From J.D. to CEO
Legal Training an Advantage for Corporate Leaders
Minnesota Law is a general interest magazine published in the fall and spring of the academic year for the University of Minnesota Law School community of alumni, friends, and supporters. Letters to the editor or any other communication regarding content should be sent to Mark Cohen (mcohen@umn.edu), Director of Communications, University of Minnesota Law School, 229 19th Avenue South, 421 Mondale Hall, Minneapolis, MN 55455.

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WELCOME TO A NEW VERSION of your alumni magazine! As you may recall, our award-winning alumni magazine was formerly called Perspectives, a name it has borne since fall 2005. Prior to that, the magazine’s title was Law Alumni News. Today we rename the magazine Minnesota Law, to more closely align it with the Law School’s branding and better connect to our Law School community. After 13 years in the same format, the time also seemed right to freshen and modernize the look and feel of the magazine. We hope you like it, and, as always, we welcome your feedback.

These are exciting times at the Law School. During Spring Alumni Weekend, we launched the public phase of the Law School’s Driven to Lead Campaign, a historic $80 million fundraising effort. The money raised through the campaign will be used to:

- create transformational programs and superior experiential learning opportunities for students;
- recruit and retain world-class faculty members;
- attract and provide an affordable education for promising and diverse lawyer-leaders for the next generation; and
- secure the Law School’s place at the forefront of legal education.

The Law School is driven to make a powerful difference in the world, and this campaign is an invitation to our alumni and friends to come together in generosity and commitment to this work. Please visit our campaign website, www.law.umn.edu/driven, to learn how you can support this bold initiative. On the Driven website, you will also have the opportunity to view our recently released campaign video.

Of course, you don’t have to watch the video to see examples of the Law School’s rich legacy of leadership; they exist throughout this magazine. The cover story, for example, highlights alumni who have gone on to lead major corporations and nonprofit organizations as CEOs. These individuals found their education here at the Law School to be a major contributor to their success in becoming leaders. The article on the retirement of Professor David Weissbrodt, who in his 40 years at the Law School became a legend in the human rights field, demonstrates the caliber and impact of our faculty.

One element of the incredible legacy that David leaves behind is the Human Rights Center, currently celebrating its 30th anniversary, which will ensure that the Law School continues its leadership position in the human rights field. The features on the Business Law Clinic and on amazing summer employment experiences demonstrate the kind of transformational learning opportunities that students get during their time here. Of course, there are many other instances of student, faculty, and alumni leadership to discover as you leaf through the pages of this issue.

Finally, I would be remiss if I didn’t mention one more of the exciting happenings at the Law School this fall—a visit from the chief justice of the United States, John G. Roberts Jr. As the featured guest for this year’s installment of the Stein Lecture series, Roberts spoke before a capacity crowd of around 3,000 at Northrop. While he was on campus, he also dropped in on a constitutional law class at Mondale Hall and took direct questions from some very lucky law students. Once-in-a-lifetime opportunities like this are just one of the many things that make our Law School so special.

Garry W. Jenkins
Dean and William S. Pattee Professor of Law
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Judge Rakoff Headlines Minnesota Law Review Symposium

The Minnesota Law Review’s 2018 Symposium on Oct. 12 featured a lively keynote address by U.S. District Court Judge Jed Rakoff of the Southern District of New York. Rakoff said levying large fines is not enough to deter financial crime and that top executives need to be held accountable. The one thing that puts fear and terror in executives’ minds is the prospect of jail time, the judge said. “A corporation does not commit a crime. An individual makes the decision whether to commit a crime or not.”

The daylong symposium was titled “Recession in Retrospect: Financial Regulation & Consumer Protection Ten Years Since the 2008 Financial Crisis.”

Law School Panel Tackles Race and Justice in America

Dean Garry W. Jenkins moderated a panel discussion on issues of race and justice in America with former U.S. District Court Judge Nancy Gertner and Lecia Brooks, outreach director at the Southern Poverty Law Center.

The hourlong discussion, co-sponsored by the Law School, was part of the Institute for Advanced Study’s yearlong 1968-1969 presentation and discussion series. A capacity crowd was on hand for the event, held in Room 25 of Mondale Hall.

A lively audience question-and-answer exchange followed, which included discussion of victim involvement in sentencing decisions, restorative justice, and the importance of shifting public opinions on issues of criminal justice.

Program Focuses on Civil Rights Behind Bars

Lee Gelernt, deputy director of the ACLU’s Immigrants’ Rights Project, was one of the keynote speakers at the 2018 Immigration Law Forum: Civil Rights Behind Bars, held Nov. 2-3.

NEW STAFF

Emily Buchholz ’10 joined the Law School as executive director of the Corporate Institute and lecturer in law. She is a partner with the Davis Law Office in Minneapolis, where the majority of her practice focuses on transactional business matters for small and mid-sized companies. Buchholz obtained her B.A. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and her J.D. from the University of Minnesota Law School.
Mark A. Cohen joined the Law School as director of communications. He previously worked on the marketing and communications team of McGuireWoods in Chicago and as an associate director of the American Bar Association’s Division for Public Education. Prior to that, he was editor-in-chief of Minnesota Lawyer for 12 years. Cohen obtained his B.A. from Providence College, his MBA from the University of St. Thomas, and his J.D. from Boston College Law School.
COMMENCEMENT 2018

- University Regent Darrin M. Rosha '96, Dean Garry W. Jenkins, and Marriott International CEO Arne Sorenson '83 outside Northrop

- Dean Garry W. Jenkins and Brandon Blakely '18, a member of the student commencement committee
THE LAW SCHOOL held its 130th commencement exercises at Northrop on May 12.

In his keynote address, Arne M. Sorenson ’83, president and CEO of Marriott International, reflected on how the world and profession have changed in the 35 years since he graduated from Minnesota Law. On the positive side, he noted the great strides that have taken place in technology and in recognizing the importance of diversity and inclusiveness. On the negative side, he pointed to the increasing divisiveness in discussions of politics.

“If we are ever going to change this dynamic in society today, it will be driven by the marriage of two things, expertise and empathy,” he said. “These are things that lawyers need in abundance, and they are taught in abundance at this law school.”

Sorenson advised graduates to be open to opportunities that come their way, even if those opportunities sometimes lead them in completely unanticipated directions.

“If you asked me 35 years ago today where I would be, the last thing I would have told you was CEO of Marriott,” he said. “I did not plot this career path. It certainly was not something that I was foolish enough to aspire to. I let my career unfold. … Keep your minds open to those twists and turns of fate, and challenge yourselves to just say yes.”

During the ceremony, the Law School presented its first-ever S.J.D. degree to Mohammed Al Mulhim of Saudi Arabia. He wrote his dissertation on “Judicial Independence in Saudi Arabia: Prospects and Challenges.” Al Mulhim plans to return to King Faisal University, where he has been a lecturer, and establish a human rights center.

Mohammed Al Mulhim was awarded the Law School’s first-ever S.J.D. degree.
Building Better Businesses
Clinic gives students hands-on legal experience in creating and sustaining enterprises.

FOR 18 YEARS, a custom-built program has helped aspiring business law students get real-world experience while they are learning the nuts and bolts of transactional law.

Minnesota Law’s Business Law Clinic offers six credits over two semesters for 3L students. The students, working in teams, offer free legal assistance in nonlitigation matters to small businesses, nonprofits, and entrepreneurs. Each team consists of two clinic students who work under the supervision of an experienced, licensed business law attorney from a local law firm or corporation.

“It started out as a thought by Professor John Matheson,” says Professor David Fisher, who administered the clinic for six years before recently retiring. “He was trying to find ways to give students practical experience in applying their business law talents to the community. The idea was to replicate a business law practice.”

The Law School created the clinic with the idea of working with entrepreneurs who don’t have access to angel capital or other financial means to launch a business. Business owners come to the clinic via various referral agencies, such as the Metropolitan Economic Development Association and the Holmes Center for Entrepreneurship.

Today, law students help business owners with a wide variety of legal issues, including choice of business structure, entity formation, contract review and drafting, intellectual property protection (other than patents), employment matters, government regulation, and licensing processes.

A Different Kind of Rainmaking
One recent clinic client was Pure Paani (https://www.purepaaniindia.com), a water treatment company that was formed in Minnesota and now operates near Bangalore, India. Pure Paani is focused on developing a series of hand-powered, high-flow water filters and pumps that resident entrepreneurs can use to provide water treatment services to their neighbors at a sustainable price.

With the help of then-3Ls Kareem Tawfic ’18 and Andy Erler ’18, the business owners learned about member voting rights and the rights of equity holders.

“Kareem and Andy drafted capitalization tables, employee agreements, and an operating agreement for Pure Paani that specifies the manner of governance interests, members, managers, financial and tax matters, and dissolution,” says Kaylea Brase, COO of Pure Paani and holder of a master’s degree in environmental engineering from the University of Minnesota. “Because of the contribution of the Business Law Clinic, Pure Paani is equipped to operate the business from a more knowledgeable legal standpoint.”

Tawfic says most of his communications with Pure Paani took place in the wee hours (in Minnesota, that is) via the internet video services Skype or Zoom.

“The interaction with the client was unusual and instructive,” he says. “It showed me that as a lawyer, you find a way to do what the client needs you to do.”

A Growing Enterprise
The clinic engages a large number of private practice law firms, solo practitioners, and corporate lawyers to supervise the student work.

“That helps us have a larger clinic,” says Fisher. “We take up to 20 students. Comparable clinics at other universities have no more than six or seven.” Last year, clinic students worked with business clients on more than 100 business law matters, logging 1,420 hours, for an estimated value of more than $284,000.

The clinic is now overseen by Emily Buchholz ’10, a Minneapolis business lawyer who also serves as a director of the Law School’s Corporate Institute. Buchholz, a partner at Davis Law Office in Minneapolis, previously co-taught the business law clinic at Mitchell Hamline School of Law.

“I want to keep the momentum going,” says Buchholz, who has run the clinic since August. “I think the core of the clinic will always be the same.”

As the transition continues, goals for the clinic include expanding to serve the increased and ongoing needs of excellent referral partners while providing a first-class experiential opportunity to as many law students as have a desire to participate.

“We want to be able to meet whatever demand there is,” says Buchholz.

By Dan Heilman, a freelance writer in St. Paul
Chiefly Speaking

The 2018 Stein Lecture featured a wide-ranging conversation between Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. and Prof. Robert Stein ’61

JOHN G. ROBERTS JR., chief justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, took the unusual step of addressing his audience directly at the beginning of a sold-out appearance at the 2018 Stein Lecture, sponsored by the Law School.

“I will not criticize the political branches,” Roberts said. “We do that often enough in our opinions.”

In his brief introductory remarks, Roberts reminded listeners of the court’s purpose. “We speak for the Constitution,” he said. “Our role is very clear. We are to interpret the Constitution and laws of the United States and ensure the political branches act within them.”

About 3,000 people were on hand for the event, held at Northrop.

A Perspective on Process

Roberts, who is a graduate of Harvard Law School and was appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court in 2005, spoke frequently about the court’s workings during an interview with Professor Robert Stein ’61.

During deliberations, Roberts insists justices not speak a second time until everyone has spoken once. When he selects colleagues to write majority opinions, Roberts is careful to assign a “mix of easy and hard opinions, unanimous opinions and closely divided opinions” and varied subject matter, he said.

Asked by Stein whether justices lobby to get assigned to write on particular cases, Roberts replied, “They don’t, and it’s something I appreciate very much.”

“When a new justice joins the bench, those already on the high court often articulate legal opinions in new ways, Roberts said. And then there are the intangibles of a new person joining a group. “The eight that were there before behave themselves better,” he added. “It’s like when a new in-law [attends] Thanksgiving dinner. Uncle Fred will put on a clean shirt.”

To encourage collegiality, Roberts asks justices not to talk shop during lunch. So those discussions often center on lighter topics, such as Justice Samuel Alito’s love of baseball or Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg’s analysis of the newest performance of La Traviata.

On Briefer Briefs

Since joining the court, Roberts has learned to love short legal briefs. While working as an attorney arguing cases before the U.S. Supreme Court, he was often advised to be succinct.

Now he knows why. Nearly every brief he reads is 50 pages, the maximum length allowed. But when the chief justice picks up a 35-page brief, he said, his reaction is “Whoa—I like [this lawyer]. She must have a lot of confidence in her arguments because she gets them in in 35 pages. It’s invariably not only shorter [but] better written.”

When writing his own legal opinions, Roberts thinks of his audience as his three sisters, whom he describes as intelligent lay people who follow public affairs but are not attorneys. “I would like somebody in that position to be able to understand what their Supreme Court has done,” he said. “I like to think the opinions are accessible.”

The Stein Lecture series, created and endowed by Professor Stein, features talks by prominent judges, lawyers, and government officials on a topic of national or international interest. Past speakers have included Vice President Walter F. Mondale ’56 and U.S. Supreme Court Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Sonia Sotomayor, and the late Antonin Scalia.

By Todd Melby, a freelance writer and radio producer based in Minneapolis
A Legacy Preserved

Through a generous donation, the papers of trailblazing Judge Diana Murphy ’74 now have a permanent home in the Law Library

THE PAPERS OF JUDGE DIANA MURPHY ’74—the first woman to serve as a federal district judge in Minnesota and the first woman appointed to the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the 8th Circuit—have been generously donated to the Law Library by her sons, John and Michael Murphy. Judge Murphy passed away in May at the age of 84, having served as a federal judge for 38 years. She left an indelible legacy as an outstanding member of the federal judiciary and as a leader in the local and national legal communities.

The collection represents a rich trove for the study of the federal judiciary, and will be of great benefit to future students and scholars.”
—Prof. Joan Howland, associate dean for information and technology and director of the Law Library

After completing undergraduate and graduate studies at the University of Minnesota, and raising a family at home, Diana Murphy returned to attend the Law School, where she was an editor of the Minnesota Law Review and graduated with honors. She began her legal career with the Minneapolis law firm of Lindquist & Vennum and later served as a Hennepin County judge. Murphy was appointed to the U.S. District Court for the District of Minnesota in 1980, and to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 8th Circuit in 1994.

