

Quadrangle

LAW

NOTES FROM MICHIGAN LAW

A CENTURY OF ARGUMENT AND ADVOCACY

Campbell Moot Court Turns 100





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**A CENTURY OF ARGUMENT
AND ADVOCACY**

CAMPBELL MOOT
COURT TURNS 100



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**CAMPBELL WINNERS
REFLECT**

**“The best part of
Campbell and
everything else
in law school was
the chance to work
on it together
with friends
and classmates.”**

—Catherine M.A. Carroll, '02

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**CAMPBELL
AND FRIENDSHIP,
TWO DECADES LATER**

**“It’s just an incredible
experience to meet
so many people from
around the world.
You really expand
your international
horizons.”**

—Ava Jones, '25

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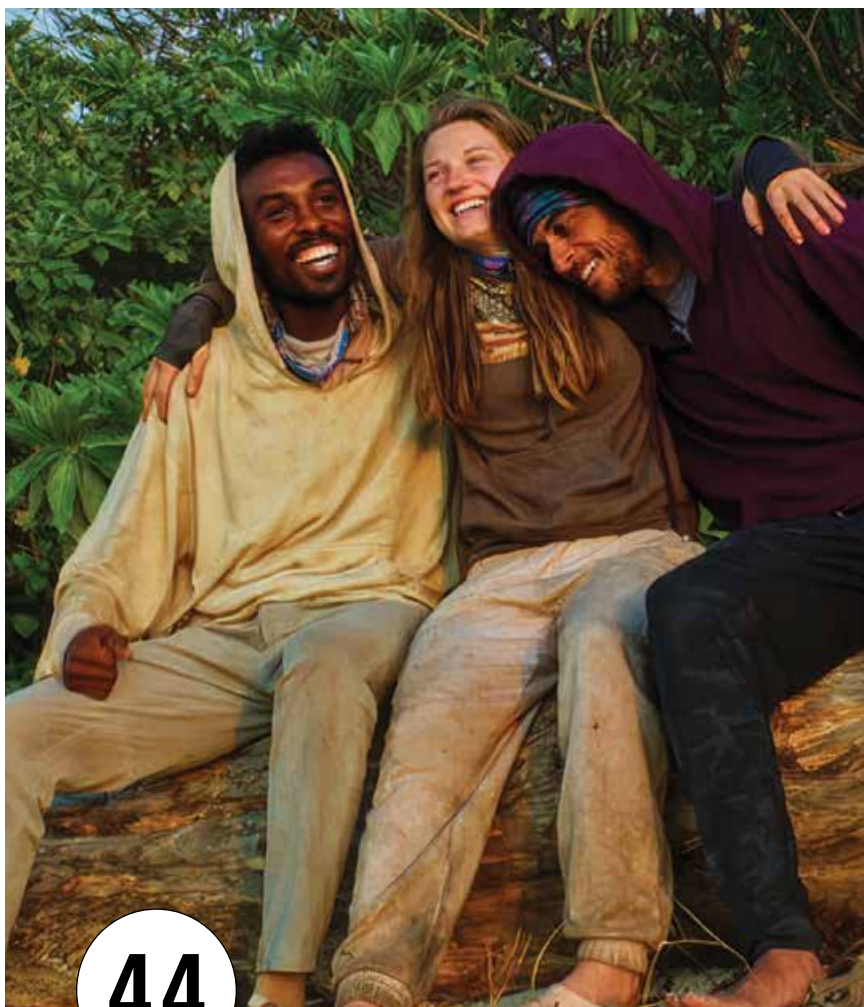
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CAN YOU IDENTIFY
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Justin Amash, '05,

former US Congressman from Michigan

Nicholas Bagley,

Thomas G. Long Professor of Law

Hon. Raymond Kethledge, '93,

Judge, US Court of Appeals
for the Sixth Circuit

Nina A. Mendelson,

Joseph L. Sax Collegiate Professor
of Law and co-director of the Environmental
and Energy Law Program

Julian Davis Mortenson,

James G. Phillipp Professor of Law

Richard Primus,

Theodore J. St. Antoine Collegiate
Professor of Law

Hon. Chad A. Readler, '97,

Judge, US Court of Appeals
for the Sixth Circuit

Christopher J. Walker,

Professor of Law and adviser to Michigan
Law's Federalist Society chapter

Michigan Law faculty and alumni with
varying ideological perspectives spoke at
the Federalist Society's 2025 National
Student Symposium, which was held at the
Law School in March. The conference's
theme was Congress: Reviving the
Impetuous Vortex.

*"At this moment, many public servants feel as if
they are under attack. That feeling is warranted.
Any affirmation of their mission and dedication
is precious. The Fiske Fellowship's ongoing work
to support public interest lawyers and to foster
community among them is so important,
and I am thankful for it."*

—**Mike Kabakoff, '03**, assistant public defender, Mecklenburg County
[North Carolina] Public Defender's Office. He is one of 86 recipients of the
Fiske Fellowship for public service since the program's inception in 2001.

Fellows reflected on their careers as part of their fifth reunion with
benefactor **Bob Fiske, '55**, which was held in Washington, DC, in May.



FORE!

The Law School community gathered in the Law Library in February
for the Golf in the Subs mini-golf tournament, a fundraiser for the
student group Legal Alternative Winter (LAW) Breaks. In 2025,
LAWBreaks organized service-oriented trips to support nonprofit
organizations in Chicago (The Exoneration Project) and New York
City (the Waterkeeper Alliance) during winter break.



Students embraced winter with a free skate organized by the Office of Student Life at Yost Ice Arena in February.



Ann Arbor \longleftrightarrow Tokyo

The Law School has maintained close ties to Japan and its legal system for more than a century—the first LLM degrees awarded by Michigan Law were to two Japanese students in 1890, and more alumni live in Japan than any other foreign country. In February, **Emily Lovell, '25**, and **Michael Zhao, '25**, participated in a weeklong program at the University of Tokyo, where they studied alongside students from 13 elite global institutions and visited the Supreme Court of Japan (pictured). And in March, **Dean Masami Okino** gave a lecture, “The Use of Trusts in an Aging Society,” as part of the Law School’s annual University of Tokyo Faculty Exchange.

“The whole room gasped.”

—Senior Assistant Dean **Sarah Zearfoss, '92**, in a *Wall Street Journal* article in March, recounted the faculty's reaction to Michigan Law's unprecedented number of applications during the 2024–2025 admissions cycle. The Law School received more than 8,900 applications, a 30 percent increase from the previous year and the highest number in the school's 166-year history.



Farewell, and Thank You

Rebecca Scott, a professor of law and the Charles Gibson Distinguished University Professor of History, retired after the winter 2025 term. Members of the faculty filed into her last class to honor her years of service to students with the Law School's traditional “clap out.” Scott is the co-founder of the Program in Race, Law, and History, and taught law courses on civil rights and the boundaries of citizenship in historical perspective as well as slavery and the law.



Class of 2025 Celebrates Senior Day

On May 12, the Law School community gathered to honor the Class of 2025. Student speaker Brittney Dorton, '25, addressed her classmates, including 340 JD students and 30 graduate students, at Hill Auditorium. "Now more than ever, we must embrace what sets us apart and celebrate those differences in one another," she said. "I have faith that we will do so, because from here on out one of the things that makes us different is our distinction as an alumnus of Michigan Law."

David Breach, '94, president and chief operating officer at Vista Equity Partners, gave the alumni address, tracing the lessons he has learned since he graduated from Michigan Law more than 30 years ago. "Very few people have a career that's linear," he said. "But someday I hope that you will find your passion and you will throw everything into it."



Growing a Global Game with D.C. United

By James Weir

When Jason Levien, '97, arrived in Ann Arbor to pursue a dual degree in law and public policy, he did not envision a future in professional sports. Although Levien played basketball at Pomona College, he assumed his sporting career had ended with his time as a Sagehen.

Yet he was barely a year into private practice when a minor legal dispute between a professional basketball player and his wedding caterer set Levien on a journey that would lead him to found his own sports law firm—and to his involvement in the acquisition and leadership of multiple professional sports franchises.

Today, Levien is co-chairman and CEO of D.C. United, a Major League Soccer (MLS) team, which he and a group of investors acquired in 2012. He works alongside fellow Michigan Law alumnus Chris Burtley, '15, who joined the team in 2023 and serves as his chief of staff and the team's vice president of strategy.

An unexpected path to the front office

After graduating from U-M, Levien clerked for the Hon. Diana Gribbon Motz on the US Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit and then joined the Washington, DC, office of Williams & Connolly.

"At the firm, I thought I would learn a lot, potentially get some trial experience, and then decide if I wanted to transition into either government policy work or academia," he recalls.

As it happened, the firm had a very small sports practice, and Levien soon became what one partner described as "the assistant general counsel for minor matters" for the firm's sports clients. One case led to others; he began helping with contract negotiations, and sports became a large part of his practice.

Eventually, Levien struck out on his own and founded a firm representing athletes, with a particular emphasis on growth overseas, both by representing American athletes in foreign leagues as well as international talent playing in the States.

"I always had a strong interest in the connectivity between sports and culture and the way it can bring people together," Levien says. "That goes back to high school, when I went on a trip

with a basketball team to the Soviet Union. This was during the Cold War, and we were staying in kids' houses and playing against local clubs. I saw how sport can be a common language, and I have really carried that with me over the years."

Although he found satisfaction and success building his firm, Levien was intrigued when an opportunity with the Sacramento Kings NBA team arose. He decided to sell his company and take a role in the front office.

"The economics of the remuneration with the Kings was less than my business, but I wanted that connectivity to a team, and I was long-term focused on what I was passionate about and new experiences in life," he says.

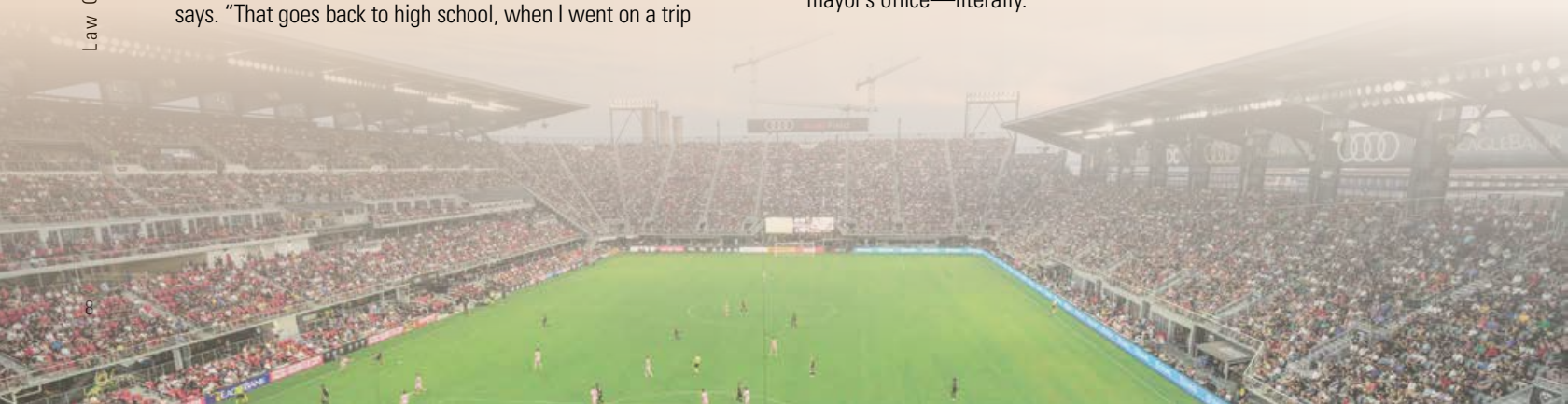
Levien's time in Sacramento deepened his understanding of professional basketball and how to effectively run a franchise, and eventually led to his involvement in the acquisition and management of two teams, first with the Philadelphia 76ers and then the Memphis Grizzlies.

Another opportunity came knocking when a close friend and business partner—Indonesian businessman Erick Thohir, who became the first Asia-based investor in an NBA team when Levien brought him into the group that acquired the 76ers—suggested they consider investing in a soccer team together.

Building anew in DC

When Levien and the investment group acquired D.C. United in 2012, the team was no longer among the powerhouse franchises as it was in the early years of the MLS. The team hadn't been to the playoffs in more than five years, and its 50-year-old home field, the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Stadium, was on its last legs.

Levien saw an opportunity not just to restore the team's competitiveness, but to invest in a more central stadium that would be home to the world's most popular sport in one of the most international cities in the world. It was such a priority that Levien went from the press conference to the mayor's office—literally.



"Within a year we had signed a term sheet, but it took many more years of planning and negotiations with zoning and neighborhood meetings to get to a final build," he says. "My law and public policy background helped, and I leaned heavily on building relationships. We had to gain the trust of elected and non-elected government officials, other private interests like developers, and people in the neighborhoods near the stadium."

Audi Field opened in 2018 in the Buzzard Point neighborhood of Washington, DC—a former industrial zone that has become one of the densest and fastest-growing neighborhoods in the city. Like the neighborhood itself, Audi Field has continued to evolve, and in early 2025, the team announced intentions to add additional seats.

If the success of the Audi Field project reflects Levien's commitment to intentional partnerships, it is fitting, then, that it was a longtime friendship that brought Chris Burtley and Levien together.

Strategic collaborations

Burtley's pivot into a career in sports happened when he was working as of counsel at Barnes & Thornburg LLP, where he was mostly practicing supply chain law. Then came a call from childhood friend and Heisman Trophy winner Mark Ingram, whom Levien had approached about taking a minority ownership position in D.C. United.

Burtley represented Ingram in the successful negotiations, and his relationship with Levien grew from there. Eventually, Levien asked him to join the organization—but rather than a strictly legal role, Burtley would be involved across the organization.

"I have my hand in some legal matters, but I am working with every department, and I love the diversity of issues I get to work on," Burtley says. "The strategy side of things felt a bit abstract when I first joined, but it's critically important—it's all the things that you may not have time to think about day to day, but you have to carve out time for it."

That mindset helped lead to one of D.C. United's recent partnerships: a collaboration with the Ethiopian Football Federation and the Ethiopian Premier League. The DC area is home to hundreds of thousands of Ethiopians, and the partnership was facilitated by co-owner Eyob Joe Mamo, a prominent DC-area businessman who was born in Ethiopia and joined the team's ownership group in 2021.

"We spent time in Addis Ababa and connected with two of the top teams there, and we ultimately brought those teams to the US for the first time, and they played an exhibition match at Audi Field last year," Burtley says. "And we signed a player from Ethiopia as well. So the strategy side of my job is about making connections to help the business grow in ways that might not be clear now, but in a year or two or three, you see the momentum grow and it can have real impact."



Chris Burtley (left), '15, and Jason Levien, '97, during a trip to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Growing the game

Back home, Levien and Burtley continue to evolve D.C. United. Beyond expanding Audi Field, the organization launched a professional women's team, D.C. Power, and is focused on player development and working to improve the team and the experience for fans.

The organization also is investing in community outreach in the broader Washington Metro area. This includes a training facility in Virginia where it provides scholarships to rising stars, most of whom go on to receive college scholarships. (Outstanding recruits are signed professionally, some as young as 15 years old.)

The team also has partnered with the US Soccer Foundation to build mini-pitches in the city, which are smaller than a proper soccer pitch and designed for pick-up games. It is looking to expand the program to Baltimore.

All of these efforts speak to the deeper purpose that Levien and Burtley see in their work.

"Winning matters, of course," Levien says. "But we define success by how many lives we can touch, how many communities we can bring together to help grow this beautiful game."

Everyone Has the Right to a Seat at the Table

By Annie Hagstrom



Throughout history, many Americans with disabilities have been denied fundamental rights like attending school, holding jobs, and choosing homes. However, for as long as these inequalities have persisted, advocates for disability rights have fought back—including Aisha Elmquist, '07, who leads a state government program in Minnesota that is tasked with helping those with disabilities live their best lives.

Decades of activism from the disability community and their allies led to the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in 1990. The law was a significant milestone that prohibited discrimination against individuals with disabilities in all areas of public life. But many disabled Americans continued to be housed in nursing homes, psychiatric hospitals, and other institutions where they did not have a say in when they ate or went outside, or whom they could date or marry.

In 1999, the US Supreme Court decision in *Olmstead v. L.C.* affirmed the right of Americans with disabilities to live in the most integrated setting possible and concluded that people with disabilities have the right to receive state-funded support directly within their communities.

As a result of the decision, states across the country were advised to create their own Olmstead Plans: Minnesota rolled out its version in 2015. A decade later, Elmquist, in her role as director of the Minnesota Olmstead Implementation Office, is helping revise the state's program to better address the current needs of disabled Minnesotans.

Shepherding greater collaboration

Elmquist is working across state agencies, alongside the state's Olmstead Subcabinet and Leadership Forum, to update the Minnesota Olmstead Plan. She's also actively engaging the community in the process.

"My career is shaped by a longstanding interest in who is at the table—and making that table accessible to as many people as possible," she says. "Systems change is more impactful when diverse perspectives contribute to policy making, especially from those who are directly affected by the policies."

Before working in state government, Elmquist most recently served as deputy ombudsman in the Minnesota Office of Ombudsman for Long-Term Care (OOLTC), a state agency that advocates for older adults who need or are already receiving long-term care.

Elmquist helped pass the Assisted Living Licensure Law in Minnesota in 2019 through her work at OOLTC. The law established regulatory standards governing the provision of housing and services in assisted-living facilities to help ensure the health, safety, well-being, and appropriate treatment of residents.

"Advocating for that legislation was an enormous moment for me," she says. "I saw incredibly difficult situations before this law was put in place, like unnecessary evictions of people with advanced dementia, and Minnesota was the last state to implement assisted-living licensure. It's beyond rewarding to know that effecting change in this way will prevent similar situations in the future for adults with disabilities of all ages."

Supporting change from a young age

Elmquist spent much of her adolescence volunteering in nursing homes and getting to know elders in her local church community. She quickly became aware of the challenges older adults often face and the need for a greater focus on their health and quality of life, particularly regarding services and disability rights in long-term care facilities.

When Elmquist was only 12, she began writing letters to her local officials to better understand how decisions are made and policies are shaped. She received an invitation to her state capitol and was relieved to learn her questions and concerns were taken seriously by people in positions of power.

"I was intimidated but realized the importance of showing up even as a child. People were interested in what I had to say about the issues that were important to me and affected my life."

When approaching projects like the next iteration of the Minnesota Olmstead Plan, Elmquist takes inspiration from a phrase that relies on the principle that policies and programs must include the affected people in the decision-making process: Nothing about us without us.

"Something I know better today than I did when I started my journey is when to step back and allow others to direct the change. The people most affected by the work should always be included."

In-House at Medline: Much More Than Counseling and Dispute Resolution

By Sharon Morioka

In 2021, after working as general counsel for medical supply firm Medline for 22 years, Alex Liberman, '89, had covered a large spectrum of corporate legal work, from dispute resolution to compliance issues. But that year, he had the opportunity to participate in a leveraged buyout when three private equity (PE) firms and two sovereign wealth funds bought 80 percent of the company, a professional experience he describes as transformative.

"It was really, really rewarding to experience that—to go from being family owned to PE owned; learning and leading these aspects of a leveraged buyout; being in the company of excellent professionals at firms like Goldman Sachs and Wachtell, Lipton; and going through it all with the other executive officers and senior leaders at Medline who had worked together for decades."

The experience illustrates that, even after many years as Medline's top legal staffer, Liberman still finds challenges in his job, where he leads a team of about 25 lawyers in a \$26 billion global enterprise that comprises more than 43,000 employees and operates in more than 100 countries and territories.

Professional growth

When he joined Illinois-based Medline in 1999, Liberman initially focused on counseling and dispute resolution, which is how the family that owned the business as well as the senior leadership saw the value lawyers would bring to the company.

He then moved on to compliance, risk, governance, and regulatory issues amid the changing regulatory and enforcement climate. While Medline grew and became a global enterprise, he refocused again as the company started to think of legal and compliance responsibilities more expansively. That included privacy, trade compliance, sustainability, and the more specialized counseling functions within legal, such as intellectual property and labor and employment.

"And then all of these functions had a worldwide remit to them," he says, "as we really leaned into the notion of being one company as opposed to having autonomous discrete businesses elsewhere in the world."



Throughout his career at Medline, Liberman, whose job title changed to chief legal officer in 2023, has relished the professional growth opportunities that working as in-house counsel has presented.

"At a corporation—at least at one like Medline—if you're effective and you learn the business, you're able to influence and even lead dozens of things a day, hundreds of things over the course of a year."

Team player

Of course, these opportunities also bring the challenge of adapting to a changing legal landscape. Liberman has had to evolve his skillset over the years, which he says can be daunting. Case in point, Medline recently filed a Form S-1 registration statement with the Securities and Exchange Commission as it explores a public offering.

"So that's more change and work for my staff and me," he says. "I've also dealt with it by hiring some incredible people; I really think we have an excellent senior staff in legal and compliance and other control functions to handle a growing company, whether we're public or private."

He points to the strength of his team as a means of his success. Hiring the right team members, he says, is an essential part of his job. While he initially hired lawyers with subject matter expertise and practice area expertise in mind, he realized that it was more important to hire based on fit with the corporation's culture.

"Our culture is very front footed with a bias toward action," he says. "We need lawyers who are able to thrive in that environment, who are willing to learn the entire business and become the sort of lawyers that commercial colleagues are willing to defer to."

A CENTURY OF ARGUMENT AND ADVOCACY

Campbell Moot Court Turns 100

BY SHARON MORIOKA



For 100 years, Michigan Law students have participated in the Henry M. Campbell Moot Court Competition, the annual student-run event that has given generations of participants insights into appellate advocacy.

IN THE LATE AFTERNOON OF MARCH 24, members of the Law School community filed noisily into room 100 of Hutchins Hall (Honigman Auditorium), looking for seats as they talked with friends and colleagues. In contrast, an odd calm prevailed at the front of the room. Two young men in suits and ties sat quietly at separate tables, facing forward and seemingly undisturbed by the commotion surrounding them.

Then silence fell over the room as the final round of the 100th Henry M. Campbell Moot Court Competition began. Three federal judges made their way into the room, and arguments began in the hypothetical US Supreme Court case of *Richards v. Danforth*.

