COVID-19 RESPONSE
Rising to the Challenge of Unprecedented Times

FACULTY RETIREMENT
Prof. Brad Clary ’75 Wraps Up 21-Year Career Preparing Students for Practice

ALUMNI Q&A
Divya Mehta ’05, General Counsel of KONE Americas

Propelling the Emerging Economy
Alumni Lead the Way on New Frontiers of Law and Commerce

SHIVANI PARIKH ’13
HEAD OF WEST COAST OPERATIONS
BLADE URBAN MOBILITY
At Minnesota Law, we educate resilient and collaborative lawyer-leaders capable of tackling important issues throughout their legal careers. In a rapidly changing world with capacious career paths, this means providing students with the knowledge and skills to succeed in a variety of traditional and new contexts. It also requires helping students develop flexibility and dexterity in navigating their careers in evolving settings.

As we make our way toward the close of a semester we will never forget, the COVID-19 pandemic has put our own adaptive skills and principles to the test. I am pleased to report that the Minnesota Law community is rising to the challenges posed with ingenuity and enthusiasm. I am so proud of our faculty, staff, and students. In a short span of time, the faculty adjusted to new remote-learning technology, while still maintaining a vibrant learning experience during difficult circumstances. Some are already finding ways to incorporate the COVID-19 crisis into learning experiences or to offer their expertise to address important issues; examples include Professor Fionnuala Ní Aoláin’s work (with two of her students) on a “Civic Freedom Tracker” that traces worldwide governmental responses to the COVID-19 crisis and Professor Susan Wolf spearheading the statewide Minnesota COVID-19 Ethics Collaborative (see stories on pages 6 and 9), to cite just two of many. Meanwhile, the Law School staff has worked tirelessly to ensure continuity of our operations, from our clinics—still handling client work—to moving speaker events online and finding virtual ways to celebrate commencement. It has been wonderful to hear about Zoom meetings, phone calls, and emails exchanged between staff and students across the country and around the world! Most important, I have been heartened by the resilience of our students, who have enthusiastically participated in their online classes, transitioned their student organization events online, and found new ways to remain connected while adhering to the principles of social separation necessitated by the pandemic. While we are continuing the important work of Minnesota Law remotely, we eagerly anticipate a return to Mondale Hall.

The unexpected challenges we’ve faced this year remind us of the importance of identifying and cultivating opportunities in new situations. These ideas are nothing new at Minnesota Law. In the cover story of this magazine, for example, you will read about some of the many ways our alumni have used their education to support emerging legal areas or new areas of business. You will also read about how Minnesota Law faculty are educating students with the knowledge and skills they need to thrive in these new and developing areas.

We are deeply grateful for the ways in which the Minnesota Law community has come together to support our mission during these trying times. Thank you for your continued support and engagement. As you well know, our true strength here at Minnesota Law is our community. I am not surprised, but touched and gratified, that the current crisis has served to bring us closer together.
1
FROM THE DEAN
Legal Education Rising to the Challenges of Today and Tomorrow

4
FOR THE RECORD
4  In Brief
5  Mondale Moments
5  Staff Notes
6  COVID-19 Response
   Law School students, faculty, and staff find new and creative ways to learn, teach, connect, and serve the community as classes move online and work is performed remotely
10  Building Practical Skills from the Get-Go
   Innovative law in Practice course for 1Ls sets Minnesota Law apart
12  Two Law Library Exhibits Feature Rare Treasures
   Exhibits highlight the depth of the Rare Books Collection and Swedish Treasures
14  Justice Page '78 Featured at MLK Event
16  Impact of Giving
   The Charles Nauen and Pati Jo Pofahl Diversity Scholarship aims to support diversity of students

18
FEATURES
Propelling the Emerging Economy
From Uber to Tesla, from big data to CBD, Minnesota Law alumni are creating the future of work and leisure

24
Preparing Today’s Students for Tomorrow’s World
Minnesota Law’s field-leading faculty are blazing new trails on the cutting edges of emerging and evolving disciplines

26
Theory at Work: The Energetic Environmental Advocate
Professor Alexandra Klass brings a wealth of field experience to her work inside and outside the classroom
FACULTY FOCUS

28 Faculty News, Awards & Grants
30 Author in Question
Professor Richard Frase discusses his recent book, "Paying for the Past: The Case Against Prior Record Enhancements"

32 Well Argued: Celebrating a Distinguished Career
Retiring Professor Brad Clary ’75 made writing and advocacy twin strengths of Minnesota Law

34 Big Picture
Addressing the U.N. Human Rights Counsel in Geneva

36 ALL RISE

36 Leading Questions
Edwardo Castro, 3L, a former AmeriCorps member and student leader with a penchant for service

38 Making Connections Remotely
New immersion-style field placement program brings students closer to their career goals

40 2L Testifies on Amendment She Proposed
Kristin Trapp seeks to replace gender-specific language in Minnesota’s 162-year-old Constitution

42 Student News

RAISING THE BAR

44 Alumni Interrogatory
Divya Mehta ’05, senior vice president and general counsel, KONE Americas, Chicago

46 Alumni News
47 TORT Reunion
48 Alumni Voices
Peter Doely ’13 on co-teaching Insurance Law Clinic

50 Class Notes
56 Tributes
58 In Memoriam
59 Recent Gifts
60 Why I Give: Dafei Chen ’00
Debate Tackles ‘Right to Work’ Laws


The debate, held last February, featured a matchup between Daniel Suhr, former deputy legal counsel for former Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker, and Richard Griffin, President Obama’s appointed general counsel of the National Labor Relations Board from 2013-17.

President Gabel Featured Guest for Dean’s Leadership Series

University of Minnesota President Joan T.A. Gabel, a lawyer by training, was the featured guest for a lunchtime conversation with Minnesota Law students on Feb. 24.

The event—part of the Dean’s Law & Leadership Luncheon Conversation Series—was hosted in partnership with the Center for Integrative Leadership. The discussion focused on the power of mentorship and how to effectively partner with groups representing different constituencies.

The series was created to provide students the opportunity to engage with leaders in the legal, business, and nonprofit sectors on issues of law and leadership.

Students Open Food Pantry to Ensure Access to Nutrition

A food pantry created by Minnesota Law students to help serve the needs of their fellow students opened in Mondale Hall in January.

Mondale Kitchen was designed to provide time-pressed law students with 24/7 access to shelf-stable nonperishables, single-serving ready-to-eat foods, and fresh produce. The goal is to ensure all students have the nutritious food they need to advance their academic, professional, and social success, according to organizer Emily Franco, 3L. A crowdfunding campaign raised more than $5,000 to launch the initiative.
Mondale Moments

1 Dean Garry W. Jenkins and other Minnesota Law deans and directors hosted a breakfast event that invited students to share their questions and ideas with Law School leaders.

2 Shantal Pai, 2L, Yemaya Hanna, 1L, and Jackie Fielding, 3L, led a yoga session as part of the Law School’s Well-Being Initiative, a student-led program designed to improve the well-being of all students in Mondale Hall.

3 Minnesota House Representative Ryan Winkler ’01 led a discussion with students on what makes effective advocacy in law and policy.

4 In partnership with Robins Kaplan, OutLaw—the LGBTQIA+ student organization at Minnesota Law—hosted a name change clinic for transgender individuals seeking to change their legal names.

Kimberly Ronning joined Minnesota Law in April as director of academic and bar success. Ronning previously served as a visiting assistant professor for bar success at Cardozo Law School in New York City. Ronning was the founding director of academic and bar support at Cardozo from 2016-19. Before that, Ronning was a law librarian at Cardozo for 16 years. Ronning holds a B.A. from St. Olaf College, an M.L.I.S. (master’s in library and information science) from Queens College, and a J.D. from Cardozo Law School.

Maddie Mercil joined Minnesota Law as an admissions counselor. Mercil holds a B.A. from the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities in cultural studies and comparative literature, with a minor in sustainability studies. Mercil previously worked as a videographer and served for a year as a member of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency’s Minnesota GreenCorps, where Mercil was involved in youth mentoring and organizing and facilitating events.

Robin Dittman, chief financial officer, departed Minnesota Law for Emory University’s Goizueta Business School in Atlanta, where Dittman will serve as chief business, analytics, and operations officer. In this new role, Dittman oversees the business school’s finance, information technology, data analytics, facilities, operations, and human resources functions. Dittman served as the Law School’s CFO for six years; overall, Dittman had more than 27 years of service with the University of Minnesota.
COVID-19 RESPONSE

In mid-March, the Law School moved all its classes online and transitioned its faculty and staff to remote work as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The students, faculty, and staff showed tremendous dedication, determination, and creativity in responding to these unprecedented circumstances. The following are just a few of the stories of how they rose to the challenges of the situation and found new ways to learn, socialize, and serve the community.

Prof. Ní Aoláin, Students Help Create ‘Civic Freedom Tracker’ Monitoring Worldwide COVID-19 Responses

When Professor Fionnuala Ní Aoláin asked her research assistants which of them might be interested in helping to develop a worldwide tracker of governmental responses to the COVID-19 outbreak, 2Ls Abby Oakland and Seiko Shastri jumped at the opportunity.

Launched in March, the COVID-19 Civic Freedom Tracker (www.icnl.org/covid19tracker) was designed to hold governments accountable for how they use the extraordinary powers that many have been granted to deal with the current health crisis. The tracker is a collaborative effort by the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL) and the European Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ECNL); it was built with the support of Ní Aoláin in her capacity as U.N. special rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism.

Governments can use a crisis as a pretext to infringe rights, observes Ní Aoláin in explaining the need for the tracker. “States and security sector institutions will find emergency powers attractive because they offer shortcuts,” she says, adding that such powers will therefore tend to “persist and become permanent.”

The tracker, which is being updated regularly, aims to bring transparency to the worldwide use of extraordinary powers to deal with the pandemic.

Keeping Track of Government Power

After Oakland and Shastri volunteered for the project, Ní Aoláin connected them with the two NGOs, which immediately deployed them in doing the fact-finding necessary to keep the tracker up to date.

Using such sources as government websites and media reports, the students research the emergency measures adopted by countries around the globe, then create summaries that can be shared on the public-facing online tracker.

Shastri soon began noticing significant differences in governments’ approaches to the pandemic. “Some leaders have made executive proclamations and decrees that restrict certain human rights in an effort to stem the virus in their countries, while others have passed emergency laws. Some countries have even notified international human rights treaty partners of...
Environmental Law Students Make Oral Arguments Via Zoom

Students in the Advanced Environmental Law class taught by adjunct professors Charlie Nauen ’80 and David Zoll ’03 conducted mock oral arguments via Zoom before Minnesota Supreme Court Justice David Lillehaug (top row, second from left). After the students completed their arguments, they received feedback from Justice Lillehaug and had the opportunity to ask him questions about oral arguments and appellate practice.

The COVID Freedom Tracker features an interactive world map detailing government responses to the pandemic, focusing on emergency laws. It can be found at: www.icnl.org/covid19tracker

their intention to abrogate their responsibilities.”

The students believe the tracker has a crucial role to play in protecting human rights at a time when governments are taking on sweeping powers to deal with the COVID-19 situation.

“It’s important to monitor the real-time variations in government responses to the crisis, particularly in how state actions implicate human rights issues,” Shastri explains. “It will also be valuable in the future to evaluate the extent to which states reaffirm their human rights responsibilities or use their emergency powers as an excuse to suspend these duties.”

Oakland calls the tracker “an important first step” in observing, evaluating, and responding to government actions designed to combat the pandemic. “Emergency measures, while sometimes necessary, are a challenging space for human rights protections,” she says. “Understanding the scope and impacts of these measures will play an important part in allowing human rights mechanisms and defenders to hold governments accountable for complying with their human rights obligations. The tracker specifically allows for parties to view real-time information on the measures taken by particular governments.”

A Great Learning Experience

Shastri and Oakland are grateful to Ni Aoláin for enlisting them in the project and supporting their efforts to help make the tracker’s launch successful.

Ni Aoláin’s connection to the NGOs and her deep knowledge base in the field of human rights were essential in ensuring that the students could contribute in a meaningful way to the effort, says Oakland, who would like to one day practice international law. “Professor Ni Aoláin has a particularly insightful view of governmental actions and their potential long-term impacts on human rights.”

Shastri, who intends to pursue a public interest career focused on human rights, says that while it’s “always a pleasure working with Professor Ni Aoláin,” this project in particular has proved a valuable learning experience because it is fast-paced and constantly evolving as governments change their approaches to containing COVID-19.

“It has also been a great way to feel engaged and helpful in some way at a time when legal knowledge does not feel particularly useful for tackling the current public health crisis,” Shastri adds.
Students Provide Virtual Help to Small Businesses Hit Hard by COVID-19 Pandemic

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic and statewide stay-at-home order, business is booming for a Minnesota Law program that offers free legal advice sessions to local small business owners.

Last January, the Law School launched “Brief Advice Sessions,” a program in which small business owners receive pro bono legal consultations with law students, supervised by Emily Buchholz ’10, executive director of Minnesota Law’s Corporate Institute. Sessions with business owners typically last between 30 and 45 minutes, according to Buchholz. “We help them identify and prioritize issues, develop next steps, and connect with local resources.”

When classes went remote last March as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, so did Brief Advice Sessions, moving from in-person meetings to videoconferences on Zoom. The transition was relatively easy, according to Buchholz. “Sometimes we have a bad connection, or work with people who aren’t used to using technology. But overall, we’re thrilled to be able to continue to work with small businesses during this time and Zoom has allowed us to do that.”

Buchholz says that the needs of small businesses, which have been especially hard-hit by the pandemic, are massive. “Many have been forced to lay off employees or to close altogether. Many have struggled to find ways to pay for their basic needs. And with those new realities comes an increased demand for help and guidance.”

Many [small businesses] have been forced to lay off employees or to close altogether. Many have struggled to find ways to pay for their basic needs. And with those new realities comes an increased demand for help and guidance.”

—Emily Buchholz ’10, executive director of the Corporate Institute

“Businesses are focused on adapting to these changes by increasing their online presence and finding creative solutions to reach clients.”

Jessica Swanson, 3L, says recent conversations with small business owners “have revolved around helping them locate and navigate resources regarding unemployment insurance benefit applications, insurance, and federal or small business loan programs.”

Topics the students have researched and discussed have included the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, the Paycheck Protection Program, and the Small Business Administration’s Economic Injury Disaster Loans and Grants.

Swanson says the opportunity to connect with and help real-world business owners has been the most meaningful aspect of her participation in the program. “It has been such a great and practical experience to learn about the basic legal needs and concerns business owners have. I intend to practice business law, so this experience has better prepared me to anticipate and assist with the type of legal and business needs my clients may have in the future.”

Woger also appreciates the direct client contact the program has afforded him. “Our Brief Advice Sessions allow students like myself to apply their knowledge of legal issues facing these businesses that do incredible work for our community. To be a part of their work in any way is something I am very proud of and I hope that working with small businesses can become a part of my career.”

By Mark A. Cohen
Faculty Launch COVID-19-Related Education, Service Efforts

With the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic, faculty immediately began exploring new ways to aid in public education and expand public and client services in light of the many issues the situation has created. The following are just a few examples.

The Law School kicked off a webinar series featuring faculty members discussing legal issues related to the COVID-19 epidemic. Faculty participating in the webinars as of mid-April include: Alan Rozenshtein (cybersecurity), Daniel Schwarcz (insurance and COVID-19), Brett McDonnell (regulation in the CARES Act Business Bailouts) and Ralph Hall (legal and regulatory challenges with COVID-19).

Professor JaneAnne Murray and her students in the Law School’s Clemency Project have pivoted from clemency to compassionate release applications for their federal clients, citing the COVID-19 risks in prisons, which they argue are petri dishes for the spread of this highly infectious virus.

Faculty and students working through the James H. Binger Center’s Detainee Rights Clinic helped obtain bonds and the release of several detainees in ICE Detention. (The risks of COVID-19 exposure at detention centers have been the subject of numerous media reports.)

