paid off; she was hired into the retail group as an associate and has been practicing in this area of law ever since. Brooks moved with Sedgwick's retail practice group to Steptoe & Johnson LLP in January 2018—lured in part by its strong roster of privacy and regulatory lawyers. "I have believed for a very long time that privacy will play an important role in every aspect of retail," Brooks says.

Brooks finds this practice area compelling because most people can so easily relate to it. "Everyone shops, and most of my cases come down to questions about what a reasonable consumer would think. Ultimately, I'm a reasonable consumer just like everyone else." She has been counsel of record in cases against Macy's, Gucci, Cole Haan, and DSW. "A lot of my clients are brands that I have shopped with for many years. It's fun not only getting to see what they do behind the scenes, but to actually shape what they do and to help protect them."

A major focus of Brooks's work involves defending retailers against class-action lawsuits brought by consumers alleging that the retailers used false advertising. She has helped defend at least 40 of these cases in her five years of practice. A third of Brooks's work is advising retailers on how to avoid lawsuits and comply with laws in a way that doesn't compromise their business objectives. In addition to advertising, she helps a wide range of retail companies—from fashion retailers to big-box stores to startups—comply with consumer-facing issues, including privacy and automatic renewal laws.

One of Brooks's most active practice areas has involved price advertising. She says that nearly 100 retailers have been sued in the last five years over reference pricing, alleging that retailers advertise inflated original "compare to" or MSRP prices in order to trick consumers into making a purchase. She finds the psychology of this situation to be straightforward yet nuanced. Each case comes down to the question: Would a reasonable consumer be deceived under the circumstances?



Brooks has become a student of the industry, subscribing to trade publications and attending events about the future of retail. "I am constantly thinking about how retail as an industry is changing," she says. At one such event a few years ago, she heard a speaker predict that the future of retail would involve having a retailer know when your sneakers are worn out and automatically deliver you a new pair. "So much of retail is getting more automated and personalized," Brooks notes. These changes, however, bring new legal issues, which keep her job interesting. For example, Brooks has defended numerous startups in suits brought under California's Automatic Renewal Law, alleging that the retailers charged customers' cards on a recurring basis without consent. Brooks and her team have been successful in these cases, sometimes even convincing plaintiffs' attorneys to voluntarily drop their case after explaining why their case was weak.

The majority of Brooks's cases are brought in California, which has some of the nation's strictest consumer protection laws. While she says the purpose behind the laws is well-intentioned, she believes that some of them have been manipulated to allow for meritless claims. In one case, she defended a candy manufacturer against claims that it deceived consumers by listing "evaporated cane juice" instead of "sugar" as an ingredient even though the nutrition facts listed 17 grams of sugar; the plaintiff ultimately dismissed the case voluntarily. Even though these types of cases don't appear to have merit, Brooks says, "you need to attack them as if they do."



I N P R A C T I C E

Craig Kramer, '87: Mental Health Ambassador

By Kristy Demas

"My overarching goal is to help transform mental health care worldwide. It's broken everywhere, and it is a global problem," says Craig Kramer, '87, Johnson & Johnson's (J&J) first mental health ambassador. But raising awareness about and erasing the stigma of mental illness were not part of his plan as a Michigan Law graduate—nor was it where he started.

After graduating from the Law School, Kramer worked as a staff attorney with the International Human Rights Law Group in Korea, monitoring its landmark presidential election and issues like freedom of the press and the treatment of political prisoners. In Seoul, he got a taste for working in international affairs and politics, but when he returned to the States in 1988, he entered private practice in Washington, D.C.

At Patton, Boggs & Blow, Kramer represented clients in international trade, tax, antitrust, mergers and acquisitions, and class-action cases before all three branches of the U.S. government. His nearly six years there helped him land his next job. As Congressman Sander Levin's deputy chief of staff, he handled bilateral and multilateral trade negotiations, since Levin was then the ranking Democrat on the House Ways and Means Committee.

In 1998, he left Capitol Hill to join J&J as director of government affairs and policy, overseeing U.S. trade and tax policy and chairing its federal political action committee. In 2002, he became executive director. "I was the fifth J&J government affairs professional based in Washington, D.C. Half of our sales were international, so I suggested expanding our presence in other countries." Kramer spent much of the next 17 years creating the company's international division of government affairs and policy, leading teams in the Western Hemisphere and Asia-Pacific. "It was a pretty heady career to work with world leaders and patient and industry groups all over the globe as they confronted the social and financial impacts of cancer, diabetes, HIV, and infant and maternal mortality and care."

Then, in 2013, things abruptly changed when Kramer's daughter, who had an eating disorder, attempted suicide. The ubiquity of mental illness hit him hard, which he discussed in his speech at

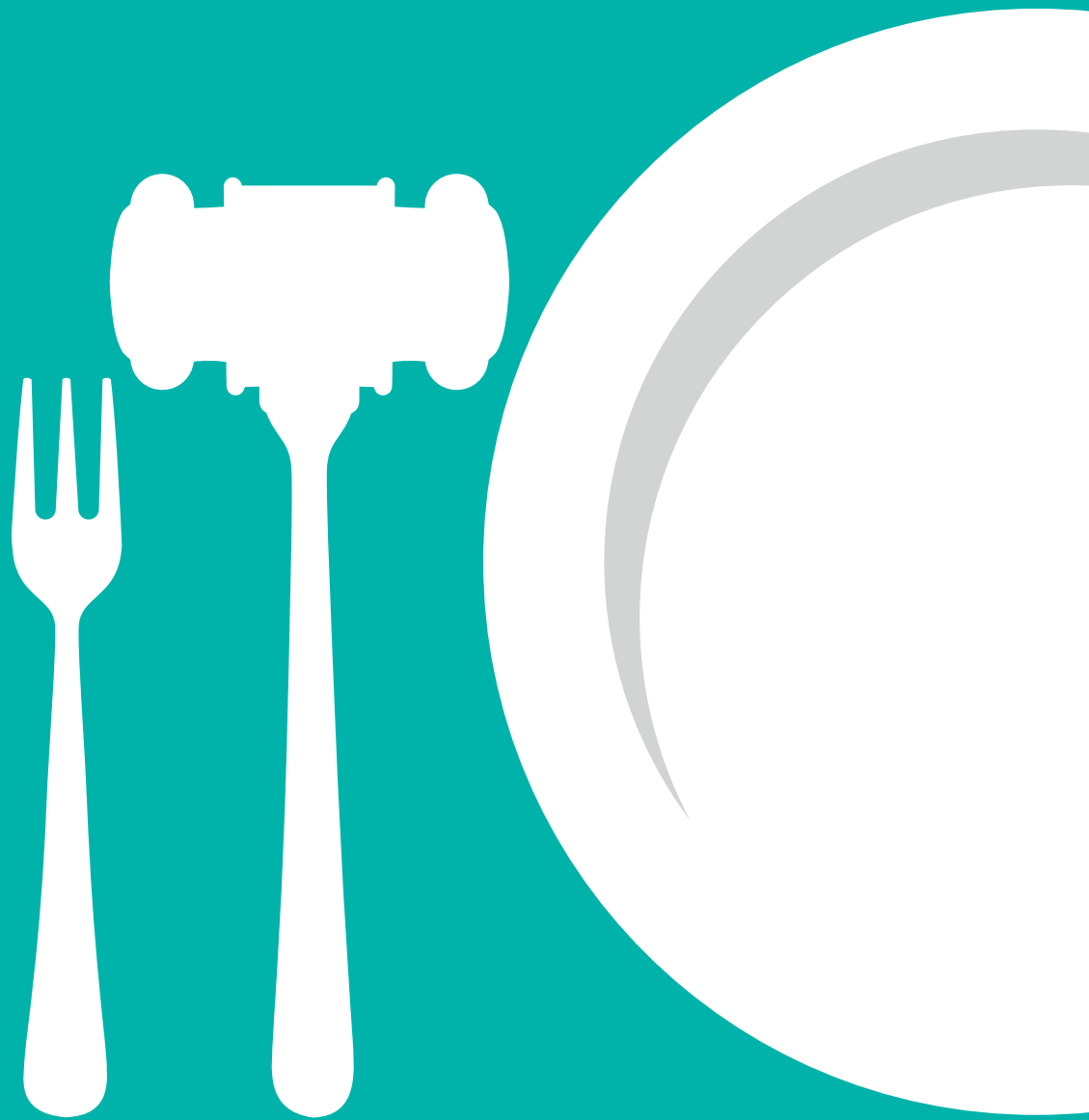
the B7 Summit in Canada in 2018. "The most important realities are often the ones that are the hardest to see, and it often takes the fresh eyes of a younger generation to clearly see those realities. Such is the case with mental health."

Kramer learned that mental health care costs more than cancer, diabetes, and respiratory diseases combined—half of the economic burden of all chronic illnesses worldwide. "I had thought my family was uniquely unlucky," Kramer says. "But every family is touched by this because one in four people has a diagnosable mental health condition. The stigma, shame, and ignorance keep most people from talking about it, so we don't realize just how big it is."

As Kramer traveled around the world for his job, he asked health ministers, prime ministers, and hospital CEOs about mental health care in their countries. "I found out it was the same everywhere—broken. In fact, the World Health Organization now says that when it comes to mental health, every country is a developing country," he says.

In response, Kramer worked with J&J leadership to create the mental health ambassador position three years ago to work on mental health issues with J&J employees and industry, civil society, and government leaders. He spent the first three years in the role building global coalitions to raise awareness about the number of people impacted by mental health disorders and to forge an increased investment in research. "We are hoping to get significant funding for research and for insurance coverage over the next year or two. We also want to project a clear message about mental illness," he says. "It's very common, part of the human condition, and it's very treatable. We really feel like we're at an inflection point on the scientific and social-cultural pathways in this movement, and we are hoping to leverage that to drive the system change that's required.

"The world we are all trying to create," he adds, "is one where everyone can hug their daughter, like I did every time I visited Katharine in Ann Arbor when she was pursuing her master's in social work at Michigan. She's the real hero in this story. Everyone has the right to live a full and meaningful life like she is today."

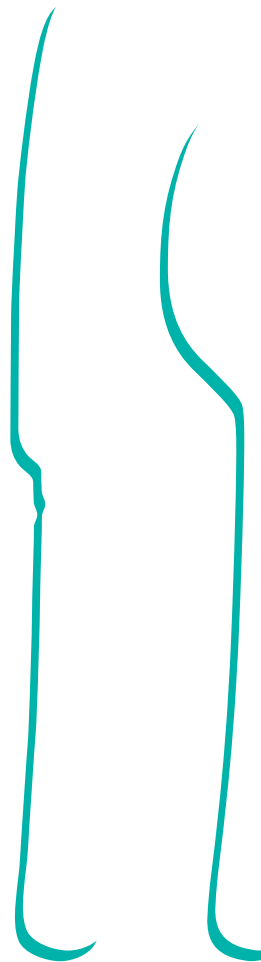




A • SEAT • AT THE • TABLE

By Lori Atherton

For this issue's cover story, we're focusing on food and the varied career paths related to it that our alumni have chosen. We profile a U-M alumnus who, as a leading food lawyer, "has participated in the development of virtually every law and regulation affecting the food industry in the last four decades." We also highlight a food writer who specializes in from-scratch cooking; an alumnus who started a second career as the owner-operator of a Culver's fast-food franchise; alumni who serve as in-house lawyers for a large dairy company in the Northeast and a national chain steakhouse known for its Texas flair; and an environmental lawyer and rancher who advocates for sustainable and humane meat production.



DAIRY • INNOVATOR



In his 16 years as senior vice president and general counsel of the Massachusetts-based dairy company HP Hood LLC, Paul Nightingale, '86, has witnessed many changes in the industry. One of the biggest is a consumer shift toward dairy alternatives.

"It's a big trend in the beverage industry, as producers of oat-, nut-, and plant-based milk alternatives are growing market share," Nightingale says. "People are looking for healthier ways of consuming the same kind of product, and that's an area where HP Hood spends a lot of time and effort on innovation."

HP Hood, which has its own research and development unit, has met that demand, Nightingale notes. Among the non-dairy products that HP Hood produces and distributes are Almond Breeze brand almond milk; Planet Oat brand oat milk, one of the company's newest offerings; and Lactaid brand milk that has been treated to remove the lactose. HP Hood—a family-owned business with 13 manufacturing plants throughout the United States—has agreements with other companies to license, manufacture, and distribute brands like these and others, says Nightingale, who negotiates the licensing for all brands.



Because many of these licensing agreements deal with patents, trademarks, and proprietary recipes and formulas, Nightingale says, HP Hood "has a robust Trade Secret Protection Plan to protect trade secrets—both our own and those of our customers and licensed partners. We make sure that we have the right protections in place to protect our trade secrets and theirs from inadvertent disclosure."

While HP Hood, which was founded in 1846, still sells its core conventional dairy products in the Northeast—including milk, cottage cheese, sour cream, and ice cream—Nightingale says there has been a gradual decline in U.S. consumers' consumption of traditional dairy products over the years, which means HP Hood has had to diversify. "With a company like this, we have to look elsewhere to make up for conventional dairy's declining market share." As a result, HP Hood has negotiated deals with owners of brands like SlimFast, Kellogg's, Muscle Milk, Southern Comfort, Hershey's, and other companies to make and/or sell various dairy and non-dairy-related products.

Nightingale says HP Hood, like all food and beverage producers, has seen an uptick in recent years in the number of class-action suits that allege false and misleading claims related to product packaging and advertising. "These range from challenges to the accuracy of claims that a product is all-natural to whether the ingredient declaration properly identifies all of the ingredients." He attributes this trend to customers becoming savvier about the ingredients they are consuming, as well as a rise in advocacy groups and a "plaintiffs' bar" that takes aim at the food industry.

Managing litigation, though, is just a small fraction of Nightingale's job, which he says he still enjoys as much today as when he first started nearly two decades ago. A former environmental lawyer at Goodwin Procter and Cabot Corporation, Nightingale was ready for a change when the general counsel position at HP Hood opened up. "I like the job because it's varied, it's diverse, and every day there's something different."



'LEGENDARY' LEGAL SERVICE

“Legendary food, legendary service” is the mission statement of the Texas Roadhouse restaurant chain. And for in-house lawyer Nora FitzGerald Meldrum, '99, legendary legal service is what she aspires to provide to the company and its nearly 60,000 employees.

“Although we aren’t serving up steaks in the legal department, we are definitely in the hospitality business,” says Meldrum, the associate general counsel of litigation and employment at the Louisville, Kentucky-based Texas Roadhouse. “And we want to provide our legal services in a legendary way so that our clients feel positive about their interactions with the litigation team. For us, it’s not just about what we do but how we do it.”

Meldrum has worked at Texas Roadhouse—which is known as much for its freshly baked rolls and cinnamon butter as it is for the bucket of peanuts at each table—for nearly eight years, and she isn’t shy about calling it her dream job. “I love the people, and I love the work,” she says. “It’s the optimal combination of great people and interesting legal issues.”

Meldrum says the company’s four core values—passion, partnership, integrity, and fun with purpose—make her feel invested in her work. “When you’re in-house and you’re living with and among your client, it’s a different level of connection,” she says. “And I couldn’t imagine doing what I do for a brand that I was not proud to fight for every day.”

There are only 20 people on the Texas Roadhouse legal team, and Meldrum leads a team of five that focuses on litigation and dispute resolution. With approximately 575 Texas Roadhouse locations in 49 states and 10 countries, the legal issues Meldrum tackles are as varied as the company’s employees. She says that if an issue is making headlines—whether it’s sexual harassment or bathroom accessibility—it’s a good bet that Texas Roadhouse, along with the restaurant industry as a whole, is addressing that issue in some way. “We have multiple growing concepts, we make scratch-based food, we serve alcohol, we invite the general public onto our premises, and we employ about 60,000 people,” Meldrum says. “Somewhere in that mix there are bound to be legal issues.”

One of the more serious litigation issues that Meldrum has been involved with was a class-action age discrimination lawsuit brought against Texas Roadhouse in 2011 by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. The lawsuit alleged the restaurant chain had a nationwide systemic practice of not hiring workers ages 40 and older for certain front-of-the-house positions, such as host, server, or bartender. The case—which gave Meldrum the opportunity to work with fellow Michigan Law alumnus Eric Olson, '00, who served as the company’s co-lead trial counsel—went to trial in 2017 and resulted in a hung jury. Both parties agreed to settle the case with a \$12 million consent decree.

“It was a very contentious, heavily litigated matter that took many years to wind its way through to trial,” Meldrum says. “It required a lot of time and attention and a ton of travel. And we had to be able to execute on it while also providing legendary service on much smaller legal matters at the same time. I felt very lucky to have a strong team because we could all pitch in in different ways.”

Pitching in is what Meldrum was required to do when she was first hired at Texas Roadhouse. She traded in her business suits for the Texas Roadhouse uniform of jeans and a T-shirt, and received training on every position in the restaurant, from cutting steak with the on-site meat cutter to serving drinks behind the bar. Though she was out of her comfort zone, Meldrum says it gave her an operational perspective of the business that allows her to more effectively represent the company.

“If I could spend more time in our stores, I would, because it’s always a bucket filler. It helps me remember what we’re here for.”





SHAPING · FOOD · LAW

When Gary Jay Kushner, AB '72, began his legal career in the mid-1970s, he had dreams of becoming the next Perry Mason. So it was by accident that instead of becoming a famous litigator, Kushner became one of the leading experts in food law—a niche area in which relatively few lawyers specialize.

Kushner—a 1975 Georgetown University Law Center graduate—had interviewed with a law firm that specialized in white-collar criminal law and was representing one of the Watergate defendants. It didn't lead to a job there but instead to a staff counsel position with another of the firm's clients, the Grocery Manufacturers of America (GMA), a trade association that, at the time, represented the largest food manufacturers in the country, including General Mills, General Foods, Kraft, Conagra, Nestlé, and Procter & Gamble.

"I had never heard of a trade association," Kushner recalls. "But I needed a job, and I liked the people I interviewed with. I thought, 'Well, this could be an interesting opportunity. If worse comes to worse, I could do it for a year and have another hole punched in my experience card. If things work out, maybe I'll stay a while and see where it leads.' Sure enough, I loved it from day one."

At GMA, Kushner worked closely with lobbyists to develop positions in response to industry regulations and legislation proposed by Congress and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), which oversees dairy, seafood, produce, packaged foods, bottled water, and whole eggs. "You didn't need to worry about finding case law to support your point," Kushner says of the work. "It was public policy. You could argue the effects on the country, effects on the economy, effects on an industry—those kinds of things. I liked working across industry sectors, with lawyers and non-lawyers alike, in developing those positions. The public policy side of my work is what I've always enjoyed the most."

The role put Kushner, then a 26-year-old, in contact with key players at major food corporations—and planted the seeds for his interest in building a private practice devoted to representing the food industry. After leaving GMA, Kushner served as vice president and general counsel of the American Meat Institute (now the North American Meat Institute), which represents meat packers like Oscar Mayer and Swift Foods, and focused on the organization's legal, regulatory, and legislative affairs. The job helped him learn the ins and outs of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), which oversees meat, poultry, and egg products. He eventually joined Hogan & Hartson (now Hogan Lovells), where he celebrated 30 years in October.



**"WE HANDLE
EVERYTHING—
FROM FARM TO
TABLE AND BOAT
TO THROAT"**

• A GROWING SPECIALTY PRACTICE


When Kushner started in food law 43 years ago, he could count on one hand the number of fellow lawyers practicing this type of law. Over the decades, the specialty area has gained more lawyers; Kushner's own team at Hogan has grown to include 13 practitioners in Washington, D.C., who focus on the food industry, up from five when he started there in 1989. "We also have lawyers in offices around the world who handle food matters in the European Union, United Kingdom, Mexico, South America, Africa, and Asia," Kushner says. "Our practice, like the food industry, has become quite global."

Kushner's clients include the world's top food and beverage producers, manufacturers, and retailers, as well as startups, trade associations, and other nonprofits. "We handle everything—from farm to table and boat to throat," Kushner says. His practice includes advising clients on product development, labeling, advertising, and inspection; addressing regulatory compliance issues; and representing clients in enforcement proceedings before government agencies and the courts.

In addition, Kushner "has participated in the development of virtually every law and regulation affecting the food industry in the last four decades," according to his law firm bio. One law that Kushner oversaw from its beginnings is mandated nutrition labeling, which didn't exist when Kushner was a young lawyer at GMA. Back then, food labels were only required to list the product's name, ingredients, and net weight, and the manufacturer's name and address—unless a nutritional claim, such as low sodium or high Vitamin C—was made. It wasn't until 1990 that Congress passed a law mandating nutrition labeling on food packaging. "Coincidentally, that nutrition labeling law did not apply to meat or poultry," Kushner says. "It did not apply because it was an amendment to the federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, which is enforced by the FDA. The USDA, which has far more regulatory authority and a broader array of enforcement

tools than the FDA, made nutrition labeling mandatory by regulation."

