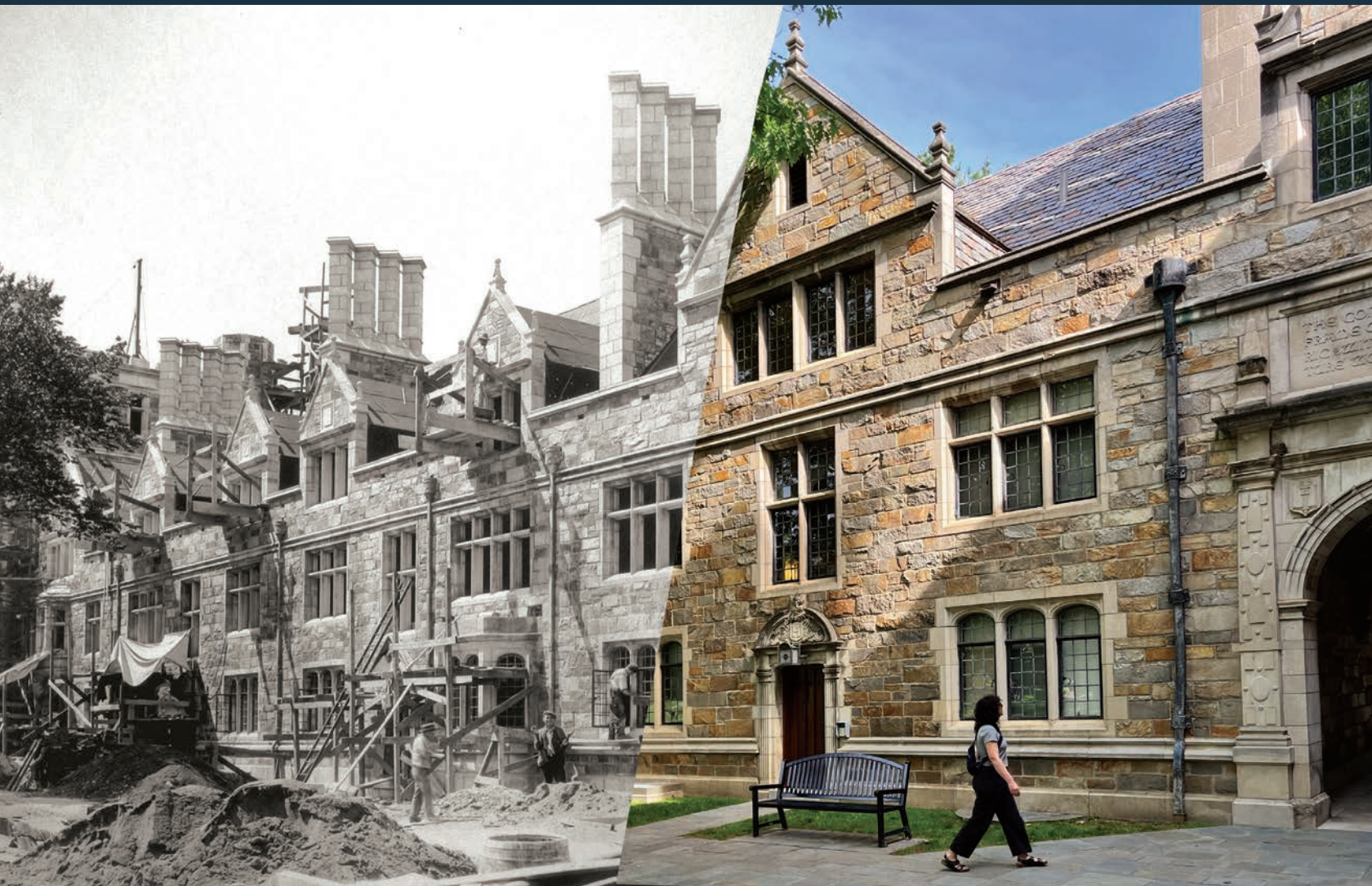


LAW Quadrangle

NOTES FROM MICHIGAN LAW



100 *Years*
OF THE LAWYERS CLUB



10

4
BRIEFS

IN PRACTICE

ALAN ALEXANDER, '11

FAIZAH MALIK, '11



14

COVER STORY

100 YEARS OF
THE LAWYERS CLUB



“He would tell stories of curfews and covert co-ed shenanigans—a far cry from my modern co-ed experience. He also had a working fireplace in his room, which was simply decorative by 2006.”

—MICHELLE ZALTSBERG, '08

28

**STORIES FROM
THE LAWYERS CLUB**

“It’s important for us as public servants to take a look in the mirror to examine whether any of our decisions are creating or exacerbating those disparities.”

—ELI SAVIT, '10

36

STUDYING RACIAL
DISPARITIES IN THE
CRIMINAL JUSTICE
SYSTEM

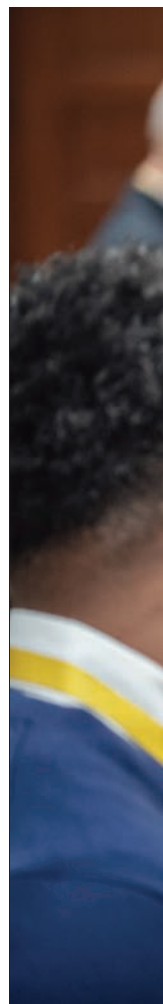


40

LEARNING ON
THE GROUND
IN RWANDA

44

MEET
DEAN LOGUE





48

@UMICHLAW

LAW AND TECHNOLOGY
FACULTY SHARE WHAT'S
ON THEIR MINDS

MULTIDISCIPLINARY LAB FIGHTS
ROOT CAUSES OF TRAFFICKING

**MICHELE COLEMAN MAYES, '74,
RECEIVES DISTINGUISHED
ALUMNI AWARD**

**60
IMPACT**

PHILANTHROPY AT
MICHIGAN LAW



68

CLASS NOTES

KYA HENLEY, '16, AND
CALYSSA ZELLARS, '17

**BRIAN DAVIS, '14, AND
KATY McNEIL, '14**

IN MEMORIAM:

CHEN CHUN-HAN, LLM '17, SJD '22
CHARLES T. MUNGER, HLLD '10

**88
CLOSING**

A CURIO FROM
THE PAST

BRIEFS



David Foltyn, '80, Aaron Lewis, '05, and Barbara Mendelson, '81, returned to the Quad this spring for the annual Richard W. Pogue Law Leaders Panel. Foltyn is the chairman of the board and chief executive officer at Honigman LLP in Detroit, Lewis (pictured) is a partner at Covington & Burling LLP in Los Angeles, and Mendelson is a partner at Morrison Foerster in New York. **Pogue, '55,** senior adviser at Jones Day, offered opening remarks.

7

The number of consecutive years in which at least one Michigan Law graduate is clerking on the US Supreme Court. The latest are **Guus Duindam, '21,** who will clerk for Associate Justice Sonia Sotomayor for the 2024–2025 term, and **Jacob Altik, '21,** who will clerk for Associate Justice Neil Gorsuch for the 2025–2026 term.

“The system makes it easy to work in Big Law; the path is well worn and clear, and the financial incentives are great. You probably know someone who thinks you’re crazy to not take that path.”

—**Molly Kovel, '06,** a senior staff attorney at the ACLU’s Criminal Law Reform Project, who gave the kickoff address for the Law School’s Public Interest Week in February. Sponsored by the Office of Career Planning, the week provided a series of programs designed to support and inspire students pursuing careers in the public and nonprofit sectors.



Jonathan Tietz, '19, and **Michael Huston, '11,** reconnected with their former professor **Richard Friedman** on the steps of the US Supreme Court following oral arguments in *Smith v. Arizona* in January. Tietz and Huston, an associate and a partner at Perkins Coie LLP in Washington, DC, respectively, were there in their capacity as accompanying counsel for Jason Smith, the petitioner in the case. Friedman, the Alene and Allan F. Smith Professor of Law, was there because the case concerns the Constitution’s Confrontation Clause, and, according to Friedman, “That’s my thing.” (Read about the Law School’s recent symposium on the Confrontation Clause on page 59.)



Gaming Complex Decisions

Professor **Nicholson Price** used a board game in his Health Law class to jump-start a discussion about the nuances—legal and otherwise—of end-of-life care. Players in the game worked as nursing staff and were tasked with navigating medical emergencies and making decisions related to care for a terminally ill patient.

#5

Michigan Law's ranking in the number of federal clerkships secured by the Class of 2023, according to data released by the American Bar Association. Fourteen percent of the class went on to clerk following graduation. The University of Chicago was first with 25 percent.

“This is going to be precedent, most obviously in Michigan and its home jurisdiction, but prosecutors all over the country will see this as a new and viable form of liability. I think we should not underestimate the precedential power of this case, even as we recognize that the facts were quite extraordinary.”

—**Ekow Yankah**,
the Thomas M. Cooley Professor of Law and associate dean for faculty and research, in a *New York Times* story about the conviction and sentencing of James and Jennifer Crumbley, the first parents to face trial because their son killed four people and wounded seven others in a school shooting.



Celebrating the Class of 2024

During the Law School's Senior Day celebration on May 6, speakers addressed the Class of 2024 with very personal messages to be true to themselves—even when faced with challenges—as they start to write the next chapter of their lives.

"When all is said and done, most of us want to have a productive life that doesn't require us to constantly compromise ourselves and our core beliefs," said the Hon. Judith E. Levy, '96, who has served on the US District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan since 2014. "Yes, your clients may drive a particular argument or decision, but your work can be in harmony with your beliefs and your own strengths."

Student speaker Ewurama Appiagyei-Dankah, '24, who was selected by her fellow students to deliver the student address, spoke of the challenges that some of her classmates have experienced while in law school—from family crises to struggles with their own mental health. She advised her fellow students that, when the going gets tough, not to go it alone. As a student, it was that kind of support that helped her.

"The most important thing we can do for each other in this life is show up. Show up for people's pain and for their joy. Look first to the humanity in the people around you. Share in the mess of being a human being with other people because those moments are what make us most fully alive."

Levy (left) and Appiagyei-Dankah (right) are pictured seated together on stage during the ceremony.





BRIEFS



Faculty members joined students in class for the Michigan Law tradition of “clapping out” professors **Bob Hirshon** and **Dave Moran**, who are both retiring from the Law School. Hirshon, '73, the Frank G. Millard Professor from Practice, spent 30 years in private practice and served as president of the American Bar Association before joining the faculty 15 years ago. Moran, '91, a clinical professor of law, co-founded the Michigan Innocence Clinic in 2009, which has freed 41 people who collectively spent approximately 660 years in prison for crimes they did not commit.



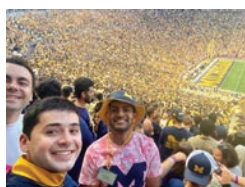
Zach Antin, '24, had a busy fall term during his 3L year. On top of a full course load, Antin closely followed U-M football's undefeated season—literally, by attending every game in person.



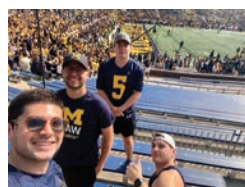
30–3 vs. East Carolina



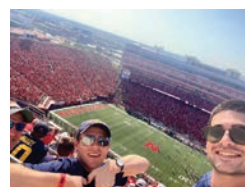
35–7 vs. UNLV



31–6 vs. Bowling Green



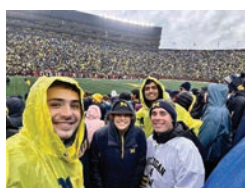
31–7 vs. Rutgers



45–7 at Nebraska



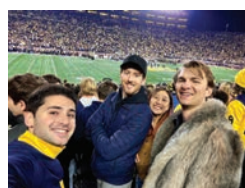
52–10 at Minnesota



52–7 vs. Indiana



49–0 at Michigan State



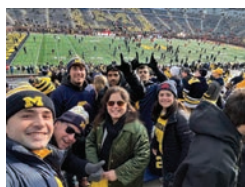
41–13 vs. Purdue



24–15 at Penn State



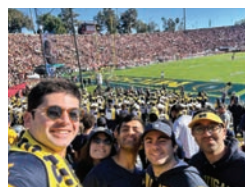
31–24 at Maryland



30–24 vs. Ohio State



26–0 vs. Iowa
Big Ten Championship



27–20 (OT) vs. Alabama
Rose Bowl



34–13 vs. Washington
National Championship

205

Students from 12 schools and colleges at U-M participated in Problem Solving Initiative classes at the Law School during the 2022–2023 academic year.

The eight cross-disciplinary courses that were offered included Addressing the Child Care Crisis; Cryptoassets: Business and Regulatory Issues; and Environmental, Social, and Governance Policies: Pathways to Impact?

(Read about another Problem Solving Initiative class, the Human Trafficking Lab, on page 50.)



United Wolverines in DC

Admitted students attended an event with alumni, faculty, and staff—including **Sarah Zearfoss, '92**, the senior assistant dean of admissions, and **Kyle Logue**, the interim dean—at the D.C. United soccer team's stadium in April. The event was hosted by the team's co-chairman and CEO **Jason Levien, '97**, and **Chris Burtley, '15**, (pictured), vice president of strategy and Levien's chief of staff.



“It is really difficult to overstate the stakes of this case. There is a possibility that the Supreme Court is going to suggest that there are some matters that fall within the scope of the president’s official duties that cannot be subject to criminal laws at all.”

— Professor **Leah Litman, '10**, on NPR’s *1A* regarding the oral arguments in *Trump v. United States*.



Building a Lower-Carbon Energy Sector

By James Weir

Decarbonizing the aviation industry presents one of the greatest challenges in the global effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The scale of the issue, which is something in the neighborhood of 2 to 3 percent of worldwide emissions, also presents an opportunity—any carbon-reducing innovation could cascade across the industry and result in a significant reduction.

Alan Alexander, '11, is acutely aware of this challenge. As a partner at Vinson & Elkins in Houston, Alexander works in the firm's energy transactions group and supports clients in the development and financing of complex energy and infrastructure projects. He advises on contracts and other legal negotiations, including technology licensing, raw material procurement and construction contracts, and negotiating with capital providers.

His work on energy transition projects—including those focused on producing more-sustainable fuel for airplanes—involves collaborating with investors and clients in the energy sector to upgrade existing plants and invest in the research and development of renewable fuels and other low-carbon energy sources.

"One of the few ways to lower emissions in airplanes is through the decarbonizing of the fuel supply," Alexander says. "Batteries are too heavy, and hydrogen-powered jet engines are in the research and development stage. So what we are left with is the need for a drop-in solution like sustainable aviation fuel."

Capturing emissions for more sustainable fuel

Alexander recently advised Infinium, an energy producer that specializes in synthetic fuels, on a new project in West Texas, dubbed Project Roadrunner. The project recently received a \$75 million investment from Breakthrough Energy Catalyst, a fund established by Bill Gates that invests in companies aligned with its goal of reaching carbon neutrality by 2050.

Project Roadrunner will produce sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) by upgrading an existing gas-to-liquids plant to run on waste carbon dioxide—captured from nearby processing operations that are currently emitting the CO₂ into the atmosphere—and green hydrogen, which is hydrogen produced by renewable energies such as wind or solar power.

These fuels are nearly identical to conventional jet fuel and can generally use the same supply infrastructure and jet engines that are currently in use. And while these fuels are not carbon neutral, the use of waste CO₂ represents a significant emissions reduction relative to conventional jet fuel.

"Basically, you take a CO₂ molecule that would have otherwise been emitted and get another combustion cycle out of it," Alexander says. "Extrapolated over the economy writ large, that can have a huge carbon reduction impact."

Along with the investment from Breakthrough Energy Catalyst, getting Project Roadrunner off the ground involved an innovative offtake agreement with American Airlines, who has agreed to purchase SAF from the facility once it is active.

Capital-intensive projects

Offtake agreements like the one negotiated with American Airlines are important because most energy transition projects have a significant initial capital cost. Facilities can cost hundreds of millions or even billions of dollars to construct, with a years-long interim period before the plants begin to produce. This drives a need for investment from private equity; governments through direct investment or other incentives, like tax credits; and large companies with a strategic stake in green energy.

In Europe and Asia, many energy producers invest in greener technologies as the result of government mandates, such as policy related to the European Union's goal of having net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. The US tends to take a more market-based approach—generally a combination of tax credits and other incentives to encourage private investment rather than direct regulation.

“Our role in Project Roadrunner was to create a structure that was amenable and attractive to equity investors, and tax credits are a big part of what made this project viable,” Alexander says. “We hope that over time these sorts of technologies can become cost competitive absent the tax credits and that these things become less capital intensive or cheaper and easier to do.”

He notes that the tax incentives built into the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) of 2022, billed as the single largest investment in climate and energy in American history, have accelerated the growth of the low-carbon fuel sector.

“Coupled with an overall increase in sustainability investing and demand for a more sustainable, lower-carbon economy, we’re seeing more of these projects come to fruition,” says Alexander.

While Infinium may be one of the first companies to pursue this path to decarbonization, Alexander doesn't think it will be the last. “There's intense interest in the aviation industry to lower the carbon footprint of fuel.”

Encouraging an emerging industry

The supply chain presents another challenge to the scale and affordability of sustainable fuels. Green hydrogen plants, for example, require electrolyzers that are not a particularly advanced technology, but limited demand has not supported the scale necessary for cost-efficient manufacturing. As a result, a relatively simple part is both expensive and in short supply. The IRA credits are already beginning to change that, Alexander says.

“These credits aren't directly an incentive for the electrolyzer industry, but it encourages energy providers to buy electrolyzers, which sends a signal to the industry that they need to figure out how to produce them in the US, and to do it cheaply.”

Alexander points to the renewable power industry in the US as a successful example, noting that incentives and other market forces encouraged innovations in producing solar panels and wind turbines more cheaply.

“The purpose of the tax credits is to help the industry get out of its infancy to a point where they can be cost competitive absent the credits,” he says. “Investment and production tax credits for utility-scale wind and solar were an important part of getting that industry to the point where it is today: It's now not much more expensive to produce renewable power than it is to produce power from traditional, fossil-based sources.”

A gratifying practice

Infinium is only one client among many for Alexander, and his work touches on nearly every aspect of the energy sector, with projects related to renewable energy grid systems; infrastructure related to renewable natural gas, solar, hydrogen, and low-carbon petrochemicals; emissions reduction monetization; and more. Another significant deal he helped broker, the Cormorant Clean Energy Project, will involve producing ultra-low-carbon ammonia at a facility on the Texas Gulf Coast. OCI N.V. and Gulf Coast Ammonia LLC are two longstanding clients whom Alexander has assisted in the development of low-carbon ammonia production facilities. When the production of low-carbon ammonia is scaled, it has potential to significantly affect maritime transportation, power generation, agriculture, and other sectors. Another of Alexander's clients, Monolith Materials Inc., is working to scale up methane pyrolysis technology to produce low-carbon hydrogen and carbon black, a key component in the production of tires and other products.

It all means that in the heart of US energy production, Alexander and his colleagues at Vinson & Elkins have plenty to keep them busy.

“This work requires an army of experts—environmental attorneys, tax attorneys, experts on state and local land use, and experts on foreign investment and on maritime issues. I'm fortunate to be at a place that has all the tools necessary to be able to do this type of work,” he says. “I've also been fortunate to be around very smart, driven people my entire career who have challenged me and encouraged me to do better. I'm very much a product of the institutions that I've been blessed to be part of, including the University of Michigan Law School.”

Fight for Housing Justice

By Sharon Morioka

For many residents of Los Angeles, the term “affordable housing” is a painful oxymoron. In a city where the median home price nears the \$1 million mark, hundreds of thousands of low-income residents lack affordable housing options. And that has an impact on every other aspect of their lives, says Faizah Malik, ’11, managing attorney of housing justice at Public Counsel in Los Angeles.



Faizah Malik (center) works to ensure fair housing in the Los Angeles area.

“Housing is such a basic need. It affects your educational outcomes, it affects your health outcomes, it affects your economic outcomes,” she says. “That’s why I think it’s very important to fight for housing to be a human right.”

And she *has* fought—including a case that returned property to a Black family almost a century after it was wrongfully seized by the government. She also has worked on policy initiatives to keep Los Angeles families in their homes and generate funds to help address the housing and homelessness crises.

Helping communities advocate

In 2023, Malik’s team helped win the largest expansion of tenant rights in the City of Los Angeles in 40 years. The new protections prevent tenants from being evicted and falling into homelessness. They are now supporting community

organizers who advocate to expand rent control and tenant rights across Los Angeles County and successfully defending those wins against constitutional challenges in court with the help of pro bono firm Susman Godfrey.

Malik’s team also helped draft a 2022 ballot initiative, Measure ULA, and she is now defending the law against legal challenges since it went into effect in April 2023. Measure ULA instituted a one-time transfer tax on sales of real estate at or over \$5 million to provide the City of Los Angeles with a permanent revenue source for affordable housing, rental assistance, and legal services. It is one of the largest transfer taxes for this purpose in the country and in the first year generated more than \$170 million in city revenue.

“It has already become an essential funding source for affordable housing for LA, and our hope is that it can be a model for other cities to pass similar funding measures to address housing needs,” says Malik. However, the law was met with opposition from real estate and other industry groups immediately after the ballot proposal passed.

“There were three cases filed to strike down Measure ULA—two in state court and one in federal court,” she says. Working with pro bono partner Irell & Manella, Public Counsel got the federal case dismissed on jurisdictional grounds and then secured dismissal of all 17 causes of action in the consolidated state court cases dismissed. The opponents are currently appealing to the Ninth Circuit and the California Court of Appeal.

“Our recent tenant rights and Measure ULA wins demonstrate the kind of lawyering our team does at Public Counsel,” she says. “We help communities advocate for and achieve transformative policy change, and we will defend those policies in court, too.”

A career in movement lawyering

Malik’s work is very much grounded in movement lawyering—working with communities to advance their goals and build community power using a range of legal tools.

“Sometimes that looks like a policy campaign,” she says. “Sometimes it looks like impact litigation. Sometimes it looks like community education. And sometimes it involves direct client representation. But it’s a framework that is grounded in community needs and goals.” She first became aware of movement lawyering and community lawyering as a theory



Faizah Malik at Bruce's Beach, a parcel of land that was returned to a Black family almost a century after it was wrongfully seized by the government.

and practice while at Michigan Law, where she was a student in the Community Enterprise Clinic. She has returned several times to speak to the clinic about her work.

“My time at Michigan really set the foundation,” she says. “I’ve been a community development lawyer and housing lawyer since I graduated law school.” With Public Counsel, she focuses primarily on housing justice policy and impact litigation and partners with community coalitions of grassroots organizations to push for systemic change.

“Our work is about advancing racial justice and making sure everybody has a roof over their heads.”

Reclaiming Bruce’s Beach

Malik combined her impact litigation and policy skills to support the return of Bruce’s Beach to the Bruce family. The popular resort for the Black community in Manhattan Beach, California, was owned and operated by Willa and Charles Bruce between 1912 and 1924. Due to segregation, it was one of the few oceanfront beaches in that area for Black families. Bruce’s Beach faced racist threats and violent efforts from the Ku Klux Klan to drive them away. In 1924, the city took the land through eminent domain under the guise of building a public park. The park did not materialize until 1956, but by then the Bruce family and other Black families had left the city. Manhattan Beach is now wealthy and largely white. It has little affordable housing and a Black population of less than 1 percent.

In 2020, during the racial justice protests that emerged nationwide after the murder of George Floyd, a group of community members in Manhattan Beach began to organize for public awareness surrounding what happened at Bruce’s Beach. They reached out to Public Counsel for help. When Malik learned the history of the land, she saw an opportunity to right a historical wrong and became the first lawyer for the Bruce family.

Public Counsel partnered with the firm Kirkland & Ellis to help with research into the history of the land. In the course of that process, they discovered that, after a series of transfers, the County of Los Angeles owned the land, now the site of the county lifeguard station. The Bruce family, Malik says, wanted their land back, restitution for the income that they had lost over the decades on a parcel of land now worth many millions of dollars, and to hold the government accountable.

After discovering they owned the land, through advocacy, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to return Bruce’s Beach to the descendants of Willa and Charles in 2022. Malik secured the pro bono support of attorney George Fatheree, who was a partner at Munger, Tolles & Olson and later Sidley Austin, to represent the family in the complex transfer negotiation. The family sold the property back to the county through an option in the negotiated transfer agreement for \$20 million in 2023.

The use of eminent domain for racist purposes was not uncommon in the history of the US, Malik says, citing examples such as the seizure of land to build freeways through thriving communities of color. These land use actions helped create segregated communities.

Malik is heartened by recent efforts by governments to explore actions and policies to repair the harms, such as those recommended in the groundbreaking report from the California Reparations Task Force. There is a lot more to do, but Malik says she doesn’t shy away from the hard cases or thorny issues.

“It is very frustrating to see racial injustice, economic inequality, housing insecurity, and homelessness persist in our country,” she says. “But I also am very inspired by the community fighting back, and that is what sustains me and inspires me, and why I push for change—because then I feel like I’m part of the solution.”

By Sharon Morioka

100 Years

OF THE LAWYERS CLUB



For generations of students, the Law Quad has been more than a collection of beautiful buildings—it has been home, a place of community that has enriched their Law School experience.

This year marks the centennial of the Quad’s stone walkways and turreted towers. The Lawyers Club, which was the first of the Law School’s iconic buildings to be completed, welcomed the first residents in the fall of 1924. As the building enters its second century, we take a look back at some pivotal moments from its first.

Historical photos courtesy of the Bentley Historical Library except where noted.



The Law Department building (above and below) was located at the southeast corner of the intersection at South State Street and North University Avenue. It housed the General Library, among other spaces.

THE HISTORY of the Law School started well before the first students moved into the Lawyers Club. The Law Department opened in 1859 with 90 students and three part-time faculty members. It graduated its first class the following year.

The early activities of the department, which became the Law School in 1915, were primarily located in the Law Department building that was completed in 1863. Situated on the southeast corner of South State Street and North University Avenue, the building also housed the University Chapel and the General Library. While the building provided law students with classroom and lecture space, it did not offer them living quarters.

The Law School's academic programming moved to Hutchins Hall in 1933, and the Law Department building was renamed Haven Hall (not to be confused with the current Haven Hall, which is connected to Angell, Mason, and Tisch Halls). It was the location for programs within the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts (LSA) until fire destroyed it in 1950. No building stands on the site today.



