A Fertile Niche

Minnesota Law grads are thriving in the fast-growing field of food and agriculture law
FROM THE
DEAN
Garry W. Jenkins

2020–2021
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As I write to you in late spring, I first want to acknowledge the loss of one of our most esteemed graduates and loyal friends, former Vice President of the United States Walter F. Mondale ’56. His passing is a tremendous loss to our Law School community, the state of Minnesota, and the entire country. We are continuing to honor his memory in a variety of ways, some of which you will read about in this magazine.

With the legacy of Vice President Mondale and our rich history of accomplished alumni to guide us, I am filled with optimism and hope about our future.

As we pass the one-year anniversary of the COVID-19 pandemic and reflect on the many challenges of the past year, I remain very hopeful that a full return to Mondale Hall is imminent. In fact, with great progress in wrestling the pandemic, we are preparing to shift back to a more traditional classroom educational model for the fall semester, while continuing to closely monitor the public health environment.

The past year has presented difficulties beyond imagination. Our curriculum was roughly 70% remote courses and 30% hybrid courses, and—even more jarring—our Minnesota Law community was significantly impacted without the robust student activity, events, and bustling work at Mondale Hall. However, with flexibility, enthusiasm, and vast reserves of resilience, students, faculty, staff, and alumni have maintained our communal bonds and found new ways to support each other and our mission during this time.

Yet as you will read in this magazine, our important mission-driven work continued unabated. Students continued to gain important skills through our clinics, successfully competed in mock trials and moot courts, published law journal articles, put on symposia, engaged in student organizations, supported communities through pro bono work, and, of course, learned and engaged in their classes. Graduating 3Ls who took the Minnesota bar exam had a 98% bar passage rate (Minnesota, first-time), perhaps our strongest on record!

Faculty and staff quickly became conversant in remote technologies and ensured that Minnesota Law adhered to its high standards of excellence for academic rigor and practical training, all while providing students the support they needed to thrive. We have had podcasts springing up, new digital publications released, and a rich set of Zoom learning and discussion opportunities. It has been wondrous to behold.

And you, our incredible alumni, have offered critical strength and support to ensure that we thrive. You have attended virtual reunions, joined our online programming, served as adjunct professors, participated in networking and hiring events held on web platforms, and continued the generous philanthropic support that is crucial to our success in our mission to produce the next generation of lawyer-leaders.

Spring is a time of hope and, as I look forward, I cannot help but be optimistic. We learned so much during this time about new ways to teach, learn, research, and engage, and as we fully return to Mondale Hall, we will carry those lessons with us. We will return with a renewed sense of purpose and a spirit of innovation and resilience. We will be ready to guide a talented new class of students into Minnesota Law and into the profession, as well as to welcome visits from our loyal alumni once again.

Garry W. Jenkins
Dean and William S. Pattee Professor of Law
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Prof. Tonry Awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship

Prof. Michael Tonry has been awarded a Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship. The highly competitive, annual national fellowship was awarded to 184 American and Canadian scientists, scholars in the social sciences and humanities, and writers and artists of all kinds, selected from a field of almost 3,000 applicants. This is the second Guggenheim awarded to a Minnesota Law professor. (Professor Heidi Kitrosser received one in 2017.) Tonry plans to research and write on the influence of frontier values on the American justice system. “My goal is to offer a new and original account of the historical and cultural forces that have made contemporary American criminal justice systems systematically unjust, unprecedentedly severe, and largely indifferent to defendants’ and offenders’ human dignity,” he explained in his statement of plans submitted to the foundation. “Our deepest congratulations to Professor Tonry on earning this highly coveted award through his rigorous scholarship and deep commitment to advancing the understanding of and improvement of the American criminal justice system,” said Garry W. Jenkins, dean and William S. Pattee Professor of Law. “We could not be prouder of Michael and the incredible honor he brings to Minnesota Law as a member of our faculty.” Tonry is the McKnight Presidential Professor of Criminal Law and Policy, director of the Institute on Crime and Public Policy at Minnesota Law, and a scientific member of Germany’s Max Planck Society. Previously he was professor of law and public policy and director of the Institute of Criminology at Cambridge University. He has been president of the American and European Societies of Criminology.

14 Clemency Project Clients Granted Commutations

Fourteen clients represented by the Law School’s Clemency Project, directed by Professor JaneAnne Murray, were among the list of commutation grants announced by President Trump in the waning hours of his administration. All were represented pro bono and their clemency petitions were filed with the Office of the U.S. Pardon Attorney. The grantees were all low-level participants in nonviolent drug distribution cases, who received extremely long sentences that would be significantly shorter today as a result of changes in the First Step Act and in the relevant federal sentencing guidelines. They all have exemplary records in prison and excellent release plans. Since the commencement of this project at the Law School, more than 50 students have worked with Murray on state and federal clemency cases. Most are female clients Murray visited at Waseca FCI (Minnesota) and Carswell FPC (Texas) with her students. “We are filled with joy that these clients are reuniting with their loved ones,” Murray said when the commutations were announced. “We will continue to represent similarly situated prisoners and seek to redress the systemic inequities driving their disproportionate sentences.”

Career Center Launches ‘Lawyering for Social Justice’ Series

Minnesota Law’s Career Center recently launched an engaging new series, “Lawyering for Social Justice,” to give students the opportunity to hear from human rights and social justice practitioners and learn about their work and diverse career paths. The series premiere featured Professor Heather Abraham ’12, director of the Civil Rights & Transparency Clinic at the State University of New York at Buffalo School of Law. Abraham has previously held two federal clerkships, an Equal Justice Works Fellowship, and a clinical teaching fellowship at Georgetown Law. Anne Sexton ’12, assistant director of the Law School’s public interest programs and a lecturer in law, moderated a wide-ranging 40-minute discussion with Abraham on her public interest career. The discussion is now available as a podcast for streaming or download on SoundCloud or your preferred podcast network.
Brandie Burris, 2L, Elected First Black Editor-in-Chief of Minnesota Law Review

Brandie Burris, 2L, was elected editor-in-chief of Minnesota Law Review in February. She is the first Black student to hold that position in the publication’s 104-year history.

“I am honored and pleased that my peers thought that I am the right leader for the role,” says Burris. “I recognize that … while I bring a wealth of experience and vision to the role, there have been so many outstanding Black law students who came long before me. A lot of people, a lot of my peers, were surprised to learn that my election was a historic first for Minnesota Law, but we’re thrilled this landmark moment has happened. I think that, if anything, this says a lot about the group of editors whom I’m working with collectively. It’s not just my legacy, but it’s Volume 106’s shared legacy together, and I hope that my tenure as the first African American editor-in-chief at the Minnesota Law Review is followed by many more leaders from diverse backgrounds.”

Garry W. Jenkins, dean and William S. Pattee Professor of Law, says, “Brandie’s commitment to excellence, to supporting her peers, and to expanding diversity and inclusion in both the Law School and in the legal profession make her a great fit for this role. Her professional work experience, as well as her involvement with the Black Law Student Association and work as a legal writing fellow, bring a valuable perspective to our flagship journal. I am extraordinarily proud of her and her Minnesota Law Review colleagues in reaching this milestone moment for the Law School.”

Prior to enrolling at Minnesota Law, Burris spent three years as policy director of EdAllies, a Minneapolis-based organization that partners with schools, families, and communities to ensure that every child has access to a rigorous and engaging education. Before that, she was managing director of policy for Educators 4 Excellence, a New York City-based organization dedicated to ensuring that teachers have a leading voice in the policies that impact their students and profession.

Burris was a policy fellow at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs from 2016-17. She received her B.A. in public policy analysis from William & Mary, where she was a recipient of a Sarah Le Cates Humanitarian Award, a James C. Reilly Research Grant, and a Women’s Leadership Fellowship. She was also a Phoenix Project Nonprofit Leadership Fellow.

At the Law School, Burris serves on the executive board of the Black Law Student Association and the Diversity & Inclusion Committee of the Federal Bar Association. Last fall, she served as an orientation leader for the incoming class of first-year students.

Burris has identified three key priorities as she takes the helm of Minnesota Law Review:

- Documenting the ways in which MLR has changed its policies and operations in response to COVID-19 and making determinations on which changes should be retained and which pre-COVID policies and procedures should be reinstated once the pandemic subsides;

- “I think this says a lot about the group of editors whom I’m working with collectively. It’s not just my legacy, but it’s Volume 106’s shared legacy together, and I hope that my tenure as the first African American editor-in-chief at the Minnesota Law Review is followed by many more leaders from diverse backgrounds.”

—Brandie Burris, 2L
Walter Mondale ’56 awaiting the vice presidential nomination at the Democratic National Convention at Madison Square Garden in New York City (1976).
WALTER F. MONDALE ’56, former vice president, U.S. senator, and ambassador to Japan, died April 19 at the age of 93.

“We are heartbroken by the news of Vice President Mondale’s death,” said Garry W. Jenkins, dean and William S. Pattee Professor of Law. “As a politician, public servant, diplomat, and lawyer, Walter Mondale exemplified the values of leadership and service that we seek to foster at Minnesota Law. In addition, he led with a remarkable degree of warmth and humility that always put his fellow citizens and the common good first.”

Added Jenkins, “We have lost a giant and a deeply loyal friend.”
Throughout his amazing career, Mondale remained an unpretentious yet forceful advocate for civil rights, human rights, and the American labor movement. As Minnesota attorney general, he opposed Florida’s effort to strip legal representation from indigent defendants. As a U.S. senator, he pushed for the passage—and helped write—the 1968 Fair Housing Act. In 1984, he made history by picking a woman—Geraldine Ferraro of New York—as his running mate, a first for a major party presidential ticket.

When Bill Clinton won the White House in 1992, he asked Mondale to represent the United States as its ambassador to Japan, a position Mondale held until 1996.

When he retired from public life, Mondale remained active, maintaining a vibrant practice at the Dorsey law firm, pursuing social justice issues, and volunteering his time and expertise to causes he loved.

“During his busy, celebrated and honorable life, he always found time for the Law School,” said Robert Stein ’61, Everett Fraser Professor of Law and Distinguished Global Professor.

Early Years
Raised on the prairie in southwest Minnesota, Mondale was the son of a Methodist minister and a music teacher. He began his collegiate studies at Macalester College in St. Paul, where he met his future wife—Joan Adams—before transferring to the University. During his free time, Mondale worked on the political campaigns of rising stars such as Hubert Humphrey and Orville Freeman.

After graduation from the University in 1951, Mondale served two years in the U.S. Army, then returned to study law. He graduated cum laude from the Law School in 1956.

Mondale’s career got its first boost in 1960 when Gov. Orville Freeman appointed the young lawyer to the post of Minnesota attorney general. Instead of focusing solely on his home state, Mondale led an effort to support Florida’s decision to end state-funded legal representation for criminal defendants unable to afford an attorney. Mondale recruited 21 other attorneys general to join him in a Gideon v. Wainwright amicus brief. In its unanimous decision upholding a Sixth Amendment right to counsel, the U.S. Supreme Court cited the brief Mondale championed.
National Prominence
Mondale’s rise to national prominence began in 1964 when Minnesota Gov. Karl Rolvaag appointed him to the U.S. Senate. In that position, he supported the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and co-authored the Fair Housing Act of 1968, shepherding that landmark legislation into law against great odds.

“He thought it was one of the great achievements of his life,” said Myron Orfield, Earl R. Larson Professor of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Law and director of the Institute on Metropolitan Opportunity.

Throughout his life, Mondale tracked the impact of the Fair Housing Act. In 2018, he wrote an assessment of the law’s impact for the New York Times. “The law was Congress’ effort to remedy a great historical evil: the large-scale exclusion and isolation of Blacks from White communities,” he wrote.

But, Mondale noted, the Fair Housing Act “suffered from neglect,” which allowed “the evil of residential segregation” to grow in many places, including Minnesota. The former vice president, Orfield said, saw a connection between the police killings of Philando Castile and George Floyd and a lack of societal change.

“He believed what was happening in America was the unfinished business of the Kerner Commission and the Fair Housing Act,” Orfield said. “America had never really become racially integrated and just.”

Recent demonstrations protesting the murder of George Floyd inspired Mondale. “The battle for civil rights is a journey, not an endpoint,” he wrote in a 2020 Star Tribune article. “Each generation is tasked with the hard work of serving in the great fight for justice. Our neighbors who took to the streets over the past few weeks have joined a great cause. I thank them.”

Mondale remained in the U.S. Senate for 12 years, defeating Republican opponents in 1966 and 1972. In 1976, he was tapped by Democratic presidential nominee Jimmy Carter to be his running mate. When Carter won the general election, Mondale ascended to the vice presidency. Historically, vice presidents were seen but not heard. Carter and Mondale changed that.

“It was a remarkable vice presidency,” Stein said. “It was the first time a vice president was involved in presidential decisions.”

After Republican Ronald Reagan defeated Carter in 1980, Mondale worked behind the scenes to line up support for a presidential run of his own in 1984. The Minnesotan secured the Democratic nomination, choosing Ferraro as a running mate, then losing to Reagan in the general election.

Unlike many politicians, Mondale remained wry and humble on the campaign trail. At a gathering of Minnesota dairy farmers in the 1980s, someone asked why he’d make a good president. “I have trouble answering that,” he said. “If my father ever heard me tell him that I would make a good president, I would have been taken directly to the woodshed.”

A Loyal Friend to the Law School
Mondale’s commitment to Minnesota Law remained deep throughout his lifetime. While preparing for the Law School’s centennial in 1988, Stein, who was dean at the time, compiled a history of the institution, then asked Mondale to write a foreword. Despite an impending overseas trip, the former vice president took the time to complete the assignment.
Learn more about the Walter F. Mondale Scholarship Fund, designed to ease the financial burdens of Minnesota Law students. z.umn.edu/Mondale56
Sixth Annual MLK Convocation Centers on ‘Breaking the Dam Against Social Progress’

Panelists reflect on key issues of justice and equality and how to effectuate meaningful change

MODERATE CLERGYMEN HAD URGED REV. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. to show restraint in 1963, to not protest segregation in Alabama’s biggest city. King, along with colleagues Ralph Abernathy, Fred Shuttlesworth, and others, ignored those pleas. When King was arrested, then locked inside a cell, he composed a response.

In his “Letter From the Birmingham Jail,” King worried that the judicial system might get in the way of progress. “Law and order exist for the purpose of establishing justice and … when they fail in this purpose they become the dangerously structured dams that block the flow of social progress,” he wrote.

That sentence served as the focus of Minnesota Law’s sixth annual MLK Convocation (“Breaking the Dam Against Social Progress”), which featured the remarks of four distinguished alumni. Dean Garry W. Jenkins convened the event, held on Jan. 27.

Dr. King’s words call on us to think critically about how our systems and structures, including the legal system, can act as a dangerous dam that blocks the flow of social progress,” Jenkins said. “Educating ourselves on bias and racism, identifying structural barriers to justice, advocating for change in law and policy, and other action, are all important.”

Marielos Cabrera, 3L, moderated the event, which 185 people registered to attend. She asked panelists whether King was right to worry about the justice system being a dam against change.

Pamela Alexander ’77, a retired Hennepin County District Court judge, said recent events, including the Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol, are a reminder of the role of violence in American history. “I’m very curious after this assault on the Capitol to see if we let the rich and powerful off again with no accountability,” she said. “If I had done it, I’d be dead right now. So the problem is: the powerful and connected have one set of laws, and people of color and poor folks a different one. We need to have an actual system of accountability.”

Kassius O. Benson ’96, Hennepin County chief public defender, pointed to multiple injustices: the mass incarceration of Black Americans, the large number of people held in jail before trial, the unequal impact of monetary bail, and the killing of George Floyd. “There’s a consensus, among people, that his killing was wrong,” Benson said.

In the death of George Floyd, Minnesota prosecutors are not the only ones who can press for justice. Benson urged federal prosecutors to press charges against Minneapolis police officers involved in Floyd’s 2020 death.

Change needs to come not only from lofty positions. Paul G. Feinman ’85, an associate judge on the New York Court of Appeals, the state’s highest court, remembered having more power earlier in his career. “We have no factual review power, we have no interest in justice jurisdiction [on the New York Court of Appeals],” he said. “It’s actually very confining. In many ways I had more power to achieve justice as a trial judge than as a judge on the high court.” (Editor’s note: Judge Feinman passed away in late March; see tribute on page 31.)

There are additional ways to change society with a legal education. Feinman pointed to advocating for housing changes in civil court or performing pro bono legal advocacy. “Everyone can do something,” he said. “You can’t do it all but you can do something.”

Despite the uphill battle, Toddrick Barnette ’92, Hennepin County District Court chief judge, is optimistic change may be happening in Minnesota. “Historically, we’ve talked a lot about these issues with no action,” Barnette said. “Now there’s more of an appetite to be proactive, not reactive. That’s why I think we’re at a different point in the push for social change from within.”

By Todd Melby, a Minneapolis-based freelance writer
Driven to Lead
Invest in Future Lawyer-Leaders
When You Support the Law School Diversity Scholarship

Through the leadership and generosity of those who have joined the Driven to Lead campaign, Minnesota Law is able to attract promising and diverse students, recruit and retain world-class faculty, and create transformational educational programs and opportunities.

Ensure that you are part of this historic campaign ending on June 30, 2021. It’s not too late to be counted among those who have come together to create a brighter tomorrow for the next generation of lawyer-leaders.

Support this campaign at give.umn.edu/law
A MINNESOTA LAW PROFESSOR
and two Law School clinic students played key roles in gaining freedom for Myon Burrell, who last December was granted commutation of the life sentence he had received as a teen.

Professor Perry Moriearty, student attorney Kaitlyn Falk, 2L, and Matthew DiTullio ’20 represented Burrell through the Law School’s Child Advocacy and Juvenile Justice Clinic.