Another "historic change" to food law that Kushner witnessed occurred in the early 1990s, when the USDA made it mandatory for meat and poultry manufacturers to utilize the HACCP (Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points) food safety process following a massive E. coli outbreak at a popular fast food chain in the Pacific Northwest. More than 732 individuals, many of them under 10 years old, became severely ill after consuming contaminated beef patties that were not fully cooked. "HACCP is a plan where the company identifies all potential hazards—biological, chemical, and physical—in the manufacturing of the product, and then determines which of those hazards are reasonably likely to occur in the absence of a specific control," Kushner explains. The food industry developed and voluntarily began using HACCP in the 1960s, and the FDA required it for a few food product categories in later years. But all food manufacturers were not required to employ HACCP principles in the implementation of written food safety plans supported by comprehensive hazard analyses until 2010, when Congress passed the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA)—an FDA law that is designed to prevent food safety problems rather than react to them after they occur.

Kushner says his work on behalf of food laws and regulations have benefited consumers and clients alike. "I think I've helped shape regulations and legislation so that they enhance the protections for, and information available to, consumers about food, and are implemented in an affordable, efficient, and realistic way so that regulation isn't a barrier to the development of healthy, safe, and innovative food products," Kushner says. "I've also helped companies comply with the law and understand their obligations. I tell my clients what they are doing wrong and what I think they could do better, and I try to do it in a way that is accepted and respected." 



• "FOOD IS INTENSIVELY REGULATED"

While there are more food recalls now than in past years, Kushner says it doesn't mean that food is unsafe. In fact, he says, "food is safer than it has ever been," thanks to the FSMA's stringent protocols, which allow for the increased detection of harmful pathogens or bacteria in food products, as well as the food industry's commitment to produce safe and wholesome foods. Some of those pathogens, Kushner noted, are inherent in the product and can be eliminated through proper manufacturing technologies and the correct handling and distribution of food products.

"Over the 40-plus years that I've been a food lawyer, the most significant advancements have been in the area of food safety, both in the work of companies to make food safer to consume and in the ability of technology to employ advanced techniques to identify potential hazards," Kushner says. "Food is intensively regulated. Companies now have strict quality and safety control procedures that include keeping vast amounts of records about their products that are accessible to FDA and USDA inspectors. In addition, because of advancements in science and technology, there is the ability to identify a pathogen and its source, including a genome of a particular pathogen that can be traced back to other recalls or illnesses reported over a period of years, which could lead to broader recalls. The industry takes food safety very seriously, because more important than enforcement is reputation."

Food safety, particularly in international markets, will continue to be a top priority for the food industry in the years to come, Kushner says, since safety standards vary from country to country. Part of Kushner's job entails traveling overseas to educate companies that export food products to the United States about U.S. laws and regulations, which they must comply with in order to receive certification to sell their products here. "We have a global marketplace, and the quality and commitment to food safety is not universal," Kushner notes. "It has to be universal if we're going to truly have a global marketplace. Other countries that are not up to snuff with U.S. regulations, which are quite advanced, are moving in the right direction for the most part, but they are going to have to continue to do that, which requires lots of resources."

• THE FUTURE OF FOOD LAW

In addition to advancing food safety, Kushner says there is an increasing need to develop innovations in food science to meet the growing demands of a global population, and that regulations will need to keep pace with the advancements—a balance that historically has been difficult to achieve. "Science always advances much faster than regulation," Kushner says, "so that's going to be a continuing challenge to regulate as our scientific knowledge continues. There are advancements in food technology every day; companies are investing billions of dollars in developing new technologies to make products that meet different consumer desires, provide health benefits, are safer and more readily available, and can be shipped all over the world."

As for Kushner's own future in food law, he says that while he has no plans to retire anytime soon, he has reflected on his long career, and hasn't found it to be lacking. "I have a great deal of satisfaction in the contribution, albeit small, that I've made to the food industry and to the food supply," he says. "I'm very, very proud to be a member of the food industry and to do the kinds of work that I've done through the years, and I feel fortunate that I got into it by accident."



FOOD • ACTIVIST



On Nicolette Hahn Niman's Northern California ranch, just outside San Francisco, beef cattle and heritage turkeys roam freely on wide-open spaces. Fresh air, clean water, and grassy pastures are in abundant supply. And buildings that continually confine large herds of animals are nowhere to be found. This type of farming, which Hahn Niman describes as humane and ecologically sustainable, is what she advocates for as a food activist, environmental lawyer, and writer.

Hahn Niman, '93, has been making the case for humane and sustainable farming for nearly two decades. A frequent speaker at food and farming events and conferences, her work involves spreading awareness about the problems associated with industrial food production.

A vegetarian, Hahn Niman's interest in animals and how—not whether—they are raised for food stems from her work as a senior attorney at Waterkeeper Alliance, an environmental organization founded by Robert F. Kennedy Jr. Hahn Niman led the organization's campaign to reform the concentrated pig and poultry farming industry. It was "intense work" that gave her direct exposure to factory farms and their impact on animals, the environment, and people's health. She describes the experiences in her memoir, *Righteous Porkchop: Finding a Life and Good Food Beyond Factory Farms* (William Morrow, 2009).

"You've taken animals off the land, you've put them in huge buildings with huge populations, and you've divorced them from any kind of natural system that would help them remain healthy on their own," says Hahn Niman, who, while working at Waterkeeper Alliance, sued some of the biggest factory farms for violating the Clean Water Act and Clean Air Act. "Instead, the animals are given antibiotics to keep them from getting sick and feed modifications to encourage unnaturally rapid growth. From an ecological standpoint, the huge quantities of waste coming from factory farms create substantial greenhouse gases that contaminate the water, soil, and air."

Factory farming, says Hahn Niman, produces a "food supply that doesn't provide healthy food" and is in disharmony with nature and its resources. Hahn Niman—who is married to Bill Niman, a longtime producer of natural meat—advocates for an ecologically based food production system "that mirrors nature, which is all about complexity, diversity, interrelationship, and regenerating the natural ecosystem. In nature, there is no waste; everything is connected, and everything is reused."

Hahn Niman focuses on the topic in her book, *Defending Beef: The Case for Sustainable Meat Production* (Chelsea Green Publishing, 2014). She says she felt compelled to write *Defending Beef* in response to what she viewed as "increasing public discourse about the negative health and environmental effects associated with eating meat," which many cite as a major contributor to climate change. The more she researched the issue, the more Hahn Niman came to believe that raising animals, particularly cattle, for food actually has positive effects on the environment when done properly and in harmony with nature.

"A huge portion of the Earth's surface is dedicated to agriculture," says Hahn Niman, "and there is a strong connection between the way farming is practiced and climate change, a strong connection between farming and water quality, and the continued existence of fresh water supplies and how contaminated or not they are. The health of our planet is absolutely dependent on us having ecologically sound food systems."

It may seem odd that as a vegetarian, Hahn Niman is defending beef. She says her goal isn't to get people to stop eating meat. Rather, she wants people to become conscientious meat eaters who pay attention to the way their food is produced. "Our health depends on eating well-raised food that we have a connection to," says Hahn Niman. "It's about being good ecological and animal stewards."



COOKING FROM SCRATCH

Take a peek at Emily Paster's West of the Loop blog, and you'll find recipes for braised beef brisket, potato latkes, and kreplach. Hungry yet? Paster has more recipes to share, including beginner peach jam, apple and honey cupcakes for Rosh Hashanah, and parmesan green bean fries made in an air fryer.

Paster, '99, is a Chicago-area food writer and cook who specializes in from-scratch cooking, particularly Jewish cuisine, and home preservation. She develops original recipes in her own kitchen, many of which appear on her blog or in publications such as *Midwest Living*, *Allrecipes Magazine*, and *The Nosh*.

As long as she can remember, Paster has had "a passion for food and cooking," no doubt fostered by the "outstanding Jewish cooks in my own family," including her mother, aunt, and grandmother. She fondly recalls being a young child and looking forward to the traditional meat dumplings her grandmother would make for the Jewish High Holidays.

A former appellate lawyer with the City of Chicago's Office of Corporation Counsel, Paster made the switch from law to food by accident. When her daughter was diagnosed with food allergies more than a decade ago, Paster became concerned about the ingredients in prepared food and began making recipes from scratch. After her second child was born, she decided to stay home full time, and spent more time experimenting in the kitchen.

Paster taught herself how to do home canning and preserving; her expertise led to *The Joys of Jewish Preserving*, her 2017 cookbook published by Harvard Common Press that features 75 recipes for fruit jams, pickles, and other preserves. Her favorite? "The plum butter, which is just delicious," Paster says. "It's a fruit spread that is low in sugar and cooks down for a long time until it has a thick consistency."

The fruits of Paster's labor, so to speak, also produced overflowing shelves of canned pickles and jams in her basement, which prompted her in 2011 to co-found the Chicago Food Swap, where she and other community members get together to barter or exchange their handmade foods. It also was the basis for Paster's first book, *Food Swap: Specialty Recipes for Bartering, Sharing, and Giving* (Storey, 2016).

Paster's more recent culinary adventures have focused on creating "more sophisticated, global recipes" that can be made with an air fryer, the trendy kitchen countertop appliance that is similar to a small convection oven. Those recipes are featured in the newly released *Epic Air Fryer Cookbook* (Harvard Common Press, 2019).

Launching a second career focused on food—complete with television appearances on local cooking shows—has been pleasantly surprising for Paster, who "loved practicing law." She attributes her success in part to the cultural emphasis placed on food. "Growing up, food wasn't as big a deal as it is now and was almost considered a hobby," Paster says. "There's so much more food media and interest in food these days that I think it opened up careers that didn't exist previously. I feel very lucky that I get to do this as my job."





FRANCHISE • OWNER

It was a busy Friday night, and Kevin Scott, '83, was learning how to work the fryers. It was his first day in the kitchen of a Culver's fast-food restaurant, and Scott—unaccustomed to the cacophony of buzzers going off—was doing his best to keep up with the orders.

If you think Scott is recalling his first job as a teenager, guess again. Scott, a retired law professor and former COO of a Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan subsidiary, recently began a second career as a Culver's franchisee, and his stint at the fry station was part of his on-the-job training. Scott spent 12 weeks in Wisconsin, where Culver's is headquartered, learning everything there is to know about running a successful Culver's restaurant—from pressing a perfectly shaped ButterBurger on the grill and scooping frozen custard to operating the cash registers and learning the payroll system. He spent another four weeks learning the ropes at the grand openings of two Culver's franchises in North Carolina and Kentucky. The training, Scott jokes, was almost as rigorous as law school.

"We worked 10- to 14-hour days, six days a week, learning all the different positions in the restaurant," Scott says. "The number of moving parts and things you need to know—it taught me that there's a lot more to putting a burger in a bag and sending it out the door. It was hard work, and it still is."

Early on, Scott says he questioned what he was doing. But his desire to run his own business—which he had longed to do since he was a teenager—and the commitment he made to his business partners John Petrovski and Bart Peterson, who are also 1983 Michigan Law

graduates, kept him going. The three friends, who for years had discussed the idea of owning a business together, opened their Culver's restaurant in Lansing, Michigan, on January 15, 2018.

While Petrovski, Peterson, and Scott each have a vested interest in the franchise, Scott is the owner-operator and is responsible for overseeing restaurant operations on a day-to-day basis. "As the owner-operator, you are in the restaurant, and you are executing whatever needs to be done for the success of the restaurant," says Scott, who previously taught contracts and commercial law at Western Michigan University Thomas M. Cooley Law School. "You're working the stations, you're cleaning tables and greeting guests, you're doing the back-office tasks like inventory and banking. You're handling guest complaints. It's the whole nine yards. And when we opened, I was doing that for about 15 hours a day, seven days a week."

Scott still works long hours and says one of his biggest challenges is finding good employees—people who have a "great personality, a strong work ethic, and are willing to learn and follow instructions." While the adage that good help is hard to find rings true for Scott, he has found that what isn't true is the other adage that one shouldn't mix business and pleasure, thanks to a decision Scott and his business partners made to hire outside legal help. "Our group decided that we wouldn't be our own lawyers," Scott says. "We're smart guys, but we wanted to let the people who know the industry guide us. Having that outside counsel has helped with the comfort level of everybody knowing that everything is done at arm's length."



Bart Peterson, Kevin Scott, and John Petrovski

Freeing the Wrongfully Convicted

Michigan Innocence Clinic Celebrates 10th Anniversary

Twenty-two individuals who were wrongly convicted of crimes and served nearly 290 combined years behind bars have been freed thanks to the work of the Michigan Innocence Clinic (MIC). And for Dave Moran, '91, and Imran Syed, '11, each new exoneration is as sweet as the first.

"It never gets old," says Moran, a clinical professor of law and the MIC director. "These cases take years to win, so it's a big adrenaline rush when we get the exoneration."

"Each victory means a lot more to me now," adds Syed, a clinical assistant professor of law and the MIC assistant director, "because I know it not only will help that person and their family but potentially dozens of others who come later."

The 19 men and three women that Moran, Syed, Clinical Fellow Megan Richardson, '15, and a team of student-attorneys have exonerated in the past decade were among Michigan's approximately 40,000 inmates. About 6,000 have applied to MIC for legal assistance since Moran co-founded it in January 2009 with then-Clinical Professor of Law Bridget McCormack, who is now chief justice of the Michigan Supreme Court. Unlike other innocence clinics that specialize in DNA exonerations, MIC focuses on innocence cases where there is no DNA to be tested.

The clinic has an 18-month backlog of applications to review, notes Syed. It will only accept cases if the facts strongly indicate innocence, and if there is new evidence sufficient to reopen the case. "A vast majority of applications won't make it past the initial investigation, because it's clear the person did commit the crime or there's no way forward with the case," he says. "We'll investigate about 10 percent of applications, and those investigations can take many years—to locate witnesses, conduct factual and legal research, and build the case from scratch. Only about 1 percent of all applications become accepted cases."

Moran says the clinic is looking for credible cases where one or more issues that typically result in wrongful convictions are present, including false confessions; bad defense lawyering; prosecutorial or police misconduct, especially withholding evidence; and the reliance on jailhouse informants. Over the years, the clinic has come to specialize in forensic science cases, where forensic mistakes related to fingerprints, fire science, bullet comparison, and medical evidence may be involved. The clinic also has won cases featuring false confessions and faulty eyewitness identifications. MIC recently received a \$275,000 U.S. Department of Justice grant to help litigate cases involving questionable forensic science; it previously was

By
Lori Atherton

awarded a DOJ grant in 2016 to litigate cases involving shaken baby syndrome/abusive head trauma, which is another specialty area for the clinic.

As the work of the Michigan Innocence Clinic and other innocence projects around the world has gained momentum during the past decade, one of the biggest changes Moran has noticed is that fewer people today doubt the prevalence of wrongful convictions, which has led to important criminal justice reforms. "When our system convicts the wrong person, we shut down the investigation and the real perpetrator often will commit more crimes because they got away with the first one," Moran says. "Everybody realizes that now, but 10 years ago when I was talking to civic groups and state legislators, I felt like I was bashing my head against a wall because nobody believed it. Now, everybody believes it, and it's just amazing to see how much easier it is to make systemic progress."

He cites several Michigan legislative changes in recent years that are designed to make the criminal justice system more accurate and transparent and prevent the wrong person from being convicted. They include a collaborative effort among Michigan police, prosecutors, judges, and defense attorneys to develop new standards to make eyewitness identification more reliable; a new "custodial interrogation" law that requires law enforcement agencies to video and audio record statements of those arrested for major crimes; and the creation of a compensation fund for individuals who were wrongfully imprisoned.



From left: Clinical Professors Dave Moran, '91, and Imran Syed, '11, and Clinical Fellow Megan Richardson, '15.

Crucial to the clinic's success are the 20 to 30 law students who enroll in it each year, and whom Syed says work tirelessly on their clients' behalf. They are involved in all aspects of the cases, from investigating new evidence and researching and writing briefs to arguing court motions and conducting evidentiary hearings. "The advantage of being an innocence clinic at Michigan Law is that every single student brings an amazing work ethic and intellect to the clinic," says Syed, who got his start as a MIC student-attorney. "They show a passion and commitment to every case, even when it's going poorly, and understand the importance of doing their best for the client."

The Michigan Innocence Clinic marked its 10th anniversary in November with a half-day program sponsored by the Criminal Law Society. Guest speakers included Chief Justice Bridget McCormack of the Michigan Supreme Court, who co-founded the clinic, and Barry Scheck, co-founder of the Innocence Project, a nonprofit legal organization that frees the wrongfully convicted through the use of DNA testing.

Michigan Innocence Clinic BY THE NUMBERS

 **22** Cases Resulting in the Successful Release of a Client

6,000 TOTAL APPLICATIONS for Legal Help 

283  Combined Years Exonerees Spent in Prison

Exonerees Who Served **MORE THAN 10 YEARS** **10**

 **20** Accepted Cases Being Litigated

50+ Cases Being Investigated 

Michigan Law through the Years: A Faculty Perspective

One of September's Reunion Weekends included a Q&A session with former Michigan Law deans and current and emeriti faculty. The conversation explored the faculty's views about how the Law School has changed during their time here. Topics ranged from the strength of student credentials and the cost of legal education to their thoughts on students today. John Nannes, '73, a partner in the Washington, D.C., office of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP and the national chair of the Victors for Michigan campaign, moderated the conversation. Faculty participants included Evan Caminker; Doug Kahn; Ted St. Antoine, '54; and Christina Whitman, '74.

THE INCREASE IN WOMEN FACULTY AND STUDENTS

Whitman: "There's been a big change in the number of women faculty since I was a student, when there were none. For my first eight years here on the faculty, there were only two of us. That increased to four at some point, but quite a while ago, we got to the point where I couldn't remember off the top of my head how many women there were, so that was an improvement.

"The number of women students, I think, has made a difference in women's studies. It took a very long time before I felt that the gender dynamics in the classroom, even in my classroom, were more equal. I was thinking about the last few classes I taught, and we certainly have a lot of women and a lot of women who talk in class. You used to have to knock yourself out to get women to participate." [The current class is 54 percent women.]

Kahn concurred about the increasing number of female students: "I think the biggest element that I saw change was the bringing of women. For me, it was not so much about how they participated, but about increasing the pool from which you were selecting by a huge number, so we got better students. I honestly never saw much difference between the women in class and the men. Maybe it was the nature of my class."

Whitman: "I should add that I think Doug has been, over the years, one of the most supportive of women students. He was that way when I was a student, and he continues to be that way."

Kahn: "Thank you. I always felt strongly about treating all students the same, regardless of gender. I believe that I've done that. I certainly tried my best."

STUDENT CREDENTIALS, AND THE IMPORTANCE OF TAKING TIME OFF BETWEEN UNDERGRAD AND LAW SCHOOL

Kahn: "One difference—which some of my colleagues mention a lot—that was less important to me is [how much of the class] came here directly out of undergrad. A lot of people feel that [taking time off] has had a significant impact [in the classroom]. That students are more mature, they're more serious. I've found that if they've done some work related to what I'm doing, then, of course, it fed in."

Caminker: "My own sense is that current students are, as a general matter, more mature and a little bit more knowledgeable about how the real world works. I think that changes the cultural and social dynamic of a law school more than it changes what is actually going on inside the classroom. Some of the students are coming to law school with more of a focus on financial considerations; others always wanted to come to law school but put it off until they had some other experience they thought would make them a more well-rounded person, or because they had other interests they wanted to explore."

THE VALUE OF CLINICS, WHICH EXPANDED DURING TED ST. ANTOINE'S DEANSHIP IN THE 1970s

St. Antoine: "The law that was covered in most of the clinics at the outset was legal aid, or something close to it. It provided an opportunity for students who weren't going to practice that kind of law with at least a citizen's view of it. I hope it increased their capacity for making good judgments about the handling of criminal courts, the smaller claims courts, and all the other courts that essentially deal with the kind of problems that you aren't going to find when you get into a 500-person, big corporate law firm.

"The other appeal for me was to have young people confronted with real, live ethical issues in a way that, I think, comes across much more strongly when you talk particular examples that are in front of you in a clinic. For those of you who have had the clinic experience, this is great fun for a lot of students. They are doing something real, not this abstract, theoretical, conceptual stuff in the classroom. They love it, and I can understand that."



From left: Doug Kahn, the Paul G. Kauper Professor Emeritus of Law; Evan Caminker, dean emeritus and the Branch Rickey Collegiate Professor of Law; Christina Whitman, '74, the Francis A. Allen Collegiate Professor of Law; Ted St. Antoine, '54, dean emeritus and the James E. and Sarah A. Degan Professor Emeritus of Law; and John Nannes, '73, a partner in the Washington, D.C., office of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom.

Putting his dean's hat back on, St. Antoine acknowledged there are trade-offs when taking a clinic: "One of the costs is that a student's time is split between theoretical and experiential learning. Because of the one-on-one nature of a clinic, which involves a small class, they are more expensive than offering one lecture to 100 students."

Kahn, who wrote an article about the American Bar Association (ABA) increasing experiential education requirements, noted another trade-off. "Students are less inclined to go further in a subject and get into the advanced courses, which is where we really begin to develop a lot of the skills that lawyers need."

"Now, there are some experiential courses that I think are especially valuable. That is, a course that is transactionally oriented, where a student is given a series of facts or has to find facts, is given a goal, and has to find a way to accomplish that goal. I think students should have one course that does that kind of instruction, because it's a different experience than just saying, 'We have this situation. Who wins, who loses?' It's much different to do the planning and try to anticipate the problems."

Whitman: "I think the main reason why there are so many more clinics is the pressure from practice and from the ABA. The ABA has been much more prescriptive in the last few years about what law schools teach, and it's not just the experiential requirement but standalone ethics requirements and other kinds of requirements."