1859

THE *Early* DAYS OF THE LAW SCHOOL





1922

Gift

A CORNERSTONE FOR THE QUAD

William Cook, an 1882 Michigan Law grad, made his initial gift to the University for the construction of the Martha Cook Building, named for his mother (pictured above). His second gift, a cornerstone gift for the Law Quad, was designated for the construction of the Lawyers Club.

WILLIAM W. COOK, who graduated in 1880 from U-M's LSA program, earned his bachelor of laws (LLB) from the University in 1882. (The LLB was the customary degree for American law students at the time.) He then moved to New York City, where he made his career—and a fortune—as a corporate lawyer and legal scholar.

In 1922, Cook donated \$2 million to the Law School to build a lawyers club and dormitory. (His first gift to the University was to establish a women's residence, the Martha Cook Building, which he named for his mother. Located across Tappan Avenue from the Law Quad, it opened in 1915 and today houses around 140 women.) In addition to a traditional dormitory

for the Law School, Cook envisioned a men's club similar to the Lawyers Club in New York City, to which he belonged: a place where members could gather and also have use of a great law library.

He alluded to the inspiration for his gift in his will, part of which appears on a plaque inside Hutchins Hall next to the doors leading to the Quad: "[B]elieving that the character of the law schools determines the character of the legal profession, I wish to aid in enlarging the scope and improving the standards of the law schools by aiding the one from which I graduated, namely, the Law School of the University of Michigan."



April 25th, 1922.

To the Board of Regents, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan:

Dear Sirs—If agreeable to you, I will erect on the two blocks of South University Avenue, between South State Street and Tappan Avenue, a law students' combined club and dormitory building, with the same advantages as you have extended to other buildings, namely, the University to furnish free heat, light and power. The building is to be known as "The Lawyers' Club"...



CONSTRUCTION on the Lawyers Club commenced in early 1923 and was completed in time for students to move in during the fall 1924 semester—an ambitious time frame considering the scope of the project.

York and Sawyer, the New York architectural firm that designed the Martha Cook residence, also designed the Lawyers Club. Unlike the patterned brick exterior of Martha Cook, the Lawyers Club's basic construction material is Weymouth seam-faced granite, trimmed with Indiana limestone.

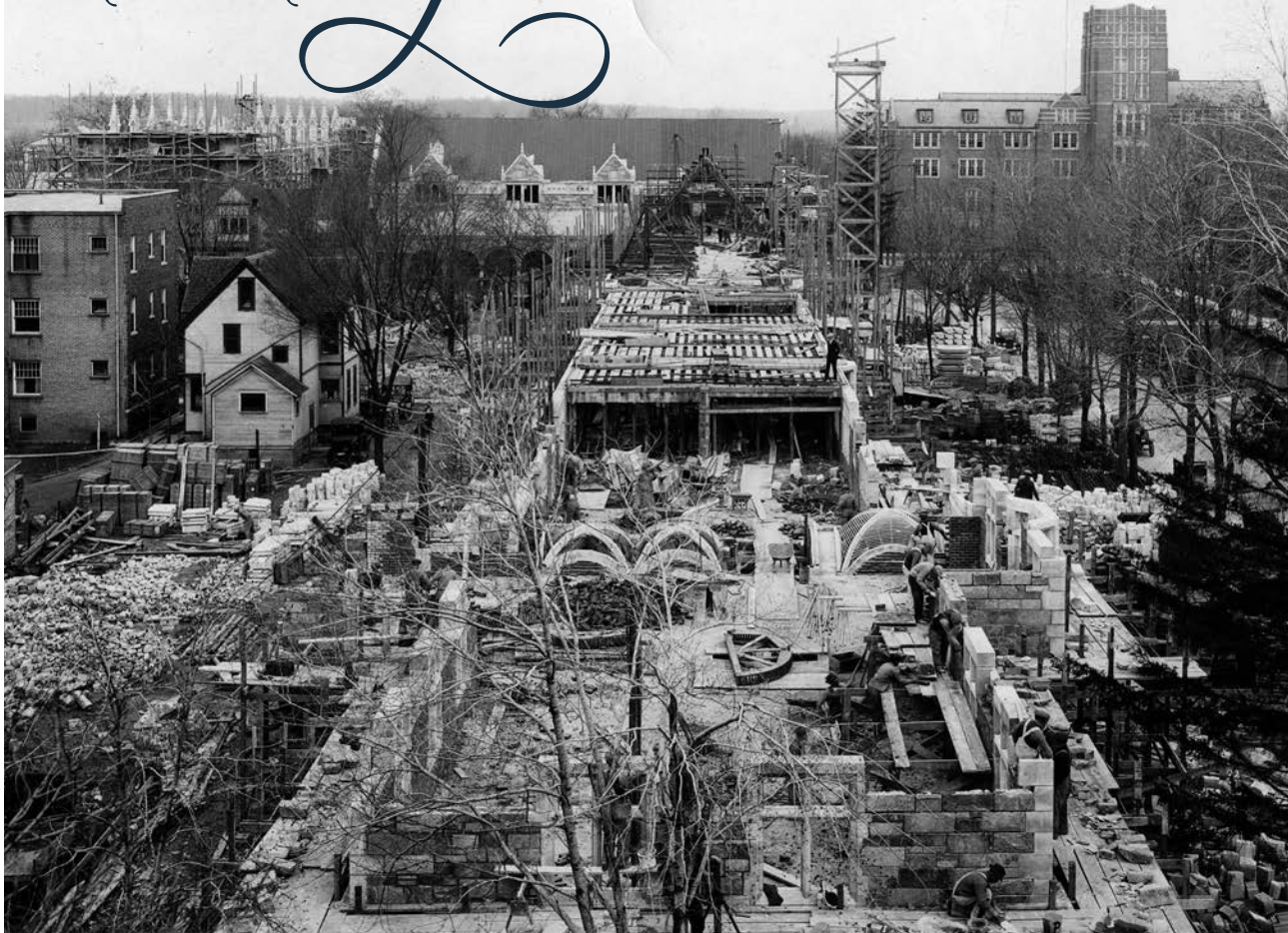
The architects had in mind the English Inns of Court as well as the universities in Oxford and Cambridge while designing a Tudor Gothic dining hall to serve 300, a Renaissance-style lounge, and a cloister with doric columns. The building also included a faculty dining room, common spaces, guest rooms, and rooms for 160 students. A set of 22 corbels—support structures for the building—in the three walkways connecting South University Avenue to the Quad are reminiscent of gargoyles. The structural elements are also decorative and depict, among many other things, six past University presidents.



1923

Constructing A BUILDING OF GOTHIC GRANDEUR

The Michigan Union, visible at the top right in this photo of the Lawyers Club construction, had recently opened in 1919. Among the architectural details of the Lawyers Club is a set of 22 corbels, including the one above depicting U-M President Marion Burton.





IN FALL 1924, 160 men moved into rooms or suites, some of which boasted stone fireplaces. Amenities included waiters in the dining hall, maid service in the dormitory, and a full-time tailor in the basement. Rooms were organized into 10 sections, lettered A through J, and oriented in a townhouse style.

According to a June 1922 note in the *Michigan Law Review*, the donor of the building preferred to remain anonymous. But Cook was named in an announcement of the building's opening on the front page of the September 21, 1924, edition of the *New York Times* under the headline "Donor of \$2,000,000 Michigan Law Club Proves to Be W.W. Cook, New York Lawyer."

Cook intended for the Lawyers Club to make a profit that would finance legal research at the Law School, according to *Giving It All Away*, a 2011 book by Margaret Leary, the Law School's librarian emerita. But to Cook's chagrin, that plan never materialized as he envisioned it.

Cook also objected to the appointment of Inez Bozorth as the first director of the Lawyers Club and took issue with a woman running a men's club. Despite Cook's protests, Bozorth remained the club's longtime director, serving from 1924 to 1930 and then again from 1933 until her retirement in 1954. A portrait of Bozorth hangs in the lounge to this day.

After the Lawyers Club opened, a residential building (pictured above and at right) was still located in what is currently the Quad. The open space in front of the building was the perfect location for this art class in the late 1920s.



1924

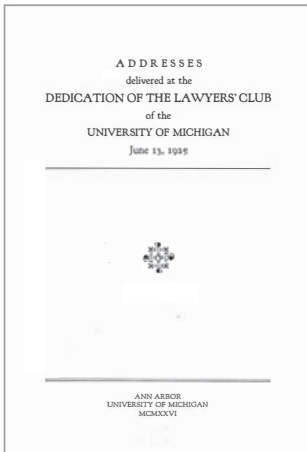
Opening ITS DOORS



1925

A Dedication

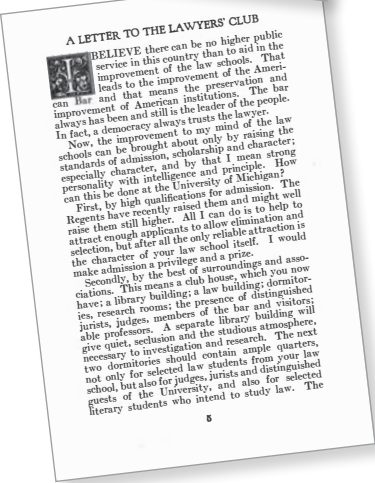
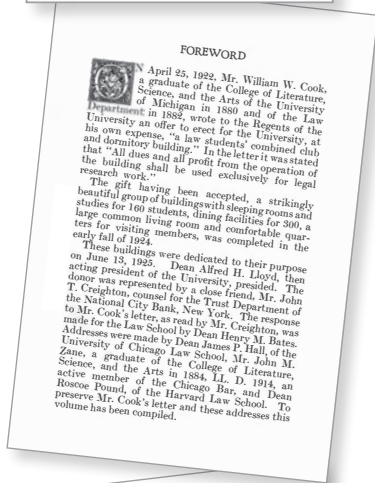
CELEBRATION, WITH ONE NOTABLE ABSENCE



WHILE THE LAWYERS CLUB first housed students in the fall of 1924, the dedication of the building didn't occur until June 13, 1925. Acting U-M President Alfred H. Lloyd, who presided over the ceremony, had recently succeeded President Marion Burton. The late president had died unexpectedly earlier in the year after playing a role in the development of the Lawyers Club project. Among the dedication speakers were Law School Dean Henry Bates as well as the

deans of the University of Chicago and Harvard law schools. Conspicuously absent was the Lawyers Club's benefactor:

Despite the size and scope of his gifts for the Martha Cook Building and the Law Quadrangle, Cook never returned to Ann Arbor following his 1882 graduation from the Law School. He did, however, send a letter to the dedication, which was read by his friend John Creighton, a 1910 Michigan Law graduate and the future trustee of his estate.





WITH THE 1930 death of Cook, who was divorced and childless, the Law School became the chief beneficiary of his will. These funds established a rich research endowment, which continues to support scholarship at the Law School today, and were put toward the ongoing construction of the Law Quadrangle.

Thus, the remaining buildings of the Law Quadrangle were completed: the John P. Cook Dormitory in 1930, the Legal Research Building in 1931, and Hutchins Hall in 1933.

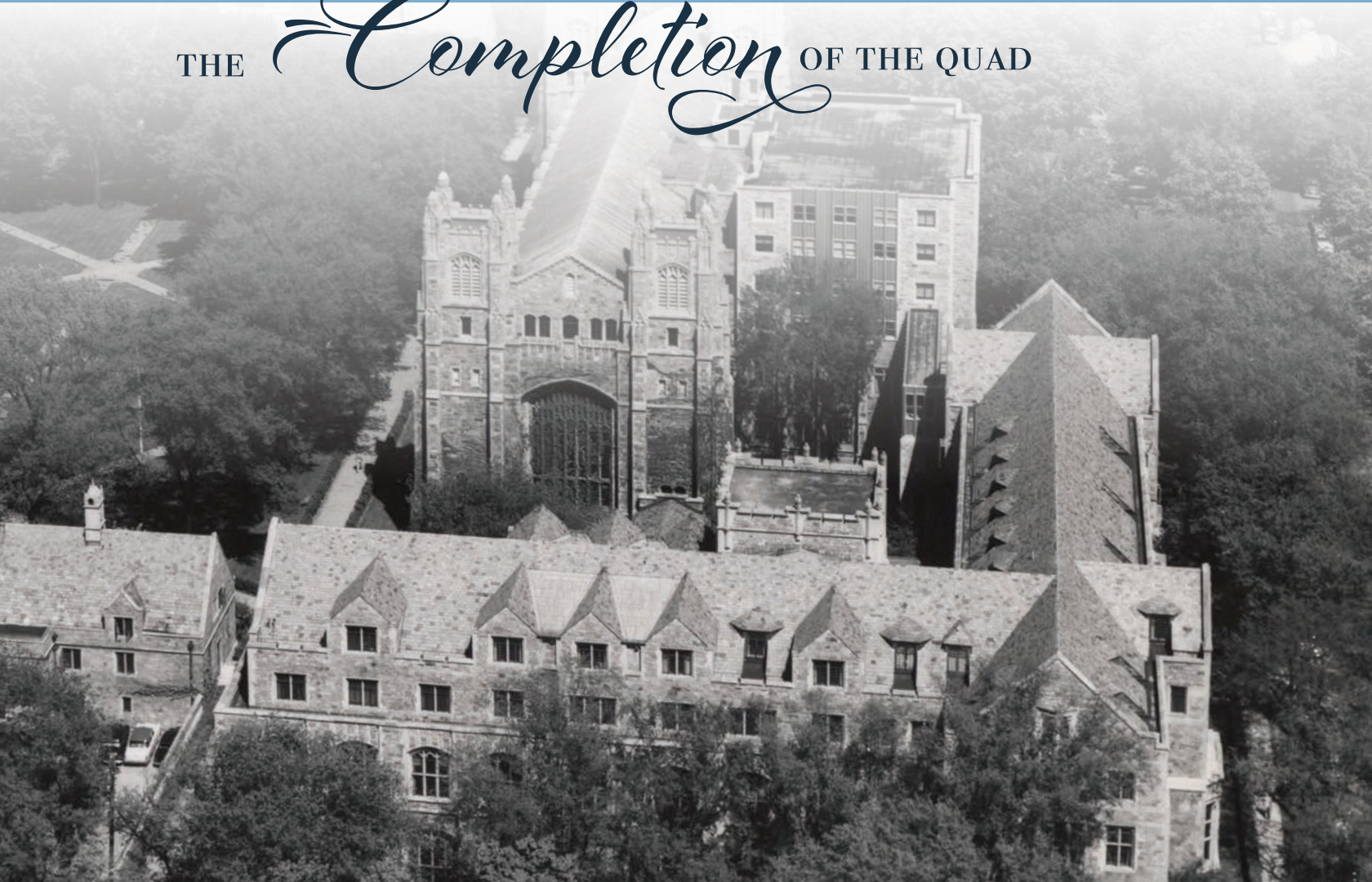


The new dormitory, named for William Cook's father, was situated along Tappan Avenue on the eastern side of the Quad. It added 152 residential spaces and was arranged into sections similar to those in the Lawyers Club (K through P, in this case), but the rooms were larger and the appointments better. According to a 1930 article in *Michigan Alumnus* magazine, rooms included running water and large closets, and the communal bathrooms had showers "of the latest type." The article continued, "Every modern convenience which has become known to architects and engineers since the construction of the first unit [the Lawyers Club] has been embodied in this latest structure."

1930–1933

THE

Completion OF THE QUAD



1942

First BLACK STUDENTS MOVE INTO THE LAWYERS CLUB

HISTORICAL IMAGES



Hobart Taylor Jr.

GABRIEL HARGO broke barriers when he graduated in 1870 and became not only the first Black graduate from the Law Department but only the second in the nation to earn a law degree. But it took nearly two decades after the Lawyers Club's completion for it to welcome Black residents. The first Black men, Hobart Taylor Jr., '43, and William Taft Patrick Jr., '46, moved into the Lawyers Club in 1942, according to the African American Student Project at U-M's Bentley Historical Library.

Taylor would go on to serve in the administrations of John F. Kennedy (becoming the first non-white head of a presidential committee staff) and Lyndon B. Johnson (as associate counsel to the president). Patrick had a career as a corporate attorney and in government, becoming the first Black member of the Detroit City Council and serving in the Johnson administration on the President's Task Force in the War Against Poverty.

The University did not maintain records of students' race and ethnicity for most of the 1900s, and archival resident lists for the Lawyers Club are incomplete and/or unavailable for most of its history. *Law Quadrangle*, with assistance from librarians at U-M's Bentley Historical Library, was unable to determine if men of other minority groups lived in the Lawyers Club before 1942. If anyone in the community has information on this topic, please contact LQNGeneral@umich.edu.



William Taft Patrick Jr.





Soldiers COME TO CAMPUS



WORLD WAR II had a profound impact on the University of Michigan, including the Law School. Among other things, enrollment rates dropped due to the selective service and US involvement in the war. To help fill the Quad, Dean E. Blythe Stason extended an invitation to house the US Army's Judge Advocate General's School (initially located in Washington, DC) at Michigan Law.

The Quad once again became a hub of activity. After a day of attending classes in Hutchins Hall and drills in the Quad (including the firing

of cannons), students returned to the Lawyers Club. According to Inzer B. Wyatt in *The Army's School for its Lawyers*, "After dinner, there is an opportunity for rest and fraternizing in the comfortable Lawyers Club and then back to quarters for the evening's study assignment."

Eventually, more than 2,500 officers and officer candidates would graduate from the program and celebrate their graduation banquets in the Lawyers Club dining hall. The school was deactivated in 1946.





1968

Welcoming WOMEN

MICHIGAN LAW has a progressive history of educating women students—case in point, Sarah Killgore was admitted in 1870 and earned her LLB in 1871 (she began her legal studies at the University of Chicago). Killgore was the first woman to both graduate from law school and pass the bar exam in any state, according to a 2006 *Law Quad Notes* article by Leary, the Law School's librarian emerita who authored the book on Cook.

However, the Lawyers Club was the exclusive domain of men for decades after its opening and did not allow women until the late 1960s. According to a February 29, 1972, article in the *Michigan Daily*, the change helped foster a new perspective toward female law students:

"The Lawyer's Club did not allow women in until 1968, and as Shirley Moscow, '74L, theorizes, 'If you have a sort of monastery (as a dorm, the male students) can dismiss the presence of women. But if there are 30 or 40 of us living here, they can't go into dinner and say "that dumb girl in class" because somebody's going to be around to say something.'"

This era also marked a shift for women as students at Michigan Law. In 1971, 28 women graduated from the Law School, which was more than double the previous year. Women matriculated in increasing numbers in the decades to come, and the Law School welcomed its first female-majority class in the fall of 2018.



The Women Law Students Association was established at Michigan Law shortly after women moved into the Lawyers Club. The group, which operates to this day, is pictured in the 1972–1973 edition of the *Codicil*, the Law School's yearbook.



The Law School community celebrated the reopening of the Lawyers Club on August 19, 2013, following a \$39 million renovation that transformed the interior while keeping the iconic exterior largely unchanged.

VERY LITTLE CHANGED in the Lawyers Club and John P. Cook Dormitory between their construction and 2012, when work began on a \$39 million renovation. A \$20 million gift from Charles Munger, HLLD '10, helped finance the project.

While the exteriors of the buildings were largely unchanged, the interiors underwent a transformative renovation. They were gutted to allow for technology and utility upgrades, air conditioning, improved fire safety features, and energy efficiency and other sustainability features. Each of the 227 single rooms was designed with a private or semi-private bathroom.

When the buildings reopened, in August 2013, the finished product was basically an entirely new residence.

The original townhouse-style design was abandoned and an interior corridor was added to connect the Lawyers Club and Cook Dormitory, despite a two-foot difference in floor elevation between the two buildings. The new design also meant that eight of the old entrances to the Quad were removed and replaced with windows that matched the originals. (An eagle-eyed visitor will note that the lettering above the remaining doors skips from A to D, E to H, and so on.)

The connecting corridor not only increased safety and accessibility but also added to the sense of community. Students no longer needed to exit their section of the building to enter another section. Additionally, 11 new lounges, called Club Rooms, on each floor allowed for shared study and gathering spaces.

With the renovation, the residence was renamed the Charles T. Munger Residences in the Lawyers Club after its benefactor, who died in November 2023 (read his obituary on page 86).



2013

NEW *Century,* NEW BUILDING





2020

THE COVID

Shutdown



The pandemic drastically changed life in the Lawyers Club and on campus. Tents erected in the Law Quad (above) allowed for students to eat, study, and gather together when indoor activities were limited.

THE IMPACT of the pandemic on the Lawyers Club, like everywhere else the world over, was sudden and serious. The University transitioned to remote classes in mid-March for the rest of the term and encouraged students living in residence halls to move back home.

For those who remained in the Lawyers Club, the contrast with life only days before was stark. Except for trips to the dining hall to retrieve take-out meals, residents were confined to their private rooms. According to an article in the fall 2020 issue of *Law Quadrangle*, "silence descended on the Law Quad for the first time since construction of the Lawyers Club began in 1923."

Diane Nafranowicz, then director of the Lawyers Club, found herself enforcing new policies and protocols to keep students safe and comply with University standards: Masking, resident testing, and social distancing became standard. Visitors were prohibited. Package pickup was conducted behind plexiglass barriers. There was continuous sanitation of all surfaces.

Common gathering places were closed, then reopened at limited capacity. When weather permitted later in the year, the Lawyers Club erected tents inside the Quad so residents could eat meals together, allowing some semblance of community to return.

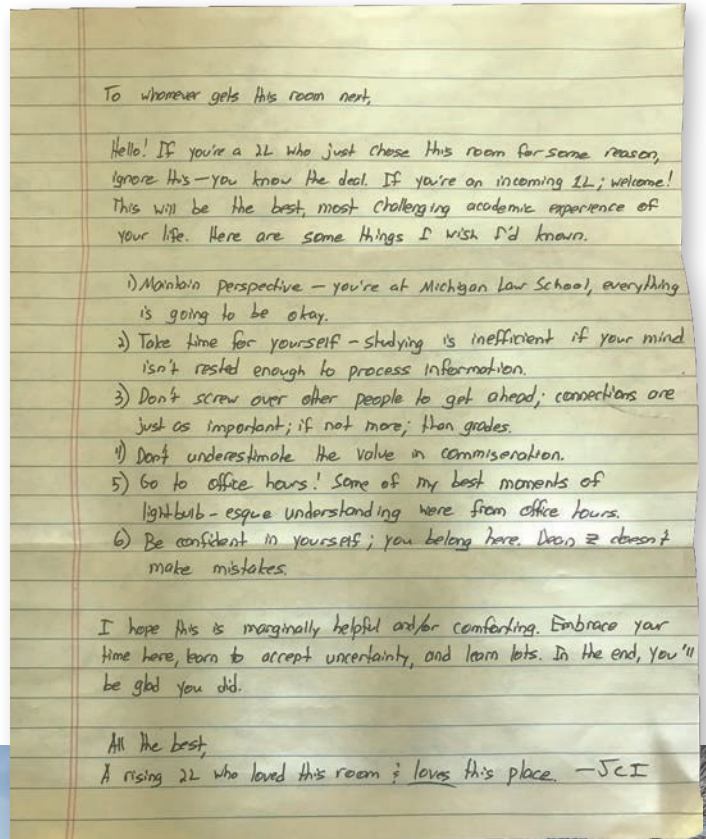
2024

A SECOND CENTURY *Begins*

THAT SENSE of community is what makes the Lawyers Club so memorable to all who have lived there, Nafranowicz says today. And it extends from one class to another—through families with multiple generations of former residents, through stories swapped when block Ms are spotted and “Go Blues” are exchanged in places around the world, and in tangible ways, too. For example, tucked away in a desk in one Lawyers Club room a few years ago was a letter from a previous resident to the next occupant of the room. Along with a note of welcome was a short list of tips for “the best, most challenging academic experience of your life.” The heartfelt letter illustrates the type of connections forged in the Lawyers Club, even among two people who may have never met.

The Law School community continues to forge strong connections after all these years, whether in an intimate letter from one student to another or in an eclipse-viewing event in the Quad.

“It’s the community setting that drives how excited people are about the Lawyers Club,” says Nafranowicz, who served as director for more than 40 years. “It is not just a residential facility, but it’s always been a community that is itself part and parcel of Michigan Law.”



Stories



FROM THE LAWYERS CLUB



The Lawyers Club has provided the setting for cherished memories for a century and counting. Here, alumni share a few of their experiences.



1955-1956

Ronald Dalman, '58

Retired from a 50-year career in corporate, real estate, and estate planning



1989-1990

Kristina (Tina) Dalman, '91

Vice President and Area General Counsel, Pulte Group Inc.

Ronald: When you were admitted to the Law School, I felt so positive about you living in the Lawyers Club. When I was in school, no female students lived there. But I knew you would have the same opportunity I had for enriching experiences.

Tina: In all fairness, I was a little reluctant to move back into what I thought of as a dorm. I was also concerned about the pressure cooker of law school. How was that going to be when you're living and eating and studying 24/7 with the people you're in classes with?

Ronald: It can have the opposite effect; it can motivate you and create a collegial atmosphere. Plus, that whole experience of living there just facilitated focusing on the law.

Tina: It was really your encouragement, because of your positive experience, that led me to overcome my fears.

Ronald: I can remember, very distinctly, walking into the Law Quad the first time your mother and I came back to visit when you were in law school. What a great feeling, and I was so proud and pleased for you that it was all working out.

Tina: It all did work out. And I have since explained the Lawyers Club as the "secret sauce" of Michigan Law when I tell people to apply.



2018-2021

Charles Mahone II, '21

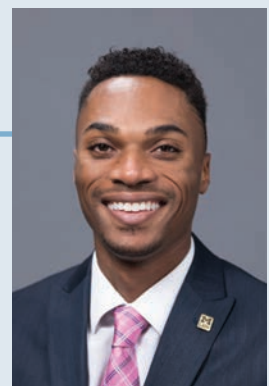
Associate, Sidley Austin LLP

(After a 2013 renovation, the section letters in the Lawyers Club were eliminated and the two wings were named Munger and Cook.)

In early March 2020, COVID existed at the boundaries of my thoughts. But it became real for me the day everyone found out that Michigan would move to remote learning. At that moment, I was spending time with Law School friends in class and we knew everything was going to change. We immediately went to play basketball because we weren't sure if we would be able to play together again.

Moreover, as president of the Law School Student Senate and Lawyers Club manager, I knew we would need to make changes to keep those still living in the club safe. It was always in the nature of the club residents to take care of one another, but I

believe COVID took this to another level due to the isolation, rapidly changing landscape, and ever-present threat of illness. For a long time, all we could do was study and socially distance with friends. So, largely, all we had was each other.