Remote Learning by the Numbers

122 COURSES WITH 180 CLASS SESSIONS WEEKLY

54 WEEKLY LEGAL WRITING AND LAW IN PRACTICE DISCUSSION SESSIONS

17 CLINICS AND MOOT COURTS OPERATING REMOTELY

Students Find New Ways to Connect Online

When classes moved online for the remainder of the semester, Minnesota Law students were determined not to lose some of the Law School’s signature social events. For example, not able to have a TORT performance or in-person talent show, the students put on a virtual talent show on Zoom. Barrister’s Ball, informally nicknamed “Law Prom,” was transitioned from a music-and-dance event to a four-hour online radio show complete with music, cameos from faculty members, and contests with prizes. Amanda Tesarek, 2L, hosted the event. Student organizations also continued to invite guest speakers for educational programming, moving the discussions online.

Amanda Tesarek, 2L

Prof. Wolf Co-Leading COVID Ethics Collaborative

Professor Susan Wolf is co-leading a statewide Minnesota COVID Ethics Collaborative created to rapidly share expertise and support sound ethical policy as the state copes with the moral challenges posed by the COVID-19 crisis.

The multidisciplinary group brings together experts from organizations across the state and includes specialists in ethics, law, public health, medicine, nursing, disaster planning, and spiritual care. It is a joint venture of the Minnesota Department of Health, the State Health Care Coordination Center, the Minnesota Hospital Association, and the University of Minnesota.

The collaborative will develop an ethical foundation for the state’s response to the pandemic and will establish crisis standards of care. Among the ethical issues it will explore is the allocation of scarce medical resources in the event that need surges beyond supply.

Debra DeBruin, Ph.D., from the University’s Center for Bioethics will co-lead the collaborative with Wolf.

Wolf is McKnight Presidential Professor of Law, Medicine & Public Policy and Faegre Baker Daniels Professor of Law. She also holds a joint appointment in the Medical School.

Amanda Tesarek, 2L

Debra DeBruin, Ph.D.
Building Practical Skills From the Get-Go
Innovative Law in Practice Course for 1Ls Sets Minnesota Law Apart

NEARLY A DECADE AGO, the University of Minnesota Law School took a bold leap with the introduction of an innovative experiential learning course required for first-year J.D. students. Today, Law in Practice (LiP)—which remains the only course of its kind in the country—is recognized widely for the career-advancing preparation it offers.

“The placement of the course in the first year and the way we deliver this vital learning still stand alone,” says Professor Laura Thomas, director of Minnesota Law’s clinical program, who co-designed and co-directs the course.

LiP combines classroom teaching with small group simulations, led by practicing attorneys, that help law students apply their emerging knowledge of legal doctrine to the actual practice of law. Students learn how to conduct client and witness interviews, counsel clients, and take depositions, as well as negotiate and solve disputes in simulated conferences before real judges. The Law School recruits individuals for simulations who are coached to accurately recreate the personality, history, and situation of an actual client.

The course lays the foundation for what lawyers do on most days, says Professor William McGeveran, associate dean for academic affairs. “We are conscious that we are training a new generation of practicing lawyers, not just people who know a lot about the law,” he observes. “Interviewing techniques, fact development, client relationships, negotiation—these are so central to what it takes to be a lawyer. Our faculty agreed that we needed to build these foundational skills from the start of law school, not toward the end.”

Responsive and relevant
The legal profession has been criticized for not paying enough attention to the development of students as practitioners, says Associate Clinical Professor Mitch Zamoff, co-director of LiP and a former litigation partner at Hogan Lovells. “This is a really special opportunity for first-year law students to experience doctrine and practice in parallel,” he says. “Law is a high-touch customer service profession that demands multidimensional skills. This course builds those skills as well as the confidence needed to hit the ground running as a practicing attorney.”

Timothy Joyce ’17, an associate with Stinson in Minneapolis, agrees. “Law in Practice showed me the value of a formal preparation regimen for in-person negotiations. While it is always a nice surprise to encounter collaborative counsel across the table, the reality is that many lawyers still view negotiation as a zero-sum game. Coming prepared to focus on the truly important, and understanding where to strategically retreat, are skills I honed during Law in Practice.”

The opportunities LiP offers
students to test litigation and negotiating skills cannot be underestimated, according to Katie Nixon, 2L, who won best overall performance and best legal writing in her LiP section last spring. As a second-year student, she appreciates how LiP prepared her to work with real clients in the Bankruptcy Clinic. “Law in Practice taught me how to figure out what questions to ask and how to effectively communicate the status of a case and drive it forward.”

Over the years, Thomas and her colleagues have refined the course to include frequent feedback, especially on writing. “I think the single most valuable aspect of Law in Practice is the immediate, real-time feedback,” Joyce says. “It amazes me to this day that first-year law students generally have to wait until after final exams are graded to gauge whether they are on track or not. But LiP gives feedback every class.”

Seiko Shastri, 2L, who also earned top honors in the spring 2019 LiP course and is now a student in the Federal Immigration Litigation Clinic, concurs. “You get immediate feedback throughout the course on how well you communicate. Lawyering is about helping people figure out problems, and a huge part of that is effective communication.”

The advantage of location
LiP requires the participation of dozens of practicing attorneys, judges, mediators, and individuals trained for simulations. “Our location in a metropolitan area with a thriving legal community is a huge benefit for Law in Practice,” McGeveran notes. “Every 1L student gets to know two practicing attorneys through LiP. That adds enormous value to a legal education.”

Joyce says LiP provided him with his first connection to the legal world outside of academia. “As a new-to-Minnesota law student, I had zero network in place when I started. I know a few classmates for whom their LiP connections resulted in job prospects and offers. The real-world impact of a course doesn’t get much more real than that.”

By Kathy Graves, a Twin Cities-based writer
Two Law Library Exhibits Feature Rare Treasures
Exhibits Highlight the Depth of the Rare Books Collection and Swedish Treasures

THE LAW LIBRARY last February opened two new exhibits that highlight the rich treasures of its special collections. “Noted and Notable: Treasures of the Riesenfeld Rare Books Research Center” showcases the impressive breadth of the Riesenfeld Center’s internationally recognized collection of more than 25,000 rare books and documents. The exhibit explores a central question: What makes a rare book valuable?

The significance of rare books lies not only in the importance of a text or the scarcity of an edition, but also relates to printers and engravers, bookbinders, and former owners, who have all shaped the book as a historical object worthy of study. As the diverse material on display in the exhibit indicates, the unique physical forms in which we find legal texts can turn single items into singular treasures. The exhibit invites viewers to engage with books and documents in novel ways, as fascinating objects that raise important historical questions.

A second exhibit, “Böcker Har Sina Öden (Books Have Their Destinies): Treasures of the Swedish Law Collection at the Riesenfeld Center,” considers the same question in relation to the library’s rare Swedish collection. In this exhibit, Professor Eric Bylander, distinguished university professor in the faculty of law at Uppsala University, describes Swedish law books that he has selected as unique artifacts. A gifted scholar, Professor Bylander has identified notable Swedish owners of the volumes, as well as physical features that draw attention to the richness of these books and the stories they evoke. As the exhibit demonstrates, the books in our Swedish collection have had various destinies. They have gained unique significance over time and have finally found a home here in Minnesota.

A reception for the exhibits was hosted by Dean Garry W. Jenkins and Associate Dean for Information and Technology Joan S. Howland, followed by a dinner at the American Swedish Institute, hosted by Professor Bylander and Professor Marie Linton, deputy head of the Department of Law at Uppsala. In remarks at the reception, Dean Jenkins emphasized the strength of the exchange program between the Law School and Uppsala University. The robust program, which has facilitated the reciprocal visits of students and faculty, began under former Dean Robert Stein ’61 and will soon celebrate its 40th anniversary. In her remarks, Associate Dean Howland introduced guests to the strength of the Riesenfeld Center’s rare books collection and drew attention to the depth of research conducted by Professor Bylander in preparing his exhibit. Professor Bylander discussed the importance of the exchange experience in his own career, and the joy of uncovering new information about notable volumes in the Riesenfeld Center’s Swedish collection.

At the dinner, which celebrated the ties between Minnesota and Uppsala and honored faculty who have participated in the exchange program, Professor Linton gave a toast praising the long-standing partnership. She also drew attention to the role that the library has played in maintaining the relationship between the two schools. Then, on behalf of Uppsala’s Department of Law, Professor Bylander presented a Swedish law book as a gift to the Law Library and Riesenfeld Center. The book, Kongl. Stadgar, Förordningar, Bref och Resolutioner, ifrån år 1528, in til 1701 (Stockholm, 1706), is an early modern compendium of Swedish statutes, regulations, and other laws. The Law Library accepted this remarkable volume, which features several beautiful engravings and was once owned by Sweden’s prominent Montelius family, with deep appreciation.

For more information about the spring exhibits, please contact Ryan Greenwood (rgreenwo@umn.edu; 612-625-7323).

By Ryan Greenwood, Law Library faculty member and curator of rare books and special collections

1 Engraved half-title page, from Sweriges Riktes Siö-Lagh (Stockholm, 1667)
2 Professor Eric Bylander
3 Rare Swedish law books in the collection
4 Front case, spring exhibit
5 Kongl. Stadgar, Förordningar, Bref och Resolutioner, ifrån år 1528, in til 1701 (Stockholm, 1706)
6 Armorial bookplate of the Scottish Fletcher family, former owners of an exhibit book
LIBRARY HOSTS TECHNOLOGY TIPS, TRICKS, AND TREATS

To learn about the current impact of technology on the practice of law, students and faculty attended the Law Library’s second annual Halloween-themed “Technology Tips, Tricks, and Treats” event on Oct. 30, 2019. The event featured four stations where Law Library reference librarians—Scott Uhl, Andrew Martineau, Vicente Garces, and Michael Hannon—provided presentations on important legal technology. Topics included artificial intelligence; document drafting tools; next-generation deposition tools; data security; the duty of technological competence; free tech tools for members of the Minnesota State Bar Association; web archival tools; blockchain for lawyers; and e-discovery and autonomous vehicles. The event also included a “tech graveyard” featuring outdated technologies and seasonal refreshments.
Justice Alan Page ’78 Featured at MLK Event
His Message: Give Substance Not Just to King’s Words, But Also His Work

RETIRED MINNESOTA SUPREME
Court Justice Alan Page ’78 has been fighting the good fight for decades, mostly on behalf of equality in race and education—and all the intertwined areas those topics touch. At 74, he shows little sign of slowing down.

At the Law School’s fifth annual MLK Convocation, held Feb. 11, Page joined Navin Ramalingam, 2L, for an hourlong conversation commemorating the life and work of Martin Luther King Jr. The program, titled “Shared Stakes Across Neighborly Divides,” drew about 200 students, faculty, staff, and others to Mondale Hall.

The overriding theme was how we can put King’s ideas into practice in a world that at times seems even more divided and angry than it was during his time.

“We’re all in this together,” said Page. “We all see the world differently, but the reality is that we have to share this earth.”

Page reiterated how formative the cataclysmic racial and civil rights-related developments of his youth were. Brown v. Board of Education, the murder of Emmett Till, and the bombing of Birmingham’s 16th Street Baptist Church all had a profound effect on Page as he was growing up in Canton, Ohio. These events were instrumental in steering him toward the law after he finished his football career.

Asked by Ramalingam about why the United States has never had a comprehensive national reckoning about native genocide, slavery, and similarly corrosive chapters of its past, Page pointed to the tendency of our society to celebrate progress made in racial relations without fully acknowledging past atrocities.

“We say we want to live in a color-blind society, but that doesn’t mean being blind to racial bias,” Page said. “We see an overtly racist act, and some of us are able to say, ‘That didn’t happen.’ Our leadership does that, which makes it easy for other people to take license to do likewise.”

Much of the conversation about King was about the curious mixture of perspectives he still inspires 52 years after his death. Some choose to see the benign, “convenient” King who espoused brotherhood, while others see the “dangerous” King who pushed for protest.

“They demonized his work,” said Page. “We have to look at the whole of his work when we praise what he did. The issues he talked about are still here today.”

Of course, having faith in the efficacy of King’s message is not easy in 2020, Page was quick to point out.

“We have leadership spewing hatred, promoting white supremacy, and completely working against Dr. King’s philosophies,” he said. “It’s discouraging, but I believe each of us can make change and give substance not just to his words, but also his work.”

Page’s current passion project is a push—along with Minneapolis Federal Reserve Bank President Neel Kashkari—for an amendment to the state constitution that would give every child in Minnesota an equal right to quality education. The current section of state law, more than 160 years old, guarantees students access only to an “adequate” educational system.

“It’s about attacking the gap between middle class/wealthy students and poor students,” Page said. “It’s unconscionable that we seem willing to accept that gap.”

The amendment would shift the focus of the state’s education programs to children and to outcomes, and would hold the state accountable for those outcomes, Page said.

By Dan Heilman, a freelance writer living in St. Paul
Annual Giving is behind every lawyer-leader

Your support of the Annual Fund builds on the legacy of Minnesota Law and cultivates a new generation of lawyer-leaders.

To make a gift, visit give.umn.edu/lawschool or contact Jackie O’Reilly, Annual Giving Officer, at 612-625-8435 or oreil061@umn.edu
FOR CHARLES NAUEN ’80 AND PATIJO POFAHIL ’86, involvement with the University of Minnesota Law School has been an enduring part of their lives.

The couple has remained closely connected not just to the people they met as students, but, through gifts that support the education of tomorrow’s lawyers, to the Law School’s mission itself. In 2018, Nauen and Pofahl decided to expand their giving with the creation of a scholarship that would support students from traditionally underrepresented backgrounds.

“We felt it was very important that there be more diversity in practitioners and diversity in the University of Minnesota Law School,” Nauen says. “So we decided to fund a scholarship with that in mind.”

As a Law School student, Nauen was active in international law moot court; he also represented clients in the school’s legal clinics. His first clerkship was back in his hometown of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, where he found representing clients to be what he enjoyed most about practicing law.

This discovery set the trajectory for his nearly 40-year career in litigation at Minneapolis-based Lockridge Grindal Nauen. Over the years, Nauen has specialized in environmental and business law at the federal and state levels. He has also been active in political and election law for the past decade, serving as general counsel for Minnesota’s Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party and representing many Democratic elected officials.

While she was a J.D. student, Pofahl did litigation-related research for the Minnesota Law Review. She also clerked during the summers at Lindquist & Vennum (now Ballard Spahr) in Minneapolis, where she later practiced corporate and securities law for about 10 years.

“I found my law school experience to be very fulfilling,” says Pofahl, who went on to teach English as a second language to immigrants and refugees in St. Paul. “What I learned in law school was to analyze, but also to advocate.”

Staying Connected
Both Nauen and Pofahl have kept in touch with members of their respective graduating classes. Pofahl regularly attends reunion dinners with her former classmates as well as the full class reunions. Nauen keeps in touch with his own classmates and helps organize his class’s reunions.

IMPACT of GIVING
The Charles Nauen and Pati Jo Pofahl Diversity Scholarship Aims to Support Diversity of Students
He also knows many of the people from Pofahl’s class, as the couple married during her final year in law school. “We stay pretty close with the U, and we have a lot of friends who were at the Law School with us or went to the U,” Nauen says. “We like to hang around lawyers.”

Another way Nauen stays connected to Minnesota Law is through sharing his expertise with today’s students. He has led an environmental law seminar for nearly 30 years—the result of a suggestion he made to expand the instruction beyond the single environmental regulation course available at the time. “I contacted the Law School to tell them I thought they needed more environmental law offerings, because the Twin Cities was a pretty good marketplace for environmental law,” he says. “That led to them asking me to teach the class.”

Since then, the environmental law focus has grown substantially. Minnesota Law now offers a concentration called Environmental & Energy Law, which draws ample student interest. Nauen currently teaches his seminar with Lockridge Grindal Nauen partner David Zoll ’03. He and Pofahl also sponsor a student environmental writing award.

From time to time, Nauen hears how much his students are borrowing to afford law school. It reminds him of the support that both he and Pofahl received during their own enrollment at Minnesota Law. Today, their giving is one way they pay it forward and make similar opportunities available for present-day students.