On behalf of the petitioner, Arthur Etter, '25, stood before the judges and started to lay out his argument. Within minutes, one of the judges interrupted with a question. Etter, who had spent months preparing for such interruptions, replied to that question and the many others that were lobbed his way during his 30-minute presentation.

"I focused on staying calm and returning to my best arguments," he later said of the back-and-forth with the judges. "Once the bench started warming up and I could tell what issues the judges were interested in, I tailored my arguments to focus on those areas."

Likewise, Connor Mulvena, '25, made his argument on behalf of the respondent while fielding a barrage of questions from the Hon. Rachel Bloomekatz of the US Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, the Hon. Toby Heytens of the US Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, and the Hon. David Stras of the US Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit.

Later, Stras commended each of them for maintaining their composure "even though we were beating you up." In the end, Etter was named the winner and both listened intently as the panel provided specific, constructive feedback about their oral arguments.

The event capped this year's student-run competition, which began the previous fall with 122 2L and 3L students writing and rewriting briefs and competing in elimination rounds of oral arguments. They addressed the hypothetical case prepared by the competition's student board. Neither Etter nor Mulvena knew which side he would represent until a coin toss before the final moot court.

"It's hard to think of better training to be a lawyer," says the Hon. Joan Larsen of the US Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit and the adviser to the Campbell program. "The whole point of law is the peaceable resolution of conflicts; to accomplish that goal, we need to teach students to listen to, understand, and engage with ideas they might not instantly agree with."



Top photo: Arthur Etter, '25, winner of the 2025 competition (standing), and runner-up Connor Mulvena, '25 (seated). Bottom photo: Rising 3L Anna Kallmeyer (far right), chair of the 2024–2025 Campbell student board, seated next to the Hon. Joan Larsen of the US Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit and the adviser to the Campbell program.

THE QUESTION

When the Law School's first moot court convened in 1925–1926, students argued a case that has since been lost to the mists of time. The earliest record that still exists is dated April 20, 1928, and includes a one-page final argument centered on the hypothetical case of *Smith v. Jones*. Very much of its time, the case involved a plaintiff who had fought in World War I and property he had conveyed to his fiancée, who later died of tuberculosis.

In the subsequent decades, hypothetical cases have involved a variety of topics, often reflecting current legal issues of the day. The 2024–2025 case explored whether an eviction moratorium that was enacted following a devastating wildfire violated the takings or contracts clauses to the US Constitution. Members of the Campbell Moot Court Board, the student organization that oversees the competition, wrote the case with support from faculty and the competition's adviser, the Hon. Joan Larsen of the US Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. ►



**Campbell helped
me see if I had
the chops to do
appellate work.**

—Caroline Flynn, '13, who until June 2025 was assistant to the solicitor general in the US Department of Justice, reached the semifinals in 2013.



REAL-LIFE PRACTICE

SINCE THE 1925–1926 ACADEMIC YEAR, Michigan Law students have taken their place before a panel of judges to argue opposing sides in the Campbell moot court. They were far from the first to participate in such competitions—moot courts for law students have been around since medieval England. However, they were the first to participate in the Law School's oldest student competition and one of its highest honors. Over the past 100 years, the popularity of the competition has persisted despite the burden of classwork and an array of other extracurricular offerings.

“Campbell provides a unique opportunity to get real-life appellate litigation practice,” says rising 3L Anna Kallmeyer, chair of the Campbell Moot Court Board for the 2024–2025 academic year. “It’s not super intuitive how to engage with a panel of judges, how to argue your case in a way that’s persuasive and assertive but also respectful. Campbell gives students the opportunity to formulate arguments, articulate those arguments in a low-risk environment, and build those skills before they graduate.”

That was precisely the experience of the Hon. Roger Gregory, '78, of the US Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. Gregory competed as a 2L student; he and his partner advanced to the quarterfinal round.

“I had my first jury trial in my third year because I was a volunteer for an Ann Arbor legal aid trial in Ypsilanti,” says Gregory, who has returned to Ann Arbor to serve as a Campbell judge on three occasions. “It was a good experience having done moot court as a student, to at least stand in front of the judges and make an argument. I wouldn’t have traded the experience for anything.”

The competition also gives students a chance to determine whether to pursue a career in appellate law, says Caroline Flynn, '13, Supreme Court counsel at Earthjustice, former assistant to the solicitor general in the US Department of Justice, and a former clerk to Chief Justice John Roberts on the US Supreme Court. Flynn, a semifinalist in the 2013 competition, had taken the Legal Practice Program during her 1L year as well as appellate seminars.

“Campbell helped me see if I had the chops to do appellate work,” she says, adding that the practice of arguing both sides of the case was valuable. “The exercise of writing briefs and then taking the opposite side of an issue was really interesting because, of course, when you’re writing your own brief you think of the strongest arguments for the other side. So it’s great to then be able to turn around and seize upon those arguments to your advantage.”

- Unlike law schools that use actual cases for their moot courts or outsource the writing to a law firm, members of the student board work each summer to develop the hypothetical case in time for distribution at the beginning of the fall term. This is a change from the earliest years of the competition, when faculty wrote the cases, and provides an additional learning opportunity for students. Students also may be eligible to receive academic credit for their work in crafting the Campbell case.

“It’s really hard to write a hypothetical problem that’s going to capture all the legal issues and hang together factually and procedurally,” says Larsen. “The students research and write a problem that has to be realistic and simulate a real Supreme Court case. They also write a bench memo for the judges to use throughout the rounds.”

Over the century of the competition, the complexity of the case and associated work to participate received the occasional push back. Consider the announcement of the 1974–1975 competition in the September 13, 1974, issue of the Law School’s *Res Gestae* newsletter. One sentence all but shouted at students that the research workload would be reasonable:

Professor Westen, in response to a request that the scope of the problem be narrowed substantially from past years, has followed Supreme Court procedure and certified four questions for resolution by the Court. While the work involved in preparing and arguing the brief will be substantial, IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT THE RESEARCH NECESSARY TO ADEQUATELY DEAL WITH THE ISSUE WILL BE SUBSTANTIALLY LESS THAN HAS BEEN REQUIRED IN PAST YEARS.

A COMPETITION IS BORN

WHILE MOOT COURT ORGANIZATIONS EXISTED at the Law School in its earliest years, none of them endured in a consistent way. But in 1924, Law School students made another attempt and organized 20 clubs of first- and second-year students who would argue cases against other members of their club under the direction of a third-year student. Professor Herbert Goodrich outlined the process and goals for the clubs in a March 27, 1924, article in *Michigan Alumnus* magazine:

Arguments will start in a few days and continue for several weeks, until each member of the various clubs has participated in at least one argument. With this start it is expected that the work can begin without delay at the beginning of the school year next fall, when a more elaborate program can be undertaken. It is hoped at that time, too, to begin a series of inter-club contests, in addition to the arguments between counsel in the same club.

The first edition of what we now know as the Campbell Moot Court Competition took place during the 1925–1926 academic year. It was organized around four “case clubs”: the Holmes, Kent, Marshall, and Story clubs.

In 1927, the competition was named in honor of Henry Monroe Campbell, who had graduated from the Law School in 1878 and died in 1926. He was a partner in the firm that eventually became Detroit-based Dickinson Wright, and he also served as legal counsel to the University of Michigan’s Board of Regents for several years.

True to the vision Goodrich described in *Michigan Alumnus*, a more elaborate program developed in its early years.

According to a set of rules published in 1931, participating students were divided into the four clubs, with each club comprising approximately 32 first-year students and eight second-year students. Each student was paired with another member of the club.



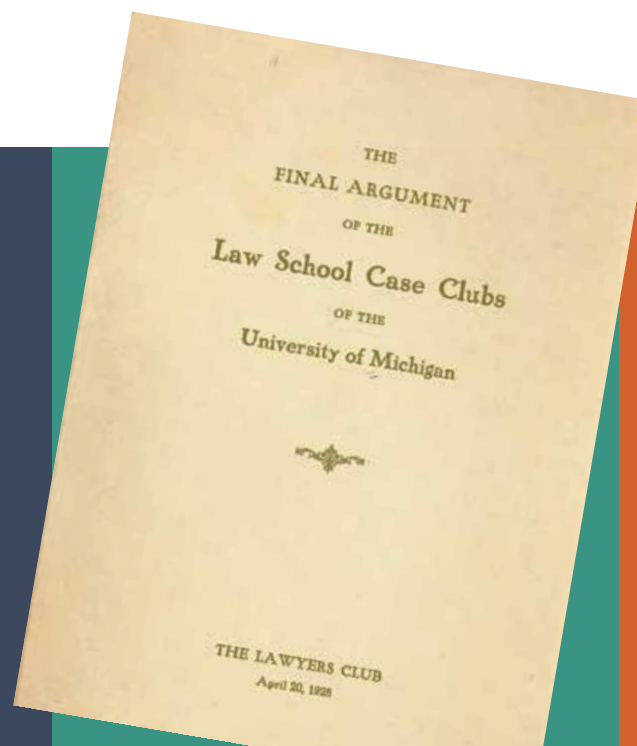
First-year students competed within their club while second-year students competed against other clubs, briefing and arguing hypothetical cases developed by the faculty. The second-year winners received \$100 while the first-year winners received a three-year subscription to the *Michigan Law Review*.

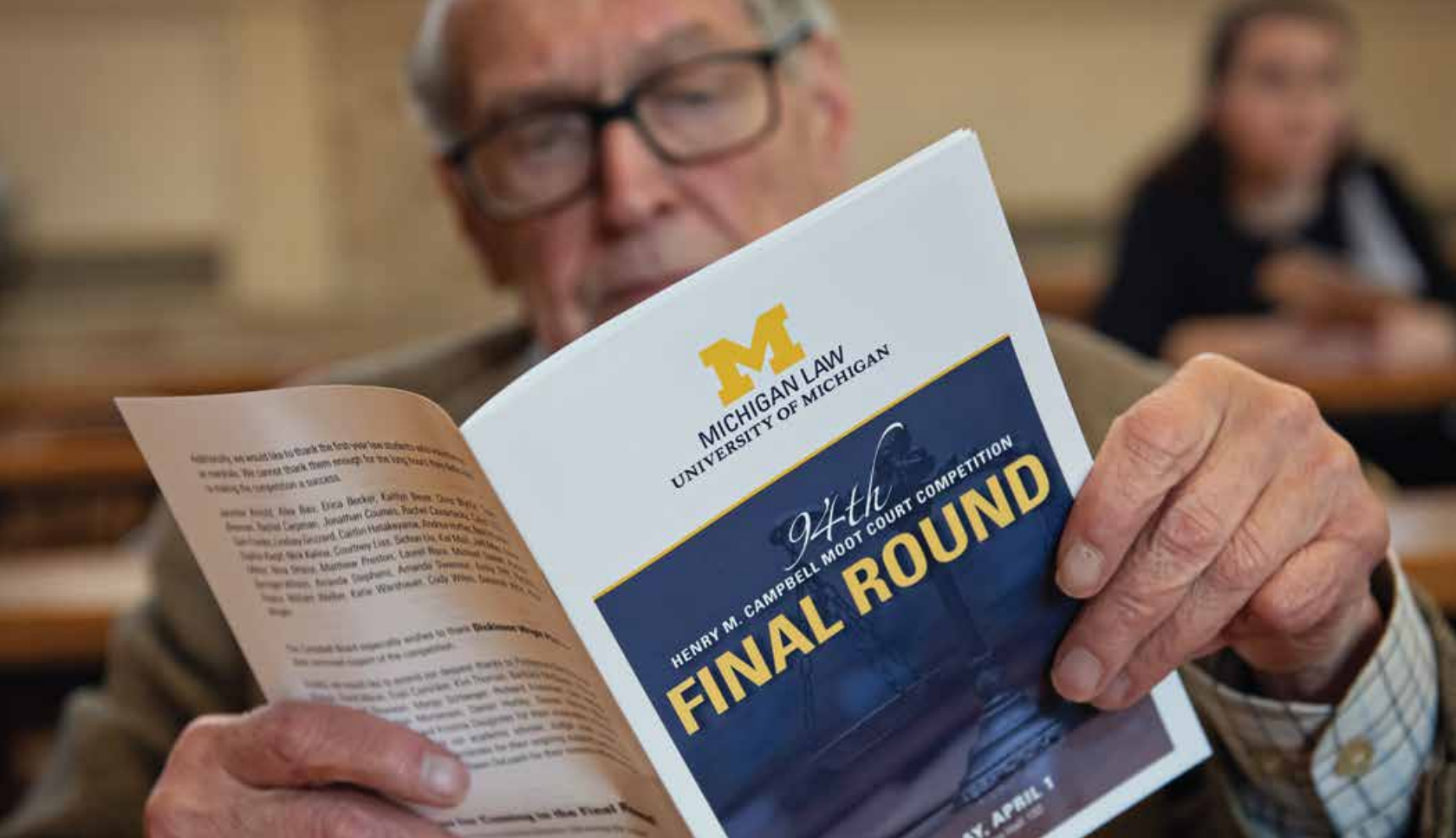
From the very beginning, it was clear that the competition benefited students in several ways: They became familiar with the resources of the law library; they learned from the feedback to their written and oral argument; and they saw the law they were studying brought to life. In short, before Law School clinics, externships, and pro bono work gave students real-world experience, Campbell provided a learning opportunity outside the classroom.

Whether written by faculty or students, Campbell cases have almost always taken current issues in state or federal courts into account.

“Looking back at the cases that were argued, they usually dealt with issues of the day that were matters of general interest,” says Theodore St. Antoine, ‘54, the James E. and Sarah A. Degan Professor Emeritus of Law and Law School dean from 1971 to 1978. St. Antoine and his competition partner, Donn Miller, ‘54, won the 1953 Campbell moot by arguing an antitrust case that involved the broadcast of sporting events. “That kind of relevance made it more exciting for everybody concerned.”

To read a selection of Campbell topics and questions throughout its history, visit *Law Quadrangle* online at quadrangle.michigan.law.umich.edu. ■





“Law itself is so much a matter of collaboration.”

—Theodore St. Antoine, '54, the James E. and Sarah A. Degan Professor Emeritus of Law, won Campbell in 1953.

He is pictured at the 2019 event (top photo) and as a student in the 1954 Law School yearbook.

EVOLUTION OF THE PROGRAM

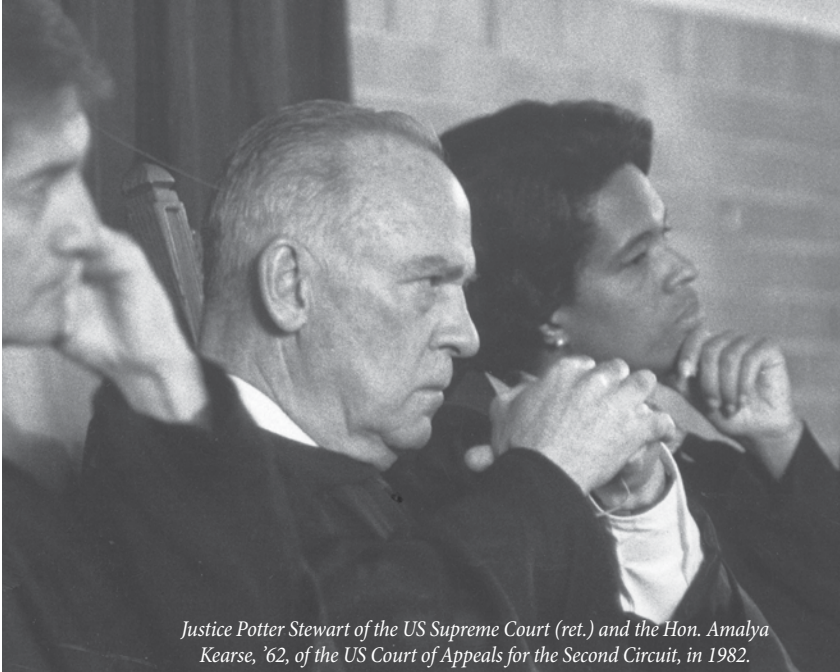
By 1953, THE NUMBER OF STUDENT-MANAGED CLUBS—all named for prominent Michigan jurists, including former Law School dean Henry Bates and former U-M president Henry Hutchins—had grown to 16. And according to updated rules published in 1954, faculty assigned students to clubs during the first week of school (students usually remained in the same club for the duration of law school). In the two-year competition, the 32 participants who finished highest in their first year advanced to the Campbell competition in their second year. The winner among the second-year students took home the Campbell award.

“At the time I was a student, the second-year program was a natural outgrowth of the first-year program,” says Theodore St. Antoine, '54, the James E. and Sarah A. Degan Professor Emeritus of Law and Law School dean from 1971 to 1978.

St. Antoine, who won the 1953 Campbell moot alongside teammate Donn Miller, '54, says each member of both teams had the opportunity to make an oral argument in the final round. When including a rebuttal for the opening team, that totaled five oral presentations.

“Donn and I decided which cases or precedents each of us would stress in the oral presentation so that we would not be hammering the same ones,” St. Antoine says. “It was very much team oriented, which was a wonderful opportunity for students to engage in a joint effort. Law itself is so much a matter of collaboration. I think one of the great lessons to be imparted in a law school is the importance of working with people. It’s much more reflective of the way law is actually practiced.”

In addition to the first- and second-year students, third-year students participated by acting as club leaders, advisers to students, and judges, receiving credit if they successfully completed three cases in their club work. The highlight of the events was the annual Case Club Day, when the final competition was held and the Campbell Award was given at an evening banquet.



Justice Potter Stewart of the US Supreme Court (ret.) and the Hon. Amalya Kearse, '62, of the US Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, in 1982.

**You want to see how well
they think on their feet
and how they can take
it to the next level.**

— The Hon. Roger Gregory, '78, of the US Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, has served as a Campbell judge on three occasions, including the 2017 competition (photo below, center).



THE JUDGING

Since its earliest years, the Campbell Moot Court Competition has welcomed a panel of notable judges to serve in the final round. In 1928—the first year for which records remain—the chief justice of the Supreme Court of Michigan, a federal district judge, and a prominent Chicago lawyer decided the case.

That tradition carries on today, and the 2025 competition welcomed the Hon. Rachel Bloomekatz of the US Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, the Hon. Toby Heytens of the US Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, and the Hon. David Stras of the US Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit.

“We were fortunate on occasion in getting a Supreme Court justice,” says former dean Theodore St. Antoine, '54, the James E. and Sarah A. Degan Professor Emeritus of Law. “This added a bit of a polish to the moot court without interrupting the justices’ regular sessions.”

As both a judge and an alumnus of Campbell, the Hon. Roger Gregory, '78, of the US Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, has a unique perspective. He empathizes with the anxiety students might be experiencing while also knowing how much the judges can expect of them.

“You’re not supposed to judge by whether you would agree or disagree with the merit of the case,” says Gregory, who served as a Campbell judge in 2012, 2017, and 2021. “As a judge, I want to know if they understand who they’re representing and what the impact of their argument is on their client in the context of the legal argument. So I’m looking for that nuance.”

As students make their argument, judges freely interrupt with questions, often requiring students to pivot from and then return to their argument or to concede a point. The most able students can do that well.

“And it’s really impressive,” says Gregory. “You want to see how well they think on their feet and how they can take it to the next level.”

The judges also have a responsibility beyond judging the students: to provide honest and constructive feedback. Students receive that type of feedback through each round of the competition leading up to the final on both their written and oral arguments. ►

- “If you’ve gone through the preliminary round, you’ve seen other people’s arguments; you’ve seen weaknesses in your argument,” says rising 3L Anna Kallmeyer, chair of the Campbell Moot Court Board for the 2024–2025 academic year. “And people use that to improve their arguments.”

In the first years of the moot court, when it was organized around student clubs, third-year students served as preliminary round judges. Today’s competition relies on a large group—more than 70 this year—of legal practitioners, administrators, and faculty who grade the briefs and serve as judges in earlier rounds.

“I think for the most part, they’re looking for good speaking skills, whether students can engage respectfully with a bench, tone, and pacing,” says Kallmeyer. “But also, do they know the case law? Do they know their argument? Do they know the weaknesses in their argument? All the competitors that get to the semifinal round are excellent speakers, and the faculty home in on the substantive law.” ■

A number of sitting and former justices of the US Supreme Court have served as Campbell judges, including:

WILLIAM J. BRENNAN (1958)

POTTER STEWART (1962, 1965, 1966, AND 1982)

CHARLES WHITTAKER (1963)

BYRON WHITE (1964 AND 1975)

THOMAS CLARK (1967)

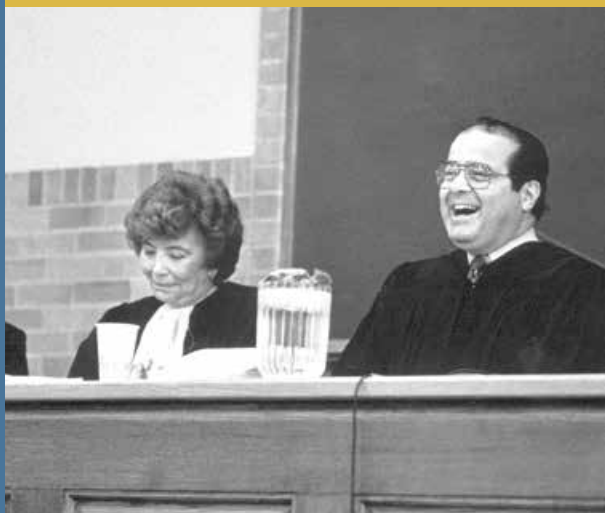
WILLIAM J. BRENNAN (1969)

HARRY BLACKMUN (1972)

ARTHUR GOLDBERG (1977 AND 1981)

JOHN PAUL STEVENS (1983)

ANTONIN SCALIA (1992; he is pictured below with Helen Nies, chief judge of the US Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit.)



For 85 years, with the exception of 1944, teams of students argued in the Campbell finals, including in 1997 (pictured).

FROM TEAMS TO INDIVIDUALS

SUBSEQUENT YEARS SAW CHANGES IN THE PROGRAM, such as the number of clubs and students that participated and the format of the competition.