AIKENS COMMONS AND JEFFRIES HALL, WHICH WERE CONSTRUCTED DURING CAMINKER'S DEANSHIP

Caminker: "The Law School has, I think, the most grand, beautiful set of buildings among the top-selected law schools in the country, but it had certainly reached the point where we couldn't grow very much."

"One of the ways the expansion has been helpful is that it's really allowed us to create space that fits the curriculum. And we now have a place where students can congregate. The Commons opens up the opportunity for conversations, which may be about the law, or about life, or about legal practice—the kinds of stuff you used to find only in the dorm rooms, which tended to be more limiting in terms of the circle of people that you would congregate with."

Tax Day, Every Day

On the last Thursday in July, members of Michigan Law's Low Income Taxpayer Clinic (LITC) arrived early at Legal Services of South Central Michigan in Ypsilanti to set up for their walk-in tax event. By 9:30 a.m., a half hour before the doors opened, four people were already waiting in line. Their early arrival was an indication of the busyness that was to come.

The walk-in tax clinic assisted low-income community members with their tax-related issues at no charge. It brought together representatives from the Internal Revenue Service's Office of Chief Counsel, Taxpayer Advocate Service, and collections personnel; United Way's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program; the State of Michigan Department of Treasury; and the LITC, which was the sponsoring organization. The LITC is the recipient of a federal grant from the IRS Taxpayer Advocate Service to provide free tax-related services to the community, including walk-in events such as the one held last summer.

"The event was premised on the idea of getting the right people together in the same room at one time, like a traveling road show of services," says Nicole Appleberry, '94, LITC director. "It was conceived by Rob Heitmeyer, one of the top guys in the IRS Office of Chief Counsel in Detroit, who wanted to offer tax resolution days throughout Michigan for the low-income community."

Multiple rooms at Legal Services of South Central Michigan were utilized for the walk-in clinic, which resembled H&R Block during tax season. Taxpayers as young as 26 and as old as 78 sought assistance; by day's end, 52 people had been helped. Approximately a third of those individuals had ongoing issues related to multiple tax years, Appleberry notes.

Some had simple tax concerns, such as the individual who needed to file an amended tax return and wanted to know which

form and instruction booklet he should use. Others had more complicated questions about money owed to either the IRS or the Michigan Department of Treasury. Some weren't sure what their tax issue entailed and needed help figuring it out.

"Most of the people I talked to were having issues with their taxes because they were having issues somewhere else in their lives," notes 2L Reem El-Mehalawi, who handled intake along with fellow student-attorneys and 2Ls Patrick Logan and Axelle Vivien and clinic administrator Amy Scott. "Some people were working multiple jobs and didn't have the time or energy to think about their taxes; some people had lost someone important to them and stopped taking care of themselves, let alone taking care of their taxes; and some people were just trying to pay off all of their other debts."

In addition to having their tax concerns addressed, taxpayers were able to get other help as well. "We learned that one client wanted to start a business, so we referred him to the United Way's financial coach," Appleberry says. "There were several people like that who ended up floating around because they needed help from multiple people. They probably weren't expecting to get all that support at a single event."

Appleberry says she was unsure as to how many taxpayers would take advantage of the walk-in clinic, and couldn't be more pleased with its success. "It produced such a good feeling among those involved," she says. Logan, the student-attorney, agrees. "The ability for all organizations to work together on issues that usually take several days to several years to resolve made for a special event." —LA

Michigan Law's Low Income Taxpayer Clinic, established in 2007, helps clients resolve issues with the Internal Revenue Service. The program is designed to provide them with proper representation to achieve a correct outcome in an IRS dispute, regardless of the taxpayer's ability to pay for representation.



Real-life Lawyering in Ethiopia

Michigan Law's International Transactions Clinic (ITC) advises clients as far away as India, Kenya, and Haiti. While most of that advising takes place in the classroom, a rare opportunity to travel to Ethiopia last semester enabled then-2Ls Millan Bederu and Robert Shoemaker to gain in-country experience on how to structure a fund to invest in Ethiopian enterprises.

Bederu and Shoemaker, student-attorneys in the ITC, visited Addis Ababa, Ethiopia's capital, on behalf of a U.S.-based client of Ethiopian origin who is interested in organizing a fund to invest in Ethiopian small- to medium-sized enterprises. "Our client wants to raise money for the fund in the United States, largely from the Ethiopian diaspora community, and invest that money into enterprises in Ethiopia, which has not generally been done until now," says ITC Director David Guenther, '99, who accompanied the students on the trip. "That capital would enable those enterprises to operate and expand as the Ethiopian economy develops."

Ethiopia had been a Marxist country from the fall of the last emperor, Haile Selassie, in 1974 until the early 1990s. Until recently, its state-controlled economy had been largely closed to foreign investors, Guenther notes, which means that hard currency like dollars and euros is still widely unavailable there. Reforms to Ethiopian financial regulations and capital controls, however, are expected to open up more international investment opportunities within the country.

The ITC team met with various parties in Ethiopia, including Ethiopian legal counsel, a potential fund manager, the Development Bank of Ethiopia, representatives of a private equity fund currently invested in Ethiopia, and other government agencies. The goal was to understand how their client's fund could be structured and how the investment process in Ethiopia works.

"They gave us a handle on what the legal, financial, and regulatory landscape in Ethiopia is really like," Shoemaker says. "We could research statutes and regulations on our end, but figuring out how the fund was going to work on the ground was something we didn't have a direct line of sight on."

"It oriented the way we thought about structuring the entity and doing business in Ethiopia and other jurisdictions that are important to our client," adds Bederu, who notes that their advice included choosing a jurisdiction and legal entity for the fund and analyzing how it would be regulated in Ethiopia, along with its potential investee companies and competitors.

Bederu—who lived in Ethiopia and the United States while growing up and whose parents are native Ethiopians—



From left: 2Ls Millan Bederu and Robert Shoemaker, and Professor David Guenther, '99.



wants to work in Ethiopia long-term, "so it was nice to get that exposure so early in my career," she says. "Even though I know the country, the trip gave me a different perspective on Ethiopia."

The trip is the first time ITC student-attorneys have traveled outside the Americas to assist a client, Guenther says. He credits Paul Clyde, a professor in U-M's Ross School of Business and the president of U-M's William Davidson Institute, with making the opportunity possible. Clyde has a team of business students engaged with the fund project, and he invited the ITC team to assist them on the trip.—LA

UMMA to Present *Witness Lab* Courtroom Installation and Performance Series

A courtroom installation and performance series that frames witnessing as a social and artistic act will open at the University of Michigan Museum of Art (UMMA) in February.

Created by Courtney McClellan, the 2019–2020 Roman J. Witt Artist in Residence at U-M, *Witness Lab* collapses courtroom, theater, classroom, laboratory, and artist studio in order to study the relationship between performance and law.

In hosting mock trials, court transcript readings, and trial advocacy workshops, the artist investigates who performs the role of witness in our society and how that understanding may compare with the narrower legal definition of the role. The installation will host legal simulations from participating groups, including Michigan Law's Trial Advocacy Society and the Oral Argument Competition, as well as the undergraduate team of the Collegiate American Mock Trial Association. Taking on the role of courtroom sketch artists, or court reporters, students from the U-M Stamps School of Art & Design will observe and document the courtroom performances through drawing, text, photography, and video.

The evolving installation and performance project demonstrates how law courts employ performance and representation to establish truths and mold perception. At the same time, it explores how eyewitness testimony in a courtroom relates to the practice of creating artistic records through observational drawings.

Audiences are invited to attend all performances, and passersby may also casually observe the experience through the glass walls of the gallery.

Witness Lab runs February 15 through May 17 in UMMA's Irving Stenn Jr. ('55) Family Gallery. It is being presented in partnership with the Roman J. Witt Artist in Residence Program at the Stamps School of Art & Design, with lead support provided by Michigan Law and the U-M Office of the Provost.

This article is reprinted with permission from Courtney McClellan and the University of Michigan Museum of Art.



Left: Courtney McClellan, Moot (University of Michigan) 3, 2019, digital print. © Courtney McClellan. Courtesy the artist

Above: Courtney McClellan, Moot (University of Michigan) 4, 2019, digital print. © Courtney McClellan. Courtesy the artist

Right: Courtney McClellan, Moot (University of Michigan) 11, 2019, digital print. © Courtney McClellan. Courtesy the artist



MLaw Celebrates First Class of MACL Graduates

Nine students who completed Michigan Law's inaugural Master of Advanced Corporation Law (MACL) program celebrated their graduation last August. MACL is the first degree of its kind designed for U.S. and internationally trained lawyers who want to specialize in U.S. corporate and securities law, and gain an international comparative perspective on both.

The graduates are Aljohara Abdulwahab Alghunaim (Saudi Arabia); Juan Felipe Jaramillo Castillo (Colombia); Changliang Li (China); Tze Loong Lim (Malaysia); GC Joella Gertrude Parian Pillena (Philippines); Kamonchai Veteeburana (Thailand); Michael Wendt (United States); Guangquan Xie (China); and Piyaporn Yasotorn (Thailand). Xie was presented the Most Outstanding Student Award, which is given to a student who demonstrates academic and interpersonal excellence throughout the program.

"Michigan Law constructed a meaningful, challenging, and achievable master's degree in just 12 weeks," says Theresa Kaiser-Jarvis, assistant dean for international affairs. "This first graduating class is a testament to the dedicated work of so many faculty and staff within the institution. It is also a testament to our extraordinary students. They brought

experience, talent, and determination that led to academic success, and they brought kindness, consideration, and a sense of humor that led to the growth of lasting friendships. In true Michigan Law fashion, our newest alumni worked hard, played hard, supported each other throughout, and have become an important part of our lifelong community."

The graduation ceremony, held in Aikens Commons, included an address from Alicia Davis, vice president of investor relations at Lear Corporation and a former Michigan Law professor, who challenged students to "make one small difference every day." Adam Pritchard, the Frances and George Skestos Professor of Law and the MACL faculty director, gave closing remarks and presented graduates with their certificate of membership in the Lawyers Club.

MACL is an intensive, rigorous, single-summer residential experience that allows students to earn an advanced degree in 12 weeks. Students complete 20 credit hours in-residence, including three mandatory courses, three elective courses, and a writing requirement. More information can be found at macl.law.umich.edu.—LA



Ramer, '17, Receives Prestigious Bristow Fellowship



When his clerkship with The Hon. Raymond Kethledge, '93, of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit ended last July, John Ramer, '17, departed for Washington, D.C., to begin his Bristow Fellowship in the Office of the Solicitor General (OSG). Only four to five Bristow Fellowships are awarded annually by the U.S. Department of Justice. A prestigious honor, its holders are allowed to practice before the U.S.

Supreme Court. Ramer has a unique understanding of its prominence after having worked for the Solicitor General (SG) as a Phillips Fellow in 2018. "Both fellowships involve supporting the Office's attorneys, but Bristow Fellows have much more responsibility," Ramer says.

In his current role, Ramer conducts research, helps attorneys prepare for arguments, and assists with brief writing. "Bristows work hard to improve the career attorneys' chances of winning their cases before the Supreme Court," he says. The Fellows also assist with the SG's authorization of appeals in the lower courts. "When the government loses in trial court, the local U.S. attorney's office must seek permission from the SG to appeal," Ramer explains. "Bristow Fellows craft recommendations on each case so the SG can decide whether it deserves to be appealed."

Most Bristow Fellowship applicants have completed a one-year judicial clerkship; all must have stellar law school credentials. Upon learning of his selection, Ramer was understandably excited, but also overwhelmed with gratitude. "My immediate reaction was thanking everyone who helped me along the way, since I received this honor only because of their support."—KD



Transnational Law

A diverse group of global academics and practitioners, including senior officials from the United Nations and the Africa Union, gathered at Michigan Law for the Transnational Law Conference. "International Legal Argumentation Outside the Courtroom" was the focus of the two-day event, held in November. Steven Ratner, the Bruno Simma Collegiate Professor of Law and a conference co-organizer, said he has had a longtime interest in the question of how legal arguments persuade and affect audiences outside courtrooms, and was eager to delve into the topic with the other 13 invited participants. The conference, which was co-sponsored by U-M's Donia Human Rights Center, provided a forum for attendees to share their interdisciplinary perspectives and scholarly papers on various subjects, including international humanitarian law and non-state actors, cybersecurity, human rights, and non-proliferation.



China's Legal System

More than 90 scholars from around the globe visited Michigan Law in October for a once-in-a-generation conference on Chinese law. The three-day gathering was convened by the Law School and U-M's Lieberthal-Rogel Center for Chinese Studies with the extraordinary support and vision of L. Bates Lea, '49. The conference, "China's Legal System at 40 Years—Towards an Autonomous Legal System?," brought together scholars in law, political science, sociology, history, anthropology, and economics, as well as Chinese judges, lawyers, and legal activists, to engage in an intensive dialogue about the Chinese political legal system. The conference was co-organized by Nicholas Howson, the Pao Li Tsiang Professor of Law, and Mary Gallagher, director of the Lieberthal-Rogel Center for Chinese Studies.



Reingold Retires

After 30-plus years of teaching at the Law School, Clinical Professor of Law Paul Reingold retired on December 31. Reingold, who directed Michigan Law's Civil-Criminal Litigation Clinic from 1983 to 2018, taught his last class on December 5, before which faculty gathered to applaud his long teaching career.

Finkbeiner, '13, Named Public Interest Director



It was the vibrancy of the public interest community that first drew Lara Finkbeiner, '13, to Michigan Law. After graduation, she moved to New York to fulfill a longstanding dream of being a refugee advocate at the International Refugee Assistance Project (IRAP), first as an Equal Justice Fellow and then as deputy legal director. Throughout her six years in New York, Finkbeiner maintained strong ties to the Law School and regularly returned to the Quad to mentor students. Last August, she returned to Ann Arbor to join Michigan Law's Office of Career Planning. "It's a natural extension of my experience advising interns, volunteers, and staff attorneys at IRAP," says Finkbeiner, the Law School's new public interest director. "It's great to be back. The Law School has always felt like home."

Finkbeiner is dedicated to programming that reflects the evolving needs and experiences of students. This includes driving more public interest employers to campus in an effort to create a more robust interview program, and advising law students during one-on-one mentoring sessions, like those that played a key role in defining her path toward public interest. "As a student, I met regularly with a previous public interest director, and her guidance shaped my career inside and outside of law school," says Finkbeiner. "That experience played no small role in

my decision to apply for this position. I aspire to have that same kind of impact on the students and community here today."

From incoming 1Ls to graduating 3Ls, Finkbeiner will guide them through their law school experience, making it the best possible platform from which to launch their careers. "I understand firsthand how daunting the public interest path can be," she says. "I'm here to talk about how to make students' passion for social justice into a fulfilling career and address any anxieties about finances. I want to ensure that students feel supported from the moment they step on campus until they secure the job of their dreams."

Finkbeiner, a double Wolverine who earned her BA in 2008, is grateful she chose to pursue a public interest career and looks forward to sharing her outlook, experience, and connections with a community she's held in esteem since she was a prospective student. "The Law School laid the foundation for my public interest career," says Finkbeiner. "I've had the privilege of doing incredible, meaningful work every day for years while also having time and energy to devote to my family. I'm here to show students that the same career fulfillment and work-life balance is within their reach too. My family is living proof."—JP

Cornell Wins L. Hart Wright Award

Assistant Professor Nicolas Cornell—"who conducts his class like a beautiful symphony, out of which the theory of contracts can be heard in a loud, clear, and delightfully stimulating way," according to one law student—is the recipient of the 2019 L. Hart Wright Award for Excellence in Teaching. Cornell teaches Contracts and Contract Theory, which he infuses with private law theories and moral philosophy. He joined the Law School in 2017 from the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School, where he taught legal studies and business ethics. The L. Hart Wright Award is managed by the Law School Student Senate and voted on by students. It is named after the Michigan Law professor who was widely influential in the law and revered by the students he taught.—KD



Valerie Jarrett, '81: Looking Back and Moving Forward

By *Micheline Maynard*

While a student at Michigan Law, Valerie Jarrett, '81, did not spend time cheering on the Wolverines at the Big House. Instead, she focused solely on her academics, knowing the stakes were high for an African American woman. She made that realization while pursuing her undergraduate degree at Stanford University. "The fact that generation after generation of my family had overcome enormous obstacles to succeed, and my parents had made sacrifices so I could have the opportunity to be on that campus, was never far from my mind," she writes in her new memoir, *Finding My Voice: My Journey to the West Wing and the Path Forward*.

Jarrett, the longest-serving adviser in the Obama administration and a close friend of the former president and his wife, was in Ann Arbor last April to promote her first book. She spent two hours at the Michigan Theater discussing her memoir and taking questions from Michigan Law Adjunct Professor Broderick Johnson, '83, who worked for three years alongside Jarrett as the White House cabinet secretary. The two also worked together on Obama's senate and presidential campaigns.

As the title of her book implies, being heard is important to Jarrett. Though her African American family was one of Chicago's most distinguished—her grandfather Robert Taylor was the first black chairman of the Chicago Housing Authority—her parents still encountered prejudice that restricted their opportunities.

Her father, Jim Bowman, was a physician, yet few hospitals in 1950s Chicago would hire him. So he accepted a position at the Nemazee Hospital in Shiraz, Iran, where Jarrett was born in 1956. As his research into inherited-blood diseases took off, Jarrett traveled with her parents across Europe, Russia, Africa, and the United States.

"My mom and dad had taken me across the color line and around the world, showing me what was possible, so that I could dare to imagine any kind of life I wanted," she writes. "It was only years later that I truly understood how lucky I was."

They returned to Chicago in 1961, where, Jarrett says, she immediately was bullied. She was fair skinned, freckled, and spoke with a British accent, and her stellar foreign education resulted in her placement in a class with students two years older than herself. Jarrett stopped speaking French and Farsi, insisted on speaking only English, and tried to figure out why her black classmates were so mean to her. She blossomed, however, once her parents put her in private schools.

Two stints in Chicago law firms proved to Jarrett that private practice was not for her. Jarrett says she does not regret working in law firms, [which] led to an administrative job with Harold Washington, Chicago's first black mayor, and a challenging career in public service. Working as deputy chief of staff to Mayor Richard M. Daley, she constantly was confronted by angry Chicagoans with nowhere else to turn. She writes that she discovered "not only how to trust my own voice and act on what it was telling me, but also how to use my voice to advocate for change and progress for the city that I loved."

In the West Wing, Jarrett also advocated. At the Michigan Theater, she shared an issue that arose involving women on the White House staff. When she learned they felt overlooked during male-dominated meetings, she spoke with the president. He then invited them to the White House for a dinner. At the end of the meal, the president asked each woman if she had felt heard or had anything else to add. When each said she was satisfied, Obama told them he couldn't afford to have them be silent in the future. After that, Jarrett says, the women participated more in meetings.

Though no longer in the West Wing, Jarrett has remained busy with projects. She is working with Michelle Obama on a voter registration initiative, sits on the board of the Kennedy Center, is an adviser to the Obama Foundation, and recently joined the faculty of the University of Chicago Law School.

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Law School Welcomes New Faculty

Six faculty members with expertise ranging from corporate law and criminal justice to constitutional law and civil liberties have joined Michigan Law.



ALBERT H. CHOI is a professor of law whose research and teaching interests include corporate law, contract law, corporate finance, mergers and acquisitions, and law and economics. Choi—who teaches Contracts, Corporations, and Mergers and Acquisitions—came to the Law School from the University of Virginia Law School. He was an assistant professor of economics at the University of Virginia; he then became an associate professor and later a tenured professor at the University of Virginia Law School. Choi earned his JD from Yale Law School and his PhD in economics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he was a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow.



MIRA EDMONDS, whose teaching and research interests include sentencing law and policy, prisoner reentry, and the collateral consequences of conviction, is a clinical assistant professor of law in the Pediatric Advocacy Clinic and the Civil-Criminal Litigation Clinic. Edmonds joins the Law School after living in Shanghai for four years, where she worked on environmental initiatives and taught at the East China University of Politics and Law. In addition to her criminal justice work, Edmonds focuses on the affordable housing crisis, tenants' rights, and approaches to homelessness prevention and alleviation. She earned her JD from Harvard Law School and her BA, *magna cum laude*, from Brown University.



JESSICA LEFORT is a clinical assistant professor in the Legal Practice Program. Prior to joining the Law School, she was a deputy defender with the Federal Defender Office in Detroit, representing indigent criminal defendants in federal court in the Eastern District of Michigan and the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals. She previously was an honors trial attorney at the U.S. Department of Justice, Antitrust Division, in Washington, D.C., where she prosecuted national and international criminal conspiracies involving price-fixing and bid-rigging, as well as procurement fraud cases involving Iraq and Afghanistan war reconstruction contracts. Lefort received her BA in philosophy from Grand Valley State University and her JD, *summa cum laude* and Order of the Coif, from DePaul University College of Law.



LEAH LITMAN, '10, is an assistant professor of law. She previously taught at the University of California, Irvine, School of Law, where she was named the 2019 Professor of the Year. She teaches and writes on constitutional law, federal post-conviction review, and federal sentencing. Her current research focuses on structural arguments in constitutional law and federal post-conviction review. In addition, she is one of the co-hosts and creators of *Strict Scrutiny*, a podcast about the U.S. Supreme Court. Litman graduated *summa cum laude* from Michigan Law, where she was editor-in-chief of the *Michigan Law Review* and the winner of the Henry M. Bates Memorial Scholarship Award. She received her BA from Harvard University.