The students worked shoulder-to-shoulder with Moriearty, spending hours gathering information and writing and speaking to Burrell, his family, and supporters to prepare a petition seeking Burrell’s release to present to the Minnesota Board of Pardons.

“Matt and Kairlyn have done fantastic work on behalf of Myon,” Moriearty said of the students’ work on the clinic’s first pardon case. “This is an important and largely untapped area of the criminal legal system in Minnesota, and they played a critical role in developing our arguments, planning the hearing, crafting our legal presentation, and preparing Myon to make his statement to the board.” Cheers greeted Burrell as he walked out of the Stillwater correctional facility shortly after board members Gov. Tim Walz and Attorney General Keith Ellison ’90 voted to commute his consecutive sentences—which amounted to 41 years before parole eligibility—to 20 years. Burrell, who had spent 18 years behind bars, will be on supervised release for the remainder of his term.

Minnesota Supreme Court Justice Lorie Gildea, the pardon board’s other member, recused herself, citing earlier involvement in the case.

Stray Bullet
Now 34, Burrell was just 16 when he was convicted of killing 11-year-old Tyesha Edwards, who died in November 2002 when a stray bullet struck her as she and her younger sister were doing homework at the dining table of their home in Minneapolis. Burrell has maintained his innocence for the past 18 years. He had been serving two consecutive sentences: mandatory life in prison in Edwards’ death and 186 months for the attempted murder of Timothy Oliver, reportedly the target of eight gunshots fired outside a home near where Edwards lived.

The commutation of Burrell’s sentences came a week after an independent panel of national legal experts released a report recommending his release. The report raised concerns about the integrity of Burrell’s conviction and whether he was involved in Edwards’ shooting. It called for the Minnesota attorney general’s new Conviction Review Unit to investigate the case, citing questionable evidence that included dubious jailhouse informant testimony and eyewitness identification. The panel also reviewed Burrell’s sentences and concluded that his continued incarceration would serve no further purpose.

Moriearty and the students began representing Burrell in August. The panel reviewing Burrell’s case had convened a month earlier, after U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar joined Burrell’s family in calling for an independent investigation. Klobuchar, who served as Hennepin County attorney during Burrell’s 2003 trial, faced a backlash after referring to Burrell’s case during her 2020 presidential bid as an example of her tough-on-crime approach.

The Human Face Behind the Statistics
Falk, the second-year student, traveled with Moriearty to the Stillwater prison to speak to Burrell in person before the coronavirus pandemic ended such meetings. Subsequent interviews with Burrell’s wife, father, stepmother, sister,
friends, and supporters took place through videoconferences.

Working with Burrell made statistics about racial inequities in the criminal justice system “more meaningful,” Falk says. Black juveniles are eight times more likely to be prosecuted as adults than white juveniles, she points out, while Blacks account for 37 percent of the incarcerated population but only 7 percent of Minnesota’s overall population.

Falk notes that, in another tragic twist, Burrell’s mother died three weeks after his arrest when her car crashed during a snowstorm as she was driving home to Bemidji after visiting him at the Hennepin County Jail.

“I don’t understand how someone could be so resilient and have such a positive attitude,” Falk says. “Mr. Burrell is truly remarkable. We just want him to have an opportunity in the outside world. He deserves it.”

Falk, a Wisconsin native, said her involvement in Burrell’s case has reaffirmed her interest in working in criminal justice. “I’m one of those examples of a student who really wanted to start as a prosecutor, and then you get cases like this and you kind of get a hunger to be a defense attorney,” she says.

DiTullio, also from Wisconsin, was working with the clinic as a paid intern.

“We talked to all of these supporting folks and Myon himself to tell a clear, concise story of why he should be released and the support he will have,” DiTullio says. “It’s clear that regardless of the innocence component, his incarceration is not benefitting anyone, it’s obviously not benefitting him, and it’s not benefitting society as a whole.”

DiTullio began a clerkship with the Alaska Court of Appeals in February. He next plans to work for the Colorado State Public Defender’s office. The Law School’s public service focus and commitment to social justice and racial equity is the reason he went to Minnesota Law.

“I went to law school knowing I wanted to be a public defender or work somewhere in the criminal justice realm,” DiTullio explains. “I’m especially interested in working with juveniles because there’s so much work to be done in that realm, between juveniles not having fully developed brains and feeling like you can have a big impact in a child’s life.”

In a virtual discussion program on the commutation hosted by the Law School in February, Burrell described his experience working with DiTullio and Falk. “When you get people who give you their very best, it’s like new-found hope and a breath of fresh air,” he said. “Both of them were so genuine and so sincere when they were coming up [to Stillwater] to deal with me, it was like a piece of home. … And their work ethic came from that sincerity and a desire to do what is right. We need more of them.”

By Todd Nelson, a Lake Elmo, Minnesota-based freelance writer
Students Take on Chauvin Trial Education, Engagement with Local Nonprofit

A unique partnership between the Law School and the Legal Rights Center

MINNESOTA LAW 1LS Mica Standing Soldier, Emanuel Williams, and Tony Sanchez were already planning to join classmates and others expected at protests during the murder and manslaughter trials of fired Minneapolis police officers in the killing of George Floyd. But the students’ recent hiring to positions at the Minneapolis-based Legal Rights Center has vastly expanded the nature of their anticipated involvement.

The paid clerkships, which run through the end of the summer, were created and funded through a unique social justice collaboration between the LRC and Minnesota Law. The students will recruit their classmates and local attorneys to volunteer with the LRC’s Know Your Rights program, which, among other things, offers demonstrators brief on-the-ground training in exercising their First Amendment rights.

On the public education front, the students are working to help community members understand legal issues related to the trials by contributing—not just in writing but via videos and infographics as well—to online and social media forums. They also are helping to create restorative practice resources to support community members in processing the trial.

A lot of Minnesota Law students applied for the clerkships, making the selection process very difficult, says Sarah Davis, LRC’s executive director. Many students are also likely to volunteer to staff the LRC’s legal support hotlines and to support its community know-your-rights efforts, as well as take part in local protests themselves.

“This collaboration with the Legal Rights Center is a win-win,” says Garry W. Jenkins, dean and William S. Pattee Professor of Law. “The students benefit from an incredible learning experience while also promoting civic engagement to their peers and the community on the important issues implicated by these trials. Opportunities like these are central to the Law School’s mission of public service and ensuring justice.”

To be an attorney you don’t necessarily have to separate yourself from social justice and social movements. You can do both."
—Emanual Williams, 1L

An ‘Incredible Honor’

Standing Soldier says the clerkship is an “incredible honor.” Before applying to Minnesota Law, she worked for four years as a litigation assistant at a law firm after graduating with an English literature degree from the University of Minnesota.

“The world is looking at this trial and the world is looking at Minneapolis’ response to it,” Standing Soldier says. “To be a part of something that is so timely and so paramount to how we view police and community interactions and relationships is really huge.”

An enrolled citizen of the Oglala Lakota Nation, Standing Soldier has been a community organizer since moving to Minneapolis several years ago from South Dakota. She asks members of the Minnesota Law community to consider taking action related to the proceedings stemming from Floyd’s death.

“The legal field can sometimes be so separate from what’s going on in the community,” Standing Soldier says. “I would encourage people to be uncomfortable and to use the information, the knowledge, and the experience that they have to really get involved.”

Advocating for Social Justice

Williams, from the small Texas town of Lovelady, is co-leader of the LRC’s Know Your Rights program. Meeting Know Your Rights volunteers at last summer’s protests inspired him to apply for the clerkship.

“Me being an African American man, my big push into even going to law school and pursuing a career in law was criminal justice reform and social justice awareness, especially in the criminal justice system,” says Williams, whose political science degree from Carleton College is focused on democracy, the state, and society.

Helping protesters understand how to amplify their voices aligns with Williams’ goal of making “movement lawyering” part of his legal career.

“To be an attorney you don’t necessarily have to separate yourself from social justice and social movements,” Williams says. “You can do both. That’s what moved me from being someone who saw this [LRC] program from the outside to wanting to be inside of it as much as I possibly can.”

Equality and Inclusion

Sanchez is focusing on getting information out to the community through social media posts and infographics that explain legal terms related to the trial. Hailing from
Jensen Beach on Florida’s Atlantic coast, he worked in communications for the Democratic caucus of the Florida House of Representatives while earning a political science degree at Florida State University.

Sanchez joined in student-led protests when he moved to Minneapolis days after Floyd’s death.

“I’m biracial,” he says. “I’ve seen firsthand the difference between how police treat my Black parent and my White parent. I’ve seen them both get pulled over. … This is something that people of color deal with every day.”

Sanchez says his primary goal in choosing Minnesota Law was to increase the enrollment of Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) students. He works toward that end as an admissions ambassador and expresses BIPOC students’ concerns as the Law Council’s assistant communications director.

Minnesota Law’s public interest focus and emphasis on inclusivity influenced his decision to enroll at the Law School, Sanchez says. A member of the LGBTQ+ community, Sanchez cited the Transgender Name Change Clinic, which OutLaw, the LGBTQ+ student association, has helped to host, as an example of the inclusive atmosphere that he finds appealing.

Centering BIPOC Voices

Having started their positions last month during the opening stages of Derek Chauvin’s trial, Standing Soldier, Williams, and Sanchez will continue working at the LRC through the summer and the trials of the other three former officers charged in Floyd’s death, which are currently slated for August.

“As an organization founded by Black and American Indian communities, [the LRC is] committed to centering BIPOC voices in our work, and Mica, Emanual, and Tony bring very powerful perspectives,” Davis says.

Minnesota Law is supporting two of the clerkships and local foundations are supporting the third, according to Davis.

“The University of Minnesota Law School really stepped up and said, ‘We want to support this in a meaningful way so that you can bring on paid law clerks to help you provide this critical information to the community,’” Davis says. “It has been an invaluable resource to bring on these law clerks with the support of the Law School.”

By Todd Nelson, a Lake Elmo, Minnesota-based freelance writer.
A Witness to Barbarism
Law Library releases new exhibit on Dachau war crimes trials

CAPTAIN HORACE R. HANSEN (1910–1995), a St. Paul native who completed his undergraduate education at the University of Minnesota, was a lead prosecutor at the Dachau war crimes trials held in the wake of the Second World War. In 1945, Hansen served as a war crimes investigator in the Judge Advocate General’s Corps as Allied forces swept into Germany. In October of that year, he was assigned to prepare concentration camp cases for trial before an American military tribunal at Dachau, serving as chief prosecutor in the War Crimes Division of the U.S. Third Army.

The Law Library’s exhibit details the main Dachau camp trial, in which 40 of the camp’s administrators and staff were found guilty of gross violations of the laws and customs of war.

In 2005, the University of Minnesota Law Library received a generous donation of material related to Hansen’s WWII career from his daughter, Jean Hansen Doth. In late 2019, three additional boxes of archival files were added to the library’s collection, and more recently Hansen Doth donated four rolls of microfilm containing the trial transcript of the main Dachau concentration camp trial, United States v. Martin Gottfried Weiss, et al. This spring, the Law Library released a new digital exhibit, “A Witness to Barbarism: Horace R. Hansen and the Dachau War Crimes Trials,” focusing on Hansen’s important World War II career. The new digital exhibit features a narrative of Hansen’s service and includes important documents and photographs from his archive, not least of which is the transcript of the main camp trial. The exhibit is based on Hansen Doth’s donations, held in the Law Library’s Riesenfeld Rare Books Research Center.

In the closing stages of World War II, Hansen, like other investigators, was empowered by the U.S. Army to gather evidence of war crimes. In 1945, he took witness testimony from concentration camp victims, documented atrocities, and compiled lists of perpetrators in the Netherlands and in the American sector of occupied Germany. Hansen was eventually transferred to Dachau, 10 miles outside of Munich. Liberated at the end of April, the notorious concentration camp at Dachau was the first operated under the Nazi regime and has remained a symbol of the brutality and inhuman depravity of the concentration camp system. At Dachau, Hansen tried two cases involving American prisoners of war and prepared evidence for the Dachau, Buchenwald, and Mauthausen trials.

The Law Library’s exhibit details the main Dachau camp trial, in which 40 of the camp’s administrators and staff were found guilty of gross violations of the laws and customs of war. The many subsequent trials held at Dachau also adopted the historic Dachau camp trial helped set a new standard of accountability for crimes committed during wartime. Among the defendants, who had been afforded due process protections, 36 were initially sentenced to death. Supported in part by Hansen’s work, the historic Dachau camp trial helped to establish the validity of subsequent international criminal tribunals and set a new standard of accountability for crimes committed during wartime.

The digital exhibit also features a narrative about the genesis of Horace Hansen’s book, Witness to Barbarism (2002), published by his daughter Jean Hansen Doth after Hansen passed away in 1995. The book chronicles Hansen’s journey to Dachau, the horrors of the Nazi regime, and the main Dachau camp trial. Notably, the book was shaped partly as a response to local Holocaust deniers in the 1980s, who rejected teaching the Holocaust in Minnesota public schools. This final work of Hansen’s career bears witness to barbarism and details its legal remedies in a direct and powerful way.

For more information about the digital exhibit, please contact Ryan Greenwood, Law Library faculty member and curator of rare books and special collections, (rgreenwo@umn.edu; 612-625-7323). To view the exhibit, please see http://moses.law.umn.edu/hansenwitness/

By Ryan Greenwood, Law Library faculty member and curator of rare books and special collections
1 Horace Hansen, c. 1944.
2 Dachau Court A, U.S. Third Army War Crimes Branch.
3 Witness Michael Pellis identifies defendant Wilhelm Ruppert.
4 Liberation of Dachau concentration camp, April 30, 1945.
5 Charge sheet for main camp case, United States v. Martin Gottfried Weiss, et al.
6 Dachau courtroom during war crimes proceedings.
A TRANSFORMATIVE IMPACT
The Robina Foundation

The Robina Foundation was established through a testamentary gift by James H. Binger ’41. Its mission was to invest in organizations that were pursuing innovative solutions while addressing critical social issues. Minnesota Law is grateful for the foundation’s historic and transformational investment in our students, faculty, and programs. The foundation sunsetted at the end of 2020 after providing over $60 million in support to the Law School.

Supporting the Work of Our World-Class Faculty

Minnesota Law faculty are brilliant scholars and committed teachers who bring real-world experience into the classroom. Our position as a top-ranked institution depends on our ability to provide our faculty with the resources to do their world-shaping work. The Robina Foundation’s support of three important professorships allows the Law School to continue its long and distinguished history of excellence in research, teaching, and real-world engagement.

Professor June Carbone is the inaugural holder of the Robina Chair in Law, Science, and Technology. She is an expert in family, property, and assisted reproduction law, as well as in law, medicine, and bioethics.

Professor Stephen Meili is the James H. Binger Professor in Clinical Law. He writes and teaches about the rights of noncitizens, particularly those seeking asylum. His work often takes a comparative approach; he has analyzed the effectiveness of human rights treaties in protecting asylum seekers in Canada, Ecuador, Mexico, the U.K., and the European Union.

Professor Fionnuala Ní Aoláin is the Robina Chair in Law, Public Policy, and Society. She is a Regents Professor and faculty director of the Human Rights Center, and was recently re-appointed to a second three-year term as U.N. special rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism.
The Robina Foundation supported the creation of the Robina Public Interest Scholars Program, the Robina Public Interest Postgraduate Fellowship Program, and the Robina Bridge Fellowship Program. Through these programs, the Law School is able to offer students a clear path from admission to full-time employment in public interest careers. Students in the Robina Public Interest Scholars Program receive directed guidance from a public interest career counselor, guaranteed summer funding for unpaid internships, special consideration for the highly competitive Robina Postgraduate Fellowship, and access to volunteer opportunities, mentoring, summer internships, and public interest coursework that offers exposure to public interest work.

Current Robina Public Interest Scholars hold positions in the Department of Justice, the Northwest Immigrant Law Center, and Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid, for example. These individuals make an impact in their careers as public defenders, nonprofit leaders, defense attorneys, and more.

Providing Students With Critical Support

In conjunction with the launch of the Driven to Lead campaign, the Robina Foundation generously offered a $500,000 match of funds to invest in endowed scholarships that ensure that a Minnesota Law education is accessible now and in the future. This generous match strengthened existing scholarships, significantly increasing the size of each award, and helped new funds grow rapidly, allowing the Law School to begin distributing scholarships after only one year. The foundation’s generous match encouraged a total of $1.13 million of additional giving to student support from alumni and friends who increased their existing funds or created new ones.

The Robina Foundation also created a $1.25 million matching fund pool to encourage annual fund donations to student support. Alumni and friends who took advantage of this match program made three-year commitments of either $5,000 or $20,000 per year to cover part or all of a student’s tuition.

Paving a Path to Public Interest Careers

The Robina Foundation supported the creation of the Robina Public Interest Scholars Program, the Robina Public Interest Postgraduate Fellowship Program, and the Robina Bridge Fellowship Program. Through these programs, the Law School is able to offer students a clear path from admission to full-time employment in public interest careers. Students in the Robina Public Interest Scholars Program receive directed guidance from a public interest career counselor, guaranteed summer funding for unpaid internships, special consideration for the highly competitive Robina Postgraduate Fellowship, and access to volunteer opportunities, mentoring, summer internships, and public interest coursework that offers exposure to public interest work.

Current Robina Public Interest Scholars hold positions in the Department of Justice, the Northwest Immigrant Law Center, and Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid, for example. These individuals make an impact in their careers as public defenders, nonprofit leaders, defense attorneys, and more.

“I recently co-authored a major report on poverty and mass incarceration, and am working on similar reports that will be published in summer and fall of 2021. ... I look forward to continuing my research on criminal justice policy reforms and contributing to recommendations for the Biden administration to effectuate impactful change.”

—Jackie Fielding ’20, recipient of a Robina Public Interest Postgraduate Fellowship, works at the Brennan Center for Justice in New York City
Establishing the James H. Binger Center for New Americans

The Law School launched and grew the James H. Binger Center for New Americans with Robina Foundation support, totaling nearly $30 million since the center’s 2013 inception. Led by faculty director Benjamin Casper Sanchez ’97 and executive director Deepinder Mayell, the center oversees four clinics and a robust education and outreach program that provide legal services for immigrants and noncitizens at the local and federal level.