‘This is What Lawyers Do’

Pofahl and Nauen’s support is already helping students like Develyn Ferguson, 1L, of Milwaukee. From a young age, Ferguson’s parents wanted him to be on the right side of the law. They taught him to read from legal encyclopedias, and the experience instilled in him a lasting interest in law. He initially thought he would go into law enforcement, but later realized that what he truly wanted was to practice law. “I kept reading legal fiction, common law, and all types of legal material,” he says. “And I realized, ‘You know what? This is not what police officers do. This is what lawyers do.’”

Ferguson was excited to get underway with his degree last fall. Despite some trepidation about how difficult law school might be, he says his experience has been phenomenal so far, and that Minnesota Law has provided an atmosphere where he feels that he can learn as he grows. He plans to concentrate his studies around civil litigation and pursue a career in the field after graduation. Ferguson says he’s grateful for the gift Nauen and Pofahl provided. “My first semester of law school was the first time in which I didn’t feel the burden of financial disadvantage, and to have PJ and Charlie be the ones to help me out with that when I had never even met them meant a lot to me,” he says. “They have recognized the importance of diversifying the legal profession.”

Soon enough, the three did meet, and through a bit of serendipity, their connection has already grown beyond the scholarship. When Ferguson came to thank Nauen and Pofahl for their support and tour Lockridge Grindal Nauen’s Minneapolis office, it led to another opportunity for him: a summer associateship with the firm. Linking students to professionals and sparking connections is one way to help people from underrepresented backgrounds become integrated in the Twin Cities legal community, Pofahl says. “One of the best things about starting the scholarship is being able to meet the students, and help them establish contacts,” she says. “I would like to see the outcome be not only having more socioeconomic diversity at the Law School, but in all areas of practice.”

By Kevin Coss, a freelance writer based in Minneapolis
PROPELLING THE EMERGING ECONOMY

Shivani Parikh ‘13
When Shivani Parikh ’13 took her first post-law school job working in mergers and acquisitions at the Chicago office of PricewaterhouseCoopers, few would have predicted that her career trajectory would take her to three emerging economy startups over the next seven years.

Today, Parikh’s resume boasts major strategy and operational positions at ride-hailing giant Uber, electric scooter-sharing pioneer Bird, and, most recently, BLADE Urban Air Mobility, an aviation company that provides short-distance travel in and out of city centers, primarily via helicopter.

Parikh says her law degree has given her a big advantage in the world of new economy startups, where ambiguity is the name of the game. “You have to be comfortable figuring out solutions,” she explains. “You can’t be looking for some kind of playbook, because it just doesn’t exist. You have to be comfortable trying things and failing fast. I would write a check again tomorrow to Minnesota Law for learning how to become so comfortable with uncertainty. The way law school teaches you to think can make you ready for success in almost every aspect of life.”
The term “emerging” or “new” economy developed in the late 1990s, primarily in response to the tremendous effect of technology on businesses and the marketplace. The evolving definition now includes several subsectors, including the sharing economy, streaming economy, artificial intelligence, and big data. Concepts that are core to the new economy—innovation, automation, speed, fluidity, and rapid problem-solving—have profoundly affected both the practice and teaching of law. Minnesota Law has made significant additions to its course offerings and invested in field-leading faculty to provide students with the tools they need to succeed in the new economy (see related story, “Preparing Today’s Students for Tomorrow’s World,” on page 24).

“We embrace our ability to propel legal education forward in important new ways so our graduates will become effective problem-solvers across a variety of fields and industries,” says Dean Garry W. Jenkins, William S. Pattee Professor of Law. “We seek to graduate pathbreaking, consensus-building, keenly trained professionals who can solve problems with creativity and integrity in a rapidly changing world.”

Parikh clearly fits that description. She is one of many Minnesota Law graduates who are blazing a trail in new economy companies and in cutting-edge legal areas, ranging from cybersecurity to electric cars, cannabis to competitive videogaming.

**LAWYER AS ENTREPRENEUR**

When Parikh moved to Chicago after graduating from law school, she became a frequent user of Uber. Intrigued by the then-emerging ride-sharing service, she kept her eye on the company and talked with people who worked there. A short time later, when offered a position with the Uber operations team, she decided to leave her job at PricewaterhouseCoopers to pursue a more entrepreneurial path.

“I wanted to create and build, and Uber allowed me to do that,” she says. In her position, she tackled regulations, signed up drivers, and quickly learned the world of pricing and on-the-ground marketing. “It was a total startup experience, and I learned I wanted to be a disrupter and leader,” she says. Uber promoted her to lead its West Coast team in Los Angeles, where she helped shape the company’s competitive strategy and investment choices.

When Bird, the electric scooter company, began popping up in California communities, Parikh took note and left Uber to be part of a wholly new startup team. “I was excited to build a company from the ground up,” she says. “We grew from 50 people to hundreds of people in dozens of cities over a year’s time. The business changed so much, and it was so much fun.”

Just a year ago, Parikh was offered another cutting-edge opportunity: to be head of West Coast operations for New York City-based BLADE Urban Air Mobility. “It felt futuristic, like the next mode, the next disruption,” she says. Parikh now oversees market strategy, flight operations, and business development for BLADE in San Francisco and Los Angeles.

Parikh says her law degree has been particularly helpful in the early stages of a startup, when the company—including the legal team—is small. “You’re constantly working on business deals and contracts and partnerships, and you’ve got to be able to move on your own. My law degree helps me immensely in that respect.”

When she stepped away from her mergers and acquisitions work, Parikh initially worried that she was leaving her law degree behind. But she now finds that she uses it every day.

“Law school played a vital role in where I’m at today,” Parikh says. “I always had this linear way of thinking. I did accounting in undergrad and learned to follow the rules. But law is much more ambiguous. In fact, I learned in my constitutional law class that there are actually no easy answers! It was a big epiphany and made me accept ambiguity in my whole life.”

**LEADING IN A RAPIDLY CHANGING SPECIALTY**

Aalok Sharma ’13 never imagined he would counsel sports businesses—both professional and amateur—on the future of their organizations. But today, as an attorney with Stinson in Minneapolis, Sharma focuses on the rapidly growing fields of competitive esports,
legalized sports wagering, and smart venue technology. Last year, he was named a “leading entertainment and sports lawyer of the next generation” by the American Bar Association.

“The world of sports is changing quickly,” says Sharma, who himself was a Division I track athlete. “The reality now is that people want something more from a sports event. They want to engage with the game and consume content in meaningful ways. At the same time, teams want to facilitate a long-term relationship with fans through memorable game day experiences. This is brand-new territory for sports teams, and the legal issues are constantly evolving. How much data are teams allowed to permissibly gather on their players, and what are they allowed to do with that data? How are front offices going to handle the challenges of legalized sports wagering? How are they going to account for demographic trends that do not value live television broadcasts?”

Sharma began his career as a public accountant in Washington, D.C. In 2008, he was working on an audit for a publicly traded company when, suddenly, the accountants were asked to leave. “I noticed that the lawyers were coming in and everybody was turning to them,” he says. “I knew then that I wanted to be rushing into the room rather than rushing away.”

Soon after, Sharma enrolled at Minnesota Law, where he found a community supportive of his entrepreneurial orientation. “I didn’t want to just follow the rules. I wanted to ask questions and figure out solutions,” he says. “I could do that in law school.” In 2017, he moved to Stinson to build a practice focused on protecting and expanding the future of sport. “I believed there was a business case for the kind of innovative work I wanted to do in the sports field, and Stinson supported my vision. It has worked out well.”

Sharma serves as a board member for the Minnesota Twins Community Fund and the ABA Forum on the Entertainment and Sports Industries. He also is an outreach captain for the Sports Lawyers Association.

As he builds his expertise and client base in the sports arena, Sharma says he is particularly grateful to the professors who taught him the importance of providing practical solutions to real-world problems. “Craig Roen, Brad Clary, and Mitch Zamoff all helped me understand that when clients call with challenges or concerns, my job is to come up with solutions. Because the kind of work I’m doing today is in a brand-new and sometimes risky area of law, I have to be able to think creatively and provide pragmatic advice in an environment without a lot of definition.”
SPECIALIZING IN LEGAL ‘NO MAN’S LAND’

Leili Fatehi ’10 had just begun law school when the bottom dropped out of the U.S. economy in 2008. She, like many of her classmates caught up in the Great Recession, had to retool and think unconventionally about her career. “We were dealing with a new reality,” she says. “As a result, a lot of us went in really interesting directions.”

Today, Fatehi is a principal at Apparatus, a general benefit corporation in Minneapolis offering a rare mix of services to clients and projects that “seek the common good.” Focused on initiatives at the center of the new economy, Apparatus has a client list that includes an initiative to make self-driving cars accessible and affordable for people with disabilities, a grassroots movement to build support for students with dyslexia, a craft brewers guild focused on creating economic opportunity, and a coalition for legalized recreational use of marijuana.

“My specialty is law in areas in which there is no law,” says Fatehi. “I deal in regulatory ‘no man’s land,’ helping clients consider legal and ethical issues in areas where there are few guidelines.”

Apparatus’s services include a rare mix of public affairs, communications, and advocacy. “We bring together lawyers with deep subject matter expertise, lobbyists who understand how to make things happen, and communications experts who understand how to influence,” Fatehi says. “Usually, these fields are separate, but it was obvious to me that clients couldn’t afford to have all of these different services on retainer. They needed an integrated option.”

Apparatus has a growing portfolio of clients, including several in the emerging cannabis industry, a “passion project” for her and her partners, Fatehi says. “Cannabis prohibition has had a devastating effect on populations of color, yet it’s not keeping kids from accessing it,” she says. “We need to replace prohibition with legalization and regulation.”

Apparatus helped form Minnesotans for Responsible Marijuana Regulation, a coalition of advocates and legislators who believe Minnesota should join other states that have adopted regulations for adult use. Recently, when Fatehi discovered women were underrepresented in the cannabis field, she formed the Minnesota Women’s Cannabusiness Association for women entrepreneurs.

Apparatus also is advocating for legislation related to hemp and cannabidiol (CBD). “There is quite a bit of work that needs to be done in terms of product labeling, production standards, and consumer safety,” Fatehi says. “And where there is an absence of a legal framework, you can really have an impact.”

Fatehi says the opportunities she had in law school and immediately after equipped her to think broadly about how she could use her legal skills. As a law student, she worked as a research assistant with Professor Susan Wolf at the Consortium on Law and Values in Health, Environment & the Life Sciences and was editor of the Minnesota Journal of Law, Science & Technology, a position that exposed her to the many ways people were using their legal degrees.

After graduating, Fatehi continued working with the Consortium and joined the University of Minnesota faculty, with cross appointments at the Law School, Humphrey School of Public Affairs, and the Center for Bioethics. She also did a fellowship at the Minnesota State Capitol, where, she says, it became “pretty evident that this was my calling in life.”

“Even though I’m now working in a business with 45,000 employees, the heart of my work has the same consistent thread: It’s human-centered and justice-oriented.”

—LINA HOUSTON ’14
EMBRACING EMERGENT FIELDS OF LAW

The booming fields of cybersecurity and data privacy law did not exist when Robyn Anderson ’98 was in law school. Yet she notes that there are parallels to the cases she studied then and those at play in today’s new economy companies. “I find similarities between the Standard Oil of the 20th century and the Apple and Google of today,” she says. “Clearly, there are a lot of emerging privacy and data security issues, but at their core these issues are about understanding the role of powerful companies in our society and how we balance individual rights with commerce and innovation. Today, data is worth more than oil. It is the driver of modern-day commerce.”

Anderson served for more than a dozen years as chief cybersecurity and privacy counsel for Old Republic National Title Insurance Company and is a frequent lecturer across the country on topics related to data security and privacy. “Globally, there is an ongoing conversation about how we are going to order our society when it comes to data,” says Anderson. “Innovation vs. loss of privacy and individual autonomy, facial recognition surveillance vs. legitimate use, device encryption vs. backdoor government access are some of the tensions I see being debated now and into the future.”

Prior to her position with Old Republic Title, which she left in January, Anderson worked in both small and large firms with antitrust practices. Today, as she contemplates her next career move, she is clear that she will stay involved in cybersecurity and privacy law. “We are at the cusp of so many emerging technologies, just within artificial intelligence alone. There is going to be an ongoing need for smart and creative lawyers who are interested in the intersection of law, technology, and individual rights.”

Anderson values the way law school trained her to approach and analyze a legal problem. “It’s not just about learning the law—it’s about learning the reasons for the law. What’s behind it, what effect it is going to have? That’s what’s beneficial about a law degree. It trains you to think about things in several dimensions rather than simply recite a law or statute or regulation. Certainly, it helped me learn to work with clients on issues that impact innovation.”

Because her fields of expertise are both expanding and changing quickly, Anderson emphasizes the importance of continual learning. “It’s important that you have a desire to understand and learn and want to keep learning. That’s what makes the practice of law so interesting. I like to ask people, ‘Are you willing to try something new? Are you curious?’ That’s vital.”
Who is liable for injuries sustained in an accident when artificial intelligence technology was controlling the car, flying the airplane, or performing the surgery? What are the legal implications of a cyberattack that results in a massive data breach? What protectable legal interests are there in genetically modified material?

All manner of legal questions arise when it comes to emerging technologies and industries such as AI, cybersecurity, data privacy, and biotechnology. Future attorneys, whether they practice in cutting-edge fields or traditional law, will regularly confront unresolved matters as the courts, lawmakers, and regulators scramble to keep up with rapid changes in these fields and others.

Trailblazing Minnesota Law faculty members spend significant time exploring emerging legal areas, examining how the law currently applies and how it might evolve in the future. They teach seminars and courses in subjects that range from neurolaw to digital evidence, giving students a deep dive into the technology. Students research and debate potential legal issues while learning to apply precedents to fields that are in flux.

Overall, taking courses in emerging subjects primes future lawyers to think creatively and cultivate flexibility. “It prepares them for a future that’s coming,” says Francis Shen, associate professor of law, McKnight Presidential Fellow, and director of the Shen Neurolaw Lab. “Students realize that the law is always changing, and that they will have a real hand in changing the law in response to and in parallel development with these technologies.”

It’s vital for students to investigate coursework at the vanguard of law because many will encounter a multitude of related issues as they start practicing. William McGeveran, associate dean of academic affairs and the Julius E. Davis Professor of Law, teaches classes in data privacy and data compliance—topics that today affect most every legal field. Think of HIPAA in health care, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act in education, or mergers and acquisitions, where it’s common to conduct due diligence on potential data-security liabilities.

“We’re turning into an information economy, and whatever drives the economy is what drives the law,” McGeveran says. “You would not want to be studying to become a lawyer in the late 19th century and say, ‘I won’t really pay attention to the railroads.’ That’s the situation we’re in now with a lot of emerging technologies. They are such an important component of what’s growing our economy.”

**PIONEERING CLASSES**

Data privacy law may be cutting-edge, but McGeveran takes a practical approach to the topic in his classes. He uses hypothetical situations—for instance, applying existing rulings on cell phone tracking to rapidly evolving technologies such as Amazon’s virtual assistant, Alexa. Students read current case law and then develop arguments and analysis for potential legal issues related to newer technology.

Professor Alan Rozenshtein brings hands-on experience to his courses in cybercrime and cybersecurity. While working in the National Security Division of the U.S. Department of Justice, he focused on foreign intelligence, terrorism, and cybersecurity. Rozenshtein teaches his students about the underlying structure of technology, including the internet, information architecture, and encryption. He also covers legal issues related to cybersecurity, surveillance, and the borderless internet. Overall, he aims to give students a firm grasp of the policy and technical issues that might arise in their legal careers.

“It’s a big area, and a new area, and it makes it exciting and challenging to teach,” Rozenshtein says. Class compositions keep discussions interesting, as students range from relative tech newbies to computer science graduates. It’s a good combination that allows students to teach each other and practice explaining complex topics in understandable ways.

“Lawyers who don’t know enough about technology fall into trouble, and lawyers who know too much about technology also get into trouble when they speak in a way that’s no longer accessible to clients or colleagues,” Rozenshtein says. “If you can’t explain yourself to a generally intelligent but otherwise technologically unsophisticated person, you aren’t going anywhere. That’s a skill we work on as well.”