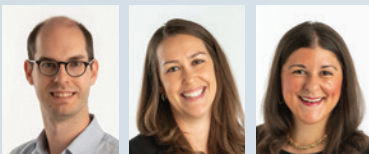
TIFANI SADEK is a clinical assistant professor in the Entrepreneurship Clinic. She previously was an attorney at General Motors, where she served as lead counsel on the expansion of connected vehicles into South America, the Middle East, and Asia-Pacific. She also supported connected vehicle operations and negotiated transactions related to data sharing. Sadek earned her JD from the University of Virginia School of Law, where she was editor of the *Virginia Journal of Law and Technology*. She earned her ALM from Harvard University and BS from Texas A&M University.



MICHAEL J. STEINBERG, a professor from practice, was the legal director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan for 22 years, and oversaw all ACLU litigation in the state. He has litigated dozens of high-impact, high-profile cases on a wide range of civil liberties issues, including freedom of speech and expression, racial justice, LGBT rights, post 9/11 issues, police misconduct, women's rights, reproductive freedom, and voting rights, among others. Six cases on which he worked have reached the U.S. Supreme Court. He earned a BA with honors from Wesleyan University and graduated *cum laude* and Order of the Coif from Wayne State Law School.

New Fellows

Three clinical fellows, a Michigan Faculty Fellow, and a Sunderland Fellow also joined the Law School for the 2019–2020 academic year.



The clinical fellows are **Jason Cowin**, who joined the Pediatric Advocacy Clinic; **Allison Freedman** (Civil-Criminal Litigation Clinic); and **Andrea Van Hoven** (Workers' Rights Clinic). Michigan Law Clinical Fellowships are short-term positions (three years or less) that allow lawyers interested in becoming clinical law professors to gain teaching experience in their specific area of practice. Working closely with the faculty director in one of Michigan Law's 16 legal clinics, clinical fellows teach and supervise student-attorneys enrolled in the clinic.



Legal historian **Emily Prifogle**, whose research focuses on the use and experience of law in rural areas, is the Law School's first Michigan Faculty Fellow. The Michigan Faculty Fellowship is a two-year, in-residence program designed for highly promising scholars with an outstanding academic record who wish to develop their scholarship and teaching skills in preparation for the academic job market.



Rainer Forst, a professor of political theory and philosophy at Goethe University Frankfurt, joined the Law School as a Sunderland Fellow. The Sunderland Faculty Fellowship focuses on mid-career and senior scholars from a discipline other than law, whose work would strongly benefit from an extended visit to the Law School and who would, in turn, contribute substantially to the life of the School.



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New Student Fellowship to Bolster Internationalism at Michigan Law

As a longtime leader in European public law and international corporate and commercial law, Michigan Law retains strong ties to the most prestigious European universities and has roughly 800 alumni living and working in Europe. Two of those alumni, Thomas Schürle, LL.M. '87, and Alfred Wiederkehr, MCL '68, recently co-founded the European Alumni Fellowship Fund to ensure the continuation of this legacy and demonstrate to prospective students the strength of the Law School's European alumni community.

The annual fellowship will be awarded to one or more JD, LL.M., or SJD students who attended a school or university in Europe. "It's been on my mind to do something that would allow me to leave a small footprint at one of my alma maters," says Schürle, who is the managing partner of the Frankfurt office of Debevoise & Plimpton LLP. "Many of us in Europe are used to hearing about state funding, but we easily forget the limits it imposes on expansion and development. If we want Michigan to continue to meet the challenges that come with offering a premier legal education for a global society and economy, then private support is essential."

After graduating with an SJD from Heidelberg University, Schürle traveled to the United States to study common law in Michigan's LL.M. program. "Attending Michigan is both a challenge and a pleasure, especially for an already educated lawyer," says Schürle. "For me, it was about experiencing the academic life inside of a brilliant student body and learning the American way of thinking while also expanding my thought horizon with an international reach. Without that, it would have been much harder to develop a cross-Atlantic legal business and work in a global law firm like Debevoise & Plimpton."

Two decades before Schürle's arrival in Ann Arbor, Wiederkehr applied to Michigan Law's Master of Comparative Law (MCL) Program while completing a district court clerkship in Zürich. He already had worked as a district attorney after earning his master of law and PhD in law from the University of Zürich. "Studying law in the United States opens a new world for European lawyers that can be very helpful in the legal profession," says Wiederkehr, senior partner at Wiederkehr Rechtsanwälte in Zürich. "I still have friends—both American and European—from my time in Ann Arbor." It was unusual for European lawyers to train in the United States when Wiederkehr came to Michigan, so he became something of a pioneer. One of just a few European students in his class, he relished the experience. He went on to launch an international commercial law practice that has spanned five decades, and he has given generously to the Law School for nearly as many years, mostly in support of scholarships for LL.M. and MCL students in addition to the Geneva Externship program for JDs.

Schürle and Wiederkehr view their leadership gifts as a return on the Law School's investment in them, and hope they will inspire fellow European alumni to make their own contributions to the fund, which is the first of its kind at Michigan Law to unify the region's philanthropy to increase the impact of each gift, Wiederkehr notes. "Because others supported me in my journey to receive a top education," says Schürle, "it has revived in me a sense of responsibility toward others and a commitment to continuing the development of justice as a fundament of a welfare society for all."—JP



Thomas Schürle



Alfred Wiederkehr

A Legacy of Lasting Friendships



John Petrovski

By splitting a \$100,000 gift between them, two close friends and former Michigan Law classmates established a scholarship to celebrate the most defining aspect of their time at the Law School: friendship.

“The relationships that come out of Michigan Law are the true treasures,” says John Petrovski, ‘83, senior managing director of commercial real estate at BMO Harris Bank in Chicago. He is one of a dozen classmates who have kept in close contact for nearly 40 years, gathering annually and conversing regularly via email.



Bart Peterson

Another member of the group, Bart Peterson, ‘83, echoes Petrovski’s sentiments. “The friendships I developed at Michigan continue to serve me well today,” says Peterson, former mayor of Indianapolis and current president and CEO of Christel House International, a nonprofit organization that provides holistic education for disadvantaged kids. “They’re people I turn to for guidance in the tough times and for celebration in the good.”

When Petrovski and Peterson came together to serve on their 35th Reunion committee, they also jointly founded the Petrovski and Peterson Scholarship Fund to support students and encourage them to build and nurture relationships with their classmates during their time at Michigan Law as well as after graduation. The pair believes those friendships—the ongoing debates over current affairs, the resulting expansion of personal perspectives, and the mutual support provided on personal and professional matters over the years—are just as valuable as the outstanding education students receive at the Law School.

“Yes, you should be focused on what you’re learning in class and getting inspired by your professors,” says Petrovski. “But don’t forget to look at the people around you because you can learn from them too. Build those relationships and they will become your lifelong support system.” That certainly has been true for Petrovski and Peterson, whose friendship now has a lasting legacy at Michigan Law.—JP

John Petrovski and Bart Peterson with other Reunion attendees from the Class of 1983.





New Scholarship Supports Student Exploration

Bruce Vinokour, '72, holds his law school experience in such high esteem that his wife, Stephanie, recalls it being one of the first topics he brought up when they met 27 years ago. "It was clear to me then, as it is today, that Michigan embraces students like Bruce, who love to learn, and allows them to explore and find their own path," she says. "Because of that, it was only natural for us to give back."

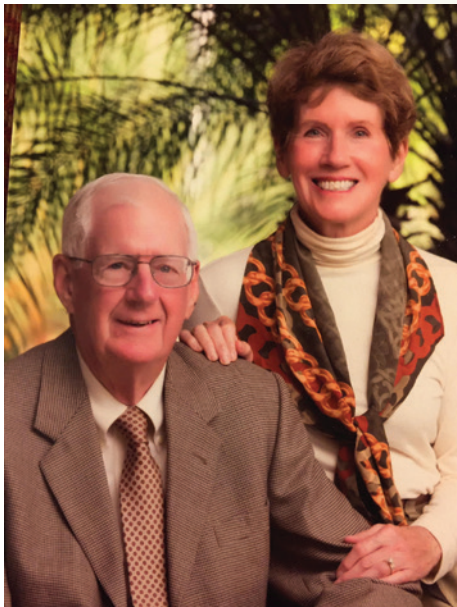
The Vinokours recently established the Bruce A. Vinokour and Stephanie Germain Vinokour Scholarship Fund to provide students with the "same incredible underpinning of strength" that Bruce says not only opened doors for him, but gave him the confidence to walk through them without looking back.

After a clerkship with Justice Walter Rogosheske of the Minnesota Supreme Court, Bruce practiced at a small firm in Minneapolis for a year before uprooting his life in the

Midwest to chase his dreams in Los Angeles. "Armed with little more than my legal education, I landed at Creative Artists Agency, where I've thrived for more than 40 years," says Bruce, a TV agent who represents writers, producers, directors, and the motion picture and television side of authors such as Robert Caro, David McCullough, Ken Follett, David Ignatius, and Scott Turow.

Having built a booming career in the entertainment industry, including putting together the TV series *The Walking Dead*, Bruce says he's still putting his degree to good use, even though he hasn't practiced law since 1974. "It's hard to explain the impact Michigan Law has had on my life. I can say, however, that without that education, the dream I had as a young man would not have come true."—JP

A Lifetime of Giving Back to Michigan Law



“It’s because of the Law School that I was able to achieve all that I have.”

Kent Whittaker has given to Michigan Law every year since graduating in 1960—that’s 59 years of making a difference in the Quad. His most recent gift—a \$200,000 bequest to establish the Kent E. and Judith C. Whittaker Fund for Student Support—topped off decades of supporting the Law School Fund. “It’s a gesture I’ve been meaning to make,” says Whittaker, who designated the Law School as the beneficiary of a portion of the funds built up in his retirement accounts. “It’s a rather simple way to say thank you, and I owe Michigan that for many reasons.”

One of those reasons is that Whittaker met his wife, Judy, at the Law School. While working as a 3L case judge helping with 1L orientation, he noticed Judy enter the Reading Room. It was, as Whittaker recalls, love at first sight. She joined a group that he wasn’t teaching, but he acted quickly and talked one of his cohorts into trading tables with him. “I didn’t realize until it was too late that his subject was the court system in England for the last 300 years, including Ecclesiastes, which I knew very little about,” says Whittaker. “But I bumbled my way through and won a date.” They were married four months later. “I’m very fond of Michigan but—I have to admit—meeting my wife there adds to my regard,” he says.

Whittaker’s gratitude to Michigan extends to his professional career as well. “It changed my life,” he says. “My father was a lawyer, so I had somewhat of a hereditary interest in it. But the Law School gave me direction; the faculty helped me fall in love with the study.” After graduation, Whittaker moved to Kansas City, Missouri, where he spent 45 years in private practice. Judy finished her law degree in Missouri and spent years in private practice before assuming her role as general counsel and executive vice president of Hallmark Cards Inc.

“Coming to Michigan was everything I hoped it would be,” he says. “They took a chance on me so that I might someday make something of myself. It’s because of the Law School that I was able to achieve all that I have.” With his bequest, Whittaker hopes to spark an interest in legacy giving among his fellow alumni. “I’d be pleased if someone saw my gift and thought, ‘maybe I can do the same,’” says Whittaker.—JP

Law School Fund Donor Joins Alumna Mother in Cavaedium Society



Sophia Hudson, '06, and her parents, Joe and Lydie Arthos Hudson, '86, celebrating her graduation in the Law Quad.

Twenty years before Sophia Hudson, '06, received her juris doctorate from Michigan Law, her mother, Lydie Arthos Hudson, '86, walked across the commencement stage to receive her own. "My mother led a fulfilling career while raising four children and pursuing her many outside interests. She set the example for me, starting with a Michigan Law degree, and is my inspiration," says Sophia, a corporate partner in the New York office of Kirkland & Ellis LLP. "To this day, we proudly tell anyone who will listen that we are one of the few mother-daughter graduates from the Law School."

Kicking off her legal career with a Michigan education is not the only way Sophia has followed in her mother's footsteps. "I remember seeing a paperweight on her desk recognizing my mother for being a member of the Cavaedium Society," she says. "As soon as I had the financial wherewithal, I wanted to support the Law School at a level that would demonstrate just how proud and grateful I am to be a graduate."

Having given annually to the Law School Fund since her graduation, Sophia recently increased her commitment to \$2,500 a year, joining her mother in the Cavaedium Society. Cavaedium means inner quadrangle—a fitting description for those who demonstrate the importance of leadership giving and inspire others to follow their example. "The Law School is dependent on annual giving, in particular to support student scholarships and to develop innovative legal education programs. Both of these are so important to making Michigan a school that attracts the best students and positions them to succeed after graduation," Sophia says. "Ultimately, Michigan has proven to me that it will

Hudson and her children, William, Jack, and Caroline.

do good things with the money that I give to the Law School Fund, and I am happy to support it."

From faculty who take a personal interest in challenging their students to the friendly yet vigorous debate between classmates, Sophia describes Michigan Law as being the "ideal educational setting" because of its collegiality, intellectual rigor, and engagement with the wider world. "It set the tone for how I've pursued my career: collaboratively, continuously seeking challenges, mentoring junior lawyers, and engaging with the intellectual aspects of the law," she says. "I've always believed in supporting the institutions that have provided me with an education and have helped me become who I am."

Just as Sophia's mother served as her gateway into giving, Sophia hopes that her philanthropy will resonate with other alumni, encouraging them to add the Law School Fund to their annual giving plans. "It may be a small amount at first," she says. "But, if and when you can, consider making a larger gift and think about the impact that you can have on a student seeking the same education that has benefitted you."—JP



Cause and Effect

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

BOB



Bob Currie, LL.M. '63, of The Woodlands, Texas, practiced international tax law at Exxon Mobil Corporation for 39 years before retiring as general tax counsel of ExxonMobil Coal and Minerals Co. in 2002. He contrasted his legal work with performing at his local community theater, of which he also was president, and recently served as a member of the Central Texas Campaign Leadership Committee for the University's Victors for Michigan campaign.

Throughout his career, Currie took advantage of Exxon's generous matching gift program to build his philanthropy at Michigan Law, which included creating the Robert J. Currie Scholarship Fund in 2005; today, it prioritizes students who are veterans. Matthew Sierawski, '18, was the first recipient under this new designation; now, that list also includes 2Ls Walter Allison and Jonathan Blaha.

MATTHEW



Matthew Sierawski, '18, is from Grand Rapids, Michigan. Following high school, he spent seven years as an intelligence analyst in the Air National Guard, serving in Texas, New York, California, and Afghanistan. After graduating from Michigan State University in 2013, he came to Michigan Law and quickly developed an interest in litigation. He served as an associate and contributing editor of the *Michigan Law Review*, and was a member of the America-Israel Friendship League's 2017 Law Review Editors Delegation to Israel, representing the *Law Review* abroad. He spent his 1L summer interning for The Hon. Helene N. White of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, and his second summer working at the Detroit office of Foley & Lardner LLP. As a 2L, he also completed an externship in the Violent and Organized Crime Unit of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Michigan. Last August, he finished a one-year clerkship with The Hon. M. Casey Rodgers of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Florida before returning to Foley & Lardner as a litigation associate.

What has your Michigan Law education meant to you? How has your degree opened doors for you?

BOB

I did a lot of exploring as an undergraduate at Michigan. A big part of that was spending a year in Denmark. As someone born and raised in Detroit, it opened up the world for me. I was exposed to all these different ideas, people, and art. It was wonderful and exactly what I wanted in life. However, the only way I could think to achieve that was by joining a global firm or corporation, and to do that I needed a quality law degree from a prestigious institution. The Master of Laws degree that I attained at Michigan is how I got my start at Exxon, where I spent my career living in New York, Venezuela, Miami, and Hong Kong before settling in Houston.

MATTHEW

I'm so grateful for my Michigan Law degree, which carries with it an incredible responsibility that is not lost on me. This past year, I was able to work as a federal law clerk in an amazing beach community, with a group of unparalleled lawyers. I have drafted numerous orders resolving a variety of civil and criminal matters, and I also have been exposed to the fascinating world of multidistrict litigation. The decision to attend Michigan Law remains one of my best.

What makes the Law School a special place?

BOB

The combination of brilliant and committed faculty, dedicated students, wonderful facilities, and unparalleled recognition around the world makes the Law School a perfect place to prepare for one's career.

MATTHEW

To me, it's the caliber of people it attracts—they are brilliant, compassionate, and dedicated. As a result, the alumni network is composed of people that genuinely care, and there are thousands of alumni across the world only an email away. During my time in law school, I reached out to innumerable alumni in search of career advice, and all of these interactions resulted in fruitful advice.

Where was the best place to study when you were in law school?

BOB

The stacks was the perfect studying spot. It was great having all my books, silence, and the privacy that I needed to focus.

MATTHEW

During the day, I loved the tables scattered around Sub-2 of the Law Library. It was my absolute favorite place to study, though I spent plenty of time in the Reading Room early in the morning or late at night.

What does the Robert J. Currie Scholarship Fund mean to you?

BOB

I've given to the Law School every year since graduating. If you're lucky enough to be able to assist in some small way, then you need to do it. It doesn't have to be a lot, it can be \$20 or \$50 a year, but give something back.

Because I believe in education and what the Law School does, I set up this scholarship. Today, it supports students who served in the military because they have given a year or more of their lives to protect our nation and preserve our rights. Patriotism today is not what it once was or should be, so I'm doing my part to give these deserving students recognition and opportunity.

MATTHEW

I met Bob and his family during the week of the 2017 Michigan vs. Ohio State football game. I left with a deep appreciation for the man who meant so much to my success over the prior three years. To be sure, the Robert J. Currie Scholarship gave me financial stability throughout law school and alleviated much of my stress. I have worked in some capacity since the age of 15, even as an undergrad, so the idea of dropping everything for three years was daunting. But due to Bob's generosity, rather than agonize over monthly finances, I was able to focus on my studies. It was truly a blessing, and I will be forever thankful. I look forward to carrying his legacy forward as a proud recipient.

Recent Gifts



Daniel Bergeson, '82, and his wife, **Diana**, made an additional \$100,000 gift to the Daniel and Diana Bergeson Family Scholarship. He is a founding partner of Bergeson LLP in California and a member of Michigan Law's Development and Alumni Relations Committee.

Bruce Bickner, '68, made an additional \$100,000 gift through his family foundation to the Bruce P. Bickner Endowed Scholarship Fund in honor of his 50th Reunion.



Brian Byrne, '95, made a \$100,000 gift to be added to the Professor James J. White Scholarship Fund. He is a partner in the Washington, D.C., office of Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP, where he focuses his practice on the antitrust review of mergers and acquisitions, criminal antitrust investigations and other enforcement matters, and civil antitrust litigation.

Harvey Calcutt, BGS '72, made a \$100,000 gift to establish the Harry Calcutt, '47, and Roscoe O. Bonisteel, LLB 1912, LLD, '64, Scholarship Fund in honor of his father and grandfather.



Terrance Carlson, '78, of St. Pete Beach, Florida, made a \$100,000 gift in honor of his 40th Reunion; a quarter of the gift was allocated to the Victors for Michigan Law Scholarship Fund with the remainder documented as a bequest to the Law School Fund. After a career as a partner at Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher and general counsel of PerkinElmer, Medtronic, Synthes, and Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals, he now serves as a legal adviser to several companies in his semi-retirement. He also is a member of Michigan Law's Development and Alumni Relations Committee.



Darrell Cochran, '93, and **Michael Pfau, '91**, made a \$100,000 gift through their law firm, Pfau Cochran Vertetis Amala PLLC, which has offices in the state of Washington, to establish the Pfau Cochran Vertetis Amala Law Scholarship Fund. While their firm fights for those who have suffered extraordinary damages as a result of severe injury or the abuse of power, they are focusing on national cases involving the sexual abuse of minors.



Kevin Conroy, '91, and **Sheila (Brennan) Conroy, '91**, of Madison, Wisconsin, made a \$100,000 gift to be split between the Kevin T. and Sheila M. Conroy Scholarship Fund and the Professor James J. White Scholarship Fund. He is chairman of the board

and chief executive officer of Exact Sciences Corp. She is a partner at Lake Effect HR & Law LLC, where she advises clients on human relations and employment law.

Gordon Devens, BBA '90, JD '94, and his wife, **Laura, BBA '88**, made a \$150,000 gift to establish the Gordon and Laura Devens Family Scholarship Fund. He is former chief legal officer at XPO Logistics Inc. in Greenwich, Connecticut.



John Finger, '81, documented a bequest to establish the John W. Finger Fund. He is a partner in the St. Louis office of SmithAmundsen, where his practice focuses on mergers and acquisitions and private equity and venture capital transactions.

Jeff Friedman, '88, and his wife, **Gisela**, made a \$50,000 gift in honor of his 30th Reunion. A portion of his gift will be added to the Victors for Michigan Law Scholarship Fund and the remainder will go to the Law School Fund. He is co-founder and principal of Mesa West Capital in Los Angeles.

Edward Heiser Jr., '68, and his wife, **Doris**, documented a \$50,000 bequest to be added to the Victors for Michigan Law Scholarship Fund in honor of his 50th Reunion. He is senior counsel in the Milwaukee office of Husch Blackwell LLP, where he has been recognized as one of the leading consumer finance lawyers in Wisconsin and nationwide.