Accomplishments include successfully arguing for asylum for clients facing life-threatening situations in their home countries, landing a victory in the U.S. Supreme Court case *Mellouli v. Holder*, and successfully stopping the deportation of 92 Somali men and women, including Rahim Mohamed (pictured above with his family), who was put on a flight by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in Miami and deported to Somalia. For 40 hours, Rahim and 91 other people were shackled to their seats, and several passengers endured excessive force and abuse at the hands of ICE before the flight was aborted and returned to the United States. Binger Center students, alumni, and attorneys worked with partners in Florida to file a class-action lawsuit and won an order halting the deportation of the “Somali 92.”

With an estimated 83,000 undocumented immigrants living across Minnesota, the Rural Immigrant Access Clinic, the center’s newest clinic, expanded its legal services, screening more than 450 immigrants in pop-up clinics in rural Minnesota and South Dakota. Law students enrolled in the clinic work with center staff and faculty, volunteers, and attorneys to provide intakes to noncitizens and immigrants living in these rural communities.

Minnesota Law is deeply grateful to the Robina Foundation for its unparalleled support of the next generation of lawyer-leaders who gain training and experiential learning opportunities while serving some of the most vulnerable communities.

Endowing the Dean’s Innovation Fund

Last fall, the Robina Foundation made its final gift to the Law School: $2.3 million to endow the Dean’s Innovation Fund.

At the dean’s discretion, this fund supports innovative programs and initiatives, such as faculty research and engagement; enhancing student experiences, as with the newly launched Minnesota Law app; and advancing the overall mission and goals of the Law School and its dean.
Establishing the Robina Institute of Criminal Law and Criminal Justice

With the generous support of the Robina Foundation, Minnesota Law established the Robina Institute of Criminal Law and Criminal Justice. Its mission is to explore and expand the work of the Law School’s renowned criminal law faculty, who teach and do research at the forefront of criminal law and public policy, sentencing law and policy, criminal law theory, and punishment practices.

After an initial round of funding, the foundation offered support for the institute to scale its work up in the area of sentencing law and policy, hire other experts, including executive director Kelly Mitchell, add support staff and quantitative and qualitative researchers, and form interdisciplinary collaborations with other scholars, practitioners, and jurisdictions.

This allowed the institute to expand scholarship and research beyond conventional thinking about mass incarceration, thus building a deeper understanding of what drives mass punishment in the United States.

Professor Kevin Reitz says projects that he, Professor Richard Frase, and others worked on at the institute deeply informed what was included in the American Law Institute’s Model Penal Code: Sentencing. (Reitz served as reporter for the 15-year-long project, which has had a real-world impact on sentencing practices across the country.)

Because of the foundation’s transformative investment, the Robina Institute continues to undertake a substantive examination of how sentencing laws and policies contribute to mass punishment practices.

Providing Institutional Support

Minnesota Law is committed to educating the next generation of lawyer-leaders—those who will go on to serve as heads of law firms and leaders of the bench and bar, as prominent CEOs and general counsels, and as influential public servants. To best prepare students for success, the Law School must develop the lawyering and professional skills of our students, preparing them for careers that require both skill and adaptability. With the Robina Foundation’s support, the Law School has been able to grow capacity for institutional advancement programs and staff, developing resources, funds, scholarships, and opportunities that will support future generations of lawyer-leaders.
Helping Public School Students Find Success in Law

AT SOME POINT, EVERY CHILD IS ASKED what they want to be when they grow up. Alex Salazar, 2L, remembers the answer he always gave.

“As early as elementary school, there were only two things I ever said I wanted to do: be a United States Marine, and be a lawyer,” he says.

Salazar, who grew up in St. Paul, fulfilled one of those dreams straight out of high school, serving in the Marine Corps for just shy of four years. When his active duty ended, he shifted his sights to the other: a career in law. Now, as he continues to work toward his degree, Salazar is receiving support from the Reginald Steer Family Scholarship.

The scholarship, created in 2019 through a gift from Reginald Steer ’69 and his wife, Marianne, was born out of a desire to give back. During his own years at Minnesota Law, Steer received a scholarship that covered the full cost of his tuition and books. He wrote to thank the donor and received a letter in return that wished him success and reminded him to pay it forward someday.

At his 50th class reunion in 2019, Steer decided it was time. He created the scholarship in his family’s name and encouraged others in his graduating class to think about making a gift. After meeting many in the legal profession who came from private school backgrounds, he hoped the scholarship would help more public school students achieve their goals in the field.

“I hope to help at least in that small way—to have some public school graduate go on to a satisfying career,” Steer says.

A Structure for Problem-Solving

Like Salazar, Steer grew up in St. Paul. After earning his bachelor’s degree from the University of Minnesota in 1966, he enrolled in the Law School, intrigued by the idea that law could marry philosophical reasoning with practical implementation.

As a law student, he built close friendships, worked on the Minnesota Law Review, and assisted faculty in research and writing projects, such as a casebook on poverty law. He was
drafted for military service during his second year and was able to defer it long enough to finish his degree and apply to the Army Judge Advocate General’s Corps.

When he was accepted, Steer—who never planned to be a trial lawyer—suddenly found himself having to try cases that would affect clients’ lives. The challenge motivated him to build up his knowledge of evidentiary rules and exchange suggestions with colleagues on how to improve.

“There’s nothing that focuses you like sitting next to a person who is facing jail time,” he says. “I became very thorough and very knowledgeable in short order. The Law School did a good job of instilling in me the analytical structure, the way to approach legal problems.”

After completing his service as a JAG lawyer in 1973, Steer took the California bar exam and then received a job offer he couldn’t refuse: a position with the prestigious San Francisco law firm then known as Pillsbury, Madison & Sutro. The firm employed relatively few Minnesota graduates, and he initially was concerned about competing with those from Harvard, Stanford, and Yale. That concern soon melted away, though, as he performed better than he expected and quickly became a partner in the firm. Steer practiced commercial litigation there for 29 years.

Later, he was recruited to join Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld, where he worked for 13 years before retiring in 2017.

A Burden Lifted
For Salazar, law school has been an interesting but unexpected experience. The sudden change to remote classes at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic last year presented some challenges, but he says professors have done well in maintaining the classroom structure. With a concentration in business law nearly finished, Salazar is considering adding a second concentration in health law and bioethics to become more well-rounded. Later this year, he looks forward to resuming a summer associate position at Dorsey & Whitney.

As he thinks about what comes after graduation, Salazar feels open to a range of opportunities, from working at a firm to public service. Regardless of what the future holds, he knows his Marine Corps service will influence his career in law. The Marines train individuals to hold themselves to the highest standard, he says, and embody traits like honor, discipline, and selflessness.

“A lot of these intangibles, I think, had quite a profound effect on me when I was younger—they really helped to shape my life and the person I am today,” he says. “In that regard, I will probably be a better lawyer because of the Marine Corps.”

In the meantime, the Reginald Steer Family Scholarship will make it easier for Salazar to focus on his academic work rather than his finances. Given how many students grapple with loan debt, he feels fortunate to have received the support.

“It’s kind of hard to put my gratitude into words sometimes,” he said. “I just don’t have to worry about those things, and it’s a humongous burden lifted off of my shoulders.”

By Kevin Coss, a freelance writer based in the Twin Cities
Food and agriculture are among the most dynamic and complex industries in the world. Globalization, volatile prices, climate change, and vulnerable supply chains are just a few of the issues at play today in these sectors. New products and technologies are producing rapid transformation, and novel legal issues are emerging from changes in the way food is grown, processed, packaged, transported, and consumed.
Rick Halbur ’13 grew up on a family farm in Iowa. Today, his New Ulm, Minnesota, practice includes agricultural lending.
With both innovation and regulation on the rise in these industries, lawyers must navigate an increasingly complicated landscape of compliance, environmental concerns, food and animal safety, intellectual property, technology, and trade.

Many University of Minnesota Law School alumni are employed around the globe in diverse and interesting positions connected to food and agriculture. They are helping bring new products such as non-animal protein to market and patenting technologies that capture and remove carbon from the atmosphere. They are building sustainability into food packaging and resiliency into supply chains. Some are former farmers who bring hands-on experience to their legal work.

Seven alumni recently shared their stories and insights about the fast-evolving fields of agriculture and food.

### Bringing a farm background to agricultural lending

Attorney Rick Halbur ’13 of New Ulm, Minnesota, understands the challenges farmers face. Growing up on a family farm in western Iowa, he learned what it takes to raise livestock and cultivate crops—and how crucial credit can be in helping a farm operation thrive.

Today, as a partner in the firm of Gislason & Hunter, he brings his deep experience with farming to his practice in banking law and agricultural lending. He primarily represents lenders and community banks that finance farming and agricultural operations in Minnesota and Iowa. Much of his work has involved representing creditors in Chapter 11 and 12 bankruptcy reorganizations.

“From 2013 until the beginning of 2020, commodity prices were often lower than many farmers and their creditors would prefer, so we saw an increase in bankruptcies, especially in the dairy industry,” Halbur says. He notes that significant changes to the bankruptcy code in 2019 have allowed more farmers to utilize the less expensive chapter 12 reorganization process. “It’s a much more abbreviated and cost-effective way to reorganize debt. Creditors and borrowers like that it has a tighter turnaround than many Chapter 11 cases. It was one of the few things that had bipartisan support.”

Halbur is the first in his family to earn a four-year degree. He was inspired to study law after meeting the U.S. ambassador to the Holy See in late 2008 and early 2009, while studying as an undergraduate in Rome. “I came home and knew what I wanted to do,” he says. He earned his highest grade at Minnesota Law in a bankruptcy class but didn’t expect to pursue a career in that area. After graduating, he worked in real estate and estate planning with a firm in Fergus Falls, where he got his first taste of litigation. “I was surprised how much I liked it,” he says. “It’s fast-paced and you’re always encountering new and novel legal issues. You get opportunities to make arguments about what precedent should be.”

He moved to Gislason & Hunter in 2016 and quickly gravitated to representing agricultural lenders.

“Agriculture is a huge part of our practice,” he says. “It’s a fascinating area of law, and there’s never a dull moment.”

Like many farmers, he is watching commodity prices closely. “They drive everything. And with the continuing uncertainty of the impact of COVID-19 and trade war issues, it’s going to be an interesting year ahead.”

### Protecting innovation

After earning advanced degrees in plant science and studying business essentials and analytics through Harvard University’s ManageMentor program, Aman Anand, M.S. in Patent Law ’19, knew he was still missing an essential skill set: how to protect innovation, particularly through patent law.

“I understood the science, I got the business training, but I needed to know about the legal aspects of protecting invention, which is the bedrock of innovation,” he says. He enrolled in the Law School’s innovative master’s in patent law program to learn how to bring a vital legal perspective to his position at the agricultural cooperative CHS, with a particular focus on how to ensure that inventors can control the commercial use of their inventions.

“My legal training changed how I look at things,” he says. “It helped me see the important intersection of innovation and science. If you look at the current trend among Fortune 500 companies, you see how things are moving from tangible to intangible assets, where the value of intangible assets is five times greater than tangible. Every company is a technology company now, including agricultural businesses. Having a legal background that can protect your intellectual intangible assets is essential.”

Anand says that over the past decade agriculture has changed more than any other industry, with new equipment and technology generating large amounts of data to help farmers. “Precision agriculture, site-specific farming, sensor technology, and even drones are helping revitalize the agriculture food system,” he says. “My degree lets me evaluate the nature of the patent to see if it’s valuable or just a marketing glitch. That helps us decide where to invest.”

He is particularly focused on climate and environment. “One of the biggest challenges in the agricultural production system is to guarantee current and future food security as the global population grows,” he says. “Environmental stresses are a significant hurdle. Abiotic stresses are a major factor limiting crop productivity and sustainability worldwide. It causes 50% of agricultural production loss.”
As a liaison with dozens of private and land-grant universities, he is working on a range of experiments related to plant nutrition, herbicides, fungicides, amendments to build soil health, and carbon sequestration efforts. “We’re always looking to maximize revenue for farmers in ways that can safeguard the environment,” he says.

Anand calls himself an “accidental agriculturalist,” a person who had intended to become a medical doctor but fell in love with plant biology along the way. “I realized how fascinating plant life is and what a huge social impact it has. Food is a major motivator for all of us. I’m interested in helping create good food for a good life.”

Advancing sustainability and resiliency

“My single favorite thing about my job is that I never know what my day is going to bring.” Kelly McLain ’04 says of her position as lead lawyer for Cargill’s Global Edible Oil Solutions Group. “It could be anything, from a genetic modification question to helping manage compliance in crop stewardship to thinking strategically about where the business invests for future growth.”

McLain is a member of both Cargill’s law department and the strategic leadership team of the edible oils group. The group employs approximately 8,000 people across 18 countries and is focused on any oil that is destined for human consumption.

While the legal topics are many and varied, McLain says, “ultimately my job is to manage legal risk and help the business succeed.” She works closely with producers around the world on legal issues they are facing, negotiates agreements with large brands and companies in the food and

“Before joining Cargill, I had not thought that deeply about food supply, its complexities or how significantly it impacts the people and the planet.” —Kelly McLain ’04
A law degree also helps you understand how to translate a law or regulation into economic impact. I can’t imagine doing this job without it.”
—James Johnson ’90 (far right)

“...
We’re seeing so much innovation and so many different types of products and ways to reach consumers. ... And as technology changes, it’s creating a lot of fascinating legal issues.”
—Sarah Brew ’90
agricultural industry, and leads a team of global lawyers to manage her group’s legal strategy and partner on specialty areas such as litigation and intellectual property.

McLain joined Cargill 10 years ago and spent her first few years there as a trademark and advertising lawyer. “I really liked that role, but it was much more about deep subject matter expertise on a narrow issue. I knew I wanted to be involved more deeply in the business strategy.”

She continues to be amazed at how meaningful her job is, both personally and professionally. “I have friends in practically every country, which is pretty wonderful,” she says. “And professionally, I am blown away by the reach of Cargill. We have an impact on every aspect of the food supply chain, a responsibility we take seriously. Before joining Cargill, I had not thought that deeply about food supply, its complexities or how significantly it impacts the people and the planet.”

McLain is one of the first members of her family to graduate from college. She enrolled in law school knowing little of what to expect. She says several hands-on, practical experiences were formative, including a judicial externship and serving as student director of a Minnesota Law immigration clinic. She clerked for Senior U.S. District Court Judge Michael Davis ’72 and practiced in the mass tort and IP departments at Robins Kaplan prior to joining Cargill. McLain currently serves on the board of directors of The Advocates for Human Rights.

“I’m grateful for the breadth of my legal education,” she says. “For example, I remember reading about maritime law when I was in law school and thinking, ‘I’ll never in a million years use this.’ But then, as a lawyer at Cargill, I got a call about a vessel accident on the sea and my first thought was ‘Holy cow, this is maritime law.’”

Increasingly, McLain’s work is focused on sustainability and innovation. “There is a strong movement underway to use data to overhaul food and agricultural practices, from on-the-farm technology to helping aquafarmers improve their practices,” she says. She’s also deeply involved with advancing safety, human rights, and sustainability in the food supply chain through new technologies such as robotics and digitalization.

Providing counsel from farm to table

Sarah Brew ’90 truly has a farm-to-table practice. As leader of Faegre Drinker’s food litigation and regulatory practice, she provides counsel to those who grow and harvest food and to those who get food into the hands of consumers.

She began her career working on blood products litigation, so when a client had a foodborne illness litigation case, she understood the subject of disease organisms and transmission. She learned quickly about pathogens in food processing plants, epidemiology, and genomic sequencing as she served as national counsel in foodborne illness cases occurring in food products from spinach to beef to peanut butter.

Shortly after the foodborne cases, Brew was engaged to help with a food labeling challenge. “It was a time when questions were popping up all over about when you could say your product is natural or ‘lite’ or low-fat,” she says. “Because I had a food background, it was a natural way to expand my practice.”

In addition to providing regulatory counsel, Brew also helps bring new products to market. “There are many issues to sort through, from claiming how it’s produced...
and what’s in it to labeling and advertising,” she says. “We also have to look at supply chains to make sure a food label can claim something is organic or GMO-free. It’s work that’s really focused on preventing problems as clients develop, grow, and market a product.”

Brew’s clients include Fortune 500 food producers as well as small startups in the natural and organic foods arena and app-based delivery companies. “We’re seeing so much innovation and so many different types of products and ways to reach consumers,” Brew says. “For example, with the whole new category of novel proteins, the FDA is looking at what can be called meat or cheese. And that has led states to enact laws to protect their historic meat and dairy industries. It’s surfacing some interesting constitutional arguments. And as technology changes, it’s creating a lot of fascinating legal issues.”

Her national litigation work continues to grow. Currently, she is representing several food companies in class-action lawsuits challenging food labeling, including an international fast-food company being sued for allegedly mislabeling vanilla soft serve ice cream.

“Food is so topical and so relatable,” she says. “It’s also an area of incredible creativity and challenge.”

Feeding a growing world population

Few people might count running a beef processing plant as one of their favorite jobs, but Nicole Johnson-Hoffman ’98 does. For three years, she ran such a business for Cargill in Ft. Morgan, Colorado. “These big abattoirs are the mother of all factories,” Johnson-Hoffman says. “And from a legal perspective they are fascinating, because they bring together such complicated regulatory issues. The beef industry is a labor of love for me, and my legal education helped me zero in on the right questions to ask every day.”