Susan Wolf, McKnight Presidential Professor of Law, Medicine, & Public Policy, Faegre Baker Daniels Professor of Law, and Professor of Medicine, teaches a course in law, biomedicine, and bioethics. She finds it valuable to boost students’ understanding of how law evolves in response
to emerging technologies and the relative roles of law and ethics in coping with these technologies. Students work on thinking critically and applying their new knowledge to myriad legal issues that might arise in domains ranging from reproductive technology to genomics to euthanasia.

“We’re looking at areas of the law that are being created on the fly, in response to very rapidly moving and often unexpected technologies,” says Wolf, who also chairs the University’s Consortium on Law and Values in Health, Environment, & the Life Sciences. “I’m trying to equip them with broad knowledge of emerging areas of biomedicine and make sure they are very savvy in thinking about the appropriate tools to deal with challenges and disputes in these areas.”

A PATHWAY TO PATHBREAKING PRACTICE AREAS

Many of the Minnesota Law professors teaching in high-tech legal fields are known scholars and authorities in their areas. McGeveran wrote *Privacy and Data Protection Law*, a book used in two dozen law schools, and Shen co-wrote the widely used textbook *Law and Neuroscience*.

The University of Minnesota is an excellent place to teach emerging law subjects because it’s teeming with experts in many relevant fields and disciplines, Shen says. He regularly invites guest lecturers from across campus to his classes in artificial intelligence and neuroscience. The Twin Cities area is also home to many corporations that contend with high-tech legal issues—another boon for Minnesota Law students. Shen recently took his neurolaw students to Medtronic, where they met with the general counsel and learned about legal implications of the company’s deep brain stimulation technology.

Through these experiences, “students really get in on the ground floor of extraordinary change in the law and see that the law is fluid,” Shen says. “They will have the opportunity to shape the future of the law because technology won’t be the same as it was years ago when the doctrine was laid down.”

Law School students who explore groundbreaking legal areas enter the job market with valuable expertise and skills. Wolf points out that in addition to classes, some have the opportunity to work as research assistants with the Consortium on Law and Values, including on projects supported by the National Institutes of Health and other funders. The projects consider how law, ethics, and policy should cope with challenging questions, such as how research with portable MRIs should be conducted in remote and underserved areas or when individual-specific research findings should be offered to participants in genomics studies, she says.

Students in McGeveran’s data compliance practicum have the opportunity to earn the Certified Information Privacy Professional (CIPP) credential at a highly discounted rate from the International Association of Privacy Professionals. Adding a CIPP designation to their J.D. is a great way for students to demonstrate their bona fides in this burgeoning field. In addition to the practicum—often featuring guest lecturers from the field—McGeveran’s students also have the chance to job-shadow privacy professionals and explore career opportunities.

It’s important to have such experiences because jobs in emerging fields don’t fall into such traditional categories as litigator or transactional attorney, McGeveran says. These nimble lawyers work as counselors, policy planners, and troubleshooters who respond to emergencies like security breaches. “These are all exciting, dynamic things to do as a lawyer, and they aren’t captured by categories that students often think about,” he adds.

Firms have begun to establish practices in artificial intelligence, and privacy law also is growing strongly. Minnesota Law graduates who take advantage of the faculty’s documented expertise in these new and developing fields are likely to have strong job prospects.

“There is a huge need because it’s territory that hasn’t been filled yet,” McGeveran says. “It can be really great for someone coming out of law school, tooled up and ready to go into privacy. We’ve placed a lot of graduates in great places doing privacy law.”

By Suzy Frisch, a Twin Cities-based freelance writer
THE ENERGETIC ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCATE

Professor Alexandra Klass Brings a Wealth of Field Experience to Her Work Inside and Outside the Classroom

BY CATHY MADISON
Alexandra Klass spent a decade in private practice before launching a high-profile academic career. “It was not the normal path, but for me it worked out really well,” she says. Now a Distinguished McKnight University Professor and faculty director of the environmental and energy law concentration, Klass is building upon that broad swath of knowledge, both scholarly and practical, and sharing it with local, state, and federal bar associations and such organizations as the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy and the University’s Institute on the Environment.

Environmental issues first piqued her interest while she was studying law at the University of Wisconsin and searching for a practice area that was “fascinating, substantive, and involved litigation as well as regulatory and compliance work.” Although Klass considered pursuing an academic career, perhaps even a Ph.D. in legal history, she realized that she had never had a job in practice. “I was trained to be a lawyer, and I wanted to see what that was like,” she says.

In 1993, after a federal judicial clerkship, she joined the Minneapolis firm of Dorsey & Whitney, working in its environmental, natural resources, and energy practice group. By the time she left in 2004, she was a partner at the firm and had handled trial and appellate cases ranging from contaminated property and wetlands to mining, zoning, and eminent domain.

“It was a very supportive environment. I had great cases and wonderful colleagues, but I decided to see if I could make the transition to teaching and writing,” Klass says. Bringing myriad skills and perspectives into the classroom has served her well. “By actually being a litigator, I have different insights into the interests of parties bringing suits, into the corporate cultures where decisions are made, and into the back-and-forth between government regulators and regulated parties. I also get to write about what I know. What I saw in textbooks often wasn’t consistent with what I saw in practice.”

Being able to write and teach in the same community where she practiced also helps Klass enhance her classes with guest speakers, introduce students to former colleagues and mentoring opportunities, and assume leadership roles in professional associations and nonprofit organizations. In 2017, the Minnesota State Bar Association presented her with the Eldon G. Kaul Distinguished Service Award for her contributions to Minnesota’s environmental, natural resources, and energy law.

“What I really like about Alex is that she is not only a spectacular legal scholar but also is so ready and eager to think about what law and policy mean in a broader context,” says Jessica Hellmann, director of the University’s Institute on the Environment, where Klass has served as a fellow. “The environment doesn’t live in the law school, nor in science and engineering, nor in biological sciences. It’s everywhere.” Characterizing Klass as “rigorous, friendly, and creative,” Hellman lauds her ability to interact with colleagues from various disciplines and devise alternative solutions to diverse challenges. “For her, it’s not about the law per se, but about how people use the law and what it means to energy transition and public policy.”

Klass’s work at the intersection of law and policy has also earned accolades from Kathryn Hoffman ’06, CEO of the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy. Klass rejoined the MCEA board in 2018 and currently chairs the legal committee and serves on the executive committee. Her in-depth legal expertise and academic work on the public trust doctrine, for example, has been “really helpful to us,” especially in such ongoing cases as that involving White Bear Lake and the DNR, says Hoffman. “She is kind, supportive, and a great listener, which helps her understand the competing needs within our work. There are lots of reasons to bring claims or not, and she is good at navigating that.”

Klass says she is proud to be part of MCEA, which has grown considerably and gained public support as it takes on copper-nickel mining, clean energy transition, feedlot, and air pollution challenges, among many other issues. She also likes involving her students, offering them experience beyond the confines of the classroom. In fact, working with students—as co-authors, research assistants, summer interns—has become a career highlight.

“I love seeing them get excited about legal issues and things going on in the world,” she says. “I also love seeing them graduate and get experience and jobs they enjoy. There are lots of opportunities out there in the environmental and energy law sectors.”

Cathy Madison is a Twin Cities-based writer.
Faculty News, Awards & Grants

Susanna Blumenthal was named a 2020-21 fellow of Stanford University’s Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences. Blumenthal is one of 38 selected scholars representing 20 U.S. institutions and 11 international institutions and programs. The incoming fellows conduct research in a diversity of fields within or intersecting the social and behavioral sciences.

Linus Chan testified before the Minnesota House Judiciary Finance and Civil Law Division on a bill that would provide an exception to the current two-year limit on post-conviction relief for people embroiled in immigration removal proceedings stemming from a conviction obtained through “incorrect advice, or absent advice, from counsel on immigration consequences.”

Tom Cotter was elected to membership in the American Law Institute. ALI is the leading independent organization in the United States producing scholarly work to clarify, modernize, and improve the law. Also, Cotter’s scholarship on statutory damages in copyright was cited by the United States Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit in its opinion in Energy Intelligence Group Inc. v. Kayne Anderson Capital Advisors. In addition, Cotter traveled to St. Cross College, University of Oxford, to deliver a keynote speech at a conference titled “OxFirst’s Fourth IP and Competition Forum: Globalisation and FRAND: Coming to Grips with the Interplay of IP & Competition Law.”

Scholarship on juvenile justice by Barry Feld ’69 was recently cited and quoted by the Washington and Iowa State Supreme Courts in multiple cases. Also, Feld’s most recent book, The Evolution of the Juvenile Court: Race, Politics, and the Criminalizing of Juvenile Justice (2017), has received the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences’ 2020 Outstanding Book Award.

Garry W. Jenkins was elected to membership in the American Law Institute. ALI is the leading independent organization in the United States producing scholarly work to clarify, modernize, and improve the law.

Claire Hill co-hosted a conference titled “Regulating Bank Culture” at University College Dublin’s Sutherland School of Law. The conference featured panels of regulators, bank CEOs, and legal and other academics. The participants discussed the causes of bad banking cultures and how to change such cultures for the better.

Kristin Hickman’s scholarship on the Chevron doctrine, concerning judicial review of agency statutory interpretations, was cited by the United States Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit in Ali v. Barr, No. 17-60604-CV0 (5th Cir. Feb. 24, 2020). The case concerned a Board of Immigration Appeals interpretation of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996.
William McGeveran presented at the international “Computers, Privacy, and Data Protection” conference in Brussels. McGeveran discussed the influence of European law on proposals for new privacy regulation in the United States.

Steve Meili presented his research on the constitutionalization of human rights law and its implications in Latin America at two recent conferences in Peru. Meili discussed his research into strategic litigation in Mexico on behalf of refugees from Central America and Venezuela that has utilized recently enacted constitutional human rights provisions, including the right to asylum.

Amy Monahan was named a Distinguished McKnight University Professor. The Distinguished McKnight University Professorship program honors the University’s most distinguished and highest-achieving mid-career faculty who have made significant advances in their careers at the University of Minnesota, whose work and reputation are identified with the University, and whose accomplishments have brought great renown and prestige to Minnesota.

Perry Moriearty testified before the Minnesota House Public Safety and Criminal Justice Reform Finance and Policy Division in support of House File 3976, which would establish a bipartisan task force of criminal justice stakeholders, experts, and impacted persons and families to study and make recommendations to the Legislature about ways to reform Minnesota’s felony murder and aiding and abetting laws. Moriearty also testified at a joint informational hearing of the House judiciary and public safety committees titled “Race and the Law: How We Can Improve Equity in the Criminal Justice System,” where her testimony focused on racial disparities at the pretrial stage of the criminal justice process.

Paul Vaaler was elected a fellow of the Academy of International Business, the leading association of scholars and specialists in the field of international business and international policy. AIB fellows consist of a select group of distinguished AIB members recognized for their outstanding contributions to the scholarly development of the field of international business or their significant contributions to the AIB.

Jill Hasday’s book Intimate Lies and the Law was awarded the 2020 Scribes Book Award “for the best work of legal scholarship published during the previous year.” Scribes, the American Society of Legal Writers, has presented this award since 1961. Each year, the honor goes to a single work selected from a highly competitive field. Intimate Lies and the Law systematically examines deception in intimate relationships and uncovers the hidden body of law governing this duplicity.

Susan Wolf served as a Distinguished Lecturer at The Hagler Institute for Advanced Study at Texas A&M University in February 2020. Wolf delivered a series of public lectures at the Law School and School of Public Health on emerging issues in health law, ethics, and policy, including individuals’ access to their own research and clinical results as well as the raw data produced, especially in genomic analysis.
Paying for the Past: The Case Against Prior Record Sentence Enhancements

Professor Richard Frase co-authored *Paying for the Past: The Case Against Prior Record Sentence Enhancements*, the first book to take a deep dive into the issue of prior convictions—the most important factor in sentencing, after the seriousness of the crime. Frase’s co-author is Oxford University Law Professor Julian V. Roberts. The book was published by Oxford University Press in August 2019.

Who is the target audience for this book?

The people whom we most hope will read this book and take action are the members and staffs of sentencing guidelines commissions. There are 17 of these commissions in the United States right now. They are the bodies that create sentencing guidelines for judges and then monitor the implementation of those guidelines and make changes over time. We’ve studied sentencing enhancement based on prior conviction records; this is a universal feature of sentencing guidelines, and there are a lot of problems with it. So we hope that the people who make those rules and policies will pay attention.

Why did you decide to focus your book on prior record sentence enhancement?

I became interested in this topic because prior record is one of the two main factors that determine a recommended sentence under a guidelines system. The other one is the seriousness of the offense for which the offender is being sentenced. It struck me that very little attention had been paid to how sentencing guidelines compute and use criminal history, even though in some cases this factor receives more weight in determining a sentence than the crime a person is being sentenced for.

How does using prior records as a basis for sentence enhancement increase racial disparities?

There are strong correlations in all modern justice systems between race, social class, crime, and law enforcement. There is a lot of racial disparity in arrests and convictions, and therefore in prior conviction records. The more weight a system gives to prior records, the more strongly prior record enhancements contribute to racial disparities in sentencing.

What is something surprising that you found in researching this book?

It was surprising that the formulas are so different across the guidelines systems, yet no one had asked why. The rules differ on the magnitude of the enhancement, the elements that are included, and the weight given to old prior convictions. It was shocking to discover there are such huge differences in something that everyone assumes is a relevant factor, and yet intuition or local customs have led them to totally different formulas. They can’t all be equally good.

What’s a key takeaway of this book?

Even though everyone assumes a prior record is a natural reason for enhancing an offender’s sentence, it often doesn’t hold up or it’s excessive relative to the supposed justifications. That’s costing us expensive prison beds. And the longer prison sentences are not making the offenders any better.

Video of Prof. Frase discussing the book is available at law.umn.edu/bookbites
What differentiates this book from others on the market?

There are books that have looked at guidelines sentencing generally, but this book dives into one key aspect of sentencing guidelines—prior record enhancements across the country in all the guidelines systems, examining what they count and what effect it has. For this key aspect of guidelines sentencing, there’s nothing else like it.

What about jurisdictions that do not have sentencing guidelines?

There is some reason to believe, but more research is needed on this, that criminal history enhancements are greater in guidelines systems than they are in non-guidelines systems. But we end the book with a challenge to any individual who is in a non-guidelines systems, or doing research on such a system: What is the impact of prior record enhancements in that system? Do they raise the same problems as the ones we have identified in guidelines systems?

What’s your best one-sentence pitch for why someone should read this book?

Everything most people believe about prior record and sentencing is probably wrong.
FOR MORE THAN TWO DECADES, Professor Bradley G. Clary ’75 has been a driving force behind the excellent reputation of Minnesota Law’s legal writing and moot court programs. He has taught legions of law students to write effectively and prepared them for their legal careers by imparting wisdom derived from his decades in private practice.

After 21 years on the job, Clary will retire this spring from his role as clinical professor of law. He leaves behind a legacy of exacting standards for writing and an approach to teaching that stresses the challenge and substance of the daily practice of law.

“I think the role of the law school is not simply to teach students how to think like lawyers. The role of the law school is to help students be lawyers,” Clary says. “I try to bring to my teaching real-world practicalities and lessons that go beyond mere theory and help students anticipate things they have to think about.”

Dean Garry W. Jenkins says that Clary has been a powerful presence at Minnesota Law. “Under his stewardship and guidance, our legal writing and moot court programs have developed, grown, and reached soaring heights; he’s supported numerous students in winning prestigious awards, but also equipped thousands more with the practical, essential skills to become highly effective lawyers and advocates,” Jenkins explains. “His contributions as a teacher, mentor, faculty colleague, and trusted advisor cannot be overstated.”

In January, Clary received the prestigious Thomas F. Blackwell Memorial Award for outstanding achievement in the field of legal writing. The national honor from the Association of Legal Writing Directors and the Legal Writing Institute is a testament to the influence Clary has had on students and the teaching of writing in general.