For example, in 1977, third-year students were allowed to compete, and the hypothetical case wasn’t so hypothetical. It was a precursor of a major US Supreme Court reverse discrimination case decided in 1978, *Regents of the University of California v. Bakke*. However, the Campbell case returned to its hypothetical roots in following years.

Major changes came in 1994; that year, new Law School Dean Jeffrey Lehman replaced the case clubs when he established the Legal Practice Program to teach legal writing, research, and advocacy to first-year law students. However, it did not spell the end of the Campbell competition, which continued unabated.

Over the years, the makeup of the teams fluctuated: From 1926 to 1974 (with the exception of 1944), each team comprised two students; from 1975 to 1989, each comprised up to four students; and from 1990 to 2010, the competition reverted to two-person teams. In 2011, the competition moved to a hybrid model that continues today; students work as teams in the preliminary rounds and then advance as individuals. Larsen says that change was made for two reasons; first, it more accurately simulates oral argument.

“In no actual court do two people stand up to represent one client,” she says. “Although you might have somebody sitting at counsel table with you, one person stands up and knows the whole case.”

Second, Larsen says that teammates were not always equally matched, which could prevent a worthy student from advancing to the final round.

“We felt like we were not always able to advance the best advocates to the semifinal and final rounds. The goal of the competition is to highlight Michigan’s very best oralists.”

ADAPTING YET ENDURING

A MAJOR ONE-TIME CHANGE OCCURRED IN APRIL 2021 as COVID-19 upended many aspects of normal life, including the Campbell competition.

“The first year of the pandemic, we got lucky because we held the arguments very early—right before campus closures,” says Larsen. “But then, in the following year, we had to pivot to Zoom and had virtual Campbell.”

The changes came with a silver lining, though: a mentorship program that matched participants with alumni who coached students on appellate advocacy and oral argument before the preliminary round. The online program, while not always perfect, allowed the Campbell moot court to continue its unbroken line of competitions.

“That year of law school was isolating in many ways because we were all doing classes on Zoom from our bedrooms,” says Victoria Clark, ’22, who won the 2021 competition and now is an associate at Covington and Burling LLP.

“At the end of the competition, what stood out to me the most was how many people had come together to help me throughout the months-long process. I made connections with people I never would have if I hadn’t competed. As a practitioner, I see how the legal profession can sometimes feel isolating and like we’re doing things all on our own. I try to remember the lesson of how much better we do, and how much more enjoyable the experience is, when we rely on our colleagues.”



Victoria Clark, '22, won the 2021 Campbell competition, which was conducted remotely due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The event returned to its in-person format in 2022.

As the competition enters its second century, its mission to give students practical lessons in the art of appellate advocacy continues.

“Campbell is a great learning experience regardless of whether you compete in the prelims or make it to the final round,” says Etter, the winner of the 100th Campbell moot court. “I remember watching the final round as a 1L and thinking it was interesting, impressive, and intimidating. I had no idea I would end up competing, much less making it all the way to the end.”

The first year of the pandemic, we got lucky. But then...we had to pivot.

—The Hon. Joan Larsen, US Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. When in-person competition returned in 2022, final-round judges (pictured below, left to right) were US Court of Appeals Judges Michael Scudder (Seventh Circuit), Bernice Donald (Sixth Circuit), and Kevin Newsom (Eleventh Circuit).



CAMPBELL WINNERS REFLECT

The experience of the Campbell Moot Court Competition stays with participants for decades. Law Quadrangle reached out to previous winners and asked for their stories, excerpts of which are included here.

1958
1961

“The biggest lesson I learned is that preparation is crucial. There was also a collegiality that was present during my practice years but I am afraid has diminished in recent years.”

Blair D. Benjamin, '59
Education and Health Corporate Attorney
(Retired)



Benjamin is pictured front left. US Supreme Court Justice William Brennan is in the middle on the right.

1977

“Our case was a lightly disguised version of *Regents of the University of California v. Bakke*, the leading affirmative action case of the time. Our court was to have included US Supreme Court Justice Lewis F. Powell and Solicitor General Wade H. McCree, but both necessarily withdrew when the court granted certiorari in *Bakke*. Dean St. Antoine scrambled to find replacements but rose to the occasion by enlisting former Justice Arthur Goldberg, who had served as US Secretary of Labor before his appointment to the Supreme Court. Judge Charles Joiner of the Eastern District, a longtime faculty member, replaced Solicitor General McCree. Justice Goldberg presided with grace and authority over our argument and in remarks from the bench made some observations that stayed with me throughout my career about the importance of winning cases on their facts by first impressing upon the court the justice of the client’s cause, then providing legal arguments that lead to a just result.”

George Kimball, '78, Counsel, Technology and Outsourcing Practice at Wiggin and Dana LLP and Lecturer at Michigan Law

Kimball is pictured standing fifth from left. His brother, Frank Kimball, '77, is pictured standing fourth from left. “Our success owed everything to Frank’s excellence as an oral advocate,” says George of Frank, who died in 2011. “On his feet, Frank was exceptional.” Also pictured, standing left to right, are Thomas Friel Jr., '77, Edd-Richard Watson, '77, Kenneth Laino, '78, Douglas Zingale, '78, and Calvin Keith '78. Seated, left to right, are St. Antoine, Michigan Supreme Court Associate Justice Charles L. Levin, Justice Goldberg, Judge Joiner, and Professor Peter Westen.



1996

“I sought out David Frazee, '96, to be my partner because though he was not a close friend, I recognized him as a thoughtful and passionate student, and I thought we would make a formidable team. Frazee, it turned out, was a last-minute kind of guy who did his best work when hard up against a deadline. That was not my style at all and was somewhat unnerving, but he was indeed as strong a partner as I had hoped. There were definitely late-night trips to the computer center in the basement of the Michigan Union, where we had to do our printing, since none of us had our own printers in those days. We somehow managed to make all our submissions on time, if barely, and things turned out fine in the end. As for the final-round competition, always in my mind is the unforgettable sound of my infant son Aryeh crying out in the back of Hutchins Hall.”



Lieber is pictured in the middle around the time of the Campbell finals with Svati Kania Shashank, LLM '95, left, and Amit Shashank, '96, who remain two of his closest friends to this day.

Joseph S. Lieber, '96, Partner, Klein Hornig LLP

2000

“There were two hours between the competition and the banquet—far too long for an immature winner like myself. By the time I arrived at the banquet, I was well in my cups. The dean of students spotted me on the way in and very cordially steered me to a table far from the federal judges who presided over our competition. There were four finalists and three judges—each judge’s table had a finalist. I sat with the dean.”

Bill Jenks, '00, *Principal, Jenks IP Law*

Jenks is pictured with his arms raised, hyping his partner, Abigail Carter, '00, alongside runners-up, Sean Grimsley, '00, and Eric Olson, '00.



2001

“One of the most rewarding aspects of our teamwork was the challenge of having to alternate arguing on behalf of both appellant and appellee—and sometimes switch issues within those sides. Paul and I at least tried to do so seamlessly, which was an incredible experience.”

Steve Hessler, '01, *Partner, Sidley Austin LLP*

“I recall one professor telling me that I gave ‘a brilliant defense of a wrong thesis.’ I recall another judge confusing on-brief and off-brief. I recall one judge asking a female competitor why she wore pants to the competition (instead of a skirt). The feedback could be harsh and at times arbitrary; you had to have a thick skin. We learned from our mistakes: One time, the judges criticized us for talking while the other team presented. We never said a word again during any competition and only shared written notes.”

Paul Diller, '01, *Professor of Law and Roscoe C. & Debra H. Nelson Distinguished Faculty Scholar, Willamette University*

2004

“I recall one of the judges telling both teams that our briefs were far better than many they reviewed that were submitted by ‘real’ lawyers. I assumed at the time that she was probably exaggerating and just looking for something nice to say in front of our peers, professors, and parents. In retrospect, my reaction was a clear example of early imposter syndrome; it was not, in fact, laughable to say that the briefs we’d spent months perfecting were of very high quality just because we hadn’t yet earned our degrees and started practicing law. I’ve reminded myself of this when I’ve thought I was too underqualified or inexperienced to raise my hand for opportunities.”

Katie (Lorenz) de Villiers, '04, *Assistant US Attorney, District of Oregon*



Jessie Morgan Gabriel (left) and Katie (Lorenz) de Villiers.

“When Katie and I were going through the moot court process, we made little team purchases. By the time we got to the final, we had matching bracelets, matching necklaces with our first initials, and pink dress shirts. We were really playing up the woman angle, which is funny in retrospect, given how the Big Law environment encouraged me to go in the other direction.”

Jessie Morgan Gabriel, '04, *Founder and Managing Partner, All Places*



2005

“My Campbell partner was my very best friend, Patrick Egan, ’05. We pulled all-nighters writing our Campbell briefs and spent countless hours mooted each other in preparation for our oral arguments, both of us realizing that we enjoyed the process of crafting and presenting an argument in court. I went into private practice, and Patrick, the most principled person I have ever known, went into public service, first with the DOJ Honors Program, then at the District Attorney’s Office in Manhattan, and then as an assistant US attorney in the Southern District of New York. Patrick’s life was cut far too short in 2019, when he died from a rare and aggressive cancer. The Campbell competition wasn’t merely a feather in my cap from my days in Ann Arbor; it was part of the beginning of the best and most rewarding friendship of my life.”

Ed Kilpela, ’05, *Partner, Wade, Kilpela, Slade*

“Team Ped” was a mashup of the duo’s first names. “We turned around when we got ready to argue and there, in the front rows, were many of our friends in those shirts,” recalls Kilpela. Pictured from left to right are Jennifer Magida, ’05, Len Gray, ’05, Egan, Kilpela, Ryan Calo, ’05, and Laurel Dumont, ’05.

2009

“My partner [Frances Lewis, ’10] was so much better at appellate advocacy than I was, and she is the reason we won the competition. So the lesson is to surround yourself with people who are way better than you.”

Usman Ahmed, ’10, *Payments Market and Partnerships, Corporate Strategy, PayPal*

2010

“When I went to law school, I expected to be doing transactional and venture capital work. My Campbell experience helped show me that I was more interested in litigation. I still think about all of the preparation that went into the Campbell arguments, including the binders full of cases to read and learn, every time I prepare for an argument of my own.”

Jake Walker, ’10, *Partner, Block & Leviton LLP*

2011

“After a semifinal argument, one professor told me that my style would someday make me an effective trial lawyer—not what you want to hear in the context of an appellate moot court. Fifteen years later, I’m a trial lawyer.”

Sam Rudman, ’12, *Partner, Choate Hall & Stewart*

2007

“Both the most nerve-racking and exhilarating moment was standing up first to argue in the final before a packed audience in Hutchins 100. I’ve handled many big hearings, trials, and appellate arguments since, but never in front of such a large audience. That experience helps calm me even to this day.”

Jeremy Suhr, ’07, *Partner, Boulware Law LLC*

“At the final, I said something that seemed like it might be leading to a concession, and there was an audible gasp through the auditorium—and then I transitioned to the key distinction between our case and the unfavorable line of precedent we had been discussing. It worked well, and several friends watching it said that everyone breathed a huge sigh of relief after the transition. It was much more dramatic than most of my arguments as a practitioner.”

Robert Stockman, ’07, *Appellate Attorney, US Department of Justice, Environment and Natural Resources Division*

2012

“My then-girlfriend, now-wife was also a semifinalist. Waiting for the draw to see if we’d have to go up against one another was agonizing. (We didn’t.)”

Daniel Lewin, ’13, *Senior Associate, Stowell & Friedman Ltd.*

2018



“The people involved in Campbell were 99 percent of what made it such a wonderful experience. John He, ’18, was my ‘opponent’ in the finals, but we were friends throughout law school. We mooted each other before the finals and hugged after the argument ended. My official partner was Eric Fledderman, ’18. We were fast friends at Michigan and remain good friends today. My unofficial partner, Mel Cassel, ’18, mooted me for hours upon hours throughout the competition—in part because she is a kind, generous friend who would do that for anyone and, in part, because we were unwittingly falling in love. We got married six years later.”

Johannah Cassel-Walker, ’18, *Senior Associate, Supreme Court and Appellate Litigation, Hogan Lovells*

2014

“My opponent in the final round was Daniel Halainen, ’15, and working with him was the highlight of my Campbell experience. I say ‘with,’ not ‘against,’ very deliberately because the relationship that grew out of our competition was one of collaboration and deep mutual respect. Each of us wanted to do our personal best and to see the other person succeed; to that end, we arranged joint moots in front of panels of professors and of our fellow students. By the final, we knew each other’s arguments backward and forward, each other’s strengths and weaknesses; we’d heard each other make mistakes, say silly things, try arguments that didn’t work. It was only possible because we had confidence in our own abilities and trust in each other, which is all the more remarkable because we didn’t know each other at all before Campbell. That experience taught me what’s possible when you treat your opponent with respect and collegiality—and that the phrase ‘my friend on the other side’ doesn’t have to be just meaningless politesse.”

Katharine Roller, ’14, *Counsel to the Director, Federal Trade Commission Bureau of Consumer Protection*

2020

“One of the judges in the final round hired me to clerk for her after seeing me compete in the final and sitting next to me at the celebratory dinner afterward. That clerkship became one of the most valuable professional and mentorship experiences in my career. In that sense, Campbell quite literally set the trajectory of my law career.”

Sophie Montgomery, ’21, *Appellate Associate, Jenner & Block*

Montgomery, right, and co-finalist Claire Shimberg, ’20, embrace after the competition ended. The Hon. Pamela Harris, for whom Montgomery later clerked on the US Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, is seen in the background.



2023

“During the semifinals, I fumbled my opening lines to the point where I briefly forgot which side I was supposed to be arguing. Thankfully, I turned it around, but I’ll never forget it. Before the final round, Professors Mendelson, Deacon, Litman, Mortenson, and Walker sat down with me and my co-finalist, Gabe Chess, ’23, to think through some of the tricky legal issues and how best to reconcile the key cases. Having been in practice briefly, those times sitting around a table and workshopping strategy with a team of smart lawyers are my

favorite parts of appellate litigation. Getting to do the oral argument is just an added bonus.”

Mark Rucci, ’23, *assistant attorney general, Office of the Solicitor General for the District of Columbia; he begins a clerkship on the US Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit in August.*

Rucci is pictured, left to right, with Michaela Olson, ’23, Jacob Pearlman, ’23, and Peg Schreiner, ’23, members of his 1L study group, at the Campbell finals.



CAMPBELL AND FRIENDSHIP, TWO DECADES LATER



THE 2002 CAMPBELL MOOT COURT COMPETITION pitted respondents Catherine M.A. Carroll and John W. Ursu against petitioners Coreen Duffy and Ben C. Mizer—all 2002 graduates of the Law School—to argue a case concerning the First and Fourteenth Amendments in relation to a hate crimes law. Despite the adversarial trappings, the students were linked not only by their success in the early rounds of competition—they also shared close friendships that predated Campbell and endure today.

In the final, the teams argued in front of the Hon. Frank Easterbrook, US Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit; the Hon. Stephen Reinhardt, US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit; and the Hon. Barbara Underwood, former acting solicitor general of the United States.

While Carroll and Ursu were the named winners—perhaps aided, all four agree, by the factual merits of the case—they all walked into Hutchins 100 feeling like victors. Competing in the final alongside close friends, and in front of their classmates, community, and family members, was more than enough.

Today, Ursu is a partner at Faegre Drinker, and Carroll practiced at WilmerHale for nearly 20 years before joining the US Department of Justice (DOJ) in 2024. She left the DOJ in January and intends to reenter practice later this year. Mizer served in the DOJ during both the Obama and Biden administrations, most recently as the department's number three official; he left the DOJ in January and joined Arnold & Porter as a partner in July. And Duffy, who left the practice of law to pursue a career in music and teaching, is an associate professor of conducting and director of choral activities at the University of Colorado Boulder.

Law Quadrangle recently convened the four friends on a videoconference to reflect on the experience, the friendships that defined their law school experiences, and the value of Campbell.

PARTNERING UP

Catherine M.A. Carroll

I was interested in Campbell from the get-go. One of the draws of law school, and what I've focused on in my career, was the opportunity to stand up and argue—and hopefully win.

John W. Ursu

I was terrified of Campbell. It was already a tough environment with classes and extracurriculars and trying to find a job. Catherine was my best friend and the only person I would have wanted to partner with.

Ben C. Mizer

I was such a nerd that I had competed in moot court in undergrad. And Coreen and I became very close friends through Headnotes. I already had moot court in my blood, and my recollection is that you proposed that we be teammates. Coreen, is that right?

Coreen Duffy

Absolutely not. I remember the opposite. It's quite possible you're right, it's a little fuzzy, but I'd be a little shocked if it was me.

In any event, we were very close friends, and we both wanted to do it.

THE ROAD TO CAMPBELL

Catherine M.A. Carroll

I liked law school—I liked reading cases and talking about them, but with Campbell, I felt so much more motivated in reading the case law and understanding nuance. It was a better way to learn how to marshal a factual record and legal authorities in support of advocacy rather than just objectively or critically analyzing them. It felt more exciting to dig into a set of cases when you were going to either try to use them in support of your side or figure out how to downplay or get around them in some way.

Coreen Duffy

It was such a great opportunity for us to dig in. It was right up my alley versus being presented with a book of case law to read for classes, not to knock the coursework. Campbell was more of a creative endeavor, which I loved.

John W. Ursu

I think Campbell is the best thing that Michigan Law does. The idea that you have all these interesting and smart people trying to solve a legal problem created by students—it captures the spirit of the Law School better than just about anything else.

Ben C. Mizer

Well, maybe the second best thing, after The Headnotes singing “Rubber Ducky” in your classroom.

FROM THE START, CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM

Catherine M.A. Carroll

I was hopeful we would do well, but I don't know if I really had any concept of how it would go and what it would be like. I knew I had a fantastic partner, and I was hopeful that we'd be able to keep going because it was so much fun.

John W. Ursu

From my perspective, my only job was to be the reasonable face of government. I thought I was partnered with a uniquely gifted oral advocate. We would sit in Hutchins, and I would lob questions at her and it was like putting quarters in the jukebox. I could not believe the stuff that would come out and how well formulated and well thought out it was. So at some point, I realized I had accidentally hitched myself to a rock star.

Coreen Duffy

The best parts of law school for me were extracurriculars, like Headnotes, and I did a legal practice clinic that was a huge highlight. So Campbell was another opportunity to roll up my sleeves and get involved. And talk about being hitched to the wagon of a rock star—I mean, to be paired with Ben Mizer, who is a dear friend and one of the most brilliant minds I've encountered, was an honor.

Ben C. Mizer

I thought we would do well because, for all of the over-the-top and untrue things Coreen just said about me, I had a wonderful partner who was brilliant and just such a joy to work with.



Ben C. Mizer, '02, and Coreen Duffy, '02, first connected as members of The Headnotes and later teamed up to reach the Campbell finals.

STEPPING UP TO THE BENCH

Coreen Duffy

The night before the final, Ben and I were upstairs in the Law School, and there was some big party or event going on. I don't remember what the occasion was because I was so wrapped up in Campbell that I had no idea what was happening in the outside world whatsoever. That moment is etched in my brain—it was such a strong disconnect between what we were doing. And of course I was terribly nervous before each round of the competition.

Catherine M.A. Carroll

We were super nervous before the final. I still get nervous for oral arguments; I think that's natural. Making the final was the huge thing to me, just to have that experience in front of federal judges. So I wasn't nervous so much about the outcome as just wanting to do well and not humiliate myself or my partner. But I was really nervous.

John W. Ursu

My father was a graduate of the Law School and had participated in the competition himself. And so the fact that we went to the finals and my parents flew out for it—I just don't think I have ever had an experience that is as intense. All your friends are there, and to be in the finals with some of my best friends—it's probably what it feels like to be on the Michigan football team. That was really, really cool. I will say, Catherine and I had a ritual. We would go down to Sub 3, and in one of the offices back there, we would listen to the *Rocky* soundtrack. And so that's how we got ready.

Catherine M.A. Carroll

I still do that before all arguments—for real!

Ben C. Mizer

That's amazing. That must be your secret sauce.

I would echo what Catherine said: I thought that getting to the finals was winning. John and I had become extremely close as the editor in chief and the managing editor of the *Michigan Law Review*. And Catherine and I were also good friends. I felt that by having this foursome in the finals, we had already won.

I also get nervous, to this day, for every single oral argument and think, especially the night before, "Why am I doing this to myself? This is miserable." And then during the argument, it's a blast. So that started with moot court and has remained true for 20 some years.

I also think that the nerves were exacerbated by the fact that my family was there. Apparently I did not do a very good job preparing them for what the argument was going to be like, because they were horrified by the whole thing. They just thought the judges were so mean, and they thought it was terrible. Meanwhile, I was having a blast.

EXPERIENCING A (MOOT) COURTROOM

Ben C. Mizer

I had learned in undergraduate moot court that judges are human. We would compete against other schools and often lose to teams that were clearly, in my view, inferior for superficial reasons. That is such good training for being a litigator because you definitely cannot count on judges to get it right.

With respect to competition specifically, I will say I think it's hard for some people who are judging a moot court to understand that they're judging the advocacy and not the legal question. And I think that we experienced this at various points during the competition where judges seemed to favor the advocates who were taking the position that they preferred substantively. That's not how you judge a moot court competition.

Coreen Duffy

One of the main things I remember is not being allowed to finish a sentence. I felt very much that Judge Easterbrook didn't want to let me get a word in edgewise, which, as a woman, is something I have encountered my entire career. I was trying desperately to be polite and defer to this remarkable panel of judges, but I wish I'd held my ground more.

Ben C. Mizer

I would agree with Coreen about the way that she was treated. I think all four of us felt that John and Catherine probably had the better draw of issues, and I think that Judge Easterbrook, in particular, struggled with separating the substance from the advocates.

Catherine M.A. Carroll

I agree that it was coming from his view of the legal issues rather than the advocacy because I don't think that I got the same treatment as Coreen. I don't remember a whole lot about the actual argument, except that at the very end, Judge Reinhardt was saying something that I couldn't really understand. I asked him to repeat himself, and he did, but I still didn't get it. So I just said, "Exactly." And to this day, I still don't know what I was agreeing with.