S. Timothy Kochis, '73, and his wife, **Penelope Wong**, documented a \$150,000 bequest to be added to the Law School Fund in honor of his 45th Reunion. He leads Kochis Global, a consultancy to the registered investment adviser industry around the world. He also is a member of The

Asia Foundation's board of trustees, as well as several other civic and philanthropic organizations, and is former chief executive officer and chairman of Aspiriant.



Paul Landen, '83, made an additional \$50,000 gift to the Landen Family Scholarship Fund at the Law School in honor of his 35th Reunion. He is a partner in the Houston office of Baker Botts LLP, where his practice focuses on all aspects of commercial real estate.



Quinn Martin, '73, of Milwaukee, made a \$50,000 gift in honor of his 45th Reunion. A portion of his gift will be used to establish the Quinn W. Martin Facilities Fund; the remainder will go to the Law School Fund. He is a retired partner at Quarles & Brady LLP.



Michael Mueller, '85, documented a \$150,000 bequest to support students on the *Michigan Journal of Law Reform*, as well as the Law School Fund. He is a partner in the Washington, D.C., and Miami offices of Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP.



Erica Munzel, '83, of Ann Arbor, documented a \$100,000 bequest to establish the Erica A. Munzel Clinical Law and Experiential Learning Fund. Her gift was made in honor of her classmates and their 35th Reunion, and in recognition of Sue Eklund, '73, and Don Duquette, '74, for their contributions to student life and experiential learning at Michigan Law. She is the director of leadership gifts and planned giving in the Law School's Office of Development and Alumni Relations.

Ernest Newborn II, '83, made a \$125,000 gift to establish the Newborn and Johnson Scholarship Fund in honor of his 35th Reunion. He is senior vice president and general counsel at USI Insurance Services LLC in New York.



Camille Olson, '83, and her husband, **Michael Reed**, made an additional \$270,000 gift to the Theodore J. St. Antoine Collegiate Professorship Fund in honor of Camille's 35th Reunion. She is a partner at Seyfarth Shaw LLP, and a member of Michigan Law's Development and Alumni Relations Committee.

Donald Parshall Jr., '79, documented a bequest to designate a portion of his estate to establish the Donald R. Parshall Jr. Scholarship Fund in honor of his 40th Reunion. He is senior counsel at Nissan North America. He previously served as senior executive attorney at Delphi Corporation and senior counsel at TRW Inc. and General Motors.



R. Claybourne Petrey Jr., '83, documented a \$100,000 planned gift to support Student Funded Fellowships.



James Blakemore, '13, and Josh Garcia, '13: Blockchain Made Them a Team

By Kristy Demas

Blockchain has come into focus in the last several years. James Blakemore, '13 (above left), and Josh Garcia, '13 (above right), have expertise in the technology, which, as Blakemore explains, “allows people to verify transactions and come to consensus regarding the current distribution of an asset, like bitcoin, without relying on third parties like banks.”

The growing number of blockchain users has increased the need for consultants and lawyers experienced in it—a niche where Blakemore and Garcia are making their mark with their consulting and law firms. But a partnership wasn't foremost on their minds as Michigan Law classmates, Blakemore recalls. “We met the first year, but started hanging out the last,” mostly due to *Spoon Assassins*—a live-action game where participants try to eliminate each other armed with disposable spoons. “Josh and I were pretty active players, which was our not-so-illustrious beginning as close friends.” Following graduation, Blakemore joined Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton, and Garcia went to Goodwin Procter.

“I wound up on a small team that worked with a blockchain company to defend an action brought by the Department of Justice,” Garcia says. “I had to learn the technology and explain it to the partner. Since I was one of the only associates versed in blockchain, when blockchain-specific questions came in from startups, I was the go-to.” Garcia then helped start the financial technology practice at White & Case, later helping run Cooley's blockchain group. Meanwhile, at Cleary, Blakemore represented foreign sovereigns and global financial institutions in securities class-action disputes and regulatory investigations into alleged bond and benchmark rate manipulation.

By 2018, Garcia had amassed a large network of contacts in the cryptocurrency community, including some who would later become clients. He brought together Blakemore and three other attorneys interested in blockchain and experienced in securities,

money transmission, and startups. “We met for breakfast in New York,” Blakemore says, “and hashed out a business plan over a couple of months before taking the leap.” Ketsal Consulting and Blakemore Fallon were born.

“Our practice ranges from advising token issuers on the securities law implications of their projects to helping cryptocurrency exchanges register as money transmitters,” says Blakemore. “We helped Rhode Island with their blockchain law. It was more of a consultation role because we are exposed to various state laws and often talk to state regulators.” Garcia estimates that 90 to 95 percent of their clients are in blockchain. “But we don't always deal with regulatory or crypto issues—sometimes it's traditional legal representation, just in a very different context.”

It was at their five-year reunion when Blakemore and Garcia turned their thoughts to teaching after hearing Dean Mark West's Law School update. Both loved their time at Michigan and had enjoyed teaching previously. “Especially when you get to teach something you have seen develop for as long as five years—at that point, the majority of blockchain's lifespan,” Garcia says. After meeting with Dean West—Blakemore's Criminal Law professor—and Associate Dean Gil Seinfeld, they teamed up to teach Blockchain and the Law.

“It's a fun course to teach, because crypto has these peculiarities that force you to return to first principles,” Blakemore says. “We explored it against the backdrop of the anti-government, anti-regulation movement it grew out of.”

“The class ended up being very doctrinal,” Garcia says. “The exciting things we discussed were enforcement actions, but the bulk was basic laws of securities, money transmission, and commodities—with elements of contract and tax law.”

Blakemore adds, “Law school is one of your last opportunities to explore intellectually outside your focus. I'm a huge proponent of taking a class that you're interested in even if you think it might not be useful—it will be. You just don't know how yet.”

1952

W.H. (Bert) Bates received the 2018 Lifetime Achievement Award from *KC Counselor* in recognition of lifelong excellence in service to the legal community.

1963



Thomas Creel, a former partner at Goodwin Procter LLP, is now an arbitrator, special master, and mediator specializing in intellectual property and technology

disputes at JAMS.

1965

Bill Bogaard was elected to the board of directors of A Noise Within, a theater company in Pasadena, California. He was instrumental in helping the organization secure a site for its permanent home, and has remained its champion since his time as mayor of Pasadena.

1968

Lee Hornberger's article, "Historic Moments in Negotiation," was published in the May 2019 issue of the *Michigan Bar Journal*. He is an arbitrator and mediator in Traverse City, Michigan.

Jim Johnston published his latest book, *Murder, Inc.: The CIA Under John F. Kennedy* (Potomac Books, 2019). His previous book, *From Slave Ship to Harvard: Yarrow Mamout and the History of an African American Family* (Fordham University Press, 2012), remains on Fordham's bestsellers list.

1970

Robert Nelson has been named president of the Citizens Utility Board of Michigan, a nonprofit representing all Michigan residential utility ratepayers.

1971

Ronald Brot, founder and senior partner at Brot, Gross & Fishbein LLP, was sworn in as the 141st president of the Los Angeles County Bar Association (LACBA). He is the first from the San Fernando Valley and the third-ever family law attorney to hold the position. He also received the Spencer Brandeis Award from the LACBA's Family Law Section for his impact upon the advancement of family law through creative legal advocacy and commitment to service. In addition, he was named a 2019 Person of the Year by local publication *Met News*.

1972

Laurence Deitch, U-M Regent Emeritus and a member of the Detroit office of Bodman PLC, was ranked by *Chambers USA* as a 2019 leader in the practice area of corporate mergers and acquisitions in Michigan. He also was listed in *IFLR1000* as a highly regarded practitioner of mergers and acquisitions law in 2019.



John Pinney, a partner in the Cincinnati office of Graydon Head & Ritchey LLP, was appointed by the American Bar Association to its

standing committee on the federal judiciary, which investigates and rates federal court nominees. As a representative for the Sixth Circuit, he will serve a three-year term.

Mark Vander Laan, of counsel in the Cincinnati office of Dinsmore & Shohl LLP, was named litigation director of the Ohio Justice & Policy Center, an advocacy and policy organization that focuses on helping individuals and families navigate the criminal justice system.

1973

James Jenkins, who retired from Deere & Co., joined the Midland Center for the Arts board of directors.



Richard Jewell was elected chairman of the board of trustees of the YMCA of Greater Pittsburgh. He has a long history of service with the YMCA, having previously served as

the board chair of the downtown YMCA and as a member of the metropolitan YMCA board of directors.

Tim Kochis received the 2019 Wealth Management Impact Award from the Investments & Wealth Institute, a professional association, advanced education provider, and certification board.

1974

Thomas Weeks retired from his longtime position as executive director of the Ohio State Legal Services Association, which includes the Legal Aid Society of Columbus.



Craig Wolson was presented the Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award—an honor reserved for individuals who have demonstrated

leadership, excellence, and longevity within their respective industries and professions—after many years of being featured in *Continental Who's Who*.



Did you get a new job or a promotion? Were you recognized with an award? Share your news with classmates in an upcoming issue of the *Law Quadrangle*. Email LQNCClassNotes@umich.edu or complete the online form at law.umich.edu/classnotes.

CLASS NOTES

1975



Connye Harper was appointed chair of the Nevada Equal Rights Commission and elected to the board of directors of the American Civil Liberties Union

of Nevada. She is a principal of Harper Strategies LLC, a human resources consultation provider; president of the Southern Nevada Chapter of the Society of Human Resources Management; and vice chairman of the Twenty Pearls Foundation, a Nevada nonprofit corporation.

Stephen Meyer, counsel in the Sacramento, California, office of Downey Brand LLP, was recognized at the Ninth Annual Night to Honor Service hosted by the Sacramento Chapter of the Federal Bar Association. He was honored for his pro bono contributions to the District Court Voluntary Dispute Resolution Program Panel.

Robert Wessely joined the New York office of Greenspoon Marder LLP as a partner and member of its corporate and business practice group. A transaction attorney, he previously spent two years at Blank Rome and seven years at Withers Bergman LLP.

1976



Paul Griffin retired from Winston & Strawn LLP in San Francisco and moved to Horseshoe Bay, Texas, where he has launched a solo firm, Paul Griffin Law.

Joseph Kochanek, a member of the Detroit office of Bodman PLC, was ranked by *Chambers USA* as a 2019 leader in Michigan's banking and finance practice area. He represents lenders in secured and unsecured loan originations, principally in Europe, Mexico, South America, and the Pacific Rim.

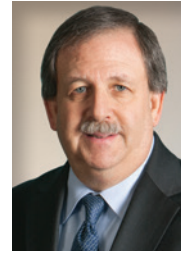


Peter Spanos joined the Atlanta office of Akerman LLP as a partner in its labor and employment practice group. He previously was a partner at Barnes & Thornburg LLP.

1977

The Hon. Elizabeth Hines of Michigan's 15th Judicial District Court received the 2018 William H. Rehnquist Award for Judicial Excellence by the National Center for State Courts, one of the highest judicial honors in the country. She is most recognized for her groundbreaking work in domestic violence.

1978



Larry Shulman, a member of the Detroit office of Bodman PLC, recently completed his term as interim chairman of the firm. He represents

lenders in loan originations. He also was ranked by *Chambers USA* as the only 2019 star individual in the practice area of banking and finance in Michigan. He also has been listed in *IFLR1000* as a highly regarded practitioner of banking law.

Richard Thomson joined the Minneapolis office of Ballard Spahr LLP as senior counsel. He previously was a shareholder at Lapp, Libra, Thomson, Stoebner & Pusch, Chartered.



1979

Twenty-five years ago—after a long day working on commercial and bankruptcy litigation, estate planning, and tax matters—the last thing **Bret Clement**, '79, wanted to do was trim the grass along his back fence. To circumvent this tedious task, he began lining his yard with daylilies, which blossomed into something unexpectedly beautiful: a new hobby. Clement, president of Ayres Carr & Sullivan PC in Indianapolis, crossbreeds daylilies. His creations, which can be viewed at clementgarden.com, are known as much for their visual allure as their clever names inspired by law, politics, music, and cats. "Hybridizing takes organization and patience," says Clement, who also is general counsel and parliamentarian of the American Daylily Society. "But I love my early mornings in the garden, seeing the first blooms of something that I helped bring into existence."—JP

1979

Robert Diehl Jr., a member of the Detroit office of Bodman PLC, was ranked by *Chambers USA* as a 2019 leader in the practice area of banking and finance in Michigan. He also was listed in *IFLR1000* as a highly regarded practitioner of banking and restructuring law in 2019.

David Kern retired from the Milwaukee office of Quarles & Brady LLP after serving as a management-side labor and employment lawyer there since 1979. He chaired the firm's national labor and employment practice group for six years. He will continue to serve as a member of the Milwaukee County Personnel Review Board.



Barbara Polsky was appointed director of Pacific Premier Bancorp Inc. and its wholly owned bank subsidiary, Pacific Premier Bank. She is a partner in the financial services department of Manatt, Phelps & Phillips LLP in Los Angeles.

Clyde Robinson was presented the Michigan Municipal League's 2019 Outstanding Service Award. The recognition acknowledged his work in educating and informing local officials about the regulatory challenges posed by the adoption of a November 2018 voter initiative that legalized recreational marijuana in Michigan.

1980

John Cashen, a member of the Troy, Michigan, office of Bodman PLC, was ranked by *Chambers USA* as a 2019 leader in the practice area of labor and employment in Michigan. He also was named a 2019 Leader in the Law by *Michigan Lawyers Weekly*.

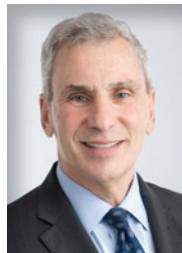


G.A. Finch, a partner in the Chicago office of Hoogendoorn & Talbot LLP, published *The Savvy Executive: The Handbook Covering Employment Contracts, Compensation, Executive Skills, and Much More* (Windy City Publishers, 2019).

J. Michael Shepherd was elected to the board of directors of CoreLogic, a leading global property information, analytics, and data-enabled solutions provider. He has held senior leadership positions at several of the nation's leading banks, including his long tenure as CEO of Bank of the West.

Joseph Tilson, co-chair of the labor and employment department in the Chicago office of Cozen O'Connor PC, was elected the 2018–2019 chair of the American Bar Association's section on labor and employment.

1981



Paul Leder, who served as the director of the Office of International Affairs at the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) from 2014 to 2018, joined Miller & Chevalier Chartered in Washington, D.C., as of counsel. This was his second stint at the SEC; he started there as a trial lawyer in the Division of Enforcement in 1987 after six years at the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia. Between leaving the SEC in 1999 and his return in 2014, he was a partner in private practice.

Debbie Levy, author of *I Dissent: Ruth Bader Ginsburg Makes Her Mark* (Simon & Schuster, 2016), co-authored another title, *This Promise of Change: One's Girl's Story in the Fight for School Equality* (Bloomsbury, 2019).



Mark Lezotte, a Michigan health care attorney in the Detroit office of Butzel Long, served as a moderator during the 2018 Health Care Leadership Summit sponsored by Crain Communications in Dearborn, Michigan. He also received the 2019 United Cerebral Palsy National Chair's Award.



John Liming, a member of Clemens, Korhn, Liming & Warnck Ltd., received the Robert L. Hausser Memorial Award from the Ohio State Bar Association Real Property Law Section Council, which recognizes outstanding achievement, contribution, and leadership in the practice of real property law.

David Radelet joined the Chicago office of Littler Mendelson PC as a shareholder. His practice focuses exclusively on representing private sector employers in all aspects of labor and employment law in locations throughout the country.



Elizabeth Kronk Warner was named the first female dean of the University of Utah's S.J. Quinney College of Law. She previously was associate dean and professor of law at the University of Kansas School of Law, where she also was the director of the Tribal Law and Government Center.

1982

Bill Dobbs was honored at a gala by the New York Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild for his decades of work as a lawyer, activist, communications consultant, and longtime member of the Guild. The event marked 50 years since the Stonewall Riots in New York City jump-started the gay and lesbian movement.



CLASS NOTES

Michael Levey was elected president of the Wisconsin Equal Justice Fund Inc. He is a partner in the Milwaukee office of Quarles & Brady LLP, where he practices health and business law and serves as the firm's national pro bono partner.

Myint Zan, LLM, retired from full-time teaching in 2016. He taught at nine universities in Malaysia, Australia, and the South Pacific during his nearly three-decade career. He has since trained law students from the University of Yangon and the University of Mandalay to prepare them for first-time participation in international law moot competitions in Hong Kong and Nuremberg, Germany.

1983



The Hon. Ellen Carmody retired as magistrate judge of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Michigan on November 1. She served the district for

more than 18 years and was the first female judicial officer in the Western District of Michigan. In addition to serving on various court management committees, she taught as an adjunct professor at Grand Valley State University and Michigan State University College of Law.

John Frank, vice chairman of Oaktree Capital Management LP in Los Angeles, was elected to serve a two-year term as chairman of the board of trustees of Wesleyan University.

Broderick Johnson joined the Washington, D.C., office of Covington & Burling as senior of counsel and member of the firm's public policy practice. He has extensive senior-level executive branch, Capitol Hill, and presidential campaign experience and maintains strong ties to Democratic leadership in both chambers of Congress.

Michael Lied, an associate in the Peoria, Illinois, office of Howard & Howard PLLC, was reappointed as a member of the Illinois State Bar Association's Federal Civil Practice Section Council for the 2019–2020 term.



1983

Fred Snow; his wife, Michelle; and her daughter, Ava, visited Rome in December 2018 to celebrate the holidays with Snow's classmate **Jeff Greenbaum, '84**, and his wife, Alessandra. "We were friends and neighbors during law school," Snow says. "We both lived in different houses with different Law School housemates on State Street. We had not seen each other since I graduated in 1983. Jeff and his wife live in a beautiful apartment in a building constructed more than a century ago. It's next to a large park, and he walks about a mile through Rome to his office. Some aspects of life are not meant to be fair." Snow is executive vice president and general counsel of First American Bank, a commercial bank and wealth management group with offices in Florida, Illinois, and Wisconsin. Greenbaum is a partner in the Rome office of Hogan Lovells. Pictured (from left) are: Michelle, Ava, Jeff, Alessandra, and Fred.



Patricia Lee (Trish) Refo became president-elect of the American Bar Association at its annual meeting last August. She is a partner at Snell & Wilmer in Phoenix.

Jeffrey Stone, a partner at Hodgson Russ LLP in New York, was appointed to the board of trustees of SUNY Erie Community College.

1984

Justice Margaret Chutich of the Minnesota Supreme Court was elected to serve a six-year term in November 2018. She was first appointed to the Court in 2016 by former Gov. Mark Dayton after serving on the Minnesota Court of Appeals for four years.



Meg Waite Clayton's seventh novel, *The Last Train to London* (HarperCollins, 2019), was published last September in 17 languages throughout the world. A *New York*

Times bestselling and award-winning author, her prior novels include *The Four Ms. Bradwells*, about four Michigan Law grads who face a skeleton that emerges from their collective closet during U.S. Supreme Court confirmation hearings. She also writes a monthly column for the *San Francisco Chronicle*, and has had recent pieces in the *Los Angeles Times* and on public radio.



Anita Fox was appointed by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer to head the Michigan Department of Insurance and Financial Services. She brings more

than 30 years of legal experience to the role, having litigated a wide range of business and insurance issues throughout her career.



Nadine Gartner, '06: Giving a Boost to Oregon Children

By Melody Finnemore

Nadine Gartner, '06, knew as early as middle school that she wanted to do something to make her community better. But it wasn't until the birth of her first child in 2013 that Gartner's true passion came into focus.

While she was pregnant, several friends asked about her vaccination plan for the baby. When she learned that parents in her community had chosen not to vaccinate or to delay their children's vaccines, she went online to learn why.

"I was shocked at the prolific and vehement anti-vaccination misinformation that surfaced," Gartner says. "The only pro-vaccine messaging came from federal and state governments, which many parents distrust."

Among the reasons many parents choose not to vaccinate their children, Gartner discovered, is a now-debunked study from 1998 suggesting childhood vaccines (in particular the vaccine for measles, mumps, and rubella) were linked to autism. A growing body of research since then—including a study published last March in the journal *Annals of Internal Medicine* from the American College of Physicians—has found no evidence of such a link. But some parents still have concerns, and Gartner realized that she needed to create a source of reliable information that they could trust.

The result: Boost Oregon, a nonprofit organization founded by Gartner to provide direct education to parents who are unsure about vaccines and peer-to-peer education in which parents who are in favor of vaccines can be advocates within their own communities.

"Although the majority of parents in Oregon vaccinate their children," she says, "their voices have not been heard in the 'vaccine debates' presented in traditional and social media."

Boost Oregon, which does not accept donations from pharmaceutical companies, provides a forum for parents to share their stories so they can learn about the role vaccines play in keeping their children and community healthy. In addition, Boost Oregon trains physicians on effectively communicating with parents who are hesitant to vaccinate their children. Gartner noted that physicians don't typically learn how to address the issue as part of their medical training.

Gartner, who previously practiced civil litigation at Stoll Berne, says her experience with legal research and writing is now bolstering her grant writing to generate funding for Boost Oregon. Her skill in reviewing contracts and other documents allows her to feel confident in her ability to make decisions about the partnerships she is forging to build support for the nonprofit.