Pathway From Practice
Clary spent 24 years in full-time private practice, becoming a partner at Oppenheimer Wolff & Donnelly. He represented clients and served as chair of the general litigation, business litigation, and antitrust groups. In 1982, Clary, a former moot court competitor himself, offered to help coach the Minnesota Law team—and essentially never stopped. The national team became a reliably tough competitor, advancing to the national finals in 11 of the last 14 years and capturing second place in 2004.

In 1985, Clary became an adjunct professor in appellate advocacy. Though he thoroughly enjoyed his legal work, he decided to join the faculty full-time in 1999 because he felt so energized by the students.

“I love watching future lawyers get better and better in their advocacy skills,” he says. “It was fun watching the light bulbs go on.”

In addition to teaching multiple litigation-related courses, Clary found time to collaborate on five textbooks about complex litigation, appellate advocacy, and more. He also served on the Minnesota Supreme Court Civil Justice Reform task force from 2010 to 2012.

‘Shoulders of a Giant’
Professor Christopher Soper, Clary’s successor as director of legal writing, says Clary rejuvenated the program with a fresh approach that gives students ample writing practice and feedback. Today, Minnesota Law students are known in legal circles as strong writers; some graduates have gone on to full-time legal teaching positions nationwide.

“We’re standing on the shoulders of a giant in advocacy,” Soper says. “Brad is responsible for all of the success that our legal writing program has had. He’s such a fantastic mentor—and he’s adept at navigating all sorts of difficult situations. His wisdom about how to proceed in the face of an uncertain situation will be what I’ll miss the most.”

Brian Larson, now an associate professor of law at Texas A&M University, first had Clary as his antitrust professor at William Mitchell (now Mitchell Hamline School of...
Impressed by Clary’s teaching manner and prowess, Larson eagerly accepted when Clary later invited him to be an adjunct professor in Minnesota Law’s writing program.

With Clary’s encouragement, Larson earned a doctorate in rhetoric and scientific and technical communication from the University of Minnesota and conducted dissertation research at the Law School. Together, Larson and Clary developed a structured study group to help multilingual law students with writing. “He was very concerned that we make sure we’re treating all of the students fairly,” Larson says. “It’s careful thought about how the pieces and people fit together, and that’s central to the way Brad behaves in general.”

Nadia Wood ’10, an assistant federal public defender in the capital habeas unit in Arkansas, found Clary to be an exceptional professor. He excelled at preparing students to apply civil procedure concepts in practical ways, such as drafting pleadings and negotiating settlements. As a student instructor in the legal writing program, Wood further honed her writing skills and got inspired to pursue public interest work, thanks in large part to Clary. “Professor Clary is an excellent teacher who developed innovative curriculum decades ahead of his time,” Wood says. “He cares deeply about his students and takes time to encourage and challenge them to become outstanding members of their profession.”

Clary’s enthusiasm for the law, high standards, willingness to mentor, and eagerness to share his experience and expertise with others will all be missed, Soper says. •

The role of the law school is to help students be lawyers. I try to bring to my teaching real-world practicalities and lessons that go beyond mere theory and help students anticipate things they have to think about.”

—Professor Brad Clary ’75

By Suzy Frisch, a Twin Cities-based freelance writer

Professor Clary’s legacy will continue through the creation of the Bradley G. Clary Scholarship, which will provide financial support for future Minnesota Law students. If Professor Clary had a meaningful impact on you or your career, please consider helping us to fully fund this new scholarship created in his honor.

Give now at z.umn.edu/Clary
Big Picture
ADDRESSING THE U.N. HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL IN GENEVA

Professor Fionnuala Ní Aoláin, special rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, presented her annual report to the 43rd session of the U.N. Human Rights Council in Geneva in March. A delegation of faculty, researchers, students, and partners from Minnesota Law’s Human Rights Center and Human Rights Advocacy Clinic traveled to Geneva for research and advocacy related to several human rights projects supported by the Center.
WHY MINNESOTA LAW?
I chose Minnesota Law because I wanted a top-rated legal education that prized practical learning opportunities and public service. Plus, it didn’t hurt spending three years in the Twin Cities.

PROFESSIONAL ASPIRATIONS?
I’m going to Husch Blackwell in their Milwaukee office, and interested in litigation work. Beyond that remains unclear. However, I’d like to be of service to others, and I take comfort knowing Minnesota Law has positioned me to be successful wherever my career might take me.

MOST MEMORABLE CLASS OR CLINICAL EXPERIENCE?
Being a student attorney in the Detainee Rights Clinic. I learned so much from talented and dedicated professors, pro bono partners, and fellow law students. But the most meaningful aspect has been the opportunity to serve our clients. Our immigration system is daunting, flawed, and the stakes are high. It is a privilege representing our clients in these proceedings, and the clinic has inspired me to continue this work in some capacity.

THOUGHTS ON FINISHING SCHOOL REMOTELY DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC?
It is certainly not how I envisioned my legal education coming to an end. I’m thankful, though, that our professors and the administration have gone above and beyond to ensure that we can continue our education while remaining safe and sane during this unprecedented crisis.

HOW WOULD YOU SUM UP YOUR LAW SCHOOL EXPERIENCE?
My time at Minnesota Law has been defined by unparalleled learning opportunities. For example, in just the spring of my 1L year, I argued in front of Minnesota Supreme Court Justice David Lillehaug.

HOW HAS MINNESOTA LAW PREPARED YOU TO BE A LAWYER?
In countless ways. Our professors demand a level of preparation and intellectual rigor that will undoubtedly serve me. Our curriculum provides experiential and practical learning opportunities. Most importantly, our entire Minnesota Law community understands that the privilege of our education requires us to become, as Dean Jenkins says, “lawyer-leaders.”

ADVICE TO OTHERS CONSIDERING MINNESOTA LAW?
There is a kind of student who thrives here. That sense of cut-throatedness, look-left-look-right-one-won’t-be-here, rip-pages-out-of-library-books is not Minnesota Law. If you are looking for a collegial atmosphere, and classmates who are committed to helping everyone make the most of their time here, you will do well at Mondale Hall.

BEST PIECE OF ADVICE YOU RECEIVED AS A LAW STUDENT?
My orientation leader told us to think about our own personal vision of “success” in law school. There are different pressures to pursue this or that “credential.” Having a clear vision of what you want out of your legal education can help you avoid that stress.

WHAT WILL YOU MISS MOST ABOUT MINNESOTA LAW?
Perhaps this is a little clichéd, but the people. From the support staff and administration to the professors to classmates who will be colleagues and lifelong friends, I will forever be thankful for those I got to spend the last three years with here in Mondale Hall.

Eduardo Castro, 3L
A former AmeriCorps member and student leader with a penchant for service
New Immersion-Style Field Placement Program Brings Students Closer to Their Career Goals

A NEW BUT GROWING PROGRAM at Minnesota Law—the Remote Semester Field Placement—sends students out of the Twin Cities metro area to other states and, so far, to one other country. The goal is to extend the Law School’s public service mission while expanding ways students can gain practical skills and earn credits toward their degrees.

Six students have taken remote semesters since the program debuted in fall 2018, according to Anne Sexton ’12, assistant director of public interest at the Law School. The four additional students participating in spring 2020 include the first international placement, in Mexico.

“Some use this as an opportunity to have an adventure,” Sexton says. “Sometimes students are thinking more strategically as far as wanting to work in this legal market or with that organization after graduation. This is a way to do a deep dive, get to know people and put down some roots in a market outside of the Twin Cities.”

Remote semester students spend the fall or spring of their 3L year performing work for credit at nonprofit organizations or government agencies. Students must complete 500 hours of work and do reading, writing, and time-log assignments, among other requirements, to earn 12 credits and maintain full-time status.

Sexton discusses financial, housing, and other considerations—including graduation requirements and bar application and prep—with those considering a remote semester.

From MN to L.A.
The Law School’s public service mission brought Alex Young, 3L, and her goal of being a public defender to Minnesota. With her sights also set on practicing in Los Angeles, Young took advantage of Remote Semester Field Placement to build her legal career in Southern California.

Young spent the fall of 2019 working at the Inner City Law Center, a nonprofit law firm offering free legal services to homeless and other poor, vulnerable Los Angeles residents. Serving with a team that brings suits over substandard or unhealthy housing conditions, Young helped at each stage of the litigation process, including drafting a complaint, assisting with discovery responses, organizing information for mediation, and interviewing clients.

She attended depositions, mediations, and visits to the buildings in question.

An Iowa City native whose family had moved to Los Angeles, Young served in an AmeriCorps program there after graduating from the University of Wisconsin with a degree in political science and

3Ls Katie Miller, Noah Steimel, and Catalina Hotung spent their remote semesters performing public service work in Chicago, Washington, D.C., and Dallas, respectively.
history. She had worked at the Los Angeles County public defender’s office during the summer after her 1L year and at Inner City Law Center last summer.

“I knew I wanted to go back for my legal career,” Young says. “I felt confident I could return having a degree from Minnesota.”

Young recently accepted a postgraduate fellowship with Inner City Law Center; she’ll be working on homelessness prevention and eviction defense issues.

**Capitol Cachet**

A remote semester in Washington, D.C., was a front-row seat to headline news and a “strategic choice” for **Noah Steimel, 3L**.

“It’s a competitive market for legal jobs, and especially jobs in policy and politics,” says Steimel, who worked for the U.S. House Committee on Oversight and Reform’s Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties. “You have to be there and you have to network.”

Steimel researched legal issues, found witnesses, and wrote questions for the subcommittee, which includes Reps. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York and Ayanna Pressley of Massachusetts, both members of “the Squad.”

Hearings on immigration garnered national media attention, with Steimel occasionally appearing on C-SPAN. He was in Washington during some House impeachment hearings and when Rep. Elijah Cummings of Maryland, Oversight and Reform Committee chair, passed away.

After graduation, Steimel will work at the U.S. Consumer Financial Protection Bureau in Washington. He interned there last summer and lived in D.C. before law school.

“Minnesota Law seemed to be a good place to do public interest work,” says Steimel, whose hometown is Des Moines and who has a history degree from Northwestern University. “The career department and the school do a good job of making a public interest career more feasible and realistic.”

**Service in the Second City**

During a remote semester with Legal Aid Chicago, **Katie Miller, 3L**, got the practical legal experience she wanted in the place where she wants to practice.

Miller secured what’s known as an Illinois Supreme Court Rule 711 license, allowing her to render legal services in Illinois under the supervision of a licensed attorney, and she frequently had the opportunity to speak before a judge in court proceedings.

“To be there during the semester—getting more work experience as opposed to more class time, and continuing to build my life in Chicago—was an amazing opportunity,” Miller says.

Miller joined the Chicago Bar Association, attended bar events, and met lawyers for coffee to build her network there.

At Legal Aid Chicago, Miller’s responsibilities included working with domestic violence survivors to explain the legal process and giving judges status updates.

A native of West Bloomfield, Michigan, Miller went straight to the Law School after earning a political science degree at the University of Michigan. She wants to practice family law and loved her immigration law experience, but also delved into the complexities of capital habeas cases and federal criminal-immigration issues, but also delved into the complexities of capital habeas law and visited inmates on death row.

Returning to Dallas, she continued working on federal criminal-immigration issues, but also delved into the complexities of capital habeas law and visited inmates on death row.

Summing up the experience, Hotung says, “I don’t think I’ve ever learned so much in my life as I did in that one semester.”

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Federal Public Defender’s office in Dallas. She familiarized herself with federal criminal law and completed her program-required writing, an opening brief to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 8th Circuit, in partnership with the Law School’s Federal Immigration Litigation Clinic, where she is now a student director.

A fluent Spanish speaker, Hotung was sent to answer an urgent call from the Federal Public Defender’s office in Jackson, Mississippi, which had no Spanish-speaking attorneys, in the aftermath of raids that rounded up 680 migrant workers. Her immigration law experience, from the clinic and three years as a paralegal, was invaluable in interviewing clients facing charges.

Returning to Dallas, she continued working on federal criminal-immigration issues, but also delved into the complexities of capital habeas law and visited inmates on death row.

Summing up the experience, Hotung says, “I don’t think I’ve ever learned so much in my life as I did in that one semester.”

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By Todd Nelson, a freelance writer based in the Twin Cities.
KRISTIN TRAPP, 2L, RECENTLY had the amazing experience of testifying before a committee of lawmakers on the merits of a constitutional amendment that she conceived of and helped draft.

On Feb. 26, Trapp appeared before the Minnesota House’s Government Operations Committee to speak in support of her proposal to swap out gender-specific language from the Minnesota Constitution for gender-neutral terms. For example, rather than referring to a senator as “he” in subsequent references, the state constitution would repeat the word “senator” throughout.

Seven states have amended their constitutions similarly, and seven more are considering such changes, according to Trapp. She pointed out that the Minnesota Constitution has already been amended 120 times to remove obsolete language. “The Minnesota Constitution does not mention women once; men’s rights and roles, on the other hand, appear 69 times,” she observes.

Trapp came up with the idea for the amendment while she was working as a legislative assistant in the Minnesota Senate in 2018. “Oftentimes, I would flip through prior legislation and the Constitution. It saddened me to see that everyone was referred to as ‘he’ and that no one bothered to change that,” she says.

She proposed the changes to her boss, Sen. Sandra L. Pappas, and Pappas agreed to serve as chief author and introduce the bill.

In fall 2018, Trapp left her legislative job to start her 1L year at Minnesota Law. A human rights fellow, she continued her advocacy work at law school, pursuing feminist legal theory as a note/comment editor for the Journal of Law and Inequality. She is currently working on a note for the journal on how women’s issues are omitted from the U.S. State Department’s annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices and the impact that omission has on female asylum seekers.

The constitutional change initiative did not appear to have any momentum until late February, when Trapp received an invitation to testify before the House committee. “I was grateful to have had the opportunity to discuss why it’s important for our constitution to include all Minnesotans,” Trapp says, adding that the bill enjoys bipartisan support in the House.

While the genesis of her testimony was from her pre-law school legislative work, Trapp says her legal training played a big part in making her appearance a success.

“Minnesota Law has given me so many opportunities to develop my public speaking skills and feel comfortable speaking on the fly,” she explains. “For example, my experience in hearing prep for the Immigration and Human Rights Clinic helped me learn how to think on my feet. In evidence drafting, I was working on persuasion and public speaking every week, and Professor [Mitch] Zamoff gave me a lot of encouragement and feedback. ... Minnesota Law also empowers you by cultivating your skills, encouraging you to try new things, and supporting you all the way. For example, Professor [Heidi] Kitrosser helped me
write an opinion piece on the amendment that was published in the *Star Tribune*; Professor [Jill] Hasday encouraged me to use the bill as the basis for my research paper in her sex discrimination class.”

The bill was ultimately referred to another House committee for consideration. Not one to rest on her laurels, Trapp spent time immediately after her testimony lobbying to get the bill a hearing in the Senate. “It’s been good to remind myself that if you see something that you want changed, go for it!” says Trapp. “This all came to be because I was simply annoyed by how out-of-date our constitutional language was. Anyone can get involved in government and share their skills and vision, but the first step is trying.”

Trapp has not yet settled on what area of law she will ultimately focus on, but says that wherever she lands, a feminist lens will guide her practice. “Advocating for women’s equality happens in all sectors, courtrooms, and boardrooms,” she explains. “It’s not just a public interest issue and it’s not an issue of the past. And that’s part of what my bill is about—our state constitution has excluded women for 162 years and there’s been no movement to change that until now. A lot of work lies ahead, and I am excited to see what my role can be.”

—Kristin Trapp, 2L

*Minnesota Law ... empowers you by cultivating your skills, encouraging you to try new things, and supporting you all the way.*

—Kristin Trapp, 2L
Students Make Strong Showing at McGee National Civil Rights Moot Court

Minnesota Law students and teams fared well at the William E. McGee National Civil Rights Moot Court Competition in late February. The team of Jackie Fielding, 3L, Nadia Mezic, 2L, and Chuqiao Yu, 2L, finished among the top three briefs overall and advanced to the quarterfinals. Fielding also took home the Best Oral Advocate award for the entire competition.

The other team, composed of 3Ls Jake Gray, Emily Franco, and Andrew Prunty, also made an excellent showing among a field of 26 teams from across the country. The teams were coached by Professor Jon Lee.