Johnson-Hoffman’s path to Ft. Morgan began in 1998 when she joined Cargill fresh out of law school. “I grew up on a hobby farm in central Minnesota, and I’m not from a family of lawyers so I didn’t know much about legal careers when I started law school,” she says. When she and a classmate were discussing on-campus interviews, he told her to sign up for Cargill. “I didn’t even know what Cargill was. Thank goodness he explained the company to me. I had been interested foreign service or governmental work, but Cargill turned out to be a nice fit because of how big and complex the company is.”

She remained at Cargill for 20 years, as in-house counsel and then in lead business roles, including her stint at the Ft. Morgan meat processing plant and several years in Chicago heading up Cargill’s U.S. business with McDonald’s.

Four years ago, she moved to the meat processor OSI Group to run its global McDonald’s business. She was subsequently asked to lead sustainability efforts as well. In early 2021 she moved to Munich, Germany, to head up OSI’s processed foods business in Europe. “Today I spend most of my time thinking about what our customers need, protecting the health and safety of our people, and thinking about what investments we might want to make given where our industry is headed,” she says. “It’s a nice balance of present and future.”

Designing sustainability into products and supply chains is core to her work. “We want to deliver sustainable foods to consumers in invisible ways, so they don’t have to worry about these issues,” she says. “That means we have to incorporate sustainability into intelligent product and supply chain design and take into account the impact our work has on people, the planet, and profitability.”

COVID-19 has inspired her to help build a more resilient food supply. “Anybody who has worked in food supply in the last year during the pandemic knows that the long and complicated supply chains that bring our foods to consumers can be really fragile,” she says. “We have to build better processes and systems to feed the world without layering on costs.”

Navigating a pandemic

It has been quite a year for Lori Marco ’97, senior vice president of external affairs and general counsel for Hormel Foods. The COVID-19 pandemic presented major challenges for the company, from worker health and safety to vulnerable supply chain issues.

“The word unprecedented is overused these days, but truly that describes this past year,” Marco says. “Literally overnight we had to reconfigure plants to keep workers safe and operations running. We really rallied, and I have to say, we are much stronger today as we see light at the end of the tunnel.”

In February 2021, Hormel announced its intent to acquire the Planters snack nut portfolio from Kraft Heinz, marking the largest acquisition in the company’s 130-year history. “Since we own Skippy peanut butter, peanuts made sense,” Marco says. “This is a wonderful way for us to reach deeper into snacking. It’s another huge project for my team, but pretty exciting.”

Snack foods are one of the important trends Marco and her colleagues are tracking. “We’re also looking at e-commerce business,” she says. “We were leaning into click-and-collect grocery services before the pandemic, but COVID certainly sped up our work.”

Marco has been at Hormel Foods for 17 years, following a six-year stint at Briggs and Morgan as an intellectual property and patent attorney. A law school colleague who was working at Hormel contacted her about a trademark issue and the rest, she says, is history. “I just knew this was the place I should be working.”
A great deal has changed in 17 years, Marco says. “When I joined the company, we still thought of ourselves as a meat company; now we consider ourselves a global branded food company.”

In her role, Marco leads a team that oversees all legal issues, including intellectual property, transactions, litigation, and corporate governance for the company’s global operations. She also leads the regulatory, labeling and formulations, and package design teams. “It’s a ton of fun because you get to understand what’s going into the packages,” she says. “You’re at the cutting edge of innovation, food safety, and labeling requirements.”

Marco says law school helped her learn to multitask and think on her feet, skills that her business requires. “I have to manage a big and varied workload and provide quick legal input. Our business situations often don’t have time for lengthy research. The pace was a little bit of a shock at first, but it’s also really energizing.”

Kathy Graves is a freelance writer based in the Twin Cities.
Supremely Situated

BY TODD NELSON
Minnesota Law graduates have made their marks as leaders in the law, business, politics, and public service. Four are serving—or have recently served—on the bench of their respective states’ highest court.

Three are in the Midwest—Minnesota Supreme Court Justices Natalie Hudson ’82 and G. Barry Anderson ’79, who work in St. Paul—and South Dakota Supreme Court Justice Janine Kern ’85, who serves primarily in Rapid City. The fourth, the late New York Court of Appeals Judge Paul Feinman ’85, served in New York City until he stepped down from the bench on March 23 due to ill health.

Each of these four top jurists shared different memories of their time at Minnesota Law.

Kern discovered the intellectual rigor she was looking for. “I found it to be very broadening,” she said. “The professors were brilliant. They had a sense of humor and they engaged the students.”

Anderson says the law student basketball teams on which he played weren’t always the most popular in the league. “I think the feeling was that the lawyers tended to argue a lot,” he said. “I’ll take the Fifth Amendment on that.”

Feinman recalled visiting the University campus for the first time in May, “when everything was green.” A handwritten note on his admissions letter said, “The warmth of your reception will more than make up for a few cold days.” He encountered more than a few cold days, of course.

Hudson said she wouldn’t want to go to law school again. “But, my goodness, I am so glad I did and that I persevered. The U has given me so much, and the training I got there was exceptional and has afforded me the opportunity to be where I am.”

Diversifying the bench

Hudson worked in the Minnesota Attorney General’s office for eight years, appearing frequently before the Minnesota Supreme Court and Court of Appeals. She began to consider the bench after observing that most judges at oral arguments were white and that the lived experiences—personal and professional—of people of color were largely absent from the proceedings.

Hudson applied for the next Court of Appeals opening and was appointed in 2002. She served there until her 2015 appointment to the Supreme Court.

“When you think back about our history as a country, you quickly realize that the law has impacted people of color—and Blacks in particular—in profound ways, and often negatively,” Hudson said. “But we’ve had very little role in the development of the law. We’ve just been the recipients of it. That voice in Minnesota and in many states was just not there.”

Such representation is even more vital to ensuring trust and confidence in the judiciary, Hudson said, after the unrest and calls for racial equity and social justice that followed the death of George Floyd.

Editor’s Note: Judge Paul Feinman ’85 passed away on March 31 as this article was being prepared for publication. The quotes from him are taken from an interview with him for this piece several weeks prior to his death.
“The racial reckoning we’re in now highlights the importance of a judiciary that reflects the communities we serve,” Hudson observed.

At Minnesota Law, Hudson said, she was one of 10 first-year minority students who saw no faculty of color when they arrived. (Alex Johnson, who is Black and later would become dean of the Law School, joined the faculty during Hudson’s 3L year).

The school’s then head librarian, Marvin Anderson, who is Black, offered support, Hudson says. One faculty member in particular—the late Professor Donald Marshall—welcomed students of color and maintained an open-door policy for discussing issues of concern, she adds.

Hudson honed her writing skills on the Minnesota Law Review and Quare, the former student newspaper, preparing her for writing briefs and judicial opinions.

Hudson applied to the Law School after earning an English degree at Arizona State University. Her family moved from Missouri to Minneapolis and then Roseville in the late 1960s, so the nationally ranked University was nearby.

Hudson began her legal career at Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services, practiced employment law and civil litigation at a private firm, and worked in student affairs at the former Hamline University School of Law and as St. Paul city attorney before joining the attorney general’s office, where she served in the criminal appellate division.

Solving problems respectfully
When Janine Kern was in elementary school, she often spent her after-school hours sitting in the lobby of her father and grandfather’s law office in Lake Andes, South Dakota, a small town near the Missouri River.

Farmers, businesspeople, and others sought advice on legal concerns or taxes from her grandfather and father, who later served as state’s attorney and circuit judge.

“That really inspired me to consider a career in the law [and] led ultimately to my desire to serve on the bench, helping people solve their problems in a respectful, meaningful way,” Kern said.

The Law School’s reputation for academic excellence and proximity to family appealed to Kern, who had earned a political science degree at Arizona State. Faculty members including Ann Burkhart, John Cound, Barry Feld, Catharine MacKinnon, and Gerald Torres made lasting impressions, as did Kern’s experience representing inmates through the legal assistance program.

“The brilliant and diverse class that we had was a gift,” Kern said. “Our class members built wonderful careers and changed the world for the better. The powerful group of professors was very inspiring. Dean Bob Stein ’61 was a remarkable leader. I am grateful for the experience and enjoyed it all.”

Committed to public service, Kern began her career as an assistant South Dakota attorney general. Working in the appellate division, Kern gained experience practicing before the state supreme court, preparing her for her 1996 appointment as a circuit judge in Rapid City. She was appointed to the South Dakota Supreme Court in 2014.

“Serving as one of five justices is a welcome transition after 18 years as a circuit court judge,” said Kern.

Kern has served on the Federal Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice and on the state Council of Juvenile Services, where she pursued juvenile justice reform.

Access to fair and impartial courts is a continuing priority for Kern. “The racial justice dialogue that has occurred throughout 2020 has heightened awareness of the importance of striving for and maintaining a court system that ensures justice for everyone regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, or any other characteristic,” Kern said.

“The movement has brought the issue of systemic racism and unequal treatment to the forefront of the local, state, and national stage, prompting critical conversations about how to improve the justice system.”

Serving the public interest
Working in the public interest inherently appealed to Paul Feinman, who served as one of seven members of New York’s highest court from 2017 through his resignation in March 2021.

As a Columbia University undergraduate, the Long Island, New York, native experienced the law as a “helping profession,” assisting people applying for benefits through a university legal internship program.

The happiest graduates Feinman knew were those who had gone on to be public interest lawyers. That group included a friend whom Feinman joined in what would be his first job, at the Legal Aid Society of Nassau County, New York.

But few opportunities other than public service were then open to Feinman—who would later become the first openly gay judge confirmed to the New York Court of Appeals.

“I’ll be very honest—my options were somewhat limited because I was definitely an out gay man,” Feinman said.

Being out wasn’t easy, added Feinman, who got his Minnesota Law degree at the height of the AIDS crisis.

When he joined classmates seeking to launch and get funding for a Gay and Lesbian Law Student Association (GALSA), student activities leaders asked for members’ names. GALSA refused, and later got established with administration support. (Today at the Law School, OutLaw serves as an affinity group for LGBTQIA+ students).

The placement office, Feinman said, advised him—and, he believes, many others—to have an “out” resume and a “closeted” one.

Working in Legal Aid roles in appeals and criminal defense and clerking seven years for Justice Angela Mazzarelli of New York’s Supreme Court (which serves as a trial court, while the Court of Appeals is the state’s top appellate court) drove his interest in serving on the bench.

Feinman, who had been president of New York’s LGBT Bar Association, became the first openly gay man to win a contested primary, earning a seat on the Civil Court of the City of New York in 1996.

In 2014, Gov. Andrew Cuomo appointed Feinman to one of New York’s four intermediate appellate courts. Feinman had won election to the Supreme Court in
2007 and received unanimous Senate confirmation after Cuomo nominated him to the Court of Appeals in 2017. Last year, Feinman was appointed chair of New York’s Justice Task Force, which he said has been examining racial disparities in the justice system “before George Floyd, well before these issues started exploding in the national consciousness.” (For more on Judge Feinman’s life and legacy, see related sidebar on this page.)

Returning to the courtroom

G. Barry Anderson became a lawyer to do trial work. As he spent more time reviewing abstracts and drafting deeds—and less trying cases—Anderson began considering a move that would take him back to the courtroom by way of the bench.

The time was right, with Anderson in his mid-40s and a vacancy on the Minnesota Court of Appeals. After talking it over with family, Anderson applied for that seat and got sworn in to the appeals court in 1998. He served there until his appointment to the Supreme Court in 2004.

“The opportunity to work on some really complicated, interesting issues that have real-life consequences for people is an opportunity that any lawyer would appreciate, and I’m grateful for it,” Anderson said.

Anderson, who grew up on the north end of Mankato, Minnesota, had been interested in the law since childhood. He was just 11 when his father died.

Anderson took the same path to a legal career as his uncle and role model Bernhard “Pete” LeVander ’39, brother to former Gov. Harold Levander.

Like Pete LeVander, Anderson went to Gustavus Adolphus College, majoring in political science and history. Anderson began his law classes in Fraser Hall on the University’s East Bank campus. “There is nothing more Paper Chase or law school stereotype that you could ever experience than the Fraser Hall library,” Anderson said.

Halfway through his studies, classes moved to the new Law School building, which opened on the West Bank campus in 1978. Defense and prosecution work in the misdemeanor law clinic would be useful to Anderson after graduation.

More comfortable in Greater Minnesota, Anderson worked at a firm in Fairmont before moving to Hutchinson. In his 15 years there, he handled such matters as family law, public defense, business law, personal injury, and insurance defense. He served as city attorney of Hutchinson from 1987 to 1998 while also representing private clients.

Justices, of course, read newspapers and watch television, and are aware of the tragic and challenging events of the past year.

“We’re sensitive to and appreciate the complex historical, legal, social, cultural, and educational issues that are tied up in all of this,” Anderson said. “I wouldn’t say we’re not influenced by events, but we try to keep in mind that our goal is to decide the questions that are before us and to do that as objectively and fairly as we can.”

Paul G. Feinman ’85, the first openly LGBT judge to serve on New York’s highest court, passed away on March 31.

Feinman, 61, had a judicial career that spanned 25 years before he stepped down from the New York Court of Appeals on March 23 due to his health. Before joining the Court of Appeals bench in 2017, Feinman sat on the Appellate Division of the New York Supreme Court’s First Department in Manhattan.

“Judge Feinman lived a great life in service, starting as a legal aid lawyer followed by 25 years in the judiciary and concluding with his historic appointment to the New York Court of Appeals. He will long be remembered as a brilliant jurist and a legal pioneer. As the first openly LGBTQ judge on New York’s highest court, he broke barriers and opened doors of opportunity,” said Garry W. Jenkins, dean and William S. Pattee Professor of Law.

“A deeply dedicated advocate of the Law School, Judge Feinman hired and mentored our students, frequently spoke at events, and loved Minnesota Law gatherings, especially the chance to recruit prospective students by telling his story of how Minnesota Law changed his life,” Jenkins continued. “He was as loyal a friend as the Law School has ever had. We were enormously fortunate to have his friendship, support, and engagement.”

Before taking the bench, Feinman served as the principal court attorney to Judge Angela M. Mazzarelli in New York’s Appellate Division and as a staff attorney for The Legal Aid Society, Criminal Defense Division, in New York County. He began his legal career as a staff attorney for the Appeals Bureau of the Legal Aid Society of Nassau County, Long Island.

Feinman was one of the principal speakers at the Law School’s 6th annual MLK Convocation, “Breaking the Dam Against Social Progress,” last January. There are many ways to change society with a legal education, he noted at that event. “Everyone can do something. You can’t do it all but you can do something.”

Todd Nelson is a Twin Cities-based freelance writer.
DECRYPTING CYBERSECURITY

Professor Alan Rozenshtein Brings Boundless Energy to a Nascent but Sprawling Field

BY CATHY MADISON
Cybersecurity has grabbed headlines for years, but among legal scholars it is a small, nascent field, ripe for development by such up-and-comers as Associate Professor Alan Rozenshtein, whose research pursuits keep pace with unfolding news and ubiquitous issues. “I am most interested in the world of large technology companies,” he says. “With cybersecurity, we might think that government plays the primary role, but private companies like Facebook and Google are much more on the front lines than is government. That is unprecedented in modern history.”

Government work had been his goal as a Harvard Law student, but Rozenshtein attributes his burgeoning expertise to a “series of happy accidents” that began on the first day of his first postgraduate job at the U.S. Department of Justice, National Security Division. When asked to choose an area to focus on, he picked cybersecurity. “I figured the internet would remain a big deal, and I was attracted to the technical elements,” he says.

As a field of study, however, cybersecurity “is very much a work in progress.” Although Rozenshtein, who joined the Law School in 2017 as a visiting professor, also teaches constitutional law and criminal procedure, his cybersecurity classes are the ones that break ground. Training cybersecurity lawyers is a challenge because practice areas remain undefined, he explains. “I try to give students a broad perspective. The first few weeks are not about the law at all. They study the underlying technology at a granular level.” While this approach may induce culture shock, it also yields “enthusiastic amateurs” who gain the confidence and analytical ability to learn at a deep level.

“Cybersecurity is a massive, sprawling field except in the law, where everyone is talking about it but no one really knows what it is,” says Professor Gus Hurwitz, co-director of the Space, Cyber, and Telecommunications Law Program at the University of Nebraska. “Alan is someone who understands the technology, knows the economics, and knows the law. He can talk fluently in all those different languages, and that’s rare.”

According to colleagues, Rozenshtein taps his boundless energy and warm sense of humor to foster connection and engage in broader policy issues in various ways, including writing for Lawfare and organizing such gatherings as the Cybersecurity Law & Policy Scholars Conference. For example, he wrote about surveillance intermediaries for the Stanford Law Review, unpacking the issues inherent in Apple’s refusal to comply with the FBI’s request to unlock a terrorist’s iPhone in the 2015 San Bernardino attack.

“He has the tremendous ability to boil down some of the essential problems in cybersecurity,” says Kate Klonick, assistant professor at St. John’s University School of Law, New York. The ability to upload files and transfer information may enhance freedom and creativity, but the tradeoff is reduced privacy, as governments may use those same mechanisms to surveil users.

When America started shutting down last year, Rozenshtein wondered whether surveillance could help fight the pandemic. But that could trigger Fourth Amendment issues. “He does a great job of exploring how those tensions will play out in reality. He can flesh it all out and see where the dilemma lies,” says Klonick.

The evolving field has proved to be both exciting and challenging. “America’s problem with cybersecurity is that we have the biggest rocks and live in the glassiest houses,” Rozenshtein says. “Our capabilities and even our defenses are ahead of the rest of the world, but we’re also very vulnerable because of our open society. When things happen, we hear about it and all freak out. And when you take everything and attach it to the internet, that is what’s going to happen. Do you really need a smart toothbrush?”

Rozenshtein contends that the pandemic-induced Zoom era has simply accelerated what was already happening. “Every problem is a technical problem, and that is true in law as well. As the digital world touches everything we do all the time, every legal issue has an intersection with technology,” he says. “I’m very optimistic about the future of the field, and very lucky to be a part of it.”