I believe this atmosphere, which created bonds that were forged in the fires of a global pandemic, led to many strong relationships that continue to stand the test of time.



1959–1960
1960–1961

Harold “Hal” Barron, ’61

Retired after serving as general counsel at two Fortune 500 companies and at national law firms



I spent the early hours of October 14, 1960, like many other nights during my final year of law school: studying in my room at the Lawyers Club. Little did I know that this night would be a historic one for the University of Michigan.

At some point during my studies, I grew aware of a commotion coming from outside. The noise was so loud that I decided to check it out and saw a crowd had gathered at the Michigan Union. Standing there, on the top step of the Union, was

Sen. John F. Kennedy, giving a short speech that included a proposal for what would become the Peace Corps. I clearly remember him drawing to the conclusion of his speech by saying, in his Boston accent, “I come here tonight to go to bed.”

While it was short and sweet, the speech generated electricity among the crowd. It was an incredibly exciting moment and became even more memorable when he was elected president the next month.



E. Robert Blaske, '69

Retired from Blaske and Blaske, where he was a plaintiff's legal and medical malpractice lawyer

My higher education journey began during a wave of great change. In the Lawyers Club, that change included women as residents beginning in 1968. For the legal profession, that change was the opening up to greater numbers of women, which has improved the profession more than anything in its long history.

For me personally, the Lawyers Club was not only a place to enjoy the tradition of learning the law but also the place where I found romance with my wife of 55 years, Vicki, who earned her bachelor of engineering in 1969. We met when she came to my Case Club oral argument with

my friend's girlfriend. We first kissed and I first told her I loved her as we walked in the Quad, a magical setting. After we were married in the summer of '68, we spent our wedding night in one of the rooms upstairs from the lounge.

Since retirement, I have returned to the club for many years as a member of the Lawyers Club Board of Governors. On one of the first visits, I received permission to take an elm seedling that had sprouted in one of the flower beds by the lounge entrance. I planted it at our home, where it flourishes.



Michael Fayhee, JD '73, LLM '20

Counsel, McDermott Will & Emery

When I first arrived at the Law School in 1970, I was in awe of the facilities, but I chose not to live in the Lawyers Club. That changed when I returned after nearly 50 years to earn an LLM in the philosophy of law. So, while I did not live in the Lawyers Club in the '70s, I did live there in my 70s.

Of the LLM students that year, I was the only one from the United States. A group of us, including students from Germany, Pakistan, India, and China, ate together most days. It was quite an eclectic group, and we had a lot of fun talking about what's going on in the world.

I also interacted with JD students not only in the classroom but while living in the Lawyers Club. Despite the age gap, I made many friends. And because I had a more mature life experience, including practicing mergers and acquisitions law for so long, I was able to answer their questions about a range of things. Looking back, all of these interactions made for an experience that was just as rich as it would have been the first time around.





Rossa Fanning, LLM '00

Attorney General of Ireland

Having grown up in Dublin, studied in university in Dublin, and trained and qualified as a barrister in Dublin, I was very comfortable in that environment. Maybe too comfortable. So when I came to Michigan to study for my LLM, it was a voyage into the unknown. I arrived on campus not knowing a single person, which I found to be exhilarating. I thought the year would be a good maturing process for me before I embarked on a professional career.

My overriding recollection of living for a year in the Lawyers Club is how friendly everybody was. The first neighbor I met was Matt Riccardi, an incoming 1L and now a litigation partner with Perkins Coie in New York. He remains a friend to this day. I also made great friends in the LLM program, and we still have a WhatsApp group to keep in touch.

With the personal challenge of having to get to know new people and start from zero, I learned a lot about myself.



Rossa Fanning returned to campus in 2023 to discuss international law.



Lawrence Serlin, '81

Retired from Cohn Baughman & Serlin



In fall 1978, I found myself assigned to a triple room on the second floor of P section. I chose the larger entry room, which contained, as a bonus, a sink. Our suite was obviously designed for two, not three, but we made it work.

An unexpected feature outside my bay window was a huge crane sitting in a three-story-deep excavation site. Every weekday, the crane would crank up at 8 a.m. and serve as my backup alarm. We learned that the hole would someday become an underground addition to the Law Library and its stunning Reading Room.

My friend Jeff Stein lived across the hall and recently reminded me that on one occasion, the crane became unbalanced and toppled over onto its side and into the gap between our section and the Reading Room. Fortunately, no one was injured; otherwise, I might have had a different story to tell.



Paul Zavala, '78

Retired after a long career at General Motors

When I returned to the Law School for my 2L year, I learned that Juan Luis Tienda, a fellow member of our La Raza Law Students Association, had died in a car accident. Juan was about to begin his 3L year and was on the cusp of a career in public service.

All members of La Raza were stunned at the news of Juan's death and wanted to find some way to honor his memory. So we decided to create a scholarship in his name. Trouble was, none of us had any money.

But someone suggested that we hold a banquet to raise funds. The Lawyers Club didn't offer dinner on Sundays, so we thought we should be able to entice some hungry law students willing to pay a few dollars for a Mexican dinner. The profits from the dinner could be used to raise seed money for the scholarship. The dining hall, a space that accommodates 300 people, would be the perfect location.

We didn't know how the school would react to law students, hardly professional cooks, using the kitchen and dining facilities. But Dean Ted St. Antoine agreed that it was a great idea. We managed to sell all 300 tickets for dinner on a spring evening in 1977. Looking back, I can't really remember if the food was good, but it was made with the best of intentions.



Paul Zavala (pictured in the back row, far left) and other members of the La Raza Law Students Association organized a banquet in memory of Juan Luis Tienda that continues nearly 50 years later.

After two years, the banquet moved out of the Lawyers Club dining hall, but the Juan Luis Tienda Scholarship banquet continues to raise funds for a scholarship for members of the Latinx community. The students who came after us have managed to carry on a mission that Juan Luis would have appreciated.



Kate Ross, '96

GM and Associate General Counsel, Microsoft Corporation



My first encounter with the Lawyers Club was memorable. Before I even unpacked, I took a stroll through the Quad with my camera and observed two guys hanging out a window on the second floor of the M section of the Lawyers Club. One was brushing his teeth, and the other was tossing a baseball to himself. I took a picture to commemorate the moment. "So this is what law school students look like," I thought. "Goofy."

Turns out the Lawyers Club didn't have air conditioning, and the guys were hanging out the window to avoid overheating. I know that because I ended up marrying the tooth-brushing guy, Tim Schmuckal. His baseball-tossing roommate, Jeremy Singer, was the best man at our wedding. Yes, I still have the picture. But, no, I have not secured their permission to share it.



Michelle Zaltsberg, '08

Shareholder, Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz PC



Of all the things my grandfather, Alfred M. Swiren, did in his long life, he spoke most fondly of his time at the Law School, from which he graduated in 1941. He lived in the Lawyers Club with classmates who went on to serve with him in the Army Air Force during World War II and remained his lifelong friends.

While the building appeared largely unchanged when I lived there, our experiences were a bit different. For example, he would tell stories of curfews and covert co-ed shenanigans—a far cry from my modern co-ed experience. He also had a working fireplace in his room, which was simply decorative by 2006. My grandpa worked in the dining hall, where a formal shirt and jacket were required for wait staff. While I didn't have the same white tablecloth service, I did have access to a fro-yo machine—a fair trade in my view.

Although our time at Michigan Law was separated by 67 years, our shared experience brought us closer and is something I will always treasure.



Meredith (Nelson) Endsley, '71

Retired after a career in general contract and corporate law, acquisitions, and state legislation

My 1L year was 1968, an important time in the history of the Lawyers Club because it was the first year women were allowed to live there. I was lucky because not all of the women who wanted to live in the Lawyers Club were given space. Those of us who did live there were located together in section C, away from our male counterparts but close to classrooms, the library, and the dining hall, which greatly simplified our day-to-day activities.

The only downside to the location was that there wasn't a comfortable gathering spot for women other than the women's lounge in the library basement, not the greatest option. Otherwise, I don't remember any issues arising from women living in the Lawyers Club.

That was also a tumultuous political year, and my third-floor window provided a prime view of the marches and demonstrations taking place on the streets below. And I remember the saddest event that academic year: One of our house members, Jane Mixer, was found murdered several miles away. It was a real tragedy that made us feel insecure, even within the walls of the Lawyers Club.



Editor's note: In 1969, the Law School established the Jane L. Mixer Memorial Award for students who have made the greatest contribution to activities designed to advance the cause of social justice.



Shelby Boxenbaum, '09

Chief Counsel, Sen. Ben Ray Luján (D-NM)



It was early in the winter semester of 1L year, and I was walking to class with two friends who both lived in the same Lawyers Club section as me. On the way across the Quad, we saw this poor squirrel dragging itself along the path. Something had happened and it couldn't walk. One of my friends called animal control, and then we went into class.

When we came back out an hour later, there was a crowd gathered around a giant hawk that was disemboweling the now-dead squirrel. Someone even took some pictures that ended up on Facebook and in the law student newspaper. It was the talk of the Law School for the rest of the day. But I think it really was a metaphor for law school and life: Some days you are the squirrel, and some days you are the hawk.



Judd Grutman, '10

Counsel, The Torrey Firm



Robert Swenson, '11

Associate General Counsel, UnitedHealthcare



Judd Grutman (pictured, right) and Robert Swenson (pictured, left) met when Swenson attended Preview Weekend for admitted students in 2009. Grutman was serving on a panel about living in the Lawyers Club.

Swenson: I remember we chatted after the panel during a reception in the lounge, and we really hit it off.

Grutman: I was enamored. All my roommates at the time (by then, I was living in an apartment across from the Law School) teased me that we spent the whole admitted students weekend together.

Swenson: I pretty much knew I was coming to Michigan and would say that weekend sealed the deal. I remember being really comfortable in my decision. Meeting people at the Lawyers Club really put my mind at ease. It felt like home.

Grutman: After that weekend, you sent the cheese box. We had chatted with some other students about what a good idea it is to give food as a gift. And then, at the front door of my apartment, there was a box of cheese you sent from New York.

Swenson: But we didn't really become a couple for a while. That summer, you were in LA, then you did an externship at UNESCO during the fall semester.

Grutman: But we kept in touch and were like pen pals, basically, during that semester abroad.

Swenson: And come January, which was your last semester of law school, we were in the same place and officially a couple.

By Bob Needham

A Model of Transparency

A Prosecutor and a Professor Team Up to Study Racial Disparities in the Legal System

When Eli Savit, '10, was growing up in Ann Arbor, he would sometimes engage in typical youthful indiscretions—some of which, admittedly, were against the law. Even if he got caught, however, he didn't suffer lasting consequences, and today he knows his race likely played a part in those outcomes.

J.J. Prescott, the Henry King Ransom Professor of Law, has long been interested in issues of prosecutorial decision-making, particularly in relation to race. But in studying these issues, he's been frustrated by a lack of hard data that would allow him and other researchers a clear picture of the problem.

In 2020, Savit decided to run for the office of prosecutor for Washtenaw County (which includes Ann Arbor), and fair treatment for defendants regardless of race became a core theme of his campaign. After winning the election, he set out to make good on that promise—and teaming up with Prescott was a natural first step.

In partnership with U-M Poverty Solutions and the American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan, Prescott and Savit developed the Prosecutor Transparency Project to look for racial disparities in charging and other decisions in the Washtenaw County Prosecutor's Office. The groundbreaking project released its first results in spring 2024—and the sponsors hope it will serve as a model for similar efforts elsewhere.





Eli Savit (left) and J.J. Prescott (right), developed the Prosecutor Transparency Project, which looked for disparities in charging and other decisions of the Washtenaw County Prosecutor's Office.

The Issue

"Everybody knows that there are racial disparities in the criminal legal system," Savit says. "It's important for us as public servants to take a look in the mirror to examine whether any of our decisions are creating or exacerbating those disparities, and really to drill down into whether people are being treated differently because of race."

Savit's campaign for office offered a specific example: He would recount a time growing up when he was part of a group whom the police caught underage drinking in a park. The police told the youths to pour out their beer, and that was that. If he hadn't been white, Savit wondered, would the outcome have been different?

One time when Savit told this story, the person facilitating the conversation—a Black woman close to his age—answered the question: In fact, she had been part of a similar experience

as a youth, but she ended up facing charges in the juvenile justice system.

"More than anything, I don't want our office to be putting our heads in the sand about potentially differential treatment, and I don't want to be exacerbating it," Savit says. "We have a responsibility to give everybody the benefit of the doubt that I got."

Making that happen, though, requires data.

"Improving how prosecutors make decisions will be much easier to achieve if we know the source and extent of the most pressing problems," Prescott says. A handful of previous studies around the country have looked at racial disparities in prosecution, but for the most part they haven't studied the entire history of all cases in a jurisdiction. The need for a deeper dive was clear.

The Study

Prescott's study—conducted jointly with Law School research scholar Grady Bridges—examined prosecutorial decision-making in nearly 35,000 cases in Washtenaw County from 2017 to 2022, at four specific stages:

- Authorizing prosecution and selecting charges
- Designating a defendant as a habitual offender
- Plea bargaining
- Diversion and deferral opportunities

Although the study focused specifically on decisions made in the prosecutor's office, it did note that the largest racial disparities arise even earlier in the process—when law enforcement agencies make an arrest and request that the prosecutor authorize charges. In fact, the data showed that the number of charging requests for people of color was 1.75 times higher than would be expected from their share of the total county population. For Black people specifically, the number was more than four times higher.

Once those charging requests were made, some racial disparities remained, but they were much smaller. Specifically, the study found evidence that, on average, people of color:

- Faced a somewhat higher likelihood (less than 1 percent) of being charged with any crime.
- Faced 3 percent more total charges when charged.
- Faced charges with 6 percent longer maximum sentences when charged.

On the other hand, the data showed that people of color, after controlling for other differences between the defendants and their cases, were less likely than white people to be designated as habitual offenders.



"The results of the study indicated that there were small disparities—in a statistically insignificant to marginally statistically significant range—arising from our office," Savit says. "I'm heartened by the small size of the disparities, and I think it's a reflection of the work that our prosecutors do. It's important to note that disparities don't necessarily equal disparate treatment or bias. It could just be due to a few cases that presented more extreme facts."

Prescott explains that the study was not able to address disparities in plea bargaining—potentially a major area of concern—because the nature of the process makes collecting useful data on choices and outcomes difficult and because Washtenaw County, like many counties, had poor data on its plea-bargaining practices.

"Prosecutors and defense attorneys bargain in lots of ways, mostly to make the process easier and faster. They email, they talk on the phone, they meet in person—as a result, it's very opaque how that happens," Prescott says. "That is a major lesson of this study: That no matter what kinds of policies you put in place, if plea bargaining is happening in many different and informal ways, then it's going to be hard to know whether or not it's a significant source of disparities."

“We know disparities exist, and through projects like this, we can at least start to pinpoint where those disparities arise.”

—Eli Savit, '10, Washtenaw County Prosecutor

The Next Step

Professor Eve Primus, '01—who serves as director of the Law School's MDefenders program and of its Public Defender Training Institute—was not involved in the study, but as a defense expert, she sees it as important.

“This is a wonderful step toward greater transparency in and accountability for prosecutorial decision-making,” says Primus, the Yale Kamisar Collegiate Professor of Law. “This report shows some troubling racial disparities in how police approach charging and in some aspects of prosecutorial decision-making in Washtenaw County. It also shows that there are large, important areas of the criminal legal system—like the plea bargaining process—where insufficient data exists to determine if there are discriminatory practices.”

The researchers agree that the disparities the study revealed warrant further examination. Savit also plans to create a public online dashboard, currently being developed, to track this sort of data and make it easily accessible

to the public. Eventually, he would like to see a “data warehouse” that tracks criminal cases through the entire justice system.

Both Savit and Prescott hope their work in Washtenaw County can serve as a model in Michigan and beyond; in fact, they've already had inquiries from several other counties about the project.

“The hope is that this report will be an inspiration and that, someday soon, it'll be bad form not to do this kind of self-study regularly,” Prescott says. “The assumption is that if people can monitor prosecutorial choices through easy-to-understand statistics, prosecutors will have a strong incentive to make sure their policies and decision-making work fairly and well for everyone in the community.”

Finally, longer-term efforts will need to address systemic reasons for racial disparities in the criminal justice system.

“It goes far beyond decision-making by actors in the criminal justice system,” Prescott says. “Racial disparities in our courtrooms and prisons are a function of employment opportunities, of educational opportunities, of residential segregation, of all sorts of challenging problems. I do think that we can solve those problems, but we can't end disparities in the criminal justice system simply by better regulating prosecutors' offices and the police.”

Savit concludes, “All of this is complex, and I think that's the value of these data projects. We know disparities exist, and through projects like this, we can at least start to pinpoint where those disparities arise. We all should strive to treat people fairly, and the first step in ensuring that we're fulfilling that ethical duty is to take a look at the data.”

A photograph of a savanna landscape at sunset. The sky is filled with dramatic, dark clouds, with a bright orange and yellow glow from the setting sun breaking through. In the foreground, there is a field of tall, green grass. Several acacia trees are scattered throughout the scene. In the middle ground, two giraffes are visible, one on the left and one on the right, standing in the grass. The background shows rolling hills under a hazy sky.

LEARNING ON THE GROUND IN RWANDA

By Sharon Morioka

As start-up companies increasingly organize in sub-Saharan countries in Africa, there is a need for legal services. Toward that end, student-attorneys in Michigan Law's International Transactions Clinic traveled to Rwanda in February to help one clean-cooking company.



DURING SPRING BREAK IN FEBRUARY, three Michigan Law students traveled far from the familiar confines of the Quadrangle to the verdant, rolling hills of Kigali, Rwanda. The journey provided them with the opportunity to meet in person with management of BioMassters Limited, a client with whom they had been working all year in the International Transactions Clinic (ITC).

Since 2008, the ITC has worked with a long list of for-profit and nonprofit organizations that span the globe from North America to Africa, Asia, and Latin America. But this foreign trip—funded with a donation from Stuart Chemtob, '78, senior of counsel at Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati—was the first of its kind for either faculty or students of the clinic.

"The clinic does a lot of legal work—and students learn a lot—here at the Law School, but it remains somewhat abstract in terms of what our clients are actually doing in their countries," says David B. Guenther, '99. Guenther, a clinical professor of law, is the director of the ITC and co-supervised the student team with Marcia Nordgren, an adjunct clinical assistant professor.

"By going to visit the client, they got a lot of substantive experience working as international lawyers outside the US and they got to see the impact the client is having on the ground," Guenther adds. "It's important to have relationships with your clients, and being there in person with the company management goes a long way toward cementing those relationships."

HELPING DEVELOP LEGAL INFRASTRUCTURE

BioMassters is a private company that produces inexpensive clean-cooking stoves as well as pellet fuel from recycled products for use in the stoves. The products address the health, pollution, and deforestation problems that arise from use of charcoal-burning stoves.

"It also addresses safety issues," says Nordgren, "because it's typically women who are walking long distances to go to the forest to get the wood. It's made their lives easier, safer, and more healthy."

BioMassters is one of an increasing number of startups organized in sub-Saharan Africa, which is home to several of the fastest-growing economies in the world. Growth of Rwanda's start-up sector means there's an urgent need for the development of legal infrastructure and services.

"Rwanda is seen as a place where companies can test the waters in the early stages of their business," says Jessica Carter, '24. "It is trying to cater to that demand. And that's why they've begun to incorporate some common-law elements into their civil law system." Carter made the trip with Lindsey Corbett, '24, and Emily Unger, '24. A fourth student, Sara Shoemaker, '24, played a vital role on the team but was unable to travel during spring break.

Many of the ITC's social enterprise clients are looking to raise funds outside the countries where they are organized, such as the United States, the United Kingdom, and within the European Union. One aspect of the clinic's work is to help clients with corporate governance documents and ensure they have proper legal documentation—an important part of any pitch to potential investors.

"They do need a lot of international advice," Guenther says. "We can only advise on US law, and really only in the US states where we're admitted to practice. But we act as a kind of international counsel in a lot of financing deals."



Clinic students (in the center, from left to right) Lindsey Corbett, Emily Unger, and Jessica Carter met with Nyiransenguwera Mayimuna (far left), a BioMassters client, and Benjamine Barihuta (far right), a member of the BioMassters team, on a site visit.



Clinic student Lindsey Corbett checks out BioMassters stoves in a storehouse in Kigali. The company produces inexpensive clean-cooking stoves as well as pellet fuel from recycled products for use in the stoves

SEEING THE IMPACT

The students started their first day of work in Rwanda with an in-depth overview from members of BioMassters's management team about their business model and motivations for starting the company. That afternoon, they toured the company's operations. They also visited one of its stores in Kigali, where they had a chance to meet customers and ask why they had made the switch from a traditional stove to a biomass stove and why they continued to use it.

"It was really helpful to visit the customers and see the product on the ground because we were able to tether our understanding of the client's business model to something that was more concrete," says Corbett. "We were previously more involved in the company's work only in the abstract, for example, working on their policies and corporate governance documents."

Carter, Corbett, and Unger also spent time with the company's Rwandan counsel—a law firm in Kigali—to discuss several issues under Rwandan law.

"The clinic can't advise the client on Rwandan law matters," says Nordgren. "So being able to discuss the legal issues directly with the local counsel is very important."

Corbett adds that meeting with local counsel was as helpful in their work as their meetings with the company's management.

"Our team spent all of last semester preparing memos for the client and answering some of their questions about business plans that they have for the next several months," she says. "And being able to supplement that with local counsel expertise—filling in the gaps for things that we are not able to answer for them—was really helpful."



The BioMassters and ITC teams visited a client site while in Rwanda. During their downtime, the ITC students viewed wildlife in Akagera National Park.

RWANDA, 30 YEARS LATER

While much of their trip was devoted to work, the students were able to carve out some time to learn more about the country and were particularly struck by the kindness of the people and the beauty of the surroundings.

"BioMassters is a small company, and they're all so passionate about the work they're doing," says Unger. "They chose to form the company in Rwanda, so having the opportunity to show us the place that means so much to them was exciting for everyone."

Additionally, on their first day in the country, the students visited the Kigali Genocide Memorial, which commemorates the 1994 genocide of between 500,000 and 1 million members of the Tutsi minority ethnic group.

"I'm very glad that was our first activity when we got there because it framed the rest of the trip very well," says Unger. "And we all felt there were many moments where it just was hard to wrap your mind around the fact that 30 years ago there was a genocide, given how far the country has come."

The students are thrilled to be participating in Rwanda's transition and grateful for their week in the country.

"To have the experience of thinking really deeply about some of these legal issues, and then be on the ground and have a chance to discuss them and really use that as a learning opportunity, was so fantastic," says Corbett. "I think we all felt that the meetings were not only successful for the client but one of the more rewarding legal educational experiences that we've had."



The clinic students visited the Kigali Genocide Memorial on their first day in Rwanda.



Clinic students met with members of the BioMassters team and their Rwandan counsel. From left to right are Itete Mugagga Emmanuel, partner at Fountain Advocates; students Jessica Carter and Lindsey Corbett; Nana M. Distelle, associate at Fountain Advocates; Claudia Muench, CEO of BioMassters Ltd.; student Emily Unger; and Jan de Graaf, COO of BioMassters Ltd.





DEAN LOGUE

Long-Serving Faculty Member Discusses Vision for Interim Role

Following the conclusion of Mark West's decade-long tenure as the David A. Breach Dean of Law at the end of 2023, Kyle Logue has assumed the deanship on an interim basis while the University conducts its search for a permanent replacement. That effort is being led by a search committee assembled by U-M's provost. (West remains on the faculty as the Nippon Life Professor of Law.)

Logue, the Douglas A. Kahn Collegiate Professor of Law, joined the Michigan Law faculty in 1993. An expert in tax, torts, and insurance law, his scholarly interests also encompass economics, psychology, and philosophy. He has served in several administrative roles at the Law School, including as the associate dean for academic affairs and the associate dean for faculty and research.

Before joining the faculty, Logue practiced law in Atlanta at Sutherland, Asbill & Brennan (now Eversheds Sutherland). He holds a bachelor of arts in political science from Auburn University and a JD from Yale University.

Logue recently chatted with *Law Quadrangle* to discuss his new role, what he loves about Michigan Law, and more.

Why did you agree to be the interim dean?

Having been here as a professor for more than 30 years, Michigan Law is simply a part of who I am. I love the place—the students, the faculty, the staff, even the buildings. And I’m dedicated to what we do here, the enterprise we’re engaged in: teaching students to be great lawyers and producing exceptional legal scholarship. All of it.

One of my favorite things about the University of Michigan is its commitment to excellence in a broad array of fields. There are few universities that rival Michigan in that regard. I also appreciate the University’s commitment to interdisciplinary cooperation across schools. We have so much to learn from each other.

I am devoted to the preservation of tradition and to the advancement of this special place, so I am happy and honored to take a—relatively short—turn at the helm. Because I will be in the job for only 18 months, give or take, the mission is relatively simple: make sure the school, which is already in excellent health, keeps humming along through the installation of the next permanent dean.

Which issues, initiatives, or areas are you focusing on in this role?

My priority has been to connect with students, faculty, and staff and to listen to their concerns, ideas, and hopes for the school. I’ve been doing that with a series of meetings, office hours, lunch meetups, attendance at events, and the like. In addition, I am reaching out to alumni to share what’s going on around the Law School and hear their take on what’s happening in the legal profession. In the midst of all of this, earlier this spring the Law School went through its once-every-10-year site evaluation by the American Bar Association, the organization that accredits American law schools. While the reaccreditation process will continue for several more months, I was pleased with how the site visit went.

Beyond the outreach and information-gathering, I am focused on maintaining Michigan Law’s preeminence in many areas. We will continue to hire new faculty, and we will try to make sure that our existing faculty have the resources and opportunities they need to do their best work. And, of course, I’m committed to making sure that students can take advantage of the wide range of academic and other opportunities available to them.

What do you believe is the future role of public law schools?

I’ve always thought that public law schools have a special obligation to produce their share of lawyers and research that serve the public interest, and I’m proud of the work we do toward that end. Our research faculty are working in every area of the law, and, through our clinics, our student-attorneys provide more than 75,000 hours of free legal services on average each year.

I also think being a public law school creates a heightened duty to make the first-rate education we provide accessible to students of varying means. For that reason, a focus of fundraising will continue to be, as it has long been, support for scholarships and other forms of financial aid, with the ultimate goal of reducing the average debt load of our graduates.