The William E. McGee National Civil Rights Moot Court Competition promotes interest in all areas of civil rights law and helps participating students develop the oral advocacy and writing skills essential to becoming successful appellate practitioners. Teams write briefs to the U.S. Supreme Court on a problem involving a recent case in the field of civil rights and argue the case at the competition.

The 2020 competition was held February 21-22 at the Mitchell Hamline School of Law campus in St. Paul.

Law School Hosts National Moot Court Regional, Performs Well in Competition

Minnesota Law hosted a regional round of the National Moot Court Competition late last fall. Thirteen teams from across a four-state region came to the Law School to compete in brief writing and oral advocacy.

Nearly 100 local attorneys, judges, and Law School alumni helped judge the oral arguments and the briefs. Minnesota Law’s two teams both did very well. The Respondent team (3Ls Chloe Margulis, Isabel McClure, and Nick Evans) won Best Respondent Brief and advanced to the quarterfinal round. This is the fourth consecutive year that Minnesota Law has won a Best Brief award.

The Petitioner team (3Ls Sarah Allen, Connor Shaull, and Kris Wathne) wrote the second-best petitioner brief. That team advanced to the championship round, losing narrowly to a team from Drake University Law School. Shaull won Best Oralist in the championship round—the second consecutive year that a Minnesota Law student has snagged the honor.

Andrew Leiendecker ’17, Kyle Hardwick ’13, and Kelsey Fuller ’18 are coaching this year’s teams.
Driven to Lead
Honoring the legacy of faculty who inspire

Initiated by generosity of two lead gifts, we invite alumni and friends to join together to help us commemorate these legendary law professors—the Auerbach Public Interest Summer Fellowship and Weissbrodt Human Rights Fund. These two funds help Minnesota Law honor our distinguished past while advancing innovation, excellence, and access. **We invite you to make your gift celebrating Dean Auerbach and Professor Weissbrodt to help fully fund these initiatives.**

Support these initiatives at [z.umn.edu/FacultyWhoInspire](https://z.umn.edu/FacultyWhoInspire)

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**David Weissbrodt Human Rights Center Fund**

Distinguished scholar and global leader in international human rights law, David Weissbrodt, founded the internationally recognized University of Minnesota Human Rights Center and has served the Law School for over 40 years.

The new Weissbrodt Human Rights Fund, created in his honor, supports the Human Rights Center’s mission to promote research on real-world challenges and prepare future lawyers with the skills to defend human rights. You can honor Professor Weissbrodt by making a gift supporting student internships, innovative research, teaching, and advocacy at the Human Rights Center.

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**Dean Carl Auerbach Public Interest Summer Fellowship**

Eminent legal scholar and academic, Dean Carl Auerbach, served as dean from 1972-79, spearheading the effort to build Mondale Hall as a home for the Law School. Throughout his lengthy and distinguished career, his scholarship focused on the relationship between law and the social sciences, and the role of law in fostering democratic institutions and social justice.

The Dean Carl Auerbach Public Interest Summer Fellowship was created in his honor to support students dedicated to legal careers in public service. Your contribution to this fund will help support a student in a summer position performing public-interest work.
Divya Mehta ’05 was recently promoted to senior vice president and general counsel of KONE Americas. With $9 billion in annual revenue, KONE is a global leader in the elevator and escalator industry. Prior to joining KONE in 2013, Mehta worked in private practice in Chicago and for the office of the Illinois attorney general.
You started out as an assistant attorney general for the state of Illinois. Could you discuss a little bit about your work there?

I worked in the General Law Bureau, which meant that while I primarily did labor and employment work, and torts, I would also handle other matters, such as guardianships and election monitoring. Because of the case load and variety of matters, this is where I really learned how to work up and litigate cases.

After your time in the AG’s office, you spent about five-and-a-half years in the private practice of law. What types of cases did you handle?

I focused on insurance defense work, including medical malpractice and toxic tort. During this time, I learned the ins and outs of law firm practice. Substantively, I improved my deposition and trial skills. Specifically, with medical malpractice, I worked on more complex cases, so I learned a lot about the areas of medicine I was defending.

Could you discuss your decision to move in-house and the type of work you have done during your time at KONE, most recently as deputy general counsel?

I wanted to move in-house because I had worked for General Electric right out of college and missed the business environment. The role particularly appealed to me because it was new, so while there was a framework, I got to shape it into what I wanted. It also seemed like a good fit with my engineering background. Over the course of the last six years, I have worked on a wide variety of issues, including regulatory, compliance, product, technology, commercial, and operations, all of which have given me a good understanding of our business.

What interests or excites you most about the work you do and the industry you are in?

The most exciting part of the industry is the new technology in our products. KONE’s goal is to provide excellent services and innovative products to improve the flow of urban life. These products help gain efficiencies, whether for the riding public, building owners, or our technicians. For example, our KONE 24/7 Connected Services proactively monitors your elevator so that we can better predict issues and take action before it shuts down.

Can you share your thoughts on the importance of diverse perspectives in the corporate legal environment, particularly among the ranks of general counsel?

Diverse perspectives are important everywhere, not just in a corporate legal environment, and diversity overall is critical, not just gender diversity. Several years ago, I participated in an exercise at a leadership training that left a lasting impact on me. It proved that diverse perspectives lead to better results because thoughts are challenged and there is more discussion and debate. It is great to see more women attorneys becoming partners or general counsel, but we need to do better.

How do you spend your free time?

I love running and yoga. Last year I ran the Chicago Marathon. Also, a few years ago, I started taking piano lessons so I could play piano with my kids. Most of all, though, I love spending time with my family, including my nieces and nephews, who mostly live in the Chicago area.

Being a corporate counsel entails working in a fast-paced, busy environment. What do you do to de-stress and maintain wellness?

I try to do something physical every day (running, circuit training, spinning, yoga, basketball), but it is challenging. However, there is a gym in the building and KONE has a culture of wellness, both of which make it much easier to be active.

What programs or experiences did you find particularly impactful during your time at Minnesota Law?

There were two—Intellectual Property Moot Court and Trial Advocacy. The skills I learned in these programs were invaluable and practical, especially since I started out as a litigator.

What are a few interesting items one might see on display on your desk or in your office?

I have pictures of my family and some drawings and artwork from my kids. I also have some motivational Post-its. One says, “Be kind and kindness finds you back.” One of my favorites, which my younger daughter gave me before the marathon, says, “Womin rool!” and has a Spider-Man sticker on it. It took me a few minutes to figure out what she had written, but now it motivates me and makes me smile at the same time.

Diverse perspectives are important everywhere, not just in a corporate legal environment, and diversity overall is critical, not just gender diversity…. It is great to see more women attorneys becoming partners or general counsel, but we need to do better.”

—Divya Mehta ’05
Alumni News

15 Alumni Recognized as Attorneys of the Year; Senior Judge Ericksen ’81 Honored for Service

Fifteen Minnesota Law alumni are among the members of the state bar singled out for recognition as 2019 Attorneys of the Year by Minnesota Lawyer. In addition, Senior U.S. District Court Judge Joan N. Ericksen ’81 of the District of Minnesota was honored for her lifetime service with an Outstanding Service to the Profession award.

For the past two decades, Minnesota Lawyer has honored top attorneys throughout Minnesota for their notable achievements and leadership in the profession. Award recipients are profiled in the publication, receive a trophy, and are feted at a dinner event in February.

Some attorneys are honored for individual accomplishments, while others are recognized for their work as part of a team. Minnesota Law alumni named as 2019 Attorneys of the Year are:

GROUPS
Aida Al-Kadi v. Ramsey County et al.
• Caitlinrose Fisher ’15, Greene Espel
• David Wallace-Jackson ’98, Greene Espel
• Brittany Resch ’15, Gustafson Gluek

Bair Hugger Team
• Mary S. Young ’02, Blackwell Burke
• Corey L. Gordon ’80, Blackwell Burke
• Vinita Banthia ’16, Blackwell Burke
• Amarachi Ihejirika ’16, Blackwell Burke

Leonard Pozner/Sandy Hook Defamation Case
• Jake Zimmerman ’03, Zimmerman Law Firm

Minneapolis Prisoner Hepatitis C Litigation
• Michael V. Ciresi ’71, Ciresi Conlin
• Peter J. Nickitas ’90, Peter J. Nickitas Law Office
• Amy Sweasy ’95, Hennepin County Attorney’s Office

INDIVIDUALS
• Teresa Lavoie ’02, Fish & Richardson
• Stephen Safranski ’97, Robins Kaplan
• Stacey Slaughter ’99, Robins Kaplan

Anna Beadle ’10 Named Executive Director of Minnesota Justice Foundation

Anna Beadle ’10 was recently named executive director of the Minnesota Justice Foundation.

Housed at the Law School, the MJF is a nonprofit organization that strives for justice by creating opportunities for Minnesota law students to perform public interest and pro bono legal services.

Beadle has worked at MJF for five years, most recently as a program director and staff attorney. Prior to joining MJF, she worked at Children’s Law Center of Minnesota. During law school, Beadle participated in the Child Advocacy Clinic as a student director.
Judge Jennifer L. Frisch ’95 Appointed to Minnesota Court of Appeals

Judge Jennifer L. Frisch ’95, former assistant chief judge for Ramsey County District Court, has been appointed to the Minnesota Court of Appeals by Gov. Tim Walz. Frisch will replace Chief Judge Edward J. Cleary ’77, who retired at the end of April. In making the appointment, Walz commended Frisch’s legal career, wherein “she has been an impartial, fair jurist and her commitment to justice has been unwavering.”

Previously, Judge Frisch served as senior associate general counsel at the University, where she represented the University as trial and appellate counsel in state and federal courts. Her community involvement has included serving as chair of the Equal Justice Committee for the 2nd Judicial District and various statewide committees, teaching legal writing and moot court at the Law School, coaching and judging collegiate and high school mock trial, and teaching English language learner classes at Neighborhood House.

Laura Moehrle ’05 Appointed Judge in Minnesota’s 7th District

Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz appointed Laura Moehrle ’05 to serve as district court judge in the state’s 7th Judicial District, which consists of the counties of Becker, Benton, Clay, Douglas, Mille Lacs, Morrison, Otter Tail, Stearns, Todd, and Wadena. Her appointment will be chambered in St. Cloud. In making the appointment, Walz praised Moehrle for her “breadth of knowledge, mastery of the law, and commitment to her community.”

Previously, Moehrle was a civil trial attorney, shareholder, and chief financial officer of Quinlivan & Hughes. Moehrle is engaged in the St. Cloud community by serving on the board of directors of Kids Fighting Hunger for the past 14 years and fundraising for Central Minnesota Habitat for Humanity.

WE ♥ TORT REUNION
FEBRUARY 12, 2020 | DAY BLOCK BREWING

The TORT cast recently celebrated their annual We ♥ TORT event. This event is a chance for alumni and students to share and connect through their love of the TORT experience. We ♥ TORT was organized and hosted by 3L producer Kenzie Gerber, 3L treasurer Jacob Lanthier, and the Office of Advancement.

Want to support TORT? Visit z.umn.edu/Give2TORT

Pictured are 2020 TORT cast members Jordan Francis, 1L, Joshua Hamel, 1L, Sam Meshbesher, 1L, Brenna Evans, 1L, and Anne Bolgert, 1L.
The University of Minnesota Law School offers its students the opportunity to learn how to practice law in a hands-on way. As part of the Law School’s clinical training program, students can study a particular area of law and then provide pro bono legal representation under the supervision of licensed attorneys. When I was a student at the Law School, from 2010–13, I participated in the Child Advocacy Clinic. Now, since the fall semester of 2019, I am an adjunct professor co-teaching the Insurance Law Clinic.

Although clinical education has generally grown in popularity, the Insurance Law Clinic is the only one of its kind in the country. Margo Brownell, an attorney with Maslon, started and taught the clinic beginning in 2012; more recently, Richard Allyn ’69, an attorney with Robins Kaplan, has led and taught the clinic. Last year Bryan Freeman ’06 and I, both with Maslon, joined the team and now help teach and supervise case work. Each year there are also several student directors (who were students the previous year) to help make sure everything runs smoothly.

The Insurance Law Clinic is a yearlong course that has two components. In the seminar portion, we provide an overview of Minnesota insurance law. An understanding of the law is, of course, important. But what sets the clinics apart from other courses at the Law School is the other component: the case work. Students are certified under the Minnesota Student Practice Rules and provide legal representation to clients. In the Insurance Law Clinic, we focus on advising policyholders as they navigate insurance coverage issues.

When potential clients are referred to the clinic, the students do everything any attorney would do—contact the potential clients, get basic information, run conflicts, and set up a time for an interview. When the potential clients come into the clinic, two students will lead the interview, but all the other students, along with the adjunct professors, can ask follow-up questions. We then decide as a group whether to provide representation. If we do, we assign a team to take primary responsibility for the matter. Each team is made up of one adjunct professor, one student director, and two students. We then work the matter to resolution.

Working with the students to provide pro bono representation has been the highlight of teaching the clinic for me. The clients, who are generally low-income, have issues with a variety of insurance policies, from medical to automobile to liability. These are important cases for people who need legal help and would otherwise have trouble getting it—and the clinic meets this need with students who are enthusiastic, engaged, and dedicated to their work.

One matter in particular stood out for me this year. In it, our clients had
a dispute with their insurer as to whether there is coverage related to an automobile accident. When they came to the clinic, the insurer had already initiated a lawsuit and our clients were proceeding pro se, preparing for their upcoming trial. When the clinic looked into the lawsuit, we discovered that—unknown to our clients—judgment had already been entered against them. I am the supervising attorney for this matter, and Hannah Payne, 3L, Zach Wright, 2L, and Yongxian Wang, 2L, round out the team. Working together, we moved the court on behalf of our clients to vacate the judgment, along with certain other relief. The students, with my guidance, compiled the factual record and drafted the motion papers. Even though the briefing schedule ended up being over finals and the holidays, the team met the challenge with talent, tenacity, and good cheer. Zach and Xian argued the motions, and the court granted our clients relief.

The clinic allows me to engage with driven students and provide pro bono representation to clients, both of which have been a pleasure. The clinic also allows me to learn from my well-versed colleagues. As the most junior of the adjunct professors for the clinic, I, like the students, benefit a great deal from the other faculty members’ experience. All in all, it has been wonderful. I thank the Law School for the opportunity, the other adjunct professors for their leadership, the students for their hard work, and Maslon for supporting our efforts. If anyone gets the chance to teach a clinic, I would highly recommend doing so.
Class Notes NEWS ABOUT YOUR CLASSMATES AND COLLEAGUES

61 Elliot Kaplan was recognized with the Minnesota Icon award by Finance & Commerce and Minnesota Lawyer as an individual with proven success throughout a lengthy and accomplished career. Kaplan is a partner at Robins Kaplan in Minneapolis and has handled many multi-district complex class action litigations and unfair trade practice cases.

69 David Twa won statewide recognition with the 2018 Distinguished Service Award from the California Association of County Executives. Twa is the county administrator and clerk of the board for Contra Costa County, California.

70 Thomas G. Mattson wrote a book entitled The Other Worlds: Offbeat Adventures of a Curious Traveler, which recounts stories of memorable experiences and people from journeys across the globe.

71 Danny Berenberg was elected chair of the St. Johns County Tourist Development Council in Florida. He is the founding partner of GiftCounsel.com and has served on several nonprofit and corporate boards.

73 Alan Eidsness was recognized with the Minnesota Icon award by Finance & Commerce and Minnesota Lawyer as an individual with proven success throughout a lengthy and accomplished career. Eidsness is a shareholder at Henson Efron and is a leader in the firm’s family law group.

74 Douglas A. Kelley was recognized with the Minnesota Icon award by Finance & Commerce and Minnesota Lawyer as an individual with proven success throughout a lengthy and accomplished career. Kelley is a partner at Kelley, Wolter & Scott in Minneapolis and practices white collar criminal defense.

76 Stuart Gibson joined the Dutch tax education and research foundation International Bureau of Fiscal Documentation (IBFD) as chief editor in the United States. After retiring from the tax division of the U.S. Department of Justice in 2013, and before joining IBFD, Gibson worked as a director of international tax at Bloomberg Tax & Accounting.