John W. Ursu

I have very few memories of the event itself other than that Judge Easterbrook had his own take on the First Amendment issue that was different from what Coreen and I had, I think. And he was very convinced by it, is the way I would say it. I did think Catherine's performance was transcendent, truly beyond almost anything I've seen in the law. It was really appropriate that she was named the best oralist.

Another thing I remember is that all the pictures from the final show my hand making this motion, what Catherine and I would call the Spigot of Justice, that I often make when I'm speaking in argument. Every picture is me turning the spigot on and off.

AN ENDURING EXPERIENCE

Ben C. Mizer

Campbell really helped forge these lifelong relationships. Coreen remains such a dear friend, and John and I have stayed in touch over the years. And I've been lucky enough to work with Catherine both in private practice and in government, where we together supervised some of the most important cases facing the United States. It didn't start with Campbell, but Campbell really helped it blossom. And that is priceless.

John W. Ursu

By the time I got to law school, I was 30. I had been a theater director for seven years. I didn't expect to be in law school, and I didn't know if I could do it. The confidence I got from my friends and my peers—from people like Ben, Catherine, and Coreen—changed my life.

If I had to choose three individuals to be with on an important thing, I could not ask for better people. I really couldn't. And that is just such a gift for us. You think about law as being tough and all sorts of things like that—screw that. If I have people like you all with me, I think I could do anything.

Coreen Duffy

I would agree that the people are really what I've taken away from Campbell and from law school. I'm still close with my housemates—we recently took a trip to Nashville together. There's just this bond from law school that is so close. Everyone was ambitious, everybody wanted to do great things, but overall I thought we wanted to work together more than anything else. So for me in my career, being able to build an argument and write persuasively and distill complicated subjects into comments on stage, I can't emphasize enough how much law school helped me with all of those things. And I would say that Campbell, specifically, helped me express myself clearly.

One of the reasons why I went into choral conducting is that my musical background had been in piano, and I felt like that was way too isolating, being in a practice room all the time. So I love ensemble work because you get to roll up your sleeves and work together to make something incredible. Campbell involved a lot of long, memorable hours of working with Ben in that basement apartment in Ann Arbor.



Catherine M.A. Carroll, '02, was named best oralist during the final round of the 2002 Campbell competition.

Catherine M.A. Carroll

The best part of Campbell and everything else in law school was the chance to work on it together with friends and classmates. Practicing law is about working together with your clients and colleagues to develop a strategy and solve problems. Campbell was one of the best preparations I had for that out of everything that I did in law school.

John W. Ursu

The last thing I would add is how important those formative experiences are in terms of giving you a sense that you have a voice that is worth something in the law. To have had an experience where, in effect, everyone takes it so seriously and that you're taken so seriously—it took me 15 years to have experiences like that in practice. It gave me a sense of what's really good out there in the law, because in the first years you do a lot of stuff that isn't as great. So Campbell was a real gift.



During argument, John W. Ursu, '02, had a habit of gesturing in a way that was reminiscent of turning a faucet—what he and his partner jokingly called the “Spigot of Justice.”

A MULTITUDE OF MOOTS

BY SHARON MORIOKA AND BOB NEEDHAM

WHILE THE HENRY M. CAMPBELL MOOT COURT is the Law School's flagship competition, it is far from the only opportunity for students to hone their skills. From trial advocacy to international, bankruptcy, and other areas of the law, students have a variety of moot court choices.

They need not be seasoned advocates to participate. Although the Campbell competition is for second- and third-year students, the Law School's 1L Oral Advocacy Competition allows first-year students to practice their oral appellate advocacy skills in a low-stress environment. The competition kicks off at the beginning of the winter semester and ends with the final moot court in April.

Outside the Law School, students entered 14 competitions during the 2024–2025 academic year. Along with myriad other activities, many student organizations support their members participating in competitions.

"For some competitions, participation can change from year to year depending on the particular interests of the students," says Alexis Bailey, '17, strategic academic and co-curricular programs manager at the Law School.

She adds that three groups are dedicated to preparing for and participating in specific competitions.

"The Jessup and Vis international moot court competition teams and the Trial Advocacy Society are somewhat unique at the Law School. Competition participation is the whole mission of their organizations."

INTERNATIONAL LAW MOOT COURTS

A 10-person team of Michigan Law students participated in this year's Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition, the world's largest moot court.

"This year we went in with a completely new team," says rising 3L Moamen Keshlaf, Michigan Law's team captain. "We did pretty well with the amount of time we had and the capacity of the team." Indeed, the team tied with Columbia for second-best respondent memorial, after Harvard.

This year's problem, composed by a team of international law scholars, addressed timely issues in international law, including the immunity of state officials from foreign criminal prosecution and the impact of receding coastlines due to climate change on maritime entitlements. A record-setting 800 teams from 105 countries and jurisdictions, including 93 teams from the US, argued before attorneys who served as judges. During the final round, two current and one former justice of the International Court of Justice decided the case, declaring Singapore Management University School of Law the winner.

While participation in the competition brings its own rewards, there is a practical application as well, says Emma Wilfong, '25, who participated in Jessup for all three years of law school, most recently as an adviser.

"I'm going to a law firm after law school," she says. "And I noticed in the summer when I was at my law firm, the skills that I used the most were managing my relationships with other people and how to effectively contribute to a team."

Michigan Law alumnus Eric Bergsten, '56, established the Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot Court in 1993 to foster the study of international commercial law and arbitration and provide training in resolving international business disputes.

A panel of arbitration practitioners and academics judges the competition, which involves writing memoranda for a claimant and respondent and presenting arguments in oral hearings. This year's problem involved a dispute arising from the contested termination of a turnkey green hydrogen plant project. The University of St. Gallen, in Switzerland, was the winner.

After participating in pleadings via Zoom, four students from Michigan Law traveled to Vienna for the next stage of the competition.



Naomi Jaffe (second from left) prevailed over runner-up Dana Craig (second from right) in the final round of the 2025 1L Oral Advocacy Competition in March. The final was judged by Margaret Cernak (left), '89, an adjunct clinical professor of law in the Legal Practice Program, the Hon. Judith E. Levy (center), '96, of the US District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan, and Linda Coberly, '95, a partner at Winston & Strawn in Chicago.

“It’s just an incredible experience to meet so many people from around the world,” says Ava Jones, ’25, who was a student coach in 2024–2025 and participated as an oralist in her 1L and 2L years. “You really expand your international horizons.”

Helping students throughout their preparation are several alumni who participated in the past and are currently practitioners. Their coaching is instrumental to the students, says Alexandra Zablocki, ’25, the team’s president. She adds that she relished the opportunity to focus on this year’s problem.

“You don’t really get to focus for eight months on one specific problem in law school, delving into it and delving into the record,” she says. “And it’s really nice to become an ‘expert’ at something that’s very rewarding.”

OTHER COMPETITIONS

For moot competitions beyond the Law Quad, Vis and Jessup are the most established but far from the only opportunities. Michigan Law’s Trial Advocacy Society, a student organization, prepares students to participate in a number of tournaments throughout the academic year across a wide range of practice areas all over the country.

In 2024–2025, the organization sent teams to four competitions—which included a victory at the 17th Annual Capitol City Challenge (CCC) Mock Trial Competition. It was the first time a Michigan Law team won the CCC.

Teams from the Law School have seen success at a number of other recent competitions, including:

- Rising 2Ls Tara Abdullah-Nri and Ku’Juana Quinn placed second in the Midwest regionals and qualified for the national round at the Thurgood Marshall Moot Court Competition, which is hosted by the National Black Law Students Association, during the 2024–2025 competition. They also received an award for best petitioner brief.
- A team from Michigan Law was a regional champion in 2024 at the Texas Young Lawyers Association National Trial Competition, which brings together more than 1,000 students from 150 law schools.
- In 2023, a Michigan Law team was a regional champion and national quarterfinalist at the American Association for Justice Student Trial Advocacy Competition.

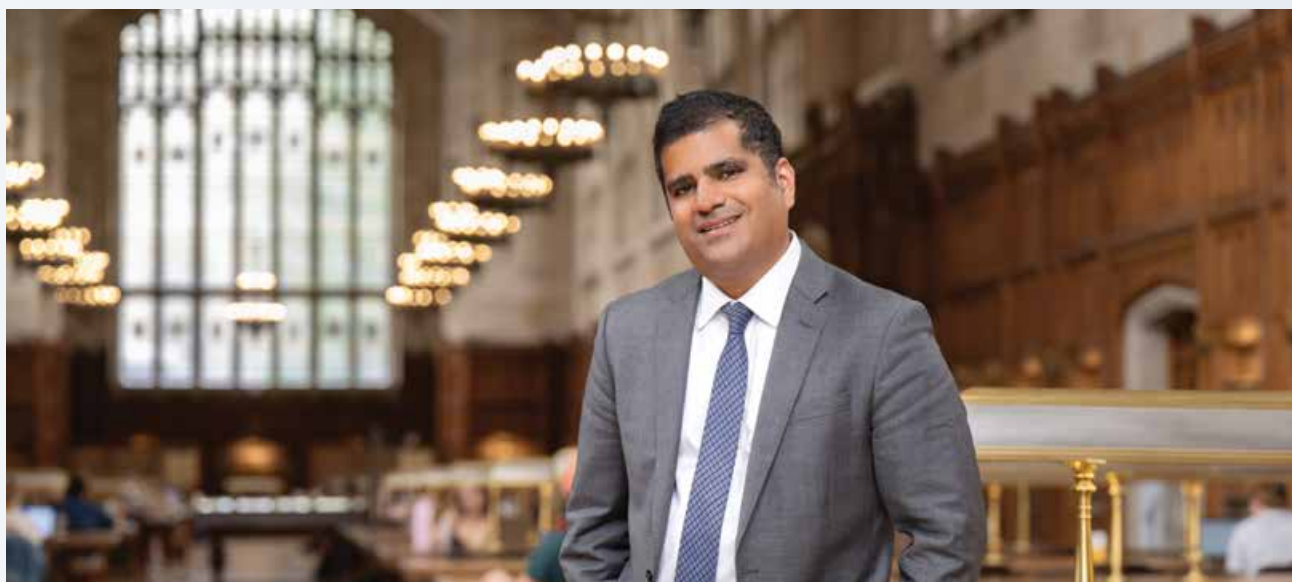
Victory in the Capital

Joclyn Hutchison, a rising 3L, and 2025 graduates Nat Jordan, Brian Tang, and Lauren Smith are pictured left to right after winning the Capitol City Challenge at the American University Washington College of Law in late March. The competition featured approximately 100 students from 12 law schools who participated in a hypothetical case centered on a fight among three men that resulted in a death. In addition to their championship victory, Tang received the award for Best Opening Statement, and Smith received awards for Best Cross Examination and Best Closing Argument.

Michigan Law students have participated in a number of other moots on a wide range of topics and practice areas in recent years, including:

- The Judge John R. Brown Admiralty Moot Court Competition
- The Cardozo FAME Center Intellectual Property Law Moot Court Competition
- The John L. Costello National Criminal Law Trial Advocacy Competition
- The Duberstein Bankruptcy Moot Court Competition
- The Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition
- The Law and Economics Center Annual Invitational Antitrust Moot Court Competition
- The Saul Lefkowitz Moot Court (International Trademark Association)
- The Jeffrey G. Miller National Environmental Law Moot Court Competition
- The National Health Law Transactional Competition
- The National Native American Law Students Association Moot Court Competition
- The Giles Sutherland Rich Memorial Moot Court (American Intellectual Property Law Association)
- The Tulane Pro Football Negotiation Competition and the Tulane International Baseball Arbitration Competition
- The Robert F. Wagner National Labor and Employment Law Moot Court Competition





Neel U. Sukhatme Begins Service as the Law School's 19th Dean

On July 1, Neel U. Sukhatme joined the Michigan Law community as the David A. Breach Dean of Law and professor of law. The appointment, which the U-M Board of Regents approved on March 20, runs for a five-year renewable term. He succeeds Professor Kyle Logue, who served as interim dean from January 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025.

Sukhatme, a distinguished legal scholar with expertise across multiple disciplines, joins U-M from Georgetown University Law Center.

"Professor Sukhatme's career has been defined by relentless innovation and a consistent dedication to the public good. I am so pleased to welcome him to Michigan," says Laurie K. McCauley, provost and executive vice president for academic affairs. "His broad experience and dynamic leadership promise to bring an exciting new chapter to the Law School, where he aims to further elevate the institution's reputation in legal education and research."

Sukhatme joined Georgetown as an associate professor in 2015. Beginning in 2023, he served as associate dean for research and academic programs and as an Anne Fleming Research Professor. He oversaw numerous strategic initiatives to bolster research and academic programming, spearheaded faculty hiring, and managed budgets for academic initiatives.

"Michigan Law has a storied tradition of excellence, and I am delighted and honored to help lead this incredible community,"

Sukhatme says. "I look forward to building on the Law School's many strengths and helping it shape the future of legal education, practice, and interdisciplinary collaboration in a time of rapid technological change."

Before his academic career, Sukhatme practiced as a patent attorney at Latham & Watkins LLP. He clerked on the US District Court for the Northern District of California and the US Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit.

Sukhatme's research spans criminology, patent law, public law, and election law. His scholarship has been published in the *Duke Law Journal*, *Cornell Law Review*, *American Law and Economics Review*, and *Harvard Law Review*, among others. His research on felony disenfranchisement has had significant policy implications, informing public debates and media coverage.

Beyond academia, Sukhatme served as the Thomas Alva Edison Visiting Scholar in the Office of the Chief Economist at the US Patent and Trademark Office. He also co-founded Free Our Vote, a nonprofit that works to restore voting rights, and Spindrop, a music technology AI startup.

He received a bachelor of science in computer engineering with highest honors from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, in 2001. He earned a JD, *cum laude*, from Harvard University in 2005 and a PhD in economics from Princeton University in 2015.

Students Honor Outstanding Faculty

In April, the Law School Student Senate announced the winners of the 2024–2025 teaching awards. During the 2025–2026 academic year, each will be invited to give a “Blue Jeans Lecture” to the community on a topic of their choice.



L. Hart Wright Award for Excellence in Teaching: Eve Brensike Primus, '01

Primus, the Yale Kamisar Collegiate Professor of Law, is the founder and director of MDefenders and the Public Defender Training Institute. She also directs the Data for Defenders project. One student nominator wrote, “Her class has changed the way that I think about law for the better. She pushes students to think quickly and creatively, has a wealth of knowledge, and her passion for teaching and justice is palpable. Professor Primus does the work of a small army. She is—put simply—stellar.”



1L Legal Practice Professor of the Year: Howard Bromberg

Bromberg, a clinical professor of law, has published in the areas of legal practice skills and marijuana law as well as legal history and biography. “Professor Bromberg is a lawyer in the greatest tradition of Oliver Wendell Holmes,” one of his student nominators wrote. “His approach is practical, measured, respectful, and good-humored. Yes, he is great at teaching us the skills of lawyering, but even more important is his example of the level-headed disposition that we are all called upon to maintain as practitioners of the law.”



Clinical and Experiential Professor of the Year: Mira Edmonds

Edmonds is the director of the Juvenile Justice Clinic and a clinical professor of law in the Pediatric Advocacy Clinic and the Civil-Criminal Litigation Clinic. “Mira is one of the most passionate professors I’ve met, and she really embodies her values through the way she teaches,” wrote one of the students who nominated her. “She guides students from heavy supervision to independence, with appropriate checks and supervision. Beyond being a superb supervisor, she... values students’ wellness and works with them to develop strategies to take care of themselves while still turning in good work.”



Innovative, Inclusive, and Interdisciplinary Teaching Professor of the Year: Chris Walker

Walker, a professor of law, teaches Administrative Law, Civil Procedure, Constitutional Litigation, Federal Courts, Legislation and Regulation, and State and Local Government Law. One student nominator wrote, “He has been an outstanding teacher, mentor, and friend. The Law School and the surrounding community are a better place for having his influence. I have gone to Professor Walker for problems big and small, and he has always been eager to provide sound advice.”

Ehrlich, '21, to Clerk on US Supreme Court

Alexi Ehrlich, '21, will clerk for US Supreme Court Justice Neil Gorsuch in the 2025–2026 term, joining fellow 2021 graduate Jacob Altik. It is the seventh straight term that a Michigan Law alumnus has clerked at the high court.

“I’m grateful for the opportunity to learn from the justice. He’s an incredibly brilliant legal thinker and a wonderful writer,” says Ehrlich.

Following graduation, Ehrlich clerked for the Hon. Stephanos Bibas on the US Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit and for the Hon. Trevor N. McFadden on the US District Court for the District of Columbia. He is an associate at Gibson Dunn.

A self-described “law nerd,” Ehrlich showed his talent for the law as a student, including in his work in the Veterans Legal Clinic. “Alexi is whip smart, a deep thinker, comfortable with complexity,

and a compelling advocate. He will make an excellent Supreme Court clerk,” says Matthew Andres, '02, director of the clinic.

Ehrlich says his experiential opportunities and extracurricular activities followed doctrinal classes that provided a firm foundation in his legal education. “My impression is that the professors were excited to teach, excited to engage, excited to challenge us. That rubbed off on me and got me that much more excited about the law.”





Michelle Adams, the Henry M. Butzel Professor of Law, and Victoria Pedri, a rising 3L, at the Fifth National Conference on School Diversity, where Adams delivered a keynote address and Pedri participated in the opening plenary.

Student Project Highlights Integration Efforts in Detroit

By Bob Needham and Amy Spooner

Two students in Professor Michelle Adams's Race, Law, and History class were so inspired by class readings on school desegregation that they launched a digital timeline of integration efforts in Detroit to extend and share their learnings.

They hope their work will inspire others around the country to create similar projects.

Michelle Landry, '24, and Victoria Pedri, a rising 3L, were particularly struck by excerpts from Adams's new book, *The Containment: Detroit, the Supreme Court, and the Battle for Racial Justice in the North*. The book explores *Milliken v. Bradley*, the Detroit school desegregation case "that ended the

Brown v. Board of Education era," as Adams says, by allowing government-supported segregation to continue.

"School segregation is something you can see when you're growing up," Landry says. "To not only read about that and relate to it, but to hear all our fellow students who had similar experiences, was really powerful and made me see that more could be done in the realm of advocacy on this subject."

"We felt very moved by the book excerpt that [Adams] had shared, and we asked to read more of it," Pedri says. "A lot of law school experiences focus on legal research and history—the traditional academia—which makes sense. But we wanted to do something a little bit more than that, connecting the research to real-life events and getting it out to people."



A visual timeline of segregation

Landry and Pedri's initial concept was an interactive map that would highlight the history of segregation across the US, as well as actionable suggestions on improving conditions today. That proved to be too ambitious, so they refocused on a detailed digital timeline of efforts in Detroit.

"They took my book, and they added other existing sources, and they built out this amazing, beautiful digital timeline that gives the history of Detroit and school segregation, including some events that are outside of the book," Adams says.



Michelle Landry (left), '24, and Victoria Pedri, a rising 3L.

The project became a semester-long independent study for the two students, with some technical help from the University's digital scholarship team. "They did a great job," Adams says. "It shows what students on their own initiative can do."

The timeline includes some of the advocacy information the students initially envisioned. And they still haven't given up on the idea of a nationwide map.

"[Landry] and I are in conversation with some of those national advocates that we spoke to," Pedri says. "They're interested in taking this and continuing it."

On the national stage

Pedri had the opportunity to pursue some of those conversations in person at the Fifth National Conference on School Diversity, "State of Integration Live!," at Georgetown University in February. While bar exam prep kept Landry from attending, Pedri spoke about their project as part of the conference's opening plenary. Adams later delivered a keynote address.

"There are pressing issues facing teachers, educators, parents, guardians, students, advocates, and lawyers across the nation who are engaged in integration work," Pedri says. "However,

understanding the past is critical to understanding the present. ... Even when we addressed what sounded like entirely modern problems, the conversation was imbued with respect for the advocates who came before us and lessons from history."

Beyond being inspired by the collective work of the speakers and attendees, Pedri was excited to field questions about the integration timeline.

"I talked with some advocates and teachers who plan on sharing the model with their students, which is precisely what [Landry] and I hoped for."

Lessons learned

Landry and Pedri say they found the experience of creating the timeline enriching in several ways.

"I gained a better understanding of school integration, especially in Detroit," Landry says. "With the assistance of Professor Adams, we were able to understand the national context as well."

"We also got connections to people who are passionate about this work and are on the ground right now. Seeing those people was really powerful to me personally, to see how much work has gone into this in the decades that have followed."

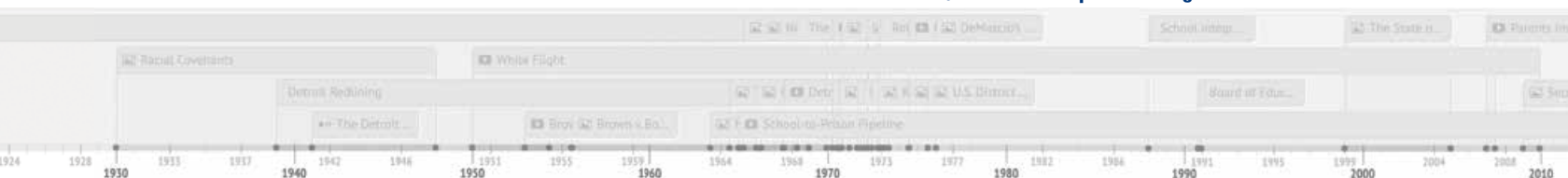
"I was surprised by some of [the state of] Michigan's earlier history," Pedri adds. "Michigan was fairly progressive in the late 1800s, early 1900s. What happened? Detroit schools are, essentially, still segregated today. How do we get that, when Michigan's first integrated school was in the late 1800s?"

The team also learned that while progress can feel slow, there are people dedicated to ensuring that reform happens.

"Professor Adams is visionary in this field, and it was amazing to work with her and be able to contribute something unique and helpful for others. I hope people know that the fight for integration isn't over. It feels like something that's passed, but it still is happening now, and there's more we can do," says Pedri.

"It takes a lot of effort, a lot of people working resiliently, for things to progress forward," Landry adds. "Lawyers can be both a positive and negative force."