What is the status of the Law School’s efforts toward diversity, equity, and inclusion—particularly in the wake of the *Students for Fair Admissions* rulings?

The *SFFA* cases will affect us less than it will most other schools because we’ve been living under a similar legal regime since Michigan voters passed Proposal 2 in 2006—the ballot initiative that amended the Michigan Constitution to ban public institutions from discriminating against or giving preferential treatment to groups or individuals based on their race, gender, color, ethnicity, or national origin. While that change in the law shifted the legal landscape in which the Law School operates, and the racial diversity in our student body declined significantly in the years following the prohibition, we have bounced back—and it never diminished our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

We continue to work within the law to build a community comprising faculty, staff, and students who have a wide range of backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives—a practice that we believe contributes to the excellence and dynamism of our learning environment and our community. We also remain committed to removing the obstacles that prevent equal opportunity for all. That’s our equity goal. The idea of inclusion is synonymous with the idea of belonging. We want to ensure that our campus is a place where differences are welcome, different perspectives are respectfully heard, and where every individual feels a sense of belonging in our community.

It's important to point out that pursuing DEI, as I've just described it, is not inconsistent with other core missions of the Law School, such as maintaining the highest standards of excellence as well as fostering an educational environment in which people are encouraged to speak freely about difficult topics in a way that is civil, respectful, and professional. None of those goals are in conflict with DEI principles, properly understood.



How would you describe your scholarship?

Over the course of my career, I think it's fair to say that my research has applied a behaviorally informed economic analysis to questions within private law, especially torts and insurance, and within public law, especially tax. Most of my work is normative and theoretical in nature, which means I ask questions such as how tort law, insurance law, or tax law might be changed to make the world a better place. Sometimes, my focus is on improving the law's efficiency; sometimes, it's on improving distributional fairness; sometimes, both. Other parts of my work are more empirical in nature, which means I'm looking at various types of data to determine either what the law actually is on the ground or what consequences the law is having in the world. My current research, which includes some theoretical pieces and one empirical project, is concentrated in the area of insurance and financial regulation more generally.

Although it isn't exactly scholarship, one project that I am especially proud of—and which took years to complete—is the *Restatement of the Law of Liability Insurance*, for which I was the associate reporter. The *Restatement* has had more influence on the law—in the sense of being cited by more courts in various jurisdictions—than any single piece of traditional scholarship I have produced.

The Law School alumni base is large, widespread, and diverse. How do you keep them connected to the school, and what is their role in shaping its future?

I understand that all of our graduates were influenced by their time at the Law School. The classes they took here, the professors and classmates they met, all contributed to the lawyers they became. My hope is that we can encourage our alumni to continue to stay connected to the school in a range of ways, including by mentoring students or other alumni; by opening doors in the hiring process for Michigan grads; and by providing financial support to the school itself, through annual gifts to the Law School Fund or endowing a scholarship or professorship. It all makes a difference.

We love to welcome alumni back home to campus through reunion events and as guest speakers; likewise, it's always a treat to meet with them in their home cities. We'll continue to plan different types of programming for the community to gather together, and we'll keep in touch through mailings, social media, and other channels. Meeting with alumni is truly one of the rewards of this job, and I look forward to strengthening our already robust relationship.

Our alumni have high expectations of this institution because they care deeply about it. Their myriad backgrounds and perspectives enrich our school just like the diversity of our student body enriches our campus. We are better because of it. We are so grateful for the support we receive from alumni and the passion they feel toward the Law School. We always want to hear from them and keep them informed so that they can continue to be our most enthusiastic ambassadors.



In 2017, the Law School hosted US Supreme Court Associate Justice Sonia Sotomayor, in conversation with Susanne Baer, '93, who at the time was a justice on the German Supreme Court. Then Dean Mark West is pictured (center) with Sotomayor (left) and Baer (right).

New Fund Honors Former Dean Mark West and Supports Future Deans

By James Weir

The deanship at Michigan Law comes with a fairly standard slate of responsibilities—presiding over the Law School’s curriculum and student body, supporting research and teaching, retaining the Law School’s outstanding faculty, and recruiting emerging legal scholars to make the Law Quad their intellectual home, to name a few.

But some tasks are harder to pin down, says May Liang, '89, chair of the Law School’s Development and Alumni Relations Committee.

“There’s something special about the University of Michigan Law School, and continuing and expanding on that unique character is actually harder work, I think, than most people appreciate,” she says.

Liang, along with a group of more than 30 alumni and friends—many of whom are members of the Law School’s Development and Alumni Relations Committee or the Dean’s Advisory Council—recently established a \$500,000 fund at Michigan Law to honor Mark West’s tenure as dean. West, the former David A. Breach Dean of Law who remains on the faculty as the Nippon Life Professor of Law, was at the helm for a 10-year span that included the pandemic—a challenging period for leaders worldwide. His term as dean concluded at the end of 2023.

“Mark navigated the pandemic and the racial justice protests of 2020, among other difficulties, with thoughtfulness and deliberation, and I think it really showed his best leadership qualities in stewarding the Law School through both of those things,” Liang says. “By virtue of his personality and leadership, Mark really kept the Law School moving forward during that difficult time.”

The new fund will provide discretionary support for future Michigan Law deans. Liang says that access to flexible funds is a critical tool for effectively administering an organization like the Law School.

“There are a lot of important things that require financial support at a place like Michigan Law, which is why my philanthropic philosophy has always been to provide maximum flexibility for organizations that I believe in,” she says.

West became dean in September 2013, succeeding Evan Caminker (who also remains on the faculty as the Branch Rickey Professor of Law). Under West’s leadership, the Law School launched the Problem Solving Initiative, which brings students together from across U-M’s graduate programs to propose viable solutions to complex issues.

With Kyle Logue, the current interim dean, he also led a substantial reform of the Law School’s curriculum that focused on increased flexibility for students while also conforming with new ABA requirements for experiential education. West also worked to ensure that every Michigan Law student has the opportunity to participate in a legal clinic.

In addition, West worked with students, alumni, and donors to establish a program that guarantees summer funding for all first-year students—the most comprehensive program of its kind among top US law schools because it does not limit funding based on type of position. His tenure as dean saw a number of other marquee fundraising milestones—chief among them the Victors for Michigan campaign, which exceeded its goal and raised \$210 million for Michigan Law, the majority of which was earmarked for student support.

Today, the Law School continues to evolve and adapt to serve students and the broader public long into the future.

“Every dean inherits a unique set of challenges and opportunities and is going to have a different set of priorities,” says Liang. “This fund will not only honor Mark’s leadership and contributions to the Law School, it will also help future deans realize their vision for moving Michigan Law forward.”

Faculty Q&A: Law and Technology

From artificial intelligence and machine learning to blockchain and cryptocurrencies, law and technology is a complex and growing field. *Law Quadrangle* recently asked two of our leading law and technology scholars three questions about what's been on their minds lately:

What is the most interesting thing that you're working on right now? What do you consider to be the most significant development in your area of law since you entered academia? And outside of your specific field, what is a recent piece of scholarship that caught your eye from another member of the faculty, and why?



AARON PERZANOWSKI

Perzanowski, the Thomas W. Lacchia Professor of Law, teaches and writes about the intersection of intellectual and personal property law. Much of his work explores the notion of ownership in the digital economy. His books include The End of Ownership, co-authored with Jason Schultz (MIT Press, 2016); The Right to Repair (Cambridge University Press, 2022); and Creativity without Law, with Kate Darling (NYU Press, 2017), which collected scholarship related to intellectual property and social norms.

Most of my energy these days is focused on my current book project, *The Licensed Library*. The book considers the implications of libraries shifting from print collections to digital materials. Unlike the print books libraries have owned and controlled for centuries, ebooks and other digital assets are licensed by publishers and delivered by third-party aggregators. As a result, the relationship between libraries and those materials is conditional and tenuous, exposing them and their patrons to new risks. Libraries can no longer guarantee that books will remain available, since publishers can terminate licenses or disable access to ebooks. Publishers can even unilaterally edit the content of the ebooks that libraries offer. Despite these drawbacks, ebook licensing fees have exploded, straining library budgets and reducing spending on print materials. Ultimately, the move to digital collections threatens the independence and long-term survival of libraries as public institutions.

For the set of issues I research, one of the most problematic developments in recent years is the growing acceptance by courts of the licensing model for consumer transactions. From digital media to embedded software code, courts have embraced the narrative that rights holders can transform a sale that transfers meaningful rights to consumers into a conditional grant of permission simply by insisting that the transaction is a "license." The Ninth Circuit's decision in *Vernor v. Autodesk* was an important inflection point. There, the court held that Autodesk didn't actually sell plastic discs

containing its software to purchasers; it merely licensed them. As a result, Autodesk could stop the resale of lawful copies of its software as long as its license agreement recited the appropriate restrictions. That decision and those following it undermine copyright's first-sale doctrine, the right to repair software-enabled devices, and, more broadly, our personal property rights in the things we use every day.

Roseanna Sommers's article "Consumer Psychology and the Problem of Fine Print Fraud," which was published a couple of years ago, has really stuck with me. The paper uses an experimental approach to measure how consumers respond to false representations that contradict terms buried in contractual fine print. Despite these material deceptions, consumers believe such agreements are enforceable as written. That belief discourages consumers from taking legal action or otherwise asserting their rights. This sense of resignation is consistent with my own empirical research on digital media transactions and the right to repair. In both of those contexts, consumers recognize a mismatch between the legal rights they expect and the rights license agreements actually offer. For a small minority of consumers, this mismatch is the source of real frustration. But most of us simply shrug off these incursions as a predictable byproduct of economic and legal systems designed to protect the interests of manufacturers and retailers. Roseanna's work has informed my thinking by helping me make sense of what might otherwise seem like counterintuitive consumer behavior.



SALOMÉ VILJOEN

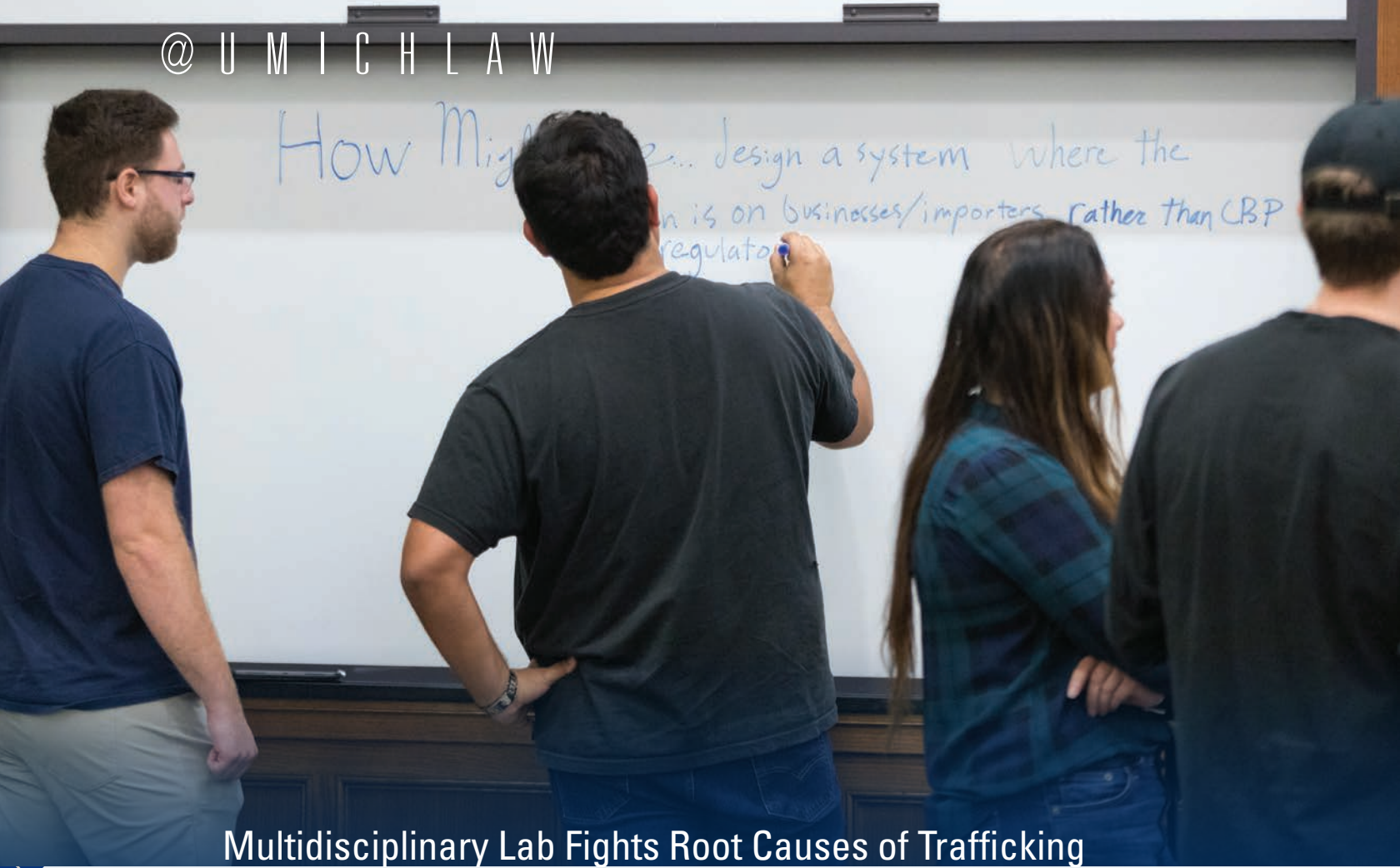
Viljoen, an assistant professor of law, teaches and writes about contracts, privacy, commercial surveillance, and data governance—particularly the political economy of data and artificial intelligence. She is especially interested in platform power, how information law structures inequality, and how law theorizes data about people (i.e., “social data”). Viljoen’s academic work has appeared or is forthcoming in law reviews including the Yale Law Journal and the Columbia Law Review. She also writes essays in publications such as Nature, the Guardian, and Phenomenal World.

I’m finishing up a piece right now on data value. By now, we all know that digital companies collect lots of data about people and that person-generated data is very important to the digital economy—it’s used to predict and place ads by companies like Meta and Alphabet, to train social media feed algorithms for companies like X and TikTok, and to help drive the impressive predictive capacities of AI systems like ChatGPT.

But the way that law approaches or understands data value, and what drives companies to collect data to make money, is quite odd. Legal regimes like privacy and data governance protect against certain ways, though not all the ways, that collecting and using data about people might expose them to risk of harm. But these laws aren’t really designed to regulate or contemplate the value proposition of data, and thus the strategies companies use to maximize that value. And legal regimes like tax continue to apply to the value produced at the end of this process for companies and people. But a lot of interesting and reasonably novel strategies are being used by companies in between data collection and some end profit, behaviors that warrant closer scrutiny. This project is an attempt to take a closer look at all those strategies and try to suggest a few ways that legal scholarship might better grasp the role that data about people plays in our contemporary economy.

Public discourse about digital technology has changed quite a lot. Compared to when I first started researching commercial surveillance and the digital economy around 2016, there is far more recognition of how socially disruptive digital technologies can be, even as they enable all kinds of benefits. On the other hand, there remains a disconnect between developments in the scholarship about digital tech and how digital tech is regulated. Scholars over the past several years have highlighted how inadequate our current legal system is to deal with digital technologies like AI, and the need for new legal rules that share the risk, benefit, disruptions, and wealth of these systems more broadly.

Ed Fox does fantastic work on the taxing strategies of the wealthy. Some of his recent scholarship focuses on one tax strategy among the wealthiest individuals: taking loans out against their capital. This allows them to live off of the wealth of their capital without paying capital gains, and is a topic of increased coverage and focus in conversations of how to better tax the wealth of the very wealthiest. Ed shows that while this behavior does exist, and addressing it would result in increased tax revenue, it only represents a small portion of the overall strategies of the very wealthiest in lowering their tax burden and accumulating untaxed wealth. Ed’s work is such a great example to me of high-quality empirical work aimed at understanding a pressing issue. Work like this can guide and inform priorities for making the tax system fairer, and focus political and legal reform efforts to where they will have the greatest impact.



Multidisciplinary Lab Fights Root Causes of Trafficking

By Sharon Morioka

The Law School's Human Trafficking Clinic had been representing victims of labor and sex trafficking for more than a decade when its director, Bridgette Carr, '02, began to envision a broader mandate for the clinic.

"I really wanted to think about how we could combat trafficking *before* people become clients," Carr says. "How do we think about reducing vulnerability—like homelessness, mental health problems, or a criminal record—because that is what makes people likely to be trafficked."

Around the same time, the clinic received a gift from an anonymous donor that would provide funds to help Carr realize her vision. In fall 2022, the clinic transformed into the Human Trafficking Clinic + Lab. While the clinic, which launched in 2009, continues to focus on direct representation and advocacy, the lab component uses multidisciplinary teams of students to develop solutions to reduce vulnerability to trafficking. Those solutions can occur at the policy, service, or industry level through partnerships with other organizations.

Despite their different goals, the clinic and the lab maintain a connection, says Courtney Petersen, '21, clinical teaching fellow.

"In the lab, we're being regularly informed by the lived experiences of the victim survivors that we're helping in the clinic," she says. "And so we're able to keep a really close conversation between the community that we're trying to serve and the grand-scale work the lab is doing."

A complex problem that requires complex solutions

Human trafficking is the product of complicated social and economic forces, and Carr believed that the lab would be most effective with perspectives from multiple disciplines. As a result, the lab accepts applications from students in any graduate program at the University. To date, 62 law students have collaborated with 50 graduate students from 11 degree programs in the lab.

"In the legal space, you're often limited by a lot of external factors. But when you come into the lab, you're not limited," says Petersen. "All you're asked to do is think of innovative solutions." That kind of thinking, she adds, means law students need to be comfortable being uncomfortable.

Josiah Himmelman, '23, a student in the lab during its first semester, says the process was very different from his other law school experiences.

"In law school, I felt like I had a very neat checklist: 'Here are the tasks. Do this, and you will succeed.' But the lab was like charting your own course, so it was very unsettling for me at the beginning. I had to learn to be at peace with that uncertainty," he says. "But human trafficking is a really complex problem, and it requires complex solutions."

Carr drew upon similar multidisciplinary work she had done with the Law School's Problem Solving Initiative (PSI), a rotating slate of classes that are open to students in other U-M programs and often co-taught with faculty and practitioners from different fields. But unlike the PSI, the work of the lab doesn't end with the semester.

"One thing we try to do is veer away from the boundaries of the semester system," says Petersen. "It's not just pedagogical. The goal is implementation."



Law students in the Human Trafficking Lab work in multidisciplinary teams with other U-M graduate students to find solutions to reduce vulnerability to trafficking.



Social work student Rebecca Wong (left) and fellow students worked with state Sen. Stephanie Chang (right) to develop legislation that would make the expungement process more accessible.



Clinical teaching fellow Courtney Petersen says the goal of the lab is to implement solutions to the problem of human trafficking.

Making expungements accessible

During its first semester, faculty in the lab presented students with the question of how to make expungements of criminal records more accessible. Past criminal convictions often serve as a barrier to opportunities in housing, employment, and education, which can, in turn, increase an individual's vulnerability to trafficking.

While people can apply to have their criminal records expunged under current Michigan law, the process can be daunting for anyone unfamiliar with the law. And if they make a mistake, they need to wait three years before reapplying. Hiring a lawyer to help with the process is an option, but that cost—on top of the fees to file the paperwork—is out of reach for many.

Students in the lab developed a plan for a local employer to offer expungements of criminal records as an employee benefit and pitched the idea for a pilot program to Zingerman's, an Ann Arbor culinary institution.

"We landed on Zingerman's because they do a lot of good work and they are really interested in these types of endeavors," says Himmelman. "We thought it would be mutually beneficial, because it would increase applications and promote more loyalty to the company."

Zingerman's agreed and began offering the benefit in spring 2023. It identifies employees who want the service, and students then work with them to have their criminal records expunged.

"We have had several employees take advantage of this benefit," says Paul Swaney, human resources generalist at Zingerman's. "It's an anonymous tool, and there is no expectation that staff share when they have utilized this benefit. However, I did have a staff member approach me and tell me that she feels like an indescribable weight has been lifted from her shoulders."

He adds: "We will do everything we can to help remove these barriers. We see it strategically as an important staff retention tool, but more importantly, we see it as the right thing to do."

The expungement work continued into the winter 2023 semester. Another team of students developed a package of bills for the state legislature that would help make the expungement process more accessible. If passed, the legislation would limit penalties for mistakes on applications and remove the three-year waiting period. It also would allow for expungement assistance from nonlawyers, such as nonprofits that are already helping people apply for housing assistance and human resources staff at employers like Zingerman's.

Rebecca Wong, who earned her master's in social work from U-M in 2023, was part of that team. At the time, she had an internship with state Sen. Stephanie Chang through her social work program. The team met with Chang to propose the bill they developed, and the legislation is currently pending. Wong emphasizes that the multidisciplinary nature of the team made the bill package possible.

"I don't think that what we did in the lab would have been possible without all of us," she says. "My eyes were really opened to the nuanced ways that different disciplines think about a specific issue and the different skills that they bring."

Having a positive impact

During the 2023–2024 academic year, the lab’s focus changed from expungements to combating forced labor in supply chains.

“We’re being approached now by outside stakeholders and partners related to forced labor,” says Petersen. “We did one major project that was focused completely on international forced labor in international supply chains. And we also had a major project that worked on domestic forced labor in US supply chains.”

Additionally, the Law School’s Business and Human Rights Lab was created recently to work with students in the Human Trafficking Clinic + Lab. Specifically, it will help businesses in understanding, preventing, and remediating any adverse human rights impacts of their operations. It also is developing systemic solutions to reduce vulnerability to trafficking and forced labor.

As the lab continues to work and grow within the Law School and University at large, Carr hopes law students will continue to explore multidisciplinary opportunities while they expand their vision of lawyering.

“I hope it helps them see the *abundance* of ways that their professional identity can have a positive impact,” she says. “I think students see how much they can contribute, how many different ways law and lawyers are affecting society. And I love that.”



Josiah Himmelman (far right) says the process of the lab was very different from his other law school experiences; he had to be comfortable feeling uncomfortable.



Professor Bridgette Carr (far left) envisioned a broader mandate for the Human Trafficking Clinic, one that would combat trafficking before people become clients. Thus, the lab was born.

1L Receives Soros Fellowship for New Americans



The Paul & Daisy Soros Fellowships for New Americans selected 1L Rana Thabata from more than 2,300 applicants for one of 30 fellowships. The merit-based program provides substantial support for immigrants and children of immigrants in their graduate studies.

Thabata is a first-generation Palestinian American. Her interest in education reform stems from her experience as a student in New Orleans's public schools after Hurricane Katrina. Her work before law school included an internship at Orleans Parish School Board when it was becoming the first entirely chartered school district in the nation.

"This has created a lot of inequities for students and failed to solve others," Thabata says of the chartering. Her work "opened my eyes to a multitude of other problems communities like mine face and [has] pushed me to a career at the intersection of education and economic justice."

Thabata graduated from Loyola University New Orleans and received a Harry S. Truman Scholarship. She then earned a master's in education policy through a Fulbright US-UK Award. At Michigan Law, she has participated in the Michigan Access Program, volunteers at expungement clinics in Ann Arbor, and was a student-attorney focused on immigration in the 1L Advocacy Clinic.

"My future law degree is a culmination of my parents' hard work to raise my siblings and me in a country foreign to them," she says. "I will never forget that. This fellowship allows me to honor and celebrate that in community with other immigrants and children of immigrants."

Schaus Honored for Paper on Consortium Claims

The Association of American Law Schools has awarded Steven Schaus, an assistant professor of law, its Section on Jurisprudence 2024 Future Promise Award, "given annually to a pre-tenure-track or early tenure-track scholar whose work reflects future promise in both philosophy and law."

The award is for his paper "Wrongs to Us," published in the *Michigan Law Review*, which suggests an alternative to the traditional understanding of tort claims for loss of consortium. It argues that a consortium claim—a tort claim that one family member can bring when another is injured and the relationship suffers—could be considered as an injury to two people together, rather than simply as a collateral harm to someone who is related to the primary injured party.

"I'm surprised and very honored" by the award, Schaus says. "I'm very grateful to the people on the committee who found this paper interesting and promising enough to recognize it in this way. It's a somewhat niche, speculative project. So it was very rewarding and heartening that it spoke to other people."

Abudaram, '23, Named Skadden Fellow



The Skadden Foundation selected Jacob Abudaram, '23, as a fellow for the 2024–2026 term. Abudaram, the 39th Michigan Law graduate to receive the Skadden Fellowship, will focus on the intersection of climate change and disability rights and justice at the American Civil Liberties Union's Disability Rights Program.

The COVID-19 pandemic revealed and exacerbated the disparities the disability community faces during crises. Abudaram, who holds a master's degree in disability studies, intends to connect with communities who have faced recent emergencies or climate-related disasters to understand their needs better and use impact litigation to create a precedent that ensures disabled people's rights are safeguarded.

"In thinking creatively about what state and local government agencies could do differently, a lot of what we're going to be pushing them to do is not only include disabled people in their planning but let disabled people lead a lot of the planning," says Abudaram. "Climate change is bringing about more frequent and devastating disasters. We need to ensure that the rights of disabled people are protected as government agencies respond."

Abudaram currently serves as a law clerk for the Hon. Mark Recktenwald, chief justice of the Hawai'i Supreme Court.

Civil-Criminal Litigation Clinic Partners with Everytown for Gun Safety

In March, the Law School's Civil-Criminal Litigation Clinic, the law firm Bloch & White LLP, and Everytown Law, the litigation arm of Everytown for Gun Safety, filed a lawsuit in Washtenaw County Court against the seller of a "ghost gun" that seriously injured a Michigan teenager.

The lawsuit, filed on behalf of Guy Boyd, seeks to hold JSD Supply accountable for selling a gun-building kit to a teenager who then accidentally shot Boyd in the face. The lawsuit also seeks to hold the shooter accountable. It alleges that in April 2021, on two separate occasions, JSD Supply sold ghost gun kits to a 17-year-old—who was too young to legally purchase a firearm—without conducting any age verification. Less than one month after receiving his second gun kit from JSD Supply, the teen accidentally shot Boyd in the face, causing severe, lifelong injuries. Boyd also was 17 at the time.