78 Jack Levey retired and is moving to Israel. Prior to retirement, Levey worked as a real estate and business lawyer at Plunkett Cooney in the firm’s Columbus, Ohio, office.

81 Kevin M. Busch was re-elected to a three-year term as a member of the board of directors of Moss & Barnett in Minneapolis. Busch leads the firm’s financial services team.

82 Todd Urness was re-elected to the board of directors of Winthrop & Weinstine in Minneapolis. Urness is a shareholder whose current area of focus is tax credit financing and syndication.

84 Mike Christenson became the program director of the Urban Investors program at Augsburg University in Minneapolis. Christenson’s role involves working with emerging bank leaders to connect them with entrepreneurs committed to developing urban neighborhoods in the Twin Cities.

85 Jeffrey Ansel was elected to the board of directors of Winthrop & Weinstine in Minneapolis. Ansel is a shareholder whose current areas of focus are business and commercial litigation and alternative dispute resolution.

86 Elizabeth Bransdorfer received the Blaine B. Johnson Jr. Award from the Institute of Continuing Legal Education and the Family Law Section of the State Bar of Michigan. Bransdorfer specializes in divorce and family law at Mika Meyers in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

87 Felicia Boyd joined the global law firm Norton Rose Fulbright as a partner in its Minneapolis office. Boyd has extensive experience in complex IP disputes.

88 David C. Brown was appointed a district court judge for Minnesota’s 2nd Judicial District (Ramsey County) by Gov. Tim Walz. Prior to his appointment, Brown was the chief deputy Hennepin County attorney; in that role, he was responsible for overseeing the county attorney’s four criminal divisions.

90 Jennifer Forbes joined Kutak Rock’s national corporate practice group as of counsel in the firm’s Minneapolis office. Her practice involves complex business transactions.
Jay L. Kim joined Heartland Financial USA as executive vice president, general counsel. Prior to joining the company, Kim was a partner at Dorsey & Whitney in Minneapolis. Browne Lewis was elected to the American Law Institute in July 2019. Lewis was also appointed dean of the North Carolina Central University School of Law and will begin her new role on July 1, 2020.

Sean M. Quinn was reappointed as a judge on the Minnesota Workers’ Compensation Court of Appeals. Prior to his appointment to the court in 2018, Quinn was a partner at Falsani, Balmer, Peterson & Quinn in Duluth, Minnesota.

James Gallegos was named to the Lawyers of Color Power List for 2020. Gallegos is the executive vice president, general counsel, and corporate secretary of Alliant Energy, based in Madison, Wisconsin.

Kristine A. Kubes became chair of the American Bar Association Forum on Construction Law and is one of the few female lawyers to serve in this position.

Gerald C. Robinson was named a partner at Halunen Law in Minneapolis. Robinson represents whistleblowers in qui tam cases under the False Claims Act and brings nearly 30 years of experience to his practice in complex litigation.

Eric Galatz was recognized with the Ramsey County Bar Association’s 2019 Pro Bono Award. Galatz is a partner at Stinson and serves the real estate and public finance industries.

Simon Leung was named to the Lawyers of Color Power List for 2020. Leung is general counsel and corporate secretary at SYNNEX Corporation, headquartered in Fremont, California.

Rikke Dierssen-Morice joined Maslon in Minneapolis as a partner in the firm’s litigation and corporate securities practice. Dierssen-Morice has successfully handled many high-stakes insurance claims.

Scott Neilson was named to the 2019 Acritas Stars list, which is made up of client-nominated standout lawyers in private practice. Neilson is a shareholder at Henson Efron in Minneapolis and serves clients in many aspects of litigation.

Jill Lebow Prohofsky was promoted to deputy manager of the Child Support Magistrate program for the state of Minnesota. She was previously a child support magistrate for 17 years.

Margaret “Maggie” Thickens was promoted to vice president, chief legal officer, and corporate secretary of ALLETE Inc. Thickens previously was general counsel, secretary, and director of compliance at ALLETE Clean Energy.

Bethany Owen was named CEO of ALLETE Inc. and is the company’s first female CEO. Owen first joined ALLETE in 2002 as an attorney.

Scott A. Wolfson joined the American College of Bankruptcy. Wolfson, a partner at Wolfson Bolton in Troy, Michigan, focuses on bankruptcy and insolvency, commercial litigation, and business disputes, among other practices.

Michael Atkins moved from Mexico City to Madrid, where he continues to serve clients from his Seattle-based practice, Atkins Intellectual Property.

David Black was sworn in to a five-year term as deputy commissioner of the Social Security Administration. He will

BETHANY OWEN ’95
PROMOTED TO CEO
OF ALLETTE INC.

Owen was named president of the Duluth-based energy company last year. She first joined the company 18 years ago as an attorney and steadily climbed the ranks, eventually moving into operational roles. During her appointment as president and board director, she oversaw the development and execution of the company’s growth strategy. ALLETTE is the parent company of electric utility Minnesota Power as well as a number of other energy-related enterprises.

JAY KIM ’88
JOINS HEARTLAND
FINANCIAL USA
AS EXECUTIVE
VICE PRESIDENT,
GENERAL COUNSEL.

Before joining the Dubuque, Iowa-based company, Kim worked with banking and financial services clients for more than 30 years, spending half his career in general counsel and senior management roles and the other half as an attorney in private practice, including as a partner with Dorsey & Whitney in its banking and financial services industry group. Before joining Dorsey, Kim served as EVP, general counsel, and director of corporate development for Alerus Financial.
also serve as the secretary to the Social Security Board of Trustees.

Paul J. Yechout joined Optum in Minneapolis as deputy general counsel of labor and employment. He will lead the company’s labor and employment law team.

John Burch was recognized as one of Michigan’s top 10 attorneys by Super Lawyers magazine. Burch also argued his 12th U.S. Supreme Court case on behalf of the petitioner in R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Homes v. E.E.O.C. He is vice president of appellate advocacy at the Alliance Defending Freedom in Michigan.

David Jaffe was elected to the board of directors of the Midland Center for the Arts in Midland, Michigan. Jaffe serves as CEO of Cinderela Inc., a nationwide distributor of swimming pools and backyard leisure supplies headquartered in Michigan.

James H. Snelson was re-elected to the board of directors of Fredrikson & Byron in Minneapolis. Snelson is a shareholder at the firm and helps his clients with matters relating to mergers and acquisitions.

Gretchen L. McGill was named partner at Dvorak Law Group in Omaha, Nebraska. McGill represents clients in a variety of contract disputes, including construction contracts and partnership agreements.

Bryan K. Phillips was appointed chief legal officer at Boston-based Cerevel Therapeutics in November 2019. Prior to joining Cerevel, Phillips was a senior vice president for Surmodics Inc.

Krista Schwarting won three “Best Attorney” awards from the Anchorage Press.

Clayton Chan was recognized as a 2020 Minnesota Super Lawyer for his work in trusts and estates. Chan is a principal of Chan Law Offices in Minneapolis and represents clients in a wide array of trust, probate, and estate matters.

Roshan N. Rajkumar was named to the Lawyers of Color Power List for 2020. Rajkumar is co-managing partner at Bowman and Brooke in Minneapolis and focuses his practice on defending small and large corporations in state and federal courts.

R. Jason Straight was named senior managing director, chief privacy officer of Ankura in New York. Straight oversees Ankura’s internal data privacy program.

Shanna Strowbridge was appointed general counsel for Schafer Richardson and SR Realty Trust. Strowbridge has nearly 20 years of experience in commercial real estate transactions.

Benjamin Felcher Leavitt was elected to a four-year term as a judge in the town of Ossining, New York.

Suzanne Munck joined Davis Polk as counsel in the antitrust and competition group in the firm’s Washington, D.C. office.

Kathryn R. Weber was promoted to senior attorney at Scott D. Pollock & Associates in Chicago. Weber practices immigration law and specializes in such areas as family-based immigration and immigration litigation and appeals.

Divya Mehta was appointed senior vice president and general counsel at KONE Americas in Lisle, Illinois. In this role, Mehta will lead all aspects of the company’s legal matters. Prior to becoming senior vice president, Mehta most recently served as KONE’s deputy general counsel.

Sarah Peterson was re-elected to a three-year term as a director of the American Immigration Lawyers Association board of governors. Peterson is the founder of Minneapolis-based SPS Immigration, where she focuses on providing employers and employees with immigration strategies.

Patrick S. Stoneking joined Jeff Anderson & Associates in New York City. While employed at his previous firm, Stoneking worked alongside Jeff Anderson & Associates on behalf of hundreds of survivors of childhood sexual abuse in New York.

Andrew Borene was appointed president and chief executive officer of Austin, Texas-based CipherLoc Corporation. Prior to joining CipherLoc, he was senior director of the federal national security group at Symantec in Washington, D.C.

Jennifer Burnette was recognized in the 2019 “40 Under 40” list by Chicago Daily Law Bulletin. Burnette, a partner at Marshall, Gerstein & Borun, practices patent prosecution in the firm’s Chicago office.

Jared Butcher was named a Law360 2019 Rising Star. Butcher is a partner at Steptoe & Johnson and focuses on commercial litigation and international arbitration in the firm’s Washington, D.C., office.

Spencer Seamans joined Cantel Medical as a corporate attorney in the company’s life sciences business segment. Seamans has a long history of supporting the medical device industry.

Lucky Meinz joined Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton as a partner in the labor and employment group in the firm’s San Francisco office.
Kyle M. Brehm joined Fredrikson & Byron as an officer in the firm’s Minneapolis office. Brehm is a tax attorney who works with companies to resolve a broad spectrum of issues related to state and local tax matters.

Trevor Lavelle was promoted to partner at Latham & Watkins in the firm’s Houston office. Lavelle represents clients in capital market transactions.

Carly Bad Heart Bull was named executive director of the Colorado-based nonprofit Native Ways Federation, which promotes awareness of American Indian communities across the country. Bad Heart Bull previously was at the Bush Foundation, where she worked with indigenous nations and communities as the native nations activities manager. Prior to that, she served as an assistant Hennepin County attorney in the child protection division and taught the Dakota language to children in south Minneapolis.

Chelsea B. DesAutels was published in the winter 2019-20 issue of Ploughshares. DesAutels is a poet and educator living in Minneapolis.

Craig Deutsch was named principal in the patent group at Fish & Richardson in Minneapolis. Deutsch’s practice focuses on defending and invalidating patents in post-grant proceedings.

Charles “Chas” S. Higgins was promoted to member at Burch, Porter & Johnson in Memphis, Tennessee. Higgins focuses his practice on commercial and business litigation.

Maya S. Zahn Rhine was elected a shareholder in Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren’s real estate practice at the firm’s Madison, Wisconsin, office. Rhine works with commercial real estate companies.

Thomas Braun was elected to a three-year term on the board of directors of the environmental conservation nonprofit Great River Greening. Braun is a partner at Stoei Rives in Minneapolis; his service areas include contaminated sites, energy and regulatory, and environmental compliance.

Lariss Maldonado was selected for the Pathfinder program of the Leadership Council on Legal Diversity. Maldonado was also recognized by the Hispanic National Bar Association as a “Top Lawyer Under 40.” Maldonado is an associate at Stinson, practicing a wide range of complex litigation in the firm’s Minneapolis office.

Laura Nelson was elected a partner in the Minneapolis office of Stinson. Nelson practices in the health care industry and advises clients on complex transactions.

Anne Carroll joined Sensient Technologies in Milwaukee as senior attorney and global HR compliance manager.

Laura E. Cowan was named a Rising Star by Super Lawyers in 2019. Cowan focuses on estate planning at the Law Office of Laura E. Cowan.

Kelsey Crosse was elected a shareholder of the Davis Brown Law Firm in Des Moines, Iowa. Crosse focuses on employment law (employer-side) and litigation and insurance defense in her practice.

Talon Powers was named a partner with Hecht Solberg Robinson Goldberg & Bagley in San Diego. His practice focuses on business litigation and risk management.

Aalok Sharma was selected for the Pathfinder program of the Leadership Council on Legal Diversity. Sharma is an associate at Stinson, practicing entertainment and sports law in the firm’s Minneapolis office.

Anju Suresh joined the Minneapolis office of Hinshaw & Culbertson as an associate in the firm’s commercial litigation practice.
David B. Tibbals joined Fredrikson & Byron as a corporate law associate in the firm’s Fargo office.

Erik Peter Bal was appointed assistant attorney general with the New Hampshire Department of Justice. Prior to his appointment, Bal was an associate at Rice, Michels & Walther in Minneapolis.

Julie L. Matucheski was appointed an assistant district attorney for Barron County in Wisconsin. Prior to becoming Barron County’s fourth prosecutor, Matucheski worked in private practice.

Armeen F. Mistry joined Pepper Hamilton in Detroit as an associate. Mistry is a trial attorney who represents clients in all stages of business litigation.

Ann Motl joined Maslon as an associate in the Minneapolis firm’s intellectual property litigation practice. Motl is a registered patent attorney with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

Vinita Banthia joined Archer & Greiner in Haddonfield, New Jersey, as an associate in the firm’s environmental law practice group.

Mitchell D. Sullivan joined Minneapolis-based Moss & Barnett’s business law and real estate teams.

Sam Ketchum joined Kennedy and Graven, Chartered in Minneapolis as an associate. Ketchum is practicing municipal law with a city attorney focus.

Aaron Minster joined Moss & Barnett’s litigation team in Minneapolis. Minster has experience in shareholder derivative actions, close corporations, and other areas of law.

Connor H.M. Smith joined Ballard Spahr as an associate in the firm’s litigation department in Minneapolis.

Maria Brekke joined Bassford Remele in the Minneapolis firm’s commercial litigation, appellate law, products liability, and trust and estates litigation practices.

Rachel Leitschuck Dougherty joined Fredrikson & Byron as an associate in the firm’s litigation group in Minneapolis.

Jesse E. Goldfarb joined Myers Thompson Medeiros in Minneapolis.

Adam Setra joined the Lovett Law Firm to serve the community of El Paso, Texas.

Luke Wolf joined Spencer Fane in Minneapolis as a litigation associate.

Anna Barton joined Maslon as an associate in the Minneapolis firm’s commercial litigation group.

Tash Bottum joined Fredrikson & Byron as an associate in the firm’s mergers and acquisitions group in Minneapolis.

Clayton Carlson joined Maslon as an associate in the firm’s business litigation group in Minneapolis.

Maria de Sam Lazaro joined Lathrop GPM in Minneapolis as an associate in the litigation and dispute resolution practice group.

Maja Digre joined the St. Paul office of HKM as an associate in the firm’s civil litigation group.

Peter G. Economou joined Winthrop & Weinstine in Minneapolis as an associate in the firm’s litigation group.

Andrew S. Escher joined Winthrop & Weinstine in Minneapolis as an associate in the firm’s litigation group.

Lauren Fleming joined Stinson as a litigation associate in the firm’s Kansas City office.

Joshua M. Greenberg joined Dorsey & Whitney in Minneapolis as an associate in the firm’s immigration group.

Lindsay Jones joined Merchant & Gould in Minneapolis as an associate in the firm’s intellectual property practice.

Jessica Wheeler joined Stinson in Minneapolis as a health care associate.
JOIN THE CLUB. MAKE A DIFFERENCE. The Lockhart Club leadership annual giving society brings together generations of alumni and friends who generously express their support of Minnesota Law through an annual gift of $2,000 or more. Together, this group makes a significant impact at the Law School and beyond—on its students, faculty, and community members.

Learn how to join at z.umn.edu/lawlockhartclub

Save the Date for the 2020 Lockart Dinner
October 6, 2020
McNamara Alumni Center

GIVING LEVELS

**BINGER CIRCLE**
$25,000+
Named for legendary lawyer-leader and philanthropist James H. Binger ’41. Members ensure our alumni, faculty, and students can solve today’s grand challenges.

**FRASER SOCIETY**
$10,000-$24,999
Dean Everett Fraser helped bring the Law School to national prominence. Members help secure the Law School’s place at the forefront of legal education.