Visit lawumi.ch/timeline to explore the digital timeline.



Bennoue, '94, Elected VP of ASIL



Professor Karima Bennoue, '94, was elected vice president of the American Society of International Law (ASIL) during its 2025 annual meeting in April. She also was chosen to co-lead the 2026 annual meeting.

Bennoue, the Lewis M. Simes Professor of Law, specializes in public international law and international human rights law, including issues related to culture, extremism and terrorism, and women's human rights.

"I first attended [ASIL's] annual meeting as a Michigan Law student. As a third-culture kid who lived her life across borders, a career in the field of international law was my dream back then, and the society has done so much to enable this dream," Bennoue says. "My primary goal as VP will be to work alongside my outstanding fellow officers and the society's dynamic membership to ensure ASIL has the strongest possible capacity to continue supporting new generations of 21st-century international lawyers."

Bennoue's elevation to the vice presidency is the latest chapter in the Law School's long history of leadership within the organization and its journal, the *American Journal of International Law (AJIL)*. Two pioneers in the field—William W. Bishop Jr., '31, the Edwin DeWitt Dickinson Professor of Law Emeritus, and Eric Stein, the Hessel E. Yntema Professor of Law Emeritus—were active in the society and the journal. Stein and Professor Brunno Simma are past recipients of ASIL's Manley O. Hudson Award for lifetime contributions to international and comparative law. More recently, Professor Julian Arato, a member of *AJIL's* board of editors, co-chaired ASIL's 2024 annual meeting.

With ongoing global conflicts, existential threats such as climate change, and regime changes that cast uncertainty on alliances, trade relationships, travel across borders, and more, Bennoue says ASIL's work remains extremely important.

"In recent years, ASIL has brought a wider array of voices into these conversations, from all regions of the world, from many different backgrounds, and even from across disciplinary boundaries. My term as VP coincides with a crucial moment for emphasizing the society's first principles. Promoting the international rule of law is absolutely vital in 2025."

Deacon and Fryer, '18, Participate in Harvard/Yale/Stanford Junior Faculty Forum



Daniel Fryer (left), '18, and Daniel Deacon.

Daniel Deacon and Daniel Fryer, '18, assistant professors of law, were among just 15 legal scholars from law schools around the country who presented their research at the 2025 Harvard/Yale/Stanford Junior Faculty Forum, held at Harvard Law School in June. The forum aims to foster relationships within American legal academia, particularly by strengthening ties between new and veteran professors.

Deacon's paper, "Statutory Liquidation," assesses the US Supreme Court's use of past agency practice to limit statutory grants of authority. "The article is largely critical of the court's turn, arguing that its use of practice is out of step with the

court's professed commitment to textualism and inappropriately privileges certain goals, such as the protection of reliance interests, over others, such as the promotion of government responsiveness," says Deacon.

In "Reforming Abolition," which is part of a three-paper series, Fryer aims to clarify debates around the contemporary abolition movement and offer a framework for thinking about the areas of our criminal legal systems that call for change. "This paper is my attempt to alter the terms of the debate so that abolition could primarily serve its political mission and not get bogged down in debates that have little upshot today," he says.

SJD Program Shapes the Next Generation of Professors

By Sharon Morioka

The life of a doctoral student can be an isolated one. Focusing on a narrow academic topic while working on a dissertation means lots of time spent online and in law libraries. But for Nadia Sussman, LL.M. '24, there is a sense of community at Michigan Law that made navigating her first year as a doctoral candidate special. Part of that community comes from the weekly colloquium that is an integral part of the program.

"The colloquium is fantastic, both as an accountability mechanism—because there's an expectation of presenting and engaging with other people's work—but also because it helps you feel like you're part of the community," says Sussman, whose research focuses on the role of lawyers in preparing evidential documents for witnesses. "It's so rare to get honest feedback. I'd rather get criticism on draft work from someone in the colloquium now than from someone reading a published piece later."

Similar to a PhD, the doctor of juridical science (SJD) is a terminal degree that graduate law students or researchers earn in order to pursue academic careers, typically as law professors at foreign universities. With the fall 2024 term, the Law School revised its SJD program to strengthen engagement during the weekly colloquium, to provide three years of full funding to students, and to appoint an inaugural program director.

Full funding

Most doctoral programs at other law schools offer one or two years of funding, but the Law School determined that full funding for three years was necessary to instill in candidates its norms and scholarly values while giving them adequate space to develop first-rate dissertations. Because the program usually takes from three to five years to complete, the additional funding can mean the difference between students continuing their studies or deprioritizing them to return to the workforce.

"We decided to increase our investment in the program," says Professor Julian Arato, the program's inaugural faculty director. "We're now taking fewer candidates and funding them more, which allows them to be a full part of our scholarly community."

Eric Christiansen, assistant dean for international affairs, began working with Arato before the fall 2024 term to decide how to revise the program to best support students as well as the larger Michigan Law and legal communities.

"We want Michigan to be actively involved in shaping the next generation of law professors globally," says Christiansen, who estimates that the program has produced more than 30 law professors in the last 20 years, a number that is impressively high within academia. "We want to strengthen opportunities for our SJD candidates to enrich the academic conversation happening at the Law School and to even better prepare them to leave here and be important thinkers out in the world."

Creating a more connected community

One important element in developing those thinkers is the colloquium, which Arato calls the program's "crown jewel."

Lorenzo Luisetto, who is in his third year of his SJD studies, chaired the colloquium when it was student-led, before the changes last fall. During the 2024–2025 academic year, he co-chaired it with Arato.

"The level of discussion this year was higher because participants are required to read papers in advance and provide feedback," he says. "That will help the presenters be better prepared to present their research in other forums, including job talks, in the future."

Each week, SJD candidates present their research and receive feedback from faculty. All current SJD candidates in residence are expected to attend and critique one another's work. "Research shows that, by far, the most important feedback in a PhD program is not supervisor driven but peer driven," Arato says.

As faculty director, Arato leads the colloquium, ensures that all other aspects of the program run smoothly, and serves as a mentor for students beyond the faculty on their dissertation committees.

Having a faculty director ensures that the program's structure meets real-world expectations, Christiansen says. "At the very first meeting, Julian said, 'Here's what legal academics expect of one another: We always read our work. We always have comments. We create a supportive environment. We make sure everyone improves their work, every time they offer it to us.'"

The changes will help Michigan continue to be known as a place that trains exceptional scholars, Arato says. "If you're producing really high-quality SJD candidates, they will then go be professors all over the world, including in the US, as ambassadors of Michigan Law School. It's essential that we provide our SJD students with a meaningful experience so that they carry on our traditions wherever they go."

Students Recognized for Scholarly Work

In March, Katherine “Katie” Osborn, ’24, received the Paul R. Dimond Prize for her paper on debtor exemptions in an era before stable bankruptcy law. The prize, established by Paul R. Dimond, ’69, recognized the best scholarly work during the 2023–2024 academic year in civil rights, constitutional law, or judicial review.

Her writing, “Trespassing on the Necessary Comforts of Life: Litigating Debtor Exemptions in the Early Republic,” examines the first exemption laws passed across the United States in the 18th and 19th centuries. “These laws told creditors that no matter how much someone owes, certain items are identified as property that the debtor’s family can keep,” says Osborn. “I found this topic interesting because the list of exemptions has grown exponentially over time, while, at the same time, they are still miserly.”

In December 2024, the Law School announced Jimmy McDonough, ’24, and Achutha Raman, ’24, as the winners of the Jon Henry Kouba Prize. Kouba, ’65, established the prize in 2003 to recognize the best papers on European Union law or on international peace and security among nations.

McDonough’s paper, “A Tool of Last Resort? Applying the Law of War to El Salvador’s War on Gangs,” built on work he did before law school, focusing on anti-violence initiatives with charities in El Salvador. “Even though the intensity of El Salvador’s gang conflict is at a level that exceeds other wars, the law of war often assumes the nonstate group has revolutionary or political means,” McDonough says. “However, it applies less neatly where the organized armed group seeks to subvert rather than overthrow the state.”

Raman’s paper, “Algorithmic Collusion in the European Union: Retrieving Competition Policy for the Digital Economy,” examines the idea that European Union competition policy, as it’s currently understood, is inadequate in addressing the challenges raised by algorithms. “Competition policy is in a period of revolution,” says Raman. “How competition policy changes—or doesn’t—is bound to shape not just law and economics in the next 15 to 30 years but technology, politics, and daily life altogether.”

Pinto, ’97, Wins at Michigan Supreme Court



Professor Timothy Pinto, ’97, recently argued his first case before the Michigan Supreme Court. The case, *In Re D.V. LANGE*, also marks his first win before the state’s highest court.

With Vivek Sankaran, ’01, Pinto, a clinical professor of law, leads Michigan Law’s Child Welfare Appellate Clinic (CWAC). The clinic takes an average of six cases per academic year involving termination of parental rights before the Michigan Court of Appeals. In recent years, Pinto and Sankaran have taken on additional cases, like *LANGE*.

The case involved a mother and her son, who repeatedly was a danger to himself and the family. In the instance that spurred this case, the juvenile was hospitalized with the understanding that he would be housed there until a more suitable program was found. However, the hospital later deemed him fit to go home while they continued searching. The juvenile’s mother, knowing it was unsafe to bring him home, refused to pick him up from the hospital. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) then opened a case against the mother.

“In one sense, this case was a statutory fight,” says Pinto. “In another sense, it’s an example of an issue that continuously arises where parents are put in unfair positions. Accusing someone of abuse and neglect who has shown no sign of such behavior is unlawful.”

Four out of the six justices ruled in favor of Pinto’s client. DHHS was denied jurisdictional rights, and the juvenile was eventually placed in a new treatment program, allowing the mother to maintain her parental rights and keep her and her family safe.

“There isn’t a lot of published law on child welfare in Michigan, and it’s an area ripe for clarification and improvement—this recent case is a great example,” says Pinto. “One of the greatest things about CWAC is that a startling number of cases that have been published in the last decade have originated from the clinic.”

Hot off the Press: New Books from the Faculty

Michelle Adams Henry M. Butzel Professor of Law

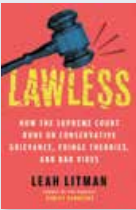


The Containment: Detroit, the Supreme Court, and the Battle for Racial Justice in the North, Macmillan, 2025

Adams's newest book details the history and impact of *Milliken v. Bradley*, the Detroit school desegregation case that gained national attention; the Supreme Court ruling in the early 1970s effectively ended the era of *Brown v. Board of Education*. As an expert in race and the law who was born in Detroit, Adams had long been interested in the *Milliken* case; the book is the product of more than 10 years of research and writing.

"This book is about a very important case, but it's really about how northern Jim Crow [laws were] created, maintained, and prosecuted. ... The more reading I did, the more interested I got. At some point I decided that there was a story that I wanted to read. I knew that if it was a story that I wanted to read, then I had a shot at having it be a story that other people might be interested in as well." (Read about a related student project stemming from Adams's book on page 32.)

Leah Litman, '10 Professor of Law



Lawless: How the Supreme Court Runs on Conservative Grievance, Fringe Theories, and Bad Vibes, Atria/One Signal Publishers, 2025

From her clerkship with former Justice Anthony Kennedy to her current teaching on constitutional law and the federal courts and her co-hosting of the *Strict Scrutiny* podcast, Litman is well positioned as an observer of the Supreme Court and its activities of the past several years. For insight into her thinking, look no further than the subtitle of her book.

"We often think of law as something that is objective and determinant, where there are right answers. Vibes, by contrast, are more subjective; they're your innermost feelings. By suggesting the court is drawing on vibes rather than law, it's meant to suggest that what they are doing is imparting more of their own views into the law that governs all of us."

She adds that "fringe theories" refers to the idea that the court is drawing on views held by a minority of the country, while "conservative grievance" is the idea that some of the justices appear to be convinced that conservatives are the victims of a society that doesn't share their views.

Nicolas Cornell Professor of Law

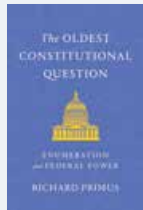


Wrongs and Rights Come Apart, Harvard University Press, 2025

While traditional thinking tends to bind together the concepts of rights and wrongs, Cornell argues they can and should be considered separately. Drawing on examples from the law, literature, pop culture, and elsewhere, he explores a variety of topics, including exploitation and the nature of forgiveness, through this lens. Cornell, who holds a PhD in philosophy as well as his JD, teaches and writes on contract law, moral philosophy, remedies, and private law theory.

"The traditional understanding, in both legal doctrine and moral philosophy, is that rights and wrongs are sort of flip sides of the same coin. That is, to have a right is to be the person who stands to be wronged. And to be wronged is to have had your rights violated. What I'm trying to suggest is that these concepts can come apart. ... For example, if you kill me, you will have wronged my mother, who cares about me quite a bit, but you will not have violated her rights."

Richard Primus Theodore J. St. Antoine Collegiate Professor of Law



The Oldest Constitutional Question: Enumeration and Federal Power, Harvard University Press, 2025

Primus argues against the longstanding orthodoxy that Congress can do only what the Constitution authorizes it to do. Over the years, he has taught his students that the 10th Amendment to the Constitution limits the powers of the federal government to those enumerated in Article 1, Section 8. But he gradually came to question that interpretation.

"It is a core proposition of American constitutional law that Congress can legislate only on the basis of its enumerated powers and that that limits Congress in important ways. Also, that federalism—in the way that it's supposed to work in our system—depends on that limitation. My book is an explanation of why I think that all of that is wrong. ...

"[If] I can persuade people to think about the Constitution in a better way, maybe we can change what the law thinks is a sensible argument. That is, I think that we should understand the enumerated powers of Congress as primarily intended not to limit Congress, but to empower it."

The Ripple Effect of Roy Proffitt

By Annie Hagstrom



The Law Quad has had no shortage of influential professors and administrators who have shaped generations of Michigan Law students. But even among that esteemed group, Roy Proffitt, JD '46, LLM '48, made an outsized contribution to the Law School community that continues to reverberate today.

Proffitt, who died in 2011, joined the faculty in 1956 and taught admiralty and criminal law and procedure for more than three decades. He also served in various assistant and associate deanships and was instrumental in creating the Law School Fund in 1961, which remains the Law School's primary source of discretionary funding.

Outside of his faculty and administrative accomplishments, Proffitt was known by faculty, staff, and students as "the face of the Law School." He was as well known for his generosity toward current students as he was for encouraging them later in their careers to give back and support Michigan Law when they were able to do so. His efforts have inspired scores of alumni to become enthusiastic supporters of the Law School, and many of them—including the alumni featured here—have been loyal donors for decades and continue to make gifts in his honor to this day.

"In January of my 3L year, my wife, Marilyn, and I had to discard our only car after it died from the frigid winter. We were living off her teaching salary and needed to come up with \$500 for a down payment on a new car. I went to Roy Proffitt and told him I would have to leave the Michigan Law Review because I needed to get a job. Insisting I couldn't leave the journal, he offered me a personal check for \$500, with the incentive that it would be interest-free if I paid him back within a year after graduation; and I certainly did so. That moment made me eternally loyal to the Law School. Marilyn and I continue giving to our scholarship fund in large measure because of what was done for me by the University and the unbelievable generosity Roy Proffitt showed us."

—**Stefan F. Tucker, '63**, who, with his wife, endowed the Stefan & Marilyn Tucker Scholarship Fund, currently valued at approximately \$4 million.

Jonathan D. Lowe, '76, first walked the halls of Michigan Law as a student and later returned to lead the Law School's development and alumni relations team when Proffitt stepped down from the role. Lowe credits Proffitt with inspiring his career in philanthropy, first during his 10 years in the Quad and later with the Jewish Federation of Metro Detroit.

"Roy Proffitt and his wife, Jean, were like the mother and father of every student who needed help. Not only was Proffitt in charge of fundraising, he was also in charge of financial aid. He was just a wonderful, kind, generous man who infused the Law School with that feeling. I've always been charitable to my ability, and I've had good role models, like Roy Proffitt."

Law Quadrangle had the opportunity to sit down with Lowe to discuss his career and the scholarship fund he had recently established with his wife, Beth, for an article that was published in the winter 2024–2025 issue. On February 2, 2025, Lowe died after a long battle with cancer. This additional excerpt from the interview with *Law Quadrangle* has been published with his family's permission.

“Three years out of college and still not knowing what I wanted to do when I ‘grew up,’ I took the LSAT and decided to give law school a try. I thought I’d saved enough for my first year, but when I ran short, Professor Proffitt encouraged me to let Michigan Law finance my legal education. He arranged for funds on a half-loan, half-moral-obligation basis. That, plus his finding an unusual scholarship for my third year, enabled me to complete law school with a manageable debt. Proffitt’s support of students wasn’t limited to financial aid. When I ended up in the infirmary with the flu at Christmas during my 3L year, he brought me an exam to take in bed and arranged for me to take the remaining exams when I recovered. Proffitt looked for opportunities to support students in a way that suited them individually. I was one of the few female students in my class, and he was an essential part of making Michigan Law feel ahead of its time in the early ‘60s.”

—**Judith L. Teichman, ’66**, says she gladly fulfills her “moral obligation” to repay the student aid she received with annual gifts to the Law School Fund. She also has named the Law School as the ultimate beneficiary of two charitable remainder trusts.

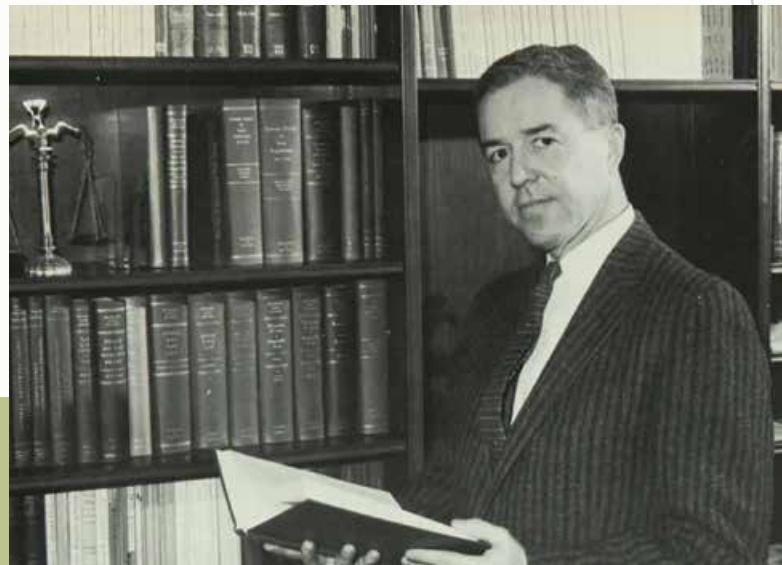
If you’re interested in making a gift in honor of Roy Proffitt, contact Jeffrey Jelinski at jjelinsk@umich.edu.

Jeffrey Rubenstein, ’66, worked multiple jobs to make it through law school. He washed dishes, waited tables, and worked as a representative for the Philip Morris tobacco company, despite not being a smoker.

With the rising costs of a legal education, he still needed financial assistance. Roy Proffitt figured out the right combination of loans that helped Rubenstein complete his degree.

“It was a given that I would pay forward the generosity that I received,” he says. “Proffitt looked out for me because he knew I was working three jobs and that my family couldn’t help.”

When Rubenstein paid off his student loans and was in a position to give back to the Law School, he called Proffitt to let him know and thank him for his help. Rubenstein has given to the Law School for 41 years, establishing a scholarship fund to which he and his wife have contributed more than \$860,000.



“Roy Proffitt made an impression on me because even though I was not in his criminal law class, he made it a point to get to know me. My class year was the first that he taught, and I have always felt that the standard in the Michigan Law culture for professor-student interaction began with the fellowship he fostered. I ran into Proffitt years after graduating and renewed my acquaintance with him. I’ve been giving annually to the Law School Fund for some time, but that year, I gave an additional gift because of our interaction. He really raised my opinion of the Law School.”

—**Gerald L. Bader Jr., ’59**,
who served as the class agent during his 3L year.

Bruce K. Posey, '77: Bridging Generations of Academic Achievement

By Annie Hagstrom



Bruce K. Posey, '77, was inspired at an early age to become a lawyer through interactions with family friends and other legal professionals in his community who showed him the value of the law.

"As a young Black child, I found it interesting to watch these adults provide varying

arguments to pursue the fight for justice and equality, especially during an era when civil rights were not as mature as they are now," he says.

Posey went on to forge his own legal path and rose through the ranks as a general counsel and governance specialist at multiple companies throughout his career. The springboard, he says, was Michigan Law.

A generational connection with U-M

The University of Michigan has been an academic foundation for Posey's family for generations. His father, Leroy Posey Jr., earned his PhD from the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts (LSA) in 1942. His aunts, Carrie Jackson and Cecil Nelson, graduated with master's degrees from the School of Education and LSA, respectively, also in the 1940s. Most recently, his daughter, Alexa Posey, earned her undergraduate degree from LSA in 2021.

"The University has had an invaluable and lasting impact on my life and family," says Posey. "I fondly remember tales from my father and aunts about the excellent education they received and how the school warmly embraced them during the civil rights era. On a more contemporary note, my daughter hasn't stopped raving about the wonderful time she had in Ann Arbor while obtaining a fantastic education."

Michigan, though integral in his upbringing, is quite different from California, where he grew up and now lives with his wife. After earning his undergraduate degree from the University of Oregon, he was eager to immerse himself in Ann Arbor, a place that had taken on an almost mythical quality from years of stories from his father and aunts.

"Being a student at U-M, you experience a great balance among academic, sporting, cultural, and artistic activities. It's almost like a city in and of itself within Ann Arbor," says Posey.

He remembers his professors fondly, saying, "They were challenging at the same time as graceful in helping students understand what was needed to transition from law school into the real world. I carry immense pride in having attended an institution that stands as a beacon of academic excellence, innovation, and community engagement."

Remaining connected throughout his career

When Posey graduated from Michigan Law, he found his footing in what would become a decades-long career in various in-house general counsel and chief legal officer positions.

"Participating in business and legal decisions is what drew me in; I like the idea of playing on one team and not just coming in and out of different transactions and deals with different clients," he says.