"Not once, but twice, JSD Supply chose to prioritize profits over public safety and common sense by selling ghost gun kits to a teenager," says Len Hong Kamdang, '03, senior director of litigation strategy and trials at Everytown Law.

A ghost gun is a homemade gun that can be purchased with no background check or age verification and assembled in less than 30 minutes. Because ghost guns have no serial numbers, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms can trace less than 1 percent of them to their original purchasers.

"Working with the Boyd family to address this growing threat to our community is an honor," says student-attorney Chris Bohórquez, '24. "Gun violence has affected my generation in an unimaginable way, and I am proud to have a small role in working toward a safer future."

The Civil-Criminal Litigation Clinic team includes Professor David Santacroce, director of the clinic, and student-attorneys Bohórquez and Ashley Munger, '24. She is pictured speaking at the press conference announcing the lawsuit. Pictured at the left are Boyd and his family; at right are attorneys working on the case, including Santacroce, far right; Bohórquez, second from right; and Kamdang, third from right.



Hathaway Elected Fellow of Royal Society of Canada

Emeritus Professor James Hathaway is among the newest fellows of the Royal Society of Canada, that nation's top academic honor.

"Coming on the heels of my retirement from Michigan, my induction as a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada felt very much like a career capstone. It was an unexpected and surprisingly gratifying recognition by the country where I was born and where my academic career began—a signal that my efforts to reform the way we approach refugee protection had been noticed and appreciated," Hathaway says.

The society's announcement describes Hathaway as "the world's leading refugee law scholar. Over the past four decades, his voice has reshaped the way courts, policy makers, and scholars around the world understand refugeehood and the rights of refugees. Hathaway has devoted himself to social justice, in particular to ensuring that human rights inform how judges and policy makers around the world approach refugee protection."

Bennoune Speaks Alongside Malala

Human rights activist and Nobel Peace Prize winner Malala Yousafzai brought new attention to the fight against gender apartheid in Afghanistan with a lecture and panel discussion featuring Michigan Law Professor Karima Bennoune, '94.

Yousafzai delivered the 21st Nelson Mandela Annual Lecture in Johannesburg in December and then led a conversation with Bennoune and three other panelists discussing the situation in Afghanistan. Bennoune, the Lewis M. Simes Professor of Law, has been among the leaders in the movement to classify the Taliban's treatment of women as a form of apartheid that demands international action.

Yousafzai asked Bennoune, the only lawyer on the panel, why it is important to codify gender apartheid in international law. "What has been tried since the Taliban took power isn't working," Bennoune replied. "Gender apartheid emphasizes that discrimination has become the system of government. It clarifies the legal obligation of other states to take effective action."

In April, Bennoune received the American Society of International Law Prominent Woman in International Law award at the group's annual meeting.

In announcing the award, the group said Bennoune's nomination had received wide support, particularly in light of her leadership in the international movement to formally recognize the situation in Afghanistan as gender apartheid. "In promoting women's rights, Professor Bennoune has done substantial fieldwork...to uplift and promote women suffering persecution around the world," the group noted.



Professor Karima Bennoune (right) poses with activists Malala Yousafzai (center) and Metra Mehran in Nelson Mandela's office.



Barr Keynotes Transnational Law Conference

Actions taken in the wake of last year's stress in the banking system have left the sector fundamentally sound, Michael Barr, the Federal Reserve's vice chair for supervision, said at Michigan Law during the Transnational Law Conference in March.

Last year's Silicon Valley Bank collapse and related developments have raised concerns about the health of banking around the globe. But Barr said that government actions responding to the crisis—such as an FDIC resolution protecting uninsured deposits and deciding to accept Treasury securities at face value for emergency borrowing—helped keep it contained.

"It was a highly effective set of interventions," Barr said. "The kind of stress that was potentially spreading through the banking system abated quickly. It created a sense of calm that was helpful. Today we're not seeing the kind of stress that we saw last March. The banking system overall is quite sound and resilient."

Barr spoke as part of the conference, "The International Law of Money," sponsored by Michigan Law's Center for International and Comparative Law. The two-day event featured panel discussions on topics including international trade, sanctions, banking crises, central banking, and the future of monetary system design.

Currently, Barr is on leave from the University of Michigan, where he is the Roy F. and Jean Humphrey Proffitt Professor of Law and the Frank Murphy Collegiate Professor of Public Policy. He also is the former dean of U-M's Ford School of Public Policy.

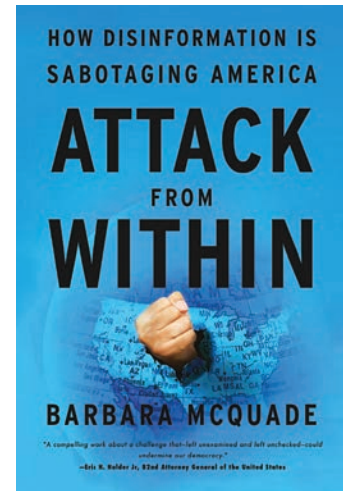
McQuade: Disinformation Is Sabotaging America

Disinformation in the US has become so bad that it threatens our democracy, according to Professor from Practice Barbara McQuade, '91. But she believes we have tools and strategies that have the potential to effectively fight the problem. McQuade explores these in her new book, *Attack from Within: How Disinformation Is Sabotaging America* (Seven Stories Press, 2024).

The book defines disinformation as “the deliberate use of lies to manipulate people, whether to extract profit or to advance a political agenda.” McQuade explains that in our society, people will naturally hold differing opinions—but when they can’t even agree on the basic facts, it’s impossible to engage in the meaningful dialogue that democracy requires.

“At some point the public becomes so cynical and finally numb that they disengage and we lose the power to govern ourselves,” she says. “We allow ourselves to be susceptible to authoritarians who will impose their will because the people are no longer paying attention.”

McQuade, a former US attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan, is well known beyond the Law School for her appearances on NBC, MSNBC, and the *Sisters in Law* podcast.



Fryer Joins Reparations Council



Professor Daniel Fryer, '18, has been appointed to an advisory board developing proposals for providing reparations to Black people in Washtenaw County. He joins another Michigan Law professor serving on the panel, Michael Steinberg, who was appointed last year. Steinberg also served on an earlier exploratory committee that led to the creation of the advisory council.

“I’ve seen what’s going on in various places across the country, and it’s also an issue that I write about,” says Fryer, noting that it was the subject of his doctoral dissertation in philosophy. “I’m constantly looking at not just what scholars are saying about reparations and reparative justice but also at what’s actually happening on the ground.” So when he heard about the Washtenaw County effort, he was quick to volunteer.

“I don’t think there’s a one-size-fits-all model” for reparations, Fryer says. “I think there are broad principles that we could all agree to, but each jurisdiction needs to be aware of the particular problems that their community is facing and work toward making changes based on those problems.”

This academic year, Fryer worked on issues relating to reparations as part of a Laurance S. Rockefeller Fellowship at the Princeton University Center for Human Values.

Arato Chairs ASIL’s Annual Meeting

Professor Julian Arato co-chaired the annual meeting of the American Society of International Law (ASIL), which was held in Washington, DC, in April. As one of three co-chairs, Arato was responsible for overseeing the entire conference—comprising 60 panel discussions and four keynote speeches—which was attended by some 1,200 people.

Arato also had the opportunity to lead one of the keynote events: He conducted a fireside chat with US Trade Representative Katherine Tai to open the conference.

“ASIL is a really important organization, and the University of Michigan Law School is a longtime academic partner institution,” says Arato. At Michigan Law, Arato is director of the Program on Law and the Global Economy and faculty director of the Center for International and Comparative Law.

The Law School also sponsored five students’ attendance at the conference, which Arato says can be a defining experience for a young lawyer with a largely academic background.

“Suddenly you’re with...practicing lawyers in the field from all levels of seniority or scholars in the field. And you’re treated as an equal. It’s an important and enriching experience for students and faculty, but it’s also one with real payoff for the students’ careers.”

Michele Coleman Mayes, '74, Receives Michigan Law's Distinguished Alumni Award

By James Weir



Michele Coleman Mayes, '74, an accomplished lawyer and force for positive change in the legal profession, is the 2024 recipient of Michigan Law's Distinguished Alumni Award, the Law School's highest honor.

"Michele represents the best of Michigan Law—a talented and hard-working lawyer who has made significant contributions to

the profession and been a role model to the scores of young people she has helped over the years," says Kyle Logue, interim dean and the Douglas A. Kahn Collegiate Professor of Law.

Mayes recently retired as vice president, general counsel, and secretary at the New York Public Library. She began her legal career as an assistant US attorney in Detroit and New York before entering the private sector in 1982.

For the next 30 years, Mayes rose steadily through the ranks of corporate America. She served as staff vice president and associate general counsel for worldwide litigation for Unisys and then as head of international legal operations and deputy general counsel at Colgate Palmolive Company.

When she joined Pitney Bowes as general counsel in 2003, she was one of only six women of color in such a role for a *Fortune* 500 company. She then served as general counsel at Allstate Corporation until joining the New York Public Library in 2012.



Committed to inspiring others

Mayes is devoted to mentoring and aiding in the careers of younger lawyers, in particular Black women. "I became invested in being a mentor so that whoever was coming behind me had the ability to see the possibilities and avoid self-sabotaging—and, importantly, to develop grit and a growth mindset," she says. "My overall North Star... is whether I'm inspiring someone else to reach their full potential."

Mayes has taken an active role in improving the legal profession, with a focus on removing barriers to success for women, minorities, and other marginalized people. She chaired the Commission on Women in the Profession at the American Bar Association (ABA), where she commissioned two studies that continue to influence the ABA and the legal field more broadly: "You Can't Change What You Can't See," which examined how unconscious bias affects women and made practical recommendations for organizational improvements, and "This Talk Isn't Cheap," which developed a framework for productive dialogue between white women and women of color about gender, race, and ethnicity in the workplace.

She is a prodigious volunteer whose service includes the board of Legal Momentum, an advocacy group dedicated to advancing the rights of women and girls; the Presidential Commission on Election Administration, which President Obama established in 2013; and as a fellow and a current trustee at the American College of Governance Counsel. She joined the board of the Center for Reproductive Rights in 2020 and begins a term as chair in June.

Mayes also serves on the board of two public companies, Gogo Inc. and Brookfield Reinsurance.

Michigan Law also has benefited from her involvement. She has volunteered for all four Black Alumni Reunions, most recently as co-executive chair of the 2020 and 2023 events. (She is pictured at left during the 2023 Black Alumni Reunion.) In 2019, she delivered the commencement address at Michigan Law's Senior Day.

"We've made a lot of progress in society and the legal profession, but much remains to be done," she says. "You have to protect success—you can't take it for granted. At the same time, you have to lead and embrace change. As Maya Angelou said, 'Do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know better, do better.'"

Symposium Explores Confrontation Clause

By Bob Needham

Twenty years ago, a Michigan Law alumnus, Jeffrey Fisher, '97—largely drawing on the work of Professor Richard Friedman—successfully argued before the US Supreme Court in *Crawford v. Washington* for a new approach to the Constitution's Confrontation Clause.

That decision strengthened the right of criminal defendants to demand that witnesses testifying against them be brought into court for cross-examination—adopting a “testimonial” approach that Friedman had long advocated.

A recent symposium at the Law School—“*Crawford* at 20: The Confrontation Clause”—took stock of the decision and its effects after two decades. Sponsored by the *Michigan Journal of Law Reform*, the event drew experts from around the country—including Fisher and Friedman. Fisher, who is now a professor at Stanford Law School, delivered a keynote address. Here are four takeaways from speakers at the event.

1. *Crawford* didn't settle everything.

The *Crawford* ruling and its follow-up cases left a lot up in the air. Two of the participants in the symposium—Paul Rothstein and Ronald Coleman, both of the Georgetown University Law Center—highlighted a number of outstanding issues.

Michigan Law's David Moran, '91, a clinical professor of law and co-director of the Michigan Innocence Clinic, spoke about another issue: how to think about a dying-declaration exception to the confrontation right. If a dying person purports to identify his assailant but did not view the attack, should the statement be admitted? Moran's cert petition to have the high court rule specifically on the issue was denied. “The issue has never been resolved,” he noted.

2. *Crawford* offers lessons in how to change law.

Fisher said in his keynote address that he did not specifically argue in *Crawford* for the Supreme Court to overrule any past cases. He said the experience suggested two important lessons in changing law through litigation.

First, look for ways to build coalitions and find common ground with those on the other side of the ideological divide. “*Crawford* shows that it can be done... maybe more often than you think,” Fisher said.

Second, work to win the long game. “I think the biggest project on the progressive side right now is to persuade the country and the bar and everybody else that there's a better, truer way to the Constitution.”



Jeffrey Fisher delivers the symposium's keynote address while Professor Richard Friedman looks on.

3. The Confrontation Clause helps us do the right thing.

In one of the afternoon panels, Sherman Clark, the Kirkland & Ellis Professor of Law at U-M, noted that the Confrontation Clause helps force society to face up to its actions—such as accusing someone—which makes it more likely that the action will be ethical.

Borrowing a phrase from *Hamlet*, Clark said, “The Confrontation Clause, in addition to protecting the rights of defendants, is designed to ‘catch the conscience of the king’—and the king is all of us.”

“It's good for us to bear the weight of what we do,” he added, describing it as “ethical weight training” that builds self-knowledge and dignity. “The ignobility of accusing while hiding is part of the intuition that has always been behind the Confrontation Clause.”

4. After *Crawford*, dramatic hearsay reform is possible.

In the 20 years since *Crawford*, Friedman—the Alene and Allan F. Smith Professor of Law—has continued to lead on issues related to the Confrontation Clause. He successfully argued two follow-up cases, *Hammon v. Indiana* and *Briscoe v. Virginia*, before the Supreme Court, and he publishes the Confrontation Blog to keep abreast of the latest developments.

As part of his closing remarks at the symposium, Friedman argued that the *Crawford* decision could lead to a revolution in hearsay law. First, he noted that much of the common-law world has already abandoned traditional rules against hearsay.

In the US, *Crawford* now protects an accused's right to be confronted by an adverse witness, which Friedman said largely eliminates the need for a hearsay prohibition in its current form: “What do we have to do with the hearsay rule? What do we need it for? And I think the answer frankly is, well, not much. Once you've got the confrontation right protected, you can do some dramatic things, and I hope that happens.”



Mary Buikema Leads Michigan Law's Alumni Engagement Efforts

Mary Buikema, who joined the Law School in 2016 as director of major gifts, was appointed assistant dean of development and alumni relations in April. She had been serving in that role on an interim basis since summer 2023.

As the assistant dean, she is responsible for the planning, implementation, and management of all development and alumni relations programs for the Law School.

She recently sat down with *Law Quadrangle* to discuss the value of private support at Michigan Law and the privilege of working together to make an impact in the Law Quad.

What inspires you about the Law School and your work here?

I'm inspired by the stories most of all. Connecting with alumni brings the rich history and promising future of our institution together. Each story shared adds a new layer to our collective identity. In meeting with alums, it's amazing what they take away from their experience at the Law School. They often talk about a professor or class, but sometimes they're affected most by a librarian, faculty assistant, administrator, or someone in

the Lawyers Club cafeteria. You never know what or who people might remember. These stories are vivid reminders of how Michigan Law continues to influence so many lives across different generations and geographies.

Why is fundraising at Michigan Law important?

There are ongoing needs at the Law School, and we continue to rely on annual support from many of our alumni. The cost of providing an exemplary legal education and the programming and services that students expect continues to increase. The need to provide tuition and debt management support to put Michigan in reach for the best students continues to increase. The cost of maintaining our iconic facilities and keeping them aligned with 21st century technology continues to increase.

It's a great privilege to sustain this institution's foundational stability and importance as a premier law school. And our alumni know that it's an honor to preserve Michigan Law's history and legacy while helping create a vision for the future.

**You've been a member of this team since 2016.
How does it feel to lead it now?**

I've never encountered such an interesting, kind, and smart group of people who come together to accomplish amazing things. This is a brilliant place known for the excellent education it provides, but it also brings an array of talent in myriad other ways.

What goals do you have in your new position, and how will you build on the strength of the school's existing relationship with alumni?

My vision is to make Michigan Law accessible for all our alumni. I want to be a good steward, and that entails evaluating where we've been and how we can use our resources efficiently, thoughtfully, and inclusively in the future.

Why is giving important to you?

Giving makes me feel part of something bigger than myself. We can accomplish more together than we can individually, and there's an energy, ownership, and investment to that.

What is it like traveling to meet with alumni, both domestically and abroad?

Working with alumni gives me the chance to see firsthand the incredible impact of their achievements on the world. From leaders in law, business, and public service to innovators and educators, our alumni embody the ethos of our institution and extend its legacy far beyond our campus. Witnessing this impact motivates me every day—it fuels my commitment to ensure Michigan Law supports our alumni as effectively as they have supported it.

Our alumni are enthusiastic about Michigan Law engagement, and the enthusiasm doesn't fade with the miles. Traveling to meet with them breaks down so many barriers. Our alumni are everywhere, and it can be difficult for some to travel back to campus, so engaging them where they are is very meaningful.

MICHIGAN LAW ALUMNI AT A GLANCE

22,995

**Total number of living
Michigan Law alumni**

81

**Number of countries where
Michigan Law alumni live**

16

**Percentage of alumni who
make a gift to Michigan Law**
(averaged over the past three years)

114

**Number of events hosted in 2023
by the Office of Development
and Alumni Relations**
(in the Quad, across the country,
and around the world)

7,223

**Total number of event
attendees in the past year**
(alumni, students, and friends)

Michelle Gluck, '83: \$1.5 Million Gift Opens Doors for Future Leaders

By Annie Hagstrom



For Michelle Gluck, '83, choosing which academic path she would follow was better left in the hands of fate. Torn between medicine and law, she decided to let test results determine her next steps.

"I became interested in the law through learning about environmental issues," says Gluck. "But at the time, I had been pre-med at Michigan for

three years and couldn't decide which to pursue. I chose to take the LSAT in the spring and the MCAT in the fall. I told myself that whichever one I did better on, I'd take it as a sign."

Gluck chose law school. During her 1L year, she lived in the Lawyers Club and solidified a bond with her classmates that remains as strong today as when it first formed. "There was something magical about what we experienced together," she says. "When I attended Reunion last fall, it was a testament to our camaraderie—we had one of the largest turnouts for any 40th Reunion in recent memory."

Gluck gravitated toward corporate law after taking a commercial transactions course and received hands-on litigation experience as an associate for Dykema Gossett LLP in Detroit during her 2L summer.

"I love to negotiate, so I knew I could do that through litigation, but I liked it more in the context of corporate work," she says. "I realized I was drawn to the business side of the law." To satisfy that interest, Gluck has been fortunate to add business responsibilities to her various legal roles.

After graduating from Michigan Law, Gluck spent six years with Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP in Richmond, Virginia, where she practiced mergers and acquisitions, banking, real estate, and general corporate law, which set the foundation for the rest

of her career. "When I think back, it was absolutely the best training I could've gotten to become a general counsel," she says. "I got to see a little bit of everything."

Juggling her career with raising a young daughter, she transitioned to in-house roles. "I loved the law firm, but M&A required extensive travel back then," she says. "It was hard to balance both, so I took a different direction."

After leaving the firm, she was hired by Best Products Co. as its first general counsel. She has held a number of in-house leadership positions throughout her career, including a stint as deputy general counsel at Kmart that brought her back to Michigan before returning to Richmond in 2003 as general counsel of LandAmerica Financial Group. Since 2009, she has served as executive vice president, general counsel, and chief risk officer at the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond.

Gluck has been involved with the Richmond Public Schools on a number of projects and is currently on the board and audit committee chair for Virginia Commonwealth University Business School. Sharing her expertise through mentorship is something Gluck has practiced for years, whether it's through her work or community engagement.

"I gain more than anyone I mentor—hearing their ideas keeps me and my work fresh," she says. "It's rewarding to help somebody be the best they can be and move past whatever is standing in their way."

She also enjoys being philanthropically involved in the lives of future leaders. Access to education has always been important to Gluck, and she wants to ensure others can experience a great education as she did.

Gluck recently established a \$1.5 million scholarship at Michigan Law that will be funded through a charitable remainder trust. "I am where I am today because of the education I received at the University of Michigan," she says, "so I couldn't think of a better institution to support."

Ernest Newborn, '83: Inspired by the Past, Looking to the Future

By Annie Hagstrom



In the mid-1900s, it was almost unheard of for a Black man like Clarence L. Robinson to climb the ranks from mail clerk to chief legal officer. Robinson's success against the odds inspired his grandson, Ernest Newborn, '83, who has spent his career building on that legacy with in-house leadership roles at a number of major American corporations.

"My grandfather was bigger than life for me," Newborn says. "He was the general counsel of a steel company in Youngstown, Ohio, and my original inspiration to become a lawyer."

Newborn had something of an itinerant childhood. His father was a minister and moved to a new congregation every three to five years. Adjusting to new environments and communities was among the few constants in Newborn's early life.

His father joined a congregation in Washington, DC, in the late 1960s during a period of rapid social and political change. It was then that Newborn began to think more seriously about pursuing a legal career.

"I spent the weekends in the basement of a church downtown with Vietnam War protestors and civil rights activists," he says. "That experience taught me how social, political, and economic change, for the better, can happen faster and more meaningfully through the efforts of lawyers and people who understand the political system."

After graduating from Drake University, Newborn matriculated at Michigan Law, and his legal trajectory began to take shape. Like his grandfather, he found himself drawn toward business.

"At Michigan, I was introduced to the corporate side of law," he recalls. "Once I started my career, I found I liked it. My practice shifted from labor and employment law to the value-creating world of corporate securities and mergers and acquisitions, which ultimately defined the rest of my career."

By the late 1990s, Newborn had developed expertise in the insurance industry and became general counsel of Acordia, a public insurance brokerage firm. That role led to a change

in scenery when he was recruited to join a new insurance brokerage and consulting firm called USI Insurance Services.

"The position was in San Francisco, and I always wanted to be in California," he says. "I thought I was going to be at the company for, at most, five years, but I'm still here 25 years later."

USI has undergone significant change over the years. Initially owned by a consortium of insurance companies, the firm was public for five years before going private through a series of private equity-sponsored acquisitions—and Newborn was there through it all.

Despite the demands of his role, he makes a point of staying engaged with issues that are important to him. Newborn is a longtime member of the board of trustees for Strada Education Foundation and has also served as chairman. "I look forward, at some point in time, to hanging up the corporate hat and getting even more involved in activities that create value for our society," he says.

Newborn credits Michigan Law for the opportunities afforded to him and has long been a proponent of paying it forward. He has served as an honorary chair for Michigan Law's Black Alumni Reunion and is a member of the Law School's Distinguished Alumni Award Review Committee.

He recently made a gift of \$125,000 in honor of his 40th Reunion to support today's law students. The gift is in addition to a scholarship fund he previously established with his classmate Broderick Johnson, '83, who also serves as an adjunct professor at the Law School. Newborn's recent gift brings his total giving to more than \$300,000.

"My relationship with the University of Michigan is a lifetime commitment," Newborn says. "The Law School is a special place—an institution and community equipped to prepare our future leaders as they seek to tackle the tough problems we have in our world, as a country, and in our communities."

Nat Pernick, '86: Forging a Path in Computers and Medicine

By Annie Hagstrom



From a young age, Nat Pernick, '86, has had a propensity for mathematics and science. Little did he know this interest would pave the way for his future in computers and medicine, which

was only a distant concept back in law school. Today, he is the founder of PathologyOutlines.com Inc., a digital pathology textbook that provides free technical information for pathologists.

Pernick recently gave \$100,000 to Michigan Law to establish a scholarship fund that will support students interested in the intersection of law and medicine. "I had a lot of people help me; a lot of people gave me advice and

steered me the right way," he says. "I'm grateful and happy to give back to the Law School."

In high school, Pernick was first exposed to computer technology and learned basic coding on a programmable calculator and early computer terminal. He became proficient enough that, during his senior year, he took a job as a computer programmer for Wang Laboratories.

He received his undergraduate degree in mathematics from Wayne State University and then pursued a medical degree at the University of Michigan. In his final year of medical school, Pernick found a niche he enjoyed.

"I took a rotation for two or three months at the National Institutes of Health on computers and medicine," he recalls. "I decided that's what I wanted to do, but there was no real program to enter; no residencies existed yet."

After graduation, in lieu of being matched with a residency, Pernick decided law school was the next step in his academic career. He saw law school as an opportunity to gain extra knowledge that would add value to his career when advances in computers and medicine gained prominence. Not ready to say farewell to the Wolverines, he enrolled at Michigan Law.

Leading into Pernick's first-term exams, he felt compelled to conduct a self-examination on a swollen lymph node he had

previously found during medical school. Originally diagnosed as benign, it was now a golf ball-sized malignant mass. He underwent four months of radiation therapy during the second term of law school, and the tumors disappeared.

"When I graduated from Michigan Law, I was emotional because I didn't think I would be alive to do so," remembers Pernick. "Law school—in a nontraditional way—was a major part of my life."

With relief and hope for what lay ahead, Pernick went on to clerk for Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn LLP in Detroit for the summer before opening a private practice in Bingham Farms, Michigan. In his practice, he specialized in commercial litigation and collections.

In the mid-1990s, Pernick decided the time was right to reenter medicine. He started a four-year pathology residency program through Wayne State University and the Detroit Medical Center while continuing to run his legal practice. He then entered a surgical pathology and research fellowship with Harper University Hospital in 1999.

During his residency and fellowship, Pernick noticed a lack of easily accessible medical information for training and practicing pathologists. "I realized that medicine is hard to do, but getting information should not be hard," he says.

In 2001, Pernick founded PathologyOutlines to bring the latest and most accurate findings in the pathology field to medical practitioners. He balanced running his private legal practice with developing the company for its first eight years; in 2009, he began working solely on the website.

Today, PathologyOutlines has expanded, covering more than 4,500 topics using text, images, and links. The site has more than 300 active authors and an editorial board with more than 60 academics. The website and its resources are free for users, and the costs are covered through paid advertisements.

"I believe if you want medical practitioners to do a good job, you have to make the information readily available," says Pernick. "So, even though our job is often to represent health care providers, which many lawyers do, ultimately, our work should benefit patients."

Bill, '71, and Cindy Rainey: Opening Doors for the Next Generation

By Annie Hagstrom

Bill Rainey, '71, dreamed of being a lawyer as early as junior high. He realized that dream when he became the first person in his family to graduate from college and the first in his high school to attend an Ivy League institution. But he had to believe in himself to get there—no matter the obstacles.