On the bench, Murphy was universally lauded for her fairness, her comprehensive understanding of the issues, and her untiring efforts on behalf of law and justice. As Professor Carol Chomsky has written: “Judge Murphy stood with ordinary people against the sometimes arbitrary hand of bureaucratic decision-making.”

Her career was marked by important rulings, including Lewis v. Heartland Inns (2010), a Title VII civil rights case, in which Murphy authored a panel opinion that disallowed the use of gender stereotypes to deny promotion to a woman. In Nelson v. Correctional Medical Services (2009), Murphy wrote the en banc opinion finding that shackling inmates in the late stages of labor constituted “cruel and unusual punishment.” She was also involved in key cases relating to American Indian law throughout her career, including Mille Lacs Band of Chippewa Indians v. Minnesota (1994) and Plains Commerce Bank v. Long Family Land and Cattle Company (2007).

Murphy’s service in judicial and educational organizations was exemplary as well. She was chair of the U.S. Sentencing Commission from 1999 to 2004 and chaired the 8th Circuit Gender Fairness Implementation Committee. She served on the board of directors of the Federal Judges Association, as its president from 1989 to 1991, and as chair of the American Judicature Society. She was active in the American Bar Association and served on the Minnesota Constitutional Study Commission and board of governors of the Minnesota State Bar Association. Beyond the bench, Judge Murphy served as chair of the board of regents of St. John’s University, trustee of the University of St. Thomas, national president of the University of Minnesota Alumni Association, and trustee of the University of Minnesota Foundation. Murphy also received numerous honors during her career: She was named a fellow of the American Bar Foundation, received the Edward J. Devitt Distinguished Service to Justice Award, and was named Honoree of the Year by the National Association of Women Judges, among many others.

The papers that the Law Library has received constitute a full record of Murphy’s career on the 8th Circuit bench, which extended from 1994 to 2018. The large collection includes case files, conference notes, annotations, memoranda, and other correspondence between judges; subject and other files related to Murphy’s judicial service—including her work on the Sentencing Commission—and documents reflecting a wide range of her civic service.

“The Law Library is very grateful to be able to add Judge Murphy’s papers to its collections,” said Professor Joan Howland, associate dean for information and technology and director of the Law Library. “They offer a fascinating window into the working life and judicial thinking of a pioneering woman jurist during an important era in recent legal history. In addition to its value for studying Judge Murphy’s career, the collection represents a rich trove for the study of the federal judiciary, and will be of great benefit to future students and scholars.”

In spring 2019, the Law Library will mount an exhibit commemorating the career and legacy of Judge Murphy and highlighting achievements of women in the law, drawing from the new collection of papers and from the Library’s extensive archives and special collections.

By Ryan Greenwood, Law Library faculty member and curator of rare books and special collections.
Judge Diana Murphy through the years
Judge Murphy with President George H.W. Bush
Judge Murphy with President Jimmy Carter, who appointed her to the U.S. District Court in 1979, along with other women appointees of the Carter Administration
Judge Murphy with her husband, Joseph, and sons, John and Michael, in Egypt
Judge Murphy with U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg
From Judge Murphy’s papers
U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor with Judge Murphy
Judge Murphy with the other members of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 8th Circuit bench in 1999. Murphy was the first—and for 19 years the only—woman to serve on the court.
Our faculty are engaged in some of the most pressing issues of the day, ranging from international human rights to immigration to corporate and government ethics to press freedoms. ... Our generous donors make all this possible, helping to keep Minnesota Law a leading voice in local, state, national, and international arenas.”

—Heidi Kitrosser
Robins, Kaplan, Miller and Ciresi Professor of Law
KATE BJORKLUND, 3L

KATE BJORKLUND didn’t want to choose between her home state and a rigorous legal education, so she chose the University of Minnesota Law School.

“I want to have the opportunity to not only help individuals, but if an institution is broken, to have the skill set and tools to make a change,” she says.

Prior to law school, Bjorklund worked in the nonprofit sector, both as an organizer with FACE AIDS and in direct service with the Minnesota AIDS Project. The Family Law Clinic lets her continue that advocacy.

“This allows me to work with clients but with a broader and more substantive skill set, and it has been incredibly rewarding. It really affirms my decision to come to law school.”

The clinic director is Professor Laura Thomas, about whom Bjorklund says, “She is the type of attorney I hope to become.”

Bjorklund waited three years between college and law school, in part because of her concerns about debt, so the scholarship programs allow her to attend the Law School with “a sense of possibility.”

HANNAH CAMILLERI, 2L

HANNAH CAMILLERI spent four years teaching in Massachusetts, including time with Teach for America, and decided to attend law school to represent people who needed a voice.

“I saw my students facing a lot of inequality because of where they came from and the color of their skin,” she says.

A Rochester native, Camilleri says in-state tuition and scholarships allow her to attend the Law School and pursue public service law, which she will explore this summer with a Minnesota Justice Foundation clerkship at the Minnesota Disability Law Center.

She is vice president of the Asylum Law Project, a 1L-organized program in which students volunteer with asylum lawyers around the country. Camilleri worked with The Advocates for Human Rights in Minneapolis.

One of her favorite classes is Law in Practice, where students work on cases under an attorney’s supervision.

“When you are a 1L and your eyes are stuck in the books for the majority of the day, it’s nice to mix it up a little and remind yourself why you’re here,” Camilleri says.

EDUARDO CASTRO, 2L

EDUARDO CASTRO decided to study law after he spent two years in AmeriCorps, helping low-income Milwaukee residents gain access to legal services in a community health center.

“It was an illuminating experience,” says Castro, who grew up in Elkhorn, Wisconsin. “I saw how law was manifesting in a real way for people, and I witnessed the visceral impact of the law based on the ability or inability to navigate it.”

Scholarships and tuition reciprocity made Minnesota Law an attractive choice, as did the Robina Public Interest Scholars program, which funded Castro’s summer internship with Legal Action of Wisconsin.

As a 1L, he explored litigation through a civil procedure class with Professor Brad Clary ’75 and reached the finals in an oral advocacy tournament, where he argued in front of Minnesota Supreme Court Justice David Lillehaug.

Castro will apply those skills at the Milwaukee firm Husch Blackwell this summer and is keeping an open mind about his future career path. He credits financial aid for that privilege.

“The best thing about the scholarship is the financial security to know I can think about how my law degree can have the biggest impact in Milwaukee and Wisconsin,” he says. “I don’t need to make a decision based on the debt burden; I can do what will best for my goals.”
FROM J.D. TO CEO

Legal training an advantage for corporate leaders

By Dick Dahl
When Troy Bader ’88 launched his legal career 30 years ago, his long-term interest was in a transactional practice. His immediate impulse, though, was to get into the courtroom and try cases.

He’d just graduated from the University of Minnesota Law School and landed a position at Gray Plant Mooty in Minneapolis, working in the firm’s commercial litigation practice area. While he enjoyed arguing for his clients, he’d begun working in litigation largely because he thought he needed to develop his oral skills in front of large groups—and after a few years, his interest in a broader commercial practice reasserted itself. “I came to realize that I didn’t want to just resolve conflict,” Bader recalls. “I wanted to help organizations build longer-lasting value and help these organizations grow.”

Fortunately for Bader, he was working in the firm’s franchise and distribution practice group, which gave him the opportunity to expand his practice with a number of clients, one of which was Edina-based International Dairy Queen. Bader developed a strong relationship with DQ, and in 2001 the company offered him a position as head of its mall division. By that time, Bader was a partner at Gray Plant Mooty and was co-chairing the franchise and distribution group. But he wanted new challenges, and the DQ offer intrigued him. “I was counseling my clients on business topics every day, but I never walked in their shoes,” he says. “For my continued growth—and I would even say credibility, and to be a better lawyer—I needed to walk in their shoes.”

So he left the firm, joined DQ, and began a steady ascent. In 2011 he was named chief operating officer. Then, in late 2017, the company announced that it was turning to Bader to replace retiring chief executive John Gainor, as of Jan. 1, 2018.
In so doing, Bader joined a small, but potentially growing cadre of CEOs who have J.D.s. According to an August 2017 article in the *Harvard Business Review* by University of Chicago law professor Todd Henderson, 9 percent of the 3,500 CEOs that he and three colleagues examined in a massive study had law degrees. Other findings from the study raised the question *Why aren’t there more?* The study found, for example, that firms headed by lawyer CEOs experienced significantly less corporate litigation—ranging from 16 to 74 percent, depending on the litigation type. They found further that, particularly for companies operating in environments that involve high litigation risk or high compliance requirements, the more risk-averse policies favored by lawyer CEOs enhanced company value.

**‘Legal Training Brings An Advantage’**

Professor John Matheson, who directs the Corporate Institute at the Law School, believes there is a growing perception in corporate America about the potential benefits of naming CEOs who have J.D.s. “The milieu today is one where risk management is an important topic,” he says. “One reason there will be more J.D.s as CEOs is that a bigger piece of the business pie is risk management and compliance. They understand how to manage risk and how to follow the law.”

“The rap is that lawyers are risk-averse, but I’m not sure that’s the case,” says the Law School’s dean, Garry W. Jenkins. “I would argue that they understand risk better. And certainly they understand risk management.”

But beyond risk management and legal compliance, Jenkins argues, lawyers possess many other attributes that lend themselves to business leadership.

“I think legal training brings an advantage to running any kind of organization,” he says. “Certainly the analytical skills, the reasoning skills, the critical-thinking skills, the project-management skills have applicability beyond law. People with these skills have the opportunity to not just practice law, but also lead organizations, whether they be corporate entities or nonprofit organizations or government agencies.”

Matheson agrees.

“We’re not just teaching students risk management and compliance with the law,” he says. “We’re teaching students now to be leaders and problem solvers. We’re trying to train lawyers to be at the head of their organizations, to be problem solvers—and not just to fix things when they go wrong, but to solve them in advance.”

**The Route To The Boardroom**

In sharing stories about their own career paths, Law School graduates who have become CEOs make it clear that there’s no such thing as a typical route. But while their tales of advancement to top executive positions are diverse, there are also similarities and common themes. The CEOs interviewed for this article all maintain, for instance, that the primary benefit of their J.D.s is not so much technical knowledge of the law, but rather the range of skills that they as lawyers have had to master and that are applicable in top-level management.

“A J.D. is a wonderful thing to have in your pocket, especially in tough negotiations or tough situations that are fraught with peril,” says Liwanag Ojala ’98, CEO of CaringBridge, an Eagan-based nonprofit that connects people on health journeys with loved ones via private websites. “I think what’s most important for me is the critical thinking and the assessment of risk, which CEOs have to be good at because there are risks in almost any strategic decision you make. This ability to think critically about risk—about what chances to take and how you weigh the analysis against that—has been very helpful for me in my career.”

The accumulation of skills, she says, is something that begins in law school.

“The requirements, the rigors, and, frankly, the Socratic method that’s exercised in law school are quite helpful. When you’re a CEO, you’re put on the spot all the time—media, your own employees, your board, your colleagues. The ability to know how to respond to questions, how to articulate big ideas and make them concise, these are skills that I think are developed throughout law school.”

As a student at Minnesota Law, Ojala thought she wanted to be a litigator. She took a summer-associate internship in the litigation group at Gray Plant Mooty after her first year, but her career goals shifted a year later with a summer internship at Briggs and Morgan. There, she got her first taste of business law—and realized that’s what she wanted for a career.

After receiving her J.D. in 1998, Ojala joined Briggs and Morgan and practiced in the firm’s business law group, handling mergers and acquisitions, real-estate financing, and general business counseling. After two years, she received an offer she couldn’t refuse to join the legal department at Nash Finch (now SpartanNash), a Fortune 500 food distributor and retail grocer, and thus began her climb up the corporate ladder.
In 2004 she joined SimonDelivers, an online grocer. She was the president of SimonDelivers when it was purchased in 2008 by Coborn’s, which then launched CobornDelivers.com, where she was general manager of e-commerce.

Her career path next led her to Meijer.com, a general-commerce e-merchandise business in Grand Rapids, Michigan. After two and a half years there, she stepped back and did some thinking about her life.

“After all those years of working in digital commerce, I started to do an evaluation,” she recalls. “OK, I have skills as a digital executive, and how am I really bringing that to bear on the greater community?”

“And that’s when I sort of took a pause.”

She left Meijer and took a year off. The job offers came, Ojala says, but she was looking for something that would provide a new kind of fulfillment. Then one day a recruiter contacted her to gauge her interest in moving into the nonprofit world with CaringBridge, which was looking for a chief operating officer. Ojala was already aware of CaringBridge and the support it had provided for her husband’s cousin’s father late in his life.

“The excitement for me was: How do I apply the expertise and what I’ve learned in the for-profit world to this nonprofit business that is very unique?”

Ojala accepted the position as COO. Just over a year later, she was promoted to CEO after the founder of CaringBridge, Sona Mehring, retired. CaringBridge has pioneered a system that allows people to create their own websites—in its 21 years of existence, more than 740,000 have been created—for purposes of sharing and receiving information from family members and friends during a health journey. Last year, CaringBridge had $8.1 million in revenue—90 percent of which ($7.4 million) came from individual donations.

“Mission-driven work is the best,” Ojala says. “I was selling things before—and there’s nothing wrong with that. But when you do mission-driven work and you see the impact on people who have used the service, it’s very satisfying.”

Another Track for a J.D. CEO

Unlike some future J.D. CEOs who identified their ultimate calling after a bit of initial trial and error, Peter Gilbertson ’79 always knew he wanted a career that had something to do with trains. A St. Paul native, Gilbertson got an undergraduate degree in history at
the University of Denver, where he once wrote an honors thesis about railroads in which he argued that, contrary to popular belief at the time, they might have a future.