Throughout his career, Posey has served in leadership positions at seven different communications and technology companies. Former Colorado Gov. Roy Romer also appointed him to serve in a cabinet position as executive director of the state's Department of Administration.

He now leads the legal team at Qualys, an American-based technology firm, and oversees legal and regulatory efforts for the company. He joined the firm in 2012 as general counsel and corporate secretary and was appointed chief legal officer and secretary in 2021.

Posey has been a donor to Michigan Law since the beginning of his career. Over four decades, he has made significant contributions to the Law School Fund, which is the primary source of discretionary funds at the Law School.

"I rejoice in the opportunity to give back to Michigan Law for all it's given me: a foundation for my legal career, leading to the financial means to help support the next generation of students and faculty who foster an environment where leaders are born," says Posey. "I hope that my ongoing donations, in some small way, enable deserving students to access the excellent education that the institution provides, regardless of their financial circumstances."

Recent Gifts

David A. Breach, '94, and **Emily A. Breach** made a \$2 million gift in honor of David's 30th Reunion. The gift provides matching funds to encourage others in his class to make similar contributions. David is the president and chief operating officer of Vista Equity Partners. He previously served as a partner at Kirkland & Ellis LLP.



Richard R. Burns, '71, and **Elizabeth M. Burns** made a \$50,000 gift to the Law School Fund Endowment. Their continued support of the Law School now totals more than \$1.65 million. Richard retired in 2023 after serving for nearly 40 years as general counsel at Morgan Murphy Media, where Elizabeth served for 43 years as president. She died in April.

Ronald L. Dalman Sr., '58, made a \$50,000 gift to the Law School Fund Endowment in honor of his 65th Reunion. Ronald is retired from a 50-year career in corporate, real estate, and estate planning, and his daughter, **Kristina "Tina" Dalman, '91**, is vice president and area general counsel at Pulte Group Inc. The two have made a tradition of visiting Ann Arbor for Ronald's Reunion and birthday, which often occur during the same weekend.



Neill P. Jakobe, '02, and **Stacy S. Jakobe, '02**, made a \$125,000 gift to establish the Neill and Stacy Jakobe Scholarship Fund. Neill is vice chair at Ropes & Gray LLP and a member of the firm's management committee. He previously served as co-head of the firm's global private equity practice and as managing partner of the Chicago office. Stacy and Neill are both actively involved with the nonprofit Cradles to Crayons, which helps impoverished local children by providing them with high-quality essential items they need to thrive.



George C. Lombardi, '84, and **Abby J. Lombardi** made a \$100,000 gift to the George C. and Abby J. Lombardi Scholarship Fund in honor of George's 40th Reunion. George is an attorney at Winston & Strawn LLP in Chicago, where he has practiced for more than 40 years.



John R. Monson, '66, recently established the John R. and Susan B. Monson Scholarship Fund at the Law School with a gift and documented bequest totaling \$200,000. The fund will provide scholarship assistance to residents of Illinois. John serves as senior counsel at Primmer Piper Eggleston & Cramer PC.



Allan Nachman, '63, and **Joy Nachman, BA '68**, made an additional gift of \$50,000 to the Allan Nachman Scholarship Fund as a tribute to their late friend, fellow alumnus, and community member **Jonathan Lowe, '76**. Allan is a real estate attorney and retired shareholder of Butzel Long. He is active in the metropolitan Detroit community, particularly in founding Cabaret 313, a nonprofit designed to enhance the cultural fabric of Detroit and foster the growth of the cabaret art form through masterclasses and educational programs. Allan also sits on the Belle Isle Conservancy and Detroit Opera boards. Joy is a practicing psychologist in Birmingham, Michigan.

Donald Parshall Jr., '79, established the Donald R. Parshall Jr. Scholarship Fund in 2019 to assist first-generation law students from the greater Detroit area. He recently increased his bequest by \$50,000 for a total value of \$300,000. Donald is senior counsel at Nissan North America. He previously served as senior executive attorney at Delphi Corporation and senior counsel at TRW Inc. and General Motors.

John "Hans" M. Quitmeyer, '79, and **Siri J. Quitmeyer** made a gift of \$62,500 to the Law School, of which \$50,000 will be directed to the Veterans Legal Clinic Fund and the remainder to the Law School Fund. The gift is in honor of Hans's 45th Reunion. Hans most recently served as senior vice president, general counsel, and corporate secretary for AdvanSix Inc. until his retirement in 2020. Hans and Siri reside in New York City.

Barry Wolf, '84, and **Karen Wolf** made a gift of \$100,000 to establish the Barry and Karen Wolf Scholarship Fund. Barry is the executive partner at Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP, where he also serves as the firm's management committee chair. Karen has an undergraduate degree from Tufts University and a master's from New York University. After spending several years in the field of medical research, she subsequently turned her interests toward supporting philanthropic causes.

Class of 1974 Celebrates 50th Reunion by Giving Back

By Annie Hagstrom

Law Quadrangle spoke with members of the class to learn more about the inspiration for their Reunion gifts and why they remain connected to their classmates and the Michigan Law community.

\$2,056,811

Gifts received in honor
of the 50th Reunion

\$48,804,395

Total giving by the Class of 1974
since graduation

“When I give back to the Law School, I aim to pay forward the good fortune I was given so that others might have the same opportunities that were afforded to me. Having a Michigan Law degree opens doors. How can I not want to share that opportunity with others?”

—**Daniel E. Reidy**, co-chair of the class’s 50th Reunion and one of the key figures who helped establish the Law Class of 1974 Scholarship Fund. He and his wife, Elizabeth, have provided substantial support over the years, including a recent \$125,000 bequest directed to the class scholarship fund.

“It became clear to me that the excellence of the Law School experience comes down to the excellence of the professors. At a number of reunions over the years, professors have shown up, even after they’d retired. Their interest in students’ lives beyond graduation motivated me to give back in their honor.”

—An **anonymous member of the Class of 1974** and their spouse, who also graduated from the Law School, recently designated gifts toward professorships and scholarships that are named in honor of Theodore J. St. Antoine, ’54, Douglas A. Kahn, James J. White, ’62, and L. Hart Wright.



Professor Emerita Christina “Chris” B. Whitman, a triple

Wolverine, developed an interest in the law when she participated as a volunteer draft counselor in anticipation of the Vietnam War. As a student, Whitman remembers the Law School as intellectually engaging, politically involved, and a place national opinion leaders visited. After graduation, she made

history alongside Professor Emerita Sallyanne Payton as the first two women to serve on the Michigan Law faculty.

“My colleagues were welcoming. Two of them immediately invited me to meet weekly to discuss Supreme Court cases. The faculty meetings were civil and respectful, making it easy to feel part of the whole. I feel lucky to have joined such a collegial group.”

Whitman says her time as a student and professor informs her choice to make discretionary gifts to Michigan Law. “I prefer my gifts to be open-ended because I don’t know what the priorities will be at any particular time. I like to be as helpful as possible, no matter when or where the funds might be useful.”



"My father undoubtedly pointed me to U-M and planted the seed that I wanted to become a lawyer," says **Langley R. Shook**, son of Richard L. Shook, '38. "The education we both received enabled two generations of rewarding legal careers."

During Langley's 3L year, he and his wife, Karen, BA '69, had their first child, Kathryn. She was born prematurely and required a week of intensive care at U-M's hospital. Karen worked for the Institute of Continuing Legal Education and, because of the U-M medical insurance they received, a \$50,000 hospital bill cost them a mere \$25.

"I feel a considerable debt to Michigan Law for many reasons, not only my education," he says. "And my father was a donor, so I want to carry the torch."

Langley has made a gift to the Law School every year since his graduation. In 2024, he and Karen contributed \$250,000 to establish the Richard L. Shook Scholarship Fund in honor of his father.

"Giving to the clinics means a lot to me because throughout my career, I have taken on cases involving sexual abuse, civil rights, and more—causes these clinics are dedicated to. As long as I am in a position to help, and because I am fortunate enough to have earned an exceptional education from the Law School, I choose to give back."



—**Stephen R. Drew** has built a career representing people from all walks of life, which he says allows him to help others while learning something new every day. Whether personal injury, employment discrimination, or civil rights cases, he is committed to plaintiff work and designates his contributions to similar efforts at the Law School.

Lynne M. Metty was teaching junior high math in the Detroit Public School system when she realized she was interested in changing careers. Inspired by a colleague, Metty took the LSAT and was admitted to Michigan Law. As she neared graduation, she began to plan her next steps.

"I wanted to somehow combine my interest in law with my interest in education, but while I was in law school, such a job didn't exist," she says. "By the end of my 3L year, the Detroit Public School system had established a legal department and advertised for an entry-level attorney position, which was perfect for me."

Metty, who went on to become general counsel in the same school district, made her first gift to the Law School Fund in 1987 and has been a loyal donor ever since. She makes monthly contributions paired with a larger gift once or twice a year, which she says is her way of staying connected and showing her gratitude to her alma mater.



CLASSTOTES

1959



John M. Barr Sr. retired in January. Most recently, he was the principal of Barr Anhut & Associates PC, where he focused on municipal law, estate planning and

probate, real estate, and corporate law. He also served as city attorney for Ypsilanti, Michigan, for 43 years. An avid traveler throughout his career, Barr and his wife, Marlene, have boated on the Great Lakes; biked the US, New Zealand, and Europe; downhill skied in the US and Europe; and visited all seven continents and 51 countries.

1968

Stephen Hrones recently published his first novel, *Hypnosis on Trial: The Anatomy of a Murder Case* (Small Batch Books, 2024). Hrones, who spent his career as a criminal defense attorney, previously published a number of nonfiction books on criminal law.

1971



Jeffrey H. Smith, senior counsel for the national security and government contracts practice at Arnold & Porter Kaye Scholer LLP, received the 2024 Lifetime

Achievement Award from *The National Law Journal*. Smith has been influential in the field of national security law for more than 50 years. He served at the Pentagon and the US Department of State; he also was general counsel for the US Senate Committee on Armed Services and for the Central Intelligence Agency.

1973

Robert Hirshon was elected president of the board of the Maine Jewish Museum and to the board of directors of Pine Tree Legal Aid. Hirshon, who recently retired as the Frank G. Millard Professor from Practice at Michigan Law, spent 30 years in private practice and served as president of the American Bar Association before joining the Michigan Law faculty in 2009. He is the CEO of the Arthur B. Wein Charitable Foundation and counsel at Verrill Dana LLP.

1976

Richard Epling recently published "Where Do We Go After *Purdue Pharma*?" in the *Norton Journal of Bankruptcy Law & Practice*. Epling was a partner at Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP for more than two decades before his retirement from the firm in 2016. He continues to practice as a mediator for bankruptcy and complex commercial disputes, with a focus on domestic and cross-border bankruptcies and out-of-court financial restructurings.

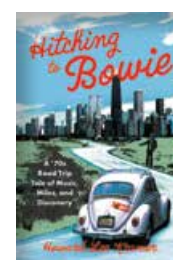
1980

Julian Izbiky has retired. He began his career at several Denver firms before founding Izbiky & Langer PLLC in 1988. In 2021, he joined Fortis Law Partners LLC as a partner. Izbiky's practice focused on mergers and acquisitions, business and transactional law, real estate, litigation, employment law, and trademark law. He has served on the board of the Jewish Family Service of Colorado and has been active in numerous other community organizations.

John I. Tsiros retired in December 2024 after practicing plaintiff's personal injury law for more than 40 years at Hurlburt, Tsiros & Allweil PC in Saginaw, Michigan. Over the course of his career, Tsiros secured tens of millions of dollars in jury verdicts in personal injury cases, settlements in personal injury and workers' compensation cases, and awards in social security cases.

1981

Eric Gressman joined Fowler White Burnett PA as a shareholder. His litigation practice focuses on medical malpractice, property and casualty insurance defense, wrongful death, products liability, and civil rights. Before joining Fowler White, Gressman held leadership positions at several law firms; he also dedicated more than 35 years to the Miami-Dade County Attorney's Office, where he served as chief of the Torts Section. Gressman has been an adjunct law professor at the University of Miami for more than a decade, teaching courses in legal writing, appellate practice, pretrial civil litigation, and oral advocacy.



Howard Kramer published his first novel, *Hitching to Bowie: A '70s Road Trip Tale of Music, Miles, and Discovery* (Mascot Books, 2025). Kramer is a retired financial

regulatory attorney who worked in government and private practice. He has published extensively on the topics of financial market regulation and securities law. Kramer currently serves as the senior adviser to the board of SEDA Experts LLC, a consulting firm specializing in financial services.

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 visit law.umich.edu/classnotes to submit a class note online.



Deborah “Debbie” Levy has published three new books for children and young adults: *A Dangerous Idea: The Scopes Trial, the Original Fight Over Science in Schools*

(Bloomsbury Children’s Books, 2025); *Photo Ark 1-2-3: An Animal Counting Book in Poetry and Pictures* (National Geographic Kids, 2025); and *The Friendship Train: A True Story of Helping and Healing After World War II* (Bloomsbury Publishing USA, 2025). Levy’s previous books have made the *New York Times* bestseller list and earned numerous awards, including the Boston Globe–Horn Book Award, the National Jewish Book Award, and the Jane Addams Children’s Book Award.

1982

Elise Bean posthumously published her second book in April: *Congress Investigates: George Washington to January 6* (Miniver Press, 2025), co-authored with Kyle Buler. Bean served more than 30 years on Capitol Hill, most of them as Sen. Carl Levin’s counsel on the Senate’s Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations (PSI). She was staff director and chief counsel of PSI from 2003 to 2014. She retired from the Senate in 2015 and helped establish the Levin Center for Oversight and Democracy at Wayne State University, including serving as director of its Washington, DC, office. She died in January.



Daniel J. Bergeson was named one of the leading commercial litigators of 2025 by *The Daily Journal*. The list recognizes the top litigators nationwide who

handle bet-the-company cases. Bergeson founded Bergeson LLP, a California-based law firm with offices in San Francisco, San Jose, and Los Angeles, in 1990 after helping establish the litigation practice at Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati. He also has co-founded two venture capital firms, Ascolta Ventures LLC and Al Shugart International.

1983

Denise J. Lewis was named a 2025 Distinguished Warrior by the Detroit Urban League for her impact in civil rights, law, business, and community service. Also, she was recently appointed chairperson of the UAW Retiree Medical Benefits Trust Board. Lewis, a retired senior partner at Honigman LLP, is a fellow of the American College of Real Estate Lawyers and the American College of Mortgage Attorneys. She serves on the boards of the Wayne State University Foundation, the Detroit Opera, Invest Detroit, and the Motown Museum.

1984

Stephen Merkel was named chairman of the board of directors for BGC Group Inc., a global brokerage and financial technology company. He has been with BGC since the company’s founding and retains his current roles as executive vice president and general counsel. Merkel is also on the board of directors of the company’s FMX Futures Exchange business and serves as the executive vice chairman, executive managing director, and general counsel for the Cantor Fitzgerald LP group of companies, which includes BGC Group Inc., Cantor Fitzgerald & Co., and Newmark Group Inc.



Kurtis T. Wilder, a shareholder at Butzel Long in Detroit and former Michigan Supreme Court justice, was appointed to the board of directors of Hastings Insurance.

He also serves as a mediator and arbitrator with New Era ADR, a digital advanced dispute resolution platform. In addition, he is chair-elect of the board of directors of the Alumni Association of the University of Michigan and will become chair in September.

1985

Samuel Dimon received the annual Community Service Award from the YMCA in Rye, New York. He was the founding board chair of the International Justice Mission in Washington, DC, an anti-trafficking, anti-oppression organization; founded and serves on the board of Grove Park Renewal, an affordable housing organization in Atlanta; and was on the board of A House on Beekman, an early childhood education and afterschool program in the South Bronx. Dimon also served on the board of Sanctuary for Families, a New York City organization that fights domestic violence and human trafficking, and was an active member of Rye Presbyterian Church. He is the current board chair of Meals on Main Street in Port Chester, New York.

Stanley P. Jaskiewicz recently published “Wellness for Beginners” in the American Bar Association’s January 2025 *Voice of Experience* e-newsletter. He also received the Archdiocese of Philadelphia’s St. John Neumann Emblem in recognition of his support of Catholic Scouting. He has served as the parish representative to Pack and Troop 303 since 2009, served as a counselor for scouting’s Catholic religious awards, and participated in or helped arrange many troop religious observances. Jaskiewicz is a member of the Philadelphia-based firm Spector Gadon Rosen Vinci PC.



Timothy Stubbs co-authored his second book, *Emerging Markets Debt Restructuring: Effectively Navigating Local Institutional Frameworks*

(Palgrave Macmillan, 2024). He is a banking and finance partner at Dentons Europe LLP in the firm’s London office, focusing on cross-border origination and restructuring-stage emerging-market transactions. He has worked on transactions in Central and Eastern Europe, Central Asia, the Caucasus, and other emerging markets.



CLASSTOTES

1987

Nancy King retired from Vanderbilt Law School after serving as the Lee S. and Charles A. Speir Professor of Law from 2003 to 2024. She joined the faculty in 1991 and was the associate dean of research and faculty development from 1999 to 2001. During her time at Vanderbilt, she received awards for teaching, research, and service. King has authored or co-authored two leading multivolume treatises on criminal procedure, a leading criminal procedure casebook, dozens of articles and book chapters, and several books. She is an associate reporter for, and former member of, the advisory committee on the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure and a member of the American Law Institute.



Donn Meindersma retired from Conner & Winters LLP, where he was a partner. He began his career as an associate at Winston & Strawn LLP, where he worked

for 18 years before joining Conner & Winters. As an employment law counselor and litigator, he accumulated extensive experience defending discrimination and whistleblower retaliation claims. Meindersma also authored a number of published works related to employment law and the nuclear energy industry.

1988

Ross A. Leisman was included in *Crain's Grand Rapids Business* Notable Litigators and Trial Attorneys 2025. Leisman is chair of the litigation practice group at Mika Meyers Beckett & Jones PLC, where he has worked for more than 35 years. He focuses on commercial, banking, municipal, and land use litigation.

1989

Barron F. Wallace, a partner at Bracewell LLP in Houston, was selected to serve a three-year term on the firm's management committee. Wallace focuses his practice on project finance conduit transactions involving state agencies, cities, school districts and higher education, airports, housing, industrial development, and other authorities and organizations. In June 2024, he completed a five-year term as chairman of the Houston Parks Board; he is a member of the board of directors of the Discovery Green-Downtown Park Corporation and the Houston Social Justice Fund.

1990

Kenneth Dintzer joined Crowell & Moring LLP in Washington, DC, as a partner in the firm's government contracts, antitrust and competition, and litigation groups. He spent more than 30 years at the US Department of Justice (DOJ), serving attorneys general during six presidential administrations; most recently, he was deputy branch director in the National Courts Section of the Civil Division and senior trial counsel in the Antitrust Division. He also taught for more than 20 years at the DOJ's training center at the University of South Carolina.

David Rugendorf was named pro bono committee co-chair at Mitchell Silberberg & Knupp LLP in Los Angeles. He has served as an immigration and nationality attorney at the firm for more than 25 years, providing representation to employers, entrepreneurs, and individuals in administrative petitions to governmental agencies. Rugendorf serves a range of industries and counsels his international clients on travel and global mobility issues pertaining to admission to the United States.

1992

Daniel Brubaker was named chief operating officer of the Michigan Supreme Court. Brubaker served as chief commissioner of the court for 13 years, coordinating the flow of cases through the court from filing to disposition. Before that, he served for a decade as a commissioner, reviewing applications for leave to appeal and preparing summary reports for the justices.

Phyllis Marcus was named vice president of BBB National Programs, a nonprofit that oversees more than a dozen national industry self-regulation programs that provide third-party accountability and dispute resolution. She leads a team of attorneys and professionals in the national advertising division. Most recently, Marcus was a partner at Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP in Washington, DC, where she was a member of the antitrust and privacy groups. She also has served as chief of staff for advertising practices and as leader of the children's privacy regulatory and enforcement program at the Federal Trade Commission.



Jeffrey L. Stec recently published *Humanizing Public Conversation: Building Trust and Cooperation with Your Constituents*. The book is designed to offer

insights from 20 years of helping local governments engage the public in civil, productive conversation. Stec is the executive director of Citizens for Civic Renewal, a Cincinnati-based nonprofit that works to build collaborative community governance by engaging citizens in public policy deliberation, government and institutional partnerships, and neighborhood empowerment projects.



Danielle Bass, '15: Honored By Peers as Influential Woman of the Year

By Annie Hagstrom

Danielle Bass, '15, a partner in the technology transactions and data, privacy, and cybersecurity practice groups at Honigman LLP in Detroit, was still on maternity leave when she attended *Michigan Lawyers Weekly's* annual Influential Women of Law luncheon last October.

During the event, Bass was stunned when she was named the organization's 2024 Influential Woman of the Year—an honor chosen by her peers that she would later learn was a unanimous vote.

"I thought there was no way I would win; there were women who had argued in front of the Supreme Court, managed entire departments, closed huge cases, revamped their firm's policies around diversity, equity, and inclusion," she recalls. "I was planning to go home to feed my 3-month-old baby after the winner was announced, but when I saw my picture on the screen, my jaw dropped. I am humbled; it was a pivotal moment for my career."

Learning, and now teaching, advocacy

Bass attended U-M's College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, majoring in women's studies and minoring in history and social work. After graduation, she worked for a year at a consumer protection law firm and dreamed of studying at Michigan Law.

She applied to the Law School three times, including through a discontinued U-M admissions path for undergraduates with high grade point averages, but was deferred and ultimately rejected. Bass attended Wayne State University Law School for her 1L year and was accepted to Michigan Law as a transfer student.

"Hanging in my home office, I have my rejection letter next to my Order of the Coif letter from the dean," she says.

At Honigman, Bass oversees transactional matters involving information technology, intellectual property, data, media, and entertainment. After five years in practice, she returned to Michigan Law to teach a course on technology transactions. In the class—which, to date, she has taught seven times—Bass asks her students to draft mock emails and documents and conduct mock phone conversations and negotiations, among other valuable exercises that help prepare them for a summer or full-time job.

"It's incredible to now be part of the educational team for the next generation of lawyers," she says.