"My father was a blue-collar man, and he said to me, 'You're way too honest to be a lawyer,'" he remembers. Throughout his career, Bill has taken pride in proving that an honest lawyer can be successful.

Born in Flint, Michigan, and raised in small towns in Oregon and Washington, Bill left the Pacific Northwest for Massachusetts to attend Harvard University, where he majored in US government. During his sophomore year, a chance encounter at a dance would become one of the most significant moments of his life: when he met his future wife, Cindy, a biology student at Wellesley College.

Cindy was born and raised in New Jersey and has long had ties to Michigan Law—her father, Cyril Hetsko, graduated from the Law School in 1936. Cindy's mother helped support her father financially while he was attending law school, and Cindy later visited campus numerous times with her family when she was growing up. So when Bill graduated from Harvard and was accepted into Michigan Law, moving to Ann Arbor came with a sense of familiarity.

Bill and Cindy were married just after graduating from college and were placed in married student housing when they arrived in Ann Arbor. Like her mother before her, Cindy stepped up to support Bill while he attended the Law School. Cindy worked in a U-M pharmacology lab that was researching cancer drugs, where she had the opportunity to co-author three scientific papers.

"From what I earned at that job, we had to pay all our living expenses," says Cindy. "We paid out-of-state tuition because, back then, to qualify for in-state tuition, the male head of the house had to work continuously for six months in Michigan. With Bill's studies and the uncertainties of whether or not he'd be drafted, we couldn't do that. And my being employed full time didn't count."

Bill also found time to work outside of attending classes and studying, first as an assistant to a custodian on North Campus and later in the Law Library. "It was a way to contribute to what Cindy was making, which was our main livelihood at that time," says Bill.

Upon graduating from Michigan Law, Bill took the New York State Bar exam before entering the US Army. After he completed his initial active duty commitment, he began his career in a Wall Street law firm. Five years later, the couple moved to Washington State, where Bill worked as a securities lawyer for Weyerhaeuser, a timber company, for 10 years. He went on to serve as vice president and general counsel for six different publicly traded companies until retirement, when they moved to central Oregon. There, they were involved in a variety of nonprofit endeavors, including establishing a scholarship fund for rural high school students in Oregon.



In 2014, Bill and Cindy moved to Tucson, Arizona, where they became active in the local community and developed an interest in astronomy. They have since taken trips to high-altitude observatories in Chile, become eclipse chasers, and established a scholarship with the University of Arizona Department of Astronomy.

They recently established another scholarship, this time with Michigan Law. Their initial gift of \$100,000 will help law students fund their education—something they believe is increasingly important today.

"I could have never gone to college without a scholarship," says Bill. "My parents couldn't afford to pay anything toward my education. Cindy and I could not have accomplished what we have if we were going through it today without financial assistance, so we believe it's incumbent upon us to help the next generation achieve their goals."

Mattie Peterson Compton, '75: Access to Education, a Value Shared Among Generations

By Annie Hagstrom

Mattie Peterson Compton, '75, grew up in a family that strongly believed in the value of education, and she never questioned whether she would attend college—it was expected of her.

“My maternal grandfather helped build South Carolina State University (SCSU),” she says. “When the state announced they would build a college for colored students, he walked down



the railroad track from True Blue Plantation and cut the timber for its first buildings. After the college was built, he attended as a student and eventually became a professor of brick masonry.”

Compton's mother, Mae Cora Stewart Peterson, grew up living on the

SCSU campus with the expectation that she would attend one day and earn her undergraduate degree. After doing so in 1937, she earned her master's of education from the University of Michigan's Rackham School of Graduate Studies in 1940.

While attending graduate school, Peterson lived in what was known as the B House, a University-owned women's residence at 1102 East Ann Street that opened in 1931. While the residence wasn't explicitly for Black women, they were welcome there—which, according to the African American Student Project at U-M's Bentley Historical Library, was generally not the case in the deeply segregated Ann Arbor of the era. Until its closure in 1946, the residence served as the primary social gathering space for the University's Black community and housed more than 300 Black women during its 15 years of operation.

Peterson's roommate in the B House was a woman named Lucia Theodosia Thomas, who was studying at the Law School, and they remained lifelong friends after leaving Ann Arbor. Compton cites Thomas as one of her inspirations for going to law school.

“Knowing there was an African American woman who had attended Michigan Law helped my decision to go there,” she says. “Young people of color should see somebody who looks like them in roles they want to pursue—it helps affirm the idea that they are not in a realm beyond their reach.”

After earning her undergraduate degree from Smith College, Compton enrolled at Michigan Law. After graduation, she became an assistant US attorney for the Northern District of Texas and remained there until 2019, when she retired from her work in the Asset Recovery Unit. Compton felt a strong sense of responsibility to enact justice through her work on both civil and criminal cases, something she carried with her throughout her career.

One year before retiring, Compton became a full-time caretaker for her mother, who died in 2023 at the age of 106. “If you get to be with your parents in a stage of life where they need your help—after they've done so much for you—I don't think there is anything more valuable,” she says.

In retirement, Compton has become active in her local congregation at Broadway Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas, helping to serve on a justice initiative that she now co-chairs. The initiative, ACT, which stands for Acknowledge, Confess, Transform, was prompted by the murder of George Floyd in 2020. Created to address racial injustice and diversify the congregation for a more inclusive future, the ACT Council is dedicated to acknowledging and rectifying the church's past.

“One of our outcomes was to explore the history of the church and to make reparations for the things that had been done,” says Compton. “Others include establishing a standing justice committee at the church, changing our mission statement, and exploring ways in which the education provided could inform members of all ages about racism and white supremacy.”

Compton also is active with her undergraduate alma mater. She serves on Smith College's board of trustees, is a vice chair of the board and vice chair of the governance committee, and served on the presidential search committee that recommended Smith's 12th president. She recently joined Smith's medal committee, which recommends graduates for recognition of work that has had significant societal impact.

Michigan Law has long benefited from Compton's support as well. She has remained an annual donor to the Law School Fund since 1987 and has steadily increased the amount of her giving in the decades since.

“I watched my mother be a financial supporter wherever she was involved,” says Compton. “I also received grants and loans in law school and could not have attended without that financial support. Knowing there are many first-generation students, I want to help in any way I can.”

Recent Gifts

John H. Beisner, '78, made a gift of \$50,000 to the Victors for Michigan Law Scholarship Fund. John is a partner at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP in the firm's mass torts, insurance, and consumer litigation group. He began his career with O'Melveny & Myers LLP, where he practiced mass torts and aggregated litigation and also chaired the firm's class actions group. John resides in the Washington, DC, metropolitan area.



John D. Boyles, '59, made a gift of \$50,000 to the John Duvall Boyles Endowed Scholarship Fund. Before his retirement, John was of counsel with Verspoor Waalkes PC, where he practiced real estate law, corporate law, and estate planning. He also served on the board of directors of

Old Kent Financial Corporation (now Fifth Third Bank) and as chairman of its audit committee. John resides in Grand Rapids, Michigan.



Bruce R. Byrd, '93, and **Jennifer J. Byrd** made a gift of \$100,000 to establish the Bruce and Jennifer Byrd Scholarship Fund. Citing the impact higher education has had on their lives, Bruce

and Jennifer were inspired to make the gift so that future students have access to a life-changing education regardless of their financial circumstances. Bruce, who also holds an undergraduate degree from U-M, is the executive vice president and general counsel at Palo Alto Networks Inc. Jennifer is a writer with a BA from UCLA, a JD from the University of San Francisco, and a master's degree in creative writing from Harvard University. They live in Los Gatos, California.



Robert B. Fiske Jr., '55, made a gift of \$50,000 to the Law School, of which \$45,000 will be directed to the Law School Fund, with the remainder added to the Mark D. West Dean's Discretionary Fund (read more about this fund on page 47). Bob is a senior counsel at Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP in New

York, where he was a partner in the firm's litigation practice for 46 years.



Camille Olson, '83, made a gift of \$50,000 in honor of her 40th Reunion. The gift will be divided between the Theodore J. St. Antoine Collegiate Professorship Fund and the Class of 1983 Dean's Discretionary Fund to Enhance Collegiality. Camille is a partner at Seyfarth Shaw LLP, where

she serves as co-chair of the national complex litigation practice group, national chair of the complex discrimination litigation practice group, and a member of the national labor and employment law steering committee. Camille is also a member of Michigan Law's Development and Alumni Relations Committee and previously served on the Reunion Committee for the Class of 1983. She resides in Chicago.

CLASS NOTES

1958

Martin Pompadur joined Diamond Lake Minerals Inc. as a strategic adviser. The company specializes in digital assets and SEC-registered security tokens. He has worked in media and broadcasting for more than 50 years and has held leadership positions with American Broadcasting Companies Inc., Ziff Davis, and News Corporation, among others.

1966

Ron Olson, name partner of Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP, was recognized by the *Daily Journal* in its 2023 Top 100 Lawyers list. The publication cited his representation of high-profile clients in complex litigation and corporate transactions, including labor and employment litigation on behalf of Activision Blizzard and McDonald's and representing Berkshire Hathaway in its \$11.6 billion acquisition of Alleghany Corp. Olson is a director of Berkshire Hathaway Inc., Western Asset Trusts, Provivi Inc., and several nonprofit organizations, including the California Institute of Technology.

1969

George Elworth received a 2023 National Attorney General Career Staff Award from the National Association of Attorneys General, recognizing his 49 years of public service to the Michigan Department of Attorney General. He currently serves in the State Operations Division and is on the Attorney General's Opinion Review Board. He previously held roles within the military affairs and finance divisions.

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

1971

Jules Crystal, a labor and employment arbitrator and mediator, was inducted into the National Academy of Arbitrators. The not-for-profit honorary and professional organization seeks to advance the field of arbitration while enforcing the highest level of ethical conduct. He has participated in a variety of mediations involving alleged wrongful termination, employment discrimination and sexual harassment, alleged violations of labor and employment agreements, noncompete agreements, whistle-blowing statuses, and the Fair Labor Standards Act.

1974

Alan Hoffman co-authored *Come Fly with Me: The Rise and Fall of Trans World Airlines* (Missouri Historical Society Press, 2023). The book traces the origins of the airline from the 1920s to the 21st century and focuses on the involvement of Charles Lindbergh, Howard Hughes, and Carl Icahn. He is a historian and the author of a 2019 self-published book, *Up There with the Biggest: The Story of Ozark Airlines*.



Bruce Frederick Howell received a 2023 Distinguished Service Award from the Texas State Bar Health Law Section. He counsels clients on a broad range of health law issues,

including reimbursement, fraud and abuse, managed care issues, physician practice management issues, and the Affordable Care Act. Previously, he served as a health care industry group leader and shareholder at Schwabe, Williamson & Wyatt PC. He is a co-founder of the Dallas Bar Association's Health Law Section and a distinguished professor from practice at Willamette University College of Law.

Larry Thompson received the 2023 Distinguished Alumni Award from Michigan State University. He is a former US deputy attorney general, US attorney for the Northern District of Georgia, and general counsel and executive vice president of PepsiCo Inc. Upon his retirement from PepsiCo, the company created the Larry Thompson Fellowship Program to honor his life's commitment to adding diversity to the legal profession.

1975



Connye Y. Harper was appointed to the advisory board of directors for the College of Southern Nevada School of Business Administration. She began her career as

a litigator as associate general counsel for International Union in Detroit. Today, her practice, Harper Strategies, focuses on implementing diversity, equity, and inclusion programs for organizations, management and staff training, policy development, and nonprofit management. She also has served on the boards of the Southern Nevada Society for Human Resource Management, 50/50 Women on Boards Inc., the Nevada Equal Rights Commission, and the ACLU of Nevada.

1978

William "Bill" R. Bay is president-elect of the American Bar Association (ABA). He will assume the position in August. He is a partner with the St. Louis office of Thompson Coburn LLP and is a longtime leader in the ABA, having served as chair or co-chair of several committees and as a fellow in the American Bar Foundation. He also is a past president of the Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis and a Missouri Bar Board of Governors member.

1979

Monica Hargrove, a veteran aviation attorney, was reelected secretary to the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority. She previously served as general counsel for the North America region at Airports Council International and associate general counsel at US Airways. Before her work in the private sector, she was a trial attorney in the Antitrust Division of the US Department of Justice.

1980

Adele Rapport Seymour was added to the A. Felch Pendill Wall of Excellence at Marquette (Michigan) Senior High School, her alma mater. Honorees must distinguish themselves in a chosen profession, be involved in public or community service, and demonstrate philanthropy. She is the regional director for the US Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights in Chicago and previously was the regional attorney for the US Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's Detroit District office.

1981

Robin L. Harrison, a partner at Hicks Thomas LLP in Houston, was named one of *Lawdragon's* 500 Leading Lawyers in America for 2024. He has represented plaintiffs and defendants in trials and arbitrations in America and Europe for more than 35 years and is a member of the Texas Association of Civil Trial and Appellate Specialists, the American Board of Trial Advocates, the American Bar Association, and the Texas Bar Association. He served as a director of the litigation section of the Houston Bar Association from 1997 to 2001 and the Houston Trial Lawyers Association from 2002 to 2004; he remains a member of both organizations.

Howard Kramer joined SEDA Experts LLC, a financial witness firm, as a senior adviser. Kramer, who is retired from practice, was a financial regulatory attorney for more than 40 years. He has experience in securities and derivative products and markets, equity, options and debt market trading, broker-dealer compliance, US financial regulatory structure, and US securities law and regulations. He spent 14 years with the US Securities and Exchange Commission and later worked in private practice as a partner at Schiff Hardin LLP, Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP, and Murphy & McGonigle PC.

1982

Clarence Armbrister was elected chair of Devereux Advanced Behavioral Health's National Board of Trustees, of which he has been a member since 2013. He was president of Johnson C. Smith University from 2018 until his retirement in 2023, and he previously served in leadership positions at Temple University, Johns Hopkins University, and Girard College. Before that, he held various roles in the Philadelphia city government and was a partner at Saul Ewing Remick & Saul.



Ross Crown joined Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck as of counsel in the firm's Albuquerque, New Mexico, office.

His focus is on government contracts and commercial litigation at the federal, state, and local levels in New Mexico, Colorado, and the broader Western region. Before joining Brownstein, Crown was a government contracts lawyer at Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie.

Stuart Streichler authored *Presidential Accountability in Wartime: President Bush, the Treatment of Detainees, and the Laws of War* (University of Michigan Press, 2023). He has taught constitutional law and human rights at the University of Washington and as a Fulbright scholar at Tohoku University in Japan. He also is the author of *Justice Curtis in the Civil War Era: At the Crossroads of American Constitutionalism* (University of Virginia Press, 2005).

1983

W. Gregory Voss, associate professor at Toulouse Business School, was cited in two foreign courts recently. His co-authored work *The Right to Be Forgotten in the European Union: Enforcement in the Court of Justice and Amendment to the Proposed General Data Protection Regulation* (Aspen Publishers Inc., 2015) was discussed in the High Court of the Indian State of Kerala judgment in *K.G. Vysakh vs. Union of India* and connected cases. His co-authored work on EU general data protection regulation sanctions was cited in a Court of Justice of the European Union opinion in a case related to the Lithuanian National Public Health Center.

1984



Kurtis T. Wilder was honored during a special session of the Michigan Supreme Court in November 2023. The special session, which was hosted by the Michigan

Supreme Court Historical Society and featured Wilder's portrait dedication, recognized Wilder for his service as a justice on the Michigan Supreme Court and for the 25 years he served as a judge on the Michigan Court of Appeals and the Washtenaw County Trial Court. He is an attorney and shareholder at Butzel Long in Detroit and currently is serving a one-year term as chair of the Michigan Chamber of Commerce.





From BLSA to Business Partners

By Annie Hagstrom

At Michigan Law, it's natural to find friendships that last a lifetime. Just ask Kya Henley, '16, and Calyssa Zellars, '17, who met as members of the Black Law Students Association (BLSA) and have remained close ever since.

Henley and Zellars recently added a business partnership to the list of things keeping them connected. Saint Park LLP, their new boutique law firm with offices in Detroit and Washington, DC, emerged after a conversation during last year's Black Alumni Reunion. Together, the Michigan Law alumnae combine their expertise in investigations, litigation, crisis management, and other areas to provide strategic counsel and other services to a range of business and corporate clients.

Two roads to Michigan Law

Henley got her introduction to the legal field as a 16-year-old intern for the US Department of State and went on to earn her undergraduate degree in government and politics at the University of Maryland, where she was the captain of the mock trial team. That experience, she says, changed everything for her.

"All of my teammates were about to enter law school, and my professors and coaches were lawyers," Henley says. "Being on the team made me feel like I would waste a life skill if I did not pursue law school myself—as if I was getting a push from the universe."

Zellars, who arrived at Michigan Law two years after Henley, earned her public policy degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Although she worked for a few years before entering law school—including as a member of the public relations team for the Detroit Lions—becoming a lawyer was something she had contemplated from an early age.

"I was raised visiting Hilton Head and East St. Louis, and in those two places, I saw a lot of inequality," Zellars recalls. "I would see the disenfranchisement of people in East St. Louis, and then I would see rapid development all around my family in Hilton Head. I thought if I could be a lawyer, maybe I could help."

The two met during Henley's 3L year when she was assigned to mentor Zellars as part of BLSA's community support network. They became fast friends.

"BLSA felt like a lifeline as a student," says Henley. "The mutual support we had for each other made all the difference."

After graduating from Michigan Law, Henley became a public defender and lead trial attorney in the Public Defender's Office of Maryland. "I got phenomenal trial skills there," she says. "I did dozens of trials in a very short time and leveraged that into Big Law."

"Founding Saint Park is a true Michigan Law story. We are flourishing right now because of the support from the Michigan Law community, which is multigenerational."

— KYA HENLEY, '16

Henley joined Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP in Washington, DC, and specialized in white-collar work as a government enforcement and investigations associate. After three years, she moved to New York City to join Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft LLP as a global litigation senior associate.

Zellars's early career was similarly exploratory. Her first job out of law school was as an associate at Honigman LLP, but she soon realized that Big Law wasn't for her. She left Honigman to become campaign manager for Color of Change, an online racial justice organization. She went on to serve as chief counsel for impact litigation at the Decarceration Collective, where she

practiced in federal courts throughout Florida, Texas, and Chicago. She later joined BerlinRosen, a communications and PR agency, where she specialized in legal affairs and crisis communications.

Back in the Quad, a new venture takes shape

Henley and Zellers both returned to Ann Arbor in March 2023 to attend the Law School's Black Alumni Reunion and the annual Alden J. "Butch" Carpenter Memorial Scholarship Gala. They spent the weekend talking about their careers, what they dreamed of doing, and the ideal way they each wanted to practice law. These conversations led to more concrete discussions about going into business together.

"We realized we both had an entrepreneurial itch," says Henley. "We were very serious about it; we set meetings, had homework, and assigned tasks to complete. After about four meetings, we began considering the next steps."

What emerged was Saint Park, a name inspired by the areas that led both Henley and Zellers to pursue legal careers.

"The 'Saint' in 'Saint Park' comes from East St. Louis, where my mother is from," says Zellers. "'Park' is because Kya's mother is from Park Heights, Baltimore. It reflects our maternal lineages and paths and that our firm reaches the Midwest and East Coast."

Henley and Zellers opened the firm in August 2023 and are eager to continue growing their client base. They say their connection to Michigan Law has been an integral part of the story.



Opposite page: Kya Henley, '16, and Calyssa Zellers, '17. Above: Henley (right) returned to Ann Arbor for Zellers's graduation in 2017. Below: Henley and Zellers visited Detroit with other BLSA members in 2016.

"Founding Saint Park is a true Michigan Law story," says Henley. "We are flourishing right now because of the support from the Michigan Law community, which is multigenerational. Our first client came through a Michigan Law channel, and the people checking on us and spreading the good gospel about what we do are Michigan Law folks."



CLASS NOTES

1985

Andreas Fabritius, LL.M., joined ADS-TEC Energy's board of directors. For more than 30 years, he has served as a partner at Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, based in Frankfurt, Germany, where he specializes in public and private mergers and acquisitions and general corporate law. His clients include German and international companies, banks, financial investors, and government agencies. He also serves as British honorary consul in Frankfurt.

Stanley P. Jaskiewicz recently published "When the Patient Becomes the Caregiver, Redux: Lives Filled with Grace" in *Voice of Experience*. The monthly newsletter is part of the American Bar Association's Senior Law Division. He is a member of the Philadelphia-based law firm Spector Gadon Rosen Vinci PC.

Reed Rubinstein has been appointed senior vice president of America First Legal. He joined the organization in 2021 as senior counselor and director of oversight and investigations after spending more than 30 years in private practice representing manufacturing and retail corporations, financial institutions, and trade associations. He also has served as deputy associate attorney general at the US Department of Education and senior adviser to the US secretary of the treasury.

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1986



Ronald S. Betman joined Benesch, Friedlander, Coplan & Aronoff LLP as a partner in the firm's Chicago-based litigation group. He focuses his practice on complex

litigation and class action matters, and he has extensive experience in securities, commodities, class action and derivative litigation, antitrust, fraud, the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act, bankruptcy, and commercial litigation. He also has experience handling regulatory investigations from federal agencies and state attorneys general.

John B. Thomas, a co-founder of the Houston-based boutique law firm Hicks Thomas LLP, was named one of *Lawdragon's* 500 Leading Lawyers in America for 2024. His practice focuses on complex commercial litigation related to oil and gas, securities, environmental matters, banking, transportation, intellectual property, and health care.

1987

Suzanne Hard was named the associate dean of professional development and career strategies at the George Washington University Law School. Previously, she was the director of the Center for Career Development at the University of Connecticut School of Law, director of education and section programming with the Connecticut Bar Association, and an associate professor of legal studies at Post University.

1988

Janet Welch, founder and owner of Impetus Law Consulting, was appointed to the Michigan Appellate Defender Commission by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer. Previously, she was the general counsel for the Michigan Supreme Court and served as the executive director of the State Bar of Michigan for 15 years. She currently serves as a co-chair on the Regulatory and Practice Reform Committee for the Michigan Justice for All Commission, as a delegate of the American Bar Association House of Delegates, and as a board member for the Michigan Supreme Court Historical Society.

1989

Lisa Batey retired in 2022 after a career working on immigration issues for the federal government. Following her retirement, she ran for and won the mayoral race in Milwaukie, Oregon, a Portland suburb. She previously served the Milwaukie community as a planning commissioner and city councilor for nearly 18 years.



Steven J. Cernak will become chair of the American Bar Association Antitrust Law Section in August. He has been an intermittent lecturer at Michigan Law since 2009 and

has taught a number of classes on antitrust and in-house practice. He is a partner in the Detroit office of Bona Law PC.

Robert D. Gordon joined New York firm Herrick Feinstein LLP as a partner in the restructuring and finance litigation department. He has more than three decades of experience as lead counsel advising companies, creditors, and directors in complex corporate and public sector restructurings. He has worked with retirement systems and pension funds and most recently acted as lead counsel to a committee of independent directors in the Chapter 11 bankruptcy of global satellite communications provider Intelsat SA.

Anne Kiley was appointed to serve as a judge in the Los Angeles County Superior Court by California Gov. Gavin Newsom. She has been a partner at Elkins Kalt Weintraub Reuben & Gartside LLP since 2016. She began her career as an associate at O'Melveny & Myers LLP and later joined Trope and Trope LLP.

Victor King, who has served on the California Law Revision Commission since 2011, was reappointed by Gov. Gavin Newsom. He is the legal counsel and information privacy officer for California State University, Los Angeles. Previously, he was a partner at Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard and Smith LLP.



Kate St. Vincent Vogl co-authored two books that were recently published. *Lady Ref: Making Calls in a Man's World* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2023) tells the story of the

National Football League's first female official. The second book, *Iron Horse Cowgirls* (McFarland, 2023), explores the events that led to the founding of the Women's International Motorcycle Association. She is a longtime writer and teacher who most recently served as a creative writing instructor at the Loft Literary Center in Minneapolis.

1990

Kenneth M. Dintzer, a 30-year US Department of Justice veteran, is the lead counsel on *United States v. Google LLC*. The trial is ongoing in the US District Court for the District of Columbia. He is a senior trial counsel at the US Department of Justice Washington DC-Baltimore Area Antitrust Division and was assigned to the *Google* case during the Trump administration.



Peter Jaffe joined Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) in Washington, DC, as vice president, general counsel, and corporate secretary. He joins MCC

from Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP, where he provided legal advice and strategic guidance on complex international matters and served as deputy chair of the firm's anti-corruption practice group. He began his career at the US Department of Justice, where he served as a trial attorney, special assistant US attorney, and counsel to the US Senate Judiciary Committee.



Randall E. Kay was recognized by *The Legal 500* as a member of its hall of fame for work in the area of intellectual property and trade secrets for litigation and noncontentious matters. He practices intellectual property litigation as a partner with Jones Day, where he leads the firm's global trade secret practice. He is based in San Diego.

Melodie Rose was appointed president of Fredrikson & Byron in Minneapolis, the first woman to serve in the role in the firm's 75-year history. She is the co-chair of the public companies and capital markets group and the corporate governance group. She also has served on the firm's board of directors and elected compensation committee, as president of the executive committee, and as chair of the business division.



James Rowader was appointed executive director of the Cannabis Expungement Board by Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz. The board reviews eligible felony and

misdemeanor-level convictions related to cannabis and determines eligibility

for expungement or resentencing. He is the director of people and culture for the American Civil Liberties Union of Minnesota and previously served as the city attorney for the City of Minneapolis. Before public service, Rowader worked with Target Corporation as vice president and general counsel for employee and labor relations.



Carolin Chenoweth Shining was appointed as a trustee to the Los Angeles County Bar Association's board of trustees for the 2023–2024 term. She is a principal

in Shining Law Firm and specializes in complex civil litigation, including consumer class actions and multiparty litigation with a focus on representation of plaintiffs. She has served on the board of governors for the Consumers Attorneys of California since 2022.



Ronald E. Wheeler was promoted to associate dean of law libraries at Boston University's Fineman & Pappas Law Libraries. He joined the faculty of the Boston

University School of Law in 2016 as director of the law libraries and associate professor of law and legal research. In his 22-year career as an academic law librarian, he has taught and mentored law students and aspiring law librarians at law schools throughout the US, in Shanghai, and through study abroad programs in Germany and Brazil. He served as the first Black male president of the American Association of Law Libraries from 2016 to 2017. He lives in Providence, Rhode Island.