During law school, Gilbertson met the former chief counsel of the Federal Railroad Administration who was opening a law firm in Washington, D.C., focusing on administrative law for clients in various transportation enterprises. In 1980, shortly after Gilbertson joined the firm, Congress passed the Staggers Act, a law that suddenly altered the economic viability of short-line, freight-hauling railroads. The act largely deregulated the industry, allowing owners to abandon unprofitable lines—of which there were many. The result was a new opportunity for investors to buy them and operate them without the previous regulatory shackles.

The firm started taking on these new investors as clients, and when one of them asked Gilbertson to join the company he was forming to run a freight-hauling line between Chicago and Omaha, Gilbertson couldn’t resist the opportunity to get into the railroad business. The venture, however, quickly proved to be a bust. The company went bankrupt and Gilbertson found himself jobless in Waterloo, Iowa, the defunct company’s hub.

“But what I learned during that nine months,” he says, “was that there could be a viable business underneath all that.”

Therefore, rather than look for a new job as a lawyer, Gilbertson saw short-line railroads as an opportunity he wanted to pursue. He and his wife moved to Chicago, where he and others pulled together the money to buy a rail line between Chicago and South Bend, Indiana, that was in bankruptcy. The new Chicago South Shore & South Bend Railroad proved to be successful, and four years later the group acquired 106 miles of rail line from Conrail to create the Louisville & Indiana Railroad. Three years after that, in 1997, Anacostia Rail Holdings was formed and Gilbertson became the CEO. Since then, Anacostia has added four more railroads to its holdings.

As Gilbertson describes it, running a railroad presents myriad legal challenges. Every grade crossing creates a “natural point of friction,” and the company has responded to that risk by installing locomotive video cameras that automatically activate at every crossing to provide evidence in the event of a lawsuit. Another quirky legal area involves workplace injuries, which are governed by a unique body of law, the Federal Employers Liability Act. Unlike workers’ compensation, FELA is a fault-based system in which injured workers must prove negligence by the railroad.

“Risk management is a huge issue in this business,” Gilbertson says. But he makes it clear that he loves the day-to-day challenge of pursuing his lifelong passion.

“The industry has really come back,” he says. “It’s such an old industry, but we can still make fairly significant productivity improvements. Part of it is technology, but part of it is just operating in a more disciplined way. There are always new things we can do, and that’s what makes it fun.”

## Foundations of Becoming a Philanthropic CEO

Like Gilbertson, David Etzwiler ’90 had a strong inkling at an early age about the kind of career he wanted to pursue. Etzwiler is the CEO of the Siemens Foundation, the corporate philanthropic arm of Siemens USA, the American division of the German electronics technology conglomerate.

He grew up in Edina, one of four children of Donnell and Marion Etzwiler, who devoted significant portions of their lives to nonprofit work. His father was a physician who founded the International Diabetes Center, and his mother was the executive director of the Minneapolis Foundation for a decade and a community activist her entire life.

“They talked to us about the fact that there was a fair amount of privilege that we were born into and that leaving the world better than you found it was kind of an obligation,” Etzwiler recalls. “But the bigger thing was that I saw tremendous joy in their work with teams on social justice issues.”

He went to Northwestern University for a bachelor’s degree in history and political science, and then to Claremont Graduate University for a master’s in public policy.

“By the time I finished my public policy master’s and was coming back to the University of Minnesota, I was pretty certain I wanted to get into the foundation world,” he says.

First, though, he worked in two Minneapolis law firms—Best & Flanagan, and Leonard, Street and Deinard—where he focused on estate planning. After
five years working in those firms, he left to join The Family Partnership, a Minneapolis nonprofit that provides services to vulnerable families, as an executive associate, and then, a year later, he became interim CEO of what is now FamilyMeans in Stillwater. From there, another year later, he landed his first foundation job as director of the Allina Foundation’s Day One Project, which focused on reducing domestic violence.

After three years, he joined Medtronic, where he would remain for 13 years and rise to the position of vice president of community affairs and executive director of the Medtronic Foundation. He left to take a position with the University of Minnesota and the Mayo Clinic as executive director of a state-funded initiative called Decade of Discovery, devoted to the elimination of type 1 and type 2 diabetes. Two years after that, he got a call from a recruiter wondering if he’d be interested in heading the Siemens Foundation as CEO. He took the job and has been working for the Washington, D.C.-based foundation, mostly from his home office in Minneapolis, ever since.

He describes his work at Siemens as carrying forward an approach that he developed at Medtronic: leveraging the firm’s assets through its foundation division to serve the community. At Medtronic, that meant helping underserved people with heart disease and diabetes. At Siemens, the focus has been on workforce development—and in particular on middle-skill jobs that don’t require a four-year degree and that pay good wages. Under Etzwiler’s leadership, the Siemens Foundation is partnering with the Aspen Institute, New America, and the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices, among others, to scale proven models of middle-skill job training and rebrand those careers in the eyes of all Americans.

Every step of the way in his career, Etzwiler considers his J.D. to have been valuable, as he has had to learn how each organization operates.

“There is that intuitive sense of knowing how to approach a problem, break it down into specific issues, and articulate it in the most efficient way possible. Those core skills seem pedestrian when we think of them as lawyers, but we sometimes don’t understand how solid they are when you’ve been trained well.”

DAVID ETZWILER ’90, CEO, SIEMENS FOUNDATION

“…”

Dick Dahl is a freelance writer based in St. Paul who frequently writes on the law and legal issues.
At all levels of education, meaningful teacher feedback is crucial to a student’s growth. But until recently, law schools seldom gave students more than a cold letter grade on exams weeks, if not months, after the completion of their first-semester core classes.

Thanks to professors such as Minnesota Law’s Daniel Schwarcz, that’s starting to change. In the autumn 2017 edition of the Journal of Legal Education, Schwarcz and Dion Farganis ‘17 published “The Impact of Individualized Feedback on Law Student Performance.” (Co-author Farganis recently completed a clerkship for U.S. District Court Judge Joan N. Ericksen ’81 and joined the law firm of Gray Plant Mooty in Minneapolis.)

The article is based on a natural experiment arising from the long-standing law school practice of randomly assigning first-year law students to sections, each taught by a shared set of professors. Some of these professors provide students with individualized feedback during the semester, such as a graded midterm exam, while others do not. Schwarcz and Farganis measured the impact that receiving such feedback in one class (such as torts) had on students’ performance in other classes (like civil procedure). To do so, they focused on first-year “double-section classes,” where students from two different sections were taught in single first-year class, such as torts. They found that students in double-section classes who received individualized feedback in one of their single-section classes consistently outperformed students in that same double-section class who had not received such feedback.

“I had been looking for empirical literature that went into whether this might be beneficial,” says Schwarcz. “There’s a ton of study about providing feedback, but not much about providing it in law school. That prompted the studies—I wanted to figure it out myself.”

The response, from both inside and outside the classroom, was swift. A well-known law blog declared the
information in the study “could have a profound impact on the way the law is taught.” And Stanford Law School’s Lisa L. Ouellette identified the article on Twitter as “one of the best” on legal education in the last several years.

More important, though, students loved it. Formative assessments for first-year students, a simple enough concept, could be the difference between succeeding and failing as a 1L.

“I found that I had missed some important issues on the midterm,” says Linfan Zha, a student of Schwarcz’s who is now in his second year at the Law School. “There were other times when I got a question correct, but didn’t provide enough analysis. That led me to talk to Professor Schwarcz about how I could do better.”

Zha’s first-semester final showed marked improvement, thanks in large part, he says, to that midterm feedback.

Sarah Trautman, also now in her second year at Minnesota Law, says that attached to her midterm was a full, single-spaced page of feedback from Schwarcz. “It covered everything from my writing style to how I addressed a particular issue,” Trautman says. “Where I misunderstood; where I fell within the curve of the class; just really thorough, helpful qualitative feedback.”

The Law School, meanwhile, was partially prompted by the article to make midterm feedback an official policy in April 2018. Going forward, its 1L schedule will be organized so that students take at least one course in the fall semester that includes a substantial midterm assessment.

“That change in policy is pretty big,” says Schwarcz. “Now professors must be really concrete about how we adapt our approach to teaching 1Ls on the basis of this work.”

Dan Heilman is a freelance writer in St. Paul.
LEGENDARY HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCATE

DAVID S. WEIS

RETires

AFTER 40 YEARS

BY CATHY MADISON
avid S. Weissbrodt has collected documents that fill 100 file cabinets. He has shepherded more than 500 interns into his chosen field. He has founded a Human Rights Center at Minnesota Law that turns 30 this year. But for this internationally renowned human rights lawyer, author, scholar, teacher, and advocate, who officially retired Sept. 1, the work is never done. “Serious human rights problems still exist around the world,” he says, citing mistakes being made by various governments and the challenges they represent. “As long as serious violations continue, we must continue to respond.”

Soft-spoken yet driven, known for intense persistence and strategic vision as well as gentle diplomacy, Weissbrodt has been attuned to human dignity and its denigrators for more than seven decades. Born in Washington, D.C., in 1944, he grew up in the New Deal era, hearing concerns voiced by his father, a lawyer who represented American Indian clients, and his mother, a government employee and Georgetown University economics professor. Both were powerful influences. “I didn’t know whose footsteps to follow,” he says with a grin.

Both, as it turned out. He studied economics at Columbia University and the London School of Economics before moving to California “for the weather” and law school at the University of California, Berkeley. The university’s reputation for activism had barely begun, but a groundbreaking human rights law course taught by professor and law school dean Frank C. Newman would offer Weissbrodt new footsteps to follow. “It was amazing—not just theory and not just civil rights. It had an international aspect,” he says.

Ensuring Human Dignity

After clerking for California Supreme Court Justice Mathew Tobriner and practicing law briefly, Weissbrodt embarked on a worldwide quest to ensure human dignity, on his own as well as through the work of those whose careers he fostered. He interviewed political prisoners in Kenya and conscientious objectors in Spain (where he spent three nights sleeping in a cold monastery bathtub). He observed political trials in Rwanda, Haiti, Malaysia, and Croatia, among others. He served on the U.N. Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights from 1996 to 2003 and was elected its chair in 2001; he was the first private U.S. citizen to hold that post. And, most important, he taught. “I wanted to be a scholar. I wanted to advocate for human rights, and teaching was the way I could engage myself. I enjoyed teaching throughout my entire career,” says Weissbrodt, who joined the Minnesota Law faculty in 1975. Neither he nor his wife and co-author Patricia Schaffer, a lawyer from Montreal whom he’d met during their junior years abroad at the London School of Economics, had ever visited what they call the “great middle,” but they chose the Twin Cities for its liberal bent, academic stature, and, of course, “the weather.”

Weissbrodt has accumulated many honors since then. In 2005, he became the Law School’s first Regents Professor. He has taught at universities in France, Geneva, Oxford, Tokyo, and Melbourne. He has served The Advocates for Human Rights and Amnesty International as an officer or board member. He helped found the Center for Victims of Torture, which has had significant fundraising and treatment success. But perhaps he is most honored by student praise.
Laying The Groundwork

Bret Thiele ’99, the Duluth-based co-executive director for the Global Initiative for Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, was targeting immigration law when he took Weissbrodt’s immigration and human rights law classes, but human rights, he says, “captivated me the most. Not only does he have deep knowledge, but he also has a real passion for those areas. His teaching excited me.” It also demonstrated a rare command of long-term strategic thinking. Weissbrodt’s U.N. work, for example, was often behind the scenes but carefully designed for eventual meaningful impact.

“He showed me how to use a report to lay the groundwork for future work,” says Thiele. “That approach really resonated with me, and I use it to this day, assembling pieces that lead up to an ultimate goal. It was very beneficial to see that in action in a practical way.”

HRC executive director Amanda Lyons ’09 wasted no time in contacting Weissbrodt when she first came to Minnesota Law to study human rights. He immediately put her to work on the HRC’s online library, which he claims he developed mostly for his own benefit—even learning HTML along the way—so he could have access to documents while on sabbatical. In those early internet days, even the U.N. did not have an online library; Lyons recalls hard copies of U.N. documents pouring in to be digitized and translated.

Lyons did not realize then how innovative the HRC itself was. Founded in 1988, when human rights were regarded by many, especially in the U.S., more as “fluffy ideals” than a serious field of legal study, the Center was among the first in the country. Now there are more than 40 such academic centers, and 10 Minnesota Law professors have human rights backgrounds. “David saw that need before it existed,” says Lyons.

She credits him with securing her internship in Colombia—“the most pivotal experience of my law school career”—as well as facilitating memorable classes. “He once brought in a lawyer who’d worked for 20 years on a declaration of rights for indigenous people and asked him to read it to us. The lawyer started reading, and started crying. So many years of work, so much injustice. David has a real belief that the law has something to offer the world of human rights.”

Not only does Weissbrodt teach with passion, he recognizes students who share it. “When that happens,” says Thiele, “he forms relationships that, for me, go on to this day. He really takes an interest and goes out of his way to help establish and further their careers.” As a student, Thiele accompanied Weissbrodt on several foreign missions, along with Mayra Gómez, a University Ph.D. candidate who later became Thiele’s wife and co-director of the Global Initiative for Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights. Medic as well as matchmaker, Weissbrodt also made sure Thiele got the best medical care when he injured his knee on a ski trip they shared.

“It was kind of touching,” Thiele recalls. “Personally and professionally, I wouldn’t be where I am without David.”

‘A Mensch and a Fixer’

“His is an extraordinary voice of support,” says Fionnuala D. Ni Aoláin, HRC faculty director and a University Regents Professor who holds the Robina Chair in Law, Public Policy, and Society. Although she had not known Weissbrodt personally when she joined the faculty in 2004, she admired his writings and the vibrant human rights community he had created. Her current mission is adapting the HRC to contemporary challenges in today’s more specialized, complex field, as well as extending Weissbrodt’s legacy of helping the best students find the best opportunities. “This is still his baby,” she says.