Striking a balance in work and life

In addition to her daily Big Law responsibilities and teaching position, Bass still finds time to provide pro bono services: One focus is helping members of the transgender community navigate the complicated process of legally changing their names.

"Changing your name can be an overwhelming experience; it's more than just filling out a form," says Bass. "You go through a background check, show up to court, indicate that you're not seeking the change for fraudulent purposes. It can relieve a lot of pressure to have a lawyer oversee that process. After the first one I did, I just couldn't not do more."

Bass has also served as a volunteer mediator for the Eastern District of Michigan's Early Mediation Program, which offers an alternative to litigation for pro se prisoners who have filed federal civil rights lawsuits against the Michigan Department of Corrections.

With two young children at home, Bass is often asked how she manages everything.

"Right now is such an inflection point in my career," she says. "There are times I am exhausted, but I aim to find what will serve me and my goals for that day, hour, or moment."

While in law school, Bass says she hesitated to tell employers she wanted to get pregnant during the first five years of her career. Now, she hopes her daughters will see how possible it is to accomplish their goals without sacrificing something they desire for a successful career.

"I want to show my daughters that their mom is present in their lives and her own life," she says. "That you can do all the things; you just can't do all the things at the same time."

CLASS NOTES

Rocco Testani was named US general counsel at Eversheds Sutherland, where he is a partner in the firm's litigation practice group and most recently served as the firm's co-head of global litigation. Testani focuses his practice on class actions, commercial litigation, dispute management, and real estate disputes. Testani also has served as outside general counsel to two large public school districts and as a special assistant attorney general. Additionally, he works on civil justice reform in Georgia, was a leader in establishing the statewide business court, and chairs the amicus curiae committee of Georgians for Lawsuit Reform.



The Hon. Michael Warren was reelected to a six-year term on the Oakland County [Michigan] Circuit Court. He presides on the business court and general

criminal dockets and has served on the bench since 2002. In 2009, Warren co-founded the Patriot Week Foundation with his daughter, who was 10 years old at the time. The organization aims to deepen American understanding of history and the US Constitution through programming that culminates with Constitution Day each September 17. The Patriot Week Foundation has worked with state and federal legislatures and other groups to pass resolutions and encourage schools, municipalities, and other organizations to promote American constitutional values.

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 visit law.umich.edu/classnotes to submit a class note online.

1993



Otto Beatty began serving on the Columbus [Ohio] City Council in January. He has worked extensively in economic development, small business support,

and real estate investment, focusing on increasing access to affordable housing and expanding opportunities for underrepresented entrepreneurs. He served as president of Otto Beatty Companies and Otto Beatty Real Estate, is the owner and managing director of Intelligent Office of Columbus, and is a principal with OB3 Advisory and Management Ltd.

Kevin O'Gorman was appointed global co-chair of international arbitration at Norton Rose Fulbright. He is based in Houston and Washington, DC, and acts as counsel and arbitrator in international and domestic cases.



Phillip Wilson published his seventh book, *The Leader-Shift Playbook: 4 Simple Changes to Score Big and Unleash Your Team's Potential* (Fast Company

Press, 2025). Wilson is a national expert on leadership, labor relations, and creating positive workplaces. He is the founder of Approachable Leadership and serves as CEO and general counsel of LRI Consulting Services.

1994

Peter Hardy joined Holland & Knight LLP as a partner in the firm's litigation practice in Philadelphia. Hardy advises corporations and individuals across a range of industries against allegations of financial fraud. He also counsels financial institutions and businesses on their anti-money-laundering obligations

under the Bank Secrecy Act and other compliance requirements. Hardy previously served as an assistant US attorney in Philadelphia, where he focused on fraud and financial crime cases. He also was a trial attorney for the US Department of Justice's Tax Division.

1995



Hillary J. Moonay, a partner at Obermayer Rebmann Maxwell & Hippel LLP in Doylestown, Pennsylvania, and co-chair of the firm's family law group,

is serving a six-year term on the Pennsylvania Supreme Court's domestic relations procedural rules committee. In this role, she advises the court in developing and revising procedural rules for matters including divorce, custody, support, paternity, and protection from abuse. She is active in numerous professional organizations and currently serves as the immediate past chair of the Pennsylvania Bar Association family law section and co-chair of the Bucks County Bar Association family law section.

1996

Scott Delacourt was appointed chief of staff for the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). He joins the FCC from Wiley Rein LLP, where he was a partner and chair of the wireless practice group. Earlier, Delacourt served in leadership positions at the FCC, including deputy bureau chief and chief of staff of the wireless bureau, senior counsel in the office of general counsel, and legal adviser to the wireless bureau chief.

1997



Timothy W. Brown was named president of Venerable Investment Advisers. He joined Venerable in 2018 as executive vice president,

chief legal officer, and secretary. Brown leads Venerable's investment advisory business and will continue to lead the law, compliance, insurance regulatory, and government affairs teams. Before joining Venerable, Brown was chief counsel for corporate transactions and government affairs at Voya Financial Inc.

Lucy Dougherty is now general counsel of Eaton Corporation PLC. She joined the company from Polaris Inc., where she was senior vice president, general counsel, and secretary. Before that, she held several leadership roles with General Motors Corp. Earlier in her career, she served as counsel at the US Department of Justice and as associate general counsel and, later, as chief legal officer and counsel to the secretary at the US Department of Homeland Security.

Matthew Miner was named vice chair and general counsel of KPMG LLP. He also serves on the firm's US management committee, oversees legal and compliance for the Americas region, is secretary to the KPMG US board of directors and a member of the Americas management committee, and oversees the firm's governance matters. Miner joined KPMG from Walmart Inc., where he was executive vice president, global chief ethics and compliance officer, and special counsel.

Kelli Turner was appointed interim president and chief executive officer of Audacy Inc., an audio content and entertainment company. She is a current board member of Audacy and has served on the boards of directors for several advertising and music technology companies. Turner was most recently managing director and chief financial officer of Sun Capital Partners, a private investment firm.

1998

Richard P. Darke joined Dykema Gossett PLLC as a member of the firm's litigation department in Chicago. His practice focuses on commercial litigation with an emphasis on real estate, construction, financial services, and health care. Before joining Dykema, Darke practiced at Duane Morris LLP for more than two decades.

1999

Jacob Mendoza joined Rimon Law as a partner in the firm's global private credit practice. Mendoza focuses on corporate finance and the representation of clients in a range of financing transactions. Mendoza previously was of counsel at Morrison & Foerster LLP and Faegre, Drinker, Biddle & Reath LLP and was an associate at Bell, Boyd & Lloyd LLC.

2000

Paul J. Astolfi joined A&O Shearman as a partner in the firm's US energy, natural resources, and infrastructure practice. He has extensive experience in greenfield and brownfield power projects, energy and infrastructure finance, mergers and acquisitions, and reorganizations. Astolfi is based out of the firm's Dallas office.



Daniel Canine rejoined Bodman PLC in Troy, Michigan, where he began his legal career. He is a member of the firm's banking and finance practice group and focuses on the structuring, negotiation, documentation, and closing of equipment and trade finance transactions. Canine also has served in a number of in-house roles and most recently was executive vice president and general counsel for Mitsubishi HC Capital America Inc.



Asim Rehman recently published "The NYC Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings: Forty-Five Years of Delivering Impartial Adjudications and Providing Access to

Justice" in the *Cardozo Law Review*. Rehman is the commissioner and chief administrative law judge at the New York City Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings.

2001

John D. Myer was named a fellow at 5 Lakes Institute, where he will help entrepreneurs, researchers, and businesses in the Midwest and Great Lakes regions identify and overcome challenges to the commercialization of technology. Myer is a senior counsel at Husch Blackwell LLP, where he helps clients develop, fund, and deliver advanced science and engineering technologies. He previously served as general counsel and corporate secretary at the US Department of Energy's Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory.

David K. Porter was named the special agent in charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) Honolulu Field Office. He most recently served as the chief of staff for the deputy director at FBI Headquarters in Washington, DC. Porter has held numerous roles within the FBI, including at the field offices in Detroit and Pittsburgh, the Public Corruption and Civil Rights programs, the Cyber Division, and the Counterintelligence Division's Foreign Influence Task Force. Before joining the FBI, Porter served as counsel for the US Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Nicole Snyder was appointed chief operating officer at Holland & Hart LLP, where she oversees the leadership and strategic oversight of the firm's operational and administrative functions, including financial management, enterprise risk, and department operational teams. Snyder is based in Boise, Idaho.

Samantha Shipp Warrick, '07: A Lifelong Creative Breaks New Ground at LVMH

By Amy Spooner

Samantha Shipp Warrick, '07, hasn't achieved her high school dream of being a rapper. But given all that she has achieved so far, don't count out her music career just yet. With a shoutout on a D'Angelo album and a former client who has promised to feature her on his next project, anything is possible.

"My career journey isn't an arc," she acknowledges. "It's the Marie Kondo phase of my career: I do whatever sparks joy."

In 2023, that brought her to LVMH Inc., the North American office of the global conglomerate LVMH SE, whose 75 brands ("maisons") include Louis Vuitton, Moët Hennesy, Dior, Fendi, Givenchy, and Tiffany, among many others. As chief strategy and operations counsel, Shipp Warrick works with the 35 maisons that operate in the US, Canada, and Mexico.

Her responsibilities include managing outside counsel relationships, supporting maisons lacking their own in-house counsel, and advising French and American colleagues on what can and can't be said these days about diversity, equity, and inclusion.

As the first to hold her title at LVMH Inc., she says that when she came on board, "there was a lot of white space." In many ways, the environment feels like a startup. "The job is what I make it, and I have the freedom to pursue projects I find meaningful."

As a creative, that environment suits her best.

From aspiring rapper to representing rappers

Shipp Warrick decided she didn't have a lengthy enough rap sheet, if you will, to provide the source material for a rap career. So she attended law school with the hope of working in the music business.

She joined Simpson Thacher after graduation while networking her way toward her long-term goal. Kevin Liles, the former president of Def Jam Records, became a mentor. He introduced her to his lawyer, Paul Rothenberg. Eventually, Shipp Warrick took a week's vacation from her firm to shadow Rothenberg.



"I sold him on the idea that I could do the corporate work for his entertainment clients and he could teach me entertainment law."

She quit Big Law to practice with Rothenberg, then started her own practice, also focused on entertainment law. "As a lawyer, I appreciate hanging my shingle and helping people I've made friends with over the years, people doing cool things that I want to be part of," she says.

One former client became a business partner. Together, they launched The LS Group, which invested in entertainment and energy projects in the US and Africa. When Senegal decided to privatize its internet service provider business, LS Group's consortium was one of three companies to receive a contract.

The company they eventually formed, WAW Telecom, led to a full-circle moment: Shipp Warrick's mother took her to Gorée Island, off the coast of Senegal, as a young child to understand the history of the slave trade. Returning as part of LS Group's partnership with Facebook to bring Wi-Fi to the island "was a really humbling moment," she says.

Pitching ideas and papering deals

In 2020, she became head of brand partnerships and general counsel for the lifestyle-brand startup Phenomenal, launched by a friend from her undergraduate days, Meena Harris.

"I should have been some kind of creative; that was my initial career desire," Shipp Warrick says. "So Phenomenal was great because the brand partnerships aspect allowed me to develop and pitch ideas, and as general counsel, I was able to paper the deals as well."

Beats was one brand that approached Phenomenal about collaboration. The electronics company wanted to create a customized product tied to Kamala Harris's historic vice presidential candidacy.

"They pitched us a cool idea. But I stayed up most of the night thinking about it," Shipp Warrick says.

From those late-night ruminations, she developed a concept for two products: a speaker, representing the power of women's voices, and headphones to symbolize that women deserve to be heard. She sketched out packaging that looked like broken glass to represent the glass ceiling a female VP would shatter. Bingo.

Beats sent the final product to trailblazing women who were continuing to push the envelope. As the internet circulated images of high-profile figures using the products, "it was crazy to think that just a few months earlier, all of that had just been in my head," Shipp Warrick says.

New opportunities and challenges at a global powerhouse

As Phenomenal shifted from lifestyle to media, Shipp Warrick moved to BET Plus, the streaming arm of Black Entertainment Television, before a headhunter friend of her husband's suggested she meet with the chief legal officer of LVMH Inc.

Now, nearly two years later, she enjoys laying the path as she walks it. She is working with Belmond to bring back 21 Club, a legendary New York dining and entertainment venue. And she's leading legal efforts for LVMH's new executive production company, 22 Montaigne, a conduit between the conglomerate's maisons and Hollywood.

She's also developing LVMH's pro bono program, which she hopes will connect lawyers with emerging young creatives to provide legal and other start-up support—from attorneys within the company and from LVMH's network of outside counsel.

"I build relationships with law firms who are willing to invest in LVMH in all the ways that are important to our company, not just provide a transactional service," Shipp Warrick says. "Sure, some pro-bono projects are potential business opportunities. But they're also in service of creativity and excellence in design, things we are fundamentally interested in as a company."

And then there's DEI. It's a complicated problem for US companies right now; there's added complexity when you're one arm of an expansive foreign-based enterprise. In February, Shipp Warrick gave a company-wide presentation on the legal state of DEI.

"We operate in over 80 countries and across many different industries, so diversity is inherent in what we do," she says. "The group has global goals and initiatives. Our job is to adjust in ways that comply with all applicable regional laws and also keep our values in mind."



Rhonda Stowers was appointed partner at Plunkett Cooney in Flint, Michigan, where she maintains a litigation practice that includes general and

commercial liability claims, governmental law, transportation law, and real estate. She also advises and defends municipalities on issues such as the Freedom of Information Act, the Open Meetings Act, federal and state constitutions, civil rights, cannabis, zoning, charter amendments, ordinance drafting, and employment-related matters.

2002

Ann Marie Byers joined Dorsey & Whitney LLP as of counsel in the firm's intellectual property litigation group. Previously, Byers was an alternative dispute resolutions specialist at AB-Conflict Resolution Services and founding attorney at Byers Law LLC. Her practice covers a range of US and global matters involving intellectual property, regulatory compliance, data privacy and security, and complex civil and commercial disputes. Byers is based in Denver.

Shermin Kruse has published *Stoic Empathy: The Road Map to a Life of Influence, Self-Leadership, and Integrity* (Penguin Random House, 2025). Her approach to balancing resilience and compassion draws from lessons she learned surviving missile attacks and political oppression in Iran and leading high-stakes legal teams and negotiations in corporate America. Kruse is the founder and executive producer of TEDxWrigleyville and has taught at Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law.



CLAS S N O T E S

Matthew Meyer was elected governor of Delaware. Meyer entered politics in 2017 when he was elected executive of New Castle County, the largest local government in Delaware. Earlier in his career, Meyer taught math in the Washington, DC, public schools, was a Skadden Fellow with the Delaware Community Legal Aid Society, worked in private practice as a mergers and acquisitions specialist, and served as a senior economic adviser for the US Department of State while based in Mosul, Iraq.

2003

Demian Ahn was elected partner at Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati. Based in the firm's Washington, DC, office, he has 20 years of experience in investigations and litigation with a focus on cybersecurity and privacy matters, including 12 years as a federal prosecutor at the US Department of Justice. Ahn represents and advises companies confronting cybersecurity incidents, litigation risks related to data privacy regulations and data breaches, and other legal and compliance risks related to cybersecurity and data collection programs.



Alexis L. Cirel, founding partner of the fertility law group at Warshaw Burstein LLP in New York and a partner in the firm's matrimonial and family law group,

was recently admitted to practice in Michigan. The firm's fertility law group was formed in response to a surrogacy law in New York that went into effect in 2021. Cirel will expand the scope of the practice and consult on cases related to Michigan's new surrogacy law, the Family Protection Act, which went into effect in April.



Ellen Gish joined Stites & Harbison PLLC as counsel in the construction service group in the firm's Lexington, Kentucky, office. Gish represents owners, contractors,

and subcontractors in all aspects of the construction process. Before joining Stites & Harbison, she served as associate general counsel for the University of Kentucky (UK), where she focused on capital projects, real estate, procurement, data privacy, economic development, and charitable gifts. Gish also has served in development, gift planning, and fundraising roles for UK Philanthropy and the Lexington Philharmonic.

Roger H. Stetson has become the sole managing partner of Barack Ferrazzano Kirschbaum & Nagelberg LLP in Chicago, where he has served as a co-managing partner since 2022. Stetson's clients include real estate investment trusts, manufacturers, financial institutions, distributors, developers, and the fiduciaries who work in these industries. He acts as primary counsel on disputes concerning capital markets transactions, the creation of joint ventures with institutional investors, acquisitions, dispositions, leasing, and partnership issues.

Ryan D. Walters was appointed deputy attorney general for legal strategy by Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton. Before assuming this new role, Walters was associate deputy attorney general for civil litigation and previously served in the special litigation division, including as chief. He also has served as an attorney with the Texas Public Policy Foundation, an assistant attorney general in the Ohio Attorney General's Office, and a commercial litigator at two international law firms.

2004

Azadeh Shahshahani was the spring 2025 Daynard Public Interest Law Fellow at Northeastern Law School. Twice a year, the fellowship program brings nationally recognized public interest leaders to campus, serving as role models for students.

2005

Nicholas Bronni was appointed to the Arkansas Supreme Court by Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders. Previously, Bronni was the solicitor general of Arkansas; he also has served as a senior litigation counsel at the US Securities and Exchange Commission and as an associate with Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP in Washington, DC.



Elizabeth A.N. Haas was appointed senior vice president and general counsel for the Milwaukee Brewers, a Major League Baseball team. Haas's

oversight includes the Brewers and their minor league affiliate, the Carolina Mudcats, as well as the club's operations in Arizona and the Dominican Republic. Previously, she was a partner at Foley & Lardner LLP and national chair of the firm's antitrust and competition practice group.



The Hon. Kerene Moore was elected to a six-year term on Michigan's 15th District Court. Most recently, Judge Moore was the director of the Conviction

Integrity and Expungement Unit in the Washtenaw County Prosecutor's Office, where she helped people work to obtain clemencies, correct wrongful

convictions, and expunge their records. She previously was a judicial attorney and referee on the 22nd Judicial Circuit of Michigan in Washtenaw County and has represented clients at the Michigan Department of Civil Rights and the Michigan Advocacy Program.

2006

Dennis Daniels was appointed partner at Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP. He is a litigator and trial lawyer who defends clients in high-profile and high-exposure cases in Texas, California, and throughout the US. Before joining Bradley, Daniels practiced at Fee, Smith, & Sharp LLP.

Sylvia Favretto was promoted from associate general counsel to general counsel of Mysten Labs. Previously, she was global lead regulatory counsel at Block Inc. and counsel at Shearman & Sterling LLP, where she represented banks, financial technology companies, and other financial institutions.



Daniel Martinez joined the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) as a tax attorney in the Office of Chief Counsel, Associate Chief Counsel (International) in

Washington, DC. He advises on tax laws applicable to international persons and transactions, drafts regulations, and other guidance. Before joining the IRS, Martinez was of counsel at Bilzin Sumberg in Miami, where he helped clients navigate complex tax issues, including cross-border business transactions.

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2007

Jedd Bellman was made partner at Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP in Washington, DC. Bellman assists banks, mortgage companies, auto lenders, debt collectors, money services businesses, and fintechs on a variety of licensing, regulatory, and enforcement matters.

Poonam Kumar was promoted to partner at Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP in Los Angeles. She is a member of the firm's white collar defense and investigations, litigation, and trial practice groups. Kumar, a former federal prosecutor, focuses her practice on internal, regulatory, and criminal investigations, as well as complex commercial litigation across a wide range of industries.

Carolyn Perez joined Steptoe LLP as pro bono counsel. Before joining the firm, Perez served as program counsel at the Legal Services Corporation, where she conducted programmatic oversight of legal services providers and promoted improvement of the program's ability to provide effective and efficient legal aid services.

2008

Ian Labitue was appointed president and chief executive officer of the Affordable Housing Trust (AHT) for Columbus and Franklin County, Ohio. He has been involved with AHT for six years, including serving as board vice chair and chair of the emerging developers accelerator program committee. Labitue is an attorney with Ice Miller LLP, where he specializes in public affairs and economic development.



Luke Meier was appointed co-leader of the government contracts group at Blank Rome LLP. He is a litigator and counselor with experience in government

procurement law and has represented contractors in contract disputes and claims, bid protests, and False Claims Act litigation. Meier serves on Blank Rome's partner board and as a vice chair of the American Bar Association's bid protest committee and procurement fraud and false claims committee.

Michael Melzer joined Nixon Peabody LLP as a partner in the firm's project finance and public finance practice. His practice focuses on helping clients navigate complex and novel financial structures for public finance matters. In addition to his financing practice, Melzer helps clients with regulatory enforcement actions, interest rate swaps, and other transactions.

Matthew Raymer was appointed senior vice president and general counsel at Dartmouth College, his undergraduate alma mater. Before his current role, Raymer served as chief counsel at the Republican National Committee (RNC), where he oversaw a large team of in-house attorneys and outside counsel while managing the RNC's legal affairs.

2009



Megan Chan joined Hogan Marren Babbo & Rose Ltd. as a partner in the firm's education practice group, where she advises clients on higher education law,

policy, and government and regulatory compliance. She previously served as the associate dean of financial aid, compliance, and training at the

CLASS NOTES

University of Southern California (USC). Before her work at USC, she clerked for the Hon. Audrey B. Collins on the US District Court for the Central District of California.

Samantha Funk joined the permanent legal writing faculty at the University of Colorado Boulder Law School. Before teaching, Funk practiced commercial litigation, where she represented clients at the trial and appellate levels in state and federal court and conducted civil rights and Title IX investigations at the University of Washington. She has maintained an active pro bono portfolio throughout her career and has represented clients seeking asylum, argued for protective orders in criminal cases, and researched state statutes for a reproductive justice organization.

2010

William Andrichik joined Michael Best & Fredrich LLP as a partner in the firm's litigation group in Chicago. His practice includes real estate litigation, indemnification claims, shareholder disputes, breach of contract, trade secret issues, business dissolution litigation, and mass and class actions. Before joining Michael Best, he was a partner at Steptoe LLP.