CLASS NOTES

1991

Joseph Kowalsky, senior financial consultant at Upstream Investment Partners LLC, founded Organs for Life, a charitable organization dedicated to making organ transplants safer, less costly, and more widely available. The organization is an expansion of the Organ CryoPreservation Prize, which Kowalsky founded in 2013.

Lauren Krasnow is the founder of Lauren Krasnow LLC and serves as an executive coach, consultant, and speaker to senior leaders and members of global law firms. She also writes “The Fully Human Lawyer” for the *American Lawyer* and *Law.com*, a column that shares real, anonymized stories about the legal profession. She holds a leadership position in the International Coaching Federation, the world’s largest professional coaching organization, and lives in West Hartford, Connecticut.

Peter Manning has been promoted to deputy attorney general of the Michigan Department of Attorney General, which he joined in 1994. Manning has worked in the department’s Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture division for most of his career, including as a division chief for 17 years. Previously, he was bureau chief of the Environment and Government Operations Bureau. Manning also has served as the attorney general’s representative on the Great Lakes Commission and as the department’s emergency management coordinator for nearly two decades.

1992

Michelle Thurber Czapski was recognized by *Michigan Lawyers Weekly* as a leader in business litigation on its Michigan’s Go To Lawyers Power List. Czapski is a member at Bodman PLC, where she chairs the insurance practice group and co-chairs the litigation and alternative dispute resolution practice group. She has represented major corporate clients in litigation and alternative dispute resolution proceedings for more than three decades.

Gregory Gulia has joined the international law firm Womble Bond Dickinson as a partner in the trademarks, copyrights, and transactions practice group. Gulia is an intellectual property litigator and practitioner who has counseled major media companies, retailers, consumer product companies, entertainers, and luxury goods brands.

1993

Brad Keywell was appointed to the board of directors of the sports and entertainment company TKO Group Holdings Inc. Keywell has co-founded and led several companies, including Groupon, Echo Global Logistics, Lightbank, and MediaOcean. He is the founder and executive chairman of UpTake Technologies Inc., an artificial intelligence software company, and the founder of SkillHero, a workforce technology company.



Melissa Malkin-Weber is a founding co-director of the North Carolina Clean Energy Fund, an independent nonprofit financial institution focused

on accelerating decarbonization, particularly for underserved sectors and low-wealth communities. The fund is part of the capital deployment network under the federal Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, which was created as part of the Inflation Reduction Act. Malkin-Weber has experience working as an environmental scientist at RTI International, where she led the company’s Hazardous Materials Committee. She also has worked as the research director of Advanced Energy Corp. and sustainability director at Self-Help Credit Union.

1994



Dominic Cianciolo is the story and voiceover director for NetherRealm Studios. He wrote and developed the performances for *Mortal Kombat 1*, the 2023 reboot

and 12th installment of the video game series. Cianciolo joined the studio’s creative team in 2007. In his current role, he has directed a number of notable actors and performers, including J.K. Simmons, Sylvester Stallone, Keith David, and John Cena.

Noelle Cooper was elected shareholder of Lane Powell PC. She is based in the firm’s Seattle office, and her practice focuses on acquisition and financing transactions and general corporate matters for health care clients. Cooper represents buyers and sellers of senior housing facilities in complex transactions, including mergers and acquisitions, loan financing, joint ventures, sale-leasebacks, general corporate and securities law issues, and health care regulatory compliance.

Jeffrey Gerish was elected to a three-year term as the president and CEO of Plunkett Cooney, one of the oldest and largest law firms in the Midwest. Gerish works in the firm’s headquarters in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. His expertise is in insurance coverage, commercial and employment liability, and medical malpractice cases. Gerish has participated in appellate cases that have resulted in more than 100 published opinions in Michigan and Indiana.

Kyle R. Hauberg has been appointed to the executive board for a three-year term at Dykema Gossett LLP. Hauberg is a real estate lawyer whose practice focuses on development transactions, property acquisitions and sales, leases, financing projects, partnerships, and joint ventures related to real estate. He advises private equity companies on real estate and environmental issues and represents a wide range of industries. Hauberg was formerly the director of the firm’s real estate and environmental department for 10 years.

Bentina Terry was named president and CEO of Southern Communications, a Southern Company subsidiary. In the role, Terry leads Southern Linc and Southern Telecom Inc., which provide LTE wireless and dark-fiber networks and services to electric utilities as well as a variety of businesses and public sector agencies. Terry previously was senior vice president of customer strategy and solutions at Georgia Power, also a Southern Company subsidiary.

1995

Marc A. Howze, senior adviser to the office of the chairman at Deere & Company, has been elected to Lincoln Electric's board of directors. In this role, he serves as a member of the compensation and executive development committee and the finance committee. At Deere & Company, Howze counsels the CEO and other leaders on strategic and operational matters and supports external advocacy efforts for the organization.

Maureen Moran recently became the collection strategy and research librarian for the D'Angelo Law Library at the University of Chicago. She previously spent two years as the collection development librarian for the E.B. Williams Library at Georgetown University Law Center. Moran worked as a practicing attorney for more than 10 years after graduating from Michigan Law. She began her career as a research librarian at university law libraries in 2010.

Todd Wade joined Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP as a partner in the firm's Atlanta office, where he works with the firm's mergers and acquisitions team. Wade has advised domestic and international clients on corporate transactions, with a focus on mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures, strategic alliances, and financing, for more than 25 years.

1996

Christopher Cahill joined Dykema Gossett LLP as senior counsel in the firm's corporate and finance practice group. Cahill joins Dykema from Aegis Law and previously was a partner with L&G Law Group LLP for more than a decade. Cahill led the bankruptcy groups at his two previous firms and represented principal lenders, creditor manufacturers, and commodity suppliers.

James Caserio joined Jones Day as a partner and member of the firm's real estate practice in its Chicago office. He advises clients on complex commercial real estate transactions, real estate finance, joint ventures, development projects, and loan restructurings. Caserio represents institutional investors, public and private real estate companies, real estate investment trusts, developers, retailers, hedge funds, and other investment funds and financial institutions.



Todd A. Schoenhaus, a personal injury attorney, has been promoted to shareholder at the Philadelphia law firm Eisenberg, Rothweiler, Winkler,

Eisenberg & Jeck PC. His practice concentrates on product liability, premises liability, construction accidents, and industrial machinery defects. Schoenhaus also has experience litigating cases involving vehicle accidents, professional malpractice, nursing home negligence, and civil rights.

1998

Adam Epstein was appointed co-chief executive officer and president of adMarketplace, an online search advertising company. Epstein joined the company in 2003 as a part-time general counsel and was appointed chief operating officer and president in 2006.

1999

Russell Abrutyn was recognized by the American Immigration Lawyers Association with the Edith Lowenstein Memorial Award for excellence in advancing the practice of immigration law. He currently serves as the chair of the Michigan chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers Association. He began his career as an attorney with Marshal E. Hyman & Associates PC before founding his firm, Abrutyn Law PLLC, in 2016.

Jeffrey C. Gifford was selected to serve a three-year term on the executive board at Dykema Gossett LLP. Gifford, who has been with the firm since 2004 and is based in San Antonio, works with clients in negotiating and closing complex public and private transactions. Gifford previously led Dykema's corporate and finance practice group.

David Guenther published his first book, *The Art Dealer's Apprentice: Behind the Scenes of the New York Art World* (Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2024). The book is a nonfiction account of the New York art business and was inspired by his time as gallery director for art dealer Carla Panicali. He is a clinical professor of law and director of the International Transactions Clinic at Michigan Law.



Damali Sahu was recognized by *Crain's Detroit Business* as a 2023 Notable Leader in diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). Sahu is an attorney at

Bodman PLC and represents financial institutions in general commercial loan and real estate transactions. She has been co-chair of the firm's DEI committee for more than a decade. Sahu also serves as chair of the board of directors for Gleaners Community Food Bank of Southeastern Michigan, vice president and treasurer of the board of directors for the New Paradigm College Prep School, and on the board of directors for the Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion.



Persevering, Together

By Sharon Morioka

Anyone who met Brian Davis and Katy McNeil in 2021 would have assumed they led a charmed life. Both had graduated from Michigan Law in 2014 and were climbing their respective career ladders: He was associate general counsel at Lincoln International in Chicago; she was an associate at Mayer Brown. Their daughter Ada was 1 year old, and they were looking for a new home in the suburbs.

But behind the scenes, Davis was beginning to experience unsettling health problems.

"I started having issues with my speech late in 2021," he says. "No one could hear it, though." But as the weeks passed, the problem became more pronounced.

"His speech sounded a little blurred," says McNeil. "I think I noticed the shortness of breath more, like he had trouble getting out what he needed to say."

By spring 2022, Davis started visiting doctors to determine the cause of the problem. And in October, after months of testing, he was diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), a terminal neurodegenerative disease.

"We did everything we could do at that point to see what our options were to stop it," says McNeil. "But we quickly learned that stopping it was not possible."



Above: Brian Davis and Katy McNeil married two years after graduating from Michigan Law. Opposite page above: They have two daughters, with whom they are as open as possible about Davis's illness. Opposite page below: Diehard U-M football fans, they cheered on the Wolverines at this year's Rose Bowl.

Diagnosing the problem

The diagnosis came a decade after Davis and McNeil met as summer starters in 2012—standing in line to get their student IDs before orientation at the Law School. While they were in the same section for classes and the same study group, they didn't start dating until the summer between their 1L and 2L years. Both were in Chicago for callback interviews for their 2L summer and decided to meet for dinner.

"I had dinner with a firm right before that," says Davis, who now uses a text-to-speech app on his iPad for clear communication. "So it was my second dinner that night." Things went so well that by their third year of law school, they moved in together and adopted two puppies. After graduation, they headed to Chicago, married in 2016, and started their careers and their family.

Then came the speech problems.

When Davis first started visiting doctors in early 2022, he didn't know what a long road it would be. ALS is very difficult to diagnose because there is no single diagnostic test; it's more a process of elimination.

His first neurologist conducted a virtual appointment without a physical exam and told Davis it was just a case of anxiety. While they were still puzzled by Davis's symptoms, the couple was relieved to learn that the diagnosis was not ALS.

"We said, 'We don't know what it is right now, but we'll figure it out. We can continue on with life,'" says McNeil. "I was going up for partner, and Brian had started his new job at Lincoln, and we got pregnant with Penny, our second daughter. A lot of life happened."

But Davis continued to have symptoms over the summer of 2022—at one point worrying enough to visit the emergency room, where the neurologist referred him to the ALS clinic. But before he could go, the neurologist who had ruled out ALS blocked his visit to the clinic. More tests ensued until yet another neurologist finally gave a diagnosis of ALS.

"It was a shock," says Davis. "I was chastised for bringing up ALS with the original neurologist and told I was wasting their resources with my appointments."

Finding support

The reality of the diagnosis upended their entire world.

McNeil continued with her partner interview, which was only one week after the diagnosis. "I remember totally dissociating, like, 'I have to be a different person for the next 45 minutes.'" Meanwhile, Davis decided to quit his job, which involved so much verbal communication that it would have been very difficult to continue.

"I also wanted to save my energy for being with my family, and cooking them dinner, and playing with my kids," he says. While

their 1-year-old is too young to understand what is happening, they have been as open as possible with 4-year-old Ada.

“She knows her dad is sick. She knows his illness is terminal,” says McNeil. “But she is, as all kids are, an optimist. We told her last week that Brian had to go to the hospital for a procedure, and she said, ‘So he won’t be sick anymore.’ I love that she’s an optimist, but it’s obviously really challenging because we have to revisit a lot of conversations.”

Since the diagnosis, the disease has continued to progress, including reaching Davis’s limbs. He started 2023 with a New Year’s trip to Disney World and clocked 20,000 steps in one day. But by April—the month their second daughter was born—he started using a walker. A few months later, he was starting to use an electric wheelchair, which he now uses full time. By late 2023, ALS had significantly weakened the muscles he uses to speak.

Despite the disease’s progression, the couple is finding strength in their support network, including his mother, Eva, who lives with the couple and helps care for her son.

They also have a great resource in the Les Turner Foundation, which helps them manage Davis’s illness and provides support for navigating complex medical and insurance paperwork, enrolling him in a clinical trial, and other services. The foundation also provides a social worker who the couple says anticipates their needs before they realize they have them—whether it’s emotional support or tracking down a lift that helps Davis in and out of the house.

“Les Turner does a lot of education, too, like webinars and support groups,” says McNeil. “So much of what we’re dealing with, we’re not the first people to deal with it. And just talking to other people has been such a huge lifesaver.”

She adds that friends from law school also have been there for the couple.



“We have a really strong Michigan Law community that’s been absolutely fantastic,” says McNeil. Those who live nearby have done everything from making meals to designing a playroom for their daughters to throwing a third birthday party for Ada when McNeil was 38 weeks pregnant. One even arranged for the couple to travel to Los Angeles along with other Michigan Law friends to see Taylor Swift at SoFi Stadium. They returned to Southern California a few months later to watch the Wolverines beat Alabama at the Rose Bowl.

Experiences like that allow the couple to continue to find joy in a life that now revolves around ALS. They also hold out hope that ongoing research will eventually make ALS a chronic, rather than terminal, disease.

“We want to do whatever we can do to push that process forward,” says McNeil. “That means education and teaching people about this disease. So we’ve made it our mission to talk about it and to educate people about what we’re going through.”

When asked where he finds joy and inspiration despite his disease, Davis’s reply is simple: Katy.

“ALS has taken away my ability to do pretty much everything,” he says. “I really miss reading to my daughters or having a normal conversation. In terms of inspiration, it’s really Katy; she never complains. She’s basically a single parent, Big Law partner, and caretaker for pretty much the most demanding disease. If she can keep going, I can, too.”



CLASS NOTES

2000

Dora June has joined Bodman PLC's real estate practice group in the firm's office in Troy, Michigan. June represents commercial landlords and tenants in retail and office leasing matters and the analysis, structuring, and negotiation of complex real estate transactions. She has extensive experience as a leasing attorney for significant real estate management and boutique firms.



Alexandra MacKay was recently honored by *World Trademark Review* for her work with the Stites & Harbison PLLC trademark practice group. MacKay is

based in the firm's Nashville, Tennessee, office and counsels clients in litigation and transactional matters involving intellectual property, including the selection, adoption, and registration of trademarks and copyrights.

Russell McGlothlin was appointed partner at O'Melveny & Myers LLP in the firm's Santa Barbara, California, office. He counsels clients on water rights issues, including disputes and litigation, regulation, and high-stakes transactional work. McGlothlin helped draft the landmark Sustainable Groundwater Management Act and is a frequent speaker and author on issues related to water rights.

Kim Pagotto joined Dentons' real estate practice as a partner in the firm's Washington, DC, office. She has extensive experience in commercial real estate and government leasing. Pagotto represents clients nationwide in responding to expressions of interest, requests for proposals, lease negotiations and administration, audit responses, compliance, acquisitions, dispositions, and financing related to government properties.

Elizabeth Rogers, a partner at Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP, was included in *Michigan Lawyers Weekly's* Michigan's Go To Lawyers Power List in the commercial real estate category. Rogers's practice involves complex transactions for national and international companies and closely held businesses. Her background is in real estate business and civil litigation matters, and she also has advised municipalities on legal strategy and risk mitigation.

2001



Timothy J. Lane, a staff attorney, legislative liaison, and policy analyst at the Colorado District Attorney's Council, was appointed to the Gilpin County

Court in the First Judicial District by Gov. Jared Polis. Previously, he was deputy district attorney in the same district.

Tara McGrath, nominated by President Biden, was appointed as US attorney for the Southern District of California, making her the chief prosecutor and top federal law enforcement official in one of the busiest federal districts in the nation. McGrath previously served as an assistant US attorney in San Diego and Washington, DC, before spending the past four years working as a legal adviser for the Marine Corps, of which she is a veteran.

Samir Parikh joined Wake Forest University School of Law in North Carolina as a professor of law. Previously, he was the Robert E. Jones Professor of Advocacy and Ethics at Lewis & Clark Law School in Portland, Oregon. Also, the *Yale Law Journal* recently published his new essay, "Opaque Capital and Mass-Tort Financing."

Vivek Sankaran was named one of the Leaders in the Law for 2023 by *Michigan Lawyers Weekly*. He is a clinical professor of law at Michigan Law and is the director of the Child Advocacy Law Clinic and the Child Welfare Appellate Clinic. His work is centered on advocating for children's and parents' rights during child welfare proceedings. In 2009, he founded the Detroit Center for Family Advocacy, the first organization in the country to provide multidisciplinary legal assistance to families with the goal of preventing children from unnecessarily entering the foster care system.

2002

Brian Gallini was appointed dean and tenured professor of law at Quinnipiac University School of Law, effective June 30. Previously, he served as dean and professor of law at Willamette University College of Law in Salem, Oregon. He is a leading scholar in criminal law and focuses his work on law enforcement discretion issues in the context of interrogation methods, consent searches, and profiling.

Matthew Johnson has been appointed to a three-year term on the management committee at Warner Norcross+Judd LLP. He is based in Grand Rapids, Michigan, where he chairs the firm's corporate practice group. He represents closely held and family-owned businesses, emerging growth companies, and investors on such matters as mergers and acquisitions, private securities offerings, formation and capital raising, succession planning, and board governance.

Joshua Lee joined Norton Rose Fulbright (NRF) as a partner in the firm's Chicago office. He is co-head of the litigation and disputes department, focusing on product liability, consumer disputes, and environmental and mass tort litigation. Lee joins NRF from Riley Safer Holmes & Cancila, a Chicago-based litigation firm he helped form. He has defended clients across a range of areas, including pharmaceuticals, genetic engineering, and chemical exposure.

Indraneel Basu Majumdar joined KPMG Law UK as director of the firm's financial services team. His practice is based in London and is focused on payment services and digital assets. Before joining KPMG, Majumdar was the senior financial services solicitor for Harper James Solicitor, a law firm in Birmingham, England.

Markeisha Miner recently became the University of Rhode Island's vice president for community, equity, and diversity. Previously, she was the dean of students at Cornell Law School. She has been active in community organizations, including the American Bar Association's Tort, Trial, and Insurance Practice Section Leadership Academy and the State Bar of Michigan's Character and Fitness Committee. She has served on the board of trustees for the Women Lawyers Association of Michigan Foundation and the board of directors for Alternatives for Girls.

Tina Samanta was recently elected partner at Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP. She joined the firm in 2007 as an of counsel attorney in its New York office. Samanta has represented financial institutions, corporations, and individuals in sensitive and high-stakes securities-related investigations and litigation. She is a frequent public speaker and author on matters relating to the enforcement of securities laws.

The Hon. Kyle Seedorf was appointed chief judge in the 17th Judicial District of Colorado. He worked in private practice, and as general counsel and director of legal affairs for the Colorado Department of Higher Education, before being appointed as a district court judge in 2019.

Christopher Timura was recently elected partner at Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP in Washington, DC. He joined the firm in 2017 as an of counsel legal adviser. He is a member of the firm's international trade and white collar defense and investigations practice groups, where he advises individuals and companies on how to

solve regulatory, legal, and political problems involving national security, trade, and foreign policy. He also assists clients working with emerging technologies in international trade compliance, export control licensing, supply chain, and corporate social responsibility strategies.

2003



Pippin C. Brehler has been elevated to assistant chief counsel with the California Air Resources Board in Sacramento, where he has helped lead

California's groundbreaking requirements for advanced zero-emission vehicle emission standards. Among other previous positions, he clerked for the Hon. Marilyn J. Kelly on the Michigan Supreme Court. This past summer, he returned after a two-decade absence to compete in his fourth Bayview Mackinac Race, sailing from Port Huron to Mackinac Island. Outside of the office, he rallies behind his two daughters to support them through the adventures of high school.



Ken Gish rejoined Stites & Harbison in Lexington, Kentucky, as a partner in the environmental, natural resources, and energy service group and the

business and finance service group. His practice focuses on assisting corporate and institutional clients in meeting sustainability goals through renewable energy purchases, advising clients in the energy industry, and assisting renewable developers in all aspects of project development. He also is an active member of his community, currently serving as the director of LexArts Inc.

Brandy Robinson was appointed to the Michigan Appellate Defender Commission by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, representing the State Bar of Michigan. She is a managing attorney for the Neighborhood Defender Service of Detroit. Before her recent appointment, Robinson was chair of the State Bar of Michigan Young Lawyers Section, a member of the State Bar of Michigan Board of Commissioners, and vice chair of the Michigan Indigent Defense Commission.

Ryan Walters has been promoted to chief of the Special Litigation Division for the Office of the Texas Attorney General. He previously served as deputy chief and eventually special counsel for the same division. Before joining the Office of the Texas Attorney General, Walters was the assistant attorney general in the Office of Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine, serving in the Employment Law Section from 2013 to 2016. He then worked as an attorney for the Texas Public Policy Foundation until 2021.

2004



Azadeh Shahshahani delivered the opening keynote speech at the Rebellious Lawyering Conference at Yale Law School, which

was the conference's 30th anniversary. She is a legal and advocacy director at Project South, a nonprofit organization that focuses on developing activist strategies in response to social issues in the US and Global South. She is a president of the National Lawyers Guild.



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CLASS NOTES



John J. Tepedino has been promoted to partner at Windels Marx Lane & Mittendorf. He is based in the firm's New York office and focuses his practice on bankruptcy

litigation, including as part of the team representing the SIPA Trustee for the liquidation of Bernard L. Madoff Investment Securities. He has led dozens of adversary proceedings resulting in the recovery of millions of dollars for the victims of Madoff's fraud. He also has handled a variety of matters in Chapter 7 and 11 bankruptcies. Before joining Windels Marx, he was an associate in the New York office of Debevoise & Plimpton LLP, where he focused on US and cross-border corporate investigations and securities litigation.

2005

Aaron O'Donnell, a real estate attorney, was recently elevated to partner in Holland & Knight LLP's Chicago office. In his practice, he represents institutional, private equity, developer, and corporate clients in all aspects of real estate transactions. The primary transaction types he oversees include the acquisition, financing, joint venture structuring, development, and disposition of real estate.

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2006



Heba Aref, a member in the Detroit office of Bodman PLC, was appointed as co-chair of the firm's banking practice group. She represents

financial institutions in the structuring, negotiating, and documenting of loan transactions, including syndicated loans, bilateral loans, subordinated loans, and participations. Before joining Bodman, she practiced in the New York, Minneapolis, and Palo Alto offices of Dorsey & Whitney.

Mei-Li da Silva Vint was appointed chief commercial officer for Brevet Capital Management, where she oversees product development and commercial strategies. She continues to co-manage Brevet's platform origination businesses, including the operations of the real assets group. She is a longtime executive with the firm, previously serving as the chief compliance officer. Before joining Brevet in 2016, da Silva Vint worked at Morgan Stanley, covering institutional clients in fixed income, equity, and structured private secured loans.



Raj Patel joined Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP in Chicago as a partner in the firm's construction and real estate litigation group. He advises clients

on construction, infrastructure, leasing, and supply chain transactions across industries such as education, automotive, aviation, oil and gas, and sports and gaming. Before joining Faegre, he was a partner at Honigman LLP in its Chicago office.

2008

Chase Cantrell was reappointed by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer to represent the general public on the Michigan Board of Real Estate Brokers and Salespersons. He is the executive director and founder of Building Community Value, a Detroit-based nonprofit dedicated to implementing and facilitating real estate development projects in underserved Detroit neighborhoods. His term runs through June 30, 2027.



Susan Bassford Wilson was recently promoted to assistant general counsel II at Ryder System Inc., a leading logistics and transportation company. Since

joining the company in 2021, she has focused on labor and employment matters in North America. Previously, she was a labor and employment partner and co-chair of the digital workplace and data privacy practice group at Constangy, Brooks, Smith & Prophete LLP.

2009

Samuel Duncan was promoted to partner at Ropes & Gray LLP. He is a tax lawyer based in the firm's New York office. Duncan joined the firm in 2021 as counsel. Previously, he worked as counsel at the New York law practice Debevoise & Plimpton LLP.

Brett Gelbord was named among the Top 200 Global Psychedelic Lawyers and Policy and Regulatory Experts of 2024. Gelbord is a member of the labor and employment group at Dykema Gossett PLLC in Detroit, where he is spearheading the firm's work in the emerging psychedelics industry. He advises clients on the legal risks of doing business within the industry as well as advocating for legislative and policy changes. Previously, he was a senior counsel at the firm.

David Kowalski was elevated to counsel at Latham & Watkins LLP in San Diego. He is a member of the complex commercial litigation practice and litigation and trial department, in which he represents clients through trial in complex litigation matters in federal and state courts. He joined Latham & Watkins after graduation as an associate and had previously worked there as a summer associate.

Gregory Lavigne joined Sidley Austin LLP as a partner in the firm's energy, transportation, and infrastructure group, based in New York. Before joining the firm, he was a partner at Allen & Overy. He advises private capital providers and major sponsors in tax and private equity, joint ventures, mergers and acquisitions, project finance, and structured finance transactions. He also has extensive experience in renewables, alternative energy, and energy transition markets.

2010



Rabbi Dan Horwitz recently began his tenure as the CEO of the Jewish Federation of Greater Nashville, Tennessee, where he focuses on serving the needs

of the local Jewish community through philanthropy. He has experience as a pulpit rabbi in a congregation of more than 900 people. Rabbi Horwitz is a member of OHALAH (the Association of Rabbis for Jewish Renewal) and the State Bar of Michigan. He also recently released his first book, *Just Jewish: How to Engage Millennials and Build a Vibrant Jewish Future* (Ben Yehuda Press, 2023).

2012



Christa Wittenberg, a litigation attorney at O'Neil, Cannon, Hollman, DeJong & Laing SC, was recently elected to the firm's board of directors. She

has been with the firm since 2014 as a member of its litigation practice group, where she assists businesses and individuals with pursuing and defending complex civil litigation issues. Wittenberg is the chairperson for the communications committee at the State Bar of Wisconsin and is a member of the boards of directors of LOTUS Legal Clinic, the Association for Women Lawyers, and the Eastern District of Wisconsin Bar Association.

2013

Steven Beigelmacher was promoted to partner at Perkins Coie LLP, based in the firm's Seattle office. He is a member of the patent prosecution and portfolio counseling practice, where he advises clients on patent analytics, provides strategic portfolio counseling, and supports inter partes reviews and litigation. He leads efforts involving patent due diligence, valuations for sales and acquisitions, and comparative analyses. He joined the firm in 2014 as an associate and was elevated to counsel in 2021.