Ni Aoláin dubs Weissbrodt “a mensch and a fixer” who helped find a house for her family when she first arrived and always knows “that particular piece of information you need to make your life work. He was the guy who helped students find that elusive job in that elusive organization, giving them access to something they wouldn’t otherwise have.”

After 40 years, his influence has spread far and wide, not just among those with “human rights advocate” in their titles. “Even for students going into litigation or corporate practice, a summer in Guatemala or Liberia is a transformative experience,” Ni Aoláin adds. “David had and has a really big vision of who a human rights person is, and of the many ways in which they can manifest that commitment. It’s about being a good citizen.”

Cathy Madison is a freelance writer and editor based in the Twin Cities.
**Faculty News, Awards & Grants**

**Stephen Befort** ’74 received a grant from the American Association of Retired Persons to undertake an empirical research project that involves analyzing federal court case outcomes under the Age Discrimination in Employment Act both before and after the U.S. Supreme Court modified the standard for determining employer liability. The twin objectives of the grant are to produce a law review article and to provide the AARP with data it can use to lobby Congress in support of a proposed change in the ADEA liability standard.

Befort was also cited by the California Supreme Court in *Dynamex Operations v. Superior Court*, 416 P.3d 1 (2018). In its opinion, the court cited Befort’s scholarship to support the proposition that the prior legal standard for determining employee/independent contractor status “invites employers to structure their relationships in whatever manner best evades liability.”

**Susanna Blumenthal** was appointed the William L. Prosser Professor of Law on May 4.

**Thomas Cotter**’s scholarship was cited in a federal circuit court opinion in *Praxair Distribution Inc. v. Mallinckrodt Hospital Products IP Ltd.* Judge Pauline Newman filed a concurring opinion quoting Cotter’s 2007 article “A Burkean Perspective on Patent Eligibility” for its discussion of patent law’s “printed matter” doctrine. Cotter’s scholarship was also cited in a May 3 decision of the New York Court of Appeals in *E.J. Brooks Co. v. Cambridge Security Seals*, 2018 WL 2048724, which addressed a disputed legal question concerning the appropriate measure of damages for trade secret misappropriation.

**Jill Hasday** received the Stanley V. Kinyon Tenured Teacher of the Year Award, presented at the 2018 commencement exercises.

**Joan Howland** was inducted by the American Association of Law Libraries into its Hall of Fame. The AALL established the Hall of Fame Award in 2009 to recognize association members who have made significant, substantial, and long-standing contributions to the profession of legal information management—such as writing for legal publications, serving in AALL leadership roles, working with outside organizations on behalf of the profession, or serving as an exceptional role model for their colleagues. Inductees must have been AALL members for a minimum of 25 years.

**Kristin Hickman** was appointed to serve as special adviser to the administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, housed within the Office of Management and Budget at the White House. The OIRA is the federal government’s central authority for the review of executive branch regulations, approval of government information collections, establishment of government statistical practices, and coordination of federal privacy policy.

Hickman’s scholarship was cited by U.S. Supreme Court Justice Neil Gorsuch, joined by Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice Samuel Alito, in a statement respecting the denial of certiorari in *E.I. DuPont de Nemours & Co. v. Bobbi-Jo Smiley*, No. 16-1189, decided June 28, 2018. In the statement, Justice Gorsuch suggested the court ought to resolve a circuit split, discussed by Hickman and co-author **Matthew Krueger’06** in their article, regarding whether an agency can demand judicial deference for an interpretation of a statute advanced for the first time in litigation.

**CONT >**
Garry W. Jenkins was appointed to the Uniform Law Commission, representing the state of Minnesota. The appointment was made by Gov. Mark Dayton, in consultation with Minnesota Attorney General Lori Swanson and Minnesota Supreme Court Chief Justice Lorie Skjerven Gildea. Established more than 125 years ago, the ULC seeks to provide well-researched and -drafted legislation to bring clarity and stability to critical areas of statutory law across jurisdictions.

Heidi Kitrosser was appointed the Robins, Kaplan, Miller & Ciresi Professor of Law on May 4.

Steve Meili was promoted to the rank of associate professor with tenure. Meili also presented a paper at the annual Congress of the Latin American Studies Association in Barcelona on the constitutionalization of asylum law in Mexico and its impact on refugees from Central America who are apprehended by Mexican authorities on their way to the United States.

Perry Moriearty was promoted to the rank of associate professor with tenure.

JaneAnne Murray co-chaired the annual Bloomsday Celebration of the Irish American Bar Association at Federal Hall in New York City. The celebration, founded by Murray in 2008, celebrates James Joyce’s Ulysses and his contribution to First Amendment jurisprudence.

Francis Shen was named to the Neuroethics Subgroup of the Advisory Committee to the Director for the BRAIN Initiative Working Group 2.0 at the National Institutes of Health. The BRAIN Initiative (Brain Research through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies®) is aimed at revolutionizing our understanding of the human brain. Shen will provide expert advice on the legal and ethical implications of advances in brain science.

Christopher Soper was promoted to the rank of associate clinical professor and director of legal writing. Soper also received the Stanley V. Kinyon Adjunct or Skills Teacher of the Year Award, presented at the 2018 commencement exercises.

Laura Thomas received the Stanley V. Kinyon Clinical Teacher of the Year Award, presented at the 2018 commencement exercises.

Christopher Roberts spoke at a town hall on gun violence hosted by the University’s Human Rights Program. The discussion focused on gun violence in Minnesota and on campus.
Author: **Brian Bix**  /  Title: **¿Por qué leer a Nietzsche hoy?**  /  Publisher: **Editorial Fontamara**  /  Pages: **112**

¿Por qué leer a Nietzsche hoy? poses a simple, but fundamental question: why read Nietzsche today? What is the point of reading his work at the dawn of the 21st century? What conclusions can be made? What can be deduced from his radical critique of the conventional religious, moral, and social norms of his time?

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Author: **Thomas F. Cotter**  /  Title: **Patent Wars: How Patents Impact our Daily Lives**  /  Publisher: **Oxford University Press**  /  Pages: **360**

Patents are ubiquitous in contemporary life. But what exactly is a patent? Why do governments grant them? Can patents simultaneously encourage new invention while limiting monopoly and other abuses? Patent Wars highlights key issues in current debates and explores what still remains unknown about the effect of patents on innovation.

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Author: **Vincente Garces (with others)**  /  Title: **Celebrating Diversity: A Legacy of Minority Leadership in the American Association of Law Libraries**  /  Publisher: **William S. Hein**  /  Pages: **299**

This new edition of Celebrating Diversity: A Legacy of Minority Leadership in the American Association of Law Libraries provides updated information and new insights into diversity in law librarianship. New and future leaders in AALL are identified and profiled, demonstrating the growth of diverse law library professionals in the field.

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Author: **Paul Vaaler (with Lorraine Eden & Kathy Lund Dean)**  /  Title: **The Ethical Professor: A Practical Guide to Research, Teaching and Professional Life**  /  Publisher: **Routledge**  /  Pages: **234**

The purpose of The Ethical Professor is to provide a road map to some of the ethical dilemmas that doctoral students and newer faculty members are likely to face as they enter a career in academia. Based on research and years of academic experience, The Ethical Professor seeks to shorten the learning curve around common ethical pitfalls and issues by defining them, sharing research and experiences about them, and offering a framework for continued learning and reflection.
When Lawyers Screw Up
Professor Herbert M. Kritzer recently sat down with Minnesota Law magazine to discuss a book he co-authored—the intriguingly titled When Lawyers Screw Up: Improving Access to Justice for Victims of Legal Malpractice. The 248-page book, published by the University Press of Kansas, explores the mistakes lawyers sometimes make, the nature of these mistakes, the harm they do, and the significant disparities in outcomes for corporate and individual victims of lawyers’ errors.

How often do lawyers commit malpractice?

HMK: We don’t know how often lawyers commit malpractice because there is no good way to collect information on that. It is very different from the research that has been done on medical negligence, where people have reviewed in detail hospital records to try to identify problems. There is nothing like that available in studying lawyers’ errors.

What are the most common types of legal malpractice?

HMK: The most common errors are missing deadlines. Another common error would be a drafting mistake in a document. A third would be failing to adequately investigate something.

What issues hampering victims’ access to justice arise when lawyers commit malpractice?

HMK: A significant number of lawyers do not carry professional liability insurance, and knowledgeable lawyers who bring malpractice claims will generally not take a case if the lawyer is not insured. A second issue is the statute of limitations: A client often has no idea malpractice has happened when it happens and only has reason to discover a problem after the statute of limitations has expired. A third issue is causation. Can you prove, even if the lawyer made a mistake, that the mistake caused you harm? Another issue is that many claims involve amounts that may be significant to the potential claimant, but are not enough to make a claim worth a lawyer’s time.

What solutions to these justice access issues does your book suggest?

HMK: There are a variety of things that might be done. One is increasing the presence of professional liability insurance through one of two possible solutions: mandatory insurance, which currently exists only in the states of Oregon and Idaho, or mandatory disclosure of whether a lawyer has insurance, which has been shown to increase the likelihood that lawyers will opt for coverage. In addition, changes could be made to some of the legal rules surrounding legal malpractice claims, including rethinking statutes of limitations and the requirements for demonstrating causation and damages. A final kind of solution would be to have alternative fora to handle legal malpractice claims below a certain size, such as an ombudsman-type system, which exists in some other countries. In such a system, claimants can essentially bring small legal malpractice claims without the assistance of counsel.

In researching and preparing this book, did you discover anything surprising?

HMK: The most surprising thing was the absence of professional liability insurance among so many attorneys, particularly small-firm and solo lawyers. It varied from state to state, but in some states as many as half the lawyers in solo practice don’t carry malpractice insurance. The second surprise was how much difference it appears to make to have a mandatory insurance rule. If one looks at the frequency of legal...
Professor Herbert M. Kritzer co-authored the book When Lawyers Screw Up: Improving Access to Justice for Victims of Legal Malpractice with Neil Vidmar, a professor emeritus at Duke University School of Law.

malpractice claims in Oregon compared to any other state in which data are available, claim rates are multiples of what you see in those other states.

What are the key takeaways of your book?

HMK: Key takeaway number one is that more lawyers need to carry malpractice insurance. Key takeaway number two is that the problems we looked at primarily involved lawyers in small firms representing individuals. One of the themes of the book is the notion of two worlds or two hemispheres of legal practice, which translates or carries over to two worlds or two hemispheres of legal malpractice. Large-firm lawyers certainly run into problems, and when they do, they are big problems, but these are very different kinds of problems than what you see in small firms and solo practice.

Other than its imaginative title, what differentiates your book from other books on the market that deal with legal malpractice?

HMK: It is the only book-length treatment of what legal malpractice really looks like, how legal malpractice cases tend to be handled, and what the issues and problems are that is not written from a technical legal perspective. While there are case-books, nutsheils, and treatises that target people practicing directly in the legal malpractice area, this book is geared much more broadly.
The Quality of Mercy
Clemency Project helps procure the release of man who served 27 years for minor drug crime

When Derrin Perkins declined a plea offer of five years in a federal drug distribution case in 1992, little did he know that this decision set him on path to a life sentence without the possibility of parole. But after 27 years in custody, he is now finally preparing to go home—thanks to the dogged efforts of Professor JaneAnne Murray’s Clemency Project at the Law School and Pro Bono Partner Joshua Toll at King & Spalding.

We argued that because the indictment straddled Derrin’s juvenile and adult years, he could not lawfully receive a sentence of life without parole under new Supreme Court case law relating to juvenile sentences.”
—Prof. JaneAnne Murray

With William Hamilton ’15, Murray represented Perkins in his federal clemency petition under the umbrella of Clemency Project 2014 (CP2014), a joint initiative of the American Bar Association, the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, and other organizations. That project recruited and trained volunteer lawyers to work in a clemency program on behalf of nonviolent federal inmates. “I was advising volunteer lawyers who were writing petitions,” recalls Murray, who was on the CP2014 Steering Committee. “I felt I would only be useful if I actually did some cases myself. Derrin’s case was the first one assigned to me.”

Perkins fit the CP2014 criteria perfectly. He was arrested in 1991, unarmed, in possession of just 17 grams of crack cocaine. Prosecuted in both local and federal courts for drug distribution, he was convicted in both and handed a sentence of life without the possibility of parole in federal court and a consecutive sentence of 6 to 18 years in the D.C. Superior Court.

There was no allegation that he carried a weapon or acted violently. In addition, Perkins was a model prisoner, using his time behind bars to obtain his GED and complete thousands of hours of professional training programs.

Unfortunately, Perkins’ clemency application was denied just days before President Obama left office. Immediately thereafter, Murray teamed with Toll to explore judicial avenues for Perkins’ release.

The procedural obstacles involved in getting a court to look at someone serving a long sentence can be daunting, though. In the federal case, Murray and Toll tried to get a second look via a habeas procedure: Perkins was arrested in 1991, when he was 25, but the indictment in the federal case covered the years 1983-91.

“We argued that because the indictment straddled Derrin’s juvenile and adult years, he could not lawfully receive a sentence of life without parole under new Supreme Court case law relating to juvenile sentences,” says Murray.

The D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals allowed Perkins’ attorneys to go back to the district court with that juvenile sentencing argument. In addition, there had been retroactive changes to the sentencing guidelines, so the team made an additional motion to the district court that
Perkins should get the benefit of those changes as well. Ultimately, it was the motion based on guideline changes that won the day. The prosecutor agreed that Perkins was entitled to a resentencing to 30 years—a sentence Perkins had just about served. In August 2017, District Judge Thomas F. Hogan (who had written to President Obama in support of Perkins’ clemency petition) issued the revised sentencing order.