Grant funding has allowed Boost Oregon to host community workshops in Portland. Led by pediatricians, the workshops provide a safe space for parents to bring their concerns and questions about vaccines and to get evidence-based answers.

"To date, our workshops have been extremely successful," Gartner says. "The parents who attend either (previously) have not vaccinated at all or have done so on a selective or delayed basis, and 99 percent of attendees report after the workshop that they intend to vaccinate their children fully."

In addition, Boost Oregon distributes a *Parents' Guide to Children's Vaccines* and provides tools such as a vaccine schedule and blog for parents, as well as a list of outside resources. Its annual Boostapalooza is a family-friendly event featuring entertainment, food, drinks, prizes, games, and a silent auction.

Gartner says the need for reliable information during the recent measles outbreak in the Portland area reaffirms her decision to establish Boost Oregon. "Looking back on it, it was the right decision. I'm really proud of what Boost has become, and there is still a lot of work to do, but I'm happy with the direction we're headed."

A version of this story originally appeared in the April 2019 issue of the Oregon State Bar Bulletin. It is reprinted with permission.



Peter Hardin-Levine, a civil rights lawyer in Cleveland, has published his first novel, *Sanctioned* (Amazon Digital Services, 2018), a coming-of-age tale

addressing the emotional and legal issues related to the #MeToo Movement.

Steven Heacock was appointed president and CEO of Grand Rapids Whitewater, a Michigan nonprofit dedicated to revitalizing the Grand River. He previously served for nine years as senior vice president of community relations at Spectrum Health.



Justice Kurtis Wilder rejoined the Detroit office of Butzel Long as of counsel. His practice focuses on litigation and appeals. He previously was an

associate justice of the Michigan Supreme Court, having been appointed to the role in May 2017 by former Gov. Rick Snyder, '82. Prior to that, he served for nearly 20 years on the Michigan Court of Appeals. He also received the 2019 Joseph D. Grano Award from the Federalist Society. The award is given to "the most distinguished servant to the rules of the law."

1985



Jonathan Frank and his wife, **Jan Goldstein Frank, AB '82**, formed their own law firm, Frank & Frank Law, in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. The firm

focuses on creative, cost-effective litigation solutions.

John Hogan joined Saxton & Stump LLC, a Pennsylvania-based law firm, as a shareholder and chair of its corporate health care and life sciences group.



Stanley Jaskiewicz, a member of the corporate law department at Spector Gadon & Rosen PC in Pennsylvania, received the 2019

Paul Quinn Memorial Award from the Timothy School for his advocacy on behalf of persons with autism, including his son. His article, "Why the 1% Should Care About Medicaid," was published in *The Philadelphia Lawyer*.

Reed Rubinstein was appointed acting general counsel of the U.S. Department of Education. He previously was deputy associate attorney general at the U.S. Department of Justice.

Robin Walker-Lee was elected to the board of directors of EMCOR Group Inc., a *Fortune 500* leader in mechanical and electrical construction services, industrial and energy infrastructure, and building services.

Michael Woronoff joined the Los Angeles office of Kirkland & Ellis LLP. He previously served as head of Proskauer Rose LLP's West Coast corporate and securities practice and co-head of its global mergers and acquisitions and private equity groups.

1986

Ronald Betman was elected partner in the Chicago office of Ulmer & Berne LLP. A veteran trial lawyer, he defends clients in the areas of securities, commodities, class action and derivative litigation, antitrust, fraud, and commercial litigation.

Shannan Kane was sworn in as an assistant prosecutor for Montcalm County, Michigan, where she primarily handles district court cases. Previously, she worked in civil law, including labor law, legislative work, and health care compliance.

Megan Norris, senior principal and chair of managing directors in the Detroit office of Miller, Canfield, Paddock, and Stone PLC, received the Distinguished Service Award from the State Bar of Michigan's Labor and Employment Law Council.

Anthony Pacheco, former president of the Los Angeles Board of Police Commissioners, joined the LA office of Vedder Price PC as a shareholder in its government enforcement and special investigations practice group. He focuses on white-collar criminal defense, internal investigations, and complex business litigation, including civil and criminal trials.

Nancy Rubin received the Lawyers Alliance for New York's 2018 Cornerstone Award, which honors outstanding pro bono legal services to nonprofits. She is counsel, mergers and acquisitions and corporate governance, in the Washington, D.C., office of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP.



Margaret Seif was named one of the Top 50 Most Powerful Women in Tech by the National Diversity Council. She is chief people officer, chief legal officer, and

senior vice president of communications at Analog Devices Inc. in Boston.

James Thompson was appointed vice president, general counsel, and secretary of GCP Applied Technologies Inc. in London. He previously served as senior vice president, general counsel, and chief ethics and compliance officer at Avon Products Inc.

1987

Glenn Oliver, former commissioner of the Detroit Water and Sewage Department, was profiled in the *San Diego Business Journal* about the launch of his own practice and contract procurement service, H2bid. His article, "An African-American Lawyer's Perspective on the California Cut Score Debate," appeared on law.com.

Jeffrey Pomerance was promoted to partner at SulmeyerKupetz PC in Los Angeles. He represents individuals and businesses seeking assistance in creating, maximizing, protecting, and retaining their value proposition throughout the business life cycle.

1988

Ray Espinosa, LLM, was named incoming president and chief executive officer of Manila Electric Co. in the Philippines. He previously served as general counsel.

Tamara Joseph was appointed general counsel and corporate secretary of Millendo Therapeutics Inc., an Ann Arbor-based biopharmaceutical company focused on developing treatments for orphan endocrine diseases. She most recently served as general counsel of Enzyvant in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

David Mann, former senior vice president and deputy general counsel of Marriott International Inc., was appointed senior vice president and chief legal officer of Dunkin' Brands Group Inc., the parent company of Dunkin' and Baskin-Robbins.

The Hon. Brian McDonald was appointed a judge on the King County Superior Court by Washington Gov. Jay Inslee. He worked for more than 25 years in the King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, Criminal Division, where he served as a senior deputy prosecuting attorney on both criminal trials and appellate matters.

1989

Earl Barnes II joined AMITA Health in Lisle, Illinois, as executive vice president and chief legal officer. He previously served as senior vice president and general counsel of Advocate Health Care Inc.



Kermitt Brooks was promoted to general counsel of AXA Equitable Life Insurance Co. in New York, where he leads the legal, regulatory, compliance, and

government relations functions. He previously served as the company's deputy general counsel.

Robyn Crittenden served as interim secretary of state in Georgia. She was the first African American woman to serve as a statewide constitutional officer in Georgia's history and has since returned to her post as commissioner of the Georgia Department of Human Services.



Marcella David, former provost and vice president for academic affairs at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, was named senior vice president and provost at Columbia College Chicago.

Holly Fechner, a partner in the Washington, D.C., office of Covington & Burling LLP, was named one of *The American Lawyer's* 2019 Dealmakers of the Year. She received the award for her work securing a U.S. presidential order compelling Broadcom Ltd. to "immediately and permanently abandon" its proposed hostile takeover of its client Qualcomm Inc.

Linda Howell was appointed corporate counsel for Kent County, the fourth largest county by population in Michigan. She also was elevated from trustee to supervisor for Laketown Township, Michigan.

Victor King, general counsel of California State University, Los Angeles, was named In-House Counsel of the Year (Public Sector) by the *Los Angeles Business Journal*.

Glenn Smith, former in-house counsel at the U.S. Postal Service, was named president of Wheeler Upham PC in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He practices primarily in the areas of employment law, civil litigation, business and corporate law, contracts, construction law, federal government contracts, postal law, and torts.

1990

Michael Aldana was appointed managing partner of Quarles & Brady LLP. He is the third managing partner in the firm's history and is responsible for leading its operations and strategic growth initiatives.

Did you get a new job or a promotion? Were you recognized with an award? Share your news with classmates in an upcoming issue of the *Law Quadrangle*. Email LONClassNotes@umich.edu or complete the online form at law.umich.edu/classnotes.

Audrey Anderson, former vice chancellor, general counsel, and university secretary of Vanderbilt University, joined the Nashville and Washington, D.C., offices of Bass, Berry & Sims PLC as chair of the higher education practice group.

Ronald DeWaard, a partner in the Grand Rapids, Michigan, office of Varnum LLP, was elected chair of the firm. He is responsible for firm strategy and partner compensation. He previously led the firm's litigation and trial practice team.

Geoff Genth, a principal in litigation in the Baltimore office of Kramon & Graham PA, was recognized for legal excellence and client service by *Chambers USA*. His practice focuses on alternative dispute resolution, commercial litigation, IP litigation, nonprofit representation, and professional liability.

Timothy Horner, a partner in the Grand Rapids, Michigan, office of Warner Norcross + Judd LLP, was named a 2019 Leader in the Law by *Michigan Lawyers Weekly*.



Dan Kim was named senior vice president of communications, marketing, and external relations at Brandeis University in

Waltham, Massachusetts. He previously was vice president for communications at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts.

C. Thomas Ludden was reappointed by the Michigan Supreme Court to a second consecutive three-year term on the Committee on Model Civil Jury Instructions. He is a partner at Lipson Neilson PC in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan.





Colleen Barney, '93: Ninja Warrior

By Lori Atherton

If you've ever watched *American Ninja Warrior* (ANW), perhaps you've imagined yourself scaling the Warped Wall. Colleen Barney, '93, pictured herself doing that too—and made the cut to compete in Season 11 of the popular sports entertainment reality television show.

Barney—a 5'2" dynamo from California who races in the Masters Division of the USA Track & Field Program—got the call last February from ANW producers that she was a contestant in the Los Angeles qualifying round. There was little time for celebration, though, as Barney needed to be in top form for her performance weeks later in early March. She practiced by tackling the obstacle course at MLAB, a parkour and ninja training facility in San Dimas.

Barney arrived at Universal Studios in LA, where ANW is filmed, by 4 p.m. on a Wednesday; she was contestant number 33 out of 100 selected for that city. At 52, Barney says she wanted to “make it further than any woman over 50 has gone on *Ninja Warrior*.” Because of rain delays, she couldn't run the course until 1:30 a.m. the next morning. Despite the seemingly endless wait, Barney didn't let nerves get the best of her.

“One of my track friends, who had been on *American Gladiators* decades earlier, came with me,” Barney says. “She kept sending me messages, reminding me that this was a once-in-a-lifetime experience, and to appreciate and enjoy every moment of it.”

When it finally was Barney's turn to take the course, she went out after the first obstacle—a new one called Shrinking Steps that she likened to running on Bobbleheads. “As you ran across them, they moved up and down and bobbed forwards and backwards,” Barney says. “Because I'm a sprinter, I thought it would be easy. But as soon as I hit each step, I went into balancing mode and couldn't make it to the fifth step.”

Only about 40 competitors are shown in each ANW episode, and Barney wasn't one of them when Season 11 premiered on May 29. “I knew there was a significant chance that my story wasn't going to be picked,” she says, “and I was okay with that.”

An investor in a Newport Beach gym, “which has all sorts of cool equipment,” Barney says she put together her ANW audition video on a lark. She and her track friends were doing “crazy activities” that resembled those on *American Ninja Warrior*, and they suggested Barney try out for the show.

Her video—which she posted to Facebook and has more than 5,000 views—was filmed in her Irvine law office, where she practices estate planning, trusts, and probate. She describes how she sustained a freak weightlifting injury in college that broke her back and forced her to give up running for more than a decade. Barney took up the sport again at age 35 when one of her daughters got interested in running. Now, Barney races in—and wins—national and international track competitions. She is a world-champion sprinter in the 100 meters and a four-time national champion in the 100 meters, 200 meters, and 400 meters in her age group.

Being a track and field star has given Barney a healthy perspective about her ANW experience. “At the end of the day, I got to do something super cool that tons of people haven't gotten to do,” Barney says. “I got my 15 minutes of fame with my friends on Facebook. The experience has allowed me to be a little less serious and to enjoy being in the moment more.”



ONLINE EXTRA

Watch Barney's *American Ninja Warrior* audition video at quadrangle.law.umich.edu.

Tim Townsend was named president of the Presbyterian Church in America Foundation in Lawrenceville, Georgia. He previously practiced with Wendell R. Bird PC in Atlanta, where he primarily represented tax-exempt organizations, and later served as a founding principal of Myers, Townsend, and McKee PC.

1991

Kevin Conroy, chairman and chief executive officer of Exact Sciences Corp., was elected to the board of directors of Adaptive Biotechnologies.

Elizabeth Gardner joined the New York office of Robins Kaplan LLP as a partner in the firm's intellectual property and technology practice group. She previously was a partner at Orrick Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP.

Pamela Hayman-Weaner, an attorney with Legal Aid of Western Ohio, was a co-recipient of the Ohio Legal Assistance Foundation's Denis J. Murphy Award.

1992

Craig Allison joined the Silicon Valley office of Dickson Wright PLLC as a member. He litigates technically complex patent and trade-secret disputes before federal district courts, the International Trade Commission, and appellate courts.



Amy Wintersheimer Findley, a labor and employment partner at Allen Matkins Leck Gamble Mallory & Natsis LLP in California, was accepted into the American Board of Trial Advocates.

American Board of Trial Advocates.



Kelly Spalding Hall was named vice president and deputy general counsel of CMS Energy Corp. and Consumers Energy Co.



Daniel Quick, a member of the Troy, Michigan, office of Dickinson Wright PLLC, was elected to the governing council of the American Bar Association's section

of litigation, the culmination of many years of involvement with the ABA. He also was elected treasurer of the State Bar of Michigan and president of the Oakland County Bar Association, and co-authored *Michigan Court Rules Practice* (Thompson Reuters, 2018).

Brian Trumbauer, a member of the Detroit office of Bodman PLC, was ranked by *Chambers USA* as a 2019 leader in the practice of banking and finance in Michigan.

The Hon. Michael Warren Jr. of the 6th Circuit Court in Oakland County, Michigan, was named Top Judge of the Year for 2018 by the International Association of Top Professionals (IAOTP). He also was selected as Judge of the Decade for 2019 by IAOTP.

1993



Thomas Colis, a principal in the Detroit office of Miller, Canfield, Paddock, and Stone PLC, was elected chairman of the firm's managing directors. He also leads the

public finance deputy group.

Gregory Henchel, former chief legal officer at HSN Inc., was named senior vice president and general counsel of Abercrombie & Fitch Co. He brings 25 years of broad legal experience to the company, including more than 10 years in the retail sector.

Kevin O'Gorman was selected as a U.S. delegate to the International Chamber of Commerce's Task Force on Arbitration of Climate Change Related Disputes. He practices international arbitration and litigation at Norton Rose Fulbright LLP in Houston.

Donica Varner, vice president, general counsel, and secretary of Oberlin College and Conservatory in Oberlin, Ohio, observed Constitution Day 2018 by inviting **Justice Patrick DeWine, '94**, of the Ohio Supreme Court to campus to discuss current First Amendment issues in higher education.

1994

Jeannette Albo joined Community Medical Centers in Fresno, California, as associate general counsel with a focus on labor employment matters. She previously spent six years as founding attorney of Albo Law PA in Miami.

Helene Ashenberg joined Hedley May as a partner in the firm's New York office. She focuses on filling general counsel appointments and other senior roles in the legal, compliance, government affairs, and corporate secretary functions for a range of *Fortune* 100 and multinational clients.

Steven Baumer, a partner in the St. Louis office of Bryan Cave LLP, was elected chairman of the firm; previously, he had been head of the global transactions practice. He regularly advises clients involved in complex business transactions and specializes in mergers and acquisitions.



Justice Patrick DeWine of the Ohio Supreme Court was invited by **Donica Varner, '93**, vice president, general counsel, and secretary of Oberlin College and Conservatory in Oberlin, Ohio, to join her in observing Constitution Day 2018 at a talk on campus. Their discussion focused on current First Amendment issues in higher education.



Lisa Hamilton was named president and chief executive officer of the Annie E. Casey Foundation. Prior to joining the foundation, she enjoyed a 14-year career at United Parcel Service Inc., where she held positions in corporate tax and public affairs before serving as president.



Pia Norman Thompson joined LoanMe Inc. in Anaheim, California, as general counsel. She previously served as general counsel, chief risk officer, and secretary of LendUp.

Leslie Overton, former deputy assistant attorney general at the U.S. Department of Justice, joined the Washington, D.C., office of Axinn, Veltrop & Harkrider LLP as a partner in its antitrust group.

Ana Rodriguez was named corporate vice president and chief human resources officer of The Lubrizol Corp. in Wickliffe, Ohio. She previously served as chief human resources officer at Sotera Health.

1995



Blanche Bong Cook received tenure at Wayne State University Law School. She is now the Robert E. Harding Jr. Associate Professor of Law at the University of Kentucky College of Law.

Andrew Spilkin, a member of the Troy, Michigan, office of Bodman PLC, was ranked by *Chambers USA* as a 2019 leader in the practice area of real estate in Michigan. He serves as the primary real estate counsel for large corporate clients, particularly those in the automotive industry, and in matters involving the purchase of real estate for development, the sale of excess real estate, and general day-to-day real estate activities.

Lior Zorea joined Nixon Peabody LLP as a partner in its San Francisco office, where he helps lead the firm's West Coast expansion and represents emerging growth companies and venture capital funds with their financing and general corporate needs. He previously served as a partner at Perkins Coie LLP.

1996

Christina Chung was appointed senior adviser of law and policy at the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency. She has been special counsel to the California labor commissioner since 2011.

Amit Shashank, a former Big Law attorney and current adjunct professor at Columbia Law School, joined Boston-based biopharmaceutical company Life Biosciences LLC as general counsel. Most recently, he served as executive vice president, general counsel, and secretary of Aricent, a global design and engineering company.



Jeffery Spalding was promoted to senior vice president and deputy general counsel of Halliburton Co. in Houston. He manages the practice groups of litigation; global ethics and compliance; health, safety, and environment; and enterprise risk management and insurance. He also serves as the chief ethics and compliance officer.

Michael Thomas, deputy general counsel at the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, earned the designation of certified employee benefits specialist from the International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans.

1997

David Agay, a managing member in the Chicago office of McDonald Hopkins LCC, was elected to serve on the firm's executive committee. His practice focuses on business restructuring, business counseling, commercial finance, and mergers and acquisitions.

The Hon. Sarah Cave, a partner and co-chair of the professional services group in the New York office of Hughes Hubbard & Reed LLP, was selected to serve as a Southern District of New York magistrate judge. She concentrates on securities, commercial, and bankruptcy litigation and accountants' liability.

Ethan Dettmer, a partner in the San Francisco office of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher, was named among *The Daily Journal's* 2018 California Lawyers of the Year for his work in *Garcia v. United States*.



Christoph Feddersen, LL.M., was appointed vice president and general counsel of Collins Aerospace in West Palm Beach, Florida. He previously served as vice president and general counsel of UTC Aerospace Systems.

Greg Gutzler was named a partner in the New York office of DiCello Levitt Gutzler LLC, where he leads the firm's commercial practice.

Akinyale Harrison was named senior vice president, general counsel, and secretary of TEGNA Inc. in McLean, Virginia. He supports the company's leadership team and board of directors on a variety of matters, including mergers and acquisitions, securities law, and corporate governance.



David Hobbie, director of knowledge management litigation at Goodwin Procter LLP in Boston, completed a second and final year as volunteer co-chair

of the International Legal Technology Association's annual conference, ILTACON, which is the premier legal technology conference for professionals undertaking initiatives in support of the business and practice of law.

Alex Romain joined the Los Angeles office of Irell & Manella LLP as a partner in the litigation practice group. With nearly 20 years of experience in white-collar criminal defense, his practice focuses on trials, complex commercial litigation, and investigations.

Raj Shah, a partner and chair in the Chicago office of DLA Piper, was named to *Crain's Chicago Business's* 2019 list of Notable Gen X Leaders. He serves as lead counsel for global companies litigating complex commercial disputes, and provides counseling on strategic and multidisciplinary matters. He also serves as co-head of the firm's India practice.

1998

Jeremy Bisdorf, a partner at Jaffe Raitt Heuer & Weiss PC, was named practice group leader of the firm's intellectual property and information technology practice group. He specializes in providing strategic legal advice and business consultation services, with an emphasis on maximizing the value of clients' intellectual property.

William Dorsey joined the Chicago office of Blank Rome LLP as a partner in the firm's corporate litigation group. His practice focuses on high-stakes commercial disputes, including creditors' rights, real estate, and mergers and acquisitions.



Alicia Schehr, a partner at Jaffe Raitt Heuer & Weiss PC, was named practice group leader of the firm's financial services practice

group. She also is a member of its recruiting committee and previously served as co-chair of the women's caucus group.

1999

Michael Cahill was appointed president and the Joseph Crea Dean of Brooklyn Law School. A criminal law scholar, he previously was co-dean and professor of law at Rutgers Law School.

Charlotte Gibson was appointed director of the Division of Legal Services at the U.S. Department of Justice. She has been an assistant attorney general at the Department of Justice since 2001, and the director of the special litigation and appeals unit since 2011.

Laurel Krueger was named vice president and general counsel of Kontoor Brands Inc. in Greensboro, North Carolina. She oversees the company's legal functions, including compliance, mergers and acquisitions, and corporate governance.

Anthony Miles, a partner in the Seattle office of Stoel Rives LLP, was elected chairman of the board of ArtsFund, a nonprofit focused on strengthening the local community by supporting the arts through leadership, advocacy, and grant making.