**DEAN’S CIRCLE**
$5,000-$9,999
Since its founding in 1888, the Law School has been led by 11 distinguished deans. Members of the Dean’s Circle build on their example.

**MURPHY SOCIETY**
$2,000-$4,999
Judge Diana Murphy ’74 was a champion of justice for all, and promoted education as a means to improve lives. Members of the Murphy Society honor her legacy.

**LOCKHART GOLD** GRADUATES OF THE LAST DECADE

Lockhart GOLD is an opportunity for recent graduates to show their support and engagement as alumni and join the Lockhart Club at special, tiered giving levels based on graduation year.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Graduation Year</th>
<th>GOLD Giving Level</th>
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<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>$10/month ($120 annually)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018, 2017, 2016</td>
<td>$25/month ($300 annually)</td>
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<td>2015, 2014, 2013</td>
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<td>$100/month ($1,200 annually)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2009 and prior</td>
<td>$167/month ($2,000 annually)</td>
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Tributes

CLINT SCHROEDER ’55, PIONEER IN CHARITABLE ESTATE PLANNING, DIES AT 89

Clinton A. Schroeder ’55, a lifelong leader and innovator in the field of charitable estate planning, died March 12 at his home in Edina, Minnesota. He was 89.

Hailing from west-central Minnesota, Schroeder graduated from Fergus Falls High School, where he was class president and salutatorian. At the University of Minnesota, he graduated from both the Carlson School of Business Administration and the Law School in 1955. He joined the Minneapolis-based firm of Gray Plant Mooty (now Lathrop GPM) in 1957; he remained a principal with the firm until 2016.

Schroeder was one of the nation’s leading authorities on tax law and philanthropy. According to the Minnesota Planned Giving Council, he was “legendary” for encouraging his clients to make charitable giving a central focus of their estate planning. “In helping others fulfill their charitable goals, he has greatly enriched our community,” the MPGC said. Indeed, when the organization created an honor to recognize its most accomplished members, it didn’t have to look far for a name or an inaugural recipient: The first annual MPGC Clint Schroeder Distinguished Service Award was presented, in 2008, to Clint Schroeder.

Schroeder was as dedicated to civic and community service as he was to the practice of law. To cite just a few examples: He served as board chair of the Minneapolis Foundation, the Fairview Healthcare System, and the Southdale YMCA, working in each of those roles to improve the lives of Minnesota children and families; was president of the Rotary Club of Minneapolis and its foundation; and helped lead the Minnesota Lawyers Mutual Insurance Company, which insures attorneys for matters of professional responsibility and ethics. In 2002, Schroeder was presented the University of Minnesota’s Outstanding Achievement Award. He was a consistent donor to the Law School and a longtime member of the Lockhart Club Leadership Annual Giving Society. Not surprisingly, he included Minnesota Law in his estate plan.

“Clint was a great man and a true steward of our firm,” said Michael P. Sullivan ’96, a partner with Lathrop GPM. “He was committed to making this place better and always gave back more than he received. We are all lucky to have had him help set the tone around here for so many years. He genuinely cared about all of us.”

LAW SCHOOL MOURNS THE PASSING OF DICK LAREAU ’52

Richard G. “Dick” Lareau ’52, a longtime leader in the Twin Cities’ legal and business communities, died Feb. 22 at his home in Fort Myers, Florida. He was 91.

Lareau was born in Woonsocket, Rhode Island, and raised on a dairy farm in Vermont. In 1949, the year he received his bachelor’s degree from St. Michael’s College in Colchester, Vermont, he won the state championship in table tennis. After earning his J.D. at the Law School, he served in the U.S. Air Force for four years, after which he returned to the Twin Cities and joined the St. Paul firm of Oppenheimer Wolff & Donnelly (which merged with Fox Rothschild in 2016). Lareau was named a partner at Oppenheimer in 1960 and helped to build and lead the firm for more than a half century.

One of the most significant cases of Lareau’s career was an antitrust action brought by Control Data Corp. against IBM. It was a massive undertaking, ultimately involving 30 attorneys and 125 paralegals, and by the time it reached a multimillion-dollar settlement, in 1973, Oppenheimer had become a nationally recognized firm and Lareau and his partners had been dubbed “superlawyers.”

Lareau’s personal connection to the Law School remained strong throughout his life, and he was a consistent and loyal donor through the years. His first wife, the late Dorothy M. Oerting Lareau, was a fellow member of the class of 1952. She went on to become the Law School’s first woman faculty member, teaching legal writing, and served as assistant dean during the late 1950s. Dick and Dorothy’s son, Alan, later created the Dorothy Lareau Legal
Writing Fund in her memory.
Lareau’s business acumen led to seats on numerous corporate boards, including Control Data (later Ceridian), Merrill Corp., Nash Finch, Avicor, Bio-Medicus, and Northern Technologies. He also served as corporate secretary to several publicly traded companies. When not working, Lareau enjoyed travel, poker, reading, and especially boating and fishing. His obituary in the Minneapolis Star Tribune concluded, “Dick will be missed by colleagues, friends, and family. (But not by fish.)”

MIKE WRIGHT ’63, GOPHER FOOTBALL STAR AND LONGTIME SUPervalu CEO, DIES AT 81

Michael William Wright ’63, who captained the University of Minnesota football team and built Supervalu into one of the nation’s leading grocery chains, passed away at his home on Monday, Jan. 27, of complications from pneumonia. He was 81.

Born and raised in Minneapolis, Wright attended high school at St. Thomas Military Academy, earning All-America honors in basketball and football. As an undergraduate at the University, he lettered in both sports, became captain of the 1959 Gopher football team, and was named an Academic All-American. A standout offensive lineman, Wright was drafted by the Green Bay Packers but signed with the Winnipeg Blue Bombers of the Canadian Football League—at the time, the pay was better in Canada than in the NFL—and played on two CFL championship teams under coach and fellow Gopher alumnus Bud Grant.

Wright graduated with honors from the Law School, where he served as editor of the Minnesota Law Review and was named Order of the Coif. After a stint in the Army, he joined the Minneapolis law firm of Dorsey & Whitney, where he quickly rose to become a partner. At Dorsey, one of his clients was Supervalu; in 1981, the company hired him as its chairman and CEO. During Wright’s two decades at the helm, Supervalu became the largest grocery distributor in the United States and, led by its Cub Foods brand, the 10th-largest grocery retailer as well.

Wright’s connections to the Law School and the University ran deep. He was not only a generous donor to Minnesota Law, but a life member of the Board of Overseers (he served in the same role with the Carlson School of Management) and a trustee emeritus of the University of Minnesota Foundation. He was honored with the University of Minnesota Outstanding Achievement Award and the Lifetime Achievement Award from the “M” Club Hall of Fame. He chaired the Twin Cities United Way and the board of directors of the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis; served as president of the Minnesota Business Partnership; and sat on numerous corporate boards, including those of Cargill, S.C. Johnson, the Canadian Pacific Railway, and Honeywell International. He loved coaching youth sports, playing golf, and, above all, spending time with his large family and his dog, Willie Nelson.

BERNARD EDWARD BORENE ’70, LONGTIME MINNESOTA JUDGE, DIES AT 74

Bernard Edward Borene ’70, who served for 26 years as a district court judge in Minnesota’s 3rd Judicial District, passed away Nov. 26 in Portland, Oregon, at the age of 74.

Born and raised in Montevideo, Minnesota, Borene did his undergraduate work at the University of Minnesota before enrolling at the Law School. After earning his J.D., he served as a district court law clerk for one year before joining the firm of Lampe, Fossum, Jacobson, Borene and Crow in Northfield, Minnesota, where he practiced for the next 13 years. In 1984, then-Gov. Rudy Perpich appointed Borene to a seat on the bench of the 3rd Judicial District, which covers the southeastern corner of the state. Borene served in that role for 26 years, and, after his retirement in 2010, he worked as a senior judge in a number of counties for an additional five years.

Borene’s charitable and recreational activities were many and various. He was a longtime regular contributor to Minnesota Law; a member of the Church of St. Dominic in Northfield, where he sang in the choir; a member of the Northfield Jaycees, Northfield Lions Club, Northfield Senior Center, and Northfield Troubadors; and a member of the Rice County, 5th District, and Minnesota State Bar Associations. With his wife, Linda, he traveled to the six major continents, visiting nearly 60 countries in all.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class of 1946</th>
<th>William A. Lindquist</th>
<th>January 4, 2020</th>
<th>Winona, Minnesota</th>
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<td>Class of 1947</td>
<td>Laura H. Miles</td>
<td>October 9, 2019</td>
<td>Minneapolis, Minnesota</td>
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<td>Class of 1950</td>
<td>Dale MacIver</td>
<td>November 25, 2019</td>
<td>Washington, D.C.</td>
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<td>Class of 1952</td>
<td>Kermit F. Hoversten</td>
<td>January 29, 2020</td>
<td>Austin, Minnesota</td>
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<td>Richard G. Lareau</td>
<td>February 22, 2020</td>
<td>Fort Myers, Florida</td>
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<td>Raymond J. Marshall</td>
<td>June 6, 2019</td>
<td>Miami, Florida</td>
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<td>Ashley Westmoreland</td>
<td>January 8, 2016</td>
<td>Happy Valley, Oregon</td>
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<td>Class of 1953</td>
<td>Raymond A. Haik</td>
<td>November 9, 2019</td>
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<td>Miller F. Myers</td>
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<td>Class of 1954</td>
<td>Peter J. Hiniker</td>
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<td>Class of 1955</td>
<td>Clinton A. Schroeder</td>
<td>March 12, 2020</td>
<td>Edina, Minnesota</td>
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<td>Sam T. Courey Jr.</td>
<td>December 24, 2019</td>
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<td>Thomas C. Rieke</td>
<td>December 20, 2017</td>
<td>Meridian, Idaho</td>
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<td>James H. O’Hagan</td>
<td>October 20, 2019</td>
<td>Sunfish Lake, Minnesota</td>
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<td>Class of 1963</td>
<td>Douglas D. Reid Jr.</td>
<td>October 30, 2019</td>
<td>Minneapolis, Minnesota</td>
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<td>Michael W. Wright</td>
<td>January 27, 2020</td>
<td>Edina, Minnesota</td>
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<td>Class of 1964</td>
<td>Richard R. Bauer</td>
<td>August 23, 2019</td>
<td>Brainerd, Minnesota</td>
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<td>Class of 1965</td>
<td>Paul J. Bakke</td>
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<td>Anoka, Minnesota</td>
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<td>Noel P. Muller</td>
<td>October 18, 2019</td>
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<td>Class of 1967</td>
<td>John A. Ellefson</td>
<td>December 16, 2019</td>
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<td>Joan L. Heim</td>
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<td>Richmond, Virginia</td>
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<td>Gary D. McDowell</td>
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<td>Class of 1970</td>
<td>Bernard E. Borene</td>
<td>November 26, 2019</td>
<td>Portland, Oregon</td>
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<td>Class of 1971</td>
<td>Lawrence P. Marofsky</td>
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<td>Augustus W. Clapp III</td>
<td>August 18, 2019</td>
<td>St. Paul, Minnesota</td>
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<td>Paul R. Kempainen</td>
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<td>Minneapolis, Minnesota</td>
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<td>Class of 1975</td>
<td>Allan D. Beiswenger</td>
<td>November 29, 2019</td>
<td>Anchorage, Alaska</td>
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<td>Class of 1976</td>
<td>John A. Gray</td>
<td>November 3, 2019</td>
<td>Katy, Texas</td>
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<td>Class of 1977</td>
<td>Dan K. Prochnow</td>
<td>January 24, 2020</td>
<td>Colorado Springs, Colorado</td>
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<td>Class of 1978</td>
<td>John P. Rhode</td>
<td>September 22, 2019</td>
<td>Sacramento, California</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Recent Gifts

**GIFTS OF $100,000+**

Bruce ’80 and Tracy Mooty made additional gifts to the John W. Mooty Public Service Fellowship, the Bruce and Tracy Mooty Scholarship, and to support the Law School’s greatest needs. Bruce is a lawyer with Lathrop GPM representing and counseling public and private companies in a wide variety of industries. Bruce and Tracy’s scholarship supports law students with financial need and promotes community service, leadership, and justice for all.

**GIFTS OF $25,000–$99,999**

James L. ’89 and Julianne K. ’90 Chosy have made an additional gift to the James and Julie Chosy Scholarship. Jim is senior executive vice president and general counsel of U.S. Bancorp. Julie practiced law for over 20 years and retired as a partner with Faegre & Benson (now Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath). Jim and Julie’s generous contribution will help the Law School provide crucial student support during this time.

Terry P. ’74 and Valerie C. O’Brien made an additional gift to the Warren Spannaus Public Service Summer Fellowship. During his career, Terry worked for St. Jude Medical and served Minnesota as assistant attorney general. Terry and Valerie give to this fellowship because of their meaningful relationship with Warren Spannaus ’63 and to support law students pursuing public service.

S. Walter ’63 and Paula ’76 Richey made an additional gift to the Paula K. and S. Walter Richey Scholarship. They created this scholarship to provide support for Law School students who are eligible for enrollment in a federally recognized tribe or have strong interests in public service. The need to financially support students is greater than ever, and Walt and Paula’s gift will provide opportunities and access to top-rated legal education during this time.

Senior U.S. District Court
Judge David S. Doty ’61

Pamela F. Olson ’80 and
Grant D. Aldonas ’79

Joseph P. ’67 and Carol Z. Sullivan

**TESTAMENTARY BEQUESTS**

Anonymous

Shane R. Frazier ’98 and
Michelle Bergholz Frazier ’98

*Deceased

Rachel C. ’03 and Michael P. Hughey

James A. Rodin ’73

Michael Skoglund ’01 and Nicole Moen
(as a gift from Ronald and Ann Skoglund)

Matthew* and Terri Stark

Minnesota Law would like to thank AccessLex for its generous grant to help law students directly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Their gift provides critical financial resources to address urgent needs during this crisis.
WHY I GIVE  Dafei Chen ’00

If you ask Dafei Chen ’00 about the financial commitment he’s made to Minnesota Law, he offers a poetic answer: “I’m just following a Chinese custom: a favor of a drop of water should be paid back in the form of an oozing spring. I appreciated the Law School’s education and I try my best to contribute to the Law School. It’s that simple.”

Chen, a corporate lawyer focusing on venture capital, private equity, mergers and acquisitions, and capital markets, says what he enjoys most about his career is getting to work with and learn from “outstanding entrepreneurs who are trailblazers in their respective fields.”

Why did he choose to pursue his J.D. at Minnesota? The Law School, he says, “posted me more friendly international mails—there was no email at that time—than other law schools.” Once here, Chen found a favorite professor in John Matheson (“in Contracts, he made complicated legal theories simple to understand”) and an experience of winter that, he states diplomatically, “made me appreciate the summers more.” Indeed, what he misses most about his time at the University is “the excitement of seeing any sign of spring.”

As an international alum, staying in touch with the Law School can be a challenge. But for Chen, it’s worth the effort. “A human being,” he says, “has a natural desire to be part of a community that makes him or her proud.”

HOMETOWN: Puning, Guangdong, China

CURRENT HOME: Hong Kong

GIVING: Lockhart Club Member

WHAT WE WON’T FIND ON HIS RESUME: Enjoys going to farmers’ markets on weekends “to find the freshest ingredients to cook for my family and friends—and so far they seem happy with my work products.”

ADVICE TO FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS: “You are on a great starting point. Make it your second nature to apply the critical way of thinking that the Law School is teaching you. Enjoy lifetime learning and try to make a positive difference.”
WAYS TO GIVE
There are many ways to give back to the University of Minnesota Law School. For more information, visit www.law.umn.edu/giving. Or send your gift directly to the University of Minnesota Foundation, P.O. Box 860266, Minneapolis, MN 55486-0266, noting “Law School” in the memo line.

ANNUAL FUND
Student scholarships, clinics, and faculty support are just a few areas that benefit from annual gifts made to the Law School. By making your annual gift to Minnesota Law, you create opportunities for talented people and the communities they serve.
Wishing health and wellness to the entire Minnesota Law community.