That left the consecutive Superior Court sentence of 6 to 18 years.

“We went back to Superior Court seeking a resentencing on the grounds that new sentencing guidelines in that court would dictate a sentence today of 16 to 38 months, but we faced the not-so-minor hurdle that we were about two decades out of time,” says Murray. “In the end, to the prosecutor’s credit, the government agreed to waive its timeliness objection in return for a 16-month sentence, which would be close to time served for Derrin.” Superior Court Judge Todd Edelman, after a careful review of all submissions, agreed this new sentence was appropriate, and now Perkins is in the process of being transitioned to a halfway house, after which he plans to live with family in Washington, D.C.

“It was an honor to work with JaneAnne and to stand up for the proposition that nonviolent drug offenders deserve an opportunity for a second chance,” says Toll.

And while happy with the result in this case, Murray will keep pushing for “second-look” mechanisms such as those used in Perkins’ case to be used in other cases.

“What Derrin’s two cases show is that our judicial system is an ideal place for such reconsideration,” concludes Murray. “Justice was served—in a careful, transparent, and compassionate way.”

By Dan Heilman, a freelance writer in St. Paul
BOTH HER MOTHER AND FATHER are attorneys. But 2L Michelle Cardona Vinasco wasn’t sure she wanted to follow their lead.

As a high school student in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, she flirted with journalism. For college, she chose the Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. Her major: international politics. Her minor: justice and peace studies.

Born in Cali, Colombia, and raised there until the age of 7, Cardona Vinasco says one reason she chose that academic path was “because I was born in a different country.” At Georgetown, a sociology class titled Law and Society offered her a new path. The course, which examines the U.S. government’s war on drugs, mass incarceration, and other pressing issues, gave students the opportunity to participate in mock trials.

“I saw the law was a powerful tool to advocate for people to create change,” she says.

So she switched gears, spending a big chunk of one summer studying for the LSAT. Cardona Vinasco’s score was high enough to earn admission to several top schools. She chose Minnesota Law after visiting the Minneapolis campus and noticing how students seemed to be enjoying their surroundings.

The decision pleased her parents. “They’ve always wanted me to be a lawyer,” she says. “They were happy.”

Cardona Vinasco has been active inside and outside Mondale Hall. As a 1L, she volunteered at The Advocates for Human Rights, researching immigration case law and writing the draft of a brief for an asylum client. Then, in the summer of 2018, she moved to San José, Costa Rica, to work as a legal intern at the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees’ Regional Legal Unit for the Americas.

Her job: investigate how poor people were faring in the wake of the 2016 peace agreement between the Colombian government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, also known as FARC. Before the deal to end the civil war was reached, at least 200,000 people died and 6 million people were forced from their homes.

Cardona Vinasco found that peasant farmers were often caught in the middle of fleeing FARC fighters, bands of armed militia, and government soldiers. “The situation has not improved,” she says. “And it will continue to get worse if something isn’t done.”

After returning to Minneapolis for her 2L year, Cardona Vinasco immersed herself in studies and extracurricular activities. As a staff member of the Minnesota Law Review, she’s checking citations of submitted articles and researching a Note she’s writing on the ethics of egg donation for research purposes. She’s also co-president of the Latinx Law Students Association, formerly known as the Latino Law Students Association—members changed the name to be more inclusive.

Next summer, Cardona Vinasco plans to work as a summer associate at a Minneapolis law firm. It’s a big shift in focus for her, but one she wants to pursue. “I want to practice as an attorney rather than doing policy work,” she says.

By Todd Melby, a freelance writer and radio producer based in Minneapolis
3L Rebecca Rosefelt Receives MWL Equal Justice Award

Minnesota Women Lawyers named **3L Rebecca Rosefelt** the 2018 recipient of the MWL Equal Justice Award.

MWL annually invites all Minnesota Law students to submit papers on topics involving law and social justice for consideration for the Equal Justice Award. The award carries with it a $1,000 cash prize. Rosefelt received the award for her paper “Empowerment to Breastfeed as a Right: Making Minneapolis a Global Leader in Women’s Rights.” Rosefelt, a former Human Rights Center Fellow, originally wrote the paper for the Human Rights Center’s Poverty and Human Rights Seminar. The seminar requires all students to submit a final paper on a human rights-related topic of their choice.

“Breastfeeding is an under-discussed legal and public health topic, and an issue I was inspired to explore because of my mother’s incredible work as a breastfeeding medicine specialist,” Rosefelt said. “In the U.S., there are few protections for breastfeeding mothers, even though all health institutions recognize the benefits of breastfeeding for both women and children. Many other countries have robust maternity laws that enable women to feed their children breast milk, such as extended paid maternity leave and paid work breaks to pump milk.”

Rosefelt pointed out that many low-income women simply cannot afford to lose paid working time, and thus are financially barred from breastfeeding their children. “This obstacle disproportionately affects women of color,” she added.

MWL also recognized **3L Trevor Matthews** with an honorable mention for his paper “Most Integrated Setting: Olmstead, Fry and Segregated Public Schools for Students with Disabilities.”

Two Law School Students Awarded RCBF Diversity Scholarships

The Ramsey County Bar Foundation named **1L Elvis Kim** and **2L Khansaa Nadeem** as 2018 Diversity Scholarship recipients.

The Ramsey County Bar Association Diversity Committee reviews applications and recommends scholarships for law students based on their academic or professional achievement and leadership potential. Kim and Nadeem were among a group of eight students who received the scholarships this year.

“I am honored that, as a 1L student, I am being recognized for my academic achievement as well as my leadership potential,” Kim said. “I will take this scholarship to heart and continue to advocate for a diverse and welcoming campus in Mondale Hall.”

Nadeem said she is humbled and grateful to have won the scholarship. “Diversity has always been a core component of my life, and scholarships like this show that the society is beginning to understand the value that diversity can bring to an academic and professional setting,” she said. “I look forward to completing my education at the Law School and providing benefit with my law degree to the greater society.”

3L Derek Waller Wins ABA Forum on Affordable Housing and Community Development Writing Competition

The ABA Forum on affordable Housing and Community Development named **3L Derek Waller** the winner of its 2018 Law Student Writing Competition for his article “Leveraging State and Local Antidiscrimination Laws to Prohibit Discrimination Against Recipients of Federal Rental Assistance.”
The forum invited law students nationwide to participate in the competition by submitting articles that address legal issues related to affordable housing or community development law. In addition to winning the student competition, Waller’s article was published in September in the ABA Journal of Affordable Housing and Community Development Law. He also spoke as a panelist at the forum’s conference in Washington, D.C., in May.

Waller’s article focuses on discrimination in rental housing against recipients of housing choice vouchers. The housing choice voucher program, commonly known as “Section 8,” is the federal government program that subsidizes rent for very low-income people, the elderly, and people with disabilities. Many landlords categorically reject Section 8 vouchers, which makes it extremely difficult for voucher holders to find housing even after they have been awarded a voucher. In his article, Waller assesses state antidiscrimination laws and identifies states with laws prohibiting this kind of discrimination. He makes the case that courts in Minnesota and elsewhere have erroneously allowed landlords to discriminate against Section 8 recipients by ignoring the unambiguous text and clear legislative intent of state antidiscrimination laws.

“I’m honored to have my article selected and hope it will bring attention to an important issue of discrimination in the Section 8 program,” Waller said. “Housing choice vouchers are an important tool to combat the current affordable housing crisis in the Twin Cities and across the United States. When landlords categorically exclude voucher recipients, the vouchers go unused and the recipient is caught in a paradox: They can’t afford rent without a voucher and yet are excluded from renting because they have a voucher.”

Waller’s article originated as a seminar paper for Professor Myron Orfield’s class “Smart Growth,” in which students learn about legal issues in local government, urban development, racial segregation, and affordable housing. After completing the course, Waller expanded the paper into a more comprehensive article that assesses antidiscrimination in all states that prohibit discrimination because of a person’s source of income.

Three Class of 2018 Graduates Receive Star of the North Fellowships

Fangzhou Chen, Luke Gagnon, and Eamonn Gallagher, all members of Minnesota Law’s class of 2018, have been named Star of the North Fellows by the state of Minnesota. Each will spend the next year in a salaried position at a state agency that aligns with their educational background and professional interests.

Chen will work in children and family services at the Department of Human Services. Gagnon’s position is in the Department of Human Services’ benefits-recovery section. Gallagher will work in freight and commercial vehicle operations at the Department of Transportation.

The Star of the North Fellowship program, now in its fifth year, is intended to expand the state’s workforce and attract talented young people to public service in an effort to address an aging workforce. Twelve fellows are selected each year.

“We are proud to have three of our graduates serving the state of Minnesota through the Star of the North Fellowship program,” said Amanda Furst, director of public interest programs at the Law School. “Our alumni fellows are excited for this opportunity to gain experience in leadership and service while launching their careers with the state.”

3L R. David Hahn Wins ABA Administrative Law Writing Competition

The American Bar Association’s Section of Administrative Law and Regulatory Practice recently named 3L R. David Hahn winner of the 2018 Gellhorn-Sargentich Law Student Essay Award Competition. Created in 2006, the competition honors the memory of Ernest Gellhorn, a distinguished law dean, administrative law professor, and practitioner, who was chair of the section, and Thomas Sargentich, a distinguished administrative law professor at American University’s Washington College of Law. The competition was designed to attract students to administrative law practice fields and to encourage scholarship.

Hahn’s paper focused on balancing impartiality and accountability in the IRS Office of Appeals. He received a check for $5,000 and was recognized at the 2018 ABA Administrative Law Conference in Washington, D.C., on Nov. 2.
“Every student was assigned a Google in-house counsel as their mentor. We were given time to work and talk together while at Google with the expectation that this relationship will continue throughout our careers as young attorneys.”

Chloe Margulis, 2L
Participant, Google Legal Summer Institute

“This program allowed me to learn more about Apple’s products, the legal issues they are faced with, and their expectations for outside counsel.”

Iris Zhang, 3L
Legal Intern, Apple

“Participating in the NFL Management Council Law Clerk Program has reassured me that this is the kind of work I want to do, and has taught me so much about sports law, labor relations, and the business of sports.”

J.J. Pristanski, 3L
Law Clerk, NFL Management Council
MEET THE CLASS OF 2021

JACKY ARNESS, 1L
Jacky Arness won the Miss North Dakota title in 2014, and was also named Miss Congeniality by her fellow contestants in the Miss America Pageant.

“My involvement with the Miss America Organization is one of the most formative experiences of my life,” she says. “I became involved while I was in college and was hooked after my very first competition. Competing was an outlet for skills that I’d developed and experiences that I’d already had, as well as a way to push myself to be better than my best. … The nationwide network of phenomenal women pursuing their passions has both inspired and motivated me to do the same.”

Arness is open to whatever possibilities her law degree brings. Her wide range of interest areas include: corporate litigation, diplomacy, public service, and business leadership.

KADI BRAXTON, 1L
Kadi Braxton was a forensic security employee for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, a role which she describes as “a cross between a prison guard and a psychiatric aide.” During an overnight shift, she was assaulted and suffered a severely concussed and damaged spine and knee. As a result of her injuries, she was forced into early retirement and had to adjust her life plans.

Braxton believes in the importance of diverse perspectives and voices, and brings her own unique perspective into the classroom. “I am a queer black person with disabilities, Philadelphia native, graduate of a predominantly white institution, retired officer of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, nontraditional student, someone who loathes labels, and many other components,” she says. “All of these attributes come together in shaping the Kadi Braxton perspective.”

Her goal is to practice land use and transactional law. She is also interested in pursuing a career in academia.

HUGH FLEMING, 1L
Hugh Fleming spent the two summers prior to enrolling in law school as the owner/captain of a commercial fishing boat in Bristol Bay, Alaska.

“The main industry in the town I grew up in is commercial fishing, so I grew up working on local fishing boats. I started working on fishing boats when I was 13 years old and have spent each summer salmon fishing since,” he says. “I bought my own permit during my junior year of undergrad and bought my boat during the fall of 2016. This summer was my second season running my own operation. Captaining my own boat has exposed me to a whole new dimension of fishing and has been a very rewarding challenge.”

Fleming has not targeted a particular legal career pathway yet. Whatever he ultimately settles on, he hopes he will be able to combine it with his passion for fishing to keep both interests in his life.

PAUL HALLETT, 1L
Paul Hallett served for three years as senior legislative assistant to House Speaker Paul Ryan.

“In this policy role, I advised the speaker on a portfolio of legislative issues, including national defense, foreign affairs, veterans, the judiciary, education, labor, Social Security, and his anti-poverty and welfare reform agenda,” he explains. “I gained a great understanding of the issues I covered and of the legislative process, and, despite the political divisions of our time, I acquired a deeper and more profound respect for the sanctity of self-government and the genius of the Constitution.”

Hallett has an interest in administrative law, both from the perspective of potentially representing clients before government agencies and in formulating and implementing public policy.

JAKE HILT, 1L
Jake Hilt served in the U.S. Army’s 3rd Ranger Battalion for four years and was deployed three times to Iraq and once to Afghanistan.

“Being a Ranger was both challenging and rewarding,” he says. “It was a tremendous education in leadership...
and taught me how to remain confident and professional in difficult situations. The people with whom I served and the experiences we had played a significant role in shaping who I am today.”

His goal is to practice corporate law and ultimately help business owners through the challenges of running their organizations.

CAMILA PACHECO-FORES, 1L
Camila Pacheco-Fores came to Minnesota Law with an already impressive C.V. of hands-on experience in the areas of migrant rights, immigration, and family law. She had completed a Fulbright fellowship in Mexico City and worked as a paralegal for a legal aid organization in Los Angeles.