Klonick predicts that Rozenshtein’s scholarship will continue to be widely read, and his role will become “more and more influential as time goes on.” Hurwitz concurs. “We need so many more people doing the work that Alan is doing. He brings so much energy to the field and also understands the importance of organizing, developing, and growing it, which is as important as the individual work he’s doing. I wish there were a hundred of him.”

Cathy Madison is a Twin Cities-based writer.
Linus Chan was appointed the Law School’s Vaughan G. Papke Research Scholar. This title recognizes and celebrates important scholarly contributions by the Law School’s clinical faculty who have and continue to produce important and substantial scholarship.

Jill Hasday testified before the Minnesota House Judiciary Committee on Finance and Civil Law in support of HF403, a bill that aims to address the wage gap in Minnesota by prohibiting employers from asking about prospective employees’ past pay.

Garry W. Jenkins, dean and William S. Pattee Professor of Law, was been named to the board of directors of Equal Justice Works, the nation’s largest nonprofit organization that supports law students and lawyers in launching public interest legal careers.

Fionnuala Ní Aoláin, U.N. special rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, has been a part of several events surrounding security and human rights. She was panel chair at the Paris Peace Forum, a panelist at the Global Security Forum, and a featured speaker for the Center for Strategic & International Studies.

Alan Rozenshtein served as a panelist during the Law Library of Congress’ Human Rights Day Event. This year, the event focused on contact tracing and the right of privacy in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and featured a panel of distinguished legal experts.

Francis X. Shen won the American Law Institute’s Early Career Scholars medal. This award is presented every other year to one or two outstanding early-career law professors whose work has the potential to influence improvements in the law. This is the third time that a Minnesota Law professor has received the prestigious honor, more than any other law school faculty in the nation. The other two Minnesota Law professors who received the medal are Daniel Schwarcz (2017) and Amy B. Monahan (2013).

For the keynote presentation at the 2020 Midwest IP Institute, Christopher Turoski ’98 interviewed his Law School classmate Yen Florzczak ’98, who is chief IP counsel at 3M, about future opportunities for Minnesota companies and innovation in challenging times, among other topics.

Mitch Zamoff’s Georgia Law Review article, “Assessing the Impact of Police Body Camera Evidence on the Litigation of Excessive Force Cases,” was named a “must read” article by the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers and the Academic Advisory Board of the Getting Scholarship into Court Project.
Author: Kristin E. Hickman (with Richard J. Pierce Jr.) / Title: Federal Administrative Law, Third Edition (University Casebook Series) / Publisher: Foundation Press / Pages: 1,255

This casebook is designed with an emphasis on accessibility, includes many discussion problems and questions focusing on real-world application, and gives students a solid grounding in the basic principles of administrative law that they might come across in regulatory practice. The third edition incorporates new developments through the Supreme Court’s 2018-19 term, including excerpts from Gundy v. United States (2019) regarding the nondelegation doctrine, Lucia v. SEC (2018) regarding who is an officer of the United States, Kisor v. Wilkie (2019) regarding Auer deference, Spokeo v. Robbins (2016) regarding standing doctrine, and much more.

Author: Francis X. Shen (with Owen D. Jones and Jeffrey D. Schall) / Title: Law and Neuroscience, Second Edition (Aspen Casebook Series) / Publisher: Wolters Kluwer / Pages: 1,004

The implications for law of new neuroscientific techniques and findings are now among the hottest topics in legal, academic, and media venues. This book—a collaboration of professors in law, neuroscience, and biology—is the second edition of the first and only coursebook to chart this new territory, providing the world’s most comprehensive collection of neurolaw materials. New contents include a chapter on aging brains and many references to cases and publications from after the first edition was published in 2014.

Editor: Michael Tonry (with Peter Reuter) / Title: Organizing Crime: Mafias, Markets, and Networks / Publisher: University of Chicago Press Journals / Pages: 512

This book is an exhaustive overview of knowledge about organized crime. It provides intensive accounts of American, Italian, and Dutch developments, covers both national mafias and transnational criminality, and delves in depth into gender, human capital, and money laundering issues.

Author: Christopher M. Turoski / Title: Assets & Finance: Intellectual Property in Mergers and Acquisitions (2020 Edition) / Publisher: Thomson Reuters / Pages: 768

Taking a pragmatic approach, this book highlights the importance of intangible issues, such as the relative negotiating leverage of each party. It provides an overview of the fundamentals; key phases in the life cycle of an M&A transaction; and model agreements for various types of transactional documents. It also covers due diligence and ancillary closing documents.
American Nero

In American Nero: The History of the Destruction of the Rule of Law, and Why Trump Is the Worst Offender, Professor Richard Painter and his co-author, writer Peter Golenbock, provide an in-depth exploration of the rule of law—the legal bedrock on which this country was founded. Professor Painter ran for the U.S. Senate in 2018, and was the chief White House ethics lawyer in the George W. Bush administration from 2005-07.

Why did you select “American Nero” as your title?

Ancient Rome transitioned from a republic to a dictatorship and then an empire as more and more power was concentrated in the hands of the executive (a consul and eventually an emperor), who could not be kept in check by the Roman Senate. For Rome this was a gradual transformation taking place over 100 years, with Julius Caesar toward the beginning and Nero at the end. Nero had many of the characteristics we see in Trump and in other authoritarians—extreme narcissism and anger in the face of criticism. Populist appeal and vicious attacks on political opponents were also characteristic of Nero.

This book was written before the COVID-19 crisis, but must have caught President Trump’s attention in the wrong way—in March 2020 he retweeted a picture of himself fiddling like the Emperor Nero. Nero is said to have fiddled while Rome burned. Many say that is what Trump did in the United States during the spread of COVID-19.

This book is not just about Donald Trump but also about how a republic can transition into a dictatorship. There are two examples of this happening to a major world power: ancient Rome and then Germany in the 1930s. In Germany, of course, the transition from the Weimar Republic to Nazi rule happened a lot more quickly. We discuss in the book some parallels between Weimar Germany and the United States in the early 21st century, although fortunately we have not reached the end of that road yet and hopefully never will.

How did you connect with your co-author, Peter Golenbock, and how did your collaboration work?

Peter is a bestselling author of books about politics and sports. His agent contacted me about this project. Peter is a brilliant writer and thinker and working with him has been a wonderful experience.

Would you classify this book as a history, political science work, or something different?

The first half of the book has a lot of American history—we don’t get to Trump until halfway through the book. We seek to explain why we were so vulnerable to Trumpism to begin with: our history of racial divide, economic inequality, jobs disappearing overseas, the role of money in politics, religious extremism and bigotry, the immigration debate. All create an opportunity for authoritarians and demagogues to take advantage of public anger.

What are a few key takeaways you’d like readers to get from this book?

Our central theme is that a representative democracy depends upon the rule of law, which in turn depends on accurate understanding of facts and law. The rule of law requires public acceptance of objective truth with respect to both facts and law. Widespread “alternative facts”—i.e., lies—often precede the rise of dictatorships, as they did in Nazi Germany. Distortion of law—including an extreme “unitary executive theory” under which a president has the power to do anything he wants—also is a hallmark of authoritarianism. This book is about our vulnerability to factual lies and legal lies and the importance of our returning to a search for truth.
The Trump presidency is now over. What makes the book of continuing importance?

If we don’t focus on the historical, sociological, and economic reasons why Trump came to power, we could easily get another Trump. Next time our authoritarian leader may be less transparent in his narcissism, younger and more precise in his scheming, and better able to connect to some ordinary Americans. In other words, our next authoritarian ruler may be a lot more dangerous.

Have the events that took place after this book went to press last spring reaffirmed your faith in the rule of law in the United States or heightened the concerns you outline (or both)?

The lies about the election results and the Capitol riot of January 6 reinforce exactly what we say in the book: Donald Trump rose to power with lies and he went out the same way.

You describe this book as a “call to action.” What is the future of the rule of law in the United States, and what can ensure that it remains strong going forward?

As citizens we must pay attention to objective truth in getting the facts straight and also understanding what the law really says. Then we must vote and do everything else we can to reform the law and work for a better, more inclusive country.
Labor of Love
Retiring Professor Stephen Befort ’74 laid a strong foundation in labor and employment at Minnesota Law

STEPHENV BEFORT ’74 HAS BEEN A PILLAR of the Minnesota Law labor and employment law community, making significant contributions in the classroom, clinic, and courtroom and producing incisive scholarship and legal writing during a nearly 40-year career at the University. Known as a national and international authority on labor and employment law, Befort helped establish the Labor & Employment Law concentration and brought rich public-sector experience to his work.

The Gray, Plant, Mooty, Mooty & Bennett Professor of Law, Befort joined Minnesota Law in 1982 after nearly a decade serving in the Minnesota Attorney General’s Office and as principal assistant Ramsey County attorney. He started his career as legal counsel to the state’s Public Employment Relations Board and the Bureau of Mediation Services, which sparked his abiding interest in labor and employment law. “I got into the business sideways and found I really liked it,” Befort says. “It’s about people and work, and it has a real impact on people.”

Dean Gary W. Jenkins calls Befort the embodiment of a scholar-practitioner. “Professor Befort has distinguished himself as a national expert on labor and employment law, a beloved classroom teacher, and an esteemed alumnus,” says Jenkins, William S. Pattee Professor of Law. “While educating generations of law students and winning multiple teaching awards, he has actively engaged in service to the bar while maintaining an active practice as a labor arbitrator, issuing more than 300 written decisions.”

A Key Player in Clinics
Befort joined Minnesota Law as a professor and director of its legal clinics, a program Befort had enjoyed as a student himself. He also served as associate dean for academic affairs and associate dean for research and planning. During 21 years as clinic director, Befort sought to expand the system, a feat he accomplished as the clinics expanded from four to 12. Today, the Law School offers more than two dozen clinics.

At the time, “some people didn’t think it was rigorous enough compared to classroom work, but I thought it was great,” Befort says. “Seeing the clinics grow from a small office that was peripheral in the eyes of many faculty to one of the largest programs in the country that is very integrated with the rest of the school— I’m very happy and proud of that.”

Befort’s other highlights include winning the privilege to publish and co-edit the ABA Journal of Labor & Employment Law. He also wrote Employment Law and Practice—a textbook he worked with students to update annually—and five other books about disability law, labor arbitration, and more, as well as 60-plus journal articles and papers.

Professor Emerita Laura Cooper worked with Befort on many endeavors, including the journal and the book More Than We Have Ever Known About Discipline and Discharge in Labor Arbitration. The empirical study revealed the largely hidden world of labor arbitration, identifying which factors influence arbitrators’ decisions.

“A very broad knowledge of labor and employment law, including work on employment discrimination and public sector law. I appreciated his extensive and diverse practice experience,” Cooper says. “Steve always came through with high-quality work, and he’s been really good at mentoring students in a diversity of ways,” including through the Student Employment and Labor Law Association and advising many research assistants.

‘An Institution’
Tim Louris ’10, a partner at Miller O’Brien Jensen in Minneapolis who focuses on labor and employment law, was one of those students. Concentrating in labor and employment law, Louris took many courses with Befort, worked as one of his research assistants, and served as an editor on the journal. Louris calls Befort an institution and says he has all the qualities law students would want in a professor.

“He was very humble and approachable in the classroom, and he was extremely knowledgeable about the field. You knew you were in the presence of an authority,” Louris says. “He had a clear way to present difficult concepts and played a guiding role for students like me who wanted to practice in this area of law.”

Befort won plaudits for his teaching, earning the prestigious Stanley V. Kinyon Teaching and Counseling Award twice and the Minnesota Justice Foundation Outstanding Service Award in the law professor category. A prolific arbitrator and mediator, Befort plans to continue this work upon retirement.

By Suzy Frisch, a Twin Cities-based freelance writer
Seeing the clinics grow from a small office that was peripheral in the eyes of many faculty to one of the largest programs in the country that is very integrated with the rest of the school—I’m very happy and proud of that.”

—Professor Stephen Befort ’74
In Pursuit of Justice
Retiring Professor Richard Frase closes the book on a storied career in criminal law

DURING HIS 50-YEAR LEGAL CAREER, RICHARD FRASE earned a place as one of the country’s foremost experts on sentencing guidelines and criminal justice. Frase brings a social science lens to his work, blending legal theory and practice to make pioneering findings about criminal procedure, sentencing guidelines, racial disparities, punishment and proportionality, and more.

I want [students] to think like a lawyer—but also learn to think like a law professor, because you’ll always be teaching yourself new law or new areas of law. It’s an intellectual challenge and a pleasure.”
—Professor Richard Frase

Frase, the Benjamin N. Berger Professor of Criminal Law, is a nationally leading voice on sentencing, says Garry W. Jenkins, dean and William S. Pattee Professor of Law. “Professor Frase has served as co-director of the Robina Institute of Criminal Law and Criminal Justice, as well as co-director of the Institute’s Sentencing Guidelines Resource Center. His pathbreaking scholarship, excellence in teaching, and commitment to service have had real-world impact in improving the justice system.”

Since joining Minnesota Law in 1977, Frase has made significant contributions to the understanding of sentencing guidelines and systems. Notably, he led the development of the novel sentencing center, a centralized hub of federal and state sentencing guidelines, statutes, and other information detailing how sentencing commissions and guidelines work.

Through the center, researchers and policymakers can compare policies and practices across jurisdictions and determine how jurisdictions have mitigated concerns such as racial disparities. Kelly Mitchell, executive director of the Robina Institute, notes that Frase’s work has been enormously influential and helped change sentencing policy in several states.

“He doesn’t just sit in his office and think about things—Richard gets out there and helps agencies that are struggling with these issues. In that way, he puts his work into practice,” Mitchell says. “When he retires, we’re losing an immense resource on sentencing guidelines work and what policies can and should be across the nation.”

‘First-Rank’ Scholarship
Julian Roberts, a University of Oxford professor of criminal justice who co-wrote two books with Frase, calls him “a meticulous legal scholar whose scholarship is first-rank. If Frase says something about sentencing guidelines in the U.S., you can go to the bank with it.” Frase also is generous with his time with students, young scholars, and peers, mentoring them and sharing his well-rounded knowledge in both theory and practice, Roberts adds.

A prolific researcher and writer, Frase has penned 10 books, including the recent Paying for the Past, whose subject is prior record sentence enhancements. He’s written more than 100 articles, including a
much-cited piece about racial disparities in Minnesota’s prison and jail populations. Frase’s first book took a holistic look at the nation’s criminal justice system with an eye toward reform. He honed this big-picture perspective as a postgraduate fellow at the Center for Studies in Criminal Justice at the University of Chicago Law School, his alma mater.

Minnesota Law hired Frase to teach criminal law and procedure and run the criminal prosecution clinic. He spent the first quarter prosecuting misdemeanors for the city of Minneapolis to gain courtroom experience. Though Frase was initially skeptical of his clinical responsibilities, he says he is grateful for the opportunity to stay grounded in the practice of law. By spending 40 years variously leading the misdemeanor, federal prosecution, and federal defense clinics, Frase gained a window into numerous issues that informed his research.

In addition, Frase got engaged in comparative law while participating four times in Minnesota Law’s exchange program in Lyon, France, and once in Kiel, Germany. He even mastered enough French to teach in that language. These experiences led to his books on the French code of criminal procedure and a comparative study of sentencing and sanctions in Western countries.

As a longtime professor who has taught several thousand students, Frase enjoys seeing their success as esteemed lawyers, prosecutors, and judges. On top of teaching students his subject matter, Frase emphasized advocating strongly for clients while gaining an understanding of opponents’ positions. “I want them to think like a lawyer—but also learn to think like a law professor, because you’ll always be teaching yourself new law or new areas of law,” he says. “It’s an intellectual challenge and a pleasure.”

It’s a philosophy Frase has taken to heart during his long career, one that kept him engaged, thriving, and contributing immensely to Minnesota Law and the wider criminal justice world for decades.

By Suzy Frisch, a Twin Cities-based freelance writer
WHY DID YOU GO TO LAW SCHOOL?
Immediately before law school, I worked as a grassroots lobbyist on education policy and had been working in education policy for several years. After my third legislative session at the state Capitol, I realized that while I deeply believed in the work I was doing, I needed to make a change. I wanted to find a new, more dynamic career that would challenge me in new ways. A career as a litigator intrigued me. I figured, as a litigator, your cases will change, and the problems that you're solving even within a single case also change as you move through the stages of litigation. I also wanted to go to law school because, through my career, I have prioritized finding positions that allow me to support my community and tackle problems that will drive positive change for Black Americans.

IN WHAT AREA OF LAW WOULD YOU LIKE TO PRACTICE?
I want to be a trial lawyer, a litigator. Right now, I am very interested in consumer finance law and antitrust law. I'm currently working at a law firm that supports plaintiffs, including complex class actions in consumer and worker protection. Both of my parents worked in finance, but I never saw myself working in finance or financial law—ever! And here I am really loving it. It appeals to the nerdy part of me, but consumer protection is also a really powerful way to do good in the community, whether you're working on the plaintiffs' side and you're trying to help people get redress and recovery, or on the defense side trying to help companies create policies that align with regulations and do right by the communities they serve. With the right values, I think there are powerful ways to help communities on either side, so that makes me really excited about that area of law.

WHAT DO YOU DO TO DE-STRESS?
I have really been into baking bread, which I, like a lot of people, picked up over the quarantine. My family and I enjoy doing the New York Times crossword puzzle together. I love cooking and trying out new recipes. I also love watching new movies and going out on walks with my dog and daughter.