Damali Sahu, a member of the Detroit office of Bodman PLC, was named to the 2019 Nation's Best list by *Lawyers of Color*. She is one

of only 100 attorneys in the Midwestern

region of the United States to be chosen for this honor. *Lawyers of Color* selected attorneys for the Nation's Best list based on their history of noteworthy accomplishments and a commitment to diversity and inclusion in the legal profession.

Katherine Eshhaki Wensink was promoted to member at McDonald Hopkins LLC, where she advises clients in the areas of estate and charitable planning, estate administration, taxation, corporate law, and employment benefits planning for both individuals and corporations.

2000

Carolyn Frantz joined Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP as senior counsel and a member of its U.S. Supreme Court and appellate practice. She previously served as vice president, deputy general counsel, and head of the corporate legal group at Microsoft Corp.

The Hon. Cameron Fraser was named executive director of Michigan Indian Legal Services. Prior to joining the organization as deputy director, she was an attorney for the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community.

Jeffrey Lehtman joined the Washington, D.C., office of Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati as a partner in the firm's government investigations practice. He is widely recognized for his work across Latin America representing leading companies on international compliance matters and internal and government investigations.



Did you get a new job or a promotion? Were you recognized with an award? Share your news with classmates in an upcoming issue of the *Law Quadrangle*. Email LQNCClassNotes@umich.edu or complete the online form at law.umich.edu/classnotes.

CLASS NOTES

Did you get a new job or a promotion? Were you recognized with an award? Share your news with classmates in an upcoming issue of the *Law Quadrangle*. Email LQNCClassNotes@umich.edu or complete the online form at law.umich.edu/classnotes.

2001

Alexandra MacKay, a member of the Nashville office of Stites & Harbison PLLC, was named an IP Star by *Managing Intellectual Property* magazine for the seventh consecutive year.



Robyn McCoy, a partner at McCoy and Associates PLLC in Ann Arbor and an educational advocate and attorney with the Michigan

Children's Law Center, was named the 2018 Lawyer-Guardian Ad Litem of the Year by the State Court Administrative Office's Foster Care Review Board.

Stuart Morrissy joined Hogan Lovells LLP as a partner in its New York office. He previously was a partner at Milbank Tweed Hadley & McCloy LLP.

Jonathan Oestreich joined the New York office of Grant & Eisenhofer PA as director, where he works with hedge funds, asset managers, and other investors seeking constructive change at public companies. He previously was a managing director at Spotlight Advisors LLC, an advisory firm focused on shareholder activism and proxy contests, in New York.

Ivan Smallwood, a former partner at Morrison & Foerster LLP, joined the Tokyo office of Latham & Watkins LLP as a partner. He focuses on mergers and acquisitions.

Jonathan Fountain was promoted to partner in the Las Vegas office of Howard & Howard Attorneys PLLC. His practice focuses on intellectual property litigation, entertainment law, and commercial litigation.

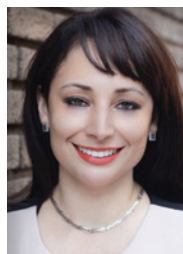


Neeru (Nina) Gupta, a partner in the Atlanta office of Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP, was named general counsel of Atlanta Public Schools.

Yoram Keinan, LL.M., SJD '02, joined the New York office of Kostelanetz & Fink LLP as an international tax attorney and partner.

Charles Riely, former U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission assistant regional director, joined Jenner & Block LLP as a partner in the New York office. He is a member of its investigations, compliance, and defense practice.

Rachel Schwartz, a partner at Stueve Siegel Hanson in Kansas City, Missouri, was appointed co-lead counsel and liaison counsel for all plaintiffs in the multi-district litigation against Hill's Pet Nutrition Inc. and Colgate-Palmolive Co. regarding the companies' highly publicized recall of numerous varieties of dog food containing excessive levels of Vitamin D, which can cause dogs to experience serious health issues and even death.



Linda Maria Wayner was named senior director of diversity initiatives at Lateral Link Group Inc., a legal recruiting firm for elite attorneys. She works with law firms and corporations, both domestically and internationally, to promote equity and inclusion in the profession. She also joined The Fierberg National Law Group as managing legal counsel.

2002

Andrea Clark, a partner in the Sacramento, California, office of Downey Brand LLP, was named to the 2018 Best of the Bar list by *Sacramento Business Journal*. She also was named a 2019 Top Lawyer by *Sacramento Magazine* in the practice areas of state, local, and municipal law.

Zachary Davis, a former co-chair of the labor and employment group at Stevens & Lee PC, joined the Philadelphia office of Day & Zimmermann as vice president, labor and employment counsel.

Daniel Liebman was promoted to deputy general counsel of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation's (PBGC) Program Law and Policy Department. He previously was the assistant general counsel of PBGC's legal policy division.

Jordan Lipp and his wife, Heather, wrote *Is There Apple Juice in My Wine?: Thirty-Eight Laws that Affect the Wine You Drink* (Amazon Digital Services, 2018). The book is an entertaining journey through the strange laws that affect all wine lovers. He is a managing member in the Denver office of Childs McCune LLC, and is a highly regarded product liability and ski law defense attorney in Colorado.

David Singer, a former partner at Johnson, Pope, Bokor, Ruppel & Burns LLP, joined Shumaker Loop & Kendrick LLP as a partner in its Tampa, Florida, office. He specializes in Florida land use law.

2003

Joscelyn Boucher was appointed executive partner in the Kalamazoo, Michigan, office of Warner Norcross + Judd LLP. She concentrates her practice on corporate and securities law, representing emerging growth companies in all stages of development.



The Hon. Jagan (Nicholas) Ranjan was confirmed to the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania. He previously was an equity partner in

the Pittsburgh office of K&L Gates LLP, where he litigated commercial, energy, and appellate matters. He has been recognized by *Chambers USA* as one of the top commercial litigators in Pennsylvania on multiple occasions, and has been a fellow with the Litigation Counsel of America and the Leadership Council on Legal Diversity.

Dipen Sabharwal, LL.M., a partner in the London office of White & Case LLP, was appointed Queen's Counsel by the Ministry of Justice and Queen's Counsel Appointments. His practice focuses on international arbitration, including commercial, construction, and investment treaty law.

2004

Anthony Cole joined the panel of arbitrators in the London and New York locations of JAMS. He serves as an arbitrator, mediator, and special master in a number of practice areas, including aviation, banking, business/commercial, construction, education/schools, employment, energy/utility, financial markets, maritime/admiralty, trade, and transportation.

Jeffrey Jones, an associate professor of law and philosophy at Lewis & Clark Law School, received the 2018 Leo Levenson Teacher of the Year Award. He teaches courses on employment law, disability law, property law, property transactions, and jurisprudence.



Douglas Nelson was elected reporter of decisions for the Ohio Supreme Court. He joined the Court in 2015 and previously served as an assistant reporter.

Brian Pandya, a former partner in the Washington, D.C., office of Wiley Rein LLP, was appointed deputy associate attorney general at the U.S. Department of Justice.

Azadeh Shahshahani, legal and advocacy director at Project South, was honored in 2018 with the Emory Law School Outstanding Leadership in the Public Interest Award, the *Fulton County Daily Report* Distinguished Leader Award, and the Community Champion Award from Asian-Americans Advancing Justice—Atlanta.

2005



Umbreen Bhatti, a lawyer, journalist, and media innovator, was named director of Barnard College's Athena Center for Leadership Studies. The center oversees

the Athena Scholars Program, which offers courses and programming on leadership and gender.

Marisa Bono, former chief of policy for San Antonio Mayor Ron Nirenberg, joined Via Metropolitan Transit's public engagement group as chief strategic officer.

Christine Czuprynski was promoted to member in the Detroit office of McDonald Hopkins LLC, where she focuses her practice on data privacy and cybersecurity. Prior to joining the firm, she was an associate at Reed Smith LLP and an assistant attorney general in the Consumer Fraud Bureau of the Office of the Illinois Attorney General.



Gregory Gnepper was appointed to the Superior Court of Arizona for Maricopa County. He was assigned to the Initial Appearance Court, which is part of the criminal division. Prior to taking the bench, he was a partner at Gammage & Burnham PLC, where he focused on commercial litigation and debt collection.



Rabeha Kamaluddin, a former partner at Dorsey & Whitney LLP, joined the Washington, D.C., office of Greenberg Traurig LLP as a shareholder in its energy and natural resources and global litigation practices.

Trisha Rich, a partner in the Chicago office of Holland & Knight LLP, was named one of 40 Under 40 in *Crain's Chicago Business*. Her practice focuses on complex commercial litigation, legal ethics, and professional responsibility matters.

Stephen Sanders was granted tenure and promoted to full professor at the Indiana University Maurer School of Law, where he has taught since 2013. Previously, he was an attorney in the U.S. Supreme Court and appellate litigation practice of Mayer Brown LLP and a visiting assistant professor at Michigan Law in 2011–2012.

2006

Mark Jefferson was appointed assistant dean for community engagement and equity at Harvard Law School. Prior to joining Harvard as director of community engagement and equity, he was assistant director of admissions at Michigan Law.

Robert Koch, an attorney at Tonkon Torp LLP, was selected to serve a three-year term as a Ninth Circuit lawyer representative for the District of Oregon. Lawyer representatives are chosen from each of the 15 districts and work with federal judges to improve the administration of justice on the Circuit.



Alexandra Mertens, a partner at Stoel Rives LLP in Seattle, was named to *Puget Sound Business Journal's* 2019 40 Under 40 list.



Michael Bobelian, '98: The Forging of the Modern Supreme Court



By Lori Atherton

Michael Bobelian's interest in the U.S. Supreme Court was piqued at the University of Michigan, where a history class with the late Professor Sidney Fine and law classes with Professors Richard Friedman, Tom Green, and James Boyd White left lasting impressions on him. "Those different perspectives planted the seeds for wanting to write a book about the political and social history of the Supreme Court," says Bobelian, '98.

Bobelian, a journalist who has reported on the Supreme Court and other legal topics since 2003, explores the controversial Supreme Court nomination of Abe Fortas in his new book, *The Battle for the Marble Palace: Abe Fortas, Earl Warren, Lyndon Johnson, Richard Nixon, and the Forging of the Modern Supreme Court* (Schaffner Press, 2019). While popular opinion among Court followers is that Robert Bork's failed Supreme Court nomination in 1987 set a political precedent for how justices are confirmed, Bobelian says it is the often-forgotten nomination of Fortas in the late 1960s that was the turning point for the politicization of the Supreme Court.

"The conventional wisdom is that the Bork nomination set the stage for the big partisan confirmation battles we have today," Bobelian says. "When I looked at the history of nominations dating back to George Washington, I saw that there was a switch in 1968 involving Abe Fortas. It made me ask why that transformation took place. My book tries to explore that issue and introduce readers to a fresh understanding of how we got to where we are politically with the Supreme Court."

Fortas, an associate justice, was nominated by President Lyndon Johnson to succeed retiring Chief Justice Earl Warren. A longtime friend and adviser to Johnson, Fortas was the first nominee for

the top job on the Court to testify before a Senate committee. The Senate discovered that he regularly attended White House meetings and shared Court deliberations with Johnson. It also was brought to light that Fortas accepted \$15,000 in private funds to teach seminars at American University, which led to Fortas being filibustered by the Senate and Johnson withdrawing his nomination.

"Abe Fortas was the first and only victim of a filibuster. People were so hell-bent on stopping him from becoming the chief justice that they resorted to deploying the Senate's ultimate parliamentary weapon," says Bobelian, who noted that other unprecedented strategies also were used to discredit Fortas. One involved South Carolina Sen. Strom Thurmond, a vocal opponent of Fortas, who organized the Fortas Film Festival, during which pornographic films were broadcast in the Senate to highlight Fortas's moral turpitude. "If you think of unorthodox, unconventional, and outlandish tactics, that ranks really high, and it shattered all the norms that had governed the confirmation process."

A former associate at a Wall Street law firm, Bobelian says he enjoys writing about the law. He had been toying with the idea of going to journalism school when the September 11 attacks gave him the impetus to make a change. He graduated with a master's degree from the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism, and began covering white-collar crime and corporate corruption—think Enron, WorldCom, and Bernie Madoff—before writing about the Supreme Court for Forbes.com and other publications.

Bobelian spent years researching *The Battle for the Marble Palace*—including untold hours at U-M's Bentley Historical Library (which holds the papers of Sen. Philip Hart, a 1937 Law School graduate who led the pro-Fortas camp) and the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library—and amassed nearly 10,000 documents, memos, congressional testimony, and audio files of conversations involving Johnson and Richard Nixon, who was staging a presidential campaign in 1968.

Bobelian says his biggest takeaway from the book is "that between Lyndon Johnson, Richard Nixon, and the Senate's willingness to break with custom, we established the template for modern-day judicial politics. The Fortas nomination set in motion the process of a hyper-politicized Supreme Court. I hope that if people see the origins of that process and its negative consequences that reverberate to this day, both sides might back away from their extreme partisanship."

2007

Laura Appleby, a partner in the New York office of Chapman and Cutler LLP, was named a member of the American Bankruptcy Institute’s 2018 Class of 40 Under 40.

Samuel Erman, an associate professor of law at the University of Southern California Gould School of Law, published his latest book, *Almost Citizens: Puerto Rico, the U.S. Constitution, and Empire* (Cambridge University Press, 2018).

Melissa Geller was promoted to partner in the Newark, New Jersey, office of Duane Morris LLP. She focuses on white-collar criminal defense and complex commercial litigation.

Hannah Taylor was promoted to partner at Frankfurt Kurnit Klein + Selz PC in New York. A member of the advertising, marketing, and public relations group, her practice involves counseling brand and agency clients on matters across all media.

2008

Steven Collis, an equity partner in the Denver office of Holland & Hart LLP, is on leave from the firm to serve as a research fellow in the Constitutional Law Center at Stanford Law School. His research focuses on political parties’ abilities, both procedural and substantive, to achieve remedies against the government, with a particular emphasis on religion and remedies law. His most recent book is *Deep Convictions: True Stories of Ordinary Americans Fighting for the Freedom to Live Their Beliefs* (Shadow Mountain, 2019).

Benjamin Diessel was promoted to partner in the New York office of Wiggin and Dana LLP. His practice focuses on navigating a broad range of complex legal issues, including antitrust, intellectual property, licensing, securities fraud, commercial contracts, and regulatory matters.



Amanda Fein was promoted to partner in the New York office of BakerHostetler LLP. She is a member of the firm’s commercial litigation team with experience in every

phase of discovery and trial.

Emilio Saiz was promoted to counsel in the Miami office of Hughes Hubbard & Reed LLP. A member of the firm’s corporate department, he regularly advises corporations and financial institutions on corporate and structured finance transactions.



Jacob Sherkow was named the Edmond J. Safra Center and Petrie-Flom Center Fellow in Ethics of Technological and Biomedical

Innovation at Harvard University. His research focuses on how scientific developments, especially in the biosciences, affect patent law, regulation, and bioethics.

2009



Mir Ali was elected partner in the Chicago office of Schiff Hardin LLP. His practice focuses on litigation and dispute resolution.

David Brown was appointed legal director of the Transgender Legal Defense & Education Fund in New York. He joined the nonprofit as a member of its first class of law clerks in 2007 and served on its board of directors from 2009 to 2017.



Joydeep Dasmunshi joined the Chicago office of Perkins Coie LLP as a partner focusing on middle-market mergers and acquisitions for private equity

companies and other matters. He previously was a corporate partner in the Chicago office of Kirkland & Ellis LLP.

Ji Suh Faloon joined the Chicago office of Nicolaides Fink Thorpe Michaelides Sullivan LLP. She previously was an associate in the Chicago office of Gordon Rees Scully Mansukhani LLP.

Anthony Fuga was promoted to partner in the Chicago office of Holland & Knight LLP. He is a member of the firm’s litigation section and focuses his work on all forms of intellectual property litigation.

Gregory Lavigne Jr. was promoted to partner in the Washington, D.C., office of Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP. He is a member of the firm’s global project finance group and focuses his work on the representation of public and private entities in domestic and international project finance and energy projects.

Syed Rafatullah was appointed chief legal officer in the Chicago office of Apptus, a leader in “quote-to-cash” software. He previously was a corporate partner at Kirkland & Ellis LLP.



Katherine Walton was elected partner in the Chicago office of Schiff Hardin LLP. She leverages her commercial litigation background to represent her clients

in environmental enforcement, citizen suits, and civil actions.



CLASS NOTES

2010



Joseph Adamson joined the Seattle office of Lane Powell PC as an associate, where he counsels individuals and businesses on antitrust and complex

commercial litigation matters. He previously worked at Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP in New York and as a staff attorney at the Innocence Project, where he continues to serve in a pro bono capacity.



John Bringewatt, a senior associate in the Rochester, New York, office of Harter Secrest & Emery LLP, was recognized as an Up & Coming Attorney by the *The Daily*

Record. He is a member of the government and internal investigations practice group.



Brian Cathey was promoted to partner at Wright Close & Barger LLP in Houston, where he handles complex commercial and appellate litigation

involving energy, construction, and transportation clients.

Becca (Crocker) Cavin has been selected as a 2019–2020 Federal Circuit Bar Association (FCBA) Global Fellow. A collaboration between the FCBA and German Association for the Protection of Intellectual Property, the program brings together full-time patent practitioners with a litigation interest from America, Europe, and Asia. Only 26 attorneys are selected worldwide. She previously practiced patent litigation and patent prosecution/counseling at K&L Gates in Chicago before moving to New Zealand to work in-house at the global medical devices manufacturer Fisher & Paykel Healthcare.



CBSNEWS/60MINUTES, 2018

2010

Matt Cronin, assistant U.S. attorney for the Northern District of Ohio, was interviewed on *60 Minutes* about his role in prosecuting a Chinese drug trafficking organization that was brazenly shipping large quantities of narcotics through the U.S. postal system. The segment, which focused on America's opioid crisis, also featured U.S. Sen. Rob Portman[R-OH], '84. Following two overdose deaths in a single week in Akron, Ohio, Cronin opened an investigation into where all the deadly fentanyl, a synthetic opioid, was coming from. Through an online investigation, his undercover agents discovered dozens of China-based traffickers willing to ship synthetic opioids to the United States. The investigation resulted in the indictment of two Chinese nationals, the guilty plea of their U.S.-based co-conspirator, the dismantling of the international drug distribution and money-laundering network, and the seizure of their online domains and financial holdings. The indictment was announced by former U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions in late 2018. In his role, Cronin focuses on investigations and federal prosecutions relating to transnational criminal organizations, the opioid crisis, cryptocurrencies, the dark net, and other cyber-based matters. He currently is serving on a detail assignment advising U.S. Department of Justice leadership in Washington, D.C.—JW



Joyce Liou was promoted to partner in the San Francisco office of Morrison & Foerster LLP. A member of the firm's intellectual property group, her practice

focuses on intellectual property litigation, domestic and international trademark prosecution, copyright and trademark enforcement, and domain name arbitration.

Katie (Lucinda) McRoberts, chief administrative officer and general counsel of USA Swimming, was named a 2019 Game Changer by *Sports Business Journal*.

Jane Metcalf was promoted to partner at Patterson Belknap Webb & Tyler LLP in New York. She practices in the litigation department and focuses on complex commercial litigation with an emphasis on false advertising, intellectual property, class-action defense, and litigation involving FDA-regulated products.

Evan Rosen, a member of the corporate department at Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP in New York, was promoted to partner. He practices in the mergers and acquisitions and private equity groups.

Joseph Wang joined Sherin and Lodgen in Boston as a partner in the firm's real estate department and hospitality practice group. He has experience in a variety of real estate matters, including land use, zoning and development, and representing landlords and tenants in office, retail, and research and development leasing matters.

2011

Christopher Allen was appointed assistant solicitor general in the Michigan Department of Attorney General.

Jonathan Brater was appointed legal policy director of the Michigan Department of State. He previously served as counsel for the Brennan Center's Democracy Program, where his work focused on modernizing elections in partnership with secretaries of state around the country.



2011

The parallels between fencing and litigation are what led **Sada Jacobson Bâby** to retire from the sport in 2008 to pursue a career in law. "Both require planning and strategic agility," says Bâby, a three-time U.S. Olympic medalist and member of the U.S. Fencing Hall of Fame. "You walk into a courtroom like you would a bout, with a strategy that plays to your strengths and what you know of your opponents' weaknesses. But you also have to be nimble enough to make instantaneous adjustments as it unfolds." After six years of practicing commercial

litigation at McKenna Long & Aldridge LLP—now Dentons U.S. LLP—and Krevolin & Horst LLC, Bâby has picked up her saber once again. Her return to fencing has included domestic tournaments and a World Cup.—JP



Bess Hinson was named by *Atlanta Immo*, an online technology publication, as one of its inaugural 50 on Fire. The honorees include 50 companies

and individuals that are driving and defining the region's innovation economy and making major moves in the tech ecosystem. She is an associate in the Atlanta office of Morris, Manning & Martin LLP.

2012

Ligia Bernardo, LLM, was featured in the *Modern Counsel* article, "Olam's Ligia Bernardo Explains the Benefits of Mentorship Might." She is senior director of legal at Olam International.



Alidz Oshagan, an associate in the Philadelphia office of Willig, Williams & Davidson, was re-elected to serve as treasurer of the Philadelphia chapter

of the Labor Employment Relations Association. Her practice focuses on the representation of unions in labor and employment matters.