Margia Corner joined Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP as a health care partner in San Francisco. Previously, she worked in various roles for the University of California, most recently as acting co-interim deputy general counsel, where she was a principal legal adviser for the Board of Regents Health Services Committee and oversaw legal matters across the university system's health care network.

Alison LeVasseur, a partner in the Atlanta office of Alston & Bird LLP, has been named to the 40 Under 40 class of 2024 by the *Atlanta Business Chronicle*. She focuses her practice on general corporate matters, with an emphasis on mergers and acquisitions for private equity firms, other privately held businesses, and public companies.



Changsheng "Eric" Song has been named counsel at Latham & Watkins LLP in Los Angeles. He is a member of the firm's transactional tax practice and tax department, advising financial institutions, private equity funds, and public and private companies on domestic and cross-border transactional tax matters. Before joining Latham & Watkins, Song was the international tax manager at Amazon.com Inc., where he oversaw international tax planning for Amazon Prime Video and Amazon Studios.

Robert R. Teel joined Foster Garvey PC as a principal in the firm's commercial and intellectual property (IP) practice in Portland, Oregon. Teel's practice focuses on technology companies, particularly those developing advanced software, electrical circuits, and optoelectronics. He advises clients through complex patent filings and on due diligence and IP-related matters in mergers, acquisitions, and technology transfers. Previously, Teel was a partner at Stoel Rives LLP.

2011

Ray Mangum joined Redgrave LLP in Washington, DC, as a partner and member of the firm's management committee. He serves as counsel in large-scale litigation, government investigations, and regulatory reviews. Before joining Redgrave, Mangum was a partner at Sidley Austin LLP.



Chad Ray joined Munsch Hardt Kopf & Harr PC as a shareholder with the firm's intellectual property team in Dallas. Ray is a patent litigation

attorney and focuses on trademark and copyright matters in the energy, automotive, life sciences, manufacturing, oil and gas, technology, and telecommunications industries. Before joining Munsch Hardt, he was a partner at Carrington, Coleman, Sloman & Blumenthal LLP.

2012

Phillip Zeeck was appointed assistant general counsel of the Big Ten Conference, where he manages contracts, policy development, legal analysis, intellectual property, and outside counsel coordination. He also serves as an adjunct professor of law at the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law. Previously, Zeeck was of counsel at Polsinelli PC.

2014

Corwin J. Carr was elevated to partner in the employment group at Barack Ferrazzano Kirschbaum & Nagelberg (BFKN) LLP in Chicago. Carr is an adviser, litigator, and transactional attorney with a wide-ranging employment practice. Before joining BFKN, he was an associate at Mayer Brown LLP.

Brandon Fetzer was appointed counsel at Debevoise & Plimpton LLP in New York, where he is a member of the commercial litigation group. His practice focuses on securities and shareholder disputes, consumer class actions, and complex commercial disputes.

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 visit law.umich.edu/classnotes to submit a class note online.

Stefanie Garibyan was appointed counsel at Leason Ellis LLP in White Plains, New York. She joined the firm in 2021 and has focused her practice on complex intellectual property litigation, often involving patents and trademarks, as well as on disputes over trade secrets, contracts, and licenses.



Devon Holstad was elevated to shareholder at Winthrop & Weinstine PA. Holstad represents clients in complex commercial litigation in a wide

range of industries, including media and entertainment, pharmaceuticals, technology, and energy. He serves on the board of directors of the American Mock Trial Association and the board of trustees of the Moran Olsson Michigan Innocence Clinic Trust.

Matthew Kennison joined Kelley Drye & Warren LLP as a partner in the firm's litigation practice group, based in Chicago. He has experience representing clients in high-stakes litigation and investigations, with a focus on antitrust, white collar investigations, and complex commercial litigation. Before joining Kelley Drye, Kennison was a partner at Riley Safer Holmes & Cancila LLP.

Robert Manhas became a partner at Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP in Washington, DC. He is an appellate litigator with a focus on patent law and administrative law and managing appeals across the technology and biotechnology sectors. Manhas also serves as vice chair of the Federal Circuit Bar Association's administrative law committee and maintains an active pro bono practice.

Katy McNeil joined A&O Shearman as a partner in the firm's energy, natural resources, and infrastructure practice, where she represents clients across the renewable energy sector. McNeil previously was a partner at Mayer

Brown. Additionally, she received the Hope Through Caring Award from the Les Turner ALS Foundation, which also was given posthumously to her husband, **Brian Davis, '14**, who was diagnosed with ALS in 2022 and died in January 2025. The award honors their commitment to raising awareness and supporting ALS care and research.

Elise H. Yu was appointed partner at ArentFox Schiff in Ann Arbor. Yu counsels and represents individuals and businesses across industries, including automotive, retail, and consumer products, leading up to and through litigation involving issues ranging from state and local taxation to business disputes to antitrust matters. Before joining ArentFox, Yu was an associate at Schiff Hardin LLP.

2015



Claire Madill joined the appellate division of the Federal Public Defender for the District of Maryland. She previously was an associate at Gibson,

Dunn & Crutcher LLP, an appellate public defender at the Palm Beach County Public Defender's Office in Florida, and a staff attorney in the special litigation division of the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia. Madill also clerked at all three levels of the federal judiciary: for US Supreme Court Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson, the Hon. William A. Fletcher on the US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, and the Hon. Alison J. Nathan, who at the time was serving on the US District Court for the Southern District of New York.



Leah Mintz was promoted to partner at Duane Morris LLP in Philadelphia, where she works in the firm's trial practice group. She is an appellate lawyer

and counselor with experience representing clients during strategic motion practice and throughout the post-trial and appellate process in federal and state courts. Mintz also routinely litigates original jurisdiction and appellate jurisdiction matters in the Commonwealth Court, including in challenges to decisions of various administrative agencies. She joined Duane Morris in 2017.

Sean O'Neill was elected to partner at Cooley LLP. O'Neill is a member of the firm's emerging companies and venture capital group and represents emerging growth companies at all stages, as well as venture capital firms and strategic investors that finance and acquire these companies. O'Neill's practice also involves venture capital financings, mergers and acquisitions, corporate governance, and general corporate matters.



Nathan Schuur joined Proskauer Rose LLP as a partner in the firm's private funds group. He previously was counsel to a commissioner

at the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), where he provided legal and policy advice on rulemaking, enforcement, and litigation, with a focus on investment management issues. Schuur also served in the rulemaking office of the SEC's division of investment management. At Proskauer Rose, his practice will focus on regulatory and compliance issues related to the Advisers Act and Investment Company Act.

CLASS NOTES

Anna Mouw Thompson was appointed partner at Perkins Coie LLP, where she previously served as counsel and is a member of the firm's privacy and security practice. Thompson litigates and counsels clients on issues related to state and federal privacy and data protection laws, including laws addressing biometric data and the collection, use, disclosure, and security of personal information. She also has experience drafting at the appellate level and has assisted clients with appeals and amici curiae briefs in matters involving novel issues of state and federal privacy law.

2016



Lori Arakaki was promoted to partner at Hicks Johnson. Based in the firm's Houston office, Arakaki litigates complex commercial disputes before

federal and state courts at both the trial and appellate levels, as well as in arbitration proceedings. Recent client matters have involved trade secrets and complex patent infringement and a contract dispute involving a prominent aerospace and defense company. Arakaki handles all stages of litigation, from drafting pre- and post-trial motions to deposing fact and expert witnesses, arguing motions in court, and trying cases.



John C. Muhs was appointed partner at Warner Norcross+Judd LLP, where he is a member of the firm's impact investing group. Muhs specializes in

securities and investment matters and works with community development financial institutions, church extension funds, charitable loan funds, and other organizations to finance community

development activities. He serves as board secretary of Detroit Phoenix Center and is a member of Opportunity Finance Network, Denominational Investors and Loan Administrators, and the Michigan Venture Capital Association.

Melanie Neary became a partner at Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP in San Francisco. She practices in the firm's corporate transactions group, where she represents life sciences companies and investors and advises clients on a wide range of complex transactions and other matters, with a focus on capital markets, private company financings, securities regulation, and corporate governance. She joined Gibson Dunn after graduation.

Divya Taneja was promoted to partner at Perkins Coie LLP in Seattle, where she is a member of the firm's technology transactions and privacy law practice. Taneja advises clients on structuring and negotiating complex transactions related to developing, licensing, and distributing technology and media content. She also provides counseling throughout the product development lifecycle, from business strategy and product launch to commercialization and contract negotiations.

2017



Sam DeBaltzo was elevated to partner at Tonkon Torp LLP, where he focuses on real estate transactions. He represents clients on purchases and sales, leases, easements, and secured and unsecured financing. He also negotiates construction and architect agreements and frequently advises on real estate aspects of mergers, acquisitions, and dispositions.



Serena Rabie was named partner at Armstrong Teasdale LLP, where she represents clients in complex business disputes involving banking and financial services, antitrust, commercial, and constitutional law. Rabie also has significant appellate experience and has successfully handled state, federal, and administrative appeals. She joined the firm in 2023.



Sole Survivor

Kyle Fraser, '21, recently added the title "sole survivor" to his resume after becoming the latest champion on CBS's long-running reality-television competition *Survivor*, which finished airing its 48th season in May. Fraser, an associate at Morvillo Abramowitz Grand Iason & Anello PC in New York, married **Maggie Turner, '20**, just weeks after the filming wrapped. He first watched *Survivor* while quarantining with Turner and her family during the pandemic. "Getting thrown into the jungle is similar to law school," he laughs. "In each circumstance, you're learning a new language and way of thinking according to the environment. Resilience is the name of the game, and getting used to being uncomfortable is the first step. That's exactly what my *Survivor* experience called for." Currently, he is filming *Survivor 50*, which will air in 2026.

Rebecca Seguin-Skrabucha, a member of Bodman PLC's workplace law practice group, recently became the group's co-chair. She advises employers, including municipal governments and businesses of all sizes, on compliance with state and federal employment and labor laws.

Valerie Stacey joined Honigman LLP as a partner in the firm's business litigation practice group. She focuses her practice on high-stakes commercial litigation and complex tort disputes in state and federal courts. She also has an active pro bono practice counseling asylum seekers, including developing case assessments and preparing refugees for credible fear interviews, as well as first-chairing evidentiary hearings to secure restraining orders. Before joining Honigman, Stacey was an associate at Jones Day.

2019

Trevor Parkes joined the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (NACDL) as the counsel and project director of its First Step Act Resource Center, which advocates for the full implementation of the 2018 First Step Act. Before joining NACDL, he clerked in two federal district courts and was a litigation associate at a large law firm in Minneapolis.

2021

Keith Ketola joined Allison MacKenzie as an associate. His practice focuses on administrative law, appellate litigation, corporate law, family law, land use, litigation, real property, trusts and estates, and water law.



2024

Courtney Martin, a public defender in Seattle, was a contestant on *Jeopardy!* in April. Martin finished second but was the only contestant to correctly answer the Final Jeopardy question. The category was "Around the World"; the clue was, "An online article about this landmark said, 'The stones themselves look like they are crying' and mentioned 'tears of...pain, hope, and joy.'" Answer: The Wailing Wall. Martin is pictured with *Jeopardy!* host Ken Jennings.

2022



Joseph Kemp was named to the 2025 *Forbes* 30 Under 30 class in the games category. Kemp founded Games that Matter LLC. His debut game, **DISBARRED: The**

Card Game, combines practical legal insights with gameplay. Kemp also is the founder and CEO of JMKemp & Co. LLC, a consultancy for graduate school applicants and startups.

2024

Reem S. Aburukba joined Bodman PLC as an associate in the firm's litigation and alternative dispute resolution practice group. Before joining Bodman, Aburukba clerked for the Hon. Tracy Van den Bergh of the Washtenaw County Trial Court.

Zainab Bhindarwala joined Katz Banks Kumin LLP as a litigation fellow.

Trenton Buhr-Roschewski joined Mika Meyers PLC as an associate in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Buhr-Roschewski specializes in municipal litigation, zoning and land use planning law, commercial litigation, and real estate.

Yasmine Choucrair joined Bodman PLC as an associate in the real estate practice group. She represents businesses and financial institutions in commercial and industrial real estate transactions and finance matters.

Esmeralda Suarez joined Sidley Austin LLP as an associate. Her practice focuses on financial institutions and the insurance industry. Previously, Suarez was a graduate public interest law initiative fellow at the Chicago Appleseed Center for Fair Courts.

I N M E M O R I A M

Thomas E. Kauper, '60



Thomas E. Kauper, '60, who served on the Michigan Law faculty for decades and was a prominent practitioner and scholar of domestic and international antitrust law, died on February 9, 2025. He was 89.

Kauper graduated from Ann Arbor High School in 1953 and earned his

undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan's College of Literature, Science, and the Arts in 1957. He was a four-year member of the Michigan Marching Band. While a student at the Law School, he was editor-in-chief of the *Michigan Law Review*, a member of the Order of the Coif, and the recipient of the Henry M. Bates Award, considered the highest student award at Michigan Law.

After graduating law school, he clerked for US Supreme Court Justice Potter Stewart for two years. He then spent two years in private practice in Chicago before joining his father, Paul Kauper, '32, as a member of the Michigan Law faculty in 1964.

From 1969 to 1971, Kauper took a leave of absence from the faculty to serve as the first deputy assistant attorney general in the US Department of Justice's (DOJ) Office of Legal Counsel. Kauper took a second leave when President Nixon nominated him to serve as assistant attorney general in charge of the DOJ's Antitrust Division in 1972, a position he continued to hold under President Ford. He institutionalized the division's use of economic analysis in its decision making and resurrected its reputation after Watergate. During that time he also filed the antitrust case that led to the breakup of AT&T and played a significant role in airline deregulation. Later, he worked as an antitrust consultant, mediator, and arbitrator for a number of law firms.

John Nannes, '73, a retired partner in the antitrust practice at Skadden, knew Kauper as a teacher and a mentor: Kauper hired Nannes as his special assistant when he returned to

Washington to lead the Antitrust Division. "I was struck by how comprehensively he had presented the course materials. It was like having a personalized treatise... so much so that I have kept those notes for 54 years," said Nannes in his eulogy of Kauper at a memorial service in May. When I had the chance to observe him in action at the DOJ, I learned important lessons: do your job and see it through to conclusion; be open-minded; and, if you make a mistake, own it and then make it right."

Kauper co-authored *Property: An Introduction to the Concept and the Institution* and many articles on antitrust law and the competition policy of the European Union. He served for 14 years as a member of the American Bar Association Council of the Antitrust Section and for a year as its vice chair.

Kauper retired from the Law School in 2008 as the Henry M. Butzel Professor Emeritus of Law. Throughout his career, he was especially active in helping Michigan Law students secure clerkships. He also held visiting professorships at Harvard Law School and the Peking University School of Transnational Law, among others.

He received numerous awards and recognitions throughout his career, including the DOJ's John Sherman Award, the 50th Anniversary Achievement Award from the ABA Antitrust Section, and the Law School's Distinguished Alumni Award.

He was a lifelong member of Zion Lutheran Church and twice served as its president. He was a trustee of the Gerald R. Ford Foundation, a longtime Ann Arbor Rotary Club member, and a director of the University Musical Society. In addition, he was an extremely passionate Michigan football fan who for many years held season tickets in section 22 alongside his wife, Shirley, and a cluster of current and former Law School faculty.

Kauper is survived by his wife, Shirley; two daughters, Karen and Krista; and three grandchildren, Sarah, Megan, and Nathan.

Cyril Moscow, '57

Cyril Moscow, '57, a leading practitioner and longtime adjunct professor of corporate law, died on April 8, 2025. He was 91.

Moscow began his legal career as a trial attorney for the US Department of Justice's Civil Division. After three years, he transitioned to private practice, where he spent 65 years as a corporate lawyer at Honigman LLP in Detroit, advising clients on corporate matters and securities transactions.

Moscow taught at Michigan Law for 43 years. He co-authored *Michigan Corporation Law and Practice* (Wolters Kluwer, 1995), which he regularly updated throughout his career, and

he was active in the State Bar of Michigan, including serving since 1984 as the chair of the Business Corporation Act Revision Subcommittee. He was a founding member of the advisory board of the Carl Levin Center for Oversight and Democracy at Wayne State University Law School.

He is survived by his children, Dan, Ruth, and Karen, and their spouses; eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren; and his partner of 22 years, Randie Levin. He was preceded in death by his wife of 45 years, Rona Moscow.

I N M E M O R I A M

1950s

Horace J. Rodgers, '51	2/10/2025
James B. Wilson, '52	1/7/2025
John G. Poles, '53	3/3/2025
Joseph R. Matsen, '54	11/14/2024
Herbert S. Ruben, '54	2/13/2025
Myron M. Sheinfeld, '54	3/6/2024
Glenn S. Dennis, '56	1/12/2025
John O. Muir, '56	2/27/2025
Edward W. Powers, '56	3/7/2025
Edward W. TenHouten, '56	11/10/2024
Ralph H. Erickson, '57	9/7/2024
Kenneth E. Long, '57	1/15/2025
Cyril Moscow, '57	4/8/2025
Lester N. Turner, '59	11/7/2024

1960s

Ralph D. Butler, '60	2/3/2025
Donald L. Goldman, '60	4/9/2025
Thomas E. Kauper, '60	2/9/2025
William C. Kemper, '60	12/14/2024
Richard J. McClear, '60	3/30/2025
Russell A. McNair, '60	2/23/2025
Robert L. Segar, '60	2/26/2025
Phillip S. Brown, '61	11/27/2024
Francis C. Marsano, '61	11/30/2024
William S. Meloy, '61	1/23/2025
Daniel S. Goldsmith, '62	9/9/2024
Norman A. Jacobs, '62	3/28/2025
Fred H. Miller, '62	2/13/2025

Walter W. Naumer, '62	4/9/2025
John A. Wise, '62	11/20/2024
Robert J. Currie, '63	2/4/2025
Lawrence L. Hayes, '63	11/29/2024
Michael E. Oldham, '63	11/26/2024
Webb A. Smith, '63	4/2/2025
Robert J. Wade, '63	2/8/2025
Earl P. Adamaszek, '64	1/27/2025
Alexander E. Bennett, '64	1/5/2025
Lewis M. Porter, '64	1/10/2025
Dirk V. Tolle, '64	1/3/2025
James A. White, '64	11/17/2024
John E. Noland, '65	12/3/2024
Edward N. Wadsworth, '65	12/24/2023
Robert D. Becker, '66	12/5/2024
Jonathan L. Birge, '66	1/7/2025
Emilio J. Cárdenas, '66	3/12/2025
Gerald B. Fincke, '66	11/6/2024
Lawrence D. Mattice, '66	11/25/2024
David J. Wahr, '66	3/30/2025
George E. Ward, '66	12/28/2024
Karen H. Jacobs, '67	10/16/2024
Aida S. Montano, '67	3/5/2025
Earl G. Swain, '67	12/10/2024
Thomas C. Manchester, '68	4/3/2025
Robert N. Brown, '69	3/25/2025
Marilynn J. Cason, '69	3/18/2025
Booker T. Gaulden, '69	10/23/2024
Ken R. Springer, '69	11/19/2024

1970s

Douglas R. Chandler, '70	1/8/2025
John H. Riddle, '71	3/18/2025
John R. Schoonmaker, '71	2/1/2025
Richard G. Swaney, '71	3/1/2025
William J. Abraham, '72	1/26/2025
Bruce M. Chadwick, '72	1/16/2025
Arthur H. Victor, '72	11/1/2024
Franklin H. Kastle, '75	12/9/2024
Lawrence A. Moloney, '75	1/3/2025
Steven Zarnowitz, '75	10/19/2024
Jonathan D. Lowe, '76	2/2/2025
Helen H. Cummins, '77	2/21/2025

1980s

Vernon N. Hansford, '80	3/4/2025
Elise J. Bean, '82	1/14/2025
Barry F. Hudgin, '84	2/16/2025
Susan G. Howe, '88	4/23/2024
Donald S. Plum, '88	1/16/2025
David J. Rowland, '88	1/31/2025

1990s

Steven L. Pick, '91	6/13/2025
Percy L. Berger, '94	10/5/2023
Kelly B. Krauss, '98	2/27/2025

2010s

Brian K. Davis, '14	1/27/2025
Nadji J. Allan, '17	1/25/2025

CLOSING

Standing Room Only

It's not only the dazzling oratory from student advocates that draws an audience during the final round of the Campbell competition. Since its inception, notable federal judges and justices of the US Supreme Court have served on the panel of judges during the final argument. How many can you name? Flip the magazine over for answers.



A



B



C



D



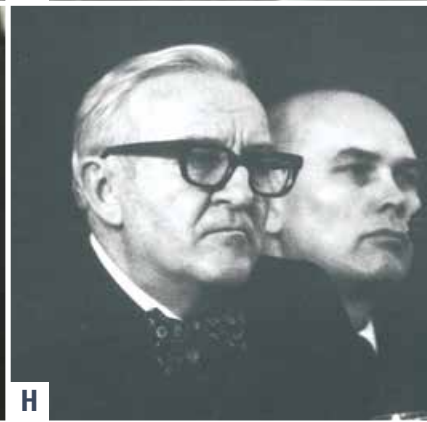
E



F



G



H

A. The Hon. Avern Cohn, '49, who served for more than 40 years on the US District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan (1996) B. The Hon. Amalya Kearse, '62, the first Black woman to serve on a federal appeals court, the US Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit (1982) C. US Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia (1992) D. US Supreme Court Justice Harry Blackmun (1972) E. US Supreme Court Justice William J. Brennan (1958) F. The Hon. Cornelia G. Kennedy, '47, the first woman to lead a federal district court, the US District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan (1988) G. The Hon. Harry T. Edwards, '65, a Michigan Law professor who later served on the US Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit, including as chief judge (1972) H. US Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens (1983)

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Reunion

ANN ARBOR, SEPTEMBER 5-7, 2025

Michigan Law's 2025 Reunion will celebrate alumni who graduated in years ending in 0 or 5, as well as emeritus alumni who graduated more than 50 years ago.

The weekend will feature class dinners on Friday, a special lunch event on Saturday at the Jack

Roth Stadium Club at Michigan Stadium, and other opportunities to reconnect with classmates and the Michigan Law community.

Visit michigan.law.umich.edu/reunion to register and learn more about the event. Registration closes on August 20.