“The organization with which I interned [in Mexico City], Sin Fronteras, was holistic in its approach, bringing together lawyers, social workers, psychologists, and an outreach team,” she says. “In my work there, I witnessed advocates providing direct services, being involved in policy considerations, and hosting workshops for migrants to grapple with their journeys, for example. When I moved back to the United States, I had an inkling that I may want to go to law school, but needed to know what the tasks of a lawyer could look like day-to-day.”

She plans to practice immigration law and be an advocate for human rights. Her goal is to focus on serving survivors of trauma and violence, whether that is through direct legal work or through policy advocacy.

“After graduating, I am planning to go back to Palestine and start working in the human rights field, raise awareness about this concept, and document human rights violations. I will try to use the knowledge I will gain through my LL.M. program to make changes to Palestinian society.”

LANA KHADER, LL.M. ’19
PALESTINE (FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR)

PERSPECTIVES FROM LL.M. Candidates

Once my French business law master’s degree had been obtained, I wanted to extend my legal learning outside of the civil legal system. In my opinion, the common law legal system contributes to shaping and influencing international legal instruments in modern times.”

ALEXANDRE LE NEPVEU, LL.M. ’19
FRANCE

“I am interested in learning the Socratic method and engaging in an atmosphere of inquiry and critical thinking. Upon returning to Egypt, my aim will be to integrate what I learn from western academia in teaching and research.”

DR. AHMED DABASH, LL.M. ’19
EGYPT (FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR)
ALUMNI Interrogatory
Alex Dyste-Demet ’14

Alex Dyste-Demet ’14 is an attorney with the Minneapolis Field Solicitor’s Office for the Department of the Interior and president-elect of the Minnesota chapter of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association.
When you were a student at Minnesota Law, you wrote an article for *Law and Inequality: A Journal of Theory and Practice* focusing on the Affordable Care Act and the American Indian population. Does Indian law continue to be an interest area for you at the Department of the Interior?

**AD:** Yes, it does. My client is the Bureau of Indian Affairs. I focus mostly on the BIA’s realty programs, particularly land-into-trust transactions. I work with tribes throughout the Midwest.

How did you get your current job?

**AD:** I am very lucky in that my internship with this office eventually led to my job. I was an intern in 2013, and in late 2015 a position opened up. Federal jobs in Minnesota are hard to come by, and I feel very lucky to have landed my position.

Could you describe a typical working day for a field attorney with the Office of the Solicitor for the Department of the Interior?

**AD:** I advise on a wide variety of issues. A lot of my job involves answering the question “Are we allowed to do this? And if so, with what authority?” On a given day, I could be working on a brief in the morning, drafting a title opinion after lunch, and researching a property issue until I head home.

You are currently president-elect of the Minnesota Asian Pacific American Bar Association. Could you discuss the importance of diverse perspectives and why you felt it was important to take a leadership role in a group like MNAPABA?

**AD:** A diversity of perspectives is important in all aspects of life, not just in the classroom and workplace. Diversity forces people to overcome presumptions, contributes to the healthy exchange of ideas, and helps people learn from and understand one another. I chose to get involved with MNAPABA because it allowed me to feel more connected to my Asian heritage and because I identified with its mission, which is to promote and support the advancement of Asian American and Pacific American lawyers. The legal profession remains homogeneous and we strive to combat that reality.

What is your favorite Minnesota Law memory or experience?

**AD:** One of the activities I am most happy that I got involved with during law school was serving as a student ambassador for the Office of Admissions. I loved giving school tours and getting to meet prospective students and their parents. I made great friends through the experience.

What do you like to do with your free time?

**AD:** Cook, travel, and run. I’m always reading a book and I’m also a big *Law & Order: SVU* and *Criminal Minds* junkie.

What advice would you give to a Minnesota Law student just starting out today?

**AD:** Study hard, but remember that you will have a more robust and rewarding experience if you enrich yourself outside of the classroom as well. Join a club, get involved in the school play, talk to your professors outside of lectures, and get to know your section-mates. Members of my 1L section remain extremely close friends today, and my experience at the Law School would not have been as fulfilling without those individuals.

What are a few interesting items one might find on your desk or decorating your office?

**AD:** Michigan State memorabilia (that’s where I went to undergrad), pictures, including photos of my now-husband and me from Law Prom 2015 and our 2014 class party, a dream catcher, and origami paper cranes.

Is there anything else you’d like to share with the Minnesota Law community?

**AD:** I am extremely grateful for my education at the University of Minnesota. Law school is challenging, but the experience would not have been as rewarding without the community that the Law School has created.
In October, our leadership donors gathered at the McNamara Alumni Center for the 2018 WILLIAM B. LOCKHART CLUB DINNER. Karin Birkeland ’87, a member of the Law School’s board of advisors, welcomed Minnesota Law alumni, donors, and friends, and Dean Garry W. Jenkins and Professor Laura Thomas spoke about Minnesota Law’s recent impactful work. The evening included the debut of Minnesota Law’s Driven to Lead campaign video and concluded with a performance by the Law School’s own TORT singers.
The Lockhart Club is the University of Minnesota Law School’s leadership annual giving society. The Lockhart Club 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.

**LOCKHART GOLD**
Graduates of the Last Decade

Lockhart GOLD was created to engage a new generation of leadership donors. Alumni give at special giving levels based on their graduation year and enjoy all benefits of the Lockhart Club.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Graduation Year</th>
<th>GOLD Giving Level</th>
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<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>$10/month ($120 annually)</td>
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<td>2017, 2016, 2015</td>
<td>$25/month ($300 annually)</td>
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<td>2014, 2013, 2012</td>
<td>$50/month ($600 annually)</td>
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<td>2011, 2010, 2009</td>
<td>$100/month ($1200 annually)</td>
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For questions or for information about joining the Lockhart Club, please contact Abigail Loyd, assistant director of annual giving, at (612) 625-6854 or aloyd@umn.edu.

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1 Judge David Doty ’61, Anita Duckor, Professor Robert Stein ’61, and Sandra Stein
2 Professor Laura Thomas
3 Admissions Director Robin Ingli, Gloria Weinblatt
4 Karin Birkeland ’87 and Lee Mitau ’72
5 Mike Skoglund ’01 and Nicole Moen
6 The Law School’s TORT singers
Dwayne N. Knutsen '85
Elected Chief Judge in Minnesota’s 8th District

Dwayne N. Knutsen '85 was elected chief judge of Minnesota’s 8th Judicial District by his fellow district court judges. His term of service began July 1.

After graduating from the Law School, Knutsen joined the Montevideo, Minnesota, law firm of Prindle, Maland, Sellner, Stennes, Knutsen & Stermer. He served as the Chippewa County attorney from 1999 to 2010, and was a part-time assistant 8th Judicial District public defender from 1995 to 1998. He was appointed to the 8th District bench in 2010 by then-Gov. Tim Pawlenty ’86. Knutsen is a member of the Minnesota State Bar Association, Minnesota County Attorneys Association, and the Western Minnesota Legal Services Board of Directors. He is also a member and past president of the Montevideo Kiwanis Club; is active with the First Congregational Church in Montevideo, where he served four terms as a trustee and two terms as a moderator; and is a former member of the Minnesota Trial Lawyers Association.

The 8th Judicial District, which is served by 11 judges in total, comprises the counties of Big Stone, Chippewa, Grant, Kandiyohi, Lac qui Parle, Meeker, Pope, Renville, Stevens, Swift, Traverse, Wilkin, and Yellow Medicine. Despite covering 13 counties, the district is the smallest in Minnesota by population. In 2017, more than 24,000 cases were filed in 8th Judicial District courts.

Lily Fu Claffee ’93 Appointed General Counsel of Fox News

Lily Fu Claffee ’93 was appointed general counsel of Fox News, effective May 7.

In making the announcement, Fox News co-president Jack Abernethy said, “Lily has a distinguished legal career in both the private sector and in public service. We are pleased to add her extensive experience to our legal affairs team.”

Said Claffee: “I look forward to embarking on this new and exciting role at an iconic network like Fox News, especially as the media landscape continues to undergo historic growth and change.”

Claffee was previously senior vice president, general counsel, and corporate secretary of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. She has also served as deputy general counsel at the U.S. Treasury Department and as a deputy associate attorney general at the U.S. Department of Justice.

At the Law School, Claffee was managing editor of the Minnesota Law Review. Upon graduating sum laude, she clerked for Judge Michael S. Kanne on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit.

Roxanne Rothschild ’93 Appointed To Key NLRB Position

The National Labor Relations Board announced Oct. 25 that Roxanne Rothschild ’93 had been appointed executive secretary of the organization.

In that position, Rothschild serves as chief administrative and judicial management officer of the NLRB. Her duties include representing the board in dealing with parties to cases and communicating on behalf of the board with labor organizations, employers, employees, members of Congress, other agencies, and the public.

Rothschild joined the NLRB’s Office of the Executive Secretary in 2010 and became deputy executive secretary in 2016. She received her undergraduate degree from the
University of Minnesota and her J.D. from the Law School, where she was director of the Wagner Labor Law Moot Court. She began her legal career at Littler Mendelson in San Francisco and later worked as in-house counsel for Maplewood, Minnesota-based 3M.

**Tracy Perzel ’99 and Melissa Listug Klick ’03 Appointed to Judgeships**

In September, Minnesota Gov. Mark Dayton appointed Tracy Perzel ’99 and Melissa Listug Klick ’03 as district court judges in the state’s 1st and 8th Judicial Districts, respectively.

Perzel is the criminal division chief at the Minnesota U.S. Attorney’s Office, where she leads and supervises 40 assistant U.S. attorneys, implements division-wide policy, and prosecutes and oversees the prosecution of federal criminal cases. Previously, she served as an assistant attorney general at the Minnesota Attorney General’s Office and an assistant county attorney at the Kandiyohi County Attorney’s Office. She earned her B.A., magna cum laude, from the University of St. Thomas and her J.D., cum laude, from the Law School.

Perzel is a small group leader at Easter Lutheran Church, a packing volunteer with Feed My Starving Children, and a volunteer at Red Pine Elementary.

Listug Klick is an attorney with Littler Mendelson, where she assesses employment litigation and makes recommendations regarding litigation strategy. Previously, she was an associate and of counsel with San Diego-based Paul, Plevin, Sullivan & Connaughton, a summer associate at Rider, Bennett, Egan & Arundel in Minneapolis, a clerk with the University of Minnesota’s Office of the General Counsel, and a federal judicial extern for Magistrate Judge Jonathan Lebedoff.

Listug Klick earned her B.A. and her J.D. from the University of Minnesota. She is the secretary/treasurer of the Minnesota State Bar Association District 16 and a committee member with Raising Pope County.

Spring Alumni Weekend 2018 brought together more than 1,000 alumni and friends for a host of events where they celebrated their connection to Minnesota Law.

1 Class of 1968 (50th Reunion Class Picture)
2 Joe Lee ’03, Adam Farron ’03, Brad Stotler
3 Paul Pagel, Goldy Gopher, Marjorie Holsten ’87
Save the Date  |  SPRING ALUMNI WEEKEND 2019  |  April 12-14, 2019

4 Laura Cowan ’13, Elizabeth Ahlin ’13, Lotta Kluru-Ribar ’13
5 Gov. James Blanchard ’68, Professor Robert Stein ’61, Judge David Doty ’61
6 Sanaa Assa ’17, Roxanne Thorello ’17
7 John Lindahl, Bob Burgett, Dean Garry W. Jenkins
REUNION CLASS GIVING

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS OF THE LAW SCHOOL’S INAUGURAL REUNION CUP TROPHIES

ATTRACTION CUP
Awarded to the class that has the highest percentage of classmates attending their reunion

1968: 37.6%

PARTICIPATION CUP
Awarded to the class that has the highest percentage of classmates contributing to their Class Gift

1968: 33.1%

GENEROSITY CUP
Awarded to the class that raises the most funds for Minnesota Law in celebration of their reunion

1983: $452K

z.umn.edu/Reunions

CLASS GIFT CLASS OF 2018 DONORS

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Saman Azimtash
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Luke Wolf*
Yi Wu*
Seth Zawila
Lauren Zenk*

51% class participation rate, the highest in Minnesota Law history

$3,338 given to Minnesota Law by the Class of 2018

$3,520 in matching fund incentives offered by the Alumni and Student Engagement Committee and Law School Senior Staff

Gifts Supported Diversity Scholarships, ensuring that the school’s future student body represents our diverse world

78% participation rate by Section D, earning them bragging rights for the next year

* Lockhart GOLD member
** Class Gift Committee member
“Getting my law degree was the springboard to a fulfilling life and career. This is why I am a leadership annual donor and I am serving as the 2018-19 Law School Annual Fund Chair—to give back to the school that helped me become who I am today.”

Jeanette Bazis ’92, 2018-19 Law School Annual Fund National Chair

The Law School Annual Fund leverages thousands of gifts of all sizes and the support of our alumni to make a real impact on our students and the communities we serve.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Did you know that state funding accounts for just a fraction of the Law School’s budget? Join me in making an impact with an annual fund gift this year!

To make a gift, visit give.umn.edu/lawschool or contact Elissa Chaffee, Director of Annual Giving and Alumni Relations, at 612-626-8671 or echaffee@umn.edu.
Recent Gifts

GIFTS OF $100,000+

Karin Birkeland ’87 and Lee Mitau ’72 established the Karin Birkeland and Lee Mitau Scholarship. Karin was a partner in the commercial real estate practice at Faegre & Benson and associate general counsel at the University of Minnesota. Lee was formerly executive vice president, general counsel and secretary of U.S. Bancorp and currently serves as chairman of Graco Inc. Their gift will be matched with $50,000 from the Robina Foundation as part of the Driven to Lead Scholarship Challenge Program.