2013



Abigail Preissler, a former associate at Updike, Kelly & Spellacy PC, joined the Hartford, Connecticut, office of Carlton Fields PA as an associate in the real estate and commercial finance practice group.



Daniel (DJ) Ringquist joined the Houston office of Ahmad, Zavitsanos, Anaipakos, Alavi & Mensing PC, a boutique trial firm, as an associate.



Kyle Konwinski was elected partner in the Grand Rapids, Michigan, office of Varnum LLP. He is a member of the firm's litigation team.



Laura Van Hyfte joined Plunkett Cooney PC as an associate in its commercial litigation practice group. She focuses her practice in the areas of real

property, contract disputes, and resort-area land use and development.



Haley Waller Pitts was elected shareholder in the Minneapolis office of Fredrikson & Byron PA. She is a member of the energy, litigation, and energy

regulation and permitting groups.

Robert (RJ) Shannon joined the Austin, Texas, office of Barron & Newburger PC as an attorney in its bankruptcy and reorganization practice group. He previously was a law clerk for The Hon. Tony Davis of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Texas.



CLASS NOTES

2014



Maria Martinez, a senior associate in the Detroit office of Bodman PLC, was named to *Michigan Lawyers Weekly's* 2018 Class of Up and Coming Lawyers.

A member of the firm's litigation and alternative dispute resolution group, as well as its employee benefits and executive compensation group, she primarily represents business clients in complex litigation matters.

Samantha Palladino joined the board of directors of Environmental Learning for Kids, a nonprofit organization that develops inspired and responsible leaders through science education and outdoor experiences for underserved, urban youth. She is an associate in the Denver office of Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck LLP.

2015



Yu-Hao (Paul) Chang, a former associate at Knobbe Martens LLP, joined the San Diego office of Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP as an associate

in the firm's intellectual property practice group.



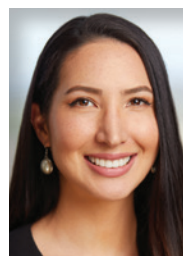
David Hopkins, a complex commercial litigation attorney in the Cleveland office of Hahn Loeser & Parks LLP, was named by *Cleveland Jewish News* to its 2019 Class of 12 Under 36.



2015

After three years of counseling Detroit entrepreneurs and startups as an associate at Varnum LLP and Clark Hill PLC, **Fermin Miguel Mendez** (pictured at right) returned to Michigan Law in 2018 as a clinical fellow in its Entrepreneurship Clinic—a program where he spent three semesters as a student-attorney. While in law school, Mendez used his then 11 years of wrestling experience, including four years with Harvard University's Division 1 team, to coach underprivileged children in Detroit through the nonprofit Beat the Streets. He continues to volunteer with the organization, which cultivates youth development in underserved communities through wrestling programs. He was elected to its board of directors in 2017 and launched the annual Detroit Girls Wrestling Clinic that fall. Mendez now enjoys a healthy crossover between his mentorship of clinic students, entrepreneurial clients, and the 7- to 18-year-olds he coaches at Beat the Streets Detroit.—JP

Kristina Meyer joined Copeland & Rice LLP in Houston as a trial attorney. She helps individuals and companies resolve disputes across industries, with a particular focus on upstream, midstream, and downstream oil and gas matters in the energy sector. She previously worked in the litigation section at Vinson & Elkins LLP.



Vanessa Triplett, an attorney in the Portland office of Miller Nash Graham & Dunn LLP, was elected to the board of governors of the Pacific Northwest College of Art.

2016

Eric Eshaki joined the Royal Oak, Michigan, office of Howard & Howard PLLC. His practice areas include securities litigation, white-collar and regulatory defense, employment, investigations, and shareholder disputes.

Michael Garcia, a former associate at LeClairRyan PLLC, has joined the Boston office of Duane Morris LLP as a trial associate. He focuses on commercial litigation, representing automotive finance companies, commercial lenders, and other financial institutions in consumer financial services litigation ranging from individual claims to complex class-action suits.



Bernardo Zito Porto, LL.M., joined the Kansas City office of Husch Blackwell LLP as an associate in its financial services and capital markets group and

in its litigation, insurance, and international practice.

2017



Elliott Covert joined the Delaware-based law firm Morris, Nichols, Arsht & Tunnell LLP. He practices in the corporate and business litigation group.

Sarah Harper joined the Grand Rapids, Michigan, office of Warner Norcross + Judd LLP. She is a member of its business and corporate services and economic incentives practice groups.



Rebecca Seguin-Skrabucha joined the Detroit office of Bodman PLC as a member of its workplace law practice group. She previously practiced with a

highly regarded southeast Michigan labor and employment boutique law firm. She is a frequent author on labor and employment law topics and served as a monthly columnist for the *Michigan Employment Law Letter*.

2018



Dmetri Culkar joined the Ann Arbor office of Bodman PLC. A member of the business practice group, he assists startups and

established businesses with corporate formation and governance, commercial transactions, contracts, and general corporate law matters.

Did you get a new job or a promotion? Were you recognized with an award? Share your news with classmates in an upcoming issue of the *Law Quadrangle*. Email LQNClassNotes@umich.edu or complete the online form at law.umich.edu/classnotes.

Caitlin Dean joined the Houston office of Fish & Richardson PC as an associate in the intellectual property litigation group. She focuses on patent, trademark, and trade-secret litigation matters.

Regina Gilmour joined the Grand Rapids, Michigan, office of Mika Meyers PLC. Her practice focuses on civil litigation, labor, and employment and municipal law. She previously interned in the Ann Arbor office of Berry Moorman PC and the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office.



Distinguished Alumnus

Alan Rothenberg, '63, pictured with his wife, Georgina, received Michigan Law's 2019 Distinguished Alumni Award (DAA) from Dean Mark West at a ceremony last fall in Los Angeles. The DAA recognizes extraordinary alumni whose achievements exemplify the values and ethos of Michigan Law. Rothenberg, a highly regarded expert in sports and business law, has provided decades of executive leadership to the National Basketball Association and helped initiate a new era of American soccer as president of U.S. Soccer—during which he established Major League Soccer and presided over two record-breaking World Cups hosted in the United States.—JW

The Hon. Richard P. Matsch, '53



The Hon. Richard P. Matsch, '53, who oversaw the Oklahoma City bombing trials, died on May 26, 2019. He was 88.

A senior judge on the U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado, Judge Matsch was appointed to the federal bench by President Nixon in 1974. He served as chief judge from 1994 to 2000, and assumed senior status on July 1, 2003.

During his 45-year career as a federal judge, Judge Matsch presided over several notable cases, including the trial of white supremacists accused of the 1984 slaying of Denver talk radio host Alan Berg and multiple cases involving the desegregation of Denver public schools. He was thrust into the national spotlight in the 1990s when he was assigned to oversee the Oklahoma City bombing trials involving defendants Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols.

"Judge Matsch will be remembered for the way that he handled the Oklahoma City bombing cases, reaffirming the public's faith in our judicial system through his firmness, fairness, and dignity during a particularly wrenching episode in our nation's history," says The Hon. Philip A. Brimmer, chief judge of the U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado. "He was everything a judge should be—a legal scholar, a leader of the court, and a compassionate guardian of the rule of Law. We have lost a judicial hero."

Born in Burlington, Iowa, Judge Matsch earned his BA and JD from the University of Michigan. He served in the U.S. Army from 1953 to 1955, including service in Korea. After leaving the Army, Judge Matsch worked in private practice in Denver, was an assistant U.S. attorney for the District of Colorado, and was a deputy city attorney for the City and County of Denver. He also served as a referee for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Colorado and as a U.S. bankruptcy judge for the District of Colorado.

He is survived by three daughters, one son, and six grandchildren.

I N M E M O R I A M

1940s

R. James Harvey, '48	07/04/2019
Thomas E. Murphy, '48	03/19/2019
Frank H. Roberts, '48	02/07/2019
Max Dean, '49	01/04/2018
Rodney E. Hutchinson, '49	10/14/2019
L. Bates Lea, '49	07/08/2019

1950s

Jacob A. Dalm, '50	05/03/2019
Raymond J. DeRaymond, '50	09/27/2019
David M. Garland, '50	01/14/2018
John S. Kellogg, '50	06/28/2019
Edward J. Neithercut, '50	10/12/2019
William R. Sturtz, '50	09/02/2019
George W. Watson, '50	10/15/2018
Newell W. Wright, '50	03/14/2019
Richard V. Baxter, '51	03/16/2019
Lloyd J. Tyler, '51	04/04/2019
Seymour Weinstein, '51	02/15/2019
Thomas C. Cecil, '52	07/21/2019
Herbert Furman, '52	07/15/2019
Allan A. Neef, '52	01/01/2019
William M. Saxton, '52	04/15/2019
Richard P. Matsch, '53	05/26/2019
William R. McCampbell, '53	08/02/2019
Marcus A. Rowden, '53	04/04/2019
John L. Wolfe, '53	10/12/2019
Milo G. Coerper, '54	07/20/2019
Harold Kippen, '54	01/01/2018
George M. Mack, '54	09/26/2017
Justin T. Rogers, '54	04/10/2019
Robert J. White, '54	05/26/2017
Earl E. Borradaile, '55	01/03/2019
John E. Curley, '55	05/04/2018
Charles A. Hall, '55	11/08/2018
Harvey A. Howard, '55	05/17/2018
George R. Stege, '56	04/15/2019
Dale W. VanWinkle, '56	06/05/2019
Francis B. Drinan, '57	08/10/2019
Philip A. Fleming, '57	05/21/2019
John L. Garvey, '57	10/04/2018
James R. Hanson, '57	09/07/2019
David Kaufman, '57	08/01/2019
Charles R. Valenza, '57	05/18/2019
James P. Chapekis, '58	06/05/2019
John W. Conlin, '58	01/13/2019
Bruce M. Cook, '58	06/22/2019
John W. Gilbert, '58	10/12/2018
Benjamin A. Goff, '58	06/30/2019

Duane M. Hildebrandt, '58	09/15/2018
Robert J. Hoerner, '58	02/19/2019
Gerald M. Smith, '58	03/04/2019
Ahmed K. Abul-Magd, '59	04/03/2019
Steven L. Dykema, '59	08/01/2019
Theodore G. Koerner, '59	03/04/2019
J. Lee Murphy, '59	07/18/2019
William E. Porter, '59	06/21/2019

1960s

Benny L. Kass, '60	03/20/2019
Mark V. Klosterman, '60	08/04/2019
Louis A. Kwiker, '60	02/28/2019
James G. Madden, '60	03/26/2019
Franklin H. Moore, '60	02/03/2018
Glenn Sperry, '60	10/22/2019
John C. Barber, '61	12/26/2018
Michael J. Farrug, '61	09/15/2019
Louis Frey, '61	10/14/2019
Walter D. Ganus, '61	04/23/2019
Charles E. Blank, '62	04/26/2019
Eben G. Crawford, '62	08/16/2019
Douglas S. Dales, '62	02/01/2019
Steven P. Davis, '62	06/12/2019
David J. Dykhouse, '62	09/15/2017
James M. Flaggert, '62	03/12/2019
Peter G. Mekas, '62	01/25/2019
Daniel E. Singer, '62	04/22/2019
Norman J. White, '62	02/03/2019
T. Michael Doyle, '63	01/01/2019
J. Richard Ernst, '63	01/27/2019
David B. Kennedy, '63	03/10/2019
Harry S. Kim, '63	04/04/2019
Martin J. Smith, '63	03/18/2019
Edward A. White, '63	07/10/2019
Dwight M. Allgood, '64	08/28/2019
Paul D. Giha, '64	08/09/2019
Ronald C. Hudgens, '64	10/15/2018
Thomas E. Palmer, '64	01/05/2019
Ben S. Stefanski, '64	07/07/2019
Cheever Tyler, '64	08/23/2019
Thomas E. Baker, '65	04/08/2019
Phillip C. Lancer, '65	07/07/2019
Gilberto M. Cardenas, '66	01/16/2018
George C. Coggins, '66	09/01/2019
Eric J. Fauri, '66	04/24/2019
Victor E. King, '66	03/10/2019
Fred E. Schlegel, '66	05/27/2019
Robert L. Hood, '67	07/20/2019
Thomas E. Chittle, '69	02/21/2019
Anthony C. VanWestrum, '69	01/20/2019

1970s

Robert W. Cox, '70	07/13/2019
Steven H. Goodman, '70	05/08/2019
Victor F. Ptasznik, '70	08/07/2019
James L. Brown, '71	09/09/2019
Charlotte V. Neagle, '71	12/04/2018
John B. Phelps, '71	04/01/2019
Bruce E. Smith, '72	06/15/2019
Richard R. Weiser, '72	03/17/2019
Rupert M. Barkoff, '73	06/05/2019
Philip J. Prygoski, '73	10/05/2019
Wilhelmina M. Reuben-Cooke, '73	10/22/2019
Todd M. Peterson, '74	12/11/2018
John E. Shannon, '76	05/21/2019
Mary K. Ellingen, '77	02/05/2019
Dennis F. Mullins, '78	11/06/2019
Jeffrey J. Baker, '79	05/15/2019
Matthew A. Dambro, '79	04/24/2019

1980s

Donna Erb, '80	07/16/2019
Thomas J. Siwa, '80	12/02/2018
James E. Tompert, '81	03/28/2019
Ronny Sendukas, '85	03/13/2018
Ernst Wendl, '85	07/18/2018
John C. Nagle, '86	05/18/2019
Edward L. Friedman, '87	07/19/2019

1990s

Stephen J. Knoop, '90	04/14/2019
Jeffrey N. Silveri, '91	07/17/2019

2000s

Amy M. Balza, '00	07/11/2019
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2010s

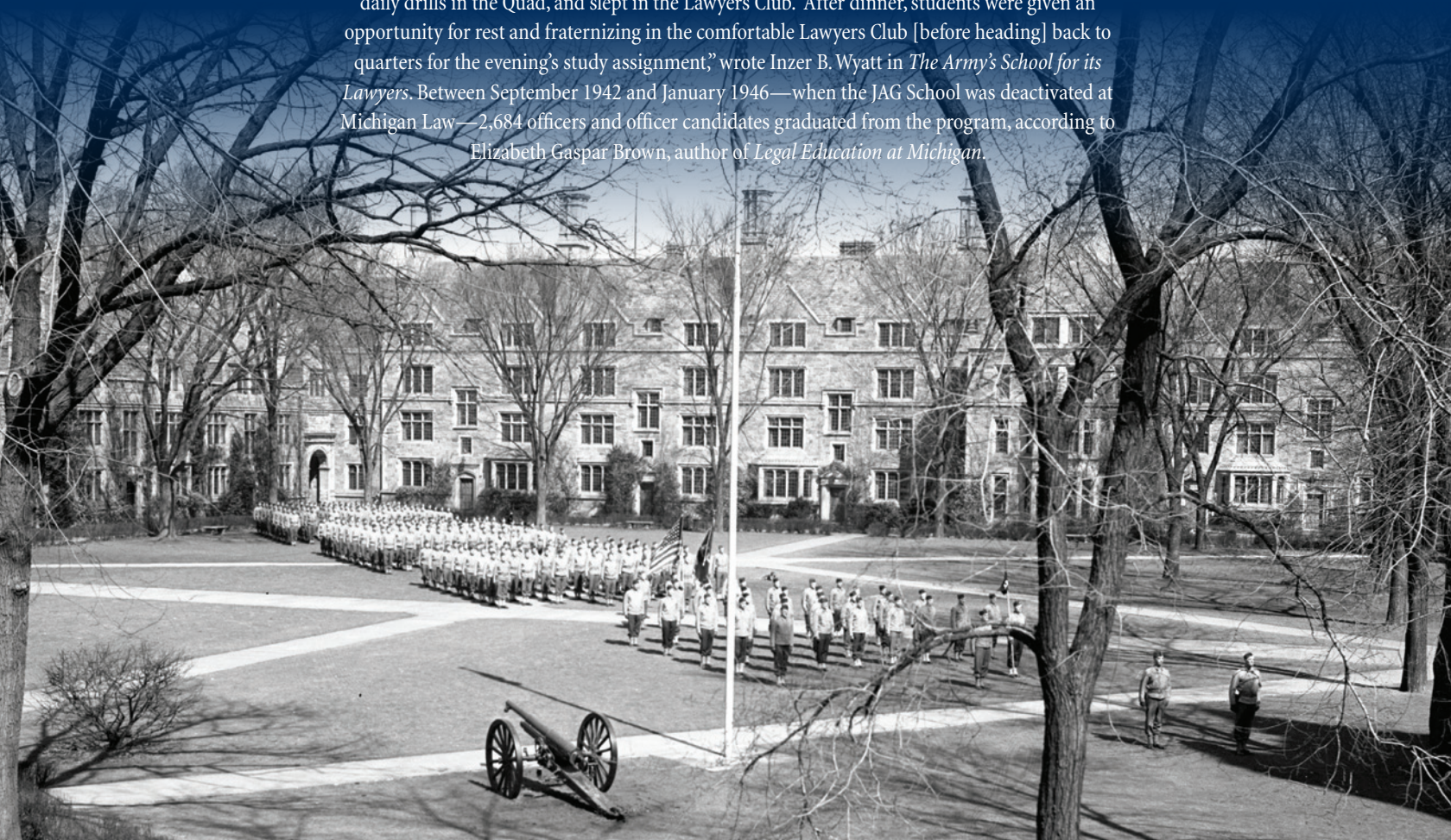
Alexandros Souris, '18	12/9/2019
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CLOSING



JAG School

Michigan Law faced declining enrollment in the 1940s as a result of Selective Service requirements and the United States' involvement in World War II. To fill the once-thriving Quad and to help the U.S. Army cope with its expansion in the wake of Pearl Harbor, Law School Dean E. Blythe Stason invited the Army to house its Judge Advocate General's (JAG) School at Michigan Law. The school previously had been located at National University Law School in Washington, D.C., where it had outgrown the facilities. JAG members attended classes in Hutchins Hall, had daily drills in the Quad, and slept in the Lawyers Club. "After dinner, students were given an opportunity for rest and fraternizing in the comfortable Lawyers Club [before heading] back to quarters for the evening's study assignment," wrote Inzer B. Wyatt in *The Army's School for its Lawyers*. Between September 1942 and January 1946—when the JAG School was deactivated at Michigan Law—2,684 officers and officer candidates graduated from the program, according to Elizabeth Gaspar Brown, author of *Legal Education at Michigan*.



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Paul W. Brown, Ann Arbor
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Editor
Law Quadrangle
701 South State Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-3091
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Digital Designers: Jocelyn Gotlib and Alex Lee

Writers: Lori Atherton, Kristy Demas, Melody
Finnemore, Julie Halpert, Micheline Maynard,
Jordan Poll, James Weir, and Claire Zulkey

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MARCH 20–22, 2020

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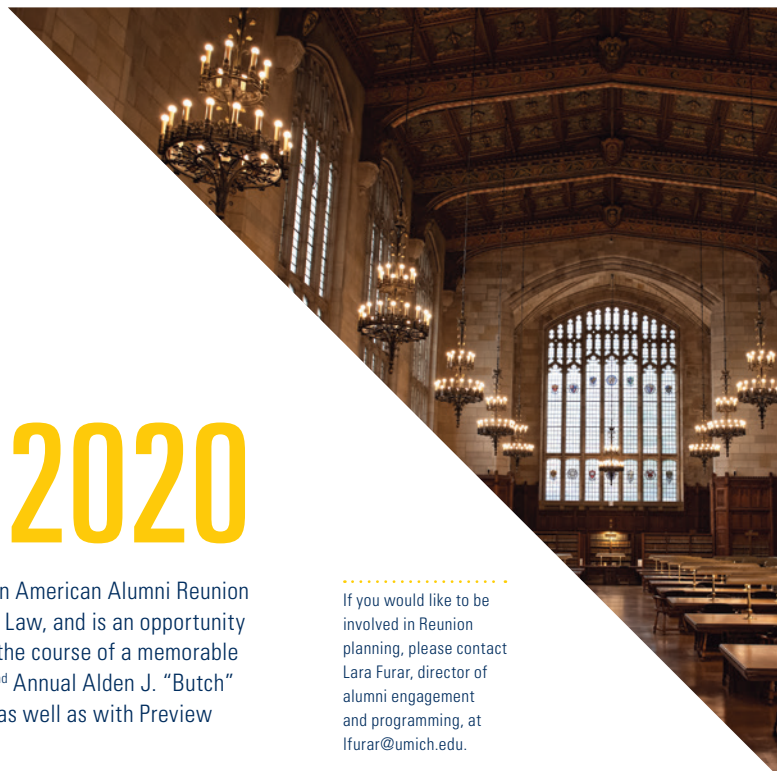


AFRICAN AMERICAN ALUMNI **REUNION 2020**

The University of Michigan Law School's third African American Alumni Reunion will celebrate the history of diversity at Michigan Law, and is an opportunity for current and future alumni to connect over the course of a memorable weekend. The event coincides with the 42nd Annual Alden J. "Butch" Carpenter Memorial Scholarship Gala, as well as with Preview Weekend for admitted students.

JOIN US for Reunion and help improve and support the recruitment and matriculation of black students through outreach, mentoring, and increased scholarship opportunities.

If you would like to be involved in Reunion planning, please contact Lara Furar, director of alumni engagement and programming, at lfurar@umich.edu.



Framing Our Past, Focusing on Our Future