WHAT DOES BEING A LAWYER-LEADER MEAN TO YOU?
I think being a lawyer-leader is figuring out what you're passionate about and then finding your place in that area of passion. I also think that we all hold a responsibility to do our part in making the legal profession supportive of new diverse voices.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE OTHERS CONTEMPLATING PETITIONING FOR A LAW JOURNAL?
I say, do it! I think, too often, students, especially students who are first-generation law students like I am, talk ourselves out of really amazing opportunities. I almost talked myself out of the petition process, and I wouldn't be in the position that I am now had I done that. Don't count yourself out. It's really easy to feel like an imposter and to question whether you belong, but you absolutely do, and you might be happily surprised by what happens.
Minnesota Law Students Get Hands-On Experience with Presidential Policymaking

Four 3Ls participate in policy discussions with the Biden transition team and administration

A GROUP OF STUDENTS FROM Minnesota Law’s Journal of Law & Inequality (JLI) recently had the opportunity to experience policymaking from a unique vantage point, facilitating and participating in important discussions about policy with advisers and members of an incoming presidential administration.

While coordinating the 2021 Summit for Civil Rights, held virtually on Feb. 11, the students connected with key members of the Biden transition team and other important national leaders, including Marcia Fudge, the recently confirmed secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The discussions centered on housing policy and its relationship to education policy, racial segregation, and concentrated poverty.

JLI first connected with the Summit for Civil Rights in 2017, when it coordinated and hosted the very first symposium. Since that time, JLI has remained connected to this movement and organization through Professor Myron Orfield, director of the Institute on Metropolitan Opportunity and a driving force behind the summit.

The 2021 summit was co-hosted by JLI and the Institute. In addition to HUD Secretary Fudge, prominent participants included: Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison ’90; Congressman Barbara Lee of California; Senator Sherrod Brown of Ohio; NAACP President and CEO Derrick Johnson; and National Fair Housing Alliance President and CEO Lisa Rice. Garry W. Jenkins, dean and William S. Pattee Professor of Law, opened the conference with welcoming remarks.

“It was a huge and complicated conference, and [the students] ran it flawlessly,” Orfield said. “They really stepped up to the plate and put together vast amounts of...
information in forms that lawyers really need to know how to do. They summarized documents, created memos, and pulled together the history of enforcement in all the administrations since the enactment of these laws. They produced substantive research.”

Orfield, who helped draft President Obama’s fair housing rules and defend them before the U.S. Supreme Court, and who has served as a fair housing advisor to HUD during five different presidential administrations, says there is nothing partisan about the work. “They are engaged with the new administration, the Biden Administration, but people from both parties are there.”

The students’ achievement in carrying off a successful summit was all the more noteworthy given that while they were prepping it, the U.S. Capitol building was stormed, a presidential impeachment trial started, and COVID cases spiked across the nation.

For the JLI team that organized the event—symposium editors Maci Burke, James Holden, and Marisa Tillman, and editor-in-chief Navin Ramalingam (all 3Ls)—the experience provided a front-row seat for seeing how policy gets made.

“Witnessing government officials, lawyers, scholars, and students come together with such passion to make positive policy changes was inspiring,” says Burke. “The legal knowledge and skills that I have gained from this experience will help me to become a stronger attorney, co-worker, community member, and citizen.”

The Work Behind the Summit

Last December, the JLI symposium team started communicating and working with the consortium of grassroots organizations that make up the Summit for Civil Rights and with the education and housing transition teams within the new Biden administration. The goal was to brainstorm ideas, policy proposals, speakers, logistics, and all other critical elements that go into facilitating a virtual national conference.

In a virtual meeting held on Jan. 6, civil rights leaders spoke with the transition teams and incoming administration officials about what topics they would like included in the 2021 summit. Leaders from across the country took part in this presentation, emphasizing the importance of enacting civil rights-focused housing, education, and transportation policies that they supported. While the meeting was in progress, reports began filtering in that the U.S. Capitol was under attack.

“It was a pretty surreal experience,” recalls Tillman, a dual J.D./Master of Public Policy (MPP) student who is looking to pursue a career in public policy and immigration law. “During the presentation, some were commenting about the events in the chat. It was a little distracting, but I think it also reestablished for everyone the importance of the subjects we were talking about.”

Holden, who would like to work in government one day, observes, “Even while the attack happened, people kept talking about how and workshopping steps to make America better, which makes me feel more secure about our future. No matter what darkness happens, you can still be part of progress.”

Lessons Learned

The students learned a lot from working so closely with policymakers to plan and execute a major conference, and took away inspiration and insight from the experience.

“Being a part of this event was inspiring for me, because it was a chance to help organize and learn from people who have already made their careers doing that work,” says Holden.

Burke, who would like to pursue corporate, business, tax, and real estate law, says, “Organizing this virtual event with Navin, Marisa, and James has taught me more about teamwork, planning, and policymaking than I ever imagined.”

Tillman, who has a longtime interest in public policy, says, “Working with this transition team taught me that policy often happens with relationships between people and storytelling.”

For Ramalingam, a budding civil litigator, the experience served as a reaffirmation of the importance of JLI’s mission. “As it has for the past 40 years, JLI will continue to play an important role in advancing the law and policy to not just highlight the existing inequalities but also advocate for good policies to make lives better for the marginalized communities in this country,” he says.

—By Mark A. Cohen
Frances Daniels, 2L, Gets $5,000 Scholarship from AccessLex

Frances Daniels, 2L, was awarded a $5,000 scholarship by AccessLex, a nonprofit organization that seeks to further access, affordability, and the value of legal education through research, policy, advocacy, and direct member and student educational services. Daniels, a frequent user of AccessLex’s resources, received news of the scholarship in a surprise video call from AccessLex officials.

“With everything else happening in the world, a scholarship award drawing was definitely not something on my mind and brought a huge boost of joy to this semester!” she says.

Student Team Wins Regional Patent Application Drafting Competition, Advances to Nationals


The team defeated Notre Dame Law School in the final round to take the regional championship. As a result of the win, the Minnesota Law team advances to the national finals, which will be held at USPTO headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia, on April 9.

The Minnesota Law team consisted of two students in the Master of Science in Patent Law program (Jordan Marsh and Timothy Brennhofer) and two second-year J.D. students (Carlton Hemphill and Jack Graves). The team worked together to draft a patent application and defend it before a panel of distinguished judges.

Professor Christopher M. Turoski ’98 coached the Minnesota Law team, with assistance from Jason Harp ’98 and Bernard Cryan, 3L.

Students Make Strong Showing at McGee Moot Court Competition

Minnesota Law students and teams fared well at the William E. McGee National Civil Rights Moot Court Competition, which, for the first time in its history, was held entirely online.

The 2021 competition was held March 5-6. Student competitors and volunteer judges met in a Zoom courtroom for the arguments. A volunteer “bailiff” was in the Zoom room ready to help with any tech-related questions. In another first, the championship round was livestreamed on YouTube.

Best Respondent Brief went to the team of Seth Corley, 3L, Nadia Mezic, 3L, and Navin Ramalingam, 3L. Best overall brief went to the team of Annali Cler, 3L, Tim Miles, 2L, and Will Wright, 3L.

Miles was named Best Oral Advocate in the preliminary rounds. The team with Cler, Miles, and Wright advanced to the semifinals. The team with Corley, Mezic, and Ramalingam advanced to the finals, ultimately taking second place.

The teams were coached by Professor Jon Lee.
Mock Trial Team Wins Regional Competition, Advances to Nationals

A Minnesota Law mock trial team recently won the American College of Trial Lawyers/Texas Young Lawyers Association Region 12 mock trial competition. The team will advance to the national competition and will compete against the best trial advocacy programs in the country.

The ACTL/TYLA National Trial Competition is the largest law school mock trial competition in the nation, attracting teams from more than 140 law schools and involving more than 1,000 law students each year. It was established in 1975 to encourage and strengthen students’ advocacy skills through quality competition and valuable interaction with members of the bench and bar.

The winning team members were Josh Dostal, 3L, Tommy Harshaw, 2L, and Olivia Gardiner, 3L. The second team from the Law School also had a very strong showing, achieving fifth place out of 18 teams. Its members were Bree Crye, 3L, Mitch Dooley, 3L, and Alena Simon, 3L. The teams are coached by Craig Buske ‘10, Craig Roen ’87, Jared Reams ’13, and Deanna Thompson ’19.

This was the fourth time in the past nine years that a Minnesota Law mock trial team has won its regional competition and qualified for nationals.

3L Kristin Trapp Launches He2We Campaign to Remove Gendered Language from State Constitutions

Kristin Trapp, 3L, in March launched the He2We campaign, an initiative she started to advocate for removing gendered language from state constitutions.

Last year, Trapp testified before the Minnesota Legislature in favor of a bill—which she originally drafted—to do this in Minnesota. With the help of Minnesota Law’s Business Law Clinic, she incorporated an LLC to promote the removal of gendered language in state constitutions across the country. Last fall, her nonprofit was selected as a client for the Carlson School of Management’s Social Venturing in Action course. Carlson School students helped Trapp prepare He2We for launch, including designing a website, strategizing social media, creating a promotional video, and developing a business plan.

“We hope to spark change in all 50 states’ constitutions,” Trapp says.
LEADERS — in — PHILANTHROPY

The Lockhart Club, Minnesota Law’s leadership annual giving society, brings together generations of alumni and friends who generously express their support of the Law School through an annual gift of $2,000 or more. Learn how to join at z.umn.edu/lawlockhartclub.

GIVING LEVELS

BINGER CIRCLE
$25,000+
Named for legendary lawyer-leader and philanthropist James H. Binger ’41, the Binger Circle consists of the Law School’s most generous supporters. Members of the Binger Circle ensure our alumni, faculty, and students can solve today’s grand challenges.

FRASER SOCIETY
$10,000-24,999
As dean, Everett Fraser helped bring the Law School to national prominence. Today, members of the Fraser Society 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 eleven distinguished deans. Members of the Dean’s Circle build on their example and help ensure the Law School graduates the next generation of lawyer-leaders.

MURPHY SOCIETY
$2,000-4,999
Judge Diana Murphy ’74 was a champion of justice and opportunity for all, and promoted education as a means to improve everyone’s lives. Members of the Murphy Society honor her legacy through their generous support of the Law School.

LOCKHART GOLD GRADUATES OF THE LAST DECADE

Lockhart GOLD engages a new generation of leadership donors through a stepped donation program for alumni 10 years out or fewer. Recent graduates contributing at these special giving levels are members and enjoy all the benefits of the Lockhart Club.

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<th>Graduation Year</th>
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For questions or for information about joining the Lockhart Club, please contact Lizzy Beghelli, assistant director of annual giving, at 612-624-0097 or beghelli@umn.edu
The Theatre of the Relatively Talentless’ (TORT), annual show for the Law School Community, *Super Smash Gophers!* took place on May 7-9. Thinking creatively in the best spirit of the old adage that “the show must go on,” the students have structured the 2021 show to offer three viewing options: a drive-in screening at Graco Park, a second drive-in screening with a Zoom simulcast, and a third Zoom-only matinee.
ALL RISE

Big Picture

TORT performers (left to right) Jenni Oprosko, 3L; Samantha Barnhart, 1L; Brenna Evans, 2L.
Decision-making, communications, stress management, and flexibility are all skills which can be learned and built upon over time, and law school was an important part of laying the foundation for me.”

—B. Todd Jones ’80
B. Todd Jones ’80 has had a remarkable career, serving as U.S. attorney for Minnesota under two presidents, heading the ATF, and now serving as senior vice president and special counsel for the NFL in New York City. He also worked for eight years in private practice in Minneapolis and served as a commissioned officer in the Marine Corps.

It is an honor to serve as a U.S. attorney once, but you have had the rare honor of doing it twice—once in the Clinton administration and once in the Obama administration. What drew you to that role?

Public service has always been important to me. As my classmates recall, I joined the Marine Corps following law school and served on active duty for six years. Having the opportunity to serve as the U.S. attorney for Minnesota under two different administrations was the most satisfying professional honor of my life.

President Obama also appointed you to head the ATF. What was the experience of leading such an important federal agency like? How did your lawyer skills come into play?

Leading a law enforcement agency like ATF during a time of crisis for the bureau was a difficult and challenging experience. Prior to 2003, ATF was part of the Treasury Department, but it was moved to DOJ post-9/11. My professional background as a federal prosecutor proved invaluable in more fully integrating ATF into the fabric of the Justice Department and strengthening its focus and investigative processes.

Currently you are senior vice president and special counsel for conduct for the NFL. Can you describe that role?

My position at the NFL was created in 2015, and I am the first to fill it. While it was initially established to address prevention, training, investigation, and discipline for off-field misconduct by NFL players, it has evolved over the years. Currently we have oversight responsibility for enterprise risk management, including compliance and security.

What is a typical day for you working at the NFL?

This varies by the time of the year. During the football season we have the opportunity to travel and “work” NFL games across the country, usually focused on physical security protocols at our various stadium venues. During the “off-season” we visit each of our NFL team facilities, help manage security at both the NFL [scouting] combine and draft, and conduct training for rookie players. It’s a great job for a football fan.

Your job is based in NYC. How, if at all, has COVID impacted your day-to-day work and the matters you handle for the NFL?

The past year was a challenging one for everyone, and the NFL had a number of unique challenges. There was minimal travel the past year and we successfully completed playing a full season. Starting in September we worked in New York under strict COVID-19 protocols, and while there were some disciplinary matters, much of our effort in 2020 revolved around compliance.

Why do you think it’s important that there be diverse perspectives in the leadership circles of law, business, and government?

There’s no doubt in my mind that any effective leader in our multicultural democracy must embrace respect for diversity and inclusion as a core principle for institutional success in the 21st century. Our challenges are many in the legal profession, but as one of the “healing” professions it is critical that lawyers take the lead in strengthening a civil society and ensuring that the rule of law in the United States endures.

Did you have a favorite experience—clinic, class, activity, etc.—at Minnesota Law that you would like to share?

There were several enduring friendships that were forged during my time in law school, and a number of them have endured over the last nearly 40 years. I have particularly fond recollections of my Frederick Douglass Moot Court experience and my first-year Section B classmates.

In these stressful times, what do you do to promote wellness?

At this point in my life I have swapped out running for “power walking” in terms of continuing my acquired Marine physical training (PT) habit.

What are a few interesting items one might see on your desk or hanging on your office wall?

I have an interesting collection of sports icons and personal heroes such as Muhammad Ali, Jim Brown, and Walter Payton, alongside the two presidents I was privileged to serve under, Bill Clinton and Barack Obama, hanging on my office walls. 

An expanded version of this interview is available in the digital version of the magazine, viewable at: http://minnesotalawmag.law.umn.edu
Alumni News

Wendy Tien ’93 Appointed Chief Judge of Minnesota Tax Court

Wendy Tien ’93 was appointed chief judge of the Minnesota Tax Court by Gov. Tim Walz in March.

Tien was appointed to the court in September 2019. She previously served as tax division manager in the office of Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison ’90.

Tien is a former deputy assistant director in the U.S. Department of Justice’s Office of Oversight, where she led a federal regulatory unit that promotes consumer financial protection. She previously was a partner with Baltimore-based Shapiro Sher Guinot & Sandler and an associate with New York-based Pillsbury, Madison & Sutro.

With Tien’s appointment, for the first time in state history the chiefs of the Minnesota Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, Office of Administrative Hearings, Workers’ Compensation Court, and Tax Court are all women.

“Representation on the bench matters, and a more diverse judicial branch equates to a more representative government for our communities,” said Lt. Gov. Peggy Flanagan. “I am proud to see such distinguished women serving Minnesotans as chief judges.”

Cherée Johnson ’03 Becomes General Counsel of W.R. Grace

Cherée Johnson ’03 was appointed senior vice president, general counsel, corporate secretary, and chief ethics and compliance officer of W.R. Grace.

“Cherée is a results-oriented business leader. Her deep legal knowledge and broad experience make her an exceptional addition to our leadership team,” said Grace’s president and CEO, Hudson La Force.

Johnson was previously vice president and deputy general counsel of Baltimore-based food company McCormick, where she worked for six years. She has also held a variety of roles at such companies as Gerson Lehrman Group, Kraft Heinz, Cargill, and 3M.

Minneapolis Fed General Counsel Niel Willardson ’87 Named Fellow of Institute for Law and Economics

Niel Willardson ’87, general counsel and senior vice president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, was named the first fellow of the Law School’s Institute for Law and Economics.
Willardson brings his real-world experience from three decades at the Federal Reserve to the classroom. He has been instrumental in building connections between Fed leaders and the Law School’s students and faculty, said Claire Hill, professor and James L. Krusemark Chair in Law, and associate director of the Institute for Law and Economics.

“Niel is a treasure. Everyone who is part of our law school community should know how valuable Niel has been to us over the years,” Hill said.

“Even though Niel is in a very senior position at the Minneapolis Fed, he approaches his relationship with the Law School with enthusiasm for what we do. He is curious about what we think about and how our scholarship can help inform what he does day-to-day and how what he does day-to-day can inform our scholarship.”

Naming Willardson a fellow acknowledges his enduring ties to Minnesota Law and sets the stage to deepen the relationship he has with the school, students, faculty, the broader University community, and beyond. Minnesota Law and Willardson are exploring options for how it will work, Hill adds.

Kassius Benson ’96 Tapped to Lead Hennepin County Public Defender’s Office

Minneapolis criminal defense attorney Kassius Benson ’96 was appointed to lead the Hennepin County Public Defender’s office. Benson worked as a public defender in Minnesota and in Washington, D.C., before starting his own criminal defense practice in Minneapolis 17 years ago. He also served as a law clerk in the Hennepin County Public Defender’s Office immediately after graduating from Minnesota Law.

Benson said that one of his goals as chief will be to diversify the office.

Aalok Sharma ’13 Selected as Chair of the ABA Sports Division

Stinson attorney Aalok Sharma ’13 was appointed chair of the Sports Division of the American Bar Association Forum on the Entertainment and Sports Industries.

As chair of the division, Sharma oversees efforts to continue the division’s growth and to examine novel legal and business issues in the sports world, including those addressing amateur and collegiate athletes, sports unions, teams, leagues, venue management, sports data, esports, and legalized sports wagering.