David D. ’78 and Martha E. ’78 Kadue established the Section B Scholarship to honor the distinguished attorneys in Section B of the class of 1978, and to pay forward the opportunities the Law School has provided to its alumni. David is partner in the labor and employment practice of Seyfarth Shaw. Martha formerly practiced tax law at Security Pacific Group and, after obtaining a Ph.D. in history, taught law and history courses at California State University-Long Beach. Their gift will be matched with $50,000 from the Robina Foundation as part of the Driven to Lead Scholarship Challenge Program.

James ’89 and Julianne ’90 Chosy established the James and Julie Chosy Scholarship. Jim is executive vice president, general counsel and secretary of U.S. Bancorp, the parent company of U.S. Bank, the fifth largest commercial bank in the United States. Julie was a practicing attorney for over 20 years and retired as a partner at Faegre & Benson in the intellectual property practice group. Their gift will be matched with $50,000 from the Robina Foundation as part of the Driven to Lead Scholarship Challenge Program.

Pamela Olson ’80 and Grant Aldonas ’79 made an additional gift to the Grant Aldonas and Pamela Olson Scholarship for Law School students interested in business or economics. Their gift will be matched with $50,000 from the Robina Foundation as part of the Driven to Lead Scholarship Challenge Program.

Walt ’63 and Paula ’76 Richey established the Paula K. and S. Walter Richey Scholarship in order to provide support for Law School students who are enrolled or eligible for enrollment in a federally recognized tribe. The scholarship may also be awarded to a student with a strong interest in and commitment to a career in public service. Their gift will be matched with $50,000 from the Robina Foundation as part of the Driven to Lead Scholarship Challenge Program.

Reginald D. ’69 and Marianne S. Steer established the Reginald Steer Family Scholarship with the intention of providing support for Law School students, especially those who are graduates of public high schools in St. Paul. Prior to retiring, Reg was a partner in the litigation practice of Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld. Their gift will be matched with $50,000 from the Robina Foundation as part of the Driven to Lead Scholarship Challenge Program.

GIFTS OF $25,000–$99,999

Joseph M. ’81 and Jane L. ’81 Barbeau
Mark E. Southerst ’83*

Jay L. Kim ’88*

Ronald M. ’54 and Joy S. Mankoff*

Bruce ’80 and Tracy Mooty
Charles N. Nauen ’80 and Pati Jo Pofahl ’86

Bill ’68 and Carol Tempest

* This donor also made a larger estate gift at the same time
Law Alumni and Staff Honored at Minnesota Lawyer Events

Minnesota Law alumni were very well represented in recent Twin Cities award events hosted by Minnesota Lawyer legal newspaper. Nine alumni were recognized as Up & Coming Attorneys and seven alumni received Diversity & Inclusion Awards. In addition, one Law School staff member was recognized as an Unsung Hero. Law School alumni, faculty, staff, and friends attended the events to support the Minnesota Law honorees.

2018 Up & Coming Attorneys

These Minnesota Law alumni were recognized by Minnesota Lawyer as Up & Coming Attorneys, an honor given to lawyers who have distinguished themselves during their first 10 years of practice. The criteria for selection are professional accomplishment, leadership service to the community and the profession, or achievement as in-house counsel.

- Catherine Bitzan Amundsen ’08
- Betsy Flanagan ’08
- Jennifer J. Huang ’08
- Katherine M. Swenson ’08
- Amy Conway ’10
- Jack Sullivan ’10
- Eric Friske ’13
- Dustin Massie ’13
- Emily M. Wessels ’14

2018 Diversity & Inclusion Honorees

These Law School alumni were recognized with Minnesota Lawyer’s Diversity & Inclusion Award, which honors those in the legal profession who go above and beyond in their efforts to create a more diverse and inclusionary community.

Legacy
- Judge Pamela G. Alexander ’77
- Reid Raymond ’90

Individual
- Bryan R. Browning ’08
- Tara C. Norgard ’00
- Eric Rucker ’93
- JT Schueweiler ’16

Group
- Vildan Teske ’93
  Co-Chair, Federal Bar Association

Unsung Heroes

Minnesota Lawyer’s unsung legal heroes come from seven employment categories: legal administrative assistant, paralegal or judicial clerk, administrator or office manager, librarian, accounting staff, information technology, and marketing.

- Amanda Furst
  Director of Public Interest Programs, University of Minnesota Law School
On Sept. 29, more than 580 University of Minnesota alumni, students, and friends participated in the 2018 U of M Day of Service at sites in the Twin Cities and nationwide. Minnesota Law was well represented with volunteers and organizers throughout the country.

Robert Dube ’19 and Professor John Matheson led a food packing session at Feed my Starving Children in Coon Rapids. The Law School also participated in a project in conjunction with the Carlson School of Management and the Humphrey School of Public Affairs sorting school supplies at the Twin Cities Kids in Need Resource Center.

The Law School alumni ambassadors for NYC, led by Stephanna Szotkowski ’14, hosted the cleanup at Van Cortlandt Park in New York. Jennifer Ciresi ’07, a Bay Area alumni ambassador, led the volunteers at St. Anthony’s Foundation in San Francisco.
On Oct. 26, Law School graduates, their families, faculty, and staff gathered to celebrate the newest members of the Minnesota Bar before the Admissions Ceremony at the St. Paul RiverCentre.

Assistant Dean of Students Erin Keyes ’00 and Dan McDonald ’85, chair of the Law School’s Board of Advisors, congratulated the graduates on their bar passage and welcomed them officially to the Minnesota Bar and our alumni community.

National Minnesota Law alumni receptions

Alumni and friends around the country are invited to join Dean Garry W. Jenkins at one of our national alumni receptions to reconnect, network, and socialize. Invitations will be mailed to alumni in each area. If you would like to be added to the invitation list, or for more information, contact Elissa Chaffee, Director of Alumni Relations & Annual Giving, at 612-626-8671 or lawalum@umn.edu.

Upcoming:

Chicago, Illinois
January 17, 2019
John Hartmann ’87 hosts at Kirkland & Ellis

San Francisco, California
January 31, 2019
Joe Barbeau ’81 and Rachel Brass ’01 host at Gibson Dunn

Irvine, California
February 20, 2019
Lance Smemoe ’06 hosts at Knobbe, Martens, Olson & Bear

Los Angeles, California
February 21, 2019
Robbie Barton ’09 hosts at Holland & Knight
67 Thomas Thibodeau was named a 2018 Minnesota Super Lawyer by Super Lawyers magazine, which also recognized him as one of the top 100 attorneys in the state.

Gerald T. Laurie was presented with the 2018 Leonard Lindquist Distinguished Practice Award by the Labor and Employment Section of the Minnesota State Bar Association.

69 Joseph Dixon Jr. was named a 2018 Minnesota Super Lawyer by Super Lawyers magazine.

71 William Forsyth was named a 2018 Minnesota Super Lawyer by Super Lawyers magazine.

72 Joe Price was named a 2018 Icon honoree by Finance & Commerce and Minnesota Lawyer magazines.

73 Alan Eidsness was named a 2018 Minnesota Super Lawyer by Super Lawyers magazine, which also recognized him as one of the top 100 attorneys in the state.

79 Tom McDonald, a former U.S. ambassador to Zimbabwe, joined Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease in Washington, D.C., as a partner.

Keith Broady was elected to the board of directors of Lommen Abdo in Minneapolis.

Mark Kalla joined DeWitt Mackall Crounse & Moore in Minneapolis.

Kathryn Graves was named a 2018 Minnesota Super Lawyer by Super Lawyers magazine, which also recognized her as one of the top 50 women lawyers in the state.

84 Patrick D. Seiter ranked among Leaders in Their Field in health care law in Louisiana in the Chambers USA 2018 directory.

Dwayne N. Knutson was elected chief judge of Minnesota’s 8th Judicial District.

Elizabeth Bransdorfer was named a 2018 Michigan Super Lawyer by Super Lawyers magazine.

Dan McDonald received the Alumni Service Award from the University of Minnesota Alumni Association.

87 Michael Glover was elected to the board of directors of Lommen Abdo in Minneapolis.

Beth M. Andrus was appointed to the Washington State Court of Appeals, Division 1, by Gov. Jay Inslee. She replaces retiring judge Ronald Cox.

Sean M. Quinn was appointed by Gov. Mark Dayton as a judge on the Minnesota Workers’ Compensation Court of Appeals.

Doug Lahammer received the Life Master award from the American Contract Bridge League.

Marc Johannsen was elected president of Lommen Abdo in Minneapolis.

Keith Ellison was elected attorney general of the state of Minnesota. He will assume office on Jan. 2, 2019.

Lily Fu Claffee was appointed general counsel of Fox News. She will be based in New York.

William Stock was named to the 2018 Who’s Who Legal Immigration Attorneys list.

Scott Neilson was appointed a 2018 Minnesota Super Lawyer by Super Lawyers magazine.

Lisa Stratton joined Schaefer Halleen in Minneapolis.


Nancy Brasel was appointed to serve as a judge on the United States District Court for the District of Minnesota.


Jeff Mayo received the H. Milt Phillips Award from the Oklahoma Press Association.

Clara Ohr was a 2018 recipient of the First Chair Top General Counsel Award.

Tracy Perzel was appointed a district court judge in Minnesota’s 1st Judicial District.

Katie Aune was named assistant dean for external relations at the University of Maryland Philip Merrill College of Journalism in College Park, Maryland.

Court Anderson was named a 2018 Minnesota Rising Star by Super Lawyers magazine.

Melissa Listug Klick was appointed a district court judge in Minnesota’s 8th Judicial District.

Bor Yang was appointed executive director of the Vermont Human Rights Commission.
Jaime Driggs was named a 2018 Minnesota Super Lawyer by Super Lawyers magazine.

Margaux C. Soeffker started a boutique family law–focused firm in Maple Grove, Minnesota.

Kelly Keegan started a law practice in Minneapolis and was named a 2018 Minnesota Rising Star by Super Lawyers magazine.

Kyle W. Brenton joined the firm Childs McCune in Denver as of counsel. He will lead the firm’s appellate practice in both civil and criminal cases.

Kyle Hawkins was appointed solicitor general of the state of Texas in September. Hawkins had served as an assistant solicitor general in the office since 2017. In his new role as the state’s chief appellate lawyer, he will have the opportunity to handle some highly watched, nationally important cases. His predecessor argued 11 cases on behalf of Texas before the U.S. Supreme Court. If Hawkins does visit the U.S. Supreme Court in his new role, it will not be unfamiliar territory for him. His past experience includes serving as a law clerk for Justice Samuel Alito. The position that Hawkins now occupies was once held by Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas), who served in that office from 2003 to 2008.

Steven C. Kerbaugh joined the firm Jackson Lewis in Minneapolis as of counsel.

Katie P. Pivec joined the real estate and infrastructure teams at Moss & Barnett in Minneapolis.

Theresa Stadheim was part of the editorial board and served as lead editor and author for the “International Prosecution” chapter of the recently published book Patent Standards: Practice, Policy, and Enforcement.

Tyler Olson was named a partner at Fox Rothschild in Minneapolis.

David Aron was named general counsel of Education Minnesota in St. Paul.

Maya S. Rhine was named a 2018 Up and Coming Lawyer by the Wisconsin Law Journal.

Aleida Conners joined Cargill in Minneapolis as mergers and acquisitions counsel.

Benjamin Hamborg was named a 2018 Minnesota Rising Star by Super Lawyers magazine.

Janet S. Luo joined Sturgill, Turner, Barker & Moloney in Lexington, Kentucky, as an associate in two practice groups: government and municipal law, and torts and insurance.

Eikoku Ikeno was recognized by the University of Minnesota as a 2018 College of Liberal Arts Emerging Alumni Award honoree.

Alex Dyste-Demet delivered a speech at the Minnesota Asian Pacific American Bar Association Annual Gala as the organization’s incoming president.

Aylix K. Jensen joined Moss & Barnett in Minneapolis as a member of the firm’s creditors’ remedies and bankruptcy team.

BOR YANG ’03 WAS APPOINTED EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE VERMONT HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION.

Yang previously worked for the commission investigating discrimination claims in housing, public accommodations, and state employment. Yang joined the VHRC in 2015. Before that, she was a solo practitioner, qualified neutral mediator, and college instructor in a legal studies program in Minnesota. Additionally, she was a volunteer attorney with the Minnesota Volunteer Lawyers Network and provided instruction and training to legal and non-legal professionals on serving immigrant populations. Established in 1988, the VHRC has five staff members, including the executive director. Yang is the first person of color to serve in that role.

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, attn: Ryan Sendelbach.
ICONIC JUSTICE IS HOMECOMING GRAND MARSHAL

Former Justice Alan C. Page ’78 took on a new role when he served as Grand Marshal of the 2018 University of Minnesota Homecoming parade. Page was the Minnesota Supreme Court’s first African American justice and served with distinction for more than two decades. He and his late wife Diane created the Page Education Foundation, which helps students of color to pursue postsecondary education. Page also had a legendary professional football career prior to his career in law. On Nov. 16, he was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation’s highest civilian honor.
Tributes

STANLEY EFRON
CLASS OF 1953

Stanley Efron, a founding member of the venerable Minneapolis law firm Henson Efron and a dedicated benefactor of the Law School, passed away Sept. 27 at the age of 86.

Efron established his first firm, the three-person Efron & Kittler, in 1958, shortly after completing his military service. That firm merged with another in 1976 to form Henson Efron; by 2002, the once-modest enterprise had grown to occupy two floors of the U.S. Bank Plaza Building in Minneapolis.

An amiable and loyal man, dedicated to his clients and his firm, Efron was a savvy lawyer with the unique ability to provide advice on a broad range of business issues and lead a litigation team when necessary. Those who worked with him describe him as a supportive but exacting mentor and a visionary leader with a wry sense of humor and a big heart.

Efron took up flying early in his career and occasionally piloted his legal team to a client meeting or trial—even when it might have been just as fast (but not nearly as much fun) to drive. A passionate model train hobbyist, he was an active member of the Hennepin Overland Railway Historical Society; he was also an art lover and an avid golfer.