Michael Malenfant was elected counsel at Vinson & Elkins LLP in Houston. His practice focuses on assisting energy clients in a range of regulatory, litigation, and transactional matters. He has advised clients in the midstream and power industries on issues related to certificate and rate proceedings, state and federal appellate proceedings, transactional matters, and jurisdictional and regulatory matters related to emerging energy technologies.

Brianna Oller was elevated to partner at Latham & Watkins LLP in New York. She is a member of the banking practice and finance department, representing clients in acquisition financing, direct lending, cross-border matters, and other leveraged finance transactions.

Allyson Terpsma, a partner in the Grand Rapids, Michigan, office of Warner Norcross+Judd LLP, was chosen to serve a three-year term on the firm's management committee. She provides skilled labor and employment counsel for employers in higher education and health care, among other industries, and has handled disputes over disciplinary actions, contract interpretation, and compensation through arbitration and litigation.

Michael Waldman was named a partner in the New York office of Latham & Watkins LLP. He is a member of the banking practice and finance department, where he represents financial institutions in leveraged finance transactions that include acquisition financing, debt restructuring, cross-border transactions, asset-based financing, recurring revenue-based financing, and margin loan financing.

2014

Lee Crain was recently elected litigation partner in the New York office of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP. He focuses on trial and appellate litigation in both federal and state courts, and he has experience litigating cases involving media and entertainment, tech, employment disputes, and the First Amendment. He also has experience in crisis counseling and leading teams seeking or defending temporary restraining orders and preliminary injunctions.



CLASS NOTES

Mark Garibyan was promoted to special counsel at Schulte, Roth & Zabel LLP in New York. He specializes in commercial, business, and bankruptcy disputes as well as shareholder activism litigation. He also focuses on internal and government investigations relating to federal securities law, anti-money laundering, and issues relating to the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act. He previously worked in the firm's mergers and acquisitions and securities group.

Matt Gregory was elected partner in the Washington, DC, office of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP. He practices in the firm's litigation department and in the appellate and constitutional law and the administrative law and regulatory practice groups. Before joining Gibson Dunn, he clerked for Associate Justice Anthony M. Kennedy on the US Supreme Court and for **the Hon.**

Raymond M. Kethledge, '93, on the US Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit.

Julian Kleinbrodt was elected partner in the San Francisco office of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher. He practices in the firm's litigation department and is a member of the antitrust and competition practice group. He has particular experience with claims involving price-fixing, monopolization, attempted monopolization, refusals to deal, tying, bundling, exclusive dealing, disparagement, market allocation and division, and no-poach provisions.

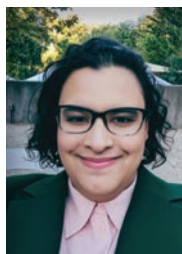
2015



Justina Chen was elected partner at Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP. Her practice is based in Weil's Silicon Valley, California, office and focuses on advising

borrowers, private equity sponsors, and other financial institutions in a variety of financing transactions. This work includes first- and second-lien credit facilities, asset-based loans, cross-border and domestic acquisition financing, working capital facilities, and Chapter 11 reorganizations and out-of-court restructurings.

Matthew Evans joined the US Attorney's Office for the District of Minnesota in the Criminal Division's Fraud and Public Corruption Unit. Previously, he was a trial attorney for the US Department of Justice's Environmental Crimes Section in Washington, DC, from 2017 to 2023.



Sarah Johnson joined the Washington Innocence Project, formerly Innocence Project Northwest, as a staff attorney. The volunteer organization

works to free innocent prisoners in Washington State. Previously, she worked for seven years as a public defender.

Avi Kupfer was elevated to litigation and dispute resolution partner at Mayer Brown. He is based in the firm's Chicago office, where he is a member of the Supreme Court and appellate practice. Kupfer joined Mayer Brown in 2021; before that, he was an appellate attorney in the Environment and Natural Resources Division of the US Department of Justice.

Joshua La Vigne was elevated to partner in the corporate and securities department at Mayer Brown, focusing his practice on mergers and acquisitions, divestitures, joint ventures, and general corporate governance matters. He is based in the firm's Chicago office. He first joined Mayer Brown as a summer associate and returned to the firm full time after graduation.

Bibeane Metsch-Garcia joined the Minneapolis-based law firm Ciresi Conlin LLP as an associate. Previously, she was an assistant US attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia. Her time there included serving as the office's lead attorney for the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force.



Leah Mintz was reappointed co-chair of the Philadelphia Bar Association's Appellate Courts Committee, after serving in the same role in 2022 and

2023. She has been an associate at Duane Morris LLP since 2017, where she practices in the firm's trial practice group. She focuses on appellate litigation, white-collar criminal defense, and complex commercial litigation.

2016



Greg in den Berken recently became an assistant US attorney for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. He was previously an associate at Latham

& Watkins LLP in Washington, DC, where he focused on appellate and complex commercial litigation.



Emily Cross was admitted as a member of Bodman PLC. She practices in the firm's Troy, Michigan, office as part of the litigation and alternative dispute resolution

and the automotive and industrial practice groups. Her practice spans securities litigation, contract disputes, constitutional litigation, and administrative law matters. She also is active in pro bono matters, such as immigration appeals to the US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and representing asylum and U-visa applicants in immigration applications and proceedings.

Lauren Dayton has been named partner at MoloLamken LLP. She is now based in Chicago after four years in the firm's New York office. She focuses her practice on complex disputes and appeals, primarily in business and antitrust matters, and has litigated on behalf of plaintiffs and defendants from trial courts to the US Supreme Court. She joined the firm after clerking for the Hon. Steven M. Colloton on the US Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit and the Hon. Brian M. Cogan on the US District Court for the Eastern District of New York.

Brandon Debus was elected as a member attorney at Dickinson Wright PLLC, based in Troy, Michigan. He advises clients on matters related to commercial litigation, live music and entertainment, complex insurance coverage, and bad faith actions.

Angelina Delmastro was elected as a member attorney at Dickinson Wright PLLC, based in Detroit. She focuses her practice on labor and employment litigation, advising clients on employment matters and regulatory compliance. She also has experience negotiating complex severance and settlement agreements.

Rita Feikema, an attorney at Honigman LLP, was recently elected partner in the firm's Chicago office. She is a member of Honigman's real estate department, where she focuses on commercial transactions and represents landlords, tenants, buyers, and sellers. She also has cross-disciplinary experience in mergers and acquisitions, private equity, debt finance, statutory risk and compliance, and cross-border transactions.

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

Jennifer Fischell has been named partner at MoloLamken LLP. She is based in Washington, DC, and focuses her practice on appeals and complex civil litigation, particularly administrative law, energy, and intellectual property. She joined the firm after clerking for **the Hon. Raymond M. Kethledge, '93**, on the US Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit and the Hon. Ronnie Abrams on the US District Court for the Southern District of New York. In 2021, she left MoloLamken to clerk for Associate Justice Elena Kagan on the US Supreme Court and returned to the firm in December 2022.

Amy Lishinski joined the Michigan State Budget Office's legal team as deputy legal counsel, appointed by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer. Previously, she worked as counsel at WilmerHale. She also has clerked for the Hon. David Tatel on the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit and for the Hon. Bridget Mary McCormack on the Michigan Supreme Court.



Mary Lucille "Mary Lu" Noah was promoted to partner at Stites & Harbison PLLC. She is based in the firm's Nashville, Tennessee, office in the real estate

and banking service group, where she represents borrowers and lenders in financing transactions such as acquisition and construction loans, term loan facilities, asset-based secured financing, and revolving credit facilities. She also represents developers, investors, and owners in the acquisition, disposition, and leasing of real property and works closely with businesses to ensure compliance with environmental laws.



Jeffrey M. Smith was promoted to partner at Robison Curphey & O'Connell LLC in Toledo, Ohio. He represents businesses, health care institutions,

and financial institutions in commercial litigation matters. He joined the firm in 2021, bringing experience as a business and tort litigation attorney. Earlier in his career, he clerked for the Hon. Sara Lioi on the US District Court for the Northern District of Ohio.



Adam Uth joined Mansour Gavin's litigation group, where his work focuses on real estate matters. He has considerable experience representing

businesses in various types of litigation and has secured favorable outcomes at both the trial and appellate levels. Uth also has experience providing compliance analysis, both in the private sector and for the City of Shaker Heights, Ohio.

Matthew Worsham has been appointed chair of the Martin County Bar Association's Wills, Trusts & Estates/ Probate Committee for the 2023–2024 term. He is a trusts and estates litigation attorney with Jones Foster, a private and commercial law firm based in West Palm Beach, Florida. His practice focuses on probate, guardianship, trust litigation, and trust and estate administration.



CLASS NOTES

2017



Rebecca Seguin-Skrabucha, a member in the Troy, Michigan, office of Bodman PLC, was appointed as vice chair of the firm's workplace law practice

group. She concentrates her practice in advising employers, including municipal governments and businesses of all sizes, on compliance with state and federal employment and labor laws. She also conducts workplace investigations and management training.

2019

Danielle Maldonado joined Benesch's Chicago office as an associate in the firm's litigation and labor and employment practice groups. Her experience includes defending and counseling employers in labor and employment matters, such as individual plaintiff and representative action litigation, wage and hour litigation, and compliance and workforce-related matters. Previously, Maldonado worked as a labor and employment associate at Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP for four years.

2021

Ellen Aldin is now an attorney adviser in the Office of the Chief Counsel for International Commerce in the US Department of Commerce. She joins fellow Michigan Law alumni **John Cobau, '93**, (chief counsel), **Glenn Kaminsky, '00**, (assistant chief counsel), and **Stephanie Zable, '18**, (senior attorney) in providing legal advice to the department's International Trade Administration.

Hailey Cherepon joined the Michigan State Budget Office's legal team as associate legal counsel, appointed by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer. Previously, Cherepon worked as an associate at WilmerHale. She also has clerked for the Hon. Arianna Freeman on the US Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.

D. Colby Orton joined Ogletree Deakins as an associate in the firm's Detroit office. His practice focuses on employment litigation in all areas of labor and employment law. Before joining Ogletree, he worked as an associate attorney on data privacy incident response, litigation matters, and labor and employment matters.

2022

Latazia Carter joined Bass, Berry & Sims PLC in Nashville, Tennessee, as an associate in the litigation and dispute resolution practice group. She represents clients in complex business litigation and government investigations. Before joining the firm, she clerked for the Hon. Susan M. Carney on the Alaska Supreme Court.

2023



Elizabeth Blondin joined Bodman PLC as an attorney in the firm's banking practice group. She is based in the Troy, Michigan, office and focuses on

representing financial institutions in commercial loan organizations and transactional matters.

Daniel Cowan received the second-highest score among his peers who took the July 2023 Texas Bar Exam. He served as a judicial intern for the Michigan Supreme Court and now works as an associate in the corporate practice of Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati PC in Austin.



Spencer Darling joined the Ann Arbor office of Bodman PLC as an attorney in the firm's intellectual property practice. He represents clients in

transactions, dispute resolution processes, trademark registrations, and brand protection.



Sam Poortenga joined Warner Norcross+Judd LLP as an associate in the firm's Grand Rapids, Michigan, office. He focuses his practice on cybersecurity,

privacy, and general corporate law and advises clients ranging from startups to established corporations on a wide range of legal matters.



Joe Rockwell joined Warner Norcross+Judd LLP as an associate in the firm's Grand Rapids, Michigan, office. He is concentrating his practice on

commercial, environmental, and labor and employment disputes. He also counsels organizations navigating the complexities of political lobbying and campaign-related legalities.

Shruti Singh, LLM, joined Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas & Co. as a partner in the firm's New Delhi general corporate practice, where she concentrates on mergers and acquisitions and structured and corporate finance matters. She has advised foreign and Indian corporations, entrepreneurs, private equity funds, and various organizations on legal and regulatory issues. Previously, she was a consultant with Khaitan & Co. in its restructuring and insolvency practice.

Chen Chun-han, LLM '17, SJD '22

Chen Chun-han, LLM '17, SJD '22, died February 11 in Hsinchu City, Taiwan, at the age of 40. He was a preeminent human rights lawyer known for his advocacy on behalf of people with disabilities and his dedication to promoting fairness in Taiwan.

At Chen's memorial service, Taiwan's president, Tsai Ing-wen, presented the family with a posthumous presidential citation, calling Chen's death "a tremendous loss to Taiwanese society."

Chen excelled academically despite having spinal muscular atrophy (SMA) since childhood, a neurodegenerative disease that limited his physical movements to the point where he could only move his eyes, mouth, and one finger by the time of his death.

At Michigan Law, he was a strong class participant during his LLM year, known to classmates and professors for both his intellectual commitment and sense of humor. Chen's SJD dissertation, "Equality, Non-Discrimination, and Reasonable

Accommodation: The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities through Comparative Perspectives," fed directly into his passion for equity.

His dissertation adviser, Professor Steven Ratner, notes, "Chun-han's work was unique in its appreciation of the link between theories of human rights and international law concerning persons with disabilities."

After returning to Taiwan following his studies at Michigan, Chen championed the rights of people with disabilities, including fighting for Taiwan's national health insurance system to fully cover treatment for all SMA patients. He was dedicated to promoting independent living for people with disabilities, advocating for enhanced accessibility in public areas and for supportive policies within society—including amending the People with Disabilities Rights Protection Act to ban discrimination in employment, housing, and all other aspects of life.



Chen Chun-han, LLM '17, SJD '22, at his 2017 LLM graduation with then Dean Mark West and his mother, who accompanied him on all his trips to Ann Arbor.

I N M E M O R I A M

Charles T. Munger, HLLD '10



Charles T. “Charlie” Munger, HLLD '10, died on November 28, 2023, in Santa Barbara, California. He was 99.

Munger, the vice chairman of Berkshire Hathaway, was the right hand of investor and philanthropist Warren Buffett, his longtime business partner. “He was the architect and I was the general contractor,” Buffett once said of their relationship, according to Munger’s obituary in the *New York Times*.

Munger studied math at U-M but dropped out to serve in the US Army after the attack on Pearl Harbor. With the help of the GI Bill, Munger attended Harvard Law School even though he did not have an undergraduate degree.

After graduating with honors, he moved to California and practiced real estate law, eventually becoming a founding partner of Munger, Tolles & Hills (now Munger, Tolles & Olson, a partnership that includes Ron Olson, '66).

He began dabbling in investments as a hobby. “But it soon occurred to me that I’d rather be one of our rich and interesting clients than be their lawyer,” Munger told Janet Lowe in her 2000 book *Damn Right! Behind the Scenes with Berkshire Hathaway Billionaire Charlie Munger*.

Munger met Buffett in 1959, and they quickly became friends and each other’s investment advisers.

“Like Warren, I had a considerable passion to get rich,” Munger was quoted as saying in Roger Lowenstein’s 1995 book *Buffett: The Making of an American Capitalist*. “Not because I wanted Ferraris—I wanted the independence. I desperately wanted it. I thought it was undignified to have to send invoices to other people.”

Munger began investing side by side with Buffett, in companies like Wesco Financial and See’s Candies, before officially joining him as vice chairman. For the first year, Munger said, “I kept one toe in the law firm in case my capitalist career cratered.”

Together, Buffett and Munger built Berkshire Hathaway, one of the most successful and largest conglomerates in history. Among other properties, Berkshire Hathaway, which is based in Munger’s hometown, Omaha, Nebraska, owns the insurance giant Geico and the Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad company. It holds stakes in Coca-Cola, American Express, and other corporate heavyweights. By 2023, it had about 396,000 employees and revenue exceeding \$364 billion.

Munger was a significant donor to the University of Michigan and other universities. In 2011, he committed \$20 million, one of the largest gifts in the Law School’s history, to refurbish the Lawyers Club. The project brought badly needed upgrades that transformed student rooms and other living areas inside the buildings while preserving the historic and iconic Collegiate Gothic exteriors. The renovated residence portion of the Lawyers Club was named The Charles T. Munger Residences in the Lawyers Club in honor of the gift.

The gift to renovate the Lawyers Club extended Munger’s philanthropic relationship with the Law School, which began in 2007 with a \$3 million gift for lighting improvements in public areas of the Law Quadrangle, including the formerly dim interiors of Hutchins Hall and the Reading Room.

In 2013, Munger pledged \$110 million to the University to build graduate student housing. At the time, it was the largest single gift in U-M’s history.

Munger is survived by three daughters, Wendy and Molly Munger and Emilie Munger Ogden; three sons, Charles Jr., Barry, and Philip; two stepsons, William and David Borthwick; 15 grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Portions of this obituary are excerpted from the New York Times obituary that was published on November 28, 2023.

I N M E M O R I A M

1940s

George E. McIntosh, '48 11/5/2023

1950s

James A. Crippen, '50 9/17/2023

Prentiss M. Brown, '51 12/3/2023

John R. Milligan, '52 3/23/2024

Robert B. Pohl, '52 12/23/2023

Ralph Sosin, '52 10/15/2023

David J. Tolan, '52 1/20/2024

Martin L. Boyle, '53 4/5/2024

Hubert J. Brandt, '53 2/26/2024

Jean G. Castel, '53 12/30/2023

Charles C. Jensch, '53 2/18/2024

Carroll Barrymore, '54 10/23/2023

Robert H. Bloom, '54 1/20/2024

Edwin M. Dotten, '54 8/12/2023

Judson M. Werbelow, '54 12/6/2023

Clifford W. Prince, '55 10/17/2023

James P. Ricker, '55 12/31/2023

Robert L. Halbrook, '56 11/9/2023

Richard E. Day, '57 1/11/2024

Charles S. Waggoner, '57 3/27/2024

Marion B. Burton, '58 1/27/2024

Salvatore A. Fauci, '58 12/1/2023

Philip G. Gillespie, '58 3/13/2024

Phillip R. Jacobus, '58 9/19/2023

Robert E. Jobin, '58 1/28/2024

Edward D. Bureau, '59 2/3/2024

David F. Caplan, '59 10/8/2023

Paul M. Ladas, '59 4/26/2024

Jerome B. Libin, '59 2/2/2024

Melvyn I. Mark, '59 5/15/2024

1960s

Clinton C. House, '60 9/7/2023

Joseph J. Jerkins, '60 2/18/2024

Robert G. Johnson, '60 9/16/2023

Donald R. Jolliffe, '60 1/11/2024

Lowell M. Kelly, '60 11/29/2023

Leonard W. Smith, '60 1/21/2024

H. David Soet, '60 10/27/2023

Charles W. Staiger, '61 3/2/2024

Daniel E. Tolfree, '61 2/21/2024

David Vanderploeg, '61 11/20/2023

Robert P. Davidow, '62 3/17/2024

Frederic L. Dupre, '62 1/25/2024

Jerome L. Henry, '62 10/8/2023

Joseph H. Roediger, '62 3/3/2024

Thomas W. Taylor, '62 3/26/2024

Orville Coady, '63 3/25/2024

William W. DeWitt, '63 8/2023

Thomas C. Hunt, '63 11/12/2023

Robert J. Battista, '64 12/8/2023

Charles A. Carver, '64 4/17/2024

Robert J. Duckstad, '64 8/23/2023

Lawrence G. Meyer, '64 3/27/2024

Paul M. Ostergard, '64 3/16/2024

Morris A. Halpern, '65 9/26/2023

J. Ethan Jacobs, '65 8/1/2023

Richard N. Light, '65 3/1/2024

Newell R. Washburn, '65 2/4/2024

Dean D. Burns, '66 12/1/2023

William G. Earle, '66 5/31/2023

James S. Miner, '66 10/9/2023

Lawrence J. Sherman, '66 10/4/2023

Bruce L. Colton, '67 12/3/2023

Roger M. Leed, '67 2/11/2024

Albert D. McCallum, '67 4/5/2024

Kenneth A. Ritchie, '67 10/15/2023

Robert D. Sarow, '67 10/28/2023

Harry L. Shinn, '67 12/16/2023

Thomas P. Freydl, '68 1/13/2024

Geoffrey G. Gilbert, '69 11/12/2023

Richard W. Hemingway, '69 2/7/2024

N. Thomas Horton, '69 1/11/2024

Peter S. Race, '69 12/2/2023

1970s

Brett R. Dick, '70 8/27/2023

Robert M. Knight, '70 9/9/2023

John S. Pfarr, '70 1/28/2024

Richard B. West, '70 12/10/2023

Philip C. Dean, '71 2/3/2024

Nora A. Bailey, '72 4/15/2023

Joel I. Newman, '72 2/22/2024

Joseph S. Orban, '72 12/3/2023

Carlyle H. Chapman, '73 10/10/2023

Raymond G. Mullins, '73 9/4/2023

Cameron H. Piggott, '74 12/17/2023

Daisaburo Yuine, '74 3/1/2023

Scott J. Arnold, '75 10/24/2023

John H. Brannen, '75 10/15/2023

David R. Case, '76 9/26/2023

James D. White, '76 10/9/2023

Clive D. Bode, '77 7/27/2023

Ellen J. Dannin, '78 11/6/2023

Thomas F. Burns, '79 11/18/2023

John A. Leyshon, '79 11/7/2023

H. Ian Rounthwaite, '79 10/19/2023

1980s

Kenneth W. Gerver, '80 2/4/2024

Andrew M. Gaudin, '86 10/21/2023

Anita Santos, '89 1/13/2024

1990s

Jane A. Burton, '92 7/19/2023

B. Scott Aitken, '94 9/21/2023

Maria E. Platsis, '94 11/11/2023

2000s

Stephen G. Rushing, '08 1/1/2024

2010s

John Espinosa, '10 4/13/2023

Matthew R. Veenstra, '11 3/11/2024

Chun-han Chen, '17, '22 2/11/2024

2020s

Brendan Jackson, '24 5/10/2024

CLOSING

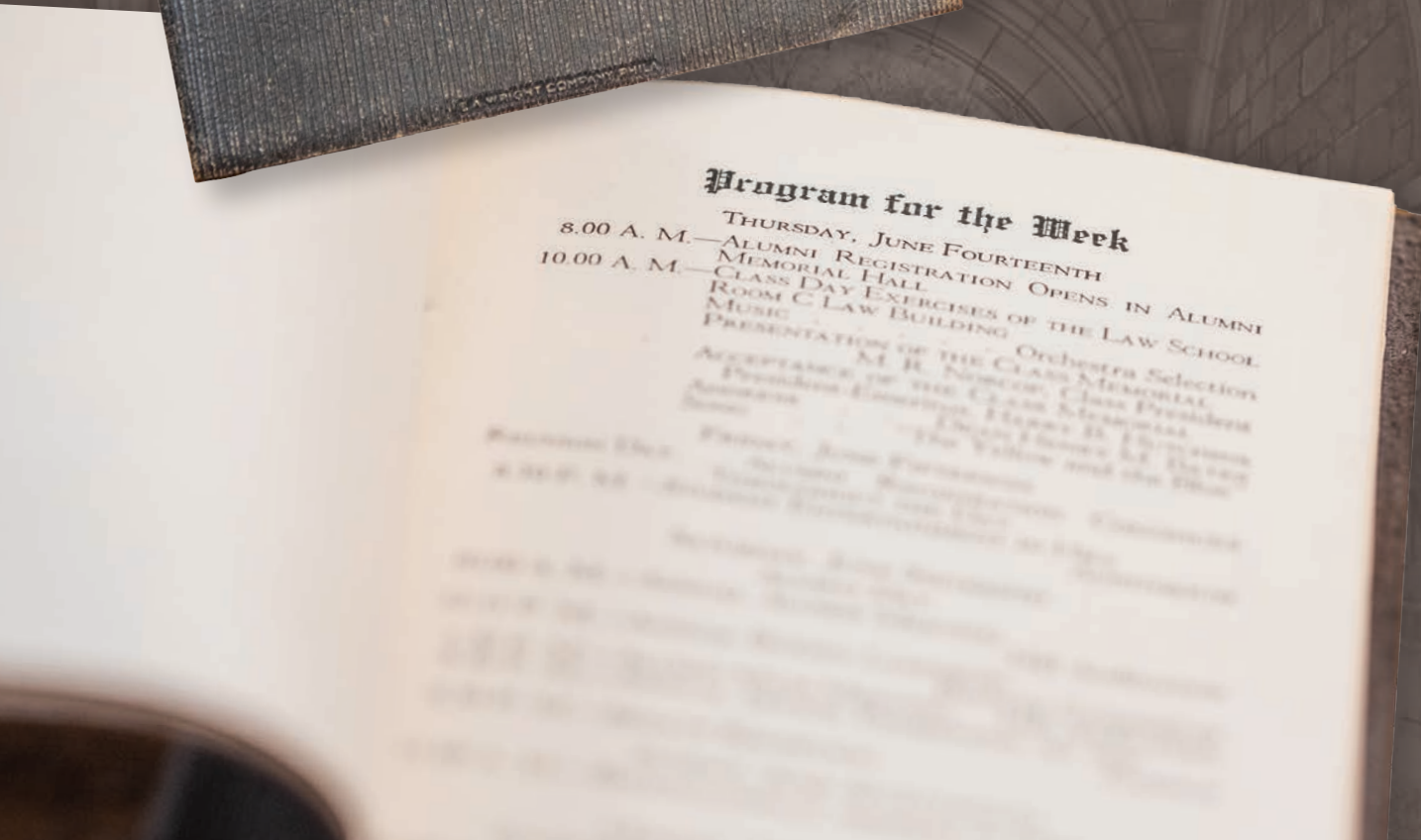
A Curio from the Past

On June 18, 1923, 109 Michigan Law students were joined by their families and friends in Ann Arbor to celebrate the culmination of what was then known as Commencement Week. The 1923 class was predominantly American men, but it also included international students from Shanghai and Hong Kong as well as three women.

The four-day event kicked off on a Friday with an alumni reunion and culminated with a commencement ceremony the following Monday. In the interim, attendees enjoyed a buffet lunch, senate reception, senior promenade across campus, and an evening of "student entertainment" at Hill Auditorium (the specifics of which have been lost to history).

We know these details because *Law Quadrangle* recently received an unexpected package from Albuquerque, New Mexico. It contained a leather-bound invitation booklet to the 1923 Commencement Week, which included a faculty and student list as well as a detailed agenda for the event.

According to the sender, who works as a set dresser in the TV industry, the well-preserved invitation had been used on the set of the show *Longmire*. She wrote, "I thought it was a beautiful piece of history that belongs with you!" Naturally, we agree.



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