In 2019, Sharma was recognized by the ABA as a leading sports lawyer of the next generation. His sports law practice has been featured by the Hennepin Lawyer, Minnesota Lawyer, U.S. Bets, Sport Techie, WCCO Radio, and more. He also sits on the board of directors of the Minnesota Twins Community Fund and is a frequent contributor to Stinson’s quarterly sports newsletter, At the Corners.
Your impact begins with an **Annual Gift**.

Your support of the **Annual Fund** makes a difference far beyond the walls of Mondale Hall. Make your gift today at [give.umn.edu/law](http://give.umn.edu/law).
Recent Gifts

**GIFTS OF $100,000+**

**The Robina Foundation** made an additional final gift upon the sunset of the nonprofit at the end of 2020. Founded by philanthropist James H. Binger ’41, the Robina Foundation has funded many innovative programs at the Law School, including the Binger Center for New Americans. This gift will support the Law School Dean’s Innovation Fund, which the organization endowed this past fall. At the dean’s discretion, this fund will support key programs and initiatives, such as enhancing student experiences, promoting Law School faculty research and engagement, and advancing the overall mission and goals of the University of Minnesota Law School and its dean.

**Pat Miles Zimmerman** made a gift to endow the Charles “Bucky” Zimmerman Scholarship, in memory of her late husband and member of the class of 1972. Bucky was a leading litigator in Minnesota and around the country for 47 years. He founded the Zimmerman Reed law firm in 1983, which has grown to feature offices in Minneapolis, Phoenix, and Los Angeles. Pat Miles Zimmerman is an established, successful journalist who worked for WCCO-TV and KARE 11 as a longtime anchor for both television and radio. The two shared a love of travel and set out on many trips to explore the world together. This scholarship will support students with financial need and academic promise.

**GIFTS OF $25,000–$99,999**

Professor **Stephen F. Befort ’74 and Anne T. Johnson ’88** have made a lead gift to create a new Labor and Employment fund at the Law School and are inviting others to join them to support this focus area. Professor Befort joined the Law School faculty in 1982 and has built a prestigious career receiving a Fesler Research Fellowship and the Minnesota Justice Foundation Outstanding Service Award for a law professor. Johnson currently serves as Interim Director of Academic Excellence at the Mitchell Hamline School of Law. Stephen and Anne’s contribution will continue to grow their illustrious legacy at Minnesota Law.

**Dan M. ’82 and Tamara J. Christianson** have made significant contributions to support experiential learning and professional development opportunities for law students. Dan currently serves as CEO and Chairman of the Board for F & M Community Bank. Dan and Tamara’s gifts to the Law School Clinics and the Professional Development Program will help better prepare students for the transition to the working world.

**Hon. Richard Luis ’74 and Juanita Bolland Luis ’77** made a generous gift to endow the new Honorable Richard Luis and Juanita Bolland Luis Scholarship. Rick served as an administrative law judge for the State Office of Administrative Hearings and Nita worked as senior associate general counsel at UnitedHealthcare. Together, they are driven to share the benefits of a top-notch legal education with future generations of students.

**Kevin Sheys ’87 and Sonia Arenaza** have made a generous commitment to supporting the Law School’s greatest needs. Kevin is a partner for Hogan Lovells, where he advises clients on high-priority freight and passenger railroad, interstate bus, and public transit projects and transactions and handles regulatory matters before several railroad and public transit regulatory administrations. Kevin and Sonia’s gift will enhance the Law School’s ability to meet its top challenges.

**Joseph P. ’67 and Carol Z. Sullivan** made additional gifts to support the Law School’s greatest needs. Currently, Joe serves as a strategic advisor for Riordan, Lewis & Haden as well as director of the corporate board for Amylin Pharmaceuticals. Throughout his career, he has served in several roles, including as chairman of the RAND Health Board of Advisors, as an investment banker with Goldman Sachs, and as chairman and CEO of Protocare. Joe and Carol’s generous contribution will help secure Minnesota Law’s standing as a leader in legal education.

**Renae Welder ’96** made a generous contribution to the Law School’s Diversity Scholarship. Renae is a principal with Deloitte and leads the firm’s West Region Multistate Tax Services practice. She has over 20 years’ experience serving large global public and private companies in the media and entertainment, technology, gaming, and hospitality industries. Her gift will help grow the diversity of the student body and supports the Law School’s commitment to creating a more just society for our local, national, and international communities.
MAISA FRANK ’10
Partner, Lathrop GPM
Washington, D.C.

How I would describe my job: My practice is what I call IP-adjacent. I am primarily a litigator and a lot of my clients are franchisors. In those cases, I often handle “soft IP” claims, primarily under the Lanham Act—claims like trademark infringement, trade dress infringement, and unfair competition. I also now handle false advertising issues.

What a “typical” day entails: There is no typical day! One day I might spend the whole day working on a brief, the next I might be deposing witnesses or interviewing client employees. In a civil litigation practice like mine, I spend a lot of time reading and writing.

An interesting job experience I’ve had: I recently had a case where, following the termination of a franchise agreement which granted the former franchisee a license to use the franchisor’s proprietary marks, the former franchisee continued using a portion of a client’s service mark and a trademarked building design on a competing business. This case allowed us to explore the boundaries of an infringement claim.

How I like to spend my free time: These days my time outside of work is mostly spent with my 5- and almost-3-year-old. We do outdoor activities every day—especially bike riding, hiking, and exploring new parks.

MATTHEW J. GOGGIN ’90
IP Litigator, Carlson Caspers
Minneapolis

How I would describe my job: I help clients with problems relating to patent infringement. Sometimes this involves patent litigation and everything that goes with it, but often patent issues that arise in the ordinary course of a client’s business require legal analysis and counseling. A client may ask us to analyze a product, either their own or a competitor’s, and provide an opinion as to whether the product infringes a patent.

What a “typical” day entails: I have never been bored with my work, and after 30 years, I still find it challenging and interesting. Every time I start working on a new case, I need to learn about a new technology, and it is like being a student all over again. I often spend several days early in a case studying the patents involved and the products that are disputed. I read the patent text several times, mark up the patent drawings with colored pencils, and consult others to help me answer questions I have from my reading.

How I like to spend my free time: A few years ago, I knew almost nothing about archery. Now I own three bows and dozens of arrows and judge my worth most days by how well I am shooting at 20 yards. I also enjoy hiking and snowshoeing with my wife and spending time with my three grown sons.

MITCH OESTREICH ’13
Patent Examiner, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Greeley, Colorado

How I would describe my job: I examine patent applications from inventors and companies to determine if their application is in acceptable legal form and to determine if their invention is eligible for a patent.

What a “typical” day entails: It varies, but the two main parts of patent examining are searching for “prior art” (usually existing patents) to see if an application is or isn’t eligible for a patent, and writing Office Actions, which explain our position regarding why an invention is or isn’t eligible for a patent.

An interesting job experience I’ve had: I’ve examined applications for some things that I’ve actually interacted with outside of work, like Apple’s lightning cable, Google’s “Google Glass” headsets, Oculus VR headsets—and I’ve also seen some really interesting futuristic stuff like meta-materials and wireless power devices.

How I like to spend my free time: I spend a lot of afternoons cooking and baking; I go hiking with my wife and dogs a lot on weekends and in the summer; we like to travel and play video/board games; and we’re exploring the brewery scene out here in Colorado lately.
Profiles in Practice highlights some of the many ways that alumni put their degrees to use in a single field, niche area, or geographic location. In this premier edition of the feature, we put a spotlight on alumni whose work involves intellectual property.

LEAH RADDAZ
M.S. PATENT LAW ’18
Patent Agent, Run8 Patent Group
San Francisco

How I would describe my job:
At Run8, I work with a team of patent agents to build patent portfolios and develop patent strategies exclusively for startups. Personally, I work with clients in a diverse range of fields, including biotechnology, agriculture, food science, consumer goods, ad tech, and data security.

What a “typical” day entails:
On any given day, I can expect to participate in an invention capture or strategy session with a client; brainstorm through some tech with my boss or another coworker; spend time drafting a patent application or working through a patent strategy; and have (virtual) coffee or lunch with the Run8 team.

An interesting job experience I’ve had:
I have worked on projects with clients focused on developing living plant sensors for protecting crops; a plant-based ice cream that is functionally like dairy (and tastes like it too!); and a pathogen-sensing and -detection network for protecting indoor spaces.

How I like to spend my free time:
I spend a lot of time exploring new hikes around the Bay Area and love planning camping and backpacking trips with friends. I also enjoy yoga, playing board games, and catching up with friends and family.

VEENA TRIPATHI ’19
Associate, Fish & Richardson
Minneapolis

How I would describe my job:
I would describe my job as a client-focused IP attorney. The majority of my practice is focused on patent litigation, but I also dedicate ample time to other IP and technology-related legal issues that my clients are facing.

What a “typical” day entails:
Can I give the prototypical lawyer answer and say, “It depends”? My days are spent on a wide variety of projects, including typical litigation work, such as discovery and legal research, and more patent-focused work, like developing infringement or invalidity theories, etc. I work closely with partners, senior associates, and sometimes clients, depending on my level of involvement in the case.

An interesting job experience I’ve had:
Attending an arbitration where I was the only associate on the case. It was great being the “go-to” person when we were in the trenches. It was also great to see, in real time, how all the work I had put in led to a good outcome for our client.

How I like to spend my free time:
Running, taking my dog for a walk around the lakes, and watching a documentary while enjoying takeout from a new restaurant.

PROFESSOR CHRISTOPHER M. TUROSKI ’98
Director, Patent Law Program
University of Minnesota Law School

How I would describe my job:
I teach and mentor the next generation of patent attorneys and agents.

What a “typical” day entails:
I wear many hats: curricular designer, admissions officer, student services provider, career counselor, business development manager, alumni engager, financial specialist, program communicator, and intellectual property advocate.

What I like most about what I do:
I help students successfully transition into their first patent career.

An interesting job experience I’ve had:
I lobbied the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to diversify the patent practitioner population by removing structural barriers and supporting students who seek a career in the field of patents.

How I like to spend my free time:
I’m an ultrarunner. I’ll run my next event at the Grand Canyon on Earth Day with patent lawyer Jacob Pittman ’18. We’ll run rim-to-rim-to-rim (aka R2R2R), that is, from the canyon’s south rim to the north rim and return to the south rim. ...
Class Notes  NEWS ABOUT YOUR CLASSMATES AND COLLEAGUES

67 Gerald T. Laurie was named a 2020 Attorney of the Year by Minnesota Lawyer in a feature titled “Two Partners.” He is an attorney and founder at Laurie Law & ADR in St. Louis Park, Minnesota.

69 Judith L. Oakes received the Myra Bradwell Award from Minnesota Women Lawyers in 2019. She is of counsel at Rogness & Field in Oakdale, Minnesota, where she practices family law and represents clients in divorce or parentage proceedings where issues of asset valuation and division, nonmarital tracing, spousal maintenance, and child support or custody are in dispute.

Richard B. Solum joined the WGCU Public Media Advisory Board. He previously served as a trial lawyer specializing in financial and commercial business litigation and as a Minnesota District Court judge.

77 Edward J. Cleary retired from the Minnesota Court of Appeals on May 1, 2020, and was selected by Minnesota Lawyer as a recipient of its Outstanding Service to the Profession Award for 2020. He continues to serve as a senior judge on the court.

Mark G. Mishek was recently named one of the most admired CEOs of 2020 by Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal. He is the CEO of the Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation.

78 Cathy E. Gorlin was included in the 2021 edition of The Best Lawyers in America for her family law and family law arbitration practices. She is a member of Best & Flanagan’s family law practice area in Minneapolis.

79 Bibi Black was named a 2020 Attorney of the Year by Minnesota Lawyer in the 2020 Election category. Black is with the offices of the Minnesota secretary of state and Minnesota attorney general.

80 Scott H. DeLisi published a book titled The Ambassador’s Dog, a fictional story based on real events. He is a former ambassador to Nepal and Uganda and previously served as deputy chief of mission of the American embassy in Botswana.

Corey L. Gordon was named a 2020 Attorney of the Year by Minnesota Lawyer in a feature titled “Two Partners.” He is a partner at Blackwell Burke in Minneapolis.

85 Susan E. Flint joined Troutman Pepper in Minneapolis as a partner in the consumer financial services practice group. She previously worked for more than 25 years at Wells Fargo, overseeing a variety of complex litigation and regulatory issues for the bank.

86 Wade R. Wacholz has been elected shareholder at Aiven Legal in Minneapolis. He works with business owners, farms, and families as a trusted legal counselor and advisor on business and transition issues.

87 Jonathan D. Jay joined Hinshaw & Culbertson in Minneapolis as a partner in the firm’s business litigation practice. He is a seasoned trial attorney and defends businesses accused of alleged infringement in a wide variety of intellectual property disputes.

88 Jan M. Conlin was named a 2020 Attorney of the Year by Minnesota Lawyer in a feature titled “Two Partners.” She is a founding partner at Ciresi Conlin in Minneapolis.

Andrea M. Walsh, president and CEO of HealthPartners in Minneapolis, was elected to Electromed’s board of directors and has been named the 2021 Executive of the Year by Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal. The award recognizes the outstanding personal and professional accomplishments of the individuals who lead Minnesota’s largest companies.

90 Keith M. Ellison and the Ellison family were cited by Twin Cities Business among the 100 people who will shape 2021. Ellison is currently serving as the 30th attorney general of Minnesota.

91 Chad E. Baruch was named a Texas Super Lawyer for 2020. His appellate work also placed him on top-100 lists for the Dallas-Fort Worth area and the state of Texas.

93 Wendy Tien has been appointed chief judge of the Minnesota Tax Court. Tien has served on the Minnesota Tax Court since November 2019.

94 Steve J. Ryan was cited by Twin Cities Business among the 100 people who will shape 2021. Ryan is the partner-in-charge of Taft Stettinius & Hollister’s Minneapolis office.

David P. Swenson joined Patterson Thuente in Minneapolis, where he has been named litigation practice chair. Swenson brings with him more than 25 years of experience as a preeminent trial and appellate advocate.

96 Kassius O. Benson was chosen to lead the Hennepin County Public Defender’s Office. Benson previously ran his own firm in Minneapolis.

Elizabeth A. Brown joined Pierce Atwood’s
Portsmouth, New Hampshire, office as counsel in the firm’s trusts and estates practice group. Brown has more than 20 years of experience representing individuals and businesses in estate planning, business succession planning, business formations, commercial transactions, and corporate governance issues.

Steve Simon was named a 2020 Attorney of the Year by Minnesota Lawyer in the 2020 Election category. Simon is the Minnesota secretary of state.

Mike P. Sullivan Jr. was cited by Twin Cities Business among the 100 people who will shape 2021. Sullivan is partner-in-charge of the Minneapolis office of Lathrop GPM.

Matthew D. Rowe was named president of Ruder Ware. He joined the firm in 1997 and has focused his practice on corporate finance and securities, mergers and acquisitions, and representation of financial institutions. Based in Ruder Ware’s Wausau, Wisconsin, office, Rowe will continue to provide legal services to clients in addition to serving as the sixth president in the 101-year history of the firm.

Andrew M. Carlson was named a 2020 Attorney of the Year by Minnesota Lawyer. He is a partner at Taft Stettinius & Hollister in Minneapolis, where he focuses his practice in state tax litigation, commercial litigation, and telecommunications.

Sarah J. Griffiths joined LOTUS Legal Clinic Inc. as an attorney at its Fox Valley, Wisconsin, location. LOTUS provides comprehensive legal services for victims of gender violence and labor and sex trafficking, along with related policy advocacy and training.

Adam C. Furber was named Investment Funds Lawyer of the Year as part of The Asian Lawyer’s 2020 Asia Legal Awards. He was also honored for advising Alibaba in its Hong Kong IPO, which was named Securities Deal of the Year: Equity, and for advising SoftBank in its $30 billion transaction involving Z Holdings Corporation—the parent company of Yahoo! Japan—and its business integration with LINE Corporation, recognized as the M&A Deal of the Year: North Asia. Based in Hong Kong, Furber is the head of Simpson Thacher’s Asia investment funds practice.

Tiffany W. Killoren published her second novel, Good Will, in February 2020. Killoren is an internal communications manager with a national law firm, a local columnist, and author.

Ben J. Butler, a managing attorney with the Office of the Minnesota Appellate Public Defender, was appointed by the Minnesota Supreme Court to a three-year term on the Lawyer’s Board of Professional Responsibility, as a nominee of the Minnesota State Bar Association. Joseph T. Ortiz was appointed a judge in the San Bernardino County Superior Court by California Gov. Gavin Newsom. Ortiz had been a partner at Best Best & Krieger since 2012. He

President Biden nominated Robert (Bob) Anderson ’83 to serve as solicitor of the U.S. Department of the Interior. Anderson was a law professor at the University of Washington for 20 years, directing its Native American Law Center. He has been the Oneida Indian Nation Visiting Professor of Law at Harvard Law School for the past 12 years. He grew up in Ely, Minnesota, and is an enrolled member of the Bois Forte Band of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe.

began with the firm in 2008 and held several positions, including of counsel and associate.

Michael A. Rosow was named a 2020 Attorney of the Year by Minnesota Lawyer in a feature titled “Two Partners.” Rosow is a shareholder at Winthrop & Weinstine in Minneapolis, with focuses in financial services litigation and construction and real estate litigation.

Kathy Allen became a shareholder at Moss & Barnett in Minneapolis, where she represents lenders, borrowers, and services in connection with complex real estate and other commercial transactions.

Jean M. Farmakes, general counsel at LHB, was appointed to serve on the company’s operations team, which oversees all operational policy including project performance, budgeting, insurance, liability, and other key areas of functionality.

Teresa A. Lavole was appointed to the board of trustees of Providence College. She is a principal and a management committee member for Fish & Richardson.

Cherée Johnson joined W.R. Grace as general counsel. In addition, she was chosen as an advisory board member to the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and named to Law.com’s 2020 Women, Influence & Power in Law list. The list honors women who have demonstrated a commitment to advancing the empowerment of women in law.