Efron was a steady and magnanimous supporter of the Law School; over the years his gifts were crucial to helping Minnesota Law fulfill its mission and sustain its commitment to excellence. In 2005, he was awarded a Minnesota Law Review Distinguished Alumni Award in recognition of his great success and generosity.

RON MESHBESHER
CLASS OF 1957

Ron Meshbesher, whose storied career as a defense lawyer included some of the most sensational trials in Minnesota legal history, died June 13 at the age of 85.

After graduating from the Law School, Meshbesher started his legal career as a prosecutor in the Hennepin County Attorney’s Office. He tried 45 felony cases in his first three years, earning a 92 percent conviction rate. In 1961, he co-founded the Minneapolis law firm of Meshbesher & Spence.

It was on the defense side of the aisle that Meshbesher rose to fame and prominence. He successfully represented Ken Callahan, who was charged with the 1972 kidnapping of Virginia Piper. Piper was released after her husband paid $1 million in ransom. The case remains unsolved. Meshbesher also represented Marjorie Caldwell in a double-murder case that arose out of the deaths of 83-year-old heiress Elisabeth Congdon and her night nurse, Velma Pietila, at Glensheen Mansion in Duluth. Caldwell, Congdon’s adopted daughter, was acquitted, but her husband, Roger Caldwell, was convicted and went to prison for the crimes.

Meshbesher at one time was quite possibly the best-known defense attorney in Minnesota. He also served as president of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. The recipient of numerous professional awards, he was known for his wit, his friendliness, and his sartorial elegance.

Meshbesher’s fame was such that he even garnered a name mention from Minnesota-bred filmmakers Joel and Ethan Coen. In their 2009 film A Serious Man, set in the Coens’ hometown of St. Louis Park, a character in need of legal advice is advised to seek out Meshbesher.

Meshbesher was also well thought of in legal circles as friend and mentor. The Star Tribune reported that when he retired from law practice in 2014, the 170 or so attending the retirement party included judges and many well-known local legal luminaries.

WILLIAM E. MULLIN
CLASS OF 1958

William E. “Bill” Mullin, a prominent Twin Cities family law practitioner, longtime activist with Minnesota’s Democratic party, and generous benefactor of the Law School, passed away March 10 after a 10-year battle with the motor disorder apraxia. He was 83.
Mullin grew up in Minneapolis and starred in track as a high school student. After earning his undergraduate and law degrees at the University, he served in the offices of both the U.S. and Minnesota attorneys general. He established his own law firm in 1964 and practiced there until 1978, when he joined Minneapolis-based Maslon as a partner, remaining there for the rest of his career. As an attorney, Mullin was admired for his depth of knowledge, integrity, sense of humor, and commitment to service. He was a board member of the Legal Aid Society of Minneapolis and a volunteer at the Children’s Law Center; he also served as president of the Minnesota chapter of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers and as chair of the Committee on Family Law. Among the many honors he received during his career was the Professionalism and Civility Award from the Hennepin County Bar Association.

Mullin became involved with Minnesota DFL politics at an early age, and over the years he raised substantial sums for the state’s Democratic candidates. In 1968 he took a break from practicing law to work on Sen. Hubert Humphrey’s presidential campaign.

In more recent years, he was a strong supporter of President Barack Obama. He attended Obama’s inauguration in 2008.

“I was very close to Bill for 30 years—he was a star in my office when I was a young attorney general,” former Vice President Walter Mondale ’56 told the Minneapolis Star Tribune. “I believe he was the most respected family lawyer in Minneapolis. He was a wonderful Minnesotan.”

RALPH STRANGIS
CLASS OF 1960

Ralph Strangis, whose legal acumen and dealmaking prowess put him at the center of many of the Twin Cities’ most consequential business mergers and public-private partnerships, died Aug. 15 at his home in Minneapolis. The cause was heart disease. He was 82.

Born and raised in northeast Minneapolis, Strangis earned both his bachelor’s and J.D. degrees at the University, graduating from the Law School magna cum laude and Order of the Coif. In 1978, Strangis and his friend and Law School classmate Sam Kaplan ’60 formed the boutique business law firm Kaplan, Strangis and Kaplan, where Strangis was still working at the time of his death.

While best known as the legal architect for such high-profile deals as the Republic Airlines/Northwest Airlines merger, the TCF Financial initial public offering, and the building of Target Field in Minneapolis and Allianz Field in St. Paul, Strangis was not a person who sought the limelight for its own sake. As his son, Ralph Strangis Jr., told the Star Tribune, he was “a Northeast [Minneapolis] guy without extravagance. The watch he wore came from a drugstore. He didn’t wear jewelry or care about flashy cars. He liked to ride a bicycle, which he rode until six months ago, and he liked to fish and go to Dairy Queen. He was quietly generous to the causes he cared about and he took care of his family.”

Among those causes was the continuing excellence of the Law School; Strangis and his firm have long been generous donors, and Strangis served on both the Law School Board of Visitors and the Law Alumni Association Board of Directors. He also served such organizations as the Minneapolis Institute of Art, Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, and Catholic Eldercare, and sat on numerous corporate boards.

“In a career that spanned 50 years, Ralph Strangis used his gifts for relationship building and negotiation to foster agreements that benefited not just his clients, but the city and state he loved,” said Dean Garry W. Jenkins. “His achievements and his dedication to the common good place him among the most distinguished lawyer-leaders in Minnesota Law history.”
In Memoriam

CLASS OF 1943
Mary L. Soddy
May 2, 2018
San Luis Obispo, California

CLASS OF 1947
Peter F. Walstad
May 1, 2018
Excelsior, Minnesota

CLASS OF 1948
Vincent E. Johnson
September 18, 2018
Golden Valley, Minnesota

Warren W. May
July 30, 2018
Pierre, South Dakota

Doran J. Von Unschuld
March 13, 2018
Chicago, Illinois

CLASS OF 1949
Conrad F. Gaarenstroom
May 6, 2018
Wauwatosa, Wisconsin

Bruce W. Sumner
March 25, 2018
Newport Beach, California

CLASS OF 1950
John F. Fletcher
April 22, 2018
Palm City, Florida

Earl D. Jacobsen
June 4, 2018
Albert Lea, Minnesota

Wallace C. Odell
February 25, 2018
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Arthur C. Roemer
May 5, 2018
Avon, Colorado

CLASS OF 1951
John T. Simonet
March 8, 2018
St. Paul, Minnesota

John I. Halloran
April 5, 2018
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Ronald I. Meshbesher
June 13, 2018
Long Lake, Minnesota

CLASS OF 1953
Stanley Efron
September 27, 2018
Crosslake, Minnesota

Robert E. Heath
July 21, 2018
Bozeman, Montana

CLASS OF 1954
Earl B. Gustafson
April 16, 2018
St. Paul, Minnesota

James A. Larson
March 3, 2018
Englewood, Colorado

Connor F. Schmid
May 31, 2018
Minneapolis, Minnesota

CLASS OF 1955
Cornelius D. Mahoney
March 8, 2018
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Roger A. Peterson
March 2, 2018
Marine on St. Croix, Minnesota

CLASS OF 1956
Richard B. Abrams
April 11, 2018
Minneapolis, Minnesota

David A. Joerg
July 25, 2018
Preston, Minnesota

CLASS OF 1957
Thomas T. Dwight
July 27, 2018
St. Paul, Minnesota

Michael J. Galvin
September 21, 2017
St. Paul, Minnesota

CLASS OF 1958
Clifford J. Caine
April 12, 2018
Minneapolis, Minnesota

William E. Mullin
March 10, 2018
Minneapolis, Minnesota

CLASS OF 1959
Warren E. Litynski
May 18, 2018
St. Peter, Minnesota

Kenneth A. Malvey
June 7, 2018
Bloomington, Minnesota

CLASS OF 1960
Ralph L. Strangis
August 15, 2018
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Victor D. Ulmer
February 24, 2018
Duluth, Minnesota

CLASS OF 1961
Paul H. Klawerkamp
March 13, 2018
Minneapolis, Minnesota

CLASS OF 1962
Galen C. Wilson
June 28, 2018
Duluth, Minnesota

James F. Marrin
June 5, 2018
St. Cloud, Minnesota

CLASS OF 1963
Gail N. Murray
April 13, 2018
Hopkins, Minnesota

James G. Penberthy
March 11, 2018
Minneapolis, Minnesota

CLASS OF 1964
Robert V. Atmore
April 12, 2018
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Stephen S. Torvik
March 3, 2018
Montevideo, Minnesota

CLASS OF 1965
Jerry L. Kellum
July 6, 2018
Cedarburg, Wisconsin

CLASS OF 1966
James L. Schulze
March 6, 2018
Moorhead, Minnesota

CLASS OF 1967
Bruce E. Kiernat
April 22, 2018
St. Paul, Minnesota

CLASS OF 1968
Joseph W. Beach II
July 3, 2018
Eden Prairie, Minnesota

CLASS OF 1969
William J. Hanley
May 4, 2018
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Robert G. Mitchell Jr.
July 30, 2018
Long Lake, Minnesota

CLASS OF 1971
Jay K. Peterson
May 18, 2018
Wolcott, Colorado

CLASS OF 1973
Robert W. Kettering Jr.
April 22, 2018
Minneapolis, Minnesota

CLASS OF 1974
Diana E. Murphy
May 16, 2018
Minneapolis, Minnesota

CLASS OF 1975
Ernest S. Rose
March 2, 2018
Syracuse, New York

CLASS OF 1976
Loren Hess
May 20, 2018
Cincinnati, Ohio

CLASS OF 1977
Barbara J. Kuhn
May 15, 2018
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Donald W. Selzer Jr.
July 4, 2018
Minneapolis, Minnesota

CLASS OF 1979
Harold R. Finn
May 17, 2018
Cass Lake, Minnesota

CLASS OF 1980
William J. Cosgriff
January 3, 2018
St. Paul, Minnesota

CLASS OF 1986
Scott M. Nelson
March 23, 2018
Maple Grove, Minnesota
THANK YOU, PARTNERS AT WORK

Thank you to all volunteer agents, corporations, and firms that participated in the 11th annual Partners at Work challenge. The Partners at Work challenge is a friendly competition to increase alumni giving participation at organizations that employ University of Minnesota Law School alumni.

Overall, more than half of participating alumni at 35 organizations made a gift to the University of Minnesota Law School.

A special thank-you to those firms that finished at the top of each group!

**GROUP 1 (UNDER 15 ALUMNI)**

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Firm</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Greene Espel</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hellmuth &amp; Johnson</td>
<td>100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lind Jensen Sullivan &amp; Peterson</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zimmerman Reed</td>
<td>100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gibson Dunn</td>
<td>86%</td>
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**GROUP 2 (15-25 ALUMNI)**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nilan Johnson Lewis</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maslon</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bassford Remele</td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merchant &amp; Gould</td>
<td>69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henson Efron</td>
<td>62%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**GROUP 3 (MORE THAN 25 ALUMNI)**

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<tr>
<th>Firm</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fox Rothschild</td>
<td>94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winthrop &amp; Weinstine</td>
<td>88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dorsey &amp; Whitney</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robins Kaplan</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ballard Spahr</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For a full list of participating firms, visit law.umn.edu/give/partners-work
enae Welder started dreaming of a law career in junior high—and then hated her first year at the University of Minnesota Law School.

“I was a finance major in undergrad and things were more black and white. I got to law school and everything was gray, and that was frustrating to my logical mind,” she says. In her second year, though, Welder began tax law classes and “something clicked.”

At the same time, the multinational accounting firm Deloitte, interested in hiring more tax lawyers, launched the Deloitte Tax Fellowship, which funded a research assistant for tax professor Karen Brown. Welder was the first recipient of that fellowship.

Deloitte hired her right out of law school. After a short stint in the firm’s Minneapolis office, she has lived and worked in the western United States for the past 20 years—mostly in Los Angeles, but with five years in Phoenix, as well. She leads Deloitte’s West Region Multistate Tax practice, and she serves large global companies in the technology, media, and entertainment industries.

After graduating from the Carlson School of Management at the University, Welder researched law schools on the East Coast, ultimately deciding it didn’t make sense to pay more for schools that weren’t ranked as highly as Minnesota Law.

Even so, she graduated with debt, and her gifts to the Law School are meant to ease that path for current students.

“I want to give back and help support students,” she says. “It is rare for people to be able to pay for law school out of pocket.” Less debt can allow students to choose a career that interests them but does not pay the highest salary. “And that can change a person’s life,” Welder says.

HOMETOWN: Bismarck, North Dakota

CURRENT HOME: Pasadena, California

CURRENT JOB: Principal, Deloitte

GIVING: Renae is a member of Minnesota Law’s leadership annual giving society, the Lockhart Club, and she takes advantage of Deloitte’s matching program, doubling the impact of her gift each year.

WHAT YOU WON’T FIND ON HER RESUME: She has run 45 marathons. “It’s cheaper than therapy,” she says.

ADVICE TO FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS: “Be open to new opportunities, as they come up when you least expect it.”

“Why I Give” Renae Welder ’96

R

MINNESOTA LAW  FALL 2018

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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 Office of Advancement, Law School, 229 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55455.

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

To make a gift, visit give.umn.edu/lawschool
Whether through supporting scholarships, career services, or experiential learning opportunities, donors make so much possible for the hardworking and amazing students who study in Mondale Hall. On Oct. 10, students gathered for the third annual Gopher Gratitude Day, an event celebrating philanthropy at Minnesota Law. A record number of students wrote heartfelt thank-you notes to show their gratitude for our donors, whose generosity has enriched their experiences.

“Without your contribution to the Law School, I would not be able to attend the institution of my dreams. Thanks for helping me—a first-generation American, first-generation student of higher education, and woman of color—fulfill my dreams.”

—Kimberly Medina, 2L