Nicole N. Morris was awarded Professor of the Year by the Emory Black Law Students Association in 2018. She is a professor at Emory University School of Law with expertise in patent law, patent litigation, and IP licensing and strategy.

Angela Behrens was named a 2020 Attorney of the Year by Minnesota Lawyer in the 2020 Election category. She is with the Minnesota attorney general’s office.

Edward S. Little was elected as counsel at Richards, Layton & Finger in Wilmington, Delaware. He handles commercial transactions and insurance regulatory matters.

Oleh Vretsona was named partner at Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher in Washington, D.C. He focuses on white-collar criminal defense, internal investigations, regulatory inquiries, and corporate compliance.

Rhiannon C. Beckendorf was promoted to counsel at Faegre Drinker in Minneapolis. She advises clients on labor and employment matters.

Joseph J. Cassioppi was named a 2020 Attorney of the Year by Minnesota Lawyer in a feature titled “In re: 20 Day Revocable Trust Trial.” He is a shareholder at Fredrikson & Byron in Minneapolis.

Masha M. Yevzelman was named a 2020 Attorney of the Year by Minnesota Lawyer. She is a shareholder at Fredrikson & Byron in Minneapolis, where she practices in tax disputes and litigation, trusts and estates, and property tax appeals.

Betsy M. Flanagan was named a 2020 Attorney of the Year by Minnesota Lawyer as a member of the Mayo Clinic/Fish & Richardson team. She is a principal at Fish & Richardson in Minneapolis.

Julie N. Nagorski was appointed to the Minnesota State Bar Association Real Property Certification Board. She is a partner at DeWitt’s Minneapolis office, where she co-chairs the litigation practice group.

Jared K. Cook joined the law firm of Vahey Getz in Rochester, New York, as an associate attorney. He is experienced in employment law, handling both large class and collective actions and single-plaintiff cases.

Paul C. Dworak was named a 2020 Attorney of the Year by Minnesota Lawyer as part of a feature titled “Two Partners.” He is a trial attorney with Newmark Storms Dworak in Minneapolis.

Bethany M. Owen was cited by Twin Cities Business among the 100 people who will shape 2021. She was named president and CEO at ALLETE Inc. in 2019 and has served more than 18 years with the company.

Scott L. Halbur was promoted to counsel at Faegre Drinker in its Des Moines, Iowa, office. He represents clients in food and agribusiness litigation, including product liability, environmental and natural resources litigation, agricultural contracts, and regulatory disputes.

Cicely R. Miltich was named a 2020 Attorney of the Year by Minnesota Lawyer in two categories: the 2020 Election and Creating Peacetime Emergency Precedent. She works in the Minnesota attorney general’s office.

Michael M. Sawers was elected partner at Faegre Drinker. He practices in the business litigation group in the firm’s Minneapolis office.

Sally Qin was made partner at BakerHostetler in Washington, D.C. She works in the firm’s litigation group with experience in areas of antitrust investigations and litigation.

Tennille C. Hoover joined U.S. Bank as senior corporate counsel in Atlanta. She was previously employed at The Employment Law Solution: McFadden Davis, a boutique employment law firm that focuses on serving business clients.

Brian E. Jacobson was elected partner at Faegre Drinker. He practices in the investment management group in the firm’s Minneapolis office.

Emily A. Unger was named a 2020 Attorney of the Year by Minnesota Lawyer in a feature titled “In re: 20 Day Revocable Trust Trial.” She is a shareholder at Fredrikson & Byron in Minneapolis and advocates for companies and individuals in a variety of trust, estate, and business disputes.
Aalok K. Sharma has been named chair of the American Bar Association’s Forum on the Entertainment and Sports Industries. He is an associate in Stinson’s Minneapolis office.

Brittney M. Miller has become a shareholder in Moss & Barnett in Minneapolis. She assists clients in all family-related matters, including parenting, division of assets, stepparent and same-sex adoptions, and many other issues confronting modern families.

Bryce D. Riddle joined Bassford Remele in Minneapolis. He focuses his practice in the areas of complex commercial litigation, insurance coverage, construction, general liability, and tort litigation.

Caitlinrose H. Fisher launched a boutique firm, Forsgren Fisher, in Minneapolis in January. The firm focuses on litigation and trials, investigations, and intellectual property law.

Alex R. Schoephoerster has become a shareholder in Moss & Barnett in Minneapolis. He provides strategic advice to clients in the areas of contract law, commercial transactions, estate planning and succession planning, mergers and acquisitions, and general business practices.

Steven P. Groschen was named a 2020 Attorney of the Year by Minnesota Lawyer in a feature titled “Two Partners.” He is an associate attorney at Kohlmeier Hagen Law Office in Mankato, Minnesota. Groschen is actively involved in the community, serving on the board of LEEP and coaching a Special Olympics basketball team.

Christopher S. Land has become general counsel and policy advisor for U.S. Sen. Cynthia Lummis (R-Wyoming) in Washington, D.C. He left his position as general counsel of the Wyoming Division of Banking in late December, after completing the build-out of Wyoming’s laws, rules, and supervisory manual for bank digital asset activities.

Sukanya Momsen was elected president of the Minnesota Asian Pacific American Bar Association. She is an associate corporate counsel at Best Buy in the advertising and marketing law group.

In March, over 50 current students and alumni gathered for a special We ♥ TORT Trivia Night and raised over $1,000 to support TORT’s 2021 production, Super Smash Gophers! Team Section C You at the Finish Line had the highest score of the evening and claimed the trivia champion title!

Want to support TORT? Visit z.umn.edu/Give2TORT
Paul R. Gaus joined Downey Brand, in Sacramento, California, as a bankruptcy litigation associate. He focuses on all forms of complex business matters, including intellectual property and trade secret litigation, shareholder derivative suits, and other business torts in both federal and state court.

Alec Sloan was named a 2020 Attorney of the Year by Minnesota Lawyer in the category Creating Peacetime Emergency Precedent. He works in the Minnesota attorney general’s office.

Chelsea J. Bodin joined the labor and employment team at Nilan Johnson Lewis in Minneapolis. She represents employers in cases involving labor relations, FLSA/wage-and-hour, and employment and disability discrimination, as well as providing employment counseling and preventive advice.

Macey L. Muller joined the multifamily and commercial real estate finance and real estate teams at Moss & Barnett in Minneapolis. She is primarily focused on representing lenders who originate and sell loans secured by multifamily real estate projects to secondary market investors, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

Christopher T. Ruska joined the labor and employment team at Nilan Johnson Lewis in Minneapolis. He focuses mainly on litigation matters, including employment discrimination, trade secrets, and noncompetes. After graduating from the Law School, Ruska spent a few years clerking for three judges at the Wisconsin Court of Appeals.

Samantha F. Carmickle joined the business and commercial litigation practice at Winthrop & Weinstine in Minneapolis. She served on the Minnesota Law Review during law school.

Rachel Lochner joined the tax credit financing and syndication practice at Winthrop & Weinstine in Minneapolis. She served as the student director for the Federal Immigration Litigation Clinic at the Law School.

Kelsey Lutz joined Bodman in the firm’s Ann Arbor, Michigan, office as an associate in the business practice group. As a law student, she served as managing editor of the Minnesota Law Review and as a student attorney with the Federal Immigration Litigation Clinic.

Alexander S. Park joined the intellectual property practice at Winthrop & Weinstine in Minneapolis. He served as a managing editor for the Minnesota Law Review at the Law School.

Corissa Pennow joined Ogletree Deakins’ Milwaukee office as an associate in the employment law practice. She served as the clinic director of the Law School’s Consumer Protection Clinic and externed with Judge Thomas Fraser of the Minnesota 4th Judicial District Court during her 3L year.

Lindsey M. Schwalbach joined the commercial lending practice at Winthrop & Weinstine in Minneapolis. At the Law School, she served as managing editor for the Minnesota Journal of International Law.

Alexander K. Shaner joined McGrath North in Omaha, Nebraska, as a litigation associate. At the Law School, he was a managing and research editor for the Minnesota Law Review while serving as a student director for the Insurance Law Clinic.

Megan A. Square joined the tax credit financing and syndication practice at Winthrop & Weinstine in Minneapolis. She was a managing and research editor for the Minnesota Law Review in addition to serving as a student director for the Indian Law Moot Court at the Law School.

Xu Zhou joined Caldwell Cassady & Curry in Dallas. He provides experience in international investment laws, banking regulations, and environmental regulations.

Send Us Your News!
To be included in class notes, send us your news at lawalum@umn.edu or at Office of Advancement, Suite 321, University of Minnesota Law School, 229 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55455.

Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg Scholarship

Minnesota Law Class of 1976 is excited to launch the Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg Scholarship to honor their historic commencement speaker, her significant contributions to the law, and the marked increased enrollment of female law students in the 1970s. This scholarship will provide financial support to deserving students who follow in the late RBG’s footsteps as great lawyer-leaders.

For more Information, visit z.umn.edu/RBGLaw.
Tributes

LEE BEARMON ’56, ETHICS LEADER

Lee Bearmon ’56 passed away March 14 at the age of 88. He earned his bachelor’s degree from the University of Minnesota and received his law degree with honors. In 1999, he was recognized as a Distinguished Alumnus of the law school.

Bearmon served three years in the Judge Advocate General’s Department of the U.S. Air Force. From 1960 to 1979, he was an attorney and then partner in the law firm of Levitt, Palmer, Bowen, Bearmon and Rotman, which later merged with Briggs and Morgan. In 1979, Lee joined Carlson Companies, where he became senior vice president, general counsel, and secretary.

After retiring from Carlson Companies, Bearmon served five years as counsel at Briggs and Morgan. He also was a pro bono mediator, facilitating the resolution of disputes among individuals.

He served on several nonprofit boards of directors, including the Jewish Community Center, Sholom Foundation, Talmud Torah Foundation, and Beth El Synagogue. Bearmon and his wife Barbara believed in the importance of education and ethical conduct and established a fund for the teaching of Pirke Avot (Ethics of our Fathers) at the Minneapolis Talmud Torah as well as funds at the Sholom Foundation, Beth El Synagogue, and Jewish Family and Children Services. Consistent with his commitment to ethical concerns, he established the Lee Bearmon Award in Legal Ethics and Professional Responsibility Fund at the University of Minnesota Law School.

THAD LIGHTFOOT, ADJUNCT PROFESSOR, NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED ENVIRONMENTAL ATTORNEY

Thad Lightfoot, a prominent Minneapolis attorney and an adjunct environmental law professor at the Law School, passed away unexpectedly in December. He was 60.

Lightfoot had been a partner in Dorsey’s regulatory affairs group since 2012. His practice focused on representing clients in private party environmental litigation matters and governmental enforcement actions, and advising clients on compliance with federal, state, and local environmental laws.

Lightfoot began his legal career as an associate at Weil, Gotshal & Manges in Washington, D.C. He later entered public service as a trial attorney with the U.S. Department of Justice Environmental Enforcement Section. Following his time at DOJ, he relocated to the Twin Cities, where he worked at two law firms before forming his own firm—The Environmental Law Group—in 2000 and then later moving to Dorsey.

Lightfoot was very active in the community and in bar associations. He served as president of the Hennepin County Bar Association (2017-18) and was a longtime member of the board of directors of the Minnesota State Bar Association. He also maintained a strong commitment to pro bono work throughout his career.

GREER EDWIN LOCKHART ’53, TRIAL LAWYER, ADJUNCT PROFESSOR

Greer Edwin Lockhart ’53 passed away in January at the age of 91. Lockhart was the first in his family to obtain a college degree, graduating from the University of Minnesota in 1951. He then went on to get his law degree from the Minnesota Law School in 1953. He later was an adjunct professor of trial practice at the Law School and was active in fundraising and other roles as an alumnus.

After a short stint in the military, Lockhart went to work for the law firm then named Richards, Montgomery, Cobb and Bassford (now known as Bassford Remele). He led the firm for many years as its president when it was called Bassford, Lockhart, Truesdell and Briggs.

An accomplished trial lawyer, Lockhart tried hundreds of cases in state and federal courts; in most he
Your Legacy. Future Changemakers.

A planned gift in your name will create new opportunities and dismantle barriers for tomorrow’s lawyer-leaders, transforming their lives so they can transform the world.

To learn more, please contact David Jensen at djensen@umn.edu or (612) 625-2060 or visit law.umn.edu/give/planned-giving

Driven. The Campaign for the University of Minnesota Law School
In Memoriam

CLASS OF 1947
Roderick A. Lawson
September 18, 2020
Minneapolis, Minnesota

CLASS OF 1949
Warren F. Bateman
November 7, 2020
Maggie Valley, North Carolina

Joan M. Cafarella
November 4, 2020
Excelsior, Minnesota

John C. DeMoss
January 14, 2021
Edina, Minnesota

CLASS OF 1952
Roger A. Johnsen
December 9, 2020
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Hans W. Johnson
November 4, 2020
Spokane, Washington

CLASS OF 1953
John R. Koller
January 3, 2021
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Greer E. Lockhart
January 29, 2021
Laredo, Texas

CLASS OF 1954
Winston E. Munson
January 13, 2021
Bloomington, Minnesota

CLASS OF 1955
Gilbert W. Harries
January 1, 2021
Duluth, Minnesota

Rollin J. Whitcomb
July 13, 2020
Edina, Minnesota

CLASS OF 1956
Richard C. Johnson
September 13, 2020
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Walter F. Mondale
April 19, 2021
Minneapolis, Minnesota

CLASS OF 1957
John C. McNulty
December 18, 2020
St. Paul, Minnesota

CLASS OF 1958
Thomas P. Gallagher
January 2, 2021
Minneapolis, Minnesota

CLASS OF 1959
Robert W. Murnane
December 11, 2020
St. Paul, Minnesota

Philip M. Stone Jr.
November 5, 2020
Minneapolis, Minnesota

CLASS OF 1960
Vance B. Grannis Jr.
November 17, 2020
Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota

CLASS OF 1963
Dennis R. Hower
October 4, 2020
Plymouth, Minnesota

E. Steeves Smith
October 30, 2020
Mitchell, South Dakota

CLASS OF 1964
Daniel M. Kammeyer
December 3, 2020
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Phillip H. Martin
December 13, 2020
Arroyo Seco, New Mexico

CLASS OF 1965
Jan S. Wheeler
January 16, 2021
Madison, Wisconsin

CLASS OF 1967
Larry L. Warren
August 11, 2020
Minnetonka, Minnesota

CLASS OF 1972
Timothy M. Heaney
December 31, 2020
Falcon Heights, Minnesota

CLASS OF 1975
Michael I. Cohen
February 6, 2021
Duluth, Minnesota

CLASS OF 1977
Christopher G. Cardozo
February 21, 2021
Minneapolis, Minnesota

CLASS OF 1978
Cynthia A. Howard
May 26, 2020
Sioux Falls, South Dakota

CLASS OF 1979
Alberto Quintela Jr.
October 18, 2020
St. Paul, Minnesota

CLASS OF 1981
Ivan M. Levy
January 26, 2021
North Oaks, Minnesota

CLASS OF 1983
Robert E. Harding
October 13, 2020
Wayzata, Minnesota

Arne M. Sorenson
February 15, 2021
Minneapolis, Minnesota

CLASS OF 1985
Paul G. Feinman
March 31, 2021
New York, New York

CLASS OF 1987
Elizabeth Hollyman Fesler
January 21, 2021
St. Paul, Minnesota
For the past 14 years, Carrie Gustafson ’92 has dedicated her career to helping meet the needs of underserved communities in family law disputes while working to support animal welfare and land stewardship. She sees giving to the Law School as having an incalculable multiplier effect and considers it an honor to join with those who give so much more.

As a student, Gustafson was inspired to help underserved communities by the late Professor Philip Frickey and his work on behalf of American Indians, and by Professor Barry Feld ’69’s dedication to juveniles in the penal system. After graduating, she had the opportunity to travel to Geneva for the U.N. Commission on Human Rights with Professor David Weissbrodt. That experience inspired her teaching and further study of human rights and critical race theory at Columbia University. Her giving was influenced by her association with Jerry Blackwell and Law School alumnus Allen Saeks ’56, as well as other generous and public-spirited partners with whom she worked as an associate at Leonard, Street & Deinard, and Robins, Kaplan, Miller & Ciresi.

Gustafson reflects that “the pandemic has shown—often to a devastating degree—the disparate access in the U.S. to quality housing, schooling, healthcare, and work.” She credits the Law School with providing training for “public-spirited attorneys” dedicated to “holding entities accountable that fail to safeguard their employees’ health, working to keep vulnerable communities housed, and crafting policy to support a more just society.”

HOMETOWN: Gustafson grew up in Golden Valley, Minnesota, but Oakland, California, has been home since 2002.

GIVING: William B. Lockhart Club Murphy Society.

WHAT WE WON’T FIND ON HER RESUME: That she finds it “astonishingly therapeutic to spend long weekends with foresters clearing fallen trees from remote Sierra trails using handsaws.”

ADVICE TO FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS: “Earning a living as a lawyer is relatively easy, particularly in the digital age. We also have the luxury of practicing our trade well into our 80s. The key is to make a priority of living a balanced life—however one defines that—beginning in law school and throughout one’s career.”
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. Please contact Lizzy Beghelli, assistant director of annual giving, at (612) 624-0097 or beghelli@umn.edu to learn more about how you can support the Annual Fund.
In April, Minnesota Law alumni gathered virtually to renew ties with classmates and celebrate the Minnesota Law community during Virtual Spring Alumni Week 2021.

The Law School hosted a week-long series of special events, including lectures, alumni panels, and CLEs. Class reunion receptions were a highlight of the week, allowing alumni to connect with fellow classmates through activities such as trivia and scavenger hunts. Congratulations to all reunion alumni—those with graduation years ending in 0, 1, 5, and 6—who celebrated and honored a milestone reunion with Minnesota Law this year!